

## **SELECT BOARD MEETING**

**May 27, 2021 5:30PM**

### **Quorum noted**

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

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

### **C. Public Comment:**

There was no public comment.

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

**5:31 PM Motion by Mr. Donhauser, second by Mr. McPherson, to approve the minutes of May 13, 2021, as written.**

#### **Roll Call Vote:**

**Mr. Donhauser – Yes**

**Mr. Orestis – Yes**

**Mr. McPherson - Yes**

**Mr. Lytle – Yes**

**Mr. Widi – Yes**

**Unanimous vote to approve motion.**

### **E. Department Head/Committee Reports**

**5:32 PM** Ms. Granfield said we currently have three ongoing recruitments. The assessor, town manager, and a clerk in the Town Clerk's office. We have begun negotiations with two of the unions. To note, we have sent out Town Hall hours and the COVID-19 re-opening update, effective June 1, with public hours Monday through Thursday 7AM to 4:30PM. There will no longer be screening in the lobby area; however, we're still requiring masks only for those not fully vaccinated and social distancing is suggested. Regarding the Board meetings, and such, we are continuing to monitor that; that some boards have started meeting in person and others love Zoom and think it works great. As I indicated previously, we're looking to see if we can have some type of hybrid situation. Wasn't having too much success checking into it until this past week when I did find a good resource. It's a huge, expensive system but suggested the SB take a look. We have Town Hall Streams and we are streaming all of our meetings and, in talking to them, it varies from community to community. The best one I found is over in Sunapee, NH; that I know the manager there so I followed up with her on how well it has been working. They have been using it for the past year and I would encourage you to take a look on Town Hall Streams at their meetings. They have

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a system called “owl” and the sound system is good. The only thing is that it works best with an oval or round table, as it is a 360° camera/system, so I would like your input. I also researched the status of your meetings because, with legislation, the SB normally has to meet in person, and they extended permission for remote meetings with the COVID-19. This would most likely change once the emergency order is lifted but they are seeing a lot of legislation and desire to keep it as it is. A lot of places are getting more public participation or, if a member can’t be there in person. I think we were looking at a hybrid situation where you could be there in person as well as to allow people to Zoom in. We signed a maintenance agreement with Kittery for maintenance of the sewer substations, which has been really positive and effective for us. We know that there are committee vacancies but Planning Board vacancies are really critical and we have two. Our Town Report is out and copies are at the Town Hall. A reminder that election day is June 8<sup>th</sup> and I encourage everyone to get out and vote. Two other things I want to bring up; that after the election, there will be at least one new member and we had talked about having a re-orientation session so everyone is familiar with some of the aspects you all need to be aware of, dos and don’ts and different information you might not be aware of. There is also going to be an elected officials workshop in Saco on August 18<sup>th</sup>, which I would encourage people to attend, especially for new members but also for members that would like a refresh. Also, we are going to be closed Memorial Day.

**5:38 PM        2) Monthly Financials**

Mr. Donhauser said that we are pretty close to the end of the year. I looked at the total and we are well under budget, expenditure-wise.

Ms. Granfield said that I think Mr. Miles is watching that closely. I think we’re in good shape but he doesn’t want anyone to go out there and overspend anything.

**F.        New Business:**

**5:39 PM        1) Reappointment of Wendy Rawski as Registrar of Voters, term to expire December 31, 2022**

**Mr. Donhauser moved, second by Mr. Orestis, that the Select Board re-appoint Wendy Rawski as Registrar of Voters, for a term to expire December 31, 2022.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Mr. Donhauser – Yes**

**Mr. Orestis – Yes**

**Mr. McPherson - Yes**

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**Mr. Lytle – Yes**  
**Mr. Widi – Yes**

**Unanimous vote to approve motion.**

**K. Old Business:**

There was no old business.

**H. Approval of Warrants**

**5:41 PM**      **Mr. Donhauser moved, second by Mr. Orestis, that the Select Board approve A/P Warrant #122 in the amount of \$77,495.70, dated \_\_\_\_\_, 2021; A/P Warrant #124 in the amount of \$73,147.89, dated \_\_\_\_, 2021.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**Unanimous vote to approve motion.**

**I. Selectmen's Report:**

**5:42 PM**      **Mr. Donhauser asked Mr. Lytle how long and how many times have you been a Selectman.**

I have been a Selectman for pretty much 25 years.

Mr. Donhauser said that we know you are not running for re-election and we are saddened by that. We want to recognize your long tenure and participation; that we are giving you a recognition award for your participation. I was unable to get to Town Hall today to pick it up but I promise you will be handed a plaque that notes your generous service to the Town of Eliot. We appreciate everything you've done.

Mr. Lytle said that I also worked at the Transfer Station for about 15 years so it's a total of almost 40 years.

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Mr. Donhauser again thanked him for his service and said that he was always welcome to comment, join, or discuss whatever with any SB member. I'm sure it would be interesting hearing from you. Don't forget about us.

Mr. Lytle said that I won't.

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**5:43 PM** Mr. Donhauser discussed the fire at ARC. I understand there are new owners, asking what caught on fire.

Mr. McPherson said that it was a trash pile but it was a different one from the last time.

Mr. Donhauser asked if it spontaneously combusted.

Mr. McPherson said that I would be out of line even to begin to guess because there are insurance issues, and so forth, that go one and I was on the exterior of that fire at all times. I leave that up to the guys with the white hats and white coats.

Mr. Donhauser asked if there is something our CEO should look into, at least for her perspective. We've had numerous fires there; that I think this is the fourth time. I saw, and have heard from residents that are concerned about what's being stored there, why things are being stored that could be combustible, and why we've had numerous re-occurring fires.

Mr. McPherson said that I think, probably, a sit-down with the Fire Chief with Mr. Donhauser would be the best way for him to describe it to you. My role is strictly to drive and pump. I know they have systems in place and I don't know if they were, or were not, working. Clearly, as a member of the SB, there certainly is an issue there that needs some serious attention. I know water and water supply are issues. With this hydrant system that's going up Route 236, hopefully, not only will it help but maybe they will consider hooking into it and running water up to that facility; that I guess that would be at their expense. Something needs to be done and I'd be overstepping my bounds, as a member of the Fire Department...I think Chief Muzeroll would be the one to sit down and chat with and see what his ideas are, especially after being able to put some thought into it. I would actually like to sit down with him, in my role, and listen to what he has to say.

**5:45 PM** Mr. Donhauser said that I don't know if we need a formal SB meeting but, perhaps, a couple of SB members could meet with Fire Chief Muzeroll and get his take on it.

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Ms. Granfield said that I will talk with the Fire Chief. He came in after the meeting and they were still evaluating everything but I think it would be something worthwhile to have.

**5:46 PM** Mr. Donhauser asked where the trash is coming from. It is being trucked in.

Mr. Widi said that I've actually dumped construction debris there. I don't know if any of you have been into ARC while it's working but there is a trash shed, which is only your professional household trash. Then there's a construction debris section, which is the section that caught on fire, and I actually brought this up with Mr. Lee a year ago right after I got elected. When you cash out, they charge you per tone and then there's a State of Maine fee. I suggested an emergency management-type fee of \$1 to \$2 per ton, in line with what the State does. What happens is trucks, many of which appear to be from Massachusetts (giant tractor-trailer trucks), just fire up a conveyor and fire the stuff off the back; that when you pull out of the way, a guy with a loader comes and pushes it into a giant pile. That pile they load into a type of shredder and, after it's shredded, it gets put into another truck and hauled out. From a private citizen's standpoint, it does not appear that most of that stuff is from Eliot. I think it's pretty safe to say that the overwhelming majority of it is not. I've seen all kinds of stuff where I'm just like horrified. There's no one checking what's dumped. They do have rules, like you can't dump tires, propane tanks, all this stuff, but guess what, I always see a pile of tires, a pile of propane tanks, a pile of all this stuff because no one is actually checking the loads of what's dumped. It's just getting pushed into a giant pile and, maybe, they catch some of it with a magnet but it's pure chaos. If you're in there, the only safety things are that you have to wear a hardhat and a vest...breathing the air and all that stuff. I get it, we have to dump our trash somewhere but we should really examine the emergency management and see, if we can. I know that Mr. Lee reached out to the MMA and he was kind of advised that the DEP handled the waste component of it but my proposal is for something a little different but it didn't go anywhere. I would highly suggest you go in there during business hours. It's alarming and most people don't understand exactly what's happening. It's an issue.

**5:49 PM** Mr. McPherson said that that is not a simple fire to put out. We were drafting out of the brook and we were supplying two engines with that. Then you have to shuttle the rest of the water, which has to be shuttled from the Beech Road hydrant and a hydrant down by the Post Office. I'm not sure how many communities we had involved; that we had Dover, Portsmouth, all the Berwicks, York and Kittery, the Shipyard. It's just a lot of manpower and the only way to put those fires out, and this pile was roughly the size of my house inside a building, once you knock down the flames you have to take every bit of that material outside and wet it down. We had three machines with three firefighters, with their packs, to get all that material out to put it out. There is just too much

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material in there so you have to bring it out a shovelful at a time. If their system is not working, and why it wasn't working I don't know, and that is why I would like to, in my role, sit down with Chief Muzeroll and find out how that works. He certainly knows way more about it than I do. It's quite a process and something needs to change, as far as their system and their commitment to it.

**5:51 PM** Mr. Donhauser said that the Town of Eliot and our Fire Department does not charge to cover those fires.

Mr. McPherson said not that I'm aware of.

Mr. Donhauser said that it was a multi-alarm mutual-aid fire, correct.

Mr. McPherson agreed, saying that I'm not sure if it went to a three-alarm, that it was at least a second alarm fire.

Mr. Donhauser said so, we are impacting other surrounding communities not to mention the debris that's left on-site. It's wet down and that water is going somewhere and there are aquifers throughout there. I think it's worthy that the SB really ought to stand up and really start looking at that, get Code Enforcement involved.

**5:52 PM** Ms. Lemire said that a new business just started; that the PB just approved a business right next door to them – marijuana cultivation; that there are businesses very close to them now, or are going to be, that could definitely be decimated by something like this.

Mr. Donhauser said that my purpose in bringing this whole thing up is to really bring it up on our radar screen and let's pay attention and do something about it. Even if there is a municipal fee that we charge them or whoever charges them, they should have to pay their own way. We shouldn't have to provide free fire service up there.

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**5:53 PM** Mr. Orestis said, regarding the county budget, we voted on it; that I think the email was sent for the Public Hearing next Tuesday. The process is continuing to move along in the Town Manager search and it seems to be moving in the right direction.

Ms. Granfield said that the Committee is doing an excellent job screening through the applicants and they have now narrowed it down to the next screening level. The closing date is June 15<sup>th</sup> and they have a good process in place to weed

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through then go forth with interviews and make some recommendations to the SB to ultimately interview the finalists they recommend.

**5:55 PM** Mr. Donhauser asked, with respect to the tax assessor, do we have applicants for that position

Ms. Granfield said yes. That is being narrowed down to a short list with a couple of qualified individuals that we are checking background and references on. Additionally, Ms. Rawski will be looking at applicants for a new clerk. Both the assessor and clerk had their last day today so the Town Clerk's office will be a bit short-handed for a while.

Mr. Donhauser said that, with respect to the possible Town Hall renovation, we had an interview process with some architectural firms; that that is going to come up in this election as a warrant article. I like the idea of an orientation for new Board members and I think that old Board members ought to do just as well; that I'm sure we don't know some things that we should be doing. This August 18<sup>th</sup> workshop sounds like an interesting thing that everyone should try to make it, if they possibly can. Is that a Zoom meeting or is it going to be in person.

**5:57 PM** Ms. Granfield said that it is going to be in person. I will send the information out so you can take a look at it.

**J. Adjourn**

**Mr. Donhauser moved, second by Mr. Orestis, that the Select Board adjourn the meeting.**

**DISCUSSION**

Mr. Orestis said that I want to thank Mr. Lytle for his service. It's been a pleasure.

Mr. McPherson said, yes sir, Mr. Lytle. Thank you.

**DISCUSSION ENDED**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Mr. Donhauser – Yes**

**Mr. Orestis – Yes**

**Mr. McPherson - Yes**

**Mr. Lytle – Yes**

**Mr. Widi – Yes**

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May 27, 2021 5:30PM (continued)**

**Unanimous vote to approve motion.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Ellen Lemire, Recording Secretary**

**S/ Mr. Bob McPherson, Secretary**

**Date approved: June 10, 2021**