

**BOARD OF SELECTPERSON'S MEETING MINUTES**  
**January 17, 2013, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Rumford Falls Auditorium**

PRESENT: Chairperson Gregory Buccina, Vice-Chairperson Jeffrey Sterling, Selectperson Bradford Adley, Selectperson Jeremy Volkernick, Selectperson Jolene Lovejoy, Town Manager Carlo Puia.

ATTENDEES: Robert Chase, Kevin, Deborah Laurinaitis, Terry Karkos, Joshua Rainey, Makenzie Gallant, Brooke Dolloff, Darbi Brown, Matthew Hosie, Steve Cureton, R. White, Linnell Geronda, Kevin Knox, Rick Kent, Vanessa Swett, Sarah Soubble, Tori Giberson, Andy Russell, Jennifer Kreckel

**6:00 p.m. Budget Workshop with Department Heads**

1. Meeting Called to Order
2. All present Pledged Allegiance to the American Flag
3. Requests of Citizen's Present

Kevin Saisi requested that information needed for the Comprehensive Planning Committee be provided by the Public Works Department and Town Manager prior to their next meeting.

4. Reports

A. Selectperson's Report

Mr. Volkernick was concerned about the road conditions on Route 108 near Veteran's Street. He commended our Town employees for a good job in keeping the ice out of the road; however, if this is the State's responsibility, we should have them do the work rather than the Town employees.

Mr. Sterling commented on the RSU 10 news article concerning a committee in Dixfield that wants to withdraw from RSU 10 and negotiating for a guarantee that Dirigo High School would not be closed. He believes we would be asked to keep Dirigo High School open. There has also been a recommendation that Rumford Elementary School be closed and this action by Dixfield may set a precedent that a committee can form to keep a school open. He also commented on the article about the Strathglass Park Preservation Society and criticisms from Phil Blampied that the Town administration has been an impediment regarding his request to approve a fence be installed on Park resident's property. He feels the Board has been supportive of many of their efforts, however, he does not feel that the Board has stood in the way of the fence being built as long as the landowners give permission.

Mr. Adley also commented on the Strathglass Park news article and agreed with Mr. Sterling that the Board merely wanted landowners to have some input as to a wall being erected on their property. He reported that the Town's timber harvest is going well and also that the ice skating rinks are in good shape. The RSU 10 issue is a concern and a challenge and he does not know if the other tax payers will benefit from their decisions.

Ms. Lovejoy recommended that people talk to the RSU 10 School Board Members concerning Dixfield's withdrawal efforts. She believes that the comments made by Mr. Blampied were portrayed honestly in the news article.

Mr. Buccina apologized to Ralph's Store and staff for the unsubstantiated claims made by a citizen at the last meeting during Citizen's Request. He would like a future Agenda item to discuss "Citizen's Request" and perhaps have requests presented in writing in the future. He also reported that the next July 4<sup>th</sup> Committee Meeting is February 5, 2013 in the Municipal Building Conference Room; everyone is welcome to attend.

Ms. Lovejoy complimented Public Works for getting the roads back in good shape after all the snow storms.

#### B. Town Manager's Report

The Town Manager encouraged citizens to recycle and to pick up a recycling bin at the Town Manager's Office.

Citizens were reminded to be responsible pet owners and clean up after their pets.

He complimented citizen Gayle Sirois for voluntarily picking up waste on Congress Street.

He reported meeting with the Maine Department of Transportation, Brookfield Power and New Page Paper Company regarding the discontinuance of Haverhill Bridge adjacent to the upper gate of NewPage Paper. The MDOT is proposing construction of a road instead of repairing or replacing Haverhill Bridge as there is no longer water to be crossed. We are currently addressing issues of ownership; the project is slated for 2015.

#### C. Department Manager's Report

Andy Russell supplied the Board with the snow removal priority list. The Town Manager read the list to those present.

Mr. Volkernick believes the school and hospital should be a higher priority.

Mr. Russell explained the recent snow conditions and mentioned the Public Works crew did alter some of the list.

Fire Chief Robert Chase, requested assistance of citizens in snow removal around fire hydrants and fire call boxes and to also be careful where snow is piled as it may hamper public safety.

#### 5. Old Business

#### 6. New Business

##### A. Approval of Minutes from the Selectperson's Meeting of January 3, 2013

Ms. Lovejoy made a motion to approve the minutes from the Selectperson's Meeting of January 3, 2013.  
Vote: 5-0

##### B. Approval of Town Warrant dated January 18, 2013

Mr. Adley made a motion to approve the Town Warrant dated January 18, 2013. Vote: 5-0

##### C. Approval of Taxi Cab License for Gilbert Garry Scott dba EZ Taxi

The Town Manager explained that Mr. Scott is in compliance with the Town Ordinance and understands his responsibility.

Ms. Lovejoy made a motion to approve the Taxi Cab License for Gilbert Gary Scott dba EZ Taxi.  
Vote: 5-0

D. Approval of Hosmer Field Infield Renovation Bid

The Town Manager reported that the following bids were received:

	<u>Seeding</u>	<u>Sodding</u>
1. Sports Fields, Inc.	\$13,025.00	\$16,415.00
2. Home Field Athletics	\$17,450.00	None
3. Environmental Solutions	\$29,900.00	\$34,000.00
4. NMP Golf Construction	None	\$43,733.77

Ms. Lovejoy made a motion to approve the bid from Sports Fields, Inc. for \$16,415.00.

Park and Recreation Foreman Michael Mills explained the scope of the project to the Board. They have planned to have the project begin after the high school baseball season.

Mr. Buccina asked if this project could be delayed. Mr. Mills explained there is an 8 inch drop along the baselines that he feels is a safety factor. Mr. Mills explained that some fill could be put in; however, it has been many years since significant maintenance has been done to the field.

Mr. Sterling believes the job should be done right.

Mr. Volkernick asked if the Park and Recreation Department could do the work to save some money. Mr. Mills stated that if the Park and Recreation crew did the work it would take quite a long time and they would not be able to perform all their other responsibilities.

Kevin Saisi stated that he did not know if the Board of Selectpersons has the authority to change the Park and Recreation Commission's decision for this work to be done.

Mr. Adley agrees with the motion but would like to table the item because of the financial cuts pending from the State of Maine.

Ms. Lovejoy rescinded her motion and the second was also withdrawn.

Mr. Adley made a motion to table the request at this time. Vote: 5-0

Mr. Sterling thought the Park and Rec Department may be able to come up with an estimate for our employees to do the work instead.

E. Approval to Allow MDOT to Exceed Weight Limits for Abbots Mill Bridge Scour

The Town Manager explained the possibility that oversized construction equipment may need to be transported to the site by the Maine Department of Transportation. The MDOT will compensate for damages caused to any roads.

Mr. Adley made a motion to allow the Maine Department of Transportation to exceed the weight limits for the Abbots Mill Bridge Scour. Vote: 5-0

F. Approval of 2013 Sewer Rates

The Town Manager explained the calculation of the sewer rate and the addition of the Sewer Reserve Fund Fee recommended at \$25 per unit. The town has 45 miles of sewer lines that are over 100 years old that will need repairs and upgrades that need to be budgeted for. With the addition of the new Sewer Fund Fee we will still have the lowest sewer rate in the State of Maine at the present time.

Ms. Lovejoy made a motion to approve the sewer rate fee of \$144.00 per unit which includes the \$119.00 assessment and the \$25.00 Sewer Fund Fee.

The Town Manager explained that the fee is still set at \$119.00 per unit, but the additional \$25.00 will be placed in a designated Capital Fund account. We will give taxpayers an opportunity for a two payment plan if needed.

Tax Collector, Tom Bourret, stated that this is a very conservative amount, keeping in mind that any repairs that may be needed would be significant and this is just a start at budgeting for future repair needs.

Jim Barnett talked about changing the responsibility for the property owner of the sewer line to be from their house to the road as in other towns, as opposed to the Town of Rumford's policy that property owners are responsible from their property to the main sewer line itself.

Vote on the motion: 5-0

#### G. Approval to Purchase Public Works Sanding Truck

The Town Manager explained that he should have informed the Board earlier about the Sand Truck accident. He apologized for that oversight.

Public Works Superintendent, Andy Russell, explained the cost to repair would be approximately \$30,000 which may take some time, versus replacement of a truck that is currently in stock for immediate delivery or order a truck to be delivered at a later time.

The Town Manager reported that our insurance company wants to settle and total the eleven year old truck for \$18,000.00. We could buy it back to repair it for \$13,000.00 which would leave \$5,000.00 for repairs.

Mr. Adley had a concern with the engine and would like to see if it would be worthwhile to keep the truck and repair it rather than buying a new truck. He feels it is a need to have a truck but he is not ready to give the truck up to the insurance company until he can see the truck and hear the motor running.

Ms. Lovejoy made a motion to table this item until the next meeting. Vote: 5-0

#### H. Review of Hawking and Peddling Ordinance

The Town Manager requested tabling this item because of the Farmer's Market's concerns that still need to be addressed within the ordinance.

Mr. Adley made a motion to table this item. Vote: 5-0

#### I. Approval to Send Letter to Local Representatives to Request Continued Funding of Maine Revenue Sharing to Towns and Cities in the State of Maine

Mr. Adley made a motion to approve the letters that were drafted by the Town Manager and read into the record to send to Representative Matthew Peterson and Senator John Patrick. Vote: 5-0

7. Executive Session pursuant to 1 MRS §405(6)(D) for Labor Negotiations

Mr. Sterling made a motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to 1 MRS §405(6)(D) to go into labor negotiations. Vote: 5-0

Executive Session in at 8:37 p.m.  
Executive Session out at 9:47 p.m.

Ms. Lovejoy made a motion to accept the Agreement between the Town of Rumford and the Public Works Department, Local 1458-04, Council No. 93, for the term of July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2015 in addition to the two side agreements as presented that will affect 4 individual employees. Vote: 5-0

8. Adjournment

Mr. Sterling made a motion to adjourn at 9:50 p.m. Vote: 5-0

Carlo J. Puiia  
Town Manager

CJP/tp