



**Selectmen's Meeting
July 19th, 2017
MINUTES**

Selectmen Present: *Chad Hanna, Harry Lowd III, Paul Yates.*

Also Present: *Chris Hall (Town Administrator); Bill and Pat Benner; Sandra Brackett; Karen Farnsworth; Samuel and Susan Foster; Roger Kaller; Don Means; Slade Moore; Ken Perley; Lyn Prentice; Maia Zewart (Lincoln County News).*

Selectmen were called to order by chair Chad Hanna at 7.00 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Hearing

Chair Chad Hanna introduced the four articles that will be voted upon by secret ballot on August 22 at a Special Town Meeting.

Marijuana ordinance: Hanna explained that the Selectmen are seeking to 'buy time' for the Town to see whether the state will regulate sales and if not, what will emerge as best practice among towns regulating its production and sale. Public comments included: Davidson opposed any moratorium, indicating his belief that many people in town are already selling recreational marijuana. Brackett supported a moratorium, while S. Foster asked how it would be enforced. D. Means asked if the question could expressly state that it is a moratorium, to which Hanna pointed out the clause sunseting the ordinance upon enactment of state regulation. Foster believed Maine has an opportunity to develop new forms of tourism akin to wine tourism elsewhere, with appropriate development ordinances to regulate the business. Hanna pointed out that the Town has historically been opposed to business zoning, other than the state's shoreland zoning rules. Brackett noted that in Colorado, communities such as Vail that ban marijuana sales see neighboring towns develop such businesses nearby. She believed the key question is whether we wish to preserve the nature of our town.

Shellfish ordinance amendments: No public comments.

Digital electronic signs (advisory question): Means asked Yates for his reasoning in advocating for asking the question of the Town. He replied that these signs can irreversibly change the character of the Town. Farnsworth, a neighbor of the

Ellingwood Park, said that visitors ask ‘What is this?’. Means asked if the Selectmen had looked into proposing a sign ordinance. Hanna answered that this is a possible outcome of the question, especially within the shoreland zone. Moore agreed with banning the signs but wanted to know the reasoning of the Parks and Recreation Commissioners. Yates believed it is to save time and have increased visibility for event notifications. Brackett noted that the old sign has been moved to the beach, and said that there may be traffic danger from behavior she has seen of drivers slamming on their brakes to read the slowly-scrolling sign. She asked whether, and Selectmen confirmed, that the Fire department is co-funding the sign, which Hanna confirmed but noted that the Town Office is not sharing the cost.

Transferring funds between budget lines: Means asked why the needed funds were to be taken from Roads. Hanna answered that this year’s maintenance had come in well below budget and that there were extra funds in this line; this money would revert to surplus if unspent, so that while taking the funds from surplus instead is an option, both options have the same end result.

Public comments being at an end, chair Hanna closed the Public Hearing noting that, as notice had been published late in the newspapers, there will be a second chance for comments on Wednesday, July 26th at 7 pm.

It was proposed by Lowd and seconded by Yates to accept the Minutes of the meeting of June 21st; passed 3 – 0.

Catering permit: an application by Harvest Moon Catering for an event on July 22nd was approved.

Old Business

- Tax anticipation borrowing: Town Administrator Hall reported that \$100,000 had been drawn down from the Town’s line of credit, but with the influx of tax payments since the tax notices were mailed on July 13, he did not believe further borrowing would be needed this year. He hoped we could repay the advance by the middle of August.
- Salt shed overhead door: Selectmen reviewed the three bids received. In discussion, it was agreed to proceed with the low bid and to confirm that an electric, rather than a manual door, was needed. It was moved by Lowd, seconded by Hanna, to accept the bid of \$10,332.00 from Overhead Door Company of Augusta; passed 3 – 0.
 - Solar energy: Hall reported that the School Board had voted to entertain a proposal from ReVision Energy at their meeting on July 13th. It was noted that they were entertaining only the proposal received at the initiative of ReVision, rather than soliciting bids, but it was nevertheless desirable that Town bodies should wherever possible seek competing bids. Hall agreed to communicate this to the School Board. He also circulated a draft request

for Proposals for a solar array at the Transfer Station, which Selectmen approved for issue to the companies that had presented to Selectmen on May 25th.

- Selectmen confirmed that the Special Town Meeting would be by secret ballot on August 22nd, and requested Hall to ask the Town Clerk to proceed with printing ballots and publicizing the warrant. A final warrant will be presented for formal signature at the Selectmen's meeting on August 2nd.

New Business

- The Budget Committee wished to get clarification from the Selectmen as to the end date of their tenure following appointment to three-year terms. Selectmen were unanimous that terms expired at the end of the annual Town Meeting of the year of expiry, as do all Town offices except for that of Administrator which is governed by individual employment contract.
- Parks and Recreation: Hall reported that the operation of the snack bar had been assumed by the Parks department on July 16th as a result of the illness of the lessor. The Town now has certain equipment on loan from the former lessor until the end of the season. Hanna noted that it will be important to verify the ownership of this equipment prior to making any bid to buy it.
- Parks and Recreation wished to transfer a Toro lawn mower to the Highways Department. The mower was purchased for \$4,900 in 2014, but had only 25 hours' use at the beginning of this season. It is at present being used by Sean Hunter of the Highways Department. Yates noted that the warranty had now expired; he felt that a transfer price of not more than half the purchase price was appropriate. Lowd moved, seconded by Yates, to direct the Town Administrator to conclude a transfer agreement between the departments reflecting the actual value of the mower. Passed 3 – 0.

Other regular business:

- Correspondence:
The Maine DoT requested the Town's certification that FY 2017 LRAP funds had been spent on Town roads, in order to qualify for disbursement of FY 2018 funds. The form was signed by Selectmen.
Maine Municipal Executive Committee election: it was moved by Lowd, seconded by Hanna, to have the Town vote in favor of the candidates for Vice President and for the Executive Committee of MMA proposed by the Nominating Committee, and Administrator Hall was directed to so sign and return the ballot paper.

- Warrants:
Selectmen reviewed and signed payroll and accounts payable warrants for the Town Office, Parks and Recreation, Bristol Fire and Rescue and the Bristol/South Bristol Transfer Station.
- Building Permits: four applications for Building Permits were reviewed and approved.
- There were no Public Comments.

Notice of forthcoming public meetings:

- Bristol Mills Dam Advisory Committee, Tuesday July 25th, 6 pm, Town Office
- Board of Selectmen, Wednesday, July 26th, 7 pm, Town Office: additional Public Hearing on Warrant for Special Town Meeting.
- Harbor Committee, Thursday, July 27th, 6 pm – Town Office
- Parks and Recreation Commission, Tuesday, August 1st, 6 pm – Ellingwood Park
- Selectmen, Wednesday, August 2nd, 7 pm – Town Office

Motion to adjourn at 8.27 pm: prop. Lowd, seconded Yates, carried 3 – 0.