

**BOARD OF SELECTPERSON'S MEETING MINUTES**  
**April 6, 2015 6:30 p.m.**  
**Rumford Falls Auditorium**

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

ATTENDEES: Chris Brennick, Jim Rinaldo, Kevin Knox, Deborah Laurinaitis, Ron Smith, Jon Starr, Rick Greene, Dieter Kreckel, Kevin Saisi

1. Meeting Called to Order at 6:45 p.m. by Chairperson Buccina
2. Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag
3. Public Hearing (if needed)
4. Requests of Citizen's Present

None were presented.

5. Reports

A. Town Auditor Report

Mr. Adley made a motion to allow non-resident Ronald Smith, to speak. Vote: 5-0

Mr. Smith, Town Auditor, gave an analysis of the finance status of the Town of Rumford.

B. Selectperson's Report

Mr. Belanger discussed the cost of running town departments. He found that the Town of Jay lists all their costs per department on each article in their Warrant. Also, listed on their warrant was a comparison of expenses for this year and last year. The town of Jay has a population of 4800 people.

Mr. DiConzo was glad to hear the Town Auditor tonight. He believes we need to be cognizant of the RSU and how it will affect us. He feels the Board should give guidance to the citizens regarding the school costs. He felt we may need to consider dissolving the RSU and to look at other alternatives as the cost is going up and driving our taxes.

Mr. Sterling noted that the Rumford Point Bridge construction is going very quickly and is on schedule to be finished for late summer or early fall.

Mr. Buccina has received some calls about streetlights being out and about pot holes. He believes we have had a good melting season this year so our planned work should not be disrupted. The Town Manager added that citizens can call the Public Works garage or the Town Manager's Office regarding any needed road repairs.

### C. Town Manager's Report

The Town Manager distributed copies of an opinion from the Town Attorney regarding the operating hours for the Municipal Building that are listed in the Town Ordinances. A change was made in 2009 to give some flexibility to the hours and the voters were given a summary on the ballot that mentioned closing for a snow day or if there was a prudent reason to limit person to person contact. However, on the audio recording of the Board meeting in 2009, there was discussion on limiting the days the Municipal Building was open for possible cost savings. This language did not make it on the warrant or ballot for voters to see. The Town Attorney's current opinion would be to clarify the language in the Ordinance, which could be addressed at the Ordinance Hearings the end of the month and voted on in June.

Spring Clean Up will begin on April 27, 2015 for the whole town of Rumford. Public Works will begin pick-ups on that date and citizens may bring debris to the Transfer Station until May 8, 2015 at no charge.

Mr. Buccina added that recycling efforts are still very important and saves the Town a great deal of money.

An invitation was received from the River Valley Chamber of Commerce for their Annual Dinner and Awards Banquet to be held on April 30, 2015 at 49 Franklin. The cost is \$28 and is open to the Board. The Guest Speaker will be Greg Maule, Senior Vice-President, US Operations, of Catalyst Paper.

### D. Department Manager Reports (as needed)

There were no reports given.

### E. Board and Committee Reports (as needed)

There were no reports given.

## 6. Old Business

## 7. New Business

- A. Approval of Minutes from Selectperson's Special Meeting of March 18, 2015, Selectperson's Meeting of March 19, 2015, Initiated Article Meeting of March 16, 2015, Initiated Article/Department Budget Meeting of March 23, 2015, Executive Session of March 26, 2015 and Department Budget Meeting of March 26, 2015

Mr. Belanger made a motion to approve the minutes from the Selectperson's Special Meeting of March 18, 2015, Selectperson's Meeting of March 19, 2015, Initiated Article Meeting of March 16, 2015, Initiated Article/Department Budget Meeting of March 23, 2015, Executive Session of March 26, 2015 and Department Budget Meeting of March 26, 2015. Vote: 5-0

### B. Final Update from CDBG Committee – Jim Rinaldo

Mr. Rinaldo gave a summary of the 2009-2010 Community Development Block Grant Program. A total of \$438,215.00 was directly provided to owners of property in Rumford. The Town of Rumford contributed \$20,000.00 of this amount.

The 2012-2014 CDBG Program distributed \$336,430.49 was directly provided to owners of property in Rumford.

The members of the CDBG Committee were Mr. Rinaldo, Phil Blampied, Hank Maifeld, and Karen Gallant. Mr. Rinaldo credited Phil Blampied as a driving force to bring this money to town. We need to wait until late 2015 before we can apply for another grant in 2016. The Committee would be willing to continue to meet if the Town decides to apply for another grant. Community Concepts provided some matching funding and the administration. Most work was done by local contractors and included cement work, insulation, new roofs, and new windows for many people who could not have afforded to do this otherwise.

### C. Discussion on Town Attorney's Opinion on Work of Charter Commission

Chris Brennick, Chairperson of the Charter Commission, gave an update on the progress of the Charter Commission and the recent review of their work by Town Attorney, Jennifer Kreckel.

Mr. Sterling believes the Charter needs to go back to the Commission to address the Town Attorney's review and notes.

Mr. Brennick also informed the Board that the Commission has also voted to place the option of abolishing the Charter on the ballot as well as making recommendations for changes if the voters want to keep the Charter. He believes the Charter Commission needs more time to respond to the comments of the Town Attorney and to hold a Public Hearing.

The Town Manager added that if the voters vote to abolish the Charter, they would have to adopt a specific form of government through the State of Maine. Presently we have a Town Manager, Board of Selectpersons form of government. In Mexico, they renew the Ordinance every year in order to continue the form of government as they do not have a Charter.

Mr. Belanger was concerned about the recommended changes from the Charter Commission and if the voters will have time to learn and understand all the changes before voting in June. An example given was the change for the Finance Committee and Board of Selectpersons being part of the same Budget Committee in voting for town budgets.

Rick Greene of the Charter Commission, believes that all the members of the Commission had the best interests of the Town in mind along with having their own viewpoints. The Commission has not had a chance to meet with the Board regarding why they are recommending the changes that they are. He feels the Commission needs to continue with their work to bring it to completion.

Mr. Sterling made a motion to re-instate the Charter Commission until the election of June 9, 2015 in order for them to answer the Town Attorney's comments, to prepare a final document, to schedule 1-2 Public Hearings and be present at the Annual Business Meeting. Vote: 4-1, Mr. Belanger opposed.

Mr. Buccina clarified that Mr. Brennick is to schedule a meeting with the Town Attorney and Charter Commission to discuss the proposed changes and to prepare and provide a Final Copy to the Board for their next meeting (April 16, 2015). Once approved by the Board, the Town Clerk will prepare copies for voters and public hearing(s) will be scheduled by the Commission.

D. Approval of the Town Warrant dated April 7, 2015

Mr. Belanger made a motion to approve the Town Warrant dated April 7, 2015. Vote: 5-0

8. Adjournment

Mr. DiConzo made a motion to adjourn at 8:21 p.m. Vote: 5-0

John E. Madigan, Jr.  
Town Manager

JEMJr/tp