

TOWN OF STETSON
SELECTMAN'S MINUTES

DATE: March 9, 2022

6:00 P.M.

I. OPEN MEETING

Leslie Merrill opened the meeting by leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

A. ROLL CALL

Millard Butler attended via ZOOM, Brenda Clark, Leslie Merrill and Danielle Withee were all present. Tammy Buswell was absent.

B. MINUTES OF THE MEETING

1. Approve Town Meeting Minutes-tabled

2. Approve February 23, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve Danielle Withee, seconded by Brenda Clark

Vote: AYE- Leslie Merrill,

Brenda Clark and

Danielle Withee

NAY- None

Millard Butler abstained.

Motion Passes

C. QUIT CLAIM DEEDS-

D. WARRANTS

1. Motion by Danielle Withee, seconded by Brenda Clark to approve Advantage Payroll warrant #17.

Vote: AYE-Millard Butler, Leslie Merrill,

Brenda Clark and

Danielle Withee

NAY- None

Motion Passes

Leslie Merrill read the line items.

2. Motion by Danielle Withee, seconded by Brenda Clark to approve expenditures #33.

Vote: AYE-Millard Butler, Leslie Merrill,
Brenda Clark and
Danielle Withee
NAY- None
Motion Passes

Leslie Merrill read the line items.

- E. **BOARD OF ASSESSORS-** none.

II. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Rapid Renewal & Debit/Credit Card machine-for reference only.
- B. Policy & Procedure manual-none.
- C. ARPA update-

1. Mike Feole said that he attended the ARPA update class given by the Maine Municipal Association (MMA). The next due date is April 30, 2022 to set a project in the system even if it is that no projects have been identified as yet. The spending can be made in two categories: Revenue loss and infrastructure expenditures. The revenue loss can include projects such as building updates, street repairs, etc. The infrastructure expenditures can include retroactive payroll enhancements for customer facing employees, water/sewer projects and Broadband projects.
2. Mr. Varney from Premium Choice Broadband gave a presentation that supplemented a mailing that he sent to the town previously. The mailing is available at the Town Office during normal business hours for residents. He answered the following questions:

Danielle Withee-Why did the contribution from the town increase?

Mr. Varney-The ARPA funding was not available when we first applied. TDS said that they covered most of the town which we challenged. TDS said that they would put fiber into two counties that did not include Penobscot county.

Danielle Withee- Are they saying that they plan to run fiber is Stetson?

Mr. Varney-They are now saying that they are engineering plans to complete the fibering of Stetson, but have not gotten back to us yet. So things are up in the air right now. They could do that in the next six months. If they do run the fiber, then Connect Maine will not allow us to also run fiber with the grant. As far as the grant goes, the number of people served is a factor into the grant calculations as well as the amount of money that the town contributes, so that is why the ARPA money was part of the recent proposal.

Mike Feole- We were told that the deadline to apply for the grant is March 20, 2022. The ARPA funding requires approval at a Town Meeting, which is in June. How will that affect the grant application if we cannot commit the ARPA monies?

Mr. Varney- You can give us a letter stating how much the town expects to apply to the project.

Danielle Withee- We just started our budgeting process, so we have to figure out what we can come up with now.

Mr. Varney- There is another round of grants in the fall. TDS can tell us what they are going to do by then and the town will have time.

Priscilla Dorman via ZOOM- Do we have a scope of work for the application?

Mr. Varney- We included a map in the email, we will cover the whole town. As far as where TDS already has fiber, we can't get funding for that. We have many plans, including for low income families. We should be able to go up to 200MB up to 1 Gigabyte.

Danielle Withee- You looked into what the Town Office runs off of. Can you cut the cost for us? What plan would that be?

Mr. Varney- it would be 100/100 MB.

Danielle Withee- Did that answer all of Priscilla's question?

Priscilla Dorman-Yes, I am all set, thank you. Have we submitted an application to ConnectME yet?

Mr. Varney- No, not since the last one.

Danielle Withee- Wolfboro road is a circle and your map only shows one side. Will you be doing the whole area?

Mr. Varney- Yes, any road that has houses or apartments will be connected.

Danielle Withee- I move to wait until fall so we can finalize our budget, seconded by Brenda Clark. Vote Millard Butler-aye, Danielle Withee-aye, Leslie Merrill-aye and Brenda Clark-aye. The motion passes.

D. CMP streetlight update-

Mike Feole- I checked the bill and it shows that we have 22 lights, which sounds correct.

E. Flagpole at Fire Station/Library- no report.

F. Town Audit-

We will check with Mindy Cyr to see when she is available to do it.

G. Heat Pump Service (3)-

We have one estimate. Mike Feole will check with Dave's World and AAA.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Funds Transfer-

\$200,000.00 was transferred to the checking account to allow checks to clear.

B. Emergency water faucet at Fire Station-

The valve was turned off. A tag will be placed on it instructing not to turn it off again.

C. Vitals reporting/payment 2015-2022.

The state told us that we had not sent in a report with payment since August of 2015. Mike Feole checked TRIO and it also showed no payments since 2015. He recreated the reports and there is a check for \$490.40 in the warrant to cover the intervening years up to December 2021.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. ANIMAL CONTROL-

We still have a large number of dogs that have not been registered. The select board agreed to send the list to Noel the Animal Control Officer. Sandee Kerr will send out letters as well.

B. APPEALS BOARD- no report.

- C. CEMETERY- no report.
- D. CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER- no report.
- E. E911- no report.
- F. EDUCATION- no report.
- G. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE- no report.
- H. EMT/RESCUE- no report.
- I. FIRE DEPARTMENT-

Fire Chief Eric Strout said that the Fire Department agreement was a verbal agreement for \$40,000 per year, and this is the third year of that agreement. He said that the board in Levant is not considering raising that cost as yet, but they are also in budget discussions. He also said that he sent a bill for the testing on the pumps and ladders, which has not been paid yet.

- J. MEETINGHOUSE- no report.
- K. PARKS & RECREATION-no report.
- L. PLUMBING INSPECTOR- no report.
- M. RECYCLING & SOLID WASTE COLLECTION- no report.
- N. ROAD COMMISSIONER- no report.
- O. STATE LEGISLATIVE CORRESPONDANCE- no report.
- P. TREASURER-
A report for expenses, revenues and the General fund was given to each selectman and made available to the public.
- Q. WELFARE DIRECTOR- no report.
- R. OTHER- no report.

V. TRAINING-

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Brent Dormann- On the Broadband vote, Priscilla wanted a ballot vote versus a vote at the town meeting. Mike Feole- The regulations state that it should be at a Public Hearing, so that means at the Town Meeting and not during a referendum during the election.

Steven Ingalls- I heard that the county is setting money aside for grants to the towns.

VII. SELECTMEN COMMENTS- none.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION- none.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Danielle Withee, seconded by Brenda Clark, it was voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Vote: AYE-Millard Butler, Leslie Merrill,
Brenda Clark and
Danielle Withee
NAY- None
Motion Passes

Millard Butler, Chairman

Leslie Merrill

Leslie Merrill, Vice Chairman

Brenda Clark

Brenda Clark

Danielle Withee

Danielle Withee

Tammy Buswell