



**Town of Baldwin, Maine
SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MARCH 07TH, 2023, 6:00 P.M.**



Note: This meeting was recorded and can be viewed on the website www.baldwinmaine.org.
Attendance: Selectmen: Jim Dolloff, Robert Flint, and Dwight Warren, as well as members of the Public.

1. **Dwight Warren called the Selectmen meeting to order at 6:00PM.**
2. **Review/ Approve minutes**
Robert Flint moved to accept and approve February 21st, 2023, minutes as written. Jim Dolloff seconded the motion. Selectmen voted 3-0 to accept the minutes.
3. **Review/ Approve warrant**
Robert Flint moved to accept and approve the March 07, 2023, warrant. Jim Dolloff seconded the motion, no discussion. Selectmen voted 3-0 to approve the warrant.
4. **Cumberland County Regional Assessing- Abatement:** The Select Board reviewed and signed an abatement forwarded from Cumberland County Regional Assessing.
5. **Annual Town Meeting Date:** Due to date requirements for the posting of nomination papers for elected officials, Robert Flint moved to change the date of the Annual Town Meeting from May 5th, 2023, to June 10th, 2023. Jim Dolloff seconded the motion. Selectmen voted 3-0 in favor.
6. **Broadband Internet Webinar Update:** Robert Flint attended a recent webinar presented by the Maine Broadband Coalition. The webinar covered types of internet technology and steps that communities could take, such as, organizing public grants and/or attract private investment to help build internet infrastructure to provide reliable internet access to residents and businesses alike. Robert Flint stated that it is a complex issue, a lot of state money and organization is being put into it, but not enough to bring high speed internet to everyone's house. It will be up to the municipalities to solve, and we need to decide what the Town wants to do and how to go about it. Nothing must be done, but Baldwin could be left behind.
7. **Spirit of America Nomination:** Kathy Pierce recommended Norma Haines to receive the 2023 Spirit of America Foundation Tribute. Robert Flint wrote the tribute recognizing Norma's citizenship and contributions to the community. Bob officially moved to grant the nomination. Jim Dolloff seconded. Selectmen voted 3-0 in favor.
8. **River Road Culvert Proposals:** Robert Flint confirmed four proposals received, and suggested the selectmen collectively review and decide which firm to meet with. He noted that a couple had including pricing for the project.



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9. **Schedule Meeting with Standish Public Safety Chief, Rob Caron:** Chief Caron requested a meeting with the Select Board to review the budget and ACO salary. Dwight Warren noted that the rescue budget increased by 5% from last year. ACO pay rate is to increase by a couple of dollars per hour. The Select Board requested to meet with Chief Caron on Thursday, March 9th, 2023. Administrative Assistant, Robyn Anderson will schedule the meeting.

10. **Discuss School Budget Meeting Date:** Dwight Warren reported that the date had been scheduled for March 22, 2023, at 6:00pm at the Cornish Town Hall.

11. **Patty Barber- Mountain Division Trail Project:** Administrative Assistant, Robyn Anderson stated that Ms. Barber was also scheduled to meet with another town this evening, and was advised that if she was able to present by 6:30pm, she would be included in the meeting agenda. She approached Baldwin as a "concerned Hiram citizen". Her position is to preserve and maintain the rails for economical use rather than having them removed and walking paths built. Jim Dolloff said that it is up to the state.
Patty Barber arrived and spoke after adjournment of the Selectmen meeting. She stated that "In 2021 , under pressure from national and state trail and bike advocates, the terminology of the Maine Rail preservation Act was changed to include non-rail uses, and the Rail Use Advisory Councils (RUACs) were formed". She states that the council voted to remove the tracks and build walking paths. She went on to say that she felt that RUACs "were intentionally slanted to benefit trails- of appointed members only one voice was given to rail interests." Ms. Barber felt that data presented was skewed by omitting a chart supporting keeping the tracks for rail and trail use from the final report. She noted that there are funds now available for restoration of freight and passenger trains. She would like the Town to consider holding an informational meeting where residents can obtain more information and voice concerns; then the Town could vote whether to tear up the tracks or keep them and build a trail along side. Dwight Warren, a member of RUAC stated that the estimate provided to bring the rails back to commercial working order was approximately \$1,000,000.00 per mile. To do rail and trail together, with class two rail (40 miles per hour) would cost \$146,000,000.00 to complete the project. "Trucking is faster, and time is money."

12. **Budget Discussion:** Robert Flint noted that while working on the TIF, he looked up for the budget what the Town's revenue sharing would be for 2024 starting July 1st this year. He stated that it's dropping by \$36,000, because the Town's state valuation went up, which will reflect a \$0.20 increase in mill rate, should the budget remain the same. The municipal valuation increases causes the Town's share to go up. Dwight Warren said he expects the budget to increase and referred to Tri Town Waste as an example of a progression in rate increases over time. Jo Pierce questioned if the other towns in the district valuations went up, would they contribute the same amount? He said the state would contribute less and therefore our taxes would go up. Increase rates and fees for permits.



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- 13. CEO Update:** CEO, Don Kent reported that the squatters are no longer living at 19 Dearborn Rd. They have moved a trailer from Station Hill to Douglas Hill Rd. and are living in it. Eventual plan is to move to Porter. Don and Planning Board Chair, Jo Pierce recommended the Town consider increasing permit fees to be more in line with nearby communities.
- 14. Fire Chief Update:** Chief, Bruce Crawford reported that the new washer and dryer will be delivered to the East Baldwin department tomorrow. Annual State Corporation paperwork for East and North Baldwin Departments were completed today and Cheryl Stackhouse is working on West Baldwin. Bruce stated that he combined OSHA/Injury Law paperwork from three separate departments into one, which will make it much easier going forward. He ordered thirty traffic cones to replace what was taken or lost on Douglas Hill Rd. after storm damage. Continues to work on ISO agreements when agreements for hydrant and mutual aid are complete would like the Select Board to review them.
- 15. Road Commissioner Update:** Road Commissioner, Chris Harrington thanked Stevie Thorne for stepping in and running the road crew during the recent storm when Chris was out sick. Chris posted roads for heavy weight limits and has had several complaints of trucks not abiding the posted limits. Jim Dolloff said a letter should be sent to the offender. Chris plans call and remind and advise further action will be taken if needed. Chris has drawn up an application/permit for truck drivers to complete even if the temperatures are thirty-two degrees or below for certain amount of time. Permits are to include a set of guidelines. Option of having fees associated with permits to recoup any damage made to roads. Chris has also written an ordinance for posted roads in town. Private Road signs ordered should have an application completed with associated fee to cover the costs of the sign, erecting the signs. Possibility of property owner responsible for replacing stolen signs vs the Town using funds from permit fees. Chris noted earlier that the 2000 Sterling plow truck purchased in 2013 is out of commission and the sticker is expired. May not pass another inspection.


Reminders:

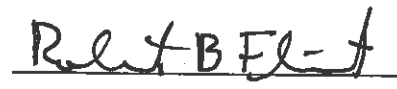
Public Question and Comment:

Adjournment: Robert Flint moved to adjourn the Select Board meeting at 6:32pm. Dwight Warren seconded motion. Selectmen voted 3-0 to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,


Jim Dolloff


Dwight Warren


Robert Flint