

BOARD OF SELECTPERSON

Meeting Minutes

March 25, 2025

CALL TO ORDER:

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

SELECT BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

John Medici, Brady Connors, Wade Andrews, Howard Burnham, Bernie Carroll

MEMBERS IN AUDIENCE:

Alesha Buzzell, Ashley Lukoff, Jerry Gilpatrick, Ellen Sabino, Dean and Lisa LePage, Charlie Pellegrino, Ricky Richardson, Deb Jeffers, Gail Libby, Cheryl Edgerly, Deedee Tibbetts, Rick Ricker, Steve McLean, Julie Giles, Judy LePage, Billy Jones, Andy Leman

MINUTES:

Approve minutes from March 17th, will have for next week.

WARRANT:

Motion to accept the warrants- The Board received this right before the meeting, they will approve next week.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Read Announcements: Wade read the announcements.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Julie Giles, Treasurer-

She has received some corresponding information from the audit firm. They will be following up with herself, Judy and any Board members that want to be involved. There are 9 people that are not bonded by State law she believes, including GA processor, Fire Dept. members who handle money, Transfer Station employees, and the Liaison to the Select Board. She had a detailed revenue and expense report she would share with the Board if they would like. She will email as well. Also, the Trial Balance is available and completed as far as the information that she has received from the auditor to this date. She said the cash right now is \$3.113 million and the investments is \$17,173.05 and borrowing power is \$1.894 million. She would have brought the reports in up to date, but she has 36 journals that have not been posted, and she did not have the backup information to input them.

It has been asked about the sales of tax acquired properties; she showed a pile of papers that she said is mandated by the state to follow as well as Judy. She said after a foreclosure, the Municipal Officers hold and are responsible from that point on and it is not up to the Tax Collector and Treasurer, and it is specifically stated in their state guidelines, so this would be covered with the Liaison. She said there has been some discrepancies on this but it is out of there guidelines. She looked into a Select Board going on the Checkbook and she would like them to vote on this and

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put it into writing. She said, going through the paperwork when she came back to work, that they had parking tickets that from last year that still had not been paid for and she found an executive session that was put into a folder which you cannot do. She read from the Maine Municipal Tax Collector and Treasurer Association ethics and guidelines.

She said her hands have been tied since day one and she has been asking for assistance help to balance the general ledger and this still has not been done. She said RHR still has not sat with her and Judy to have these issues answered. John asked her to verify that our cash was roughly \$3.1 million. She said this was from the bank statement, but John asked if we had outstanding checks, she said there is outstanding checks, cash and the general entries that still need to be posted.

John said that we most likely have less than \$3.1 million. This was the balance at 1PM, she did clarify the balance would be less if everything that was out went through the total. John said if we keep three months of funds available that would be \$2.5 million available, and we only have \$3.1 without all bills being taken out, then how should we pay the bills next week. She said she cannot answer because she does not know what is coming in and what is outstanding, and she does not know what the Undesignated Account is since the auditors have not been in to work with her.

John just wanted clarification on how we will pay the bills next week.

She said that we need the full audit to get the TAN which she has applied for. She said the lawyer company will not do anything until the audit is completed. John is concerned that we are running out of money. John asked if any of the reports that she sent the Board today if she had a chance to review. He said that the \$3.1 million includes the lot sales that we have not been allocated yet, he said when we take that out then we have already run out of money. John said that the email came through about 4:30 today, he said there is a balance of \$85,000 in the Reevaluation Account according to her report, he said the bill was \$175,000 bill (O'Donnell) we had \$135,000 set aside and then we approved another \$40,000 to get to the \$175,000. We have paid the bill in full, and they are not looking for any money, but this account still shows \$85,000. She said she cannot pay anything and knows what is happening here and she said she cannot say anything about what has been paid from January 27th until this last week. John also said that we bought a Brush Truck and had \$80,000 or so allocated for it and we bought it and paid for it and all the repairs, and that account still shows \$64,000. She said she is waiting on the auditors and the general entries. She read off many dates in February and how many times she has called the audit firm. She said the due to funds are a mess.

John confirmed with her that in 2024 she handled the payroll and wanted to know how the first, third and fourth quarter payroll reports to either the Department of Labor or Maine Revenue Services were not filed, incorrectly filed or underpaid. She was not sure, but they were mailed, and she said it was not any different from the fine that we received with the W2s. John said they received them, but the problem was they were either underpaid, not correctly filed and do not quote him maybe were not received. He asked her if there were any Federal Notices about the 941s or any of those taxes that were not paid or incorrectly paid, she said not that has been given to her. She said she knows John wants her out, but she is doing her job, he said clearly, she is not. She said she has asked for helped over twenty times in three months to have some help. He said we received the \$1.8 million dollars for the Fire Station loan and asked her why she waited one month before paying the loan down. She said that did not happen. John said the dates would be checked. He said the Town spent \$12,000 in interest to pay the loan down because she held onto the checks and did not pay the loan down. She said she can honestly not say yes or no to that, she does not have a photographic memory like he does. He has asked for this information and has yet

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to be given it. She said if he is talking about what he asked her to tell him what she wanted in an executive session which is on camera, he wants the right to know law. She has not gotten that yet as she has been trying to help the people of this Town to understand what is going on in this building to the best of her ability. He does not have any other questions. Dean LePage asked if it's true that if we have to have three months of money, is it State law? This is a recommendation from the auditor. Julie also said that last year she was juggling to keep checks covered, school checks, Mellen's checks because the TAN had not come through. Last year was the first year that the Town has had to use the TAN. One critical part of the TAN is a cash flow report, and the lawyers and banks look at this to make sure you are not overspending so they look at a 12-month Cash Flow Report. This report was asked of by the Treasurer and John said when it was finally produced the numbers were so out of whack that he apologized to the lawyer and the banker for receiving this report from the Treasurer. Julie said John did it himself after hers and he agreed because hers was not accurate and she said she has never done a Cash Flow Report, she said she never had to do one. He said that a Cash Flow Report that anyone with bookkeeping knowledge can do a Cash Flow Report. She said that he was slamming her, and it was defamation, he said he is not, that she is a seasoned accounting person, seasoned bookkeeper. He said it is not rocket science and because he sat down with 12 months of bank statements, he produced the report is how the Town got the TAN because her report showed the Town paying the school \$9 million dollars. The Chair moved the meeting along.

OLD BUSINESS:

Review Legal Accounts- The Board has not had a chance to review the warrant yet for the meeting, they received when the meeting started.

Cemetery Mowing (Veterans/Cemetery Committee)- There is no new update.

Recap on BTH Accessibility Policy and questions about second floor- Alesha received an email back from the DOJ stating that they cannot recommend a general opinion on how the building should be used and we should refer to the Town's settlement agreement dated 9/20/24 and the party's agreement on access to voting, paragraphs 12-17. We are still waiting to hear back from the Fire Marshall. The question at hand is- can the Town hold voting there now? We believe we can use this building for voting now but will need approval from HARV and State requirements. We will check with the Town Clerk.

Lights for Municipal Building-There is a second electrician coming Friday at 10am.

Revision of Policies- These were from last week. These were Disbursements from the Treasurer's Office on State Fees and Employee Wages and Payroll

Both of these policies need changes of the Municipal Officers, and two officers would sign but not specific names. On the State Fees Policy- John **motioned** to change the names of the Municipal Officers, remove either or blanks, and where the X and change to any two of the named Municipal Officers named above acting together may approve, review and signed such warrants, Wade **seconded**, **all** in favor. On the Employee Wages and Payroll Policy- Brady recommends the same changes as the other policy, John **motioned**, Wade **seconded**, **all** in favor.

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Quotes for Tree Removal-on hold until Special Town Meeting-Due to the funding for this. We are also going to be getting a few more quotes if possible. The Board is going to take a look at the Purchase Policy next week as these quotes were followed by under this policy.

Additions for June Ballot-The warrant is due April 11th.

Questions for Historical Society- they are requesting \$5,000 for the Church- The Board did not motion to add this to the June ballot. John received a text message from a citizen that will be donating \$5,000 to the Historical Society.

Any items from the March 14th Vote- The Code vehicle failed on the March ballot; Alesha is going to reach out to MMA about the insurance coverage for his personal vehicle that is lettered with Town information. This will be discussed next week.

Discussion of Earned Paid Leave- John **motioned** to set up Earned Paid Leave Account to be a designated account with any funds left at the end of the year not to go into the Undesignated Account, Bernie **seconded**, **all** in favor.

Discussion of Treasurer's Request- This was stay on for discussion for next week.

New Business:

Town properties Snowplow Contract due 5/1/25- The Board will review the contract to make changes at a workshop on Monday, April 7th at 6PM. This will then go out to bid. They may look at the other contracts if time permits. Wade **motioned** to meet for the workshop at 6PM on the 7th, Howard **seconded**, **all** in favor.

Candidate for Appeals Board-Alesha received an email from a citizen that would like to be appointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals, Bernie **motioned** to add Ashley Dame to the Zoning Board of Appeals, Wade **seconded**, **all** in favor.

Discussion for Electronic Timeclock- John spoke to the Treasurer to Deputy Treasurer, they discussed getting electronic tablets to work with for clocking in and out. Alesha will check with MRI and see if they have any recommendations and look into this process. More information to come. She will see what the cost may be to the Town.

Appointments for Appointed Town Officials- Wade **motioned** to approve all appointed officials from the Town Clerk, Howard **seconded**, **all** in favor, **one** abstains. Brady read all officials.

Sign two Municipal Deeds- These are two properties that were redeemed from foreclosure. John **motioned** to sign 2 quit claim deeds as presented for back taxes, Wade **seconded**, **all** in favor.

Discussion of Town Roads Snowplow Contract- The Board received a lot of phone calls, emails and text messages over the road conditions from Monday's storm. They do not feel that they were in acceptable condition last night or this morning. Brady recommends per the contract terms to send a letter to the plow contractor listing the issues that were scene last night and today. He marked some issues within the contract that he feels have been neglected. Brady would also like to see the equipment that is listed in Exhibit D to be presented to the Board before the next storm. To be

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inspected. The Board just wants to see that the required equipment is ready for use on the roads and in working condition. There are several factors where the contractor has breached his contract. The current contractor has a Letter of Credit. Several citizens spoke of their concern about the conditions of the road that have occurred during this season and their displeasure. They would like to see a change immediately. The weather looks to have another storm coming over the weekend. The Board will have a letter typed up and delivered several ways to the contractor. John **motioned** for the Board Chair write a letter to the Plowing Contractor outlining his breaches and the remedies afforded to him and that he is notified verbally and in writing, Howard **seconded, all** in favor.

HEARING OF CITIZENS:

Cheryl Edgerly- Did not think it was appropriate or professional that the Treasurer was spoken about at the last meeting while she was not there in attendance. She feels this is not all on the Treasurer. She does not feel like she has been given a fair shake. She said someone had questioned the Bernstein Shur bills and how much had been spent on CIA; she had that total which was \$17,710.96 since December 2023 up until March 2025. During a recent meeting there was the subject of the Business Park and how people got cheap lots and that they did not build on. She said there are 6 lots that have not been built on, but the Board only brings up two lots that have not been built on continuously and that should stop. She said there have been rumors that the article did not pass because it had the Town manager in it. She does not know why the Board keeps adding the articles back once the Town votes it down. John asked her if she brought her facts from accusing him, she said she was working on that.

Deedee Tibbetts- She said it does not matter if you are elected or appointed there are state guidelines that must be followed. They are told what they can and cannot do and otherwise they work for the Board. She said the DOJ was brought in for a problem that happened the last time there was voting at the BTH. She said once the DOJ signs off then it goes to the State of Maine, and they will come down and check the building out for approval. When the Board wants to hold another election there, please let her know and she will call the state of Maine and HARV.

Gail Libby-Awhile back there was an article about Hollandville and if there was residual money left that money would go into Deepvale. She wanted to know if that money sun-setted or did there need to be an article on the June ballot for this question. She also needs three-four entries down in TRIO for 2024 so they know what number they have and what number they can plan on. The problem is the money that was left from Hollandville went into the Undesignated Account and it should have gone into Deepvale.

Judy LePage- Discussed her frustration with the accounts and TRIO, there are several accounts that have \$0. There are so many issues with the tax acquired properties and she has reached out to TRIO again for some help. She would like all these issues to be straightened out asap. She believes that Julie, herself, Laura, someone from RHR and the TRIO needs to sit together to get this figured out. She wants the system cleaned up, which will make it so much easier for everyone.

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She said there could be a report run that shows accounts that are dead, and this will be helpful to the auditor as well. John **motioned** to advise the Treasurer to remove all dead accounts at her discretion, Bernie **seconded**, John **withdrew his motion**. He is not sure if they should be gone yet or not by looking at the report that Judy showed him.

Julie Giles- Judy asked if she had entered budgetary numbers for 2025, she has not. The Budget Committee has been looking at 2024 numbers at the last Budget Committee meeting. She said he will commit herself with Laura to look at all accounts and fix. She would like to see the green sheet and the white sheet match up. I will gladly get these numbers in for the meeting in two weeks for the receivables and expense lines. She said they will need another quarter to get the books straightened out once the auditor comes in. Howard asked, once this is done, we should know what is supposed to be in each account, she confirmed yes. They will have a full audit and not just a preliminary report.

Brady Connors- clarified that the Board will find the minutes approving the Chair going on the checkbook and sign those minutes so the Treasurer will have the paper trail. Howard wants to know how much it is going to cost for RHR to come in and take care of all these issues.

Steve McLean- Municipal Building opening late tomorrow cause those ladies need to get some extra sleep tonight 😊 He said he heard there is a recall on the Treasurer. He said that the Budget Committee from Friday should be watched by everyone. He said it was a very good meeting and said it was very interesting. He said that one Board member talked to the auditor, and he feels like it should be all Board members involved. John emailed the auditor, and he does include the whole Board. The whole Board is included in all correspondence. Steve asked if some of the lot sale money was used to offset legal. He wanted to know if we knew the figure for the attorney fees for all lots. He would like it expediated that Friday's meeting be put online.

ADJOURN MEETING: Wade motioned to adjourn; Howard seconded; **all** were in favor at 10:33PM These minutes were approved by the Limerick Board of Select Board on:

End of Broadcast

Respectfully submitted,

FOR DETAILS OF MEETING SEE RECORDING AT:

SRC-TV.ORG

"Limerick Selectmen's Meeting"
Under Limerick Municipal Bldg.