

TOWN OF BROWNVILLE
BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, January 18, 2022 6:00 pm
American Legion Post #92 – 67 Railroad Ave. Brownville

Item 1. Chairman, Byron Weymouth opens meeting at 6:00 pm

Selectpersons Present: Dean Bellatty, Jim Hartin, Kevin Emery, Shelly Ekholm, Byron Weymouth

Employees Present: Felice Lyford, Leesa Coates, Kevin Black, Crystal Cail

Residents Present: Deborah Lyford, Jeff Coates

Item 2. Approval of prior meeting minutes:

Motion to approve the minutes from the 12/21/2021 meeting. No discussion.

Motion: Kevin Emery Second: Shelly Ekholm Favor: All

Item 3. Review of the Treasurer's Warrants:

Board reviewed and signed payroll, accounts payable and water/sewer warrants.

Item 4. ARPA Funds Discussion:

At this time, guidance from MMA indicates protective gear for EMS falls within the guidelines for ARPA as the creation of that department is a direct result of understaffing for ambulance services due to COVID-19. The protective gear is much needed as we do not have enough gear for all our responders. If ordered now, it will take 6-8 months for it to arrive. We have applied for funding for generators through PCEMA for the American Legion and the Village Fire Station which are used in the event of extreme weather for warming/cooling areas as well as shelter in the event of an emergency. The Final Rule for ARPA is coming out, and we will have more definitive guidance once it's analyzed by the attorneys. MMA suggests towns place an article on their Town Meeting Warrants to approve specific project expenditures.

Motion to have Town Manager order six sets of protective gear for EMS.

Motion: Dean Bellatty Second: Shelly Ekholm Favor: All

Item 5. Foreclosures:

We had three foreclosures reviewed at the last meeting. The owner of the property located on Quarry avenue paid the taxes and fees as offered by the Board; therefore, we will need to issue them a quit claim deed. The remaining two properties located at 1146 Main Rd. Lot 14 (mobile home only) Kevin Moaratty, owner and 84 Davis St. William Riethmuller III, owner remain unpaid. Discussed options such as putting properties out to bid, contacting mobile home park owner to see if they have any interest in the mobile home, contacting a real estate agent to do an appraisal on the Davis St property. The Davis St property is vacant, but the mobile home is occupied. Town Manager will look into options/issues also.

Motion to table until we can determine the value and obtain more information about the legalities.

Motion: Dean Bellatty Second: Kevin Emery Favor: All

Item 6. Livestock Ordinance Petition:

A petition was received at the Town Office with signatures requesting a warrant article be added at the next Town Meeting to enact a livestock ordinance. The petition signatures were certified by the previous Town Clerk back in November. Town Manager advised the Town is required to act on the petition. Also, the most recent amendment to the state's constitution providing all with a "right to food" could make an ordinance such as this unenforceable. Since this amendment occurred in November 2021, there is no case law on the matter, at this time. The sample ordinance presented with the petition was from Sangerville. This will need to be reviewed/changed prior to having a warrant article written up. The Town Manager will work on this.

Item 7. Department Head Updates:

Felice Lyford Town Manager

- Kevin and Felice met with Milo Town Manager and Lake View Plt Board Chair, Ken Jay (via phone) to discuss Brownville's current contract for plowing in Lake View, and the possibility of having Milo take over that contract (with approval of all parties) along with some other changes in Milo and Brownville. If the Board approves, we would like to move forward with plowing Milo's portion of Stanchfield Ridge Rd, and Milo will plow the Brownville portion of Lake View Rd which would make it more cost effective for both towns if Milo took over the Lake View plowing contract. Brownville would also plow a portion of Pleasant River Rd in Milo to make the distance more equitable. The transition wouldn't take place until Milo has their contract in place with Lake View. They will try to finalize details within a couple of weeks.

Motion to give the Town Manager authority to dissolve the current Lake View Plowing Contract upon finalization of a new contract between Milo and Lake View for the same services and enter into an agreement with Milo regarding the swapping of Stanchfield Ridge Rd, Pleasant River Rd and Lake View Rd.

Motion: Dean Bellatty

Second: Shelly Ekholm

Favor: All

- Milo requested to have a meeting with us to explore cost saving measures by collaborating services. Felice, Byron and Shelly will attend.
- Bridge naming has been recognized by Paul Davis. Testimony is happening next week.
- Moderator for Town Meeting was discussed, will contact past Moderators.
- Elected Officials training (requirement for Dean) taking place on Wednesday 1/26/22
- Penquis Solid Waste update. Corp has hired two transfer site attendants. Will be putting contract back out to bid.
- Maine Earned Paid Leave law went into effect 1/1/2021. There are a few employees who qualify that have not been accruing. The amount of leave owed to them is being calculated and updated in our payroll system.
- Camden National Bank- Alicia and Felice will be meeting with a bank representative to discuss investment options.
- Proposal from Charter Communications for broadband internet to access rural areas of town – total estimated cost \$725,323 with the town's cost share being roughly \$370,000. They are hoping for the town to earmark ARPA funds, which would leave at least \$250,000 unfunded for the project if all ARPA funds were used.

Kevin Black:

- Fire Department has two new employment applications from Jason Bowie and Richard Wyman they recommend for hire.

Motion to approve both applicants for hire.

Motion: Shelly Ekholm

Second: Kevin Emery

Favor: All

- Highway Dept. Should be receiving the results of the slope study soon from the engineer on the underpass.
- Sanitation, Water-Sewer, and Cemetery Department: All is good

Crystal Cail:

- Recreation Dept: Schools have opened back up to Rec activities, but with strict guidelines. Continue to navigate how to best proceed within those guidelines. Possibility of town providing masks as needed.
- Crystal plans to submit an application through the Gloria McKenzie grant to do work on ball fields.
- Requested the Board approve/sign two BYOB fund-raisers the auxiliary is sponsoring in the near future: Fireman's Auxiliary Ball in March and Sportsman's Dinner & Auction in May.

Motion to sign and approve both applications:

Motion: Shelly Ekholm

Second: Jim Hartin

Favor: All

- Brownville Days events were discussed. Minutes and notes were presented to the board of their recent committee meetings, and they were invited to attend any or all the meetings. The committee has done substantial fundraising and is asking the Board to place a warrant article to see if the town will appropriate \$2500 for fireworks.

Motion to present a warrant article on the March Town Meeting Warrant for \$2500 for Brownville Days Events

Motion: Dean Bellatty

Second: Shelly Ekholm

Favor: All

Item 8. Open Session:

- Update on new doors for the town office. Buck is waiting on hardware to come in and will work with us on setting an installation date for the front door when the office is closed.
- Request from Board to have dangerous buildings put on the next meeting agenda.

Item 9. Executive Session 1 MRSA 405-6-A Personnel issue:

Motion to go into Executive Session for a personnel issue pursuant to MRSA § 405-6-A at 7:55 PM

Motion: Jim Hartin

Second: Kevin Emery

Favor: All

Motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:20 PM

Motion: Jim Hartin

Second: Kevin Emery

Favor: All

Motion to take \$40,605 from the Business Reserve Fund for contractual obligations related to a separation agreement.

Motion: Shelly Ekholm

Second: Jim Hartin

Favor: All

Item 10. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn at 8:25 PM.

Motion: Dean Bellatty

Second: Jim Hartin

Favor: All

Next Meeting: February 15, 2022 6:00 PM

Respectfully submitted by: Leesa Coates, Board Secretary


Byron Weymouth


Shelly Ekholm

James Hartin


Kevin Emery


Dean Bellatty