

MINUTES

SELECT BOARD MEETING TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2021 WILLIAM L. PULLEN MUNICIPAL BUILDING MEETING ROOM 6:30 p.m.

Select Board present: Jim Justice, Adam Fuller, Martha Johnston-Nash, Josh White, and Bill Lombardi

Others present: Jay Feyler (Town Manager), Heather Jackson, and John Gibbons

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

Heather Jackson said it is great to see speeding signs on North Union Road. She thanked Public Works and the board.

- 4. Approve Minutes of Tuesday, October 19, 2021:**

Motion by: Bill Lombardi
2nd by: Josh White
5-0

Approve Minutes of Wednesday, November 3, 2021:

Motion by: Bill Lombardi
2nd by: Martha Johnston-Nash
5-0

- 5. Approve Treasurer's Warrants dated November 16, 2021:**

Motion by: Josh White
2nd by: Jim Justice
5-0

- 6. Discussion and vote to approve the Chamber to use the Common on December 5:**

Tree lighting will be at 6:00 p.m. There will be horse-drawn carriage rides in the afternoon from the Common to the library.

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Motion by: Bill Lombardi
2nd by: Josh White
5-0

7. Approve holidays of Monday, December 27 and Monday, January 3:

Motion by: Jim Justice
2nd by: Josh White
5-0

8. Town Manager's Report:

Jay said Sidelinger, Townsend, and Coggins Hill roads are done. The only thing left is the shoulder boxes.

Due to supply chain issues, Jay had Matt start to order parts for Public Works trucks, so there may be additional expenses. We are concerned that if we break a wing arm, for example, or anything electronic, replacement parts will not be available. We are trying to get parts in stock to avoid some trucks potentially being down for a long period of time.

In answer to Martha's question, Jay said regarding mutual aid, right now only two municipalities have a spare truck. Most private companies are already committed.

Matt went to three different FEMA things, all time-consuming. The recent storm will be declared an emergency. We are approved to apply for a FEMA mitigation grant for Clarry Hill Road, then we'll still have the FEMA COVID-19 stuff, and coming up we will have the infrastructure.

9. Other Business: None.

10. Committee Reports:

a. Broadband

John Gibbons said they met with LCI on October 19. Since then, LCI has had several meetings at the corporate level to de-conflict priorities. The bottom line is the committee believes LCI has decided to go ahead with Union. The next step is specifics, one of which is cost sharing.

Regarding the Coalition, the Axiom feasibility study is coming out in segments. The first segment came out approximately six weeks ago on the core four towns. They got the Union segment approximately a week ago; the committee's initial reaction is that it's too general and less than expected in terms of specific design and cost info on how expensive it would be to add towns.

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John's opinion is the Coalition is on the right track, and they are going to get there. He and Adam agreed the problem is their confrontational and abrasive style.

The committee plans to meet again before their next meeting with LCI.

b. Aging in Place in Union

None.

c. Future of the Thompson Community Center

Jay will wait for the meeting tomorrow night.

d. Green Space Committee

Josh said they met on the tenth, electing Chair Kathleen Thornton, Vice Chair Wendy Reinemann, and Secretary Don Kleiner. Everyone was assigned a conservancy to research about deed restrictions, etc. Next meeting is December 1.

Adam asked if they were doing any community survey or outreach. Josh said there will be a lot more discussion on that.

11. Select Board Report:

Bill brought up the results of the November 2 Right to Food referendum: Union had 114 more in favor than opposed. This told him a significant percentage of our electorate is interested in expanding food choice availability in the Town of Union. He encouraged the board to again consider bringing a Local Food Ordinance before the voters.

Josh said he heard from a lot of people who do not walk, or who do not walk much anymore. He reminded drivers to slow down for walkers and observe the law which is to go 3' around them. He also urged walkers to avoid wearing what he terms "road camo," i.e., dressing (presumably inadvertently) to blend in with the road such as khaki pants and pumpkin turtleneck walking a cocker spaniel in the fall, or gray pants and white puffer jacket in the winter.

Jim reminded people to walk on the correct side of the road, facing oncoming traffic.

Martha got a letter from the state on brown tail moths. She also brought up the annual Town Manager review which Adam said is coming up.

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12. Future Agenda Items: None.

13. Adjourn:

Motion by: Bill Lombardi
2nd by: Martha Johnston-Nash
5-0

Meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Abaldo
Secretary