

Town of Union – Board of Selectmen Meeting

February 21st, 2017

Call to Order: 6:30 P.M.

Selectman present – Greg Grotton, Jim Justice, Lyle Cramer

Others present – Jay Feyler, Jesse Thompson, Grant Watmough, Jim Murphy, Vikki Harriman

Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments: None

Comprehensive Planning Committee:

Grant stated that the comprehensive planning committee has met and would like to move forward with the draft if the board is agreeable. They have considered holding the hearing on Monday, April 17th, 2017. Grant will see that everyone gets a completed and final copy before the next meeting. In closing, Grant suggested that it would be a good idea to form an ordinance review committee.

Comprehensive Plan Submittal Form was signed by the chairman of the board and This was prepared with the intent and complied with the growth management act – 30MRS A 4312 4350 was signed by the chair and the committee members that were present.

Motion by Jim Justice to approve

2nd by Lyle Cramer

Vote: Unanimous

Ambulance Budget:

Jesse would like to consider the option of keeping the current ambulance as a fully stocked reserve piece for second calls or as a substitute in case the new ambulance is out for repair or receiving preventative maintenance. He stated that trade-in cost of the current ambulance is estimated to be between \$3,000 - \$5,000. He feels it would be more reasonable to keep the current vehicle in operation as a back-up unit. Greg stated that although the vehicle is old, it has had several costly repairs which include many new parts. He feels it is worth keeping since it still has mileage left on it. Furthermore, the town must pay to rent another ambulance when ours is out of commission and pay a fee of \$150.00 to provide coverage from another town for each individual call.

Lyle has reservations about keeping the old ambulance. He feels that the old ambulance is not worth keeping because of the amount of money that the town has already invested in it. He is concerned about any further expenses that the old unit may need going forward. Although there are new parts, he is concerned about any other parts that may fail. His concerns also include housing the unit, registration costs, insurance and taxes. He asked if Jesse could provide data as to how much it would cost to keep the old ambulance in operation and if it was worth keeping and to provide that information at the next meeting. Jesse agreed to compile the information based on the number of calls the ambulance receives, stating that this year alone the call volume has doubled from 40 calls a year to 80 and predicts almost 100 calls by the end of February. He also stated that Union is the busiest service in the area.

Greg feels due to the increase in calls, the vehicle is worth keeping. He also stated that there are no registration or tax fees on the ambulance because it is a government vehicle. All information pertaining to fees can be obtained by our Treasurer, Laura.

Jesse stated that \$10,000 has been spent this year on maintenance fees for the old unit; this includes all major components, winter tires and oil changes since July 1st, 2016.

A town resident stated that he would like to see the ambulance stay in service due to the abundance of calls and more importantly, every minute the ambulance is late to a call, it could cost someone's life. He would like to see a maintenance schedule devised for the ambulance and clear up any obstacles that would delay response times.

Jesse mentioned that the biggest cost is not only the ambulance but also the equipment that goes into the ambulance. For instance, a cardiac monitor and supplies. He noted that he has all the proper equipment to supply a second ambulance. He obtained this extra equipment from another ambulance company that was going out of business, and that all the equipment is in working order. The rough cost of a new ambulance will be approximately \$230,000. Buying an ambulance that could be re-chassised in 7 to 8 years will be saving the town money long-term. The box has the potential to be chassised once or twice. Jesse would like time for someone he knows, who has built ambulances, to look over the specs for the ambulance so that he has accurate information to present to the board so they can have a more accurate price.

Greg asked that a spreadsheet and data gathered by Jesse be put in the board member's mailboxes for review so that a decision can be made pertaining to a new ambulance and/or keeping the old as a back-up unit, and be put on agenda for the next meeting.

Abatement request by Jim Murphy:

He has sent a copy of the GIS proposal to take tax maps from paper copy to digital based. This would give public access to the maps online instead of obtaining through the office in person. Initially it is an expensive process, but once completed, digital tax maps will be readily available to those in need. There is potential for adding additional layers in the future to the maps, including flora and fauna, culvert data, topography and wetlands. Additionally, he would like to take tax assessing data and present a basic format online for residents to use if needed. He suggested doing this later to allow digital tax maps to be completed first. The cost to convert paper tax maps to digital is \$10,920.

Motion by: Jim Justice to approve the Maine online GIS services tax map

2nd by Lyle Cramer

Vote: Unanimous

Motion by: Lyle Cramer to accept the abatement for Thomas L. Andrews in the amount of \$993.72.

2nd by Jim Justice

Vote: Unanimous

Union Health Officer Activity Report -2016

Vikki Harriman presented her activity report for the 2016 term. She is in her second term and wishes to find a replacement so that she can pursue another town position. She stated that she is willing to assist anyone who is interested in the position and reassured Greg that she would still be of assistance to the town of Union if she is called upon. Greg extended his gratitude for her commitment and hard work and commented on the thorough list of activities for the year that Vikki presented to the board. Vikki also stated that her back-up is Richard Weimar as well as Phil Gross when he is available. She stated that she learned a lot through her experience as the Union Health Officer.

Spirit of America Discussion:

Jay suggested that this discussion be tabled until everyone on the board is present. Will be put on next agenda.

Farmers Market:

Lyle showed concern for the wear and tear of grass of the common area where the marketers set up their booths. Jay mentioned that due to the dry summer last year, the grass was not able to grow to its full potential. Greg suggested asking the marketers to occasionally change locations of their tables to help alleviate the grass and mud issues. He praised their efforts and would like to see the farmers market continue, although he has an issue with the signs. Having temporary and seasonal signs does not pose a problem with the state; however, the signs along Route 17 have become permanent. He feels if the four farmers market signs remain, that other businesses will also want permanent signs along Route 17. Jay referred to a new law that was passed last year regarding farmers market signs. He is aware that one sign is too close to the roadway and had Grant report it, although nothing has been done yet by the state. He will gather information about the laws as well as specifications regarding the signs and bring to the next meeting.

Motion by: Lyle Cramer to continue with the Farmers Market this year.

2nd by Jim Justice

Vote: Unanimous

Approval to sell American LaFrance Fire Truck:

Jay stated that this has been advertised to other municipalities but not the public. He believes it still has parts value and that someone may purchase it for steel and parts. He suggested if the town receives \$2000-\$3000 from the sale of the truck, the money could be put in the Union Fire Truck reserve fund.

Motion by Lyle Cramer for the Town Manager to sell the American LaFrance Fire Truck

2nd by Jim Justice

Vote: Unanimous

Closed Friday April 28th for training:

Jay is hosting a class; Mid-Coast training session for all administrative offices. The original date back in January of this year, which was scheduled in Lincolnville, was cancelled due to snow. With the large volume of attendees Jay feels it would be more feasible to hold the class in Union.

Motion by: Jim Justice to close the town hall on Friday, April 28th for training class.

2nd by Lyle Cramer

Vote: Unanimous

Personnel Policy Revisions:

Lyle and Greg suggested this is tabled until all members are present for discussion. Jay asked that any questions about the revisions be presented to him as soon as possible so that the hired attorney need not come back again for changes. Greg stated that he would email the other board members with the information.

Sign Treasurers Warrant:

Motion by Lyle Cramer to sign the Treasurers warrant dated February, 7, and 21st.

2nd by Jim Justice

Discussion: Jay mentioned there are several payroll warrants due to snow storms.

Vote: Unanimous

Town Manager's Report:

Tom Wyman who has been with the fire department for over thirty years has officially retired; no longer fire police. The preliminary budget was sent out to the committee which shows a 0.68% increase; this includes county increases along with tri-county solid waste and dispatch. The Board's Budget packets are finished and need to be distributed. The municipal budget has only increased by .0016% which includes the annual fee for the GIS in the assessor's budget. Jay forwarded information into the selectman's boxes pertaining to the grants for town sidewalks; he suggested that everyone carefully read the packet due to the commitment of maintaining the sidewalks once they are in place. The sidewalk discussion will be on next meeting's agenda. Town municipal worked diligently to remove snow the past few storms and were sent home by Jay after 30 continuous hours on the job to rest. Snow banks were cut down by both the town and the warming temperatures. One thousand yards of sand was purchased and delivered by Allstate.

Future Agenda Items:

Keeping information board in front of town hall up to date. Jay reassured everyone that it will be done. Purchasing a digital sign is very costly.

Motion by Lyle Cramer to adjourn

2nd by Jim Justice

Vote: Unanimous

Adjourn at 7:37p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Sandy Patrick

Minutes approved March 7, 2017