

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Meeting Minutes

February 1, 2021

CALL TO ORDER: Gil opened the meeting at 7:00PM

SELECTMEN IN ATTENDANCE:

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

ATTENDEES:

- Michael McLean, Mike Gilpatrick, Cindy Smith

MINUTES:

- Wendy **motioned** to accept the minutes of January 25. Heath **second**. Gil thanked Courtney for the minutes. **Three were in favor, Joanne and Dottie abstained.**

WARRANTS:

- Gil made the comment of making sure that everyone goes and signs the warrants.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Dottie read the announcements.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

- Cindy Smith, Library report: Told everyone that the Librarian report for the town report is done and has been submitted, she read some of the highlights. Told everyone about the different programs that had gone on in 2020. Cindy told everyone that the Library has tax forms and that they are doing curbside pickup and by appointment. Cindy gave the January 2021 report and what had gone on during the month. Dottie asked how the numbers compare to 2020 and if they are down and Cindy told her a little bit. Gil made the comment that with it being a small town the Library is very well received. Cindy told them that she does deliveries for people who can't make it in. Dottie asked how many people have reacted well to the Library workers choosing books for them and Cindy said that people have reacted well.
- Gail Libby, revitalization committee: She read a portion of the report for the committee that will go into the town report. Gail read the names of the people who have contributed to the project in some way and thanked the people who helped with these projects.
- Mike Gilpatrick, Code Enforcement Officer: Told the Board about what kind of improvements had happened in 2020 in the town. He told the Board that they had advancements in the E911 addressing and how they had come up with using a google earth map to put over the GSI map to better pinpoint the addresses. Mike told everyone that they

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need to have the four digit 911 number posted somewhere outside of their home to aid EMS. Mike told everyone that Code had started with a \$64,000 budget last year and he said that they are returning about \$1,400 back into the general fund at the closing of business for 2020 and that what they brought in almost offset what the budget was for last year. Mike said that he would like the Board to tender his resignation and that he fears his employment here may be in jeopardy as he upholds the oath that he took upon appointment. He said that it was stated at a meeting last week, an Appeals Board meeting that perhaps his effort to regulate land use is a waste of taxpayers' money. He said that he has been accused of a lot of things being the Code Enforcement Officer, has been called a lot of different names but that hit him really hard. He said that he has done his very level best to operate his department, the Code Enforcement Office and make it self-sustainable, which was costing the taxpayers more money than it is at this point. He brought up creating a great deal of efficiencies with the software and that 75% to 80% of the public uses the online permitting portal. He said as he gets ready for his departure that he will try his best to facilitate some of the violations that are currently in progress. Mike made the comment of the costs that the town could have incurred while he was obtaining his certifications and that these programs, as long as you are municipally employed, are 100% covered by state development funds, so the town incurs very little to no cost in trainings. Mike brought up how 10% of the population are the ones that stick out the most and his recommendation is for the 90% of people who sit at home and watch the meetings need to get up and be heard. Dottie **motioned** that we do not accept your resignation. Joanne **second**. Gil thanked Mike for everything that he has done and that he would like to not accept his resignation. Joanne went on to say that she had worked with many Code Enforcement Officers and that Mike has been 100% for the town and has never wavered and has stuck up for the town and the ordinances and she appreciates him and would be sorry to see him go. Wendy asked if there was anything they could do to change Mike's mind and Mike told her that he's not sure that it is within her power. **All** were in favor. Gil made a comment about finding a way to keep Mike with them.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Wendy told everyone that Dottie had done the vendor report and that she had done the lapsed balances and read the number for 2020. She read some of the lapsed balances from some of the budgets and went through to see what to use it for. Wendy said that they could use the \$200,000 to offset commitment and Gil asked what they had used last year and Wendy told him \$200,000. Wendy asked Dottie if it was \$50,000 or \$60,000 that Code Enforcement could bring in for this year and Dottie said \$50,000. Wendy said that she had looked at what they had brought in bank interest and they were short about \$1,000 and that she brought the property interest down because the interest rate is going down. Wendy told everyone that she had spoken to Bob Richardson about his budget and had asked him to reduce it and he had agreed to not take the transfer, bring his road budget down to \$180,000, and to bring the paving budget down to \$250,000. She told everyone that the expenditures

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for this year will be \$2,733,379 which is \$163,250 more than last year. Heath asked why the department heads would not come and meet with the Board and made a comment about this being what Wendy wanted to do and Wendy made the comment that they can vote against it and she can put it back to where it was. Dottie made the comment that Bob had come in front of us but after looking at the numbers and how they are going up Wendy took the initiative to find some way to reduce it. Heath made the comment of how they should have had Bob come in and discuss it with the whole Board. Dottie **motioned** that we accept Bob's reduction and the elimination of the capital account. Gil **second. Three were in favor, Joanne and Heath were opposed.** Wendy made the comment of having Bob come in and Dottie said that they have to have it to Judy by next week.

- Overlook camera: Dottie said that they had not gotten a written quote from Bob yet and that she would contact him on Wednesday. Dottie brought up Laura asking for them to approve a battery for the laptop that she uses and Dottie estimated it to be about \$110. Joanne **motioned** to approve a battery for the laptop that Laura uses. Dottie **second. All** were in favor.
- Discuss tree work in cemetery: Gil said that he had spoken to the Tree Warden and usually he gets quotes but because it was among some headstones and complicated and other work he went with a vendor he was comfortable with and is qualified and insured. Heath made the comment about how the Tree Warden comes in and says that it's a dangerous tree and he is deciding on who can do the job. Gil told him yes and that the quote is for \$1,500 for tree removal and some trimming work and a verbal quote to take care of that for \$800 but that did not include the trimming of the maple tree and other work that would go along with this. Heath made the comment about there being no written notification or advertisement and Gil made the comment about there being no specs being brought up. Joanne said that she had talked to the Tree Warden and that the quote was for \$1,200 and that he said that he had worked with them before and they will work very carefully. Heath said that he had put in a bid and that he is going to withdraw his \$800 bid and made a comment about back door deals and Gil said that he had mentioned it to explain the process and that it was not for a backdoor deal. Dottie said that the Tree Warden had confirmed that it was for \$1,200. Heath **motioned** to throw out all bids and put it out to bid. Gil **second.** Gil made the comment of getting specs and sending it to his usual retinue of contractors and Heath. **Three were opposed, Heath abstained and Gil did not vote.** Joanne **motioned** that we go with Aaron's recommendation for his vendor for \$1,200. Dottie **second. Three were in favor, Heath and Gil abstained.**

NEW BUSINESS:

- Computer tech contract: Gil said that it's for handling our computer problems if we have them. Dottie made a comment that it is for 20 hours at \$1,500. Gil asked if they knew how much of it they used last year and he was told that it took them two years to go through it. Gil said that its 20 hours until it runs out and Heath asked if it was a minimum of 20 hours

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or if they could do 10 and they are averaging per year and they haven't asked the citizens for a two year contract and how that is going to work and Wendy said that he does not expire it after a year and continues to use the leftover amount. Dottie said that usually it works out to be 20 hours a year and that's how it got started. Heath **motioned** that we spend \$750 on 10 hours. Gil asked what the rate was if they go over the 10 hours and Dottie said that he could charge them more if it's only for 10 hours. Gil said that maybe they could look into it and revisit it the next week. Dottie made the comment about cutting her hours to make up for the other \$750. Dottie **motioned** that we go with the \$1,500 for the 20 hours. Joanne **second**. **Four were in favor, Heath was opposed.** Steve McLean asked if this includes the Fire Department and Dottie said that he is the IT guy for the entire town and Heath made a comment about the position being made in the Fire Department for a IT person and there is a stipend included and Dottie said no there is not and that Adam Mason does it on his own and he does not get paid for it. Gil said if they need it this would be included in the 20 hours and Dottie said yes.

- Town report dedication and photo: Heath **motioned** to approve Deedee's, the deputy's design. Gil **second**. **All** were in favor. Dottie asked if that included the dedication and she was told yes.
- Do we want to schedule the next workshop?: Heath said they can't next week because of the 6:00PM Public Hearing. Gil said that they could discuss that next week.
- Heath brought up that the CDC has said that neckerchiefs are not seen as masks and that they would have to wear a normal mask underneath/ over and brought up the minutes from the Fire Department and Gil said that he would follow that up.

ADJOURN MEETING:

- Dottie **motioned** to adjourn. Joanne **second**. Mike McLean, Fire Department, said that with the EMTs they are wearing the proper PPE and Heath made a comment about them needing to wear a mask. Gil asked him if he could get the minutes to the Selectboard and Mike said that he would. Wendy brought up the article for the capital project recreation account for the bleachers and how they don't have an amount for basketball that they can have a Special Town Meeting to transfer funds from capital later on and they can work on getting quotes. One of the Board members brought up getting an exact amount. **All** were in favor.
- The Meeting was adjourned at 8:00PM.

These minutes were approved by the Limerick Board of Selectmen on: February 8, 2021

End of Broadcast

Respectfully submitted,

Courtney Davis

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FOR DETAILS OF MEETING
SEE RECORDING
AT SRC-TV.ORG

“Limerick Selectmen’s Meeting”

Under Brick Town Hall

February 1, 2021

By Gail Libby