

Select Board Minutes

Date: November 26, 2024

Time: 5:30 PM

Location: Multipurpose Room

Next Meeting: December 10, 2024

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Approve Minutes: Richard Doughty, Chair of the Select Board moved to accept the minutes of November 12th. Dina Walker 2nd the motion and it was a unanimous vote.

Present: **Select Board Members** - Dina Walker, Richard Doughty and Lisa Miller. **Audience:** Steve & Carol Conant, Laureen Pratt, Julie & David Jervis, Lisa Miller, Carol Cochran

- Department Head Reports –

- Fire Department – Lisa – Nothing to report
- PW Equipment is all up and running. There was a push pull cable that need to be tracked down and the grader is now repaired.
- General Government – The Town changed over to TRIO Web today.

- Committee Reports –

- Weld Recreation – Christmas party on December 7th and 54 children have indicated that they will attend the party.
- Town Hall heat – The town hall will be kept at 50 degrees.
- **Dina Walker moved** to accept the donations received from Weld Recreation in the amount of \$100. **Lisa Miller 2nd** the motion and it was a unanimous vote.

- Old Business

- Ongoing Project Status Updates

- Community Resiliency Partnership
Status Update – on December 5th at noon there will be a public informational meeting held at the Multipurpose room.

A draft of the resolution for the Community Resilience Partnership was presented to the Board and was put together by Lise Bofinger and Ina Toth. There is \$75,00 available for

these 6 actions. Adopting this resolution is only the first step. This resolution needs to be adopted tonight.

The Board went down the list and prioritized those areas:

- 1.) Adopt and execute a plan for energy efficiency and building envelope weatherization improvements for municipal/tribal buildings. Collaborate with local school district for school building improvements.
- 2.) Upgrade streetlights and exterior lighting for municipally/tribal-owned facilities with energy efficient LED lighting (and minimize light pollution with down-lighting were possible).
- 3.) Conduct a baseline for energy usage by municipal/tribal government including electricity, heating and transportation fuels, and other energy sources.
- 4.) Implement a source water protection program.
- 5.) Establish or recognize an official committee of community stakeholders.
- 6.) Engage youth resilience, clean energy, and energy use reduction.

Select Board Chair Richard Doughty moved to adopt the Community Resilience Partnership Resolution with the edits with Lise Bofinger and Ina Toth designated to head this project. Dina Walker Board Member 2nd the motion and the Policy was adopted unanimously.

- **RSU 9 Informational Meeting – Summary**
Richard Doughty, Select Board Chair said the meeting received good attendance with the Alison Gamache, Finance Director and Chris Elkington, Principal in attendance.

They explained that Property valuations, not the number of students set our local School Tax. Richard explained the complicated formula used to set our School Tax. Chris Elkington stated that within the formula the “lowest receiver” can receive money from the State referencing LD274.

The Superintendent will get a contact person for Richard to make contact with at the Department of Education.

- Quick Updates

- **FEMA Projects**
There is great progress on the West Brook Road and they are now working on the Byron Road. There will be a need for more surface gravel and we have until May or June to complete the project.
- **DEP Inspection at Transfer Station** – Richard said everything has been done and he just needs to take some pictures and follow up with them.
- **MMA Risk Management Inspection** – Everything has been completed as far as Richard knows and is waiting for a letter from Eric Calderwood saying that a patch is needed on the concrete foundation of the Salt Shed.
- **Kennedy Bridge - Declaration of Intent Document/Bond**
Application has been done and the next step is to request the Bond.

- New Business

- **Paid Family Leave Legislation** – New Law states 12 weeks of paid family leave – Starting January 1, 2025 the Town must withhold .5% of all of the employees' wages – Colleen Stewart, Treasurer said that the town is not responsible to pay anything towards the Paid Family Leave.
- **Report on "Town Cloud" Demo (Carol, Colleen, Laurie)**
Laurie Pratt said that the demo showed agendas and minutes. It appears that this would be more expensive than what we have for a website at this time. It seems colors used and the font helps with ADA. It is 2027 when websites must be ADA compatible.

Laurie said that we need to check with our present website host and talk with him.

We have time to check out all of our options,

- **Formation of Center Hill Cemetery Association-**
Dina Walker met with Sean Minear and has made contact with MMA Legal – In Maine, generally the Town cemeteries are owned by the Town, but private cemetery associations can be formed by citizens for the maintenance of the grounds, gravestones, plots, etc. A Town usually has cemetery policies that take into account the cemetery association role in the maintenance of the cemetery. As cemetery associations are private and separate from the Town, they would have their own by-laws, etc. A good example of this relationship is the Town and Mt. View Cemetery. Sean would like to start an association for Center Hill Cemetery as he has done for Mt. View Cemetery. He did not say he wanted to head it and said that he knows of some who would be interested. He wants some time because of the holidays and he has not had time to reach out to them.
- **Status of update to Cemetery Policy**
The pricing for Center Hill Cemetery has been updated. Dina Walker said that she will be working on the Cemetery Policy for the Town for the Select board's review and take into consideration what MMA Legal has advised on the matter.

Richard clarified that there are currently 2 Cemetery Associations in Weld. The Mt. View and Robertson Cemeteries.

- **Update of Transfer Station Fees**
Transfer station fees –The fees for bringing brush to the transfer station at this time is \$5 per pickup truck load. Judy Marden, Transfer Station Attendant has talked with Richard and feels that the price should be increased. There are many Towns that do not accept brush because they cannot recover the cost. **Richard Doughty, Chair, Select Board moved to increase the price from \$5 per load to \$10 per load starting January 1, 2025. Dina Walker 2nd the motion and it was passed unanimously.**
- **Auditors Draft Report for 2023 - Any comments or concerns – Will be added to next Select Board Meeting.**
- **Maine Power Options - Estimate of Potential Savings**

Richard Doughty talked with the Maine Power Options and does feel that we should talk with them. They are part of Maine Municipal. It is for Municipalities and Non-Profits to buy bulk energy. Maine Power Options are 30 to 40% less than the State average. Richard will set up a meeting and talk with them. They will do an audit to what our usage is and can show us how much we could save. It will cost \$50 to join.

- Mid Maine Waste Contract – Discussion
Richard Doughty, Select Board Chair moved to sign the 5-year contract with Mid Maine Waste. Lisa Miller 2nd the motion and it was passed unanimously.
- GoFundMe – Landing site for LifeFlight
Fire Department – An individual is making his life mission to have a dedicated landing zone in memory of his wife who lost her life. This individual has donated landing lights for a portable landing zone. He also would like to provide money for training, etc. This individual has written a letter and is asking the Town to post it on the Towns website and send it out on our listserv. There was no final decision.
- Select Board Meeting for December will be on the 18th.

Respectfully submitted,



Carol J. Cochran