

MINUTES

SELECTMEN'S/ASSESSORS' MEETING

Tuesday, September 15, 2020

ONLINE INTERACTIVE

6:30 p.m.

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

Others Present: Jay Feyler, Christine Simmonds, Elizabeth Dickerson, Erik Amundsen, Jerome Morris, Greg Grotton, and John Gibbons

- 1. Call Selectmen's Meeting to order:** 6:30 p.m.
- 2. Public Comment:** None.
- 3. Approve minutes of Tuesday, May 13, 2020 (John, Josh, Adam, and Bill) and September 1, 2020:**

Motion by Selectman Fuller seconded by Selectman White to approve the May 13 minutes. Vote by roll call. Selectmen in favor: Fuller, Shepard, and White. All in favor.

Motion by Selectman Fuller seconded by Selectman Lombardi to approve the September 1 minutes. Vote by roll call. Selectmen in favor: Fuller, Shepard, White, and Lombardi. All in favor.

- 4. Approve Treasurer's Warrant dated Tuesday, September 15, 2020:**

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

- 5. Approve the 2021 General Assistance Ordinance:**

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

6. Approve the Board Funding Vendor:

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

7. Appoint members to the Sustainable Food Ordinance Committee:

Motion by Selectman Johnston-Nash seconded by Selectman White to appoint Elizabeth Dickerson and Elaine Frost to the committee, leaving the selection open until more candidates are found. Vote by roll call. Selectmen in favor: White, Johnston-Nash, Fuller, Lombardi, and Shepard. All in favor.

8. Communication Plan (Lombardi):

Bill feels that there should be more communication between the Board and Union residents. He would like to see this happen on the listserv or town website.

Discussion: Adam is concerned that messages may come across as unified by the entire Board. He stated that the Board consists of five individuals, at times with different thoughts and opinions. Martha indicated that the listserv is more of a report format. She feels that a discussion page on the new website would be the best place to post Board information. When asked how the listserv works, Jay indicated that posts on the listserv can be sent out by anyone on the Board and can go out at any time. He also stated that all followup correspondence between town residents and the Board would need to be via email and that all the Board members should be cc'd on these emails. After much discussion, all agreed that no matter how the information is put forth, there need to be parameters and/or policies implemented, and more discussion would be required.

Bill also feels that a copy of the warrant should be made public for the evenings of the Board meeting.

Discussion: Adam's initial thought is that he sees issues with privacy regarding General Assistance. After a group discussion, it does not seem feasible.

Bill suggested the Board review the town newsletters before they are released.

Motion by Selectman Lombardi seconded by Selectman Johnston-Nash to have formal town office newsletters and publications reviewed by the Select Board before releasing them.

Discussion: John indicated that the Board would need to meet each time to cast a vote, making that difficult to do. Martha indicated that other towns have reviewing policies before materials are published. Jay stated that this may be perceived as micromanaging.

Jay mentioned to Bill that he is more than welcome to write the yearly newsletter. John indicated, with Jay being the Public Information Officer, he does not feel that the Board needs to be responsible for what is published.

Vote by roll call. Selectmen in favor: Lombardi and Johnston-Nash. Selectmen Opposed: Fuller, White, and Shepard. 2-3

9. COVID-19 updates:

Jay stated that mask and hand sanitizer distribution has begun. Jay was able to acquire child size masks through the grant program and many parents have been picking them up. Thanks to the program, almost every business in Union has hand sanitizer stands. John thanked Jay and the office for their diligence in applying for the grant.

10. Other Business:

Jay received a request from Barry Norris to put a Fryeburg Fair sign on The Common.

Motion by Selectman Fuller seconded by Selectmen Johnston-Nash to approve the sign.

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

11. Town Manager's Report:

Jay introduced the interior design of the website. Both Stacey and Sherry have helped design the template and have done a great job. Jay is hopeful they will be working with the website builder by the end of October, launching the site in November.

PW update: Jay is hoping that the boiler will be up and running within the next couple of weeks. The crews will be working on Butler Road. A PW employee has given his two-week notice. Jay stated they will be looking for a replacement with a Class B license which may be a difficult task.

Jay suggested that the Board consider putting together a Broadband committee. There is currently adequate funding available and grant writing will need to be arranged.

12. Selectmen's Report:

Adam shared a town historical report from his family archives. He found it interesting that a 1932 issue had a warrant item to lay concrete sidewalks on The Common, which did not pass.

Adam suggested that the PW employees should be recognized for their hard work and dedication during these tough times. With the fire at the PW building and then Covid-19, they all had to adapt and have persevered. He thinks the Board should do something special to show them their appreciation. He suggested a pizza lunch. John agrees they are the backbone of our town.

Martha suggested a virtual tour of new PW building to be put on the website since Covid-19 spoiled plans for an open house.

John suggested brainstorming a way to thank the volunteers in town. He feels it is important to initiate ongoing appreciation and suggested to have as a future agenda item.

13. Future Agenda Items:

Establish a Broadband Committee
Volunteer Appreciation Program

14. Adjourn:

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Patrick
Secretary