

## **SELECT BOARD MEETING**

**July 9, 2020 5:30PM**

**(Remote Meeting)**

### **Quorum noted**

**A. 5:30 PM:** Meeting called to order by Chairperson Donhauser.

**B. Roll Call:** Mr. Donhauser, Mr. Orestis, and Mr. McPherson.

**Absent:** Mr. Lytle (excused).

### **C. Pledge of Allegiance recited**

### **D. Moment of Silence observed**

Tonight's moment of silence was in recognition of all those who have passed away from the pandemic.

### **E. Public Comment:**

**5:31 PM** Mr. Donhauser said that the Selectmen received two letters this past week, one of which is from Mr. and Mrs. Bough and one from Ms. Cerabona, all of which are residents. I was very disappointed that they had to bring this before us. One of the former Select people, a person who has been on the SB in the past, has apparently made disparaging remarks in the social media arena. My purpose in talking about this is just to remind all persons that disparaging remarks towards any individual is unacceptable. The disparaging remarks were aimed at Ms. (Lydia) Goodwin, who is the Director of our public library. There were also gross generalizations on whether or not William Fogg Library does, or does not, enhance our community, as a whole, and I think that's really counterproductive and can mislead the voter. I don't think that's a necessary discussion in the public forum that we need to say whether...some people feel it enhances, some people don't. The library provides many services to many people, young and old, that may seem irrelevant to those who do not seek its services. My Point in this whole conversation is that I would like to acknowledge receipt of those letters from those individuals and ask that any disparaging remarks towards any other individual in the Town should not happen; that it's only counterproductive.

### **F. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)**

**5:33 PM** Motion by Mr. Donhauser, second by Mr. McPherson, to approve the minutes of June 25, 2020, as written.

### **Roll Call Vote:**

**Mr. Donhauser – Yes**

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**Mr. Orestis – Abstained (not present for meeting)  
Mr. McPherson - Yes**

**Unanimous vote to approve motion.**

**Motion by Mr. Donhauser, second by Mr. Orestis, to approve the minutes of June 18, 2020, as written.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Mr. Donhauser – Yes  
Mr. Orestis – Yes  
Mr. McPherson - Yes**

**Unanimous vote to approve motion.**

**G. Department Head/Committee Reports**

**5:35 PM 1) Employee Recognition Program**

Mr. Lee said that the SB and I believe we have excellent staff and that they don't get enough recognition. To that end, I tried to form an Employee Recognition Program wherein each department would nominate one of their own to be considered for a random drawing for our Employee Recognition Program each six months – June and December. The Fire Department did not nominate anyone and, unfortunately, the ECSD has everyone furloughed, so they did not. From the Police Department, Officer Ryan Mazur, was selected as their employee to be recognized and congratulated Officer Mazur for that. Among the administrative staff, Wendy Rawski and Kristina Goodwin, who sadly has moved on to a different job. Ms. Goodwin received 3 votes, and the highest vote-getter among admins, so I want to congratulate Officer Mazur, Ms. Rawski, and Ms. Goodwin for being nominated. The one that was drawn from the hat was the Public Works crew. They did not nominate one of their own, they said that no one person is any more important than any other one; that they nominated their entire crew and they received the recognition, for this six-month period, as being the outstanding employees. So, congratulations to the Public Works Department and displayed a Certificate of Recognition Plaque and said that we have a \$200 cash prize for the folks at the Public Works Department that you guys can do a little something fun for yourselves and enjoy being recognized for your hard work for the Town. I know a lot of people really appreciate our Public Works Department

Mr. Robinson said that I appreciate everything from everyone on the Board. I don't feel as though we are more important than any other department in this

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Town. We try our best and, if we can see fit to do it, I'd like to take this \$200 and have an all-department employee cookout or something and just have everybody get together. That's what I'd like to do with it and I'm sure everyone in the department would feel the same way. We don't get together enough, all of us together, and I think it would just be a good time. Thank you very much.

**5:38 PM** Mr. Lee asked Chief Moya to let Officer Mazur know how pleased we are that he was nominated. He's relatively new to the department but he must be a real standout.

Chief Moya said that he is. He continues to impress us every day. Especially if you get to talk with him, he always has a good fun fact. He's been a great addition.

Mr. Donhauser congratulated the Public Works Department and encouraged all departments to put names in, again.

**5:40 PM**      **2) Appointment of Michelle Meyer to Aging-in-Place Committee**

Mr. Donhauser invited Ms. Meyer to speak.

Ms. Meyer thanked the SB for having me here on the Zoom call and considering my application. As you know, I spend quite a bit of time up in Augusta representing District #2, which is all of Eliot and some parts of South Berwick and Kittery. I sit on the Health and Human Services Committee where we consider quite a bit of legislation around Maine seniors. I think my work up there can be informed by my participation and knowledge of what our Eliot seniors are experiencing. Where some of the gaps are in some of the services and what I might be able to introduce for legislation up there that could benefit the seniors in our Town. Conversely, I could bring back to the committee, and to the seniors aging in place, here in our Town, news of what is happening in Augusta. Sometimes it just doesn't trickle back to our communities a lot of the good work that we're doing. Things like removing some really unfair asset testing so that some seniors on fixed incomes, low incomes, can tap into various programs. We had one bill in front of us, and lots of testimony from Maine seniors, about how they would have a small kitty, a small account of money that they would use to give gifts to their grandkids or they would save for car repair or a new roof, and that would be counted against them when they would be applying, for example, for a fuel assistance program. So, we removed some of those unfair asset tests and I'm not quite sure that that kind of information trickles back to the municipal levels. I feel like I can provide that conduit to Eliot seniors.

Mr. Donhauser said wonderful.

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Mr. Lee said that I would like to recognize Ms. Meyer for introducing legislation, that went through the legislature, that would allow us to do elderly daycare where previously, with TIF money, you could not do elderly daycare, only child daycare. As we got thinking about the needs in our community, that was one of the things the previous administration, myself, and this administration all agree upon. Ms. Meyer managed to get that done for us so that the TIF law now allows that as an economic stimulus. So, if your parents are being taken care of during the day, you can go out and work and not have to worry about them.

**Mr. Donhauser moved, second by Mr. Orestis, that the Select Board appoint Ms. Michelle Meyer to the Aging-in-Place Committee.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Mr. Donhauser – Yes**

**Mr. Orestis – Yes**

**Mr. McPherson - Yes**

**Unanimous vote to approve motion.**

**5:43 PM** Mr. Lee said that I was just informed that the AIP Committee, who had put in for a grant (\$5,000) for five benches down at the Boar Basin, received the grant. Nice work by the AIP putting in a grant to the AARP and getting \$5,000 to enhance the leisure opportunities at the Boat Basin for our seniors.

Mr. Orestis asked Mr. Lee is he is keeping track of how much they've gotten in grants. I feel like that committee is just scooping up every single grant they can possibly find, which is fantastic.

Mr. Lee agreed. I'm not sure of the exact amount but I think this is their third grant in two years

**5:45 PM**      **3) Appointment of Election Clerks**

Mr. Lee said that, with the appointment of the other election clerks, I received an updated version of who Ms. Rawski is seeking to have appointed and read the list of additional nine names.

Mr. Orestis moved, second by Mr. McPherson, that the Select Board appoint the names, as read.

**Roll Call Vote:**

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**Mr. Donhauser – Yes**  
**Mr. Orestis – Yes**  
**Mr. McPherson - Yes**

**Unanimous vote to approve motion.**

**H. Administrative Department**

**1) Town Manager Report(s)**

Mr. McPherson had a comment on Line #9. Mr. Lee wrote a letter to the Cowland's and I don't know if anybody has noticed, when they pull into the Town Hall driveway, but the stone wall that borders my house, Mr. Doherty has put in well over weeks' worth of labor into it and Ton and Cindy and Veronique donated those flowers, all daylilies. Tom Cowland used to teach at Marshwood High School. It was a very generous donation and I just wanted to publicly thank all three of them for that.

**5:47 PM a. COVID-19 Grant \$61,980**

Mr. Donhauser said that we had good news in that the Town of Eliot was awarded a grant under COVID-19 of \$61,980.

Mr. Lee said that the Fire Chief took the lead on this regarding Town actions around additional election costs and managing the Boat Basin. We put in a grant for \$66,000 and the next step is to break that down more finely, as they only wanted general numbers to apply. This money covers the period from June 8 to October 30. Prior to June 8, we did spend a fair amount of money on COVID preparation and that will be reimbursable through FEMA. FEMA usually reimburses 75%, the State 15%, and we pick up 10% but, as I understand it, the CARES Act will now allow the State to pick up the full 25%. So, if we do get the FEMA money and I have every expectation that we will, it looks like that will be an entirely grant-based award and we won't even have a local match.

**5:49 PM b. Closure of Town Office on July 14<sup>th</sup> Election Day (No Correspondence)**

This request is because all Town clerks will be at the polls and would effectively only leave two ladies in our office; that that's not really safe and they can't manage the door. They would have to take paid time off but we are looking for permission to close the Town office.

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It was the **consensus of the Select Board** to close the Town office July 14<sup>th</sup> - Election Day.

**5:52 PM      2) Frost Tufts Lighting Bid – No Bids (No Correspondence)**

Mr. Lee said that we found out, as electricians got back to us, that the gear the engineer specified for us is hard to come by, very expensive, and requires people to be flown in to program it. That is not what we need at Frost Tufts Park. I am working with the company OnTarget to see if they can find equivalent specified lighting fixtures and control components and bring this in at a reasonable price. I did want to follow up that bids did go out, none came back, and we are still moving forward. Right now, I'm trying to sole source with OnTarget to bring this thing in at cost or at least have them specify some different equipment and maybe put it back out to some local electricians, as well as them, and re-bid the whole thing.

**5:54 PM      3) Approve Warrants**

**Mr. Donhauser moved, second by Mr. McPherson, to approve A/P Warrant #142 in the amount of \$14,972.94, dated June 18, 2020; A/P Warrant #144 in the amount of \$269,958.69 dated June 2020.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Mr. Donhauser – Yes**

**Mr. Orestis – Yes**

**Mr. McPherson - Yes**

**Unanimous vote to approve motion.**

**I.      New Business:**

There was no new business.

**J.      Old Business:**

**5:56 PM      1) Capital Improvement Committee (Combined) Draft By-laws (2<sup>nd</sup> Reading)**

This will be added to the next meeting agenda to give the SB time to review and send feedback before approving.

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Mr. Donhauser asked Mr. Lee to bring the public up-to-date on the new administrative union that is forming.

**5:57 PM** Mr. Lee said that we had been negotiating and came to a standstill over some negotiated items, both feeling we should go to a mediator to resolve the remaining issues. Then COVID set in in earnest and we really couldn't get a mediator to come live to do the mediation. Right now, it is in a holding pattern until we can get some State Labor Board mediator to become available to us. He added that it is his understand that that is happening to all mediation disputes right now.

**K. Selectmen's Report:**

**1) Seeking Committee Members**

The SB continues to seek members for various Town committees.

There were no Selectmen's reports tonight.

**L. Executive Session**

There was no executive session.

**M. Adjourn**

There was a motion and second to adjourn the meeting at 5:59 PM.

**VOTE**

**3-0**

**Motion approved**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Ellen Lemire, Recording Secretary**

**S/ Mr. Richard Donhauser, Chair**

**Date approved: July 23, 2020**