

Select Board Minutes

Date: March 12, 2024

Time: 5:30 PM

Location: Multi-Purpose Room

Next Meeting: March 26, 2024

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Minutes: Approved February 27, 2024

Present: Dina Walker, Richard Doughty, April Demers, Dirk Walker, David Rackliffe, Mike Pratt, Becky Vining, Stan Walker, Steve & Carol Conant, Lisa Miller, Dan Demers, Jean Biondo, Larry Fish, Liz Boyle

AGENDA ITEMS:

Department Heads:

Dan said that all trucks are running and he has been meeting with FEMA getting the paperwork done for reimbursement.

Dan has purchased a new fuel tank, air compressor and lifting chains after the surprise visit from the Bureau of Labor.

Weld Recreation: Cell Phone request

April asked if Weld Recreation could get a cell phone to use to download music for dance classes. After attending the training on FOAA the Committee was told that they should not be using personal phones.

Weld Rec needs to be able to download music on a device for classes for line dancing and other events needing music. The Committee has 3 instructors for dance classes, so if they had a phone music could be downloaded on that phone and could be used by all instructors and would need to pay for 1 music license. April also needs to know how to tie the phone into the speaker system or purchase a speaker to do that with.

Lisa felt that Weld Rec should have a phone.

Dina said to comply with FOAA that we all employees should not be using personal, phones, computers or email for Town Business. Weld Recreation has a budget set by the townspeople by approval of the Weld Rec Committee they can purchase a phone.

April said that there is a problem with existing speakers with feedback and have not been able to use them. Richard said the problem had been fixed.

Richard said the Weld Rec phone can go under the Town of Weld Plan. The phone is \$.99 and cost is \$39.00 per month.

Weld Rec Easter gathering is this week end starting at 3 PM until 7:30 PM.

New Business:

1. Veteran's Monuments (Update Mike Pratt)

Mike said that after the funding was approved at Town Meeting, they are ready to go. Mike said that they submitted an estimate and a contract with the contractor. He needs the contract signed by the SB and will need a check from the Town for half of the estimate as a retainer which is \$894.50 to proceed. Mr. Collette depending the weather he will have the engraving done before Memorial Day for the Weld Celebration.

Mike said that he believed that everybody has seen the design that they have agreed upon. Mike gave the Town Clerk and Treasurer a copy of that bill and contract, so we should have a copy of the design. Larry Fish has come up with 1 more name that they believe may need to be added so Mike will need to call Mr. Collette and give him the name and the estimate will go up a little.

There will be \$4,000 used from stone repair for the Veterans Monuments and \$1,000 will go back into stone repair.

Richard moved that the Treasurer draft a check to send out with the contract for the engraving of the Veterans Monuments. Dina 2nd the motion and it was voted.

Mike asked if he needed to come back to the SB to get the check to pay for the other half. Richrd said that he did not have to. Dina

asked that Mike send an email to request the 2nd half when they need it sent, so that they will have it in writing.

2. Elect Select Board Chairperson: Dina moved to keep Richard as the Chair of the SB, seconded by Lisa motion passed.

3. Recap Town Meeting

- Outline schedule to address any unfinished business, (outstanding ordinance issues, and bridge issues, anything else.)

Article 9: Solicit bids for construction of the Kennedy bridge and they have the Proposed contract. With previous conversations with Calderwood Engineering the documents drawn up allow 30 days for bidders to respond and then the contract documents enable the Town to accept or reject any or all bids. There are performance bonds and security that they have to post to the Town. The bid package allows the road Closed for 7 days and if it exceeds beyond the 7 days there is a penalty of \$1,000 per day is in the contract.

Lisa said that she thought that the SB gave the approval to go ahead and Dina agreed. Richard also agreed and will get in contact with Eric at Calderwood Engineering and tell him to proceed with the bid process. Richard will also get a list from Eric of the Contractors that he sent bids out to.

Article 10: After the final number is known the SB will see what is the best way to finance the amount needed to replace the Kennedy bridge, whether it be a bond or a loan and will call a Special Town Meeting to approve the funding. Once the bid has been accepted from a contract it allow 60 days in order executes a contract.

Article 11: Anything that anyone donates to Weld Rec that is less than \$1,000 value, April needs to keep a log of those items what it is, who is donating it, value of the item and who is receiving it. The log needs to be turned into the SB monthly, with a copy being kept at the Town Hall and at the Town Office.

Article 12: Food Sovereignty ordinance be enacted with instruction for the SB to update the Ordinance with the update that was approved by the State Legislature. Lisa sent an email to Richard,

Dina said the amendment needs to be changed and bring it before a Special Town Meeting to approve any changes to an Ordinance.

Richard said that they need to investigate whether the SB can make the changes to the Ordinance that David Rackliffe's motion indicated at Town Meeting.

Article 13: Moratorium Ordinance was passed and Richard said that he would assume that they need to begin working on an Ordinance. It was a suggestion from Nancy Stowell that we did not need just an ordinance on Solar Farms and large Commercial Structures, that we need to update the comprehensive plan. Lisa said that her understanding from Legal Council was to keep them as 2 separate Ordinances. The Solar Ordinance has been written but there are some changes that need to be done, so the Lisa said she thought it would be easier to complete that one before starting on the Large Commercial Structure Ordinance.

Dina thought that because the advice from Town legal counsel the problem was not the subject but the mechanism need a subjected standard, they needed to correct it to objective standard with the Planning Board Ordinance. The language would be similar with the other and they could be done t the same time.

Dina feels that the Comprehensive Plan is not needed for these 2 Ordinances and that they should not spend the time needed to up that Ordinance. She feels that they need to take the advice of the Town's lawyer.

Richard perhaps to be more productively that they should involve some other people from the PB and CEO for input from more than just the 3 of them. All were in agreement. Richard will try to have a proposal ready for the next meeting.

4. Maine Department of Labor - Occupational Safety & Health update
 - a. Safety Works - Should we engage with them?

On election day there was a surprise visit from Bureau of Labor. Teshia Kates who is the Occupational Engineer for the Maine Department of Labor. She said that Weld was randomly selected for an inspection. She needed to meet with a raking officer to kick off the meeting to explain what she is doing. Looking for safety violations,

making sure employees were being protected and that the Town was not in violation with any of the codes. It was more focused on procedures, hazard analysis and safe. She visited with Department Heads department heads and kept her focus on Public Works, Public Safety and Transfer Station. Teisha met with Dan on that day and did find some things that were in violation and many of them Dan has already corrected.

She met with Corey and Stand on Public Safety and found some things there to be corrected.

Tesia met with Judy at the Transfer Station today.

She will come back and have another talk with Richard then she will prepare a report of the major deficiencies and the minor one she does not have to list in the report. She has 60 days to prepare the report certified mail to us. There will be 15 days that the Town will have start an appeal process if we feel anything is unjust.

There are fines for major violations if any was found. Impression that Richard has from her is that everything looked pretty good.

Teshia has recommended that we consider working with an organization called Safety Works. They are a department of the Department of Labor. There is no cost to work with them an they focus on work lace safety. They will come in and do voluntary inspections and there are no fines and if there are issues that the Town has to fix the violation. Corey has asked that before we take that step and move forward that the SB have a meeting with PS. They do offer training but Dan does not know how it compares with training with NEOGOV.

5. Tax Acquired Property (Update)

We do have a foreclosure on a piece of property and have sent a second letter out to them and waiting for a response. Richard has talked with Adrian Harris and he visited the property and said that it was a piece of very salable property. It is 1/3 of an acre on Moose Look Lane and someone could place a camper on it for the summer.

Check to see if an article is required to be voted on at Town Meeting to sell Tax acquired property.

6. Town Office Floor Refinishing Proposal

Richard said that we did receive an estimate from David Walsh, DM Walsh and he has looked at the floor and given an estimate for machine prepping with a diamond disc to ruff up the floor, 2 coats of water base gym finish. He does several school districts and is based in Raymond, ME. Cost is \$.80 per square foot including the entry way, kitchen and gym floor would cost \$1,980 and stage included \$820 for the Stage. To match the color on the floor that has been patched it would cost \$11,600

He is available on April 18th on a Thursday and he could finish it in one day.

Richard moved to have the Town Hall floor, entry way and kitchen floors refinished in the amount of \$1,980, Lisa 2nd the motion and it was a unanimous vote. moved not stage proposal including the stage Lisa 2nd motion

7. MMA Resources Update

Dina attends a MMA Executive Committee Meeting once a month. There are some workshops coming up that she wanted to let the Town Officials know. On April 2 there is an Elected Officials workshop that includes FOAA which at the beginning of each term of office you must attend the class or take the test.

On April 22 there is a Town Hall in Farmington from 2:30 to 7 PM which is free and includes FOAA

8. Weld Winter Wildcats Street Dance July 6

Richard moved to allow the Weld Winter Wildcats to hold their Street Dance on July 6th Town. Dina 2nd the motion and all were in favor.

9. April 1st – Assessment Day

Coverage by the Select Board Monday – 10 until 2
Richard and Dina will take 2 hour each.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dennis wanted to apologize for being angry about the liability insurance and took it personally because he did not understand.

FEMA Damage: The assessment for the December 18 storm, material cost damages are estimated at \$400,000. The Town will not receive any money back from FEMA for 1 year. Dan is looking at maybe closing the West Brook Road after the bridge to Scott Pratts pit. In closing that part of West Brook Road, the Byron Road needs to be kept passable because of the hikers going to Tumbledown and many of them use the West Brook Road. It will cost \$20,000 for gravel for the repair of the Byron Road, but need to find a pit to haul it from. Dan will need to hire other trucks to be able to haul the needed gravel repair the roads. Estimate is a month.

Richard said that FEMA and DOT state that a pit that is 5 acres has to be licensed through the State. Richard will reach out to the Pit owner.

Lisa moved to adjourned at 7 PM, Richard 2nd the motion and it was unanimous.

7 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carol J. Cochran".

Carol J. Cochran