



OWLS HEAD BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes

May 17, 2021

Live on YouTube

CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

4:00 pm Chairperson Thomas Von Malder calls the meeting to order. Also, present Selectman Linda Post, and Selectman Gordon Page. Also, present were Ken Wexler, Maria Devery, Michael VonCannon, Lea Carver, David Matthews, Marty Shaw, Bill Leppanen, Russ Wolfertz, Katheryn DerMarderosian, Scott Bickford, Bill George, Lynn Chaplin, Dick Carver, Bob Hirsch, and recording Secretary Eleanor Stone.

ASSESSORS MEETING

Assessors Agent Amy Dunn discusses the revaluation process with the Select Board. Ms. Dunn advises them that there has been \$30,000 set aside in a reserve account and she believes she can get it done for that amount. She would like to hire on Steve Cook for some assistance considering she is only in house two days a month. Mr. Cook's job description is called a lister, he would be doing all the leg work and Ms. Dunn would enter that data into the system. Selectman Page asks if there is compensation for Mr. Cook and Ms. Dunn responds that he would get \$10.00 per house.

4:05 pm Chairman VonMalder closes as Assessors and opens as Selectmen

APPROVE MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: 4:11 pm Gordon makes a motion to accept the minutes as corrected for the meeting held on May 03, 2021. Linda seconds the motion.

Vote passes 3-0

NEW BUSINESS

Mussel Ridge Historical Society member David Matthews says that the committee has a lot on the table currently, and they just do not have time to organize a celebration for the 100th anniversary. Mr. Matthews says that if a committee was organized, there are a few members of MRHS that would like to help. MRHS member mentioned earlier in the day to Secretary Eleanor Stone that she would be happy to put a request for volunteers on the MRHS newsletter. Chairman Von Malder thinks if there is a celebration, it should be held at the new Richard Carver Harbor Park.

Permission is granted to go ahead and have the die cast changed ahead of time so when a decision is made on how to sell the coins, the die will be ready.

MRHS gave notice at the past meeting to terminate their lease for the Owls Head Grange Hall. Mr. Matthews asks permission to have a few more days to remove their property. Selectman Page states he would like to get inside of the building to see what the town now owns. Mr. Matthews says there is a lot of stuff in there, but he does not believe there is anything of any value, but he says that

MRHS would be happy to coordinate a sale of those items. Page and Matthews set up a get together for later in the week.

Cemetery Committee member Michael VonCannon updates the Select Board on an e-mail received from a Mr. Collins regarding the MacPhail's cemetery. She says that she went to the cemetery to view what Mr. Collins was referring too and did find that it needed mowing. She mentions that a few years back, the committee did a restoration of MacPhail's, she says that the seeding they planted did not take. Selectman Post states that Janitor, Terry Morang should have done a spring clean-up. VonCannon says that it looks like most of the cemeteries in town looked done.

VonCannon lets the Select Board know that the restoration plan for Rosehill Cemetery is now Sept 6th thru Sept 9th. She believes there is enough money in the account. She also says that the Coopers Beach Cemetery is not owned by the abutter. VonCannon states the cemetery does need to be restored. The Cemetery was established in 1865 which makes it an antient burial ground. She would like permission to begin research to find the owners or to find out if it is an abandoned cemetery. The Select Board agrees that there is a need to go forth with the research.

A decision was made to move the sand & salt bids to the next meeting so a conversation can be had with the contractor Jake Barbour.

Road Commissioner Bill Leppanen gives the Selectmen a quote from Gartley & Dorskey for between \$5000-\$6000 to design a new catch basin near the Town Post Office and the Owls Head General Store. His suggestion is to get another quote from Hall's and have them do the work which would include paving and catch basin. This would help with the draining issue that is dangerous when slushy or frozen. Leppanen says the entire area needs to be repaved and suggests splitting the cost 3 ways with the General Store and the Post Office.

Leppanen updates the Selectmen regarding the parking issue at Birch Point State Park. He says that the states own about 100 ft north of the park entrance. What has been proposed is to widen out the shoulder 10 ft and make parking spaces. He has contacted Jim Kelloch for an estimate. Leppanen mentioned to the park spokesman that the project costs should be split.

Katheryn DerMarderosian, Conservation Committee member, updates the Selectmen regarding the Owls Head sea rise informational meeting. They would like to hold the meeting either July 21 or 22. The meeting will be open to the public, so they are looking at a target size of around 100 people. Because of the amount of people attending and the mapping that will be laid out for viewing, they will need more room. Select Person Post asks if they have approached the Transportation Museum regarding a room. DerMarderosian will contact the Museum and get back to the Selectmen.

OLD BUSINESS

The Selectmen discuss making a change of venue plan for the upcoming Special Town Meeting on June 01, 2021. Due to COVID-19 and the regulations, the meeting was being held at the Maintenance Hangar at the airport. Regulations are to be lifted on May 24, 2021, so the meeting can now be held at the town hall.

MOTION: 5:05 pm Linda makes a motion to hold the Special Town Meeting here at the Community Building. Gordon seconds that motion.

Vote passes 3-0

The Selectmen sign the credit card use policy. They also request that all department heads know that any purchases made out-of-pocket will not be reimbursed.

Code Enforcement Officer Scott Bickford lets the Selectmen know that he has arranged for Interstate Septic to camera the sewer system piping as preventative maintenance on June 14 2021. They quoted him an estimate of \$800 based on an hourly figure. He says it may go higher so he is requesting an allowance of a few hundred more dollars.

Mr. Bickford says this is a preventative maintenance and he does not expect any problems, he states that some insurance companies require it. The camera will be recorded for viewing at the lowest rate. To get a better camera view, it was estimated to cost about \$1500. Mr. Bickford does not advise doing that currently.

Mr. Bickford lets the Selectmen also know that he will be on vacation at that time, but he plans on being with them for the time necessary. He also states that the Treasurer Pam Curtis assured him the funds were available.

MOTION: 5:15 pm Gordon moves that we authorize an expense of up to \$1,100 for the purpose of inspecting the sewer system piping electronically. Linda seconds that motion.

Vote passes 3-0

The Selectmen review and sign the RSU 13 warrant.

Ken Wexler, Shoreland Ordinance Review Committee member requests having someone transcript the minutes of the meetings. With the changes being made to the maps, he believes all documentation needs to be noted rather than the old way of showing progress.

Select person Post says that because it is recorded, anyone has access to them to copy for themselves. But she also agrees that a hard copy of a summery should also be available.

It was decided that all future meetings will be recorded for now. Mr. Wexler will submit a budget request and submit a formal request.

MOTION: 5:38 pm Linda makes a motion that we amend the procedure of the building because of COVID -19 to adhere to the state CDC guidelines. Gordon seconds that motion.

Vote passes 3-0

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

OTHER BUSINESS

PUBLIC COMMENT

Maria Devery, a local resident, asks the Select Board to get an update regarding RSU 13. Devery would like for School Board representative Susan Thomas be invited to a meeting , she would like to ask Ms. Thomas a few questions as the school budget consists of “70%” of our taxes.

Russ Wolfertz says that he agrees with Ms. Devery’s suggestion. He also adds that a representative from the administration office also be invited, his recommendation is Peter Orne or the RSU 13 Superintendent.

Wolfertz informs the Selectmen that at a previous planning board meeting, they contacted Maine Municipal regarding issues with the planning board and where they are headed. Both him and Ken Wexler watched a ZOOM meeting in the past and found out that the planning board are not policy makers. He said he reaffirmed that with legal counsel and states that the planning board should not be looked at as policy makers. With issues coming before the planning board, he says the board should not be the ones who make the decision of what is spot zoning or not. Wolfertz says that the Selectmen or the ordinance review committee are the ones who would have to call a town meeting.

Maria Devery would like a member of the RSU 13 School Board attend a meeting, so she is able to voice some concerns she has with the teaching process as well as a better breakdown of the school budget. Ms. Devery believes that Critical Race Theory should not be taught in our schools.

Page asks Ms. Devery if she would attend a meeting should an invitation be giving to Susan Thomas. She has many questions for Ms. Thomas so she would attend. Chairman Von Malder asks Secretary Eleanor Stone to invite Ms. Thomas as well as the superintendent to the Select Board meeting on June 07, 2021, at 4pm.

APPROVE AND SIGN THE MUNICIPAL WARRANT

MOTION: 6:00 pm Linda makes a motion to approve, and sign warrants as presented. Gordon seconds that motion.

Vote passes 3-0

ADJOURN THE MEETING

MOTION: 6:01 pm Gordon makes a motion to adjourn, Linda seconds.

Vote passes 3-0