

MINUTES

**SELECT BOARD/ASSESSORS' MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2022
WILLIAM L. PULLEN MUNICIPAL BUILDING MEETING ROOM
ONLINE NON-INTERACTIVE ON TOWN HALL STREAMS
6:30 p.m.**

Select Board present: Jim Justice, Martha Johnston-Nash, Wayne Kirkpatrick, Bill Packard, and Adam Fuller

Others present: Jay Feyler (Town Manager), Jesse Thompson (EMS Chief), Kathleen Thornton, John Mountainland, Linda Waltz Mountainland, Heather Jackson, and John Gibbons

- 1. Call Select Board Meeting to Order:** at 6:30 p.m. by Adam Fuller.
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3. Public Comment:** None.
- 4. Approve Minutes of Tuesday, December 6, 2022 and Friday, December 9, 2022:**

Motion to approve minutes of December 6, 2022 by: Bill Packard
2nd by: Wayne Kirkpatrick

Martha had two changes: 1) correct “town received and spent for TCC” to “town spent on the TCC with income of”; 2) Wayne mentioned the transformer leak.

Amended motion to approve minutes of December 6, 2022 with the above changes by:
Bill Packard
2nd by: Wayne Kirkpatrick
5-0

Motion to approve minutes of December 9, 2022 by: Wayne Kirkpatrick
2nd by: Jim Justice
5-0

- 5. Approve Treasurer’s Warrants dated Tuesday, December 20, 2022:**

Motion by: Jim Justice
2nd by: Wayne Kirkpatrick
5-0

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6. Discussion and Vote on 2023 Ambulance Fees:

Jesse Thompson said this is just the normal percentage increase from their billing company re: the rates they bill at. Adam noted they were still below average.

Motion to accept beginning January 1, 2023 by: Jim Justice
2nd by: Wayne Kirkpatrick
4-1 opposed (Johnston-Nash)

7. Discussion and Vote on Mutual Aid Agreements:

Jay said we should have an authorization for Jesse and him to set those prices, which are going to be reciprocal. It saves money in the long run. In answer to Adam, Jay said in the past we've had a handshake agreement, and this is the first time putting it to paper. Adam read the policy aloud.

Motion to approve the Union Rescue Mutual Aid Policy effective January 1, 2023 by:
Jim Justice
2nd by: Wayne Kirkpatrick
5-0

8. Appointment of Michelle Clifford as Registrar of Voters:

Motion by: Bill Packard
2nd by: Martha Johnston-Nash
5-0

9. Appointment of Sonya Willis and Tabatha Ripley as Deputy Registrars of Voters:

Motion by: Bill Packard
2nd by: Wayne Kirkpatrick
5-0

10. Set a Date for Public Informational Meeting:

Jay said it's been three years since we've had a public informational meeting due to covid. He recommended two budget referendum public hearings. One will be required when the budget is finalized, but it will be important to go over the whole process and explain what's happening with the referendum voting, and then have the actual legal public hearing on the referendum voting closer to election day.

Consensus was Jay will bring potential dates before the board.

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11. Approve legal action in ACO issue:

Jay gave a brief synopsis re: a resident refusing to pay fines for barking dogs.

Motion to have the Town Manager engage the Town Attorney to take legal action on this

by: Martha Johnston-Nash

2nd by: Jim Justice

5-0

12. Town Manager's Report:

Jay discussed the storm coming Friday. He reminded, re: downed trees, they use the closest physical address rather than pole numbers.

Jay met with the Fire Marshal on Monday and cleared up a lot of confusion re: TCC. Explanation and discussion followed including required permits; whole building electrical inspection; entire boiler room sealed for smoke; and fire alarm (approximately \$10,000) should be done before permits are issued. He and the board went over cost estimates, life safety concerns, more on permits, and referendum voting coming up.

Motion that we give occupants 30 days' notice and after that drain it down, mothball it so to speak, close it up until we can get further information from MCOG, get RFQs out, and see if we can find some developers by: Wayne Kirkpatrick

2nd by: Jim Justice

Extensive discussion followed, including trying to find another place for the thrift shop.

Martha objected to having a motion and a vote as this was not a separate agenda item. Bill did not think there was enough information.

Request to move the question by: Wayne Kirkpatrick

5-0

Amended motion to give occupants notice until the end of January and after that drain it down, mothball it so to speak, close it up until we can get further information from MCOG, get RFQs out, and see if we can find some developers by: Wayne Kirkpatrick

2nd by: Jim Justice

3-1 opposed (Packard) -1 abstention (Johnston-Nash)

13. Other Business:

Sherry Abaldo submitted a statement of interest form for the Sestercentennial Committee.

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Motion to accept by: Bill Packard
2nd by: Wayne Kirkpatrick
5-0

14. Committee Reports:

a. Broadband

John Gibbons said the LCI/Tidewater Union application will be submitted tomorrow. In January there will be another round of negotiations. Grant award decisions will be finalized in February and announced in March.

The committee will be focused on building out its webpage. Stacey did a fantastic job setting it up. They are also getting ready to serve as an ombudsman committee. Tidewater expects the grant contracts to be effective as of April 1. Wayne thanked John.

b. Aging in Place in Union

Jay said it's dormant with no chairperson and no new volunteers.

c. Green Space

Kathleen Thornton addressed two takeaways from the Coggins Hill property survey: 1) the property does extend all the way to Coggins Hill Road; and 2) part of the property that's on the tax map is not part of this property – a big chunk behind Josh White's across from his house, she thinks owned by the guy that owns the frontage, not blueberry fields but part of the woods.

The committee will present to the select board on the first Tuesday of February.

CHPA had their annual meeting, and people are very excited about raising money. It would be great to someday make the property ADA accessible.

In answer to Adam, Kathleen said the property options narrowed as they did their research. There will be two or three options. One might require fundraising, but they have CHPA ready to do it. They have a google drive.

Heather Jackson brought up committee members not attending meetings. Adam said they could email a list of inactive members to Jay to put on the next agenda, and the board could vote to remove them. Jay advised contacting these members and asking them to resign so no hard feelings. Bill suggested keeping track of attendance.

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Kathleen said the committee is interested in looking at other town properties. Jay said there are others that will meet their goals, still a couple months away.

d. Sestercentennial

Martha said they met last week and are progressing. They will put up boxes to collect ideas. They're setting up a facebook page.

In answer to Adam, she said the thought is some events leading up to Founders Day 2024 which is when the main event will be. They're looking to partner with other businesses and nonprofits and see what they want to do. Wayne expressed interest in sponsoring reenactments, which he recalled having seen with his grandparents at Founders Day. Martha said great. They will get letters out to businesses in the spring.

People are encouraged to send ideas to unionme250@gmail.com.

e. Ambulance Advisory

Heather Jackson said Kevin McGinnis, ICSD, has been coming to their meetings. He's continuing a study of the service. They expect data from Maine EMS in early January and meet January 9. They're talking about issues that have come up and different possible budget ideas. Washington will probably push their vote on the ambulance budget back to June to match our budget cycle.

At some point they will do a brief "EMS 101" presentation and a public information meeting. It's been good to have the Washington and Appleton people there.

In answer to Jim, Heather said issues include last year's budget increase; how fragile human resources are for EMS, how difficult it is to get and keep help with what we're able to offer for payment; and wishing to have a second ambulance available.

Adam said long term the committee's future could be five- to 10-year plans. Heather said they're thinking that way already, with a lot happening with the Blue Ribbon Commission and hopefully a bill for \$76 million per year for the next five years to boost up EMS services across the state.

Wayne agreed and said a second rig will be inevitable. We need to recruit people. Adam is excited they're doing more public education. Jim said good job.

15. Select Board Reports:

Adam apologized for being super busy and will get back to people.

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16. Future Agenda Requests:

Jim would like an electronic sign outside. Jay and Adam suggested Jim start a fundraising thing and look into grants, which Jim said he would do.

17. Adjourn:

Motion by: Wayne Kirkpatrick

2nd by: Jim Justice

5-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Abaldo
Secretary