

Town of Greenville

Select Board Meeting

Wednesday; November 16th, 2022, 6:30pm, Greenville Town Hall Meeting Room

Minutes for Meeting of the Select Board

Board members/Staff present at meeting:

X Selectperson Geno Murray (Chair) ___ Selectperson Bonnie DuBien ___ Police Chief Jim Carr
X Selectperson Newton Pierce (Vice Chair) X Selectperson Burt Whitman ___ Fire Chief Sawyer Murray
X Selectperson Richard Peat X Town Manager Mike Roy ___ Town Clerk Roxanne Lizotte

Others attending: John Contreni (Chair, Planning Board), Margarita Contreni, Laurie Osher and Tammy Firman (Town Clerk Intern)

Via Zoom: Esther Ireland, Sheila Grant (Eastern Gazette, and Stuart Hedstrom (Piscataquis Observer)

6:30 pm Meeting opened by Chair, Geno Murray.

1. Pledge of Allegiance recited.

2. Opening of Meeting & Declaration of Conflicts of Interest: The Chair asked all members of the Select Board to review the meeting agenda and declare any potential conflicts of interest which members may have with any of the items listed. No conflicts declared or noted.

3. Minutes: It was motioned by Burton Whitman and seconded by Richard Peat to accept minutes of 11/02/2022. Motion carried 4-0.

4. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda: There were no additions or deletions.

5. Margarita Contreni representing the Moosehead Lake Development Corporation requested that the Community Resilience Partnership presentation be moved to the end of the meeting as presenter Laurie Osher is presently at the Shirley Selectboard meeting and will be late.

7. Town Managers Report:

A proposal for the new truck was presented to all board members. It was deemed straight-forward and similar to other purchases of vehicles. The lease/purchase is through Androscoggin Bank for \$175,000 which will require four annual payments of \$49,322.26. The first payment is due on November 15th, 2023. There are no pre-payment penalties and the town must provide insurance coverage. Burt asked if we were able to get all of the features that we wanted. Mike reported that we did and actually swapped out the steel plow for a poly plow which is better for suited to meet the needs of the town. Richard asked if the final cost was \$10,000 less than expected. Mike reported that this was correct and that the Capital Improvements Budget would be tapped to provide the \$100,000 down payment. Richard expressed concern that the price seems exorbitant. Mike reported that we simply cannot put this off. The older trucks are in aging condition. Mike can personally attest to the fact that the 2001 truck is not in good

shape as he drove it all day today while Public Works continues to seek a new Foreman. A motion to approve the purchase was made by Newt, seconded by Burt. Motion passed 4-0.

Mike has received the proposed county budget. A Greenville resident (John Hussey) was asked to join the budget committee. Mike sent a letter to the Commissioner asking if we would have any input into the budget. Geno asked at what point they are in the budget planning process. Mike believes that it's pretty well set as the proposed budget has been sent to him. Mr. Hussey will not join the committee until after the proposed budget goes to the county for approval. Mike also asked the Commissioner if the Greenville member would be a liaison between the county and the town regarding the budget. Mike has not heard back from the Commissioner in answer to these questions, but the Commissioner did offer to come to a future meeting to discuss. Margarita reported that there will be a public hearing on that county budget on Monday, November 28th. Per Mike Williams, they are trying to cut expenses so that they are able to hold the line on the budget. Geno has not seen this budget. Newt reported that the budget is about \$500,000 more than last year. Richard reported that he had reviewed the budget and it was not broken down well and was confusing with many anacronyms that he does not recognize. Geno suggests that the select board members review the budget and share their concerns with John Hussey or Wayne Erkinen.

Mike provided copies of a rate increase for 2023 from the Maine Municipal Employees Health Trust which will go into effect on 1 January 2023. For example, it will include an increase per pay period for the employee of \$16 per pay period for a married couple; \$83 plus change for the town. We will need to budget for this for next year and could possibly go over budget due to the 4.5% increase.

Mike further reported that the base hot top is completed. The contractors continue to clean up on Birch Street. They will be back later in the week to do the driveway aprons. There have been a few phone calls about the driveways. North Birch Street has only about 10-12 driveways. There are no aprons on High Street and unsure of the number on Shaw Street. Overall, there has been very positive feedback about the work that has been done.

Mike has started the process with MEMA or FEMA for the Eveleth Street sinkhole repair. It was presently 1.5 feet deep and has had numerous temporary repairs which will not hold up in a storm. There will be more to come regarding this process.

The holiday banners have been received and one of each design was set up on display in the meeting hall. It was agreed by those in attendance that they looked very nice. Public Works will install as soon as they can, weather permitting. Charlie Aucoin has agreed to donate his lift to assist with this endeavor.

The monthly budget-to-actual reports were distributed and reviewed. Mike reported that about 66.5% of real estate taxes have been collected.

Mike requested a discussion on the issue of transfer station permit charges. Geno felt that it had been previously agreed that each household could receive two stickers at no charge and any further stickers would cost \$25.

The Northern Light Tree of Lights will be moved to the Memorial. The tree near the gazebo is not in good shape with many dead branches and gaping holes. North Pointe Gardens has agreed to donate a tree which will hopefully go up next week.

Mike will ask for grace and patience from town residents and businesses regarding snow removal on walkways. Being down one FTE in Public Works continues to be a challenge. Mike and CEO, Ron Sarol, are filling in. Burt asked when this is expected to be resolved. Mike says that applications will be accepted until the position has been filled with a suitable candidate.

8. Laurie Osher representing the Community Resilience Partnership presented a power point slide show which laid out what her organization can do to help communities. The Eastern Maine Development Corporation (EDMC) does work in 16 counties. They help to fund and advise businesses. There is federal funding available to assist businesses. They also do comprehensive planning and is a broadband specialist. Laurie is a Community Resilience Specialist which is a new idea and way of working with communities.

Climate change is causing different needs for funding. Governor Janet Mills has lived up to her campaign promise to address climate change in Maine. Laurie is actually a soil scientist. She helps communities develop ways to best use the land. Municipalities need help to develop resilience for climate change. Laurie's role is to help towns at no cost to the town. Region 4 is her district and includes Penobscot, Piscataquis and Aroostock. Towns must opt into the four-year Climate Action Plan of the Maine Climate Council. EDMC is a regional coordinator for this plan. Greenville can utilize EDMC's assistance. The state is aware that all money cannot head south and that funds are needed in the less populated northern districts. 52 towns are presently completing paperwork to become a partner.

Funding categories include those to help engage and educate community members; weatherize existing buildings; support sustainable new construction; protect public health; install heat pumps and LED lighting; track and target energy emissions; protect and conserve land and water; improve transportation efficiency; support and install renewable energy; and manage flood risk. Once a partner of this group, applications for funds may be submitted every six months.

Laurie can help to secure federal funding once we become a partner. We could also apply for a Service Provider Grant but Laurie recommends that we not do this. This would involve using an environmental consultant which we don't need as Laurie can help us to apply for grants. We need to partner with Shirley and Beaver Cove to apply for a larger grant which is available to those communities who collaborate. These Service Provider Grants help groups of communities.

Laurie explained some of the projects which are in the works including one in Dover-Foxcroft who received a grant for heating and cooling shelters and an Extreme Temperature Emergency Plan.

The role of the EDMC is to help a town enroll in the Community Resilience Partnership. Steps to enroll include:

- 1 – hosting a workshop for priority setting. This brings the community together and Laurie has found it helpful if food is served. For example, Millinocket had a meeting in a park with a picnic and it was a real community event which included families with children.
- 2 - complete community assessment forms
- 3 – Select Board would then pass a resolution declaring interest in enrolling and becoming a member

Community Action Grants are available in the amount \$50,000. Collaborative proposals within regions can apply for grants up to \$125,000. The goal is to encourage community discussions and collaboration. Grant proposals are due by March 22, 2023.

Margarita Contreni stated that the Moosehead Lake Regional Development Council (MLRDC) is delighted to partner with the town in this endeavor. She will secure a venue and display materials in order to have a town meeting. This will be at no cost to the town.

Laurie says that time will need to be allowed during this meeting for Mike to discuss his ideas for funding to help support public safety. Mike has a plan to request funding for heat pumps and triple paned windows for the new public safety building. These will help support the public room which will also

serve as an emergency heating shelter. We will partner with Shirley. Norman Beckwith has already reached out to Mike. We will reach out to Allison Barkley to represent Beaver Cove. Mike should plan to give a presentation with pictures. Shirley has lots of suggestions but the public works building must be a priority. We can apply for other projects at a later date.

We will need to have at least a month between our workshop and the deadline (March 22, 2023). We will invite Beaver Cove and Shirley to our workshop as part of the criteria is to have a public facing workshop. We should do this in January.

Geno asked what the turn-around time would be for these grants. Laurie stated that the grants that were due in September, 2022 are currently being reviewed. The hope is to announce the winners in early December so it's a fairly quick turn-around.

Laurie reminded that it takes time to develop relationships with communities and that there can be some "kinks" in the application process. For example, Millinocket was asked to re-write their proposal.

Regarding the resolution, only a select board has to vote to approve. A copy of the meeting agenda and minutes which show a voted approval will need to be sent with the application. Geno stated that we will put this on the next meeting agenda which will be on December 7th, 2022.

Newt asked if there is a minimum number of people who must attend a workshop. Laurie stated that there is no minimum and that smaller towns are actually weighted more heavily for funding than larger towns. It does help to have more community members attend and complete the surveys. Both seasonal as well as year-round residents may all attend and are encouraged.

Geno asked that if we're successful in one round, are we then able to look at something else in the next round. Laurie says this is absolutely acceptable. \$4.75 million dollars was allotted over a two-year budget. The assumption is that this program will continue for at least another two years since Janet Mills originated the program and was re-elected.

Geno offered thanks to Laurie letting her know that we appreciate her enthusiasm and work on our behalf. We have an obligation to our constituents to pursue any avenue which would help the town.

Margarita stated that we need to set a date in conjunction with Shirley and Beaver Cove to discuss how to promote this resolution. We will also need to invite and welcome the unorganized territories as they are part of our community also. The Dover-Foxcroft grant helps neighboring communities to see that it's possible for them to secure grants as well.

8. What's on your mind?

Richard Peat offered a shout-out to Leigh Burns at the Transfer Station. The decorations she put up are nice and she's doing a great job. Tammy Firman shared that Leigh rescued a number of cast-off bikes, fixed them up and made them available to underserved members of the community at no cost. This is an incredible act of care for our community.

Newt thanked everyone for their concern and patience during his recent illness. He is much better and very thankful.

Burt reminded Mike that there would need to be a name change on the warrants now that Bonnie DuBien is on the board. Mike has contacted Marc Roy for the change.

9. Public Comment: There were no public comments.

10. Other Business: None Noted.

11. Executive Session: The Board entered into executive session at 7:52 PM, motioned by Burton Whitman and seconded by Newton Pierce. Motion passed 4-0.

Following a discussion, executive session was ended at 8:46 pm, motioned by Richard, seconded by Newt. The motion carried 4-0. There being no further business, it was motioned by Burt and seconded by Newt to adjourn at 8:47 pm. The motion carried 4-0.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by:

Tammy Firman