

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MEETING
April 26, 2021**

Present (remotely): Chair, Ladleah Dunn, Vice-Chair, Keryn Laite, Jr., Josh Gerritsen, Mike Ray, Jordan Barnett-Parker, and Town Administrator, David Kinney

Chair Dunn read portions of the opening of the agenda regarding the provision for remote meetings during the current state of emergency, including how the public could view and participate in the meeting and that all votes taken during the public proceeding would be taken by roll call.

Selectman Gerritsen read the quote.

1. Citizens' Forum (6:30 PM +/-, televised and public Zoom session starts):

There were none submitted via email or on the chat.

2. Administrator's Report:

David Kinney, the Town Administrator, noted:

- Absentee Ballots: Absentee Ballots will be available for all of our local election items in two weeks. It's not too early to get in a request for an absentee ballot and we will hold it until the absentee ballots are in our possession.
- Dog Licenses: If you have not registered your dog, please do so as soon as possible, at the Town Office, during regular business hours because the grace period is about to end by Governors Executive Action.
- Paving: The paving contractor that didn't finish the work last fall has reached out to the Town of Lincolnville to see if the Town wants to allow them to finish the work this spring. They are willing to finish the work at the price that they quoted us last year.

After a brief discussion, the Board ultimately decided to allow the contractor to finish the work but felt that it would be important in the future to alter the contract to include the project be finished by a specific date.

The Board gave the Town Administrator their consensus to allow the current contractor to finish the job.

Laite also recommended that the Board not choose this individual contractor again in the future, especially since it is taxpayers' money.

3. Meetings & Announcements:

Administrator Kinney read the meetings and announcements.

4. **Upcoming Community Events:**

There were none.

5. **Meeting Minutes – March 8, 2021:**

Laite made an amended motion, seconded by Gerritsen, that the Board approves the April 12, 2021 meeting minutes as presented. Vote: Laite – Yes, Gerritsen – Yes, Ray – Yes, Barnett-Parker-Yes, Dunn – Yes. Motion carried 5-0.

6. **Five Town CSD Budget Presentation – Supt. Maria Libby:**

Maria Libby, Superintendent of the Five Town Community School District, presented the Board with the proposed Five Town CSD FY 2021-22 Budget Request and highlighted the following:

- Expense Budget Increase is 1.78%
- Overall Taxpayer Impact is 1.89%
- Regular Instruction (teacher salaries, health benefits, supplies, PD, contracted services) is up 2.32%
- Special Education is up 1.35%
- MCST Program Assessment is down 37.05%
- Other Instruction (co-curricular, athletics) is up 2.83%
- Student & Staff Support is up 1.16%
- System Administration is up 2.91%
- School Administration is up 5.70%
- Transportation is down 2.00%
- Facilities (Operations, Maintenance, and Auditorium) is up 10.34%
- Debts & Other Commitments is down 1.91%
- Other Costs (board contingency and foodservice subsidy) is down 39.32%
- Lincolnville's Taxpayer Revenue Changes increased 4.81%

The next step will be a remote Budget Hearing on May 18th and a Budget Referendum vote will be held on June 8th.

The Board thanked Libby for attending the meeting and giving her presentation.

7. **Need/Request for Center Sidewalk – Rory Seiler:**

Rory Seliger, a Lincolnville resident, came before the Board asking that the Town install sidewalks from the Lincolnville Central School to the Lincolnville Library. She is concerned with the safety of her two boys, other children who walk and bike to school, and the safety of the elderly.

Seliger felt it was important to install a sidewalk that will benefit the children and their safety when they walk and bike to school.

Ray proposed that the Board have a conversation with the Maine Department of Transportation since it is a state-maintained road. He asked if Setiger would be interested in accompanying a Select Board member from the Town to get involved in the conversations with the Department of Transportation.

Seliger was willing to do whatever it takes to move this issue forward.

Dunn added that the challenge is that there are three state roads and the right-of-way is controlled by the Maine Department of Transportation.

Dunn suggested inviting a representative from DOT, who can outline any hurdles that need to be overcome. She recommended that Seliger keep checking on when this issue may come up again on a future agenda.

The Board concurred with moving ahead and asked the Town Administrator, Kinney, to get the ball rolling.

The Board thanked Seliger for attending the meeting and voicing her concerns.

8. Board, Committee, and Commission Appointment(s):

Barnett-Parker made a motion, seconded by Gerritsen, to appoint Christine Parrish to the Conservation Commission as a regular member with a term expiring June 2023. Vote: Laite – Yes, Gerritsen – Yes, Ray – Yes, Barnett-Parker-Yes, Dunn – Yes. Motion carried 5-0.

Ray made a motion, seconded by Laite, to appoint Karen Federle to the Lakes & Ponds Committee as a regular member with a term expiring June 2021. Vote: Laite – Yes, Gerritsen – Yes, Ray – Yes, Barnett-Parker-Yes, Dunn – Yes. Motion carried 5-0.

Gerritsen made a motion, seconded by Laite, to appoint Jay Philoon to the Lakes & Ponds Committee as a regular member with a term expiring June 2021. Vote: Laite – Yes, Gerritsen – Yes, Ray – Yes, Barnett-Parker-Yes, Dunn – Yes. Motion carried 5-0.

Barnett-Parker was appreciative of Philoon volunteering his time and wanted to hear why he was interested in serving on the Broadband Committee.

Philoon explained that he has been in the computer and software industry over the last 40 years, which is how he makes his living and has always depended on broadband connection. He is interested in affordable broadband and is interested in making sure that everything goes in the right direction.

Barnett-Parker made a motion, seconded by Gerritsen, to appoint Jay Philoon to the Broadband Committee as a regular member with a term expiring June 2021. Vote: Laite – Yes, Gerritsen – Yes, Ray – Yes, Barnett-Parker-Yes, Dunn – Yes. Motion carried 5-0.

The Board thanked Philoon for volunteering his time.

9. Review Special Town Meeting Warrant – May 6, 2021:

Laite made a motion, seconded by Barnett-Parker, that the Board approves and signs the Special Town Meeting setting the meeting date as May 6, 2021, the start time of 6 PM, and the location to be outdoors on the recreation area behind the Lincolnville Central School. Vote: Laite – Yes, Gerritsen – Yes, Ray – Yes, Barnett-Parker-Yes, Dunn – Yes. Motion carried 5-0.

10. Review Draft Supplemental Charge to Wage & Personnel Policy Board:

Laite made a motion, seconded by Barnett-Parker, that the Board approves and signs a supplemental charge to the Wage and Personnel Policy Board regarding Call Firefighter Life Insurance coverage. Vote: Laite – Yes, Gerritsen – Yes, Ray – Yes, Barnett-Parker-Yes, Dunn – Yes. Motion carried 5-0.

11. Proposed communication with ConnectME:

Barnett-Parker requested that the Board consider drafting a letter as soon as possible to Peggy Schaffer and ConnectME indicating the Board’s refusal to support Lincolnville Communication, Inc. in the community grant process and that the Board does not want LCI to receive any funds on behalf of or for the Town of Lincolnville.

Barnett-Parker also requested that the Board make a motion to vote on this issue and draft a brief letter to Peggy Schaffer of ConnectME.

Laite felt that it was very clear, during the last meeting that the Board moved on and the Board made a decision not to engage and he wasn’t in favor of revisiting the discussion.

Ray agreed with Laite and didn’t feel the need to revisit.

Gerritsen explained that since nobody made a motion, no action was taken and the Board decided not to partner with LCI. he was in favor of a letter to ConnctME explaining that the Town of Lincolnville decided against partnering with LCI and then take that as an opportunity to state what the Board’s goals are.

Dunn agreed with Laite and Ray and was not in favor of retroactively going back to make a vote on that agenda item which was clear, in terms of the Board’s direction.

After some discussion, the Board was in favor of making a clear advocacy for what the Board’s goals are and how to pursue them.

Barnett-Parker stated, “This is a part of that because if they get this grant and build-out, it works against what we are trying to do, and makes it harder for us to create a dark fiber or any fiber network that is open and, in any way, controlled by the Town, and it has a negative effect on what we said we are trying to do and what our goals are.”

Gerritsen felt that what Barnett-Parker was stating was true, but spoke in favor of writing a letter stating the Board’s position while staying positive.

Dunn felt the key was to focus on how to pass the legislation that is being discussed, which is also the fact that monies can’t be disseminated to municipalities.

Barnett-Parker made a motion, seconded by Ray to draft a letter to the ConnectME authority stating that we have not decided to partner with any internet service provider for this round of grants that are due on April 29, 2021. Vote: Laite – No, Gerritsen – No, Ray – No, Barnett-Parker-Yes, Dunn – No. Motion failed 1-4.

Dunn felt this motion moves the Board backward and that the motion should be to draft a letter to state the Board’s expressed goals to the body that is considering it.

Gerritsen felt since the ConnectME grant application deadline is due on April 28th, it would be nice to direct the Town Administrator, Kinney, and Chair Dunn, to work together.

Gerritsen made motion, seconded by Ray to direct Town Administrator Kinney, and Chair Dunn to draft a letter to ConnectME, the House Committee of Appropriations, and Representative Stanley Paige Zeigler stating our goals as a community when it comes to Broadband, drawing from the testimony that Selectman Gerritsen is going to give tomorrow morning on LD 1432 and also stating in the letter that we are not partnering with any ISP for this upcoming round of ConnectME Grants. Vote: Laite – Yes, Gerritsen – Yes, Ray – Yes, Barnett-Parker-Yes, Dunn – Yes. Motion carried 5-0.

12. Waldo County Fire Protection Mutual Aid Agreement:

Laite made a motion, seconded by Gerritsen that the Board approve and sign the Waldo County 2021 Fire Protection Mutual Aid Agreement. Vote: Laite – Yes, Gerritsen – Yes, Ray – Yes, Barnett-Parker - Yes, Dunn – Yes. Motion carried 5-0.

13. Selectmen Update(s):

Laite: The next Mid-Coast Solid Waste Board of Directors will hold a virtual meeting on April 28, 2021.

Gerritsen: Gerritsen testified on behalf of the Mid-Coast Internet Coalition last Tuesday, April 20, 2021, in support of LD 1235. This is an act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Connect Maine with a World-Class Internet Infrastructure. The funds provided by this bond would be used to provide funding for affordable high-speed internet infrastructure that would reach 98% of homes and businesses in the State of Maine.

Gerritsen planned to testify for LD1432, which is the bill that the Town of Brooklin and the Town of Sedgwick signed on to. .

Gerritsen asked if the Town of Lincolnville wanted to add their name to this letter.

The rest of the Board concurred and agreed to be added to the letter.

Gerritsen also announced that Camden and Rockport will include on their ballot, the option to form the Inter-local Agreement.

The next Mid-Coast Internet Coalition meeting will be held on May 12th.

Based on the amount of information that Gerritsen has to intake and filter, Chair Dunn suggested adding a standing agenda item which can serve as a mechanism to help the Board constructively filter this information.

The Board concurred.

Kinney proposed that Gerritsen and Barnett-Parker be the gathering point and break down the info into a quick synopsis from meeting to meeting and report the information back to him.

Kinney suggested that at some point, the Broadband Committee needs to be re-instated and someone would need to reach out to the previous members to seek interest in continuing their membership and establish a meeting date.

Ray volunteered to contact all of the former Broadband Committee members to see if they are still interested in serving again. He also offered to become the Select Board Liaison to that committee.

The Board suggested, at a future agenda, formalizing some appointees and having a conversation.

Ray: No updates at this time.

Barnett-Parker: Last week, the Mid-Coast Internet Coalition had some discussion about funding, whether it is Federal or State Bonds that were passed. There is strong lobbying going on from the Coalition, talking to lawmakers and representatives and targeting their funding towards communities.

Dunn: No updates at this time.

14. Treasurer's and Payroll Warrant(s)-Approve & Sign:

Laite made a motion, seconded by Gerritsen, that the Board approves the Treasurer's and Payroll warrants. Vote: Laite – Yes, Gerritsen – Yes, Ray – Yes, Barnett-Parker, Yes, Dunn – Yes. Motion carried 5-0.

15. Executive Session – Title 1 MRSA Section 405(6)(C) to discuss the possible disposition of real property where premature disclosure of the information would prejudice the competitive bargaining position of the Town:

Laite made a motion, Gerritsen made a motion that the Board enters into executive session pursuant to Title 1 MRSA Section 405(6)(C) to discuss the possible disposition of real property where premature disclosure of the information would prejudice the competitive bargaining position of the Town. Vote: Laite – Yes, Gerritsen – Yes, Ray – Yes, Barnett-Parker-Yes, Dunn – Yes. Motion carried 5-0.

16. Adjourn:

Barnett-Parker made a motion, seconded by Ray, to adjourn. Vote: Laite – Yes, Gerritsen – Yes, Ray – Yes, Barnett-Parker - Yes, Dunn – Yes. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa A. Geary
Administrative Assistant