



# OWLS HEAD BOARD OF SELECTMEN

## Minutes

April 05, 2021

Live on YouTube

### CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

4:00 pm Chairperson Thomas Von Malder calls the meeting to order. Also present was Selectman Gordon Page and Linda Post. Also present were Michael VonCannon, Bill George, Ken Wexler, Lynn Chaplin, Jeremy Shaw, Jeff and Christina Woodman, Dick Carver, Lea Carver, Robin White, Bill Gay, Katheryn DerMarderosian, Fire Chief Frank Ross, Bob Hirsch, Paul Rosen, Road Commissioner Bill Leppanen, Jason Philbrook and recording Secretary Eleanor Stone.

### APPROVE MEETING MINUTES

**MOTION: 4:02 pm Gordon makes a motion to accept the minutes as corrected for the meeting held on March 15, 2021. Linda seconds the motion.**

**Vote passes 3-0**

### OLD BUSINESS

Fire Chief updates the Select Board regarding the Owls Head Fire Department. See attached documents.

Selectman Page updates the board regarding a lady by the name of Katheryn Parker who is a relatively new resident of Owls Head and the Public Service Director for the City of Rockland. Before moving to Maine, Katheryn was responsible for the street lights program in the City of Anchorage Alaska, that city has 26,000 streetlights. She has offered to step up as a volunteer for the Town of Owls Head to help us explore the project of switching to LED lighting and how effective it could be for the town and if so, what the differences are from leasing vs purchasing. Page says he will be in contact with Ms. Parker around the 1<sup>st</sup> of May.

Bill George worked up a quick analysis of the streetlight issue that he presented to the Select Board.

Ken Wexler updates the board regarding an online forum sponsored by the Owls Head Village Library. He asks if the changes can be made to the current proposed Interlocal Agreement in case the current proposal is voted down at the Special Town Meeting being held June 01, 2021. He mentions that there is an ordinance issue that the airport has issues with and would like changed. It has to do with shoreland rezoning. Wexler asks if the Ordinance Committee could speak with the town lawyer to know what the town's rights are. He says that the current map shows there is shoreland zoning and resource protection. Page asks if the Ordinance Committee have a budget? Wexler says that the town gives the Ordinance Committee nothing for a budget. Airport Manager Jeremy Shaw says the airport is

not trying to get anyone to change the town verbiage, the Ordinance Committee put them off until their next meeting because that is when they will talk about the map. He said there may be some resource protection areas on that map that were not done with the best intentions and not there. He says that the County has welcomed the Planning Board to come out and do a site review visit of the area. That meeting has been set up for Monday 12, 2021 @ 5:10 pm and Mr. Shaw invites all to come along for a visit. The Selectmen advise that the committee is not in need of the town attorney but if they feel they should need one, Von Malder says they can use their attorney.

Selectman Page asks Wexler for an updated list of the people who have volunteered to work on revised Interlocal Agreement.

Selectman Page asks Town Treasurer Pam Curtis her opinions or concerns on having an office credit card. Mrs. Curtis says she does not want a card in her name. She states because she is the treasurer, she is the one who must make the approval of any purchase. Selectmen Page says that the Chief Financial Officer would be that individual who would be the primary name on the card. It does not mean that it would need to be carried around but rather stay in the safe in case a purchase was needed. Selectman Post says that the selectmen are the one who approve the purchases so really the buck would stop at them.

**MOTION: 4:50 pm Linda makes a motion that we approve the credit card use policy which goes through The First National Bank. Gordon seconds.**

**Vote passes 3-0**

Selectmen Post would like to know where the Planning Board stands with scheduling a public hearing regarding the Event Center proposal from Jeff & Christina Woodman. Ken Wexler says that there is a Planning Board meeting scheduled for the 12<sup>th</sup> of April and a public hearing would be scheduled then. Selectmen Post states there is enough time to get it on the agenda for the Special Town Meeting being held on June 01, 2021.

Christina Woodman asks for a copy of the proposed article. Wexler says they were going to check with Attorney Fred Newcomb to see if the document could be shared.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Selectman Page asks Secretary Eleanor Stone to contact the businesses requesting a donation to be present at the next meeting with the donation decision making would take place.

Bill Gay and Michael VonCannon believe that the town should have a sexton. Both would like some advice from the Selectmen. VonCannon answers some questions that were asked by Selectman Page. The first being, how many deaths/burials occurred in the town? VonCannon says that between 2016-2020, there have been a low of 18 to a high of 31 so roughly 25 deaths. Burials over the same time period there had been a low of 3 to a high to 8 which averages about 5 a year. Secondly, who would the cemetery recommend for a sexton? And VonCannon says that they have asked around and like many local towns, they are having a lot of trouble finding one. Gay says it should be someone who knows the town and the people who live in the town. Both agree that it is a sensitive job.

Selectman Page asks if there is a State Statute that requires a municipality to hire a sexton? To which, both Gay and VonCannon state "no." VonCannon believes it would be beneficial for the would-be sexton to get to know the people, cemeteries, and their issues, and the funeral homes. This person would also need to be familiar with updating the paperwork to get better organized. Page asks who the sexton report to? VonCannon says they would report to the cemetery board, which is the

Selectmen, the cemetery committee would report to the sexton. The sexton would be the day-to-day work and the cemetery would do the restoration etc.

Airport Manager Jeremy Shaw says that he has worked with Bill and Michael and Dick Carver regarding the airport cemetery. Having spoken with the FAA and the County Commissioner Andy Hart, he believes that if it is possible for the airport to retain an easement over the property, that they may be able to that property over to the town.

VonCannon says the Rose Hill restoration that was postponed last year because of COVID-19 should be rescheduled for this fall.

Katheryn DerMarderosian alerts the committee that the county has great mapping capabilities, she suggests they contact them.

Chairman Von Malder says more research needs to be done. Page suggest checking with the local funerals for their per diam workers that may be interested.

Road Commissioner Bill Leppanen would like to discuss a parking issue at Birch Point State Park. A resident had come to him with concerns. He says that it is becoming a problem for the fisherman to get through with their trailers, or landscapers hauling big trailers and even poses a problem if a fire truck needed to get through. Leppanen says he would like to make it no parking on either side of the street, also push the no parking area up the hill to where the road begins to narrow. He states that the Parks Department did mention putting up a secondary gate a little further down the road but because there would be no way to turn around, they changed their minds.

Selectman Page wonders if there is any way to persuade the State to open the gates earlier? Leppanen says he mentioned that to them and their response was only if we had a volunteer that would open and close it every day by a certain time.

Leppanen would like permission to put up more no parking signs about 50 ft apart.

**MOTION: 5:31 pm Gordon makes a motion to authorize the road commissioner to block off up to 300 feet at the entrance at Birch Point State Park, going south on both sides of the road. Linda seconds that motion.**

Chairman Von Malder suggests we contact our local representatives. He asks the Secretary, Eleanor Stone to write a letter to our local representatives asking if it is a possibility to get the gate open early.

**Vote passes 3-0**

Road Commissioner Bill Leppanen also states that he spoke with Gartley & Dorskey about the parking at the Owls Head Post Office asking them to draw up a proposal to put in a culvert and catch basin. Then he would be able to get a price.

A decision needs to be made regarding making a bid for salt and sand through the State. The selectmen ask Road Commissioner Bill Leppanen to check with JBI Construction see what the current inventory is on both the salt and sand.

Owls Head Conservation Committee member Katheryn DerMarderosian asks about their budget. A gift was given a while back to the Select Board for capital improvements, and at the time, the conservation committee was trying to purchase the Buckminster property so the Select Board at that time gave the OHCC \$5000, unfortunately that project did not go through. She states that there are major improvements needed at Plaistered Preserve and they want to be sure what the status of that money is prior to spending it.

Robin White says that there are trees at the Preserve that are trees that need to be removed and was given an estimate of \$2500-\$3500. They have \$7100 in their budget now. She says they have the monies now to get it done but it would use monies that they considered to be reserve money, \$5000. They would like to know if it is okay to use the money and would they need to put it out to bid?

Select Person Post says that the \$5000 was set aside in restricted account named The Village Green account and they need clarification to what restricted means.

DerMarderosian says that the Plaistered Preserve will need maintenance over the next year, the committee still has grants, and they still apply for grants, she continues to say that Long's Landscaping has been a huge benefit. Robin White says that there has been a lot of volunteers to help also.

Chairman VonMalder suggests that the committee get the work completed and we pay them and possibly come up with the rest of the funds from something else.

## **ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

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

**MOTION: 6:15 pm Gordon makes a motion that they approve and sign warrants. Linda seconds that motion.**

**Vote passes 3-0**

### **ADJOURN THE MEETING**

**MOTION: 6:16 pm Gordon makes a motion to adjourn, Linda seconds.**

**Vote passes 3-0**