

MINUTES

SELECTMEN'S/ASSESSORS' MEETING

Tuesday, October 6, 2020

ONLINE INTERACTIVE

6:30 p.m.

Selectmen present: John Shepard (Chair), Adam Fuller, Josh White, Martha Johnston-Nash, and Bill Lombardi

Others present: Jay Feyler, Jerry Brooks, Christine Simmonds, Jim Justice, John Gibbons, Greg Grotton, Amy Cornell, and Erik Amundsen

1. Call Selectmen's meeting to order: 6:30 p.m.

2. Public Comment: None.

3. Approve minutes of Tuesday, September 15, 2020:

Motion by Selectman Fuller seconded by Selectman Johnston-Nash to approve the minutes with one amendment. Vote by roll call. Selectmen in favor: Fuller, Shepard, Johnston-Nash, White, and Lombardi. All in favor.

4. Approve Treasurer's Warrant dated Tuesday, October 6, 2020:

Motion by Selectman Fuller seconded by Selectman Johnston-Nash to approve the warrant. Vote by roll call. Selectmen in favor: Shepard, Fuller, Johnston-Nash, White, and Lombardi. All in favor.

Motion by Selectman Johnston-Nash seconded by Selectman Fuller to approve the fire warrant. Vote by roll call. Selectmen in favor: Johnston-Nash, Fuller, Shepard, Lombardi, and White. All in favor.

5. Discussion on Solar Ordinance or Moratorium (Planning Board):

Jerry Brooks (Planning Board Chair) was present to speak on behalf of the Planning Board about the ground mounted solar energy systems. Their proposal is to implement a moratorium on solar array installation. He stated that undoubtedly there needs to be a concrete ordinance in place that addresses solar array issues. He feels this will require a special town meeting and some guidance from the town attorney. He also feels it is important to be proactive and tailor the ordinance to coincide with the Comprehensive

Plan. Currently, the Town of Washington has an impressive ordinance. Jerry stated that he has reached out to other resources and is working on a preliminary plan. MMA does not have anything specific in place but has provided helpful information. The Planning Board realizes that a seven-acre project is a large project and plans to effectively run through the review process to be sure that it is done correctly.

Discussion: Martha asked Jay about the cost of holding a special town meeting or open ballot. Jay stated that it can be costly, but inevitably needs to be done. Adam asked about the moratorium timeline. Jerry stated that a moratorium is good for six months, and once the moratorium is acquitted, an ordinance then takes its place. Josh inquired about the construction timeline. Jerry said there is a process, but once it is approved by the town, the Planning Board is required to begin working on it as soon as possible. Furthermore, they also need to comply with the parameters of the application.

Motion by Selectman Johnston-Nash seconded by Selectman Fuller to put a moratorium on all ground mounted solar energy systems with secret ballot vote as soon as possible. Vote by roll call. Selectmen in favor: Johnston-Nash, Fuller, White, Lombardi, and Shepard. All approved.

6. Appointment of other members on Food Ordinance Committee:

Motion by Selectman Johnston-Nash seconded by Selectman Fuller to approve Jim Justice to hold a seat on the Food Ordinance Committee. Vote by roll call. Selectmen in favor: Fuller, Johnston-Nash, Shepard, Lombardi, and White. All in favor.

7. Approve Official Name of Food Ordinance:

Motion by Selectman Johnston-Nash seconded by Selectman Fuller to approve the name *Food Ordinance Committee*. Vote by roll call. Selectmen in favor: Fuller, Johnston-Nash, Shepard, White, and Lombardi. All in favor.

8. CMP Pole Permit Approvals:

Motion by Selectman Fuller seconded by Selectman White to approve the CMP Pole Permit. Vote by roll call. Selectmen in favor: Fuller, Shepard, Johnston-Nash, White, and Lombardi. All in favor.

Motion by Selectman Johnston-Nash seconded by Selectman Fuller to amend the original motion, now giving authorization to the Town Manager to approve the CMP Pole Permits. Vote by roll call. Selectmen in favor: Shepard, Johnston-Nash, White, Lombardi, and Fuller. All in favor.

9. Discussion and approval of NE Municipal Advisor Contract:

Jay stated that he would like to contract with NE Municipal Advisors to receive a better bond rate. Motion by Selectman White seconded by Selectman Lombardi to contract with NE Municipal Advisor to receive a better bond rate.

Vote by roll call. Selectmen in favor: Shepard, White, Lombardi, and Fuller. Selectman Johnston-Nash opposed.

10. Vote to accept the \$5,000 Center for Tech and Civic Life Grant:

Motion by Selectman Fuller seconded by Selectman White to approve the \$5000 Center for Tech and Civic Life Grant. Vote by roll call. Selectmen in favor: White, Johnston-Nash, Shepard, White, and Lombardi. All in favor.

11. Establish Selectmen Newsletter Guidelines:

Bill read his version of Listserv parameters. Suggestions and concerns were voiced by all Board members. It was agreed upon by everyone to write a post to *Selectmen Sidelines* twice a month which will be on a voluntary basis. The emails will be sent to Bill by Sunday evening for review. If there are no objections by the Board members, the email will be forwarded to the Town Office by Tuesday for publication.

12. COVID-19 updates:

Jay mentioned that the Governor passed a new decree increasing the number of people at a public gathering. He stated that it will not change the policy that is currently in place for the Pullen Municipal Building Meeting Room.

He stated that town offices continue to ask the Governor to mandate masks for Election Day to no avail.

About four weeks remain of the Maine Healthy Grant. There is a sizeable need for children's masks, and they still have a decent supply. The office has been alternating pick-up times to make it convenient for Union residents.

13. Other Business:

Jay suggested establishing a Broadband Committee. He feels that John Gibbons would be an intricate part of this group with his knowledge on the subject.

Motion by Selectman Johnston-Nash seconded by Selectman Fuller to form a Broadband Committee. Vote by roll call. Selectmen in favor: Fuller, Shepard, Lombardi, Johnston-Nash, and White. All in favor.

14. Town Manager's Report:

PW update: the heating system was installed in the garage today and should be up and running.

Jay will be taking some personal time in the next few weeks; he will be checking his email.

15. Selectmen's Report:

Martha asked Jay about the heat zones for the PW garage. Jay stated there will be one zone for all 3 rooms. Radiant floor heat was installed in the garage floor for obvious reasons. Tearing up the entire floor to connect the entire building would not have been beneficial and would have delayed completion moving into winter.

John stated that the annual Town Manager review will not be taking place in October. Scheduled date is November 10.

November 3 BOS meeting is cancelled because of Election Day.

16. Future Agenda Items:

Discussion on ways to thank the volunteers.

17. Adjourn:

Motion by Selectman Fuller seconded by Selectman White to adjourn. Vote by roll call. Selectmen in favor: White, Johnston-Nash, Fuller, Shepard, Lombardi, and White. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Patrick
Secretary