

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**July 13, 2020**

CALL TO ORDER: Gil opened the meeting with the pledge at 7:05PM.

SELECTMEN IN ATTENDANCE:

Gilbert S. Harris, Joanne L. Andrews, Dorothy M. Richard, Wendy M. Thorne, Heath D. Edgerly

ATTENDEES:

- Mike Gilpatrick, Chris LePage, Dave Candage, Lisa LePage, Amanda LePage, Howard Burnham, Steve McLean, Cindy Smith, John Cleveland, Merrill Farrand, Mike McLean,

MINUTES:

- Wendy **motioned** to approve the minutes for July 6. Dottie **second**. **All** were in favor.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

- John Cleveland, CDBG, talked about the sidewalks and how he has been working and meeting with the engineer and contractor on the restoration of them. He passed out a plan for the sidewalks and told the Board that it would start at Washington Street and go south and end beyond where the sewer lines were installed. He spoke about how on the right side it will be a little more difficult because the elevations are different. John spoke about how this is not another project it is still part of the water and sewer project and that with saving money from not being charged for the temporary pavement which saved them \$11,600 and there were no test pits which saved them \$3,100, so with the savings there is enough in the budget to be able to do the sidewalks and get them repaired. He told everyone that on the right side it will be about 185 linear feet and on the left side there will be about 515 linear feet on sidewalk being done, talking to Dearborn he got prices from them being at \$14.75 per linear foot for the concrete which would be about \$10,500. John said that Dearborn could not determine how much prep work would have to happen so they will be charging on an hourly basis for the equipment that they use, he told everyone that the asphalt would be about \$195 per ton and based on linear feet there will 45-50 tons, so all of the grading and prep work is estimated to be around \$15,000. John told everyone that the pay requisition they had received from Dearborn is \$616, 726 and the total CDBG money was \$646,000, meaning there is a difference of \$47,000 and should cover the sidewalks. Heath asked if the meeting between John, the engineer, and Dearborn was televised and John told him that it wasn't because it was done while they were walking up and down the street. Heath spoke about how the money was voted to be used only for the water and sewer project and that the problem he has is that it is open ended and asked if there is a guarantee that the money left over will cover the sidewalks. John told him that he would not recommend this if he thought it would go over that amount of money. Heath asked why Dearborn had started tearing sidewalk up when the Board had not okayed it yet. Mike Gilpatrick got up and told him that he was the one who authorized them to remove the first 600 feet because they needed to finish grading for the pipe and also since there is money in the budget it only makes sense to him. Mike told the Board that if they do not go along with this then the town will be

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responsible for only 20 tons of asphalt, he also brought up that there is a \$20,000 surplus because he was the one to do the inspections not someone from the engineering company. Howard Burnham asked if the concrete will be reinforced and treated and Heath asked why concrete and not asphalt. John told them that the concrete they are using is a lot stronger than asphalt and asphalt being softer could fall apart easier. They are also going to use an epoxy to hold the concrete in place and John told them that the treatment could be added into it. Heath said that they should take time to look into this and not rush into it and if it goes over the amount of money set aside for it then they will have to find the money elsewhere. John told him that that is not what they are proposing and Heath said that he hopes that it falls within the amount of money set aside. Steve McLean asked about the grant for the sidewalks and are they not applying for it. Joanne told him for the time being they are sticking with this and when they find a grant then they will look into it and Steve said that there should be sidewalks on both sides and he asked how wide the sidewalks will be and was told that they would be 5 feet wide. Joanne **motioned** to approve the request for change orders dated July 7<sup>th</sup> and July 9<sup>th</sup>. Wendy **second**. **All** were in favor. John said that he has to be careful as to the reasons he puts because to be able to get the sidewalks repaired that have to be damaged by the contractor doing the work. Dave Candage asked if there is any of the sidewalks that will not be covered. John said that there is a possibility that some sections won't get covered.

- Michael McLean, Fire Chief, thanked the townspeople for getting burn permits online and reminded everyone to keep the fires clean, no beds or couches. As of Friday there were 311 calls that they had done and they are on track to 600. He told everyone that he talked to Lisa LePage and the Fire Department will be helping her with the fireworks on August 15<sup>th</sup>. Mike told everyone that on August 18<sup>th</sup> some of the surrounding towns and Limerick will be getting together to do hose testing. The Fire Department has been doing driver training and pump training and back filling hydrants which they do yearly. Heath asked about his request for an Executive Session with Mike and Pete Proctor and Gil told him that he would discuss it with him after the meeting. Mike told the Board that the issue had been resolved and that Pete couldn't be here tonight because of a family emergency. Heath asked Mike about getting more paramedics and Mike said that the rates are down here in Limerick and that paramedics are not going to come to Limerick for what we are paying our paramedics, but there is one paramedic and a basic training to be a paramedic. Heath said that if they can locate the money for raising the pay then they should locate they money. Gil brought up that the request that Heath had made was for a specific incident and to discuss general staffing they do not need an Executive Session. Mike told the Board that he came in with the budget already set and he had no control over it. Heath asked for him to bring Pete in to discuss staffing and the budget and Mike brought up that for now they will roll with it unless the Board wants to have a Special Town Meeting for it. Gil brought up the workshop next week that they could discuss the Fire and Rescue staffing. Mike reminded everyone to go out and vote. Mike brought up needing to look into replacing the first engine soon and replacing the ambulance next year. Howard Burnham asked about paramedics and told everyone that three days after he asked at a Selectmens meeting he was in an ambulance and found out that it was a basic and had to wait for them to get a hold of someone to tell them to take him to Maine Medical. Lisa LePage got up and told everyone that every call starts with a basic and then you build from that and told Howard that it is required for them to take people to the nearest medical facility. Amanda LePage asked what paramedics were getting paid in Limerick and what the average for the state was and she was told that in Limerick it

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is \$17 and for the state it is about \$20-\$21 without benefits. Steve McLean brought up that the town is going backwards because they are paying the basics \$13 per hour and the towns around Limerick are paying \$16 per hour and that something should be done. Wendy brought up having a meeting with Pete and Mike and Mike said that they could set it up next week during the workshop. Joanne asked about the townspeople giving the Fire Department anything they need and why are they blaming the townspeople which Mike said that they weren't. Joanne brought up the third shift and Mike said that it is great to have that third shift. Heath asked about a failsafe if Mike gets sick and Mike told him that Pete and him have been working together so Pete knows everything. Steve got up as a Budget Committee member and said that the Fire Department was made to go back and cut their budget and he was told that it was for operations not payroll and he said that it could have been used for payroll.

- Mike Gilpatrick, Code Enforcement Officer, gave his June report. He told everyone that the water main is completed and the water district has been a big help. Heath told the Board that Glidden had to pull out because of no focus being on route 11 and that there were no catch basins raised. Heath brought up a citizens request and Mike told everyone that it was Dearborn that had the issues with the flaggers and they contract out to a different company for the flaggers and that they have to pay them the Davis-Bacon rate which is the average of the whole country. Heath brought up that Dearborn did not have any flaggers on Friday or Saturday and Mike told him that on Friday some of the regular workers took turns being flaggers and he did not know about Saturday and Heath asked if Dearborn should have shut down because they did not have flaggers. Gil brought up the overtime for Mike and said that the town will pay Mike then A.E. Hodsdon will reimburse the town. Wendy **motioned** to approve the overtime. Heath **second**. **All** were in favor. Mike told them that that is only for the sewer project and told everyone that he will be on vacation from August 5 to the 17.

### OLD BUSINESS:

- Swimming areas-Boat launch, Scout Island: Gil brought up that there is an application that is being filled out for an area at Scout Island. He told everyone that there were a few things left that needed to be filled out and Dottie said she was going to look into them.
- Camera at outlook: Dottie told everyone that after talking to Norris they said there are two options. Option one is that the camera will be able to zoom in and pan around and it costs \$10,509.16 and option two is one that is stationary like at the Municipal Building and that one costs \$7,916.16 and both of them are wireless. Heath asked about the \$10,000 and Dottie told him that that is the amount that the insurance company will cover and it will only be an additional \$10-\$20 on the bill. The Board decided to wait until they had more information about the upgrade at the Brick Town Hall and Municipal Building.
- Community Block Party: Lisa LePage told everyone that she had talked to Kathy at Carroll's and since the Carroll's do not own the company she was not sure if that would be approved. Also they have propane tanks down there where they would usually have the fireworks but the pyrotechnic company who is going to do the fireworks google mapped the ballfield and cleared it. She told everyone that there will be fliers being put out with all of the information for the fireworks on it. It will cost about \$3,500 for the fireworks and that will leave them with \$191.56 for gift cards for a scavenger hunt that people can do on their phones. Lisa told that Board that she had talked to Steve McLean and he told her that there is a possibility of them doing the fireworks at the lookout tower and Mike McLean, Fire

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Chief, said no to that. Lisa asked if she should get separate checks for the gift cards or one check and she was told to get separate checks from Laura. Steve McLean made the comment that Mike Ward was concerned about people parking in the driveway of the ballfield and Lisa told them that the Fire Department will be helping with keeping that clear and Gil said that he would contact Mike and let him know.

- Video equipment upgrade: Buffering during livestream: Dottie told the Board that they had received quotes from Consolidated about getting a dedicated line for the Brick Town Hall and Municipal Building instead of an open ended line like they have with Spectrum. The quote she had received from Consolidated was that they would be paying \$184.43 for 100 over 100 and right now they are paying \$124 for 100 over 10. Gail Libby spoke about how when the system was put in people didn't use bandwidth the way they do now. She told the Board how the Board of Appeals meeting was 8 minutes long but it started buffering at the 3:30 minute and 15 minutes later for the Budget Committee there was no buffering. Heath **motioned** to accept to go with the proposal. Wendy **second**. **All** were in favor. Gail also brought up Connectivity point and how they are the ones who provide the equipment and some of the equipment is failing and that she would have a quote for the Board next week for it.
- Land swap update from MMA: Gil read a small portion of an email he had received from MMA, Joanne **motioned** to authorize Wendy to contact the town attorney to follow that up. Heath **second**. Four were in favor, Wendy did not vote.

### NEW BUSINESS:

- Chris LePage regarding driveway grade change from water/ sewer work: Chris told the Board about how there had been a sewage blockage on Westcott Street where he lives and on April 7 they had to dig in front of his driveway. He told the Board that after they back filled his driveway it now fills up with water and he is wondering what to do if he should fix it and send the bill to the water district or what. Wendy said that Bob Richardson could probably work with the water district to get it fixed and Heath said that he wasn't sure that it falls under the Road Commissioner. Gil told Chris that he will make a few calls to see what is available.
- Internet for Fire Department: Talking to Ian from Consolidated Dottie told the Board that there are two options one is DSL which would work for the near future or there is fiber optic which would be a long time fix. The DSL would be 50 over 20 for \$46.49 a month and fiber would be 20 over 20 and cost about \$135.87. Gail told the Board that they should always go with fiber and to make sure that there is a penalty clause in the contract saying they can change it whenever. Dottie **motioned** to go with the fiber. Heath **second**. **All** were in favor.
- Heath brought up the vault and how the Fire Suppression people will call Judy to set up a time to come in and install it.
- The Board discussed adding the new copier to the insurance policy instead of having it through Leaf; Joanne **motioned** to do just that, have it covered under out insurance. Wendy **second**. **All** were in favor. Dottie said that she would call MMA.
- Joanne brought up the assessing issue that they had been discussing and told them that they had met with Deb Stitson who works out of Cornish and the having someone in house do the assessing would be better than having an outside company do it. Joanne told everyone that in the program that we had it would say taxed with and the map and lot numbers but with the new program it does not do that. She brought up that there are 100s of lots under \$18,000

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and Steve McLean has one, map 33 lot 1 valued at \$6,680 and that it is very common and the Board should put assessing back on the to-do list because it should be done in house. Heath brought up that the assessment done by Mike O'Donnell was done five years ago and that there were court cases in Gorham and Scarborough that forced the states hand and if the land is not connected to the farm then it will be taxed like everything else. He also brought up that talking with Mike O'Donnell; Mike said that he was not interested in politics. Heath told everyone that there are 19 properties that people have told him about and he said that on one of them the Selectmen said that the person can go to the Commissioner and get the abatement anyway. Heath asked when the contract with O'Donnell's is up and maybe after the contract is up they can look into a private assessor. Joanne asked if the 19 people were part of tree growth or farm and open space and that it is up the O'Donnell's to check all of them annually. Heath told her that the lots are a part of those programs and unless it is brought up to Mike O'Donnell he does not check them all and Joanne said that he has to. Gil brought up that anyone in tree growth has to have a plan. Heath brought up that a citizen is paying Lake Arrowhead taxes even though his property is only an abutter property and that the town is taxing him for a container/ conex box he has on his property. He also brought up another property on Norton Road where the woman has the smallest piece of land and is being taxed the highest on the road. Wendy brought up that people can come in and requests an abatement and reassessment of their property. Heath told her that the gentleman did and was told that the Board would look into it and he has not heard anything about it for the last two and a half years. The Board talked about needing to contact Mike O'Donnell with any questions they should have and they will come to the Board if they believe abatement is needed. Steve McLean brought up that one of his pieces of land had been separated from other land he owns and Joanne told him that the lots should be looked at as individual lots. Steve also brought up that he has a subdivision with buildable lots that has slipped through the cracks and Joanne told him that would be sent to O'Donnell's and they would put it on the tax map. Merrill Farrand got up and said that he had gotten an abatement and that it has been three years. He said that the town should get rid of O'Donnell's and that they should get an equalizing assessment done and that there are a lot of discrepancies and that he does not believe that O'Donnell's is doing their jobs. Heath wanted to know exactly what in the contract and see what the Selectmen have asked for. Gil said that it will be added as a workshop. Howard Burnham made the comment that they should have a variety of companies come in to do the assessments.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Wendy read the announcements

WARRANT:

- Joanne **motioned** to approve the warrant as written. Dottie **second**. **All** were in favor.

HEARING OF CITIZENS:

- Howard Burnham talked to the Board about how he was not able to come to the Public Hearing for the two petition articles because he was unable to make it for health reasons but

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he had gotten 140 signatures and other people were in agreement with the articles and that the article Joanne had put in the Shopping Guide was false. He talked about the dump position and how the court case in Lyman never went to court and the Selectmen who oversee day to day operations and the budget shouldn't have other positions because not only is it denying other people in town to be able to have these positions but it is also a conflict of interest because they are ultimately setting their own pay raises. He spoke about article 5 and how it should be a three member Board again because with a bigger Board the townspeople have to pay more taxes to pay them. Joanne made the comment that it is case law.

ADJOURN MEETING:

- Wendy **motioned** to adjourn. Dottie **second**. **All** were in favor.
- The Meeting was adjourned at 9:35PM.

These minutes were approved by the Limerick Board of Selectmen on: July 20, 2020

**End of Broadcast**

Respectfully submitted,

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Courtney Davis

**FOR DETAILS OF MEETING**  
**SEE RECORDING**  
"Limerick Selectmen's Meeting"  
July 13, 2020  
By Gail Libby