

Approved Minutes

MAIDSTONE SELECTBOARD MEETING

Monday, July 1, 2024

7:00 PM

Hybrid Meeting, both in person at Town Hall and by Zoom Video Conference

Members Present in Town Hall (in-person): Scott Lovell, Chair, Brad McVetty, Bruno McKenzie, Kathy Lovell, Julie Aldrich and John Kascenska.

Town Officials and Staff Present via Zoom: Town Clerk and Lister Amy Pear; Treasurer, Delinquent Tax Collector, Lister, Zoning Board and Planning Commission member Bob Champagne-Willis; Zoning Board and Planning Commission member Bruce Barker. Lister, Auditor and Health Officer Sandra Gray

Also Present via Zoom: Linwood Mixer, Sam and Carol Gorham, Laurie Snowman, Mary Von Alt, Bonnie Lovell, Paul Kamins. Burt Kline and John Kascenska.

Chairman Scott Lovell called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

APPROVE MINUTES

Brad made a motion to accept the June 3, 2024, Selectboard Meeting Minutes with amendments. Scott seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Scott stated the minutes will be briefer until they get a Selectboard Assistance and the Zoom link is available to anyone who would like all details.

SELECTBOARD:

- To sign the authorization for the TAN (Tax Anticipation Note) with Passumpsic Bank Julie Aldrich was present and went over the TAN in the amount of \$250,000 with the interest rate of 4.78% expiring on June 30, 2025. The Selectboard signed the agreement and Amy will get it to Julie Aldrich from the Passumpsic Bank.
- Discuss and act upon Selectboard Assistant or other alternatives – Scott did some research on some apps and suggested possibly using the closed caption on zoom if a Selectboard Assistant is not hired. Some of the apps will record the meetings. Scott suggested the best one he found was called Board Vault but will do some more research on cost.
- Discuss and act upon Rules of Procedure Policy to vote as a body to make a change to it -. Bruno made a motion to accept the change in the rules of procedure. Brad seconded the motion. All voted in favor.
- Discuss and act on the appointment of up to five members on the Planning Commission and Zoning Board and discuss if anyone has interest. There was some discussion on holding meetings and what happens if there are any disagreements and not being able to break a tie. Bruno made a motion to change the wording for the Planning Commission and Zoning Board to read up to 5 members. Brad seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Brad made a motion to appoint Raymond Lovell for a 2-year term on the Planning Commission and Zoning Board with the term expiring in 2025 at the Organizational Meeting. Bruno seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Bruno made a motion to accept Paul Kamins on the Planning

Commission and Zoning Board for a 3-year term to expire in 2027 at the Organizational Meeting. Brad seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

- Discuss and act upon (if needed) posting agenda/minutes – There was some discussion on how the agenda and minutes should be posted. It is the Town Clerk's responsibility to do the postings.

REPORT FROM THE ROAD COMMISSIONER

- The section of road from the telephone building to the campground has been graveled and ditching of this section will start after the 4th of July for the Better Roads Grant.

REPORT FROM TOWN CLERK

- Update about activities of the Town Clerk's Office – Town Clerk reported they are getting in full swing for the election. Postings will be up on the 2nd week of July with the Warning and sample ballots. Absentee ballots will also be available. The BCA will hold a meeting for election workers. Trash bags are all set and people have started picking them up as of today July 1st.

REPORT FROM THE TREASURER

- The budget-to-actual report was provided and nothing extraordinary was to be reported.
- The Selectboard Warrant is on the Signing Desk for review and to be signed.

REPORT OF THE DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR

Low progress on remaining delinquent taxpayers. Bob reached out to the 2 delinquent taxpayers that will be eligible for tax sale on 4/15/2025 and requested reasonable payment plans. He heard back from one to date.

REPORT FROM LISTERS

Listers have completed the Grand List and signed it over to the Town Clerk so now if there are any errors or omissions, it will need to go before the selectboard. They have been working with the current use with the state and discovered small issues that need to be addressed and then will close out the Grand List for 2024. The School Tax was awarded today. At the august meeting the tax rate will need to be set. The Homestead tax is 1.1147 down from 1.9641 last year and non-homestead is 1.2300 which is down from 1.8231 last year.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Update on the purchase of the flagpole:** Jack Donnelly put together a draft policy. The Selectboard reviewed the policy. Bruno made a motion to accept the Flagpole Policy for the Town of Maidstone. Brad seconded the motion. All voted in favor.
- **Status update for the Town Plan:** The Planning Commission has met as a reorganizational meeting. Their next meeting is on July 11 (next Thursday).
- **Doug Morton update on date for the Traffic Study** – The Town Clerk received word that they will contact us before coming.
- **Update on Taylor Cemetery work:** The Contractor requested a check immediately and Bruno let him know the job was not complete and shared texts with the Selectboard. The

Contractor threatened he will be contacting an attorney. Brad and Bruno walked the property and confirmed the job was not completed and took pictures. Bruno discussed what was not completed and went over the contract on what needed to be done and what wasn't done. It was suggested that everything be documented in case it goes into litigation and to put copies of any communications in a file at the Town Office. There was some discussion on how to avoid this happening again.

- **Accept Ray Lovell's Resignation** – This was done last month.
- **Update on Lemp status and appoint in anyone has applied** – There have been no letters of interest received. Chelsea Palmer (Ramsdell) did suggest she was interested but has not sent in a letter. It was suggested a Selectboard member be appointed until filled because the Town would not be eligible for certain grants and emergency funds without an EMD. Bruno made a motion to appoint Brad McVetty as the temporary EMD for the LEMP. Scott seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Bill Sanborn was recognized for all the work he put into being the EMD with no pay for many years. Bill is still planning on doing the 911 work.
- **Groveton Fire Contract discussion and approval if warranted** – The selectboard signed the contract.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Review and approve the Errors and Omissions Certificate supplied by the Board of Listers.** – The errors and omissions were discussed. The Selectboard reviewed the changes. Bruno made a motion to accept the change of the errors and omissions certificate. Brad seconded the motion. All voted in favor.
- **Discuss and act upon the work needed at the Town Office and ARPA Funds.** – The ARPA funds were discussed and how they can be used and the deadline being the end of year. There was discussion on work that needed to be done at the Town Office. Some of the items discussed were the floor, the back porch and steps, flashing on roof and the ramp, pressure washing the building and vent holes. Some items will be covered under the energy assistance grant. The work will be prioritized on what needs to be done being the floor first. The Selectboard will have Dennis Bacon look at the floor and see what would be best. Different options on flooring and ramp were discussed. Specs will be drawn up and the Selectboard will get some general quotes and will go out for bidding according to purchase policy.
- **VLCT Conference/Training** – Training is on 1st and 2nd of October in Killington but no pricing has been posted yet. It will possibly be a 2-night stay for Amy, Bob and Sam for 2 rooms. When pricing is available Bob will submit for approval.

OTHER BUSINESS

- The Annual Lake Association meeting is this Saturday. Trash bags will be available.
- The Selectboard Chair will be responsible for the flag, flying it half staff if needed. The State will alert him when necessary. Kathy Lovell commented that the flag looks wonderful at night with the lighting and thanked the Town for the work done.
- Bob thanked Kathy for putting together the compost workshop.
- John Kascenska from the Town of Burke introduced himself as a candidate for the State Representative. He stated that his email is on file and if there are any concerns, anyone can reach him by email. He is the only candidate.
- Refunds for the miscount of students have started and every homestead will be refunded. The Treasurer has this information.
- Janice Peaslee Bridge is scheduled to be worked on July 9th through the 11th.

- The Post Office will be distributing notices regarding the mail slots at the end of the Lake Road. There is a plan to reorganize the slots and boxes may be closed for up to a week.

ADJOURN:

The business of the meeting concluded. Bruno made a motion to adjourn the meeting for July 1, 2024; Brad seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 pm.