

Town of Owls Head
Selectmen Meeting
March 16, 2020

4:00 Chairman Thomas Von Malder calls the meeting to order. Also present were Selectman Linda Post and Gordon Page, Lynn Chaplin, Jim Devery, Robin White, Dick Carver, Kathryn Demardarsian, and Stewart Rich.

Approve the Minutes:

MOTION: 4:03 Selectman Gordon Page makes a motion to approve the minutes for March 2, 2020, as amended. Chairman Thomas Von Malder seconds that motion

Vote passes 3-0 all in favor

Fire Truck replacement: Chairman Von Malder states that the selectmen were advised to send the requests out for a bid and there will be no special town meeting. The bids are to be received before April 6, 2020, however, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, there may be a delay. Richard Carver asks who advised them to go out to bid, also suggests the selectmen utilized MMA for future advice. He verbalizes his frustration with the delays as the town needs to have a firetruck and asks what would happen if for some reason the town voted not to get a firetruck? What would happen to the insurance money? Selectmen Page states that it is his understanding that the insurance money is being paid by MMA directly to the town for the purpose of spending it on a replacement truck. Fire Chief Frank Ross mentions that that too is his understanding. Mr. Carver asks if the town votes against getting a fire truck does the town still gets the money. Selectmen Pages says that is their understanding. Selectmen Page asks the Fire Chief what are the companies to whom he has sent out RFP's. Fire Chief Ross says there were 4 he can't remember off the top of his head but they were in the e-mail he sent earlier in the week. Chairman Von Malder states that Mitigation/OSHA investigation will be conducting a final conference call on March 17, 2020, at 1 PM, invites the fire chief to be involved with the call.

New Business: Bill Naipauer from the Mid-Coast Economic Development District wasn't present as requested. Chairman Von Malder states to pass that up as he wasn't present. Conservation Committee Jim Davery present the Selectmen with a survey of waterfront properties that several of the committee members put together and he believes it would be valuable that they are put into the town's permanent records so they are able to refer to them going forward as they would like to resurvey them on an annual basis. Selectmen Page makes a suggestion that going forward any kind of documentation is presented to the board and has some identifying marks on them, such as the date and where they come from. He would like some kind of introduction to it. Kathryn Demardarsian states on the last page it has the date and the names of the two people who did it, so it was done kind of backward. She states there are public access points on the map that do not include town lots, state parks, conservation

organization-owned property or private property with various conservation or tax-related designations. The Conservation Committee would like to see if they are usable, stating that one of the properties has a wooden staircase down to the water and the other has a ramp they were unsure of its use. The committee believes these are structures that will need to be taken care of in the future. Selectmen Page asks if the conservation committee took into consideration the properties owned on either side of the public access because there are issues with property owners as to access to "their" beach. He states there are signs stating private property and the property owners are very diligent to tell people they are on "their" beach. He believes that it is something to consider because the property owners will often tell people parking there overlooking the bay, that they are parking on private property and they can't park there. Ms. Demardarsian says they didn't see anything on the tax map that was encroaching. Dick Carver speaks up to thank the conservation committee for doing this research. He says that over the years, they have had issues with waterfront access and road access. The idea was to have on record that the town does own these properties and they are inspected annually. He states that the properties in question are all marked and very well laid out. Mr. Devery says the committee will refine and resubmit the documents to the board. The next item is requesting permission to spend about \$300 to enhance the town's website so that the conservation committee would have access to post their own agendas and minutes. Selectmen Post asked if the committee would have limited access, and Mr. Devery says that's the idea of it.

MOTION: 4:19, Linda makes a motion to approve the \$300 for the Owls Head Conservation Committee to upgrade the Owls Head Webpage. Gordon seconds that motion.

Vote passes 3-0 all in favor

The final item the conservation has is the annual roadside clean up. Mr. Devery says the committee has been working with the Ash Point School in trying to engage some of the students/parents. Last year the timing was falling on weekends or either side of vacation and would like a date chosen that is not interfering with school vacation so there's more local participation. Because of COVID 19, there may not be any way to communicate with the school but Kathryn Demardarsian would like to set up a tentative time of May 2, 2020. She also would like the fees to be waived for the dump stump fees at that time.

Deena Carafelli and Beth Long present the board with a request for money to send out letters to the community asking for a donation for the Volunteer Fire Department Fund. A target base had not been established. The idea is to have everyone in the community contribute somehow to raise funds for the volunteers should they need help financially in the future. Selectman Post would like to know how much money is in the volunteer fund at this point. Also, any raised funds are kept separate from the town funds. It is established that they are a non-profit organization and any monies sent can be tax-deductible. Selectman Page states that the Owls Head Fire Department is a Municipal department by statute, the money trying to be raised is intended to go to the Owls Head Fire Fighters Association, not the fire department. It is suggested that any checks be made out to the Association and not the fire department. Beth Long states that there was no mention to the fire department for help with the project. She

says that there used to be public suppers and people who showed support and gratitude to the volunteers. The intent is to have funds in their own account. Mr. Page would also like to know what the balance is before the town puts forth any funds. It needs to be looked at in the budget to see where the money would come from. Ms. Post would like them to ask Treasurer Pam Curtis where the budget sits and where they can take the money from. Mr. Post would also ask Fire Chief Ross to be included in the request. Beth Long asks the question, "if they don't ask for the \$400, would the town be willing to do the labels and envelopes?" Chairman Von Malder says that the entire project will be delayed if going through the town because of the current COVID-19 situation.

Annual donation request letters are presented to the board for approval. A budget of \$1000 is allowed.

MOTION: 4:47 Linda makes a motion that the funds be split equally between Spectrum Generations, Coastal Opportunities, and AIO Food Pantry. Gordon seconds that motion. Vote passes 3-0 all in favor

Contract renewal for Interstate Septic Systems. Last year's contract was \$2300 for a one-year contract and would remain the same this year.

MOTION: 4:50 Linda makes a motion to sign the contract from Interstate Septic System for the town of Owls Head in the amount of \$2300. Gordon seconds that motion.

Vote passes 3-0 all in favor

NEW BUSINESS: The town office has foreclosed on 3 pieces of property February 3, 2020. 2 are owned by Vance and Angel Fuller McMahan, Map 001- 024 and Map 001-025. Also, Scott Young, Map 008-031. Vance and Angel Fuller McMahan did pay the total amount due within the 30-day redemption period. But Young's property was not paid by March 10, 2020, so the property at 20 Owls Head Lane becomes the towns. A deed for the McMahan's property needs to be signed by the Selectmen.

A decision about whether or not to close the town office due to the COVID-19 outbreak is made. Treasure Pam Curtis and Town Clerk Susan Wilson explain a plan they have come up with to continue the workflow. Pam explains that the office staff could stagger the days from which they would come in and complete work that needs to get done. Taxes, payroll, election, and bills, etc. Selectmen Page says that we need to anticipate that all of these municipals and statewide organizations are going to have some level of closure. The purpose of staggering days is so the 3-office staff isn't working within close proximity of one another. Chairman Von Malder suggests closing the office until April 2, 2020, with the possibility that it may be longer. We would then open on Friday, April 3, 2020, to make preparations for the meeting on April 6, 2020. He states he has a feeling that the date will be pushed out longer. Mr. Page wants to know if the closure would include the Code Enforcement Officer and are the employees, whose hours are going to be diminished, eligible for unemployment compensation. Mr. Page states his

interest is to protect the employees both physically and financially to the degree that they can and also protect those positions and keep employees from going out to find other work.

MOTION: 5:11 Tom makes a motion to close the office through April 2, 2020. Linda seconds that motion. Gordon asks if the Chair would amend the motion to close through March 27, 2020. Tom disagrees thinking it needs a little more time with the anticipation of it being pushed out longer anyways.

Vote passes 3-0 all in favor

Public Health Officer Elliot Scott is to be contacted and told to keep the selectmen informed on the situation as it progresses.

Gordon Page updates the board in regard to the possible closure of the town library. A meeting was held with the intention to have a vote to dissolve the library, that would mean divesting the books, any assets to include the building. The first refusal would be given to the family that initially owned the building/property, then the town. A decision was made by the board of trustees to delay any final/formal decision pending an effort by those interested individuals to put some kind of campaign together to save the library. The board voted to spend up to \$1000 to do a mailer. A meeting was scheduled tentatively for April 16, 2020.

MOTION: 5:28 Linda makes a motion to approve the warrants as presented. Gordon seconds that motion.

Vote passes 3-0 all in favor

Gordon makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. Linda seconds that motion.

Vote passes 3-0 all in favor