

SELECTBOARD MINUTES

July 11, 2022

Present: Terry Bergeron, Chair; Tim DeMillo, Vice Chair; Tom Goding, Lee Ann Dalessandro, Shiloh LaFreniere, Town Manager; Raeleen York, Deputy Clerk

Guests: Abby Cramer (Mt. Blue TV), Donna Perry (Sun Journal), Annie Twitchell (Daily Bulldog), John Johnson (Public Works), Craig Boone, Ronda Palmer (Tax Collector), Yvette Meunier (AVCOG), Susan Theberge, Peter Theberge, Cindy Bennett, Arin Quintel

1. Pledge of Allegiance – 6:00 pm - Tim led the pledge.

2. Community Resilience Workshop – Yvette Meunier from AVCOG explained the program and talked about efforts so far. At this point, we are looking for Board and public input on what projects to consider for the Town. If there are projects that meet the criteria of the Community Resilience Partnership, AVCOG will help the town with a grant application. Grant awards are up to \$50,000. Yvette gave everyone 2 handouts. One was a self-evaluation, a baseline of how the town is perceiving threats. The second was a list of 72 actions that the grant is going to fund.

Susan Theberge asked if these grants were connected to the World Economic Forum (WEF). She wants to be sure that the town is not giving up its sovereignty. Yvette assured her that these are through the State of Maine and have no connection to WEF. Arin Quintel told the Board that she doesn't think this money should be spent because it is the taxpayers paying for these grants. Her opinion was that climate change is not an issue and these grants are for changing everything to electric use instead of fossil fuels and she questions how this electricity is going to be supplied.

Terry asked if replacement of the Public Works boiler might be covered by a grant. Yvette said that it could be if it showed energy efficiency improvement. Yvette said that an audit might be a good first step and it could be done in multiple buildings. Possibly Western Maine Community Action could do the audit.

There is a flat roof on the Town building and maybe a foam layer could be put on top for added energy efficiency. Lee Ann mentioned that the library has outdated heating equipment. Yvette thought maybe the library is on the Historical registry which makes a difference in how changes there are approached.

Cindy Bennett asked how much prep work is involved with the audit. Yvette said it was really just a matter of getting the contractors in. There is a list of eligible contractors for these projects. Yvette also said that private residences can have audits done by WMCA.

The next step is to finalize the documents and submit an application to be part of the Community Resilience Partnership. Once accepted, AVCOG will work with the Town to submit a grant application.

3. Minutes – June 27, 2022 - M/M/S Lee Ann/Tom to approve the minutes from the June 27, 2022 Selectboard meeting. Vote 4-0-0.

4. Old Business – No discussion.

5. Public Works Garage – ARPA Project – Craig Boone completed the work described in his proposal from May. He presented his proposal for the next steps. He needs to finalize drawings and specifications so it can go out to bid. Possibly the insulating panels for the back of the building could be a resiliency grant project. M/M/S Lee Ann/Tom to approve Craig’s proposal to draw up plans and specifications and to get out to bid for \$3000 from ARPA funds. Vote 4-0-0.

6. Online Payments – It would cost initially \$3200 for TRIO software to integrate a system to allow online payments for taxes and sewer. Annual maintenance and support is \$500. The initial cost would come from ARPA funds with the annual cost being budgeted for in the future. The Selectboard had some questions for Ronda to look into such as what would happen during foreclosure time, would we be able to cut off payments for certain accounts so that the foreclosure process would not be jeopardized. M/M/S Lee Ann/Tom to table this project decision until next meeting. Vote 4-0-0.

7. Recreation Donations – The auditor advised that the Selectboard can annually approve a blanket acceptance of donations instead of doing it throughout the year every time a donation is made to Recreation for events such as Music in the Park, the winter festival, etc. M/M/S Lee Ann/Tom to approve a blanket acceptance of donations for Recreation for the 2022-23 tax year. Vote 4-0-0.

8. Other Business – Terry announced upcoming dates of events.

M/M/S Lee Ann/Tom to adjourn at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Raeleen M. York