

## Arrowsic Select Board Minutes

December 26, 2023

As Approved on January 8, 2024

**Present:** Walter Briggs, DeeDee Jorgensen, Jennifer Geiger, Barbara Boyce, Steve Bonine, Eileen Bonine, Don Hudson, Josephine Ewing, Karen Robbins, Bob Ater, Jack Witham, Clark Cooper, Lisa Margonelli, Jody Jones

**Attended via Zoom:** Denise Parker, Don Kornrumpf, Jon Biehler

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**Call to Order:** 6:32pm by Walter

**Agenda:** Reviewed & approved

**Items for approval:**

- Minutes of Select Board Meeting on December 11, 2023, approved on a motion by DeeDee seconded by Jennifer.
- Treasurer's Warrant #12 for \$23,082.91 approved on a motion by Jennifer seconded by DeeDee.
- ABA Warrant #6 for \$97,394.50 approved on a motion by DeeDee seconded by Jennifer.

**Arrowsic Broadband Authority update – Don Kornrumpf & Don Hudson:**

- The ABA warrant amount is entirely labor expense.
- Seventy-five percent of the network is built.
- The formal substantial completion date of 12/15/2023 was missed. A penalty of \$500/day is allowed by contract but will be discussed. A revised budget is to be submitted to the Maine Connectivity Authority (MCA).
- The target for customer sign-ups was 165. Two hundred ten customers out of a potential 235 signed up by the deadline.
- Fewer than 40 of the accounts are "stuck" (work not proceeding for various reasons) and should be resolved by the end of the second week of January.
- Hawkeye could charge an additional \$400/customer over the target number. Hawkeye can bill Axiom, but Axiom can't bill Arrowsic.
- In November, word was received that the underwriter for the July insurance renewal by FA Peabody didn't want to insure Arrowsic. Other options, including through Axiom or becoming self-insured, are being considered.
- Mission, the engineering firm, is monitoring the progress of Hawkeye and Axiom.

**Town staff & volunteers:**

- Animal Control Officer – no candidate
- Properties Committee Chair – no candidate
- Zoning Board of Appeals—1 member & 2 alternates needed – no candidates

**Other business:**

- The Water Access Committee asked the Select Board to accept a grant from Land for Maine's Future (LMF) for the purchase of the Packard property. The Conservation Commission letter and Google Group responses were presented to the Select Board for the record. A lively discussion followed that included the following points:
  - The Town approved the purchase of the Packard property for water access.
  - A three-year \$200,000 bond to purchase the property has been approved.
  - The property is being purchased; the question to be addressed is how to pay for the property (bond, grants, donations, etc.).
  - The Land for Maine's Future board voted to approve a \$60,000 grant to the Town of Arrowsic for the purchase of the proposed water access site, pending completion of due diligence. A Land Management Plan must be submitted to LMF before that grant can be awarded and accepted by the Select Board.
  - Two workshops for residents will be held in February to inform the plan development.
  - The Arrowsic Planning Board must review and approve any permit application submitted by Water Access for the proposed use of the property before construction. The permitting process includes opportunity for input from abutters. The Planning Board has provided a list of points to be addressed.
  - If the water access site is open to all and recognized by IF&W (which LMF funding would ensure), certain rules of conduct, including but not limited to hours of use, parking only where designated, no alcohol, no fires, no discharge of wastes, will be enforced by the State Game Warden and the Sheriff's office.
  - Barring the surfacing of any unexpected information, accepting the LMF grant shouldn't be an issue for the Select Board.
  - The Select Board supports the Water Access Committee continuing their course to explore, apply for, and seek approval for grants. The implications of each grant must be carefully considered. Advance communication to allow adequate time to ensure that all concerns have been considered and addressed is recommended.
- A thank-you letter to donors for contributions to the Water Access Fund was signed by Walter.
- Allocation of ARPA funds was tabled until the next Select Board meeting
- A tax abatement in the amount of \$236.94 for Margaret Woodruff's homestead exemption was approved on a motion by Jennifer seconded by DeeDee.

**Mail:** None

**Adjournment:** 8:04pm on a motion by DeeDee seconded by Jennifer

**Next meeting:** Monday, January 8, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Parker  
Town Administrator