

Town of Strong

Select Board Meeting Minutes

August 8, 2023

James Burrill called the Select Board's Meeting to order with a flag salute at 6 p.m.

All Select Board Members present. James Burrill, Milton Baston, Andrew Bracy, David Catino and Joel Doyon. All voted in favor.

David Catino made a motion to accept the Select Board Minutes from 07/25/2023, seconded by Andrew Bracy. All voted in favor.

Andrew Bracy motioned to approve the Treasurer's Warrant for the week of 08/06/2023 for \$ 108,498.06, Joel Doyon seconded; the vote was unanimous.

8 West Freeman Road, Lorraine Lagasse Lorraine thanked Milton and Andrew for coming to the house to see what was going on. Milton Baston and Andrew Bracy responded that they saw progress being made. Devin said there is some things the salvation army is coming to see what they may be interested in. Milton Baston made a motion to ask Lorraine Lagasse & family to come to the next Select Board Meeting on August 22, 2023, to give an update on their progress. Seconded by Andrew Bracy, all voted in favor.

New Business

John Evans (Hunter Rd and Temporary Access Main St): The president of Sandy River ATV Club presented two proposals.

First, Temporary Access to North Main Street; David Catino made a motion to allow ATVs to access N. Main Street from trail head at 136 N Main Street to the nearest trail head on Route 145, with proper signage, until Hutch's Bridge is repaired. Milton Baston seconded the motion, and all voted in favor.

Second, Hunter Rd; Andrew Bracy made a motion to grant permission to ATVs only access from one trail head to another trail head on the Hunter Road with directional and speed signs. Motion seconded by Joel Doyon, Milton Baston abstained, motion passed.

Mil Rate James Burrill went over the 2023 Municipal Tax Rate Calculation Form; \$1,465.436.80 needs to be raised from property taxes. A MIL rate of 16 and using \$30,593.40 from overlay will get the town to the needed \$1,465.436.80. Milton Baston made a motion to accept the MIL rate of 16, seconded by James Burrill. The vote was unanimously approved.

\$9,000 was budgeted for 2023 Assessing, Robert Stevens will be paid \$8,400. James made a motion to pay the remaining \$600.00 to Robert Worthley for assisting. Seconded by Milton Baston, all voted in favor.

Forster Building Lights: The Water Department office has a light that needs to be changed. The light is \$63.18, there are 2 other lights if they were also upgraded to LED, the cost of all 3 would be \$189.00. There is one light fixture in the front office that needs to be replaced at a cost of \$185.50. Andrew Bracy asked for ideas and decided to just change the broken ones, one in the Water Department office and one in the front office.

Voting Booths Gorham was giving away voting booths (for free). Raylene picked up 10 regular booths and 1 handy cap booth. Raylene commented that the old booths are very shaky and is concerned that if one person reaches out to balance themselves, the booths may go down. Raylene asked what to do with the old booths, and the consensus was to get rid of them.

Unfinished Business

Protection Agreement with Avon – Milton Baston read the email and the fire department agreement he received (all have a copy).

Clarification is needed on

- *Mutual ad agreement in county fire departments meaning*
- *Structure Fires needs to be explained*
- *Public safety issue, the line should be halfway.*

Chairlift Maria has been in contact with Maine Access, and they can come out next week. What do the select board want done, wait a couple weeks for an additional estimate or accept Ver-Tran's estimate of \$3775. Wait for Maine Access to submit an estimate.

Volunteers Municipalities must enroll eligible volunteers except those with similar coverage elsewhere. Municipalities must agree to keep an accurate record of all volunteers and that list is subject to inspection. A volunteer list will be created and revisited at the next meeting. Duayne Boyd asked if this will be available for students doing community service? Raylene will get more information on what and who is a volunteer.

Opposition Letter to the National Wildlife Refuge in the High Peaks area. This letter will be sent to Senator Collins, Senator King and Congressman Golden if the Select Board signs the letter. Milton Baston made a motion for the Select Board to sign the letters. Seconded by Andrew Bracy, all voted in favor.

Smoking and Alcohol Polices. Signs for smoking are on the way, the signs will be stored until the Town Meeting for the community will vote on the policies.

Public Comment: None

Treasurers Report: Maria has been working with Bob Stevens.

Clerk Report: None

Public Works Duayne said the bucket on the bucket loader is more of a sieve, would like to reinforce the bucket. Roadside mowing needs to be done, the Town doesn't have the equipment, it was rented before, it is no longer available. Joel Doyon is going to check on the new store in Augusta (Sunbelt Rental).

Fire Department: None

Select Board Reports

Joel Doyon: None

David Catino: I was going to discuss Christmas lights but I'm going wait for now.

Andrew Bracy: None

Milton Baston: in the Maine Town & City magazine on page 22 there is a grant opportunity if anyone is interested and the Legal Notes is a piece on tax acquired property sales, bottom line is MMA is still recommending holding off from selling any tax acquired property and we need to come up with how much it cost the Town. Yellow appraisals have there been response to inquiries. Raylene responded none but I will keep trying.

James Burrill: None

Motion to adjourn by Milton Baston, seconded by Joel Doyon.

Adjourned 7:22 PM

Respectfully submitted by: *Raylene S Tolman*
Town Clerk