

Town of Sorrento
Board of Selectpersons Minutes
Community Building 11/1/23

Attending: Hilly Crary (chair), Rob Wilpan (deputy chair), Diana Gazis, 8 observers in person, other observers on ZOOM.

Call to order and thank yous for the Halloween Party. The meeting was called to order at 7:00. Hilly then acknowledged the many people who volunteered a lot of time planning, setting up, running, and cleaning up after the successful Halloween Party in the Community Building. Special thanks to Averill West, Colleen Ober, and Bob Ferdig.

Adjustments. Five items (town email problem, snowplow contract, TRIO renewal, speed sign report, and chipping) were added to the agenda.

Minutes of the 10/4/23 Selectboard meeting. The minutes of the previous selectboard meeting were approved as written. The motion to approve was made by Rob Wilpan, seconded by Hilly Crary, and passed, Wilpan aye, Crary aye, Gazis aye.

Disbursement warrant #9 10/18/23-11/1/23. One item was added to the warrant, and the motion to approve made by Rob Wilpan, seconded by Diana Gazis and passed, Gazis aye, Crary aye, Wilpan aye. The warrant was then signed by the selectpersons.

Part-time job offer to Sherri Tracy A motion to offer Sherri Tracy a part-time job as clerk and tax collector was made by Hilly Crary and seconded by Diana Gazis. Sherri has been working in the Town Office as a consultant for about two months, and is now recovering from knee surgery. The motion to offer Sherri the part-time job passed, Gazis aye, Wilpan aye, Crary aye.

Municipal Review Committee. Consideration of this subject was postponed until the 11/15/23 Selectboard meeting.

Election Warden. Diana Gazis made and Rob Wilpan seconded a motion to appoint Wendy Worrell as the Election Warden for the 11/7/23 election. The motion passed, Gazis aye, Wilpan aye, Crary aye.

Town Email problem. The town email site has been malfunctioning and not sending or receiving messages properly. Rob is working to fix this. When our new website is finished, and we transfer our internet domain to a new website supplier, our email will also be moved to that supplier. A question was asked as to whether it would be advantageous to move our domain to the new supplier immediately so we could solve our email problem by moving our email system there. This, however, seemed more effort and complication than it was worth.

Snowplowing (aka Winter road maintenance). As passed by the town meeting 9/30/23. the new three-year snowplow contract with Josh Trundy was reviewed, motion to accept made by Rob

Wilpan, seconded and passed, Wilpan aye, Crary aye, Gazis aye. The contract was signed, and Joey Clark will hand-deliver the contract to Josh Trundy.

Trio renewal. Our contract with TRIO is up for renewal. Our code enforcement officer does not use the code enforcement module of TRIO, and it would increase office efficiency to add the rapid renewal module. After a discussion, Rob Wilpan moved and Diana Gazis seconded a motion that we drop TRIO's code enforcement module and add the rapid renewal module in the upcoming contract. The motion passed, Gazis aye, Wilpan aye, Crary aye.

Chipping. There are many trees and branches in the Town roads right of way in the 'town' area of Sorrento. A chipper will be rented for one day and Joey can run it. He will leave logs in the right of way which can be taken for firewood, though they cannot stay there when the snow falls. We would then have to pay to have the wood removed. The right of way is 16.5 feet from the center of a Town road, and 33 feet from the center of a state road.

Speed Sign Report. The data from the speed sign on East Side Road will be unloaded on Sorrento's recently obtained laptop computer and analyzed as to the speed patterns seen. Data will be reported at the next regular board meeting, 11/15/23.

Community Building Committee Member. Dale Strohmaier was nominated by Hilly Crary, seconded by Diana Gazis to be a member of the Community Building Committee. The nomination was approved, Gazis aye, Wilpan aye, Crary aye.

Animal Control Officer. Motion made by Hilly Crary, and seconded by Rob Wilpan, to post on Town Facebook that the town is looking to hire an on-call animal control officer. Town would pay for training. Our contract with Hancock County for animal control expires on 12/31/23, and it costs \$2500 per year, plus \$25 per hour, plus mileage. Motion passed, Gazis aye, Wilpan aye, Crary aye. It was suggested that we consult with a neighboring town to see if they were also looking, and could we share an animal control officer.

E-911 Addressing Officer Marc Perry is the current E-911 addressing officer. He does not have a contract with the town. It was thought that having a volunteer officer instead would be possible as long as the volunteer underwent the training needed.

Workmans Comp renewal application This application has been filled out and filed with MMA.

Harbor Issues: Discussion with Harbormaster Louis Sutherland. The Town launching ramp by the fishing pier does not extend to the low tide mark and such an extension could be considered for the future. The Town could begin voting money for this purpose at Town meetings or apply for grants. The problem with grants is that accepting them would make our town ramp a public ramp, usable by any out-of-town commercial enterprise, rather than simply a town ramp which the town can regulate. Parking would be a problem were we to have a public ramp and more use of it. Also the Town would have to get permits from the army corps of engineers and department of environmental protection before any changes could be made to our Town launching ramp.

Discussion followed about whether the lower part of the new railing to the Town Pier should have more wires to prevent a small child from falling through. Lou said the new dock railings as they now are meet the MMA standards for safety and liability, and are built the same as many new piers along the Maine coast. We cannot prevent all the possible dangers that can happen on or around a pier or the water. A sign saying Sorrento Town Pier – Use at Your Own Risk was suggested. Wilpan made a motion and Crary seconded to purchase such a sign. Sutherland offered to install it at the entrance of the pier walkway. The motion was passed, Crary aye, Wilpan aye, Gazis aye. We will notify the Parkers of this since they had proposed the idea of adding wires and were willing to raise and provide matching funds.

Raising mooring fees was discussed. Motion made by Rob, and seconded, to increase mooring fees \$25.00 across the board. There are four groups of mooring fees: Main Harbor Resident, Main Harbor non-resident, Elsewhere resident, and Elsewhere non-resident. All will be increased by \$25.00 starting in 2024. Motion passes, Wilpan aye, Gazis aye, Crary aye.

Community volunteering Dale Strohmeier spoke about forming a Community Volunteer Group to help with projects such as a post storm clean-up. It would save the town money as well as promote togetherness among the volunteers. Another possibility that is being pursued is to affiliate with a comprehensive outside organization and form a volunteer group perhaps called Community Connections to help with needs of residents. Hilly will put a notice on Town Facebook to see if there is any interest in volunteering. Joanne suggested we have some information and a sign-up sheet available in the Community Building during the election on Tuesday, November 7.

Public Comments were made.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Rob Wilpan, seconded by Diana Gazis, and passed, Wilpan aye, Gazis aye, Crary aye. The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 PM.