

MINUTES

SELECT BOARD MEETING TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2021 WILLIAM PULLEN MUNICIPAL BUILDING 6:30 p.m.

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

Others present: Jay Feyler (Town Manager), Erik Amundsen, Heather Jackson, Clairlynn Rountree, Christine Simmonds (Courier Gazette), and John Gibbons

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

Jim got a call complaining about roadwork on Clarry Hill too late in the season. Jay said we follow state guidelines which say October 15.

Adam got an email from a midcoast roller derby group inquiring about using TCC which they have used in the past. He advised it's an issue in flux and will forward the email.

- 4. Approve Minutes of Tuesday, August 31, 2021:**

Motion by: Jim Justice
2nd by: Josh White

Bill noted a correction: regarding TCC, "we are close to hiring an outside person" should say "we could hire an outside person."

Amended motion to approve with the above change by: Jim Justice
2nd by: Josh White
5-0

- Approve Minutes of Tuesday, September 21, 2021:**

Motion to by: Martha Johnston-Nash
2nd by: Josh White
5-0

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5. Approve Treasurer's Warrants dated October 5, 2021:

Motion by: Josh White

2nd by: Jim Justice

5-0

6. Appointment of Debra Lay to the Aging in Place Committee:

Motion by: Bill Lombardi

2nd by: Martha Johnston-Nash

5-0

7. Discussion on forming a committee for the Coggins Hill property:

Discussion centered on the scope of this potential committee, expanding the Coggins Hill energy and momentum to include green space, and whether or not this might fit within Parks and Recreation.

Motion to initiate a green space committee whose first task is to advise the Select Board as far as the deed restriction on the Coggins Hill property by: Bill Lombardi

2nd by: Josh White

4-1 (Martha Johnston-Nash)

Motion passes.

8. Discussion and vote to approve a temporary contract for Coggins Hill blueberries:

Motion for 2-year lease with Wyman's by: Bill Lombardi

2nd by: Martha Johnston-Nash

5-0

9. Update, if any, on the TCC meeting:

Jay said a meeting happened today with four of their committee members and Paul from our committee. They are very receptive. They would like something in writing.

Jay said our attorney recommended we form a new nonprofit. He cautioned that individuals should not be going over and talking to tenants, noting individuals have zero authority unless as part of a board or committee. We must be careful of potentially perceived verbal agreements. This takes time. We've got the door open, let's not mess it up. In answer to Adam, Jay said Lori was present in addition to the four board members.

Bill asked about next steps. Jay said they want stuff in writing from the board or the committee. We also asked them to put some stuff in writing.

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Adam summarized: we gave our committee (CFTCC) the goal of coming up with a transition plan. They (TCCA) were receptive. Paul will put things in writing. They (TCCA) are open to a transition plan.

Discussion included a potential interim committee, the parameters of a potential new lease, and any long-term plan must be approved by voters. Martha said the thrift shop is the money maker in the building. Jay said TCC will cost \$20,000 in oil to heat this winter.

Adam said he is very comfortable letting our future committee start to hammer out details and see what they can work out. The progress and dialogue are fantastic. Jay reiterated he feels there is opportunity here.

10. EMS update on vehicle, tentative:

Motion to authorize EMS Chief Jesse Thompson to proceed to purchase a fly car for \$17,500 from ARP funds by: Martha Johnston-Nash

2nd by: Jim Justice

5-0

Bill asked what kind of ARP funds we have. Jay said \$260,000; we spent roughly \$10,000 on broadband studies. Jay added the board has to vote to spend the funds.

11. Town Manager's Report:

Jay signed the GA Ordinance the board previously approved.

He urged the board to go look at the planks for the Ayer Park boat ramp. We put it out to bid; a contractor installs. We have verbal approval from the Army Corps of Engineers.

Jay added that he is in the midst of a virtual conference, noting approximately 90 people attended his online session last Friday afternoon.

12. Other Business:

Heather Jackson asked about speeding signs (North Union Road petition). Jay found the cost is \$250 per sign including labor, trucking, etc. so seven signs meeting MUTCD code would be \$1750. Flashing signs were not included.

Signage for other roads in town, the effectiveness of speed limit signs in general, and not wanting so many signs it resembles an LA freeway (as Josh put it) were discussed.

It was agreed this is an important issue. Jay will gather speed limit data. The town has some existing signs at Public Works.

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Motion to have a sign that fits the purpose for the northwest end of North Union Road, buying post and breakaway if we have the sign to do it by: Josh White

Motion withdrawn.

Motion to postpone until next meeting with speed data by: Martha Johnston-Nash
2nd by: Josh White
5-0

The board thanked Heather and agreed there will clearly be more talk about signs.

13. Committee Reports:

a. Broadband

John Gibbons said they are setting up another meeting with LCI. The goal is to get LCI to commit to submitting a grant application for Union to build out to unserved areas which is the grant criteria. Beyond that they seek to understand schedules and costs, and start to explore cost sharing. He added the committee is now very conscious of problems that other towns have faced with a monopoly provider.

The Coalition focus remains getting funding to proceed with their own buildout. We would be part of the second buildout. AXIOM study results are running late but expected soon. These results will form the basis of substantive discussions of costs and schedule of regional buildout possibly involving Union.

The committee meets next Tuesday.

Adam added that Union is viewed as a model in terms of broadband approach.

b. Aging in Place in Union

Bill did not make the last meeting but thanked Anita Brown for her notes.

They discussed the notice he will send the Select Board regarding Mid Coast Public Transportation concerning who is eligible or not eligible, what services they provide, etc. One of their issues is lack of staffing which affects driver availability, website, and more. He was tasked with a summary for the resource sheet to be included in luncheon bags (luncheon October 21, RSVP October 14).

The committee is looking for additional members. One area to address is loneliness, so they hope to offer more connection and outreach possibilities.

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c. Future of the Thompson Community Center

Martha said there was a meeting September 27. Focus was on the tenants, with serious concern about what they might have been told, and how to approach the TCCA meeting. There was a lot of good input. In addition, five committee members are interested in serving on a transition board if that becomes an option. They got a message from someone interested in renting gym. Adam will forward the roller derby email.

14. Selectmen's Report: None.

15. Future Agenda Items: None.

16. Adjourn:

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Abaldo
Secretary