

Garland Select Board
Meeting Minutes
February 28, 2024, at 6:00pm
108 Corinth Rd

1. Opening Ceremonies:

- a. R. Fick called the meeting to order at 6:01pm
- b. R. Fick & J. Sears attended as a quorum of the select board. L. Keefe, Office Administrator, and K. Wood, Director of Public Works, also attended.
- c. R. Fick motioned to accept the agenda as presented. Seconded by J. Sears – All Aye

2. Public Comments:

Public Attending: S. Giles, V. Glenar, J. Gudroe, T. Scott, B. Scott, T. Beem, K. Thomas, L. Jones, J. Amazeen, M. Bernier

R. Fick motioned to open to public comment at 6:02pm. Seconded by J. Sears – All Aye

It was requested that Public Works scrape back roads.

S. Giles asked why the TM Warrant Articles did not have “or anything relative thereto”. L. Keefe will check to see if this wording is needed and if so, make the necessary changes since there is still time, and since the warrant has not been posted for more than 7 days.

There being no further public comments, R. Fick motioned to close to public comment at 6:08pm. Seconded by J. Sears – All Aye.

3. R. Fick read the consent items into record. R. Fick motioned to accept the consent agenda items as read. Seconded by J. Sears – All Aye.

4. Motions/Discussions:

- a. R. Fick motioned to approve and sign the February 14, 2024, meeting minutes as read. Seconded by J. Sears – All Aye.
- b. R. Fick motioned to approve the updated/revised Traversing Posted Roads Permit. Seconded by J. Sears – All Aye.
- c. R. Fick motioned to approve K. Wood to clear the maple tree on the Kendall Fogg property on Oliver Hill Rd (taken down by DOT) and drop the tree at Evergreen for Sanford Giles to take. Seconded by J. Sears – All Aye.
- d. R. Fick motioned to approve the request from L. Keefe to expend up to \$3500 for an overhang to be built over the employee entrance door, repair or rebuild of the front door overhang and repair the back entry overhang and to pay this amount from the Community Building Reserve Fund. Seconded by J. Sears – All Aye.

e. R. Fick motioned for the Select Board to attend the March 12th Planning Board meeting for a work session to address ADU and septic codes along with discussing an ordinance for RV use. Seconded by J. Sears – All Aye.

f. Discussion of Municipal Fire Department

1. R. Fick explained the need for a Municipal Fire Department Ordinance as directed under 30-A M.R.S.A § 3152. It is not a lengthy ordinance; it basically reiterates what is in State Statute and properly allows the Town to recognize that we have created a Municipal Fire Department, and the ordinance gives authority to the funding of the department by the legislative body. This is a housekeeping item that was found when looking up other information and should have been done when the Town first funded the Fire Department.

2. State Statute reads that unless otherwise provided by contract, charter or ordinance, fire chiefs shall be appointed for an indefinite period. It was shown in the Town Meeting minutes that precedent set the re-election of a fire chief annually by vote at Town Meeting until 1994 when TM voted to have the fire fighters elect a chief and submit their choice to the Select Board for approval and appointment, again precedent set this as an annual event.

This last step has not been taken since 2020 and needs to be completed as directed by TM vote and by the Fire Department's bylaws.

An article was put in the Town Warrant to see what term length should be set. Is there a need to re-elect a Fire Chief annually? Would a more appropriate term be 3 or 5 years?

3. Discussed payroll taxes for firefighters. Stipends earned will be taxed for the portion that exceeds the IRS \$600 annual exemption. W2 forms will show zero if there was no taxable income. If a firefighter would like a printout of what they were paid for stipends, they can contact Lee Maynard and she will print out a report for them.

g. R. Fick motioned not to sign a letter of interest for the Connectivity Grant. Seconded by J. Sears – All Aye.

h. L. Keefe has been asked if keys for the new front door will be issued. She doesn't feel it's necessary as the key currently issued can access the gym door. R. Fick motioned not to issue a front door key and for individuals or groups who have been issued a key to use the gym door. Seconded by J. Sears – All Aye.

i. R. Fick motioned to move into Executive Session under 1 M.R.S.A 405 (6)(A) for personnel matters – counsel at 7:03pm. Seconded by J. Sears – All Aye.

J. Gudroe requested that Sanford Giles accompany him.

R. Fick motioned to adjourn Executive session at 7:30pm, seconded by J. Sears – All Aye.

L. Keefe will send a monthly expense report to J. Gudroe on the last Friday of the month for the FD meeting held on the 1st Monday of the month.

J. Gudroe requested that when PW plows the swim front to please push the snow toward the town office and not toward the store to allow room for the fire truck to back up to the red rocks.

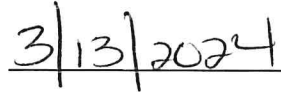
Also not to plow the lawn by the oil tank near Cemetery Building, corner by the steps.

5. Updates: none given
6. R. Fick motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:30pm. Seconded by J. Sears – All Aye

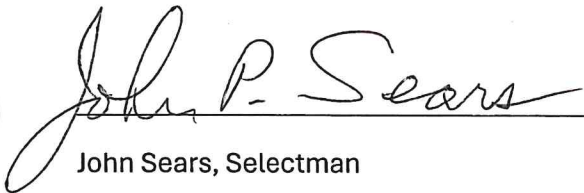
Respectfully submitted,



Regina Fick, Select Board Chair



Date



John Sears, Selectman

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