

Selectmen/Assessor's Meeting Minutes
August 2, 2016

Board Present: Greg Grotton, Lyle Cramer, James Justice, John Shepard and Sarah Drickey.

Also Present: Jay Feyler, Matt Elwell, Lawrence Nash, Orrin Parker and Eleanor Snyder.

1. **Call Selectmen's Meeting to Order:** by Chair at 6:30PM.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** given by all who wished.
3. **Public Comment:** there was none.
4. **Approve Minutes of July 19, 2016:** Motion James Justice to approve July 19, 2016 minutes as written. Seconded John Shepard. Unanimous.
5. **ACO with County, Mr. Matt Elwell:** Union's ACO's Suzanne and Cortland Bennett have decided to retire after many years of serving Union. Jay thought it was an opportunity to have the County propose a County wide ACO. Matt is here tonight to give a brief overview and answer any questions. Several months ago The Sheriff's Dept. were having meetings to discuss ways to better serve the citizens of Knox County. A Regional animal control officer came up as a possibility. The Town of Union has been lucky to have the same ACO for the last number of years, other Towns have gone through multiple ACO's in the course of a year because the job doesn't pay very much. They always call us as fallback and we end up dealing with it anyhow. So, we decided to gauge the interest of certain Towns by sending letters to Town Administrations to see if there was an interest. The proposal would pool the resources to the County and they would supply an Animal Control Officer or multiple Animal Control Officers if there was enough interest. The goal is to see how many Towns are interested in this, secondly whatever the budget is for each Town it would remain the same just putting it all together and use those funds to negotiate Contracts with Animal Shelters and pay the salary for the person who is employed as the Animal Control Officer for our Agency. It is yet to be determined whether it's a Full-time or Part-time position depending on how many Towns were to join. The County Commissioners are going to host an Informational meeting for all interested parties. Invitations will be sent to all Towns. Our primary coverage area is 10 Towns not counting Camden, Rockport, Thomaston and Rockland. If it proves to be successful we may reach out into Thomaston and Rockland and other agencies as well. John asked would be this be a separate individual department or just an individual hired by the County. It would be a separate ACO Division Matt said. For instance if the ACO worked 8 to 4 Monday thru Friday a call comes in at night-time it would go to the supervisor who would make the determination is this something that can wait until

tomorrow when the ACO comes on duty or is this an emergency our Deputies need to take care of right now, it's like we do right now. This would give the citizens one number to call there is always going to be someone to answer the phone 24/7 who takes the complaint like any other and we'll do the rest. Lyle noted the timing of this is good with our Animal Control Officers looking to retire and most Animal Control Officers aren't cutout to be Law Enforcement people they really hesitate when it comes to writing summons, going to Court and all those things that Officers are trained for. Matt added this person would or could be a Certified Reserve Deputy as well so they would have Arrest powers. It just makes sense to cut out the middle man and we do it ourselves, the Court process would be a lot easier and it would be easier for us to Supervise what's going on. Lyle asked how far do you go about looking at Town Ordinances/State Ordinances. Jay said he and Andy spoke about that and it will be one of the topics discussed at the Informational Meeting. Jay said because Suzanne and Court want to get done really really quick he thinks we could work out an agreement the to start doing this on an experimental basis without a Contract until they work out the Contracts with Appleton and Union the ACO's would be doing that anyway when they leave without spending any money except for Shelter Fees then we would have an official Contract at some time the Board would need to approve Motion Lyle Cramer to authorize the Town Manager to start this off on a temporary basis until a permanent Contract is put in place. Seconded Sarah Drickey. Unanimous.

- 6. Discussion on Ayer Park Fees for 2017:** Jay asks the Board to consider allowing the Town to issue permits or decals for people to park at Ayer Park for a fee during the summer months with the costs of Trash and the Cameras increasing. The proposal would be we charge residents \$15.00 and \$35.00 for non-residents per season renewable next season. They could purchase the decals or permits at the Town Office and have it permanently placed on their vehicle. If the Board agrees the Manager wants to move this along fairly quickly because he wants to let people know now so they have time to prepare and are not blindsided next summer. Greg said we need to have a start and end dates. Lyle has serious reservations. Most towns have some form of recreation without fees and it's something we should look at very carefully, in terms of costs it will add to our secretarial staff upstairs which we don't want to do. If it's going to be effective at all we are going to need someone down there checking and patrolling for the decals of people who are supposed to be there and then you get into fabricating the decals and Lyle isn't sure we would collect enough money to even meet our additional costs in doing that not to mentioned creating some difficult and hard feelings between our citizens in Union and the citizens in other Towns. John and Greg agree with all of that. Jay noted Lyle's concerns saying there are very few areas around the Mid-Coast areas, there is Chicawaukie in Rockland, Warren has no recreational areas; Washington has a very small area on Washington Pond. A lot of Towns charge fees at their facilities to help maintain them pay for Security cameras and for electricity. He doesn't see other Towns coming back from that. We incur a fair amount of expense for the Porta Potties, Electricity and the maintenance Research shows 90% of the people there are from out of Town. The Town of Union is paying 100% for only 10% of area Union residents using it. The stickers would be a little more work upstairs but he doesn't see thousands of people coming in to do that. The enforcement part in talking with another Town Manager their Recreation Department does it; the Town Manager does it they just

drive down threw right out tickets punch them into the computer system and Pay port does the rest. Pay port will handle the whole situation if you go to court the fee is part of what they take out for doing the collection and credit cards. There may be some controversy and kick back from people. Greg noted if someone pays \$35 for a parking ticket and they can't find a parking space what are you going to do about it. Jay said it's just like a State Park you go there to buy a yearly pass and still can get turned away. Greg said they park on Rt. 235 where they're not allowed to park or they'll go park on the Cemetery Rd. Greg see the issues I pay \$15 or \$35 to get in there to have a barbecue, I can't get in there to park then I park on the road and get another ticket. Jay asked John what he pays at Beaver Lodge. \$100.00 a year John says and there's always parking. John's main concern is patrolling and the potential pitfalls. Jay is sure we can get Recreation people there are people who live nearby who actually go down in the evening and pick up the trash. Jim is against it because it will end up costing more money. Greg said we have a majority here that are opposed to it he asks the Board to put it on the back burner for August 16th meeting agenda.

7. **Discussion on Conservation Easement on Bump Hill Property:** Eleanor has been working on recommendations on Town properties. One property on Bump Hill Jay suggested she talk with the Medomak Valley Land Trust to see about putting an Easement on Map 13 Lot 15 and 12-1 along the river. She met with the Medomak Valley Land Trust twice and they seem very excited about it. The Easement would protect the property, there could be hunting and we could still cut lumber for a period of time. They understand you can't close off properties to put easements on them, it just puts pressure on other properties. Currently there is a stump dump situation close to lot 17 they said they wouldn't want an Easement on the whole entire lot that we could split it and just choose maybe the trail and in turn they would help with volunteers building the trail. Jay is hesitant with the Easement now because there are ATV and Truck tracks through this lot. The Medomak Valley Land Trust people said that although it's not 100% that this would need to stop if we put an Easement on it. It's up to Board if they want to prohibit people from driving ATV's and Trucks through there and then the question is are we responsible for patrolling that. Lyle asks for definition of an Easement. Eleanor said it's pretty permanent. you couldn't sell the property or develop it. The problem Lyle sees in particular are the four wheelers, on his property he had a good field that he had to plow up and seed it down again because of them. We just finished a discussion on controlling and supervising and spending money on Ayer Park he can see this being much more of a problem out in the woods where there is not much traffic or people around to observe it. He can see this as a great place for graduation and beer parties not to mention the same kinds of problems we're having with Ayer Park. Jay noted the whole premise when Eleanor was doing this was to have all the options available not that we are going to advocate for any one or the other. Greg is totally opposed the Easements they take away properties, tax money and they put restrictions on what you can and cannot do. We should however look into the wood cutting part of it.

8. **Discussion on Public Works Fleet:** Orrin reminded the Board we discussed this last fall. Last year the 2013 newer truck that we were starting to have issues with they were willing to give us \$95,000 to \$100,000 in trade and it's only been six months, now it has dropped to \$75,000. The 2008 truck they offered us last year \$45,000 to \$50,000 this year it's \$41,000.

That truck in a window where for two to three years you're not losing a lot of value. The newest out of the two is losing the most value. We have multiple options: Leave it the way it is pay for parts and repairs, we have \$161,000 in Equipment Reserve the cost of a new single axel truck \$157,487 with the trade-in it would cost us \$116,487. The newer one because of the trade-in value would cost \$99,880. Orrin said because of where we are right now his thinking is if we can unload these two trucks it would \$61,120 in Reserve. If the same amount (\$60,000) went into The Reserve Account next year it would be \$120,000. Potentially it is feasible to do them both in two years and be done with it. He only suggests this because of the amount of money it has costs us for these two trucks. Orrin noted in the past three 1/2 years it has cost us \$66,000 in repairs. The Proposals and pricing he has done on all the trucks and brands Western Star broke down to be the best pricing. He looked at used equipment and their used because they are the same Equipment we have. Orrin's opinion is the smart thing to do is to keep the 2002 Volvo old truck if it breaks down we can work on it and it doesn't cost us much. Get rid of these two Internationals. The newest one the 2015 we bought is loaded with extended warranties so we should be well covered on that. Orrin has done research on engines and Cummings seems to have the very best systems. He was told if he ordered one of these trucks by the end of July it would be roughly 90 days to get the truck and another 45/60 days to get the plow put on so we would be pushing for December. O'Connor's in Augusta gave us the best price and they are closer so we don't have to travel to Portland or Bangor plus the shop is open until midnight or one o'clock in the morning for repairs. Orrin added the price he gave the Board does not include extended Warranties. Jay said it was \$3,000/4,000 for five years or the last one so it's well worth it. Motion James Justice to replace the 2013 International for a 2017 Western Star truck with extended Warranties. Seconded Lyle Cramer. Unanimous.

9. **Vote to close office on Sept. 6, 2016 for mandatory clerk/registrar training:** Motion James Justice to close office Sept. 6, 2016 for mandatory clerk/registrar training. Seconded Lyle Cramer. Unanimous.
10. **Approve Application to Operate Game of Chance VFW 3108:** Motion Lyle Cramer to approve application to Operate Game of Chance VFW 3108. Seconded John Shepard. Four for. One abstain. (Grotton).
11. **Update on Comprehensive Plan Committee:** John noted he received an update from Eric Gallant on the Housing Chapter and Natural Resources. Eric is doing his work and in September there will be a lot of activity when the Committee reconvenes.
12. **Sign Treasurers Warrant dated August 2, 2016:** Motion Lyle Cramer to sign Treasurer's Warrant dated August 2, 2016. Seconded John Shepard. Unanimous.
13. **Other Business:** Board needs to approve our contract with Interstate Septic. Motion John Shepard to sign Agreement with Interstate Septic Systems. Seconded James Justice. Unanimous. Rabbit Farm Rd. bids: Pike Industries \$76.00 a ton, Allstates \$72.00 a ton, and Hagar at \$63.00 a ton. Jay recommends Hagar, he told them we do not expect asphalt from Lane so they will have to buy it from Pike or Allstates. Motion James Justice

to award the bid to Hagar at \$63.00 a ton for Rabbit Farm Rd. Seconded Lyle Cramer. Unanimous.

14. Town Managers Report: North Union Rd. is pretty much done and once Landmark Engineering signs off on it the invoice will be paid. Both Orrin and the Engineer both said they wouldn't hesitate about hiring Dan Ford again and noted he was very responsive to the Engineer. He did a very nice job. Chris should be done on Rabbit Farm Rd. today then it is Hagar's responsibility to do final grading before we pave it. Allstates will be doing chip seal on Thursday as long as the weather holds. They are doing Davis Rd., Carroll Rd., Collinstown and Skidmore. Jay and Eleanor will be at the Institute at Sunday River at the Manager's Conference on August 10th thru the 12th. Greg mentioned at the last meeting we voted to put some stringent requirements on the TCC. Two things that had to be responded to by this meeting were Engineering Report and it looks like everything is good to go. The other issue was to have a copy of the Insurance Policy, Jay got a copy today of their Insurance Policy and added they are automatically back in compliance with the Lease. Jay has it on the agenda for August 16th. Greg noted Lyle had suggested we form a Committee to review the Lease; we have several names for that Committee including Sarah, Lyle, Howard Butler, Patrick Mellor and Doug from the TCC. We have several issues, we should note those issues so they can look at those particular ones as a starting point.

15. Selectmen's Report: John noted TCSW will be issuing stickers very soon although the procedure hasn't been decided. Jim asked what the price would be. John said it would be more than \$1.00. Jim said it should be free since you raised the price of bags \$.50. John noted we've never done that, we may consider it. Jay noted the reason they don't recommend free stickers is because people would come in and get five and give four to your friends from out of town that's really the reason they charge for a sticker. Jim asks where the buck is going to go, into Tri-County's Account Jay said. Jim added and you want to close on Sundays too We are considering the possibility of closing on Sunday as a cost saving option John said.

16. Future Agenda Items: there were none.

17. Adjourn: Motion Lyle Cramer to adjourn at 8:15PM. Seconded James Justice. Unanimous.

These minutes were approved on August 16, 2016 with the following amendments.