

## BOARD OF SELECTPERSON

### Meeting Minutes

March 25, 2024

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION 1 MRSA € 405 (6) (A) 6:00-6:17PM**

**Wade motioned to enter executive session for 1 MRSA € 405 (6) (A), Brady seconded, all in favor.**

#### CALL TO ORDER:

Gil called the meeting to order at 7:00PM with the Flag Salute.

#### SELECT BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

**Gil Harris, Wade Andrews, Brady Connors, John Medici- Absent- Katie Proctor**

#### MEMBERS IN AUDIENCE:

Alesha Buzzell, Vinnie Pelletier, Dean and Lisa LePage, Joanne Andrews, Dana and Anne Batchelder, Jack Cole, Gail Libby, Merrill Farrand, Steve McLean

#### MINUTES:

Motion to approve the minutes: Brady **motioned**, Wade **seconded**, all in favor.

#### WARRANT:

Motion to approve the warrants: Brady **motioned**, Wade **seconded**, all in favor.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Read Announcements: Brady read the announcements.

#### DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

##### **Vinnie Pelletier, Fire Chief:**

Lots of finish work is going up, walls have painted upstairs and down, cabinets and countertops are also being installed. The tower was ordered for the radio antennas and the steel column inside the station has also been installed. Sprinkler system is near complete as well as many other utility items such as the speakers, cameras, etc. and appears they are still on track for the early May opening. Update on the Federal Grant, they have received there executing grant award which is the green light to start charging bills to the grant. HUD had him login into a program that he utilized to make that happen and he will do more research on this tomorrow. He wanted to discuss the Brush Truck; he gave them quotes on all areas that he had gotten. They are going to a flatbed, they are not utilizing the body that came on the truck, the committee decided it does not work best for the Fire Department. They are going with Scott's Recreation for \$7,299. The pump and skid unit, they will be going with Fire Tech and Safety, they compared the base unit and went to Mass and met with the company and they customized the unit to there needs. Paint and body they spent a lot of time on this and struggled to get quotes. The committee spent weeks trying to get different quotes but were unsuccessful. They have one quote from Precision Equipment Coating. The last three items they have not gotten quotes on paper yet, so they estimated those,

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the vinyl lettering, radios being installed, emergency lightening, they are at \$81,393.00 so they are still within budget, which was \$90,000. John wondered about the pump and tank, he wanted to know about the three quotes, Vinnie confirmed those were the three individual quotes that they got for this base unit. Once they selected a vendor for the base unit, they were \$2500 cheaper which was Fire Tech and Safety. The company designs this all. John asked if the total appropriated was \$90,000 which is correct, \$40,000 out of Capital Account in 2021 and then \$50,000 out of Ambulance Revenue Subscriptions last November. Gil asked about the stand alone quote from Messer for \$6,066, he asked if it was on the list of prices anywhere and Vinnie confirmed it was on the list for flatbeds. John asked a question on the grant; he asked if the Town was set up to fully submit bills. Vinnie said not yet, he is digging into it tomorrow to work on and figure this out. Great Falls is working on putting together the March requisition, but we still owe February. Vinnie wants to see this happen sooner than later; he will try to speak with the HUD people to find out the actual process. John asked about the old Brush Truck and that based on the time of the new one not being done yet, does it make sense to hold onto this one until the other one is completed. Vinnie and the committee agreed, the new one should be ready around the end of April. Vinnie asked if he was good to move forward and the Board said yes considering this was stuff that was already voted on.

Steve McLean expressed a few concerns he had and asked why the Town bought a truck that needed so much work. He thinks it seems like if we had \$90,000 to buy a truck, why buy one that would not take a sticker. He said it is hard to explain to the taxpayers. He did not know if thru rumor that they are getting a flatbed because they did not like the utility body that they told the Town they needed. He asked if there was a flatbed that they were purchasing instead of a utility body, John confirmed. He gave the Board a sheet of prices from a regular truck magazine on flatbeds that are cheaper. He goes back to his statement that on the outside the truck looks nice and shiny but is like everything else, the inside, the fenders and all that stuff, the oil pan was leaking, the spindle was bad, nobody should buy a truck like this and put that type of money into it. He said they had taken the other brush truck out of service, so they had no option for brush season here the last few weeks. He is glad to see it going back in service because they should not be without one. They had a fire Sunday and the week before so it would have nice to have. He feels like they need to look over this stuff to see what is going on. He said on the way over to the meeting tonight there was another quote that was coming in from another body shop and that Derek Welch said he is taking it down to Moody's on Wednesday to get a price because we are supposed to get three prices on items so that is what we should be doing. He said that the truck sat at a local body shop for two months, they got in December and here it is March, and it is just starting to be worked on. He said if the truck needs rockers panels, fenders, doors, and other stuff that he does not believe there is a taxpayer that would have even purchased it. He added that right away when they got it, it would not take a sticker. He said they could have purchased a year old or two-year-old truck with a certified fire vehicle.

#### **Joanne Andrews, Transfer Station:**

She took the required test for her renewal for Solid Waste and Renewal for her manager's license. They sold the first load of metal for the year and usually they do not sell the first load until May or June, but they sold 15.15 tons and received \$154.00 straight ton, so they got a check for \$2,272.50 which is very good. It is \$20 more a ton than last year. She advertised the old 40-yard container

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that is at the Transfer Station, and she asked for bids. No one has reached out with questions yet, but after the bids are due if they do not receive any or accept any then a decision will have to be made. They took possession of 2 out of 3 of their new containers that were a part of the ballot that the public voted on for the compactor. Two of the containers arrived and she asked the driver what the weight was for each one, the 40yd containers each weight 5500lbs. At \$150 a ton they could be looking around \$400 roughly for scrap if she uses one for scrap metal. Once the compacter is used, the two that they delivered will replace the two that Mellens uses for door to door to pick up. They will then no longer have open top household waste containers which will save a tremendous amount of mess from the crows. She has some seniors from the high school that will be coming to help clean up some of this mess as community service hours. The hopper is being constructed right now and is custom made. It is specifically for that area. This should be done around the first of May; they just need to get a bid on the attendant building. She is thinking that they will not add a cement pad under it so if they want to move it in the future then they would not have that expense under it, so they will just do the cement blocks. She will have to get bids on the digging, she is thinking about is going from the big barn from the well and adding a faucet over by the compacter. It would be good for fire prevention and since it is gravel now it makes more sense than digging through the tar. The electrical and digging will be going out to bid, she has some estimates as part of the whole bid package but is not divulging the amounts. She is planning on attending the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Maine Resource Recovery Association Conference and Trade Show. They have a good itinerary this year and she has it in her budget. She gave the Board some information on it and will be taking two courses while she is up there which is free. They are right around \$10,000 so they are right on schedule for this time of year in taking in fee money. She wanted to thank our new Treasurer, Julie, for setting her up an account at Napa to buy the hydraulic fluid for the compacter. Unfortunately, she cannot purchase local as it would cost three times as much. She appreciates her time in setting that up. She expects the compacter to be online by June 1<sup>st</sup>. Steve Richardson has been a huge help at the Transfer Station and for the Town.

#### **Steve McLean, Appeals Board:**

Question for Joanne, do you have a minimum bid for the container? We do not.

The Appeals Board has had a lot of FOAA requests and one of them has been how many classes they have taken while on the Board. He said the Town of Limerick has never required anyone on the Planning Board or anything else to go to these classes that are put on by MMA and we do not keep a record of it. Therefore, they are not personally required to keep a record of what classes they have taken. He said legally he does not have to go digging through his stuff to provide this. In the future he has talked about requiring people to go to these classes, but it is hard enough to get Board members never mind requiring classes. If these are available in the future, then the Town will need to keep a file on them all. He called MMA to see if they had it on file since they paid to do the courses but, in his case, he has 18 years on the Appeals Board and other boards. Personally, he thinks it is getting a little out of hand all this requirement stuff. He just wanted to let the Board know what was going on. John mentioned that if you do not have something then you have nothing to show. He said as much as everyone was mad at the Appeals Board, the Planning Board met, and everything went through. He said we may not all agree but the Town saved \$100,000 dollars.

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#### Old Business:

Cemetery Mowing (Veterans/Cemetery Committee- No new update, Alesha did email Joe who wanted to head the committee and not heard back yet but John ran into him earlier that day and he still wants to help from behind the scenes but is going to be having surgery on his knee. Dean LePage asked if there are some funds in this account. He would hate to see this continue on another few years. He would like to see some of the little ones started if there are funds available. He said maybe some seniors who need Community Service could help take care of some. There are some on private property that are taken care of. We are certainly hoping to move this forward this Spring. Gail checked and there is \$500 available. Lisa LePage asked if we do not have a committee formed and take care of this, doesn't it fall on the Town? Gil said that they are hopeful that the committee will give the Board some direction to head in. John wondered about adding it to the June ballot and raising \$15,000-\$20,000 to take care of these. Dean and Lisa would like to be notified when the next meeting will be.

Dean also wanted to know if there was a committee for the brush truck, John said they do have a committee. John said this task was put in the hands of the Fire Chief who established a committee and from everything they have heard, the committee picked this truck, and more than one member viewed the truck and went to pick it up and felt that it was the best truck for the value, and it would do what they needed it to do. He does not believe it is just one person and is not saying that they had a whole consensus and that they all went to see it, but it was not just one person who said they wanted it and that is the one they were going to purchase. The committee is making the decisions.

Steve McLean said they did have a committee; the truck was bought in the Boston area, but a further examination would have been good. When the truck needed two fenders and rocker panels, front spindle, oil pan was leaking, he doesn't believe that anyone would have purchased it for \$26,000. And now what he is hearing from committee members they are putting another \$20,000- \$25,000 into it just to get it ready for the road, never mind the add ons he agrees with those. John said the bid for the repairs is not \$20,000 something, it is \$9,880 and Steve asked if that was for the deposit, John clarified that the repairs bill is \$9,880. Brady read the list of repairs which included fenders, rocker cab corners, front doors, paint match, rust proofing, sand blast, epoxy and painting the frame. Steve then asked what a municipality was doing buying a rusted-out truck.

#### **We moved the bids for the Cemetery up to this point- Three bids were received:**

Mike Cruver from Cornish- Total for 2024/2025 was \$18,400.

Maintenance Man- Total for 2024/2025 was \$16,200.

Jackson Cole- Total for 2024/2025 was \$5,800. Brady **motioned** to award the contract to Jackson Cole from Professional Landscape Services, John **seconded**, discussion, John said he would vote no on the recommendation, and he would make a new motion if the first one fails to adjust his number up some under the terms of the bid, **all** opposed. John **motioned** to award the contract to Professional Landscape Services Inc at \$600 per mowing to stay the same for both years, every mowing would be \$600, Brady **seconded**, **all** in favor.

Fire Building Update- Vinnie reported this during his report.

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Review of Legal Accounts- No bills this week.

FOAA Requests- Nothing new this week.

Deed work for Tibbetts Park update- Wade will try and touch base with Mike and see if he would like to come in next week.

Town Charter Update- The next meeting is April 11<sup>th</sup>.

BTH Repairs/inside repairs- Alesha is still waiting for the insurance to respond, she did receive a coverage explanation. She will follow up with them to try and move this forward. Once this is resolved, we should be all set. Connectivity Point was paid the first balance and most of the equipment has been installed but is waiting on Consolidated to do their part.

Town-owned Property Letters- Working on Cure letters with Town attorney on both properties.

Vault Update- HVAC realized that the control sensor is bad. Hopefully this will now fix the issue completely, the part should be in within a few weeks.

New Business Park Sign- The Board will get the sign permit which was waived at a prior meeting. The posts will be coming soon.

Shelter Survey- Katie reached out to Ray and will try to have this finalized soon.

Re-purposing of the Boat Launch in Lake Arrowhead for the public to access- kayaks, canoes, and fishing only, no boats- An update will happen in the Spring.

MMA inspections report follow-up for the Emergency Action Plan- Alesha has been following up on moving forward with the plan on the recommendations that the Sheriff's Office made. She will be placing an order for the ladders, letters, and to-go bags soon.

Auction of Lake Arrowhead Lots-This is on hold for now for more legal advice.

Minuteman Proposal for Overlook and Municipal Office cameras, heat detectors-One of the new companies that is giving a quote will be out next week to test a camera at the Outlook. They want to make sure before they quote that there is a strong enough cell phone service up there.

Proposal for Municipal Building Furnace- The contractor came today, and they need a floater part too that he needed to replace.

Addition to Personnel Policy- The Board will review for the week and hope to come back next week with some changes.

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Fund Balance Policy- The Board will also review this policy to make changes, Alesha also spoke with Julie and will have her share her opinion with the Board. John did say that part of the Fund Balance Policy is how it is written, it contradicts itself.

Abutter Request from 1/2/24- With the new information from our lawyer and how they feel about selling properties, we can now send this back to our Town attorney.

Cemetery Contract- need new contractor- The bids are due back March 20<sup>th</sup> at 12PM, the bids were opened earlier in meeting.

Squad Truck Bid Update- This is on hold for now.

Discussion of June Warrant Articles- This warrant is due to the Town Clerk on April 12<sup>th</sup>.

Sidewalk Contract

Sale of LA lots

CEO Subdivision Ordinance

Flood Plan Ordinance by CEO

Allaire Drive

Articles not passed on Ballot on March 5, 2024

Question from Building Advisory Committee-concern that the building is not listed for mowing- Dean LePage will look at when the snow melts which will hopefully take care of the mowing and poison ivy concern.

Discussion on Treasurer Laptop- need VPN Connections- Gil and Brady received an email from Town of Waterboro about a laptop that she had with them that they will sell to Town of Limerick for \$250.00 that our new Treasurer had with them. Brady is going to talk to our Town Treasurer and IT Administrator to see if this laptop will work within our setup. The Board agreed that we can order VPN Connections through Modem Wavs for \$495.00 There will be more information next week.

### **New Business:**

BTH Application-Brady **motioned** to approve the baby shower for Lori Thyng, Wade **seconded, all** in favor.

Sign Appointment Papers- The Board will sign all the papers at the end of the meeting.

Approve verbiage for O'Donnell's Website- John **motioned** to approve the verbiage and they immediately add any opt outs back on website, Wade **seconded, all** in favor.

Discussion of SRCTV Transmission System- The distribution of the system for meetings is now going onto the internet. This was a decision made by SRCTV and the Board of Trustees. They are going to pull what we have been used to and free because it was installed over 20 years ago. It will all have to do with the internet. They tested it today and had a terrible time with the system that

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we have now. It kept dropping the signal. He said we will not receive a stable signal with the current network that we have because it belongs to Modem Wavs. He suggested that we get a separate line, a business line so all meetings will be able to go out. She would like permission to look into getting a separate line with Consolidated. The Board agreed she has permission to move forward with this.

Discussion of Modem Wavs Agreement- Gail talked about this topic. She saw in the Budget we raised \$3500.00 and the contract that he wants the Board to sign is for \$1500.00. She does not feel that 20hrs is not enough time for the Town of Limerick anymore, especially with our new Fire Station also. She said if the Board decides to go with him, they should ask for 40hrs since more money was appropriated. She said the Board should definitely have a conversation with him before the contract is signed.

#### HEARING OF CITIZENS:

Merrill Farrand- concern over some comments that Mr. McLean made talking about the Board of Appeals. He can not speak as far as the requirements as a BOA, but PB members get the law book from State of Maine, Town Ordinance and his wife read the MMA Manual which he not sure was provided or just access is provided. To make complex decisions he hopes they are educating themselves to do the best that they can. He has been before the Board in the past about some mandatory training that should be in place, but he does not know what the requirements are for the BOA, but he feels that they are making some pretty important decisions. They have cost the Town legal money in the past because decisions were less than perfect. He also wants to state that the PB did grant the permit the other night, which according to Mr. McLean was pretty simple. He is not sure if Mr. McLean missed the meeting before where he begged the PB to grant the permit because without doing so, a member of the public cannot go to court without it because it is not a final municipal decision and that complicated a prior appeal to the courts. He thinks training is very important and provides some basic information and hopes that those individuals are reading it or two asking that they are attending a few courses. He said what is important is people want to do their best job so giving them information to review so they can learn and if the Town wants to reduce legal fees, then some basic requirements need to be made for education. He also said that Mr. McLean inaccurately stated numbers about the cost for a BOA appeal, so the Town knows that they are spending way more than \$250 to cover expenses for these meetings which are supposed to be covered by the applicant of the appeal. The last meeting the Town attorney was in attendance, so the cost for his time, travel, writing time for findings and fact for a 4hr meeting. He is glad that he is doing all of that for the small cost of \$250 plus the transcription fee for Laura May and the advertising that had to be done. He does not think this is a light issue. Because the BOA is elected that the Select Board has power over making some rules for them to follow especially in their ordinance. He said he would recommend making changes to all Board ordinances and that they have the authority.

Lisa LePage- The Historical Society will host a Solar Eclipse Program on Thursday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at 7PM at the BTH.

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Joanne Andrews- The Planning Board gets the completed MMA Manual, the complete subdivision laws, Code of Ethics, copy of ordinance and MMA has all kinds of classes that MMA offers for free that can be taken advantage of.

Steve McLean- The Budget Committee and Planning Board are elected but BOA is appointed. He said they all have the MMA Manuals, he ordered two more this year. He said it is hard to make people go to training. He said his phone has been going off, text after text. He thinks the committee should see the whole committee through until the very end and not after they got permission to do the fire station and then dissolve the committee. At some point he will share his texts with the Board that state we didn't want that, that's not what we got, etc. John asked who went to pick the Brush Truck up, Trevor and Vinnie did, he asked if anyone else saw it before which Tim did. Three people saw it before they bought it. Steve believes that the Board should talk to the committee because they were told that they were doing something that week, so they needed to make up their mind, he was appalled by that. He thought they should have spent some more time. He has had three or four nice ones go through that other Towns have purchased. He pointed out that we probably do not need an aluminum body, it is a waste of taxpayers' money. He said there has been a lot of talk that they will use the new ambulance, which was spoken for, the box will come off and it will get re-chassis and they will use that chassis for a brush truck in 4 years but it is a dual wheel and that body will not fit on a dual wheel truck, it's a single wheel truck. If we only keep it for 4 years at \$80,000 then that is appalling. John said most of the money is in the back of the truck in equipment. He said it is sad what goes on in the Town in spite of himself. Others Town will buy from him but not this one. He is not going to sit back and watch the Town waste money. He said that when they were going to buy a truck, they were going to go to the Mason Dixon line, but they only went to Boston. It has a body we could use but now we cannot. Brady thought that maybe the Board should have a meeting with the Truck Committee. He said this is eye awakening for a lot of people that we just spent \$5million on a new fire station that they all backed but now we are buying a rust bucket. Brad Libby came up and said for around \$5,000 he would put an automatic transmission in the other truck, and it would last a long time at 300 miles a year. It just went out of control. John said that the truck has a current inspection sticker. He said he just got a text from someone on the committee saying that we do not need fenders. He said we are paying twice as much for a flat bed body. John said it is hard because a lot of local people are involved. He can only say from what he sees on social media that he believes when it comes from Precsion Collision, he believes it is going to be perfect when completed. Steve wanted to know why we didn't have three quotes and John said they tried. Basically, they should have a brand-new truck when it is done. Steve said we started out at the bottom of the barrel for a lot of money. Brady said he once again believes there should be a meeting to see how many times the whole truck committee was offered to go see the truck, in his opinion. No other comments.

ADJOURN MEETING: Brady motioned to adjourn; Wade **seconded**; **all** were in favor at 9:23PM  
These minutes were approved by the Limerick Board of Select Board on:

End of Broadcast

Respectfully submitted,



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