

MINUTES

SELECTMEN'S/ASSESSORS' MEETING

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

(postponed from Tuesday, December 3, 2019 due to storm)

William L. Pullen Municipal Building Meeting Room

6:30 p.m.

Selectmen Present: Greg Grotton, John Shepard, Sarah Drickey, Adam Fuller, and Josh White

Others Present: Jay Feyler, Jim Justice, Christine Simmonds, Karen Poulin, Joel Wentworth, Catherine Jackson, George Ebbinghousen, John Gibbons, Catherine Meyer, Lorain Francis, Donna Bennet, and Erik Amundsen

1. **Call Selectmen's Meeting to order:** 6:30 p.m.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance:**

3. **Public Comment:**

Union resident Catherine Meyer stated that she contacted *Maine Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing* for an informational packet. She stressed the importance of using a microphone during meetings and added, to have an all-inclusive meeting, she would be grateful to the Board if they could read the material and recognize the importance of microphones. She thanked them for making the first important step by purchasing the hearing assistant equipment. She asked to have something posted on the Union webpage to let all citizens know that the equipment is being used at meetings.

John Gibbons credited Jay and the entire PW crew for an outstanding job on the snowy roads the day before. John had two delivery trucks come to his house on the day of the storm; both drivers said the roads were not great, but Union had the best treated roads of all the surrounding towns.

4. **Approve minutes of Tuesday, November 19, 2019:**

Motion by: Sarah Drickey

2nd by: Adam Fuller

5-0

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5. Sign Treasurer's Warrant dated Tuesday, December 3, 2019:

Motion by: Adam Fuller

2nd by: John Shepard

5-0

6. Discussion on Paper vs. Electronic Board Materials and timing:

Motion by: Adam Fuller to remove the copy of the minutes from the paper trail for the meetings.

2nd by: John Shepard

5-0

7. Authorize legal action on a code violation:

This violation is in reference to Map 13 Lot 20-3 at 374 Happy Hollow Road. Jay needs permission from the Board to have Roger start the legal process of having the landowner clean up the property.

Motion by: John Shepard to authorize legal procedure

2nd by: Josh White

5-0

8. Report from the Committee for the Future of the TCC:

Martha Johnston was the spokesperson for the TCC. Martha stated that a committee was formed in back in March. Since then, several meetings have been held to work towards a goal; to find out what the residents of Union would like to see for the future of the Thompson Community Center. Many steps were taken to get more people involved, i.e., meetings, surveys, social media posts, etc. There was a facilitated meeting in October which resulted in a summary report. The report was presented to the Board of Selectmen for review. The findings revealed that much of the group would like the building to stay operational, and many would like to see more activities initiated for public use. Martha noted that there are still challenges in how the building operates. She added that the committee is a neutral group who do not sway public opinion. The recommendation is for a select group of representatives from the town and the committee to meet with a facilitator to consider the options in the report. The committee is also open to new ideas.

Discussion: Greg stated that he appreciates the objectives of the committee and would like to set up a meeting in January after receiving and reviewing the report.

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9. First Review of the revised personnel policy:

There was a discussion regarding amendments. The Board will send their suggestions along to Jay next week.

10. Other Business: None

11. Town Manager Report:

Public Works update: Jay stated that the roof is coming along. The insulation should be done by Friday. The doors are two weeks out. Generator pads are scheduled to be installed Monday or Tuesday of next week. Jay is estimating a building completion date sometime in January. He stated that winter “housing” conditions are not the best for the PW employees; using the town office for breaks, etc., but they are dealing with the inconveniences the best that they can.

There will be an offer on Browns Lane by the next meeting.

Jay, Greg, and Josh will be attending an MAA class on December 19th from 4-8 p.m.

12. Selectmen's Report:

John asked Jay to pass his appreciation to the road crew for their patience as well as their perseverance while the Public Works building is being constructed.

Adam thanked the TCC committee for their diligent work in trying to find a solution for the building. He also thanked the PW crew for a great job in keeping the roads clear and treated throughout the winter months.

Greg stated that the shack for the Common is almost complete. He would also like to build a skating rink by the basketball/tennis courts and has offered to purchase the materials. John thanked Greg for his offerings to the town.

13. Future Agenda Items: None

14. Adjourn:

Motion by: Greg Grotton

2nd by: John Shepard

5-0

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Meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Patrick
Secretary