

Union Board of Selectmen & Assessor's Meeting

November 7, 2017

6:00 p.m. Meeting

Selectmen present: Greg Grotton, Jim Justice, John Shepard, Sarah Drickey, Lyle Cramer

Others present: Jay Feyler, Town Attorney Roger Therriault, Vicki Harriman, Erik Amundsen, Assessor's Agent Jim Murphy

- 1) **Call selectmen's meeting to order:** 6:00 p.m.
- 2) **Pledge of allegiance:**
- 3) **Public comment:**

Vicki Harriman, Union Health Officer & Chairperson of the Aging in Place in Union Committee, had 2 comments. 1) Could the Aging in Place report be put on the agenda for the next meeting on November 21? 2) Was a letter sent to DOT requesting a study for safety issues at Townhouse Road and Rt. 17, per DOT light discussion at 9/19 meeting?

Jay said the Selectmen did not vote to send the letter. Discussion followed about how DOT could end up raising the speed limit rather than lowering it, and the Town would not be able to do anything about it.

The portable speeding sign was mentioned. Jay reported that everywhere it has been placed around Union, drivers exceed the speed limit by approximately 85%. DOT could go by that type of information and increase the speed limit closer to what people drive.

Greg mentioned the new paint on the road coming down Townhouse, as well as the double stop signs at the intersection of 17/Townhouse/Sennebec.

It was reiterated that Dollar General did everything properly based on DOT rules and regulations. They did a traffic study. They depend on regular commuting traffic for their business.

Vicki mentioned her October 20 letter to DOT, which has a lot of people's signatures. She said many people are concerned and not just about that corner.

The consensus was that it would be ideal to have a traffic light at the 17/Townhouse/Sennebec intersection; however, since 17 and Townhouse are State roads, this is controlled by DOT regulations. We will see how the new stop signs work and look at this issue again in a couple months.

**4) Executive Session with Town Attorney Economic Development 1
MRSA 405 (6)(C)**

Out of Executive Session at 6:55 p.m.

Motion by: Jim Justice
2nd by: Lyle Cramer
5-0

5) Approve minutes of October 17, 2017:

Motion by: Jim Justice
2nd by: Lyle Cramer
5-0

Correction: Sarah was not there but was marked present.

6) Assessor's Agent request to meet with Board:

Assessor's Agent Jim Murphy had a couple of abatements. Refunds to be issued to Robert and Marlana Prescott in the amount of \$170.64, and to Timothy Rich in the amount of \$316.00.

Motion by: Jim Justice
2nd by: Lyle Cramer
5-0

7) Sign Tax Collector/Treasurer statement regarding delinquent taxes:

When someone has delinquent taxes, any funds paid go to the oldest owed taxes. This must be approved every year.

Motion by: Jim Justice
2nd by: John Shepard
5-0

8) Vote to write off personal property uncollectible taxes:

Motion by: Lyle
2nd by: John Shepard
5-0

9) Sign Treasurer's Warrant dated November 7, 2017:

Motion by: Jim Justice

2nd by: John Shepard
5-0

10) Town Manager's Report

Jay reported many residents lost power with the recent storm outages, but only one person called about a shelter. He is going to work with EMA. He thought we had an agreement with the school – the generator at the school belongs to FEMA, and part of the agreement was that they would offer a shelter. He will meet with the Superintendent to work that out.

Jay also did a FEMA declaration. Anyone with personal property damage should get him photos and repair estimates from contractors. This cannot be done by phone. He noted the paperwork is enormous, and chances of approval by the Governor are slim; he wanted to make people aware of it.

He mentioned the large portable double stop signs on Townhouse and Sennebec at the intersection of 17, and the painted stop sign on Townhouse. He expects DOT to Dig Safe the stop signs, then put up permits. We will do it if the State will help.

Treasurer Laura Curtis should be sending six-month budget reports soon. Since Marcy retired after we did budgets, training & mileage will be bigger due to initial new employee costs.

Town Clerk Stacey Parra will run the next Selectmen's meeting on Tuesday, November 21, 2017.

The election went well. Turnout was fantastic.

11) Other Business:

The board set a Special Town Meeting December 12, 2017 at 7 p.m. regarding the Thompson Community Center (TCC) – transfer or lease of the building for elderly housing.

Motion by: Jim Justice
Second by: John Shepard
5-0

12) Selectmen's Report:

On December 10, 2017 Medomak Valley High School will host a Wreaths Across America event. Some board members will be attending.

Sarah was approached by someone who asked if we post Selectmen's meeting dates on the board. Selectmen agendas are posted on the website, sent to listserv, and posted on the bulletin board in the Town Office lobby.

Bill Packard offered to help raise money to replace storm-damaged flags and poles. Great idea; Jay will look up the cost and get the number to Bill.

Greg added if anyone is interested in taking over the flag business, jump right up.

13) Future Agenda Items:

Aging in Place will be on the agenda for Tuesday, November 21, 2017.

Adjourn:

Motion by: Jim Justice
Second by: Sarah Drickey
5-0

Meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Sherry Abaldo