

## MINUTES

**SELECT BOARD/ASSESSORS' MEETING  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2022  
WILLIAM L. PULLEN MUNICIPAL BUILDING MEETING ROOM  
ONLINE NON-INTERACTIVE ON TOWN HALL STREAMS  
6:30 p.m.**

**Select Board present:** Jim Justice, Adam Fuller, Martha Johnston-Nash, Wayne Kirkpatrick, and Bill Packard

**Others present:** Jay Feyler (Town Manager), Matt Elwell (Public Works Director), Erik Amundsen, John Gibbons, Abraham Knight, Linda Waltz-Mountainland, Erik Amundsen, Heather Jackson, Greg Grotton, and Tracy Weed

- 1. Call Select Board Meeting to Order:** at 6:30 p.m. by Adam Fuller.
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3. Open Public Hearing on General Assistance:**

Jay said this is required every October 1: new GA numbers come out, the board holds a public hearing, answers any questions, votes, and signs off on it.

Motion to approve GA ordinance as presented by: Jim Justice  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: Wayne Kirkpatrick

Bill said that is for agenda item number 8; this is a public hearing.

- 4. Close Public Hearing on General Assistance:**

Motion by: Bill Packard  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: Wayne Kirkpatrick  
5-0

- 5. Public Comment:**

Greg asked if it could be put out to the public in the newspaper about public meetings, as some people don't have access to websites. Jay said GA was in the newspaper. Greg said too bad we don't have an electronic sign. Adam said he still disagreed but noted.

**Select Board Meeting Minutes – September 27, 2022**

**6. Approve Minutes of Tuesday, September 6, 2022:**

Motion by: Wayne Kirkpatrick  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: Jim Justice  
3-0-2 abstentions (Justice, Johnston-Nash)

**7. Approve Treasurer’s Warrants dated Tuesday, September 27, 2022:**

Motion by: Bill Packard  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: Wayne Kirkpatrick  
5-0

**8. Approve the 2022-2023 General Assistance Ordinance:**

Motion to approve as presented by: Wayne Kirkpatrick  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: Jim Justice  
5-0

**9. Discussion and vote on the PW loader issue:**

Matt said last year they were approved for a new loader and ordered one from John Deere. They waited 14 months, started all over again, and could not get the high lift option. They got a quote from JCB who has one available unlike others.

Discussion followed led by Wayne who has long expertise in this field. Adam and Wayne thanked Matt for doing the work to chase down a loader before winter.

Motion to table to next meeting by: Martha Johnston-Nash  
Motion withdrawn.

Matt said JCB won’t hold it for another week; if it doesn’t work with them, we’re rolling the dice. Wayne said he and Matt could have a conversation in the morning.

Motion to direct Wayne to get together with our highway foreman to see if they can work out an acceptable deal on rent/purchase of a John Deere loader within 24 hours, and if not we approve purchase from JCB, by: Bill Packard  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: Wayne Kirkpatrick  
5-0

**10. Discussion and vote on Health Trust Domestic Partner Coverage:**

Motion to approve as presented by: Martha Johnston-Nash  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: Jim Justice  
5-0

**Select Board Meeting Minutes – September 27, 2022**

**11. Discussion and vote on the new agreement with the TMA:**

Extensive discussion took place regarding the new TMA agreement. Topics included liability, insurances, TMA keeping the building going, MCOG advice coming up, and the possibility of TMA becoming a town committee.

The indemnification clause was brought up as a TMA concern. Adam said if you're using the town building, here's what the requirements are. Jay said the indemnification clause is really just standard.

Motion to table until TMA can come with what they want to do by: Wayne Kirkpatrick  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: Martha Johnston-Nash  
5-0

**12. Discussion and set public hearing on Petition Warrant and Sign Warrant:**

Jay said the board has no choice on how it's worded and has to sign the warrant. Date will be November 8 from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Bill said we have a responsibility to be clear to the voters – there will be no repairs if this passes, and where does that leave renters.

Jay said the legal opinion is we would be able to spend money to protect the asset.

Greg Grotton noted the petition was written by an attorney, and there have been numerous special town meetings in the last 10 years.

Adam said the petition presents a valid concern on money that could be spent on that building. It came from a fear a board would just dump a bunch of money in. The reality is things take time. He plans to voice his opposition to the petition.

Motion to sign above warrant by: Bill Packard  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: Jim Justice

Amended motion to sign above warrant and schedule public hearing for October 18 by:  
Bill Packard  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: Jim Justice  
5-0

Greg asked to please advertise it more than just facebook and old friends of Union.

## Select Board Meeting Minutes – September 27, 2022

### 13. Town Manager's Report:

Jay said FEMA finally closed out today from the October 21 rainstorm, getting us approximately \$3,000. He and Matt put in big hours. There will be another whole discussion on FEMA.

Re: North Union Road, Matt will fill in the culvert as they finally got the patch made.

Jay just got back from the ICMA conference in Columbus. He discovered a great couple of software programs for citizen engagement, some for really small towns; we'll hear more about that at budget time. Interesting fact: optimal meeting time across the country is between 5:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. He also discovered a solution for a board member who likes to talk: give him a tall funny hat to wear every time he speaks. Adam did not think that would slow him down, however.

Re: Legislative Policy Committee, board members will start getting bulletins again. Other than the core items of revenue sharing and school funding, Jay believes General Assistance will come out as a vote this year. There are communities in Maine that are being devastated by DHHS making up rules that technically aren't even in the laws: \$35 million for South Portland to put people up in hotels. A town cannot sustain that. DHHS has been putting out these decrees, not in law, that say you have to go find housing for this person who comes into your town. The law says if you come in here and need assistance, you fill out form the form and we'll see if you're eligible for the housing. They made this decree that municipalities have to do this, and it was never what General Assistance was made for. Maine Welfare Directors, which Jay is past president of, will be hiring an attorney to fight DHHS. The met with the attorney two weeks ago. Some of the larger municipalities will be funding some of that. It's going to be a big thing you're going to see in the legislature. The goal is to push all refugees and homeless 100% to the state. It's really devastating to the service centers, and it's spreading up the state. You will hear a lot more about this.

Re: TCC, before he left they were out working on the roof but no report or bill yet. Martha said they came back a second day to check it; she thinks they did a little more patching above the cafeteria. The septic pump is scheduled. The fire alarm company is still waiting for parts. The safe is not yet open. Somebody was going to put a collar on the boiler pipe; Erik said it's not done. Jay noted once we get the fire alarm, before we bring the Fire Marshal back, we have to make sure all these things are done, and before we turn the furnace on that's got to be done.

In answer to Jay, Martha said they turned in \$ 600 for the first 10 days and will have a check tomorrow for around \$400 for last week. She asked whether we need the fire extinguishers for September. Jay said Tabby was going to contact them; they've got to do ours here and Public Works, too; we're going to do them all at the same time.

## Select Board Meeting Minutes – September 27, 2022

Bill said Appleton is looking for a place to store their records – maybe they'll take the safes.

Jay said he let Paul know that tomorrow morning will be Public Works training, and they will be removing the tree over next to the building.

Re: the electric charging station, we're going to wait for the next round because it's May 31 to have it done. They're all arguing with Efficiency Maine you are not going to get that done in Maine with an electrical contractor, frozen ground, mud season, etc. by May 31. It's up to 90% additional Biden money.

### 14. Other Business:

Tracy Weed and Keith Siegel submitted applications to serve on the Sestercentennial Committee.

Motion to accept both above by: Martha Johnston-Nash  
2<sup>nd</sup> by Bill Packard  
5-0

Greg said Jay and Matt may want to check Clarry Hill Road by Doris Vertz, as it's washing out and there's about a 2' wide area about 6" down from the pavement, and it's washing down that bank.

### 15. Committee Reports:

#### a. Broadband

John Gibbons said re: grant applications everything is going to plan, no glitches. MCA announced October 12 as the opening date for them, due mid-November, awards expected in January, with a second grant round in the first six months of 2023 and additional rounds after that until the Washington money has been fully committed.

LCI remains committed to submitting an application for a fiber buildout in Union at least as large as that submitted to ConnectME. They're doing an internal study now to see if they can take on additional work in Union. The view in Washington is this is a one-time opportunity to get broadband to everybody nationwide. LCI expects their study completed in 10 days.

The committee continues work on its webpage.

## Select Board Meeting Minutes – September 27, 2022

b. Aging in Place in Union

Jay said there will be a meeting in October. Martha added if anyone is watching, please join.

c. Green Space

Heather Jackson said they haven't met.

d. TMA report

Erik Amundsen said pickle ball didn't happen to do covid. He sent pictures of underneath the safes.

In answer to Abraham Knight, Adam said he'd like all TMA communications to flow through Paul.

e. Sestercentennial

Martha said they had a very good first meeting. Argy Nestor and Robert Winslow are co-chairs, with Argy lead chair and communications person. They hope for more people on the committee.

### 16. Select Board Reports:

Adam brought up having Jim Murphy come to a select board meeting in the near future to give a "10 cent rundown" on how valuations are tabulated. All concurred this is a good idea. Jay said board members could attend an assessor's class in Augusta, noting they are technically assessors.

### 17. Future Agenda Requests:

Assessors' Agent Jim Murphy will present how he does valuations.

Heather Jackson and Tracy Weed asked that the Ambulance Advisory Committee be added to Committee Reports.

The board invited Chair Tracy to give an update. She said the Ambulance Advisory Committee sent an update to the boards of all three towns (Union, Washington, and Appleton). They have been meeting since the end of July. They spent time getting up to speed, as a lot of the members were not public safety oriented: the ins and outs of what Jesse Thompson deals with, staffing, budget, ICSD, the grant process, etc. to get them ready and prepare for community outreach. Kevin McGinnis, leader of the grant award that Jesse applied for, met with them and shared insight on other towns' assessments (St. George, Camden, Carrabassett Valley).

## Select Board Meeting Minutes – September 27, 2022

They meet Monday to find out where Kevin is. He started an outreach to dispatch, the other public safety agencies, the ER, whatever Jesse has given him to start that networking process. In the next month or two, there will be a lot of activity and community outreach. They will be asking for some type of mailing list or public forum.

Jay said November 10 is the “ABCs of Assessing for Non-Assessors” MMA class. The LPC meeting is also that day.

### 18. Select Board Reports:

Wayne asked when the bump on Sidelinger Road would be fixed. Jay said they just made cold patch this week; it will be next week if not tomorrow or Thursday.

Adam thanked everyone for the discussion.

Jim asked when Clarry Hill Road would be hard topped and striped. Jay doesn't have a date yet. The paving company is coming down on a day they've got in between jobs, which saves us about \$2,000. Jim and Wayne mentioned a couple of bumps/rough transition. Jay said it will be chip sealed next year.

### 19. Adjourn:

Motion by: Jim Justice  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: Martha Johnston-Nash  
5-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Abaldo  
Secretary