

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
RICHARD BEAL, CHAIRMAN
FLORENCE J. SPRAGUE
CORY R. ALLEY

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
TO THE SELECTMEN
JAMES FORTUNE



TOWN CLERK / TREASURER
DENISE McCORMICK
PUBLIC SAFETY COORDINATOR
KATELYN DAMON

Board of Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
January 7, 2020
GCI Community Center

Attendance:

Richard Beal, Chairman, BOS	Amy Palmer, TCI School Committee
Florence Joy Sprague, BOS	Phil Whitney
Cory Alley, BOS	Carl Brooks
Denise McCormick, Town Clerk	Ingrid Gaither
James Fortune, Administrative Assistant	Joe Connell
Ben Sumner, Deputy Clerk	Karin Whitney
Katelyn Damon, Public Safety Coordinator	

I. Call to Order: 8:47am by Chairman Richard Beal.

II. Review / Sign Financial Warrants

Warrant #54	\$ 6,461.61	
Warrant #55	\$ 34,592.62	(school)
Warrant #56	\$ 8,196.80	
<u>Warrant #1 (2020)</u>	<u>\$ 69,148.15</u>	
Total:	\$ 118,399.18	

All warrants were signed by the Selectmen.

Florence Joy Sprague asks about a school invoice (\$750) for Frenchboro School that was paid by the Cranberry Isles School Department. Amy Palmer will verify that the expense is reimbursed appropriately.

III. Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes: December 11, 2019

Florence Joy Sprague moves to approve the December 11, 2019 Board of Selectmen's meeting minutes as written. Cory Alley seconds the motion. **Motion approved 3-0.**

IV. New Business

A. 2020 Municipal Budget Workshop

Dept. #55: Richard Beal asks about the final School budget. School Committee Chairman Amy Palmer reports the School budget request will be \$773,681 with a Town appropriation of \$562,982. There is an increase in insurance premiums, but a slight decrease in the overall budget. The budget is calculated based on an enrollment of ten students and nine high schoolers.

Dept. #51: General discussion of Town Office construction budget and backup generator installation. Consensus of the Selectmen is to leave Warrant Article for \$25,000 unchanged.

Dept. #51: Denise McCormick notes that there are three elections to be staffed this year.

Dept. #51: The Appraiser's budgeted amount is set by contract.

Dept. #52: Katelyn Damon reports that no capital items are being considered for purchase this year and sufficient funds are in reserve to make needed repairs to the GCI Firehouse.

Dept. #53: James Fortune reports that the only adjustment in the Solid Waste budget is for a contractually obligated CPI increase.

Dept. #54: Discussion of proposed \$850,000 road improvements. Cory Alley recommends drainage and base gravel improvements to Harding Point Road this year with an aim to consider paving the road at a future date. Richard Beal proposes, without objection, a Warrant Article requesting \$250,000 for Harding Point Road improvements. Cory Alley proposes, without objection, a Warrant Article requesting \$150,000 for Co-Op Road improvements. Consensus of the Selectmen to reduce the proposed road improvements budget figure to \$400,000 with the two named proposals funded as a loan package.

Dept. #54: James Fortune presents a proposal from Sail Acadia that includes an increase in the summer commuter ferry contract amount. General discussion of the annual Federal Transit Administration grant renewal process.

Dept. #58: James Fortune presents an estimate of \$14,300 for video security systems at the GCI and Islesford Town Docks.

Dept. #58: James Fortune reports that Axiom has advised that the Town should expect to receive around \$16,000 in reimbursements in 2020 for future infrastructure needs of the Broadband system.

Dept. #58: James Fortune presents estimates from AC Parsons Landscaping for work to be done at Manset in 2020. The estimates total \$7,620 for the season.

B. 2020 Town Meeting Warrant

Richard Beal asks whether the current budgeted increases will require a Warrant Article to comply with the Maine Tax Levy Limit (LD1). Denise McCormick advises that she will have to calculate the budget changes to determine whether the limit has been exceeded.

James Fortune presents School Superintendent's Office request for a Warrant Article to gauge local interest in the continued planning of a consolidated school for 7th and 8th graders. Denise McCormick asks whether the Article should be included with the other school related Articles rather than being approved for inclusion by the Selectmen. General discussion. No action taken.

Richard Beal reports that the Town Attorney is providing language for a Warrant Article addressing the disposition of properties with unknown ownership.

C. 2019 Town Report

Ben Sumner advises that most of the reports requested by the Selectmen have been submitted and several photographs will be available for consideration at the February meeting.

D. Jim Wadman: Engagement Letter

Selectmen review and sign annual letter to James Wadman to conduct the Town's 2019 Audit.

E. Great Cranberry Dock: Update on Hoist & Winter Float

James Fortune reports that the winter float and ramp on GCI are now in use. A manual hoist to raise the ramp during stormy weather is on order. Mincton's is continuing work on the hoist.

F. Manset Property: Update on Drainage and Retaining Wall Work

James Fortune reports that Goodwin's has not yet commenced work and he will follow up with them on the status of the project. Prock Marine has provided an estimate of \$2,000 for storm damage repairs to the floats and ramps. James Fortune recommends having the repairs completed during the winter instead of just before the floats are being put back into use next spring. Selectmen agree, without objection, to have the repairs completed with Manset Reserve funds.

V. Other Business

Richard Beal proposes, without objection, that a ladder be installed on the winter float at GCI as a safety measure.

VII. Audience Communication

Carl Brooks provides a report to the Selectmen entitled *Growth Management Working Paper #2: TCI Houses are Works of Fine Art*. He contends that seasonal home purchases in the Town are more akin to investments in fine art than typical real estate purchases and the resulting valuations are a major factor in the lack of affordable housing. He recommends the Town move toward a taxation structure that will fully rebate property taxes and provide free parking in Northeast Harbor to homes that qualify for the Homestead Exemption. General discussion. Richard Beal recommends Carl Brooks prepare a short analysis of his findings for consideration in the Town Report.

Phil Whitney encourages the Town to become more involved in a solution to the affordable housing problem. He also asks the Selectmen to approach the Town of Mount Desert about improving the hazardous condition of the float ramp at Northeast Harbor.

Joe Connell supports the Town looking into ways to incentivize more long-term residential usage of houses.

V. Other Business (continued)

Denise McCormick reports on a request to use the Town Field at Islesford for a wedding on September 18-19, 2020. Selectmen approve without objection.

VI. Executive Session:

None.

VIII. Adjournment

Richard Beal moves, without objection, to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 11:09am.