



**OWLS HEAD  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING  
Minutes  
November 02, 2020 @ 4 pm**

**CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:**

**4:00 pm** Chairman Thomas Von Malder calls the meeting to order at 4:00 pm. Present were selectmen Linda Post and Gordon Page. Also present are Lynn Chaplin, Richard Carver, Ken Wexler, William George, Airport Manager Jeremy Shaw, Bill Leppanen, Kathryn Pardo, Sophie Gabrion, Bob Hirsch, Katheryn DerMarderosian, Lauren Swartzbaugh, and Secretary Eleanor Stone.

**APPROVE MEETING MINUTES:**

**MOTION:** 4:03 pm Gordon makes a motion to approve the minutes as amended for the meeting on October 19, 2020. Linda seconds that motion.

**VOTE 3 in favor – 0 opposed**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Lynn Chaplin from the Owls Head Airport Committee refers to the current Interlocal Agreement regarding the Joint Board members. Her concern is if there would be an objective person for the 5th vote. Airport Manager Jeremy Shaw states that the board brings recommendations back to the selectmen. Selectmen Page also says that the Joint Board is an advisory panel, not a decision-making panel. They meet and deliberate on issues to decide if they are favorable or not then they would be responsible for bringing it to the three members Selectboard and the three-member Knox Commission. Ken Wexler states that Owls Head needs a say as to who that fifth person is. Owls Head and the Knox County Commission should agree to whom that non-partisan person would be. Bill George states that the Interlocal Agreement suggests that Owls Head has no power to control directly. He would like to find ways to work within the process so that the interests of the town are maintained.

Lauren Swartzbaugh thinks that the word "safety" used in the Interlocal Agreement, can be viewed in many ways. Airport Manager, Jeremy Shaw, states that the airport has a pavement classification number, and there are different military aircraft not allowed to land. He says the largest aircraft to land in the past was a G650, and they did damage to the runway. He also states that the aircraft operators are aware of the pavement classification number.

Ms. Chaplin asks, "what is the advantage of having this new agreement if it is not in the best interest of the town?" Shaw explains that this agreement is designed to sit down with the

town and the County to start a discussion. Ken Wexler would like to see an agreement made between the County and the town to extend the expiration for another month.

Selectmen Post says that the town was the one wanting a new agreement. Post feels there are some things in the current agreement that are worthwhile. The Public Hearing is scheduled for Monday, November 16, 2020, at 3 pm, the Special Town Meeting will be held on Monday, November 30, 2020, at 6 pm.

**MOTION: 4:31 pm Linda makes a motion to that the town give tax exempt status to Maine Coast Heritage Trust, Monroe Island, map/lot: 007-00B-001. Gordon seconds the motion.**

**Discussion:**

Bob Hirsch reminds the Selectmen that the amount of land in Owls Head that is either non-taxable or not fully taxable is approaching 40%, which worries him. Katheryn DerMarderosian says that protecting some of our lands is crucial for some of the environmental concerns. She states that the amount of new construction sold means an increase in taxes, and if you look at the big picture, it balances out. Mr. Hirsch states that when the town places a piece of property into conservation, it then becomes non-taxable. The residents do not have any say. However, they are impacted by the increase in taxes. Ms. Swartzbaugh mentions there is a piece of property for sale on Benner Lane that is owned by the Owls Head Transportation Museum and is a non-profit organization. If sold to an individual, the property would then become part of the tax roll.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

William Leppanen has the Selectmen sign a local road assistance form. Selectmen Page would like clarification on what the local road assistance means. Selectmen Post says that the town receives money back from the State, and a vote is needed to accept the road assistance, then the Road Commissioner will send it back to the State.

**MOTION: 4:43 pm Linda makes a motion to accept local road assistance from the Community Service Division in the amount of \$20,839. Gordon seconds that motion.**

**VOTE 3 in favor – 0 opposed**

William Leppanen mentions to the Selectmen that there is a gentleman on Owls Head Lane who is trying to either put a gate or post to pull the rope across. He states that neighbor Sherrie Stanley came to him saying she would not be able to back out of her driveway. Leppanen tells Stanley to do some research and find where her southwest property pin is for the right-away. Also, to find out if she owns that right-away or if the County does. He mentions that the plow goes all the way to the end and could be a problem this winter with plowing.

CMP would like to meet with the Selectmen to talk about street light conversion. Chairman Von Malder ask the Secretary, Eleanor Stone to reach out to CMP and set up an appointment.

Sophie Gabrion from the Owls Head Transportation Museum submits a request for a liquor license permit. The event is being held on November 17, 2020.

**MOTION: 4:52 pm Linda makes a motion to approve the BYOB permit for the Owls Head Transportation Museum for the event being held on November 17,2020 from 4:30pm-6-30pm. Gordon seconds that motion.**

**VOTE 3 in favor – 0 opposed**

Richard Carver from Owls Head Harbor Park Committee updates the Selectmen on the progress of the pier.

He says that it is almost complete, but some issues need to be addressed. The dredging was not completed as contracted. One of the reasons is that it states in the contract and the permit, some spoilsters were supposed to go over to Terry Watkinson at Owls Head Lobster. Terry said he had enough and has run out of space. In the permit, it states that it can only be disposed of there and the controversy is that the price in the contract was to dispose of at Owls Head Lobster. Mr. Carver states they are still working on a solution. The funding for the grant runs out on May 30, 2021. Carver says he will get back to the Selectmen with an update. Chairman Von Malder suggests that pictures be taken and put on the website.

The Selectmen sign the corrected Burial Deed for William Martel.

Ken Wexler would like to nominate Mike Keating, and Bill George as members of OHAC.

**MOTION: 5:03 pm Gordon makes a motion to appoint Bill George and Mike Keating to the Owls Head Airport Committee. Linda seconds that motion.**

**VOTE 3 in favor – 0 opposed**

**MOTION: 5:04 pm Gordon makes a motion to accept the \$5000 grant from the Center for Tech and Civic Life. Linda seconds that motion.**

**VOTE 3 in favor – 0 opposed**

### **ADJUSTMENTS:**

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

### **APPROVE AND SIGN THE MUNICIPAL WARRANT:**

**MOTION: 5:22 pm Linda makes a motion to approve the warrants as presented. Gordon seconds the motion.**

**VOTE 3 in favor – 0 opposed**

### **ADJOURN THE MEETING:**

**MOTION: 5:22 pm Gordon makes a motion to adjourn the meeting.**

**Linda seconds the motion.**

**Vote 3 in favor – 0 opposed**