



**OWLS HEAD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
Minutes
July 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 Ken Wexler, Richard Carver, Lynn Chaplin, Lauren Swartzbaugh, Katheryn DerMarderosian, and Gregory McElroy.

APPROVE MEETING MINUTES:

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

VOTE 3 in favor – 0 opposed

OLD BUSINESS: Dublin Rd property soil test results came in from David Studer from Washington, Maine. He concludes that it seems reasonable to split the lot into four lots, all with access to Dublin Rd. He believes that such lots could be worth \$20,000 to \$30,000. Mr. Studer is not sure how people would feel about living across the street from the airport runway. Selectman Post would like to see this information passed onto the local realtors in town to see if they want to market it, know now that it can split up into separate lots. Selectman Page agrees with Post, but his only objection is he would like to see it given exclusively to a single broker. Chairman Von Malder asks the Secretary to forward on the information to the brokers and have them join the meeting on July 20, 2020, for further discussion.

Chairman Von Malder states he is concerned to go any further with the Interlocal Agreement without some legal advice. There is a virtual meeting scheduled for July 14, 2020. Ken Wexler representing the Owls Head Airport Committee, gives copies of the committee's thoughts to the selectman. He states that Mr. Hart's letter was all about environmental litigation when that is not what this is all about. Wexler states that the town had a flat out moratorium on any new construction at the airport because of some outrageous things that the airport had done, and from that came a series of meetings with the planning board and others where the town felt that certain regulations need to put on continued growth at the airport. And that is when the town first learned that there was only so much, they could regulate. The Interlocal Agreement was about stopping any further expansion at the airport. The airport has stated that they do not ever expect to expand, but last year there were four options on how to expand the

runway. Mr. Wexler says he is waiting for the airport manager to get him those drawings. Not too long ago there was a plan to put up a solar farm, that did not happen because the county turned down the company who made them. The new proposal from the county is about expansion to the airport without any meaningful vote from the town, and this is very far from what the original Interlocal Agreement is. Mr. Wexler states that there is no benefit for us to agree with this proposal because it is one-sided for the county, we would have no say in it. Chairman Von Malder asks Secretary Eleanor Stone to contact a lawyer to attend the virtual meeting with the county set for Tuesday, July 14th @ 2 pm, and further discussion will happen at the next meeting.

An agreement between the airport and the town to use a hanger for the annual town meeting scheduled for August 31, 2020, needs to be approved and signed. Due to COVID and the restrictions set by the Governor, the community hall would not be a suitable place.

Motion: 4:34 Gordon makes a motion to accept the agreement between Knox County and the Town of Owls Head in utilizing the maintenance garage at the airport for our annual town meeting on August 31, 2020. Linda seconds the motion.

VOTE 3 In favor – 0 opposed.

Sherry Stanley gives an update on her progress getting the loan for the sale of 23 Owls Head Lane. She states that the money should have been ready, but with COVID things have been delayed and should be closed within the next two weeks.

NEW BUSINESS: Due to medical reasons, the meeting with Deena Carafelli postponed.

The auditors found a mistake of \$177,000 with the commitment of the taxes. A telephone meeting was to be scheduled with MMA, Bob Hirsch, Pam Curtis, and Gordon Page to talk about what options to take. Chairman Von Malder says the two options are to take it from surplus or have it as a warrant article.

Selectman Page gives an update on the library. The Board of Trustees has stepped down an entirely new board was elected. A new librarian was appointed. Selectmen Post asks where their finances stand. Post states that the cash on hand is \$21,000 with an annual income of \$2500, and the expenses were under that amount of money. The town traditionally gave \$2500. The budget committee will be looking at those numbers and see what the need is for that money and maybe smaller in the future. The roof does need repair. Everyone that works are volunteers.

Also, there was an announcement that Kevin Waters from Penobscot Island Air had passed away he was an employee at the airport for many years and a very respected man in the community.

PUBLIC COMMENT

OTHER BUSINESS:

APPROVE AND SIGN THE MUNICIPAL WARRANT:

Motion: 4:57 Linda makes a motion to approve the warrants as presented. Gordon seconds the motion.

VOTE 3 in favor – 0 opposed.

ADJOURN THE MEETING:

Motion: 4:59 Gordon makes a Motion to adjourn the meeting. Linda seconds the motion.

Vote 3 in favor – 0 opposed.