

**Town of Damariscotta, Maine  
Board of Selectmen  
Meeting Minutes  
August 1, 2018, 5:30 PM  
Damariscotta Town Hall**

The Board of Selectmen met on Wednesday, August 1, 2018. Board members (BOS) present were Robin Mayer, Ronn Orenstein, Mark Hagar, Amy Leshure, and Louis Abbotoni. Staff present were Matt Lutkus-Town Manager and Michelle Cameron-Town Clerk. Others attending were Karen O'Bryan-resident & for LCTV and Jessica Picard-LCN.

- I. Pledge of Allegiance**
- II. Call to Order-Board of Assessors' Meeting: see separate minutes**
- III. Call to Order:** R. Mayer opened the meeting at 5:39 PM
- IV. Minutes:**
  - 1. July 18 meeting: **On motion Abbotoni/Orenstein moved to approve the 7/18 meeting minutes. Vote 4-0, Mayer abstained.**
- V. Financial Reports:**
  - 1. Payroll Warrant #5: **On motion Mayer/Abbotoni moved to approve PY Wrnt #5. Vote 5-0**
  - 2. Accounts Payable Warrant #6: **On motion Abbotoni/Mayer moved to approve AP Wrnt #6. Vote 5-0**
- VI. Presentations: NONE**
- VII. Citizen Comments and General Correspondence:**
  - 1. Invitation from LincolnHealth-Ribbon Cutting/Celebration: Lutkus reminded BOS that the celebration is on August 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM. He asked the BOS to let him know if they are attending and if they are bringing a guest.
  - 2. Attorney Amanda Meader's response re: Stepping Stone: Lutkus said that he forwarded Meader's response via email to the BOS for informational purposes.
- VIII. Town Manager Items:**
  - 1. Report on Boston Cane Presentation: Lutkus said that the presentation to Harry Emmons went very well.
  - 2. Public Hearing on YMCA Grant Award on August 15: Lutkus reminded the BOS that in two weeks the town is holding the hearing on the grant.
  - 3. Workshop with Land Use Committee on August 15: The BOS will hold a workshop at 5:30.
- IX. Official Action Items:**
  - 1. **Auditing Services Contract:** Lutkus stated that four proposals had come in. A review panel comprised of Cheryl Pinkham, Louis Abbotoni and Matt reviewed them and are recommending RHR Smith & Co, given the pricing, municipal experience and that the town has used them before. Their audit price is \$7,000 per year. Lutkus said that the recommendation is not a negative against our current auditors. **On motion Mayer/Orenstein moved to take the recommendation of the review panel to contract with RHR Smith & Co for auditing services. Vote 5-0**

**2. Maine Municipal Association Election Ballot:** Lutkus mentioned that there are no more candidates than positions available on the ballot. **On motion Abbotoni/Mayer moved to allow Lutkus to fill out the ballot on their behalf. Vote 5-0**

**3. Contribution to Raise the Floor Initiative:** Lutkus explained that he and Mayer attended an information session arranged by proponents of legislation that would set a minimum allocation of State funding for education. Fayette Town Manager Mark Robinson and Fayette Selectwoman Nancy Norris led the discussion. In addition, the town manager and another staff person from West Bath were there as were Chris Hall, Bristol Town Administrator and Kristin Collins from lobbying firm PretiFlaherty. Lutkus said what tends to happen is that towns with higher valued properties get less subsidy funding regarding the State's Essentials Programs and Services (EPS). What this proposal would set a minimum percentage. We currently receive between 9% and 12%, which is still on the low side. Lutkus said this is a good way to try to lower our reliance on property taxes. Lutkus said the contribution of \$1000 would go towards the lobbying effort.

Mayer said the beauty of this initiative is that the formula does not have to change. It would be helpful going forward to know if we would have 15% in subsidy instead of 6%. She said these folks are going to all the towns because the election is in November and they are hoping for legislative support.

Hagar asked where the \$1000 would come from.

Lutkus answered, it would be taken out of contingency.

**On motion Mayer/Orenstein moved to authorize the Town Manager to contribute \$1,000 to the Raise the Floor Initiative lobbying effort. Vote 5-0**

**4. Selectmen's Discussion Items:** (Agenda was numbered this way): Leshure asked if the BOS is ready to move forward with the Plastic Bag/ Polystyrene Foam ordinance. She mentioned that there were a few changes she had made in the draft she had emailed. She listed them as follows:

What if people purchase polystyrene for a party/function from outside the town? Can they use it? (yes it can be used- see PROHIBITIONS b through f)

Concern that all stores would turn to paper bags instead of encouraging patrons to use reusable options - see PROHIBITIONS g - a modest .25 cent bag fee will encourage community members to bring their own bags.

Privacy/integrity concerns for cards & medical prescriptions - see DEFINITIONS Greeting Card Bag or Paper Pharmacy Bag.

Orenstein mentioned that the violation section should be looked at-seemed open ended.

Mayer asked if stores like Hannaford or Main Street Grocery would not be able to package meat in polystyrene. It looks like this is prohibited in the draft ordinance. Mayer brought up the fact that some meat is prepackaged out of state. Does this mean the stores can't sell that product if it's packaged in polystyrene. She said she feels that if we go too extreme, the ordinance will not pass. She asked if other towns have passed this.

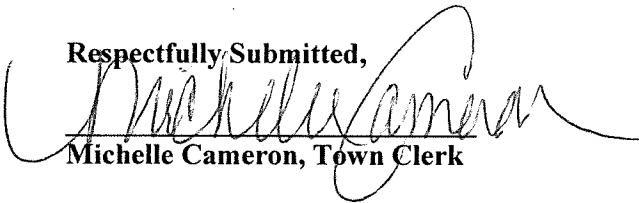
Leshure answered that she would look into that. She mentioned that prohibition B could be worded to only effect local distribution and not a company from out of town or state.

Lutkus said he it would be a good idea to send the draft to Hannaford and Main Street Grocery to get their feedback.

The BOS discussed enforcement and how violations would be defined. The Board will continue to discuss the draft in the workshop following the meeting.

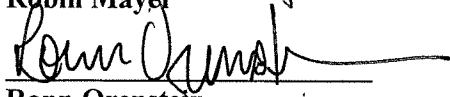
**5. Adjournment:** (Agenda was numbered this way) **On motion Abbotoni/Orenstein moved to adjourn at 6:35 PM. Vote 5-0**

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Michelle Cameron, Town Clerk

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

  
Robin Mayer

  
Ronn Orenstein

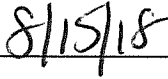
  
Mark Hagar

  
Amy Leshure

  
Louis F. Abbotoni

Town of Damariscotta, Board of Selectmen

Date

  
8/15/18

