

BOARD OF SELECTPERSON'S MEETING
September 17, 2015, 6:30 p.m.
Rumford Falls Auditorium

PRESENT: Vice-Chairperson Jeffrey Sterling, Selectperson Frank DiConzo, Selectperson Mark Belanger, Selectperson Michael Peter Chase, Town Manager John Madigan, Jr. Absent: Chairperson Bradford Adley

ATTENDEES: Stacy Carter, Deborah Laurinaitis, Bob Chase, Kris Howes, Tom Pitcher, Dale Roberts, Jim Caruso, Jennifer Kreckel

1. Meeting Call to Order by Vice-Chairperson Sterling at 6:30 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag
3. Public Hearing: None.
4. Reports

A. Selectperson's Report

Mr. Chase did not have a report.

Mr. Belanger noted that the old street sweeper is still being used and it is not doing a good job. He thought that the old sweeper was only good for parts and that is why we purchased a new street sweeper. He also thought since Thelma Giberson is retiring soon, this would be a good opportunity to change the way we do General Assistance. He made a few calls to the GA Hotline and other towns, such as the Town of Jay, to see how they handle cases. He believes we are spending too much money on GA. He also has been asked why it is taking so long for the Linnell Motel to be cleaned up from the fire. The Town Manager responded that a certified letter was sent and the letter came back uncollected. Our Town Attorney will be handling this along with three other concerns.

Mr. DiConzo noted that the hole on the bridge behind the Muskie Building has been repaired. He also thanked the investigators for finding the individuals who started the recent fires and would like some restitution to be made.

Mr. Sterling did not have a report.

B. Town Manager's Report

The Town Manager noted that we received correspondence from WVAC-Channel 7 informing us of their lack of volunteers to tape the Select Board meetings and that they are looking for help.

The General Assistance Ordinance Appendices that is on the Agenda will not be able to be acted on until a notice of Public Hearing has been posted for 7 days. The Board's packets show the new maximum amounts that we can assist people with and this will be on the next meeting Agenda.

C. Department Manager Reports (as needed)

Police Chief Stacy Carter informed the Board of the Domestic Violence Awareness activities for the month of October. Operation Hot Spot details have gone very well over the summer months and made a significant impact as far as visibility and positive feedback has been received. The Police Department has joined with South Paris as part of the Western Maine Addiction Task Force to try and bring a heroin addiction forum to town in October to help in controlling the heroin coming into town.

D. Board and Committee Reports (as needed)

None.

5. Requests of Citizen's Present

Tom Pitcher spoke of the letter he presented to the Town with signatures from Martin Road residents. He asked for patch to be put on the road if something was not done soon. Since that time he returned to his home with his camper in tow along Martin Road and found that his camper became disconnected from his vehicle when he pulled out of his driveway and \$7,000 damage done to the truck and to the camper as well. He asked how much footage is going to be done to repair the road. He feels he needs to file something against the town to get his repairs taken care of. He asked about the allocation of the Permanent Road Fund and State Aid Funds and where this money goes? The Town Manager responded that the money for the Martin Road comes from State Aid. The Permanent Road funds are carried over if they are not spent. A rebuild of 400 feet and an overlay of 6,830 feet will be accomplished on the Martin Road beginning next week before winter comes in.

6. Old Business

7. New Business

A. Approval of Minutes from Selectperson's Executive Sessions of August 31, 2015 and September 2, 2015 and Regular Meeting of September 3, 2015

Mr. Belanger made a motion to approve the minutes from the Selectperson's Executive Sessions of August 31, 2015 and September 2, 2015 and Regular Meeting of September 3, 2015. Vote: 4-0

B. Approval of the Town Warrant dated September 18, 2015

Mr. DiConzo made a motion to approve the Town Warrant dated September 18, 2015. Vote: 4-0

C. Update on Pumpkin Fest Event – Jennifer Kreckel

Jennifer Kreckel introduced Kris Howes to discuss the activities planned for Pumpkin Fest.

Mr. Howes informed the Board that Pumpkin Fest will run from 10:00 a.m. into the evening with 40 vendors and many family friendly activities all day along with some musical entertainment.

Last year they had a couple thousand people and the only concern he noted may be parking if the festival continues to grow.

D. Request to Close Streets for Pumpkin Fest Event on October 10, 2015

Mr. Belanger made a motion to close the requested streets on the Island for Envisions Rumford's Pumpkin Fest. Vote: 4-0

E. Request from Gatch's LLC to Approve Catering Permit Application

Mr. Belanger made a motion to approve the Catering Permit Application for Gatch's LLC subject to receipt of Envision Rumford's 501(c)(3) authorization. Vote: 4-0

It was noted that Ms. Gatchell is to contact the first responders to be sure that safety concerns are discussed.

F. Request for No Parking Area across from 227 Knox Street by Shannon Scott

Vice-Chair Sterling read the letter from Shannon Scott who asked for the area directly across the street from her driveway to be designated as a no parking zone so that her husband can exit their driveway. Her husband has missed work as he cannot exit their driveway when someone is parked in the spaces across the street.

Mr. Belanger stated that this area has been like this for 100 years and there is no parking on the other side of the street. He was concerned that there is already limited parking there for the church. He also noted that there have been trailers parked along the side of the street in that area.

Mr. Chase believes there is adequate room to exit a driveway although the street is quite narrow.

Mr. Chase made a motion to take no action on this request. Vote: 4-0

G. Approval of Parade Permit for MVHS Homecoming Parade

Mr. DiConzo made a motion to approve the parade permit for the MVHS Homecoming Parade taking place on October 9, 2015. Vote: 4-0

H. Request from Town of Mexico Board of Selectpersons regarding Med-Care Salaries

Vice-Chair Sterling read the letter from the Town of Mexico Select Board to all in attendance.

Mr. DiConzo believes we should get involved and provided information regarding the release of information that he obtained online from the IRS.

Mr. Chase thought that any wages reported should reflect the hours worked for a true picture.

Mr. Sterling noted that Med-Care's Board runs similar to the Region 9 Board.

Mr. Belanger believes that sometimes the quasi-municipal organizations seem to be secretive.

Robert Chase, who serves on the Med-Care Board, gave a report of the nature of the request from the Town of Mexico

Mr. DiConzo made a motion to say no to the request from the Town of Mexico and invite our Rumford Med-Care Representatives to the next Select Board meeting. Vote: 4-0

The consensus of the Board was to place the Med-Care Board under Board and Committee Reports at the next Board meeting.

I. Discussion to Carry Forward the Designated Fund Balance Accounts

The Town Manager and Finance Director provided information to the Board members showing the designated fund balance comparisons since 2007 to present.

Mr. Chase made a motion to carry forward the proposed designated fund balance [\$2,184,333.47]. Vote: 2-2, Mr. DiConzo and Mr. Belanger opposed.

Mr. Chase noted that taxpayers are concerned with roads and sidewalks needing repairs along with other things and as we have designated funds to take care of these problems we should push the projects through.

Mr. DiConzo expressed that this process is difficult to understand. The people voted for this budget to be paid out and if there had been a clearer explanation earlier in the meeting he would have voted differently.

The Town Manager explained that these figures are now available to us from the closing of the books for 2014-2015 and we just received the assessed valuation from the Assessors. We are doing the best we can, but it is up to the Assessor's to provide the updated assessed values to be able to set the mil rate. The Board of Assessors just received the valuation of the paper mill from the contracted personal property assessor on September 14, 2015.

Mr. Belanger made a motion to carry over the designated fund balance of \$2,184,333.47 minus the \$2,200.00 in the Municipal Planning Industrial line. Vote: 4-0

J. Request for Letter of Support from Western Maine Transportation regarding Budgetary Requests

Mr. Sterling explained that Western Maine Transportation would like to change their funding mechanism by going to the County rather than seeking support from the towns.

Mr. Belanger made a motion to draft a letter of support to Western Maine Transportation to request their budgetary funding from the County.

Mr. Chase noted that he was not opposed to this request provided that they do not come back to the Town in a couple years looking for additional funding.

Vote: 4-0

K. Appointment of MMA Voting Delegates

Mr. DiConzo volunteered to serve as delegate as he will be attending the MMA Convention on the day the meeting is held.

Mr. Sterling made a motion to appoint Frank DiConzo as the MMA voting delegate. Vote: 4-0

L. Approval of the Resolution to Endorse the Androscoggin, Oxford and Coos County Coalition to Extend Passenger Rail Service

The Town Manager explained that this coalition has been meeting for several years to restore passenger rail as an economic boost to our area. The support of the Resolution can then be shown to the State or Federal DOT to get funding to get this project off the ground.

Mr. Belanger made a motion to support the Resolution. Vote: 4-0

M. Approval of State of Maine's General Assistance Maximum Amounts Ordinance

Mr. Belanger made a motion to table this item until the next meeting as we must hold a Public Hearing prior to taking action. Vote: 4-0

8. Executive Session pursuant to 1 MRS §405 (6) (F) for a poverty abatement request

Mr. DiConzo made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:18 p.m. pursuant to 1 MRS § 405 (6)(F) for a poverty abatement request. Vote: 4-0

Executive Session in at 8:26 p.m.

Executive Session out at 8:34 p.m.

Mr. DiConzo made a motion to deny the request at this time and to send a letter explaining the process and encouraging the taxpayer to pay what he can. Vote: 4-0

9. Adjournment

Mr. Belanger made a motion to adjourn at 8:35 p.m. Vote: 4-0

John E. Madigan, Jr.
Town Manager

JEMJr/tp