

MINUTES

**SELECT BOARD/ASSESSORS' MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 6, 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, Wayne Kirkpatrick, Bill Packard, and Martha Johnston-Nash

Others present: Jay Feyler (Town Manager), John Mountainland, Linda Mountainland, John Gibbons, Erik Amundsen, and others

- 1. Call Select Board Meeting to Order:** at 6:30 p.m. by Jim Justice
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3. Approve Minutes of Tuesday, May 2, 2023:**

Motion by: Bill Packard
2nd by: Wayne Kirkpatrick
4-0

- 4. Approve Treasurer's Warrants dated Tuesday, June 6, 2023:**

Motion by: Jim Justice
2nd by: Wayne Kirkpatrick
4-0

- 5. Sign Notice of Election for SAD 40:**

Motion by: Jim Justice
2nd by: Bill Packard
4-0

Martha Johnston-Nash arrived.

- 6. Approve appointment for Sestercentennial Parade Committee:**

Motion to approve Tracy Beck by: Jim Justice
2nd by: Bill Packard
5-0

Select Board Meeting Minutes – June 6, 2023

In answer to Martha, Jay said if they want to be protected by town insurance, everyone on various subcommittees should be appointed by the board. Adam added if dealing with town funds, one should be a committee member. He asked how many members participate at a meeting. Martha said eight to 10. Discussion ensued on appointments.

7. Discussion and approval of funds to Come Spring Food Pantry:

Motion to approve \$5,000 to Come Spring Food Pantry (as in the past, from the I. C. Thurston Fund) by: Jim Justice
2nd by: Wayne Kirkpatrick
5-0

8. Discussion and vote to lock in fuel prices for 23-24:

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

9. Discussion and vote to close office on June 13th for Elections:

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

10. Discussion and vote to close office on July 3rd, staff using vacation time:

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

Discussion ensued on giving staff the paid day off. The board concluded this would be simply a paid day off and not utilizing vacation time.

Amended motion to allow the office to be closed on July 3 and pay the staff for that day
by: Martha Johnston-Nash
2nd by: Wayne Kirkpatrick
5-0

11. Discussion and vote to sign 2023-24 septic contract:

Motion to approve the contract with Interstate Septic for \$2,300 by: Bill Packard
2nd by: Wayne Kirkpatrick
5-0

Select Board Meeting Minutes – June 6, 2023

12. Discussion and vote to purchase Go-Bags for Union School out of I. C. Thurston Fund:

Motion by: Jim Justice
2nd by: Wayne Kirkpatrick

Jay clarified these are trauma bags. With what's happening across the country it's prudent these be in the schools. The district decided not to have them in all the schools. They tried to write an EMA grant for all Knox County schools which was not successful. He asked Scott to write up a letter. Jay described how this fits the I. C. Thurston fund and how it is a stop-bleed in a mass casualty situation. Scott will handle all the training. EMA will come up before the school year starts. They have already worked with such safety stuff. Wayne clarified these are for teachers and staff.

Above motion passes,
5-0

13. Town Manager's Report:

Jay said he met with FEMA who showed up in six federal vehicles, one person per vehicle. They looked at the Quiggle Road culvert. Their goal is to verify the actual damage, but the only road they wanted to check was Quiggle Road. It is ridiculous but a lot of money for the town. Between he and Matt they will have 50-60 hours getting this done. They tried working mitigation. Yesterday's attempt was to try to fill the culvert in the way it is. That didn't work as the culvert is detached in the middle. So, he ordered two new plastic culverts, which will be covered if it becomes a declaration. They are very expensive. Hopefully they will be in by the end of the week, and that will be temporarily repaired.

Jay has the University of Maine Engineering Department coming down at the end of summer/early September as part of their capstone project: to design that and the other culvert on Mt. Pleasant Road. We won't have an engineering stamp, but our firm has agreed to work with them. It's great for students and totally free, so we'll save thousands of dollars. It will probably be a year, year and a half before we can put an open bottom culvert in there. He is pressing hard for mitigation funds.

The Spirit of America Award was awarded to Bob Williams. The town report is dedicated to former chief Paul Doughty. Town reports will be in the mail tomorrow.

Jay spent the afternoon with the DHHS re: General Assistance – skyrocketing housing costs in the last two years, and only 25 states offer GA with Maine by far the most generous. He raised this at a Columbus ICMA conference: managers across the country know that Maine has the most general GA policy which is why people get sent up here. He said we are literally one vanload away from disaster in small communities. The state needs to step up.

Select Board Meeting Minutes – June 6, 2023

He said board members have checks on their desks.

Adam acknowledged Tabby's work adding QR codes to this year's town report, saying it was a really nice touch melding our paper town report, which has been here for decades, with new technology.

14. Other Business:

Jay read off ballot clerks for the board's approval: Democrats Sheila Curry, Dianne Groce, Debra Hilt, Pam Jensen, and Nancy Johnson; Republicans Cindy Burns, Barbara Fang, David Sheehan; Unenrolled Marcy Corwin.

Motion to approve the above ballot clerks by: Jim Justice
2nd by: Wayne Kirkpatrick
5-0

15. Committee Reports:

a. Broadband

John Gibbons said MCA is running a bit behind in the paperwork that follows the grant awards, but it's coming. They expect to meet with Tidewater in two weeks to pin down certain details about the planned network buildout. Beyond that, the committee's priority is public outreach, further grant(s) for addresses not covered this time around, and its ombudsman role.

b. Green Space

Jay said they postponed their meeting to tomorrow pending Roger's answers to their questions.

c. Sestercentennial

Martha said the last meeting was May 15. They are defining costs, met with the historical society, and will have logo(s) shortly. The next meeting is June 19 at 6:00 p.m. All welcome. In answer to Adam, she said there is not yet a list of subcommittees.

d. Ambulance Advisory

Jay said they will start working on next year next month.

TCC working group update:

Select Board Meeting Minutes – June 6, 2023

Jay said Matthew and he will be working with Roger tomorrow on some wording. There will be a presentation to the select board to decide on a special town meeting. The developers who looked at the building want some kind of commitment, and the town has to decide what to do. In answer to Adam, Jay said we may hear something by the end of July, where the board has the capability to take it to the next step.

16. Select Board Reports:

Wayne wanted to look again at referendum voting and put it on the agenda. Martha agreed.

In answer to Martha, Jay said he thought Argy asked for a Sestercentennial table outside the election, but that is handled by the town clerk.

Adam asked for input on agenda placement of public comment. Opinions differed. Erik Amundsen shared what the school board does. Bill suggested using Survey Monkey.

Jim mentioned, re: referendum, that came from the audience – people had been at town meetings where they'd been stacked when there were 2,000 others who hadn't had a chance to vote. Adam preferred the town meeting – history, back and forth, etc. Bill liked having an idea why something was voted down.

17. Public Comment: None.

18. Adjourn:

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Abaldo
Secretary