



TOWN OF VINALHAVEN BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes
Tuesday, May 10, 2022
Town Office/Virtual Hybrid
5:00 PM

1. **Roll Call** – Selectmen Donald Poole, Eric Gasperini, Pam Alley, Jake Thompson, and Leslie Dyer; Town Manager Andrew Dorr; and Deputy Town Clerk Elizabeth Bunker. Also present: Peter Drury, Marjorie Stratton, Elin Elisofon, Phil Crossman, James Knowlton (all in person), and Millie Martin (virtually).
2. **Approve Agenda** – Add 5c. Letter from DOT Commissioner and 7h. Planning Commission/Housing Committee. *Motion by Donald Poole to approve the agenda as amended. Second by Eric Gasperini. Vote 5/0/0. Motion carried.*
3. **Approve Minutes** – Approve the minutes from the April 26, 2022 and May 3, 2022 meetings. *Motion by Eric Gasperini to approve the minutes as presented. Second by Jake Thompson. Vote 5/0/0. Motion carried.*
4. **Approve and Sign Treasurer's Warrant #45** – *Motion by Eric Gasperini to approve and sign Treasurer's Warrant #45. Second by Donald Poole. Vote 5/0/0. Motion carried.*
5. **Communications**
 - a. **Lobsterman's Day** – The Skippers program at the school is looking to bring back Lobsterman's Day. First Sunday with no hauling, games and food in the Fish Plant Parking Lot. Asking the Town's permission to possibly use the parking lot on June 5. Selectmen in favor.
 - b. **Sustainable Maine Fishing Foundation – Maine Lobstering Union, Local 207** – *Motion by Eric Gasperini to donate the balance of the Selectmen's Contingency Fund (up to \$500) to the Sustainable Maine Fishing Foundation. Second by Donald Poole. Vote 5/0/0. Motion carried.*
 - c. **Letter from DOT Commissioner** – Phil Crossman was present as part of the Ferry Advisory Board to discuss the worker shortage and ferry disruptions. The way the legislation is written there are staffing limitations that won't allow itinerant workers to fill open shifts because it exceeds the number on the payroll. The general feeling is that the DOT is uninterested in dealing with the ferry service and treats it like a troublesome burden. The Thompson is scheduled to be off for insulation. The Spear is still tied to the dock awaiting Coast Guard inspections.
6. **Speakers from the Floor** – Jim Knowlton, Harbor Master, asked for guidance on what to do with unclaimed boat trailers in the Fish Plant parking lot. There is no room at the dump, but he also feels like there should be a better alternative than the dump where they may be damaged or taken. Millie suggested putting the trailers behind the former town garage. She will look into getting locks for the trailer hitch so trailers can be moved there and if the owners come forward, they can get their property back. Jim asked if there should be a limit to the number of stickers per

household for skiff tie-up at the town floats. The Selectmen felt there should be no limit.

7. **Committee and Department Reports/Appointments**

- a. **Director of Public Works Report** – Millie reported that the town crew has been busy. The grader needed a new tire, but that has been repaired and they are working on Calderwood's Neck Road. They are getting ready for calcium chloride and will uncover the bandstand this week. They are also getting Main Street ready for the sweeper coming next week.
Millie timed the replacement of a culvert using the excavator (1.5 hours) which is considerably faster than with the backhoe. The rental dump truck is going back next week, and they will continue to do as much work with the excavator before that goes back. The crew has also been working four 10-hour days vs. five 8-hour days which, so far, has been working well.
- b. **Downtown Project Update** – Brent is coming on the 13th and 16th to meet with Board members. Waiting for temporary easements from property owners before bid specs can be submitted. Should have bids back and awarded in August.
- c. **Engineer Report** – Still waiting for Transfer Station plans!
- d. **Knox County Sheriff** – April Report - Reviewed
- e. **Interim Manager Appointments** - The Board reviewed all positions in Andy's name: Excise Tax Collector, General Assistance Administrator, Tax Collector, Treasurer, and Road Commissioner.

Motion by Jake Thompson to appoint Millie Martin as Road Commissioner as of May 11 for the term ending June 30, 2022. Second by Donald Poole. Vote 5/0/0. Motion carried.

Motion by Jake Thompson to appoint Interim Town Manager Marjorie Stratton as General Assistance Administrator, Tax Collector, and Treasurer. Second by Donald Poole. Vote 5/0/0. Motion carried.

It was agreed to discuss Excise Tax Collector with Town Clerk Darlene Candage to determine who is best to fill that position.

- f. **Road Commissioner Appointment** – See above
- g. **Sewer Commissioner Appointment** – Abby Proctor would like to be appointed as Sewer Commissioner. *Motion by Jake Thompson to appoint Abby Proctor to the Sewer Commission. Second by Eric Gasperini. Vote 5/0/0. Motion carried.*

8. **Old Business**

- a. **Cemetery Mowing RFP – Possible Action Item: Accept Bid** – No bids received. The Board requested the RFP be put in the Wind and to circle back with David.

9. **New Business**

- a. **MDOT Routine Maintenance Agreement – Possible Action Item: Accept 3yr Agreement** – There was discussion on tracking costs for next contract (end of '23). *Motion by Jake Thompson to authorize Andy to sign the Routine Maintenance Agreement. Second by Eric Gasperini. Vote 5/0/0. Motion carried.*

- b. **Review Draft Annual Lease Agreements** – Charity Appell was amenable to the Selectmen's changes discussed at the last meeting. She is meeting with Dr. Caron and internet options are being looked at. There was discussion on the Thoroughfare Lease and maintenance of the boat launch. Consensus of the Board to approve the draft lease agreements.
 - c. **Surplus Equipment Bid – Woodchipper** – The Board received an unsolicited bid for the woodchipper currently at Coots Corner. *Motion by Eric Gasperini to accept Joe Martin's bid of \$550 for the woodchipper, as is. Second by Donald Poole. Vote 5/0/0. Motion carried.*
10. **Report of Town Manager** – There was discussion on moving forward with a draft RFP for Broadband and the possibility of working with Consolidated. There was discussion on using taxpayer money to back a private company. There was conversation on which towns were using which models – Chebeague is using Axiom, Rockland is using Consolidated. The Board was in favor of pursuing information to generate an RFP.
11. **Report of Members** – The Board thanked Andy for his time here as Town Manager and congratulated him on his new endeavor; He will be missed.
12. **Executive Session** Pursuant to 1 MRSA §405(6)(C) to discuss the acquisition of real property or economic development:
- Motion to enter into Executive Session at 6:50pm by Eric Gasperini. Second by Donald Poole. Vote 5/0/0. Motion carried.*
- Motion to come out of Executive Session at 7:07pm by Jake Thompson. Second by Eric Gasperini. Vote 5/0/0. Motion carried.*
13. **Adjourn** – Motion by Eric Gasperini to adjourn at 7:08pm. Second by Leslie Dyer. Vote 5/0/0. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Bunker, Deputy Town Clerk