

## 01/04/2023 Sorrento Select Board Meeting Minutes

Attending via Zoom were Select Board Chair Rob Wilpan, Selectman Jon Mickel, Selectwoman Diana Gazis, Town Clerk Kathi Moore, Fire Chief Joey Clark, Tom Bailey, Chip Campbell, Susan Clancy-Dougherty, Darla & Mason Crocker, Dan Dougherty, Pat Dougherty, Malachy Flynn, Amanda Mickel, Dean Potashner, Ted Preuss, Dale Strohmaier, Trina Wellman and Janet Wilpan.

The meeting was called to order at 7 pm by Rob Wilpan.

1) MEETING ETIQUETTE: Rob requested that all Select Board discussions be uninterrupted. At the end of each topic discussion, audience questions will be addressed.

### 2) FIRE DEPARTMENT

a) DEC 23 STORM UPDATE: Joey reported that they began at 8:30 Friday morning and ran 18 hours straight, during which time they received 12 calls for trees down & assistance and 3 fire alarms. With a full crew of 8 they were cutting trees and patrolling. At one point 2 big trees fell across the roads, 1 each on West Shore Rd and East Side Rd making it impossible to enter or exit Sorrento. Joey started on Tuesday getting Josh Trundy lined up with the pulp wood truck, loaded 2 truckloads. There is still one tree down on Doane's Point Road, waiting for the phone company to respond.

b) F.D. RECORD REQUEST: Rob addressed Jon's request for Fire Department records. It is expected that the FD would have most of the request available, but it's been a hard couple of years with the pandemic and the state postponing certain requirements and several members having family deaths. He agrees that the records do need to be updated and he spoke with Joey about a plan: 1) schedule inspection with Maine Dept. of Labor so that they can have a mutual time to complete the records prior to the inspection; 2) Look at Jon's list and think about a hard schedule. Demanding records is not something an individual selectman can do but he agrees with the records request. The Fire Chief reports to the entire Board and give them time to catch up on the records. Jon said he was not demanding, just asking some questions from the Fire Chief who has had 9 months to review this list and provide some transparency and accountability going forward.

3) UPDATE ON KEARSARGE AVE/WEST SHORE ROAD VEGETATION CLEARING: Joey is trying to line up a time for Craig Dubois to do the work. He asked Jon about the red ribbons between Waukeag & Kearsarge; save the 2 trees and a line between them, everything else can go.

4) UPDATE ON HARBOR RAILING: Rob contacted a welder in Trenton who is working on a quote. Rob brought up quoting fittings instead of welded, he recommended against it.

5) UPDATE ON HARBOR POWER: No update

6) TOWN ROADS:

a) INVENTORY: Rob reported during the last meeting it was approved to form a Road Committee. He would like to have as many people as possible volunteer, he believes we can take care of most of the requirements of the inventory system by having a Google drive available and whoever wants to volunteer to add data to it would be given permission to do so, with the Select Board reviewing it. Diana clarified her no vote from last week, she doesn't want another committee but is in favor of updating the road inventory. Rob said they are focusing on the maintained roads only and noted that Elm Street is considered a Town road although the Town has never maintained it; it is something that we need to officially abandon. Jon said the formation of the Road Committee passed, regardless, so we have the possibility of a committee now and allowing people to collaborate with the Select Board without the formation of a committee is a great idea but requires a new motion. Rob made a motion that they reconsider how to ask for assistance for a road inventory system and do not establish a Road Committee, Diana seconded; Rob and Diana voted yes, Jon voted no, motion passed.

b) WEST SHORE ROAD STRIPING BID REQUEST: Rob asked Jon to work on a bid request for center line striping on West Shore Road. Joey is to get some more quotes that are good for at least 6 months out.

7) UPDATE ON COMMUNITY BACK ROOM RENOVATIONS: Scott Simpson has started on the backroom renovations and Rob will ask him to fix the siding trim piece that blew off the back of the Town Office during the storm. Kathi asked if

there was any chance of getting the Wi-Fi modem moved to the Town office, every time the power goes out the modem needs to be reset and having it located in the CB basement is very inconvenient and very dark. Rob said no as the wire comes into the CB first. It was agreed that it is not normal to have to reset the modem after every power outage. Rob told Jon he closed the door to boiler room and it should be kept closed. The condition of the boiler was discussed, it needs to be replaced. Jon will reach out to Steve Flaherty to see if the boiler part has come in. In the meantime, Jon and Rob will tend the boiler when the Low Temperature Alarm goes off. Jon needs to be added to Seacoast Security list of authorized people, Kathi will get the contact info to him.

8) UPDATE ON DONATION TAX STATUS TO SORRENTO FD: It was agreed that there is no problem with donations to the Fire Department because it benefits the entire town.

a) Auxiliary Children's Christmas Fund and Auxiliary Firefighter's Assistance Fund: Both of these funds do not benefit the entire town. The Auxiliary is its own entity. Getting rid of the separate checkbook was discussed but it was decided that it can be used to keep donations separate. The Auxiliary needs to file as a 503-C since these funds have no benefit to the Town. There needs to be an accounting where the money goes so a financial report needs to be included in the Annual Report. Rob made a motion that the Fire Department Auxiliary file for 503-C status and this is the last year that their donations will be deposited into the Town checking account and before the end of the fiscal year a check will be issued to the Auxiliary for the donations received for these two accounts, seconded by Jon, unanimous vote, motion passed.

9) UPDATE ON TAX MAP UPDATES: Rob spoke with Tora Johnson from University of Maine @ Machias. They completed digitizing tax maps and have started working on our tax map updates for the last 3 years. He noted that the map viewer used by local roads has the same property tax map layer, all show 2010 property lines.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Kathi said that a resident reported to her the door was open at 159 West Shore Road and he doesn't believe the wind blew it open. It was agreed that this should be reported to HCSO and Jon asked Kathi to do so.

Kathi said she keeps receiving a quote/proposal from Overhead Door. Rob asked for a quote for the salt/sand shed door without a motor, no reason to have an electric motor on back door opened twice a year, the chain to open is an option so he needs to check on that. Rob will get back to her on it. Joey said the only work they have done recently is put the old door up and nailed in place, ok to pay that invoice.

Rob made a motion to appoint Hilly Welch-Crary and Darla Crocker to the Community Building Committee, Jon seconded, unanimous vote, motion passed.

Hilly and Darla want to offer games and line dancing at the Community Building, twice a month during the winter only, free and open to the public. Rob made a motion to approve their request, seconded by Jon, unanimous vote, motion passed.

At 7:50 Rob made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Jon, unanimous vote, motion passed.

Respectfully submitted on 01/17/2023 by Kathi Moore, Town Clerk