 TOWN OF EAGLE LAKE

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN’S MEETING**

**February 16, 2022**

1. The meeting was called to order by Board Chair, Arthur Carroll at5:30 P.M.

The Board members present included: Arthur Carroll, Wendy Dube, and

Raymond Saucier. Brian Devoe was present via ZOOM.

Others in attendance were: Town Manager, John Sutherland, Deputy Clerk, Apryl Gagnon, Fire Chief, Robert St. Germain, and community residents Brian Bouchard, Ronald Soucy, Bob Stepnowski, and Bruce Dube. Novell Energy Solutions representative

Connor McCarthy was present via ZOOM.

2. SOLAR REVIEW

Connor McCarthy, from Novel Energy, presented the Maine Community

Solar Garden Program by Novel Energy Solutions L.L.C.to the Board. John Sutherland

met with Connor prior to this presentation and he informed John that he is currently

working with other municipalities in Aroostook County to deliver solar power options to

their communities They discussed possible locations for this solar array and the preferred

site would be located next to the transfer station on top of the hill on Convent Road.

Connor states that any resident that signs up for this subscription will get a 15% discount

on their electric bill and any business owner will receive a 10% discount. A solar array

could bring in as much as $1,200/ year per acre in rent and will need ten to fifteen acres of

land generating anywhere from $12,000 to $18,000 per year. A project like this will take

18-24 months to complete and subscriptions will only start when the project is completed.

Connor stated that if a municipality wanted to participate in the Maine Community Solar

Garden Program they would need to make a 10-year commitment.

A couple of other solar companies have reached out to John in regards to offering solar

power. They too have offered 15% savings on the electric bills. John recommends that the

town gives preference to the firm that wants to locate an array in Eagle Lake. The town

can receive a lease payment if it is on town property.

John has heard form ReVision and they offered to give a presentation in March. John has

been taking with Jim Leighton from the Limestone Water District and they are happy with

the array and service that they received from ReVision.

3. TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT UPDATES

a. Micro Loan

Accounts TR02122020 and DK012809 are still behind with payments. Both

accounts are paid through November 2021. A letter has been sent to each account

holder reminding them of their status and asking for an update on how they plan on

making their accounts current. Both account holders have been behind in the past and

have both stepped up to make their accounts current.

All other accounts are up to date.

b. Pond Brook Estates

Apartments 3, 7, and 15 have received their rental assistance from ACAP.

All other accounts are current.

c. Roads

The current supply of winter sand is dwindling quickly. Ice storms and freezing rain

in December required additional sand to maintain the traveled roadways. John

Sutherland has been in contact with Fred Simard regarding this issue. At this point,

John feels if we do not get a lot of freezing rain or ice, our supply of winter sand

should be sufficient. John feels that during budget season, the Town may want to add

additional funds to build back the reserves of winter sand.

d. NASWA

NASWA has applied for a 2022 Maine DEP Waste Reduction Grant. If NASWA is

successful, then the funds received will go towards moving recycling forward. The

funds are requested for a forklift to move bales of materials around and to load onto

transport trucks, storage totes and materials for expanding recycling. The more

material that we can collect at recycling, the less material that NASWA will have to

transfer to a landfill, resulting in cost savings.

e. Eagle Lake Fire Department

Eagle Lake Fire Chief, Robert St. Germain is working on getting the “I Am

Responding” system up and running. He needs to get his fire personnel’s phone

numbers along with their phone carriers. He sent out a test last week on the system

and reported that it went well with getting a response from most of his department.

This will give him a great tool once he gets it up and going.

Robert also discussed that he is looking to apply for the Stephen King Grant to

purchase a new battery operated JAWS unit. He states that the unit he is looking at

costs $27,000 and his firemen used this piece of equipment when they trained last fall.

Moved by Wendy Dube for Fire Chief Robert St. Germain to apply for the Stephen

King Grant for a battery operated JAWS unit, seconded by Brian Devoe.

Vote: Unanimously in favor.

f. Junk Yard Update

Bruce Dube informed the Board that he called and spoke with John Sutherland in

regards to an update on his request for a recycler’s application. The Board informed

him that they requested that he clean all of his property before his application will be

considered.

4. MONTHLY FINANCIALS- January 2022

Review monthly financials for January 2022

a. Bank Reconciliations; Including Pond Brook, and Sample Check Audit.

Moved by Wendy Dube to accept the Bank Reconciliations

including Pond Brook Estates, for January 2022, seconded by Raymond Saucier.

Vote: Unanimously in favor.

b. Sample Check Audit

Moved by Wendy Dube to accept the Sample Check Audit, seconded by Raymond

Saucier.

Vote: Unanimously in favor.

c. Sign Warrants

Moved by Raymond Saucier to accept the Warrants for January 2022, seconded by

Wendy Dube.

Vote: Unanimously in favor.

d. Micro Loan

Moved by Wendy Dube to accept the Micro Loan Reconciliation for January 2022,

seconded by Raymond Saucier.

Vote: Unanimously in favor.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Brian Bouchard, owner of the B&C Pit Stop came in to discuss plowing snow into the

Town Park. He was previously asked not to push any snow into or on town property.

Brian states that he is not pushing snow into the park, and states that he is within the tree

line that was removed this past fall for insurance purposes per his request. He also

states that he has been keeping the front of the war memorial clear of snow so it is

visible for passer-byer to see. The Board discussed that they did not want Brian to plow

or snow blow the snow on or towards the park, especially the war memorial that is in the

park. The Board agreed that he could snow blow the snow in-between the tree line and

his building. All parties agreed to snow blow the snow in-between the tree line and his

building.

Bruce Dube attended the meeting to discuss his “Recycling Facility”. He stated to the

Board that his property had been cleaned out and pictures were taken prior to the first

snow fall last fall. The Board discussed with Bruce that because he was applying for a

“Recycling Facility”, that all of his property had to be cleared before they would even

consider reviewing an application for permit from him. Bruce wanted to meet with the

Board at his property to show them that his property was cleared. The Board stated that

they would have to wait until the snow has melted.

6. APPROVE MINUTES FOR JANUARY 26, 2022 BOARD OF SELECTMEN’S MEETING

No changes needed.

Moved by Brian Devoe to accept the Board of Selectmen’s meeting minutes for

January 26, 2022, seconded by Raymond Saucier.

Vote: Unanimously in favor.

APPROVE MINUTES FOR JANUARY 26, 2022 BOARD OF ASSESSOR’S MEETING

No changes needed.

Moved by Brian Devoe to accept the Board of Assessor’s meeting minutes for

January 26, 2022, seconded by Raymond Saucier.

Vote: Unanimously in favor.

7. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT UPDATE

The Town of Eagle Lake received the go ahead to apply for a CDBG Public

Infrastructure Grant on behalf of the Eagle Lake Water and Sewer District. The full

application is due by 4 p.m. March 25, 2022. As part of the application, the town is

required to have a public hearing to gather community input on the grant application

and the project. The public hearing has to be posted 10 days prior to the hearing plus

secure a location. The town has been fortunate enough to use the Powell gymnasium for

these public hearings in the past. The Board will need to vote on the time, date, and location for this Public Hearing. The minutes of this meeting will be approved at the monthly Board of Selectmen’s meeting on March 16, 2022 and be turned in as part of the application package.

The Board has agreed to have the Public Hearing on March 8, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the

Powell Gymnasium located at 36 Carter Street in Eagle Lake.

8. REVIEW AND CONSIDERAROOSTOOK COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

The Town of Eagle Lake has to have an up-to-date Hazard Mitigation Plan to be eligible

for FEMA funds in the event of a natural disaster. Aroostook County Emergency

Management Agency noticed that a number of communities did not have such a plan.

They developed a county wide plan to cover municipalities. A community must vote to

sign the Resolution of Adoption in section 2 of the plan and send a copy of it to Aroostook

Emergency Management Agency so they can be added to the roster of communities that

adopted the plan.

Moved by Brian Devoe to accept and sign the Resolution of Adoption in section 2,

seconded by Wendy Dube.

Vote: Unanimously in favor.

9. REVIEW AND CONSIDER MUNICIPAL ROAD POSTINGS

Our next Selectmen’s meeting is March 16 and John is asking the Board to authorize

posting municipal roads any time after March 1st if we have a series of warm

temperatures. State statutes allow municipalities to authorize posting roads from

November to June if the weather is above 32 degrees to protect roadways from damage

caused by heavy loads.

Moved by Raymond Saucier to accept road postings any time after March 1, 2022,

seconded by Wendy Dube.

Vote: Unanimously in favor.

10. REVIEW AND CONSIDER THE MUNICIPAL VALUATION REPORT

The Municipal Valuation Return is sent to Maine Revenue on a yearly basis. It helps to

identify the number of Homestead Exemptions, Veteran’s Exemptions, BETE

reimbursements and determines the yearly amount that we are reimbursed for each.

Moved by Wendy Dube to accept and sign the Municipal Valuation Report, seconded by

Raymond Saucier.

Vote: Unanimously in favor.

11. REVIEW AND CONSIDER COMMITTEE APPOINTMNENTS

Mark Belanger has volunteered to be a member of the Town Forest Committee. Crystal

Parent and Michelle Raymond agreed to continue serving on the Budget Committee for

this year. John Sutherland has reached out to Amy L’Italien, branch manager at

Norstate, Debra Deprey, retired branch manager at Norstate and former Eagle Lake

Selectperson Louise Fournier. Each one declined to be a member of the Budget

Committee. The Board recommends that John reach out to Ann Madore for the Budget

Committee. Suzanne Morneault has volunteered to be on the Municipal Park Committee

and John stated that American Legion Post Commander Leroy Mackenzie

recommended that the Board reach out to Chris Nadeau as a possible Municipal

Park Committee member. Chris is a veteran and also a parent with children.

Moved by Raymond Saucier to review and consider Mark Belanger for Town Forest

Committee and Suzanne Morneault for Municipal Park Committee, seconded by Brian

Devoe.

Vote: Unanimously in favor.

John said that he will reach out to Chris Nadeau.

12. REVIEW AND CONSIDER MOVING FUNDS FROM KEY BANK

Key Bank is looking to get away from smaller municipal accounts to focus on the larger

ones. We currently have a CD at Key Bank totaling $8,534.71 and is scheduled to

mature on January 23, 2023.

Moved by Raymond Saucier to accept transferring funds to another account after John

Sutherland researches the best interest rate, seconded by Brian Devoe.

Vote: Unanimously in favor.

13. PROPERTY TAX DEFERRAL PROGRAM

Currently the Town of Eagle Lake has applications for Abatement and Abatement-

Inability to Pay-Hardship or Poverty. There are two new pieces of legislation that will

offer seniors over the age of 65 an option for paying their taxes. Janet Mills signed into

law a property tax relief bill targeting Maine seniors over 65 and earning less than

$40,000 in income. Seniors who wish to participate in this program agree to allow the

State to pay their taxes and take a lien on the property for eventual repayment. If the

person passes or no longer owns the property, then the amount paid by the State is

returned to the program by the person or estate for future use.

Another option being considered is where the municipality has a Property Tax Deferral

Ordinance adopted by the legislative body. To be eligible, the taxpayer must be 70 years

of age, lived in an eligible homestead for at least 10 years and has an income not to

exceed 300% of the federal poverty level. Under this program, the municipality takes the

lien on the property for the amount owed. The property tax becomes due: if the

taxpayer dies, someone else becomes owner of the property, the property is no longer

occupied by the taxpayer as a principal residence or a mobile home is moved out of

state.

The Board recommends that seniors over 65 years of age should be referred to the State

for further instructions.

14. MEMORIAL PARK UPDATES

John Sutherland wrote a Letter of Intent and is ready to go to Aroostook County

requesting funds for the Memorial Park. The Board discussed putting an area in the park

for a children’s playground, a gazebo or benches for people to sit. These ideas are

supported by Commander, Leroy McKenzie and The American Legion members. The

monument also needs attention at the base. In the Letter of Intent, John requested $40,000

for the park. Of this amount John requested $30,000 from the County ARPA appropriation

and we would use $10,000 from our own ARPA appropriations.

15. OTHER BUSINESS

John Sutherland stated to the Board that the new fire truck has been paid in full. He will update the Board via email on the progress of the building of the truck.

John discussed with the Board posting of a temp position to help out while the town’s full time maintenance is on medical leave. John will start advertising in the St. John Valley Times and around town for a 3-4 month temp position.

Moved by Raymond Saucier to advertise for a temporary maintenance person until Chris Cote is able to return, seconded by Wendy Dube.

Vote: Unanimously in favor.

John will be advertising for plowing BIDs for the Municipal Building, Recreation Building, and the Pond Brook Estates Building and the municipal roads for west Eagle Lake and Plaisted. He will also be advertising for paving lower Old Main Street.

John discussed with the Board adding to the holiday calendar for Juneteenth on June 19th. Board decided to table item until next meeting.

16. ADJOURN

Moved by Brian Devoe to adjourn the Board Meeting at 8:49 p.m., seconded by

Raymond Saucier.

Vote: Unanimously in favor.