**TOWN OF EAGLE LAKE**

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN’S MEETING**

**May 22, 2024**

1. The meeting was called to order by Board Chair, Arthur Carroll at 5:37 P.M.

Board members in attendance included: Arthur Carroll, Wendy Dube, Apryl Gagnon and Denise

Martin

Others in attendance: Town Manager, John Sutherland, Deputy Clerk, Rita Ricciardi and Eagle Lake

Fire Chief Robert St. Germain. .

2. DISCUSSION WITH EAGLE LAKE FIRE CHIEF ROBERT ST. GERMAIN:

Eagle Lake Fire Chief Robert St. Germain updated the Board on the proposed OSHA regulation

updates and the effects they will have on the Eagle Lake Fire Department. Bobby stated that he feels

23 of the mandates will hurt Maine’s volunteer fire departments. He feels that OSHA is trying to

push volunteer departments to be full time. OSHA is recommending that Fire Department Officers

complete Officer’s School 1.2 and 3. He added that this is the first time he sees area fire chiefs

worried. Bobby said that Susan Collins opposes the measure and Jared Golden favors the new

regulations for full time departments only. Aroostook County Fire Chiefs are opposed to the new

measures and Austin Theriault is opposed as well. Bobby added that 71% of Maine’s fire

departments are volunteer. Eagle Lake Board Chair Arthur Carroll asked, “What is OSHA’s

justifications for the new mandates and what are they trying to accomplish?” Eagle Lake Town

Manager John Sutherland added, “If you look at the statistics for injuries and fatalities for

firefighters in Maine, it is not there. They do an incredible job safety wise for the dangerous work

they do. It is extremely rare that you hear of a firefighter injury or fatality at the scene. The Maine

Department of Labor works with fire departments to make sure their trainings are updated and their

departments are following safe work practices. OSHA is offering a solution to a problem that does

not exist and the solution will have devastating consequences on local municipalities and our

local volunteer fire departments.

Bobby added that he has met with Jeff Fournier. Jeff is a 30 year career firefighter, currently

residing in St. Agatha, Maine. Bobby stated that Jeff has a wealth of information that we can use

when it comes to building the new substation on Sly Brook Road. A meeting is set for June 5th at

1p.m. to set down and talk to Jeff. Bobby invited any Board member to attend the conversation if

they are available.

**3. TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT - UPDATES**

* 1. **Micro Loan**

John informed the Board that account JS1112021 made two payments after the Micro Loan monthly report was completed. He is now paid through February. The Board appreciated the extra payment but voiced concern that he is still three months behind.

* 1. **Pond Brook Estates**

John informed the Board that Michael and Catherine Pelletier have vacated apartment 8. Chris is beginning to clean the apartment to get it ready for a new tenant. Daycee Gagnon has an application in and John said he feels that she will be a good fit for the Pond Brook Community.

John added that a copy of the Apartment tenants and their rental status is included with this report for your review.

* 1. **Roads**

John stated that a local nuisance beaver trapper has removed two beavers from a culvert on Gilmore Brook Road. They have been damming the culvert and flooding the road. John added

That the beaver trapper feels that there is at least one more in the area.

* 1. **NASWA**

John said that summer hours at the transfer station began last week. Reynold Hebert informed him that he thought opening night was kind of slow.

John added that Community Clean-Up Day was Saturday, May 18, 2024. Residents of NASWA communities can drop off fee related items at no charge.

* 1. **Eagle Lake Fire Department**

Eagle Lake Fire Chief Robert St. Germain informed me that he had two calls last month. One was an ambulance assist and the second was for a car accident in Wallagrass.

The Eagle Lake Fire Department’s next training is Sunday, May 26, 2024. Fire Chief Robert Germain said he plans on introducing the new recruits from Sly Brook Road to the members of the fire department. He added that he plans on washing the fire engines and getting them ready for the Memorial Day Parade.

**4. MONTHLY FINANCIALS**

The Board reviewed monthly financials for April, 2024. Board Chair Arthur Carroll asked the

Board if they had an opportunity to review the financials. Eagle Lake Deputy Clerk Rita

Ricciardi stated that she is confident with the General Ledger numbers except for the School.

Rita explained that there is a CD that the school deposited funds into that we are not able to

access at Katahdin Trust. The Board asked John to sit down with members of the School Board

and inform them that we have been asked by our auditor to track school funds. John said that the

School Budget Referendum is tomorrow evening and he will talk to Superintendent Gehrig

Johnson and the Eagle Lake School Board about getting access to viewing their Katahdin

accounts.

**a. Bank Reconciliations:**

Moved by Denise Martin to accept the Bank Reconciliations for the month of April for the Town

of Eagle Lake and Pond Brook Estates, seconded by Apryl Gagnon

Vote: Unanimously in favor

John presented the Board with a list of Pond Brook Estates tenants and their rent payment status.

**b. Sample Check Audit**

Motion was made by Denise Martin to accept the Town of Eagle Lake & Pond Brook Estates sample check audits, seconded by Wendy Dube.

Vote: Unanimously in favor

**c. d. Sign Warrants**

Motion was made by Denise Martin to sign the Town of Eagle Lake warrants, seconded by Apryl Gagnon.

Vote: Unanimously in favor

**d. Microloan**

Motion was made by Denise Martin to accept the Microloan reconciliation, seconded by Apryl Gagnon.

Vote: Unanimously in favor

**5. PUBLIC COMMENT**

The Board noted that there was no public in attendance.

**6. REVIEW AND ACCEPT MINUTES**

April 24, 2024 Board of Selectmen’s meeting

Motion was made by Apryl Gagnon to accept the minutes of the April 24, 2024 Board of Selectmen’s

meeting, seconded by Wendy Dube.

Vote: Unanimously in favor

**7. REVIEW AND SIGN MUNICIPAL WARRANT FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

The Board reviewed the proposed warrant for elections and annual town meeting.

Motion was made by Denise Martin to sign the Municipal Warrant, seconded by Wendy

Dube.

Vote: Unanimously in favor

**8. REVIEW AND CONSIDER INTEREST RATES FOR RESERVE ACCOUNTS**

John stated that he contacted Norstate Federal Credit Union Branch manager Amy L’Italien to get updated interest rates for the Board to consider. Currently the Town of Eagle Lake is getting 0.1 percent interest on our reserve accounts. John added that Amy explained that Norstate had two different options.

One was a CD that offered a little bit more interest, but would lock our funds up and we would have to pay a penalty if we needed to withdraw funds prior to the CD expiring. The other was a Flex account that offered a little less interest, but we would have access to funds if we needed them. John said that

he is recommending the Flex account for the Industrial Park Reserve, The Town Forest Reserve, The Fire Department Equipment Reserve, the Rec Building Reserve, the Municipal Building Reserve and the Highway Reserve accounts because the difference in interest earned between a CD and a Flex account is about 1 percent and the flex account would still offer us access to the reserve funds if needed.

Motion made by Wendy Dube follow the Town Manager’s recommendations and move the Industrial Park Reserve, the Town Forest Reserve, the Fire Department Equipment Reserve, the Rec Building Reserve, the Municipal Building Reserve and the Highway Reserve to a Flex account to take advantage of the better interest rates and still maintain access to reserve funds if needed, seconded by Apryl Gagnon.

Vote: Unanimously in favor

**9. RATIFY THE HIRE OF RETTA STETLER AS PART TIME DEPUTY CLERK**

John reminded the Board that Retta Stetler was hired as our part time deputy clerk. John said that

Retta has done a good job for us and Rita informed him that she is pleased with Retta’s work and

abilities. John said that he is asking the Board of Selectmen to ratify the hire of Retta Stetler.

Vote: Unanimously in favor

**10. REVIEW AND CONSIDER AN ENGINEER TO ASSIST IN DEVELOPING AN ACTION**

**PLAN FOR DEVOE BROOK ROAD**

John informed the Board that he received an email from Apryl Gagnon inquiring into whether we

should consider employing an engineer to help us design a scope of work for Devoe Brook Road

with the water issues that we are encountering. Jim Lord from Dirigo Engineering is working with the

Water and Sewer District on the project upgrade or perhaps Maine DOT would have someone available.

John agreed with Apryl and said that if Jim was up for a partial day, he could help us resolve our water

issues on Devoe Brook Road permanently.

Motion made by Denise Martin to reach out to Jim Lord at Dirigo Engineering to help us develop an

action plan to resolve the water issues on Devoe Brook Road, seconded by Apryl Gagnon.

Vote: Unanimously in favor

**11. REVIEW AND CONSIDER RESCHEDULING THE JUNE BOARD OF SELECTMEN’S**

**MEETING DUE TO JUNE 19 BEING A HOLIDAY (JUNETEENTH)**

John informed the Board that at a previous meeting, the Board discussed rescheduling the June 19,

2024 Board of Selectmen’s meeting due to June 19th being a Federal Holiday. The Board discussed

June 18th and June 20th as being alternative dates.

Motion made by Denise Martin to set Thursday, June 20, 2024 as the date for the June Board of

Selectmen’s meeting, seconded by Apryl Gagnon.

Vote: unanimously in favor.

**12. REVIEW AND CONSIDER INVOICE FROM MOYES ENVIRONMENTAL**

John informed the Board that Moyes Environmental did a wetlands delineation map on the proposed

Sly Brook Road Substation lot at the request of HUD Environmental Review Officer Julia Perry. Julia

reached out to John and requested a report that described what was identified on the map. John

requested the report from Moyes Environmental. John said he was stunned when he received a report

that went far and above the report requested by Julia Perry. John reached out to David Moyes and

David informed him that he quoted $1,208.45 for the original map and report and that was his only

charge.

John asked the Board to reconsider doing the Phase 1 Environmental Review that Julia requested on

the site. This review looks for ground contaminants and evidence of environmental issues on the site.

John stated that this is mostly reserved for redeveloping industrial sites. The Board approved doing the

Phase 1 but reconsidered and asked to wait until after the public hearing to gage community sentiment

for the project. John added that this is necessary to move the project forward.

Motion made by Wendy Dube to approve going forward with the Phase 1 Environmental Review,

seconded by Denise Martin.

Vote: Unanimously in favor.

Denise expressed concern that we need to limit the amount we are spending on the site until we have a

signed purchase and sale agreement with the property owner.

**13. ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF JENNIFER COLE**

John stated that Selectman Jennifer Cole resigned from the Board last month, but her resignation has

Not been formally accepted by the Board. He added that this is good for the public record when a

question could be asked why Jennifer has not attended or signed any documents since March.

Moved by Wendy Dube to formally accept the resignation of Jennifer Cole, seconded by Denise

Martin.

Vote: Unanimously in favor.

**14. OTHER BUSINESS**

John said that he wanted to do a follow up on a resident who asked for the pavilion to be open to the

public during the summer months. Currently it is locked and people can rent the pavilion for a private

occasion. The resident asked for the pavilion to remain open and a calendar can be maintained to

inform people when the pavilion is being rented for a private event. The Board expressed concern

regarding maintenance, vandalism and theft if it was left unlocked.

Moved by Wendy Dube to keep the pavilion locked and only allow private functions that are booked

ahead of time, seconded by Denise Martin.

Vote: Unanimously in favor.

John informed the Selectmen that NMDC is requesting a person from Eagle Lake be elected to their

Board. John stated that he has been the representative previously and if the Board desired he would like

to continue.

Moved by Denise Martin to have John Sutherland be the representative to NMDC’s Board of Directors

from Eagle Lake, seconded by Wendy Dube.

Vote: Unanimously in favor.

John informed the Board that he has a Micro Loan application from Mark Belanger. Mark is requesting

$25,000 to help him expand his guide business. John said Mark is talking with NMDC about getting

additional funds to build a lodge for his guests. Mark said he is currently having to house his guests in

Bed and Breakfasts and other facilities. This way, he would be generating income for his business.

John said Mark would like to meet with the Board prior to the monthly Selectmen’s meeting in June.

Moved by Wendy Dube to have a special Board of Selectmen’s meeting on Wednesday, June 5, 2024 at

5:30 p.m. to review the application from Mark Belanger, seconded by Denise Martin.

Vote: Unanimously in favor.

**15. ADJOURN**

Motion was made by Apryl Gagnon to Adjourn the Board of Selectmen’s meeting at 8:13 p.m.,

seconded by Denise Martin.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.**

**TOWN OF EAGLE LAKE**

**BOARD OF ASSESSOR’S MEETING**

**MAY 22, 2024**

Eagle Lake Board Chair Arthur Carroll opened the Board of Assessor’s meeting at 8:13 p.m.

1 REVIEW AND CONSIDER A PERSONAL PROPERTY ABATEMENT

John informed the Board that Daycee Gagnon, owner of Daycee’s Creations filled out a BETE

application for the personal property owned by her business. John was informed that there was an error

and the BETE amounts were never deduction from her personal property account. As a result a personal

property tax bill for $115.61 was generated that Daycee promptly paid. John said that he is requested that

the full amount be abated and returned to her.

Moved by Wendy Dube to abate $115.61 for Personal Property account 512, Daycee’s Creations,

seconded by Apryl Gagnon.

Vote: Unanimously in favor.

2 ADJOURN

Moved by Apryl Gagnon to adjourn at 8:21 p.m., seconded by Denise Martin

Vote: Unanimously in favor.