

# MINUTES

**SELECT BOARD/ASSESSORS' MEETING  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2024  
WILLIAM L. PULLEN MUNICIPAL BUILDING MEETING ROOM  
ONLINE NON-INTERACTIVE ON TOWN HALL STREAMS  
6:30 p.m.**

**Select Board present:** Wayne Kirkpatrick, Adam Fuller, Martha Johnston-Nash, Steve Migliorini, and Linda Mountainland

**Others present:** Jay Feyler (Town Manager), John Gibbons, and others

- 1. Call Select Board Meeting to Order:** at 6:30 p.m. by Adam Fuller
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3. Approve Minutes of Tuesday, September 3, 2024:**

Motion by: Martha Johnston-Nash  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: Wayne Kirkpatrick  
4-0-1 abstention (Mountainland)

- 4. Approve Treasurer's Warrants Tuesday, September 17, 2024:**

Motion by: Wayne Kirkpatrick  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: Steve Migliorini  
5-0

- 5. Discussion and Vote on Bicentennial funds:**

Options mentioned previously were discussed, with a new picnic table for the Common prevailing. Winter storage behind Public Works was mentioned, and various picnic table materials such as Trex-type composite. Adam suggested Jay be tasked with finding the most bang for the buck.

Motion to use that money for a picnic table by: Linda Mountainland  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: Martha Johnston-Nash  
5-0

- 6. Discussion and Vote to transfer IC Thurston Funds of 50k to Union Assistance Fund:**

Jay said with the IC Thurston Funds, we have three years to spend our funds. We went over it many years ago with attorneys. This is a perfectly legal expenditure as it goes to

## Select Board Meeting Minutes – September 17, 2024

the worthy poor in town. In answer to Martha, Jay clarified that it's a total of three years accumulation; once it goes to the Union Assistance Fund, you can spend it in any length of time you want. Steve clarified the Union Assistance Fund does not have to all be spent in the same year. Jay clarified no tax dollars are involved; this is all endowment funds.

Motion that we move the interest from IC Thurston Funds in the amount of \$50,000 to the Union Assistance Fund by: Martha Johnston-Nash  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: Wayne Kirkpatrick  
5-0

### **7. Discussion and approval of updated personnel policy:**

Jay said he had emailed the board: they just finalized updating the personnel policy, a long process as it hadn't been updated for many years. He added it has been fully vetted at this point. Some changes were required by federal and/or state law. Linda felt it was all basic stuff, while Martha wanted more time for review. Jay noted attorney Amanda, Stacey, and he had done a lot of work on it.

Motion to table until next meeting by: Martha Johnston-Nash  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: Steve Migliorini  
5-0

### **8. Approve MMA voting delegate:**

Motion that Jay is the voting delegate by: Martha Johnston-Nash  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: Linda Mountainland  
5-0

### **9. Approval for catering event, beer garden, by Cushnoc Brewing at Union Fair:**

Jay said the board has all the information. This is a fundraiser, and any new event the board has to approve. Steve confirmed the date is October 5 during the day. Martha confirmed they will have security there. Jay added Cushnoc does events all over the state.

Motion to approve it by: Wayne Kirkpatrick  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: Steve Migliorini  
5-0

### **10. Other Business: None.**

### **11. Town Manager Report:**

Jay provided the board with a written job description for town manager. Adam thanked him for putting it together.

## Select Board Meeting Minutes – September 17, 2024

Jay said the auditor came in last week. He is finalizing the 2023 audit and starting the 2024 audit. He should be on time for the 2024 audit. In answer to Adam, Jay said the auditor's goal is to get 2023 done before he (Jay) leaves.

### 12. Public Comment:

Adam said he got a call about the next audit, addressed above.

Martha brought up tax bills. Jay said they approved the wording and proofreading on Friday. The bills come from a third party and should be out this week.

Linda received a text from James with the Coast Guard, who said starting the week of September 30 he will be starting a survey on the St. George from Appleton through Union to Warren. He will be in a government vehicle, and anyone is welcome to say hi and talk about the process. He wanted to let the public know. She will forward the information to Jay.

Linda also brought up Waldoboro's select board meeting with school board members and the superintendent to discuss the SAD 40 budget. Union might want to consider it. Linda will get clarification and follow up.

Linda said like Martha she'd had queries as to when the tax bills will be out.

John Gibbons commented on the complexity of meetings between school and select boards.

In answer to Steve, Jay and Adam said the school budget process starts very soon.

### 13. Committee Reports:

#### a. Broadband

John Gibbons said there are no obvious problems at this point in the expansion. All the prework has been done. The focus now is making the connections for those who have applied – a complicated, labor intensive process house by house. It won't go lightning fast.

He said as of August 21, they made the first 10 connections (not expected until September). As of last week there were 2 – a slow but steady process. They currently have a total of 76 applications.

John continued there was a burst when this was first announced in July. Tidewater's view is that this is completely typical and exactly what they expected. Beyond that they said you have to wait for word of mouth to spread, which has happened with every town they've gone into.

## Select Board Meeting Minutes – September 17, 2024

Bottom line: things are going according to expectation. The board thanked John.

### b. Resiliency

Jay said they met Wednesday and had a very interesting discussion. Dan from MCOG went through a Q&A form with the committee so he can write part of this grant. He has another for the next meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup>, followed by a public forum which are always required by grants.

In answer to Adam, Jay said by the time of the public forum they expect to have potential project(s) to see if that's what the public wants, too. They need to get done by December 17. Steve said the grant maximum has increased from \$50,000 to \$75,000, continuing every six months Jay said.

Jay also said you can do a planning phase, engineering phase, etc. and combine it with other grants. In answer to Adam, Jay said severe weather was mentioned which would include dirt roads, culverts, even paved roads, bridges, etc. He added a lot of is fire-focused, and we have done a lot of GES work such as locating swimming pools which we could build on.

### c. Thompson Working Group

Jay said last week Mathew contacted Essex who contacted the state person again who said they are working on it, which they have not said before. Adam confirmed we're in a holding pattern. Steve asked if Essex has formalized an application. Jay said they're waiting to see if the state will even accept an application for this building. Adam confirmed we should hear something in a month or so. Steve said Developers Collaborative is bumping up against a November funding deadline.

## 14. Select Board Report:

Linda said the date of the Fire/Rescue fundraiser has changed to Saturday, October 12, from noon to 3:00 p.m. at the Union Masonic Lodge – hamburgers, hot dogs, dunk tank, games, etc. She welcomes ideas for children's activities.

Wayne said he turns the Big 5-0 on the 28<sup>th</sup>, with festivities including a band. (Happy half century, Wayne!)

Jay said he will grow a beard and long hair to raise money for the Shriners in November.

**Select Board Meeting Minutes – September 17, 2024**

**15. Adjourn:**

Motion by: Linda Mountainland

2<sup>nd</sup> by: Martha Johnston-Nash

5-0

Meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Abaldo  
Secretary