



TOWN OF VINALHAVEN BOARD OF SELECTMEN

MINUTES

Tuesday, December 8th, 2020
5:30 pm, Town Office
Virtual Meeting

1. **Roll Call** - Selectmen Eric Gasperini, Pam Alley, Donald Poole, Jacob Thompson, and Phil Crossman (attending virtually); and Town Manager Andrew Dorr.

Also present: Sheriff Tim Carroll, Gabe McPhail, and Matt Jablonski

2. **Approve Agenda** - *Motion by Eric Gasperini to approve the agenda as presented. Second by Donald Poole. Vote 5-0-0. Motion carried.*
3. **Minutes** - Approve the minutes from the November 10, 2020 meeting and the November 24/27, 2020 meeting.

The executive session needed clarification on motions to come in and out. It was determined that Eric Gasperini made the Motions to come in and out of Executive Session, and Phil Crossman seconded both of those motions. *Motion by Eric Gasperini to approve the minutes as amended. Second by Donald Poole. Vote 5-0-0. Motion carried.*

Motion by Eric Gasperini to approve the minutes from the November 24/27, 2020 meeting as presented. Second by Donald Poole. 4-0-1 (Jacob Thompson abstained).

4. **Approve and Sign Treasurer's Warrant #23** - *Motion by Eric Gasperini to approve and sign Treasurer's Warrant #23. Second by Donald Poole. Vote 5-0-0. Motion carried.*
5. **Communications**
 - a. **McDMR - Renewal of Limited-Purpose Aquaculture (LPA) Licenses for 2021** - There are a handful of Licenses coming up for renewal (the numbers can be found in the attached memo). These are one year terms.
6. **Speakers from the Floor** - Gabe let the Board know that she and Matt Jablonski will be bringing a report to the board for the next meeting.
7. **Committee and Department Reports/Appointments**
 - a. **Appointment to the Budget Committee** - *Motion by Eric Gasperini to appoint Eric Davis to the Budget Committee. Second by Pam Alley. Vote 5-0-0. Motion carried.*
 - b. **Road Commissioners Report** - The Board reviewed the Road Commissioner's Report. There was discussion on the wrapping around the Galamander. Andy said they need to put a couple vents into the plastic, but it is covered.

- c. **Engineer Report** - The Board reviewed the W&C Status Report. Sheridan submitted an updated reno/construction cost of \$789,400. They are looking to secure housing now to begin work in January.

8. Old Business

- a. **Knox County Sheriff 2021 Contract** - The County sent back the contract after their lawyers looked through the draft. As of last week there is now a resident deputy for 40 hours a week. Sgt. Tim Carroll spoke and said he really is hoping to get a contract in place for the resident deputy and then work towards a second deputy. He thinks we will be really happy with Deputy Chad Abbott who has over 25 years in law enforcement. He has really appreciated the conversations and discussions he has had with Andy and the Board. Phil Crossman asked about enforcing local ordinances. Sgt. Carroll said that will be part of the contract that the deputy may and will enforce local ordinance (even though they don't do that for towns on the mainland). Phil also praised North Haven Deputy Josh Lemoi, and said he has definitely set the bar high for community involvement and for law enforcement.

There was discussion on the housing allowances and increasing the capped annual amount.

Motion by Eric Gasperini to approve the contract with Knox County Sheriff's Office. Second by Pam Alley. Vote 5-0-0. Motion carried.

9. New Business

- a. **Foreclosed Property** - In addition to the usual notices and the automatic foreclosure, an additional letter was sent in September with no response. Jake Thompson asked where the legal burden falls - who's responsibility is it to notify the Town of a different owner of record. It was agreed to continue working to make sure that the property is being assessed to the right people.
- b. **Fire Alarm Upgrades** - In working on the fire alarm at the Library, Sea Coast was asked to provide an estimate for an upgrade to the radio system. To change the systems at the Library, Fire Station, and Town Office to radio communicators would be \$3605.00. The money could be taken from the Operating Expenses for each of those departments.
Motion by Eric Gasperini to approve the proposal from Sea Coast Security. Second by Pam Alley. Vote 5-0-0. Motion carried.
- c. **Server Hardware Upgrades** - The server upgrade is nearly complete. The tech company is recommending that the Town install some firewall protection. The old system didn't have one. They provided estimates for the hardware. There is enough in this budget to purchase the needed equipment. *Motion by Eric Gasperini to approve the agreement with WGTech. Second by Pam Alley. Vote 5-0-0. Motion carried.*
- d. **Assistance to Firefighters Grant Request** - The Fire Department has the opportunity to participate in a regional grant to help purchase/upgrade digital radios for the Department and EMS. Marc Candage sent a letter to the board asking for a letter of support and commitment to paying \$2079 and \$1155 from Fire Department and EMS reserve funds, respectively, if awarded. *Motion by Eric Gasperini to approve the Fire Department's participation in the Assistance to Firefighters Grant, and commit to paying respective amounts from each department. Second by Donald Poole. Vote 5-0-0. Motion carried.*

- e. **Ambulance Billing Settlement Request** - The Town received a request from Lowry & Associates to negotiate an Ambulance billing. They are offering a settlement of \$590.00 on an outstanding account of \$885.00. There is currently nothing in the billing or collection policy. Jake asked what T. G. Higgins recommends. Andy said they strongly suggest denying the request and ask for the full amount. *Motion by Eric Gasperini to deny the request from Lowry & Associates. Second by Donald Poole. Vote 5-0-0. Motion carried.*
10. **Report of Town Manager** - The Board reviewed Andy's report. He had two inquiries in the last week about where to take cars after they have been in an accident. They cannot be accepted at the Transfer Station without a title. It appears mainland companies are not coming out or are not available to come in the winter. Does the Board want to consider options for acceptance of vehicles that require towing/impounding? There was a consensus of the board that it should be the responsibility of the owner of the vehicle, not the Town.

There was discussion on Workforce Housing options.

11. **Report of Members**

- a. **Jacob Thompson** asked when the Thompson will be back on. The Fishermen's Co-op's trucking company is having to rent a truck that is shorter to be able to come over on the Curtis to get lobsters, and it has been creating some logistical nightmare. Why is the Thompson assigned to Islesboro, with fewer residents, when the Vinalhaven run is just as busy with more residents? It's causing more headaches for Vinalhaven residents and companies. Phil said the Ferry Advisory Board is meeting again in a few weeks, but protests against sending the Thompson to Islesboro fell on deaf ears and the unresponsive management is highly frustrating.

Jake also asked about a tree on the Jones property on Arcola Lane. The tree is very close to the road, and with it being a narrow road anyway, it makes passing another vehicle sometimes very dangerous. Set-backs were discussed, or asking the owner about taking it down and offering to purchase another tree for a location further from the roadway.

12. **Adjourn** - *Motion by Eric Gasperini to adjourn. Second by Pam Alley. Vote 5-0-0. Motion carried.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Bunker, Deputy Town Clerk