

## MINUTES

### BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING TUESDAY, AUGUST 17, 2021 WILLIAM L. PULLEN MUNICIPAL BUILDING MEETING ROOM 6:30 p.m.

**Selectmen present:** Jim Justice, Adam Fuller, Martha Johnston-Nash, Josh White, and Bill Lombardi

**Others present:** Jay Feyler (Town Manager), Jesse Thompson (EMS Chief), Bruce Cobb, Karin Rector, Rick Rector, Lanson Dean, Hamish Bodin, Wendy Reinemann, Bruce Reinemann, Richard Gaven, Jesse Thompson, Kevin Curry, Karen Curry, John Gibbons, Greg Grotton, Kathleen Thornton, Heather Jackson, Leann Sebrey, Patrick Sebrey, Sean Sebrey, Melanie Crane, Aleah Sebrey, and Christine Simmonds (Courier-Gazette)

- 1. Call Selectmen's Meeting to Order:** at 6:30 p.m. by Adam Fuller.
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3. Public Comment:**

Adam brought up the *Village Soup* article on gender-neutral language in Union. The state house passed a law on it. In January the Select Board enacted a policy on it. At the time the feeling was Select Board members would be more than happy to use gender neutral language and think it's right thing to do; however, they did not think not it in the best interest of the town to spend money to go back through all our legal documents and pay lawyers to change them.

He added the article referred to an email exchange not fully quoted. If anyone wants to discuss any issue, the board meets twice a month. There is no discussion of policy changes via email as it is not in the public eye.

- 4. Approve Minutes of Tuesday, August 3, 2021:**

Motion by: Bill Lombardi  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: Jim Justice

Martha noted two changes: #8 should be Clarry rather than Coggins Hill; and #10 should be Bisset rather than Bassett.

Motion to approve with the above corrections by: Martha Johnston Nash  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: Bill Lombardi  
3-0-2 abstentions (White, Justice)

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### 5. Approve Treasurer's Warrant dated August 17, 2021:

Motion by: Josh White

2<sup>nd</sup> by: Jim Justice

5-0

Bill asked about specifics of the scholarship awards. Jay said see Pullen Committee Minutes once they are approved. Adam and Bill agreed maybe this could be done differently, with a letter from the Scholarship Committee after their vote for example.

### Approve Bond Warrant dated August 17, 2021:

Motion by: Jim Justice

2<sup>nd</sup> by: Martha Johnston Nash

5-0

### 6. Jesse Thompson EMS vehicle:

EMS Chief Jesse Thompson started a discussion detailing the need to acquire a former state police SUV-type “fly” vehicle.

He said EMS has been super busy, and that “We are smack dab in the middle of all we transport to.” He noted many smaller towns already have a second ambulance. Even if we get a second ambulance, this type of vehicle would still be a good value to the town – from being stocked with EMS equipment we already have, to serving as a command vehicle for the fire department or for mass casualties, and/or rendering aid before an ambulance arrives.

He said the cost of such a vehicle itself averages \$8,000 with \$20,000 total to make it compliant (lights, sirens, digital radio, decal). It would not be difficult to sell off.

Residents voiced strong support of Union EMS for past service and ongoing support in the future.

There is a grant out for a second ambulance with findings due end September. Jesse said if we get the grant, he will come back and ask the town to spend 15%. Time frame is slightly over a year due to a backlog of vehicles.

In answer to Bill, Jay confirmed we have \$20,000 in reserve which can be discussed. In answer to Martha, Jay said our general liability insurance probably would not change; he will check and get back. Jim looks at it as saving a life; Jesse has made the town a plus.

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**7. Intern Annual Report:**

Jay said our intern could not attend due to a family emergency. He has done a fantastic job and has all our roads on culverts on GIS. He will probably do a PowerPoint.

**8. Continuation of Coggins Hill discussion:**

There was more lengthy discussion about the Coggins Hill property and the three offers on the table: CHPA nonprofit; Wendy and Bruce Reinemann; Josh White (abstaining) and Scott Bisset.

Motion to sell to Wendy and Bruce Reinemann's offer by: Jim Justice  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: Martha Johnston Nash  
2-2-1 abstention (White)  
Motion fails

Motion to sell to CHPA by: Adam Fuller  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: Jim Justice  
1-3-1 abstention (White)  
Motion fails

Bill Lombardi thanked all three parties.

Motion for the town to retain the property by: Bill Lombardi  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: Adam Fuller

Amended motion for the town to retain the property with an easement to restrict development by: Bill Lombardi  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: Adam Fuller  
4-0-1 abstention (White)

**9. Continued discussion on County ARP Funding:**

Discussion included public health equipment, broadband, food pantry/food programs, and a second ambulance.

**10. Town Manager's Report:**

We may be back under a mask mandate.

We sent information and got a grant for the Ayer Park boat landing. It probably will not get done this fall. We have not heard from the Army Corps of Engineers.

At the end of month, we will have rubberized chip seal on North Union Road and Sennebec Road. We will also crack fill on some of our other roads. Coggins Hill all set.

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**11. Other Business:** None.

**12. Committee Reports:**

- a. Broadband
- b. Aging in Place in Union
- c. Future of the Thompson Community Center

There will be a joint meeting August 31, Select Board and CFTCC.

**13. Selectmen's Report:** None.

**14. Future Agenda Items:**

Josh thinks it worthwhile to have a rep from Georges River Land Trust do a presentation, and livestream so there's a reference.

**15. Adjourn:**

Motion by: Bill Lombardi

2<sup>nd</sup> by: Adam Fuller

4-0

Meeting adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Abaldo  
Secretary