



Town of Baldwin, Maine
SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, July 25th, 2023, 6:00 P.M.



Note: This meeting was recorded and can be viewed on the website www.baldwinmaine.org.

Attendance: Selectmen: Jim Dolloff, and Dale Miner, as well as members of the Public.

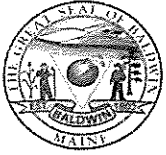
1. **Jim Dolloff called the Selectmen meeting to order at 6:00PM.**

2. **Review/ Approve minutes.**
Dale Miner moved to accept and approve July 11th, 2023, minutes as written. Jim Dolloff seconded the motion. The selectmen voted 2-0 to accept the minutes.

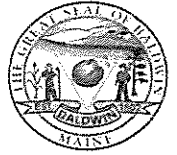
3. **Review/ Approve warrant.**
Dale Miner moved to accept and approve the July 25th, 2023, warrant. Jim Dolloff seconded the motion, no discussion. The selectmen voted 2-0 to approve the warrant.

4. **Rob Sutherland, Cumberland County Regional Assessing- Tax Commitment:** Interim Assessor, Rob Sutherland presented the Certificate of Warrant for Baldwin fiscal year 2023-2024 property tax commitment to the Select Board for signatures. It reflects property valuations as of April 1st, 2023. The proposed rate of \$14.17 per one thousand results in an overlay of \$29,215.23 which is closest to the \$30,000.00 overlay previously voted by the Select Board.
Mr. Sutherland reported that the valuation did not significantly change but municipal, school expenditures and State Revenue Sharing had increased. A TIF Finance document was also included in the presented packet. Mr. Sutherland explained the municipal TIF finance amount is zero this year. The selectmen reviewed and signed the tax commitment warrant.

5. **Sand Pond Beach Concerns- Clarifications of Rules:** Posted signs at Sand Pond Beach state no pets are allowed on the beach. It was clarified by Selectman, Jim Dolloff that dogs are permitted at the boat ramp. Beach Attendant, Steve Bennett was nipped by a leached dog on the boat ramp. A report was filed with Baldwin's ACO. It was later clarified that the boat ramp is open for all public use and is not exclusive to Baldwin residents. Road Commissioner, Chris Harrington confirmed that at some point the boat ramp will need to be replaced.
Smoking is not allowed on the beach but is permitted in the parking area and near the rocks. An incident of a beachgoer smoking marijuana in a car was reported. Smoking marijuana is prohibited in public.
Road Commissioner, Chris Harrington advised the fifteen mile per hour speed limit sign posted at the beach was not legal, as the DOT had not posted it. Speed limits must be set by Maine DOT via speed studies and engineers. He confirmed the speed limit from route 11 to Jackson Lane is 30mph. There is no speed limit set for Sand Pond Road beyond Jackson Lane, making the default speed limit 45mph. A speed study could potentially raise the speed limit for the road. The State of Maine typically does not limit roads less than 20-25mph unless it is a school zone. Jo Pierce recalled that the Town posted the reduced speed limit sign several years back secondary to logging trucks travelling too fast through the beach area. Chris said yellow and black 15mph caution signs could be put up by the Town as a precautionary warning. It was agreed that Chris would purchase signs. Jim Dolloff requested the flashing speed detection sign be moved to Sand Pond Road in the area of the beach.



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6. **Baldwin Community Center- Winter Cheering:** The Select Board agreed to have the Sacopee Valley Recreation Council hold cheer practice evenings in the Community Center, apart from Tuesday evenings, as the Town Office is open to the public and the Select Board also holds meetings which limits parking space.
7. **Sign Planning Board Appointment:** It was voted at the last Select Board meeting to reappoint Matt Fricker to the Planning Board. The Selectmen signed an appointment.

Fire Chief, Sanders communicated to Administrative Assistant, Robyn Anderson that radio work on the WMTW Channel 8 tower was complete.

Order to be placed for vehicle magnets for Code Enforcement Officer. A generic set with Town Seal or Town Official could also be purchased.

Reminders: Town Office closed July 26th for training. Community Auxiliary Yard Sale on August 5th. Library sale on August 12th.

Public Question and Comment: Sand Pond residents presented with concerns about commercial water trucks removing water from Sand Pond daily. Residents report decreased water levels and want to know who monitors it and if permits are needed. The legality of a private business owner taking water from a public water source and then selling it was also questioned. Planning Board Chair, Jo Pierce, confirmed that such activity would require a Conditional Use Permit from the Town. Jo said the CEO could require that trucks cease water extraction. If they come in for a Conditional Use Permit, Sand Pond residents would have an opportunity to present all the information they have. One resident said the State of Maine through statutes recommends municipalities develop ordinances to protect their water resources. Casco enacted such an ordinance.

Jo Pierce communicated that he has owned woodlands in Baldwin since 1982 and his family has owned approximately 2500 acres of land in Baldwin since the 1780s. When first owned, all the wood was cut down. It took three years to cut 300 acres between 1917 -1920. Since that time his family has been involved in sustainable forestry. Jo tries to cut on a 10–15-year cycle, which has resulted in all property being cut three to four times over forty years. It is preferable to grow big trees, resulting in better grades, volume and pay. The way the tree growth tax law is written, it is carefully calculated for a continuous flow of wood to mills. It's a business that helps to support loggers and truckers and a philosophy about how to treat and make money off the land. The State Planning office and the Forestry Office have given up on having open land in Southern Maine. The area eventually being closed to hunting and permissive trespass. This is a result of too many houses and posted land extending northward. In southern states landowners rent land to hunt. Hunters are required to hunt in specially permitted areas.

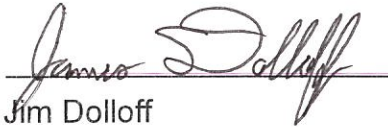


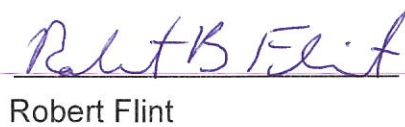
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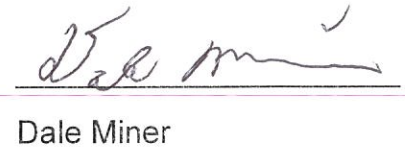


Adjournment: Jim Dolloff moved to adjourn the Select Board Meeting at 7:45 pm Dale Miner seconded the motion.
Selectmen voted 2-0 in favor.

Respectfully submitted,


Jim Dolloff


Robert Flint


Dale Miner