

**Town of Dresden**  
**Select Board Minutes**  
**Meeting of January 03, 2023**  
**In person at Pownalborough Hall & on Zoom**

Present - John Rzasa (1st Selectman), Don Gleason (2nd Selectman), Allan Moeller (3rd. Selectman), Daniel Swain (Administrator).

Others - Judy & Paul Tunkle, Jeff & Leah Bickford, Steve & Lisa Hewitt, Gary Blau, Pean Lilly, Gerald Lilly, Kathryn McGoig, Justin ?, Dave Probert, Kaylee Kittel, Amanda Pendleton, Edna ?, (via Zoom) and (Secretary) Shari Lilly (via Zoom).

**1.) Meeting** was called to order at 5:03 p.m.

**2.) Pledge of Allegiance** was led by John Rzasa.

John requested to allow the auditor for Dresden, Fred Brewer, to give information regarding the audit as there has been a lot of concern from the residents as to the process and length of time.

Mr. Brewer has provided a draft of the audit for the SB to review. A couple of things that he highlighted - mix of accounts in various banks, scheduling, undesignated funds/surplus (about \$900,000.00 +/-, addition of excise tax. Most was capitol-oriented; such as the fire truck account and making sure everything is reconciled. Pretty much we were in the same condition at the beginning of the year as at the end. Daniel has helped to get things reconciled and things do look pretty good. A -3 - Allan asked about the use of the money from surplus that Daniel has computed. Mr. Brewer said that's the purpose of your surplus; such as for the fire truck. You save for something like this and when the time arises, you have already set with funds.

Allan asked if there is anything that needs to be improved on? Mr. Brewer replied not really; you watch what is going on and notice if there is any differences. Everyone should be on the same page and if you notice anything you ask why and find the results.

Gary Blau asked if he has presented the audit before? Mr. Brewer said he had; in fact, he did last year to the SB. Gary then said, you've worked with other towns and the TRIO system, which we've had a significant amount of problems with. How can we improve on it so the problems don't continue? Mr. Brewer replied that they have done a cleaning on the system which has helped to improve it. The person they had handling it is no longer there, but things are progressing. He added that there are not a lot of choices for software on this.

Allan asked when we will have the completed package. Mr. Brewer replied, probably next week. Those present thanked him for attending the meeting with some clarification on the audit issue.

**3.) Approve & sign the minutes of the previous meeting.**

Allan asked about the salt contract. Daniel said it does say \$68.00/ton. Allan asked Daniel if he has the mail with the information as he would like to see it later. Daniel will get it for him.

Don then moved to accept the minutes as presented; John seconded and the motion passed by all.

**4.) Approve & sign the present warrant(s).** Accounts payable & payroll.

Daniel reported that everything is pretty much standard. He did have to do two for Ann due to the change in her pay.

Allan motioned to accept the warrants as presented; John seconded and the motion passed.

## 5.) General Announcements

The next regular Select Board meeting will be on Tuesday, January 17, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. in Pownalborough Hall and on Zoom.

## 6.) Old Business

*Planning Board Report* - Solar survey - The PB will have it done this week and ready to be sent out.

*School Board Report*

Jeff Bickford reported the next meeting will be on January 5th at 6 p.m. in the RMHS cafeteria. The hiring of a Superintendent will be coming out this month. The budget is still being discussed.

*Broadband Report*

Judy Tunkle reported the committee hasn't met lately, but she does have all the information on the 'Get Ready Grant' which she has given to Daniel. However, the website hasn't really been updated as we had hoped. She asked how we could get this going sooner. Daniel said he will be working with Lauren on this.

*Education Exploratory Committee*

Leah Bickford mentioned the committee will meet on Tuesday, January 10th at 6 p.m. when we will have our organizational meeting now that we've been approved by the SB. The meetings are open to the public.

## 7.) Select Board Reports

*Transfer Station* -

- a.) Daniel said there has been some illness going around so it was closed for a little while.
- b.) The bottles are coming in again. Daniel & Don are working on a way to keep them lower. Allan mentioned that Billy's Bottle Barn in Litchfield is quite busy and usually has a line. One resident said Tiger Town in Gardiner is open all the time, but they're busy too. Many places are looking for more help. Allan mentioned there is a place in Brunswick that he will check into.

*Town Office Report*

- a.) Daniel said things have been good. We have hired a new Town Clerk who will be appointed later.
- b.) Foreclosures ended on December 30. Only one not paid off on time. The rest have.
- c.) The emails have a few issues as we transfer to the new set up.
- d.) Daniel & the staff are grateful to the residents who came in with Holiday cards & gifts.
- e.) The new IT is up and running and the company found an issue which they took care of right away. We are being monitored by their system so they can find out if there is any problems when they happen. They provide monthly updates, software/updates, and will do backups at least once a day. (We are no longer with Burgess Computers)

*Roads*

Allan reports that Josh Watson has fixed culverts and the washed out roads. Sand & salt is good since Mother Nature has been so gentle on us.

*Fire Department* -

- a.) Engine #2 was worked on by Burrows Garage. Replacing a clamp.
- b.) The generator at the Fire Station has been serviced - Allan said it ran fine during the storm and power outage. Daniel reported that the service company said that generator is

no longer being made so if it breaks down, they may be able to repair it, but if it needs replacement parts, we may not be able to get any. This time it was also out of oil.

#### *Water Department Report -*

- a.) Daniel said Chuck Applebee told him it's running smoothly.
- b.) Josh Watson was contacted about plowing with a 5% increase in pay. Mr. Watson said he appreciates it, but would need to have a 15% increase due to the area it is. Allan said he wouldn't be in favor of that and would prefer to ask Tom Foss if he wants to do the job. He added that a 15% increase on top of the pay would be too much of an increase. The SB authorized Daniel to ask Tom Foss if he would do the plowing and how many times it is normally plowed in a winter.

*Personnel Policy* - Daniel gave copies of a drafted policy to the SB for their review. He noted that there is time to look it over as it will not be implemented until next year.

### **8.) New Business**

*Appointment of New Town Clerk* - Daniel reported that he and the SB had met with two (2) applicants. (Two others had withdrawn) They have chosen Breanne LeVasseur. She was in the office today getting familiar. She is a smart, capable, friendly young lady who seems to be a quick learner. John made a motion to hire Breanne as the new Town Clerk; Allan seconded and the motion was passed unanimously.

*RFP for auditor* - Daniel said he has posted an RFP for an auditor with a 5-yr. contract. He has put it on the MMA website and will also be contacting some people personally that he knows. He didn't put a lot of information on the RFP because he feels most auditors will know what is expected.

*Wiscasset REC Center contract* - Allan mentioned that the contract between Dresden and the Wiscasset Rec Center will once again be for \$5,000.00. He reported that more than 100+ people from Dresden have either taken out memberships or used the facility in the past year. This would break down to about \$2.90 per person. Daniel reminded him that this had already been approved at the last town meeting. Allan noted that this contract does run differently than our town meeting. Don mentioned that the Rec Center membership to Dresden is at the resident price.

*Boat Landing by Dresden/Richmond Bridge (Lincoln Rd)* - A resident from 302 Middle Road has brought up the issue that he would like to have the town make the landing more accessible for his boat. Daniel noted that he had told the resident that due to the area, it is a carry-in only. The resident wants to have work done down there so he would have better and safer access for his boat. He would like the logs removed and the grassy area cleared better. Allan explained to him that the Army Corp of Engineers said we couldn't do any other work to the area partly due to water levels. He also said that Jeff Pierce would probably have more information on that as he was involved with installation. He then told the resident that it would have to go through the ACE. Allan asked him what he would like the town to do. He said he wants the town to remove the logs and make the area clearer for launching his boat. Allan said that we could try to move the one big log, but if it's out too far, we won't be able to do anything for it, as it's tidal water. The gentleman agreed it is like that all the way to Augusta. It was developed for carry-in, carry-out only. Allan went on to say that we are limited on what we can do, but will work on it.

### **9.) Citizens Concerns**

*Steve Hewitt* noted that there was \$30,000.00 for a generator for the fire station and if it was specific for that purpose, why would the SB be able to use it for something else? It was said the money was from FEMA, but Allan said it had nothing to do with FEMA. Steve then asked if it was voted on

for the \$30,000.00. The reply was yes, but Allan said \$2,000.00 was used out of it which left \$28,000.00. Allan then asked about taking that out of the line-item budget. Daniel said he would check on that. Gary Blau asked who was responsible to make sure it had the oil. Allan said the Fire Chief, Steve Lilly. Gary would like to have information on the maintenance contract.

*Solar Moritorium Process* - When asked if we are set on a schedule for this, Daniel replied yes. It will be in mailboxes this week.

*Lisa Hewitt* asked why they are doing a 5-year contract for an auditor instead of a 1-year with performance review? She noted that it should contain all the requirements on the RFP; not wait until you hire someone and then present them with more. She also asked why they wouldn't put in an attachment as to the audit expectations? Or a cancellation provision. Daniel said that the right to cancel is always there for both parties. Lisa added that there should also be a performance clause and dates on the contract.

*Gary Blau* asked if the present auditor has ever presented information to the town about errors, bad numbers, issues with assessments, etc? Daniel replied not that he has seen. Gary added that Mr. Brewer enlightened him tonight and does seem to have a lot to offer. However, with what we have to know what we want from them and with the problems we've had in the past, they gives us something to learn from. With what we've had to deal with over the past few years, perhaps we should take a fresh look around. Allan suggested preparing an RFP with the suggestions that have been presented here.

*Paul Tunkle* said some hire auditors to just get by with what the law allows. Others hire them to clean up their messes. Auditors are supposed to help you to do your jobs better. The auditor needs to work with Daniel even though he's already found a lot. They should be able to provide him any help he may need with resources and as a partner.

*Plowing contract RFP* - Kathryn McCoig asked where they put the notice for the plowing RFP? Allan said they put it in surrounding newspapers, on the town website and in the Communicator. He also contacts contractors he knows personally. Gary Blau said RFPs & all the information should be digitized. Daniel said he has them at the town office. Allan said the Watson contract ran out in 2022, but Daniel said there is paperwork that Mike Faass signed with Watson for a 3-year contract.

*Town Sign* - Gary wants to see more current information on the sign. Nothing has been changed or added to it. It seems to be taking a long time to get the old information off and put new information on for a lot of what's going on. Allan said the sign was down after the power outage, but Daniel got it back working.

*Dave Probert* asked if there is any documents to explain what the roads, rangeways, etc. are listed; such as any documentation as to what the roads all are; example the other end of the Ballard Road, or McFadden Road. Allan said perhaps Historian, Jay Robbins, would be able to provide that information. He added that if a road hasn't been used by cars, etc. in 30+ years, it goes back to the landowners. Dave then asked what is the status for the Ballard Road? It is still in litigation and we have been unable to get another court date for a trial. Everytime we get one, the other party finds a way to delay. Right now, it is accessible only as a walking path. Gary Blau asked how the budgeted money for legal is holding up? Daniel replied we've spent over \$20,000.00 so far. Gary added that it probably doesn't count the time that the town officials have put in on this. John said we hope to have some answers soon.

*Dresden Communicator* - Daniel asked the SB the status with the Communicator and if we will send it out to all households. Allan said he would be okay to try sending it out again to see what happens. Judy Tunkle said she thinks people would be happy to get the information to know what's going on, especially if we could add town information besides notices. It was also mentioned that it would be

good since we have so many new people in town. The SB agreed to send it out to all households, noting that it can be cancelled if need be. Daniel said it would cost about \$166.00 per month to send out.

**11.) Adjournment**

With no further business, Allan made a motion to adjourn the meeting; John seconded and the motion was passed by all at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Shari Lilly  
Secretary

Note: Secretary does not have information in regard to Executive Sessions.