

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MEETING
May 24, 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. 6 PM – Public Hearing – June 8, 2021, Town of Lincolnville Referendum Questions:

Election Day is on Tuesday, June 8, 2021, at the Lincolnville Central School from 8 AM to 8 PM in the gymnasium. The Select Board decided to have the Town Meeting by secret ballot referendum because of the uncertainty of the pandemic.

Kinney explained that the Board is required to hold a Public Hearing for the secret ballot questions.

Laite made a motion, seconded by Gerritsen, that the Board opens the public hearing regarding the referendum questions for the June 8, 2021, annual and special town meeting. Vote: Laite – Yes, Gerritsen – Yes, Ray – Yes, Barnett-Parker - Yes, Dunn – Yes. Motion carried 5-0.

Kinney read all the articles listed on the ballot and explained that absentee ballots are available at the Town Office during regular business hours.

No public input was offered.

Laite made a motion, seconded by Gerritsen, that the Board closes the public hearing. Vote: Laite – Yes, Gerritsen – Yes, Ray – Yes, Barnett-Parker - Yes, Dunn – Yes. Motion carried 5-0.

2. Citizens' Forum:

There were none submitted via email or on the chat.

3. Administrator's Report:

David Kinney, the Town Administrator, noted:

- Dog Licenses: Please stop by the Town Office if you have not registered your dog to avoid paying the state-mandated late fee, which goes into effect on June 2nd.
- Absentee Ballots: Absentee Ballots are now available, for the June 8th election; please stop by the Town Office or call during regular business hours. All absentee ballots are due back by 8 PM on June 8th.
- Surplus Equipment: The surplus equipment has been put out to bid and due back on June 9th, which will be on the next agenda.
- Paving: The leftover paving work from last year has been completed. The shoulder work still needs to be done.
- Town Report: The Town Report is currently at the printers and should be back by June 2nd.

4. **Meetings & Announcements:**

Chair Dunn read the meetings and announcements.

5. **Upcoming Community Events:**

There were none.

6. **Meeting Minutes – May 10, 2021:**

Barnett-Parker made a motion, seconded by Gerritsen, that the Board approves the May 10, 2021 meeting minutes as presented. Vote: Laite – Yes, Gerritsen – Yes, Ray – Yes, Barnett-Parker - Yes, Dunn – Yes. Motion carried 5-0.

7. **Sidewalk Discussion with Patrick Adams, Maine DOT Active Transportation Planner:**

On April 26, 2021, the Board discussed a request from Rory Seliger, a Lincolnville resident, regarding the installation of sidewalks from the Lincolnville Central School to the Lincolnville Library, to help increase the safety of the children walking to school and the safety of the elderly.

The Board suggested inviting a representative from the Maine Department of Transportation to attend and discuss any issues.

Patrick Adams, Maine DOT's Active Transportation Planner, came before the Board via Zoom, to answer questions from the Board.

Adams explained that the grant program that he manages is an 80/20 program, where 80% is covered federally and 20% is local. The average cost is roughly \$300-\$310 per linear foot for the construction, of a 5' wide paved sidewalk. This grant program caps a project at \$500,000 and because of limited funding, which would pay \$400,000 of federal funds and \$100,000 local funds, and based on this project of roughly 300' linear piece, it would run around \$900,000.

Adams also explained that if the Town of Lincolnville is selected, notification would arrive by the end of January or the first of February, and the project usually starts in April or May.

Adams told the Board, “Because this is a federal process, there are lots of regulations and requirements that need to be followed throughout the design and construction process as well as the right-of-way process and we usually plan approximately three years out for construction. Therefore, the project would start sometime in 2024.”

Laite felt it would be in the Board’s best interest to invite Adams to come back and walk the location, to see the challenges and dangers and get some advice or ideas and go from there.

The Board agreed to pursue an on-sight tour to see what phases would make sense and then apply for some practical numbers.

Kinney offered to work with Adams to coordinate his schedule with the Board’s schedule.

The Board thanked Adams for attending the meeting.

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

Barnett-Parker made a motion, seconded by Gerritsen, that the Board appoint Cheryl Nevius 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 Nevius for volunteering her time to serve on the Broadband Committee.

9. Request for Resolution Supporting Consumer Ownership of Electrical Delivery Systems:

Sharon Staz and Andrew Blunt, both representatives of the Our Power Maine organization, attended the meeting and gave an overview of LD 1708 which is:

An Act to Create and form a consumer-owned utility in this state and purchase the assets of Central Maine Power Company that serves the majority of the State of Maine and Versant and to take over the operation and distribution and transmission system.

Staz explained there are over 2000 consumer utilities, serving throughout 49 of the 50 states, serving roughly 49 million people, which is a very large segment of the country. The basic difference is consumer-owned utilities are not for profit, the customer comes first and the consumer-owned utilities have access to lower interest rate financing.

Staz has spent 30 years in the consumer-owned utility business and was elected to the Board of the American Public Power Association.

Staz stated, “It would be much better to have local control and not owned by foreign countries, which distances the consumers need and the customer’s needs from what the utility should be serving and also because they are for-profit, they are trying to make a return on investment for their investors. We also think there is a need to be transparent and these investor-owned companies are not. Their board meetings are closed and their financial statements are closed.

Whereas with a consumer-owned utility, the board meetings are all open, the records are all transparent.”

Staz also explained that the bill contains a very important statement asking the legislature to pass this and put out to referendum to the entire State of Maine so every citizen would have the opportunity to vote yes or no. If it passes, it would be on the ballot in November 2021.

Kinney provided the Board with the following memo from Our Power which stated the following information:

Maine now has an exciting solution to our energy problems: Creating a nonprofit, consumer-owned utility, called the Pine Tree Power Company.

In the memo, it explains that Maine’s existing Consumer Owned Utility (COU’s) serve 97 towns, from Calais to Kennebunk.

What is Our Power?

Our Power is a growing coalition of everyday Mainers, conservationists, energy experts, and business, faith, and elected leaders who are committed to creating a consumer-owned utility that meets Maine’s needs.

The system known as the grid is key to Maine’s energy future. According to Dr. Richard Silkman, Maine Energy Economist, our grid will need investments of \$10 to \$15 billion. As a COU, Pine Tree Power will borrow at 3% or less, which would reduce our cost by at least \$9 billion over 30 years.

The Pine Tree Power Company will pay CMP and Versant a fair price, with no tax money or state bonds. Instead, Pine Tree Power would issue its bonds, borrowing at a low rate against the bills already being paid.

The Pine Tree Power Company would be run by an independent, not-for-profit board, with 7 elected and voting members and 4 expert advisory members.

Pine Tree Power is a win-win. Municipalities, workers, rural broadband and our environment will all win for Maine and a clean-energy future.

Staz mentioned there is a great website that she encouraged everyone to visit www.ourpowermaine.org for more information.

Gerritsen made a motion, seconded by Barnett-Parker, that the Lincolnville Board of Selectmen adopts the resolution supporting consumer ownership of our electrical delivery systems and that upon our signatures the resolution be shared with Our Power Maine and any other interested parties. Vote: Laite – Yes, Gerritsen – Yes, Ray – Yes, Barnett-Parker - Yes, Dunn – Abstained. Motion carried 4-0-1.

The Board thanked Staz and Blunt for attending the meeting and speaking to help the Board gain a better understanding.

10. Replacement of Beach Fire Station:

Kinney updated the Board that back in 2013, the Town acquired a 3.11-acre parcel of land on the Beach Road to construct a replacement for the Beach Fire Station. Since then, the Town has received a fair amount of donated funds from the Lincolnville Fire Department, Inc. and the Lincolnville Community Foundation. As of April 30, 2021, the Town has approximately \$293,227.29 available and the folks from the Fire Department would like to start the planning efforts for the replacement of the Beach Fire Station.

Peter Rollins of the Lincolnville Fire Department came before the Board seeking permission to construct a fire station on Beach Road, which would be to replace the current beach fire station, and the goal is to start construction in a year and have this station in service within two years. The current location is too small and the last two fire trucks will not fit into the Beach Fire Station.

Rollins explained this facility would have a two-bay garage with an office and a maintenance room.

Kinney told the Board that this project, such as this, will need to comply with the Lincolnville Land Use Ordinance and require approval from the Lincolnville Planning Board, a driveway entrance permit from the Maine Department of Transportation since it's located on State Rt. 173 on the Beach Road.

Kinney noted that the first step would be to solicit design or consult an interest in helping formulate the plan and also look at following the standards in our Land Use Ordinance to make sure we're good neighbors, while still keeping the public safety aspects.

Rollins noted that there is currently a Building Committee for this project.

The Board received an email from Sandy Leahman, an abutter which stated:

“Since I am unable to watch or attend the meeting on Monday night, Gerritsen suggested that I requested that you add my concerns to the agenda for a discussion, please be sure to include that we support the fire department, and we would request a different venue for building a new fire station, and if that isn't possible, could the surrounding neighbors be included on the planning of the structure and that would be much appreciated and I would be interested in hearing the results.”

The consensus of the Board was to ask the Town Administrator to put together a list of contractors for either survey or initial design for the Board to review.

Kinney added that any construction for the new replacement fire station would require a town meeting vote.

The Board thanked Rollins for taking the time to attend the meeting.

11. Broadband Update:

Mid-Coast Internet Coalition:

Kinney provided the Board with several email communications from Debra Hall, Chair of the Camden/Rockport Broadband Task Force.

Barnett-Parker explained that it has been a rather calm week in the Mid-Coast Internet Coalition as they prepare for the vote on the interlocal agreement in Camden, Rockport, and Thomaston on June 8th.

Gerritsen explained that Thomaston is hosting a Broadband open house on Thursday, May 27th at 6 PM regarding the Broadband efforts.

Proposed Communication with Waldo County Commissioners:

Gerritsen explained, “Waldo County has received \$7 million and Lincolnville’s share was \$400,000 and with the American Recovery Plan language, counties can’t just hand money over to a town.”

He proposed that the Town of Lincolnville write a letter to the Waldo County Commissioners asking that Lincolnville’s share of the money, to help fund Lincolnville’s build-out of a Fiber-Optic system.

Gerritsen also explained that this money can only be spent on; water, sewer, or broadband.

Kinney suggested that the Board at least alert the County Commissioners that they will be receiving a substantial sum of monies and that this Board would like to be involved in a public process to determine how these funds get expended.

Dunn expressed that she was fully on board with the concept, but was interested in obtaining more information regarding what the Waldo County Commissions position is, currently, before writing a more specific request or demand.

Gerritsen spoke in favor of the Board being involved in the conversation on how the County money is spent and alerting them that the Town of Lincolnville is possibly interested in using the funds towards Broadband.

Kinney to put together a draft letter for the Board to review at a subsequent meeting.

12. Qualified Catering Organization Application for Catered Function – June 26, 2021 @ The Edge:

No vote was taken.

The Board decided to table this application request until further information on the location diagram could be provided by the applicant.

13. As Board of Assessors – Ratio Declaration and Homestead Reimbursement Application:

Laite made a motion, seconded by Barnett-Parker, that the Board suspends our meeting as the Board of Selectmen and that we convene as the Board of Assessors. Vote: Laite – Yes, Gerritsen – Yes, Ray – Yes, Barnett-Parker - Yes, Dunn – Yes. Motion carried 5-0.

Laite made a motion, seconded by Ray, that the Board approves and signs the Ratio Declaration and Reimbursement Application as prepared by the Assessors' Agent. Vote: Laite – Yes, Gerritsen – Yes, Ray – Yes, Barnett-Parker - Yes, Dunn – Yes. Motion carried 5-0.

Barnett-Parker made a motion, seconded by Laite, that we adjourn our meeting as the Board of Assessors and reconvene as the Board of Selectmen. Vote: Laite – Yes, Gerritsen – Yes, Ray – Yes, Barnett-Parker - Yes, Dunn – Yes. Motion carried 5-0.

14. Authorization for Town Administrator to sign Real Estate Listing Agreement(s):

Laite made a motion, seconded by Barnett-Parker, that the Board authorize the Town Administrator to sign the listing agreements with Camden Coast Real Estate for the town-owned parcels adjacent to Rosenberg Road provided the final agreements are substantially the same as the current drafts after review by the Town Attorney. Vote: Laite – Yes, Gerritsen – Yes, Ray – Yes, Barnett-Parker - Yes, Dunn – Yes. Motion carried 5-0.

15. Update to Phased Reopening Plan:

Laite made a motion, seconded by Gerritsen, that the July 27, 2020, reopening plan be rescinded as of June 1, 2021, and that May 24, 2021, update take effect as of June 1, 2021. Vote: Laite – Yes, Gerritsen – Yes, Ray – Yes, Barnett-Parker - Yes, Dunn – Yes. Motion carried 5-0.

16. Agreement for Emergency Medical Services (July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022)

Laite made a motion, seconded by Gerritsen, that the Board approve and authorize the Town Administrator to sign the Emergency Medical Services Agreement with North East Mobile Health Services for the period of July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022, at a cost of \$54,413. Vote: Laite – Yes, Gerritsen – Yes, Ray – Yes, Barnett-Parker - Yes, Dunn – Yes. Motion carried 5-0.

17. Selectmen Update(s):

Laite: No updates at this time.

Gerritsen: No updates at this time.

Ray: The Lincolnville Broadband Committee met on May 18th and he had a copy of the draft minutes.

Barnett-Parker: No updates at this time.

Dunn: No updates at this time.

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

Ray 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.

19. **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:**

Gerritsen made a motion, seconded by Barnett-Parker, that the Board enter 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.

20. **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:**

21. **Adjourn:**

Laite made a motion, seconded by Barnett-Parker, 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