

Draft Minutes

MAIDSTONE SELECTBOARD MEETING

Monday, September 9, 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, Bruno McKenzie, Brad McVetty and Terri Williams

Town Officials and Staff Present via Zoom: Town Clerk 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; Zoning Board and Planning Commission member Paul Kamins

Also Present via Zoom: Linwood Mixer, Sam and Carol Gorham, Laurie Snowman, Bonnie Lovell, Jan Barker and Burt Kline.

Chairman Scott Lovell called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

APPROVE MINUTES

Brad made a motion to accept the August 5, 2024, Selectboard Meeting Minutes. Bruno seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Brad made a motion to accept the August 19, 2024, Special Selectboard Meeting Minutes. Bruno seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

SELECTBOARD:

- **Discuss and act upon Selectboard Assistant or other alternatives** – There hasn't been any interest in this position and the Selectboard will continue to research options and/or look for someone interested. Amy found that Zoom has a translator and left papers for the Selectboard to review.

REPORT FROM THE ROAD COMMISSIONER

Currently working on some of the FEMA washouts, ditching and gravel on the Hall Road and North Road. Ditching and gravel needs to be done by the end of September for the Better Roads Grant and the Grant in Aid program.

The Town needs an online FEMA Portal to apply for FEMA assistance. The Town never had a portal for the FEMA Grant and Logan Perron set Brad and Amy up for the portal. Brad will sign in before the 19th to officially get on the FEMA list. Amy said there must be 2 people to represent the Town and it can be any 2 people.

The box culvert on the Westside Road at the outlet of the lake will not be replaced this year due to the July 10th storm. ANR does not have any bypass bridges available for the town to use. The town will apply for a two-year extension of the Structures Grant for the box culvert.

REPORT FROM TOWN CLERK

Update about activities of the Town Clerk's Office

- We received a \$5,000 grant from CTCL that can be used for anything to do with the election. We used it a couple years ago for voting booths and other items including training. This grant will cover the training Amy, Bob and Sam are currently attending.
- Update on MERP Implementation Grant – We received information on Friday that the MERP Grant was released and the Town may not be eligible. Amy has been in contact with Terri Williams and a couple of other people. We will still apply for the grant in its entirety in hopes that will still be approved. The MERP deadline is September 20th and it just came out last week. For the next 2 weeks, Amy will be fully consumed with this grant. Terri let Amy know that there is a zoom meeting tomorrow (9/10/24) however she's at an elections training and will not be able to attend. Amy met with Carter Finnegan and reviewed the items we were asking for and she was very helpful and will help us get it done.
- Scholarship – Sam was awarded a scholarship from VMCT and received the check so the town will not have to pay for any of her upcoming training.
- Amy posted some paperwork from VT judiciary around the town office in case anyone would like to see it.
- Posting for EMD be left up for a little while longer
- Documents posted at the Town Office from VTrans will be taken down.
- Terri spoke about the grant and letting us know that she is hoping it will go through and was here to answer any questions.

REPORT FROM THE TREASURER

- The budget-to-actual report was provided and nothing extraordinary was to be reported. The tax bills went out on August 29, 2024, and payments have started to come in. There is a little concern on tax bills that were mailed outside the 05905 area. Bob has not received any confirmation that tax bills have reached anyone outside of 05905 zip code. Bob has been emailing bills to those that he could and will continue to do so, if anyone hasn't received their tax bill, please reach out to Bob so that he can get it to you. Bulky waste was a little more than what was budgeted. Also reiterating that Lister wages will go over budget.
- Selectboard Warrant – Bob gave the Selectboard a copy of the check warrant. We did go through a revision of our homestead tax rate to return the money that was overcharged to us in 2023. Terry Williams is aware that this is what the State decided to do and doesn't know where it will land legislatively. Terry asked Bob to send the difference between what we were supposed to get and what we received. She has spoken to someone and just needs something to show what is happening for proof.

REPORT OF THE DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR

Made good progress with delinquent taxes. The 2 delinquent taxpayers are not on the Tax Sale list as they both have paid 2022 taxes in full. Other delinquent taxpayers are making steady progress with small payments bringing our balance down. On October 15th, there will be a new list of "late" not "delinquent" taxpayers.

REPORT FROM LISTERS

There isn't anything to report for the Listers. This is a slower time for Listers. This Fall Listers will need to do some updates.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Update, discuss and act upon the work needed at the Town Office and ARPA Funds – floor proposal:** – The Selectboard has not found anyone interested and will write up a proposal and send it out for bid. It will be published in 2 newspapers. Brad and Scott will work on it.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Maintenance** – Dennis Bacon has been painting, fixing the steps outback, screens and installed a new light in the parking lot. He has a little bit more to do including the rug on the handicap walkway. Amy mentioned the grant covered a dusk to dawn light and wanted to make sure the one installed was a dusk to dawn light. Bruno said the one that was installed is a dusk to dawn light so we are all set with that.
- **Grant approval** – Bruno made a motion to accept the CTCL Election Grant. Brad seconded the motion. All voted in favor.
- **Propane for generator/possible** – Dennis noticed a propane smell near the tank and thought there may be a leak. The generator turns on once a week for 7 minutes. Superior called to see if we wanted auto fill but haven't heard back from them yet. We will go on auto fill if it's free of charge for the monitoring system.
- **Municipal Budget training for Treasurer** – VLCT is doing a Municipal Budgeting workshop Wednesday, September 18th and is \$10.00. Anyone can attend this zoom meeting. Bruno made a motion to allow Bob to attend this training. Brad seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

OTHER BUSINESS –

Linwood wanted to say thank you to Terri Williams for all the things she's done for the Town of Maidstone, it's very much appreciated.

Bruno inquired about the next planning board meeting as he didn't receive any emails on it. It was confirmed that it was tomorrow (September 10th).

ADJOURN: The business of the meeting concluded. Brad made a motion to adjourn the meeting for September 9, 2024; Bruno seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 pm.