

Arrowsic Select Board Minutes

January 22, 2024

As Approved on February 12, 2024

Present: Walter Briggs, DeeDee Jorgensen, Jennifer Geiger, Steve Bonine, Barbara Boyce, Don Hudson, Josephine Ewing, Jody Jones, Bob Ater, Jack Witham, Nick Stoneman, Karin Sadtler, Michael Kreindler

Attended via Zoom: Don Kornrumpf, Vicky Stoneman, Jon Biehler, Michele Gaillard, Denise Parker

Call to Order: 6:08pm by Walter

Agenda: Reviewed & approved

Items for approval:

- Minutes of Select Board Meeting on January 8, 2024, approved on a motion by Jennifer seconded by DeeDee.
- Treasurer's Warrant #14 for \$42,804.91 approved on a motion by DeeDee seconded by Jennifer.
- ABA Warrant #8 for \$78,952.98 approved on a motion by Jennifer seconded by DeeDee.

Arrowsic Broadband Authority (ABA) update – Don Kornrumpf & Don Hudson:

- Financial update by Don H:
 - The most recent tranche was used to pay Axiom.
 - The current warrant won't be paid immediately, as the two invoices were lost in the mail. Funds need to be replenished to pay them.
 - Regarding the USDA grant – Don H needs to reach out to Attorney Kristen Collins for assistance completing the form required to release the lien.
 - The MCA Grant covers 71.9% of our construction costs. The Town's share, made possible by the generous gift, is 28.1%.
 - ABA budgeted for 165 "takes" for broadband but ended with 207. The cost to ABA per "take" over 165 is not known but will most likely be between \$299 - \$400.
- ABA update by Don K:
 - Axiom will pay the ABA for the early sign-up fees of approximately \$20,000 once construction is complete, or sooner.
 - The heat pump and new door have been installed and were spearheaded by Nick Stoneman and Vince Capone.
 - Budget adjustments need to be made, in part as Hawkeye will charge Axiom for excess "takes".
 - Substantial completion is projected for the end of February with final completion by the end of March. Testing will begin once some connections have been established.
 - Obtaining insurance for the lines and equipment outside Central Office is being pursued. Quantifying the loss potential is difficult.
 - Many other Maine communities are also having an issue finding affordable insurance. ABA and Axiom have asked Maine Connectivity Authority to address the issue.

- As the current quotes for outside plant costs are unduly expensive for inadequate coverage, ABA is investigating self insurance and the need for adequate cash reserves to cover damages over the first two or three start up years of ABA.

Town staff & volunteers:

- Animal Control Officer – no candidate
- Properties Committee Chair – no candidate
- Zoning Board of Appeals – Two nominees, Jon Biehler and Mona Schlein, approved on a motion by DeeDee seconded by Jennifer. They will be sworn in. A chair will be appointed by the Select Board. Space is needed at Town Hall to store historical records.

Other business:

- Allocation of ARPA Funds – tabled.
 - Neal Goldberg (MMA attorney) is a great resource regarding what the funds may be used for.
 - The funds must be allocated by 12/31/2024.
- Water Access Committee – Phine Ewing et al.
 - Closing documents from the attorney are needed to set the closing date and determine how to allocate money for the purchase from the Line of Credit (LOC) and/or the Water Access Fund. To be discussed with Attorney Kristen Collins.
 - Question to be answered: Is the LOC to be used only for the purchase of the property, or can it also be used for development of the property?
 - Development ideas obtained at the workshops will be taken to the Codes Enforcement Officer and the Planning Board before the Select Board is asked to approve the plans.
 - Use of a \$50,000 grant was approved for the purpose of studying the hydrology of the two marshes.
- Emergency Notification System to let residents know of urgent/emergent situations – Denise Parker
 - Brian Carlton discussed possible use of the Sagadahoc County Code Red system with the Sagadahoc County Sheriff, who says that it can be used. Situations to be broadcast need to be approved by the Sheriff's Department.
 - Denise will send a town wide email asking residents to opt-in to the system to receive notifications.
 - Denise will let Jim Peavey (Age-Friendly Georgetown), Tyler Washburn (Georgetown Town Administrator), and Brian Whalen (Georgetown Fire Chief) know that the Code Red system may be used.
 - Michael Kreindler discussed the need to have a liaison between those dealing with the situation in the field and the person working with the emergency communication system. To be discussed further.
- The Education Committee process and payment requirements for awarding scholarships was approved.
- Projector for use by Town committees/commissions – Nick Stoneman
 - The need for such as system was discussed.
 - Could be used at Town Hall and the Fire Station.

- The price range is approximately \$300 - \$800.
- The Select Board requested firm details in order to approve the purchase.
- A decision will be made regarding purchasing the equipment from the Administration fund or adding it to the warrant for the Town Meeting in June.
- Bowdoin student availability for a history project – Nick Stoneman
 - The project is funded by Bowdoin.
 - A student is assigned to a history project to be completed during the summer.
 - Nick will provide details at a future Select Board meeting.

Mail:

- The Snipe Farm, 157 Arrowsic Road, tax parcel 005-010, will be considered by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

Adjournment: 7:54pm on a motion by DeeDee seconded by Jennifer

Next meeting: Monday, February 12, 6:00pm

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Parker
Town Administrator