

BOARD OF SELECTPERSON'S MEETING
January 22, 2015, 6:30 p.m.
Rumford Falls Auditorium

5:30 p.m. Presentation by Envision Rumford regarding Sidewalk Reconstruction

PRESENT: Chairperson Gregory Buccina, Vice-Chairperson Jeffrey Sterling, Selectperson Bradford Adley, Selectperson Frank DiConzo, Selectperson Mark Belanger, Town Manager John Madigan, Jr.

ATTENDEES: Bromley Cook, Barb Rajaniemi, Tom Bourret, Tony DeSalle, John Soucy, ACP-1599, Peggy Fournier Park, James Windover, Charlotte & Jack Davis, PK Hopkins, Richard Lovejoy, John Pepin, Bev Thorne, Sherry Milligan, Kevin Saisi, Terri and Matt Palmer, Jim Rinaldo, Justin Thacker, Bob Chase, Eric Davis, Patty Ladd, Stacy Carter, Cherry & Randall Smith, Jennifer Kreckel, Tracey Higley, Michael Mills, Dieter Kreckel, Andy Russell

Chairperson Buccina introduced Jennifer Kreckel of Envision Rumford who has been working with an Ad Hoc Committee on the sidewalk project for the Downtown Island.

Ms. Kreckel noted other members of the Sidewalk Committee who were in attendance and the goal of the Committee in addressing the condition of our sidewalks on the Island. The Committee worked with Main-Land Development and Terrance Dewan Associates on a plan for the entire Island.

Keith Smith, a landscape architect for Terrance Dewan Associates, presented the proposal to those in attendance.

Michael "Dane" Curato was concerned about the use of concrete as the ridges make it difficult for someone in a wheelchair as they would feel every bump. His daughter is in a wheelchair. He preferred the use of asphalt.

Peggy Fournier Park was concerned about the width of the sidewalk and suggested making it narrower to save money. She also believed the traffic should be two way to encourage tourists to turn onto Congress Street from Route 108.

Tony DeSalle also would like to see two way traffic come back to Congress Street to encourage those passing through to come on to the Island business section.

Rick Dunton of Main-Land Development described the scope of the project and the cost estimates thus far. The plan is for concrete with a scored pattern to be installed at a cost of \$300,000-\$350,000 for Congress Street alone. For a total revitalization of that street the cost would be approximately \$700,000. To install concrete sidewalks on the entire Island the cost would be \$600,000 with total revitalization cost of 1.1 million. The depth of the concrete would be 6 inches and with newer concrete and maintenance methods would last a lifetime. The Board will need to act quickly so that bid specs can be written for the work to be started this summer.

The Town Manager asked if the bid specs for the work could be done in sections.

Ms. Kreckel and the Committee recommended that all be done at one time.

Craig Zurhorst commended all involved in the planning. He also recommended that the proposal and drawing be placed online for citizens to view and comment upon by email.

Bob Berry, of Main-Land Development, explained that our old technology concrete sidewalks lasted 40 years. The new technology and maintenance will help them to last a lifetime. The cost of concrete is twice as much to install but will last twice as long as bituminous. He believes the Board needs to decide what they want, a downtown that is attractive to people to draw them there and bring business or for us to patch what we have without bringing the downtown to a higher level.

Ms. Kreckel noted that the Town is at a crossroads in moving towards the future and the time for repair and renovations is now. She believe the Board needs to set some deadlines or timeline for this project as soon as possible in order to begin this summer. The Sidewalk Committee will plan to meet on Monday, January 26, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Town Hall. All are welcome to attend.

This item will be placed on the next Board of Selectperson's Meeting.

The Town Manager will look into applying for a Community Development Block Grant to help in the costs and a bond will most likely be sought. The Town currently has approximately \$100,000 in the sidewalk budget for this project. The Town Hall capital building account will be used for the replacement of the stairs in front of the Town Hall.

Rick Dunton will provide a pdf file of the drawing and project for the Town to post on its website.

The Board took a short recess before beginning their regular meeting.

1. Meeting Called to Order by Chairperson Buccina at 7:15 p.m.
2. All present Pledged Allegiance to the American Flag
3. Public Hearing for Taxi Cab Licenses: Mountain Valley Taxi, Private Taxi, EZ Taxi, Veteran's Taxi

Mr. Adley reported that he has been told that drivers and clients have been smoking in some of the cabs.

Mr. Buccina shared that he has also been contacted about this issue and State law prohibits this practice. The Board can pull their licenses. He also noted that it is not the Town's responsibility to let the Taxi Cab owners know when their licenses are to be renewed. They all had to be contacted by the Town to renew as the licenses expire on December 31 each year. He requested that the Town Manager relay this information to all the taxi cab owners.

The Town Manager will notify all the taxi cab owners by letter regarding the smoking issue and also of their responsibility in applying for their Taxi Cab Licenses.

Eric Davis asked who determines the mechanical status of the taxi cabs as some do not appear to be in good shape.

Mr. Adley answered that the cab vehicles must have annual State inspections as all vehicles do. There are no other requirements other than a light and sign being on the vehicle.

Mr. DiConzo stated that if he sees any smoking in any taxi's they will not get his vote when they renew.

4. Requests of Citizen's Present

Eric Davis asked for an update about the speeding problem on Prospect Avenue.

The Town Manager responded that he had taken a look at the area and did not believe that people could get to a high speed with the long corner. He suggested that people note any vehicle that is speeding and report to the Police Department the the type of vehicle and license plate number if possible.

Mr. Davis believes a stop sign would help to slow down traffic.

5. Reports

A. Selectperson's Report

Mr. DiConzo reported on his attendance at Charter Commission meetings and said he understands why it has taken so long for this work to be accomplished. They are working diligently yet his observations have shown him that he regrets allowing the Commission to continue its work. He believes the Board may need to look over the Commission's work carefully and possibly make submissions themselves.

Mr. Sterling does not believe the police consolidation meetings are making very good progress. He also received a call from John Hoyt from the Mahoosuc Land Trust and Mr. Hoyt asked about the Board's commitment to supply in-kind service from the Town for the installation of the boat landing in Rumford Center. Mr. Sterling will contact Mr. Hoyt to attend the next Board meeting on February 5, 2015.

Mr. Adley noted that the boat ramp near McDonald's is a mess and needs significant work. This item should be placed on a future agenda.

Mr. Belanger passed out packets of information to Board members from Len Greaney, who used Town of Rumford payroll information he received from Mr. Belanger.

Mr. Adley mentioned that the Town of Rumford is on the front cover of the Maine Townsman regarding our consolidation effort with the Town of Mexico. This is good exposure for our town and many people are taking notice of our efforts. There is also a very good article about sidewalk liabilities in the current edition.

Mr. Buccina encouraged citizens to continue to recycle as this saves the town money. Perhaps we should have a competition in neighborhoods. The Town Manager noted the recycling revenue that Northern Oxford Regional Solid Waste has made over the last year by keeping recyclables out of the waste stream. The NORSWB budget has been kept the same for the member towns because of the recycling revenues that come in above our costs. Mr. Buccina added that we should advertise for a NORSWB term that will expire in April. Mr. Buccina reported receiving a letter from RSU 10 Superintendent Craig King informing the Board that Marcia Chaisson's term on the school board will expire this year.

B. Town Manager's Report

The Town Manager attended the Legislative Policy Committee in Augusta yesterday and he reported on the new State budget proposed by the Governor.

C. Department Manager Reports (as needed)

None were presented.

D. Board and Committee Reports (as needed)

Mr. DiConzo reported that the next Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee meeting will be held on February 9, at 6 pm in the Town Hall Conference Room.

6. Old Business

7. New Business

A. Approval of Minutes from the Special Joint Selectperson's Meeting of January 7, 2015 and Selectperson's Meeting of January 8, 2015

[The draft minutes for the Special Joint Selectperson's Meeting of January 7, 2015 were not available at this meeting.]

Mr. Belanger made a motion to approve the minutes of January 8, 2015. Vote: 5-0

B. Approval of Town Owned Property Bids – 134 Penobscot Street Lot

Two bids were received for the property at 134 Penobscot Street:

- | | |
|--------------------|------------|
| 1. Melanie Regnere | \$5,225.00 |
| 2. Norman Gagnon | \$3,000.00 |

Mr. Adley made a motion to approve the bid from Melanie Regnere for \$5,225.00 for vacant land at 134 Penobscot Street (building was recently removed by Public Works) and that any surplus money be placed in the building demolition account.

Ms. Regnere asked the Board if the Town will finish filling in the lot (there was equipment breakdown and then winter weather that stopped the process). Ms. Regnere will also be applying for a driveway opening permit so that a driveway can be put in.

Vote on the motion: 5-0

C. Approval of Criminal Forfeiture Transfer

Mr. Adley made a motion to approve the criminal forfeiture transfer.

Chief Carter confirmed that the forfeiture is in currency.

Vote: 5-0

D. Approval of Taxi Cab License for Matthew Bean, dba Mountain Valley Taxi

Mr. Sterling made a motion to approve the Taxi Cab License for Matthew Bean, dba Mountain Valley Taxi. Vote: 5-0

E. Approval of Taxi Cab License for Gilbert Gary Scott, dba Private Taxi

Mr. Adley made a motion to approve the Taxi Cab License for Gilbert Gary Scott, dba Private Taxi.
Vote: 5-0

F. Approval of Taxi Cab License for Charles Proffitt, dba EZ Taxi

Mr. Belanger made a motion to approve the Taxi Cab License for Charles Proffitt, dba EZ Taxi.
Vote: 5-0

G. Approval of Taxi Cab License for Charles Proffitt, dba Veteran's Taxi

Mr. Sterling made a motion to approve the Taxi Cab License for Charles Proffitt, dba Veteran's Taxi. Vote: 5-0

H. Request from Sunday River Farms for Waiver to Transport Perishable Produce

Mr. Sterling made a motion to approve the waiver to transport perishable produce for Sunday River Farms. Vote: 5-0

I. Personal Property Abatement Request from Tax Collector

Tax Collector Thomas Bourret explained that he has been unsuccessful in collecting the personal property tax from Annette Marin of No View Farm and Bakery after several attempts. This is the only account that has been uncollectable for personal property tax in 2014. As this is not real estate tax that is due that can be lien'd; the Board must approve any abatement request.

Mr. Adley made a motion to approve the abatement request. Vote: 5-0

J. Discussion on Budget Process

Mr. Belanger would like the total amount for each department on the ballot under one article rather than have benefits listed in another article for better clarity of costs.

Mr. DiConzo believes people want to see exactly what is paid out for each department.

Mr. Adley noted that there is nothing dishonest being done.

The Town Manager will ask the Finance Director to get Auditor opinions on how to present benefit costs as part of the total department budget.

Fire Chief Chase noted that we should consider keeping the Capital out of the Department Budget Operating Costs in case we need to do cost comparisons with other communities.

K. Discussion and Request for RSU 10

Mr. Belanger would like our Board to send a letter to the RSU 10 School Board to consider a ten percent reduction in their budget.

Mr. DiConzo noted that there have been meetings scheduled by RSU 10 to present the three plans for consolidation of school buildings. This may help with the ten percent figure.

Mr. Adley would prefer to have our Rumford School Board members here at a Board meeting to give our suggestion.

Mr. DiConzo prefers a letter to be sent and also for Board members to attend the RSU 10 meetings.

Mr. Buccina would like to talk to our representatives who would be more knowledgeable about the budget for RSU 10.

Mr. DiConzo made a motion to draft a letter to RSU 10 to recognize our budget concerns with the school budget.

Mr. Sterling believes that school board members put the children first and significant cuts can affect the students.

Vote: 2-3, Mr. Sterling, Mr. Adley and Mr. Buccina opposed.

Mr. Adley would like to have our representatives come to a future Board meeting.

The Town Manager suggested a letter be sent to the Superintendent and our representatives to attend one of our budget meetings.

L. Approval of the Town Warrant dated January 23, 2015

Mr. Sterling made a motion to approve the Town Warrant dated January 23, 2015. Vote: 5-0

8. Executive Session pursuant to 1 MRS §405 (6)(A) for a personnel matter

Mr. Sterling made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:30 p.m. pursuant to MRS 405 (6)(A) for a personnel matter with the Chief of Police and Sgt. Tracey Higley. Vote: 5-0

Executive Session Out at 9:06 p.m.

Mr. Belanger made a motion to uphold the Town Manager and Chief of Police decisions to deny the grievance. Vote: 5-0

9. Executive Session pursuant to 1 MRS §405 (6)(D) regarding Public Works Union negotiations

Mr. Sterling made a motion to go into Executive Session at 9:08 p.m. pursuant to 1 MRS 405 (6)(D) regarding Public Works negotiations. Vote: 5-0

Executive Session Out at 9:20 p.m.

No action taken.

10. Executive Session pursuant to 1 MRS §405 (6)(A) for a personnel matter with the Town Manager

Mr. Adley made a motion to go into Executive Session at 9:21 p.m. pursuant to 1 MRS 405 (6)(A) for a personnel matter with the Town Manager. Vote: 5-0

Executive Session Out at 9:37 p.m.

No action taken.

The Public Works Union negotiation will be scheduled for the next meeting. The Town Manager personnel matter to be scheduled for the 2nd meeting.

11. Adjournment

Mr. Sterling made a motion to adjourn at 9:38 p.m. Vote: 5-0

JEMJr/tp

John E. Madigan, Jr.
Town Manager