



TOWN OF VINALHAVEN SELECT BOARD

MINUTES

Town Office/Virtual Hybrid

Tuesday, January 17, 2023

Immediately following Public Hearing: General Assistance Ordinance

1. **Roll Call** – Selectmen Donald Poole, Pam Alley, Jake Thompson, Leslie Dyer, and Donald Young; Town Manager Marjorie Stratton; and Deputy Town Clerk Elizabeth Bunker.
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 January 3, 2023 Select Board Meeting – *Motion by Pam Alley to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Donald Poole. Vote 5/0/0. Motion carried.*
4. **Approve and Sign Treasurer's Warrants #29** – *Motion by Jake Thompson to approve and sign Treasurer's Warrants #29. Seconded by Donald Poole. Vote 5/0/0. Motion carried.*
5. **Communications** - None
6. **Speakers from the Floor** - None
7. **Committee and Department Reports/Appointment**
 - a. **Report on Transfer Station Bid Openings and Woodard & Curran Recommendation** – There was discussion on the bid opening. The Town had been authorized to borrow up to \$850,000 and the lowest bid came in at \$849,500. There was discussion on adding a 5% contingency and including the larger electrical panel. Marjorie reviewed the reserve funds (Compactor reserve at \$40,000 and Land Fill Equipment reserve at \$73,500). The Compactor will have to be purchased out of these funds as well.
Motion by Donald Poole to accept the bid from Ford Enterprise for \$849,500. Seconded by Pam Alley. Vote 5/0/0. Motion carried.
Motion by Donald Poole to include a 5% contingency of \$42,000 and the larger electrical panel at \$24,000 to come from the reserve accounts. Seconded by Pam Alley. Vote 5/0/0. Motion carried.
8. **Old Business** - None
9. **New Business**

a. **Adopt new General Assistance Ordinance** – *Motion by Jake Thompson to approve and sign the General Assistance Ordinance. Second by Donald Poole. Vote 5/0/0. Motion carried. Passed for signatures.*

b. **Approve Maine Water Wastewater Operating Contract** – *Motion by Donald Poole to extend and sign the contract with Maine Water through December 2023 @ \$9,455/mo. Seconded by Pam Alley. Vote 5/0/0. Motion carried.*

There was discussion on hiring a second full-time employee for Maine Water and Vinalhaven Water District. Maine Water gave the amount of \$79,000 for an additional employee to be split \$47,400 from the Water District and \$31,600 from Maine Water. The Board requested the Sewer Commissioners meet to discuss the issue further and make a recommendation to the board. The Sewer Commissioners will schedule a meeting for early February.

c. **Budget Items**

i) **Wages** – Marjorie is suggesting a 5.5% COLA increase for employees. According to a survey on the Town Managers list-serve, some towns are offering as high as 8%. There was discussion on the Town Managers contract and if it outlines a yearly pay increase.

ii) **Admin** - There was discussion on bringing the administration insurance down to three people (currently at 4).

iii) **Selectmen** - There was discussion on a raise for the Board of Selectmen and if it might entice someone to serve on the Board.

iv) **Other departments as needed:**

(1) **Assessor** – There is a map company coming Thursday (1/19/23) to start conversation on updating the tax maps. They have not been updated since 2014.

(2) **Professional Services** – There was discussion on upcoming projects that would require engineering services (North Haven Rd./Vinal Cove and Folly Pond Culvert). The only legal issue still ongoing is the Hurricane Island case. The Board recommends dividing the \$80,000 budgeted for Professional Services into \$35,000 for Legal Services and \$45,000 for Engineering Services.

(3) **Washington School** – There was discussion on building improvements (exterior renovation/painting and landscaping). There was discussion on adding to the operating budget or reserve funds for maintenance.

10. **Report of Town Manager** – Marjorie and Donald Young had a meeting with the Knox County Sheriff, Deputy Sheriff, County Commissioner, and North Haven's Town Manager in Rockland. All reported that it went well. It's obvious that housing is a big issue. The Sheriff and Commissioner suggested February 21st in the morning as a possible time for them to come over and meet with the Selectmen; the Board agreed to set up that meeting. There was discussion on using the extra funds budgeted for a second full-time deputy for building something as possible housing. There was discussion on the Town paying rent versus a mortgage and what "lodging" refers to in the contract.

11. **Report of Members** – Donald Poole asked if the Town had any ordinances on recreational marijuana dispensaries. If everyone remembers correctly, the Town would have had to opt-in to the State rules and regulations for the planning board to be able to issue any permit. There should be more public discussion and more research.

Pam asked the fourth of July committee if when they take the Christmas lights off the old fire hall if they might be able to change the bulbs in the outside light.

12. Executive Session to deliberate over an application for abatement pursuant to 36

M.R.S.A. §841(2)

Motion by Donald Poole to enter into Executive Session pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. §841(2) at 6:35pm. Seconded by Jake Thompson. Vote 5/0/0. Motion carried.

Motion by Donald Poole to come out of Executive Session at 6:46pm. Seconded by Jake Thompson. Vote 5/0/0. Motion carried.

Motion by Jake Thompson to deny the abatement requested pursuant to Title 36 M.R.S.A. §841(2) in case #1-2023. Seconded by Donald Young. Vote 5/0/0. Motion carried.

13. Adjourn - *Motion by Leslie Dyer to adjourn at 6:48pm. Seconded by Jake Thompson. Vote 5/0/0. Motion carried.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Bunker, Deputy Town Clerk

Next Meetings:

January 31, Budget

February 7, BOS and Budget