

**Appleton Select Board
Minutes of September 5, 2023**

1. Convene, 6:30 PM. BOARD: Marriner, Costigan, Garrigan, Esancy, Blakley. Road Commissioner: Boyington. Public: Mark Oulette, Axiom Communications.
2. Edits/Additions: None.
3. Costigan: Motion to Approve Warrants totaling \$324,697.04. Blakely: Second. Unanimous.
4. Blakely: Motion to Approve Minutes. Esancy: Second. Unanimous.
5. Public Comment. Mark Oulette and Lisa Leahy, Axiom, discussed fiber optic wiring project in Washington and ability to apply for underserved service area funds. Anticipates a total cost of \$350,000 to wire approximately 44 residences. Match of \$800 per residence. Some communities chose to bond the matching funds through future contract fees billed to individual homeowners. Marriner: Motion to use \$36,500 of ARPA funds to enable Axiom to apply through the Maine Connectivity Authority for funding to wire underserved areas. The Town match will expire if the grant application fails to earn approval in November.. Esancy: Second. Unanimous
6. Road Commissioner
Costigan inquired status of existing complaints (Nick Brown on Sennebec, Susan White) Road Commissioner indicated Brown would be completed soon and that his assessment and action is for the overall benefit of the greatest number. Costigan asked if future budgeting should include Emergency Repair, Routine Road Maintenance, Isolated Concerns. Garrigan and Esancy called for more transparent planning. Boyington indicated Brown would be worked in in the coming weeks and Susan White is a single residence at the end of a dead end that would require the removal of trees she had previously been unwilling to remove.
7. Select Board
Axiom discussion held during public comment: See above.
Sewall Engineering/Town Hill: Costigan reviewed the Sewall Engineering assessment of Town Hill Road needing approximately \$1million in repairs prior to paving and the overarching engineer opinion to use an overlay at this time would be a limited use of taxpayer funds as it would fail, as well as the need to post weights in winter. Sewall Engineers deemed the small section of Appleton Ridge at the town line suitable and can proceed with specs. Costigan revisited how initial paving specs provided by the Road Commissioner were deemed insufficient by the state local roads director, prompting the Board to seek engineer review at no Town cost in August. Boyington was concerned the discussions took place without him present. Costigan reiterated the weekly public meeting is the time all arrange for public discussion and the work continued throughout the month. General discussion of the need for an overall paving plan, similar to the plan provided for gravel roads, and the availability of ARPA funds to fund such an initiative. Appleton Ridge, Town Hill

Road, Gurneytown, Fishtown all slated by Road Commissioner, as well as the gravel sections of Fishtown, Guinea Ridge, and Appleton Ridge roads.

Paved Road Study/Next Steps: Blakely: Motion to authorize the chair to contact Sewall for an estimate of a paved road survey for the above-named roads. Esancy: Second. Unanimous.

Garrigan and Esancy discussed the continued need for a roads plan, citing the need to be less reactionary, a point agreed by Boyington. Garrigan noted a Town Meeting in 1990 where voters called for an annual roads plan to be the basis of all road budgets. Costigan reiterated the same sis found in guideline from 1997, 2023 and also state statute.

Cemetery Update: Esancy discussed the Cemetery Committee's work on bylaws and other materials. Will bring to a subsequent meeting for Board review and consideration for possible revisions to Cemetery policies.

Commissioner Letter: Costigan to submit letter of Board interest in long-range, regionalized planning for all emergency services in light of the failure of the Knox Dispatch Center.

Adjourn.