

Select Board Minutes

Date: December 18, 2024

Time: 5:30 PM

Location: Multipurpose Room

Next Meeting: January 14, 2025

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Approve Minutes: Richard Doughty, Select Board Chair moved the minutes of the November 26th meeting be approved enter into record. Dina Walker Select Board member 2nd the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Present: Dina Walker, Lisa Miller, Richard Doughty, Select Board

Audience; Ina Toth, Laureen Pratt, Steve and Carol Conant, Russell Banton, Jean Biondo, Julie Jervis, Lise Bofinger, David Conant and Carol Cochran

- Department Head Reports –

- Fire Department – Nothing to report
- PW - All equipment is operating

• Committee Reports –

Julie Jervis reported on the donations totaling \$493. **Select Board member Dina Walker moved to accept the donations. Lisa Miller, Select Board member 2nd the motion and it was passed unanimously.**

Budget Committee - The Budget Committee is almost done with the 2025 budget. Their next meeting on January 7th from 5:30 PM until 7:30 PM.

Tom Skolfield was elected into the office of Franklin County Commissioner and the meeting on December 17th was his last meeting. He cannot hold an elected position in Municipal Government therefore for the remainder of his term the Budget Committee will be with 4 members, until the election on February 25, 2025.

- OLD BUSINESS

- Paid Family Leave – The Town has 15 employees; therefore, they will be required to contribute .5% towards all employees paid family leave.

Colleen Stewart, Treasurer did confirm with MMA that it was the case and the estimate the Town of Weld will contribute is \$1,200.

- Request to post link to Go Fund Me Letter – Dina Walker, Select Board member called Brent Dougherty and updated him on what she had learned from MMA posting his GoFundMe letter on the Town's website. MMA gave Dina strong language that needed to follow his letter which says: **DISCLAIMER: The above is a letter to the public from Brent Daugherty that the Town of Weld ("Town") has agreed to post on its website for him. The Town is not sponsoring or organizing the fundraiser described in the letter. The Town does not have any control over how the Go-Fund-Me donations will be spent, and cannot guarantee that the funds will be used to increase emergency medical services in the municipality. Please note that the Town has not approved, and is not working with Brent Daugherty to establish increased emergency services or a LifeFlight landing area in the municipality as participation in any of these ventures will require town meeting approval.** Brent Daugherty said he was looking to raise \$40,00 for the Fire Department through this fundraiser. Dina Walker explained to him that what the amount of money received from his Fund Raiser has to be approved at a Municipal Town Meeting. He indicated that he would like to have some say in what it is to be spent on.

Dina Walker, Select Board member moved that we approve the posting the attached letter on our website that Brent Daugherty has drafted with the disclaimer that Dina has written (DISCLAIMER: The above is a letter to the public from Brent Daugherty that the Town of Weld ("Town") has agreed to post on its website for him. The Town is not sponsoring or organizing the fundraiser described in the letter. The Town does not have any control over how the Go-Fund-Me donations will be spent, and cannot guarantee that the funds will be used to increase emergency medical services in the municipality. Please note that the Town has not approved, and is not working with Brent Daugherty to establish increased emergency services or a

LifeFlight landing area in the municipality as participation in any of these ventures will require town meeting approval), Also to amend our Social Media Policy to address whether we will allow for the public to advertise private events or businesses what will allow on our website or Facebook accounts. Richard Doughty, SB Chair, 2nd motion and the motion was passed unanimously.

Dina will draft the social media policy to include the website.

Dina will make contact with Brent Daugherty.

- **Maine Power Options – Non-Profit through Maine Municipal Bond Bank**

They have 800 municipalities that they sell bulk fuel and electricity rates which are a significant saving for the Town's that participate. Richard said that we are doing very well. We were paying close to the same rates that they are paying. If we were thorough Maine Power Options last year, we would have saved \$400 for gas, oil and diesel fuel, more if electricity was included. They are talking about a onetime annual fee of \$25.

- Our cost was nearly the same difference if we had gone through Maine Power Options. If we have to purchase our own tank it would cost us more.

Richard Doughty, Select Board Chair, moved that he be given the authorization to move forward and fill out the application and send it into them to become a member of Maine Power Options. Dina Walker, Select Board Member 2nd the motion and it was passed unanimously.

- **Community Resiliency Partnership - Status Update -**
Ina Toth, Co-Chair of the CRP said they completed the questionnaire and it was submitted by email, however they did not receive it. Ina will have Colleen resend it. The questionnaire has been time stamped, so it was received within the deadline.

With applying for this grant, it allows us to pick 5 or 6 items from their laundry list which has been done and the next step is to wait for their approval. Once the grant has been approved Dina's understanding is that once they accept our enrollment that all of those things that we picked on the resolution and from the questionnaire, that Ina and Lise

would gather people for another workshop to say OK on this resolution number 1, how will be execute it to a project that will cost money and we would come up with that project and the money and will send it in again and they would give us the money to complete the project.

Comprehensive Plan / Ordinance Development – Update

Lisa Miller had a flyer posted asking for people who are interested in being on the Committee to make contact with her. Richard said that the Comprehensive Plan done in 2007 was not adopted at Town Meeting.

- MMA Risk Mgmt. inspection – Update

Richard Doughty, Select Board Chair reported that the 4 deficiencies one to clean up brush next to Mill Street Garage and the biggest one was the concrete blocks need to be fixed with mortar falling out between them. The salt shed had a crack in the back wall and another place the salt was eating away concrete. Calderwood Engineering has done an inspection and made suggestions on how we can repair it. A copy of that letter was sent to MMA Risk Management to update them and the rest will be done in the Spring.

- DEP Transfer Station - Update

All issues with the Transfer Station have been corrected and the 2023 report are up to date with Department of Environmental Protection.

- Bond Bank – Update – Colleen Stewart, Treasurer has filed the application and they were trying to get it into the Board for the December meeting. Bond Bank is waiting for our 2023 Audit Report from our Auditor, Peter Hall.

- New Business

- Spirit of America Nominations

Letter that we get every year to recognize a person that has done remarkable and recognize them at town meeting embodied the Spirit of America.

- MAP 3 - Lot 90, next steps toward resolution- Unknown property across from the Kawanhee boys camp 7.5 acres and an individual had come to believe that they owned the property and invested money into building a road into the property. It came to light that she didn't own the property and we were not taxing anyone for this parcel. Our assessor indicated that we needed to wait a period of time. With the changes for tax acquired this individual made contact again and is eager to get this lot that borders their larger lot. Richard asked our assessor to reengage and help us out and he indicated this was not really his role. He contacted Bernstein and Sur and suggested that we get an abstractor to see if he can find where the property was tax acquired or never taxed which would be a different procedure to dispose of the property and put it back on the tax rolls.

Dina Walker, Select Board Member, moved to authorize Richard Doughty, SB Chair to make contact with Joel Moser for a quote for a title search on Map 3 Lot 90. Lisa Miller SB Member 2nd the motion and it was unanimous.

- Discussion of properties with outstanding taxes – There are campers at Dummer's Beach Campground that have removed their property from the Campground without paying taxes. Where the property has been removed and there is no other legal action other the small claims court that would cost more than owed the best course was to abate the taxes.

It was suggested that the Town work with Dummer's next year so that taxes are paid before them moving their equipment off the site.

Lisa Miller, SB Member moved to abate taxes on 5 lots in the amount of \$444.19 located at Dummer's Beach. Dina Walker, SB Member 2nd the motion and it was passed unanimously.

- FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Association) Update - There were 3 disasters in 2023. One in the spring FEMA #4719. Scott Pratt actually made the repairs and provided the material. After the fact we filed with FEMA, turned in all of the paperwork to FEMA and the cost was \$6183. That project was approved with all of the paperwork approved and we in speaking with MEMA (Maine

Emergency Management Association) we should be getting the check soon and perhaps before the end of the year.

The bigger storm was in December and Dan worked hard with FEMA to go and estimate what the cost of the repairs would be and submitted an application. They broke it up into 2 projects, one being the Byron Road where there was a lot of damage and the other the Town wide roads which were the Temple Road, Center Hill Road, and West Brook Road. Those applications were approved by FEMA and all of the steps have been done documenting where the work has been done. The work is being tracked on a spreadsheet. FEMA has signed off on it and has forwarded the money off to the State of Maine MEMA and now it up to them to disperse the money to the Town of Weld. They have sent to Richard the project documentation form for him to sign and send back and they can release these funds. From FEMA we will receive \$477,000 and \$95,000 from the State. Richard will send the reports in stating that 88% of these have been approved and will need to be completed by June 30th of next year. Robert Jackson, Road Commissioner does not think that is an issue. We must keep for paperwork for 7 years in case there is an audit.

- Town Warrant "Special" Articles – The Select Board needs to work on articles that need to be included in the Town Meeting Warrant other than the budget articles.
 - a) Re-evaluation – There will need to be an article to request money to put into an account to go towards a revaluation to be started in 2027 and completed in 2028. It was suggested to put aside \$40,000 this year towards the revaluation with an estimate of \$104,800 to complete it. (Dina will check with MMA to see how that article should be written)
 - b) Article to accept money received in donations
 - c) Article for State Park Passes

An email will go out to the Department Heads and request reports for the Annual Town Report with a deadline of January 15th.

Town Meeting is March 1st this year.

- **Executive Session -**

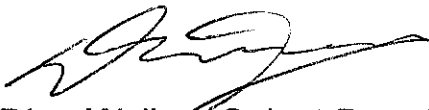
Dina Walker, SB member moved to go into executive session under section 4056 to discuss personnel issues. Lisa Miller, SB Member 2nd the motion and it was a unanimous vote.

- Personnel issues
- Ideas for Dedication of Town Report

Respectfully submitted,



Carol J. Cochran



Dina Walker, Select Board

The Selectboard came out of Executive Session and Dina Walker moved that Corey Hutchinson respond to the reporter from Channel 8 on behalf of the municipality regarding the Go-Fund-Me page news story.
Lisa Miller second the motion and the vote passed unanimously.