

BOARD OF SELECTPERSON'S MEETING
October 2, 2014, 6:30 p.m.
Rumford Falls Auditorium

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

ATTENDEES: Jessica Nichols, Robert Chase, Jim Thibodeau, Stacy Carter, Ron Russell, Terry Karkos

1. Meeting Called to Order by Chairperson Buccina
2. All present Pledged Allegiance to the American Flag

A Moment of Silence for deceased former Police Officer Michael Buotte was held.

3. Requests of Citizen's Present

No requests were presented.

4. Reports

A. Selectperson's Report

Mr. Adley noted that 2 buildings on Waldo Street were demolished by the Town Public Works crew this week [426 and 428 Waldo Street].

Mr. DiConzo reported that the Maine Municipal Association Convention was very informative. He mentioned that the sidewalks should be ADA compliant. He also wanted to look at funding revaluation next year from Fund Balance. The Town Manager will look into where this would fall within the LD1 tax cap.

Mr. Sterling did not have a report for this meeting.

Mr. Buccina discussed the setting of the tax rate. The Board will be setting up a meeting with the Town of Mexico to discuss the consolidation recommendations from Municipal Resources. He would also like to look at a four day work week for the Town. He had some questions about the Town Website. He asked if a Charter change would be needed to consider outsourcing payroll and that the Board would need to find out if it would be cost effective.. He believes that our representatives and senators need to restore Revenue Sharing and State Aid to Education and encouraged citizens to contact them.

B. Town Manager's Report

The Town Manager reported that the Keynote Speakers at the Maine Municipal Association Convention were excellent and presented a great deal of positive energy for towns.

C. Department Manager Reports (as needed)

Mr. Adley made a motion to allow non-resident, Code Enforcement Officer David Errington, to speak. Vote: 4-0

Mr. Errington noted that 16 letters had been sent out, six are for Town owned properties, ten are left, and one has been brought up to the safety code.

Fire Chief Robert Chase noted that next week is Fire Prevention Week. He also reminded the public to test their smoke detectors monthly and change batteries twice a year. They will be in schools and libraries next week doing fire prevention presentations and will also have fire prevention activities at the Pumpkin Fest Event.

Mr. Adley made a motion to move up Item 6J. Vote: No vote taken

Approval of Parade Permit for Mountain Valley High School Homecoming Parade

Mr. Adley made a motion to approve the Parade Permit for Mountain Valley High School.
Vote: 4-0

Police Chief Stacy Carter reported that the Rumford Police Department will participate in the 15 Minute Program which is a community wide event that deals with underage drinking and encourages good decision making. This event was held in 2012 and will be done again this year at the end of the school year in 2015.

D. Board and Committee Reports (as needed)

None.

5. Old Business

A. Report and Recommendation from Fire Chief on Tax Acquired Property at 566 Prospect and 16 Free Street

Fire Chief Robert Chase reported that the two units at 566 Prospect were inspected and code violations were found. He recommended that people not be allowed to live there through the winter as the only thing keeping the building weather tight is a tarp that the tenants placed over the roof. The residents are aware of the circumstances they are in (living in a tax acquired building and not paying any rent). They are looking to be out within two weeks to two months. He recommended that the Town Attorney begin the formal eviction process to start the time line so that the tenants are out before winter. This is a two unit building that could be rehabilitated. The Board will need to determine whether to put it out to bid or place it on the demolition list.

Mr. DiConzo made a motion to have the Town Attorney start the eviction process for tenants at 566 Prospect Avenue.

The Police Chief reported that many police calls have been required at this building and believes the process should be started as soon as possible.

Vote on the motion: 4-0

The Chief reported that 16 Free Street is a two unit building and has the ability of being converted to a single family home as there is an interior stairway. There are also code violations that need correction. This property could be placed out to bid with a covenant that it be made into a single family home.

Mr. Adley made a motion to place the 16 Free Street property out to bid with a covenant that the building be turned into a single family home. Vote: 4-0

The Fire Chief noted that he would like to be able to focus on the existing buildings that are currently out to bid, before placing additional properties out to bid at this time.

B. Approval of Future Demolitions of Tax Acquired Properties

The Fire Chief reported that 134 Penobscot Street, 429 Waldo Street, 222 Pine Street and 317 Pine Street have been discussed informally for demolition but a formal vote has not been taken.

Mr. Adley made a motion to move 134 Penobscot Street, 429 Waldo Street, 222 Pine Street and 317 Pine Street to the demolition list.

The Town Manager added that we will remove these buildings as the funds are available. The Public Works Department just demolished 426 and 428 Waldo Street and we have funding to also remove 429 Waldo Street.

Vote on the motion: 4-0

The Chief further explained that the Town actually owns three vacant lots, not two, as had been reported at the last meeting. The other lot is located on York Street. He asked for permission to place the York Street land lot out to bid to the abutters along with the other two that have already been approved to be offered to the abutters.

Mr. Adley made a motion to contact the abutters of the York Street land lot to see if they are interested in the Town owned vacant lot.

Chief Chase added that there had been a building on the lot at one time but has since been removed.

Vote on the motion: 4-0

6. New Business

A. Approval of Minutes from the Selectperson's Meeting of September 22, 2014 and Special Selectperson's Meeting of September 23, 2014

Mr. Sterling made a motion to approve the minutes from the Selectperson's Meeting of September 22, 2014 and Special Selectperson's Meeting of September 23, 2014. Vote: 4-0

B. Approval of the Town Warrant dated October 3, 2014

Mr. Adley made a motion to approve the Town Warrant, dated October 3, 2014. Vote: 4-0

C. Request from Citizen regarding Recommendation of MRI Consultant

Jim Thibodeau asked for clarification on a story in the Sun Journal of September 24, 2014, that contained a quote from Don Jutton of Municipal Resources, regarding citizen resistance to any changes in the consolidation recommendation.

Mr. Sterling and Mr. Buccina both responded to Mr. Thibodeau.

Fire Chief Chase explained that the comment made by Mr. Jutton was to use the political process (voters) to decide whether to consolidate, then if we do, to commit to it for at least five years so that all the growing pains work out. After that time frame, the decision can be looked at again if it is not working.

The Town Manager mentioned that this was not much different than other boards that have consolidated such as the ambulance and solid waste boards. The five year commitment is to give the consolidation a chance to succeed.

D. Appointment of Police Officer

Police Chief Stacy Carter noted that the approved Police budget included a Utility Position to reduce overtime when officers attend the Maine Criminal Justice Academy. He recommended the hiring of Rumford resident, Lawrence Briggs, as a Utility Officer, who is just finishing up a 100 hour course at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy.

Mr. Adley made a motion to approve the hiring of Lawrence Briggs as a Utility Officer for the Police Department. Vote: 3-0-1, Mr. DiConzo abstained.

E. Request from Sidewalk Committee to Obtain additional Funding for Further Surveying of The Island

Jessica Nichols presented a request from the Sidewalk Committee.

Mr. Adley made a motion to allow non-resident, Rick Dunton of Main-Land, to speak.

Mr. Dunton presented the Board with a proposal for additional work to include all sidewalks on The Island with a price range of \$47,300 to \$50,300. After discussion, the Board decided to fund some of the additional work.

Mr. Adley made a motion to approve additional funding of \$24,300.00 from the Sidewalk Account for further surveying to include the entire Island for the sidewalk/downtown plan. Vote: 4-0

F. Report from Code Enforcement Officer on Compliance Letters

This item was addressed earlier in the meeting under Department Head Reports.

G. Approval of Rumford Polar Bear Snowmobile Grant

Mr. DiConzo made a motion to approve the Rumford Polar Bear Snowmobile Grant. Vote: 4-0

H. Approval of Festival Event License for Envision Rumford for Pumpkin Fest Event

Mr. DiConzo made a motion to approve the Festival Event License for Envision Rumford for the Pumpkin Fest Event. Vote: 4-0

I. Request for Funding from Community Dental

Community Dental requested that this item be removed at this time.

J. Approval of Parade Permit for Mountain Valley High School Homecoming Parade

This item was addressed earlier in the meeting.

K. Approval of Construction Over Limit Permit for MDOT for Andover Road Project

Mr. Sterling made a motion to approve the Construction Over-Limit Permit for the MDOT for the Andover Road Project. Vote: 4-0

7. Adjournment

Mr. DiConzo made a motion to adjourn at 8:30 p.m.

John E. Madigan, Jr.
Town Manager

JEMJr/tp