

TOWN OF NORTH HAVEN
SELECT BOARD
SEPTEMBER 9, 2020
5:00 P.M.

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Jon Demmons (Chair), Linda Darling (Vice Chair), Alex Curtis, and Patsy Lannon

BOARD MEMBER(S) ABSENT: Jeremiah MacDonald

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR: Rick Lattimer

OTHER PERSONS PRESENT: Terry Waters and Ken Carle from Penobscot Island Air
Johnny Bush
David Almy (via phone)
Will Holmgren (via phone)

1. Demmons called the Meeting to order at 5:00 pm
2. **Motion to approve the Minutes of September 2, 2020**
Made by Darling, seconded by Lannon **Approved 4-0-0** (MacDonald abstained)
3. **Public Comment:** Will Holmgren called in on behalf of the north shore residents to express their shared concern about the loss of Kevin Waters. They recognize Penobscot Island Air is going through tough times and want to help craft a solution. He noted there was a lot of unfortunate confusion about the letter he and other north shore residents sent concerning air traffic. At the end of the day, everyone loves the island and wants to help.

4. **Treasurer's Report**

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

Payroll Journal #34	in the amount of	\$1,720.00
Warrant #36	in the amount of	\$6,561.09
Warrant #36-A	in the amount of	\$1,194.16
Journal entries	in the amount of	\$4,362,304.52

Motion to approve Bills, Warrants, Payroll Journals and Journal Entries
Made by Lannon seconded by MacDonald **Approved 5-0-0**

5. **Correspondence:**

- Letter regarding airplanes from Freda Smith
- Addendum to letter from north shore residents

6. Reports

a. Administrator:

- i. Clinic — Working on a new answering service
- ii. Fire Department/EMS
 - Awaiting development of revised air ambulance regulations
 - The Road Commissioner is working on a plan to store the small plow truck in his garage so that the new Fire Truck can be stored inside the Town garage
 - Talking with forest management professionals about reducing the fire risk at Mullin’s Head Park
- iii. Floats and Docks
 - Getting an estimate to repair the ramp at the Thoroughfare floats
 - Working on lighting for the ramp
- iv. Legal — Lattimer and Planning Board Chair, Pat Curtis intend to arrange a joint meeting of the Select Board and the Planning Board via Zoom.
- v. Roads & Bridges
 - May install traffic curbs in the ferry parking lot
- vi. Sewer Department — Working with Enviro Tech Chemical Services and Olver Associates to set up a pilot study in which we substitute peracetic acid for chlorine and bisulfite. The substitution is needed because the EPA and State DEP now require municipalities to treat water for bacteria year-round, not just in the summer. Bisulfite has a high freezing point (around 40 degrees Fahrenheit), while peracetic acid does not freeze until about minus 40 degrees.
- vii. Sheriff’s Department

Date	Incident	Deputy
9.3.20	Radar detail	Lemoi
9.3.20	Traffic stop	Lemoi

- viii. Town Properties — The State may conduct a courtesy safety inspection of the Town’s departments this fall or next spring.
- ix. Transfer Station
 - TFI in Wheatland, Pennsylvania has received the Town’s order for two new containers. Delivery is expected in the next week or so.
 - Lattimer is working with Environmental Projects Inc. in Auburn to develop a plan to remove the used oil from the Transfer Station
- x. Water Department
 - Ordered a storage shed for the Water Department from Shed City. The company expects to deliver the shed in February 2020. Total cost is \$5,575.00.
 - Request for proposals to paint the interior and exterior of the Standpipe has been issued; proposals are due October 2, 2020

7. Old Business:

- a. *Town Boat Ramp* — Lattimer has sent revised sketch to Gartley & Dorsky on a plan for a possible boat ramp adjacent to the Town House on Waterman Lane. Will Gartley will take a look and provide comments. Curtis asked whether we would have to put the project out to bid. Lattimer responded that the Town's Purchasing Policy requires competitive bidding for all projects in excess of \$5,000 unless exempted by the Select Board.
- b. *Public Safety Building* — The Board is awaiting more information about the options for installing some type of bathroom or wash station for the EMS Crew. The Board also directed Lattimer to talk with EMS Crew Chief Erin Cooper about possibly using the YMCA bathrooms as an alternative.
- c. *Watson Airstrip* — Lattimer noted that he is working on a response to the letter of concern from north shore residents.

8. New Business

- a. *Penobscot Island Air* — Terry Waters, the president of PIA, and her chief financial officer, Ken Carle presented a proposal to the Board under which the Town would contract with PIA for three flights each day, Monday through Friday, and two flights per day on Saturdays and Sundays. The Town would guarantee the cost of each of these flights up to \$260 per flight. If the flight were booked with passengers and freight that was equal to or more than \$260, the Town would owe nothing. If, for example, the flight had \$100 in booked passengers and freight, the Town would owe \$160. Carle noted that PIA has made all the possible cuts it can and wants to work with the island communities to find a way to continue providing air service.

Bush and Waters noted that under FAA rules, an on-demand air taxi service like PIA cannot operate scheduled flights. In contrast, if the Town were to enter into a contract with PIA for daily flights, PIA would be allowed to sell tickets and freight space during the Town's contracted flight times.

In response to a question from Curtis, Carle noted that PIA's passenger loads dropped dramatically from 2019 to 2020: 5,897 passengers in 2019, down to 2,691 through August 2020.

Carle and Waters also noted that using Witherspoon's airstrip decreases their revenues because on the shorter airstrip they have to use smaller aircraft, Cessna 206s instead of the larger Cessna 207s.

David Almy asked if Cape Air could provide some of its federal money to PIA even though they operate under different parts of FAA rules (Cape Air, Part 121 and PIA, Part 135). Carle said Kevin Waters had done a lot of research on this and did not think it was possible. Almy said he hoped to follow up on this.

Carle also noted that Knox County is helping PIA by building a new hanger, installing solar panels to offset electricity costs, and reducing the fees it charges PIA at the airport.

The Board was not prepared to respond to this request without more information, including a legal analysis of the idea of the Town's entering into a contract for this purpose. Demmons noted that perhaps some of the Town's summer residents might have expertise in these areas. Almy noted that he served on an airport advisory board for six years and would be happy to help.

- b. *Social Security & Medicare payroll tax deferral* — President Trump issued an executive order that allows employers to defer the collection of Social Security and Medicare payroll taxes for the remainder of 2020. If deferred, employees would have to pay the deferred amounts by April 2021. Municipalities in Maine do not appear to be taking advantage of this alternative, probably because the money would have to be repaid at a time of year when people were typically short on cash. Lattimer recommended not offering this to the Town's employees, particularly since no one has requested it.

9. Other:

- Darling reiterated her concern about a section of eroded areas on the Vista Trail Mullin's Head Park that need attention
- Curtis would like to obtain another update on COVID-19

10. Adjournment — Motion to adjourn at 7:04 pm made by Lannon, seconded by Darling
Approved 5-0-0