

MINUTES
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
DAMARISCOTTA TOWN OFFICE
February 17, 2021 5:30 p.m.
Via Zoom

Members: Roberta Mayer, Chairperson; Louis Abbotoni, Mark Hagar, Daryl Fraser and Josh Pinkham (via Zoom)

Members Absent : None

Staff Present: Matt Lutkus, Town Manager; Cheryl Pinkham, Town Treasurer; Lynda Letteney, recording secretary

Others Present Gary Rosenthal (Planning Board); S. Hagar; Doug Morton; Haas Tobey; and Evan Houk, Lincoln County News

I. Pledge of Allegiance: Chairperson Mayer led the Pledge of Allegiance at 5:30 p.m.

II. Public Hearing for a Liquor License for the Barn Door Baking Company, LLC

The public hearing for a liquor license for the Barn Door Baking Company was opened at 5:33 p.m. The Chair did not see any speakers to the application and closed the hearing at 5:35 p.m.

III. Call to Order

The Board of Selectmen's Meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. **by Chairperson Mayer**

IV. On motion (Pinkham/Abbotoni) to approve a liquor license for the Barn Door Baking Company, Main Street, Damariscotta, Maine. **Vote: 5-0-0**

V. Minutes

On motion (Abbotoni/Fraser) to approve the minutes of February 3, 2021, as distributed.

Vote: 4-0-1

(Mayer abstaining-absent 2/3/21)

VI. Financial Reports

1. On motion (Mayer/Abbotoni) to approve Payroll Warrant #45 **Vote: 5-0-0**

2. On motion (Mayer/Abbotoni) to approve Accounts Payable Warrant #46 **Vote: 3-1-1**

(Hagar abstaining/Pinkham in the negative)

3. On motion (Fraser/Abbotoni) to approve Accounts Payable Warrant #47 **Vote: 4-0-1**

(Hagar abstaining-didn't have time to read supporting documentation)

Discussion: This warrant dealt with IDEAL Septic Services. Funding will be provided by the grant-funded project. IDEAL has been working with engineers to figure out an alternative to a pump station at Damariscotta Center. They have met on site with Alan MacPhee, Ross Flood, George Parker and Matt.

VII. Presentations: None

VIII. Citizens Comments and General Correspondence

Chairperson Mayer said she had received a phone call for a waiver on the petition requirements for non-profits on the Town Warrant. Caller was talking about a carbon tax and she was to send details to Robin. She was told to send the info and they would schedule a hearing/presentation for the March 3rd

meeting. She has not heard back. **Matt Lutkus** interjected that it is illegal for Towns to collect any taxes other than property.

IX. Town Manager's Items

1. Parking Lot - Work is proceeding with the sewer line. They have left the pump station design and moved around it. There have been 2 bids received for the pump station. This needs to get EDA approval to get the grant to cover it. The deadline for 30% to be done is fast approaching. There is a Waterfront Improvement Committee meeting March 8th. In the next week Matt is planning a public meeting with PowerPoint via Zoom for all citizens. **Josh Pinkham** felt it should be held separately from a Board meeting to allow time for explanations and questions. **Lou Abbotoni** agreed. Consensus was to have the PowerPoint meeting on **March 16th at 4:30 p.m.**

Robin Mayer said that would give time for feedback. She also questioned whether or not we were building a sidewalk on private property. This was broached in 2010, is it being revisited now? Wouldn't we need easements? **Matt Lutkus** responded saying that it is part of the flood protection concept which goes up to Main Street. Plan was to build an asphalt path to Schooner Landing. This is primarily a safety factor as there is not much room at that entrance for two-way traffic as it is. The driveway on the west side down to the Landing is a hazard. We need to see if we have alternatives between Schooner Landing and the Parking Lot for safety. **Mark Hagar** asked if this was the right time to talk about making it one-way coming in the west end by Narragansett and exiting on the east end by Reny's. **Matt** said it comes up regularly. One of the problems is congestion during the summer with traffic backing up onto Main Street from Water Street.

Mark Hagar said he still felt it needed to be discussed. **Lou Abbotoni** said that if two vehicles are coming and going at the west end, it is very tight, and causes a safety issue. **Haas Tobey** said this has been an "off & on" discussion for 6 or more years. **Matt Lutkus** said the first step is for the Town to acquire the whole driveway which is now shared with the Narragansett Building. That is the only way the Town can be 100% sure that the driveway won't be blocked. **Robin Mayer** asked if this would take away parking? **Matt** said the concept was to make sure there was no traffic obstruction. They could try it for a season and see how it goes. However, the incline on Water Street is quite slick with ice in the winter. **Mark** said he appreciated what has already gone into this, but he's looking down the road 20 years from now; we have to do the best we can with the information we have. **Robin** suggested maybe trying the one-way direction this summer and see what happens? Give everyone time to think about it. **Matt** said he has concerns, but it is a Board decision. **Mark** thought Robin had a good idea. **Matt** felt it would be very confusing for residents let alone visitors. **Daryl Fraser** thought they should try it-he's always felt it should be one-way. **Haas** felt if you were going to try it, you should do it with regular traffic volume not when things were "light." **Doug Morton** suggested "car monitoring" with car counting in and out. **Lou** added that it was very difficult to go left out of Water Street. **Robin** added it was also very hard near the fish market to go left. **Doug Morton** left the meeting citing that he was glad to hear there was no Trump Casino planned for the parking lot. **Matt** asked if the Board had any specific direction for him. **Robin** said everyone needed to think about it first; it'll be an agenda item next meeting for full discussion.

2. Timeline for Town Warrant Articles

The timeline was distributed last meeting. There were no questions.

3. Selection of Spirit of America Tribute and Annual Town Report Dedication Honoree(s)

Matt reminded the Board that their selections need to be in to Matt via secret ballot by the end of the month.

4. RFP for Church Street Survey/Engineering/Design

Matt is going to delay the deadline for this. There is a question on the right-of-way as Church Street was the old Route 1. There is a right of way on file with the State that goes back to the 1920's/30's. He will need to get the paperwork together. RFP due late March.

X. Official Action Items

1. Maine DOT - Main Street Sidewalk Grant

At the last meeting the Board approve 4-5 items, but neglected to allocate money from capital reserves. The grant is for \$48,000 and \$12,000 is the local match which will be funded by future TIF monies.

On motion (Fraser/Abbotoni) to approve an expenditure of \$12,000 out of sidewalk capital reserve funds for the local match for the Main Street Sidewalk and Bikeway Project. Vote: 5-0-0

IX. Selectmen's Discussion Items

Josh Pinkham - Wishing Daryl well. Budget choices coming up and there could be some hard decisions. Stay safe.

Daryl Fraser – Nothing

Lou Abbotoni - Lou asked about the funds for the needy- how much has been used, how is it going?

Cheryl Pinkham said about 15 cards have been used for food and gas-not that many. **Robin** suggested announcing in the newsletter the availability of gift cards for fuel and food. On another note, **Lou** asked about the Information Center acquisition. **Matt** said they had a zoom call about 6 weeks ago where they said they were willing to sell the building to the Town-no further response. **Matt** is awaiting a draft Memorandum of Understanding, but still does not have it. He sent a reminder last week. As the current potential owner, it will need a driveway permit.

Mark Hagar - Mark wanted to re-emphasize for the citizenry that the Covid-19 monies received from the State and Federal governments have been put to good use, and ultimately will have saved taxpayers a lot of money for things that were on the "to do list" over the next couple years. New ventilation systems are all digital (\$260,000 so far); \$60K has been used for hands free faucets and flushes; drinking fountains have new filtration and new outside learning spaces have been built. These were all items the district would have had to add to the budget over the next couple years, but have been accomplished with the Covid monies. Stay positive.

Robin Mayer - Nothing; stay safe; watch the slippery ice

XII. On motion (Mayer/Hagar) to adjourn for an Executive Session for discussion of Police Officer Collective Bargaining Agreement Negotiations per 1 M.R.S.A. 405(6)D at 6:15 p.m. Vote: 5-0-0
(Recording paused)

XIII. Action on Executive Session

On motion (Pinkham/Hagar) to approve the Police Officer Collective Bargaining Agreement per 1 M.R.S.A. 405(6)D with the Damariscotta Police Union Vote: 4-1-0
(Mayer in the negative)

X. Adjournment

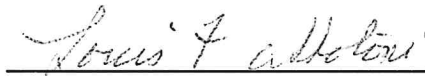
On motion (Pinkham/Fraser) to adjourn the Board of Selectmen's meeting at 6:50 p.m. Vote: 5-0-0

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 on February 17, 2021.


Roberta Mayer, Chairperson


Louis Abbotoni


Daryl Fraser


Mark Hagar


Joshua Pinkham

Town of Damariscotta, Board of Selectmen, signed this date: 5-4-2021