

MINUTES

**SELECT BOARD/ASSESSORS' MEETING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 20, 2024
WILLIAM L. PULLEN MUNICIPAL BUILDING MEETING ROOM
ONLINE NON-INTERACTIVE ON TOWN HALL STREAMS
6:30 p.m.**

Select Board present: Wayne Kirkpatrick, Adam Fuller, Martha Johnston-Nash, Steve Migliorini, and Linda Mountainland

Others present: Jay Feyler (Town Manager), John Mountainland, John Gibbons, Jerry Brooks, Abraham Knight, Chris Packard, and others

- 1. Call Select Board Meeting to Order:** at 6:30 p.m. by Adam Fuller
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3. Approve Minutes of Tuesday, August 6, 2024:**

Motion by: Wayne Kirkpatrick
2nd by: Martha Johnston-Nash
5-0

- 4. Approve Treasurer's Warrants dated Tuesday, August 20, 2024:**

Motion by: Wayne Kirkpatrick
2nd by: Steve Migliorini
4-0-1 abstention (Mountainland)

- 5. Approve special Town Election for November:**

Jay said we will have warrant articles for the board to sign at the next meeting, but for now they just need to set a special town meeting for November 5. There will be two items, one for the lease of the land at Public Works for the cell tower, and the second for a zoning change.

Planning Board Chair Jerry Brooks explained the latter, saying Dana Kennedy came forward. His property is currently listed in Resource Protection. The planning board did a site walk, and it definitely should not be. Additionally, David Larrabee on the other side and Gary Leighton on the opposite side – these three properties – should be removed from Resource Protection. Adam confirmed this is the planning board's recommendation. Brief discussion followed. Jay confirmed it will be a town meeting with referendum voting.

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Motion that we approve a special town meeting for November 5 by: Wayne Kirkpatrick
2nd by: Steve Migliorini
5-0

6. Other Business: None.

7. Town Manager Report:

Jay said we received a \$4,757 dividend check back from MMA from our workers comp pool and our property and category pool.

He said re: paving, we've got the shoulders done. We'll be doing chip seal Friday and Saturday, weather permitting.

He said the fire station (paving) got delayed. Now it's Thursday. Tom will be here. He noted the process has to be quick, keep rolling. In another week they will do a stress test, and a testing on materials. We decided to get it from All States because they have it, and they are pretty accurate when it comes down to the placement, thickness, and compaction rate.

8. Public Comment:

Jay said we had a retirement luncheon for Grant today. Grant received a Lowe's gift card. He has been very valuable to Jay, one of the best (CEOs), has a ton of knowledge. Jay added Chris will do a great job but has big shoes to fill. Martha said Grant is very good with people. Jay said you name it, Grant did it: changing lightbulbs, whatever was needed. Martha noted Grant was Lawrence's outfielder when they played baseball. Jay said Grant was quite a baseball player. Jay said Grant will still do some plumbing stuff until Chris is certified. Jerry noted Grant's great value to the planning board. All wished Grant a happy retirement.

9. Committee Reports:

a. Broadband

John Gibbons said everything seems to be going well. Tidewater had 74 applications for connection to fiber. All applicants have received a site visit from Tidewater technicians to go over the connection plan and work out the options with the customer. They expect to have the first 10 connections made by August 21 (tomorrow).

The committee plans to monitor the connection rate closely, as that's where the problems have been in the past with other towns. It's a complicated process re: interactions with the homeowner, mainly being ready when the connection team

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shows up. That's where we hope the ombudsman committee can be of help in keeping that moving smoothly.

As a committee John said we plan to meet in the next week or two to go over a couple of things. One is where we're going to be at the end of this expansion process. There will still be a lot of addresses in Union that will not have access to fiber at the end of this expansion. We need to determine where the addresses are, the pockets that still don't have fiber access, and what our next steps ought to be.

Adam said when they talked to Tidewater, they were walking a fine line trying to get people to sign up for connection (adoption rate) but not so much that they were overwhelmed. He asked about a number where they want to be. John said he has not asked but said they have an almost 30% take rate in the first short time after the fiber became available, which is pretty darned good.

b. Sestercentennial

Martha said she has not heard back yet from Argy about a wrap-up. Re: the savings certificate from the time capsule, it was discussed at the committee's last meeting. Argy wanted suggestions as to what we might do with that. Martha wrote them up and passed out paperwork to the board's consideration.

Martha said the instructions with the certificate in the time capsule talked about instructions to the select board in 2024 to spend it for any worthy cause they deem necessary. She thought it was now merged into the town funds. Jay thought it was under what's still called Bicentennial, if we can just change the name to Tricentennial. In answer to Wayne, Martha said the amount is \$560+.

Adam read aloud some of the ideas the Sestercentennial Committee came up with: reinvest for the Tricentennial, put it toward a community playground, donate to school or food pantry, seed money for an annual block party, additional concerts on the Common like Enter the Haggis, plant another tree on the Common, put another picnic table on the Common or Ayer Park, name the road between Burkett and Common Roads by UHS and buy a birdhouse for it.

Wayne said he'd love to see the money reinvested for the Tricentennial, echoed by Martha. Wayne said it's neat that Jerry Brooks' father is on there as a signer as well as his uncle Bob Whittier. Adam noted the nice letterhead that said "Chairman," before we had a town manager Jay noted.

c. Thompson Working Group

Jay said they haven't had a meeting. Things are happening mostly between Matt and Essex. Adam confirmed they haven't gotten an assessment from the historical surveyor.

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Abraham Knight said Matthew, Dan, himself, Christine Baird (Essex), and her assistant went all through both buildings. They went back and took pictures. She wrote this stuff up and sent it in. We got an email today saying they hadn't said no. So they are working on it and may want more research.

In answer to Adam, Abraham said the group was fairly positive but Christine said she can't say yes or no. Jay said that she said wait to tear out the inside until she talks to the other state person. They may ask John to come in for construction insight. Steve said they are looking for the original window frames – they want to see that they are still there. He added they've seen some of them. Are they all there?

Discussion followed. Jay said Matthew and MCOG are doing most of the legwork, and we are trying to help them out. Adam thanked Abraham.

10. Select Board Report:

Linda said she's decided to do the Firemen's/Ambulance Fundraiser at the Masonic Lodge, because of the parking and more property for kids' games, cornhole, badminton, horseshoes, etc. She wants to make it a town, family, community thing with hot dogs and hamburgers. She's decided to have a DJ with karaoke. Kids will be able to do karaoke, too. The date will be September 28, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Linda added we have three people for the dunk tank, but she'd like five, and volunteers are welcome. Tabby will help get it on Facebook, etc. Jay said it can go on the sign as it's related to the town.

Martha said she has to take the Sestercentennial lettering down from the TCC sign and could put the fundraiser up.

Adam said some of us went up last week to Sunday River, where Jay received the Linc Stackpole Award (Maine Town/City Manager Award). A bunch went up, and Jay didn't know anything was coming, a surprise. Adam added that, as someone who doesn't go to a lot of MMA things, it was clear sitting in the audience that Jay had a lot of respect in that room. The award was probably overdue. It was clear Jay cast a big shadow in those statewide organizations. He added we're going to struggle so hard to fill this void when Jay retires, and congratulations on this big accomplishment – very well done, very impressive.

Jay said he never expected it. For a long time this award went to the big cities. It was ironic that the person who stood up and talked about it was Stu Marckoon from Lamoine, a Rockland boy who played basketball with Jay. He added he got an award in 2016 but this one was a total surprise. They kept our crew in a back room so he had no inkling. Well done, Adam reiterated. Hearty round of applause from the room. Adam added Jay can thank Stacey for doing a lot behind the scenes.

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Martha said the Maine Municipal annual meeting in Augusta is coming up in October. There are some interesting things on the agenda. Jay said let him know if any board members want to go.

Wayne congratulated Jay and also Chris for coming on (as CEO).

11. Adjourn:

Motion by: Martha Johnston-Nash

2nd by: Wayne Kirkpatrick

5-0

Meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Abaldo
Secretary