

November 14, 2022

BOARD OF ASSESSORS MINUTES

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), Donna Perry (Sun Journal), Adrienne Foss (Daily Bulldog), Terry Brann, Shari Ouellette, Mark Holt (Sewer Superintendent), Richard Caton (Police Chief)

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

2. Tax Supplement – Brady Lake – Brady Lake has received a homestead exemption in Livermore and in Jay this year. He lives in Livermore so a supplemental bill for \$25,000 in valuation is recommended for the 2022-23 tax year. M/M/S LeeAnn/Tom to approve a supplemental tax bill for Brady Lake with the first payment of \$256.25 due December 15, 2022 and the second payment of \$256.25 due April 3, 2023 with a late fee of 4% annum applied to all payments received after the due dates. Vote 5-0-0.

SELECT BOARD MINUTES

1. Minutes – October 11, 2022 & September 19th (correction) – M/M/S LeeAnn/Tom to approve the October 11, 2022 minutes as submitted and the September 19, 2022 corrected minutes. Vote 5-0-0.

2. Old Business – No discussion.

3. RSU 73 School Board Appointment – Gary put some questions together that he would like to ask the candidates and have them write an essay to submit to the Selectboard so they can make a decision on who to appoint since there are so many people interested in the position. After discussion, the Board thought that the following two questions should be asked: 1. Why are you interested in this position? and 2. What do you bring to the table that makes you a strong candidate for the position?

The term of this position will expire at the next annual municipal election when a new member will be elected. Shari Ouellette asked that the Selectboard act quickly so that Jay will have representation on the School Board. The Selectboard will make a decision at the next meeting. The next School Board meeting is not until Dec. 10th. M/M/S Lee Ann/Tom to have Shiloh send an email to the candidates with the two questions and have the essays submitted by November 23rd. Vote 5-0-0

4. Pole Location Permits – Spring Street & Belmont Drive - We received 2 pole location permits from CMP and Consolidated Communications for a pole on Spring Street and Belmont Drive. John has no concerns with the locations. The purpose of the pole on Spring Street is to raise the wire height. M/M/S Lee Ann/Tom to approve the two pole location permits submitted by CMP and Consolidated Communications for Spring Street and Belmont Drive. Vote 5-0-0

5. Sand for Seniors Program – M/M/S Lee Ann/Tom to adopt a Sand for Seniors Program using the same criteria the Town of Rumford uses and to accept donated buckets. Vote 5-0-0 The requests will go through the Police Department.

6. Ed MacDonald Safety Enhancement Grant – The town has been awarded this grant by MMA’s Worker Compensation Fund. The grant was a collaborative effort between the Police Department and Public Works and provides \$3,000 for the purchase of traffic/safety vests, high visibility jackets, collapsible traffic cones, road barricades, detour and road closed signs. Any costs above the grant amount will be paid from operating budgets. M/M/S Gary/Tom to accept the Ed MacDonald Safety Enhancement Grant. Vote 5-0-0.

7. Joint Sewer Service Connection Agreement – Elaine Phares, Robyn Ball and Barker Properties – James Barker has requested connecting the building sewer from the new Woodpellet Warehouse maintenance garage/office building on Route 17 to the sewer service line that serves the residence owned by Elaine Phares and Robyn Ball on Quarry Street. Mark stated that the agreement has been reviewed by the parties’ attorneys and that they have requested Board approval of the connection. Mark stated that the Sewer Ordinance requires Board approval if two properties want to share a connection. However, the town does not take on any liability by approving it. M/M/S Gary/Tom to approve Shiloh, the Town Manager, signing the Joint Sewer Service Line Connection Agreement between James Barker and Elaine Phares and Robyn Ball which must be recorded at the Registry of Deeds. Vote 5-0-0.

8. Sewer Abatement – Brady Lake – Mark recommends an abatement of \$522.50 due to his winter quarter being higher than the other 3 quarters. M/M/S Gary/Tom to approve a sewer abatement for Brady Lake in the amount of \$522.50 for the 2022-23 billing cycle. Vote 5-0-0.

9. Fire Department Station 2 and Pump Station 1 Roof and Vinyl Siding Replacement – Bids for this project were opened on November 2, 2022. Bids ranged from \$55,700 to \$32,500. Tom recused himself from voting since he put in a bid. Work is to be completed by June 30, 2023. M/M/S Terry/Lee Ann to award the project to Thomas C. Goding for \$32,250. Vote 3-1-1 (Gary opposed, Tom abstained).

10. Western Maine ATV Association Donation – M/M/S Terry/Tom to accept the ATV Association donation of \$200 for the Fire Department’s assistance with the ATV Toy Run to be put in the Fire Department’s Capital Account. Vote 5-0-0

11. Franklin County Strategic Plan Discussion – Rep. Tom Skolfield has requested that the County Commissioners develop a strategic plan and mission statement for the county. Charlie Woodworth of Greater Franklin requested the Selectboard consider asking the Commissioners to move forward on this. He suggested it be done prior to expending additional ARPA funds so that the plan can be used to guide those choices. Terry Brann agrees that they need a mission statement and then a plan. He said that it is already in the works. They will try to plan meetings where the Selectboard members can attend. There are few projects that they are looking at already.

12. Budget Committee Members – Appointments – M/M/S Gary/Tom to reappoint Vicki McLeod, Charles Riekert, Mike Ventrella, Ricky Merrill, Justin Merrill, and Darryl Winter (alternate) as Budget Committee members with terms to expire December 31, 2024. Vote 5-0-0.

13. Town Meeting Timeline & Donation Requests – M/M/S Terry/Tom to keep the donations limited to the same organizations as last year and to approve the timeline for the 2023 town meeting. Vote 4-1-0 (Gary opposed).

14. Other Business – Shari Ouellette asked what the plan is for budgets with the mill closure. The Selectboard responded that they will continue doing what they have over the last years to try to keep the taxes steady. The mill is supposed to keep running through the end of April and taxes are based on property

values April 1st. Shari asked about the town applying for Sudden and Severe and Shiloh stated that it will depend on when the mill shuts down whether they can apply in the fall of 2023 or not.

Gary asked for an update on the work at the Highway garage. Tom told him what work has been done and what is left to do.

Terry announced upcoming dates of interest. The date for the December 26th meeting is changed to the 27th.

M/M/S Lee Ann/Tom to adjourn at 7:01. Vote 5-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Raeleen M. York

DRAFT