Selectmen’s Meeting Minutes

September 7, 2021

Roster: Selectmen: Raymond Poulin, Tina Poulin, Wayne Rundlett

Town Manager: Stacie Rundlett, Gary Agren, Kip Poulin, Bobbett

1. Raymond called the meeting to order at 6:30pm

2. Raymond motioned to accept the minutes as written, Tina 2nd and all were in favor.

3. Stacie discussed with the Board that Rosella is not able to attend a meeting for recognition of the New Portland Cane of Longevity due to health issues. Stacie stated that she would just be delivering a certificate to her residence.

4. Old Business- Tina discussed with all in attendance that she stopped at Raymond Jordan’s house to discuss the Junkyard violation notice that he received. She shared with the Board the conditions of his property and that there were multiple bags of garbage and old tires and old lumber all over the property. She said she informed Raymond Jordan to clean up the property. There was a discussion regarding the violation and fines that can take place per the ordinance. Raymond Poulin told Stacie to issue a letter giving Raymond Jordan 14 days from the date of the letter to remove all bags of garbage, old tires, old lumber and junk or they would issue a daily fine of $100 for each day thereafter that the issue was not resolved.

Stacie inquired with the Board if Christopher Williams property on RTE 27 was in compliance of the Junkyard Ordinance and Raymond and Tina were in agreement that his efforts to clean up his property met their expectations, and no further actions were required at this time.

Raymond stated that he was waiting for a final plan as to the approved projects that ARPA funds can be used. Stacie stated to the Board that the approved project plans are pretty much finalized at this point according to the State of Maine and the Federal Government. She stated that she did contact MMA regarding a new town digital sign for communication purposes and that that could be an approved project. She updated the Board that Embden is going to be doing the same thing as well as issuing additional pay to their essential workers. She discussed with the Board that she has read many articles over the past couple of weeks and she has found over 2 dozen municipalities and counties that are issuing additional pay to all of their essential workers for working during this pandemic. She asked the Board to make a decision regarding additional pay to New Portland essential workers as she felt at this time of year many of those workers could use the additional funds to prepare for winter, pay taxes and that it would benefit not only them but the Town of New Portland. She reminded the Board that they had until October 31, 2021 to decide if they were going to accept the funds from the Federal Government and that they had until 2024 to allocate what those funds would be spent on and they had until 2026 to disburse those funds. Raymond stated that he had a discussion with the librarian regarding the library and if they had already received a grant from the Federal Government, and she stated that they did receive approximately $2200. He felt that the town should still issue funds to the library from ARPA funds and the New Portland Fireman’s Association because they lost revenue last year from not being able to do fund raising as they normally did. Stacie reminded the Board that she had already inquired about these proposed projects and because the Town did not have a loss in revenue, the Town cannot use those funds for just anything and had to follow the guidelines of the Federal Government. She stated that MMA said that if there was no loss of revenue for the Town, that these were not projects that the Federal Government would approve ARPA funds to be used for. She reminded the Board that the only way that the Town could do projects like this that they would need to develop a protocol, and guidelines and offer any small business or committee, group of any type that is New Portland based an opportunity to apply for funds because of their loss of revenue. There was a discussion regarding the matter. Stacie asked the Board to make a decision about the essential worker pay. Raymond stated that the town would be accepting the funds, but felt he did not want to make a decision regarding issuing essential worker pay at this time as he felt he wants to rule out any other options that can benefit the town too.

5. Items by the Public- NONE

6. Department Heads

Gary discussed with the Board work that had been done and work still in need of being done. Fine Line would be doing the work to Freeman Ridge Rd this month. There was a discussion regarding a complaint that came in from Glenn Mirlocca on the Middle Rd. Glenn had sent an email regarding his concerns with ditch work that had been done on Middle Rd. and how water run off was overwhelming his driveway. He requested that that the town divert any future water with 2 culverts and ditch work along the edge of his property on Middle Rd. The Board discussed the matter with Gary and the Board and Gary were in agreement to invite Glenn to the 1st meeting in October to discuss this matter in more detail with him. Stacie would reach out to Glenn and notify the Board and Gary if he would be able to attend that meeting.

Kip updated the Board on upcoming training that would take place with Anson, Solon, Norridgewock and Starks. He reviewed calls and payroll to date with the Board. Kip updated the Board on the concerns he has with the departments EMS license with the State of Maine and how the Governor’s new vaccination mandates has caused the departments only licensed first responder to resign. He recommended that the department rescind the EMS 1st responder license due to the fact that the department no longer has any members who are certified to act as a 1st responder. He discussed with the Board that in order to do this the town would have to advertise 30 days prior to a final date chosen to no longer be a part of the EMS state licensing and that the department would also have to return an oxygen tank. He informed the Board that the department members who were properly trained would still be able to go to calls that involved AED, CPR, and other similar calls, just not as a licensed affiliation to Maine EMS. The Board was in agreement for Kip to follow through with his plans to rescind the departments license with Maine EMS. Stacie would make the necessary arrangements to meet the State of Maine requirements to do this.

7. Items by the Town Manager

a. The Board reviewed and signed payroll, and A/P warrants

b. Stacie discussions on Town Office hours of operation

8. Items by the Board of Selectmen

a. Review and discussion on application(s) for the ACO position

b. Review and decision on an abatement request;

1. Raymond motioned to issue an abatement for Dale Hafford for $330.74, Tina 2nd and all were in favor.

2. Raymond motioned to issue an abatement for Stav & Justin Taylor for $532.50, Tina 2nd and all were in favor.

Wayne motioned to adjourn the meeting, it was 2nd and the meeting was adjourned at 7:12 pm

*These minutes were approved by the Board at the September 20th meeting. smr*