

ST. GEORGE SELECT BOARD & ASSESSORS

St. George Town Office MEETING MINUTES

June 3, 2019 – 7 p.m.

The Select Board meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. Members present were: Richard Bates, Chair; Randy Elwell, Jerry Hall, Wayne Sawyer, and Tammy Willey. Also present: Tim Polky, Terri-Lynn Baines, Penney Read and Richard Cohen.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

REGULAR SESSION:

- Adjustments to Agenda:

- Municipal Revenue Sharing Projections and Public Forum Broadband Meeting held on May 30, 2019 were added under New Business, Discussion Items
- 38 Main Street Property was moved from New Business and taken up under Regular Session as a Discussion Item.

- 38 Main Street Property: Mr. Polky said he contacted four local realtors to advise them that the 38 Main Street property may be going on the market, and he anticipated the four realtors would be submitting proposals. Selectperson Hall did not recall the Select Board having discussed a deadline for proposals. Mr. Polky said he gave the realtors a deadline hoping to bring it before the Board at tonight's meeting as a discussion item, not to necessarily make a decision at this meeting. He said one realtor called him and withdrew. He had not heard from Karen Rizkalla but received proposals from Ms. Read and Katy Miller.

Chair Bates said that given it was a discussion item, even though Mr. Polky said he would like the proposals in by a certain time, he felt the Select Board should wait for the opportunity for the third proposal. He apologized to Ms. Read if she came hoping to get a decision but felt this should item should be postponed.

Selectperson Hall had not anticipated making a decision at the meeting but was open to a general discussion. He said, "As long as the Select Board is not in a position of saying here are these proposals, make a decision tonight, I am okay with whatever you want to do."

Selectperson Sawyer said he would like to hear from Ms. Read. Ms. Read said that she did not come on the assumption that there would be a decision made at the meeting. She said she came thinking it was a discussion item and hopefully she could provide information.

Selectperson Elwell asked how long was the Select Board going to wait before making a decision? Chair Bates said the Select Board will meet again on June 24th. He hoped by then, they will have two, possibly three proposals that will be circulated and everyone will have had a chance to review them, so that they will be in a position to make a decision.

A concern of Mr. Polky's was, "Is this the route we are going to go? That is why we want to have discussion." Selectperson Hall said he was in the sell it camp but had a question as to the

point that was raised at the last meeting about whether the Select Board has the authority to sell it without a town vote. Mr. Hall reviewed the warrant article and noted they have the authority to sell tax acquired property. Mr. Polky said, "And you can sell personal property." Chair Bates said, "But you are saying that is town property." Selectperson Hall felt if it was not clear, then there should be a town vote. Chair Bates noted that Selectperson Willey had mentioned that at the last meeting. Mr. Polky said if a special town meeting was held, then a public hearing would not be needed. Since Ms. Read was already at the meeting, Mr. Polky suggested the Board hear her presentation regarding 38 Main Street.

Ms. Read stated whether it happened now or happened after this process, either way, what she talked about would still hold true. "This property, because it is in the village and it is near public buildings, near stores and near other things that we perceive of as the village, I think it would be really important in marketing this property – that it was truly marketed both as a commercial property and a residential property.

I am primarily a commercial agent and I use a different marketing distribution system than a residential (agent) does. I use everything the residential agents do which is the multi-listing system that people are familiar in buying their homes. Zillow and Trulia are really helpful in selling residential sites because people know them and they are well used and a really good way to sell residential property. In addition to that, there are marketing channels and listing sites for strictly commercial property.

As far as I know of the people that were invited to submit information for what they would do for the town, I am the only who is a commercial agent. I pay for those sites and I use those sites. I have commercial contacts who we work with on a regular basis to both list and buy on those sites. That is substantially different and something you would not necessarily know about if you hadn't bought and sold commercial real estate.

We work with investors who are both local and national. These sites are designed to analyze properties on the basis of their current incomes. For example, if there is a tenant, do they want the tenant to stay? Do they want to use it for other purposes? So, there is a lot of different questions that get asked and answered by a commercial investor. It doesn't mean that it couldn't be used as a private home but it is an additional way of marketing the property. So, I think for the town that is really important. A building that looks appropriate to be used for either purpose is marketed actively in both ways."

Chair Bates, "Very interesting. Especially given the limitations that the property has as a residential property."

Ms. Read: "It does have current limitations with its septic. For a commercial investor, they would tend to look at that as 'what is the cost of that?' How do the numbers work with everything else they learn about the building? It is that different approach can be a really helpful way to find the right buyer when you have a property that has limitations or a real downside."

Selectperson Sawyer asked Ms. Read if she makes suggestions of the property's suitability to those she markets to, or does she let them figure it out?

Ms. Read said they try to make reasonable suggestions in the listing information. Telling them how the property is currently used. If there is any zoning. They would talk about the foundation and the basement. Things that would affect their decision without saying you can only use it for this or only for that. Giving them enough information, answering all their questions, and finding out their purpose for wanting the building.

Selectperson Elwell asked how they would market it as a residential property with the current septic system. Ms. Read said she would encourage people to talk with the town and find out if there is a solution. She said she would not say if there was a solution because, currently she did not know. If this property was going to be used as a one- or two-bedroom home, what would the town's suggestion be for solving that issue? She stated the town was really good at finding solutions for people so that homes can stay homes but did not mean it was always possible. She said she would work with somebody and find out if there was a solution.

Ms. Read did say the current septic system situation would detract from either usage but currently it is a store six months a year and the system didn't seem to have any problems with that amount of usage.

Mr. Polky said a commercial system was much smaller but the question was, was the existing system working? Mr. Polky said, "It is not malfunctioning." Ms. Read said that was a key issue and a site evaluator needed to be brought in to analyze and say what was needed, then talk with the town, and find out what is even possible on that spot. These are all detailed questions that have to get answered to find out what someone can do there.

Selectperson Hall thought having someone who could address the commercial side as well as the residential side, was a plus.

Ms. Read said, "What I would do with the person designated to work with me (the same I would do with all clients) is discuss all options, bring all offers, talk through a sorting process. Here's what's possible. Here's who's interested. Here's what they are interested in and sort through what the town would want to do about that."

Selectperson Hall said the question of, "Can you sell it without a vote, is one we should probably address." The Select Board agreed. Mr. Polky suggested they may want to hold a vote whether they legally need to or not.

Chair Bates thought a special town meeting could be held prior to a Select Board meeting. Mr. Polky emphasized that the meeting be advertised well before the meeting and to be sure they had all the answers prior to holding the special town meeting.

Mr. Polky said the issue that would come up in a public meeting was when the Library talked about expanding, the town had a soil test done across the street (on Juniper Street property). That was why the town held onto the Juniper Street property – to use it for a septic system for 38 Main Street property.

Selectperson Hall asked if the town could combine the property with the lower half of Juniper Street property. Mr. Polky said an easement could be given on the Juniper Street property for a septic system for 38 Main Street.

Chair Bates said the next step was to consider the proposals, then see about engaging a site evaluator to examine the septic system. Mr. Polky suggested that if the Board decided they were going to engage one of the real estate agents to represent the town, ask the agent if it would be better for the town to do the testing or if the towns leaves that for the potential buyer.

- Minutes: The following changes and corrections are noted for the minutes of May 20, 2019.

Page 2, 1st paragraph, line 5, change selling to **developing**.

Page 2, under 40 Long Cove Road, paragraph 3 corrections: line 7; ...small town **we** like...intentions are.

Page 2, line 8, ...Selectperson Hall **said** that...

Page 3 corrections: line 2, correct word to **things**

First full paragraph, line 2, insert **(HFH)**; line 5, correct to **a** part; Line 7, correct word to **helping**; line 10, change word to **personally**

Paragraph 2, line 1, change their to **HFH**

Paragraph 3, Line 1, change to read: Chairperson **Bates** asked if **the town** went...; Line 3, change to **holds**

Paragraph 4, line 1, change to Chairperson **Bates**

Page 4 corrections: paragraph 1, line 1, change to Chairperson **Bates**

Under Communications to Board, lines 1-4, change to read: ...Broadband **Connect St.**

George. There have been questions related to the Select Board's expectations...; **His** proposed answer is, it will be...

Line 6, delete the sentence.

Page 6 changes, G: Review **of** Select Board policy **manual**...

Under MUBEC LD 1675, line 4, **Shenna** Bellows.

Under Victualers' Licenses: Luke's

Page 7, last paragraph, line 1, change to: **On** a motion by...

- Communications: The following communications were received.

- Selectperson Willey received a communication regarding the old Library at 38 Main Street from James Skoglund. Mr. Skoglund's communication stated that he was rethinking his previous statement that the Historical Society should not be involved in buying the property. Ms. Willey will call Mr. Skoglund again to see if he would attend the June 24th Select Board meeting.
- Chair Bates received a letter from Lisa Escorsio. Ms. Escorsio spoke at the May 28th Planning Board meeting regarding a potential gun shooting range on Turkey Cove. (The letter will be attached at the end of the minutes.)

Chair Bates stated that the Planning Board had received a copy of this letter at the meeting and Chair Cox addressed Ms. Escorsio and others who made public comment to this issue. Chair Cox stated that the Planning Board had not received an application from Lee Polky as yet about a shooting range.

Town Manager Polky said Ms. Escorsio's letter asked that she be notified and kept informed of this issue should anything arise. He reminded the Select Board that town staff was not able to notify people about this issue (or any other issues) or changes, but the information would be posted on the town website.

Selectperson Willey said that she believed it to be a rumor at this point. Town Manager Polky said Lee Polky's goal was to put in a shooting range but thinks that after Lee talked with the neighbors and after he had looked at the costs, he had a different outlook.

Selectperson Willey asked if the State would have to be involved in permitting. Town Manager Polky said there were no state requirements and state permits were not needed. He thought the only thing the State might require was some type of trap to catch all the lead from going into the ground.

- Warrant: The warrant for the week of June 3, 2019 was reviewed and signed. The total expenses were \$497,548.87 and included two weeks of payroll, the May school payment of \$413,092.67, and a payment of \$11,000 to Parker Appraisal for town assessing.

Chair Bates asked about the payment to Hygrade Business Group, Inc. Ms. Baines explained the office purchased a box of certified mailers which are used to send out 30-day notices and tax liens.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

Mr. Polky reported new culverts were installed on Wallston Road and road paving could now begin.

He said there were a number of mature spruce trees in the town's right of way and he had received a lot of complaints about trees on Church Street. He also reported that the fence at the Marshall Point Lighthouse had blown down and the town was working with the Dalrymples to get it back up.

On May 20th, the Select Board voted to accept the bid on the tax acquired property at 40 Long Cove Road from Habitat for Humanity (HFH). The paperwork is at Bernstein Shur and as soon as Mr. Polky receives the deeds, HFH will issue the town a check for the full amount.

Mr. Polky said he expected new carpeting for the downstairs meeting room would be installed by the end of June.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Harbor Committee: Selectperson Elwell reported on the Harbor Committee. The committee will meet on Tuesday, June 4th at 7 p.m. and will review the RFQ's and permitting. He thought they also would start the process of selecting a contractor. Mr. Polky said six contractors were invited to participate but the committee only received one proposal back. He did not know why the other contractors did not participate, though one mentioned lack of manpower. Mr. Polky said the one proposal was from Prock Marine who is a reputable contractor.

- Shellfish Committee: Selectperson Sawyer said the Committee will meet on June 6th.

- Planning Board: Chair Bates reported the Planning Board met at 7:00 p.m. on May 28th.
 - The building permit application to replace the rip rap at 34 & 35 Deep Cove Lane was reviewed; the board concluded that application approval was instead required from the CEO, as the work is above mean high-water level.
 - Likewise, the building permit application for site work and work on the deck in the buffer zone, at 127 Hawthorne Point Road was voted to be within the purview of the CEO.

In the subsequent workshop, the Board discussed the possible role of Open Space ordinance; it also continued to work on a draft Sign Ordinance.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

- School Budget Warrant: The Select Board reviewed and signed the warrant for the School Budget Validation Referendum.
- Broadreach: Selectperson Sawyer reported that Broadreach closed in Rockland and suggested the town not send them the funds which had been voted on at town meeting.
- Select Board Meeting Schedule for FY2020: The Select Board reviewed the tentative schedule for their meetings in 2019-2020. Two dates were changed due to accommodate Board members' conflicts. The Select Board was in agreement. Selectperson Sawyer stated he would not be at the June 24, 2019 Select Board meeting.
- Meeting with Boards, Committees and Commissions: Chair Bates suggested the Select Board meet at 6 p.m. on July 8, 2019 with the Chairs to the Boards, Committees and Commissions to review policy on meeting agendas and minutes policy.

Administrative Appointments to be made 2019:

The following appointments are recommended by the Town Manager to a term running from July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2020:

Fire Chief	- Michael N. Smith, Sr
Fire Chief - Deputy	- Daniel Paulsen
Fire Chief – Assistant	- Christopher G. Leavitt
Fire Chief – Assistant	- Ryan Cline
General Assistance Administrator	- Beth A. Smith
Local Health Officer	- Timothy C. Polky
Purchasing Agent	- Timothy C. Polky
Records Officer	- Timothy C. Polky
Road Commissioner	- Timothy C. Polky
Tax Collector	- Terri-Lynn Baines
Town Clerk	- Timothy C. Polky
Treasurer	- Timothy C. Polky
Knox Dispatch Advisory Committee – Fire	- Michael N. Smith, Sr.
Knox Dispatch Advisory Committee – EMS	- Amy Drinkwater
Knox Dispatch Advisory Committee- EMA	- Timothy C. Polky

Presented for confirmation by the Select Board a list of appointments made by the Town Manager with terms running from July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2020:

Animal Control Officer	- William Demmons
Emergency Mgmt Director	- Timothy C. Polky
Emergency Mgmt Director – Assistant	- Michael N. Smith, Sr.
Clerk – Deputy	- Tara Elwell
Clerk – Assistant	- Patricia A. St. Clair
Clerk – Assistant	- Beth A. Smith
Clerk – Assistant	- Magan Wallace
Code Enforcement Officer	- Terry Brackett
Code Enforcement Officer – Deputy	- Timothy C. Polky
General Assistance Administrator – Deputy	- Terri-Lynn Baines
Local Plumbing Inspector	- Terry Brackett
Local Plumbing Inspector- alternate	- Timothy C. Polky
Harbormaster	- Matthew McCollom
Harbormaster – Deputy	- Keith Miller
Harbormaster – Deputy	- Gerald Cushman
Parks & Recreation Director	- Benjamin Vail
Tax Collector – Deputy	- Tara Elwell
Tax Collector – Deputy	- Beth A. Smith
Tax Collector – Deputy	- Patricia A. St. Clair
Tax Collector – Deputy	- Magan Wallace
Treasurer – Deputy	- Tara Elwell
Treasurer – Deputy	- Beth A. Smith
Treasurer – Deputy	- Patricia A. St. Clair
Treasurer – Deputy	- Magan Wallace
Registrar of Voters	- Tara Elwell
Registrar of Voters – Deputy	- Beth A. Smith
Registrar of Voters – Deputy	- Patricia A. St. Clair
Registrar of Voters – Deputy	- Magan Wallace
Registrar of Voters – Deputy	- Timothy C. Polky
Registrar of Voters – Deputy	- Terri-Lynn Baines
Select Board Recording Secretary	- Marguerite R. Wilson

On a motion by Selectperson Elwell, seconded by Hall, it was voted 5-0 to approve the Administrative Appointments for July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020.

- Special Projects: Chair Bates drafted a list of ideas for Special Projects that he thought the Select Board should be doing over and above the Board would normally do. He distributed the handout for discussion. Selectperson Elwell asked if the Select Board should review the new Comprehensive Plan to see if the Committees are following the plan? He felt they worked hard on the plan and thought they periodically review the plan to see if the charges are being carried out.

Chair Bates thought they last met with the Comprehensive Planning Committee prior to state approval. Selectperson Willey reminded the Board that everyone had received a color-coded comprehensive plan last fall. She said the plan was quite detailed.

Selectperson Hall said they had discussions in the past, trying to make the comprehensive plan more of a living, working document. There was a view which he supported which said, "Right now we have a comprehensive plan that the state hasn't judged to be in compliance with state requirements. So, there was a priority to get it modified so it is state approved. His recollection

was the focus was on doing that and there was a view that once they did that, then they should take a look at making it more of a living, working document as a step two. Selectperson Hall said he was a little at a loss to understand how to grapple with that but it seems terrible to do all the work that goes into this and then not interact with it more than the Board does.

Chair Bates felt that the people who volunteer from the town to be on these Boards, Committees and Commissions have busy lives and they look at the plan and his sense is that they think they try to do what they can. It is difficult.

Mr. Polky said one of the things they need to do is to reconvene the committee, what is left of it. There are some holes in it. Some people have decided they don't want to do it anymore so we need to get some people who are willing to do it. Reconvene it and come up with an idea of where we want to go from here. He said they talked about that when they stopped before. They wanted to wait until it got approved by the state and then wait until after town meeting. He said he had talked with Sandra Hall, chair of the committee and some of the other members and they are going to try and get something going. He thought let the committee look it over for a while and maybe they can come up with an idea.

Chair Bates said in fairness to this committee that they are asking to resume again, I am sure it will be encouraging to them if at the same time the Boards, Committees and Commissions who have been charged to work on it, were actually doing something. He thought they had to do both. When the Select Board meets with the Boards, Committees and Commissions on July 8, they can give them copies again and say now the state has approved the Comprehensive plan, please review it with your group and see if there is a part they could work on.

Selectperson Hall said, "Or if you think the Comprehensive Plan objectives or goals should be rethought or defined." Chair Bates said the question is how much do they need to do rethought? Hall said some of the statements are broad and they need definition and perhaps there needs to be some discussion about what the broad statement means? Chair Bates said in that respect, if take an example, the CC looks at their charges and says this is far too broad. We are not clear what the intent here is, the onus would then be on them to come to the newly formed Comprehensive Plan Committee and say let's sit down and let us help you in getting a more logical charge.

Mr. Polky said this is the problem. Your plan wants to be broad. If the CC has some issues because it needs to be defined more, make policies. The reason you do that is because the policies can be changed anytime if it seems to be inappropriate whereas the Comp Plan can only be changed by a vote of the people. Hall agreed. Polky said that was where they were at one time a few years back. We don't want the comp plan to be too specific. Hall gave an example of the open space issue the CC is discussing. You can be supportive of that but where do you draw line. We have added a lot of conservation land in this town in the last few years. Is that sufficient? Do we need more? There are legitimate debates on the specifics within the Broad framework that could be taking place.

Chair Bates said we should discuss handing the approved comprehensive plan off to the B,C, C and say start thinking about this in terms of policies. Mr. Polky said to do it with the color coding so they know what theirs is.

Ideas for Special Projects:

1. Short Term Rentals – Chair Bates and CEO Brackett attended a meeting a few weeks ago. He thought the Select Board should think about this more and perhaps form a small group to include the CEO, the Fire Chief, local innkeepers, some representatives from the St. George Business Alliance to think about this issue.
2. Continuity of Government Planning – Chair Bates and Selectperson Hall attended an all-day session on this topic. Selectperson Hall said there is a lot of stuff taking place automatically because of the work that a lot of people put into this. He felt it was an eye opener for him. Chair Bates noted that John Falla had been working on this administrative ordinance and it's the Board's responsibility to send it to Mr. Polky. Mr. Polky stated that before he retires, he plans to finish the document. Chair Bates said this topic makes you think about what could happen if there was a catastrophe. Selectperson Hall said there are many issues to resolve such as getting the power back on and addressing people who are in life-threatening situations. You have to try to secure them. It is deployment of resources, establishing priorities, putting limits on what you are prepared to do and not do. It was fascinating to Hall because it was exposure to a lot of things that he has not spent a lot of his life thinking about. Selectperson Elwell said one thought for our town is, the fire department has done this for years, is pre-planning. He also said there is only one way in and one way out of St. George.

Selectperson Willey thought the town dealt with a lot of those issues through the Emergency Management Association. Polky said yes and this is where these programs are coming from. You have been involved with some of the table talks we have done. The same type of training we did there; it is just different scenarios. The big thing they were stressing in this training session is, make sure someone can do your job. Hall said it was the continuity. Making sure that you have succession plans, depth and back-up so there is somebody there who's identified as being responsible for making these decisions about who does what, etc.

Chair Bates noted that Mr. Polky will have a lot of work in that area on behalf of the Administration but he felt there would be aspects of this, as a Board, will have to contribute to. This should be one of our year goals.

3. Review of Social Services. Chair Bates thought the Budget Committee could review this area. He asked Selectperson Hall to discuss with the Budget Committee those the town donates to, in particular, to see if there is possible overlap in some of the agencies. He said they had talked about this before and can cross out Broadreach. But are concerned about all the social services requests and possible overlap in some of the agencies. Or if there is overlap, which is the preferable agency. To what degree do they overlap? Selectperson Sawyer said a legitimate question is how much does that agency do for the St. George, if the agency is located in Portland, for example?
4. Improving Energy Efficiency of Homes. Chair Bates asked about the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing program. He thought it was a means whereby people could get loans to improve the energy efficiency of their homes. He felt if the Select Board and administration could publicize the PACE loan financing program to people in town, letting them

know they can improve the quality of their homes and reduce their heating bills. It would help the environment by reducing CO2 but more importantly it would be a service to the town. Is that something the Board could encourage the CC to work more on? Selectperson Willey and Mr. Polky recalled there was not much advantage to the PACE loan program because of the interest rates but felt it may be worthwhile to look into the program again. Mr. Polky thought one of the issues that arose was that the town would be managing the loan making another layer of work for the staff. Chair Bates asked Selectperson Willey to talk with the CC about the PACE loan financing program to see if that is something they can also promote.

Selectperson Elwell asked if the CDC could also help promote energy efficiency in town. Chair Bates said Dan Verrillo, member of the CC, might look into the PACE loan program and maybe community solar.

Selectperson Sawyer thought they might want to promote Window Dressers, the storm window inserts. The inserts work and it is an inexpensive way to help reduce heating costs. Selectperson Willey said the St. George Grange will be having a Window Dressers event in November 2019. She thought this was the third or fourth year for having Window Dressers there.

Chair Bates would like to promote more energy efficiency in the towns. Heat pumps, solar panels, and a range of other items to help.

5. Comprehensive Plan.

6. Connect St. George.

Selectperson Hall reported that on Thursday, May 30th there was a public meeting on broadband connectivity. The issues included whether what the town has is adequate or whether people think it is woefully inadequate. There were approximately 35 people in attendance, hosted jointly by the Select Board and the Connect St. George group of the CDC with participation from Kendra Jo from the Island Institute and Rep. Ann Matlack. Discussion on connectivity ran the gambit. Some opinions expressed were if people want internet broadband connectivity, then they should pay to have it connected to their house because they did not want to see their taxes go up and they paid to have broadband connected to their house. To the other end of the spectrum where some people said, I think we should decide what kind of community we want to be and whether we want to say that broadband connectivity should be available to all and find a way to achieve that goal and everything in between. Hall said there were some interesting comments and perspectives. Some people suggested that it might make sense for the town to create its own utility and figure out a way to provide broadband to everyone in town and charge them for it. Not necessarily the town but some kind of entity would become the town supplier of broadband. Another was the broadband internet access needed to be viewed as essential and set up and regulated as a utility and like electricity, it has to be supplied to everyone. How do you pay for that?

There was the recognition that the town franchise with Charter Communications, Spectrum, expires late in 2021 and the town has 2 ½ years to talk with Spectrum about their renewal of their franchise and what is the Select Board going to do and if the Select Board doesn't like what they

are proposing in terms of helping the town connect more people, what other options does the town have and how does the town approach that. What becomes apparent is that there needs a fairly thorough assessment of the houses in town. How many are currently connected to broadband and how many aren't and there are statistics that are available that enable you to get raw number fairly quickly. The next question becomes trickier. What would you need to do to connect those houses not connected now and what would that cost? Cost would depend on the approach taken. People suggested a feasibility study. You will need to look at how many homes need to be connected. Look at the cost and then look at alternate proposals for addressing that and figuring how you would have to pay for that. There are a lot of details to be filled in over the next 2 ½ years in terms of what the town wants to do in renewing franchises. Connect St. George is likely to have a meeting next week to talk about the results of this meeting and to plan for the next meeting which will be open to the public. There will be a representative of Spectrum present. This meeting will need to be moderated.

Chair Bates stated that the Island Institute has worked with other communities on this issue and felt they should hear Spectrum out. Hall added that he and Jeff Boulet attended an Island Institute meeting where they brought people in from islands and other areas in Maine that are wrestling with this broadband connectivity issue and also had the Connect ME chairperson there. It was a very interesting meeting. Most of what the II has dealt with are communities that have little or no service. The islands fall into that category. They are not facing the issue that half the town has decent service and half has little or none. There was a consultant there from the Portland area who was dealing with towns that did face a similar problem to ours and said don't underestimate what the incumbent will be prepared to do. You are likely to get a lot more than you think can and Kendra Jo also said the same thing. The state has some bond issues to raise \$10 million for additional grant monies but did not know if they would pass to make more money available as there is recognition that if Maine is going to bring more job to the state, connectivity is essential. He thought the providers are understanding that they need to step up or there are other providers willing to come in. There is a willingness of a lot of the folks who live off Rt. 131, to contribute but not the amounts that people are talking about. High amounts. There is a process to go through in better understanding the numbers and getting some sense of what supplying the people who are not currently supplied will cost.

Selectperson Elwell looks at internet access as I don't want to pay more in taxes plus pay the \$300 (internet, telephone and tv) for what I already have. Chair Bates said in Newcastle where Lincoln TeleCom has fiber to the home, you would get the same internet speed for \$50. Spectrum has a great deal because they have everyone. Willey said Spectrum needs more competition in the town.

- Revenue Sharing: Chair Bates stated there was an email sent out by the MMA about revenue sharing. He thought it looked like a good chance, not a guarantee yet, but the revenue sharing for this coming year would be 3% up from 2% and that would mean that the town would receive approximately \$28,000 more. In addition, the Homestead Exemption was going to be raised from \$20,000 to \$25,000 which means that would bring an additional \$30,000 into the town. Adding those two numbers together, it would make a difference to the town's tax rate of $\frac{3}{4}$ (.75) of a per cent. That would not be a big change even if the 3% is approved. Polky said if the Homestead Exemption changes, people would see that in their property tax bill.

Mr. Polky said he talked with Bob Gingras a few weeks ago. Gingras said the town needed to start charging for personal property tax. Polky told him, the town was not going to do that. And when the town stopped doing that, the state said we will stop giving you any money. Bob Dennison was on the Select Board and said you don't give us anything now. Polky said what it would cost the town then, the reason was because of the lobster traps. How do you do that? Elwell said that was a big public hearing issue on that. Polky said the state does not give us anything.

- Appointment of Election Clerk: Crystal Tarjick's name was submitted to serve as an election clerk for the school budget referendum election. On a motion by Selectperson Sawyer, seconded by Hall, it was voted 5-0 to approve the appointment of Crystal Tarjick. The Select Board signed the Appointment Certificate.

- Review of the Policy Manual: Selectperson Hall stated the policy manual has a table of contents with page numbers listed but the pages were not been numbered.

There being no further business, the Select Board meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marguerite R. Wilson
Select Board Recording Secretary