

Town of Isle La Motte
Select Board Meeting
January 3, 2022
5:00 pm @Isle La Motte School

Present : Rusty Spaulding, Selby Turner, Paul Zera, Mary LaBrecque, Sarah Noble, Peter Brzozowyy, Debbie Spaulding, Carol Michaels, Cary Sandvig, Barbara Callahan, and Mike Donoghue

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

1. Additions to Agenda : None
2. Appointment of select board member : Chair Spaulding read one letter from Peter Brzozowy requesting appointment to the Select Board. Motion to appoint Peter Brzozowy to Select Board made by Paul Zera, second by Rusty Spaulding. All in favor Peter was sworn in by Town Clerk Sarah Noble.
3. Executive Session : Not needed
5. Approve minutes of meeting of 12/06: motion made by P. Zera to approve, second by R. Spaulding. All in favor.
6. Copy Price verification : R. Spaulding presented a copy of the meeting minutes from when the copy prices were adopted to Mike Donoghue of the Islander.
7. Warrants for payroll & payables :
Payroll 12/21/21 \$6853.39 Ratification of Paul Zera's signature. Motion to ratify by P. Brzozowy, second by P. Zera. All in favor.
EFT 12/20/21 \$1898.18 Ratification of Paul Zera's signature. Motion to approve by P. Brzozowy, second by P. Zera. All in favor.
Payable 12/20/21 \$564,881.50, \$537,856.18 went to CIUUSD. Motion to ratify P. Zera's signature made by P. Brzozowy, second by R. Spaulding. All in favor.
8. Monthly Budget and Balance Sheet : S. Spaulding indicated that he had had treasurer add 1 hour/week to the budget for the sheriff's services. This will raise the sheriff's budget approximately 10%. Motion made by P. Brzozowy to accept this change, second by P. Zera. All in favor. Chair Spaulding indicated that there has been increased presence from the Sheriff recently and he has actually written speeding tickets. The cost is around \$37,000 for 13 hours/ week.
Digitizing Land Records : Will cost over \$20,000 to set up and \$10,000 to convert from NEMRC, however Town Clerk S. Noble indicated that NEMRC may be offering this service in the near future, and it might be more cost effective to wait for that.
Phone/Fax/Internet : Fax and Internet bills are gone (Internet is now obtained free through Global Net)
Town Clerk/Treasurer salary : Town Clerk/Treasurer has not received increase in 4 years, and is asking for Cost of Living increase of 5.6%. P. Brzozowy moved to increase Clerk/Treasurer salary by 5.6%. second by P. Zera. All in favor.
The appropriations that have been passed year after year will be included in the budget, however new appropriations will be voted on as an article.
Recreation Department : The Rec Department would like an additional \$2,000 to replace equipment and sponsor more activities. This would go in as an article.
Highway Revenue : Town received \$53,000 from the state. The surplus is about \$29,800. The highway funds do not have to be spent in the calendar year, can be held over as a surplus. The largest increase is in snow removal (\$135,000-\$180,000). Salt and sand has been reduced to \$30,000 from \$38,000. C. Sandvig inquired as to if it is an issue having one person be responsible for the road plowing. There are several individuals in town with plowing experience who can fill in if necessary. S. Turner indicated that John has years of experience and does a great job.

The total budget of \$306,000 will only include \$216,000 to be raised by taxes. Last year that amount was \$218,000. The tree/brush removal budget has been increased by \$5,000 due to the effects of the Emerald Ash Bore.

Paving Grant of \$171,000 was applied for in 2018, could not be funded until 2022. It will be good for 2022/2023. Much work that was planned for this grant had to be done due to road conditions, \$56,000 was spent on that work. Approval was granted to modify location of the paving to be completed.

Lister revenue : Town receives \$8400 from state for revaluations and for maintenance of Grand List.

Actual revenue surplus is around \$7500 at time of meeting.

9. Road Commissioner report : Covered under budget discussion.

10. Snow removal for sidewalks : A contract from Keith Bonneville was presented (see attachment). He charges \$18/hr for labor and \$18/hr for use of tractor. P. Brzozowy made a motion to accept contract, P. Zera seconded. All in favor.

4. Old Town office update : The fuel at the old town office is running low, however there are residents working on a barn quilt project. B. Callahan indicated that several people had committed to working on these barn quilts before the holidays.

11. Other business : D. Spaulding indicated that her and C. Tudhope had been looking for grants to purchase another speed indicator sign, however they couldn't find anything. Discussion of (sale of) town lots between R. Spaulding and B. Callahan. B. Callahan said that she doesn't believe it is the Trustee's responsibility to prepare the lots for sale or to sell them. R. Spaulding stated the town should not spend tax payer dollars in an attempt to sell the lots. One offer was received last year and it was considered too low to accept. There is \$74,000 in American Rescue plan money, but the requirements are very stringent, they are tied to Infrastructure. C. Sandvig inquired about Zoom. R. Spaulding replied that the Zoom attendance was very low.

12. Adjourn Motion to adjourn at 6:13 pm made by P. Brzozowy, second by P. Zera. All in favor
Respectfully Submitted

Mary LaBrecque
Select board Clerk
Town of Isle La Motte

Rustam Spaulding

Paul Zera

Peter Brzozowy