

BOARD OF SELECTPERSON'S MEETING
November 19, 2015 6:30 p.m.
Rumford Falls Auditorium

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

ATTENDEES: Todd Sawyer, Bruce Manzer, Eric Giroux, Thomas Fallon, Mia Purcell, Bruce Farrin, Dick Lovejoy, Joey Buccina, Greg Buccina

1. Meeting Call to Order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairperson Adley

Mr. Adley asked for a moment of silence for Robert Bradley, Sr., who recently passed away. Mr. Bradley served the Town of Rumford as an employee for 25 years and also served for several years on the Board of Selectpersons.

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

3. Public Hearing (if needed)

None needed.

4. Requests of Citizen's Present

No requests were made.

5. Reports

A. Selectperson's Report

Mr. Chase noted that it was nice to see the building demoed at 317 Pine Street. He asked about the plans for the modification of the Town Offices. The Town Manager answered that he will be in touch with the architect.

Mr. Belanger informed the Board that the Judge ruled against the citizens that signed the petition this week. He believes that State law is clear that citizens have the right to petition their government. He thanked those that brought this forward for their efforts.

Mr. DiConzo reported attending Planning Day in Bethel today and felt that it was very informative. Our Fire Chief Robert Chase did a great job presenting his workshop on dangerous buildings. He believes Mr. Chase will become a reference point for many towns going through the same process. He asked if the Town Attorney has taken the next step to get the fire damaged Linnell Motel taken care of.

Mr. Sterling asked if the MDOT could replace the chevrons on the corner of Route 2 near the new Martin Memorial Bridge to help direct travelers around the corner. He read in the Townsman that Selectpersons in the State are talking about converting streetlights with LED bulbs at a cost of \$500 each. The initial cost is quite high, but the return is good as LED lights last much longer and cut energy costs over the long term. Future Boards may want to consider

this investment, possibly in conjunction with the Town of Mexico. He received a request from a citizen to replace a streetlight on Richardson Avenue that had been removed recently by the Town for cost saving measures (Pole Number 4).

Mr. Adley asked the Town Manager to contact the MDOT about replacing the chevron signs on Route 2 and to place an item on the next agenda for replacement of the streetlights with LED's. He believes there are Efficiency Maine grant monies available. He noted that the spending cap lawsuit was ruled in favor of the Town. He would like to move forward from here as the legal costs affect the Town. He gave accolades to the Student Council at the high school and private citizens who walked along the streets and picked up trash in the town on a recent Saturday. He attended the Portland Natural Gas Transmission Pipeline Dinner. He was able to speak with the area manager who has been having a dialogue with Northern LNG who are in negotiations for pipeline space and pipeline quantities. Oxford County Budget Caucus met recently and voted on a budget. The jail issue is looming, yet there is enough money in the casino revenues to cover it. Western Maine Transportation is now being funded at the county level so that it is evenly distributed to all the towns using their services. He noted that property at 151 Hall Hill and the Linnell Motel are in the hands of our legal counsel. He was approached by a citizen regarding approval of ATV operation on a public way. Some towns are allowing this on their streets. He was not advocating, but thought that we may want to consider this for the benefits of economy for the Town that would need to be weighed against any risk or liability to the Town. He also noted a photo he recently saw in the Times of some of the Select Board members at a recent ribbon cutting for Liberty Tax Service.

B. Town Manager's Report

The Town Manager reported that 317 Pine Street was demolished this week. The next building scheduled for demo is 222 Pine Street, which would be more difficult. He will be speaking with Troy Duguay at Public Works about this building. He attended the AVCOG Planning Day and noted that Fire Chief Robert Chase did a great job in his presentation about dangerous buildings. There was also a session on medical marijuana that was very informative. Questions arose about whether it is considered agriculture, doctor/medical, or home occupation for zoning/land use purposes. We will need to stay informed about this issue regarding the Town of Rumford's position in possible ordinance creation. Mr. Belanger asked if they touched on cannabis oil. The Town Manager answered that only in the sense that there were many different ways to ingest the product. It is a complex issue and the State is working to change the laws as they learn more about the issues that have arisen.

C. Department Manager Reports (as needed)

None.

D. Board and Committee Reports (as needed)

None.

6. Old Business

A. Continued Discussion on Bi-Weekly Payroll and Direct Deposit

The Town Manager reporting that the Town Clerk did not have anything ready for tonight, but he did not find anything specific regarding weekly or bi-weekly payroll not being allowed in the

union contracts or the Personnel Policy, however, the Town Manager's contract says he is to be paid weekly.

Mr. DiConzo spoke with Scott Cole from the County. They converted to bi-weekly and mandatory direct deposit seven months ago and have not had any problems. He believes time is money and time is a valuable commodity that can be used to work on other things and more can get done.

Mr. Adley also spoke to Scott Cole and his assistant. They say there is no money savings, but there is savings in time. He was hoping to take action tonight with the information brought forward.

Mr. Belanger believes this will save time for the Town Clerk's office.

Mr. Chase spoke with the Sheriff and they have not had any problem, however, they gave the employees substantial notice to prepare for payroll every other week. He also spoke with the Deputy in the Town Clerk's office who noted that there may be complications with the different rates that are paid to Public Works employees.

Mr. DiConzo made a motion to start direct deposit only and bi-weekly pay to start on the first week of January 2016.

The Town Manager asked about how this would be implemented as we are already holding back one week's pay. He suggested that possibly the employees could be paid current at the end of the week they worked. Employees would then not have to wait three weeks for their paycheck. The only employees that are paid current are the members of the Fire Department.

Mr. Chase was concerned about the short timeframe to begin this. He believes employees need more time to prepare.

Mr. Diconzo amended his motion to start on February 1, 2016. Mr. Belanger amended his second.

Mr. Sterling was concerned that we were not discussing this with the employees who will be affected by the changes. He believes we should be working together and would like input from them and would not support this motion.

Mr. Belanger believes this makes sense and was disappointed to not get further information from the Town Clerk's Office.

The Town Manager noted that we still need to print the paychecks and paystubs so we will not be saving on any paper when going to direct deposit.

Vote on the motion: 4-1, Mr. Sterling opposed.

7. New Business

A. Approval of Minutes from Select Board Meeting of November 5, 2015

Mr. Sterling made a motion to approve the minutes from the Select Board Meeting of November 5, 2015. Vote: 4-0-1, Mr. Adley abstained.

B. Approval of the Town Warrant dated November 20, 2015

Mr. DiConzo made a motion to move this item to the end of the meeting. Vote: 5-0

Mr. Sterling made a motion at the end of the meeting to approve the Town Warrant dated November 20, 2015. Vote: 5-0

C. Request for Streetlight near new Martin Memorial Bridge in Rumford Point

Mr. Sterling reported spending some time observing traffic in the area in question and made a written recommendation to the Board.

Mr. DiConzo made a motion to move the two lights in front of Trails End Motel to the intersection of Route 2 and 232 (Pole 99) and one at the intersection of Route 2 and Route 5 (Pole J7) on the Ellis River side of the bridge.

In discussion it was requested that CMP replace with LED light bulbs. It was suggested to contact CMP for prices and also to ask if there is any charge to moving the lights.

Vote on the motion: 5-0

D. Discussion on Maine Avenue Paving Project

Mr. DiConzo made a motion to allow non-resident, Todd Sawyer, to speak. Vote: 5-0

Mr. Sawyer, General Manager for Bruce Manzer out of Anson, Maine, explained the process and procedures used for the paving job on Maine Avenue. He had been in touch with Andy Russell throughout the project. The first they heard of a problem was when they read about it in the paper.

Mr. Belanger made a motion to allow non-resident, Bruce Manzer, to speak. Vote: 5-0

Mr. Manzer explained that he spent time looking at the street with Mr. Russell and the street was in very bad condition. There were changes in grade and parabolic curve with the use of shims. He and Mr. Russell worked out the decision as to how to proceed. They had a seasoned paving crew on the project with many years of experience and he believes they were asked to do something they should not have been.

Mr. DiConzo did not understand why Mr. Manzer's option was not followed.

Mr. Belanger noted that Mr. Russell made the decision on the method used for the project.

Mr. Adley asked if there was any contact from Mr. Russell about the quality of the finished product before this was published in the paper.

Mr. Sterling believed that the Board should have gone to the Town Manager before we went public with this concern.

The Town Manager noted that he saw Mr. Manzer the day of the project and asked him to look the job over that day as there were concerns.

Mr. Chase believes the Board should bring up these matters when they hear complaints from citizens.

Mr. Sterling noted that he goes to the Town Manager first when he hears of concerns as that is following the chain of command and the Town Manager runs the Town. He is able to get the problem vetted in this way.

Eric Giroux asked about who makes the decisions on these jobs and who sees the options.

The Town Manager did not know the reasoning that Mr. Russell used in making his decision as he was not present at the meeting. He will ask Mr. Russell about this.

Greg Buccina asked if there is a protocol to follow to alert citizens when work is going to be done on their street as his father had recently reconstructed his driveway then part of it was dug up during the paving project and not replaced with the same material.

Mr. Belanger believes people should be held accountable for the decisions that are made.

The Town Manager believes Mr. Russell should be here before accusations are made. He has been on vacation and may not have known this was on the Agenda.

Dale Roberts believes that comments should not have been made in public at the last meeting, which allowed this to be put in the newspaper, as it could affect the reputation of a business.

Mr. DiConzo made a motion to release the check to Bruce Manzer, Inc. for the paving job on Maine Avenue.

Tom Fallon believes we are asking the press to censor itself. He believes transparency is important in America.

Mr. Buccina asked why we are not asking Mr. Manzer to make the road the way it should be.

Mr. Sawyer noted that the asphalt plants are now closed for the season. A repair would not be feasible at this time. Perhaps this could be readdressed in the spring.

The check includes work done on Maine Avenue and several other projects.

Vote on the motion to release the check to Mr. Manzer: 5-0

The check was given in hand to Mr. Manzer at the meeting.

E. Request for Continued Funding for Economic Development Coordinator Position

Mr. Sterling made a motion to continue the support in the amount of \$12,000.00 for the year.

The Town Manager noted that the Town of Mexico did not contribute support this year.

Vote: 5-0

F. Approval of Annual Town Report Bid

The following bids were received at the Town Manager's Office:

1. Smith and Town Printers \$649.00
2. Snowman Printing Group \$802.38

Mr. Sterling made a motion to accept the bid from Smith and Town Printers for \$649.00. Vote: 5-0

G. Approval of CDBG Low to Moderate Income Certification from the Residential Survey of the Island

The Town Manager credited Mia Purcell for knocking on doors to get this important information for the survey. Ms. Purcell worked with Delanna Garey, who manages Rumford Island Housing, who received a 100 percent response rate from the residents. Juliet McCaffrey is the property manager at the Hotel Harris and worked to administer the survey to the residents there.

The residential survey is required for the CDBG Application to be completed for the proposed Downtown Island Project. The LMI rate was at 87 percent for the survey as a whole, which will qualify the Town to apply for a CDBG Grant. The Town needs to be at least 51 percent low to moderate income to be eligible.

Ms. Purcell clarified that the Downtown Revitalization Program has come into question as the Governor has taken the money from there to put into a new program. At this point the Town can still apply through this Program as well as public infrastructure. The sidewalks will get done under the public infrastructure, but the other improvements planned may not be covered.

The Town Manager explained that the Board needs to adopt the Certification of the Residential Survey.

Mr. Sterling made a motion to adopt the Certification of the Residential Survey. Vote: 5-0

H. Discussion on MDOT Bridge Projects and Information Center East Entrance Closure Request

The Town Manager explained that it was recommended by the MDOT to close the East entrance to the Information Center for the bridge work scheduled next summer and Cianbro also asked to close the same entrance for work that is proposed for the hydro dam project that they are bidding upon. This information was provided to the Board for their information.

I. Request from Envision Rumford for Funds to Purchase Christmas Decorations for Lamp Posts

Mr. Belanger asked if the decorations can be reused next year.

Mia Purcell of Envision Rumford answered that the bows can be reused, but she is not sure about the garland. She also suggested replacement of the current wreaths that are old, with something nicer, newer and different. They would not plan on having the old lighted wreaths put up by the Town.

Mr. Belanger made a motion to approve the purchase of Christmas decorations in the amount of \$250.00 to be placed on the Congress Street lamp posts.

The Town Manager suggested that Envision Rumford look at a whole new theme for decorations to put forth in the future budget to replace the old wreaths.

Vote on the motion: 5-0

8. Adjournment

Mr. DiConzo made a motion to adjourn at 8:09 p.m.

John E. Madigan, Jr.
Town Manager

JEMJr/tp