

Select Board Meeting Minutes, April 7, 2025

Wayne Marshall called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm with all three Select Board members present: Wayne Marshall is Chair. Motions are documented in **red font**.

Wayne introduced all three Select Board members and asked if there are any changes to the Agenda. There were no changes to the Agenda.

	Topic	Highlights	Follow-up
1	Approval of Meeting Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Herb made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from the March 31st meeting and Ian seconded; all approved. 	None
2	Public Hearing on where Waldo students would attend school in the future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Public Hearing is being held to answer questions and share information about the State process to explore changing students from RSU #3 to RSU #71. There is a detailed State process required and Sadie Lloyd Mudge is leading the process: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sadie Lloyd Mudge lives on East Waldo Road, grew up in Brooks, went to Mount View school, and has two young children Herb Harnden will serve on an informal group to look at the situation. State Statute requires a Select Board member to be involved with the exploration. Wayne Marshall will also serve on the team. Shirley Caler and Sheldon McCormick have been involved with the discovery. The process requires an initial petition to bring the issue forward and this step was successfully executed. 43 signatures are required and over 50 were obtained. A vote is required that will authorize the initiative to move forward with gathering data and providing details of a formal agreement with each RSU. The vote was discussed during this segment of the meeting and was targeted for April 21st. Near the end of the Select Board meeting it was determined that an absentee ballot is required and requires 35 days. Sadie will work with Diane Tyler to formalize the ballot and communicate the new voting date with the Town of Waldo citizens. Sadie and Herb met with both RSUs to determine if a change is viable to ensure effective use of time and resources, and there were no indicators of anything that would prohibit exploring the initiative further. If the citizens of Waldo vote to proceed with further exploration of changing RSUs, then the State leads the process to determine expenses, logistics, etc. There is a very clear process outlined in the State Statute. Sadie offered to be available to answer questions via email if questions arise after this meeting. Wayne Marshall, Chair, asked if there were any non-residents in the audience and 1 person identified that they are from Brooks. He stated he is in attendance to see how the Town of Waldo is navigating this process as the Town of Brooks intends to do the same. The hearing officially opened at 5:14 pm: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Question: What is the expense per child with RSU #3? This question was asked twice during the hearing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sadie will work with Diane Tyler to notify the citizens of the Town of Waldo that May 12th is the voting date due to State statute requirements. Sadie will also create a Fact Sheet and provide status that can be published to the citizens of Waldo Wayne, Sadie and Diane will investigate the requirements for the voting day process, such as, is a special 'meeting' needed with moderator, etc.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This data is not yet available. RSU 71 and RSU 3 calculate their funding needs differently. • RSU 71 calculates based on number of students and valuation. RSU 3 takes as much as they can which results in more expense than RSU 71. • Morrill and Searsmont pay less than Waldo. • Waldo taxpayers will continue to pay their taxes using the same calculations determined by Waldo. The resulting amount could change and that will be determined when the final package is received if the voters endorse moving forward with this process. • Question: What is the driving force behind this proposal? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response: Geography is primary. Belfast is closer than RSU 3 schools attended by Waldo students. • Question: How many middle school or high school students are there? Concerned with impact on students' emotional well-being with being moved from peer groups, etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response: 50% of Waldo school age students are not attending RSU3 and this number could be higher. Both Superintendents expressed flexibility and understanding regarding where students attend school; they want what is best for the student and understand emotional impact. • Question: How many students are in Waldo? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response: 1 year ago, the State data reported there were 22 Waldo students in the middle school and 4 in high school. 18 students are home schooled and 11 more began homeschooling this school year. • Question: Can Belfast absorb this number of students, or will this cause expansion needs? Significant expenditures were just paid for Mount View. What is the impact for the future? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State funds are generally not supportive toward renovation and are allocated to new school construction. • Recently, Belfast Town taxpayers paid for renovation in Belfast with no State assistance. • RSU 71 states they can absorb with no triggers for additional funding. This will be validated in the agreement further along in the process. • Both districts will have capital projects in the future as part of the normal life cycle. • RSU 71 forecasted expense is 5-10 million and not 35-40 million. This clarification is provided as rumors are circulating that the number is higher than it is. • Brooks closing: the State is not allocating funding toward renovation unless the buildings are completely unsafe. The list is long, and it is likely that neither RSU will receive State funding. • Decline in enrollment is a significant concern for both districts. Shirley Caler shared that decline in enrollment was expressed as a 	

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		<p>significant concern when she was speaking with the RSU 3 Superintendent. Both districts will likely need to issue Bonds to fund future projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question: Has the Town revaluation underway considered this change? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response: The process moving forward will provide the data needed for Waldo to determine impact. • Question: Will there be another hearing before the final vote? Will we have hard numbers? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response: Yes, to both questions. • Question: What is the vote in two weeks? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To establish a committee under State Statute that will examine the potential of withdrawing from RSU 3 and reorganize under RSU 71. • An amount must be included in the vote and the Town Attorney advised using \$10k. Sadie has performed much of the discovery the Attorney would normally perform, and this will likely reduce the expense to \$3-4k. \$10k is allocated in the Town budget that was approved on March 22nd. • Question: What is the plan to cover the legal fees if they exceed \$10k? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response: The standard process would be followed: A special town meeting would be held to determine if the Town would need to reappropriate funds. • Question: 75% of taxes are paid to the school <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response: 66% of the taxes go to RSU 3. Approximately 340 Waldo households pay taxes for the 40-50 students attending school. There were 90 students a few years ago. • Question: Why is there a lack of sufficient tracking of students being homeschooled versus those attending physically? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response: The formula does not identify the number of students. RSUs do not receive funding for homeschooled students. Tom Wagner serves on the School Board and validated that homeschooling reduces the State funding each school receives. • Question: Is there funding beyond the \$10k for other legal activities if they arise? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response: Yes, as outlined in the budget. • Sadie stated that RSU 3 debt service expires within two years and would not create any carryover expense for the Town. Likewise, RSU 71 does not have any debt service currently. This fact makes the process to move school districts much easier to execute. <p>Hearing closed at 5:51</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wayne Marshall made a motion to have the public vote on April 21st and Herb Harnden provided second. All three Select Board members approved. • Later in the Select Board meeting the discovery was made that an absentee ballot is a condition in the process and State statute requires a 35-day minimum. This resulted in Wayne Marshall making a motion to rescind the earlier Board Motion to establish April 21st as the voting day. Herb Harnden provided second and all three Select Board members approved. 	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wayne Marshall made a motion to establish May 12th as the election date. Herb Harnden provided second and all three Select Board members approved. Diane Tyler asked if a moderator is required for the voting process. Wayne, Sadie, and Diane will investigate the requirements for that process. 	
3	Trash and Recycling Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pinkerton contract is expiring and there has not been a bidding process in over 15 years. Herb Harnden made a motion to extend Pinkerton's contract until June 30th with the higher rate Pinkerton published and put the service out for bid. Ian provided second. All Select Board approved. The contract extension with Pinkerton will provide an additional 2.5 months of service with an expense of \$12k with the increased pricing. Financial adjustments to the budget will be addressed using the standard financial management process. Wayne will contact Pinkerton to discuss this proposal. 	Wayne will contact Pinkerton about extending their contract until June 30 th with the higher rate Pinkerton published and put the service out for bid
4	State Surplus Agreement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wayne completed the State Surplus form and it now needs three things: 1) Tom Wagner's signature, 2) Bob's (Rodney's delegate) signature, and, 3) the tax number. Kellie will provide the tax number for the form. The department making the purchase will cover the expense from their budget. Herb will double check with Bob that he is intending to be Rodney's delegate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Herb will check with Bob that he is intending to be Rodney's delegate. Kellie will provide the tax number for the form. Wayne will obtain Tom and Bob's signatures
5	Cemetery Mowing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wayne contacted the Cemetery Committee and Steve Ellis responded with an email outlining the Cemetery Committee responsibilities Shirley Caler confirmed that there has never been a written contract or agreement for cemetery services. Herb stated that there have historically been complaints if the mowing and clean-up has not begun by Memorial Day. The intention to put the services out to bid will be delayed until next year due to how late it is in the season. The intention is to sign a one-year agreement with Kitty to provide services for \$4k with the understanding the service will be put to bid. Kellie will draft a written agreement that will include scope (all 7 cemeteries, Town Office, Fire Dept yard, etc.), expectations and timing (mowing weekly, etc), for this season. Kellie will request Kitty join next week's Select Board meeting as second item on the Agenda behind the Fire Dept discussion on volunteer versus municipal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kellie will draft a written agreement that will include scope (all 7 cemeteries, Town Office, Fire Dept yard, etc.), expectations and timing (mowing weekly, etc), for this season. Kellie will request Kitty join next week's Select Board meeting as second on the Agenda behind the Fire Dept discussion on volunteer vs. municipal.
6	Rekeying Town of Waldo Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Herb Harnden motioned to accept the bid from Assured Lock and Key from Morrill and add the office file cabinet. Ian seconded. All 3 Select Board approved. 	Ian will notify Assured Lock and Key to proceed with the work and add the file cabinet to the work order.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assured Lock and Key submitted a bid of \$550.00 and committed to performing the work at the Town's earliest convenience. Since the original bid was received, it has been discovered that the Town Office cannot locate a key for one of the file cabinets and that the file cabinet will be added to the work. Diane Tyler will control the keys. 	
7	Registrar Salary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Herb Harnden motioned to compensate Kellie Jacobs \$500.00 for the year for Registrar duties. Ian seconded. All 3 Select Board approved. 	None
8	Review Town Budget and status of accounts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current fiscal year end is January 31st and this creates a gap with the funding needed to pay obligations timely within GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles). Need to change the fiscal year to July 1st and this will require a transfer year whereby 17 months' worth of budget will need to be approved by Town citizens. Need to factor in the Property Assessment work and impact. Kellie followed-up with Audit and there are no updates yet. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wayne to continue to host this topic on upcoming Board meetings. Kellie continues to follow-up with Audit
9	Agenda for Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First on the Agenda is an update on the Fire Department topic of volunteer versus municipal entity. Cemetery Mowing with Kitty's update is second on the Agenda. No other major topics at this time; let Wayne know of any additional items as they arise. 	None
10	Board of Assessors Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wayne spoke with Bill Kelly, Town Attorney, and he advised to let the mechanisms already in place handle the process and rely on the County Board to handle cases as escalated. 	None
11	Roads, Tom Wagner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 issues solved this week: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partial driveway washout; Ivan took care of it Beaver dam removed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sadie suggested using beaver drain traps to prevent beaver dams. This solution has worked on East Waldo Rd. Tom is scheduled for 3 classes over the next 3 months Road Committee working on how to solve the funding issue: likely that a Bond is the best course of action based on historical solutions Statute indicates the Road Commission determines if a road is closed for trash pick-up. Pinkerton should be working with Tom to determine if roads are passable by the trash trucks Shirley Caler suggested looking at funding a dumpster at the Town Office to accommodate town trash 	None

- Wayne motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 pm; Ian seconded. All Select Board were in favor.
- Next meeting is April 14th at 5 pm.
- Meeting minutes documented by Holly Hilts.