

Minutes

MAIDSTONE SELECTBOARD MEETING

Wednesday, December 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 and Brad McVetty

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 and Planning Commission member Paul Kamins; Zoning and Planning Commission Bruce Barker.

Also Present via Zoom: Linwood Mixer, Bob and Laurie Snowman, Bonnie Lovell, Burt Kline, Jan Barker and John Kascenska.

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

SELECTBOARD:

- **Discuss and Act upon Zoom/Connection Issues** – Scott stated that in the event that there are technical issues with the zoom or internet, the Selectboard meeting will continue at the Town Office in person with all items that do not need other member's input. The meeting is open to attend in person.

REPORT FROM THE ROAD COMMISSIONER

Nothing to report. There are a couple storms coming that will likely make a mess.

REPORT FROM THE TOWN CLERK

Update about activities of the Town Clerk's Office

- Planning for town meeting/town report and meeting the deadlines. Amy asked the board how they would like Selectboard Meeting to be put in the town report and left a paper for the board to see on the signing desk. They will let her know if they want to keep it the same way or if there are any changes.
- Amy requested if any Selectboard meeting is on any Monday before elections that they move them so that things do not need to be rearranged for the next day after a late meeting.
- Amy spoke to Doug Morton about the traffic study and still doesn't know what is happening. The last email stated we would have the results asap but still nothing. The Selectboard has not heard from him either. Brad offered to try and get in touch with him.
- The Energy Fair that was held a couple of weeks ago was a great success. There were 22 people that attended. A lot of great feedback from people that were there and the vendors that attended. Many will be doing it in their own towns.

- Fidium – there was an email that went out to the town hall and Selectboard. Amy has been in communication and there hasn't been a lot of help in getting a municipal account. There are some issues that need to be addressed before moving forward with this.

REPORT FROM TREASURER

- **Budget to Actual** – Nothing extraordinary to report. It's an 11-month report and the next meeting will be the 12 months however some items will come in after the meeting for the end of year numbers.
- **Selectboard Warrant** – Warrant is on the signing desk to be signed.

REPORT FROM THE DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR

All of 2022 has been paid and there's only a small number (\$8,000) for 2023 that is currently delinquent. Only the unpaid 2023 payments will be reported in the Town Report.

REPORT FROM THE LISTERS

Nothing really to report. Listers are just finishing up year-end work and sales continue to be more than our grand list values. The Equalization has been completed for 2024 and we will get the results in January 2025 for the new CLA which is a big part of what we pay in taxes.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Discuss and act upon maintenance and paying from ARPA funds and/or relocation of funds** – Resolution will be signed and ARPA funds will be moved. A motion was made at the last meeting but due to internet issues was not heard or put in minutes. The motion was to approve the Resolution to obligate and expend SLFRF funds up to the amount of \$22,931.70 for the purpose of municipal workforce retention. Amy asked about buying a desk for safety reasons. The price ranged from \$870 to \$1561 with ULine coming in at the lowest amount. Brad motioned to expend \$870 plus shipping and handling to ULine for a new desk purchased with the ARPA funds. Bruno seconded the motion. All voted in favor.
- **Discuss and act upon flooring** – Request for bids will be sent out to up to 7 people and must be returned before the next Selectboard meeting on January 6, 2024. The Selectboard would like Amy to write up a cover letter to be attached with requests. The balance of the ARPA funds will need to be an article on the Town Warning for Town Meeting or contract from a chosen company signed by December 30, 2024. After much discussion on these options, the board decided to have it as an article at the Town Meeting with the lack of time needed for bids.
- **Approval of Service for the vault. (Incidental Purchase)** – Quote came in for \$425 to service the vault. The building repairs budget line has been used. This will be voted on next month for budgeting purposes.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **NEK Representative replacement** – Jack Donnelly is stepping down when his term expires in March.

- **Authorization to consolidate fund accounts** – At the moment, we have been working out of separate bank accounts for all funds which may have been required in the past but is not needed now. Bob would like to consolidate accounts. There are several accounts and accounts in accounts and would like to clean it up and consolidate into 2 of the higher interest rate accounts, the General Account and one for all other accounts. This is just an accounting change and all accounts will still be able to be funded as needed but gives us a better opportunity to earn more interest. Bruno made a motion to consolidate accounts. Brad seconded the motion. All voted in favor.
- **Authorization to invest in money markets and/or ICS (Insured Cash Sweep)** – Interest rates are better if we invest in a money market for 9 months such as the grand list account that is just there for future use. ICS is a system that is used in many other towns currently. All our money is covered by FDIC but if we were to adopt the Insurance Cash Sweep, we would not need to be covered. This is if we put any money that is not needed and only have what's always needed in the account or a certain amount. It does not offer a great interest rate but the Money Market does. Bob would like to pursue investing idle funds in Money Markets within Passumpsic Bank. Insurance is not an issue no matter what route is taken. Brad made a motion To Authorize the Treasure to utilize high interest-bearing investments for idle accounts. Bruno seconded the motion. All voted in favor.
- **Approve a substitute Town Hall cleaner** – Bruno motioned to hire a substitute town hall cleaner while Andy is gone. Brad seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

OTHER BUSINESS

John Kascenska thanked everyone for their support and went over some things they are working on and that will be going on in the future. He plans on trying to attend some of the Selectboard meetings by zoom and in person.

The Commissioner of taxes has issued his letter on where school taxes will go and both the NEK and ESNU budgets are increasing which is going to make taxes higher for our district.

Amy asked how the Selectboard would like to receive the incoming contracts for the next budget. They will like them to be left on the signing table for them to review.

ADJOURN: The business of the meeting concluded. Brad made a motion to adjourn the meeting for December 9, 2024; Bruno seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 pm.