

MINUTES

**SELECT BOARD/ASSESSORS' MEETING
TUESDAY, JULY 2, 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), Erik Amundsen, John Gibbons, and Jim Justice

- 1. Call Select Board Meeting to Order:** at 6:30 p.m. by Adam Fuller
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3. Approve Minutes of Tuesday, June 18, 2024:**

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

- 4. Approve Treasurer's Warrants dated Thursday, June 27 and Tuesday, July 2, 2024:**

Motion to approve June 27 Treasurer's Warrants by: Wayne Kirkpatrick
2nd by: Martha Johnston-Nash
5-0

Motion to approve July 2 Treasurer's Warrants by: Steve Migliorini

Martha noted there are two separate warrants for July 2 (59 and 93).

Amended motion to approve July 2 Treasurer's Warrant 93 by: Steve Migliorini
2nd by: Martha Johnston-Nash
5-0

Motion to approve July 2 Treasurer's Warrant 59 by: Wayne Kirkpatrick
2nd by: Martha Johnston-Nash
5-0

- 5. Approve Treasurer's Disbursement Warrant:**

Jay said we do this every year.

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

Adam said this is the policy on treasurer's disbursement warrants for employee wages, benefits, and state fees. Jay confirmed with Martha "any municipal officers."

Adam read aloud, "Any of the municipal officers named above acting alone may review, approve, and sign such warrants. Municipal officers listed are Adam Fuller, Martha Johnston-Nash, Wayne Kirkpatrick, Linda Walz Mountainland, and Steve Migliorini."

Above motion passed,
5-0

6. Vote for LPC members for District 12:

Jay said there are two for every district. We are district 12. The nominees are Kerry Leichtman and Kara George.

Motion to vote for the two suggested nominees by: Martha Johnston-Nash
2nd by: Steve Migliorini
5-0

7. Vote to confirm annual appointments:

Adam read aloud the current appointments for Jay: Town Manager, Public Access Officer, Road Commissioner, EMA Director, and GA Administrator, July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 (pending Jay's retirement).

Motion to accept the above by: Wayne Kirkpatrick
2nd by: Martha Johnston-Nash
5-0

Adam read aloud the following appointment: Health Officer Sarah Swan of Warren, July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2027.

Motion to accept the above by: Wayne Kirkpatrick
2nd by: Martha Johnston-Nash
5-0

Adam read aloud Broadband Committee appointments: John Gibbons and Renee Flanders, July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

Motion to accept the above by: Martha Johnston-Nash
2nd by: Wayne Kirkpatrick

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Adam does not need to be reappointed, as he is a select board rep. He clarified we try to have a board member on every committee or two if it's a large committee.

Above motion passed,
5-0

Jay said the staff will call people to tell them they have been reappointed. They can decline. Asked about specific policies on these committees by Linda, Adam said in the past if we had a committee chairman who felt that someone was not helpful on a committee, we removed them. It depends on the situation. He noted the board does the appointments as the appointees basically serve at the board's pleasure. In answer to Steve, Jay said we do not have a Union residency policy. Adam added they have to be residents of the State of Maine.

Adam read aloud Green Space Committee appointments: Heather Jackson, Clairlynn Rountree, Donald Kleiner, Josh White, Kathleen Thornton, and Wendy Reinemann, July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

Motion to accept the above by: Linda Mountainland
2nd by: Steve Migliorini
5-0

Adam read aloud Parks and Rec Committee appointments: Ashley McKellar, Daniel Taylor, Michael Thompson, Mitchell Wilson, Mitchell Wyman, Patrick Hood, Catherine Meyer, Ellen Harrison, and Ruth Ann Senff-Wiemer, July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

Motion to accept the above by: Martha Johnston-Nash
2nd by: Linda Mountainland
5-0

Adam read aloud Planning Board appointments: Jesse Thompson, Robin Milliken, and Michael Johnson, July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

Motion to accept the above by: Martha Johnston-Nash
2nd by: Steve Migliorini
5-0

Adam read aloud Scholarship Committee appointments: Alice Newbert, Mary Joyce Grotton, and Rachael Umstead, July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

Motion to accept the above by: Wayne Kirkpatrick
2nd by: Martha Johnston-Nash
5-0

Jay said Allie Crocco resigned from TCSW.

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Adam read aloud TCC RFP Planning Group appointments: Abraham Knight and John Mountainland, July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

Motion to accept the above by: Wayne Kirkpatrick
2nd by: Martha Johnston-Nash
5-0

8. Discussion on Executive Search:

Adam said this pertains to the packets from Jay last meeting with the two potential options of outside groups to contract for headhunting of our town manager.

Wayne favored Don Gerrish (of Eaton Peabody). Martha was surprised there were only two options and no name attached to MMA. She said Eaton Peabody is a leader in the field and very good. She added Don Gamage is impressive and she is fine with him. Adam agreed, adding nothing against Maine Municipal who fills a lot of roles for us.

Linda brought up cost, which was briefly discussed.

Motion that we go with Eaton Peabody and set up an appointment to talk with them by:
Martha Johnston-Nash
2nd by: Steve Migliorini
5-0

Jay said he will run by Don whether or not the initial meeting has to be in Executive Session. He noted subsequent ones would be, discussing applications, etc. He said to Martha that other executive firms are nationwide, \$20,000 to \$30,000, made for the big cities. He did his homework over a year ago on that. He said MMA does labor negotiations for municipalities.

Jim Justice spoke about hiring experience before Jay was hired. He urged the board not to be afraid to ask questions. Adam brought up community connection. In answer to Linda, if Eaton Peabody isn't a good fit we would look at MMA or the larger outfits.

9. Other Business: None.

10. Town Manager Report:

Jay said the board's laptops are back, and they should not have any issues.

He sent construction information and dates re: out in front of the fire station. They met today with the engineer and the contractor. They delayed it to get through the Sestercentennial. They will start on the 29th and be done by August 12 or 15 (he sent the dates). He reminded that parking lot will be totally closed including four to eight days after it's paved depending on the weather.

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In answer to Adam about getting fire trucks out, Jay said Jesse was there planning to work around it. Ambulances will go out the back way. Fire trucks will be parked off to the side and out back during that time.

Jay also noted Martha has done her FOIA class once. She has to do it again as she was reelected and can do the online version now. It will pop up searching “Maine FOIA.” He can send her the link.

Jay also said he had a lady came in today about Aging in Place. We have been trying to get more committee members, and she knows at least one or two people.

He put up on list serv the Resilience Committee that we talked about a few weeks ago. This could bring a lot of money in, qualify for grants, and we need to get it going. In answer to Adam, he said it can be infrastructure, climate things, public works, flood mitigation, Carroll Road matching funds, etc. Adam confirmed we can potentially use the state funds to match federal funds. Jay added it won't be as intimidating as people think. MCOG will explain the whole thing and help us develop a plan. If we can match with Warren, we can get double the amount of money. In answer to Martha, Jay said the number of committee members will be five. Jay noted statement of interest forms are online. MCOG is writing the grant for us, at no cost to us. Once they receive that funding, their administrative fees will be covered from it.

Jay said re: Appeals Board, we've had one person die over the past few years and another one move. We've had one Appeals Board meeting in 16 years, which tells you the great job Grant has done and Barry before him. We need a full Appeals Board, so people are encouraged to apply. Appeals Board training is part of it.

Jay also said Grant will be here tomorrow, then after the 4th of July only by appointment until the end of July when a new CEO will come in. It's someone who is going to live in town and will stay in town, and has construction experience: Chris Packard. He starts officially July 1. He has some of his certification already and will be working on the rest. Martha confirmed this includes Plumbing Inspector, which Jay said he has to finish. Meanwhile Grant is training him, and will come in and do those (plumbing inspections). Grant will be the alternate. In answer to Steve, Jay said we now have an alternate from Warren and will probably have two alternates. The CEO role was discussed.

John Gibbons brought up an earlier suggestion from Jay: when staffing the Appeals Board, we should look for retired Planning Board members. He thought it an excellent suggestion.

Jay said the Appeals Board concerns mostly the Land Use Ordinance, and meetings require verbatim minutes which the appeals person/applicant pays for.

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11. Public Comment:

Adam read aloud a written public comment from Greg Grotton, deeply disturbed about our recognized senior citizen and oldest military veteran in Union (Boston Post Cane and military saber recipient) not being included in the Sestercentennial. He urged all to remember the veterans who made it possible to have this celebration. He noted Stephanie Turner places flags and flowers around the monument.

Martha said the Sestercentennial Committee is putting together a veterans' float. Adam said Greg's concern could be passed along to the committee so they could reach out and try to include this person, adding he saw no malicious oversight and it was very possible they just didn't click in on it. Martha said she'd heard nothing about the matter in committee discussion. Adam will pass this along to the committee. Wayne received a message that the person is Leo Laukka.

Erik Amundsen said he went to the (school board) recount which was really well run. This was echoed by Linda.

Erik also brought up Steve resigning from chair of the Thompson Memorial Association, a job he inherited. He had a question on what the TMA was organized to do: to be a fundraiser for the TCC. He added it is a 1031, all set up with the state and the federal government, and can collect money. Since things are moving, slowly, he would like to ask permission from the board for the TMA to start seeking out grant opportunities which would go to the town. They would focus attention on what's available and what could be obtained from existing grants.

Adam said he was ok with it but noted that the working group is at a pivotal point with the developer, and he worried about any kind of misconception. Erik said no one wants to put burden on the town taxpayers. They have a couple of grant writers and could find resources, start to put something together, and do a presentation to the board down the road. Adam said it's ok to see what's out there, but present before they apply for anything. Erik said all these things have time frames. Adam suggested looking at the longest time frames.

Jay said they cannot apply on behalf of the town is the biggest thing. He does not want to get into an issue again of misrepresentation. He added getting a list of whatever grants are out there is probably good, actually talking to the grantors is probably not good.

Adam summarized do the homework, compile it, come in and educate the board on what TMA finds is out there without putting out the feelers yet. The board is very interested.

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12. Committee Reports:

a. Broadband

John Gibbons said the fiber network expansion continues to proceed smoothly and ahead of schedule. One recent data point: Jim Justice just signed up for fiber connection up on Clarry Hill, and they told him he'd be connected next month. He seems very satisfied with the process. Things are going well.

John also said they have requested a status update and other information from Tidewater. One of the committee's priorities right now is to get regular status meetings set up with Tidewater.

He said they have had several citizen requests for a list of the roads that are receiving new fiber under the grant-supported expansion. That information is not easy to get from the Tidewater website. They put together such a list on the committee web page on the town website, like step one of what they see as a web page that can be a real source of information including time varying current information. They would like a mechanism in there, too, to encourage feedback from the citizens to the committee to get a picture of what perceptions are.

Adam said anyone watching can go to the Tidewater website and fill out an interest form. In his experience they get back to you pretty quickly. Jim added it's saving him a lot of money. Linda said people can call Tidewater or go over in person.

b. Sestercentennial

Jay said Argy sent an email. Martha said things are getting very busy and seem to be pulling together for the most part. They had a meeting last night. Next week's meeting will be reviewing all the details. They are meeting weekly.

She sent in the order for t-shirts to sell during the Sestercentennial weekend and for the committee. She is pulling together an order for the volunteers' t-shirts.

The books are ready. The historical society has some. Tracy has some. Martha added that all the merchandise (books, coins, t-shirts, hats) is available here about half an hour before the Monday night meetings. People can also call committee members.

Martha also said Christine from the Courier will cover the whole weekend. Re: map, Jay said (from Argy's email) the painting of the map is all done, but the second side is not complete because the Texas company creating it was hit by a tornado. Jay also brought up the shuttle circling the fairgrounds to the Common that stops at Matthews Museum.

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Martha said they are still looking for volunteers. She posted a link on her Facebook page. Mostly they need crowd control, parking, and sales and merchandise help.

Jay said they have a tabletop exercise coming up in two weeks to go over safety issues.

c. Thompson Working Group

Jay said they have not met. He went to a MCOG meeting, and they talked briefly. She is pretty satisfied with the information Matthew sent out. They will do a separate agreement for the restitution while they work on the whole plan. They want it a little bit different than the original draft. They will send out a written agreement right after the 4th, about the restitution, separate from the joint development agreement. The working group will probably meet when they come back with their suggestions.

Steve clarified the restitution agreement involves the application for the historic status, and Chris Baird from Essex is going to be preparing that assessment for the State of Maine. Adam confirmed we haven't cut any checks for that agreement.

In answer to Martha, Jay said it's part of the joint development agreement, because the joint development agreement will take more time, and we want to get moving. Steve said assuming the historic assessment is approved it will impact the developer's ability to begin their financing application in the fall, so there is a time crunch for them.

A mysterious parked bus was briefly discussed. Martha said Luce is doing the bus for the Sestercentennial.

In answer to Steve, Jay said the restitution piece can come directly to the select board without the working group having to meet to approve it. He added everybody agreed to it. It's just separating the two, just to speed things up, just getting it in writing from Developers Collaborative. Steve said it would be nice to have it by next meeting.

13. Select Board Report:

Wayne said he lost his mother Saturday night and has to put his dog down, a rough week. Condolences to him.

Adam said he is excited for the Sestercentennial. He has talked to many people who are also excited about it. He added it's important for communities to take time to recognize where they are and where they came from. His summer is go go go with an eight-year-old.

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Martha said she was surprised to see Doobie's cleaning up a lot.

14. Adjourn:

Motion by: Martha Johnston-Nash

2nd by: Wayne Kirkpatrick

5-0

Meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Abaldo
Secretary