

**MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
**October 16, 2019 5:30 p.m.**  
**at the Damariscotta Town Hall**

**Members:** Roberta Mayer, Chairperson; Louis Abbotoni, Mark Hagar, Amy Leshure and Josh Pinkham

**Members Absent :** Robin Mayer

**Staff Present:** Matt Lutkus, Town Manager; Karen O'Bryan, video recorder; Lynda Letteney, recording secretary

**Others Present:** Haas Tobey; John Martins, Lincoln Health; Jim Donovan, Lincoln Health; Charles Utley; Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Gallace; Ann Pinkham, and Evan Houk, Lincoln County News

**I. Pledge of Allegiance:** Meeting began with the Pledge at 5:30 p.m.

**II. Informational Session on Marijuana-related Ballot Issues**

**Matt Lutkus** began the session by stating there would be five (5) articles on the warrant. The ballot vote was scheduled to coincide with the State-wide election. Two articles pertain to medical sales and use – one for zoning and one for licensing. Two articles pertain to adult-use recreational sales and use – one for zoning and one for licensing. The fifth article pertains to the retail sales of edibles for adult-use of marijuana. This process has been two years in the making. When the State passed the adult-use law, Damariscotta voted by 55%, in favor of commercial establishments being allowed. The Town has been waiting for State rules for recreational adult-use before going forward. At that time the State also shifted to include medical sales and use under local control. **Charles Utley** asked, "Are we voting twice under each article?" **Matt** explained that the Town attorney said there was a need to split the zoning and the licensing issues, as well as having a separate article for edibles. **Matt** also reminded the citizenry that they voted to opt in two years ago. This is a vote on zoning and licensing, not whether or not to have marijuana sales.

**III. Public Hearing- General Assistance**

General Assistance appendices are provided to reflect implementation of changes the State has made in the General Assistance ordinances. The Town has no choice in these ordinances; they must comply with the State changes. Acting Chairperson, **Amy Leshure**, asked for questions. Hearing none, Public Hearing was closed at 5:41 p.m.

**IV. Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 5:41 p.m. by Acting Chairperson **Leshure**.

**V. Official Action on Public Hearing**

**On motion (Abbotoni/Pinkham) to approve the General Assistance appendices for the State Ordinances**

**Vote: 4-0-0**

**VI. Minutes:**

**On motion (Leshure/Abbotoni) to approve the minutes from 10/2 /2019 as distributed. Vote: 4-0-0**

## **VII. Financial Reports**

1. On motion (Leshure/Abbotoni) to approve Payroll Warrant #21      **Vote: 4-0-0**
2. On motion (Hagar/Abbotoni) to approve Accounts payable Warrant #23      **Vote: 4-0-0**
3. On motion (Abbotoni/Leshure) to approve Accounts Payable Warrant #22      **Vote: 3-0-1**  
(Hagar abstaining)

## **VIII. Presentations: Lincoln Health Update - Jim Donovan Presenting**

**Mr. Donovan** began by thanking Matt Lutkus and the Board for the great partnership they have cultivated with Lincoln Health. He gave a brief recap of last year's presentation, stating that currently Lincoln Health has 1000 employees between their Waldoboro, Wiscasset and Damariscotta sites. They have received a Leap Frog Award 9 out the last 10 years. This prestigious award ranks patient care quality and safety in rural hospitals. They are hopeful for the award again in 2019 as quality is a top priority.

The Watson Health Center has demonstrated what a difference a new building makes. They are attracting more doctors with subspecialties. 1.) Oncology – as of 10/15 Dr. Keith Mills has been added to the oncology staff as well as Nurse Practitioner (NP), Monica Bushley, who will be present 5 days a week. This will enable the hospital to offer infusion therapy services beginning sometime between January and April. 2.) ENT (Ear, Nose and Throat) – this is not a new position, but they have been able to double the time available to two days a week. Dr. Charles Carva and Dr. Chamberlain will head this. 3.) Cardiology – for the last 25 years, they have had a cardiologist available 1 day a week. This is expanding to 2 days a week on site. In addition, a nurse practitioner /physician's assistant will soon be on board 5 days a week.

**Mr. Donovan** emphasized that the patients' stories provide a small door into the big Maine Health System. There is a direct economic impact for all of Lincoln County. They contribute to state and federal taxes more than \$4 million and give the Town of Damariscotta approximately \$70,000 in property taxes. The County contributes about \$15.5 million. Bad debt is about \$1.2 million, up from 2008; and free care is about \$1.2 million. 70 employees are residents of the Town and 20 are indirectly contributing to Town taxes. 200+ residents represent approximately \$500,000 in free care. The retaining of employees has gone up as a culture of excellence and community engagement has become a priority. Most importantly, keeping the community healthy is a top priority across the county. Adding PCP's and PA's has helped this.

**Amy Leshure** asked about pediatricians, stating that 4 years ago there were 3, then it went down to one.

**Mr. Donovan** said they have had a new hire, but they lost a nurse practitioner, currently they have no NP. The core areas of pediatrics, internal medicine and primary care are central to the optimum care plan but are not easy to find. **Lou Abbotoni** asked if physical therapy was moving; he felt it was very difficult to get into it as it is now. **Mr. Donovan** said PT, OT and Speech therapy are all moving. With space being freed up because of the Watson Center, these will be relocated to the Webster Van Winkle Building where there is more parking and accessibility. This should happen within the coming year. It has been difficult to recruit PT's; they are hoping better and more space might help in this area. **Mark**

**Hagar** asked if the majority of the bad debt/free care was coming from the emergency room. **Mr. Donovan** stated that free care is application-based, so the care can be from any department. Bad debt is often because of increased or high deductible plans (up to \$1-\$2-\$3 thousand or more). It is not a site of service issue but rather an insurance issue. **Josh Pinkham** asked if there were plans for extended parking and growth. **Mr. Donovan** said parking is at the top of the list (obviously the water decreases space availability). There will be a shuttle in place this winter for patients and employees. Whether this is around campus and/or off campus is still being explored. They are just in the process of identifying sites. **Amy Leshure** asked if the hospital had explored providing health insurance themselves to patients. **Mr. Donovan** said Maine Health Inc. does do this on the Medicare side, but he was not aware of any plans to provide full insurance coverage yet.

**Acting Chair Leshure** thanked **Mr. Donovan** and **Mr. Martins** for the informative presentation

#### **IX. Citizen Comments and General Correspondence**

**Ann Pinkham** commented that overall safety was much better at this year's Pumpkinfest. However, the day after Pumpkinfest, she did see a man crossing the street in front of the fish market, not using the crosswalk by Stars. A driver went ballistic as he came out between obstacles. Pedestrian continued to be nonchalant.

#### **X. Town Manager's Items**

##### **1. Efficiency Maine Grant for Electric Vehicle Charging Stations**

**Max Johnstone** from the Mid-Coast Economic Development District (MEDD) made **Matt** aware of another Efficiency Maine Grant that, if awarded to Damariscotta, could help finance a small project that the Town already has in the waterfront parking lot plans. The plan already included three electric vehicle charging stations that would be located next to the new public restroom, and out of the 1% flood zone. The Grant would provide the smaller of 50% of the cost or \$5,000 towards purchase and installation of equipment. Electrical costs for the stations would be covered, or at least offset, by the Town's solar array. This project would be consistent with the Town's position as a regional service center. It would be a draw for the increasing popularity of these vehicles and consistent with the Town's objective to reduce fossil fuel use. There are funds in the capital reserve for the Town's matching requirement should the grant be awarded. **Mark Hagar** asked how many stations are projected. **Matt** replied three but that they want to build to be expandable. It would take 18 months for installation. **Amy Leshure** asked how much one station was. **Matt** replied about \$1200-\$1300 but he did not know the installation cost. **Josh Pinkham** asked where the solar array power would come from. **Matt** said the restroom itself. **Josh** felt they needed to get an estimate of how much of the array power would be used. **Amy Leshure** asked if it would be seasonal. **Mark Hagar** asked if it was free. **Matt** said it could be year-round and typically these are free to encourage their use. As a service center, it would be available to potential customers while they shopped. Ultimately, the Town would decide whether or not to charge for the use, but suspects the Town would pick up the cost. **Matt** envisions a three hour limit on parking in these spaces. An example was given that in some charging areas, the charge time varies meter to meter. It was suggested that all stations be set to charge equally fast. Volkswagen and Volvo are currently the fastest charging. **Mark Hagar** asked if VW had grants available. **Matt** said he didn't know, but felt it would be unlikely money would filter down to the Town.

**On motion (Abbotoni/Leshure) to authorize the Town Manager to submit an application for this grant funding opportunity from Efficiency Maine.** **Vote: 4-0-0**

## **2. Bicentennial Celebration**

The local Historical Society in conjunction with Lincoln County Historical Society is planning a series of events to celebrate the third week in August 2020.

## **3. LED Lighting**

Real Term is assisting with municipal purchases, especially in Knox County and Waldoboro. You need 500 street lights to qualify (Wiscasset and other towns would need to join in to reach 500). It would give the Town more control over the lights. Technology has improved so there are more incandescent than just blue. **Mark Hagar** asked how many lights we currently have. **Matt** said 104. He needs to check options. CMP will convert. **Matt** said there is a savings in municipal ownership as we are currently paying CMP for fixtures and poles over and over again. **Amy Leshure** asked about the timeline. **Matt** said no goal has been set yet.

4. **Matt** updated the Board on the Nature Conservancy grant application that the Board authorized at the October 2 meeting. Using just the Efficiency Maine funds that are available for LED conversion of office lighting, the payback period for the Police Department offices would be 1.4 years while the payback period for Town Hall lighting conversion would be 7.5 years. If the Town is awarded the Nature Conservancy grant, the payback period for the Town's share of the cost will be much shorter

## **5. Miles Street Update**

The retaining wall fix is awaiting DEP approval. **Josh Pinkham** stated the sooner the better, DEP should be glad town is taking on the project. **Matt** felt they should hear by October 24<sup>th</sup>. DEP had concerns about constructing below high tide lines. Town is concerned about erosion.

## **6. Service Center Coalition**

**Matt Lutkus** and **Mark Hagar** represent Damariscotta. There was a long discussion about dues. Small changes to the regular Charter were made. Dues changed to \$500/year with half price for those who join initially. The legislative agenda contained 4 items:

- a) Increase fuel tax to help fund State highway system. DOT is not keeping up.
- b) homeless shelters in larger communities
- c) continue to want the option of local sales tax
- d) marijuana use should get some of the revenues collected by the State

## **7. Economic Development Grant**

The grant is moving through the process. Major part of it, parking lot, drainage, etc. looks good. They will not fund "studies". **Matt** stated that revenue sharing for 2020 will see some money because taking the excise tax (vehicles) away from towns to go to the state will increase revenue sharing. **Josh Pinkham** asked about user fees for electric cars. They don't pay a fuel tax but use the roads. **Mark Hagar** said there is a Blue Ribbon Committee to look into this so they pay their fair share, but not directly from fuel tax. He felt they needed to stay on top of this. **Josh** said as long as the State keeps taking, we need to figure it out on the local level. **Matt Lutkus** said we need to get revenue sharing back to 5%.

## **XI. Official Action Items**

### **1. Purchase of Fuel Oil and Propane for Town Facilities**

Colby and Gale came out on top with their proposal. They are an excellent community partner. Matt checked with several other firms, but did not go the bid route. They have historically treated the Town fairly and he felt it was a win/win situation.

**On motion (Abbotoni/Hagar) to waive the Town Charter bid guidelines and authorize the Town Manager to execute a contract with Colby and Gale for the purchase of #2 fuel oil and propane for the period extending through September 30, 2020.**

**Vote: 4-0-0**

### **2. Special Election to fill Board Vacancy**

The resignation of Amy Leshure created a vacancy on the Board of Selectmen that must be filled before next year's Annual Town Meeting in June. The Charter requires that if a seat becomes vacant more than 4 months prior to the Annual Meeting, special election must be held. To save costs, it is recommended the special election coincide with the state-wide primary on March 3, 2020. (Cost for this election is \$3034) An alternative could be a local election prior to March. The State statutes provide a process that could reduce the time frame and Matt provided that information to the Selectmen prior to this meeting.

Options for an earlier election are December 16<sup>th</sup>, January 2<sup>nd</sup>, or January 30<sup>th</sup>. Cost would be \$1084 but there would be a limited turn out. **Mark Hagar** felt it should be scheduled to get the best turn out possible. **Josh Pinkham** questioned that if 2 were away, there was no quorum. **Lou Abbotoni** reminded the Board no one can vote by video. **Josh** felt they needed to check the schedule as the budget is done in mid-March. It was decided that in the interim communication was essential if someone was going to be out.

**On motion (Hagar/Pinkham) to set the date for a special election to fill the unexpired term on the Board of Selectmen for March 3, 2020.**

**Vote: 4-0-0**

### **3. Y-Not Deli Liquor License**

The owners of Y-Not Deli originally had a liquor license for beer and wine only which had been approved without any comments from the public. The State said if they paid the \$400 licensing fee the State would approve licensing without a public hearing. Matt Lutkus said this could be done with an amendment.

**On motion (Pinkham/Leshure) to amend the original license approval to read for all spirituous beverages.**

**Vote: 4-0-0**

### **XII. Selectmen's Discussion Items**

**Josh Pinkham** wanted to thank Matt for Pumpkinfest and all the organization and work. He asked about the Bristol electric rate and if they decided to join us. Matt said they approved it at \$0.053 KWH. Price is locked for 4 years, and allows for variable usage (once array is in operation). **Josh** also asked about the status of the police cruiser. **Matt** said the 2019 was no longer available. The 2020 is more costly. He needs to discuss with the chief. **Josh** asked if Matt could e-mail the estimates to the Board, specifically the Durango vs. Explorer and the time frame. Lastly he wanted to thank Amy for her energy and her work on the Board.

**Lou Abbotoni** and **Mark Hagar** also thanked Amy. **Amy** stated that she really enjoyed her time on the Board. **Robin Mayer** sent a message saying how much she appreciated her work and willingness to

serve, especially with regard to the plastic bag ordinance and the solar array. **Matt Lutkus** shared the same sentiments and said there would be cake and a gift after the meeting.

**XIII. Adjournment**

On motion (Hagar/Pinkham) to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

**Vote: 4-0-0**

Respectfully submitted,

**Lynda L. Letteney**  
Recording Secretary

We, the undersigned, do hereby approve as written, or with corrections as noted, the minutes of the above-designated Board of Selectmen meeting.

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**Roberta Mayer, Chairperson**

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**Louis Abbotoni**

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**Mark Hagar**

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**Amy Leshure**

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**Joshua Pinkham**

Town of Damariscotta, Board of Selectmen, signed this date: 11-7-2019