

## **Select Board Minutes**

**Date:** March 16, 2023

**Time:** 5:30 PM

**Location:** Multi-Purpose Room

**Next Meeting:** March 28, 2023

**Minutes from last meeting:** Minutes from February 27 were approved as presented. Town Meeting minutes of March 4<sup>th</sup> were approved as presented.

**Present:** Richard Doughty, Dina Walker, Lisa Miller, Steve & Carol Conant, April & Dan Demers

### **AGENDA ITEMS**

#### **Department Heads**

Dan Demers, Road Commissioner, reported that the dirt roads were mud and are carefully being plowed. Dan plans to get the parts to repair the grader wing tomorrow. All equipment will then be repaired.

Dan reported that he is interviewing those who have turned in applications for the driver/laborer position and when completed he will make contact with the Select Board.

#### **Department of Transportation**

Richard was notified by DOT that a post on the Houghton Brook Bridge on School Street had been hit by the plow over the years and a post broken off. The State will repair it this time at their cost, however if it happens again the repair will be at the Town's expense.

They suggested that the Town's tractor clean out close to the bridge so that damage is not done to the bridge.

Richard said that he has received good comments about the Town's roads.

#### **Weld Recreation**

April Demers, Weld Recreation Director was present. April asked if the Community Benefit Club, CBC, would be able to sponsor the Franklin County Fiddlers on May 6<sup>th</sup> at the Weld Town Hall. Richard said that he had not made contact with Jen Latham, CBC, to see if they had insurance to cover functions

sponsored by them. CBC is not under the Town of Weld therefore they need to have their own liability insurance. If they paid for it through the Town's insurance, MMA, they would be covered under the TULIP Program and the cost would \$75 per function.

April was leaving the SB meeting to attend the CBC meeting at the Library. Richard said that April could carry that message to them about the need for insurance to hold functions in town buildings. April is open to work with the CBC and co-sponsor functions which would then be covered in full under the Town's insurance.

Richard explained that if the Town sponsors anything we are covered, however a third party needs to have insurance and have the Town named as an insured on the policy. If something happens with an organization without insurance and someone is hurt then they will sue that group if they do not have insurance per event. If they are appointed by the Town they would be covered.

Dina moved that Sean Minear and Nancy Stowell be appointed to organize the retirement party being held for Bruce and Dianna Farnham to be held at the Town Hall on March 25<sup>th</sup>. Lisa 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it was passed unanimously.

April will go to the Town Hall next week to see what is under the stage for Easter decorations, etc. to be used for an Easter Party to be held on April 8<sup>th</sup>.

## **Old Business**

### **Update on Cyber Use Agreement**

Looking over the Agreement Dina believes that there are parts that we may delete that do not pertain to the Town of Weld. Also, we can submit our renewal application by the deadline of March 27<sup>th</sup> and send the Cyber Use Agreement at a later time.

Dina will go over the Agreement and speak with Michelle Pelletier and will give an update at the next Select Board Meeting on March 28<sup>th</sup>.

### **Update on TDS Cable Franchise Agreement**

Dina has gone over the Agreement as indicated at the last meeting. TDS is upgrading its existing network to fiber and will be able to provide high speed internet and cable services over the internet competitive to satellite service and Comcast the service is called TDS TV+.

Dina did make contact with our lawyer and they indicated that they would charge \$295 per hour to look over the agreement.

Dina would like us to go to a smaller law firm in Maine that we can call when we needed instead of having them on a retainer.

### **Update on Town Hall Fire Escape Repairs**

David Berry will get an estimate together for a design and for the work and will get it to Dina.

David is waiting for Mike Stephenson, CEO to make contact with him for what is needed for a permit.

Richard said that there are only a few functions at the Town Hall and it would be expensive for an enclosed fire tower. They would like to see if they could repair the existing fire escape to bring it up to code instead.

### **Update on Facility Use Policy with respect to Town's Liability Insurance Coverage**

Lisa will look at the sample Facility Use Policy and the one we have now and work on one for the next meeting on March 28<sup>th</sup>.

### **Status of Lighting upgrades**

Electrical Systems of Maine has given a price of \$20,000 for LED lights for the Town Office and Town Garage and the incentive from Efficiency Maine is \$1,500.

There are still 2 Electricians that are going to give proposals.

Richard said that we can purchase the lights and hire an electrician to install the lights.

### **Recap of Annual Town Meeting**

The Budget Committee recommend that a percentage be used for payroll that would tie it to the cost-of-living increase (COLA).

After discussing it at the meeting with Budget Committee members present it was decided that the article would not go into the Warrant this year and one could be drafted for the 2024 meeting.

Richard said that taxes would not likely increase this year but can next year with the increase in employee benefits and other expenditures going forward.

### **Chair of the Select Board**

Lisa moved that Richard be the Select Board chair again for this year. Dina 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it was a yes vote.

### **Household Hazardous waste**

No discussion was needed, the Town will participate as in the past.

### **Assessment Day - Saturday - April 1<sup>st</sup>**

Saturday April 1<sup>st</sup> is Annual Assessment Day. Dina and Lisa will be at the Town Office from 10 AM until 2 PM to accept Homestead exemptions, Veteran's exemptions applications, etc.

### **Med Care**

Richard will meet with the Director of Med Care Monday March 20<sup>th</sup> to see what it will cost for Ambulance service compared to North Star.

### **Comp time proposal**

Dan asked that the Town consider a comp time policy. We need a written policy. Dan will get a policy from the Town of Canton. Dina will look it over and will draft a policy for the Board to accept.

Respectfully submitted.

  
Carol J. Cochran,