

BOARD OF SELECTPERSON'S
June 20, 2013, 7:00 p.m.
Rumford Falls Auditorium

PRESENT: Chairperson Greg Buccina, Vice-Chairperson Jeffrey Sterling, Selectperson Bradford Adley, Selectperson Jolene Lovejoy, Town Manager Carlo Puia. Absent: Selectperson Frank DiConzo

ATTENDEES: Lynden Clarke Jr., Allan Gallant, Daryl Simard, Arthur Chappell, Eric Davis, Gayle Sirois, Pam Bevins, Fred Stone, Luke Sorensen, Candice Casey, Henry Zinck, Robert Chase, Michael Peter Chase, Judy Whittemore, Louanne Cameron, Rob Cameron, Wayne Gallant, Elaine McKenna, Linnell Geronda, Tom Bourret, Debbie Laurinaitis, Terri Palmer, Dottie Blood, Dorothea Cayer, Harry Every, Leo Jolin Sr., Phillip Zinck, Pam Nicols, Bruce Myles, Kevin Saisi, Bill O'Neill, Roger and Barbara Arsenault, Brian Arsenault, Ryan Palmer, Pete Rideout, Heather Sorensen, Andrea York, Hannah Davis, Stefanie Wilson, Terry Karkos, Richard Blanchard, Steve Zadakis, Michelle Zadakis, Alan Gerace, Stacy Carter, Tom Carey, Beth Bellegarde, Rick Kent, Len Greaney, Jennifer Kreckel, Jim Carter, Matt Kaubris, Phil Blampied, Rick Greene, Amanda Spitzer, Chad Ramsdell, Zoe Crump, Maxwell Spitzer, Arthur Chappell, Susan Adley, Sherry Milligan, Diane Mitchell, Brian Mitchell, Susan Adley

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

Candice Casey asked about having specific items placed on the Agenda.

Roger Arsenault asked to give an update on how the recent vote not to fund Black Mountain will affect the ski area. The Chairperson deemed this to be a report, not a request and must be given at the next meeting.

4. Reports

A. Selectperson's Report

Mr. Sterling welcomed back Mr. Adley to a new term on the Board.

Mr. Adley thanked the voters for voting for him for another term. It has been a very tough week with the voting down of all the budgets. He regrets that SAVE Rumford did not give any input during the budget preparation meetings prior to the voting.

Ms. Lovejoy reported that a citizen, who was upset during voting, confided in her that she was afraid she would lose her house if she didn't have the right locks and wanted to vote down the new proposed property maintenance code. Ms. Lovejoy felt that people were scared about voting. On another note, she welcomed the new Tractor Supply business on Route 2.

Mr. Buccina commended the ballot clerks and Town Clerk for their work at the polls. He reported that the July 4th Committee is working on having a celebration with fireworks and 3 bands, children's games, and vendors. They are hoping for good weather. He commended Rite Aid, Dunkin Donuts and Tractor Supply for making investments in their businesses that will help the town. He has recently noticed many SOLD signs on houses and seen many homes being improved.

B. Town Manager's Report

The Town Manager commented on how politics can divide a community and has had some accusations made about him as well. He advised citizens to get along for the best of our town and move in a positive direction as the outside is looking in on what we do.

C. Department Manager's Report

There were no reports presented at this meeting.

5. Old Business

- A. Request from Public Works Superintendent for Approval of Sewer Main CIPP Rehab
(From meeting of April 4, 2013)

Ms. Lovejoy made a motion to table this item to the next meeting.

Kelly Gorham asked why we are tabling this item. Mr. Buccina explained that it was because of budget concerns due to the recent vote.

Vote on the motion: 4-0

6. New Business

- A. Request from Town Manager to Approve Minutes from the Selectperson's Meeting of June 6, 2013, Selectpersons' Organization Meeting of June 12, 2013 and Selectperson's Special Meeting of June 18, 2013

The Town Manager explained that we cannot vote on the June 18, 2013 meeting as it has been continued over three nights and the minutes will not be available for approval until the next Board meeting.

Mr. Sterling made a motion to approve Minutes from the Selectperson's Meeting of June 6, 2013 and Selectpersons' Organization Meeting of June 12, 2013. Vote: 4-0

- B. Request from Town Manager to Approve Town Warrant dated June 21, 2013

Mr. Adley made a motion to approve the Town Warrant dated June 21, 2013. Vote: 4-0

- C. Take Action on Spending Cap Petition

Mr. Sterling asked if this petition was any different than the prior petition.

Mark Belanger, of the SAVE Rumford group who submitted the Spending Cap Petition, read a prepared overview of the petition and stated that it contained an inflationary provision.

Len Greaney stated that he had ideas to cut costs and preserve services but felt he has been ignored for four years.

Kelly Gorham felt the Board should give citizens a chance to give ideas for the budgets.

Mr. Buccina explained the budget process and that all the meetings were open to the public yet very few citizens attended to give their input. He felt badly that the Annual Town Meeting had been adjourned so abruptly before any discussion could take place on all the other articles on the Warrant.

The Town Manager further explained that a motion was made to adjourn at the Annual Town Meeting, it was seconded and voted in the affirmative by the voters present, therefore we did not get to discuss the proposed budgets. He feels the Board has reduced the budget to the best of their ability to satisfy the voters.

Ms. Lovejoy mentioned that we were able to make changes and revise budgets with the old town meeting process, but the secret ballot process does not allow that to happen, therefore there is no conversation on the budgets that are presented.

Kelly Gorham believes people felt intimidated at the old town meetings.

Robert Chase believes the spending cap circumvents the process of the will of the voters.

Mr. Sterling made a motion not to accept the Spending Cap Ordinance Petition.

Phil Zinck believes the State average is 17 mils and believes Rumford is overtaxed for population.

Eric Davis would like the Board to give the reason why they voted.

Gary Dolloff was not in support of the spending cap and believes children and families will be at risk.

Dan Pearson believes Rumford has a high mil rate but has low property values compared to other towns. He would like an independent person to look at how we spend money and suggest savings.

Mark Belanger believes the spending cap is a gift.

Mr. Adley made a motion to allow non-resident Meagan Bourgeois to speak. Vote: 4-0

Meagan Bourgeois believes the spending cap would not allow public input as is happening at this meeting.

Mr. Buccina explained that the budget has only gone up slightly in the last several years. NewPage asked for an abatement as any tax payer can do. The Spending Cap could cut out Initiated Articles when the democratic process already accomplishes the will of the voters.

Mr. Adley stated that the Town Attorney's legal opinion is that the Spending Cap does not abide by the Town Charter.

The Town Manager announced that the Town Attorney's legal opinion will be available on the Town website. He believes the voters already have a right to decide and the Spending Cap takes away that right.

Susan Adley does not want to give up her services and has lived here for 48 years. We have always had the GRCC. She thought that some taxpayers need to prioritize their spending as there are many new vehicles in town and those citizens should be able to afford paying taxes for our services.

Mr. Adley made a motion to allow non-resident, Finance Director Deborah Laurinaitis, to speak.

Ms. Laurinaitis explained the process of carried balances and related that the Town Auditor stated that the Town is in good financial shape and has good plans in place. Any Fund Balance left over from the budgets goes back to off-set taxes as needed, she stated.

Rick Greene believes the reduction will hurt people and disagrees with the spending cap.

Vote on the motion to not accept the spending cap petition: 4-0

D. Take Action on Greater Rumford Community Center Petition

Gary Dolloff, Chairperson of the Board at the GRCC, explained that a petition being circulated that would amend the Charter to allow Initiated Articles to be reconsidered if voted down. He believes this should be deemed a critical circumstance and a special town meeting for the welfare of the citizens should be held. The GRCC will close down on August 1, 2013 if funding is not received. Donations can be made through facebook.

Several spoke in favor of the GRCC and the programs that are run by them.

Kelly Gorham reiterated that the GRCC is 103 years old and suggested looking to find funding for a new building for the entire area.

Mr. Buccina suggested some action that the GRCC could take, such as applying for a UDAG loan from the Town, working with the River Valley recreation director in Mexico to combine recreation, or take recreations out of the Initiated Articles and put them in the Town budget. The Board of Selectpersons can not do any more to help at this time. The GRCC funding request was supported by the Board, but the voters did not support it.

Ms. Lovejoy stated that the GRCC budget has been taking cuts over many years and that is why the building is in tough shape. Former Select Boards cut their budget up to ten percent.

Rick Greene said he started working at the GRCC in 1984 then became a social worker for RSU 10. He believes the Vote No campaign scared people and they did not realize that the GRCC would not receive any funding if their Initiated Article was voted down. He would like to amend the Park and Recreation budget to include the GRCC for this year.

Len Greaney attempted to speak but a Point of Order was called by Town Manager Puiia as the Chairperson asked him not to speak to allow another point of view by someone waiting to speak. Mr. Greaney stated his strong support of the GRCC.

Buddy Hosie believes the Town does not have much more to offer and we need the GRCC. He felt the Board could not do this on their own and need some help.

Mr. Sterling would like to add a line under the Park and Recreation budget.

Town Attorney Jennifer Kreckel said the Board can still re-open budget lines, however a change in the Charter would not take affect until 2014 even if they petition accomplishes the change.

Mr. Adley stated that the petition needs to have the signatures verified within 5 days. He is uncomfortable with a Charter amendment on this issue.

Mr. Adley made a motion to accept the petition provided there is verification of the signatures. Vote: 4-0

A break was taken at 9:25 p.m.

E. Discussion/Approval for Animal Sheltering Services

Police Chief Stacy Carter explained his reasoning for changing the animal shelter provider for the 2013-2014 fiscal year from McKennel's to Franklin County Animal Shelter. This year the cost for McKennel's would be \$12,944 per year or 2.23 per capita of population. Franklin County would be \$10,500.00 per year.

Marsha McKenna, owner of McKennel's, read a prepared statement regarding her position.

Brenda Longway asked how many animals have been turned away and why.

Animal Control Officer Susan Milligan referred to McKennel's where there is not quarantine area for cats with respiratory conditions so they must be taken to the veterinarian. She did not have numbers available.

Mr. Sterling made a motion to table this item until the next meeting on July 3, 2013. Vote: 4-0

F. Appointment of AVCOG General Assembly Representatives

Mr. Adley made a motion to appoint Town Manager Carlo Puiia and Chairperson Gregory Buccina as the Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments General Assembly Representatives. Vote: 4-0

G. Request from Fraternal Order of Eagles for Temporary Extension to Liquor License

Mr. Adley made a motion to approve the request from the Fraternal Order of Eagles to temporarily extend their liquor license on July 26, 27 and 28, 2013 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. each day. Vote: 4-0

H. Approval of Quit Claim Deed for 8 Franklin Street

Mr. Adley made a motion to approve the Quit Claim Deed for tax acquired property at 8 Franklin Street to John and Gloria Pierce. Vote: 4-0

I. Approval of Quit Claim Deed for 10 Cedar Lane

Mr. Adley made a motion to approve the Quit Claim Deed for tax acquired property at 10 Cedar Lane. Vote: 4-0

J. Approval of Quit Claim Deed for 24 Erchles Street

Ms. Lovejoy made a motion to approve the Quit Claim Deed for tax acquired property at 24 Erchles Street to William Heller, dba 24 E Street. Vote: 4-0

K. Rescheduling of Next Meeting to July 3, 2013

Ms. Lovejoy made a motion to re-schedule the next Board of Selectperson's Meeting to July 3, 2013, as the regular meeting would be falling on a holiday. Vote: 4-0

** Mr. Adley made a motion to continue past the 3 hour mark for this meeting. Vote: 4-0

L. Approval of New Budget Recommendations for Defeated Budgetary Articles

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APPROVED 07 03 2013

Please note: These minutes are not verbatim. A digital recording of the meeting is available by contacting the Town Manager's Office during regular business hours.

Gary Dolloff of the GRCC said he is not opposed to funding recreation through the Park and Recreation Department.

Kevin Saisi recommended Summer Programs be considered as an option for the Park Department to run as they ran these programs in the past.

Ms. Lovejoy believes we should not do this because it was voted down by the voters.

Rick Greene would prefer Summer Programs be placed back in the Park and Recreation budget through the summer months when the children need it the most.

Ms. Lovejoy asked if schools run summer programs.

Chris Carver, who works at Mountain Valley High School, responded that the high school does not offer any athletic programs in the summer. He also reminded the Board that our Attorney believes we can add the budget for recreation into our budget if they deem it beneficial. He hopes that the Board will place the recreation budget in the Park and Recreation budget.

Ms. Lovejoy made a motion to move the question. Vote: 4-0

The Town Manager believes we do not need to discuss this any further as the budget recommendations were already made.

Mr. Sterling made a motion to add \$128,000 to the Park and Recreation Department budget to bring it to \$311,430.

Ms. Lovejoy believes that if the Board decides to do this, she would ask to also include Black Mountain of Maine, who is in the same predicament.

Mr. Buccina does not think this is the right thing to do.

Vote on the motion to add \$128,000: 1-3, Mr. Buccina, Mr. Adley, Ms. Lovejoy opposed.

7. Executive Session pursuant to 1 MRS 405 (6) (C) for an economic development matter with Jim Rinaldo

Mr. Adley made a motion to go into Executive Session at 10:48 p.m. pursuant to 1 MRS 405 (6) (c) for an economic development matter with Jim Rinaldo. Vote: 4-0

Executive Session was out at 11:11 p.m.

No action was taken.

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

Mr. Sterling made a motion to go into Executive Session at 11:16 p.m. pursuant to 1 MRS 405 (6) (A) for a personnel matter with the Town Manager. Vote: 4-0

Executive Session was out at 11:20 p.m.

No action was taken.

9. Adjournment

Mr. Adley made a motion to adjourn at 11:24 p.m. Vote: 4-0

Carlo J. Puia
Town Manager

CJP/tp