

Newport Selectboard
Regular Meeting Minutes
December 1, 2021 @ 6:30 PM
Via ZOOM

Present: K. Rush, B. Clarke, G. Demos, D. Berry

1. Call to Order

- a. (Pledge of allegiance waived due to meeting format)

2. Public Access

None

3. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of minutes from meeting 11-17-21

Motion on the floor to approve the minutes G. Demos, seconded by B. Clarke, all in favor motion carries.

b. Communications

Permission to sell old Police cruiser 2013 Impala to scrapyard. Vehicle is unsafe for the road. Motion by B. Clarke, seconded by G. Demos, no discussion, all in favor, motion carries.

EMDC Sub- Committee: Manager requested a" **motion to support Eastern Maine Development Corporation (EMDC) in the formation of a Regional Planning Commission (RPC) to serve Penobscot and Piscataquis counties, and to appoint two representatives to serve a 2-year term on an RPC Advisory Committee, one of which must be a municipal officer.**" Manager requested to be appointed to this sub-committee (Planning Commission) and requested the Board think of a second person, not a municipal officer. He was asked how frequent and where these meetings would be held, and the manager responded at least monthly and currently on Zoom.

Motion by G. Demos, second by D. Berry, unanimous to appoint the manager.

4. Old business

a. Update on 38 Grove Demo

Mr. Ricker noted that the targeted period will be in approx. one ½ weeks, as reported by TW Clark, the winning contractor.

b. Town Department(s) work hours

Mr. Ricker noted this item is to be tabled until a future meeting.

5. New business

a. Telephone conference with Forrest Bell and Maggie Mills w/ FB Environmental Associates re: Updated Watershed Plan

Present: Draw Down Committee, Lake Association and others including Brian Wilson, Scott Emery, Debbie Ferrell, Maxine Pare, Adam Vashon and Emily Parker.

FB Environmental Associates is the first of two firms to be interviewed. Forrest Bell and Maggie Mills gave an in-depth presentation with slide show explaining their procedure for the project including community involvement and navigating State requirements, also referencing towns they have worked with in the past. Mr. Ricker has a copy of the presentation if anyone needs more information. An in-depth discussion with several questions followed the presentation.

K. Rush asked if there was a way to expedite the State process of monitoring to act quicker to obtain funding. Forrest and Amy responded by saying certain criteria and expectations will still need to be met.

Emily Parker asked how receptive other communities have been about getting involved in the past. Forrest and Maggie replied that response has been positive from other communities and landowners with other rivers flowing in from surrounding towns.

B. Clarke- why has Sebasticook been a priority to the State? Sebasticook has always been a priority with it being one of the first State detailed studies done 20 years ago and a new study would show discovery of conditions of the lake today.

Scott- What has the success rate been for obtaining funding? Forrest responded that they have had an exceedingly high success rate although had no concrete numbers.

Brian Willson- if chosen by 12/31/21 what would the timeline look like? Forrest responded:

Winter 2022- write grant for April submittal.

There is a wait period until funds start late 2022 into Jan 2023.

Writing the plan will start early 2023 and takes a year, it requires a full year of water quality data.

Apply 2023 Summer for implementation funding to be approved and accessed 2024 or 2025.

Due to the lengthy competitive process some towns choose self-funding.

Gus- how competitive do grants get? Forrest and Maggie replied that plan grants are more competitive than implementation grants. Planning grants have less money available and often are divided up to partially fund across the state.

Gus- how cooperative have farmers been to make changes? Forrest responded that the USDA has made money available to motivate farm owners to address their issues which has improved the situation. The outlook is positive.

b. Special Selectboard Election

Nomination papers will be available 12/6, due by 12/27 with the election to be held Jan 11, 10am-8pm at Public Safety Building. Motion on floor by B. Clarke to move forward, seconded by D. Berry, all in favor, motion carries.

c. Electrical usage analysis and bidding

Mr. Ricker made note that our town budget may be over \$25,000 if rates increase as projected. He has discussed billing procedures with CMP and has made some changes noted below. He has also pursued other avenues such as a fixed rate with a Florida company.

1. Disconnects

Old garage-Highland Ave-
Streetlight at King Rd/Muffler King

2. Street lights installations/additions

Pole at Elementary School to be changed over to LED. There is also another pole there with a newly installed LED that will be taken over by the electrical Union.

Install new streetlight at Peck Dr and Rte. 2- Wiswell Electric has been contacted and need permission from CMP. Mr. Ricker has filed all necessary requests with CMP to get this completed.

Install separate meter at the boat launch in early Spring when it will be needed.

No motions necessary.

6. Warrant

Warrant: \$48,610.58 Motion on floor to approve by G. Demos, seconded by B. Clarke, unanimous, motion carries. It was agreed three in person signatures will be needed.

7. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by B. Clarke, seconded by G. Demos, all in favor, unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kellie M. Harris". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "K" and "H".

Kellie M. Harris
Town Clerk