

SELECTBOARD MINUTES

September 26, 2022

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

Guests: Trinity Smith (Mt. Blue TV), John Johnson (Public Works), Paul Pomerleau, Richard Caton (Police Chief), Russell Adams (Police Sergeant), Ed Tolan (Maine Chiefs), Shawn O’Leary (Maine Chiefs/Dirigo Safety), Mark Holt (Sewer Superintendent), Mark Bickford

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

2. Public Hearing on General Assistance Ordinance – Terry opened the public hearing for discussion. No comment. Terry closed the hearing. M/M/S Terry/Tim to accept the updated appendices A-G for General Assistance as submitted. Vote 5-0-0.

3. Maine Law Enforcement Accreditation Program (MLEAP) Accreditation of Jay PD – The Jay Police Department was approved for full MLEAP Accreditation. Shawn O’Leary of Dirigo Safety and Ed Tolan of Maine Chiefs Association presented Richard and Russell with a plaque that can be put in the lobby showing 3 years full accreditation from MLEAP. This accreditation has 167 standards that had to be met and follow the best practice for law enforcement nationally. 3 independent professionals come in and review the books for the PD. The entire agency staff participated in the process. This accreditation also results in a 15% reduction in liability insurance for the PD. Only 13 police departments in the state have been approved for this accreditation.

4. Minutes – September 19, 2022 – M/M/S Lee Ann/Tom to approve the minutes from the September 19, 2022 Selectboard meeting. Vote 5-0-0.

5. Old Business – Shiloh told the Selectboard that Jim Manter wanted to thank the town, PD and FD for closing the bridge for the POW memorial.

Gary asked if Shiloh had talked to MMA about using ARPA funds for the increase in hydrant cost. Shiloh had an unexpected busy week with the announcement of the mill closing and has not had time to contact MMA yet.

6. ARPA Project Update – Shiloh presented an updated spreadsheet of ARPA expenditures and proposed expenditures. Gary asked what the remaining balance was. Shiloh pointed out the totals at the bottom of the sheet reflecting an unobligated amount of \$239,000. Craig Boone’s construction administration bill is estimated at \$2,000. Other possible projects that were previously discussed but not yet approved for funding are the TRIO web upgrade at \$7,200 which includes the \$3,000 annual fee which would be budgeted in the coming years; additional heating duct work in the back offices or a heat pump; Fire Station #2 air ventilation, Public Works cameras: sand/salt shed back wall; as well as garage doors at highway and transfer station. M/M/S Terry/Lee Ann to approve funding the Highway Building renovation with \$200,000 from ARPA and up to \$65,000 from the Highway Building Reserve account if needed. Vote 4-0-1 (Tom abstained)

7. Sewer Abatement – (1) Daniel Finley and (2) Zachary Smith – M/M/S Lee Ann/Tom to approve a sewer abatement in the amount of \$190.00 for Daniel Finley for the 2022-23 billing cycle. Vote 5-0-0.

M/M/S Lee Ann/Tom to approve a sewer abatement in the amount of \$456.00 for Zachary Smith for the 2022-23 billing cycle. Vote 5-0-0

8. Livermore Falls Sewer Update and Joint Reserve Account Request – Centrifuge Control Panel Replacement – M/M/S Gary/Tom to approve using up to \$45,000 from the joint reserve account for the centrifuge control panel replacement. Vote 5-0-0. Livermore Falls approved this at last meeting and the balance on the account for undesignated funds is \$141,000. Mark updated the Selectboard on what is going on with the sewer project. 86% of the engineering budget is spent and they are only 40% of the way through the project. There have been a lot of change orders. With the increases they have gone through the contingency funds. Mark stated that he was anticipating the need for an additional \$1 million in funding – either through grants or loans next year. There are also other pieces of equipment that he was hoping would hold out until the next phase of the upgrade, but they are having problems and will need to address them sooner. This could be an additional \$2-3 million.

9. Cemetery Policy Update – An updated cemetery policy draft was presented to the Selectboard. Language was added specifying that items such as flowers and decorations need to be removed by October 15th each year, with 2 exceptions which are concrete urns and flags. Language was also added related to the planting of trees and shrubs and requiring that each grave be marked. M/M/S Lee Ann/Tim to accept the updated Cemetery Policy as written. Vote 5-0-0.

10. Grant Procedures Policy – The town has been applying for and receiving more grants than in the past and would like to establish a policy regarding handling and processing of grants. A draft was submitted to the Selectboard. M/M/S Lee Ann/Tom to adopt the Grant Procedures Policy as submitted. Vote 5-0-0.

11. Mill Closure – Shiloh spoke to the Selectboard about the unexpected announcement of the mill closing. She told them that we intend to apply for Sudden and Severe Valuation Loss again as soon as we are able but that will not be until we commit next fall. There will have to be a pre and post valuation done. We can expect a change in revenue sharing, lower county tax, and increased funding for education if that is approved. The undesignated fund is healthy and can be utilized by the Board as needed. Paul will come to the next meeting to discuss possibly delaying the revaluation that was scheduled for this year. Shiloh will be meeting with the RSU 73 Superintendent and Business Manager to discuss impacts and she has spoken with Androscoggin Bank about needs/opportunities. She is also talking to Madison and other towns that have gone through this. Robin at RSU 73 Adult Education and Shiloh have met with DOL's rapid response representatives about the assistance they can offer the displaced employees, as well as the Community College on the training they can provide. She is also being contacted by other employers who are interested in offering jobs to the mill employees. DOL is compiling a list of these companies. Shiloh is working with DECD on information they need for marketing the mill. She is also compiling a list of questions and concerns to review with the mill in the near future.

12. Other Business – Mark announced that Alfred Richards had received the Charles E. Perry award for his dedication and commitment.

Terry announced the upcoming dates of interest. M/M/S Tim/Tom to adjourn at 7:13 pm. Vote 5-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Raeleen M. York