Town Clerk

Nomination Papers have been made available at the Town Office. They are due back by Monday, January 6, 2020. The following are the positions that will be open:

- Board of Selectmen - 3-year term
- RSU #74 School Board Member - 3-year term
- RSU #74 School Board Member - 1-year term

Submitted: Kristen Mitchell, Town Clerk

Town Manager

The Community Dinner is Sunday, December 1 at 5:00 pm. The Selectmen and some of the town's department heads will be hosting our Annual Free Public Supper for New Portland Residents. Supper will be served from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Town officials will be cooking and serving you for your continued support over the past year. The menu will be salad, homemade macaroni and cheese and lasagna, rolls and, of course, brownie sundaes for dessert. There will be no tax dollars used for this supper, so please come and join us for some good food and great company.

Stacie and Kristen have their Annual Giving Tree at the town office. We will be taking gifts until Thursday, December 19. There are gift tags on the tree, which have an item listed on it. We have children from the ages of newborn to 15, and we have adults who are in need as well. If you know of anyone or a family who are in need please contact Stacie or Kristen to get them on our list. The fire department will assist us with delivering the gifts before Christmas Day. If you have any questions, you can call the Town Office or email Stacie or Kristen. We look forward to making this year's Giving Tree another success and hope you all have a wonderful holiday season.

Our winter hours have started and the Town Office will not be open on the first Saturday of the month again until April 4, 2020. The Town Office would like to thank Judi and Lewis Wills and Janet White for taking the flags down. Also, Janet White volunteered again and tended to our flower beds and made winter arrangements in the whiskey barrel under the town sign. “Thank you” all for your time and efforts with these things.

The Town Office will be closed on the following dates: Tuesday, December 24th CLOSING EARLY at 1:00 pm; Wednesday, December 25 in observance of Christmas

Tuesday, December 31 for the closing of the town books.

Submitted: Stacie Rundlett, Town Manager
Minutes for the Selectmen's Meeting October 1, 2019

Selectmen Present: Raymond Poulin, Wayne Rundlett, absent: Andrea Reichert; Present: Stacie Rundlett, Brian Rundlett, Judi and Lewis Wills, Kip Poulin, Marilyn Gorman, Mike Malesky

1. Call the meeting to order-Andrea called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm

2. Review minutes from previous meeting-The Board reviewed minutes from the previous meeting. Raymond motioned to accept the minutes as written, Wayne 2nd and all were in favor.

3. Old Business
1. The Board discussed the old oil furnace at the old fire station in the West Village and decided to take bids on the furnace until October 21.

4. Department Heads
a. Mike presented to the board of selectmen two abatements 1. Burke, for $30.39. 2. Bossi- for $166.22. There were discussions regarding the abatements. Raymond motioned to approve the abatement for Burke in the amount of $30.39, Andrea seconded and all were in favor. Raymond motioned to approve the abatement for Bossi in the amount of $166.22. Wayne seconded and all were in favor. Mike also discussed with the board the Municipal Valuation Report. He gave the members each a copy for them to review, and they agreed to look at it and sign it at the next meeting.

b. Kip updated the board on the new truck and pump testing that was done on all of the trucks. He planned on getting it prepared to be put in use at the Highland Fire Station. Kip discussed with the board the proposed figure to give the Somerset County for fire coverage for the new county budget. There were some brief discussions regarding this matter. After these discussions the board decided that at this time, they would prefer not to supply the gas for the contractor. There were some discussions regarding the paving schedule.

Meeting adjourned at 7:18 pm.

These minutes were approved by the Board of Selectmen at the 10/21/19 meeting. Smr

Minutes for the Selectmen’s Meeting October 14, 2019

Selectmen Present: Raymond Poulin, Wayne Rundlett absent: Andrea Reichert; Present: Stacie Rundlett, Brian Rundlett, Kyle Handrahan, Josh Nunes, Ron Lindner-Demers, John Demers-Linder, Toby Pinkham, Jason Thomas, Mike Malesky

1. Call the meeting to order; Andrea called the meeting to order at 6:28 pm.

2. Discussions on the sand/salt shed site. There were discussions regarding ground issues at the sand/salt shed site. The ground around the building is too muddy as it is all clay. Toby Pinkham presented a proposal for $5,600 for excavation and installation of gravel, hay and seed around the building. There were more discussions regarding this matter. Andrea motioned to accept Toby’s proposal as written; Wayne seconded and all were in favor. There were more discussions regarding the putting up of the sand and salt with Josh Nunes. The Board asked Stacie to reach out to New England Salt Company to see what length of a time is necessary for ordering salt and actually receiving it. The Board asked Stacie to contact Brent Davenport to see if he could attend the next meeting to sign the contract and have more discussions to include him about the sand salt ratio.

3. Old Business
a. Mike discussed with the board the Municipal Valuation Report and asked if they had any other questions. After a few more questions the board members felt confident about the report and signed it so Mike could submit it to the State of Maine.
b. The Board asked Stacie to contact Jordan Lumber Company to have invoices sent on a weekly basis for materials that were being purchased for the sand/salt shed building.

Meeting adjourned at 7:13 pm.

These minutes were approved by the Board of Selectmen at the 11/05/2019 meeting. smr

Minutes for Selectmen’s Meeting for October 21, 2019
Selectmen Present: Raymond Poulin, Wayne Rundlett absent: Andrea Reichert; Present: Stacie Rundlett, Brian Rundlett, Josh Nunes, Ron Lindner-Demers, John Demers-Linder, Mike Malesky, Marilyn Gorman, Keith Mudgett, Brent Davenport, Tony Niles, Justin McMann, Kip Poulin.

1. Call the meeting to order; Raymond called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.
2. Review minutes from previous meeting; Raymond motioned to accept the minutes as written. Wayne seconded and all were in favor.
3. Discussions with Justin McMann from State of Maine Bureau of Taxation. Justin shared with the board and all in attendance how the state determines the valuation for the towns. There was a lengthy discussion regarding this.
4. Old Business
   a. Open bids for oil furnace. One bid was received from Brian Rundlett in the amount of $50.00. Raymond motioned to accept the bid from Brian, Andrea seconded and all were in favor.
   b. Discussions on Chase Hall. The board reviewed the outcome of the public meeting regarding this matter. Andrea motioned to issue a Quitclaim Deed to the New Portland Lion’s Club for Chase Hall, Raymond seconded and all were in favor.
5. Department Heads
   a. Kip reviewed with the board the status of truck at the Highland Station.
   b. Mike reviewed with the board the MVR report has been submitted to the State of Maine Bureau of Taxation.
6. Items by the Public. There were none.
7. Items by the Town Manager
   a. The board reviewed and signed payroll and A/P warrants
   b. The board reviewed and signed the Treasurer’s Report
8. Items by the Board of Selectmen
   a. There were discussions with Josh Nunes and Brent Davenport regarding the sand/salt ration for winter roads.
   b. There were discussions regarding the final draft of the snow plow contract. All were in agreement with the draft and the Board of Selectmen and Brent Davenport signed the document. Stacie would get a copy of it to Brent for his records. There were brief discussions regarding the turnaround points.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

These minutes were approved by the Board of Selectmen at the 11/05/2019 meeting. smr

NEW PORTLANDER article submission deadline is December 20 by 4:00 pm.

Any articles, submissions, information for publication should be received by:

Dallas Landry • PO Box 34, North New Portland, ME 04961 • phone 628-4201 • email: alderswamp2@gmail.com

If there are any questions or needs regarding the receiving of the New Portlander, those inquiries should be directed to the Town Manager.
The November school board meeting was held at CHS. The food (lots of chocolate pastries) was outstanding. Since I missed the October meeting, I felt the need to eat double my share of food.

Minutes: The minutes of the October board meeting were approved.

Superintendent Report: Mr. Tracy said after Christmas there will be a stipend added to help with bus scheduling. RSU 74 still has some vacancies for teaching positions: a special ed teacher and an elementary music teacher. When discussing legislative updates, Mr. Tracy said that there is nothing imminent that will be financially harmful to the district. Universal Pre-K is still being discussed at the state level. Mr. Tracy attended many interesting sessions at the recent MSMA conference. In particular, a session about students in poverty was good. The RSU 74 Facebook page is up and running. Mr. Tracy hopes to highlight the many good things that take place in the district. On November 5, the superintendent facilitated an after-school training on ACES for staff members.

Admin Reports: 1.) Tim Richards said the October 29 One Act Plays at CHS “set the bar very high” for future performances. 2.) Tom DesJardins discussed Cobra Care, a public service initiative at CCS. CCS students have helped community members. Shoveling snow will be another. 4.) Jean Butler noted with the holidays approaching, there are many students living in poverty. She thanked the community for its past effort to help kids by providing them with needed items like coats, boots, hats and mittens. 5.) A bus driving class will be held in the near future, according to Lorie Agren. 6.) Julie Richard gave a sports update. The CHS girls’ soccer team had a very successful season and hosted a playoff game for the first time in .... (well, I am not sure, but, I think, in at least ten years). She said the field was in great condition, and the atmosphere at the game was tremendous. Redington Fairview provided a trainer for the event for the cost of one dollar. Skyler Chipman was a senior all-star. Two CHS students Ricky Gordon and Scott Mason will attend an athletic trainer conference at University of Maine at Orono. After the conference, they will see a football game. Nearly all winter coaching positions are filled with the exception being the Unified Basketball Team. Coaches for the spring season are being sought.

Announcement

The New Portland Historical Society thanks every one that participated in the raffle. Lias Barden of Strong won the lamp and Earlin Hoyt of New Portland won the L.L. Bean bag. Thanks again everyone.

Appointments: Randall Rothert - CCS Pokemon Club; Richard Reichenbach - 3D Designers Club; Maurice Langlois - CHS Student Council; Ross Siros - Wrestling Coach; Dulcie Welch - CHS JV girls basketball; Jamie Robinson - CCS boys basketball; Patrick Daubenberger - CHS girls’ basketball volunteer assistant; Mike Golden - Lead Teacher, CCS; Kelly Baker - girls basketball, CCS

Committees: 1.) The Collaboration Committee met on October 7. This committee discussed the possibility of CHS having its own baseball team in the spring of 2020. For the past few years, CHS and Madison baseball players have had a combined team, the Bridgeway Bandits. 2.) The Restructure Committee met on October 22. The potential for school closings has been on the radar for more than six months. When looking at the numbers, it was determined that closing one elementary school did not produce enough savings to be worthwhile. There would be cost savings if two elementary schools were closed, but the remaining buildings lack the capacity to house the students. So for now at least, the talk of school closings appears to have ended. 3.) The Academic Committee met on October 23. Math was the major topic of discussion. 4.) The Policy Committee met on October 23. Some of the policies that would appear later on the agenda were discussed. 5.) Board members who attended the MSMA conference summarized the sessions that they attended. All seemed to find the conference to have been worthwhile.

Citizens: Several community members spoke about baseball. Some wanted CHS to have its own baseball team in 2020. Others wanted to continue with the Bridgeway Bandits, the combined CHS/Madison baseball team.

Baseball: The board took up the topic of whether to continue with the Bandits or to return baseball to CHS. As has been the case in recent years when the board has discussed either current or potential Carrabec-Madison sports collaboration, there was a great deal of debate on this agenda item. Ultimately, the board voted 10-4 to return baseball to Carrabec High School, and to end the Bridgeway Bandits’ collaboration in 2020. Still to be determined at this point is whether the CHS baseball team will play a varsity or JV schedule.

Ed Tech I at GS: The board authorized the superintendent to add an ed tech position in the GS kindergarten.

Youth in Maine Government: The board approved the Youth in Maine Government trip scheduled for November 8-10.

Policies: The board approved updates to several policies.

Enrollment and Class Sizes: The board reviewed class size data. No action was taken.

Executive Session: The final agenda item was an executive session to discuss the superintendent’s evaluation.

The next board meeting will be December 4 at CCS.

Submitted: Dave Ela, President Carrabec Education Association
Wire Bridge Sno-travelers

November 2019 Meeting Minutes for Wire Bridge Sno-travelers. The meeting was called to order with 16 members present. The secretary and treasurer's reports were read and accepted.

Trail Master: Brad Bucklin reported trail markers have been put up in fields on Gilman Pond trail. Due to recent wind storms, trails will need to be checked for blowdowns. There are several bridges that need to have some planks replaced, and a bridge on the trail beside Rt 27 needs to be built. One trail needs to have several corner markers put up. The groomers are being worked on so they will be ready for the season to start.

Old Business: “Thank You” notes were read from the two Carrabec High School students who received a scholarship from the club. Some discussion was held about what to do for storage of the groomers in the future. Do we need to start a five year plan concerning this? A sign will be put up, as soon as snow comes, on the Gilman Pond Road, near Shore Road, showing “Where you are”.

New Business: A suggestion was made to add contact information on the club Facebook site so people would know who to contact to join the club. Brad said he would add this info. A member asked how Stormy had survived the summer. We were told she had a very uneventful summer, and she was looking forward to winter so she could take her place, watching over the trails and greeting snowmobilers.

Election of Officers: President - Deve Cary, Vice President - Mike Malesky, Treasurer - Judi Wills, Secretary - Joyce Knowles, Trail Master - Brad Bucklin, Directors - Kevin Bixby, Brad Bucklin, and Darren Collins.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:07 pm.

Next meeting will be December 14. The business meeting will start at 6:30 pm with our Christmas party following. A Yankee swap will be held, so if you would like to participate, please bring a gift to swap. Refreshments will follow.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Church News

The Western Mountains Baptist Church will be hosting a Christmas Carol/Hymn Sing on December 22 at 6:30 pm. Everyone is invited to attend to indulge in sweet treats, coffee, hot chocolate and lots of holiday cheer. Bring family, neighbors and friends to make a joyful noise to celebrate Christ's birth and the true meaning of Christmas. We have expanded the parking lot this year to accommodate more vehicles. Please plan to join us.

The Service Ministry has been busy this fall helping folks get what they need for winter; examples are preparing firewood, doing small weatherization projects and readying shovels for the expected snow. If you have a need this winter, our Deacons and/or Service Ministry volunteers want to know. If possible, they want to help. Call the church at 265-2557 or email: westernmountainbaptist@tds.net

A reminder about Bridging the Gap meals. These hot, homemade meals are available to the elderly each month at no charge. Towns covered are New Portland, Kingfield, Salem Township and Freeman Township. This month, the delicious, hearty meals will be delivered to homes on December 28 - just before noon. To order your meal, call Cathy at 678-2442.

Join us New Year's Eve for food, fellowship and some type of other fun activity (yet to be determined). Saying good-bye to the old year and hello to the new year begins at 6:00 pm and goes until 10:00 pm. Hope to see you there.

Western Mountain Baptist Church Sunday morning church services begin at 10:00 am. During the service, children up to grade four are welcome to join Children's Church. Sunday School for all ages begins at 9:00 am. Every Sunday, free snacks and coffee are available before and after the worship service. There is no dress code, come as you are. If you are unable to attend church, you may listen to Pastor Tom's messages on our website: westernmountainschurch.org. Be sure to like us on Facebook to learn more about activities held at the Western Mountains Baptist Church. Merry Christmas.
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