



**Selectmen's Meeting  
October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
MINUTES**

Selectmen Present: *Chad Hanna, Paul Yates*. Apologies: *Terry Lowd*.  
Also Present: *Chris Hall (Town Administrator); Clyde Pendleton and Sandra Lane (Parks Commissioners); Lara Sargent (Parks Director); J.W. Oliver and Charles Hanson (Chair and Vice Chair, Budget Committee); Jim Donovan, Scott Shott and Dr. Russell Mack (LincolnHealth); Gordon Benner; Rev. Kelly Harvell.*

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Chad Hanna, at 7.02 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

It was moved by Yates, seconded by Hanna, to accept the Minutes of the Selectmen's meeting of October 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Presentation by Lincoln Health:**

Jim Donovan (President and CEO), Scott Shott (V.P. of marketing and Development) and Dr. Russell Mack (Chief Medical Officer) gave an overview of LincolnHealth's plans for Miles Hospital and the delivery of health services in the region, following the merger of LincolnHealth with MaineHealth in Portland. It was noted that the current state license for Miles' operation would be continued unchanged. The financial pressure on the system from a 65% dependence on MaineCare or Medicaid patients was stressed.

In discussion, Hanson noted the desire to get better 'walk-in' primary care access in the Town. Donovan was not encouraging about the possibility of LincolnHealth supporting a local community health center such as that at Coopers Mills in Whitefield, for reasons including the acute shortage of staff faced by the entire health system in Maine. Town Administrator Hall said that Bristol has a large number of self-employed residents who are uninsured, a summer population whose doctors are usually at their winter address, and the number of elderly people for whom transportation to the hospital is an issue. For all of these access to primary care often amounts to an expensive visit to the emergency room. He asked about the minimum standards and costs for having a primary care 'gatekeeper' such as a Nurse

Practitioner with regular hours in New Harbor. He mentioned for comparison that some Maine towns are looking at to encourage dentists to establish practices in rural communities, with costs of the order of \$200,000 a year plus equipment. He asked that conversations continue within the community and with LincolnHealth about attracting such a practitioner.

A final question was how the Information Center and the Town Office should respond to inquiries from summer visitors regarding non-emergency health care. Donovan stressed that there are daily 'walk-in' hours for patients not enrolled with a LincolnHealth doctor's office at Boothbay Harbor, and for patients on the books of a LincolnHealth M.D. there are walk-in hours (no appointment) at the hospital every Saturday morning.

### **Matters Referred from Other Town Bodies:**

#### Parks and Recreation Commission:

The Parks Commission had needed to replace the furnace at the Lighthouse Keeper's House on an emergency basis, the cost of which exceeded the \$5,000 threshold requiring Selectmen's approval. They regretted that there was no time to seek approval in advance. It was moved by Yates, seconded by Hanna, to approve the expenditure of \$5,647.87 to replace the furnace. Motion passed 2 – 0.

Selectmen then took up the Warrant for a Special Town Meeting at the Bristol Consolidated School at 7 pm on Tuesday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018, as voted at the previous Board of Selectmen on October 10<sup>th</sup>. Hall stated he had heard a number of questions from residents about this, which could be summarized as:

- Does the beach pavilion need replacement?
- What would it look like?
- How much would it cost? And,
- Where would the money come from?

The first and fourth of these are easier to answer than the second and third, as the design and final budget for the project will depend on the availability of grant funding. The Commissioners conclude that replacement is better value than temporary repairs, and they are committed to use only grant funds to complete the project (i.e. no use of regular Parks or Town revenue or borrowing). The \$300,000 raised so far is enough to construct a basic design of a new pavilion with adequate changing rooms and bathrooms, while if this sum is matched by the federal grant being applied for, a second phase could immediately be done adding an attractive cafeteria, deck and boardwalk, and community rooms.

Yates stressed the importance of the Town having the ability to approve the design of the building. The Parks Commissioners are happy to have a straw vote on the conceptual design at the Special Town meeting. Pendleton added that there will be additional open meetings for public input as the design is refined. A preliminary budget and the estimated total cost for the two phases of the project will be available at the Special Town Meeting, and a final layout and cost at the 2019 regular Town Meeting once it is known whether we will receive the matching grant.

Hanna noted the presence of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Budget Committee. He had had a discussion earlier that day with J.W. Oliver about the role of the Budget Committee in this matter. The need to get the question voted on prior to the deadline for the grant application means there is no time for a Budget Committee recommendation to be printed on the Warrant, even if it were agreed that this was a proper role for the Budget Committee. Similarly, there will be no written recommendation from the Selectmen on the Warrant either, although it should be clear that this is the Selectmen's Warrant and they have voted to place this before the Town. Hanna hoped that people will recognize there will be further opportunities for input to and approval of the design, but there is not a lot that the Budget Committee can do with respect to the availability of grant money. He expressed the view that the 2018 Budget Committee process had not been a good one, and he hoped 2019 will be a better one.

Oliver stressed that as the new Chair of the Budget Committee, he is committed to a civil and professional process and will do everything in his power to maintain that standard. With regard to the Special Town meeting Warrant, he agreed that it is not practical to review this from a common sense standpoint even if the Committee's charge literally suggests it might vote on Article Four of the Warrant. There is no budget to review.

Selectmen signed the Warrant for posting by Sean Hunter around the Town.

### **Regular Business:**

Hall reported that contacts with the heirs to the former owner of a tax-acquired property at 18 Guilfoil Lane, seeking payment of the outstanding balance of taxes, interest and fees, were unsuccessful. They have been given until Friday 26<sup>th</sup> to pay. Failing that, he will advertise for sealed bids on the property to be opened at the Selectmen's meeting on November 21.

Selectmen reviewed one Poverty Abatement application. It was moved by Hanna, seconded by Yates, to approve Warrant POV 2018-0001. Motion passed 2 – 0.

Prior to reviewing the Warrants, Hall asked that the Selectmen review a proposal from the Highway Department to trade in the tractor's power rake

attachment for a new grapple, which it was felt would be of greater utility and use. It was proposed by Hanna, seconded by Yates, to approve the Highway Department purchasing a 60" Frontier Root Grapple, price \$2,090, with a trade-in of a Landpride Power Rake for \$1,500, giving a net cost to the Town of \$590.00. Motion carried, 2 – 0.

Selectmen reviewed and approved payroll and accounts payable warrants for the Town, Fire and Rescue, Parks, and the Bristol-South Bristol Transfer Station.

Correspondence received:

- The Town of Fayette had written to Towns receiving the minimum state school subsidy, asking for expressions of support for the proposed legislation raising the floor for minimum receivers from 3% to 15% of the Essential programs and Services budget. Selectmen asked Hall to draft a resolution for discussion at the next meeting.

Public Comments: there were no public comments.

Chair Hanna gave notice of the forthcoming meetings:

- Shellfish Committee: Thursday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 4 pm at the Bristol Town Office, with representatives of DMR and the PWA to review the Lower Pemaquid Watershed study's water quality sampling results
- Planning Board: Thursday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm at the Bristol Town Office
- Harbor Committee: Thursday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm at the Town Office
- Special Town Meeting, Tuesday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm at the Bristol Consolidate School gymnasium.
- Selectmen, Wednesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm at the Town Office.

There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 8.47 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Hall  
Town Administrator