



# **OWLS HEAD BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

## **Minutes**

**June 07, 2021 4pm**

**Live on YouTube**

### **CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER**

4:00 pm Chairperson Thomas Von Malder calls the meeting to order. Also, present Select Person Linda Post, and Selectman Gordon Page. Also, present were Lynn Chaplin, Richard Carver, Owls Head Road Commissioner Bill Leppanen, David Matthews, Knox County Regional Airport Manager Jeremy Shaw, Jason Philbrook, and recording Secretary Eleanor Stone.

### **APPROVE MEETING MINUTES**

**MOTION: 4:03 pm Linda makes a motion to accept the minutes as amended for the meeting held on May 17, 2021. Gordon seconds the motion.**

**Vote passes 3-0**

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**MOTION: 4:05 pm Gordon makes a motion to purchase 500 tons, delivered, from Morton Salt in the amount of \$26,100.**

**Linda seconds the motion.**

**MOTION: 4:06 pm Linda makes a motion to purchase 1000 cubic yards, delivered, from D.R Flagg & Son in the amount of \$12,500.**

**Gordon seconds the motion.**

Lynn Chaplin updates the Select Board regarding the Owls Head Airport Committee's progress with getting a new Interlocal Agreement between the Town and Knox County. She states the committee has some ideas on what they want but they still like to run it by Airport Manager, Jeremy Shaw and Knox County Commissioner, Dorothy Meriwether.

Chairman Von Malder suggests that if there is something to present to the town, they should have it done by August for the Annual Town Meeting.

Select Person Gordon Page asks if the proposed Interlocal Agreement would be viewed by an Attorney. He wonders where the money would come from. Ms. Chaplin states that there are 2 attorneys already involved with the drafting of the document, and if there were any expenditure needed for an attorney, OHAC, Owls Head Airport Committee, would come before the Selectmen requesting approval.

Airport Manager, Jeremy Shaw says that there is no way that a new Interlocal Agreement would be on a warrant for the next town meeting.

Select Person Page asks what is the relevance of having an OHAC, when there is already an APAC, Airport Public Advisory Committee in place? Chairman Von Malder requested, OHAC member, Ken Wexler, attend the next Select Board meeting regarding the role of OHAC.

Richard Carver updates the Selectmen on the progress of the Shoreland Ordinance Review Committee Shoreland Zoning map. Mr. Carver anticipates that that next meeting will be their last meeting for a while. They are hoping to present the changes at the Town Meeting yet to be schedules. The Committee has concerns with some commercial properties, they would like to continue the work to fix the errors.

Mr. Carver states that a long time ago down around the town's boundary line a gentleman by the name of Don Smith owned a gun shop, that lot was zoned commercial back then but shows on our map as a different house, so technically the people who own the house currently may believe it is worth more than it really is because it is zoned commercial, but it really is not. Carver also states that things have changed it did not necessarily get changed on the map as it should have.

Airport Manager Jeremy Shaw has said that the town should hire an unbiased group of people to investigate this.

Chairman Von Malder suggests that at some point, someone's term would expire and at that time the board may want to appoint a different person. He thinks that may be one way of removing anyone who may be bias. Select Person Post agrees. Select Person Pages proposes that it be straighten out this year and go ahead and set the terms appropriately.

Mr. Carver says that there is currently a piece of property at the airport zoned commercial and should have never been done so. A previous deed said there were covenants on it for residential only. Owls Head resident John Rapose started a development on Owls Head Lane. There is a huge piece of property that was purchased by MBNA then gifted to the County with the same covenants on it. Selectman Page asks why was it purchased by MBNA then? And the response was mitigation.

The airport would like to use the property for a solar farm say Carver. The deed says that no structure to be put on it unless it is a dwelling or an outbuilding.

Post and Von Malder agreed that the ordinance committee should take a break for the summer.

The Select Board discuss the future of the Owls Head Grange Hall. Select Person Page says that Dave Matthews and himself did a walkthrough of the building and he finds the building is beyond repair and he feels the building needs to be considered a dangerous building. Select Person Post suggests asking the abutters if they are interested in purchasing it. Dave Matthews, a representative for Mussel Ridge Historical Society, suggest having a gazebo put on that corner. MRHS would like to hold a yard sale for the proceeds from the sale.

**MOTION: 5:10 pm Gordon moves that MRHS be allowed to remove and sell any materials within the grange hall building prior to October 30, 2021, and retain the proceeds there from.**

**Vote passes 3-0**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Jacob Philbrook updates the Select Board regarding the formulating of a Town's Broadband Committee. He states there was a meeting held on May 17, 2021, where a committee was then formed.

The attendees were Jacob Post, Jason Philbrook, Louis Carrier, and Annie Higbee. Jason Philbrook was elected Chairman of the group known as the Owls Head Broadband Committee.

They voted in favor of asking the town 's Select Board to spend \$2500 (50% of the initial planning cost for each of the smaller towns to participate). The total cost of the project for Owls Head will be \$5000.

Mr. Philbrook states that the Maine Policy Institute has been buying ads on Villagesoup opposing the project. Most of their fear mongering is false propositions stated as "could" and not "will", trying to show division between private ISP's and government owned networks. Their whole premise is flawed as the proposed network is designed by Maine owned private ISP's is to sell service on. It does compete against Spectrum but is useful to Maine ISP's and potential new entrants to the ISP business to ISP business to create competition and choice where installed.

Mr. Philbrook also mentions that two of the broadband committee members reported seeing Spectrum trucks doing some work in the Ballyhac area, presumably to provide service eventually. Some people have already started using Starlink for internet but that may soon not meet the speed requirements for broadband, (which are a moving target and subject to get outdated).

**MOTION: 5:18 pm Gordon makes a motion that the Town of Owls Head authorize the expenditure of twenty-five hundred dollars, (\$2,500) payable to the Midcoast Internet Coalition (Corporation) for the purpose of studying broadband services in the town of Owls Head and others. Linda seconds that motion.**

*Vote passes 3-0*

## **ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

## **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*