

Arrowsic Select Board Minutes

February 12, 2024

As Approved on February 26, 2024

Present: Walter Briggs, DeeDee Jorgensen, Jennifer Geiger, Steve Bonine, Nick Stoneman, Karin Sadtler, Michael Kreindler, Karen Robbins

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

Call to Order: 6:11pm by Walter

Agenda: Reviewed & approved without changes

Items for approval:

- Minutes of Select Board Meeting on January 22, 2024, approved on a motion by DeeDee seconded by Jennifer.
- Treasurer's Warrant FY24 #15 for \$99,801.09 approved on a motion by DeeDee seconded by Jennifer.
- Treasurer's Warrant FY24 #16 for \$200,000, for the water access property, approved on a motion by DeeDee seconded by Jennifer.
- ABA Warrant FY24 #9 for \$136,206 approved on a motion by Jennifer seconded by DeeDee. This warrant is for Hawkeye invoices, which will not be paid until the next tranche of MCA funds (\$328,000) arrives in late February or early March.

Arrowsic Broadband Authority (ABA) update – Don Kornrumpf:

- Weekly meetings with Hawkeye take place on Wednesdays. To date, there have been 212 "takes"—60 more than budgeted, for an additional cost of \$24,000.
- 100% of fiber and 75% of drops have been completed.
- Hawkeye may be holding completion until a response is received from Axiom regarding the cost of the additional "takes". Axiom may owe \$60,000 - \$70,000.
- Drops to ten homeowners are "stuck", possibly due to the need for trenching for a conduit.
- 25% of connections are long connections—greater than 250 feet.
- Trenching costs for a conduit may be an issue for some homeowners. Hawkeye is purchasing a trencher and plans to offer that service significantly cheaper than other contractors.
- The heat pump, new door, and equipment have all be installed at the Little Barn.
- Broadband testing is expected to begin at the end of February or beginning of March.
- The ABA sent a letter to the Select Board requesting \$24,000 of the ARPA funds.

Town staff & volunteers:

- Animal Control Officer—Georgetown has a new Animal Control Officer. Walter will contact her about Arrowsic's need.
- Properties Committee—Jennifer Hagans may be a candidate.

- Zoning Board of Appeals—Jennifer Hagans was appointed as an alternate on a motion by DeeDee seconded by Jennifer. The Board will hold an organizational meeting next week.
- Elections—four new elections clerks were appointed on a motion by DeeDee seconded by Jennifer. They are:
 - Sukey Heard
 - W. Donald Hudson
 - Lucy Hull
 - Jody Jones
- ABA Commissioners—per ordinance, three commissioners are required. Vince Capone was approved on a motion by DeeDee seconded by Jennifer, for the 2024 – 2026 term. The other two commissioners will be approved at the February 26, 2024, Select Board meeting.

Other business:

- Allocation of ARPA funds—Legal advice has been obtained. A decision about allocation was tabled for the next meeting. The ABA was asked to present their financials at the next Select Board meeting. The Select Board will entertain letters from other groups asking for ARPA funds.
- Abatement for Johnston property taxes—when the tax stabilization was applied to the account, taxes were held at a higher amount because the homestead exemption wasn't applied, as it should have been. The abatement was approved.

Mail:

- A preliminary approval of the water access grant was received from Land For Maine's Future.

Adjournment: 7:02pm on a motion by Jennifer seconded by DeeDee.

Next meeting: Monday, February 26, 6:00pm

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Parker
Town Administrator