



TOWN OF VINALHAVEN SELECT BOARD

MINUTES

Town Office/Virtual Hybrid
Tuesday, April 18, 2023
5:00 PM

1. **Roll Call** – Selectmen Donald Poole, Pam Alley, Jake Thompson, Leslie Dyer, and Donald Young; Town Manager Marjorie Stratton; and Deputy Clerk Elizabeth Bunker.
Also present: CEO/LPI Faye Grant, Elin Elisofon, Dana Blackington, and Haley Wentworth.
2. **Approve Agenda** - *Motion by Donald Poole to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Pam Alley. Vote 5/0/0. Motion carried.*
3. **Approve Minutes** – **Approve the minutes from the March 28, 2023 Board of Selectmen's Meeting.** *Motion by Donald Poole to approve the minutes from March 28, 2023 as presented. Seconded by Pam Alley. Vote 4/0/1. Jake Thompson abstained. Motion carried.*
4. **Approve and Sign Treasurer's Warrants #42** – *Motion by Donald Poole to approve and sign Treasurer's Warrants #42. Seconded by Pam Alley. Vote 5/0/0. Motion carried.*
5. **Communications**
 - a. Sea Level Rise, Spirit of America Foundation Award – The SLR Committee was awarded the Spirit of America Award. The Board received the acknowledgement letter.
 - b. Maine Lobstermen's Association Thank You for donation.
 - c. Maine Coast Heritage Trust – Letter received with PILOT check.
6. **Speakers from the floor:**

Elin Elisofon spoke on behalf of the Planning Commission. She is concerned about the empty store fronts on Main Street. With the downtown project Matt Eddy feels it may be a good time to write a letter to owners and ask their intentions for those spaces. Marjorie wants a clear goal/message if she is to write the letter. The Board felt it may be a better conversation to have in person when meeting about the easements.

Haley Wentworth asked about storing vehicles/boats etc. at 161 Pequot and if that was considered a business. Faye answered that that property is grandfathered for that purpose.

Dana Blackington started to ask about the amount of money paid to Drummond & Woodsum and if all of that was spent on the court case involving his property. Pam Alley redirected the conversation to the agenda, taking up this matter under Old Business.
7. **Committee and Department Reports and Appointments**
 - a. Woodard & Curran Status Report – Progress is being made on the Transfer Station project. They are scheduled to finish by the end of May. Marjorie will bring the change order requests to the Board for review. Easements are ongoing.
 - b. Housing Committee – Elin Elisofon presented the Board with a letter and a Resolution she would like to include in the Housing Committee's application for tax-exempt status. The Board would

like to have the lawyers review the resolution before signing. There was discussion on setting a date for a public meeting regarding the use of the Net Factory property. The Board would like to review the Downtown Master Plan and form a Site Reuse Committee before jumping to a public meeting. Marjorie will draft a formation document for the Board.

8. Old Business

- a. Land Use Violation – 142 Pequot and Cripple Creek – There was discussion on the current Planning Board application and the Board suggested the issue be taken to a Planning Board meeting.

9. New Business

- a. Memorandum of Agreement VH/NH EMS Director Services – The Board reviewed the Memorandum of Agreement with North Haven. Marjorie and Ryan feel it is a fair offer. *Motion by Donald Poole to authorize Marjorie Stratton to sign the Memorandum of Agreement between the Town of Vinalhaven and the Town of North Haven Regarding EMS Director Services on behalf of the Board of Selectmen. Seconded by Donald Young. Vote 5/0/0. Motion carried.*

- 10. Budget Workshop** – As the budget stands currently, the Town is up 2.5% and the school is up 2.8%. The Board asked Marjorie to run a few scenarios using less fund balance and valuation amounts. There was discussion on changing the purpose of the funds approved for the fire hall bay extension to the purchase of the new fire truck. The Board also asked to review the prices of fuel throughout the budget. The Board thanked Margaret Qualey for her work keeping the Budget Committee active.

- 11. Report of Town Manager** – Marjorie has talked with the GIS coordinator for Knox County, North Haven, and with Travis Gould about updating the tax maps. All conversations seem to come back to CAI. There was consensus of the Board to draft a warrant article to use ARPA funds for this project so they will be in place when a company is eventually chosen.

There was discussion on the progress of the Transfer Station project. *Motion by Donald Poole to authorize the Town Manager, Marjorie Stratton, to sign change orders for the Vinalhaven Transfer Station Project if the total cost does not exceed the budget as approved January 17, 2023.*

Knox County has hired a full-time deputy for Vinalhaven. There was a discussion on housing him and his family.

12. Report of Members -

Jake Thompson asked about the impact of not being able to compact solid waste while the construction project is ongoing. Answer unknown.

Pam Alley addressed the letter received from Amy MacDonald about installing a charging station for electric vehicles, and asked members of the board if they remembered previous discussions. The Board agreed that at-home charging equipment is minimal and to take no further action.

- ~~13. Executive Session pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405(6)(A) to discuss a personnel matter~~ – Not needed.

- 14. Adjourn** – Motion by Donald Poole to adjourn at 6:45pm. Seconded by Pam Alley. Vote 5/0/0. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Bunker, Deputy Clerk

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

May 9 and 23

June 6 and 21 (Annual Town Meeting)