

Town of Weld
Select Board Minutes

Date: Tuesday, April 22, 2025

Time: 5:30PM – 6:30PM (1 hour)

Location: Town Hall

Present: Select Board - Dina Walker, Steve Conant and Lisa Miller –
Quorum met

Town Employees – Carol Cochran, Town Clerk, Robert Jackson, Road
Commissioner, Colleen Stewart, Treasurer, Lise Bofinger, ACO

Other than Select Board

Call Meeting to Order:

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call, Determination of Quorum - Quorum was met
3. Housekeeping

Minutes of Previous Meeting and Communications

- Accept Minutes from SB meetings March, 25, 2025 into the Town's records.

Lisa Miller moved to enter the minutes into the Town's records.

Steve Conant seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business -- None New Business per 1. Public Relations

Background: Each year, the Town of Weld may submit a candid's name to the Maine chapter of Spirit of America to receive the annual "Spirit of America" award. Traditionally, the Town has submitted the name(s) of the individuals who the most recent Town Report was dedicated to.

RESOLVE: That the Selectboard authorize Carol Cochran to complete paperwork for submission to Spirit of America Tribute & Involvement to recognize Kevin & Holly Cochran as Town of Weld's recipient of the "Spirit of America" award for 2025.

Steve Conant moved the resolve as written and Lisa Miller seconded and was passed unanimously.

2. Financial/Public Relations – Maine State Park Free Seasons Pass Policy (PILOT Raymond & George Foundation)

Background: The Town legislature accepted a PILOT donation from Raymond & George Foundation (Camp Kawanhee for Boys) at Town Meeting, March 8, 2025, for the amount of \$5000 to purchase free annual season passes to Maine State Parks. The SB will discuss the reviewed draft policy for adoption.

RESOLVE: That the Selectboard adopt the George & Raymon Frank Foundation (Camp Kawanhee) Free State Park Passes Policy. Steve Conant moved to pass the part of the policy under 1. As follows:

Each year, After August 15th, the Treasurer of the Town Shall, using no more than (10%) of the available Donation, purchase Passes for the following calenda year, which shall be given to Skoolhouse Variety to be made available to the public, 1 pass per household, according to the Skoolhouse's rules and regulations. The Treasurer will also calculate, cased on the price for Passes published by the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands) the "Bureau"), the maximum number of the additional Passes ("Designated Passes") that may be purchased with the remaining amount of available Donation.

Lisa Miller seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Colleen Stewart, treasurer was authorized to purchase the number of passes for 10% of the Donation.

The Free State Park Passes Policy with now be sent to the George and Raymond Frank Foundation for their approval.

3. Information & Technology /Public Relations – Website

Background: Since our last meeting, neither the Town Clerk nor the Treasurer has had time to edit the website. To date, the Selectboard Chair has devoted approximately 10 hours of time (1 hour training) to reorganizing and updating the website for public use.

The current service plan with Aptuitiv, Inc. is the **Starter Plan (\$25/month)** permitting only one person as administrator with limited assistance.

Recommendation to upgrade the current service contract with Aptuitiv from the Starter Plan to the **Basic Plan (\$45/month)** allowing unlimited administrators to access and edit the website and SB to authorize relevant municipal officials to update the relevant webpages such as the “calendar” and “news” on a timelier and more efficient basis.

RESOLVE: That the Selectboard authorize, (1) an upgrade of the current service contract plan with Aptuitiv, Inc., the Town’s current web design provider, from the Starter Plan (\$25/month) to the Basic Plan (\$45/month), (2) the Chair of the Selectboard, the heads of the municipal departments and committees, or a designee, to update the Town website’s calendar, news, and relevant department/committee pages as needed.

Steve Conant moved to approve the resolve as written and Lisa Miller seconded the motion with a unanimous vote.

- **General Government/Financial/Legal – Grant Applications**
- Update on documentation and progress of various grant applications (safety grants) (*Steve Conant*)

Corey Hutchinson, Fire Chief and Judith Marden, Transfer Attendant have applied for safety grants from Maine Municipal Association

- Clarification on legal procedure of grant applications to acceptance of grants by Town (*Dina Walker*)

RESOLVE: That the Selectboard authorize Department Heads, Committee Chairs, or their designees and appropriate key municipal official to apply for grants on behalf of the Town of Weld provided that the relevant Selectboard or Town Legislature approval is received prior to acceptance of such grant.

Steve Conant moved to accept the resolve as written and Lisa Miller seconded the motion which was passed unanimously.

5. Background: Richard Profenno, independent contractor, has continued the painting and general renovation work in the town office due to the flood damage in mid-February 2025. He expects the paintwork to be finished by early May. The counter remains to be replaced.

RESOLVE: That the Selectboard authorize the Selectboard Chair to be the Project Manager to make relevant decisions with respect to the renovation and interact with the various contractors for the remainder of the renovation of the Town Office

Steve Conant moved to approve the resolve and Lisa Miller seconded the motion unanimously

6. **Town Property/Public Works – Town Garage Renovations**

Background: Public Works has requested that an office cubical/room be built on the “second floor” of the town garage to allow for a separation of office work vs storage and maintenance of road work equipment.

The SB discuss to discuss options:

- Amend Job Description of Public Works Personnel, or
- Hire Independent Contractors to complete the project

Dina spoke with Richard Profenno who is interested in doing the work and will give an estimate and will be done this year.

7. Financial/Legal – Federal Action Alert: Tax Exempt Bonds Status at Risk

Background: We received a notice from MMA in late March 2025 to municipal leaders that the tax exemption on municipal bonds is at serious risk. In Maine, municipal bonds fund community projects, including essential infrastructure projects like roads, water systems, and public safety facilities. The tax-exempt status makes these bonds especially valuable, as it keeps borrowing costs low for municipalities and reduces the financial burdens placed on property taxpayers. The Town of Weld is currently is a beneficiary of such tax-exempt status re the municipal bond (\$190,000) we are due to receive this year for the repair of the Kennedy Bridge. The National League of Cities (which Town of Weld is a member of via MMA) is encouraging selectboards to pass resolutions in support of the tax exemption to share with federal leaders.

RESOLVE: That the Selectboard adopt the Resolution Declaring Support for the Preservation of the Federal Tax Exemption of Municipal Bonds

Steve Conant moved to accept the resolve and Lisa Miller seconded the motion and was passed unanimously.

Other Business

1. Department/Committee Updates (Selectboard Liaison/Department Heads/Committee Chairs)
 - a. **General Government – Update:** Confirm that MMA Property & Casualty Renewal, due March 28, 2025, has been filed (*Carol*

Cochran) Confirmed the renewal was sent in.

- b. **Financial/Tax – Update:** State Preliminary Valuation Report (Carol sent to SB for review on April 11, 2025)
- c. **Transfer Station – Update:** documenting Transfer Station activities for town record keeping (*Steve Conant*)

Judy notes that work needs to be done on the Standard Operating Procedure.

Work needs to be done on the pad barriers.

Judy is asking if an organization could come to the transfer station and pick up bags of bottles that have fallen out of the back of the bottle shed and down over a bank. She thought of the Masons, because the bottles are picked up by them for their charity fund.

Also, wants to ask the fire department to be there when the brush is being burned.

When the trash is being compacted in the container, there are no locks to secure the doors after being closed for safety.

- d. **Legal – Update:** Survey Results Closed as of Friday, April 11, 2025 for Draft Solar Farm/Large Commercial Structure Ordinance (*Dina Walker*)

There have been 27 surveys received and the hard copies are at the Town Office and available as public information. After the May 6th meeting a public meeting will be held on May 28th at 6.30 PM.

2. Miscellaneous

- a. **Financial – RESOLVE:** Accept donations received from

March 1, 2025 to date.

Steve Conant moved to accept the \$110 donation to the Fire Department, \$141 to Weld Recreation and \$62 in gifts. Dina Walker seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

b. **Public Relations/Community Involvement** – AVCOG
General Assembly Representatives for 2025:

Background: AVCOG annual call for 2 representatives was sent to all municipal officials on April 2, 2025; deadline April, 17, 2025. There were no volunteers for positions received other than Lise Bofinger and Dina Walker.

RESOLVE: That the Selectboard appoint Dina Walker and Lise Bofinger as Weld's AVCOG General Assembly Reps for 2025.

Lisa Miller moved to accept the resolve and Steve Conant seconded the motion and was passed unanimously.

c. Important Brief(s) from MMA Executive Committee Meeting.

April 16, 2025 (*Dina Walker*)

- FY 2026 – FY 2027 State General Fund Budget – What's At Stake
- Any other updates from SB members?

The Town has received from the Federal Emergency Management Association & Maine Emergency Management a total of \$566,891.34 for the past Disasters in 2023 and 2024.

Mason Lodge – Steve Conant reported that there will be electrical upgrades to the electricity upstairs with grant money.

General Government/Animal Control – Engage Town Attorney for potential civil action re animal trespass

Background: The ACO issued two Notice of Violations against resident in Fall 2024 and April 2025 for multiple violations of M.R.S. Title 7 §4041 (animal trespass) from October 2024- April 2025. The resident has not complied to date. The ACO has contacted the resident to obtain voluntary compliance with of M.R.S. Title 7 §4041 by stated deadline. ACO requests support from the Selectboard to authorize expenditure to engage Town Attorney in this potential civil action should she be unable to obtain voluntary compliance from resident by deadline.

RESOLVE: that, should the ACO be unsuccessful in obtaining voluntary compliance from resident this violation of M.R.S. Title 7 §4041(animal trespass) matter, the Selectboard authorizes the Chair to engage the Town Attorney to represent the Town in a potential civil action related to the same.

Steve Conant moved to approve the resolve and Lisa Miller seconded the motion and was passed unanimously.

Steve Coant moved to adjourned at 7 PM and Lisa Miller seconded the motion and passed unanimously.

Public Comment (15 mins)

Next Selectboard Meeting:

May 5th June 17th.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol J. Cochran,
Town Clerk