

Readfield Select Board
Regular Meeting Minutes August 25, 2014 - Approved

Select Board members present: Sue Reay, Valarie Pomerleau, Greg Durgin, Thomas Dunham and Allen Curtis.

Others attending: Shannon Gould (PEG TV), Stefan Pakulski (Town Manager), Gene Carbona, Nancy Buker, David Buker, Pamela Glidden, David Glidden, John Cushing, Ray Renner, Lenny Reay and Peter Davis.

Mrs. Reay called the meeting to order at 6:17 pm.

(1) Executive session: **Motion** by Mrs. Reay to enter into executive session pursuant to 1 MRSA Sec. 405(6)(C) concerning disposition of public property and invite the Town Manager to attend, **second** Mr. Durgin; **vote** 5-0-0.

Mrs. Reay reconvened the meeting at 6:35 pm. The pledge of allegiance was made.

(2) Minutes: **Motion** by Mr. Durgin to approve the minutes of 07/28/2014 as amended, **second** Ms. Pomerleau; **vote** 4-0-1 (Mr. Curtis abstained due to absence).

Motion by Ms. Pomerleau to approve the minutes of 08/11/2014 as amended, **second** Mr. Curtis; **vote** 5-0-0.

Motion by Mr. Durgin to approve the minutes of 08/14/2014 as written, **second** Ms. Pomerleau; **vote** 5-0-0.

(3) Warrant: Mr. Curtis reviewed warrant #4, which was in the amount of \$43,699.13. There was a discussion about the emergency road washout bill and which account to pay it out of. The vote on the warrant was tabled until further in the meeting.

Mrs. Reay led a discussion in regard to unlimited texting for the Town Manager's cell phone account for \$10 instead of a 'per text' charge. The consensus of the board was to have the Town Manager make this change.

(4) Select Board Communications:

- Mrs. Reay gave an audit workshop reminder for 08/27/2014 at 4:30 pm.
- A workshop date was established for 09/10/2014 at 4:30 pm to continue work on the Town Manager review format.
- The budget committee will meet with the Select Board on 10/16/2014 at 5:30 pm.
- The final retreat report has been received but has not been reviewed by the board; this will be placed on the next agenda.
- There was a discussion about attendance at the upcoming MMA convention on 10/1-2/2014. Ms. Pomerleau and Mr. Curtis will attend. The Town Manager will check with staff in regard to attendance in October. The entire board will attend a December 2014 workshop.
- Mr. Dunham reviewed his inspection of the library work he feels needs to be done prior to painting. He estimated the cost of repairs to be between \$2,000 and \$3,000. He will work with the Town Manager to determine the details.

(5) Town Manager: Mr. Pakulski reviewed his report.

- He thanked John Cushing for his storm repair work.
- Deb Peale may have some valuable library items to put out to bid.
- There was a discussion about the letter to the board from Richard Barton regarding a public easement for building a trail. Rebecca Seel from MMA agreed that the town can legally improve that easement without any further action if the board should choose to do so. There was continued discussion regarding public input and safety of crossing the road to access the trail. Mr. Pakulski gave further clarification as to the public easement retained by the town, of which the public has the unobstructed right to use. Lenny Reay commented the easement was kept because CMP needs to get to the pole. He also said if a trail is installed parking will need to be provided.

(6) Boards, Committees, Commissions & Departments:

- Mr. Durgin reviewed the minutes of the fields committee meeting which were included in the packet. He said Greg Leimbach has been mowing the field as a volunteer and will continue to do so. The field will be reseeded after new drainage is installed. There is no timeline for the field to be turned over to

the rec association but they would like to have it ready for the next baseball season. Mrs. Reay said the drain has now been installed and the slopes have been mowed. She also said everything that has happened at the fairgrounds area has been donated and if it gets turned over to the rec board, they want to charge a fee to anyone using it other than the rec association. Mr. Durgin said he was not aware of this. Lenny Reay said there will be ongoing fees to maintain the field. John Cushing asked about the town retaining ownership after giving oversight to the rec board. There was continued discussion.

(7) Appointments/Reappointments: Applicant Carrie Knight was not in attendance.

(8) Road maintenance and crack sealing quotes: Pete Davis reported the road committee met earlier today, reviewed the bid information, and made motions to accept Cushing's bid as outlined by the Town Manager and Grip Wet's crack sealing bid, both passing unanimously. In regard to the Old Kents Hill Road, the committee recommended to shim and overlay a portion of the road from the town office to the dam; this should save enough money to do the additional requested work, plus painting and striping. Mr. Pakulski described the condition of the Old Kents Hill Road and agreed the shim and overlay could be split into two phases, which would probably save enough in the current budget to do maintenance work originally budgeted to be done. These figures have not been worked out in detail yet. There was a continued discussion. The board was not in favor of overspending on the road budget. Mr. Dunham requested more detail in order to make an informed decision. Mrs. Reay suggested using road budget carry forward funding and not to increase tax revenue if the road budget is overspent. Lenny Reay suggested fixing only the bad spots on the portions of Cushing's bid and to cut the rest. John Cushing agreed. John Cushing said he would repave the whole Old Kents Hill Road, but that the ditching could make it another year if just the bad spots and culverts were done. Gene Carbona said the town has great schools and great roads and he would like to keep it this way. There was a discussion about using the road carry forward account to fund the road projects. Lenny Reay asked why this was not decided at town meeting two months ago. Mrs. Reay explained the reason. Mr. Pakulski said costs are not known until bids are received. The discussion continued. Pam Glidden asked if there was a disaster fund for emergencies, and Mrs. Reay informed her about the \$50,000 Select Board contingency fund. The board discussed why they felt it would be better to use road carry forward funds instead of the contingency fund.

Motion by Mr. Curtis to award the crack sealing work to Grip Wet Sealing Company per the cost of \$13 per gallon and to install up to \$10,000, **second** Ms. Pomerleau; **vote** 5-0-0.

Motion by Mr. Curtis to award the Plains, Gay, Chase, P Ridge and South Road work to Cushing Construction with the understanding that some work might be put on hold or with the understanding if the road budget goes over that an article will be placed on next year's warrant asking for these funds to be covered by the road carry forward account, **second** Ms. Pomerleau; there was a discussion. Lenny Reay commented when the upcoming budgets are put together that the quoted prices should be guaranteed for 30 or 60 days. There was a discussion about what might happen at next year's town meeting. Pete Davis said the road committee would rather use a rate sheet than RFPs because the process would be done sooner. Mrs. Reay disagreed. Mr. Curtis said the bidding process needs to be done later in the year. Pete Davis said whatever the board wants the road committee will agree to.

Mrs. Reay called the vote but then she amended the motion to remove the Plains Road work of \$13,808, **second** by Mr. Durgin; there was a discussion. Mr. Pakulski recommended awarding to Cushing all the work that was specified and to consider cutting the shim and overlay work on the upper section of the Old Kents Hill Road which is also what the road committee recommended. Mrs. Reay called the vote on the amendment; **vote** 1-4-0 (Mrs. Reay in favor); **vote** on original motion 4-1-0 (Mrs. Reay opposed).

Continued warrant discussion: **Motion** by Mr. Curtis to accept warrant #4 as presented in the amount of \$43,699.13, **second** Mr. Durgin; **vote** 4-1-0 (Mrs. Reay opposed).

(9) Select Board retreat draft report (if available): Discussion at next meeting.

(10) Bid for roto-phase power converters: Mrs. Reay said the bidder wrote a brief letter; she apologized she did not have it but will read it at the next meeting. The bid from Gerry Mason was opened. It was in the amount of \$500 for both. Mr. Durgin said the value is considerably more than that. Mrs. Reay said it has been in surplus for while, but the board said the amount they want to get for these is not what was bid. Gene Carbona asked if the new business would be a tax base for the town. Mrs. Reay said hopefully. She also said

they have been sitting there now for 6 years, unused. John Cushing said they should be put back out to bid if the amount was not what was wanted. Mr. Durgin suggested negotiating with the one bidder. The board consensus is to re-negotiate with the one bidder and would like the Town Manager to pursue this in accordance with what was previously discussed in executive session.

(11) Select Board Liaison Policy: First reading – edits were made. There was a discussion whether or not to allow members of the public to also serve as liaison. A second reading will be scheduled for the next meeting.

(12) Other (if needed): None.

(13) Public Communication: Mrs. Reay read the policy.

- Ms. Pomerleau answered questions from previous meetings: Lenny Reay asked if the board can freeze the use of employee overtime. Ms. Pomerleau checked with MMA and was told this probably falls within the authority of the board to make such a decision. Ms. Pomerleau then addressed a letter from Deb Doten and Grace Keene about a resident questioning the duties of an employee. She read a lengthy written letter she had prepared. Mr. Curtis said he did not feel the board was targeting one specific group or committee, rather the goal was to keep the mil rate down. Ms. Pomerleau said that everyone's perception is different (regarding the possible harassment of employees). Rather than take up Select Board meeting time with this, she would be more than willing to meet with interested parties outside of regular meetings.

Motion by Mr. Dunham for the Town Manager to authorize no overtime without Select Board approval except for emergencies, **second** by Mr. Curtis; there was a discussion. Mr. Durgin said this is micro-managing the Town Manager. Mrs. Reay said there is no reason to mow on the weekends. Ms. Pomerleau commented the Town should get others certified to work at the transfer station and it is necessary to think outside of the box to save money.

Motion by Mrs. Reay to extend the meeting to 9:30 pm, **second** Mr. Durgin; **vote** 5-0-0.

Gene Carbona said micro-managing is a good thing because the mil rate is too high.

Mrs. Reay called the vote. **Vote** 4-1-0 (Mr. Durgin opposed).

- Ray Renner asked about responsibility for the committees. He said the board needs a liaison for every committee and all minutes should be submitted to the Select Board. He asked if the road committee has a list of roads in spreadsheet form. Mrs. Reay referred him to the road commissioner.
- Mr. Durgin said he observed people using the trails but not using the parking lot, so the number of parked cars is not an indication of trails being used.
- Lenny Reay thanked Ms. Pomerleau for answering the letter. He suggested all board members ride to see the East Readfield cemetery as it looks terrible.
- Deb Nichols asked about the legality of the overtime motion.
- Gerry Mason commented on trying to start a business in town. He said it is vital he gets three phase power for his machines. He explained the letter he wrote. Lenny Reay said he hopes Gerry gets the converters and Gene Carbona agreed.

Motion by Mrs. Reay to reopen the motion by Mr. Dunham regarding authorizing no overtime, **seconded** by Mr. Dunham; there was a discussion. **Vote:** 3-2-0 (Mr. Curtis, Mr. Dunham opposed). **Vote** reconsidering original motion: 2-3-0 (Mr. Curtis, Mr. Dunham in favor). Ms. Pomerleau said she will check with the legality of this with MMA.

(14) & (15) Executive Sessions:

Motion by Mrs. Reay to enter into executive session pursuant to 1 MRSA Sec. 405(6)(F) to consider a poverty abatement request and invite the Town Manager to attend, **second** Mr. Durgin; **vote** 5-0-0. The board entered executive session at 9:30 pm.

Recorded by Deborah Nichols

Motion by Mrs. Reay, **second** by Mr. Durgin to exit executive session; **vote** 5-0-0. The board exited executive session at 10:08 pm and entered public session.

Motion by Mr. Curtis, **second** by Mr. Durgin to grant the poverty abatement pursuant to 36 MRSA Sec. 841(2); there was a discussion. Mr. Curtis called the vote. There was continued discussion. Mr. Curtis withdrew the motion.

Motion by Mr. Durgin, **second** by Mr. Dunham to postpone a decision on the application until the next Select Board meeting on 08/27/2014; **vote** 5-0-0. Mrs. Reay noted the board will make a vote after the audit workshop at 6:00 pm.

Seeing no further business before the board, Mrs. Reay adjourned the meeting at 11:05 pm.

Recorded by Stefan Pakulski