

# Minutes

## Selectmen's Meeting

### August 4, 2020

Meeting opened at 6:32p.m

People present were:

Selectmen: Tony Avila, Penny Picard Sampson, Dan McCormick

Employee: Kari Hunt

Guest: Tara & Michael Berry, Larry King, Ed Indelicato, Marie Romito, Rudy Wing, Denise Whitney, Anthony Sargent, Jim Porter, Bill Allen, Andy Reed, Emily Newell

#### **Public Feedback:**

In light of a recent announcement about Unity College looking at selling their property, residents asked what was going to happen. Unity College has not reached out to the Unity Selectmen and they do not know any more than what has been said publicly. Penny was notified about the Unity College when a reporter called to ask for comments. There are concerns for the future of the College. Selectmen are going to request a meeting with the President of the College.

Will the Fire Department help fill a pool? The Unity Fire Department will not fill up pools for insurance purposes.

**Minutes:** Minutes from July 21, 2020 were reviewed, edited and approved by the Selectmen..

#### **Treasurer:**

- Warrants were reviewed and signed.
- Auditor provided available funds for the Scholarship Committee. Two accounts gained and one account had a loss. Should the loss be deducted from the gains or do we give the amount of the two gains. Penny made a motion to take the gains minus the loss. Dan seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- At this time still no TAN is needed. School payment will be held off for the month of July until property tax money starts to come in.

#### **Old Business:**

- Penny received quotes for paving from Seger and Wellmen's, prices are comparable. Tony would like to get a quote from Todd Littlefield and should have a quote next week. Penny told Tony not to wait. She wanted a quote from him by Monday 08/17. The RRFB needs to be installed within six months of getting them. Winter is approaching, this project can't be put off. Wellmen's: RRFB: \$11,600 Kanokolus: \$6,640 Seger: RRFB \$11,637 Kanokolus: \$6,100.
- RE: Horse Show: The State of Maine will allow a group of 100 people, but must be broken up into to separate groups. The horse shows will continue under the new rule.

#### **New Business:**

- Denise wanted to know if there were any restrictions with the Field of Dreams and having Soccer. Selectmen were not aware of any restrictions. Denise is going to talk to Hauns about youth soccer.
- Do we want to have a Halloween and Winter Decorating contest? Hoping the money raised from the flocking will be used as prizes for the decorating contest.
- Rudy Wing discussed his plans with the Unity Raceway. His plans are to create a space for Veterans to sell their produce, possible campground and as well as holding a few races. Rudy says it needs 100% overhaul to establish the non-profit. Rudy is a member of the United Farmer Veterans of Maine and will be working with them. In order for

his vision to be successful he needs the help from the community. Penny suggested Rudy attend a EDC Meeting, and review the community and marketing grant.

## **FIRE DEPT:**

- Insurance company denied the claim on the Tanker truck.
- The last conversation Dan and Tony had with Reliance is they were supposed to fix it. Tony accidentally called Ron, who told Tony that he had spoken with an attorney.

Over the course of the past few months, Tony and Dan have been working with Reliance, the Selectmen have been told by Ron, Reliance didn't want to lose business from the Town of Unity and would fix the cradle at no cost. The cost to fix the tanker went from \$5,500 to \$10,000, this does not include fixing the cradle. To fix the cradle and put the tank back on the truck will cost between \$13k - \$15k. Blaine reviewed his budget and indicated that the funds were in his budget to fix the tanker.

Dan added that Ron mentioned that they didn't know if Reliance would even be able to fix the tanker cradle. If fixed this time, they would not warranty any other work on the tanker, including if the tanker were to break once they leave Reliance the new expenses would fall on the Fire Department.

What options does the town have now? Repair the current truck, with no guarantee it can or will be fixed correctly or look at the price of used tanker trucks.. Blaine worries that if we take a route of a used tanker truck we would end up in the same boat.

Tony would like to look at purchasing a used tanker taking the funds out of the Fire Truck Replacement Fund using between \$30 - \$40k and sell the current tanker, funds of the sale of the old truck would go into the Fire Truck Replacement Fund.

Tony would like the Town Attorney to review all the invoices/warranty from Reliance about the current issue with the tanker.

Dan made a motion to purchase a used tanker between \$30 - \$40k. No second.

Penny asked Blaine what his recommendation was. Blaine stated he is working on a FEMA grant for a new truck. The grant is due April or June of 2021. He has also been looking at a 2010 truck for \$250,000+/- . Selectmen stated that they are not taking out any more loans. This year has had a hard impact on people, State Revenue Sharing is down, this helps lower taxes, the county and school budget have increased, and the town already has an outstanding number of loans that need to be paid off.

Blaine asked if they would be doing business with Reliance in the future. Tony didn't know, he wasn't happy with the way Reliance was treating the town.

Penny made a motion to look at used tanker trucks up to \$75k and the specs are to be brought at the next selectmen's meeting, August 18. Dan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Fire Truck Replacement Fund currently has approximately \$81,000, will be placing \$10,000.00 in raised from this year's taxes and totaling approximately \$91,000. Currently it is a CD, instead of renewing the CD, can it be placed in a savings account so the town has access without penalty vs. a CD that would be closed for a period of time and penalty would be applied to access the funds..

Dan made a motion to transfer the funds when the CD matures to a savings account. Penny seconded the motion. Motion carried.

There are currently two choices on the table for the Tanker Truck, fix the current truck or buy used. Blaine asked that when looking at used tanker trucks, that it has a current pump test and at least a 3000 gallon tank minimum 2500 gallon.

The Fire Department will be doing a drive to recruit local residents. With the Unity College students not returning this will have an impact on the volunteers at the Fire Station. Tony volunteered to drive the Fire Truck, but he must have EVOC training or his CDL.

The Fire Department expects to have the ladder truck from Winslow late September to mid October. Because there is no written agreement, the Volunteer Fire Department will have to insure and maintain the ladder truck until it can be voted on at a town meeting. There will be no annual town meeting, nor will there be a special town meeting. The donor of the ladder trucks wants to donate the funds through the Association, not the Town. Pat asked if the donor gives to the association, can they in turn sell it to the Town for a dollar using funds from the Fire Truck Replacement fund? The town in the past has always insured and maintained trucks purchased by the Association. Penny stated things may have historically been done one way, doesn't mean it was right. In digging around they have read things are wrong, the new leaders want to right a wrong.

Mike Berry asked what funds were in the Association account? He has been doing research and couldn't find any tax return online. Emily, Treasurer of the Volunteer Fire Association stated they were a Non-Profit Title 13-B with the state of Maine. They are not required to file a tax return. She was also advised not to discuss the funds in the account based on a recent Association Board vote.

The Fire Department is Municipal/Association. Penny read aloud from the Fire Department Package provided by MMA. Jim Porter stated that in the mid 80's by default the Fire Department was a municipal department, but they can still have the Association.

Tara Berry said she was the person that asked about the association funds in a private meeting. She addressed why she asked and expressed her concern with the Association and their lack of being transparent. As a taxpayer she was disappointed with the response the Fire Chief gave her at a prior meeting. Jim explained that the Association bylaws state the Chief shouldn't be on the Board and Pat being the 1st assistant fire chief shouldn't either.

- Building Permit fees are only \$20.00. Selectmen feel that the fee should be more for commercial properties, especially where more time meetings may be needed. Jim recommended a sliding scale fee, and Pat suggested a fee based square footage. Penny made a motion to increase the building application fee to \$100 for commercial buildings. Dan seconded the motion. Motion carried. Penny made a motion to change commercial building in her previous motion to development review. Dan seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Penny made a motion to approve ATV access for Ward Hill Rd. Dan seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- There is an ongoing dispute between two neighbors about a barking dog. The complaint states the dog starts barking between 4am - 4:30am when let out to go to the bathroom. The Complaint does not have recorded evidence. The dog owner has admitted that the dog does bark, the dog is old, and blind. Penny made a few suggestions to the dog owner to help, but suggestions were ignored. At this time based on our current dog ordinance, there is nothing the Town can do and our ordinance would have to be changed to make it enforceable.
- Selectmen signed Liquor License.
- Penny contacted Bashm Tree Removal to get a quote on several trees on Kanokolus and Quaker Hill Rd that need to be cut down.
- Maine Gravesite Repair will be in town in two weeks to work on some cemetery stones.

#### **Other Business:**

**Meeting adjourned: 9:15 p.m.**