

Arrowsic Select Board
Minutes of June 28, 2022

Present: Walter Briggs, DeeDee Jorgensen, Will Neilson, Brett Jensen, Steve Bonine, Don Kornrumpf, Joe & Denise Bonnet, Bob Ater, Karen Robbins (Will, Bob Ater, Brett Jensen, Phine, Michael Kreindler, Michele Gaillard via Zoom)

Walter called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

Items for Approval:

The draft agenda was reviewed and approved.

The minutes of the Select Board's meeting of June 14, 2022 were approved.

Treasurer's Warrant #24 for \$14,459.59 was approved.

ABA Warrant # 6 for \$ 2,286.00 was approved.

Town Meeting "After Action" Discussion:

- We should delete the article dealing with exceeding the statutory levy limit in those years in which it is clear we will not exceed it. It is always a confusing article that holds up Town Meeting as people try to understand it. Walter indicated that it was a hangover from the eighties, nineties or possibly naughties when anti-property tax sentiment led the legislature to pass a cap on property tax increases without a special town meeting to approve it. Since the property tax commitment normally takes place in November, and since a large part of most municipalities' budget is mandated by the county and the school district – and thus is outside the control of the municipalities – towns were advised to pass an article to exceed the levy limit as a precaution to avoid having to call a special town meeting over spending that in any event is non-discretionary. The legislature is reported to be considering taking corrective action as well.
- Our method of distributing the town report is less than ideal. It is potentially dangerous for the persons trying to affix them to the mailboxes, and gets in the way of mail delivery.
- We should continue to have a public address system if possible.

Town Staff and Volunteers:

- We will continue to look for a successor to Sheila as Town Administrator, and will put a notice in the next issue of the Arrow. In the meantime, Sheila, assisted by Vicky through the summer at least, will soldier on.
- Rachel and Steve will write short introductions of themselves for the next issue of the Arrow.

Consideration of using ARPA funds to cover pandemic-related cost overruns on the new Fire Department brush truck:

- Michael Kreindler's memo details these cost overruns and identifies a total of \$5706 of excess, pandemic-related costs. Brett noted that he had some \$280 less and suspected that there was an invoice that hadn't made it way to him yet. Michael and Brett will resolve the discrepancy.
- The Select Board discussed other possible uses for the ARPA funds, and noted that cost overruns in the broadband project are likely to substantially exceed the funds distributed to the town by the state pursuant to the federal ARPA legislation. However, it was felt that the broadband funding picture was in flux, but these were documented and eligible costs that otherwise will be covered exclusively by Arrowsic taxpayer funds.
- The Board voted unanimously to use ARPA funds to reimburse the Fire Department capital fund once the Treasurer and Michael Kreindler, on behalf to the FD, reconcile the total amount of the overruns.

Regional Climate Resilience Partnership

- There have been several meetings among the representatives of the 5 towns and the service providers. All of the towns raised concerns about groundwater. The service providers have scheduled a webinar on July 7 on the topic of private wells from 5:30 to 6:45 PM.
- A meeting with MDOT on climate resilience will be scheduled for a future date.
- Phine requested SB input on a self-assessment for this partnership. Walter and will will work on this.
- A town workshop needs to be scheduled for August, to be followed by a resolution by the SB as required by the terms of the partnership arrangement.

ACC Membership

- Phine reported that a new resident in Arrowsic had requested to fill a vacancy on the Conservation Commission. The Board requested that the person in question express her interest to the Board, and that then the Board would appoint her.

Map 5/Lot 3: complaint concerning non-conforming use

- The Bonnetts requested a site walk to view the lot in question. Reference was made to their emailed letter to the Select Board dated June 20. They particularly complained of noise – especially the banging of dump truck tailgates – and possible environmental degradation.
- Will's distribution of the agenda to Brian Elwell apparently went to his junk mail, and Brian became aware of the SB meeting only after it began. Brian was able to listen in on the meeting via zoom for the final few minutes of the discussion of his business, but did not otherwise participate.
- Through CEO, a site walk was arranged for the following Friday July 1. at 4 PM.

Standards for proposing Town Water Access

- An *ad hoc* group will be convened to develop standards and procedures for evaluating possible locations for water access. Bob Ater indicated his willingness to participate. In response to a question from Walter, Michele Gaillard, who had previously indicated her interest in participating in such a group, indicated she would chair the group if need be.
- A notice to recruit members for the group would be sent to the town, potentially in the coming edition of the Arrow.

Mail

- The City of Bath EMS Agreement is in hand. Walter will sign.
- The Town has cast its ballot in MMA Legislative Policy Committee election as requested by the MMA
- The CMP Business Property Tax Declaration [has been received.]
- Month end financial statements [have been received.]
- A letter from the animal control officer indicated he intended to continue in the job.
- Signature cards and related materials have been received to make Steve Bonine, as the new Town Treasurer, the signatory on the First Federal account.

The meeting adjourned at 7:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Will Neilson