

**Appleton Select Board
Approved Minutes
October 4, 2016**

1. Call meeting to order, 7:00 p.m. (Present: Fenner, Wiley, Costigan)
2. Reminder: Meetings are recorded.
3. Minutes of Sept 27, 2016 need to be printed and approval has been postponed.
4. Building Use Policy for Town Office: First board reading of sample from Maine Municipal Association. (Fenner edited original to be Appleton-specific instead of generic form from MMA. Replaced Appleton for "TOWN" etc.) Original from MMA was forwarded to Chief Stone last Tuesday. No word from Stone. Costigan: "Give Stone another week to review." Fenner to follow-up with Stone.
5. Committee to Study Taxation and Revenue Sharing. Costigan proposed a committee to study tax factors in a more macro level, citing legislative bills, calls for full 55 percent funding of education, etc. to address property taxes. Fenner, citing numerous vacancies on town committees, suggested the Town Government Review Committee could handle it. Costigan to write to existing members to gauge interest.
6. Appoint Webmaster/Appoint EMA: Discussion if P. Beckett could fulfill webmaster roll while elected as selectmen. No conflict perceived.
7. Sale of a Cemetery Lot: Gwen Brodis. #40 Ames Addition, single lot. \$250 lot. \$300 for perpetual care. Fenner, who believes it is the last of the old lots available, will handle deed of Conveyance. Motion, Wiley, to sell lot #40 to Brodis. Costigan, second. Unanimous
8. Road Commissioner: C. Starrett: "Two culverts replaced on Whitney Road. " Reported he's personally been busy digging water lines. "People are out of water." Fenner questioned bill for Whitney and culvert. M. Starrett: "Town has already paid for the culvert. It came out of stock (the campground road)." Fenner: "The issue I discussed about equipment process is still unresolved in our minds." Indicated he had read language in town reports setting the billing rate for 2015 state wages. He found a discrepancy for some equipment being billed higher than state rate and started a conversation with Starretts last week. M. Starrett indicated they had been told the state rate only applied to wages, not equipment. Wiley reported he spoke to members of previous boards and all rates were to match state rates, not independent equipment rental rates, Wiley: "Talked to (Donald) Burke about equipment rentals. The town accepted state wages -- not to rent your equipment. Ever since David Gould (we've paid state wages..)" M. Starrett: "...was stated the way this was voted on at town meeting was for state wage. Wage does not refer to equipment rental. Town report writes state wage (and) does not say state equipment rental. It has been discussed with Burke." Wiley said Burke mentioned if it did happen above state wage he hoped it had only happened for a year. Fenner said a review of bills

showed billing above state rates was longer than a year. M. Starrett: "Sounds like you're talking about \$50 (per hour) issue. It's not." Fenner indicated the importance of billing and paying at state rates, the amount approved at town meeting. "We need to stick with these guidelines. If you would like to you can keep separate time and charge for excavator when it's digging." C. Starrett: "Might just bid everything out." Fenner and Wiley said the state rate represents the amount the state bills for it's own equipment when the state goes to other states to help. Said the rates fluctuate with gas prices and includes costs for operators. Fenner said he was not interested in going back and collecting the overage in billing from this year and last. M. Starrett said the state rates are guidelines only. Indicated the town was getting different answers than she received when she called the DOT. We're only going to use this (2015 wages). "You're all getting a different answer then we did." She said it is a guideline and the town didn't vote on the wage and equipment form during town meeting. Fenner said the town does refer to the 2015 rates and it has always meant the DOT rates, not Caterpillar or other manufacturer equipment rates. M. Starrett said "I cannot find anyone out here to work for state wage." C. Starrett: "How much can we go up when fuel goes up? We are already working at a reduced rate. We can't work at a loss." Costigan indicated every town meeting for the past seven years the state rate is presented and it's also presented as if it is cost savings for the town. It is always mentioned the state rates are a bargain and she indicated that is likely why the line passes with little argument. Residents believe they are getting the good price that is presented as such a deal. Fenner: "The town always voted to pay state wages for equipment. Nobody's fixed it." M. Starrett: "I tried to talk with (Donald) Burke about the reference." Fenner: "I would suggest weigh it (The excavator) and we can find out where we are at." Jason Gushee offered: "They need more money." And suggested giving "10 percent or whatever it is" above state wage. He said what was passed in town meeting is not what was intended. He recommended a conference call with the selectmen, road commissioner and DOT contact. Fenner: Said he had checked through one of the Starrett's bills and matched it against the 2015 rates already on file at the town office. Said most things were fairly close except the excavator. "The Town voted for 2015 and the rates should match that. "I'm trying to work with you here. I see it that I need to go by this list. " Fenner asked Starretts to weigh the excavator to determine accurate state rate for rental. C. Starrett said he would bill for time to take the excavator to the weigh station in Searsmont.

9. Other: Fred Brown raised a complaint about the culvert at his driveway. Lifting pavement. Said C. Starrett told him at the time of installation "We might get three to five years out of this." Wondered who will pay to fix again and the pavement in his driveway. F. Brown: Bottom line; the pipe was never low enough." Fenner said that all culverts go up and down during the winter as the cold air gets inside the culvert from the sides and the ground freezes sooner underneath. He suggested that if Brown thought that it should be lower, then to contact the road commissioner and see if he can

lower it the next time he is planning on having his driveway entrance paving taken off and replaced but he could not guarantee that the commissioner would be able to do it.

10. Jason Gushee inquired about percentage of municipal taxes funding the school. Rate shown on current tax bill, as done for several years, did not show full percentage. Actually, 76% of taxes go to school. Fenner said the error in percentage on the bill was in the bills from previous years. It looks like the calculations were made before the money from surplus was applied which will be corrected in future years. J. Gushee said that Hope's school percentage is near 80%.

11. Wiley, motion to adjourn, 8:28 p.m. Costigan, second. Unanimous.