Town of Isle La Motte

Select Board Meeting

Nov 3, 2021

5:00 pm @Isle La Motte School

Present : Rusty Spaulding, Selby Turner, Paul Zera, Mary LaBrecque, Sarah Noble, Peter Brozowyy, Debbie Spaulding, Cathy Tudhope, Sylvia Jensen, Chet Bromley, Cary Sandvig, Ann Jobin - Picard, Carol Michaels and Mike Donoghue

Meeting called to order by Chair Rusty Spaulding at 5:00 pm.

1. Additions to Agenda : None

3. Approve minutes of meeting of 10/06: motion made by S. Turner to approve, second by P. Zera. All in favor. S. Jensen questioned as to status of names in minutes. Chair Spaulding replied that the rule is that names are required for motions made and money spent. Discussion between S. Jensen and Chair Spaulding about the stone project at the bridge. If any individuals wish to contribute to this project they can contact ILMCO via S. Jensen. Chair Spaulding indicated that the minutes already approved would not be revised.

C. Bromley wanted to know if the Champlain Islands Unified Union School District(CIUUSD) had asked to remove the freezer for another school and store the broken one here. Chair Spaulding replied that we have no control over the kitchen, that they had told CIUUSD they wanted to keep the equipment as the school is the emergency shelter for the town.

4. Warrants for payroll & payables :

Payroll10/12/21 $1913.15 Ratification of Paul Zera’s signature. Motion to ratify by S. Turner, second by P. Zera. All in favor.

Payroll10/26/21 $1563.18 Ratification of Paul Zera’s signature. Motion to ratify by S. Turner, second by P. Zera. All in favor

EFT10/20/21 $382.56 Ratification of Paul Zera’s signature. Motion to ratify by S. Turner, second by P. Zera. All in favor.

EFT11/3/21 $355.56 Ratification of Paul Zera’s signature. Motion to ratify by S. Turner, second by P. Zera. All in favor.

Payable 10/20/21 $81,833.87 Ratification of Paul Zera’s signature. Motion to ratify by S. Turner, second by P. Zera. All in favor.

Payable11/20/21 $402,087.05 $400,000 to CIUUSD Ratification of Paul Zera’s signature. Motion to ratify by S. Turner, second by P. Zera. All in favor.

2. Executive Session : S. Turner made motion to go into Executive Session at 5:10. Motion seconded by P. Zera. All in favor. Select Board returned from Executive Session at 5:33. P. Zera made motion to send S. Turner as Town representative in mediation on 11 November for the Civetti case. R. Spaulding seconded, all in favor. Mike Donoghue asked what the mediation was for. Chair Spaulding replied that the town was being sued due to an automobile accident a few years ago.

5. Monthly Budget and Balance Sheet : Listers have over spent their budget. Chair Spaulding commented that they had cut the budget from last year. S. Jensen inquired as to the snow plow budget and where the $22,500 for Oct/Nov that was not in the budget would come from. Chair Spaulding responded that it would come from the taxpayers. Chair Spaulding replied that he didn’t have the information with him and that he wasn’t going to go into it any further.

 6. Trustees of Public Funds C. Tudhope presented a promissory note to the Select Board for mortgage on 3 building lots owned by the town. Payments of $879.95/year will be due on 15 Dec 2021 through 15 Dec 2024. They are also adding a late fee of 3%. She also asked about creating a plan to sell the lots. Chair Spaulding requested that Trustees develop a plan as attempts have been made to sell them, and that getting involved with them was a bad idea. Motion to approve promissory note made by S. Turner, seconded by P. Zera. All in favor. Discussion between Select Board, C. Tudhope, C. Bromley and S. Jensen about the septic requirements and condition of the wells for the 3 Town owned lots. There could be many questions from potential buyers and it could cost quite a bit to answer them. More discussion is needed.

7. Change of meeting day & town hall hours : Select Board proposes meeting day be changed to Monday at 5:00 pm on the first Monday of the month. and Town Office hours be changed from 1-5 pm Friday to 1-5 pm Monday. New meeting schedule will be posted on website and at regular posting places. Motion to change meeting time and Town Office hours as stated above made by S. Turner, second by P. Zera . All in favor.

8. Road Commissioner report : Speed signs have been changed on school street from 25 mph to 35 mph. A 25 mph sign has been placed on Nobles Hill Rd. 4 signs will be placed at the turn around by the bridge. Stop signs are needed at New Road and West Shore Rd. C. Bromley suggested a solution to speeding through village : speed bumps. Chair Spaulding and Road Commissioner Turner suggested that these could be a problem with plowing and a potential liability. Noise of cars hitting the bumps could be an issue for nearby residents. A. Jobin - Picard questioned why the sheriff wasn’t hired for more hours. Chair Spaulding indicated that the time we pay for gets used up with domestic disputes, and travel time is included. Some discussion between Select Board and various residents about speeding. Road Commissioner Turner stated that the culvert inventory and potential watershed issues was completed. Trans completed the the inventory with a grant. The state requires that a 20 year permit be in place to mitigate erosion. We will receive prioritization from the state, and grants will probably be available. S. Turner did indicate that the state representative complemented him on the condition of the gravel roads. He also commented on the area of Quarry Rd where the speed bumps are is actually town road.

9. Grant Approval for equipment : The grant for the plant compactor was approved, it is an 80/20 grant. Motion by S. Turner to accept grant, second by P. Zera. All in favor.

10. Global Net : Global Net has been hooked up, however copier doesn’t work. The copier company will have to fix a password issue before it can be reinstalled. Global Internet is free. S. Jensen questioned how people would get new email information. Clerk S. Noble and Chair Spaulding responded that a mass email will be sent out along with the usual postings.

11. Update of public records request fee schedule: Chair Spaulding stated that after first half hour the town can charge $.33/minute . He named a list of towns that charge between $.10 and $.25 per copy. S. Jensen questioned if we had to determine the per copy charge for our copy. Chair Spaulding said that the town can accept its own fee schedule. M. Donoghue said that the law states that the town has to use actual costs. S. Jensen asked if this was a research policy or a public records policy. Chair Spaulding stated that they would vote on the policy, check on it some more and if it is wrong it will be changed. Motion to accept by S. Turner, second by P. Zera. All in favor.

12. Use of Old Town Office: S. Jensen requested use of Old Town Hall to work on a barn quilt project. She indicated that they will be done by mid December and then Spaulding will winterize the building. Motion to accept this use of old town office by S. Turner, second by P. Zera. All in favor.

13. Proposed work in town right of way : S. Jensen presented a drawing of her property and indicated that she would like to remove some poplar trees and install drainage tile in a steep ditch, and backfill over. S. Turner questioned filling in a ditch. Discussion about details between Chair Spaulding and S. Jensen. P. Zera made a motion to approve S. Jensens project, second by R. Spaulding. P. Zera and R. Spaulding voted yeah, S. Turner voted nay.

14. Other Business Zoom : Chair Spaulding stated that one individual threatened to sue the town because they couldn’t hear the Zoom. Also, there is not robust attendance at the meetings. S. Jensen stated that the 5 pm time is not convenient, and that table microphones might be helpful and are not expensive. Chair Spaulding suggested that if there is more public pressure that they may consider it. There are minutes and a recording however there would have to be a significant change to use of the website in order to accommodate the recording. Clerk S. Noble will look into it.

Chair Spaulding contacted Worksafe about radar speed sign and the cost to install it. He indicated that he would have bought it for his business and the town would have still had some access to it. It will cost about $2000 to buy as long as the battery is still good. Installation would not be possible until Spring 2022. The next decision will be where to install it. S. Turner believes he can get it installed more quickly through a different company. Some discussion between select board about where to install. S. Jensen questioned if there were “reduced speed ahead” before the speed is reduced. More discussion from C. Tudhope about placement of signs. S. Jensen questioned paying $2000 to install one radar sign when last month there was discussion on voting for two. Chair Spaulding suggested an article to vote on it. C. Tudhope thought that grants would be available. D. Spaulding offered to assist with looking for grants.

M. Donoghue questioned how the town came up with the $.25 cost per copy and that it seems arbitrary. Chair Spaulding replied that numerous towns charge $.25 and they have probably figured it out. More work will be done.

15. Adjourn : Motion to adjourn at 7:05 pm by S. Turner. Seconded by P. Zera. All in favor

Respectfully Submitted

Mary LaBrecque

Select board Clerk

Town of Isle La Motte

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Rustam Spaulding

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Selby Turner

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Paul Zera