

**TOWN OF NORTH HAVEN
SELECT BOARD
NOVEMBER 20, 2018
4:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Jonathan Demmons (Chair), Jerry White (Vice Chair), Linda Darling (by telephone), Jeremiah MacDonald, and Alex Curtis

BOARD MEMBER(S) ABSENT: None

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR: Rick Lattimer

1. Jonathan Demmons called the Meeting to order at 4:00 PM
2. The Board (without Darling) met initially at the ferry parking lot to discuss town float and parking issues. White suggested Lattimer contact Steve Durrell at Prock Marine to get his opinion on options to increase the size of the town floats/landing area and to improve access to them. MacDonald suggested consulting with Ferry Service personnel about making changes to the line-up process to improve traffic flow and find a way to eliminate “line soakers” (cars used to hold spots in line). Lattimer agreed to both suggestions.

3. **Motion to approve the Minutes of November 14th**
Made by White, seconded by MacDonald Approved 4-0-0

4. **Public Comment** — None

5. **Treasurer’s Report**

- Approval of Bills, Payroll Journals, Warrants, and Journal Entries:

Payroll Journal #42	in the amount of	\$664.95
Warrant #45	in the amount of	\$195,731.47
Warrant #45-A	in the amount of	\$477.48
Sewer Department Warrant #21	in the amount of	\$1,805.97
Water Department Warrant #23	in the amount of	\$8,986.25
Water Department Warrant #23-A	in the amount of	\$7,321.31

Motion to approve Bills, Warrants, Payroll Journals and Journal Entries
(Darling joined by telephone shortly after the Board returned to the Town Office (about 4:30))
Made by White, seconded by MacDonald Approved 4-0-1 (Darling abstained)

6. **Correspondence:** None

7. **Reports:**

- Administrator:
 - i. Clinic – None
 - ii. Fire Department/EMS
 - The Fire Chief and Town Administrator are working on a plan to ensure the Fire Department has the resources it needs to effectively respond to fire emergencies
 - EMS Crew Chief — Demmons noted the EMS Crew Chief has asked for a substantial stipend increase. Lattimer agreed to determine the process for setting stipend amounts within the Town and meet with Erin Cooper to obtain more facts.
 - iii. Floats and Docks — None
 - iv. Legal – None
 - v. Roads & Bridges — Lattimer is working with Commissioner Brown to identify paving needs for spring 2019 and to discuss possible ways to reduce/eliminate icy spots
 - vi. Sewer Department – The Thayer lift station control panel has been obtained by the contractor and should be replaced in the next couple of weeks
 - vii. Sheriff’s Department

Date	Incident	Deputy
11/14	Foot patrol	Landers
11/15	Property check	Landers
11/16	Utility problem	Landers
11/17	Traffic stop	Landers

- viii. Town Properties — None
- ix. Transfer Station — The Town will post a job announcement to hire an additional person at the Transfer Station
- x. Water Department – The Town passed its State water inspection

8. Old Business:

- a. *Airstrip*: The Town staff is continuing to develop options for the Board’s preliminary review. Lattimer is continuing to contact owners of the properties involved.

9. New Business:

- a. *Ferry Service*
 - i. *Hearing in Belfast on Rate Structure, November 28th*

The existing tariff, number 8, was put in place through adjudicated rulemaking. Islesboro has filed a lawsuit challenging both the amount of the tariff and the process through which it was imposed. The Maine State Ferry Service has proposed a rule to enact the existing tariff, this time through

formal rulemaking, in which the public receives notice and has an opportunity to comment. The State will hold a hearing in Belfast on Wednesday, November 28th, to take comments on the proposed rule. In addition to proposing the existing tariff, the rule would allow the Ferry Service to impose a surcharge for “increases in operating costs” or “decreases in ridership.”

The Board discussed the upcoming hearing and directed Lattimer to attend. Demmons also plans to attend. The Board directed Lattimer not to object to the proposed tariff (it is the same as the existing tariff in which transportation to all islands costs the same amount), but to object to the idea of a surcharge. Lattimer is also to note that, if the Maine State Ferry Service goes ahead with the proposed surcharge, the rule should include procedural safeguards to ensure the affected riders and island residents have an effective voice in the process, and substantive safeguards to ensure the surcharges are limited in amount and duration.

ii. *Letter to Governor-elect Mills' Executive Search Committee*

Earlier in the day, Lattimer met with Lisa Shields, Jon Emerson, Andy Dorr (Vinalhaven Town Manager), Phil Crossman (Vinalhaven Selectman), and Nick Battista (Island Institute). At the meeting the group discussed the idea of making the island communities' concerns known to Governor-elect Mills. Lattimer and Dorr agreed to run the idea of a jointly-signed letter from the Towns of North Haven and Vinalhaven to Governor-elect Mills' executive search committee (Hannah Pingree is a member of that committee) outlining the qualifications of an ideal candidate for State DOT Commissioner as well as our concerns for continuing to improve our relationship with the Ferry Service. The letter was to be signed and delivered on Wednesday, November 21, 2018.

The Board discussed the idea behind such a letter. At this point, no one is sure whether Commissioner Bernhardt will remain in office once Janet Mills becomes governor. Following discussion, the Board opted not to endorse such a letter. The Board would prefer the Town to engage the State government (possibly in concert with other island communities) after Ms. Mills becomes Governor.

b. *Letter of Condolence and Donation — Doug Record*

Motion to approve and sign a letter of condolence to Julie Record and to make a \$200 donation to the Sussman House in Doug Record's name
Made by White, seconded by MacDonald **Approved 5-0-0**

10. Board Member Comments:

- White noted the use of summer homes has changed in recent years. Instead of the owners using their homes solely for themselves, owners are increasingly renting them out. Short-term renters pay no taxes on the island, yet place an increasing demand on the Town's resources and infrastructure, such as the roads and the Transfer Station. White suggested exploring the concept of a hotel tax to help the Town offset the costs of these increased demands. Lattimer will do some research and report back to the Board.

11. Motion to adjourn at 5:42 made by White, seconded by MacDonald

Approved 5-0-0