

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

October 2, 2023

6:30PM – Town Office

- 1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance:** Meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by Kurt Youland and the Pledge of Allegiance was said. Present: Steve Maheu, Kevin Nichols, Kurt Youland, Warren Hood, Angelo Terreri and Kurt Schaub. Guests: Stephanie Pratt, Rick Shepherd, Tammy Fereshetian, Natalie and Pete Pilsbury, Sarah Foster, Jenn Maheu.
- 2. Adjustments to the Agenda:** None.
- 3. General Assistance Maximums – 2023-2024: 3-1: Review DHHS Maximums:** A summary sheet of new maximums was reviewed and compared with the 2022-23 benefit rates. **3-2: Public Hearing:** Chairman Youland opened the Public Hearing. There was no public comment. **3-3: Action as Warranted:** Motion, second and unanimous vote to approve the 2023-24 benefit rates as proposed.
- 4. New Business - 4-1: Stephanie Pratt – Pleasant Pond Boat Rinse Project:** Stephanie Pratt reported on the activities of the Pleasant Pond Conservancy, which is becoming increasingly concerned about invasive milfoil, which is becoming more of a problem in Central Maine. She wanted to see if the Selectmen would support a rinsing station at the Pleasant Pond boat launch, which is the only public launch in Turner other than the river. Rick Shepherd said the group had looked at a rinse station at Highland Lake in Bridgton. Mr. Youland asked about funding. Ms. Pratt said the group is looking for grant funding, and to see if the group could get permission to install the rinse station and to see if the town might share in the expense. Agreed the group would get additional information and come back. **4-2: Bid Award – Public Works Garage Boiler:** Bids for replacement of the Public Works Garage boiler were reviewed. Motion and second to accept the propane unit proposed by Gilbert Plumbing and Heating, at a cost of \$12,000.00 all inclusive. Vote – 4 in favor, 1 did not vote (Youland). **4-3: Bid Award – Heating Fuel/Diesel:** Only one bid received, despite outreach. Motion, second, unanimous vote to accept fixed price bids from Blanchard’s Cash Fuel for Propane and No. 2 Heating Oil.
- 5. Old Business – 5-1: Century Boxes/Community Celebration:** Sarah Foster reported on the community involvement aspect of the upcoming Century Box opening and closing events. She asked that the Selectmen sit on stage at both events, and whether the boxes could be pre-cut, but not opened. She said they’ve been working with teacher Isiah Davis, who will MC along with Amanda Hill from WCSH. Also – posters have been printed and are being put up around town, a promotional post card will be sent to all Turner addresses, magnets and stickers have been done, and t-shirts are being printed. Announcements have been posted on the town’s Facebook page and are being shared. Natalie Pilsbury reported that the Historical Association had put together a book

showing “then and now” at different places around town, and reported that the contents of the two boxes would be available for viewing at the Museum during the week of November 12. She also asked if a decision had been made regarding the Veteran’s Fund and how to direct new contributions that might come in, and that the Century Box Committee had come up with a few ideas. Mr. Youland said the Selectmen would be considering those and other options. Jennifer Maheu discussed the Admonition for the new box/fund drive (Mr. Schaub to write), and that a request could be made to local businesses to contribute something representative for inclusion in the new box.

Agreed to move to Agenda Item **6-1: Fire/Rescue Department** monthly report. Chief Lisa Bennett reported Rescue had 89 calls during September and 961 calendar year-to-date – an increase of 36 calls from the same time last year. Reported new extractor/gear cleaner is in and awaiting final setup. The new generator will be delivered on October 18 and installed on October 19. The crews have been doing maintenance projects between calls, including painting, cleaning and getting ready for the Open House, which will be at the Boofy Quimby Hall on October 14. The departments also did a food drive at Food City on September 29, raising \$1,300 plus enough food to completely fill an ambulance. The drive will support the MSAD 52 food backpack program, which used to be done by the Turner Food Pantry. Chief Bennett reported the Fire Department had 34 calls for September, which makes 314 for the year. Engines 91 and 92 both failed pump tests. The pump on 92 can be repaired for under \$1,000, but 91’s pump will either need to be replaced or rebuilt, which will be a big expense for the 24-year-old truck. She will get additional information for discussion on October 16. Lastly, she reported the donation of a 2005 Chevrolet Silverado to be used for plowing around the stations and hydrants. Agreed to accept provided vehicle can be inspected.

5-2: Paving and Construction: A list of road projects, costs and budget was presented and discussed. Noted that Boofy Quimby parking lot was done and now needs to be striped. Agreed that roads leftover from last year (Aspen Way and Brookfield Estates) need to be on top of priority list, followed by original plan for year, and Airport and Conant roads would be last. Concerns expressed that paving is getting pushed later and later each year. Question also arose as to whether using town trucks to assist with paving produces savings. Kent Harrington to monitor paving sites when work begins.

5-3: Gilbert Right of Way – Tree Harvest: Right of Way area was reviewed on surveyor map. Agreed to solicit bids from local loggers for unit stumpage prices (hardwood logs, pulp, chips, etc.) for trees 10” in diameter or larger, for area between power line and easterly property line.

6. **Regular Reports (continued) – 6-2a: Financial Reports:** Financial reports were reviewed. No surprises yet. **6-2b: State Valuation Information:** Maine Revenue Services information on new state valuation was reviewed. Also reviewed was apportionment distributions for county and school district obligations. **6-2c: Push to Talk Cellular – Highway:** Mr. Schaub reported this appears to be a reasonable alternative to putting new repeater and antenna on tower by golf course - \$2,400 +/- per year versus \$15,000+ startup. Motion, second and unanimous vote to move forward, following successful demonstration. **6-2d: Electronic Sign:** Electrician finally engaged (Rodrigue Electric) – hoping for progress soon. **6-2e: Tri-Town Selectmen:** Agreed it is Turner’s turn to host dinner meeting. November 14 selected.
7. **Consent Agenda:** Motion, second and unanimous vote to accept Consent Agenda.
8. **Executive Session:** Motion, second and unanimous vote to enter Executive Session at 9:04pm, pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(F) – Confidential Records. Motion, second and unanimous vote to exist Executive Session at 9:07pm. Motion, second and unanimous vote to deny Poverty Abatement Application on grounds it was filed after statutory deadline.
9. **Adjournment:** Motion, second and unanimous vote to adjourn at 9:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kurt E. Schaub
Town Manager