

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 2025
6:00pm

- 1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance:** Meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Kurt Youland and the Pledge of Allegiance was said. Present: Steve Maheu, Kurt Youland, Warren Hood, Angelo Terreri, Kurt Schaub and Lisa Bennett. Absent: Kevin Nichols.
- 2. Adjustments to the Agenda:** None
- 3. New Business:**
 - 3-1: Miles Tobey – Transfer Station Sand:** Miles not present, no discussion.
 - 3-2: Willard Drive Letter:** Kurt Schaub shared a letter received from Eric Cousens and Elaine Burkham in which an offer is made to purchase the land that encompasses the unbuilt portion of Willard Drive. Learned from Maine Municipal Association that there are multiple steps that would need to be followed before a sale could be accomplished, including a vote at Town Meeting to authorize the contemplated sale. There also is a process to extinguish the easement and offer the land to any other abutters as well. Board asked Kurt Schaub to follow up with Eric Cousens and find out what the appropriate process is required.
 - 3-3: Nomination Papers Available:** Nomination papers are now available at the Town Office for the following municipal offices: 2 Selectmen seats, 2 Budget Committee seats, and 1 MSAD 52 seat. Papers are due back by February 10th.
 - 3-4: Planner Contract Renewal:** Time to renew the contract for Planning Services and, and NorthStar’s services. The only change in the contract is rates, which are mostly passed on to the applicants. Motion and second to have Kurt Schaub negotiate a possible three-year contract and if not to approve the one-year contract, unanimous.
 - 3-5: Property Tax Foreclosures:** There were five properties that foreclosed on December 31st due to unpaid 2023 taxes. If the board approves, will proceed to advise the owners that they have until January 31st to redeem their properties by paying all taxes, interest and fees outstanding through the 2025 tax year. Motion and second to approve a 30-day redemption with taxes being paid in full bringing account to a zero balance, unanimous vote.
- 4. Old Business/Projects:**
 - 4-1: Leavitt Institute:** Kurt Schaub spoke with the roofing contractor and should have the final invoice in time for a meeting of the Leavitt Institute Board. The Veteran’s CD will mature on January 7th, in accordance with the vote taken on October 16, 2023, \$50,000 is being reinvested for the next 100-year span, to be renamed the Century Fund, and the balance is being put toward the Institute roof. The total maturity value is \$121, 527.33.
 - 4-2: Boofy Quimby Hall:**

Nothing new. **4-3: Transfer Station:** Kurt Schaub placed another call to the abutting owner about acquiring additional property for improvements, no response yet. **4-4: Public Works Well:** As approved on December 16th, Goodwin's is drilling for water at the Public Works garage, and as of today they are down around 800 feet. Kurt Schaub will be in touch with the board after it sits overnight.

- 5. Regular Reports:**
- 5-1: Fire Department Report:** Turner Fire responded to 38 calls for the month of December bringing the final total for the year to 542 calls. This coming year the department will be hosting another Basic Fire School as well as hosting a RIT (Rapid Intervention Team) class.
 - 5-2: Rescue Department:** Total calls for December were 112 bringing total calls for the year to 1218. The medical room at the station gets cold and has been heating with a portable heater, Chief Bennett would like to discuss a better and safer way of heating this room. Board suggested that Chief Bennett look into six foot base board heat for the room. Training for January will be EMS response to Carbon Monoxide situations.
 - 5-3: Town Manager:**
 - 5-3a: Financial Statements:** Statements look good and on track.
 - 5-3b: Staff Resignations:** Currently have two employment openings – one Transfer Station Attendant, the other is a Deputy Clerk in the Town Office.
 - 5-3c: Maine DOT Public Meeting:** The DOT would like our assistance to coordinate a local public meeting on Route 4 safety improvements they discussed with the board this past summer. They have reaffirmed that they will not construct the Rout 117 signal until after the Weston Road signal impact can be determined. Kurt Schaub let them know that we would schedule after our budget timelines are established.
 - 5-3d: Budget Committee** has its organizational meeting on Tuesday and Kurt Schaub anticipates having the draft budget complete early the following week. Kurt suggests setting aside a date for meeting with the Social Services. Plan to start the budget process on Tuesday, January 21st following regular meeting and to meet with the Social Services on Monday, January 27th.
 - 5-3e: Budget Committee Meeting/Appointment:** After Kurt Schaub reviewed the committee's membership, he felt that the committee could us an additional appointment. Betsy Bullard, has agreed to serve again if the board considers appointing her. Motion and second to appoint Betsy Bullard.
 - 5-3f: Town Report Dedication/Spirit of America Award:** it is time to consider this year's Town Report Dedication and whether to consider a Spirit of America Award nomination, as well.
 - 5-3g: Workers Compensation Renewal:** This year's Workers Compensation renewal is up 4.6 percent from 2024. The increase is due mainly to a 10.68 percent adjustment in the experience modifier, plus an increase in our estimated payroll. The MMA program had an overall rate decrease, however, which helped to reduce the amount of increase.

3h: Nickerson Case Judgement: A copy of the final judgment in the Nickerson zoning violation case is enclosed for the Selectmen only.

- 6. Consent Agenda:** Motion and second to approve the consent agenda, unanimous vote.
- 7. Executive Session - Requested by Chief Lisa Bennett, pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(A) – Personnel:** Motion, second and unanimous vote to enter executive session at 7:15pm. Motion, second and unanimous vote to conclude executive session at 7:38pm.
- 8. Executive Session – Town Manager Search, pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(A) – Personnel:** Motion, second and unanimous vote to enter executive session at 7:38pm. Motion, second and unanimous vote to conclude executive session at 8:15pm. Motion, second and unanimous vote to extend Mr. Schaub’s term of employment for two years, at terms that include a 4-day work week and reduction in duties, beginning July 1, 2025.
- 9. Adjourn –** Motion, second and unanimous vote to adjourn at 8:15pm.

**Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca M. Allaire, LCC**