

**TOWN OF STETSON
SELECTMEN'S MINUTES**

DATE: October 13, 2021

5:30-6:00 P.M. – Executive Session

6:00 P.M. – Regular Meeting

I. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion by Millard Butler, seconded by Danielle Withee, it was unanimously voted by the 4 members present to enter into Executive Session at 5:34 p.m. pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. section 405(6)(A) regarding a resident's complaint with a member of the Planning Board.

Upon motion by Millard Butler, seconded by Brenda Clark, it was unanimously voted by the 4 members present to exit Executive Session at 5:53 p.m. with the decision that the residents are in compliance of their permit.

II. OPEN MEETING

Millard Butler opened the meeting by leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

A. ROLL CALL

Millard Butler, Brenda Clark, Tammy Buswell and Danielle Withee were present. Les Merrill was absent.

B. MINUTES OF THE MEETING

1. Upon motion by Danielle Withee, seconded by Brenda Clark, it was voted 3-0 to approve the September 8, 2021 Meeting Minutes with Millard Butler abstaining as he was not present at that meeting.
2. Approve Town Meeting Minutes - Tabled

C. QUIT CLAIM DEEDS – None

D. WARRANTS

1. Upon motion by Brenda Clark, seconded by Millard Butler, it was unanimously voted to approve Advantage Payroll Warrant #7.
2. Upon motion by Millard Butler, seconded by Brenda Clark, it was unanimously voted to approve Expenditures #13.
3. Upon motion by Danielle Withee, seconded by Millard Butler, it was unanimously voted to approve Expenditures #14.
4. Upon motion by Tammy Buswell, seconded by Brenda Clark, it was unanimously voted to approve Expenditures #15.

E. BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Upon motion by Millard Butler, seconded by Danielle Withee, it was unanimously voted to decrease the interest rate on delinquent taxes from 7% to 6%.

Danielle Davis was present and provided 3 mil rate options which were lower from last meeting due to the decreased school tax. The mil rate options were 16, 16.25 and 16.4. Upon motion by Millard Butler, seconded by Tammy Buswell, it was voted 3-1 for a mil rate of 16.4, with Brenda Clark voting no.

Millard Butler stated a postal investigation will be started in regards to the mock tax bills that did not get delivered to the residents of Stetson.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Foreclosure Buy Back Program – Tabled

B. Rapid Renewal & Debit/Credit Card machine – Tabled

C. Status of applicants regarding open positions within the town

Millard Butler stated there are only the two original applicants, only one of which is qualified and has been interviewed by both himself and Diane Lacadie. There was discussion as to the possibility of changing the wording of the job posting to read “preferred trained but willing to train”. Discussion also centered around a multitude of locations to post an ad including, but not limited to, The Eastern Gazette and actual job-search websites. Brenda Clark will be drafting an advertisement. Millard Butler will reach out to the qualified candidate for further discussion.

D. Zoom policy

Upon motion by Millard Butler, seconded by Danielle Withee, it was unanimously approved to implement a Zoom policy.

E. ARPA update

Millard Butler reported we are in the process of completing the application. He also stated there was more that we could do with the funding other than broadband, including Parks & Recreation adding more bleachers to help with social distancing and safety for children and spectators.

F. School tax update

Tammy Buswell stated she reached out to the school superintendent Rhonda Sperrey. The original approved school budget assessment was \$1,022,647.61. Due to an increase of state funding, the new assessment is \$962,207.89.

G. Set mil rate for 2021-2022 taxes

See above under “Board of Assessors”.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Municipal plowing bids

Withee Property Management - \$14,250.00

Gray’s Construction & Firewood - \$11,750.00

George’s Carpentry & Snowplowing - \$12,000.00

J.T. Whitney Farms - \$12,000.00

Motion made by Millard Butler, seconded by Tammy Buswell, for Gray’s Construction & Firewood. Motion not considered as there was not a vote by a quorum of the Board.

There was discussion regarding George's Carpentry & Snowplowing and J.T. Whitney Farms. Motion made by Brenda Clark, seconded by Tammy Buswell, for George's Carpentry & Snowplowing. Motion not considered as there was not a vote by a quorum of the Board.

After further discussion, upon motion made by Millard Butler, seconded by Brenda Clark, it was voted by 3 members of the Board to award the bid to Gray's Construction & Firewood.

Danielle Withee abstained from voting on any of the motions due to conflict of interest with two of the bidders, one an employer and the other a family member.

B. Winter & Municipal plowing contract dates

Danielle Withee stated the dates on the contracts do not match. Winter plowing runs from October 1 to May 30. Municipal plowing runs from October 15 to May 15. Also the Food Cupboard is not listed under Municipal plowing but was added last year, as well as the school and town office parking lots being listed twice. This will need to be addressed for next year's bid contracts.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. ANIMAL CONTROL – None

B. APPEALS BOARD – None

C. CEMETERY

Brenda Clark mentioned a hole at Coboro Cemetery. Millard Butler will coordinate with Joe Gray to take care of this.

D. CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER – None

E. E911 – None

F. EDUCATION – None

G. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE – None

H. EMT/RESCUE – None

I. FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Eric Strout was in attendance and provided the Board with a report. He stated the annual inspection is done, pump testing, hose testing, etc. with no major issues. Ladder testing will be completed.

He suggested we name a town fire warden as we do not have one. Currently, if a fire permit is needed, residents can contact Nancy Watson, Gene Trojano, Dan Worcester, Levant Fire Department or get one online. This will need to be updated on the Town website.

A grant was awarded to upgrade all AED's and the goal is to have one at the town office and one at the library with trained individuals on how to operate them. Also, he would like to offer community CPR classes, however, with the rise of COVID cases this is proving to be a challenge.

J. MEETINGHOUSE – None

K. PARKS & RECREATION

An update was provided to the Board regarding the end of soccer season and the upcoming Trunk or Treat.

L. PLANNING BOARD – None

M. PLUMBING INSPECTOR – None

N. RECYCLING & SOLID WASTE COLLECTION – None

O. ROAD COMMISSIONER

Millard Butler advised he spoke with Joe Gray regarding some missing road signs.

Joe said Sign Services, Inc. has not finished them yet.

P. STATE LEGISLATIVE CORRESPONDANCE – None

Q. TREASURER – None

R. WELFARE DIRECTOR – None

S. OTHER – None

VI. TRAINING – None

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Corey Leighton stated Burleigh Road has no school bus turnaround, and it is his understanding that the town is supposed to provide buses and snowplows with a turnaround. There is a new property owner of where the turnaround used to be. Millard Butler will meet with Corey Leighton and try to coordinate with the new property owner to see if they would be willing to allow this practice to continue.

Albert Withee stated he is attempting to get a building permit but with no CEO he inquired as to how this is to happen. It was recommended he wait a while rather than just go ahead and build.

VIII. SELECTMEN COMMENTS

Absentee ballots are in and available and the new computer system has been implemented.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion by Millard Butler, seconded by Danielle Withee, it was unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session at 7:30 p.m. pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. section 405(6)(A) regarding the CEO/LPI position applicant.

VIII. Upon motion by Millard Butler, seconded by Brenda Clark, it was unanimously voted to exit Executive Session at 7:40 p.m. pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. section 405(6)(A) regarding the CEO/LPI position applicant with the decision to set up an interview.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Millard Butler, seconded by Brenda Clark, it was unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

_____ Millard Butler, Chairman

_____ Leslie Merrill, Vice Chairman

_____ Brenda Clark

_____ Danielle Withee

_____ Tammy Buswell