

Alexander Selectmen's Meeting

January 7, 2021

Alexander Grange Hall

6:00 p.m.

In Attendance

Selectmen

David Davis Vice-Chair

Foster Carlow Jr.

John Knowles

James Gibson Jr.

Town Clerk

Kristy Crawford

Others in Attendance; See Attached Sheet

David Davis Called the Meeting to Order

Changes to the Agenda;

Add Cemetery to Old Business

Move Abatement from Executive Session to Old Business

Move Town Lawyer to New Business

Previous Minutes unavailable, will do next time.

DBU Representative James Gibson Jr.

- Crawford Road (Pleasant Lake to Crawford) poles are waiting approval
- Central Hut will be put at the Municipal Building, leased from the Town. Agreement needs to be written up and space measured off. Needs access to a generator, will have its own power source.

John Dudley brought spoke to several issues and shared several newspaper clippings

- An Ad for the Baring Cemetery. Ordinances put into the paper so people know. Once a year or more
- Australian Ballots and Elections. All done before the Town Meeting so we would have people who have thoughtfully chosen

to run. Several ways to do this, with or without nomination papers, asking to be put on the ballot.

- Renewal Energy, Solar Electricity, has it been looked into as a source of power for the town?
- Bids, John feels all Bids should have continuity and not be rewritten at the whim of one person, should be approved by the board if they differ. Ads should be clear and concise. Pick an approved bid and stick with it.
- Roads, is there a policy or ordinance preventing putting gravel next to new tar to protect it. Also uneven tar could be an issue for those walking. No such policy or ordinance exists according to those in attendance.
- Roads, there is a large hole on the Arm Road between Patrick Cormier's residence and Clayton Blake's field that needs to be repaired.
- The Crawford end of the Crawford Road has 3 new houses and should there be discussion of bringing the road up to code and hot topping it?
- Road discussion broke out. The Road Account had an excessive amount of money at one point over \$400,000.00. Roads need repair and hot top. Spearin Road and Davis Roads should be priorities. Roads not otherwise not given width will be 3 rods wide by state law. 1 Rod = 16.5 feet.

Town Clerk Kristy Crawford

- 2 tax properties were not leaned in 2017
- 3 tax properties were not leaned in 2018
- 3 Foreclosed properties that leans expired were ready for the Selectmen to act on. Tabled until the next meeting to give Selectmen to look over the properties. (See Attached)

Cemetery

Rhonda Oakes, Jane Manza and John Dudley spoke about a Volunteer Committee being established to work on some of the

cemetery issues. Including, cleaning the cemetery, fixing and repairing stones and the grounds, looking at the ordinances already enacted and presenting a line item budget to include mowing and other items. Also permission to look into grants to help defray costs. A motion was made by John Knowles to establish said Adhoc Committee and allow grants to be written. 2nd by James Gibson Jr. All in Favor. Motion passed.

Road Supervisor Larry Hill

- All but 3 of the missing road signs had been replaced. Costing the town approximately \$750.00, about another \$100.00 will be needed to buy new brackets. This should be completed in the spring, the three missing signs are secondary roads, all main roads have signs.

Pokey Landing

Tabled until Kevin Dean can be in attendance and report.

Solar Power

Is Solar Power something that would benefit the Municipal Building and the school? Is a solar farm a possibility for the Town, would the town be able to sell power back to the Eastern Maine Electric Cooperative? By Consensus it was decided to ask Joe Manza to work on a Feasibility Study on this topic. (Jane Manza will relay request to Joe)

Building Maintenance

Town Clerk Kristy Crawford asked how many furnaces ran the Town Office and did the Administration Budget cover all costs as she received several bills from Tammaro\$. The answer was yes, propane for hot water and generator, oil for heat and heat exchange (electric) for the Archive Room were all part of Admin. Costs.

Website

- James Gibson Jr. said he had looked at the Town Web site and it was more than he could do, it had some real issues.
- He contacted Alice Sullivan of Cathance Lake Consulting in Cooper, she does other Municipal Websites

- Cathance Lake Consulting made a proposal on revamping and updating the Town's site and the costs associated with it. (see attached)
- Much discussion of pros and cons of hiring someone to do this and whether it should be put out to bid and the fairness of that now this proposal had been made public. A motion was made by James Gibson Jr. to accept Cathance Lake Consulting Proposal 2nd by David Davis, All in Favor, Motion Passed.

Abatement

- Jane Manza, Alexander Assessor presented the Selectmen with information on property owned by SWOAM (previously owned by Carleton and Iris Brown) Several errors had been made including the property being divide and taxes as house lots, tree growth, acreage issues,, names not being changed and information being shared after the fact. After the corrections were made there needed to be an abatement of taxes made for the last three years which the Selectmen were the only ones that could approve. Jane also recommended that the interest and charges be waived. (See attached for more information). A motion was made to make the abatement of \$2,822.74 for the years 2017, 2018, 2019 and waive all interest and charges.by Foster Carlow Jr , 2nd by James Gibson Jr. 3 for, 1 Abstain (John Knowles abstained as he is Assessor) Motion passed.

Computer

Kristy Crawford and James Gibson Jr. spoke to the new computer. The old computer is outdated, cannot support Trio, Window updates, Flash Drive and Malware. A package from Dell is what it felt that the Town Office needs. A docking station, capability of two screens, Widows Professional and Norton Small Business for the cost of \$3,757.79. A motion was made by David Davis to purchase the computer package shown, and to cover all costs for transferring information to the new computer and bringing it online. 2nd by Foster Carlow Jr. All in Favor

Security Camera

Discussion included that several times the alarm to the office has not been set after someone has entered and left. It is concerning who may be entering and when. Also for the Clerk being alone to have that safety factor during office hours and non-office hours. By

consensus it was decided that James Gibson Jr. would look into the feasibility of adding cameras to the office, including perhaps an outside camera.

Bookkeeping

- Town Clerk, Tax Collector, Treasurer, Kristy Crawford spoke to the budget and that the previous year (before she took the position) has still not been closed making it hard for her to know exactly what is in what accounts or to do an audit. The accountant herself says things are confusing and hopes Kristy is doing better than the previous clerk and doesn't want Kristy to become too dependent on her. Kristy says she feels that is time for the accountant to come and see what is really happening so that the Town can close the books, move forward and Kristy can make sure she is doing things correctly. Kristy will make an effort to rectify this issue.
- Kristy has been using QuickBooks, it is a fiasco and doesn't really tell what is being asked of it, she brought a sampling of a Trio print out showing the breakdown it is able to do. Kristy would like to update Trio to do all the town bookkeeping as it would be one entry system not the three she is doing now and better reports are easily printed out.
- By consensus the selectmen asked Kristy to look into the feasibility and cost, there has already been money approved in the past to update Trio for the Town Office.
- Some money in the Administration Account should be allocated to a Training Line and that should become a yearly part of the budget.

Town Lawyer

Tabled until Kevin Dean could be in attendance

Roads/Larry Hill

- Brought up that Dale Earle would like another load of salt for the sand shed, Larry didn't see the need. The selectmen told Larry that the salt purchase had already been approved and that Mr. Earle paid for the salt himself from his pay and that there was not an issue as this had also been done the previous year.
- It cost the town \$66,992.64 to hot top the Pokey Road, which came in under budget.

- 2021 plans include hot topping the Spearin Road, and Tree Trimming.
- Larry Hill mentioned getting folks together from the dirt roads and seeing what should be done. It was brought up that that is a Comprehensive Plan Item, voted on by the Town. The Selectmen had/have plans of revisiting it but the pandemic put them behind schedule.

DEEMS

Foster Carlow Jr. reports everything is fine.

Rhonda Oakes

Wanted to let the Selectmen know that Stephen Seavey volunteered to plow the Grange Hall for the evening, Carl Oakes shoveled and salted the step and walkway. Skip Colson checked that everything was ready and was staying to close up after the meeting. Community members at their best.

Motion made to enter Executive Session by David Davis 2nd by James Gibson Jr. for Concealed Weapons Permits.

Out of Executive Session

Meeting Adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Rhonda Oakes
Selectmen's Secretary