**TOWN OF LIMESTONE**

**BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS AND ASSESSORS
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 18, 2023 at 6:30pm**

1. Call to order Time – 6:32pm

Board Members Present:

Durepo \_ x Brooker \_x LaBreck\_ x Pelletier \_ x Philbrick \_x

1. Pledge of Allegiance & Prayer
2. Adjustments to Agenda – None
3. Approval of minutes:
4.1 Approval of January 4, 2023 minutes - motion made by Pelletier to accept as read, 2nd Philbrick. No discussion. So voted.
Durepo \_x Brooker \_x LaBreck \_x Pelletier \_x Philbrick \_x
4. Committee & Board Reports

5.1. Solar Committee – Nov/Dec statements still with issues and in contact with Versant to get them corrected before sending MSSM their electrical bill. MSSM PPA signed and waiting on joint agreement. Until agreement is signed the charges for their electric bill won’t go toward their purchase price but will go on the loan for the town. The 1st and 2nd grant 1st quarter reports were sent in and the first grant will be closed. Kelley is looking into fixed site communication issues which are under warranty. Elliott reports that he along with Kelley and Saucier had a tour of the Huggard Avenue solar site.

5.2. Recreation Department Committee – Durepo reports the Rec. committee had a meeting on Jan 17th and they are working good together. Basketball is underway and they have a commitment with MSSM to use their gym for peewee basketball. MSSM students are also going to help referee for the travel basketball. Two more lifeguards are coming on and are working on their schedules. There is enough money in the budget for more days and more hours, its just getting the schedule together with the lifeguards. March 11th is Winter Fun Day at Albert Michaud Park. The ice shack at the park was not winterized and froze up. Durepo has a plumber getting together a price for repairs and winterizing. The Rec Committee would like a window put in to be able to watch the kids from inside. There are 2 slots and alternate open for the rec dept and they had 3 people interested. Josh Dillon and Joey Smith will fill the empty slots and Tom Melana will be an alternate. The Rec. Dept. Committee has bought some new uniforms and would like to purchase more , new goals in the park, shovels & electric snow blower for rink but will be working within the budget. Pelletier suggested a plaque or certificate of appreciation for the volunteer committee for all the good work they continue to do.
5.3. Public Works Department – Elliott states dept has possibly 4 people with 3 people regularly available as needed. None are looking to be hired on for full time work at this point. Two of them need the mandatory drug testing and that’s getting set up.

5.4. Fire Dept Request – Fire Chief Poitras proposed using ARPA funding for new turnout gear and a snowblower. He gave details about costs and answered questions on January 4th. Last meeting the selectpeople thought they could give him an answer tonight. Elliott reports no pricing yet on heat pumps but recommended purchasing some turnout gear and reported Poitras didn’t recommend another heat pump for the fire dept. Poitras states if they want to purchase a heat pump water heater for the fire dept that would make more sense as it would be cost savings. Discussion on 2-3 sets of turnout gear and a snowblower. Brooker doesn’t think we can rededicate the funds but Elliott can’t find where it was ever voted on. There was discussion around the exact amount of ARPA funds. Elliot will provide the exact amount of funds, the price of the heat pumps and a list for the next meeting. Poitras should know by Feb. 1st meeting what ARPA funds will be used for within the Fire Dept.

5.5. Solar committee MSSM/Town Agreement – The PPA signed and waiting on the joint agreement. No money from MSSM will go towards paying off their portion of the price until joint agreement is signed and forward from that point.

1. Manager’s Reports
6.1 Town Manager Report – see attached.
-Found an error in Trio, a payment is hanging in the background, it doesn’t print out but shows in total. Once this is corrected will send a copy of 2022 finance sheet to RHR Smith, as they have agreed to do our 2022 audit.
-Request from Ecumenical food pantry for $1,900 and Elliott approved $1,400.
-Thursday, January 19 at 6:30pm is an emergency preparedness meeting at the fire station to discuss the past electrical outage and what we need to correct and prepare for future events. Elliott has contacted community key people to attend. (Fire, Police, Selectperson, Water/Sewer, Public Works etc..)
-Elliott will send letter to AWS stating appointments to their board on an annual basis. Currently Philbrick is the person appointed with Elliott as a back-up. The letter is needs to be approved and signed by selectpeople.
-Elliott updated the job listings on Opportunity Aroostook and has job listings on town website and MMA. Also on the sign out front we are hiring.
-Elliott reports there is a grant writing workshop coming up in Presque Isle he may attend and he is currently reviewing grants online.
-Police Chief Cormier is requesting Executive Session at the next meeting as he was unable to attend this week.
-Elliott states the board needs to confirm his contract continuance as they pursue hiring a town manager. The board was in agreement and will sign the contract extension at the end of meeting.
A motion made by Pelletier for contract continuance for Elliott and 2nd by Philbrick. No discussion. So voted.
Durepo \_x Brooker \_x LaBreck \_x Pelletier \_x Philbrick \_x

-Elliott sent out ambulance invoices to LDA for Quarters 1 & 2 for 2023. Durepo asks Elliott if the town is getting paid for Fire and Police and Elliott states LDA has paid only for Police and only the amount of the original agreement. They are also paying for Ambulance. Brooker states its time for drastic measures and if they do not want to pay the town, we will surrender our services. Elliott agrees. He can send a letter and also, he has a meeting with Carl Flora this month. Brooker states LDA has hired a contractor to do roads and grounds so they do have funds. Pelletier suggests when sending the letter we should copy the Governor Mills and Philbrick agrees. Elliot suggests including the trustees similar to the letter they sent to MSSM on the solar agreement. Durepo states we all need to work together - they need us for grants.
-Trucking agreement with Williams. Elliott states we now have an itemized list of prices.
2. Public Comments - None
3. Old Business
8.1. Town Manager Search Process
 8.1.1 Executive session held on Jan 12, 2023 to review applicants. No applicants chosen and Elliott was asked to continue his contract until a town manager could be hired. The board was in agreement to have Cornell Knight continue the search setting a deadline for May 2023.
 8.1.2 Mid-year budget review for the town was completed on January 11, 2023. Elliott states it went well and questions asked and answered were about Police Dept: police coverage, recent car purchase, animal control and cell phone; the sand for highway dept and going out for bulk bid. The pickup truck will be taken out of service once the car is in service. Elliott is the secretary. Requested school to send mid-year budget summary for review and Kilcollins is working on it.
4. New Business

9.1 ARPA Fund Suggestions – Elliot will provide a list along with the costs for heat pumps and total amount of ARPA funding; and information he receives from Dept heads. The board will create a designation of ARPA funds on February 1 meeting.

9.2 Boston Cane presentation – The Boston Cane is back and will be presented to our oldest citizen on February 10, 2023 at 2pm here at the town office. Thanks to Jane Griffeth, Doreen Beaulieu and Gail Caldwell who worked on bringing it back to Limestone.

1. Elected Official’s Reports & Statements

-Durepo states the town needs to get updated on the 900 well heads the Wood Group has been testing and are we in compliance with the State of Maine. Are there federal funds available? How big a disaster is out there and what about the PFAS? He would like to see LDA/Wood group at the next meeting. Elliott will request they attend. Durepo states we need to fill these jobs – Highway, Recreation, Town manager and we need to attract people. Pelletier suggests enticing some NMCC students. The sign out front saying we are hiring has not brought anyone in states Elliott. He has renewed the WAGM advertising. Durepo suggests reaching out to Fort Fairfield to see if we can work together. Durepo also suggests a $1,000 sign on bonus payable after 6 months. Philbrick states the Highway Dept. has had 3 raises in the last year and pay should be left alone. Brooker and Labreck don’t agree with the $1,000 sign on bonus. Brooker states we need to contact people not wait for them to contact us.

-Brooker would like the LDA Representative to come to the meeting and give us an update. Elliott will reach out and request she attend with an update. Brooker states he is getting a new employee and he contacted him and that’s what the town needs to do. Elliott has been given a name to contact for the Rec. Dept. from Brooker. He thanks the Fire Dept and Rec Committee for working together on the ice rink.
-Pelletier – We need departments to come in and start building a budget. We need to get the ball rolling.
-Philbrick agrees with Pelletier on getting the department heads to get the budgets going. He thanks the Highway Dept for all the work put into getting the last big storm cleaned up. Philbrick gave a name to contact for the possible Highway Dept. employee position.

-Labreck agrees with the need to get dept heads to start working on their budgets and Elliott may need to help some of the new ones.

1. Other - Elliot needs all suggestions be submitted by board for February 1, 2023 review in writing.
Elliott asked about picking up snow on Main St for businesses. Discussion on whether there is an ordinance in place. Brooker states years ago they started doing it and Elliott disagrees with how it is working currently. Brooker and Elliott will meet with Kaiser and if needed an ordinance can be developed.

12. Approve Warrants

12.1 Payroll Warrant(s) #32

Motion made by Pelletier to accept 2nd \_Durepo. No Discussion. So voted.

Durepo \_x Brooker \_x LaBreck \_x Pelletier \_x Philbrick \_x
Payroll Warrant #33
Motion made by Pelletier to accept 2nd Philbrick. No Discussion. So voted.

Durepo \_x Brooker \_x LaBreck \_x Pelletier \_x Philbrick \_x
12.2 A/P warrant(s) #34 (Preview Journal 0201)

Motion made by Durepo to accept 2nd Pelletier. No Discussion. So voted.

Durepo \_x Brooker \_x LaBreck \_x Pelletier \_x Philbrick \_x

13. Adjournment 8:10pm

Motion made by Pelletier to accept 2nd Philbrick. No Discussion. So voted.

Durepo \_x Brooker \_x LaBreck \_x Pelletier \_x Philbrick \_x

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Irma Labreck, Chairperson Randall Brooker, Vice Chairperson

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 Paul “Chris” Durepo, II Jesse Philbrick

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 Fred Pelletier