

**St. Agatha Board of Selectmen Meeting  
Held November 12, 2012 @ 6:30pm  
at the Long Lake Public Library  
MINUTES**

**Present:** Beurmond Banville, Dale Chamberland, Dan Bechard, Diane Castonguay, Don Levesque, Lorraine Marston, Bob Ouellet & Christy Sirois

Chairman Bechard called the meeting to order and established a quorum at 6:30pm.

**Article 1 – World Acadian Congress 2014**

Don Levesque and Lorraine Pelletier showed the group a quick video that describes the upcoming event. So far there are 100 families that have committees to do a reunion during the Congress. Of those families 52 will be in Maine, of which 5 are in St Agatha. There is still time if any local groups such as the ATV club or Snowmobile Club would be interested in doing an event. The group is asking for communities to email them with venue locations available in their community for planning purposes. Ms. Sirois will email Lorraine with venues in St Agatha. Overall the event will be a big project and will bring over 100,000 people to the area. There will be a number of meetings in the future to keep communities and organizations informed. The Board thanked Don and Lorraine for meeting with them and looks forward to the event.

**Article 2 - Minutes**

October 8, 2012 – Motion by Mr. Chamberland and seconded by Mr. Banville to approve the minutes as written. All approved.

**Article 3 - Financial Reports**

Period ending October 31, 2012 – Motioned by Mr. Banville and seconded by Mr. Chamberland to approve the financial reports as presented. All approved.

**Article 4 – Ambulance Service Update**

Diane Castonguay spoke with the Board about the need for more EMTs in the St Agatha and Frenchville Area. Mrs. Castonguay is St Agatha's representative on the Board for Ambulance Services, Inc. which provides ambulance services to the St Agatha, Frenchville, Sinclair and Crosslake. Currently there is an ambulance located at the St Agatha Town Office for this purpose. There are only 2 EMTs in St Agatha and none in Frenchville. Fort Kent is covering the majority of the calls and this cannot be kept up for much longer before the ambulance would be moved. There is a need for at least 4 more EMTs. There is a class that will be offered in January and now is the time to try and recruit. The Board directed Ms. Sirois will speak with Frenchville and look into doing a joint advertisement of some kind that also includes input from Ambulance Services.

#### **Article 5 – Junkyards & Shoreland Zoning Violation**

Bob Ouellet spoke with the Board in regards to what is considered a junkyard by State standards and what can be done to clean suspected areas. The Town does not currently have its own ordinance and so must follow State guidelines. Three or more unlicensed, uninsured and unregistered vehicles constitutes a junk yard and then a license is needed unless the equipment in question is removed. Mr. Ouellet noticed a property that would meet these qualifications. He will send a letter to the owner letting them know of their options which includes cleaning up the area and removal of the “junked” equipment or obtaining a junkyard license from the Town and then installing necessary precautions according to State standards. Motioned by Mr. Banville and seconded by Mr. Chamberland to send a letter to the land owner. All approved.

Mr. Ouellet informed the Board that there is violation by a new landowner on the island for clearing to much vegetation for a path to the lake. He will have a discussion with the property owner and inform them of the necessary steps they need to take to rectify the situation. No action by the Board needed.

#### **Article 6 – Public Access Officer**

New legislation passed earlier this year now requires communities to appoint a Public Access Officer to handle any public records requests. Motioned by Mr. Banville and seconded by Mr. Chamberland to appoint the Town Manager as the Public Access Officer for St Agatha. All approved.

#### **Article 7 – Main Street Boat Landing Survey**

A survey is needed for the Main Street boat landing as part of the Town’s project to make updates to the site. The survey is expected to cost \$3,500 and will be used as match for the grant funds secured from the Department of Conservation and also the Northern Regional Borders Commission. Ms. Sirois suggested taking funds from the Community Development reserve account. The intent of the account is to be used as match on projects such as this. Motioned by Mr. Chamberland and seconded by Mr. Banville to have the survey done and use funds from the Community Development reserve to cover the costs. All approved.

#### **Article 8 – 2012/2013 Snowmobile Trails**

Ms. Sirois presented a listing of Town Roads that are utilized by the snowmobile club. These roads are closed to motor vehicle traffic during winter months. The roads are Marquis Road, Dumas Crossroad, Posse Ble, and Plien Road. Motioned by Mr. Banville and seconded by Mr. Chamberland to approve the use of these roads as snowmobile trails. All approved.

#### **Article 9 – Loader Tires**

Ms. Sirois present the Board with a spread sheet of the quotes received from Highway Tire and Hogan Tire. They were the only two companies that submitted pricing. For a complete listing of treads and pricing please ask the Town Manager. The received quote for Highway was \$3,737.58 new or \$3,388 recapped. Hogan Tire submitted a number tire options that ranged from \$3,200 (recapped) to \$5,900.

Both offered a core return credit if new tires are purchased. Highway's credit is \$500 while Hogan's is \$250. When labor for changing the tires was included the cost comparison was \$3417.58 for Highway and \$3760 for Hogan. Motioned by Mr. Chamberland and seconded by Mr. Banville to go with Highway Tire and to also use this opportunity to change the tire ballast to a new product that does not rust the wheels like the current ballast of calcium. All approved.

#### **Article 10 – Christmas Eve Hours**

This year Christmas Eve falls on a Monday. Ms. Sirois checked with neighboring towns and Frenchville, Madawaska and Fort Kent will be closing at noon for Christmas Eve. In light of this Ms. Sirois asked the Board to consider the same for St Agatha. This is not a paid holiday for employees so they will need to use vacation or personal time to be compensated for the remaining hours of the work day. Motioned by Mr. Banville and seconded by Mr. Chamberland to allow the Town Office to close at noon on Christmas Eve but employees will need to use their vacation or personal time to be compensated for the remainder of the work day. All approved.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

**Town Clerk** – The Chair of the Board presented a letter of resignation to the group that was given to him just before the meeting by Amy Ouellette. The resignation was accepted. Ms. Sirois will make the necessary arrangements to post the vacancy in the local papers. Motioned by Mr. Banville and seconded by Mr. Chamberland to appoint Ms. Sirois as Town Clerk, Tax Collector, Excise Collector and Voter of Registrar in the interim. All approved.

#### **Sewer Plant Operations**

Ms. Sirois questioned the Board on the future operation needs of the sewer department after the project is completed as she will be working on the upcoming budget shortly. The Board directed Ms. Sirois to contact Woodard & Curran as there was discussion of this during the early phases of the project. No action needed.

#### **Resident Request – Cleveland Road Sewer Project**

Ms. Sirois informed the Board that Mrs. Francine Lagasse has asked that the town pay a portion of a bill from Lorenzo Caron for cutting and paving her driveway and moving her driveway culvert. She states that the culvert in her drive way creates a large bump across the driveway and that this is as of a result of the sewer project done on Cleveland Road in 2008/2009. Ms. Sirois stated that she looked at the plans at there is no indication that they dug Mrs. Lagasse's driveway. She also contacted Woodard & Curran and spoke with Brent Bridges, an engineer, that said it is possible that up for part of the project even though it is not shown on the plans. Ms. Sirois also informed the Board that Mrs. Lagasse had come in earlier in the year to talk about the bump in her driveway because of the culvert and she had directed Mrs. Lagasse to the DOT office in Presque Isle. The DOT no longer takes care of driveway culverts and they were not able to help her. Motioned by Mr. Banville and seconded by Mr.

Chamberland to deny Mrs. Lagasse's request because there is no evidence that the project was responsible. All approved.

**Post Office**

The Board discussed creating a mailing of some sort to inform residents of the change in hours at the post office. Ms. Sirois stated she would put something together and bring it to the next board meeting for review.

Having no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christy Sirois,

Town Manager

Approved by the Board of Selectmen on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2013.

