

Arrowsic Select Board

Minutes of September 13, 2022 Meeting

Present: Joe & Denise Bonnett, Steve Bonine, Will Neilson, Walter Briggs, DeeDee Jorgensen, Chris Wilcoxson, Brian & Jennifer Elwell, Phine Ewing, Jenny Burch (attorney)

Via Zoom: Don Kornrumpf

Walter called the meeting to order at 6:05pm.

Items for Approval

- The draft agenda was reviewed and approved.
- The draft minutes of the 8/23/2022 Select Board meeting were approved.
- Treasurer's Warrant #5 for \$52,695.58 was approved.
- ABA Warrant #4 for \$27,953.90 was approved. A prior approved payment of \$19,451 is included in this amount; that check was voided.

Trash/Recycling quote for 2022-2023

Trash quote - \$22,086 (10% increase had been projected)

Recycling quote - \$14,904 (15% increase over budget)

Need to look at ways in which to not tip the scales, resulting in going over budget.

Tipping the scales may result in charges 1%-15% higher than budget.

Further consideration of Map 5/Lot 3 (or 31?)

Without a baseline, the Select Board is unable to determine whether footprint expansion is an issue. There are no grounds for imposing limits on employees or equipment. Regarding environmental concerns, absent obvious pollution the Select Board doesn't have authority in this realm. The Bonnetts were asked to put their concerns in writing. The Select Board will negotiate a consent agreement with the Elwells, with a goal of having it in place by the end of 2022.

Letter of Support Review – Conservation Commission, Phine Ewing

Select Board members signed a letter of support for the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future.

Town Staff & Volunteers

- Health Officer – Linda Kelly FNP is interested in the role. Christine Woodman has communicated with Linda, providing information about the role. Linda continues to be interested.
- General Assistance Administrator – Vicky Stoneman was appointed General Assistance Administrator.

Arrowsic Broadband Authority update – Don Kornrumpf

Don reported that he received an email from the Maine Connectivity Authority (MCA) setting out the schedule for the first round of MCA grant funding. Program guidance will be issued Sept 23. The grant application window will open on October 11 and close on November 9. Grant awards will be announced in December.

The credit facility at BSI was paid off when it expired September 7, 2022. ABA has limited funds available now, and requires another credit facility in place to meet working capital requirements as make ready progresses. Make ready expenses are reimbursable by the USDA, but we need to be able to pay bills from CCI & CMP promptly to keep the process moving.

Maine municipal law requires any renewal of a credit facility to be authorized during a town meeting in a town-meeting form of government (which is what we have), so simply rolling over the facility is not permitted. We are seeking a new facility with the type, terms, and interest rate to be determined. We need to decide by the end of September or beginning of October at the latest.

If we proceed with the application for MCA funding, another town meeting will be required at some point, as well. It would be preferable to combine the two, but the urgency of the need for credit resources makes it unreasonable to postpone getting a new facility for what is still an uncertain undertaking with MCA and the County, given that we are currently identified on the federal funding map as “planned to be served”—which for federal purposes means our competitive rating with MCA is substantially lessened. Given this system, we are appealing to MCA for reconsideration of their mapping practice.”

Don continues to talk with Georgetown about their project to learn from their experience. At some point we will have to discuss sharing capacity on the poles on Rt. 127 to Georgetown.

Keys

- Many residents have keys, and no tracking has been done. Malcolm Persen will be involved in any decision involving access to Town Hall.
- Outgoing Health Officer, Christine Woodman, returned her key to Denise Parker.

Other Business

- A free library will be located beside the kiosk. Walter will talk with Malcolm Persen about the specific location.
- LD290—23 applications have been received to date. Applicants must be notified if stabilization has been approved or denied. A letter will be sent with tax bills.

The meeting adjourned at 7:28pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Parker

Town Administrator