

SELECTMEN'S MEETING NOTES

APRIL 22, 2020

Called to Order 6:00 pm via Zoom

Present: Selectmen: Melissa Spinney, Doug Baston & Greg Shute

Members of the Public: Ralph Hilton, Abby Manahan, and several others; Press: Susan Johns

Deputy Clerk: Lynette Eastman

Old Business:

Update on RSU#12 School System: RSU Board Member Ralph Hilton reported that RSU 12 Schools will remain closed for the rest of the school year. Remote learning is in place. The School Board members have unanimously passed the 20/21 school budget, but they are not sure just yet when the Budget Validation vote will be held. Currently they are feeding RSU#12 students daily lunch and are looking at ways to continue that through the summer. A Q&A sheet has been created by the Superintendent and will be sent out to the town's list serve. It contains many answers and links to all information needed. RSU Board Member Abby Manahan has been doing research on what a lot of the private schools are doing with regards to the rest of the school year. They are ending their school years on various dates between Memorial Day and mid-June. All are doing distance learning. Selectman Baston asked if tuition payments would be adjusted to reflect the uneven endings of the school year. The answer is that the governor has directed that we simply pay tuition as agreed upon before the pandemic.

Food Pantry Update: Selectman Spinney reported that the food pantry received its usual allotment on Monday. In addition to that, they received food from the CLCYMCA "Fill the Bus" program. There were a lot of dry goods included. Lincoln County donated \$500.00 to the Pantry. She will be able to place an order through Sysco for things not generally available through Good Shepard.

\$2,000.00 ASK Grant Implementations: The Town has been approved to receive an ASK Grant from Lincoln County which is designed for short term needs not already budgeted by a town. Selectman Baston wrote the grant to use the funds to evaluate the best solar power option for the town's buildings. He will draft a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) and circulate it.

Other: The Tax Anticipation Note (TAN) is with The First this year. Selectman Spinney recommended moving all the Town's accounts to The First as they are closer and quite easy with which to work.

New Business

Head Tide Landscaping Suggestion: Selectman Shute is in receipt of a proposal from Chris Cooper which he has shared with the other Selectmen. The price is out of the scope of the

original work paid for by the Atlantic Salmon Federation but is also less than \$1,000.00. He also noted that the cable railing needs repair as well. He will ask ASF to cover both.

Mailer Clarification: A mailer went out to all the residents of Alna about the COVID 19 epidemic and resources available to help citizens with various needs. To clear up any confusion, the mailer was not officially from the town, nor did the town pay for it. The content was developed primarily by the Alna Cares network of volunteers, with input from the selectmen. Selectman Baston upfronted the cost of printing and mailing so it could get out the door, but various citizens have pitched and reimbursed him after the fact. That money was passed on to the food pantry fund.

To avoid confusion, the selectmen agreed that the town will stick to its primary existing responsibilities: the food pantry, the fuel fund, and General Assistance. Alna Cares will pick up any new tasks associated with the pandemic that primarily involve volunteer labor. To keep the two bodies from bumping into each other Selectman Baston (for the town) and Dolores Carbonneau (for Alna Cares) will stay in close touch.

Additional donations of money and goods for the Food Pantry have been received by the Town Office. Thanks to all who gave.

Office Hours: The office hours this week were Tuesday and Friday. Lynette will do that next week as well. Selectman Baston polled some of the surrounding towns of similar population (Westport, Somerville, Jefferson, Dresden, Edgecomb, etc.) Most town have largely kept to 80-90% of regular hours. For example, Jefferson laid off two part-time people but has kept the Clerk on regular work hours. The Selectmen will speak with the other employees to see how they feel about working, but we intend to return to close to normal hours – obviously with remote contact with staff only.

Town Mowing: Selectman Spinney recommended extending Toby Stockford’s existing contract by one year. It was moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

Other: The Town received a grant in the amount of \$10,500.00 from the Belvedere Fund for the continued restoration of the Puddledock School. White Chapel Joinery, who specialize in historic window restoration, will be working on the windows and Hunter & Associates Builders will be repairing the siding and other areas of exterior decay. The cost will exceed the grant amount slightly because we want to honor the grant’s intent of “historic preservation”, but the Town has funds in the Historic Building Reserve Account.

The question was raised “What are we going to do about Town Meeting?” Half of the articles were passed at an abbreviated Town Meeting in March. The others were tabled until a later date due to the Covid-19 outbreak. The Selectmen will seek advice from MMA and continue to monitor advise from the Maine CDC.

Correspondence: Selectman Shute noted that the Alewife Harvest Plan has been submitted to the State.

Public Comment: Susan Johns of the Wiscasset Newspaper asked several questions, clarifying information discussed during the meeting.

Executive Session: At 6:55 PM it was moved, seconded and voted unanimously to enter Executive session pursuant to Title 1 M.R.S.A § 405(6)(A) to discuss a personnel matter. At 7:25 PM it was moved, seconded, and voted unanimously to exit executive session. No business was conducted while in executive session. No decisions were made.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:25 PM