

Select Board Meeting
06 Feb 2023 @ 5:00 pm
Town office At School

Present: Rusty Spaulding, Paul Zera (via Zoom), Mary Catherine Graziano, Mary LaBrecque, Debbie Spaulding, Barbara Callahan, Cathy Tudhope, Allen Hall, Selby Turner Sylvia Jensen, Joyce Tuck, Terry Tuck and Cary Sandvig

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

1. Additions/Deletions to agenda: Mary LaBrecque needs a few minutes, as does the Animal Control Officer

2 Executive Session: Not needed

3. Approval of minutes: Meeting of 02 January 2023. Motion to approve made by Mary Catherine Graziano, second by Paul Zera. All in favor.

Meeting of 11 January 2023: Motion to approve made by Mary Catherine Graziano, second by Paul Zera. All in favor.

Meeting of 18 January 2023: Motion to approve made by Mary Catherine Graziano, second by Paul Zera. All in favor.

Meeting of 26 January 2023: Motion to approve made by Mary Catherine Graziano, second by Paul Zera. All in favor.

Meeting of 26 January 2023: Motion to approve made by Mary Catherine Graziano, second by Paul Zera. All in favor.

Meeting of 23 January 2023: Motion to approve made by Mary Catherine Graziano, second by Paul Zera. All in favor.

Meeting of 28 January 2023: Motion to approve made by Mary Catherine Graziano, second by Paul Zera. All in favor.

4. Warrants for Payroll & Payables: EFT transfer to IRS 17 Jan 2023 \$568.48. Ratification of Paul Zera's signature. Motion to ratify by Mary Catherine Graziano, second by Rusty Spaulding. All in favor.

Payroll 17 Jan 2023 \$1241.06. Ratification of Paul Zera's signature. Motion to ratify by Mary Catherine Graziano, second by Rusty Spaulding. All in favor.

EFT to IRS 03 Jan 2023 \$709.26. Ratification of Paul Zera's signature. Motion to ratify by Mary Catherine Graziano, second by Rusty Spaulding. All in favor.

Payroll 31 December 2022 \$3009.49. Ratification of Paul Zera's signature. Motion to ratify by Mary Catherine Graziano, second by Rusty Spaulding. All in favor.

Payable 25 Jan 2023 \$ 33186.14 Ratification of Paul Zera's signature. Motion to ratify by Mary Catherine Graziano, second by Rusty Spaulding. All in favor.

Payable 18 Jan 2023 \$23,166.88 Ratification of Paul Zera's signature. Motion to ratify by Mary Catherine Graziano, second by Rusty Spaulding. All in favor.

Payable 17 Jan 2023 \$6,944.06 Ratification of Paul Zera's signature. Motion to ratify by Mary Catherine Graziano, second by Rusty Spaulding. All in favor.

Payable 10 Jan 2023 \$414.27 Ratification of Paul Zera's signature. Motion to ratify by Mary Catherine Graziano, second by Rusty Spaulding. All in favor.

Payable 09 Jan 2023 \$1924.72 Ratification of Paul Zera's signature. Motion to ratify by Mary Catherine Graziano, second by Rusty Spaulding. All in favor.

Payable 21 Dec 2022 \$8123.48 Ratification of Paul Zera's signature. Motion to ratify by Mary Catherine Graziano, second by Rusty Spaulding. All in favor.

Payroll 31 Jan 2023 \$2802.49 Ratification of Rust Spauldings signature. Motion to ratify by Mary Catherine Graziano, second by Paul Zera. All in favor.

EFT IRS transfer \$606.26 Ratification of Rust Spauldings signature. Motion to ratify by Mary Catherine Graziano, second by Paul Zera. All in favor.

6. No appeals pending : Debbie Spaulding commented that this has to be signed every verifying that there are no property tax appeals pending. Motion to approve by Rusty Spaulding, second by Paul Zera. All in favor.

9. Tax Map Contract: The contract is for \$1600. Motion to approve tax map contract by Mary Catherine Graziano, second by Paul Zera. All in favor.

There was conversation about the interest payment that the town pays the Trustees of Public Funds. The select board had approved the interest payment at an earlier meeting, however had not signed it. This interest payment is for 2 lots, however one lot is process of being sold, and an offer on the last lot has been approved by the Select Board. There was more discussion about the Sales contract for the last lot, Lot 7A. The thought was that the offer was for \$38,000, however the sales contract says \$36,500. Paul Zera confirmed with the Realtor who indicated the offer was for \$36,500.

5. Road Commissioner report: Vtrans needs decisions for road work and possible grants for 2024. Selby Turner mentioned that he would like to pave from Quarry Road to where the pavement ends on West Shore Rd. In addition, Bruley Rd needs to be dealt with, possibly pulling up the pavement and returning to a gravel road. Selby would like to get an engineer's opinion about what can be done and cost. Mary Catherine Graziano asked about the curve at the very end of Main St. There was some discussion about how it could be repaired, however in the meantime Selby Turner suggested that every one slow down.

The highway certificate of mileage needs to be signed. Selby said that he got a notice from the DMV to submit what we wanted to do as far as posting weight limits. He also got something similar from VTrans. The weight limits have been established.

6. Animal Cruelty Ordinance: There were no comments, however the ordinance has not been posted on the website. Debbie Spaulding suggested that Debbie McMahon had wanted to make some changes to it before it was posted.

7. Custodian discussion/approval: Mary Catherine Graziano commented that a custodian was hired for \$18/week for 8 hours a week without any approval. She questioned why we were hiring an employee and not a contractor. Rusty Spaulding responded that all of the equipment he needs is at the school. There has also been issues in the past with contractors not paying the extra withholding taxes (FICA and Medicare) and the town having to reimburse the government for those taxes after the fact. Mary Catherine Graziano questioned why we couldn't have a contractor use their own equipment. Selby Turner commented that he likes the idea of the custodian being able to do some handyman work outside. Rusty Spaulding added that we won't be able to get a contractor to come in here with their equipment and do anything for \$18/hr. Mary Catherine wants to make sure that we stick to the budgeted amount. Mary LaBrecque pointed out that it is in the job description of the Clerk to arrange for the maintenance of the Town Offices. Sylvia Jensen asked if there was a background check done on the custodian. There were further comments by Marie D'Angelo about security of documents. Rusty Spaulding commented that we are hiring an individual to do some cleaning and there are no children here anymore. He doesn't feel a background check is warranted. The Clerk/Treasurer is here and any documents are put away or in the safes.

Paul Zera made a motion to approve the Custodian contract, second by Rusty Spaulding. Rusty and Paul in favor, Mary Catherine Graziano voted nay, the ayes have it. Mary Catherine commented that she had hoped the town would hire a contractor for the custodian position.

Steve Mank commented that he checked the references for the custodian before he was hired, as only one person applied. Charles Gurney stated that it was irrelevant who is hired but he feels that going from zero to almost \$8,000 is not justified. Cary Sandvig asked if the process for hiring could be documented.

Barbara Callahan objected to the 8 hours. Joyce and Terry Tuck commented that cleaning the school is more work than people think.

10. Delinquent Tax Collector: Mary LaBrecque requested \$480 dollars to pay small claims court fees in her role as delinquent tax collector. Motion to approve made by Mary Catherine Graziano, second by Paul Zera. All in favor.

11. Select Board Survey: Skipped.

12. Other business

Deb McMahon (Animal Control Officer: Cost of Rabies Vaccination will be \$445. Motion to approve expense of Rabies vaccination made by Mary Catherine Graziano, second by Paul Zera.

There has been a snow removal issue with 419 West Shore Rd, the Select Board will write the property owner a letter. Motion to send a letter to property owner at 419 West Shore Rd made by Mary Catherine Graziano, second by Paul Zera. All in favor.

Paul Zera left the meeting at 5:56 pm

Mary LaBrecque read a letter resigning as Select Board Clerk (see attached). Mary Catherine Graziano made a motion to accept resignation, seconded by Rusty Spaulding. All in favor.

Barbara Callahan looked into the Cemetary Commission funds, and according to her review, the Cemetary Commission has \$7500. Jim Senesac had come to the office and taken the records. She feels they should spend this money before asking for more. Rusty Spaulding replied that a review of North Hero's Cemetary Commission showed that they had \$29,000 on hand and were given \$11,000 in 2020. Barbara reiterated that they are not supposed to be building up interest and should spend that money first.

Rusty replied that the budget was approved this morning and that we already had to add \$11,500 for ambulance service at the last minute. Mary Catherine Graziano replied that they will look hard at it next year, but didn't want to put them in a bad spot.

The Town of Alburgh plans to build a building and start an ambulance service with full time EMT's. It will cost the town about \$55,000.

Motion to adjourn at 6:06 pm by Mary Catherine Graziano, second by Rusty Spaulding. All in favor

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary LaBrecque

Rusty Spaulding

Paul; Zera

Mary Catherine Graziano

Selectboard Meeting Sign in Sheet

Joy H. Tuck

TERRANCE Tuck

Debbie Spawrding

Cary Sandvig

Chh Hill

Cathy Tudhope

Sylvia Jensen

Ruby Tu

Barbara N. Callahan


To: Isle La Motte Select Board

From: Mary LaBrecque

I have been the Select Board Clerk since early 2021. For the most part I have enjoyed this job, and have really enjoyed working with the select board. However, late last year, I read a short statement in a paragraph concerning protocol for select board meetings. It stated, that the Select Board meetings are for the Select Board in public, not for the benefit of the public. The Select Board meetings in Isle La Motte have been steadily moving in the opposite direction with more than one individual taking up a disproportionate amount of time during the meetings. It is because of this that am tendering my resignation. It takes too much of my time and energy to relisten to these meetings and write up the minutes, it has taken me up to eight hours at times. I will be happy to help whoever takes on the role or to fill in occasionally if needed. My resignation will be effective when the minutes from today's meetings are posted.

Sincerely,

Mary LaBrecque

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary LaBrecque". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.A small, faint handwritten mark or scribble, possibly initials, located below the signature.