

Minutes for Tuesday, November 24, 2020 Sweden Selectmen's Meeting

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Carty offered the Pledge of Allegiance

2. Call to Order

The meeting was Called to order by Selectman Carty at 6:07 PM

3. Introduction of Attendees:

Those in Attendance included Selectman Carty and Selectwoman Ridlon. Attendance from the community included: Melanie Eldracher, Marilyn Smith, Perri Black, Jamie Popkin, Julie McQueen, Patti Porter, and Patricia Patnaude.

4. Approval of November 10, 2020 Minutes

Minutes from the November 10, 2020 BOS meeting could not be approved today as only one selectperson present was in attendance at the November 10 meeting. The approval of the November 10 minutes will be moved to the next meeting (December 8, 2020).

5. New Business

- Outstanding Bills/Warrants (Ms. Patnaude)

Ms. Patnaude presented the Outstanding Bills and Warrants for the Town of Sweden Maine which totaled \$71,662.01 in expenditures. The town will be receiving an LRAP check totaling \$34,312 for capital improvements. Selectman Carty and Selectman Ridlon signed the outstanding bills and warrants.

- Update on Town Workshop (Selectman Carty)

Selectman Carty provided a brief update on the town workshop; The workshop was highly productive and we are moving forward with redefining specific roles as necessary to best fit the town's needs. Discussion of creating a secretarial role for the Town Office to help with administrative duties was raised. The workshop also reviewed pay rates of towns similar to Sweden's size to assess the competitiveness of current compensation. Effectiveness of current office hours (open to the public) also became a topic of conversation so the town can best serve it's citizens.

- Communication (Marilyn Smith and Perri Black)

Marilyn Smith and Perri Black proposed three ways for the town to improve communications with citizens. Mrs. Smith proposed increasing signage in frequently traveled parts of Sweden for instances such as special town meetings. Areas initially discussed included in front of the TMH, on Route 93, and on Knights Hill Road. It was later discussed that the intersections of Hardscrabble Road, Webber Pond Road, and Sam Ingalls Road may also be places to put signs. As of 2017, the traffic count on Route 93 was 730 cars per day so good signage could have a significant impact on keeping citizens aware of the happenings in Sweden.

Ms. Black proposed composing an email list of town citizens who are interested in receiving communications about happenings in the town of Sweden. In certain instances that could have significant impact on the TOS it's citizens, snail mail may also be considered.

Ms. Black also expressed interest in creating and authoring a "Sweden News Column" in the *Bridgton News*. The *Conway Daily Sun* and *Advertiser Democrat* are also potential candidates for the column. The Column could be published bi-weekly or monthly and feature content including:

- Information about major projects in town.
- Updates on special town meetings.
- Information about key projects being considered by the PB, BC, and BOS. (Information would have to be relayed to Ms. Black).
- Information about special events such as Sweden Days, Fire Department public suppers, Historical Society activities, church services in the summer.
- Food Pantry News
- And more

Selectpersons Carty and Ridlon expressed support for creating a "Communications Committee" for the town of Sweden to encompass the ideas brought to light in the proposal. Jamie Popkin also expressed interest in becoming a member. A charter will be drafted for the BOS consideration during the next meeting which will be held on December 8, 2020.

- *Budget Committee Appointment*

Selectman Carty made a motion "To appoint Jamie (James) Popkin to the Budget Committee for a three year term ending in 2023". The motion was seconded by Selectwoman Ridlon and passed 2-0

- *Warrant for 2021 Town Meeting Preparation*

Selectman Carty made a motion "To have the Budget Committee prepare the initial draft of the warrant for the 2021 Town Meeting". The motion was seconded by Selectwoman Ridlon and passed 2-0

6. Old Business

No old business to be discussed.

7. Announcements

- *Next Board meeting will be held December 8, 2020 at 6:00 PM*

- *Discuss cancelation of December 22, 2020 Board of Selectmen Meeting*

Given a dearth of town activity coming in the month of December, it was felt that the rather than cancelling the December 22 meeting, the date should be moved forward to Tuesday, December 29, 2020 at 6:00PM

8. Other Business

No other business to report.

9. Adjournment

A motion was made by Selectman Carty to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Selectwoman Ridlon. Meeting Adjourned at 6:57PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patrick Carty, Selectman