

**Appleton Select Board
February 11, 2025
Minutes**

1. **Convene: Esancy, Garrigan, Costigan, Marriner. Road Commissioner: Boyington. Clerk: L. Willauer.**
2. **Edits to Agenda: none**
3. **Garrigan: Motion to approve minutes. Esancy: Second. 3-0-1/Marriner, absence**
4. **Garrigan: Motion to approve accounts payable warrant 45 \$302,304.15. Esancy: Second. 4-0-0**
5. **Public Comment: None**
6. **Roads**
 - a. **Boyington reported the sand usage was adequate for the season and more salt had been ordered. Indicated he would like to refill the sand shed this year. "Sand doesn't melt snow. Salt does," Boyington noted. Costigan reminded all of repairs required by Maine Municipal Association for full insurance for replacement value and that damage from overfilling needed to be repaired.**
 - b. **Boyington asked if a member of the board would work with him on completing Town Hill. Costigan reminded him a second bid was still in place and the board was continuing to move forward toward completion of the approved road work. Costigan noted tree removal would begin and the board was moving forward with a special vote to authorize the DOT grant and Esancy Road repairs (\$200k state grant/\$15k town match) to ensure the work could begin within State-approved timelines and that the board continues to move toward funding completion of Town Hill and the Esancy Road project. Boyington indicated needing engineer studies for projects over \$250k was a surprise. And Costigan reminded him it was a surprise to the board and only met because of ARPA funding and the need to secure independent specs after the original specs failed with the Local Roads review. The board meets in public session every two weeks.**
7. **Select Board**
 - a. **Marriner: Motion to open winter maintenance bids. Esancy: Second. Unanimous. Willauer noted two bids received: ARC: Section 1; \$197,511.78 per year/\$592,535.34 for three. No bid from Rock Hill Construction. Discussion of current contract containing plowing of town office parking lot as well as need for own loader. Boyington said Searsmont, where he plows with other contractors, leases an ARC loader for approximately \$5,000 annually.**
 - b. **ARC: Section 2: \$147,398.94 per year/\$442,196.82 over three. Rock Hill: \$116,100 per year/\$348,300 over three. Esancy indicated he would abstain from voting due to the fact Rock Hill is related. Costigan reminded him only those with financial ties needed to abstain. Esancy held firm he would not vote. Costigan reminded the board it was considering bids because the current contract with ARC, is due to expire in May and earlier in the year the contractor indicated he would not seek a fourth year at the same rate. General discussion about the merits of each and Costigan reminded the board it voted to approve a bid \$2,000 less than a local, known bidder for tree work in**

this fiscal year. Rock Hill bid \$551. Above the current contract of \$5,100 per mile. ARC bid \$6,999 per mile, or \$1,899 per mile more. No vote.

- c. Costigan: Motion to appoint Scott Detweiler to the budget committee for a three-year term. Esancy: Second. Unanimous.
 - d. Garrigan: Motion to authorize the chair to publish RFP for assessors' agent. Marriner: Second. Unanimous.
 - e. Budget Updates
 - i. General Government FY 26 budget is being formulated and checked for insurance costs. Assessing Services - and now reveal unknown. Board supplied with YTD expenditures, all accounts, for budget purposes.
 - ii. Marriner presented the first look at the fire department budget and is in talks with Union for continued regionalization of services. He hopes to match hourly rates and has significant equipment needs around hoses, air packs, and other items. Esancy asked to consider surrounding municipal stations that have a volunteer force and to consider the cap for department members, since each carries a cost of gear and packs. "How much is enough to be adequate" was the general theme of Esancy's questions. Marriner to review pay rates for other departments.
 - iii. Costigan has contacted Union for ambulance estimates and increases likely to be less than 10 percent. Service provider requests being tabulated. Full review in next session and likely the need for an off-night meeting to conclude, Costigan noted.
8. Garrigan: motion to adjourn. Esancy: Second. Unanimous.