

Arrowsic Board of Selectmen Minutes, November 10, 2020

Present: Walter Briggs, Will Neilson, DeeDee Jorgensen, Brett Jensen, Barbara Boyce, John White sr., Sukey Heard, Don Kornrumpf, Michael Kreindler, Sheila Spear

The meeting was called to order at 6.02 pm.

Minutes for October 27, 2020 were approved unanimously on a motion by Will, seconded by Walter.

Treasurers Report and Warrant

Warrant \$9 for \$43,820,47, was approved unanimously on a motion by DeeDee, seconded by Will. This month's expenditures included the RSU1 payment and the payment of election workers.

Tax Commitment Process and Planning

A motion to set the 2020-2021 mil rate at .009550 was moved by DeeDee, seconded by Will. After discussion the motion was approved unanimously.

A motion to sign the Municipal Valuation Return and to authorize Sheila to prepare and sign the tax levy limit document, was moved by Will, seconded by DeeDee and passed unanimously.

A motion to set November 27 as the commitment date was proposed by Will, seconded by DeeDee and passed unanimously.

Election 2020

Barbara reported that 375 out of 425 registered voters, or 86%, participated in the election. Of these 266 (71%) used the absentee or early in person options. The absentee votes were processed on the Saturday preceding the election, and Barbara suggested this as a model for the nation. There was a very high level of engagement in and concern about the procedures, including the Town Hall ballot box which was well received.

The electronic tabulator made the counting process easy for users. It has a function of kicking out ballots that were not properly completed, allowing voters a chance to request a new ballot if they have made an error they wish to correct, but no Arrowsic voter needed this. The tabulator will reduce the number of ballot counters needed in upcoming elections. The RSU1 ballot was hand counted, but this too may be processed electronically in future.

All in all the election was conducted successfully despite the many challenges. Barbara expressed her thanks to the team of election workers. She also appreciated the work of the State elections office and the Secretary of State for their support and guidance throughout.

The Board thanked Barbara and the team of election workers for their work.

Arrowsic Broadband Authority

Don reported that he expects the documentation to be completed and signed before Christmas. The ABA has sent out a newsletter and plans to hold weekly meetings the first of which was held on Thursday November 5 which was attended by three non-members with technical experience. Following coverage by the local media this week, Don will handle publicity and media inquiries in future.

There are two submissions so far for the Project Engineer role, and the ABA expects 2 more. The prospective Consulting Engineer has agreed to a deferred payment. A funding memo is in process and the development of a marketing strategy.

The Select Board will meet for a workshop with ABA, to discuss details of the contracts to be signed, and to be sure that Board members are aware of other issues, on Monday November 16, 3-5 pm.

CEO Monthly Report

Michael reported that the volume of work has abated somewhat since the rush of the summer months. He reported on several Conditional Use Permits for vegetation removal; Building Permits for a temporary structure as well as another new house with related septic and plumbing permits. He had assisted in one interaction between neighbors concerning repairing private road damage from construction vehicles, as well as meeting with new landowners to alert them to the stewardship requirements in the shoreland zones, and was dealing with one violation of shoreland vegetation codes.

The E911 address procedures had been the subject of discussion and confusion recently. The process usually begins with a plan to install a new driveway which requires a CUP from the CEO, who advises the landowner to apply to the E911 addressing agent (the Roads Commissioner, Jim Stump). The addressing agent takes the appropriate measurements and issues the number and new road name if necessary and submits this to the state for approval. It would be helpful to inform the Town Hall when the approval is received, and a new address or road name comes into existence. Also the Fire Department would appreciate the installation of high visibility signs.

CEO Replacement

Walter and DeeDee will contact State Fire Marshall's Office and approach the Georgetown Deputy CEO.

Other updates

- The online tax collection option is now in place.
- The Rogers contract still has not been signed by all parties.
- Remote Access Software: Bill van Tuinen has completed his work this year so no longer requires remote access. After a failed attempt to install software allowing remote access within the town hall, and given that every machine that had access was charged separately by Harris, Sheila said she would work with the present setup.

On a motion to adjourn, moved by DeeDee, seconded by Will and approved unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 7.46 pm

Planning ahead:

- New comprehensive plan - begin the process to put a proposal to Town Meeting 2021.
- PA system - purchase?
- Inquiry about M5/L1 (Town Clerk)
- Arrowsic Education Committee
- Remote Access to TRIO for the Assessing Agent