

**Town of Damariscotta
Board of Selectmen's Meeting
Minutes
Wednesday, April 5, 2017**

The Board of Selectmen met on Wednesday, April 5, 2017, members present were Robin Mayer, Ronn Orenstein, George Parker, Jim Cosgrove, and Mark Hagar. Staff present was Town Manager-Matt Lutkus, Deputy Clerk- Cheryl Pinkham, and Interim Police Chief-Jason Warlick. Others present were LCN reporter Maia Zewert, and resident Jim Campbell.

I. Call to Order

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Minutes

1. March 15, 2017

Pinkham told the BOS she has not completed the minutes yet.

IV. Financial Reports

1. Accounts Payable Warrant #45

On motion of Mayer/Orenstein moved to approve AP#45. Vote 5, 0, 0

2. Payroll Warrant #46 & #47

On motion of Pinkham/R. Mayer moved to approve PW#'s 46 & 47. Vote 5, 0, 0

V. Presentations-No presentation

VI. Citizen Comments & General Correspondence-

Lutkus relayed a letter from Mrs. Blount who is unhappy with the town Planner and Code Officer about tree trimming that has taken place.

Mayer asked that the Code Enforcement Officer look into the complaint to make sure they're in compliance with Town Ordinances.

Lutkus also relayed a letter from the Legislative Liaison about the governors proposed budget included making the reduced revenue sharing, a more permanent allocation in the State budget versus allowing it to ratchet back up to its previous 5% level. Six members, including our Senator Dana Dow, voted to keep the 2% cap in the budget and perhaps cut the percentage to even less than the current 2%.

Cosgrove is very disappointed that our Senator Dow was not in support of this, we just had him here to voice our concerns a few weeks ago; it's just very disappointing that he didn't hear us.

VII. Town Manager Items:

1. Senior Citizen Property Tax Relief Ordinance-

Lutkus mentioned the senior citizen tax deferral program allowed under State Statute, effective July 2010; in order for the Town to take advantage of this program the Town would need to adopt its own ordinance. The State has guidelines that must be met, and the Town

cannot create a more restrictive Ordinance than the State's current statutes. Some of the criteria items include the resident must be 70 or older, taxes can be deferred until the home is sold or the resident passes away; charge an interest rate at a ½% higher than the regular tax collection rate. Lutkus said there are a host of administrative duties for reporting to the state, the potential of reducing the cash flow for town funds which will need to be made up somehow and could lead to higher taxes and/or cuts to services.

Cosgrove added that this deferment could go on for 10-15 years, during which time the house value is less than taxes owed to the municipality. If we consider the ordinance we need to look into adding applicable restrictions and not just a blanket 70 year old eligibility or approval, possibly financial hardship, or some.

Hagar feels for our residents who are struggling to pay their taxes, we need to put some type of program together.

Lutkus reiterated that the Town is unable to create a more restrictive ordinance.

Parker pointed out that there are quite a few municipalities that did not opt to adopt this type of program.

Hagar believed the town could start budgeting for that shortfall in tax revenue, start with a small figure and build from that depending on the participation. We could discuss this at town meeting to see what residents are receptive to.

Cosgrove agreed and would like more information to see what else is involved with adopting this type of program/ordinance.

Mayer questioned when this would need to be decided in order to put before voters.

Lutkus said it was very soon, may be too much of a crunch to get an ordinance ready for the Annual Town Meeting.

Hagar echoed to just get the information, we can give it to the voters and see what they feel.

Lutkus suggested utilizing a survey may be a way to reach more residents.

2. Disposition of Property in Police Department-

Warlick would like to sell a patrol rifle that the DPD purchased years ago from the Lincoln County Sheriff Dept, but must be sold to a government entity or to the military. Currently the town purchases all firearms through Windham Weaponry; Warlick would like permission to sell the gun to them to retain a credit at Windham Weaponry which the town would use to purchase ammunition and firearms. This would relieve the department of a rifle we have no use for, while funding firearms (& necessities) purchases without having to tap the budget for that expense. Warlick feels this is a win-win option for the Board, and PD.

Mayer wanted to make sure the department has a replacement to use in place of the AR15.

Warlick confirmed they currently have to patrol rifles. Also added that he did contact Mark Doe at Louis Doe to see about this same but he is unable to purchase the weapon under his current permits.

On motion of Mayer/Hagar moved to authorize Interim-Chief Warlick to dispose of rifle to Windham Weaponry.

Vote 5, 0, 0

Warlick also asked the BOS to accept a gift from Rite Aid who is the recipient of a grant which provides 'Drug Take Back Boxes'. Warlick said the box is similar to the blue postal boxes, with a locking mechanism that allows the deposit of medication but won't allow the withdrawal of the medication. The box will be bolted to the floor of the PD, there is no cost to the town for this.

On motion of Cosgrove/Parker moved to accept the Drug Take Back Box gift from Rite Aid.
Vote 5, 0, 0

Warlick distributed DPD stats as well as surrounding departments and LCSO, for comparison and believes this demonstrates a proactive police department, instead of a reactive department; shows the officers are working hard and being vigilant, which thwarts crime. They're being seen, walking downtown checking doors, getting to know their community.

3. Update on Ordinance Format Review-

Lutkus sent the drafts out, hope for the public hearing to be held on May 2nd.

4. Bristol Road Project Update

Lutkus passed along the official word on Bristol Rd sidewalk will not occur until the spring of 2018; ROW acquisition should be completed by December of 2017. We had hoped to go through the utility process but utility companies want to piggy back the State's efforts. On a bright side the State is including the new culvert for the tidal basin at Day's Cove. MDOT's 3 year plan includes light capital pavement to be done later in the year.

5. Midcoast Leadership Academy Presentation-

Lutkus will be in Camden tomorrow for the Midcoast Leadership Academy for his presentation on how Damariscotta has been working on storm surge and rising tide measures in place.

VIII. Official Action Items:

1. Elm Street Project Request for Proposals-

On motion of Cosgrove/Parker moved to approve RFP for Elm Street Project.

Mayer asked when Lutkus believed the project could get going.

Lutkus said the project is scheduled for spring with a completion date around the end of June.

Vote 5, 0, 0

2. Cemetery Deed & Perpetual Care Agreement with Mary B. Bailey-

On motion of Mayer/Orenstein moved to approve Cemetery Deed & Perpetual Care Agreement with Mary B. Bailey
Vote 5, 0, 0

IX. Selectmen's Discussion Items-

Parker announced he has officially taken out nomination papers for Board of Selectmen

X. Continuation FY2018 Budget Review

Police Dept-

There were no questions on the Police Department Budget.

Warlick believed the department could squeeze a little more time from the truck, have priced out Ford Explorer, Dodge Durango, and Chevy Tahoe. Suggested the Town try to sell the truck by requesting sealed bids, if the bids come in lower than a trade in value, reject the bids and trade in the truck.

Mayer questioned if there was any way the town can re-coupe the costs of the officers when they are backing up another agency outside of Damariscotta. Concerned that our own residents may need police assistance, but our police officer is out of town covering unable to assist.

Lutkus didn't think there was a way to recoup costs.

Mayer would like to Lutkus to check into IACP on how they store information.

Mayer noted that Representative Devin is working on a Special Education bill to have it fully funded.


Mayer thanked Lutkus and the department heads for coming in with a level as could be budget.

XI. Adjournment-

On motion of Cosgrove/Parker moved to adjourn meeting at 7:11 p.m.

Vote 5, 0, 0

Respectfully submitted,


Cheryl M. Pinkham, Deputy Clerk

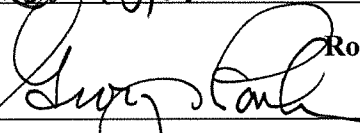
We, the undersigned, do hereby approve as written, or with corrections as noted, the minutes of the above-designated Board of Selectmen meeting.



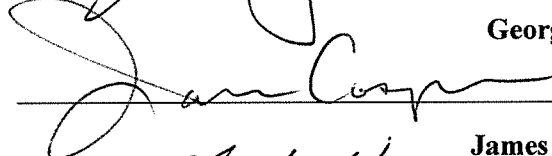
Roberta Mayer



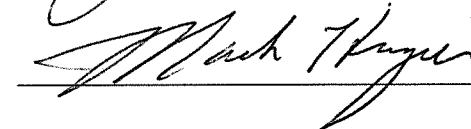
Ronn Orenstein



George Parker



James Cosgrove



Mark Hagar

Town of Damariscotta, Board of Selectmen, Signed this date _____