



TOWN OF VINALHAVEN BOARD OF SELECTMEN

MINUTES

Tuesday, February 2, 2021

5:30 pm

Virtual Meeting beginning immediately following Executive Session

1. **Roll Call** - (All members attending remotely) Selectmen Eric Gasperini, Pam Alley, and Jacob Thompson; and Town Manager Andrew Dorr. Phil Crossman arrived during Executive Session. Donald Poole was absent.

Also attending virtually were Gabe McPhail, Matt Jablonski, Hillary Brennan, George Kendrick, and Janann Sherman

2. **Approve Agenda** - Amend Treasurer's Warrant to #31. *Motion by Eric Gasperini to approve the agenda as amended. Second by Pam Alley. Vote 3-0-0. Motion carried.*

3. **Executive Session - Executive Session pursuant to 1 M. R. S. A. §405(6)(E) - Legal Matter.** *Motion by Eric Gasperini to enter into executive session. Second by Pam Alley. Vote 3-0-0. Motion carried.*

Motion by Eric Gasperini to come out of executive session. Second by Pam Alley. Vote 4-0-0. Motion carried.

Motion by Eric Gasperini to direct the Town of Vinalhaven's legal counsel to file a Rule 80k enforcement proceeding against Dana Blackington in Maine District Court with respect to property Mr. Blackington owns at 143 Pequot Road and on the Cripple Creek Road, both in the Town of Vinalhaven, county of Knox. Second by Phil Crossman. Vote 4-0-0. Motion carried.

Motion by Eric Gasperini that the foregoing approved vote may be incorporated into a future Rule 80k lawsuit showing the Board's action as public officials, to initiate such 80k enforcement lawsuit. Second by Phil Crossman. Vote 4-0-0. Motion carried.

4. **Minutes - Approve the minutes from the January 19, 2021 meeting.** *Motion to approve the minutes from the January 19, 2021 meeting by Phil Crossman. Second by Eric Gasperini. Vote 4-0-0. Motion carried.*

5. **Approve and Sign Treasurer's Warrant #29 #31** - *Motion by Eric Gasperini to approve and sign Treasurer's Warrant #31. Second by Phil Crossman. Vote 4-0-0. Motion carried.*

6. **Communications –**

- a. **Terry Waters** - The Board received a thank you letter from Terry Waters for the bench in memory of Kevin Waters at the airstrip.

- b. **Islesboro Islands Trust** - Andy shared another letter from the Islesboro Islands Trust to the Penobscot Bay Municipal Managers regarding the plastic spilled into Penobscot Bay late in 2020. Phil Crossman shared a draft letter of support to the Town of Islesboro and Islesboro Land Trust. There was a consensus of the Board to send a letter of support. Jake was asked, as part of the Zone council, if there had been any discussion in the lobstering community about any potential impact on the lobster market. Jake said no, and most discussions had been focused on whale regulations (there also hadn't been a meeting since this incident happened).
- c. **US Census** - The Board received a Thank you from the Census Bureau.
- d. **ME DACF - Browntail Moth** - The Board received a letter from the Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry on the rise in Browntail Moth population. Pam said she'd bring it up in the next Park's Commission meeting. And there was a consensus of the Board to make information available in all the usual advertising methods.

7. **Speakers from the Floor** – None

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

- a. **Accept and Appropriate Donations** - *Motion by Eric Gasperini to accept and appropriate donations. Second by Phil Crossman. Vote 4-0-0. Motion carried.*
- b. **Community Development Corporation** - George Kendrick was present to bring the Board up to date on the committee's work. The group has mostly been working to define what their mission/vision/values will be and how it will work best for Vinalhaven. They have been exploring and discussing what rolls in funding and what actions a CDC would take. They have also been discussing "human capital," and how they could encourage different trades (for example, there is no full time Vet on Vinalhaven), and encouraging volunteerism. Essentially determining what a CDC will and will not do. The next meeting is February 25, 2021. Gabe would like to apply for a Maine Community Foundation, Community Building grant that would fund the next steps of the program, including any legal fees required for starting the entity.
- c. **Fox Islands Broadband Taskforce** - Janann Sherman was present to recap some of the meetings the group has had over the last few weeks. The committee has met with other towns who each went a different route with their Broadband installation. On 12/3/20 they met with Krista Thorpe from Breman (private ownership), on 1/20/21 with David Green of Long Island (public/private shared ownership), and on 1/27/21 with Roger Heinen of Islesboro (public ownership). For the next meeting in February, they hope to look at a private investor model.
- d. **Planning and Community Development** - The committee policy that was talked about at a previous meeting is being circulated to committee chairs and members along with a draft of the committee formation document. Gabe hopes to have the final draft to the Select board for approval by (or before) the first meeting in March.
- e. **Sheriff's Report** - The Board reviewed the summary of call/response totals for 2020. Total calls for calendar year 2020 was 932. The new deputy, Chad Abbott, has not expressed any concerns to Andy, as of yet, and said he'd be willing to join a Select board meeting if there were any questions he could answer.
- f. **Road Commissioners Report** - The Board reviewed the Road Commissioners Report. Pam applauded the Public Works Dept. on their work clearing a spot around the ball ground for sledding and building benches for skaters.
- g. **Vinalhaven Ferry Tariff Committee** - Review mission and purpose. Phil wanted to hear the Boards opinion on the Committee soliciting concerns/complaints/opinions from the public and

wanted to make sure this committee was still serving its purpose. The other Board members agreed that the committee definitely still serves a purpose and is a good resource for any issues.

9. Old Business

- a. **Portrait of a Graduate** - Hillary Brennan was present to give a presentation. She started with a summary of what the Portrait of Graduate is, and what the group has been doing so far. They have been conducting interviews and have a community survey that everyone is encouraged to participate in.

10. New Business

- a. **MSAD 8 Board of Directors** - Appoint Interim Director - Penny Lazaro and Sarah Crossman both submitted a letter of interest to fill the interim position. They will serve until the June election when another three-year term will be voted on.
Motion by Eric Gasperini to appoint Penny Lazaro to the MSAD 8 Board of Directors. Second by Pam Alley. Vote 3-0-1. Phil Crossman abstained. Motion carried.
- b. **EcoMaine Recycling Contract - Renewal Discussion** - The three-year term is almost up for the contract with EcoMaine. There are two options for renewal: a revenue/cost share program, which is the program we're in now; the rate has gone from ±\$75.00 to \$95.00 per ton. The second option is a flat rate program at \$145.00 per ton. The same contamination schedule would be in the new contract. There was a consensus of the Board to wait until Andy receives more information on the revenue/cost share program and put this back on the agenda for next meeting.
- c. **Municipal Software Purchase - ClearGov Proposal** - Andy had initially removed this proposal from last year's budget, but now feels it would be a valuable tool. Andy has a quote to purchase for the rest of the fiscal year (four months, March to July), \$3177.50. After that, it is \$12,710.00 annually (for a three- or five-year contract). Matt added that the Insights Suite is a great tool for the community to see where their tax dollars are going and how funds are being used. The rate can be locked in for either three or five years, (increasing 3% annually after that), and there is a clause in the contract for renewal annually pending town approval, so if it is voted down at Town Meeting then the Town would not be held to finish out the contract. Andy estimates that he spends almost four full days just formatting spreadsheets just to start from a blank slate.

Motion by Phil Crossman to purchase the ClearGov budget building software. Second by Pam Alley. Vote 3-1-0. Eric Gasperini voted no. Motion carried.

11. **Report of Town Manager** – Andy highlighted some things from his memo: trying to reorganize the Housing committee, ferry priorities within the Tariff, Carrying Place Bridge update, and Public Works building update. Coming up: Woodard & Curran are coming to visit capital project sites, COVID vaccines becoming available, and software updates finishing up.

12. Report of Members –

- a. **Pam Alley** - Asked if Andy had found anything out about the culvert on Round the Island Road and the sinking North Haven Road. It was asked that the engineers take a look at the project and work up some figures.
- b. **Jake Thompson** - Asked why you have to be in line at the ferry 15 minutes before on the Rockland side but 30 minutes on the Vinalhaven side. If they don't want people idling their vehicles and the public restrooms are not open it doesn't seem reasonable.

Jake asked about the Vinalhaven Public Library and School Library meeting. The School asked if the Public Library could help with filling the School Library position. Andy said they are not

in the position to do that at this time.

Jake stated the Biological Opinion came out last week and it says that they want to shut down lobstering by 2031. He suggested the Board write a letter of concern. He will share the links for the reports.

13. Adjourn - *Motion by Eric Gasperini to adjourn. Second by Pam Alley. Vote 4-0-0. Motion carried.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Bunker, Deputy Town Clerk