



**Selectmen's Meeting
MINUTES
Bristol Town Office, September 30th, 2020**

Selectmen Present: Chad Hanna, Kristine Poland [Apologies: Paul Yates]

Also Present: Chris Hall (Town Administrator); Rachel Bizarro (Town Clerk); Jess Westhaver (Treasurer); Pat Porter; Jim Levis.

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Chad Hanna, at 7:00 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Poland asked that Approval of the Minutes of September 16th be tabled until October 7th to allow input from Selectman Yates.

PUBLIC HEARING:

The Chair opened a Public Hearing on the annual update of the maximum reimbursement allowances of the General Assistance Ordinance, incorporating the state figures for Lincoln County. There being no public comments, it was moved by Hanna, seconded by Poland, to adopt the proposed Appendices 'A' through 'I' for the year beginning October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021. Motion passed, 2 – 0.

BID OPENING:

One bid was received in response to the request for bids for work on Round Pond Landing Road. The bid from Hanley Construction, Inc., was for \$9,435.00, with an additional sum of \$2,595.00 quoted for adjoining private driveway work for which the town is acting as Agent for the private landowner.

It was moved by Hanna, seconded by Poland, to accept the Hanley bid of \$9,435.00. Motion passed, 2 – 0. The additional private driveway work will be referred to the abutter for their decision.

Matters Referred from Other Town Bodies:

Shellfish Committee – Rachel Bizarro, who acts as staff to the Committee, reported the Committee's request to seek a US Fish and Wildlife Depredation Permit to control the increasing numbers of Canada geese breeding along the lower Pemaquid River. The geese are a major contributor to the *e coli* bacteria count which has closed the upper Pemaquid Harbor shellfish beds. The Permit would cover taking of geese by bow-and-arrow, pellet gun or firearms.

Hanna expressed concern that this be done in a way that would avoid distress to members of the public, but accepted the need to do something about an out-of-control population. He asked that a training session be held for all participants in the hunt, perhaps with Sgt. Wesley Dean of the Marine Patrol and/or Adam Vachon of USDA

Wildlife Services, to ensure understanding of the relevant laws and landowner consent. On this condition, the Board approved the application to US Fish and Wildlife, with the Chair of the Board serving as the designated responsible municipal officer.

On a related matter, Bizarro notified the Board of the need to inspect the School's septic system. Concern had been expressed about the apparently unused discharge pipe, though to be left in place since the School's new septic system was installed several years ago. The Shellfish Committee wanted to be sure that no waste is being released from the school. The Board agreed that an inspection by a Licensed Plumbing Inspector is appropriate, which Bizarro will initiate.

Town Administrator Hall drew the Board's attention to the additional workload that the upcoming election has placed on Bizarro as Clerk and on Westhaver as a Deputy Clerk, in the light of record numbers of applications for absentee ballots. The Board thanked them for their election work.

Code Enforcement – CEO Rose reported via Hall that a Public Hearing is required by the DEP for Permitting a commercial development over 20 acres. The proposed solar farm off Christian Hill Road is on a lot of over 100 acres, though the array itself will only take a fraction of that. Responsibility for public notice of the hearing rests with the developer, but it was felt that it makes sense to combine this with a regular Select Board meeting. Hall will ask the parties if a hearing date of October 21st is convenient.

Old Business:

Bristol Mills Dam: Knowles Industrial will return on Monday October 5th to complete the repair work on the dam and on the abutments of the Dam Loop Bridge. Hagar have quoted a not-to-exceed price of \$16,000 for water control services, including reinstallation of the cofferdam and pumps for the duration of Knowles' work. The Board agreed to this price, to be paid from the Roads and Bridges budget.

Regular Business:

Municipal Valuation Return: Selectmen reviewed and signed the annual Municipal Valuation Return for Maine Revenue Services.

Building permits: Selectmen reviewed and signed Building Permits for properties at Map002, lot 098-A; Map 002A, lot 001-B; Map 004, lot 133-B; Map 004, lot 133-C; Map 006, lot 013-A; Map 007, lot 011-C; Map 008, lot 011-L; Map 010, lot 058-C; and Map 032, lot 014-D.

With the observation that this was a record number of permits for the second meeting in a row, discussion took place as to the implications of the current spike in construction activity. Poland and Hanna, and Hall, expressed acceptance of the need to begin a process of updating the Town's Comprehensive Plan. Hanna warned that there is still considerable feeling against comprehensive zoning among some residents of the Town, but felt that the community would be open to compromises that would maintain the character of the Town without undue restraint of property rights.

There was discussion of how to encourage widespread participation in a new Comprehensive Plan exercise, including balancing the need for public notice and access with the successful informality of meeting in people's homes as was done in 2003-4. Hanna thought that one hard issue to deal with was groundwater, and the amount of new wells that could be sunk without depleting or damaging the aquifers. Hall was

directed to put the subject on the agenda for discussion in October, and to ask the Planning Board for its participation in such a meeting.

Warrants – Selectmen reviewed and signed Warrants for payroll and accounts payable for the Town Office, Fire and Rescue, Parks and Recreation, and the Bristol–South Bristol Transfer Station.

In Correspondence, the State Board of Property Tax Review notified the Town of its final proposed 2021 State Valuation. Bristol’s valuation is set at \$1,117,100,000. Hall noted his surprise that the combined valuations of Bristol and South Bristol exceeded the combined valuations of Boothbay and Boothbay Harbor.

Under Public Comments, Porter gave notice of the intention of a group of residents to establish a safe Halloween trick-or-treat trail around town, incorporating Covid-19 precautions. Volunteers and contributions will be welcome.

Public Meetings: The Chair gave notice of forthcoming meetings as follows:

- Shellfish Committee, Monday, October 5th, 5.30 pm at the Town Office
- Parks and Recreation Commission, Tuesday, October 6th and Tuesday, October 20th, both at 6 pm at the Ellingwood Information Center
- School Board, Wednesday, October 7th, 5.30 pm by Zoom conference call; contact AOS 93 office to request access
- Board of Selectmen, Wednesday, October 7th and Wednesday, October 21st, both at 7 pm at the Town Office
- Planning Board, Thursday, October 15th, 6 pm at the Town Office
- Harbor Committee, Thursday, October 22nd, 5 pm at the Town Office

The Chair noted that the Town Office will be closed in observance of the Public Holiday on October 12th.

There being no further business before the Board, it was moved to adjourn at 7.55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Hall, Town Administrator