

SELECTMEN'S MEETING

JUNE 18, 2024

MINUTES

Selectmen in Attendance: Dick Norcross, John Hicks and Frank Day.

Attendees: Fire Chief, Richard Perreault; Animal Control Officer, Cindy Eaton; Brian Merrill; Code Enforcement Officer, Michael Vane; Deb Tait; Vincent Carbone; Dan Larson; Barbara Moulton; Chad Pine; William J Flynn; Gregg Hesslein; Tom Dugas; Ricky Emery and Bruce Collins.

Chairman, Dick Norcross called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM and called for a Pledge of Allegiance.

John motioned, Frank second to approve the Minutes of June 4, 2024 Selectmen's Meeting. Voted unanimously by a show of hands.

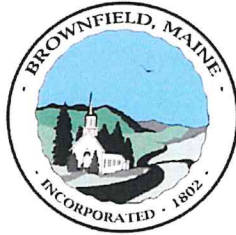
Payroll (and Accounts Payable) have been approved.

Brian Merrill questioned that Alvina has not heard from Matt Randall and she said he is correct. He questions what is the definition for a farm? Dick said he has not found a list that says what a farm is. Brian said hounds are not herding animals. He said the Board needs to step up and do something about this issue, that Brian is not the only one complaining, that others are afraid to complain for retaliation. ACO Cindy Eaton said it has been licensed as a farm with farm plates. Brian asked what he has for farm animals. John explained that we checked our legal obligations with MMA and the Town Attorney that it is a civil matter that the Town should not be dragged into it. Brian asked for it in writing.

The Board did not submit a vote for District 18 MMA because they do not know any of the people on the ballot.

An advertisement for the full-time Deputy Clerk, Registrar of Voters, Tax Collector, and Treasurer was accepted and read aloud. Dick motioned, Frank second, to put ad in the paper. Voted unanimously by a show of hands.

Alvina explained that Article 3 a questionable amendment at Town Meeting so it was sent to our Attorney for clarification. The Attorney said the article is legal for voters to lower the dollar amount but the added language for the tax collector to be sole authority to hire, "State law allows the tax collector to hire a deputy, so there is no need for Town meeting authority to do that"- Mary Costigan, Town Attorney. This position was approved for a full-time Deputy Treasurer/Tax Collector/Town Clerk/Registrar.



Article 29's defeat was also sent to the Attorney basically to see whether it would be right for the Board to put it on a referendum vote prior to setting the tax rate to try to keep the tax rate low. The Attorney never responded to this question but it prompted a discussion with Assessor, Hannah Hutchinson. She explained that for a \$300,000 property, if everything had passed as written with no changes the new valuation added about 40-50% increase. The tax bill would have been about a \$200 reduction on their tax bill. Since Article 29 did not go through this particular property will be about \$310 more than last year. Ricky said for the past 8 years we have had warrants with \$300,000-\$700,000 going back to offset the tax rate, he doesn't understand that because we didn't apply the \$700,000 to the tax rate, the tax is going to go up. She explained that expenses like County tax, School funding, and Municipal appropriation and revenues like excise taxes, revenue sharing are what affect the tax rate. This year the milrate is going down because valuations are up. Tom Dugas said his concern is that we keep spending and spending. School budget has gone up, Town has gone up. Dick said the people voted this. Deb asked whether we had an audit, Dick said not yet. Bruce asked whether anyone has done a cost analysis on tree growth. Hannah responded that it is a long-term program. They pay a high tree growth penalty when it is withdrawn unless it's been in for years.

After discussion on Brownfield needing an Agent of Record for Inland Fisheries & Wildlife. Dick made a motion, John second for Alvina to be the Agent of Record in the interim until they get trained. Voted unanimously by a show of hands.

The Certificate of Appointment for Robert Konczal, tax assessor was signed term expiring 2025.

The next building committee meeting is scheduled for June 21, 2024 @ 7:00 AM.

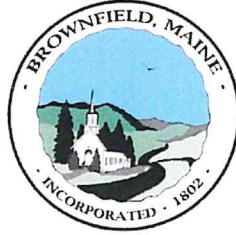
Frank read a letter from the Planning Board regarding the Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee that they should be able to use the copier the same as the Planning Board.

The State of Maine Certified our Ratio Declaration Approval for commitment April 1, 2024 at 100%.

An e-mail from Vincent Carbone introducing the Community Food Forest Initiative seeking support and partnership was explained by Vinny. He wants the Town to acknowledge on the Town Website and Rec Facebook page. Vinny asked about Sheriff Wainwright and Dick said he couldn't make it but that he doesn't have an issue with Vinny. Frank agreed to talk with Willy and get back to Vinny.

Phen Hill Stream Crossing grant requires a match of \$28,750. Dick said reduction from contractor and another grant they received from the State he thought it was done. Does this now need to go before the Town after the article at Town Meeting. Matt Streeter was the name of the person he had talked with.

Discussion on the advertisement to be put out to bid for sealcoating the parking lot. Dick motioned, John second to put it out for bid. Voted unanimously by a show of hands.



Concerning the request to meet with the Board from Attorney, Alex Parker for Adam Martinese for recreational marijuana sales the Board said we only need to acknowledge that we know that he plans to apply and that it goes to the Planning Board and then it will need to be voted on by the Town.

John congratulated Ricky, as did many people.

John motioned, Frank second to adjourn. Voted unanimously by a show of hands.

The meeting adjourned at 6:22 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Alvina Day, Administrative Assistant