

# MINUTES

**SELECT BOARD/ASSESSORS' MEETING  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2022  
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 Bill Packard

**Others present:** Jay Feyler (Town Manager), Erik Amundsen, Greg Grotton, John Gibbons, Michael J. Arbour, Sherry Cobb, Bruce Cobb, John Mountainland, Linda Waltz-Mountainland, Ken Curry, Karen Curry, Bob Williams, and William Coll

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

Adam read aloud Article 2: "To see if the inhabitants of the Town of Union will vote to authorize and require the Town to use previously allocated funding to obtain an engineering feasibility report on the viability of retaining ownership of the Thompson Community Center, before undertaking any repairs or renovations, and to mail all registered voters of the Town a summary of the report and the total cost of the project, and to hold a referendum election on whether to proceed with the project. The engineering feasibility report would include, without limitation, an analysis of the scope of work and cost of renovating and repairing the community center, taking into consideration any required mold remediation and hazardous waste removal, repair or replacement of the septic system, and repair or replacement of the heating system."

Extensive discussion followed.

- 4. Close Public Hearing on Petition Warrant Article:** at 7:19 p.m.

Motion by: Bill Packard  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: Wayne Kirkpatrick  
5-0

- 5. Public Comment:**

Adam read aloud a letter from John Field of 300 Clarry Hill Road.

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**6. Approve Minutes of Tuesday, October 4, 2022:**

Motion by: Wayne Kirkpatrick

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

5-0

**7. Approve Treasurer's Warrants dated Tuesday, October 18, 2022:**

Motion by: Jim Justice

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

5-0

**8. Confirmation of the Town Manager appointment of Ballot Clerks:**

Motion to approve as presented by: Martha Johnston-Nash

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

5-0

**9. Confirmation of the Town Clerk appointment of the Election Warden:**

Motion to approve as presented by: Martha Johnston-Nash

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

5-0

**10. Approval of the Town Office Closure on Tuesday, November 8:**

Motion by: Jim Justice

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

5-0

**11. Discussion on the TCC RFP planning group:**

The size, composition, and job of the committee were discussed.

Motion to table until the next meeting by: Martha Johnston-Nash

Motion withdrawn.

Motion to vote tonight by: Jim Justice

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

The board had received five applications read aloud by Martha: board members Bill Packard and Wayne Kirkpatrick, and Erik Amundsen, Steve Migliorini, and John Mountainland.

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Motion to accept the five applications in hand by: Martha Johnston-Nash  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: Jim Justice  
3-0-2 abstentions (Kirkpatrick, Packard)

### 12. Town Manager's Report:

Jay was on vacation last week. We are still waiting for Thayer to give us an estimate on fixing the water returns on the TCC furnace. Paul sent a revised contract from the TMA; Jay will talk more with Roger later this week, but Roger is not going to recommend that the board accept it. Roger would like to reach out to the attorney TMA hired, but they haven't given us the name yet.

Adam brought up the possibility of the TMA only operating through January. He would like the TMA to provide a breakdown of how much use they are getting out of that building for the cost. What's our return on investment and actual use to the citizens? He understands it's low as we don't have full use of the building.

Martha said they turned over a check in September for \$1,000 to the town. In October, for the first two weeks, they've given the town over \$1400. In answer to Adam, she clarified this is not tenants, mostly thrift store and pickle ball. Adam's concern is if the TMA leaves in January, how much use will the building get vs. the cost to heat it for those really cold months. Martha said re: thrift shop, the intent is to continue managing it and turning that money over. They have been building revenue.

### 13. Other Business:

Bill asked the date for paving Clarry Hill. Jay said it was originally scheduled for this next week, but with the rain probably a few more days. In answer to Wayne, Jay said they will fix the Bump Hill/Sidelinger transition at the same time.

### 14. Committee Reports:

#### a. Broadband

John said the grant application is proceeding. There's been a change in direction between LCI and MCA (Maine Connectivity Authority). There's a second grant program called a line extension program, aimed specifically at ISPs who already have a presence in the town.

Its purpose is to encourage the ISP to build out to the less dense portions of the town that currently have very slow internet service, and where it costs more to serve the residents. LCI has decided to pursue this line extension grant. It's about a month behind the schedule of the first program. Funding is about the same, \$20 million. LCI has been encouraged by MCA to go in this direction.

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Deadline is December with awards in January. The \$20 million comes under the ARP Capital Funds Project just like funding for first program; his point is the funding is solid. The committee plans to meet with LCI in the next few weeks.

When it gets deeper into the application process, LCI will come to the town with a proposal – what they're seeking from the town in terms of a funding contribution. They know how much has been appropriated already and have been told not to exceed it. The committee will make a recommendation to the board before they make that proposal. In sum a change in direction but still on track, and they have very high hopes.

- b. Aging in Place in Union – None.
- c. Green Space – None. Waiting on the survey.
- d. TMA report

Erik Amundsen said they're moving along. They are hobbled by not having enough volunteers to keep the building open later or Saturdays, or to open the Thrift Shop more than three-and-a-half days a week. Volunteers needed.

- e. Sestercentennial

Martha said they had a meeting last week, an idea-forming session to continue at the next meeting on November 16. A google drive has been set up. They are still looking for people. Anyone interested should fill out a statement of interest form.

- f. Ambulance Advisory

Tracy emailed the minutes.

### 15. Select Board Reports:

Bill said Friday he picked up a flag and returned it to Public Works. Maybe as we go through winter, we can get an inventory of how many we need, Jay can get a price, and we can see if people want to buy individual ones which worked well in the past.

Jay said we also need somebody to take over the flags (on the poles). This has all been done by volunteers. Greg said he's been in charge for 15 years. Kevin puts them up and down. Volunteers needed.

### 16. Future Agenda Requests: None.

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**17. Adjourn:**

Motion by: Bill Packard  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: Wayne Kirkpatrick  
5-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Abaldo  
Secretary