

## MINUTES

**SELECT BOARD/ASSESSORS' MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 5, 2023  
WILLIAM L. PULLEN MUNICIPAL BUILDING MEETING ROOM  
ONLINE NON-INTERACTIVE ON TOWN HALL STREAMS  
6:30 p.m.**

**Select Board present:** Jim Justice, Adam Fuller, Martha Johnston-Nash, Wayne Kirkpatrick, and Linda Mountainland

**Others present:** Jay Feyler (Town Manager), Ellen Harrison, Catherine Meyer, John Gibbons, Argy Nestor, Heather Jackson, Keith Siegel, Tracy Weed, and others

**1. Call Select Board Meeting to Order:** at 6:30 p.m. by Jim Justice

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

The board observed a moment of silence for Fire Chief Kevin Soule, who passed away yesterday.

**3. Approve Minutes of Tuesday, June 20, 2023:**

Motion by: Martha Johnston-Nash

2<sup>nd</sup> by: Wayne Kirkpatrick

Linda noted an error re: who made the motion to accept TCSW appointees.

Motion to approve with the above correction by: Martha Johnston-Nash

2<sup>nd</sup> by: Wayne Kirkpatrick

5-0

**4. Approve Treasurer's Warrants dated Tuesday, June 30, 2023:**

Motion by: Martha Johnston-Nash

2<sup>nd</sup> by: Wayne Kirkpatrick

5-0

**Approve Treasurer's Warrants dated Wednesday, July 5, 2023:**

Motion by: Martha Johnston-Nash

2<sup>nd</sup> by: Wayne Kirkpatrick

5-0

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### 5. Confirmation of Appointments:

Motion to accept Bill Packard for the TCC Working Group by: Jim Justice

2<sup>nd</sup> by: Martha Johnston-Nash

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Motion to accept Bill Packard for the Sestercentennial Committee by: Martha Johnston-Nash

2<sup>nd</sup> by: Wayne Kirkpatrick

5-0

Motion to accept Ashley Brown for the Sestercentennial Committee by: Martha Johnston-Nash

2<sup>nd</sup> by: Jim Justice

5-0

### 6. Approve Treasurer's Disbursement Warrant Policy:

Adam read the policy aloud.

Motion by: Martha Johnston-Nash

2<sup>nd</sup> by: Jim Justice

5-0

### 7. Town Manager's Report:

Jay said as Adam announced, we lost Chief Soule. There will be a reception here on the 14<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.

They were paving today and got Sunk Haze done. They will be doing shims while here. He hopes to get the chip seal crew later this summer.

Bill Packard dropped off the town sign today that he volunteered to put together, and got people to fund. It's at the Public Works garage and will be up on Rt. 17 in East Union.

### 8. Other Business: None.

### 9. Public Comment:

Ellen Harrison wanted to address the recreation area (fire park, tennis courts, basketball court adjacent to the TCC), specifically still having it for the future. She looked at the Comprehensive Plan from 2017, which she said also mentioned the Common, Founders Park, and the TCC (due to the gym) as part of the rec area.

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She said we should have more and bigger recreation areas and options. We need more facilities. The ones we have should be maintained. She said the Comp Plan talks about bringing together Parks and Rec and the TCC as well as investment to maintain them.

She continued there are only three main policies from the recreation chapter of the Comp Plan. One is “maintain, upgrade existing recreational facilities as necessary to meet current and future needs.” She said the second was to preserve open space, and the third concerned access to major water bodies. She urged the board to consider not taking away but adding on to what we have.

Wayne noted we voted to put \$30,000 into the tennis courts this year. Ellen understood the town could do the courts when she and Jay agreed it would be better for Maine Tennis to do them. Wayne said Maine Tennis was two to three years out.

Adam said those courts have not been super used; the basketball courts are used all the time. We have been pursuing a new sports complex in another part of town through the Pullen Fund. He agreed we still need the present facilities, and to Wayne’s point, it is a ways out, and most of the numbers to resurface the courts were hundreds of thousands of dollars with a fairly long time frame. He noted Catherine sent info on federal funding which takes a year or so. He added the tennis courts probably got behind on maintenance, and pickleball shined a light on how neglected they were. It is something we need to keep working on. He continued the TCC is in flux, and the current Parks and Rec group – which is very active and does a lot of self-funding – is very focused on youth sports.

Ellen said she brought up Parks and Rec working with the TCC to make more things happen. Adam saw nothing wrong with that as a goal.

Catherine Meyer sent pictures of the courts to Jay, noting trash there everyday. She asked about a trash can. This was discussed. In answer to Ellen, Jay said Ayer Park is carry in/carry out with security cameras. Catherine asked about having security cameras at the courts/parking lot. Adam said he would be happy to look into cameras once we know what will happen with the TCC (meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup>), if and when the TCC has internet. Catherine asked about lights, which were discussed.

Argy Nestor recalled participants switching lights on and off there themselves as well as a trash barrel, noting positive culture.

Adam said the major takeaways were: let’s look into some lighting, what we can do to gain funding to resurface the courts, signage, and how to deal with the trash.

Catherine said she works very closely with Pat Hood.

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Heather Jackson strongly recommended, re: voting on restrictions for the Coggins Hill property, that two options be put out there that the Green Space Committee has researched – one a deed restriction, the other a third-party easement which is usually a land trust. Discussion followed. In answer to Martha, Jay said the plan for putting it on the agenda so it would get on the November ballot is for the committee to come before the board and make a presentation when ready.

Heather also said she bumped into Bruce Hall, Wyman's Director of Agroecology. He requested that, when the time comes, we invite them to be part of figuring out the public access.

Adam said he expected the Green Space to be deeply involved in any decision-making process.

Heather added the two-year lease (with Wyman's) is coming up. She said Bruce is hoping to do a 10-year lease, and it sounds like he would do more maintenance up there if so. She asked the board to look at that lease with a view toward looking at public access, which is basically shut down currently. We might want to see what Waldoboro did.

### 10. Committee Reports:

#### a. Broadband

John Gibbons said they are still waiting for our kickoff date with LCI re: the grant-supported network. They await one more key information item coming out of MCA. He had an exchange with them this morning; they are trying to work a legal issue with the feds. They expect a meeting later this month. The grant was awarded in April after being delayed for several months in the first place.

#### b. Green Space

Heather Jackson said they had the vote. Kathleen and Wendy are going to put a packet together. There is a wish to move toward a Conservation Committee. Discussion followed, including having an informational meeting and a public hearing, and going over the warrant article wording with the attorney. Heather summarized they will get a report to the board and wait to hear what to do next in terms of Coggins Hill and public education.

#### c. Sestercentennial

Co-chairs Argy Nestor and Keith Siegel gave a comprehensive update on 1) where they are and 2) possible historical society partnership.

Topics included the logo and a bandstand replica built by Tracy's husband Mike that has been in two parades. She listed committee members and discussed action

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items as well as subcommittees thus far. The historical society is taking the lead on some. Discussion followed. Adam said the way the bylaws are, you're either a committee member or you're not. He suggested that subcommittees be handled within the committee. Argy said some residents told her they were intimidated about the process of being appointed to a committee.

Argy asked if partners such as the school need to fill out paperwork. Adam said he can check with the town attorney but favored common sense.

In answer to Keith, Jay said the question re: volunteers is what are they going to be doing. He said the town has a simple list of volunteers, and each person on the list can be covered under insurance for @ \$3. Discussion followed.

Adam said the only people who see statements of interest are the five board members; Jay passes them along. He acknowledged the intentionally cumbersome process, saying they learned re: the TCC that with public money comes public accountability. Argy said she understood, having worked for the state/school district for 35 years.

Tracy Weed spoke about how Waldoboro did its Sestercentennial. They confirmed that their planning committee was part of their historical society. She spoke with Jeff Nims, Union Historical Society. Discussion followed.

In answer to Martha, Jay clarified the \$10,000 approved by taxpayers could be spent by the town committee but not by the historical society. More discussion followed. In answer to Keith, Jay and Adam did not think a MOU (Memo of Understanding) was legally needed for the Sestercentennial Committee and the historical society. Jay cited Founders Day as an example. Adam would like to see as much participation as possible.

Motion to support the Sestercentennial with the collaboration of the historical society and other local organizations and businesses by: Wayne Kirkpatrick  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: Linda Mountainland  
5-0

Adam asked to be kept in the loop as much as possible, saying the board would back them up. Argy invited the board to come to the meetings, etc. Martha said the next Sestercentennial Committee meeting is July 17 at 6:00 p.m.

### d. Ambulance Advisory

Tracy said Heather solicited donations for a thank you for ICSD Leader Kevin McGinnis. They will meet in September and hopefully find out what their terms are.

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### 11. Select Board Reports:

Wayne said yesterday was a somber day. While driving a firetruck at the Thomaston parade, he found out our chief had passed away.

Martha said Knox Communications did a final sign off for him last night. She expressed thanks for all he did and to his family for sharing him with us, noting we lost not only a fire chief but also an electrician. Jim said he did about everything at the fairgrounds. Martha added he did the wiring harness for the chamber for the trees as well.

Re: ambulance report, Martha mentioned the big drop in missed calls starting with 2019. She noted paramedic intercepts for June: Waldoboro one, Northeast one. She announced that we have hired our first full-time paramedic who will be starting August 6, Willis Gammon.

Martha gave kudos to our Animal Control Officer.

She also mentioned the Founders Day schedule put out by the Union Historical Society this year includes concert on the Common Friday night, the 14<sup>th</sup>; Saturday, Union Civil War Veterans Project at the Robbins House from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.; Saturday, 11:30 a.m., free (donations welcome to food pantry) chicken barbecue by the Masons; Saturday, 7:00 p.m., free silent movie at the Old Town House (Buster Keaton's *Steamboat Bill, Jr.*).

Martha also gave kudos to Tabby, who helped her get some things out of the TCC.

Adam spoke about Chief Soule. One thing that struck him about Kevin's passing was the loss of generational knowledge – though in his case, Ryan soaked a lot of that up. He will be missed. It will reverberate throughout the community. It's also a great chance to reflect on what he brought to the fire department. He wished the family the best.

Jim agreed with everything Adam said. Kevin was Jim's electrician, also.

### 12. Adjourn:

Motion by: Jim Justice  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: Martha Johnston-Nash  
5-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Abaldo  
Secretary