

Select Board Minutes

Date: May 12, 2022

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: Multi-Purpose Room

Next Meeting: May 24, 2022

Minutes: Minutes were accepted as written

Present: Richard Doughty, Brian Haynes, Carol Cochran & Chris Lynch

Department Heads:

No department heads present

New Business:

Chris Lynch – Matrix Update

Chris was here to give us an update on Broadband.

Bad news is that the grant from Connect Maine was not given to them. There were 50 grants and 8 were approved.

The Maine Connectivity Authority is taking over, but it will probably be in the fall for them to get organized before accepting grant applications.

Initial estimates of the town's share of upfront cost were based on \$450 per pole. Chris estimates that grants received to date reduce that to \$50 per pole. The Town will still have to do a poll survey and pay pole attachment application fee of \$2,000 for both telephone and CMP.

In 2019 the municipal right of way law was imposed that is supposed to make space on utility poles accessible to municipalities at no cost. There are towns now involved with testing the right of way rule so we will find out if there are any issues or challenges with it, however Chris does think that there will be. Richard asked if he knew what Towns were going through this and Chris said that he did not know. Charlie Woodworth may know, because he is working closer to this. Casco Bay Advisors will do the Pole Data Survey and utility pole attachment work and coordinated by Matrix Design Group and the Greater Franklin County Development Council.

Richard said he can't imagine the Town of Weld buying out the 10-year lease.

Richard was surprised that there was a request to expend funds before the Town votes to move forward with the project. He had not understood that was the schedule previously. His perception was that there would be some initial marketing or surveying that took place to determine if there is enough interest following informational meetings and the Town vote before having to spend any actual money. Richard said that Chris probably remembers that he has been skeptical that there would be enough response to make it viable for Matrix to proceed and that the last thing that he wanted to do, even if he could is spend \$50,000 and find out that there is not enough interest so that they could not proceed with the build. Chris said that he apologized if there is any confusion and he would take the responsibility for that. Chris said that when we did the MOU list of events that poll survey was listed as an initial requirement. There are things that work simultaneously and a full survey must be done. Chris explained the steps in the process in order to go forward.

Chris said that Charlie Woodworth (Greater Franklin County Economic and Community Development), may be able to use a portion of the grant from the Northern Regional Commission to pay for the pole survey. Richard said that if that happens, we may be able to go ahead with the survey, but we cannot spend money that the Town has not voted to spend.

Chris brought with him a kiosk that he will set up for those that might be interested in or just want information on it to sign up with an email address, take a survey and as information becomes available, they will receive information by email. Within the next few weeks an informational mailing will be sent out by Matrix.

Archie's Contract

A new contract for recycling was signed with Archie's Inc. starting July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 in the amount of \$5,244.

There is also an increase in rates for trash and demo effective May 1, 2022.

Renewal of Kawanhee Inn Liquor License

The renewal of Kawanhee Inn's liquor license was approved.

Application for a Catered Function

An application from Rustic Taps and Catering was received for a private wedding reception at the end of May and was approved by the Select Board.

Appointments of Election Clerks

The following appointments were made:

Republican Election Clerk:
Laureen Pratt

Democrat Election Clerk:
Dina Walker
Chris Wallace

Unenrolled Election Clerk:
Wendy Wright

RSU 9 Warrant and Notice of Election

The Select Board signed the Notice of Election for RSU #9 Budget Validation Referendum to be held in conjunction with the State Primary Election on June 14th.

Flags on Veteran's Graves

Carol has spoken to David Fish and he plans to have the flags on the Veteran's graves for Memorial Day with help.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol J. Cochran