

TOWN OF BELGRADE

# Meeting Minutes

BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS

**FEBRUARY 6, 2024 / PUBLIC HEARING 6:30, REGULAR MEETING IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING**

BELGRADE TOWN OFFICE

***This meeting was conducted in person. The public may also view the meeting***

***online at <https://youtu.be/ITp5Frw5N6w>***

**Present:** Chair Barbara Allen, Vice Chair Carol Johnson, Selectperson Daniel Newman, Selectperson Melanie Jewell, Selectperson Peter Rushton, Town Manager Lorna Dee Nichols, CEO Hans Rasmussen, Gary Mahler, Bert Languet, Sara Languet, Jeff Worthing, Tracy Malloy, Ernest Rice, Phil Sprague, Michial Heino, Tom Daniels, John Hall, Kathleen Moore, Chris Mitchell, Tanya Athanus, Kimberly Dallas, Andrew Dallas, Bruce Galouch, Sara Lozefski, Travis Burton, Dan MacKenzie.

**Zoom participants:** Rod Johnson, Kate Damren, Paul Thompson, Scott Damren, Nancy Findlan, Richard Bourne, Chris and Matti Bradley, Doris Mathias, Mary Vogel, Paul Stancioff, Kathleen Paradis.

**6:31 p.m.**

**PUBLIC HEARING: *Annual Town Meeting Warrant Secret Ballot Referendum Articles***

**Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance by Chair Barbara Allen at 6:39 p.m.**

**Quorum established.**

## ***Open Meeting***

**Public Comment - none**

**Review and approve minutes of January 23, 2024 and January 29, 2024**

**Motion to accept the January 23, 2024 minutes as amended by Selectperson Daniel Newman, seconded by Selectperson Peter Rushton, vote 5-0.**

**Motion to accept the January 29, 2024 minutes as amended by Chair Barbara Allen, seconded by Vice Chair Carol Johnson, vote 5-0.**

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### ***142 Woodland Follow-up***

Code Enforcement Officer Hans Rasmussen read his findings for the petition submitted to the Board of Selectpersons. Both in-person and Zoom participant residents shared their concerns on this property. There was discussion on an ad-hoc committee to review our ordinances; a moratorium on short-term rentals and/or how to regulate them. The Board would like to discuss this further at their February 20, 2024, regularly scheduled meeting.

### ***Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles, finalize remaining articles***

Article 13 – set tax rate

**Motion to approve the article as written by Selectperson Daniel Newman, seconded by Selectperson Peter Rushton, vote 5-0.**

Article 32 – LD 1

**Motion by Selectperson Melanie Jewell to remove as it is not needed per legal counsel, seconded by Chair Barbara Allen, vote 5-0.**

Article 34 - MainePERS

**Motion by Selectperson Daniel Newman to approve as amended, seconded by Vice Chair Carol Johnson, vote 5-0.**

Article 35 – MainePERS buy-back

**Motion to approve with \$162,000 from undesignated by Vice Chair Carol Johnson, seconded by Selectperson Daniel Newman, vote 5-0.**

Article 38 – Benefit reserve

**Motion by Vice Chair Carol Johnson to approve as amended with \$31,000 and adding the word 'and', seconded by Selectperson Peter Rushton, vote 5-0.**

Article 39 – Cemetery ordinance updates

**Motion by Vice Chair Carol Johnson to approve as amended, seconded by Selectperson Melanie Jewell, vote 5-0.**

Article 40 – Camping ordinance

**Motion by Vice Chair Carol Johnson to approve as amended, seconded by Selectperson Peter Rushton, vote 5-0.**

*Animal Control Officer Contract, review/approve*

**Motion by Selectperson Daniel Newman to approve the contract, seconded by Vice Chair Carol Johnson, vote 5-0.**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

*Appointments/Resignations*

**Motion to appoint Jeffrey Worthing as Animal Control Officer by Chair Barbara Allen, seconded by Selectperson Melanie Jewell, vote 5-0.**

**Motion to appoint Tracy Malloy as Animal Control Officer by Chair Barbara Allen, seconded by Melanie Jewell, vote 4-1.**

**Motion to table the appointment of Dan Ceglinski by Selectperson Melanie Jewell, seconded by Vice Chair Carol Johnson, vote 5-0.**

*Delta Ambulance Representative/Q&A*

Interim Executive Director Chris Mitchell gave a presentation of the current status of Delta Ambulance and the rate increase from \$15 per capita in 2023 to \$25 per capita in 2024.

*RFP for Engineering Services/Fire Department*

The Board reviewed the draft request for proposal for engineering services of the new fire station.

**Motion to approve the request for proposal and let the Belgrade Fire and Rescue building committee put in the percentages, seconded by Selectperson Melanie Jewell, vote 5-0.**

**Motion by Selectperson Melanie Jewell to allow the Belgrade Fire and Rescue building committee to conduct tests necessary at the new building site and to take funds from the reserve account, seconded by Vice Chair Carol Johnson, vote 5-0.**

*Snowmobile Club request*

**Motion to allow Draggin Masters snowmobile club to use the new access point adjacent to Center for All Seasons by Selectperson Melanie Jewell, seconded by Selectperson Peter Rushton, vote 5-0.**

*RFP for Auditing Services*

**Motion to approve the request for proposals for auditing services, seconded by Vice Chair Carol Johnson, vote 5-0.**

### *Abatements*

**Motion to approve abatement 2023-17 in the amount of \$497.62 for Laurence Dingus (Map 11, lot 13) by Chair Barbara Allen, seconded by Selectperson Melanie Jewell, vote 4-1 abstained (Daniel Newman).**

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Discussion of placement of speed signs provided by the State of Maine at no charge to the Town of Belgrade in Belgrade Lakes Village.

**Motion to place one speed sign north of the village and one near the dairy bar heading north by Vice Chair Carol Johnson, seconded by Chair Barbara Allen, vote 5-0.**

### **WARRANTS**

BMV Warrant 11      \$9,758.73

**Motion by Chair Barbara Allen to approve warrant 11 in the amount of \$9,758.73, seconded by Vice Chair Carol Johnson, vote 5-0.**

Payroll Warrant 12      \$26,385.93

**Motion by Chair Barbara Allen to approve warrant 12 in the amount of \$26,385.93, seconded by Vice Chair Carol Johnson, vote 5-0.**

AP Warrant 13      \$650,739.11

**Motion by Chair Barbara Allen to approve warrant 13 in the amount of \$650,739.11, seconded by Vice Chair Carol Johnson, vote 5-0.**

State Warrant 14      \$11,632.00

**Motion by Chair Barbara Allen to approve warrant 14 in the amount of \$11,632.00, seconded by Vice Chair Carol Johnson, vote 5-0.**

Postage Warrant 15      \$794.05

**Motion by Chair Barbara Allen to approve warrant 15 in the amount of \$794.05, seconded by Vice Chair Carol Johnson, vote 5-0.**

BMV Warrant 16      \$4,540.70

**Motion by Chair Barbara Allen to approve warrant 16 in the amount of \$4,540.70, seconded by Vice Chair Carol Johnson, vote 5-0.**

Payroll Warrant 17      \$20,849.11

**Motion by Chair Barbara Allen to approve warrant 17 in the amount of \$20,849.11, seconded by Vice Chair Carol Johnson, vote 5-0.**

AP Warrant 18      5,180.34

**Motion by Chair Barbara Allen to approve warrant 18 in the amount of \$5,180.34, seconded by Vice Chair Carol Johnson, vote 5-0.**

AP Warrant 19      \$400.00

**Motion by Chair Barbara Allen to approve warrant 19 in the amount of \$400.00, seconded by Vice Chair Carol Johnson, vote 5-0.**

*2023 Warrants:*

AP Warrant 156      \$10,917.53

**Motion by Chair Barbara Allen to approve warrant 156 in the amount of \$10,917.53, seconded by Vice Chair Carol Johnson, vote 5-0.**

## **TOWN MANAGER REPORT**

The Comprehensive Plan Committee will attend the February 20 meeting to give a presentation to the Board.

The Roads committee met and discussed the status of roads, utilizing larger culverts where needed to help when we have large amounts of rain/melting, roads for possible paving consideration; traffic lights to aid in traffic flow when work is being done (replacing flaggers).

Updated paper tax maps have arrived and are available for viewing at the town office; updated digital tax maps have been uploaded to the town's website.

Parks and Recreation Director Dan MacGlashing, Jamie Dionne, Susan Bolduc and myself met with RSU 18 Superintendent Carl Gartley to discuss the trees at the Kenneth Workman field. Carl agreed to share in half the cost for the work to be done and to help plant new trees. In addition, there was some discussion on the tennis courts adjacent to the Workman field. With some research, it was confirmed RSU 18 owns the fields and courts; there are donor restrictions on the courts. Additional information (tree removal, planting) will come before the Board at a future meeting.

The Comprehensive Plan Committee met January 31 and will meet again February 21.

The March newsletter is finished and will be mailed out soon.

The Fire Department building committee met January 31 and finalized a draft request for proposal for engineering services you will consider at your meeting February 6.

I attended both the Comprehensive Plan meeting January 31 and Fire Dept. building meeting immediately following the comp plan meeting.

Update from David Allen of the Maine Department of Transportation about permanent signs at the Center for All Seasons:

*We had previously approved the installation of these signs, under the following conditions. They would need to be MUTCD compliant. The wording on the sign would be "Event Ahead". It would be a black on yellow warning sign (Diamond shaped). It could be in place 1 hour before the event starts and must be down 1 hour after the event ends. The signs could be a permanently installed folding sign, or a sign on a temporary sign stand (Work zone sign stand). The sign could be 30 inches by 30 inches, 36 by 36 inches, or 48 by 48 inches, in size. Height to the bottom of the sign 5 feet. The sign and sign stand may not be placed on the shoulder of the highway. If a permanently installed folding sign is used, it must fold closed away from the highway when not in use. Responsibility for the signs and ensuring they are used in compliance with the above would be the town's. This authorization can be rescinded by the Department if issues arise with the signs.*

Meeting February 1 with Maine D.O.T. re: speed signs that are being donated to us, these will be placed going into and coming out of the village area.

The TAN bid notice went out February 2 from BernsteinShur. These will be due February 15 and ready for the Board's review and award at the regularly scheduled meeting on February 20.

Chair of the Dams Committee Craig Alexander alerted us that dams are now open and to use caution. We've posted notices to our Facebook page, website, talking sign and posters in the public area of the town office.

A candidate forum will be held February 12, 6:30 p.m. at the Town Office.

**Motion to exit regular session at 10:21pm by Chair Barbara Allen, seconded by Vice Chair Carol Johnson, vote 5-0.**

**Motion to enter executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)A – personnel matter at 10:22 p.m. by Chair Barbara Allen, seconded by Vice Chair Carol Johnson, vote 5-0.**

**Motion to exit executive session at 11:08 pm by Chair Barbara Allen, seconded by Selectperson Peter Rushton, vote 5-0.**

**Motion to enter regular session at 11:09 by Selectperson Daniel Newman, seconded by Vice Chair Carol Johnson, vote 5-0.**

The board set an executive session on February 13 at 7:00 pm pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)A personnel matter.

**Motion to adjourn at 11:10 by Selectperson Melanie Jewell, seconded by Selectperson Peter Rushton, vote 5-0.**