

**MINUTES
TOWN OF VINALHAVEN
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**Tuesday, February 6, 2024
5:00 PM
TOWN OFFICE**

1. Roll Call – Selectmen Pam Alley, Leslie Dyer, Don Young, Ladd Olson (Zoom), and Tom Anthony; Town Manager Marjorie Stratton, and Deputy Clerk Elizabeth Bunker.

Present in person: Banner Moffat, Margaret Qualey, Peter Drury, Alan Peterson, Kris Davidson, Ali McCarthy, Dan Bickford, and John Barbour.

Present via Zoom: Gabe McPhail, Chris Carrol (PIA), and Dan Cross.
2. Approve Agenda – Add Letter from Peter Drury as 6b. *Motion to approve the agenda as amended by Leslie Dyer. Seconded by Tom Anthony. Vote 5/0/0. Motion carried.*
3. Minutes - Approve the minutes from the January 23, 2024 meeting. *Motion by Don Young to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Leslie Dyer. Vote 5/0/0. Motion carried.*
4. Approve and Sign Treasurer’s Warrant #32 – Motion by Leslie Dyer to approve and sign Treasurer’s Warrant #32. Seconded by Tom Anthony. Vote 5/0/0. Motion carried.
5. Communications - None
6. Speakers From the Floor
 - a. PIA General Manager, Chris Carroll – Chris is the new General Manager at PIA and was invited by the board to discuss any issues at the airstrip – clearing trees, runway extension, survey, etc. Don asked about PIA’s fares and plans for operation. Chris answered that fares had been lowered, on a trial run, to see if the business could be sustained, and went on to say that people were utilizing the service more than last winter and that was very encouraging. There was a discussion about cutting trees around the airstrip. Chris spoke with Marc Candage about particular areas. Currently, the larger planes can’t be brought over because there isn’t enough clearance. The discussion moved into runway extension. It was asked that Marjorie get a list of abutting landowners. Chris also noted that an extension would abate some of the noise on take-off. PIA has started to bring groceries from Hannaford on Sunday which has been a great success. PIA is hopeful they can work with abutting landowners to continue to make medivacs and travel safe.
 - b. Letter from Peter Drury – There was a lot of discussion on multiple cancellations due to crew shortage, and those cancellations being made at the last minute. Don spoke with Representative Holly Eaton and she was receptive to working with the Town to address issues. Gabe mentioned that the BRIC grant that has been applied for would be a great opportunity to work with the MDOT and do a vulnerability assessment. There was a consensus of the Board to request a meeting with Representative Holly Eaton and a meeting with Bill Geary.
7. Committee and Departmental Reports and Appointments
 - a. Woodard & Curran Status Report – None

- b. Downtown Project – Gabe reported that the EDA letter was received today and the project can go out to bid. Woodard & Curran are all set with bid documents. There was discussion on the start date for the project. The intent is not to be working during the summer so if work doesn't start soon then the start date will be after Labor Day. The NBRC portion of the project is just waiting for approval of the environmental assessment from NOAA. Gabe submitted the grant documents on Friday for the retaining wall in the inlet behind the Old Fire Hall.

Gabe also reported that Affinity, who is doing the work on the LED Streetlight Conversion project will be sending a crew to North Haven to start an audit this month.

Kris Davidson asked the opinion of the Board on the design of the crosswalk for Main Street. It is currently designed to be 37' wide. This is a "speed table" style of crosswalk intended for traffic calming. There was discussion on how the crosswalk fits into the design of sidewalks/parking along Main Street and the design of the parking lot, and it was asked if the engineers could provide an alternative option. Gabe noted that any changes would have to be made as a "change order" as the designs have been finalized for the bid process, and any substantial additions or changes would incur significant engineer fees and cause delays. There was a consensus of the Board to review the design plans and the width of the crosswalk could be shortened.

There was a consensus of the Board to address **9a. JTMA Musical Rampage Request** at this time. This year the committee is requesting to hold the event from 5-10 pm and to close off the parking lot at 11 am that day to allow for setup. *Motion by Pam Alley to accept the request of the JTMA Musical Rampage request to hold the event in the town parking lot. Seconded by Tom Anthony. Vote 5/0/0. Motion carried.*

- c. Ambulance – Memorandum of Understanding between Maine EMS and VHEMS – The Board reviewed the MOU letter from Maine EMS and Ryan's memo. *Motion by Pam Alley to support the Memorandum of Understanding between Maine EMS and Vinalhaven EMS for procurement of cradle point ruggedized routers and multi-function high gain dome antenna with related installation and maintenance costs for two years paid for with a grant from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Seconded by Tom Anthony. Vote 5/0/0. Motion carried.*
- d. Knox County Sheriff's Reports – Dec and January – Reviewed

Ladd Olson had to sign off.
- e. Appointment to the Ferry Tariff Advisory Committee – Roxanne Tolman – Motion by Leslie Dyer to appoint Roxanne Tolman to the Ferry Tariff Advisory Committee. Seconded by Tom Anthony. Vote 4/0/0. Motion Carried.

8. Old Business - None

9. New Business

- a. JTMA – Musical Rampage Request – See above.
- b. VH Wastewater – Sewer User Issues – Tom asked for a copy of the ordinance so he could understand the rate formula. *Motion by Leslie Dyer to approve adjusted sewer user rates for the three identified properties. Seconded by Tom Anthony. Vote 4/0/0. Motion carried.*

10. Report of Town Manager

- a. FY25 Budget Discussion – The Budget Committee met before this meeting and discussed Capital Projects and Reserves. Marjorie asked how the Board wanted to address budget meetings – separate from regular Board meetings or in conjunction with a regular meeting. The Board agreed separate workshops would be better. The Board agreed to review the budget items that are easily decided (ie. Insurance, Social Sec./Medicare, and Licensed Septage Site) at the next regular meeting (February 27) and then schedule workshops from there.

The Board reviewed the Treasurer's Report of all bank account balances and interest rates.

The walkway and ramp are repaired at the Thorofare. This went over budget because of pouring new footings. The balance will be taken from the Harbor Reserve.

Still waiting to hear about public hearings for the new Ferry Tariff.

And no movement on a new Knox County Sheriff's contract. The County Administrator has resigned and there has been no new info.

11. Report of Members - None

12. Adjourn – Motion to adjourn by Tom Anthony at 6:44pm. Seconded by Leslie Dyer. Vote 4/0/0. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted

Elizabeth Bunker, Deputy Clerk