

**TCSWMO SPECIAL
MEETING MINUTES
ZOOM
February 17, 2022**

The following directors were present: Thomas Pitzi, Norman Casas, Alexandra Crocco, Peter Beckett, Scott Esancy, Charles Garrigan, Henry Hall, Dana Philippi, Gordon Thebeau, Elaine Porter. Also present were David Stanley, Facility Manager and Gail Philippi, Administrative Assistant.

Tom Pitzi called the meeting to order at 6:47 pm.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: A motion was made by Peter Beckett and seconded by Norman Casas to accept the minutes of the January 20, 2022, meeting.

Peter questioned the Recycling section of the January 20 minutes. Tom explained that with Lincoln County Recycling we have the right to question the algorithm, but we have no bargaining power. David is contacting them. Peter stated that the Recycling section was supposed to say that David would come back to the board with information by the end of February not the next meeting. David said he wouldn't have been communicating with everyone outside of a meeting.

Norman called it to a vote. The motion carried unanimously after a poll of the attendees.

OLD BUSINESS:

OTHER:

- 1) Reopen the 2022 budget for the purpose of discussing changes to the town population numbers and subsequent town assessments.

Peter made a motion to use the 2020 Census numbers to determine the allocations. Ali seconded.

Tom explained the information received from the State about how they arrive at population numbers.

Don checked with the Town of Somerville; they use MMA's numbers.

Tom ~ all numbers are estimates, because it is always changing an accurate head count is next to impossible to determine.

Tom stated that we are doing what is intended and been used all along. Tom doesn't see a reason to go back and revisit the 2022 budget and he is not inclined to make a change now. Henry agreed. Peter talked about it a little bit at the time the budget was approved, and it is a bit late now. Tom said it sends the wrong message to the Towns and Henry agreed.

Tom says he cannot discuss this with Peter alone, we had to have this meeting.

Peter says he's using a different version of the ILA and would not have wanted to have the meeting if he had seen Tom's version.

Peter says that his method of using the 2020 Census numbers would mean that Union would pay less than they are paying now. David doesn't think it is good sportsmanship to point out one town.

Gail stated that she has been doing the Administrative Assistant job for 15 years and we have never used census numbers. They only change every ten years and in between times we could be using artificially high or artificially low numbers for some towns. We have always used MMA population numbers which have not changed in some years.

Norman would like to document which document we are working on. Would like to make sure we have a dated and certified copy.

Henry moved that we end discussion and called it to a vote.

A Yes vote means using census numbers and a No vote means continue to use the current numbers.

Peter withdrew his motion ending the discussion.

2) Discuss how we establish member town population for budget and town assessment purposes.

Henry said they are still doing quality control on the 2020 census. Peter said no they are not. Tom said we're currently getting numbers from MMA, and he'd previously explained where they get these numbers from.

A change to the ILA would require all 5 towns to vote on it at each of our Town Meeting. David said MMA gets it from Revenue Services who gets it from HHS, and they provide and disseminate it. Dana asked and Tom said no it doesn't affect budget.

Scott asked if it's fair to suggest we get population numbers from same place Maine Revenue gets number for Maine Revenue sharing. David replied that DHS provides numbers to Maine Revenue.

Peter moves that we investigate this further and don't need a vote. Peter is going to talk to DHHS and get a really detailed understanding of how they come up with the numbers and why are they so different. Tom says he can do it on behalf of the Town of Appleton but not for TCSW. There would need to be a motion that we want to look into it. Henry agrees with Tom. Tom says we've exhausted the subject.

The next meeting will be on 4/28/2022 in Somerville.
Henry Hall made a motion and Norman Casas seconded that we adjourn at 7:29pm.

Respectfully submitted, Gail Philippi, Administrative Assistant