

TOWN OF PATTEN

21 Katahdin Street | PO Box 260 | Patten, ME 04765

Phone (207) 528-2215 | Fax (207) 528-2055

www.pattenmaine.org

PATTEN SELECT BOARD

Meeting Minutes

These minutes are not verbatim.

Location: Public Works Garage, 21 Katahdin Street, Patten, ME 04765

Date & Time: Tuesday, October 15th, 2024, at 5:30pm

Called to order by Gregg Smallwood at 5:30.

ROLL CALL

Select Board: Gregg Smallwood, Chair; Dennis Kelly, Vice-Chair; Rae Bates, Theresa Schmidt, Janice Dancer

Town Employees: Gail Albert, Town Manager; Billie Doody, Town Clerk; Raye Porter, Finance Consultant; Willow Brooks, Deputy Clerk; Kevin Noyes, Public Works Director; Julie Buhler, Library Director; Brett Morse, Ambulance Director

Public: Cheryl Morse, Kent Smallwood, Dennis Brackett, Randy Bossie, Laura Kenney

ADMINISTRATIVE

Motion made by G. Smallwood to add the Special Town Meeting minutes and the 2024 Municipal Valuation Return to the agenda. Seconded by T. Schmidt, no discussion heard. **Approved 5/0/0.**

Approve and Sign Warrant #21 for General Government, Water, Sewer

Motion made by G. Smallwood to approve and sign Warrant #21. Seconded by J. Dancer, no discussion heard. **Approved 5/0/0.**

Approve and Sign Payroll Warrant #21

Motion made by G. Smallwood to approve and sign Payroll Warrant #21. Seconded by J. Dancer, no discussion heard. **Approved 5/0/0.**

Approve and Sign 4th Quarter Commitment for Water and Sewer Bills

Motion made by G. Smallwood to approve and sign the 4th Quarter Commitment for Water and Sewer bills. Seconded by D. Kelly, no discussion heard. **Approved 5/0/0.**

Approve and Sign 4th Quarter Warrant for Collection for Water and Sewer Bills

Motion made by G. Smallwood to approve and sign the 4th Quarter Warrant for Collection for Water and Sewer bills. Seconded by J. Dancer, no discussion heard. **Approved 5/0/0.**

Approve and Sign Meeting Minutes for October 1st, 2024

Motion made by G. Smallwood to approve and sign the meeting minutes for October 1st. Seconded by J. Dancer, no discussion heard. **Approved 5/0/0.**

Approve and Sign Executive Session Meeting Minutes for October 1st, 2024

Motion made by G. Smallwood to approve and sign the executive session minutes from October 1st. Seconded by D. Kelly, no discussion heard. **Approved 5/0/0.**

Approve and Sign Special Town Meeting Minutes for October 15th, 2024

Motion made by G. Smallwood to approve and sign the Special Town meeting minutes from October 15th. Seconded by D. Kelly, no discussion heard. **Approved 5/0/0.**

Approve and Sign 2024 Municipal Valuation Return

Motion made by G. Smallwood to approve and sign Patten's Municipal Valuation Return. Seconded by D. Kelly, no discussion heard. **Approved 5/0/0.**

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Town Manager – Gail Albert

G. Albert: Gail spoke with Tom Kirby, the CEO of Outer Reach Broadband about high-speed internet for Patten and surrounding areas. She has a call with another internet service provider this week. The Fire Department received a Gloria Mackenzie grant for \$6,000 for air tanks, and a CDBG grant for \$46,000 for turn out gear. Ambulance also received a \$45,000 Gloria MacKenzie grant for a new cardiac monitor. The Town will be having a public hearing on October 29th about the grant for turn out gear. There is a vacancy on the Planning Board for an associate member. An Ambulance CDARS account is coming due the end of October, the Select Board can choose to extend it for 26 weeks at an interest rate of 4.17%, or 52 weeks at 3.78%.

Motion made by D. Kelly to extend the CDARS account for 26 weeks. Seconded by G. Smallwood, no discussion heard. **Approved 5/0/0.**

Gail introduced Raye Porter to the Select Board and meeting attendees, Raye will be joining the Town Office 3 days a week starting in November as the Town's Finance Consultant.

Review of the 2024 Draft Audit – Raye Porter

R. Porter: Raye gave a brief explanation of the 2023 draft audit. She explained the different types of funds the Town handles and said that overall Patten's financials are in really good shape.

Class Action Lawsuit – Tax Acquired Property

There is a possibility for a class action lawsuit regarding the sales of tax acquired property. This would involve every town/plantation in Maine. Gail has been in touch with legal counsel, it is recommended by legal counsel that if the lawsuit is approved information on all tax acquired property sales from the last 6 years would be required.

OLD BUSINESS

MMA Response – Rising Costs of Ambulance Services

R. Bates: Rae has not yet responded to the email she received from MMA Legal about the rising costs of ambulance services. The Select Board is curious who is on the Blue Ribbon Commission for Maine.

Motion made by G. Smallwood for Rae Bates to respond to MMA Legal and inquire who is serving on the Blue Ribbon Commission. Seconded by D. Kelly, no discussion heard. **Approved 5/0/0.**

SELECT BOARD COMMENTS

Janice is looking at 4 grants for the Town in 2025, one is for traffic safety equipment and two are for the Veteran's Monument. There is also a funding opportunity for \$50,000 for a new ambulance from the Stephen King foundation.

Motion made by G. Smallwood to allow Janice Dancer to apply for the 4 grants listed above. Seconded by D. Kelly, no discussion heard. **Approved 4/0/1 abstention.**

There was a discussion about grant opportunities for the Rockabema Snow Rangers, grants are harder to find as they are a 501(c)(7) instead of a 501(c)(3).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

A resident mentioned that some of the buckles on the swings at the playground are becoming worn and requested that they be looked over in the spring. It was agreed that funds will need to be made available for the 2025 budget to make the necessary repairs and safety updates to the playground.


ADJOURN


Motion made by G. Smallwood to adjourn the meeting at 6:17pm. Seconded by D. Kelly, no discussion heard. **Approved 5/0/0.**


Meeting Minutes for October 15, 2024

Approved by the Select Board on 10/29, 2024

Gregg Smallwood, Chair


Dennis Kelly, Vice-Chair


Rae Bates


Janice Dancer


Theresa Schmidt