

## **Arrowsic Board of Selectmen Minutes, December 8, 2020**

### **The meeting was called to order at 6.02 pm**

Present: Walter Briggs, DeeDee Jorgensen, Will Neilson, Brett Jensen, Barbara Boyce, Sheila Spear, Sukey Heard, Roger Heard, Jack White, Don Kornrumpf, Michael Kreindler, Michele Gaillard, Amy Smith, Vicky and Nick Stoneman.

### **Approval of Minutes**

On a motion by DeeDee, seconded by Will, the minutes for November 10, 2020 were approved unanimously.

On a motion by Will, seconded by Walter, the minutes for November 24, 2020 were approved with none dissenting: DeeDee had not been present at that time on 11/24/2020.

Minutes of the ABA/SB Workshop held on November 19, 2020 will be filed.

### **Treasurer's Report and Warrant**

A motion to approve Warrant # 11 for \$71,333.46 was moved by Will, seconded by Walter, and approved unanimously

Discussion of the RSU1 charges: Arrowsic is still being charged for two children who left the town last year. Sukey explained that the fees are charged through a formula which combines 2 years and are issued in April and October each year. DeeDee will contact Deb Clark in the RSU1 office for an explanation.

In future Barb will keep note of the new school registrations and Sheila will check transfers and graduations in order to review the school attendance chart when it is sent to the town by the school district.

The matter of the Arrowsic scholarships for graduating seniors, normally awarded by the Arrowsic Education Committee which is no longer in existence, will be taken up at a future meeting.

### **Request for Abatement**

An overcharge on the Vreeland account was caused by an error by the assessors' agent.

A motion to approve the request was moved by Will, seconded by DeeDee and approved unanimously.

### **CEO Replacement Update**

Chris Wilcoxson, the current Assistant CEO in Georgetown is willing to accept the Arrowsic CEO position starting in January 2021 and is keen to have Michael continue in the Assistant CEO position for an interim period. DeeDee will work out contract details with Chris and talk with Michael tonight.

### **Special Town Meeting on Saturday December 12, at 11 am at the Fire Department**

The meeting logistics were discussed. Walter will discuss the needs of the Fire Department and the Meeting. It was agreed to encourage parking in the Town Hall parking lot and on Route 127, and that the check-in table would be at the top of Stafford Lane. Someone may need to check whether the parking lots will need sanding on Saturday.

The matter of shelter for the moderator and for the check-in staff was also considered. Eloise Vitelli has agreed to moderate; Will will discuss details and logistics with her.

A town message will be sent out by Barbara and Sheila as soon as possible.

**The meeting was then opened for discussion and questions.**

Walter first explained the purpose of the Special Town Meeting. The Town will be asked to vote on articles which would authorize the SB to

1. enter into contracts with consultants, engineers, construction companies etc., and
2. establish a line of credit so that the ABA can hire professional advisors without requiring prior approval.

These two motions, if approved, will allow the ABA to move ahead with the project. If they are not approved the project will continue but at a slower pace.

Questions:

Q1 MG: how confident are you that the network will be built and generating cashflow to pay off the credit line.

WN: not impossible that it won't get built but highly improbable. Problems with the USDA so far procedural, but simple when we get their attention; cured within the next month or two.

WB: understand from ABA that we are not likely to need all of the \$150,000.

DK: we have done various projections; expect to get to 40-50,000, possibly 100,000 - loan repaid out of ABA cash flow; probably don't need even need to finish the system before cash flow starts because there will likely be a prepayment option which will generate cash flow.

WB: some considerable political backup in play - congress person and senator on side and can apply pressure.

Q2: MG: Have we looked at using surplus instead of taking out a loan?

WB: Yes, but determined unwise.

Q3: RH: What is the interest rate on the drawings.

DK: below 3% (as tax eligible borrower)

Q3 VS: have you talked with other loan borrowers?

DK: the others have different combination loan/grant than ours == so not borrowing but using tax revenues to cover the 25% Loan, plus their numbers are smaller than ours.

MG: Arrowsic has always stepped up.

RH: as long as presentation is short ...

NS: para summarizing (Walter's) = no new funding, within our past projections. Low risk, high value so can get started swiftly.

Walter and the ABA to consider when to send the next ABA newsletter.

Motion to adjourn was moved by Will, seconded by DeeDee and approved unanimously at 7:06 pm.