

MINUTES
SELECTMEN’S/ASSESSORS’ MEETING
Wednesday, March 4, 2020
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: Jay Feyler, Jim Justice, Christine Simmonds (Courier-Gazette), Terry Washburn, Erik Amundsen, Nick Westervelt, Peter Duffey, Elizabeth Bailey-Mitchell, George Ebbinghousen, P. Jaine Jacobs, Bill Stinson, Jake Oliver, Peter Beckett, Bill Lombardi, Holly Lombardi, Dustin Batley, Robyn Tierney, Gordon Meeks, and Debra Lowtwait

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

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Public Comment:

Nick Westervelt was present to discuss a petition allowing marijuana cultivation. The topic will be a future agenda item once the petition is processed.

Greg Grotton spoke regarding a program he recently launched. The program allows Union citizens to stay informed on happenings around town and communicate via email. Union resident Terry Washburn questioned the legalities of the program. Jay stated after consulting with the town’s attorney, Greg’s program is legal if he is not speaking for the Board.

4. Approve minutes of Tuesday, February 4, 2020:

Motion by: Sarah Drickey

2nd by: Adam Fuller

4-1

5. Sign Treasurer’s Warrant dated Tuesday, February 18 and Wednesday, March 4, 2020:

Motion by: Sarah Drickey to accept warrant dated February 18

2nd by: Adam Fuller

5-0

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Motion by: John Shepard to accept warrant dated March 4
2nd by: Adam Fuller
5-0

6. Farm Space Withdrawal as Assessors:

Owner:	Real/Personal	Amount
Catherine and John Field	RE 1702	\$3,569.06

Farm Space Classification Removal Penalty
Removal from Farm Space Classification of 54 acres of land by owners' request

Motion by: Adam Fuller
2nd by: John Shepard
4-1

7. Georges River Land Trust Presentation:

Peter Duffey was present from Georges River Land Trust. They are interested in preserving 60 miles of land in Union. They would like to collaborate with the town in initiating projects to create trails and paths.

8. Vote on Browns Lane Property Offer:

There has been an offer made on the Browns Lane property. Realtor Jake Oliver was present to answer questions pertaining to the current bid from his clients. He stated his clients would like to build a tiny house on the property.

Discussion:

Bill Stinson spoke on behalf of The Friends of Founders Park. The group recently raised 20% of the funding needed to purchase the Browns Lane property in hopes of conjoining it with Founders Park. He pleaded the group's case as to why extending the park would be beneficial to the community, stating that a park is a public asset.

Dustin Batley read a statement on behalf of Debra Lowtwait, a Browns Lane property owner who is in favor of a park. Her concerns included the negative environmental impact, as well as the wildlife that would be negatively affected by building on the land.

Motion by: Adam to reject the current offer
2nd by: John Shepard
4-1

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9. Website update recommendation:

Jay stated all sites have been reviewed. The office suggests the Progressive account because of various tools needed to keep the community better informed. The cost would be \$6700.00 paid over three years.

Motion by: Sarah Drickey to go with the Progressive website and add it to the budget
2nd by: Adam Fuller
5-0

10. Approve Restitution Ordinance for Town Warrant:

Motion by: Sarah Drickey
2nd by: Adam Fuller
5-0

11. Vote on Spirit of America and Town Report Dedication:

Motion by: Sarah Drickey
2nd by: Adam Fuller
5-0

12. Discussion on Ayer Park Boat Ramp and possible funding:

Jay would like to table until further information is gathered.

13. Discussion on Excavator lease:

It was decided by the Board to add to the PW budget.

14. Workers Compensation Resolve:

Motion by: Adam Fuller to accept as written
2nd by: John Shepard
5-0

15. Appointment of Grant Watmough as health officer:

Motion by: Sarah Drickey
2nd by: Adam Fuller
5-0

16. Other Business:

Accept the bid from Maritime Energy for a locked in fuel price for next year.

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Motion by: Sarah Drickey
2nd by: John Shepard
5-0

17. Town Manager's Report:

Jay stated that unnecessary funds were spent on election ballots. The state did not supply enough, and Union ran out at noon. Ballots needed to be photocopied and hand counted. He is hoping to see this resolved by June and November elections.

The solar panel project will begin tomorrow on the PW building.

The hot patch asphalt is working well. PW will be working on the roads in the coming weeks.

Department of Transportation will be in Union on April 1st to discuss the design of the sidewalks.

April 6th: Informational meeting

PW Garage: still needs plumbing and the electrical is about 80% finished.

18. Selectmen's Report: None.

19. Future Agenda Items: None.

20. Adjourn:

Motion by: Adam Fuller
2nd by: Sarah Drickey
5-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Patrick
Secretary