



**Selectmen's Public Hearing
July 25th, 2017
MINUTES**

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

Also Present: *Chris Hall (Town Administrator); Charles Hanson (Budget Committee); Jeff Eilenberg (Planning Board); Maia Zewart (Lincoln County News).*

Selectmen were called to order by acting chair Paul Yates at 7.01 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Hearing

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

1. Marijuana ordinance: Yates 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.

Town Administrator Hall wished to correct the record of the July 19 public hearing, at which a speaker from the floor had suggested that the proposed penalty mechanism, MRSA 30-A section 4452, would allow the Town to imprison residents for violation of the ordinance. This is not the case: section 4452 provides for fines of up to \$2,500 for violations (and increased fines for further violations); the town can lien property if fines are not paid, in the same way as for unpaid property taxes.

J. Eilenberg, for the Planning Board, indicated that the Board considered the wording to be the best available to protect the Town in the medium term while studying how to regulate recreational marijuana. He asked if the Town had access to model ordinances, to which Hall replied that he could use the Town Managers' list-serve to request other Towns' ordinances as they are developed.

2. Shellfish ordinance amendments: No public comments.

3. Digital electronic signs (advisory question): Yates explained his support for this question, noting that such signs inevitably change the character of the Town.

However, he stressed, this is an advisory question only; if it passed, the Town could consider adopting a Signs Ordinance, but the Parks Commission's sign at Ellingwood would be grandfathered in and not affected.

There were no public comments.

4. Transferring funds between budget lines: Yates explained that this correction of two omissions from the Town Warrant was possible because the Road Maintenance budget line would be underspent this year. Whether taken from surplus or from the Roads budget would mean the same in the end, as the Roads budget underspend would revert to surplus at year-end. This is simply a neater way to handle it and allow the timely payment of outstanding bills.

Hanson noted that errors happen, and that this had been discussed and approved by the Budget Committee.

Motion to adjourn the Public Hearing was made at 7.27 pm by Lowd, seconded by Yates; carried 2 – 0.