

## SELECTMEN'S MEETING NOTES

NOVEMBER 13, 2019

### Called to Order 6:00 pm

**Present:** Selectmen: Doug Baston, Melissa Spinney, Greg Shute; Members of the Public: Tom McKenzie, Jeff Spinney, Chris Cooper, Taylor McGraw, Terry Ross, Jeff Verney, Al Monaco; Press: Jessica Clifford; Clerk: Liz Brown

### New Business:

#### Solar Proposal from Al Monaco

Al Monaco presented an estimate based on a 14.5 kW array. He said the panels need to be nearby to the usage. It would be better if as many as possible could be on the roof of the Fire Department, maybe half, with the other half being ground-mounted at the town. This would make battery backup possible in the future for both buildings. It would be a higher cost if the entire system is ground mounted at the town office. He may still be able to finance the system himself.

Selectman Baston said an RFP was the next step. Selectman Spinney said this was concept seems to a better option than the one the RSU is presenting. The selectmen would like to propose the idea of a solar project to the town in March. Al Monaco will scope this as one project in two locations: one roof (Fire Department) and one ground (Town Office). He understands that this will need to be an open a competitive procurement process.

#### Generator

Selectman Spinney got an estimate on a generator for the town office of \$10,000. Taylor McGraw said we need a 20-kW generator. The selectmen said that they would be more inclined right now to have a portable generator. Taylor will get a price. It was already voted on and approved for the town to get a generator last year.

#### Upcoming Planning Board Vacancy

Beth Whitney resigned as a planning board member. Jeff Spinney, planning board chair, said that Beth has been a long-time valued member of the planning board.

Selectman Spinney said that Tom Albee also would like to resign and Selectman Baston said that Jim Amaral is another but is still deciding.

Selectman Baston said that when finding a new person to be on the board, we should consider a balance of perspectives and fundamental knowledge of building practices.

## Planning Board

The planning board also has a request for a moratorium on marijuana projects to come up with a marijuana ordinance. Possibility of a special town meeting in December??

**The next selectmen's meeting will be on MONDAY, November 25 at 6 p.m. where this will be discussed further and also will vote on permission for the solar project.**

## **Old Business:**

### Food Pantry Update

The town received a free donated big freezer. Jay Verney and Jeff Spinney moved it into the basement. Selectman Spinney said that at least 50 pounds of meat was donated to the food pantry. The food pantry is being used currently by a lot of people.

### SQL & TRIO Web

As discussed at the last meeting, the town needs to get SQL. We were quoted a price from Harris Local Government of \$2,600. The selectmen had asked Jeff Spinney to call them to find out what was needed. He talked with them and got the price lowered to \$1,800. Selectman Baston made a motion that we purchase the upgrade to SQL, Selectman Shute seconded, motion passed.

### Pinkham Pond Parking Update

Selectman Shute talked about the possibility of an easement agreement with IF&W. The state knows that it potentially will go to the town meeting for vote in March.

Jeff Verney will give an estimate on the other area where people go swimming to possibly put a parking area there.

Terry Ross was given permission to clean up a tree that came down at Pinkham Pond.

### Sand Building Road Update

A meeting was held just before the selectmen's meeting with the Sand Building Road folks. Selectman Shute said that it was productive. It was agreed to split the cost of the culvert and ditching equally. A future funding formula for road maintenance on this private road should be reviewed and approved by the citizens at town meeting.

### Restorative Justice Project

The first work time was held and one of the youths showed up. The other has relocated and there are logistical problems. Chris Cooper was in charge and said the young man they got was polite, agreeable, did what he was asked to do and asked questions. The purpose of his labor

was also reiterated to him. He worked for 5 hours. The three adults that were there for that time thought that it went well.

### Possible New Grant

Selectman Baston said that there is a possibility of a new grant for work on the Center School. Maybe for foundation and steeple work. Chris Cooper said they need to figure out where the leak in the roof is. This grant is a 50/50 match.

### Ken Chaney

Selectman Baston said that Ken Chaney was going to be 100 years old and his birthday would be celebrated at the Maine Veteran's Home. He wrote a letter for the selectmen to all sign that listed all that Ken has done for the town and how he has served.

### **Public Comment**

Terry Ross said his letter was code violation remediation was rejected by the selectmen and he does not comprehend why. He said he is up against obstacles that he can't foresee and can't give a timeline. Selectman Baston said that at a minimum there must be progress. CEO Tom McKenzie said that he needs to make a building permit with a schedule and timelines. He needs to have a concrete plan. So far, this has not been produced. Terry must conform to the same building requirements as all the other citizens of Alna.

Chris Cooper is willing to work with Selectman Baston and Terry to discuss a plan. Selectman Baston said he is willing to represent the selectmen and meet to discuss options with Terry and Chris, provided that tangible progress can be made. Selectman Spinney made this a motion, Selectman Shute seconded. Motion passed. Chris will schedule a meeting.

**Meeting Adjourned: 7:23 p.m.**