

TOWN OF BROWNVILLE
BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, January 16, 2024 ~ 6:00p.m.
American Legion Post 92 - 67 Railroad Ave. Brownville

1. Board of Selectpersons Meeting Call to Order
 - a. Selectpersons Present: Shelly Ekholm, Bryon Weymouth, Kevin Emery, Jimmy Hartin
 - b. Budget Committee members present: Jean Brown, Robert Brown, Leesa Coates, Gary Chapman
 - c. Employees Present: Alicia Harmon, Felice Lyford, Jessica Wyman, Autumn Chadwick, Kevin Black, Shawn Mitchell, Philp Cook
 - d. Residents/Others Present: Laura Castellano, Jeff Coates

2. Approval of prior meeting minutes from December 19, 2023

Motion to approve the minutes from 12/19/23 as presented.

Motion: Shelly Ekholm Second: Kevin Emery Vote: Unanimous

3. Reviewed and signed the Treasurer's Warrants (Payroll, Accounts Payable, Water/Sewer)

4. Tax Abatements/Supplements – None – N/A

5. Building Permit Applications – None – N/A

6. Piscataquis County 2024 Assessors' Return

Motion to approve and sign the 2024 Piscataquis County Assessors' Return for Brownville in the amount of \$129,354.00.

Motion: Shelly Ekholm Second: Kevin Emery Vote: Unanimous

7. Department Head Updates

Administration - We have received one payment in full on the recent tax foreclosure from Alison Berg Trust. A Quit Claim Deed has been prepared for the Board to consider:

Motion to sign a quit claim deed to Alison Berg Trust releasing the Town's interest in property located at Schoodic Lk Rd on Map 4 Lot 56 due to a tax lien foreclosure, as we have received payment in full for all monies owed on the property.

Motion: Shelly Ekholm Second: Kevin Emery Vote: Unanimous

On 1/11/2024 we had three sewer liens foreclosed, one we already foreclosed on in December due to 2021 unpaid taxes for Neil & Virginia Joslyn. The other two properties are Dontae Jones at 56 Front Street and Mary Jo Kimble at 46 Page Street. Joslyn's property is already being addressed in the previous foreclosure. Discussion regarding not offering sale back to Dontae Jones as this was a tax

acquired sale to him with stipulations to fix or demo the building at that location, and he did not.

Motion to offer sale of property located at 46 Page St back to previous owner(s) for an amount no less than the total owed to the Town for all taxes and water/sewer fees with an additional administrative fee of \$500 with the requirement to receive payment no later than 3/8/2024. With the stipulation of improvements in writing.

Motion: Shelly Ekholm Second: Kevin Emery Vote: Unanimous

Public Safety - Discussed the EMS Stabilization Grant that is being streamlined through the State. First round (applied for 12/15/2023) estimates to give us around \$20k and hopefully more through the second round. The purpose of these funds is to keep EMS services going and cannot be used for debt (as well as other restrictions and/or stipulations).

Motion to accept EMS Stabilization Grant Funds and not designate them at this time.

Motion: Shelly Ekholm Second: Kevin Emery Vote: Unanimous

Public Works – Discussion regarding the plan for replacement of the Operations Director when he retires in June. A small workgroup has met and is making a recommendation for the Board to concentrate on filling a Public Works Director position and take out the water/sewer and public safety officer responsibilities. The PW Director would be a working supervisor for Highway, Sanitation and Cemeteries as an hourly employee eligible for overtime. We suggest moving forward with advertising starting this month internally, and if no suitable candidates, advertise externally with a goal of closing applications by the end of February, conduct interviews and be able to make an offer to leave adequate time to start April 1. Reviewed the draft of the job description for Public Works Director as well.

Motion to have the Town Manager start advertising for a Public Works Director Position to fill the anticipated opening with a tentative start in early April, as a result of the Retirement of our Operations Director in early June.

Motion: Shelly Ekholm Second: Kevin Emery Vote: Unanimous

Motion to accept the Public Works Director job description as presented.

Motion: Shelly Ekholm Second: Kevin Emery Vote: Unanimous

8. Open Session

Laura Castellano addressed the Board about concerns with 68 Railroad Ave, where there are several dogs that appear to be left unattended for long periods of time, and worries the dogs could potentially be a threat to the community. She was advised by the Felice in a phone conversation earlier in the day that Maine Animal Welfare had been contacted and was assigning a field investigator to take over the case, but wants to know if more can be done. Shelly

reiterated that it was now in the hands of the state, there isn't any more we can do except wait and see what happens.

With little activity occurring at the property, Laura is also worried that there could be something going on there such as illegal grow operation. Her husband sees them in the very early morning hours as that's when he leaves for work and they appear to be loading their vehicles and leaving in the dark. She is asking if Code Enforcement could enter to make sure that everything was legal, and inquired about any permits that were issued to the address. Shawn advised he could ask to see the inside of the property, but without proof of a violation, the owners do not have to permit entry. Laura also believes that there is more going on at this address than we realize, and wants us as a municipality to screen people that are buying up properties in town.

The Fire Chief is recommending Zachary Slagle be appointed to the open Assistant Chief position.

Motion to appoint Zachary Slagle as Assistant Fire Chief through to Town Meeting this March.

Motion: Shelly Ekholm Second: Kevin Emery Vote: Unanimous

9. Next regular monthly meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 20, 2024.

10. Motion to adjourn the regular Board of Selectpersons meeting at 6:57p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Wyman
Deputy Clerk


Byron Weymouth, Selectboard Chair


Shelly Ekholm


Kevin Emery


James Hartin