

# MINUTES

**SELECT BOARD/ASSESSORS' MEETING  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 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), John Mountainland, Greg Grotton, Vic Pease, Matt Elwell, Penny Dostie, Dennis Emidy, Steve Landry, Matt Elwell, and others

- 1. Call Select Board Meeting to Order:** at 6:30 p.m. by Adam Fuller.
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3. Open Public Hearing on General Assistance Ordinance:**

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

- 4. Close Public Hearing and Vote on Updated GA Ordinance:**

Motion to close the hearing and vote on the updated GA Ordinance retroactive to October 1 by: Wayne Kirkpatrick  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: Jim Justice  
5-0

- 5. Approve Minutes of Tuesday, September 19, 2023:**

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

- 6. Approve Treasurer's Warrants dated Tuesday, October 17, 2023:**

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

- 7. Vote to accept the 2023-24 General Assistance Ordinance:** Above.

## Select Board Meeting Minutes – October 17, 2023

### 8. Request for Tree Planting (Vic Pease):

Vic Pease said standing at Butler, Maxcy and Heath looking at the bandstand, there is a tree to the right that is going to come down. He proposed buying a 10' to 12' balsam fir tree, planting it in that lower corner, and having it every year for a Christmas tree, to be pruned as it grows. He would like to bury a cable to the bandstand. He clarified he is not asking for money. He spoke with Argy Nestor of the Sestercentennial Committee, who thought it was a great idea. The tree would be put in before Union's 250<sup>th</sup> celebration but could fit in with it through a dedication.

Board consensus was it's a great idea. In answer to Martha, Public Works Director Matt Elwell agreed saying Vic talked to him about it a couple weeks ago.

Motion to take up Vic's offer and let him plant the tree and put the cord in by: Wayne Kirkpatrick

2<sup>nd</sup> by: Linda Mountainland

Discussion: Vic brought up pruning and noted Matt said they would help plant the tree as they've got the equipment. Jim confirmed no cost to the town except electricity. Jay said we could probably get Skip Starr to prune it. Adam said it was reasonable for the town to have it pruned. Martha confirmed no issues with the overall landscape or historical concerns. Adam added it's a good start to a new history, continuing to work with the town crew Martha added.

Motion passed,

5-0

### 9. Discussion and vote to approve On Premise Relocation Liquor License:

Adam confirmed this is re: the Cornhole Connection. Penny Dostie, one of the owners, said the business is relocating to Union from Waldoboro where they had no problems. Adam confirmed this is the old Maine Water building behind Mic Mac. Jay confirmed no issues or reports in Waldoboro. He also reminded the board has to approve an entity's first liquor license. Martha approved of the location which has been vacant quite awhile. Wayne confirmed no stipulations with the school being right there. Penny said it would be beer and wine only, no hard liquor. In answer to Jim, she said they would have food. Martha confirmed this would be for people while they're playing as at a bowling alley. Penny added they would add a craft night, karaoke, tv for sports, birthday rentals, etc.

Motion to approve the premise relocation liquor license by: Wayne Kirkpatrick

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

5-0

## Select Board Meeting Minutes – October 17, 2023

### 10. Maine DOT Street Light Presentation:

Highway Safety Engineer Dennis Emidy, Office of Safety and Mobility, and State Traffic Engineer Steve Landry discussed the intersection of Route 17, Sennebec Road, and Route 235. Dennis delivered a PowerPoint presentation (which will be on the town website) re: traffic, history of accidents, how they evaluate different alternatives, and how they came up with recommending a traffic signal.

Dennis said they are working on 2026 safe projects, and the price of traffic signals is about \$500,000 to \$600,000 with 90% from the feds and 10% from the state for the installation.

Steve said normally they ask for a community to maintain the traffic signal after it goes in. With the new signals, Maine DOT would maintain anything in the cabinet and the signal protection which is the more expensive stuff. They would ask the town to do things like change bulbs, fix wiring, etc.

Adam noted we do not have the equipment to, for example, change a traffic signal bulb. Steve said he would provide a list of outside entities. Lights are LED.

Jay brought up the current light coming down twice in the last two years, and we have a \$5,000 deductible. Steve said the town would be responsible for insuring the signal. It has an end of service life at 20 years, when it would be put in planning for replacement. Steve added there are 815 signals in the state. In answer to Jay, he said they maintain the capital costs of replacements in the future. Dennis said the town would pay for the electricity. Steve said the town would be responsible for two of four flashing lights.

Discussion followed including speeding and business concerns. Steve clarified there will be a public meeting if this becomes a project. Tonight's presentation is as Adam put it a feeler. Board members expressed a variety of concerns with the consensus that safety is the priority.

Motion to supporting the idea of a signal by: Wayne Kirkpatrick

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

3-1 opposed (Justice) -1 abstention (Mountainland)

### 11. Public Works Truck Update, Discussion, and Approval of Order:

Matt Elwell said they need a new truck and it's expensive. They are in the rotation of fleet management – every two years, replace a truck so that we have reliable fleets and get the most value for the one being replaced. This year the wheeler is up to be replaced.

In answer to Adam, Matt said we have five plow trucks, every other year, so we get 10 years out of a truck (minus the pickup truck). Adam added every 10 years we are totally through the fleet.

## Select Board Meeting Minutes – October 17, 2023

Matt said the 2017 wheeler has 42,000 miles on it, and it will be another winter before it gets replaced so it will be up to 50,000 miles. Due to the supply chain of parts, wings, plows, etc. it has to be ordered a year in advance. In answer to Adam, Matt said we have three trucks left before we are on that 10-year management cycle.

Adam asked if the purchase cost would come out of the reserve. Jay said yes, they do lease purchases and do the major down payment on it, then when the other piece of equipment ends this year the debt service will pretty much stay the same – replace one payment with another, as Adam put it. Matt said the price is \$257,000 before the trade-in, for a Western Star including plow, etc. They go to O'Connor's in Augusta for as Adam put it ease of contact. Matt noted this is for the 2024-25 budget.

Motion to accept the approval to order a new Public Works truck by: Wayne Kirkpatrick  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: Jim Justice

Amended motion to approve the Public Works purchase (truck) using funds from the reserve account by: Wayne Kirkpatrick  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: Jim Justice  
5-0

### **12. Approve the Chamber of Commerce to Use the Common on December 3 for Christmas in the Country:**

Motion by: Jim Justice  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: Wayne Kirkpatrick  
4-0-1 abstention (Johnston-Nash)

### **13. Town Manager's Report:**

Jay said the sign is up and working. It was put in last Thursday. It's a little bright as it takes awhile to get broken in and for the lights to adjust. It will be on a timer and go off by approximately 9:00 p.m.

Martha went to the MMA Convention. Jay said there were a lot of good ideas there, and he added also in Austin, TX. He added there is some great technology for small towns that we'll be looking into.

### **14. Other Business:**

Linda brought up whether or not the board wanted to go on record against the proposed \$81 million school budget referendum. Discussion followed.

Adam said he would go on record individually for himself to say it is a poorly worked out process.

## Select Board Meeting Minutes – October 17, 2023

Wayne agreed, having gone to the Union open house; essentially there is a huge amount of fluff. Wayne added their facilities budget is way under what it should be (\$200,000 for seven schools) which is why they're in the position they're in. He expects another round of open houses and encourages people to go.

Linda went on record as being completely against it.

Martha agreed, noting so many items should have been on maintenance. Her concern is 10 years down the road, they're going to want a new school while there is still money to be paid off on this maintenance stuff.

Adam agreed there is a lot of fluff, and he has a huge problem with the process. The public should have been brought in six or seven years ago. He compared their process, with no televised meetings, to our TCC process. More discussion followed. He clarified this board doesn't really have a say in this; it is up to the voters.

Jim said he is 100% against it.

Jay said if the board votes against it, it can go on social media and as Martha said raise interest. Jay also said if it fails – and there is a lot of opposition in other towns – a lot of that will be in next year's budget for a budget increase.

Motion to go on record saying the select board opposes the \$81 million bond and would also like the town manager to post it on any media platform he wants to by: Wayne Kirkpatrick  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: Jim Justice

Adam said he as a parent talks to a lot of people who fear that by voting against this, they are somehow not supporting the school. He feels this is absolutely not the case and hopes if this gets rejected the school board sets new timelines, revisits this, does community outreach, and thins the number down. Wayne added it's too bad each town can't help out.

Motion passed,  
5-0

### 15. Public Comment:

Jim thanked Linda and Bill Packard for their support on the new sign and their contribution on raising funds.

Adam had a tech issue, apologized, and will get back to people who emailed him.

### 16. Committee Reports:

- a. Broadband – None.

## Select Board Meeting Minutes – October 17, 2023

- b. Green Space – None.
- c. Sestercentennial – None.
- d. Ambulance Advisory – None.

### 17. Select Board Reports:

Wayne said he (his business) is moving out of town.

Martha brought up Heather's comment, re: Coggins Hill, that the Wyman's lease ended in September. Jay said it probably did. He is not sure they will agree to everything such as more of a trimming commitment and public access.

Adam said he lost a good friend this morning and appreciated all the conversation and back and forth.

### 18. Adjourn:

Motion by: Linda Mountainland  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: Wayne Kirkpatrick  
5-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Abaldo  
Secretary