

**Town of Edgecomb Select Board  
Minutes  
March 25 2019; 5:30pm**

**Attendees: Jack Sarmanian, Ted Hugger, Mike Smith, Katie Wurtzell (recording secretary), Holly Stover, Scott Kennedy, John Donovan, Curt Crosby, Dave Boucher, Cathy Orn, Scott Griffin**

**Select board meeting of March 25, 2019 was called to order at 5:25pm.**

**Pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A : 405, motion by Mike Smith to enter Executive Session to discuss new snow plowing and salting contract. Motion carried 3-0 to start Executive session at 5:26pm**

**Executive session ended at 5:45pm**

**Selectboard took 15 minute recess.**

1. 6pm, resume select board meeting
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Approval of Minutes
  - a. Minutes from 3/11/19 approved
4. Holly Stover, State Representative
  - a. Discussion about state budget, addiction, education, and taxes.
  - b. Jack asked about the state budget and bills. Holly mentioned that the discussion of bills are still underway, some have financial components, some do not.
  - c. Holly said that overall things have been hectic busy, but overall things have been very positive.
  - d. Mike asked about drug usage and mentioned that it does impact Edgecomb greatly. Holly mentioned that Governor Mills has brought forward many bills that could go towards fighting addiction. She said it is killing on average one Mainer per day.
  - e. Mike asked about education including starting salary and statewide contract. Edgecomb is already at the minimum salary. Mike says part of the concern is the special education cost and how it impacts smaller communities.
  - f. Ted asked about fees and tax increases. There is a bill that will raise tobacco tax from 20% to 80%, his concern is creeping taxes and fees. There are unintended consequences of these taxes and fees.
  - g. Jack Dexter, asked about high speed internet. He said there are people who want to work from home but cannot. Holly said there are discussions taking place about this issue and there is a broadband committee. Holly will get more information.
5. Lincoln Health, Scott Kennedy and Jim Donovan
  - a. Town Presentation 2019. Update on what's happening at Lincoln Health, trends in healthcare, and the MaineHealth system
  - b. System include Outpatient Care (largest - 75%), senior living/long term care (only provider of skilled nursing in the county), and hospital care.
  - c. Trends in Healthcare
    - i. Advancing Technology: Outpatient care is replacing inpatient care, new technology is expensive, new technology is often only provided at larger/urban health centers.
    - ii. Declining Reimbursement: Medicare and Mainecare are 65.1% of the hospital's gross revenue. Reimbursement is 101% of allowable costs less 2% sequestration. That's a guaranteed loss on over 65% of our business. A hospital in Lincoln Maine is declaring bankruptcy and other hospitals are in very deep financial troubles. Disturbing trend of 3 rural hospitals closing across USA annually. State budget is a large part of this discussion.
    - iii. Workforce Shortages: 41% of the MaineHealth workforce are 50 years and older. 22.5% of LincolnHealth nurses are 60 years and older. Maine has challenges in attracting new labor. Health care education programs experiencing faculty retirements and shortages. This means: reduces patient capacity, reduced services, expensive contract labor. To combat this they are trying to train their own trained professionals, but cannot turn people out fast enough. Partnership with Maine Community College: trained registered nurses with associate's degrees. Growing from 8 to 15 students. Also part of the Tufts Medical Program: partners with Maine Medical Center for 3rd year medical school students.
    - iv. Cooperation/Regionalization. Team approach to care, regional services leverage resources, shared costs and efficiencies. Lincoln, Knox, Waldo counties are working together and leverage resources. Doctors are being trained to work more in a team based setting.
    - v. MaineHealth working to build something that is financially and clinically sustainable.
    - vi. Mike asked what a nurse starting salary is for a registered nurse is generally \$28h or close to \$60k right out of school.
    - vii. Jack asked about mental health care. Jim said it is the most difficult portion of the health care system to manage. There are greater funding issues.
6. Curt Crosby, Boothbay Transfer Station

- a. Jack asked about what the future of the transfer station holds, including the issue of Fiberright. Curt believes Fiberright will be online sometime this year, hopefully in the middle of the summer or early fall. Currently all garbage is going to a landfill, including recycling. Curt says that 110 communities will be in the same boat as Fiberright does not go through. He said this will be the largest facility of this kind in the country once it is operational: 144,000 sq feet. Fiberright invested \$40M, for a \$70M total facility..
  - b. Mike asked if it would be possible for the town hall and the school to not pay for trash pick-up. Curt said that the schools are a large portion of the budget. Curt said currently the organizations are currently kept separately given the risk to the town. He also said they are currently ahead of budget. Mike asked about future major expenditures. Curt says nothing in the near future.
- 7. Edgcomb Historical Society, Dave Boucher and Cathy Orn
  - a. Edgcomb Historical Society would like to request to use the town hall Thursday March 28th. Travis Chapman to speak about Timber Framing. He will possibly build the smithy and will discuss this process during the meeting.
  - b. The Hammond Fund has very little money available. Claudia read projections but stock performance has not been good. Therefore the Selectboard cannot give money currently, though would entertain a request for funding in the future. Historical Society will also be approaching the county for potential donations.
  - c. Historical Society is looking for a sense of how realistic it is for them to be able to obtain land from the town to build their project (lease). It will be difficult to raise funding without a location. They are also working on planning so they have a better idea of what a good fundraising goal should be. The selectboard is favorable about working towards exploring this possibility.
- 8. Old Business
  - a. Contract from firm that will be doing the plans for an ADA compliant ramp replacement at the town hall. Engineering fee will be \$2500.
  - b. Jehovah's Witness would like to rent Sunday April 7 from 3-9pm for a fee of \$100 for a celebration.
  - c. Comment on broadband survey in paper was that it was not mailed to anyone. Potentially will send out survey with tax bills this year for maximum circulation. Janet is making progress on this issue however it will be difficult to come up with household numbers that are high enough to make a splash with internet companies. She would like to have flyers at town meeting.
  - d. Claudia presented draft articles for inclusion in the warrant.
- 9. New Business
  - a. ASK Grant
    - i. Board working on a draft to design and print a brochure or rack card for the town of Edgcomb promoting the town. The cost would include design work and photos. Potential estimate is \$825 with a maximum of \$2,000 including printing.
    - ii. Ted is working with new information building that will be on route one for traffic estimates to see how many brochures they will potentially need.
  - b. TIF Invoices and contracts
    - i. Jack has worked with attorney John Pottle to work out the details on the use of the TIF. Work has been submitted. John anticipates things are going in the right direction.
- 10. Fire Department
- 11. Warrants
  - a. General Warrant #20
    - i. School Payables: \$83,230.91
    - ii. School Payroll: \$33,794.87
    - iii. General Expenses: \$203,104.88
    - iv. Total: \$320,130.66
    - v. Approved 3-0.
  - b. TIF Warrant #202
    - i. \$78,741.18
    - ii. Approved 3-0.
- 12. Public Comment
- 13. Adjourn: 7:45pm