

Arrowsic Selectmen's Meeting

November 14, 2016

Present: Sukey Heard, Michele Gaillard, Bill Savedoff, Mary MacDonald, Michael Kreindler, Bob Ater, Matt Stelzer, Barbara Boyce, Gretchen MacLeod.

Treasurer's Report and Warrant:

Warrant #8A (\$166,985), covering the Sagadahoc County taxes was signed, (reviewed and approved previously) and #9 (\$62,227.16) was reviewed, approved and signed.

Minutes:

Minutes for 10/24/16 were reviewed and approved as written.

Tax Commitment 2016:

The Selectmen discussed the calculation of the mil rate for 2016-2017, deciding to reduce the overlay to the lowest possible level. The overlay sets aside money to pay tax rebates should there be any. As calculated, the mil rate would be \$13.40 per thousand dollars of valuation. Liz Rollins, the Town tax collector, and Sukey plan to run the tax bills within the next few days with the intention of mailing prior to Thanksgiving.

Town Clerk:

The Selectmen accepted a letter of resignation from Gretchen MacLeod for her year's service as Town Clerk. In her place, the Selectmen appointed Barbara Boyce, who has been working with Gretchen for several weeks. Gretchen administered the oath of office. The Selectmen will notify MMA and the Secretary of State.

Election Report:

Gretchen reported on the recent election. There was very high turnout, 351 of 419 registered voters including 75 absentee votes. Gretchen said she had a few complaints about the voting booths and their lack of privacy. The Selectmen discussed the possible use of a screen that would block the general view of the carrels while balancing the need to have some visibility of voters to discourage fraud. Barbara suggested that election workers wear nametags so that voters know who is authorized to be there.

Properties Committee:

With three members of the proposed committee present (Matt Stelzer, Bob Ater, and Michael Kreindler), the Selectmen outlined their vision for the committee's work, and minimum reporting requirements. It was requested that the committee set a regular (or regularly irregular) meeting day and time, that minutes of the meeting be produced and published on the website, and that potential conflicts of interest be discussed. There is the need for addressing both regular maintenance issues and larger capital projects. The committee will need to find people to volunteer small services and also bid out larger jobs with the Selectmen retaining authority to award bids and disperse funds. The Selectmen suggested an inventory be produced of buildings and town properties so that there is clarity on what falls within the scope of their services.

Town Hall Organization:

The Selectmen briefly discussed the need to make the Town Hall appropriately efficient as customer service becomes more computerized. This is a long-term project that will be guided by our desire to retain a consistent building aesthetic, the business needs of the Tax Collector and Town Clerk, and the importance of a positive customer experience for towns people.

Sand Lot:

The Selectmen signed a consent agreement to be sent to the owners of the abutting property to the sand lot outlining their responsibilities to the Town in connection with their purchase of the sand lot (Map 4, Lot 6).

Property Files:

It was discovered that a historical document was missing from a property file. The Selectmen reviewed a procedure for document access that will provide more accountability for town records. In the future, people seeking access to property files will need to sign a log book which will also inform them that original documents may be copied but are the property of the Town and may not be removed from the files.

Brown Tail Moths:

The Selectmen discussed the best way to disseminate information about the infestation of brown tail moths that appears to be affecting Arrowsic. We have received a letter from the State which includes information about health effects, ways to avoid contact, and options for eradication. The Conservation Commission and Local Health Officer will be meeting to make sure that the information presented includes a full spectrum of alternatives.

Fire Department Request:

The Fire Chief received a request from a resident for a letter confirming that their driveway was accessible for emergency vehicles. This is, to our knowledge, the first such request. The Selectmen advised that since the Town does not have a relevant ordinance to enforce, the fire department should not be called upon to inspect homeowners' properties and opine for the record on such an issue.

Mail:

The Selectmen received a letter from the United Way advising that private property owners may call 211 if they are experiencing issues with dry wells. This information will be passed on to the Conservation Commission.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Michele Gaillard