

**Town of Livermore  
Board of Selectpersons  
November 18, 2013 Meeting  
Minutes**

**Present:** Megan Dion, *Chair*, Peter Castonguay, Mark Chretien, Rodney Newman, John Wakefield

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. The Minutes of the November 4, 2013 meeting were accepted as presented.
3. Mr. Schaub reported that no bids had been submitted for tree removal at Lakeside Cemetery. He said the bid stipulated that the work be done when the ground is frozen, which is a busy time for many wood cutters, and that the nature of the project requires a very high level of care. Mr. Castonguay asked how many of the trees are by Brettuns Pond. Cemetery Committee Chair Tim Cox said none are, and that the trees targeted for removal are at the top of the hill, adding that the trees are quite large and would require a substantial amount of cleanup once down. The Cemetery Committee was hoping the sale of the wood would cover the cutting, and their dedicated funds would cover the cleanup.
4. Mr. Schaub said that Larry Lord was present to meet with the Selectpersons about the Animal Control Officer position, and that an Executive Session had been included on the Agenda, if the parties felt that was necessary. Mr. Lord said he'd be happy to discuss the position in the public session. Mr. Lord said the ACO position is a thankless one, as evidenced by there being no applicants for the position. He said he's been serving as ACO in Livermore Falls for a while with just one complaint – that concerning his refusal to remove a “stray” cat that someone had been feeding for 2 ½ years. He said he is doing 30 calls a month in Livermore Falls and, provided the time commitment in Livermore isn't too excessive, he can probably accommodate it. He said he would rather not maintain a similar time commitment in Livermore too, especially since he works a full-time day job, but that he should be able to handle the current average of six calls per month in Livermore. He said he could work on an hourly basis, plus mileage, or on a monthly contract, also with mileage. He said he receives \$500 per month in Livermore falls, plus 56 cents per mile. He said he could see that cut in half for Livermore, or \$15 to \$20 per hour. Mr. Schaub added that Mr. Lord would be reached through Androscoggin County Dispatch and not by calls to his home. Mr. Lord said he prefers using the county dispatch as it creates a record. Mr. Castonguay asked how Mr. Lord would feel about \$15 per hour, plus mileage. Mr. Lord said that would be a good start. On a motion by Mr. Castonguay, seconded by Mr. Wakefield, it was unanimously agreed to employ Larry Lord as Animal Control Officer, effective December 1, 2013, at a rate of \$15.00 per hour plus 56 cents per mile. Mr. Lord said he needs a contact list of municipal officials and a town map.
5. Highway Foreman Roger Ferland reported he was pricing steering tires for the 2006 International. He said both New England Truck Tire and Stratham offer government pricing, and that the prices depend on the brand purchased. The brands/prices are: Hankook - \$342.15 (each); B.F. Goodrich - \$367.58; and Michelin - \$526.87. Mr. Newman said he'd used Hankook on his oil truck and had no problems. Mr. Castonguay said, with tires, you often pay extra for the name. It was agreed to purchase the Hankook tires. Mr. Ferland said he's had an interesting time with both the Ford and JCB loader. As for the Ford, he had to replace the front driver's seat as it had worn through to the seat frame and would not pass inspection in that state so he found two used seats for less than the cost of reupholstering the one. He also reported the JCB required a tie rod in order for it to pass inspection. Most parts for that machine, he said, are available only through JCB and, in this case, the entire tie rod assembly must be purchased instead of just a tie rod end. The cost of the assembly, without installation, was \$518. Mr. Schaub reported that he and Mr. Ferland had discussed the periodic need for the Highway Department to purchase fuel while plowing during overnight snowstorms. Fuel is purchased from Brettuns Variety, which normally closes at 9:00 p.m., though their diesel pump is left on for Visa/MasterCard purchases only. He added that Mr. Ferland has, at times, come across store bargain bins containing tools (Sears Craftsman, for example) at deeply discounted prices that are needed by his department. Mr. Schaub said he is generally opposed to

the town having this kind of credit card but it makes sense for these limited purposes. On a motion by Mr. Newman, seconded by Mr. Castonguay, it was unanimously agreed Mr. Schaub to obtain a Visa or MasterCard for the Highway Department for the limited purposes of purchasing fuel and other nominal expenses. As suggested by Mr. Castonguay, staff will contact the new owners of the former Hatch property on River Road to see about removing a large pine tree that shades the road but is outside the road right-of-way. Mr. Ferland added that, in that area, a contractor recently hired by a resident had scraped down the shoulder of the road right to the edge of the tar, which could pose a stability problem for the road base. Mr. Schaub will send a letter to the property owner advising that the shoulder must be restored.

6. Mr. Schaub presented his Treasurer and Administrator reports. He pointed out that property tax revenues during the two-week period had been substantial, given the November 15 installment date. He said he is intending to pay down the bank line of credit the next day, and it was agreed that he should do so. He reported on the recently-announced four percent health insurance premium increase for 2014, which is relatively minor in comparison with other health insurance programs given the changes required by the Affordable Care Act. He said the reimbursement to employees who obtain health insurance elsewhere will see the same percentage adjustment. The adjustments are less than the 10 percent increase contained in the budget. He also presented a revised Freedom of Access Policy, reflecting changes suggested by *Sun-Journal* editor Judy Meyer. The revised policy was signed. Mr. Cox and Mr. Schaub discussed the Cemetery Committee's recent meeting with veterans advocate Donald Simoneau, who reviewed changes in state law relative to the care of veterans' graves. Mr. Simoneau said the town is doing a fine job caring for its cemeteries and the changes are simply adoption, at the state level, requirements already in place at the federal level. He cautioned, however, that Maine law permits individuals to establish burial grounds on private property and, if a veteran is buried in one, the municipality could wind up with a maintenance responsibility it hadn't bargained for. That, he said, is how Livermore wound up caring for 26 cemeteries. Mrs. Dion asked if the town should pursue an ordinance prohibiting private burial grounds. Mr. Schaub said he could pass that on to the Planning Board, as it is a land use issue. He also reported on Oxford Recycling and NorthStar Ambulance payments for 2014-2015, and said that Warren Forbes volunteered to serve on the ad-hoc Committee on Education. It was agreed the committee, now with five members, should meet after the holidays. He said the Board of Appeals met the prior Friday and denied a variance for the construction of a garage within the Shoreland Zone. He also reported that resident Virginia Paulson is interesting in serving on that board. On a motion by Mr. Castonguay, seconded by Mr. Wakefield, it was unanimously agreed to appoint Ms. Paulson to the Board of Appeals. Mr. Schaub also said the town is presently without a heating oil supplier. He will shop for the most competitive price. A rundown of state and federal mandates on municipalities, prepared by the Maine Municipal Association, was distributed.

7. There was no New Business.

8. The Androscoggin County Budget Committee will hold a hearing on its proposed 2014 budget on Wednesday, November 20.

9. Resident Dwight Hines announced that the Maine Supreme Court recently ruled that E911 transcripts are open records, subject to Freedom of Access requests. Mr. Newman asked if there was a question relative to this. Mr. Hines asked if anyone was interested in this. There was no affirmative response. Mr. Hines then announced that grades for municipal compliance with FOA will soon be released. Mr. Wakefield asked who is assigning the grades. Mr. Hines said he is. Mr. Newman asked if there is a question. Mr. Hines asked if anyone was interested. There was no affirmative response. Lastly, Mr. Hines announced a documentary will soon be televised about a murder in St. Augustine, Florida. Mr. Newman asked if there is a question. Mr. Hines asked if anyone was interested. There was no affirmative response. Resident Jake Letendre asked why automotive parts aren't allowed to be dumped on the metal pile at the Transfer Station. Mr. Schaub said the town's recycler is fickle about what it will accept and, at times, has prohibited all auto parts. Mr. Letendre said he understood that parts containing fluids were not allowed but couldn't understand why others are not permitted. Mr. Schaub said he would

look further into this. Mr. Letendre also said he had to pay to dispose of a tarp and felt there should be more consistency in fees. Mr. Schaub said that not every item can be anticipated on the schedule of fees, and that they were set to accommodate both weight and volume. Weight determines what the town's disposal cost will be, but volume contributes to the transportation cost. Mr. Newman suggested the town look into having some sort of scales at the facility. Mr. Cox said the rumors about the Community Building are rampant. Some folks he's spoken with have said they don't want to see it torn down but it definitely needs maintenance. He suggested the town enter into a purchase or lease arrangement, with him, that would preserve community access and town use, yet see it fixed up and maintained. He said the income from rentals would probably never cover the maintenance costs, but volunteers could probably do a lot of work. Mrs. Dion suggested Mr. Cox get in touch with resident Rene Grondin and bring a proposal to Town Meeting. She said it would take one or two people to take the ball and run with it, in order to build support.

10. In the course of draft Personnel Policy review, the subject of mileage reimbursement came up. Mr. Schaub said the town has used 40.5 cents per mile for many years, noting that it was raised to that level when Hurricane Katrina caused a spike in gas prices. He said the present IRS rate is 56.5 cents. On a motion by Mr. Wakefield, seconded by Mr. Chretien, it was unanimously agreed to raise the town's mileage reimbursement to 56.5 cents per mile, effective immediately.

11. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kurt E. Schaub