

# **Carrabassett Valley Selectmen's Meeting**

## **4:30 p.m. Monday April 12th, 2021 at the Town Office**

### **Agenda:**

**Notice:** Please note, we are allowed to hold public meetings allowing up to 50 people to attend. However, with social distancing (and masks) required there is very limited room to physically attend the meeting.

Depending on how many people wish to attend and concerns over COVID-19, citizens may participate by **REMOTE ACCESS AS PROVIDED BELOW**. Remote Access Participants will hear all the proceedings and will be allowed to speak. The State Legislature passed emergency legislation to allow public proceedings through remote access during the "State of Emergency" under guidelines.

### **We have set up a remote access process as follows:**

- Participants call into this number: 1-425-436-6390
- Enter code following prompts: 668536 (it will then tell you to press the # symbol)
- Once the moderator joins all those on the line can join as well---Please announce yourself when asked.

**Meeting will start at 4:30 p.m.**

Review and sign Town Payroll Warrants: #12 in the amount of \$25,799.68 and #14 in the amount of \$27,329.78

Review and sign Town Expenditure Warrants: #13 in the amount of: \$63,731.14 and #15 in the amount of \$63,672.27

**1. MINUTES from the last meeting (March 15th, 2021)—Attached.**

### **2. DISCUSSION CONCERNING COMMITTEE TO RESEARCH "EMPLOYEE HOUSING":**

Selectperson John Beaupre would like to discuss "restarting" the employee housing committee. Originally, this was not a "Town initiated" effort and paused with the onset of COVID. John would like to get the issue out in public and to bring a small Committee back together to include representation from Sugarloaf, CVA, the Town and possibly other businesses or interests. John has indicated that he would act as the point person to help restart the process and bring folks together for a meeting.

**3. POTENTIAL FUNDING REQUESTS:** There are a few projects that have very recently been discussed that could be moved forward if the Board has interest. They will however, need funding. If interested, the Board of Selectmen could ask for Town funding from Town Surplus in conjunction with the School Budget Town Meeting (late May or June). Town Undesignated Surplus (General Fund) increased by \$66,420 in fiscal year 2020 (from \$1,574,994 to \$1,641,414). The projects being discussed are:

Providing a new radio frequency for the Airport AWOS (weather station): Our current CTAF (common traffic advisory frequency) is 112.8 which is the same frequency used by the AWOS (aviation weather observation system) installations in Norridgewock, Franklin Memorial Hospital (helipad) and the AWOS installation at our airport. During more active traffic usage, this can be a safety problem. The AWOS installations (which provide important weather-related information to pilots and to Life Flight of Maine) are owned by Life Flight of Maine who pay for the maintenance costs of these installations. They recognize the potential safety problem (too much traffic from the AWOS's going at the same time) and are willing to change the frequency of our AWOS and make an upgrade. To do that they are requesting that the Town pay approximately 10% of the cost (the attached proposal is for the Town's share of \$3,450). This upgrade (to an AWOS-3 PT) would provide "cloud ceiling information" which would also be another safety improvement. If necessary, we could request funding from airport fuel sale revenue to pay for this.

Provide funding for upgrading the Town Website: We are seeking quotes from our present "webmaster" and a local person which we hope to have soon. This can wait. However, there has been some interest in doing this from some Board members.

Funding to expand upon digital maps of all immediate area trails that would be used by emergency responders to help locate lost or injured trail users. Much of the GPS information is currently available. However, trail names have been changed or added and added features such as color-coded access (vehicle, snowmobile, ATV) information would be added and a large summer and a large winter map would be created that would be placed at the new mountain fire station. The update would also include area snowmobile and ATV trails and Maine Huts and Trails. We are awaiting pricing for this project

We anticipate soon receiving \$32,000 from another Town for reimbursement (as required by State Law) for hiring one of our Police Officers. Our Police Chief is researching the cost of replacing our somewhat obsolete Communication Console Radio System. His thoughts are to use these funds to purchase this equipment. Our Police Chief will present a proposal at an upcoming Selectmen's meeting.

Assuming the Town Meeting Warrant for the School Budget will not be finalized until into May there is time to consider each of the above funding proposals.

**4. DISCUSSION OF WHETHER OR NOT TO CONTINUE TRAIL DEVELOPMENT ON THE TOWN'S JONES PUBLIC LOT WITHOUT AN EASEMENT FROM THE PENOBSCOT INDIAN NATION (PIN) FOR USE OF APPROXIMATELY 1 MILE OF THE OLD RAIL BED THAT EXTENDS FROM THE CARRIAGE ROAD SOUTH TO THE JONES PUBLIC LOT.** We have submitted annual Use Permit requests to PIN but have not heard back at this time. We do not need this access for the trail crew to get to the Jones Lot. However, once built without a use permit, the only access is through Claybrook. The thinking is that the Jones lot will dry out quicker and will be available earlier this spring for trail building. A preliminary plan has been developed (Josh Tauses, our Trail Master) to develop approximately 1 mile of new trail on the lot at a cost of approximately

\$35,000 (\$15,000 from the Town's Public Lot mountain bike trail account and \$20,000 from the Town/Club trail development fund).

If funding at Town Meeting is approved, and the Board wishes to continue trail development on the lot the specific trail layout plan will be reviewed by the Town's Forestry Consultant and the Trail Committee.

**5. UPDATE ON AIRPORT PLANNING PROJECT:** As part of this planning project (to design, permit and bid out the construction of a Taxi Lane Project) which, when built, would facilitate the private construction of eight T-Hangars and three additional sites for larger hangars), the Pre-Bid meeting is scheduled for 2:00 p.m. April 15th (in the Town Office Fire Station). Bids for the project are due on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. The bid process must be completed prior to completing a grant application to the FAA for a Construction Grant. The bid pricing will help determine whether or not there is enough grant funding available to construct the project. We will probably not know until summer or fall whether an FAA grant will be awarded this year. When approved, the Town would need to approve the project as the voters did with the Planning Project.

**6. OUTDOOR CENTER TRAIL BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT:** We anticipated replacing eight trail bridges with new concrete panel bridges in 2020 at a cost of \$76,000. We have paid for ½ of this cost and the concrete panels for these bridges have been moved (by way of help from the Outdoor Center trail groomer) over snow to the bridge locations (we will pay out the remaining ½ of cost when installed). In moving the bridge panels, one of the two remaining wooden bridges in that area "caved in" and needs to also be replaced. Our thoughts are to replace the two remaining wooden bridges in that area of the trail system for an additional \$8,500 each (same bridge size and cost as seven of the eight current bridge replacements). This would allow us next year to move up to Trail 50 to start on that area of the trail system. As of January 1<sup>st</sup> there was \$140,767 in the Town Lot Reserve so there are adequate funds to accomplish this.

**7. SIGN DEED FOR 100' X 25' OF "BACKLAND" TO DANA AND CINDY HERRICK:** As discussed at the last Selectmen's meeting, the Herricks are now interested in purchasing a 100'x25' parcel of land in back of their property (Tax Map 9, Lot 70) off Rt. 27 from the Town to allow their lot to become "conforming" to the Town's Land Use Ordinance. The purchase price is \$1,750 or one-half the amount of a recent 50'x100' parcel sale. The deed is ready for the Board to sign if agreed.

**8. ANNUAL PROPOSED ORGANIZATION AND EVENT FINANCIAL REQUESTS:** Pending Town meeting approval of Town Meeting Warrant Article #6 (Donations, Contributions & Contingency) the Board can make decisions regarding annual requests from various Organizations (generally non-profit service) and Events. A list of proposed donations is enclosed. With COVID, a number of events have been cancelled. In addition, we have not heard from some of these organizations. Also, the Board can propose funding some of these

organizations enclosed (with no dollar attached) at a later date. This is the time of year we generally provide this funding (after Town meeting).

**9. INFORMATIONAL:**

Next Selectmen's meeting April 26<sup>th</sup>?

**TOWN MEETING APRIL 14<sup>TH</sup>. VOTE FROM 8:00 A.M. TO 6:00 P.M. ABSENTEE BALLOTS ARE NOW AVAILABLE TO VOTE FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS AND THE TWENTY-TWO ARTICLE TOWM MEETING WARRANT.**

**TOWN OF CARRABASSETT VALLEY  
MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
March 15, 2021**

<b>Board Members Present:</b>	<b>Bob Luce John Beaupre Jay Reynolds</b>	<b>Lloyd Cuttler Karen Campbell</b>
<b>Others Present:</b>	<b>Dave Cota Tom Butler</b>	<b>Tom Butler Zoe Zeerip</b>
<b>Present via Phone:</b>	<b>Annie Twitchell</b>	<b>Lynn Schnorr</b>

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Bob Luce opened the meeting at 4:30 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance. Dave Cota asked phone-in callers to identify themselves for the record.

Payroll warrants #9 and #10 in the amounts of \$2,526.32 and \$33,438.69, respectively, were reviewed and signed by Selectmen.

Expense warrant # 11 in the amount of \$72,12.25 was reviewed and signed by Selectmen.

The minutes of the February 22, 2021 were provided to the Selectmen for review and approval. Jay Reynolds made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Karen Campbell seconded the motion. Motion approved via roll call.

Dave Cota discussed an agreement between the Town and the Maine DOT for the use of town roads for the Route 27 paving project. He provided a copy of the agreement to the Selectmen. John Beaupre made a motion to approve the agreement. Lloyd Cuttler seconded the motion. Motion approved via roll call.

Dave Cota provided the Selectmen with an update on the Solar 1 Project proposed to be located on Sanitary District land. This project has been approved by the Planning Board, and the company has been working to get investors and commercial customers. Dave anticipates a 15% savings on energy costs (not distribution), so the Town can take advantage of this proposed savings. Solar 1 is working to get the interconnection issues resolved with CMP. Dave Cota explained that the cost to connect to the CMP infrastructure is now going to be significantly more than originally indicated. This has been the same situation with a number of other companies in the state.

Dave Cota reported that the Franklin County Budget Committee will hold a caucus on April 5<sup>th</sup> at 5pm in Farmington to select a select board member to serve for three years. Bob Luce had served in this position for the last three years. Following discussion, Bob Luce agreed to serve another term in that capacity.

Dave Cota reported on a new Maine Public Employees Retirement System policy. As of July 1<sup>st</sup>, the Town will be assessed 5% of the salary of employees who had retired through this system previously, but now continue to work for the town. There are two employees who would be subject to this new provision. The employee does not gain anything under this new policy; the State's retirement system gains the additional funding. At this time, the Town pays 10.1%

under the current formula and employees pay 8.1%. Dave explained that the Town could potentially pay a portion of the 5% fee or any chosen formula. John Beaupre made a motion to assess the 5% on the same ratio as the funding is currently being contributed to the retirement fund from the Town and the Employees. Lloyd Cuttler seconded the motion. Motion approved via roll call.

Dave Cota provided an update on the Proposed Airport Taxi Lane Planning Project. This is a planning project at this time, and the planning work is nearing its end. The plan would allow for the private development of new T-hangars and larger hangars. The FAA grant is covering the cost of design, permitting and bidding. Another grant will be necessary for the construction portion of the project. The construction will be put to bid as part of the planning process, before the Town can apply for the construction grant. Dave anticipates the actual construction grant process could take a year or two. The Town will also need to approve an FAA grant if awarded and the Town's share of the construction costs of this project.

Dave Cota reported that the April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Town Warrant will need to be signed by the Selectmen. Lloyd Cuttler made a motion to sign the warrant as written. Jay Reynolds seconded the motion. Motion approved via roll call. Dave Cota mentioned that the Town Meeting will be held via referendum vote. A public hearing on the Town Meeting Warrant will be held at 6pm tonight.

Dave Cota provided copies of paperwork concerning correspondence on Sugarloaf's desire to make improvements at the Outdoor Center. The Northern Border Regional Commission is an organization established in 2008, which is a partnership to further economic development. Josh Tarsus and Deb Bowker are researching a grant application to this commission for trail development and a roof on the skating rink. They would need a letter of intent by March 26<sup>th</sup>, to be included with the grant application. John Beaupre made a motion to provide the letter of intent for this purpose. Lloyd Cuttler seconded the motion. Motion approved via roll call.

Dave Cota discussed Tax Map 9, Lot 7 belong to Cindy and Dana Herrick. Years back, the Town approved selling land for the back lots of several of these Rt. 27 area properties that abut the original Town Public Lot in order to increase the size of their lots and allow the lots to conform to the Town's land use ordinance. This lot would need an additional 25' x 100', which is half the amount of acreage of the other sales to the abutters. Where the other lot owners paid \$3,500, Dave recommends a purchase price of half that amount (\$1,750). Lloyd Cuttler made a motion to approve this sale price. John Beaupre seconded the motion. Motion approved via roll call.

Karen Campbell asked if there is a way to get better communication with Maine DOT. She said it has been a very tough road condition winter. She has had several discussions with DOT representatives without any change to the conditions, and where she drives school bus, she's particularly concerned. Dave Cota said that it will never be perfect, especially since the DOT staff is far away and conditions can be so different here. Dave will speak with the Police Chief and ask that the department assist with assessing conditions in the early morning hours.

Dave Cota asked if the Town would appoint another person to the Comprehensive Plan Update Committee. Keegan Cartwright has expressed interest. The Selectmen were in favor of this appointment.

Dave Cota had previously reported that Sugarloaf is interested in doing a significant capital project at the Outdoor Center, which would be in collaboration with the Town. They would like to speak with the Selectmen at a future time to outline their proposal.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn M. Schnorr  
Secretary to Board of Selectmen



To: B21 Airport Manager  
From: LifeFlight of Maine  
Re: DigiWX AWOS Relicensing Project Brief

In 2007, LifeFlight of Maine took major steps to improve safety and situational awareness for the aviation community by securing funding to install AWOS AV stations across our state. These stations have proven to be a critical resource for pilots as aviation activity at our airports has steadily increased.

As a result of this growth, it has become increasingly apparent that AWOS stations broadcasting on CTAF frequencies create several communication challenges for pilots. Notably, triggered AWOS reports have the potential to talk over pilots during routine flight communications on the local CTAF. Additionally, it is not uncommon to trigger multiple, in-range, AWOS stations that share a common frequency which can lead to confusion when attempting to interpret the correct data.

To proactively address these concerns, LifeFlight has approached the FAA and FCC to relicense these AWOS stations with discrete/non-CTAF frequencies to relieve the current traffic congestion. This frequency change will also allow the AWOS stations to be setup in a continuous broadcast mode, removing the need to manually trigger weather messages.

Due to regulatory fees, frequency engineering, and hardware updates, there is a cost of \$3,450 to successfully reconfigure a DigiWX AV station. LifeFlight is committed to the continued maintenance of the 18 deployed weather station across Maine but seeks airport and/or municipal support in covering the cost of this important project. As such, we are eager to begin a dialog and bring this project to fruition.

Sincerely,

Joshua Dickson  
  
Director of Aviation  
LifeFlight of Maine  
Cell (207) 299-7911  
jdickson@lifeflightmaine.org

John Rolfson  
  
Aviation Infrastructure Engineer  
LifeFlight of Maine  
Cell (207) 314-6132  
jrolfson@lifeflightmaine.org

Memorandum of Understanding

The \_\_\_\_\_ Airport agrees to the proposed changes as outlined above and commits \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in funding support towards the completion of the AWOS relicensing project.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## 2021 Proposed Organization and Event Requests

ORGANIZATION/EVENT:	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Comments:
				Paid	Paid	Request	
American Red Cross (Auburn)	\$750	\$800	\$800	\$850	\$850	\$850	
Androscoggin Home Care & Hospice				\$250	\$0	\$250	?
Ski Club Golf Tourn. (formerly Ayottes)	\$100	\$150	\$150	\$150	\$200	\$200	?
CVA Scholarship Fund Raiser (Feb.)	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250	(paid in Feb.)
Franklin Health Network	\$550	\$0	\$600	\$500	\$600	\$0	?
Healthy Community Coalition	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$0	0	\$0	?
Kingfield POPS	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0	\$0	No Event in 2020 or 2021
Kingfield Little League							Funded thru Rec.Dept. Budget
LifeFlight of Maine	\$781	\$781	\$781	\$781	\$781	\$781	(\$1 per capita)
Maine Development Foundation	\$150	\$150	\$150	\$150	\$150	\$150	
Maine Huts and Trails Map Ad			\$225	\$225	\$0	\$0	?
Maine Public Broadcasting	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	
Maine Tourism Association	\$145	\$145	\$145	\$145	\$145	\$145	
Penobscot Indian Nation Youth Programs	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$145	\$145	
Safe Voices (formerly Abused Women's Advocacy)	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	?? Covid: no programs??
Seniors Plus			\$250	\$300	\$300	\$300	Previously County Funded
Sexual Assault Prevention and Response			\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	Previously County Funded
Ski Museum of Maine	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	
Sugarloaf Marathon	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$0	\$0	No Event in 2020 or 2021
Summerfest	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	
Other		\$319					
<b>TOTALS:</b>	\$6,726	\$6,595	\$7,626	\$8,151	\$5,751	\$4,626	total listed; may be more with additional requests