

## MINUTES

**SELECT BOARD/ASSESSORS' MEETING  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 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), Greg Grotton, John Gibbons, Abraham Knight, Tom Jardin, Erik Amundsen, and others

- 1. Call Select Board Meeting to Order:** at 6:30 p.m. by Adam Fuller.
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3. Approve Minutes of Tuesday, October 24, 2023 and Wednesday, November 8, 2023:**

Motion by: Wayne Kirkpatrick  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: Jim Justice  
5-0

- 4. Approve Treasurer's Warrants dated Wednesday, November 21, 2023:**

Motion by: Wayne Kirkpatrick  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: Martha Johnston-Nash  
5-0

- 5. Approve the release of funds from the I. C. Thurston Worthy Poor Fund:**

Motion by: Wayne Kirkpatrick  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: Jim Justice  
5-0

- 6. Town Manager's Report:**

Jay said Robbins Road was paved last Friday and looks good. The crew will be working on the sides. In answer to Wayne, Jay said the chip seal will be done next year.

- 7. Other Business:**

Adam wanted to put on next meeting's agenda potential solutions for the Lake View Cemetery issue. He said there are two options, but he'd like to do more legwork.

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Re: (the TCC) working group and emails going back and forth about whether the select board should attend, Adam suggested getting a thread going with some bullet points on what the board would like to see happening there.

Jay suggested letting the working group do their thing, then look at the new RFP. He noted the working group is doing an excellent job so far. He urged caution as certain things may be negotiable. Adam clarified he doesn't want the board to step into the working group's role, nor does he want to meet behind closed doors. He added if the working group has a specific set of questions, just reach out.

Jim brought up the accidents and lights at the four corners. He is against getting a light. Wayne said the state will do what they're going to do. Martha noted the board is having the state look into it further. Jay said they will be required to come back with a plan and have a public hearing.

Linda brought up starting with flashing lights first. Jay agreed but said they would make us pay for them. Re: checking into the speed limit, Jay said he hasn't heard anything.

Jim mentioned the flashing lights at Rt. 1 in Brunswick with a 35 mph speed limit and noted most people slow down. He agreed to discuss it when the state comes back. Jay said it will be at least a year, year and a half before the state gets into a two-year plan.

### 8. Public Comment:

Tom Jardin said he read the October 17 minutes on the state's recommendation of a stoplight on Sennebec Road. As a resident on that road he believes a light is needed. He wanted to see the Power Point presentation mentioned in the minutes which is not on the town website. Jay said he will request a copy from the state.

### 9. Committee Reports:

#### a. Broadband

John Gibbons said in addition to the MCA grant that was awarded in April, for which we are still awaiting the signed contract, as reported at the last meeting there is another funding source in place now. LCI has signed up to take advantage of it. It will not be possible to use both at the same time. It is still being worked very intensely behind the scenes, and it will be another couple of weeks before we know the outcome.

John also said the other big issue is the FCC broadband maps – the FCC's attempt to identify all unserved areas in all the towns across the country. There are two issues: 1) it's a lousy job and hopelessly inaccurate; and 2) the FCC is seeking to impose that on the grant awardees. MCA has stepped up to carry the fight with the federal government over this for the entire state. Positive vibes are coming back

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from several sources. Bottom line: it will be another few weeks to a month before we know exactly what path we're on and what the schedule impact will be.

In answer to Jim, John said there are 43 addresses under Consolidated's area. The original plan was for LCI to run fiber there, but under the new funding source LCI can only spend that money in the area where it is the primary service provider. He said that's something we can do with the \$140,000 – for other addresses not allowable under the FCC's guidelines. The original plan was to start running fiber on the poles in January and start making connections to the new fiber before June; he would not be surprised if that's back by a month, but not more than that.

Wayne noted that, via his IT guy, Consolidated came out and built from 220 up 17 by his shop (in Washington) and brought fiber in yesterday, a two-week timeframe. John said he had talked to their key guy some time ago, who told him their central office is in China and they have no plans to expand. Wayne did not recall a connection charge, just the monthly fee.

- b. Green Space – None.
- c. Sestercentennial

Martha said Argy sent out a summary memo. She has interviewed and recorded eight Union residents. They are working to get those files transferred, and they will be shown at the Sestercentennial next year.

The facebook page has gone from 185 to 235 followers in about a week. They have been taking email addresses, almost 200 so far, and the committee sent out a first newsletter from mailchimp with a second coming next week. She urged people to make sure they got the newsletter if they submitted their email addresses, and to sign up if they have not already. Jay said google docs is set up on their facebook page.

Martha continued Argy said we have close to 2,000 wooden nickels out there.

She added on November 29 at 7:00 p.m. at the Vose Library, there will be six storytellers on the history of Union, their experiences in Union, etc. It will be videotaped.

Jay confirmed there is a link on the town website which goes to the Union 250 facebook page with their email address.

Jim confirmed with Martha that the committee is in touch with Alsace.

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### d. Ambulance Advisory

Jay thought they had one meeting with a written report.

### 10. Select Board Reports:

Linda sent board members an email from James re: a geological survey meeting. Jay said that is probably geared more to Grant and the planning board; Grant is going.

Erik Amundsen presented the school board facilities and maintenance budget, hard copies of which were given to select board members – for 2023-24, broken down per school, per item, \$3,822,000. He said this is just a part of it. There is also a transportation budget for 23, 24 buses, seven to nine vans, and three minibuses. He noted they are about three short of bus drivers and have a certified trainer.

Erik added they are getting reports to each town's select board. Brian is putting together a list of the 10 most important building issues, which they will go through in the next two weeks or so and take it from there.

Wayne appreciated the info and asked Erik to convey that 4:00 p.m. school board meetings do not work for bus drivers, etc.

Jay reminded that the board gets this paperwork every year. Discussion followed. Adam thanked Erik and said he is glad the meetings are now being taped.

### 11. Adjourn:

Motion by: Martha Johnston-Nash

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

5-0

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Abaldo  
Secretary