

Selectmen's Meeting

October 21st, 2024

Attendance: Selectman Redman

Selectman Staples

Administrative Assistant: Gail Gary-Cox

Other Attendees: Mickey Sirota

Neil Colburn

1. Called to Order at 4:31pm
2. Public Comments-none
3. Selectmen's Comments-none
4. Modification to the Agenda
 - a. Review Central Maine Power Application for Near 124 Muzzy Ridge Rd adding as 7N
 - b. Selectman Redman made a motion to add Sarah Tompkins to consider taking money from TIFF account for equipment for the rescue department as 7M, Selectman Staples seconded the motion. Motion Unanimous.
 - c. Letter from EHNS regarding Emergency Response Mutual Aid Agreement between Robbins Lumber and Searsmont Fire Department. Town is on Board and supports the agreement to assist and aid Robbins Lumber as needed. Gail Gary-Cox will send agreement off to James Ames for his approval and signature.
5. Approval of the minutes for October 7th. Selectmen Staples made a motion to approve the minutes for October 7th as written. Selectmen Redman seconded the motion. Motion unanimous.
6. Old Business
 - a. Road report-Ghent Bridge and Magog Bridge need cleaning. School St stop sign has been put in place.
 - b. Step Ladder for Transfer Station. Selectman Redman made a motion to approve the purchase of a 7 step, 70-inch rolling ladder, at the expense of \$731 plus possible shipping charges. There will be a sign across the railing stating for attendants only and use handrail at all times. There will be a chain and padlock across the entrance to the rolling ladder when not in use. Selectman Staples seconded the motion. Motion unanimous.

- c. Trio Web-there are two quotes to choose from. One is cloud based and one is through the web. One is \$600 the other is \$3000. This is being deferred until November 12th.
- d. Insulation and plywood of the winter shelter-Neil Colburn will see how well the shelter retains the heat and come December if it is not retaining the heat sufficiently, then he will add insulation and plywood to protect the insulation. Neil has requested the shed be moved back closer to the propane tank. Selectman Staples is going to assist with this. Selectman Staples is going to give Neil Colburn white spray paint to mark where Matt will be placing the recycling containers in preparation of the transfer station relocating to the town office. Gail Gary-Cox will call Moore's Septic to inquire about transferring the porta potty from Crie Rd location to the winter transfer station location, for the week of October 28th.

7. New Business

- a. Personnel Policies-deferred to a work session to go item by item on October 22nd at 4:30pm.
- b. TextMyGov-a service to make alerts to the community and/or the community can call a number and be directed to links on the website. Total Cost for the first year, is \$3,000, includes a \$1,000 set up fee. Then it is \$2,000 annually for two years. Selectman Redman made a motion that we join this program. Selectman Staples seconded the motion. Unanimous.
- c. Speed limits signs for Moody Mtn. Selectman Staples will locate the signs and replace them.
- d. Discuss and Take Action Regarding Tax Assessor Agent recommendation of property tax abatement to accounts RE 674, RE158, RE1106, and RE131 in total of amount of \$2052.91. RE674 was inspected and found deferred maintenance, RE158 had homestead exemption removed incorrectly and has been reapplied, RE1106 had a mobile home removed from the property prior to April of 2024, and RE131 the mobile home had been assessed as a newer home than it actually is. Selectman Redman made a motion to grant the abatements in the total of \$2,052.91. Selectman Staples seconded the motion. Unanimous.
- e. Discuss and Act regarding committing a supplemental property tax assessment on account RE342 in the amount of \$227.29. For reasons unknown property taxes had not been calculated and taxes had not been assessed. Selectman Redman made a motion to approve tax assessment recommended by assessor's agent. Selectman Staples seconded the motion. Unanimous.
- f. Driveway Permit for Barbara LaRoche. Selectman Redman had gone out and seen the temporary culvert that had been installed by Kyle Skinner and

instructed him that new culvert needed to be 18” diameter and extend 2’ beyond each side of driveway. The new culvert has been delivered and things are progressing.

- g. Discussion and Action on Approving 2024/2025 snowplow/sanding contracts. New contracts will expire in the spring of 2025. According to the Bureau of Labor Standards the new CPI is 3.4%. With adding the CPI ARC goes from \$157,185- \$162,530, the Loader for ARC goes to \$6,783, Kinney goes from \$124,553.90 to \$128,788, Ludwig goes from \$7462 to \$7715, and Horton goes from \$902 to \$932. Selectman Redman made a motion to confirm those contracts with the adjusts for 2024/2025. Selectman Staples seconded the motion. Unanimous.
- h. Discussion and Action on Metal Recycling Contract for 2024 and 2025. Selectman Redman made a motion to approve the contract with Searsmont Auto Parts to pay an annual fee of \$200 for the service of collecting metal from the residents of Searsmont for the period of February 1, 2024- January 31st, 2025. Selectman Staples Seconded the motion, Unanimous. Selectman Redman made a motion to approve the contract with Searsmont Auto Parts to pay an annual fee of \$200 for the service of collecting metal from the residents of Searsmont for the period of February 1st, 2025-January 31st, 2026. Selectman Staples seconded the motion, unanimous.
- i. Discuss and approve roadside work on Moody Mtn Rd in the amount of \$12,297.50. Selectman Redman made a motion to authorize F.C. Work to do the shouldering on the newly paved section of Moody Mtn Rd. in the amount of \$12,297.50. Selectman Staples seconded the motion. Unanimous.
- j. Discuss and Action on composing a letter to employees regarding Paid Family Medical Leave. Selectman Staples made a motion that the town would be ½ of the withholdings for family medical leave. Selectman Redman seconded the motion. Unanimous. Gail Gary-Cox will talk with Laurel about composing a letter for approval to send to the employees to notify them of this withholding that will start in January 2025.
- k. Discuss and Action on Order Form for Catalis Software Subscription. Selectman Redman made a motion to approve Gail Gary-Cox to sign the contract with Catalis Software to redesign the town website. Selectman Staples seconded the motion. Unanimous.
- l. Discuss and Action on Invoice submitted by MCOG, for consulting regarding Searsmont Comprehensive Plan in the amount of \$3,623.75. Selectman Redman made a motion to approve and pay the invoice in the amount of \$3,623.75. Selectman Staples seconded the motion. Unanimous.

- m. Discussion and Act on request to consider taking money from TIFF account to purchase radios and pagers for emergency rescue department. Sarah Tompkins has quite a few new people and has taken money from savings to purchase other equipment and is requesting that the quote for the purchase of the new radios and pages be paid for by the TIFF account. Selectman Redman made a motion to expend \$2,987.50 from the TIFF account to purchase the equipment requested by Sarah Tompkins for the emergency rescue department. Selectman Staples Seconded the motion. Unanimous.
 - n. Review of Central Maine Power Application for Pole near 124 Muzzy Ridge Rd. Granted.
8. Selectman Redman made a motion to enter executive session. Selectman Staples seconded the motion. Executive session entered at 6:17.
 9. Adjourned at 7:00pm