

## MINUTES

**SELECT BOARD/ASSESSORS' MEETING  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2023  
WILLIAM L. PULLEN MUNICIPAL BUILDING MEETING ROOM  
ONLINE NON-INTERACTIVE ON TOWN HALL STREAMS  
6:30 p.m.**

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

**Others present:** Jay Feyler (Town Manager), John Gibbons, Greg Grotton, Ellen Harrison, and others

- 1. Call Select Board Meeting to Order:** at 6:30 p.m.
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3. Public Comment:**

Jim Justice spoke about the need for a new sign out front and wants to do a fundraiser.

Bill said he is against public conversation when it should be public comment. Martha asked about putting it on the agenda. Bill said after more information.

Bill asked if there is an issue with the format of the existing sign, which was donated by the fire department and ambulance. Is it the structure, or the fact that there are no lights? Jim said there is no information on it that you can see. Bill talked with a local sign company, and found we can put LED lights in for a few hundred dollars which he will donate. He asked if anyone would be open to discussing a message board in the sign using the existing structure. If the town were willing to put some money in, he would spearhead the effort to get the rest of it. Total cost would be \$12,600 including the lights which he'll donate. The company is Northern Signs. This will go on next meeting's agenda.

- 4. Approve Minutes of Tuesday, February 7, 2023:**

Motion by: Bill Packard  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: Wayne Kirkpatrick  
4-0

- 5. Approve Treasurer's Warrants dated Tuesday, February 21, 2023:**

Motion by: Wayne Kirkpatrick  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: Martha Johnston-Nash  
4-0

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### 6. Town Manager's Report:

Jay said he'll be sending out information on who receives the Spirit of America Award. As in the past, names will be put in and the board will vote. The same will occur soon afterward for the town report dedication.

He ordered the benches the other day. After checking them out, he went with the next one up from the one he showed the board because of the thickness, durability, and they weigh twice as much for about the same price. Cost will be a little over \$1,000 with nametags. It will four to six weeks out. There will be some additional cost probably for new cement pads in some places.

In answer to Greg Grotton, Jay said there will be seven benches. Greg and Wayne thought two on the veterans' section would be great. Historical research of where benches used to be located on the Common was briefly discussed.

Jay said security cameras came in and are beginning to be installed. The first have been installed in the clerk's office. They are hardwired which, in answer to Martha, Jay said cannot be done at the TCC as there is no internet there.

Bill and Jay discussed the TCC roof noting that building issues are being watched by Abraham Knight. Jay has not yet heard anything about the vandalism. He called the sheriff's department Monday.

### 7. Other Business: None.

### 8. Committee Reports:

#### a. Broadband

John Gibbons said the MCA executive committee met last week. The line extension program, the one we're interested in, is still on track. Negotiations are aimed at MCA's objectives of maximum fiber buildout across the area at the lowest cost per address passed. The committee remains cautiously optimistic.

#### b. Aging in Place in Union – None.

#### c. Green Space – None.

#### d. Sestercentennial

Martha said they meet tomorrow night at 5:00 p.m. All welcome.

#### e. Ambulance Advisory – in Appleton tonight.

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### 9. Select Board Reports:

Bill swung by the tennis and basketball courts. He thinks we could get some time out of the basketball court and maybe one tennis court. Highway or somebody might cut some of those trees, as he'd hate to see us upgrade the courts then have a couple poplars come down and damage them.

In answer to Bill, Jay said we'd deal with the Pullen Fund aspect at budget time. He was just talking with a gentleman from the Department of Economic Development where the original federal money came from on that. They talked about the TCC and Rt. 17. He is willing to decommission those (courts), so we could move them if that's what we want to do. We could write a grant. It would probably be a year and a half before any money. He is willing to work with us once we finalize everything.

Jay will meet with the gentleman again next week to go over the whole process. Somebody else had called him and told him they work for the town. A test boring will be desired to see what the gravel is underneath. A lot depends on the TCC.

Bill reiterated that he was getting at the basketball court not being as bad, but the trees should be dealt with.

Ellen Harrison said in 1997 the courts were built as part of a grant from the Land and Water Commission. Mobil Exxon had made the money available, and it's still an ongoing grant. She said it's up to the town manager to look out for the courts. If over 30 years old, they're entitled to a full makeover with this grant to be at least halfway funded of this \$300,000. It has to be processed by a certain time each year. She said these courts have never had that 30-year facelift they should have had. Catherine Meyer was the one who checked this out.

Jay will send the report he got. He thinks the courts were inspected in 2020. He noted it's up to the town to apply for the grant, not the town manager.

In answer to Bill, Jay said he has been working on Carroll Road for several years. We have a warrant article for the June town meeting to accept the weigh in from Wyman's, who owns this side of Carroll Road. We've had it surveyed, the deed is all written up, and we just have to vote on it. They have donated that section of land so the road can eventually be moved over. Jay added the state said we could put stone in, but it really didn't help. Before we get it done, we will probably have to put Jersey barriers there. He is also trying to get a mitigation grant with FEMA. We need DEP approval which should be fairly easy.

### 10. Future Agenda Requests: None (except sign mentioned in item 3).

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**11. Adjourn:**

Motion by: Jim Justice  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: Wayne Kirkpatrick  
4-0

Meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Abaldo  
Secretary