

**TOWN OF BROWNVILLE**  
**BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS MEETING MINUTES**  
**Tuesday, October 15, 2024 at 6:00pm**  
American Legion Post #92 ~ 67 Railroad Ave. Brownville

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1. **Call Board of Selectpersons Meeting to Order at 6:00pm by Byron Weymouth**

- a. **Selectpersons Present:** Byron Weymouth, Shelly Ekholm, Kevin Emery, Jimmy Hartin, Gary Chapman
- b. **Employees Present:** Felice Lyford, Jessica Wyman, Phillip Cook, Richard Gallagher, Roscoe Green, Justine Dominy, Martina Coburn, Jeff Witham, Gabe Armstrong, Chris Crockett
- c. **Residents/Others Present:** Stephen Dean, Mary & Lance Farrar, Carey Richard Harris, Waverly & Cheryl Conlogue, Sandy Conlogue, Kelly Armstrong, Stacey Slagle, Spencer Black, Jordan Nutting, Theresa Lovejoy, Stan Belvin, Mark Ladd, Jessica Coburn, Faith Sickler, Judith Miller, Steven Dean, Cathy Wallace, Lorie Merrill

2. **Action on prior meeting minutes from September 17,2024.**

Motion to approve the minutes from 9/17/2024 as presented.

Motion: Shelly Ekholm Second: Kevin Emery Vote: Unanimous

3. **Review of the Treasurer's Warrants** – Warrants were reviewed and signed by board members present.
4. **Building Permit Applications** - None at this time
5. **Tax Abatements/Supplements** – None at this time
6. **Appointments/New Hires/Open Positions** – The PT ACO, Aubrey Kele-O'Hara, that was hired last month, has resigned as she does not feel she can fulfill the needs of being on call. We will continue to advertise a part-time ACO.

The Town Manager hired a Temporary Full-Time Public Works Operator, Gabriel Armstrong, and is bringing forward his recommendation for regular hire to the Board. Gabe is in the process of completing his CDL course with endorsements, and he goes for his permit later this month and will be able to drive with our experienced CDL operators until he can test for his license. The town is still advertising a part-time public works operator.

Motion to hire Gabriel Armstrong as Full-Time Public Works Operator contingent upon successfully obtaining his CDL

Motion: Shelly Ekholm Second: Kevin Emery Vote: Unanimous

7. **Public Works Truck Replacement** - Rick has narrowed down the quotes to two that he would consider, and one that he recommends. There is a Ford F600 Diesel, with a price of \$91,500 that includes the dump body and a new plow from Wiscasset Ford. Rick feels that this is too much truck for what is needed. He would prefer not to deal with the problems that come along with Diesel. There is also a Ford F350 gas available at Quirk for \$77,000, including the dump body and new plow. This is Ricks recommendation for purchase. Rick is going to talk to the dealership and see if they can give him the plow for the amount of his lowest quote he received. And if they cannot he will have the plow installed at a different location.

The Board decided to lease finance \$57,000 with \$20,000.00 down out of the Public Works Reserve.

Motion to approve the lease of the Ford F350 from Androscoggin Bank not to exceed \$77,000.00 and authorize the Town Manager to execute the necessary documents for same.

Motion: Shelly Ekholm Second: Kevin Emery Vote: Unanimous

8. **ARPA – Finalize projects** – After last month’s meeting, there was a suggestion from Richard Wyman about how to spend the rest of the ARPA funds. He asked if they could use ARPA fund to purchase the replacement sewer pump that is needed. Felice and Phil thought that it was a great idea. Phil got a couple of quotes and there is not quite enough left in ARPA to cover the complete cost of the pump. The quotes Phil got are \$7,746.68 and \$6,197.34. The unallocated funds in ARPA are \$4,309.65 leaving \$1,887.69 required from the regular sewer budget. If any other funds are not utilized in other projects, they can be used toward the sewer pump as well.

Motion to approve the purchase of a replacement sewer pump from the remaining unallocated ARPA funds of approximately \$4309.65.

Motion: Shelly Ekholm Second: Kevin Emery Vote: Unanimous

9. **Department/Projects Updates – Underpass** – Sargent started work on Monday October 7th. The Wall is partially down. Eastern Maine Railway has taken the position that they do not approve or authorize the removal of the entire retaining wall and asked us to stop work until they are comfortable with the plan to move forward. The Railroad does not own the land that is being worked on, nor are they the owners of the project, Brownville is. They ultimately have no authority to stop work on the project and have been given information on the plan as a courtesy since work is being conducted in the vicinity of their bridge abutment. There are three different engineers that agree that the removal of entire wall is necessary to ensure future wall stabilization.

**Admin** – The budget has been enclosed in the board’s packets with no questions. We are most likely going to go over budget on insurance (workers Comp, liability and unemployment) this year. All the departments are also seeing overage with electricity line items. Postage / shipping costs have also been increasing. Some departments are going to also be close on the wage lines as there are 53 payrolls for 2024. Overall, they are getting by.

Felice has been attending the County Budget Meetings again this year. The town of Brownville’s projected proposed assessment comes in at \$141,714, which is \$12,360 over 2024. This is not as significant as some of the other surrounding towns. Greenville’s increase is \$132,372 over 2024, Lakeview is \$22,784 over 2024, Dover’s increase is \$54,346 over 2024.

We have set a date to present a legal overview for the newly appointed Board of Assessment Review members, Friday October 25th at 5:00pm to outline and explain their responsibilities.

Two letters were mailed certified (and first class) for out water/sewer acquired properties outside of Piscataquis County (Milton Smith Heirs, Patricia Schimpf’s) One letter was served in person by law enforcement (Duquette) in Piscataquis County. The deadline to buy back is November 12th.

**Public Safety** – There was a total of 21 calls in September: 7 Fire, 14 EMS.

The Fire department will be providing flu shots internally for all town employees at no cost. Shawn will administer the shots and use donated funds for the cost of the immunizations.

Work has begun on the junction station generator, and it will be completed in phases to save money.

There is a significant mice problem at both stations. Shwan has been working to put pest control measures into the budget.

The Fire Department has been awarded the State Farm Grant for \$10,000.00. They need the board's approval to accept. The funds are going to be used to purchase hose. The last significant hose purchase was in the early 2000's. This will not get us a lot, but it will be a huge improvement for the department.

Motion to accept the State Farm Grant for \$10,000.00 for the purpose of purchasing new fire hose and authorize the Fire Chief to execute the necessary documents for the same.

Motion: Shelly Ekholm Second: Kevin Emery Vote: Unanimous

Shaw was able to secure a gas meter for Water/Sewer to replace their aging unit through Piscataquis EMA- approx \$2500. This is also the same unit that the fire department uses, so the town will be able to save money on calibration, and service, where the department calibrates their own meters.

Motion to accept the new gas meter for water/sewer funded through grant funds at Piscataquis County Emergency Management Agency (Approx value \$2500.00)

Motion: Shelly Ekholm Second: Kevin Emery Vote: Unanimous

Fire prevention activities were conducted on Oct 18<sup>th</sup> at the Library and Oct 19<sup>th</sup> at the Brownville Elementary School.

The Snowmobile Rescue unit is at Colby Enterprises, he has donated a paint job, and decaling to the sled to make it match the rest of the fleet.

Shawn found out this week that the department has been awarded a Gloria C. MacKenzie Foundation Grant for \$51,000.00 for the purpose of purchasing a new 12-lead cardiac monitor.

Motion to accept the Gloria C. MacKenzie Foundation Grant for \$51,000 for the purpose of purchasing a new 12-lead cardiac monitor and authorize the Fire Chief to execute the necessary documents for same.

Motion: Shelly Ekholm Second: Kevin Emery Vote: Unanimous

The Fire Auxiliary is purchasing a gently used side by side and donating it to the Fire/EMS Department (Approx \$10,000. Value) Shawn has been talking with the AMC about assistance with rescue equipment/accessories since we serve the UTs that cover the trail system. They are willing to help or take the lead on that.

Motion to accept the donation of a side by side from the Fire Auxiliary for the Fire/EMS Department.

Motion: Shelly Ekholm Second: Kevin Emery Vote: Unanimous

**Code Enforcement**– There is still a continued uptick in building permit applications.

Shawn is still attempting to work on current code violations with little success, as he has been getting pulled in multiple directions. Shawn would like to schedule a joint planning Board and Board of Selectpersons meeting to discuss a direction on Land use Ordinances.

KVHC has been issued a temporary certificate of occupancy for their new addition.

There is a new private road, and 911 addresses for Buck Lane. (Uncle Buck has carved off some land for his son who is building a home, and this cannot remain a Main Rd address.)

There have been no new rat complaints. Shawn just wanted to give an update based on the visit with pest control. There is not much that the town can do until the potential sources can be cleaned up.

**ACO** – As noted above, we are yet again advertising and looking for someone to fill the ACO vacancy. We are still receiving complaints related to multiple dogs on Center St.

**Public Works** – Public Works has been working on screening and putting up the winter salt/sand, cut and split available firewood to heat the garage, cleaning out some culverts, truck/equipment maintenance and exhaust repairs on the sanitation truck. Rick has been checking them all over to prepare them for inspections that are coming due. Mark Ladd will be doing all the inspections this year. Rick says that they should have finished sand by the end of the week, and that will open up some time to get the rooves done down at the rest area.

Huge complements to the new hire, Gabe. He has been fitting in really well!

**Parks and Rec** – Brownville/Milo managers, Board Chairs and one other selectperson from each town met again on Oct 19<sup>th</sup> to discuss moving forward with presenting collaborative efforts to staff a full-time Recreation Director between the two towns. They have set up another two meetings, October 23 to review and draft cooperative agreement outlines, and set a tentative joint Public Hearing for Tuesday October 29<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm. to take place at the Three Rivers Kiwanis building in Milo and be streamed for those who can't attend in person. They hope to have a major portion of the proposal outlined for discussion and questions at that time.

**Brownville Days Committee/Funds** – Crystal is asking on behalf of the Committee for the Board to consider using some of the Brownville Days funds for holiday lights and decorations around the town. Felice personally doesn't anticipate another celebration being organized soon. There is just under \$10,000.00 left in the account. Stan Belvin brought up that he spends around \$300.00 on the tree in front of the American Legion. He would also be willing to put up lights on some other trees or areas as well.

*Motion to approve spending up to \$2500.00 out of the Brownville Days Funds for the Committee to purchase Christmas lights and decorations around town.*

Motion: Shelly Ekholm Second: Kevin Emery Vote: Unanimous

**Water/Sewer** – Fourth quarter water/sewer bills took some extra effort as the old program would not upload initially. It took quite a few calls and assistance from the vendor and the IT contractor, but we finally got them done. There are roughly 26 residential meters left to install. Phil and Autumn worked hard on the Lead Service Line Inventory survey that was due in recently. They were able to get it completed and sent in on time. Chris and Phil are getting ready for winter. (shutting off water in cemeteries, snack shack, winterizing etc.) getting caught up on cleaning that has been pushed aside while meters got installed. Five water sources were tested in the Village for lead & copper and the results came back good! The annual WWTP inspection has been scheduled with Gary Brooks from DEP for October 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Open Session – Animal Control Concerns** - Stacey Sagle spoke about having been to court twice for Michael Coburn's (Center Street) dogs. She is asking what can be done at the town level before someone gets hurt? She no longer feels safe when she goes out into her yard, and always brings her handgun with her. Stacey told us that the female dog of Mike's attacked Vinney (her husband) and she has yet to see any repercussions for this.

Cathy Wallace spoke about not leaving her house. She is scared that if she does, the dogs will get her chickens as they have in the past.

Theresa Lovejoy said that she talked to a Sheriff's Deputy, and they told her that they had the dangerous dog order, and they were going to pick up the dogs. But that was not true where the dogs were loose again today.

They brought up again a dog ordinance, so that the town would be able to do more. Byron brought up that the townspeople should start to call the DA's office. If they feel that they are not getting the answers that they want. The town has done what they are able to do, along with the Sheriff's Office.

**Other Concerns -**

Stephen Dean brought up the "drag" strip in front of Webber Jones. He wants to know why there are no Sheriffs in town to cover us. He feels that there is nothing being done about all the people doing the burn outs, and the kids that are racing their dirt bikes up in the Junction.

Mary Farrar asked about the 2<sup>nd</sup> egress out of town. The board replied that they are still working on it, and it has not been forgotten. Felice has sent an e-mail to a Parks and Land representative at the state to see about accessing the old railroad bed recreation trail but has not gotten a response yet. She will follow up on that.

10. **Next Meeting** – Set for Tuesday, November 19, 2024 at 6:00pm

11. **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn at 7:37pm.

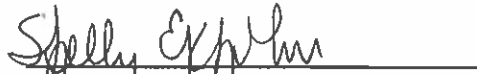
Motion: Shelly Ekholm Second: Kevin Emery Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Wyman  
Deputy Clerk/Admin Asst



Byron Weymouth, Selectboard Chair

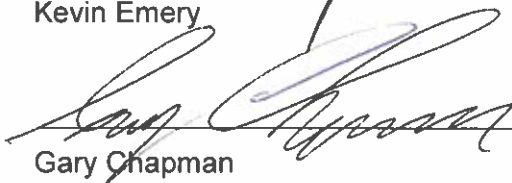


Shelly Ekholm



Kevin Emery

James Hartin



Gary Chapman