 TOWN OF EAGLE LAKE

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN’S MEETING**

**AUGUST 23, 2023**

1. The meeting was called to order by Board Chair, Arthur Carroll at **5:30** P.M.

The Board members present included: Arthur Carroll, Wendy Dube, Jennifer Cole, Denise Martin,

and Apryl Gagnon,

Others present included: Eagle Lake Fire Chief Robert St. Germain. Town Manager, John Sutherland

and Deputy Clerk, Rita Ricciardi

Local Residents included: Brian Devoe, Gerry Raymond, Lee Devoe, Lita Bouchard, Galen Devoe,

Troy Nadeau, and Richard Pelletier.

At 5:32 P.M., Arthur suggested we open the floor to public comment since several residents were

present at this time.

5. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Eagle Lake residentBrian Devoe had a list of issues and concerns to address with the board that he

feels have not been addressed since he was a board member. Brian opened with concerns regarding

Red River Road and Old Main Street. Since the roads were repaved last summer, a lip is occurring

where the new pavement was applied. Brian stated that the Road Committee reviewed the issues and

recommended that gravel be added to the shoulders to bring the should up to the pavement. Brian

added that potholes on Carter Street were only being filled up to Fish River Health Center. Convent

Road has an erosion issue at both ends of the culvert that crosses the road, there are potholes at

the end of Forest Drive that need to be filled, and a quote is needed from contractors to repair Devoe

Brook Road from Route 11 to Forest Drive. Brian added that local residents at town meeting approved

selling the property donated by the estate of Anthony Damico. To date it is not advertised for sale. He

asked for an update on when the property will be sold. Brian added that he felt that we should not be using

the tractor to grade the beach. He feels that will damage the newly acquired tractor. Brian added

that old equipment parked at the Town Office was supposed to be placed at the Industrial Park. He

said it is still sitting next to the Town Office. Bruce Dube’s property still looks like a junk yard.

Brian asked for an update on the Wellhead Protection Ordinance. He also added that he feels that

using two people to pick up trash is an inappropriate use of time management.

Several of the comments were addressed by Arthur and John after Brian spoke. A lot of the

issues are being addressed now that tax commitment is done or have already been put in motion

prior to tonight’s meeting. Arthur also suggested that Brian be around when road repairs are being

done since he is on the Road Committee.

Richard Pelletier Jr. suggested that if the kids were allowed to use their four wheelers on the ball

field, we would have no need to cut the grass. He also addressed Brian Devoe directly and

suggested we move on. Richard stated he felt that there are more important issues to discuss

Galen Devoe commented that the tennis courts are now being used for pickle ball. He stated that he

feels it is nice to see town facilities being used.

At this time, Arthur suggested that if there was no more public comment, we should move on since it was getting late and there was still a lot to discuss.

2. **EAGLE LAKE FIRE CHIEF ROBERT ST. GERMAIN TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**

Fire Chief Robert St. Germain updated the board on the following items:

1. Robert spoke with Fort Kent Chief Ed Endee about the automatic mutual aid contract between Fort Kent & Eagle Lake fire departments. Documents were sent over for signatures on the agreement. A motion was made by Wendy Dube to have the mutual aid agreement signed by Town Manager John Sutherland, seconded by Denise Martin. Vote: unanimously in favor. John signed the document and stated that this agreement has been beneficial to both the communities of Fort Kent and Eagle Lake.
2. Robert stated the cell tower is up & running. The repeater & cabinet are up and in great condition. A battery backup has been installed. The antenna is scheduled to be moved by R.C.M. Communications Sept. 6th.
3. Chief St. Germain discussed wage increases for firefighters and officers since minimum wage is increasing to $15.25 per hour in January 2024. He is suggesting the Board consider increasing firefighters to $16 per hour and officers to $18.
4. Robert discussed upcoming trainings for his firefighter. All fire fighters need basic training to be able to enter the “Hot” zone. Firefighter 1 and 2 training is required for building entry
5. Chief St. Germain stated that the State of Maine is offering LOWSAP, Length Of Service Award Program, a retirement plan for municipal firefighters that do not have retirement offered by the municipality. It comes at no cost to town. For every call they go on or training a firefighter attends, $10 goes towards the plan. Robert stated that he has all of his current firefighter enrolled in the plan.
6. Chief St. Germain reported that the SCBA vendor informed him that the new SCBA equipment is coming in December. This is in line with the time frame offered by the vender at the time of the order.
7. Chief St. Germain began discussing the deficiencies with the pickup that carries the Jaws of Life unit. He stated that the truck has electrical issues and in its current condition will not pass inspection. He added that he recommends that we start looking at replacement options. Possibly a used truck with a utility body would be a viable option. Bobby stated that he looked at a used ambulance from Autotronics but he felt that it would not be a viable option due to winter driving conditions. He also stated that the suspension on ambulances is built for comfort and not heavy enough for carrying Jaws equipment. John mentioned that we could look into the FEMA Aid to Firefighters program for a possible replacement rescue unit.

Bobby added that if we decide to build a substation on Sly Brook Road, we will need to consider purchasing an additional fire engine. He said that based on his research $50-75,000 would purchase a used and refurbished unit comparable to the 1992 International we have. A newer truck will be well over $ 100,000.

1. Following up on the substation, Bobby noted that there is no such thing as a “reserved fireman”. All firefighters need training. If there are no firefighters trained to do entry, the station will have to be designated as defensive only – “no home entry”.
2. Eagle Lake firefighters Troy Nadeau and Lee Devoe were also in attendance. They voiced concerns that new recruits would have to be trained and show a dedication to the department. They also noted that the department currently has three firefighters that do not have the proper turnout gear to protect them in an emergency scene. Troy also stated that the fire department has a thermal imaging camera that it uses to locate heat sources that is not properly working. Troy estimates the new gear will cost around $3,000 per person and the thermal imager will cost around $ 6,000
3. Eagle Lake Water and Sewer District Superintendent Gerald Raymond proposed the idea of a pumping station on Sly Brook Rd. in lieu of a substation. Gerry mentioned that the Town of Mapleton has one to fill their fire engines. Gerry questioned if having a pump station would help improve ISO ratings for Sly Brook Road.

At this time, Arthur suggested that this discussion be tabled until a separate meeting with the Fire

Department can be set. Arthur also advised Chief St. Germain to get us a budget for the new gear.

A motion was made by Denise Martin and seconded by Wendy Dube to obtain funds to purchase full gear for 3 guys and a new imager.

Vote: unanimously in favor.

9. **REVIEW AND CONSIDER REQUEST TO PURCHASE BUILDING IN THE INDUSTRIAL**

**PARK.**

Richard Pelletier spoke with the Board about purchasing just the building in the industrial park.

He estimated the cost to repair the building with a new concrete floor, add lighting, roof repairs and

etc. to be over $80,000. Richard noted the site has an established well and the building has good structural

bones. John added that a new law has changed the procedure in how municipalities handle tax acquired

property. Maine Municipal is unsure how to advise going forward. The law states that the sale must go

though a licensed real estate broker and any remaining amount above the taxes that were owed go back to

the former property opener. John stated that there is also a bankruptcy with the former owner. John also

stated that the procedure for selling tax acquired property is approved at town meeting. We will need a

special town meeting to get approval to change the procedure for selling tax acquired property to be

consistent with the new state statute.

The Board elected to table the conversation until clarification into how the new state statute will affect

the procedure for how the town sells tax acquired property.

At this time, a motion was made by Wendy Dube, seconded by Jennifer Cole to go into Executive

citing 1 M.R.S.A. 405 § (6) (A) PERSONNEL MATTERS.

Vote: Unanimously approved. Chris Cote was invited into the Executive Session.

The Board went into Executive Session at 7:25 P.M.

The Board exited Executive Session at 7:45 P.M.

No motion was made as a result of the Executive Session

3. **TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT UPDATES**

a. **Micro Loan**

John informed the Board that recipients of a recently approved Micro Loan asked him to

express the appreciation to the Board for approving the application.

John informed the Board that he received additional payments from two Micro Loan recipients.

b. **Pond Brook Estates**

The residents of Apartment 13 have until Sept. 7th to vacate property and meet all terms of the court approved agreement. John added that they have not created any additional issues.

c. **Roads**

John stated that a beaver had begun to plug the culvert on Red River Road. A trapper was contacted to remove the beaver and the dam was removed. There are no further issues.

d. **N.A.S.W.A.**

John informed the Board that the next NASWA Board of Director’s meeting is October 19,

2023

e. **Eagle Lake Fire Department**

John stated that Eagle Lake Fire Chief Robert St. Germain informed him that his next

training will be on Sunday, August 27, 2023.

John stated that Eric Erickson from RCM Communications informed him that he will be able to

relocate the antennae from the Water and Sewer District to the new cell phone tower on

September 6, 2023.

Motion to accept updates by Denise Martin, seconded by Wendy Dube

Vote: unanimously in favor

4. **MONTHLY FINANCIALS**

Review monthly financials for July 2023

1. **Bank Reconciliation**

Motion by Wendy Dube to table signing of Town Bank Reconciliations & Pond Brook Bank Reconciliations until next month so clarification can be obtained, seconded by Apryl Gagnon.

Vote: unanimously in favor.

b. **Sample Check Audit**

Motion by Denise Martin to accept the Sample Check Audit, seconded by Apryl Gagnon.

Vote: unanimously in favor.

1. **Sign Warrants**

Motion by Apryl Gagnon to accept the August 2023 Warrants, seconded by Denise Martin.

Vote: unanimously in favor.

1. **Micro Loan**

Motion by Apryl Gagnon to accept the July 2023 Micro Loan Reconciliation, seconded by Jennifer Cole.

Vote: unanimously in favor.

6. **REVIEW AND ACCEPT MINUTES**

July 26, 2023 BOARD OF SELECTMEN’S MEETING

Motion by Denise Martin to accept the minutes of the July 26, 2023 Board of Selectmen’s meeting,

seconded by Apryl Gagnon.

Vote: unanimously in favor.

7.  **REVIEW & CONSIDER UPDATING NAMES ON TOWN BANK ACCOUNTS**

Motion to remove Apryl Gagnon and add Rita Ricciardi to town bank accounts made by Denise

Martin, seconded by Jennifer Cole. Wendy asked for confirmation that only John Sutherland can

sign checks. This was confirmed by John.

Vote: unanimously in favor.

8.  **REVIEW AND CONSIDER A STIPEND INCREASE FOR THE BOARD MEMBERS OF**

**EAGLE LAKE WATER & SEWER DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

John stated that theCharter of the Eagle Lake Water and Sewer District states that the stipends for

President, Treasurer/Clerk and Trustee positions are approved by the Eagle Lake Board of

Selectmen. Eagle Lake Water and Sewer District Treasurer/Clerk John Martin is requesting the

Board of Selectmen increase the stipends as follows:

President: Increase from the current $ 571 per year to $ $1,000 annually

Treasurer / Clerk: Increase from the current $1,142 per year to $1,500 annually

Trustee: Increase from the current $571 per year to $1,000 annually

Motion made by Jennifer Cole to increase stipend for trustees & officers as requested by John

Martin, seconded by Denise Martin.

Vote: unanimously in favor

10. **REVIEW AND CONSIDER BID FOR ROOF REPLACMENT ON THE EAGLE LAKE**

**MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

John announced that the Town of Eagle received two bids for replacing the roof at the municipal

building. Opening the bids yielded the following results:

4D Carpentry - $28,569.00 and A & M Construction - $36,537.00

Motion to accept bid from 4D Carpentry based on price was made by Apryl Gagnon, seconded by

Jennifer Cole.

Vote: unanimously in favor

11. **REVIEW AND CONSIDER SIGNING THE 2023-24 TAX COMMITMENT**

John informed the Board that as a result of submitting the 2023-24 tax commitment, the Board now

has to determine the mil rate for the upcoming year. Based on the tax rate calculator, we have

determined the lowest option to be 15.25 and the highest is 15.95. The overlay for 15.25 is

$1,561.66 and the overlay for 15.95 is $63,681.64. John added that the Board could elect to keep

the mil rate the same as last year at 15.78. That will give us a healthy overlay of $ 48,595.36

Motion to approve 15.78 as the mil rate for the upcoming tax commitment was made by Denise

Martin, seconded by Jennifer Cole.

Vote: Unanimously in favor.

12. **REVIEW AND CONSIDER ROAD ISSUES**

John stated that he would like discuss some road issues with the Board. Red River Road needs

shoulder work where new pavement was added last summer. Convent Road has an erosion issue

where the culvert for Pond Brook crosses the road. Water is eroding the side of the bank and is

approaching the roadway. John added the Convent road repair would be temporary because the

culvert needs to be replaced.

Motion by Denise Martin to allow John to move forward and do both repairs, seconded by Apryl

Gagnon.

Vote: unanimously in favor

13. **STATE OF MAINE BOATING FACILITY LIGHTING UPDATE**

John stated that he received a note from the Director of Boating Facilities, State of Maine Bureau

Parks and Lands, Thomas Linscott, that he felt that the lighting at the State of Maine Boating Facility

in Eagle Lake was sufficient. Tim informed John he added a new dusk till dawn light (solar light) by

the dock and added reflectors to the dock as well. He added that if complaints regarding light pollution

are received, he would have to consider eliminating the light all together.

14. **SLY BROOK ROAD FIRE DEPARTMENT SUBSTATION UPDATE**

John informed the Board that he had a discussion with soil scientist Sarah Ashley regarding the proposed

site for the Sly Brook Road substation. Sarah informed him that soil map that she uses indicate that the

soils are better for constructing a substation the closer you get to Sly Brook Road. She added that she

would be able to go out and do soil samples to more accurately determine if the soils are able to withstand

a building on the site.

15. **OTHER BUSINESS**

John stated that there was no other business.

16. **ADJOURN**

Motion made by Apryl Gagnon to adjourn, seconded by Denis Martin.

Vote: unanimously in favor

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.