



OWLS HEAD BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes

June 21, 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, Lynn Chaplin, Richard Carver, Bob Hirsch, Bill George, Jeff and Christina Woodman, Carl and Linda Woodman, Katheryn DerMarderosian, Bill Leppanen, Susan Thomas, Peter Orne, Steve Betts, Paul Rosen, Kristin Collins 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 June 07, 2021. Tom seconds the motion.

Vote passes 2-0

NEW BUSINESS

RSU 13 School Board Representative, Susan Thomas, updates the Select Board per a request from resident Maria Devery, who was concerned with the school's curriculum. Mrs. Thomas emphasizes that Oceanside is not teaching the Critical Race Theory as a curriculum but there are many aspects of it that are touched upon. Select Person Post states that the biggest concern is at what grade level this is being introduced. Thomas says that the school is overly concerned with the emotional learning of the children, the school treats students with respect and require they respect their teachers.

Chairman Von Malder says that it seems that the Owls Head share continues to rise even though our student population is going down. Mrs. Thomas says, "unfortunately for Owls Head, there are many nice houses, so we do not get the help that the other towns do." Post asks if 25% is based on students and 75% is based on valuation, are all students counted no matter where they go for school whether it be a private school, home school and such." Mrs. Thomas responds that only children in RSU 13 are counted but they are trying to have it based on income rather than valuation. RSU 13 Business Manager, Peter Orne states that according to the State, Owls Head people are too rich and what they use to test the wealth of a community is the valuation,

therefore the town is not eligible for state funding. He goes on to say that Owls Head does not get any of the minimum subsidy for Special Education that all the towns around us do. The schools are trying to get the Representatives to understand that they exist, and only then can you get a legislation written that might change it.

Select Person Post states that the town must scrimp every year when doing the budget. Town employees get a cost-of-living increase and that is it, and we must cut back on this and cut back on that, but the school budget just explodes, and it is not fair.

Mrs. Thomas says that all Owls Head resident need to contact our State Representatives with their concerns.

Budget Committee Bob Hirsch states that the budget increases in RSU 13 over the past few years have been dramatically more than inflation. 4 years ago it was 5%, 3 years ago it was 19 1/2 %, last year it was 5.3 percent and this year it looks to be a 7 1/2% increase. He states that system administration costs are going up almost 9%, the school administration costs are going up 8%.

Owls Head Road Commissioner, Bill Leppanen, says that the State of Maine will pay half of the work for an extended parking area at Birch Point State Park. Chairman Von Malder says to make sure to have an agreement written up between the Town and the State.

MOTION: 4:28 pm Linda makes a motion to approve paying JK Kalloch \$1300 as our portion for the extended parking area on Ballyhac Rd for Birch Point State Park. Tom seconds the motion.

Vote passes 2-0

Leppanen also lets the Select Board know that he has been in contact with Doug Johnson, owner of our local Post Office and Maya Newsome, owner of the Owls Head General Store regarding having the culvert, catch basin, and paving done in that area. Both have agreed to pay a third of the bid from George C Hall and Son Landscaping amounting \$14,800.

MOTION: 4:33 pm Linda makes a motion that we pre-approve the project at the Owls Head Post Office and Owls Head General Store on Main St with our share being \$5000 with notice from the property owners stating they will commit to their share of the \$14,800. Tom seconds the motion.

Vote passes 2-0

MOTION: 4:37 Linda makes a motion to close the Town Office at 11 am June 30, 2021, to close out the end of the year. Tom seconds the motion.

Vote passes 2-0

MOTION: 4:38 Linda makes a motion to hold the Owls Head Town meeting on August 30, 2021 @ 6 pm, downstairs in the community room. Tom seconds the motion.

Vote passes 2-0

A meeting between the Budget Committee and the Select Board is scheduled for July 19, 2021, to discuss the town's budget.

OLD BUSINESS

Attorney Kirsten Collins, attorney representing Jeff and Christina Woodman updates the Select Board regarding the potential amendment for the use of the proposed Event Center known as Ash Point Farms. She states the Planning Board would like to see a bunch of restrictions on how the events would operate in terms of noise and parking etc.

Chairman Von Malder asks Code Enforcement Officer, Scott Bickford about setting up a public hearing. Bickford says there needs to be 10 (ten) submissions along with an application before Monday June 28, 2021. Von Malder states that a special Planning Board meeting is the way to go because of the time restraints. Bickford says he will contact Chairperson Russ Wolfertz and try to arrange a special Planning Board meeting.

New motions are needed regarding the salt and sand bids to include the correct names and tonnage.

MOTION: 4:55 pm Linda makes a motion that we amend the approval for the salt bid, as it should have been New England Salt Company amounting in 500 tons of salt. Tom seconds the motion.

Vote passes 2-0

MOTION: Linda makes a motion that the bid for the sand is 1000 cubic yards delivered, from D.R Flagg & Son. Tom seconds the motion.

Vote passes 2-0

Budget Committee member, Bob Hirsch asks if anything has been done regarding a town Sexton. Von Malder states that in one of the budget requests that was sent, a request for a Town Administrator, he was thinking that it would be best to have the same person hired to do both jobs.

Select Person Post says that the procedure for hiring a Town Administrator would have to go to a town meeting and it would not happen over-night. She also states that we need to be careful with the verbiage and she will contact someone from South Thomaston for the correct procedure.

Richard Carver feels that hiring this person on for both jobs would be a tremendous burden. He says there are many issues with the cemetery that would require a full-time person.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

OTHER BUSINESS

Richard Carver informs the Select Board as well as the Budget Committee about a reimbursement for the Harbor Park project. Carver says there is about \$10,800 left of work before the project will be finished.

PUBLIC COMMENT

APPROVE AND SIGN THE MUNICIPAL WARRANT

MOTION: 5:14 pm Linda makes a motion to approve, and sign warrants as presented. Tom seconds the motion.

Vote passes 2-0

ADJOURN THE MEETING

MOTION: 5:15 pm Linda makes a motion to adjourn, Tom seconds the motion.

Vote passes 2-0