

**Appleton Select Board
Minutes
August 29, 2023**

1. Convene, 6:30 PM. Select Board: Marriner, Costigan, Garrigan, Esancy, Blakely.
2. Edits or Additions to Agenda: None.
3. Garrigan: Motion to Approve Minutes of August 22, 2023. Marriner: Second. 4-0-1/Blakely, absence.
4. Costigan: Motion to Approve Warrants as read. Marriner: Second. Unanimous.
5. Public Comment: None.
6. Road Commissioner: Absent. General Review of road invoices totaling slightly less than \$10,000 and without plan. Esancy: Town guidelines and policies call for a plan and I thought the board got the point across there needed to be a plan for work. There needs to be a plan with a reasonable estimate. Garrigan: Board made clear 4 weeks ago. Moving forward we have to better establish the procedure.
7. Select Board
 - a. NO update on dry hydrant spec estimates
 - b. Sewall Paving Recommendations: Costigan said awaiting correspondence; initial assessment completed last week.
 - c. FEMA update: Esancy: Working with FEMA contact. The May 1 repairs to Peabody cannot be “double dipped” with 2021 storm. Grouping projects into two categories: 100-percent completed & needs remediation. Esancy working with Road Commissioner and FEMA to delineate. Costigan: FEMA 2021 bid specs on file with clerk and posted.
 - d. Lien Process: Tax collector explained the lien process and statutory requirements for inclusion of language alerting landowners to contact municipal officers if tax bill cannot be met. Abatement form for poverty on file with clerks for resident use, as requested, prior to Board review and hearings. Approximately 65 lien letters mailed via certified mail. General Board discussion about the merits of a postal meter in house (\$35 per month) versus lost time to post office, recovery fee for cost of registering liens and other procedures.
 - e. Comprehensive Plan Update: Esancy: State does not require growth area designation, but committee is moving it from the center of the village, where housing is already dense, to the townline at Route 105. Proposed changes can be voiced at future public hearings.
 - f. Board Attendance: Costigan asked members to communicate with clerks if unable to attend to avoid lack of quorum, reasoning the clerks are staffing the town office and texts of attendance have been sporadic to chair.
 - g. Other: Axiom representative to attend Board meeting Sept 5th to discuss potential solutions for underserved households.
 - h. Other: Donald Burke brought clerks a right of way easement from 1933, found by a Union resident, for an entrance to Pine Grove. Costigan to determine if easement was ever filed by the Appleton Cemetery Association, a defunct at Knox Co. Registry.

Esancy: Haskell Water Treatment noted higher concentration of arsenic and town need to remember water for both fire station and town office move through one treatment system. Costigan asked the maximum capacity per cycle and if the system recalibrates after each cycle.

Blakely: Well-being check for a Burketville Road resident. Costigan advised same route as for public: Contact Knox SO

Esancy: Inquired if the Town would be paying its Knox commitment in light of failed E911 dispatch. Indicated preference is to pay and note displeasure with circumstance. Costigan to write letter to Commissioners calling for more collaboration for dispatch and all emergency services among all Towns.

Garrigan: Motion to Adjourn. **Esancy:** Second. Unanimous.