

Arrowsic Select Board
Minutes of August 9, 2022

Present: DeeDee Jorgensen, Will Neilson, Steve Bonine, Joe Bonnett, Denise Parker.

Via Zoom: Michele Gaillard, Michael Kreindler, Don Kornrumpf, Phine Ewing

Walter called the meeting to order at 6:06pm.

Climate Resilience Group

Phine Ewing reviewed for the Board the form of the resolution required to be adopted by the Select Board at its August 23rd meeting, so that the Board will be familiar with it when it is brought up Aug 23rd. She reminded the board that adoption of the resolution is the third of three steps required to be included in the regional multi-town climate resilience partnership, allowing member towns to apply for grants to strengthen their resilience to the effects of climate change, either alone or together with other member towns. The three required steps are:

1. Self-evaluation. The Conservation Commission's Climate Resilience Group, made up of a few Commissioners and a few other interested community members, got input from all or most of the town's committees, including the Select Board.
2. Public Workshop. The group is hosting the required public workshop at the Fire Station Aug 16 from 6:30 to 8:30
3. The resolution. The form is prescribed for all applicants the except that it will identify certain priorities determined in the public workshop and the persons or group responsible in the town for leadership and implementation.

Items for Approval:

The draft agenda was reviewed and approved.

The 8/02 draft minutes of the Select Board's meeting of July 27, 2022 were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Warrant #3 for \$53,756.45 was approved with a spelling correction.

ABA Warrant:#2 for for \$33,581.20 was approved.

Town Staff and Volunteers:

- Denise Parker was appointed Town Administrator. The Board expressed its gratitude to Sheila for her dedicated service, to Vicky for her essential assistance to Sheila and to Denise, and to Denise for being willing to step up. Denise will take over writing minutes starting with the Aug 23 Select Board meeting.
- Christine Woodman's resignation as Local Health Officer due to her upcoming relocation, was accepted with regret, effective October 1. The Board expressed its appreciation for her years of service, especially during the biggest public health emergency in a century.

Waterfront Access Planning

- Michele Gaillard indicated that Mike McMahon was joining the Water Access Planning Committee

Arrowsic Broadband Authority update:

- Don reported that the ABA had received a \$75K grant from ConnectME as ConnectME wound up its operations and was superseded by the new Maine Connectivity Authority.
- CCI has sent its final make ready invoices, which upon payment will start a 6 or 7 month clock ticking on their time to complete make ready. If we are able to timely engage construction resources, hanging fiber should take around 2 months, so a late spring/early summer start up of the system would be feasible.
- However, much depends on whether we are able to find alternative financing to the USDA loan/grant, as the bureaucratic hurdles of the USDA financing slow the process.
- The alternative sources of finance are County ARPA grant funds, MCA grants which will be announced in Dec/Jan, and bank borrowing by the town.
- Don will be meeting with Bath Savings to discuss renewal of the LOC and possible alternatives.

Digital Filing

- It was decided we should continue the current system of filing both paper and digital copies.

LD 290 – Property Tax Stabilization Act

- DeeDee reported she attended a meeting with Eloise Vitelli among town officials in the county to discuss this new law which went into effect yesterday. The Topsham assessor had done extensive research and was convinced – and very persuasively so -- that the law would be unworkable, creating a substantial new workload for municipal staff who have to verify eligibility of applicants annually, and over time narrowing the tax base to younger taxpayers. Majority Leader Vitelli pledged to work to solve the problems in the next legislature, but noted a quick fix could not be assured.

Mail

- None.

Other Business

- Steve will be on vacation starting 8/18, so bills received later than Aug 17 will not be able to be approved and paid before the September 13 Select Board meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 6:59 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Will Neilson