

Select Board Minutes

March 25, 2024

As Approved on April 9, 2024

Present: DeeDee Jorgensen, Michael Kreindler, Dale Carlton, Steve Bonine

Attended via Zoom: Jennifer Geiger, Denise Parker, Don Hudson, Phine Ewing, Jonathan Biehler, Vicky Stoneman

Excused: Walter Briggs

Call to Order: 6:02pm by DeeDee

Agenda: Reviewed & approved

Items for approval:

- Minutes of the Select Board Meeting on March 11, 2024, were approved on a motion by Jennifer seconded by DeeDee.
- Treasurer's Warrant FY24 #19 for \$114,241.00 was approved on a motion by Jennifer seconded by DeeDee.
- ABA Warrant FY24 #12 for \$56,343.22 was approved on a motion by Jennifer seconded by DeeDee. Warrant #12 in part replaces the \$42,000 (for 210 houses) in warrant #10 with two new invoices for household connection equipment (for 206 houses) totaling \$41,200. Warrant #10 will not be paid. The ABA projects that the total network cost should come in under the budget of \$1.388M.

Arrowsic Broadband Authority (ABA) update – Don Hudson:

- Tranche C, approximately 35% of the total grant from Maine Connectivity Authority (MCA) or about \$350,000 is to be disbursed on Thursday, March 28. Invoices up to the 90% limit will then be paid.
- MCA is scheduled to inspect the network (fiber, central office, and a few houses) on April 4, 2024. If the network passes inspection, the final 10% of the grant money will be requested.
- Axiom is currently connecting houses at a rate of approximately 20/day, with all houses expected to be connected within 2-3 weeks.
- The Line of Credit is due for renewal and needs to be approved at the Annual Town Meeting in June. The request is needed by the Select Board by April 15.
- A report is being created for the Annual Town Report.

Town staff & volunteers:

- Code Enforcement Officer (CEO)
 - Mike Fields is interested in assuming the CEO position in Arrowsic, Georgetown, and Woolwich. He needs to meet with the Human Resources person in each town. Benefits are not needed. He will need to be certified.
 - Chris Wilcoxson will be in town until mid-June, allowing for mentoring.

- Michael Kreindler volunteered his services during the CEO transition.
- Per the State of Maine, a CEO may inspect buildings without certification, but must be certified to inspect plumbing.
- Animal Control Officer – Walter has talked to Amanda Moore, Georgetown’s Animal Control Officer and will bring her to an Arrowsic Select Board meeting.
- Arrowsic Recycling & Solid Waste Committee (ARSWC) needs two new members.

Other business:

- Final plan – Arrowsic Climate Resilience Committee – tabled.
- Arrowsic Fire Department (AFD) – Dale Carlton & Michael Kreindler
 - Tides are expected to be high during the first weeks of April and May, possibly resulting in flooding. Frequent flooding in two locations on Route 127 has changed from an emergency response to being a predictable event. The AFD questions its role here and asked that the Town request the State to take responsibility for traffic control.
 - There was discussion about assistance the state may be able to deploy for road safety by notifying residents of Arrowsic and Georgetown about the presence of flooding, such as lights and signage like that used on Rt. 1 in Woolwich. DeeDee and Jennifer agreed to follow up.
 - In 2010, \$200,000 was paid for a tanker that in 2015 was projected to need replacement in 2031. Current replacement cost is \$425,000. The AFD expects to extend the life of the tanker until 2034 but the projected cost would be about \$1.2M. At this time, \$40,000 is being put aside annually to cover the cost of replacing the trucks, however, this amount will not cover the current cost projections. AFD proposed putting aside \$50,000 in 2024-2025 and to consider increasing the amount by 10% annually, instead. The AFD will monitor replacement truck costs going forward.
 - Eleven sets of gear (pants, jackets, helmets) are in need of replacement at a total cost of \$48,000. The replacement could be done over a three-year period, replacing three sets each year. Dale/Michael will develop a plan.
 - For the FY25 budget the Fire Department will increase its request to \$20,000 to cover the cost of replacing gear and will break down the costs into line items rather than requesting a lump sum.

Mail: None

Adjournment: 7:07pm on a motion by Jennifer seconded by DeeDee

Next meeting: Tuesday, April 9, 2024, at 6:00pm

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Parker
Town Administrator