

SELECT BOARD MEETING
September 9, 2021 5:30PM
Town Hall (hybrid)

Quorum noted

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

B. Roll Call: Mr. Donhauser – Acting Chair, Mr. McPherson, Mr. Widi, and Ms. Dow.

Absent: Mr. Orestis (excused).

Pledge of Allegiance recited

Moment of Silence observed for the 9/11 Anniversary

C. Public Comment/Requests:

5:32 PM Gene Wypyski – Update Community & Business Directory

Mr. Wypyski, Creek Crossing, said that I am here to give everyone the Eliot Community & Business Directory; that perhaps some folks have already seen this in the mail. I was here in March. We proposed a business directory for Eliot. I asked for money to print and mail it and this is the result. It was a pretty successful effort. If you open up to where there is a piece of paper it shows that we sent out to about 3,200 to 3,300 addresses in Eliot. We listed 238 businesses and I found 223 businesses in Eliot. Of those, 50 people paid to bold their listing or place a display ad in the directory. It was those display ads I was able to sell to these businesses, which funded the festival. My pitch was that it was exposure for them, it is cheap advertising, it's direct mail, and the Town supports you and that's why we're doing it. If you want to do an upgrade with bolding or a display, 100% goes to a bigger and better festival in the fall. I contacted probably 130 to 140 businesses to get them ponied up. The bottom line was that you guys invested \$7,500 in the project and the Festival Day Committee made \$13,125. Some other benefits, in addition to just having up-to-date information out there, and last one was done in 2013 and I also had one by the Lion's Club done in 1995 and it was startling to see how similar this is in terms of the companies and format, etc. Several times people perceived it as a partnership between the Town and businesses. People perceived me as being a Town officer or Town official; that I explained what my role was and got comments like, "Appreciate the Town reaching out." and "This is good.", "It's free to us.", etc. In other words, "yeah you want money for the festival. We understand that." But, also, people were willing to kind of step into the notion that maybe the Town's starting to reach out to the business community, which I think is positive for Town leadership to know that people are anxious to see that kind of stuff, that kind of synergy start to happen. Thank you for your support and look forward to seeing everybody September 25th, last Saturday in September.

SELECT BOARD MEETING
September 9, 2021 5:30PM (continued)
Town Hall (hybrid)

The SB thanked Mr. Wypyski very much for his efforts. It looks great.

Mr. Wypyski said that I love the Festival and it's a win-win.

D. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)

There were no minutes tonight.

E. Department Head/Committee Reports

5:36 PM 1) Approval of Sewer Allocation - 12 Lilac Lane

Mr. Widi moved, second by Ms. Dow, that the Select Board approve the sewer allocation of 120 gallons per day to 12 Lilac Lane.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Donhauser – Yes

Mr. McPherson - Yes

Mr. Widi – Yes

Ms. Dow - Yes

Unanimous vote to approve motion.

5:37 PM 2) Fire Chief – New Fire Truck Update

Chief Muzeroll said that we are moving forward with the purchase of the truck. We've done two inspections on the vehicle and the third inspection, final inspection, will be done prior to being delivered. Further work should be completed, hopefully, before the 1st week in December. It's been a long process and we're replacing an older truck. There are a number of things I'm going to be coming to the SB for in the future other than what I'm coming to you here. How are we going to pay for the remaining balance, which is going to be around \$300,000. Mr. Miles has some ideas as to how we should pay for it moving forward, whether it comes totally out of the reserve fund or we do a lease/purchase or Master lease program with all the other equipment that the Town is looking to purchase, from dump trucks to police cruisers to everything else. Those are probably things we'll discuss as an agenda item in the middle of next month, or so. The basis for me being here tonight is that the committee has worked very hard, as a group of 10 people, from the department of all different positions to identify how we would like to outfit the truck and what makes sense to outfit the truck, not just move old equipment to a new vehicle but maybe

SELECT BOARD MEETING
September 9, 2021 5:30PM (continued)
Town Hall (hybrid)

upgrade some equipment on that truck. You will see in that list that I gave you that it all comes with a value; that we are looking at about \$23,000 to \$24,000 of additional equipment that would make this top of the line. That is everything from hand tools to hose. There is a clerical error on page 2 where it says recommendations; that it's not \$25, it's \$25,000. I'll entertain any questions, reminding the SB that we were able to allocate \$132,000 from TIF funding to go towards the purchase of this truck so that additional \$25,000 is still within that \$600,000 range, it's just that we saved \$132,000 and took it from another fund. We're not changing the end price, just adding some equipment that we think is necessary. I did provide you with a suggested motion on a separate piece of paper that may help.

5:40 PM Ms. Dow said that there is already a Fire Truck Fund.

Chief Muzeroll said that we already have the Fire Truck Reserve Fund. It's an ongoing addition every year to support this purchase and future purchases.

Mr. Donhauser said that, each year, we add to that fund.

Chief Muzeroll agreed. We are finally getting a bit more aggressive, as we should be, and I think we're in the \$100,000/year range. That's why, when we do the meeting in the future, here, as to how we're going to pay for that, we're going to have specific money that's available and those options and, then, we can make decisions as to how the final check will be written and where that money will come from.

5:42 PM Mr. Widi said a backstory regarding the fire truck, we anticipated it would cost \$500,000 and it came in at \$600,000+. That's why the money isn't sitting there.

Chief Muzeroll said that we paid half of it, up front, to save a few. I think we saved 2½ % by paying \$300,000, up front, of money we already had, this past year. That is something I've tried to do over the years, negotiate a pre-payment. I don't want to give it all to them.

5:43 PM **Mr. Widi moved, second by Mr. McPherson, that the Select Board authorize the Treasurer allocate up to \$25,000 for the purpose of purchasing additional new equipment for the new 2021 Smeal/Spartan Fire Truck. Funds to be allocated from the Fire Truck Reserve Account.**

DISCUSSION

Mr. Donhauser asked if Mr. Tessier had any comments, being here representing the Budget Committee.

SELECT BOARD MEETING
September 9, 2021 5:30PM (continued)
Town Hall (hybrid)

Mr. (Jim) Tessier, Johnson Lane, clarified that I didn't run for the Budget Committee this term so I am no longer a member. As a former member of the Budget Committee, as Chief Muzeroll said, last year there was only \$480,000 allocated in the Fire Truck Reserve Fund and that number didn't get updated until December to the \$600,000. Then, that got bumped up to \$625,000 and now we're at another roughly \$25,000. I'm not in any way criticizing the Chief because we've got a long-term period of about 25 years from the previous truck to this one. It's hard to get accurate numbers but I think, going forward, it would be really helpful to the Town, the Budget Committee, and the SB if we all tried the best we can to periodically update these numbers so we don't get that \$120,000 surprise when we have to order a truck. I think that would help the Town out over time.

5:45 PM Chief Muzeroll said that we are in a long process of purchasing the difference between purchasing the 2002 fire truck, which was the last one we bought, and guesstimating what a 2021 fire truck would be. There are a number of factors that are involved with the purchase of a new vehicle. No one was more surprised than I was when this bare-minimum truck came in at; that I understand what Mr. Tessier is saying in that it was a best-guess scenario. We have a little bit more heightened awareness as to where the industry is going year after year after year and we have some formulas that have been provided to us that will help us with cost factors in the future. Some things that we cannot control are material costs and labor costs. Those are what's basically driving the cost of this vehicle. Yes, the vehicle was \$625,000. For Ms. Dow's benefit, we were able to trade in the other vehicle, which no other manufacturer or rep would allow us to do, for \$25,000. So, it will go out the door, somebody else is going to buy it somewhere along the line for whatever they use it for, so the actual cost to the Town is \$600,000. Yes, we paid half up front and a lot of that decision was based on the fact that of what we had for money and what we thought was going to happen over the next 18 months.

5:47 PM Mr. Donhauser asked what makes a fire truck wear out.

Chief Muzeroll said that, in this case, the replacement of this one is mostly the use of the pump, itself, and the cost-factor to re-build or refurbish it. Once a fire truck approaches the 20-year mark, or the 25-year mark, it becomes increasingly difficult to get parts off the shelf. Trucks are made of old razor blades now. They're not made out of raw steel. We don't know where the steel is coming from or how the aluminum was manufactured. So, we started seeing body wear-and-tear. It's like a car with 150,000 miles on it, after awhile it just doesn't make sense to keep throwing money into it because all you're going to have is a \$20,000 vehicle. My biggest concern is that we pump-test these things every year to support the insurance surfaces office and that truck we are replacing does not

SELECT BOARD MEETING
September 9, 2021 5:30PM (continued)
Town Hall (hybrid)

pass, on a yearly basis, the requirements to keep it as a front-line pumper. That's another driving cost and this vehicle, itself, is an expensive re-furb. It was going to be around \$60,000 to \$65,000 to get the pump replaced and do all the things that need to happen. But, when you get it all done, you still have a 1996 vehicle

DISCUSSION ENDED

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Donhauser – Yes

Mr. McPherson - Yes

Mr. Widi – Yes

Ms. Dow - Yes

Unanimous vote to approve motion.

5:48 PM 3) Fire Chief – Radio Communication System

Chief Muzeroll said that we had suffered a failure in our new radio computer repeater system and, according to everyone, we did not expect to lose our antenna, which is actually transmitting and receiving our emergency signals, both for the Fire Department and the Police Department. We started noticing a degradation in the ability to effectively communicate. Shortly after we had the wind event, which the insurance company paid to replace a repeater last year. We are still investigating but we think this was part of that initial damage and went unidentified. It continued to degrade and how those connections are made inside the antenna has made it virtually useless. We're back to where we were before. The Police and Fire Departments can't talk on portable. So, after lots of pushing and shoving with 2-Way, they finally got it tested and identified that the antenna needs to be replaced, as it's a non-repairable item. You'll see that I have a proposal for them to the tune of about \$6,000. The most expensive portion of the whole thing are the fools that climb the radio tower to replace the equipment. A side story to this is, until that antenna is down on the ground, they cannot effectively determine whether it is broken. I'm hoping, with their verbiage, that I'll be able to file an amendment to our initial insurance claim and that we can recover some of this money. That is why that motion reads the way that it does; that just in case we can't, we need to pay for it. It isn't something I or the Police Chief have in our budgets. The extra \$1,000 in the motion is just in case something else is determined that it needs to be replaced once they get it down off the tower, which is the one out behind York Woods on Route 236. Either way, I will authorize them, and push them, and they are going to repair it next Friday, weather permitting. For the sake of safety, I told them to go ahead and do it...if I have to pay for it out of Bobby's pocket (chuckles all around). This is a rarity.

SELECT BOARD MEETING
September 9, 2021 5:30PM (continued)
Town Hall (hybrid)

I've had some assurances from 2-Way and Motorola that they very, very rarely see that; that this antenna is spec'd to be 160 mph wind-resistant. So, there we are.

5:51 PM Mr. Widi talked with the Treasurer about using some of the extra funds from the Police Department budget from last year and he thought it was better served if that money be used towards funding the School Resource Officer, going forward, because there's a deficit, there, and we could do that without having to use those funds.

Mr. Widi moved, second by Ms. Dow, that the Select Board authorize the Treasurer to pay up to \$7,000 to 2-Way Communication for the repair of the radio repeater antenna. Funds to be appropriated from the Contingency Fund. Any recapture of funds from insurance claims or other means to be allocated back to that fund.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Donhauser – Yes

Mr. McPherson - Yes

Mr. Widi – Yes

Ms. Dow - Yes

Unanimous vote to approve motion.

5:53 PM 4) Town Manager Report

Ms. Granfield said that the **time capsule** is being sealed at Heritage Day at Hammond Park and the Bicentennial Committee is in the process of having a bronze plaque made, which takes several weeks. They just advised me recently that they have scheduled a date to actually bury the capsule Friday, October 15th at 10 AM. We looked at locations and it's going to be somewhere between the gazebo and the park bench. The reason that date and time was selected is that they coordinated it with the school because they want the school children to be a part of it and because they will actually be around 50 years from now. We continue to have several boards with the **Zoom hybrid meetings**. This month the Aging-in-Place Committee and the Board of Appeals will be holding public hearings to see if they are going to forth and adopt that policy. Some positive news with the **American Rescue Plan** – the ARPA funds. I've officially applied for it and we've been having correspondence. We had to fill out a lot of information. Actually, the amount has gone up since the first estimate we received and the amount we'll be receiving is \$729,593.96. Once the funds are received, we are placing them in a separate account and, then, once the SB and the Town determine what uses you want to have for those funds, we can draw it out of those

SELECT BOARD MEETING
September 9, 2021 5:30PM (continued)
Town Hall (hybrid)

accounts. You'll be pleased to hear that we received an initial draft of the **2020 audit** and anticipate that Smith & Associates will provide a presentation to the SB at your October 14th meeting. We've added contact information on the website. The new **Health Officer's** email and phone number so people can contact her if they need to get in touch with her. We have hired **two new employees**. One is Ann Lucgord who is the new recording secretary for the Board of Appeals and can also fill in if we have a need on some of our other boards. We also hired Brendan Crosby as the new Program Coordinator for the Community Services Department. Lastly, I wanted to note that I attended the **York County Manager's Meeting**, they have monthly meetings, and we talked a lot about ARPA funding and what uses the county was using. One thing that will impact our public safety department is that one of the items they will be doing is building a significantly-sized training center there. In particular for Fire, Police, and EMS personnel and this way our folks won't have to go all the way up north, plus, it will be open 24/7 and the departments are excited about that. They can go there to attend their training when they are not working so it should be positive. That's going to be located in Alfred. They have several other infrastructure projects. They are updating the jail, and such. That's all I have to report right now. Any questions I would be happy to answer.

F. New Business:

5:58 PM 1) Approval of Special Town Referendum for November 2, 2021

Mr. Donhauser said that we are basically calling a special meeting and we need a motion to actually do that.

Mr. Widi moved, second by Mr. McPherson, that the Select Board accept the November 2021 Town Meeting Referendum Warrant, as written.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Donhauser – Yes

Mr. McPherson - Yes

Mr. Widi – Yes

Ms. Dow - Yes

Unanimous vote to approve motion.

5:59 PM 2) Request to Disband Solid Waste & Recycling Committee (SW&RC)

Ms. Granfield said that you have a letter from Mr. Tessier and a brief staff report about the request.

SELECT BOARD MEETING
September 9, 2021 5:30PM (continued)
Town Hall (hybrid)

Mr. (Jim) Tessier, Chair, said that a little over a year ago the recycling program was dealing with some significant challenges. We were not able to use the recycling building because of the virus and, as a result, there was almost no recycling going on in Town. There were changes in the recycling world and, as a result, Maine commodities we collect there wasn't a market for or it was a very reduced market so the pricing we were getting went down substantially. Also, the State changed their policy in how they handle funding for redemptions and, as a result, some of the local redemption centers closed. The ones that were still open were charging us pretty high fees to come collect the material so that put us back quite a bit. Shortly after all these problems occurred, the Public Works Director put containers outside the building so people didn't have to go in the building. They could just drop off those materials at those containers outside so that helped us get back into recycling right away. So, here we are a little more than a year later and things at the Transfer Station are almost back to normal. The various markets world-wide are improving a lot. There are more mills coming online; that they produce cardboard and that's helping the recycling efforts. And commodity prices have come up a lot, starting to recover quite a bit. An example of that is the #2 HDPE, which are the milk bottles, over the last several months the pricing for recycling products and those milk jugs has gone up to around \$1.00/pound. I've been on this committee for over 20 years and I have never seen that price much over \$.50, so, that's a substantial increase. The other commodities haven't gone up anywhere near that but they are going in the right direction. Cardboard is going up, aluminum is going up and, even miscellaneous paper, that a year ago there was absolutely no market for and we had to throw that in the trash, the market is actually increasing now and we are selling it, which will be a great help to the Town. As a result of these significant improvements, at our last SW&RC meeting we discussed whether we felt we needed to stay as a committee, because we've been doing this for over 20 years. The committee felt, because of all the improvements and things at the Transfer Station are going really, really well, markets are improving, things are pretty stable, and also talked with the Public Works Director who felt it was an appropriate time to disband the committee. The PW Director said that, if they need some help at some point with some particular issue, he could come to the SB and ask to set up an ad-hoc committee to deal with that specific issue rather than keep our committee on full-time. That's why I'm here. We are recommending you disband the committee but, as part of this process, I really want to thank all the current members of the committee. There's Bud Moynahan, there's Donald Webber, there's Corrine Carignan, there's Pam Mondschein; that they have all been a tremendous help, as well as all the other members who have been a part of this process for the last 20 years. I would really like to call the attention of the SB to Bud Moynahan. He has been on this committee since day one since it started over 20 years ago. In addition to that, he was on the first committee that actually participated in building the recycling building and started recycling in Eliot. He has gone above and beyond the call of

SELECT BOARD MEETING
September 9, 2021 5:30PM (continued)
Town Hall (hybrid)

duty, I feel in the Town and has been a tremendous asset to this committee. One other thing, after I sent out a memo to you requesting a disbandment, I received an email from Rosanne Adams from the Bicentennial Committee requesting that we add something to the Eliot time capsule so I am working with the committee trying to put some things together. What I would ask is, if you agree to disband the committee, for you to set a date at the end of September as a time for disbanding to allow us to work on putting something together. I'd be happy to answer any questions.

6:04 PM

Mr. Donhauser said that, without your committee having some oversight at the Transfer Station, do you think that's a good thing in your own mind. I like the comfort of the committee having some oversight.

Mr. Tessier said that I think that Mr. Robinson (DPW Director) is doing a fantastic job out there. He's paying a lot of attention to the Transfer Station and working with the committee to do a lot but he's also got a great staff. They just recently updated the Transfer Station portion of the Town website. It is super and they have done a fantastic job. I would really encourage you to look at it. The committee put together a map that shows the layout of the Transfer Station and where everything is, and that's on the website, along with many other great updates. So, I think with that, with all the work the committee has done over the last several years, and what Public Works has done, the Town is in really good shape. Back in 2013, or so, the Town was spending over \$400,000/year to run the Transfer Station and, after that, we went to Pay-to-Throw and the food waste program, and that number has dropped down to around \$250,000/year. The Town has been saving substantial amounts of money and the Transfer Station has revenue from the recycling because the Town is doing source-separated recycling bales, explaining that source-separated means that people are separating out their milk jugs and aluminum cans and plastic bottle, and so on. They are feeding the balers and, then, the staff makes the bales. When the staff takes that bale out of the baler, it's a nice clean bale, not contaminated with other things. Because those bales are so clean and well-made, that's a commodity that is desired by the manufacturers. The bales coming out of single-stream recycling, the paper and cardboards are contaminated with broken glass and plastic and vice-versa and, as a result, they are a much poorer quality. I think the Town is well-positioned and I think that Mr. Robinson and his staff are doing a really good job. There's a possibility, if the committee is still around, if you have an issue or Mr. Robinson feels he needs some help, he can call us to help him look at something. He can call me at any time, as I stay plugged in with the Northeast Recovery Association; that I go to some of those meetings and there is a tremendous source of help there. We've been a member there for many years.

SELECT BOARD MEETING
September 9, 2021 5:30PM (continued)
Town Hall (hybrid)

6:08 PM Mr. Donhauser said that, at one time, we used to take recycling from York. The Town didn't continue that, as I understand that, because it was actually contaminating some of our recycling.

Mr. Tessier said that we were taking their cardboard because they didn't want to deal with it and, because we were baling our cardboard anyway, we would take it for free and bale it up and generate a little more revenue. They were not monitoring their residents and the cardboard was getting contaminated; that it was taking more time by the Eliot staff to clean the trash out of the cardboard than what we were seeing for revenue, and that's why we stopped taking it. As far as I know, we haven't restarted that.

6:09 PM Mr. McPherson said that everyone on the committee is on-board with disbanding this.

Mr. Tessier said yes, along with Mr. Robinson.

Mr. Donhauser said to Mr. Tessier that you have done a fine, fine job and we thank you.

Mr. Widi moved, second by Ms. Dow, that the Select Board disband the Solid Waste Recycling Committee, effective October 15, 2021.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Donhauser – Yes

Mr. McPherson - Yes

Mr. Widi – Yes

Ms. Dow - Yes

Unanimous vote to approve motion.

G. Old Business:

There was no old business.

Unanimous vote to approve motion.

H. Approval of Warrant(s):

6:10 PM Mr. Donhauser moved, second by Mr. McPherson, that the Select Board approve A/P Warrant #14 in the amount of \$174,302.78, dated August 18,

SELECT BOARD MEETING
September 9, 2021 5:30PM (continued)
Town Hall (hybrid)

**2021; A/P Warrant #17 in the amount of \$193,146.52, dated August 25, 2021;
A/P Warrant #143 in the amount of \$1,702.96, dated August 18, 2021.**

Roll Call Vote:

**Mr. Donhauser – Yes
Mr. McPherson - Yes
Mr. Widi – Yes
Ms. Dow - Yes**

Unanimous vote to approve motion.

I. Selectmen's Report:

6:11 PM 1) Seeking Committee Members

Mr. Donhauser said that we are always seeking committee members.

There were no Selectmen's reports tonight.

J. Executive Session

6:12 PM Mr. Donhauser moved, second by Mr. McPherson, that the Select Board enter into executive session as allowed by 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(a) legal consultation and §405(6)(e) contract negotiations.

Roll Call Vote:

**Mr. Donhauser – Yes
Mr. McPherson - Yes
Mr. Widi – Yes
Ms. Dow - Yes**

Unanimous vote to approve motion.

7:11 PM Out of executive session. There was no action taken.

K. Adjourn

7:12 PM Mr. Donhauser moved, second by Mr. Widi, that the Select Board adjourn.

Roll Call Vote:

**SELECT BOARD MEETING
September 9, 2021 5:30PM (continued)
Town Hall (hybrid)**

**Mr. Donhauser – Yes
Mr. McPherson - Yes
Mr. Widi – Yes
Ms. Dow - Yes**

Unanimous vote to approve motion.

The meeting adjourned at 7:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Lemire, Recording Secretary

S/ Robert McPherson, Secretary

Date approved: October 14, 2021