

BOARD OF SELECTPERSON'S MEETING
December 4, 2014, 6:30 p.m.
Rumford Falls Auditorium

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

ATTENDEES: Elliot "Bud" Burns, Barbara Burns, Mary Lou Burns, Michael Burns, David Burns, James Windover, Harry Burns, Kevin Knox, Bob Chase, Ellie LeDue, Charles LeDue, Kevin Saisi, Mary Gallant, Donald and Michelle Boucher, Tom Bourret, Terry Karkos, Peter Chase, Chris Brennick, Terri Palmer, Debbie Laurinaitis, Stacy Carter, Beth Bellegarde

1. Meeting Called to Order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairperson Sterling
2. Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

All present pledged allegiance to the American Flag

3. Presentation of the CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD to Harrison M. Burns

Chairperson Buccina presented a thank you card signed by the Board and an engraved clock to Citizen of the Year Harrison M. Burns. Mr. Burns thanked his brother Elliot "Bud" Burns for nominating him and sons Mike, Bob, and Dave for helping in the nomination, his family members who attended the presentation and the Board for selecting him for the award. He received a standing ovation and had photos taken for the press and the Annual Town Report.

4. Public Hearing: American Legion

There were no comments.

5. Requests of Citizen's Present

Kevin Knox requested that the snow dump be opened for residents and businesses. Mr. Buccina asked the Town Manager to speak with Andy Russell to possibly have a decision by the next agenda as to whether this would be possible.

Richard Scagliola stated that the Strathglass Park Owners Association plan on having an inspector assess properties in the Park without permission of the property owners and he does not believe that is legal.

6. Reports

A. Selectperson's Report

Mr. DiConzo congratulated Mr. Burns. He reported that the Comprehensive Plan's Implementation Committee Report was distributed to the Board members in their mailboxes, he also provided a copy to the Planning Board. He wanted to create a fund for future TIFF grants. He is also looking for a grant writer for many things that are coming up, including the Implementation Plan.

Mr. Belanger was concerned about reports of private contractors filling their trucks from the Town's sand pile and that citizens were not allowed to get sand last winter.

Mr. Buccina reported that we found the use of the sand pile was being abused and last year the Town was getting low on sand for maintaining roads and had to cut off use by citizens to allow the Town to have enough for roads.

The Town Manager reported that we put up more sand this year. Last year we were concerned that the Town would run out and needed what we had for keeping the roads safe. No one is allowed to take sand by the pick-up truck load, only two buckets of sand are allowed.

Mr. Belanger was concerned that there was no oversight on the access to the sand. If we do not have an ordinance, we should have one. He also thought that people were not allowed to plow snow across the road.

Mr. Adley believes we can push snow across a road way but cannot deposit snow on a public way.

The Town Manager reported that we have an ordinance that allows snow to be pushed across the street with a permit from the Town.

Mr. Buccina and the Board would like this item on the next Agenda.

Jim Windover asked the definition of a public way as he was concerned about snow being plowed by residents/businesses and left on sidewalks. The Town Manager answered that it is generally the Right of Way. Mr. Buccina said we will stay on top of this.

Mr. Adley noted the Christmas in the Valley Parade will be December 5th. The meeting held with the Town of Mexico regarding police services went well and a great deal of information was given to the Boards. The Town of Dixfield's Board was also in attendance. He asked the Town Manager about the status of the bridge behind Rite Aid and the Town Manager replied that the MDOT is currently trying to work out a plan for the bridge which may not be replaced.

Mr. Buccina reported that the Sidewalk Committee is meeting regularly and finalizing their plans for the replacement/repair of the downtown sidewalks. He also commented on the meeting with the Board of Mexico and a follow-up meeting has been scheduled for December 11. The Sheriff and both Mexico and Rumford Police Chiefs presented information at the meeting. The citizens of both communities will be casting their votes on what they would like for police services once all the information has been compiled and released for the public. Mr. Buccina asked about the traffic light on Portland Street that has been flashing for a long time. The Town Manager replied that the gentleman that repairs the traffic light does not have the schematics and the Town Manager asked Andy Russell to get this information from AD Electric.

B. Town Manager's Report

The Town Manager reported that an eviction notice had been served to the people living in the tax acquired property at 566 Prospect Avenue in October 2014. Just this week the people that were living there were arrested for stealing the copper pipes out of the building after they had vacated. We will now be working through the court system on this matter.

AFSCME has written to begin collective bargaining for the Public Works Department. The Town Manager would like to know who would be serving on the negotiating committee from the Board. Mr. Buccina indicated that the Board would discuss this matter at the next meeting.

The Town Manager noted that the Town was presented a certificate of appreciation from the Oxford County Domestic Violence Task Force for painting the town purple during the domestic violence campaign.

The Town Manager gave copies of a survey requested by Androscoggin River Watershed Council Coalition to the Board members for their input. It can be done online by December 10, 2014. The Town Manager was asked to forward this survey by email.

The MDOT will be meeting with the Town Manager and public safety department heads about upcoming bridge projects for 2016 that includes the Upper Canal Bridge and Morse Bridge. There will be a significant impact on traffic during this work.

Mr. Adley asked if we were able to split the fuel bid. The Town Manager answered that we were not able to split between the two vendors.

The Town Manager distributed the Annual Drug Free Work Place and Sexual Harassment Policies to the Board members.

Mr. Buccina read from a letter received from a gentleman in California that contained a postcard of the Episcopal Church.

C. Department Manager Reports (as needed)

Fire Chief Robert Chase reminded everyone that the Christmas in the Valley Parade starts at 6:30 p.m. from Mountain Valley High School and all may visit with Santa and have cocoa at the Fire Station during or after the parade. It is also hydrant shoveling season and it would be helpful for anyone that is interested in shoveling to leave about three to four feet around the hydrant for access by the Fire Department. It is also unlawful to deposit snow on fire hydrants or near fire call boxes.

Mr. Buccina asked for an update on the Ad Hoc Committee and the building demolitions. The Town Manager reported that four building have been taken down, three on Waldo Street and one on Penobscot Street. Another building at 222 Pine can be taken down by Public Works if there is time between winter storms.

Fire Chief Robert Chase also added that two properties were put back out to bid and there were viewings of the properties yesterday. There were also bids put out for vacant lots. The Ad Hoc Committee will continue to meet to assess other properties that will be ready for demolition next spring.

The Town Manager reported that we have received the \$19,000 for 127 Washington Street that was donated by Wells Fargo and the deed has been recorded. We are still waiting for the check and deed for 239 Penobscot Street from Wells Fargo.

Andy Russell reported that the re-lining job by Insituform is due to begin next Monday in the Sunnyside Terrace area.

Mr. Adley asked about the pump stations on Route 108. Mr. Russell reported that the two pump stations have been placed and they are waiting for the weather to break so that the electrical wiring can be connected. We also upgraded two pumping stations on South Rumford Road from single phase to three phase, Mr. Russell noted.

The Town Manager reported that Mario Puiia took care of the water runoff problem that should help with the problems of water crossing Route 108 that would turn into a sheet of ice on the highway.

D. Board and Committee Reports (as needed)

There were no reports presented.

7. Old Business

A. Approval of Quit Claim Deed for Donald and Michelle Boucher for 21 Falmouth Street

Mr. Adley made a motion to approve the Quit Claim Deed for Donald and Michelle Boucher for 21 Falmouth Street.

The Town Manager reported that the Town has received the \$1,000 bid from the Boucher's for the property and the Town Clerk will record the deed. Mr. Boucher has already started cleaning up the yard at the property. He also learned that there are a couple State of Maine liens on the property that Mr. Boucher discovered: One for child support and one for several years of delinquent income taxes.

Vote on the motion: 5-0

B. Approval of Quit Claim Deed and Mortgage Note for Steven Shearer

Mr. Sterling made a motion to approve the Quit Claim Deed and Mortgage Note for Steven Shearer. Vote: 5-0

Mr. Shearer was unable to attend the meeting.

C. Reconsideration to Extend the Charter Commission

Chris Brennick, Chairperson of the Charter Commission, requested that the Board extend the Charter Commission to allow them to finish their work.

Mr. Belanger was concerned that the Charter Commission did not adhere to the State Statutes for Charter Commissions and read an excerpt from the Statutes.

Several citizens commented on this topic: Jim Windover, Peter Chase, Bob Chase, Terri Palmer, Jeff Sterling, Brad Adley, Greg Buccina, Jim Rinaldo, John Madigan and Frank DiConzo.

Mr. DiConzo made a motion to extend the Charter Commission until the first Monday in March 2015 with all the proposed changes (Final Report) in the Town Attorney's Office on that date.

The Town Manager suggested making the motion retroactive to October 2014.

Mr. Buccina asked Mr. Brennick to give the Board an update on a regular basis.

Terri Palmer noted that the Charter Commission will need to hold Public Hearings after the Final Report is submitted and may need to be able to address questions and need a further extension.

Mr. DiConzo noted that a further extension can be considered after the Final Report is submitted to the Town Attorney on time.

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

D. Discussion on Consolidation Issues

The Board members shared their thoughts on the consolidation efforts with the Town of Mexico.

Mr. DiConzo believes that consolidation is the way to go although there may be a loss of jobs. We need to modernize, cut staffing and work together to move forward.

Mr. Sterling was pleased with the presentation of the Sheriff's Office and the report from Municipal Resources for the Police Department. He would like to wait until the next meeting on December 11 to share any specifics.

Mr. Adley thought both presentations by the local Police Chiefs and Sheriff's office were very informative.

The Town Manager believes the two chiefs can get together with the Town of Dixfield to see if the three towns can be part of the Police consolidation which can be discussed at the December 11th meeting.

Police Chief Stacy Carter mentioned that we need to come up with a cost sharing formula for the interested towns to be able to work together that will result in equitable savings for each town.

Mr. Adley believes we have a cost sharing formula with the joint purchase of the ladder truck for the Fire Departments.

The Town Manager believes we can total up what is paid out today in each town and find whatever savings possible going forward.

8. New Business

A. Approval of Minutes from the Special Selectperson's Meeting of November 6, 2014, Selectperson's Meeting of November 20, 2014, and Special Joint Select Board's Meeting of November 24, 2014

Mr. Belanger made a motion to approve the minutes from the Special Selectperson's Meeting of November 6, 2014, Selectperson's Meeting of November 20, 2014 and Special Joint Select Board Meeting of November 24, 2014. Vote: 5-0

B. Approval of Town Owned Land Property Bids

The Town Manager reported that no bids were received from any of the abutters who were sent a letter from the Town.

C. Request from Rumford Performing Arts Committee for ASCAP Payment

Jim Rinaldo of the Rumford Performing Arts Committee asked the Town to pay this bill as it benefits all performers that entertain in the Rumford Falls Auditorium not only RPAC. In the past the RPAC has paid this bill from their account. This license gives permission for songs to be performed on Town property without infringing on copyright licenses.

Mr. DiConzo made a motion to approve paying \$300.00 to cover the ASCAP payment to be paid in the future from the franchise fees. Vote: 5-0

D. Request from Gayle Sirois for Speed Enforcement and Sidewalk Plowing

Ms. Sirois sent a letter asking for speed control and snow removal on Prospect Avenue.

The Board discussed this issue along with Police Chief Stacy Carter at length. Chief Carter noted that this is a town wide problem. It was determined that the Board would like this item placed on

the next Agenda for further discussion to give them opportunity to check the Town Ordinances in and decide to what extent the Police are to enforce the Ordinances and how to educate the townspeople.

E. Discussion on a Four Day Work Week and Payroll Possibilities

Mr. DiConzo made a motion to look into the cost savings by closing the Town Office one day a week and to also determine if there would be any savings on having payroll done by an outside contractor.

Town Clerk Beth Bellegarde made some comments about her thoughts on this issue.

Vote on the motion: 5-0

F. Approval of Christmas in the Valley Parade Permit

Mr. Sterling made a motion to approve the Christmas in the Valley Parade Permit. Vote: 5-0

G. Approval of Liquor License and Special Amusement Permit for American Legion

Mr. Belanger made a motion to approve the liquor license and special amusement permit for the American Legion. Vote: 5-0

H. Selection of Dates for January 2015 Meetings

The first meeting of January is scheduled on New Year's Day and the Board will need to reschedule that meeting and possibly the second meeting of the month.

Mr. DiConzo made a motion to change the dates of the Board meetings in January 2015 to January 8th and 22nd. Vote: 5-0

I. Approval of the Town Warrant dated December 5, 2014

Mr. Adley made a motion to approve the Town Warrant dated December 5, 2014. Vote: 5-0

9. Adjournment

Mr. DiConzo made a motion to adjourn at 9:28 p.m. Vote: 5-0

John E. Madigan, Jr.
Town Manager

JEMJr/tp