

**Town of Damariscotta
Board of Selectmen's Meeting & Budget Minutes
Wednesday, April 4, 2018**

The Board of Selectmen met on Wednesday, April 4, 2018, members present were Robin Mayer, Ronn Orenstein, Mark Hagar, Amy Leshure, and Louis Abbotoni-arrived at 5:34. Staff present was Deputy Clerk- Cheryl Pinkham, Fire Chief John Roberts. Others present were Newcastle Fire Chief- Clayton Huntley, Jefferson Fire Chief & President to Lincoln County Fire Chiefs Association-Wally Morris, Jim Campbell, Lucy Harrington, Andrea Keushgerian, Anny Pinkham, Lorraine Faherty, Scott Abbotoni, Dana Orenstein, Josh Pinkham, Amy Lalime, Patti Whitten, and LCN reporter Jessica Picard.

I. Pledge of Allegiance

II. Call to Order

Mayer called the meeting to order at 5:30p.m.

III. Minutes

1. March 21 Meeting

On motion of Mayer/Orenstein moved to approve March 21st minutes as presented.

**Vote 3, 0, 1 (Leshure abstained;
absent from 3/21 mtg.)**

IV. Financial Reports

1. Payroll Warrant #48

On motion of Mayer/Orenstein moved to approve PW#48.

Vote 4, 0, 0

2. Accounts Payable Warrants #49

On motion Mayer/Orenstein moved to approve AP#49.

Vote 4, 0, 0

Mayer noted the expense report was distributed to each BOS member, please review it and send any questions you may have to Cheryl and we'll discuss them at the next meeting.

V. Presentations-

1. Regional Fire Training Facility-

Mayer questioned if the fire training facility could also be utilized for the Police Department trainings, or first responders.

Huntley believed there were no objections to invite others in the field to utilize the facility as well.

Morris envisions this space to be more of an 'all hazards facility' for police, emergency management, fire fighters and first responders. Morris added that the Fire Fighter Association is trying to establish 11 training sites for the future, currently have 7 training centers but the Wiscasset facility is no longer safe. Huntley added that the Association has a \$200,000 training trailer that could be moved right onto the site if the land sale is approved.

Mayer asked if the Damariscotta facility would be on the fast track for grants since Wiscasset's is no longer safe to use. Mayer feels this is a great idea and will be a terrific addition to the Town.

Roberts echoed Mayer's sentiment adding that the proposed location is also within the hydrant district which is an essential part of the grant process, and should be a big plus when applying.

Mayer suggested holding the public hearing on May 2nd at 5:30 to get public input on the sale of Town property.

VI. Citizen Comments & General Correspondence-

1. Letter regarding Minimum Receiver District Coalition-

The BOS received a letter from the Town of Fayette requesting attendance at their annual meeting and to consider becoming a part of the coalition. The Coalition is trying to figure out a way to get the State to fund the education to the required 55%.

2. Bristol Road Light Capital Paving-

Mayer informed that the State would be doing some light paving on Bristol Rd as well as installing some hard shoulders.

J. Pinkham elaborated with doing sidewalks on one side and then additional from Days Cove Rd to the hospital and eventually trying to get it to the Damariscotta town line.

3. Stepping Stones-

There were no public comments.

Faherty announced that the spring clean-up for Town cemeteries would be occurring soon and if families have any decorations at the cemeteries, the committee is requesting you remove items for the cleanup or risk them being cleaned up/removed by the landscaping contractor. Faherty is also requesting help with the committee as Patti Whitten has been inputting cemetery plot information into the new database. There's a lot of information already added, but still needs help filling in some of the blanks, for example some headstones have dates that are missing. If anyone has a family plot in one of the cemeteries that may be missing this information, please get in touch so we can have an accurate and complete database. If you know of a family member that was a veteran, Towns are mandated to place flags at these gravesites. Any information you may have could be helpful. The cemetery committee will also be putting this plea for help in the LCN.

J. Pinkham introduced himself as a member of an informal organization that will be looking at facts to present to the Town, not here to antagonize Boards. Currently researching and discovered when the Planning Board makes a decision as a vote, the planner should be issuing a Notice of Decision within 7 days of vote, the vote as when the Planning Board raised their hands at the meeting in favor or not in favor. This hasn't been the practice recently, and could have saved a lot of legal money if your planner followed our ordinances. Pinkham is requesting that in the future the planner issues the NOD within 7 days of hands being raised.

Mayer understands Pinkham's and others frustration. The town is currently looking at ways to do better. The issuing of building permits currently has no process to notify residents that a permit has been issued therefore by the time residents are aware, it's too late to appeal the permit. We are working on closing that loop hole, publishing them in the newspaper is something we are considering. C. Pinkham added that the cost for these ads are \$45, and if we've only taken one permit for \$25 then the town is now paying \$45 to let residents know we received \$25. The yearly cost is more than \$2300, we've talked about posting them up on the web site and at town hall, but don't believe weekly advertising is the way to proceed.

J. Pinkham informed the BOS that there are multiple and conflicting appeal processes within our ordinances, there's the Land Use Appeal, Site Plan Appeal, and Board of Appeals appeal and they're all different, suggested eliminating 3 separate appeal processes and just have one. While attending a

recent appeal I noticed the Chairman is voting, but shouldn't be, the Chair should only vote in the event of a tie and at this meeting he was leading the vote almost. The CEO should also be a participant, according to an ordinance, but there's nothing suggesting the town Planner should be so that should be cleaned up a bit. Pinkham believes if these items could be cleaned up, and we could become more consistent with our ordinances and following them we should be able to moved forward and protect the town.

Mayer encouraged J. Pinkham to share his information with the Land Use Advisory Committee, and stated the Town is working on our own training for the Planning Board and Board of Appeals. Campbell wanted to commend the BOS, especially Mayer for their handling of the "outburst and screeching tantrum" that was displayed at the last meeting.

Mayer thanked Campbell adding that residents need to be able to come to meetings and be heard and to state their peace, sometimes people get upset and that's okay.

VII. Town Manager Items:

1. Update on Restrooms-No Update

2. Legal Expense Spreadsheet-

Mayer reviewed the legal expenses spreadsheet noting we have \$22,000 currently expended; Westview Rd culvert was \$3,300, Stepping Stones \$5,536, Elm Street easements \$2,443, Mayer added that the Town needs to do better at controlling these costs but noted the general day to day office legal needs were only \$650.

3. Site Plan Review Ordinance-

VIII. Official Action Items-

1. Donations for flags for Waterfront flag pole-

Mayer called for a motion to accept a donation from Richard Mayer for the Town to purchase flags for the waterfront parking lot.

On motion of Hagar/Abbotoni moved to accept the donation from Richard Mayer for the flags at the waterfront.
Vote 4, 0, 1 (Mayer abstained)

2. Amended contract with Wright-Pierce for Services related to New Waterfront Restroom-

Mayer stated this change is mostly the geo-engineering for geothermal studies.

Orenstein noted the contract states Town of Kennebunkport, Maine, and needs to be corrected.

Mayer questions if going from 4 unisex to separate mens and ladies room, wondering what that will do to the size of the building, with separate mens and ladies room, each one would need the ADA restroom, where if it was 4 unisex stalls, you would just need the one ADA stall. Just something to think about as we're nearing the project.

Hagar believed the BOS were on the right track in adhering to the advice from the Fire Chief and Police Chief from a safety perspective.

On motion of Abbotoni/Hagar moved to approve to amend contract with Wright-Pierce for the Downtown Restrooms.
Vote 5, 0, 0

IX. Selectmen's Discussion Items-

Leshure said she was able to take her children to an Easter egg hunt at the Bristol Fire Station over the weekend and it was nice that they allowed us to participate even though we were not residents. Nicely run event.

Hagar emphasized the fact that Damariscotta is a service center and we need to do more to bring in funds that will offset the costs of maintaining the Town. Working on a few ideas, and have spoken with people from the Democratic and Republican Caucus; if the Town could get a sponsor for our bill it may get us a lot further.

Orenstein suggested people review the recordings for the Planning Board meetings in order to get a picture of what has been taking place, the BOS will be making decisions for the upcoming seats, watching the recordings will give you an idea of the flavor of the meetings.

Mayer stated they are trying to find a way to let people know about building permits issued, so stay tuned for that. Mayer also participated in the Meals on Wheels program last week delivering meals. This is a great program and well thought out, even take into the thought process snow storms in which volunteers may not be able to drive the roads to deliver meals. If you can get a chance to volunteer, you won't be disappointed.

Lalime questioned when the BOS would discuss Stepping Stones like it says on the agenda.

Mayer stated the BOS asked for comment and gave opportunity for such comments, but no one spoke.

Lalime was displeased with the BOS "just asking for comments", believes that isn't the way to address it. Lalime exclaimed that she will be "sending another piece of paper to the Town."

X. Adjournment-

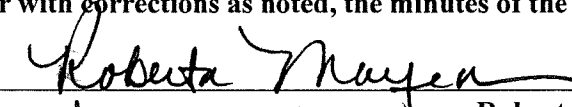
On immediate motion of Hagar/Abbotoni moved to adjourn BOS meeting at 6:24p.m.

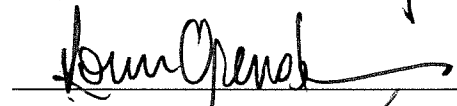
Vote 5, 0, 0

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


Mark Hagar


Amy Leshure


Louis F. Abbotoni

Town of Damariscotta, Board of Selectmen, Signed this date 4-18-2018