



Minutes
OWLS HEAD BOARD OF SELECTMEN
January 06, 2020

CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:

Chairman Thomas Von Malder called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm. Present were selectmen Linda Post and Gordon Page. Also presented were Mark Smalley, Tristan Hanann, Dick Carver, Kim Slawson, Ernie Benner, Steve Hansen, Lynn Chaplin, Louis Carrier, Charmer Spearing and Kendra Jo Grindle from the Island Institute.

APPROVE MEETING MINUTES:

Motion: 4:03 Linda makes a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Gordon seconds that motion

VOTE 3 in favor – 0 opposed

OLD BUSINESS: York Property budget update. To date, \$75,921.27 has been paid. Two bills from Farley and Son are still pending. One for \$7,528 and the other for \$3,432 bringing the total to \$86,881.27. Selectmen Gordon Page recommended that Secretary Eleanor Stone reach out to the local real estate agents to see if they are interested in doing a market analysis.

Richard Carver presented selectmen Thomas Von Malder with a letter for the state asking for an amendment on the funding for the Owls Head Harbor Park project. He states that they have started work on the parking area down off Lighthouse Road. He also had a discussion with Prock Marine regarding the engineering of the dock. At the planning board meeting on Monday, January 13, there will be a discussion taking up the issue of a permit, the actual marine aspect of this project. He says they have held off until they were sure of what the Army Corp of Engineers would be required, being nothing short of what they had originally thought. Selectmen Von Malder asked if we were still looking at November 2020 for the water half of the project. Mr. Carver states that it is looking that way but there is a slight possibility something before then but Prock pretty much has their schedule booked until June and per the contract, no work would be done during the fishing season. Selectmen Von Malder had a concern as to what would happen if the permit was denied, and Mr. Carver responded with "I don't know."

A letter was presented to the board from Central Maine Power with pricing for the street light request at Birds Loop, pole 37. Selectmen Page will set up a meeting with the Road Commissioner, Bill Leppanen to discuss if the light is necessary or if signage would work.

NEW BUSINESS: Several residents from Ballyhac Rd were present to discuss the lack of internet available to them. Charmen Spearing spoke first saying that she had contacted Spectrum and it has been dead-ended. She would like to find out if there is anything the town can do to help with the issue. Selectmen Linda Post states that a study was done a few years ago. Mrs. Spearing says that Spectrum advised her to speak to the town. Steve Hansen said he has Red-Zone and it is just OK. He said Spectrum had contacted residents in his area to set up the internet. Spectrum then backed out at the last minute. The subject of kids was brought up and how all assignments are now done online, which is a problem. Louis Carrier says that he has been trying to get internet at his location on Maker Cove Rd. He tried Red Zone but was not satisfied. He is now using US Cellular for \$250 a month but it is limited. He was approached by Spectrum to install the internet for \$19,000 and Spectrum would cover \$3000 of that cost. Mr. Carrier says he believes because the community doesn't get together as a group to unify the process is the reason they are unsuccessful. Mark Smalley states he has 4 kids, 2 of them try to do their homework at home on their tablets and it is impossible. He and his wife also have an internet-based company and not able to work from home. Selectmen Post would like to have numbers and cost of everyone on Ballyhac. Kendra Jo Grindle from the Island Institute says she would like to help the community gather a working group to try and address the problem through state mapping and federal government mapping to see what the coverage here in Owls Head is and how to negotiate or seek other providers. Ms. Grindle states that there is also State or Federal funding that the Island Institute can help with. Mr. Smalley states that the maps are outdated. Ms. Grindle gave information to the Selectmen for further review. Selectmen Page says he is willing to coordinate with Dave Matthews as he has a lot of information from the previous study.

A list of pending foreclosures was presented to the board. They request to speak with Tax Collector Susan Wilson. Selectmen Post states that Scott Young is deceased. Ms. Wilson lets her know that copies have been sent to DHHS and USDA Rural Development letting them know also. Selectmen Post asks Ms. Wilson to do a follow-up. Selectmen Page asks what the notification process is. Ms. Wilson says that State Statue requires a lien first, usually, the taxes are committed in August, she sends out the lien the following July, liens then go to the courthouse, and 18 months after that is the foreclosure date. She then has to give a 30-45 day notice of foreclosure, which has been done. Ms. Wilson says that she did title searches the prior Saturday and

sent out certified notices to the mortgage holders. A 30-45 day redemption is given after foreclosure, which means they would have to pay all three years to get it deeded back to them.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Dick Carver asks if the minimum wage increase for 2020 affects the county employees. It is determined that the increase does not affect the employees.

OTHER BUSINESS:

APPROVE AND SIGN THE MUNICIPAL WARRANT:

Motion: 4:49 Linda makes a motion to approve the warrants as presented. Gordon seconds the motion.

VOTE 3 in favor – 0 opposed.

ADJOURN THE MEETING:

Motion: 4:49 Linda makes a Motion to adjourn the meeting. Gordon seconds the motion.

Vote 3 in favor – 0 opposed.