

Public Hearing for Ordinance Requests and Charter Amendments
February 18, 2016, 5:30 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: Gina Hinckley, Stacy Carter, Bruce Farrin, Jennifer Kreckel, Bob Chase, Beth Bellegarde, Maureen Cook, Tamara Butler, Barry Lane, Liesl Lance, Deborah Laurinaitis

1. Chairperson Adley opened the meeting at 5:30 p.m.
2. Chairperson Adley opened the floor for proposals:

Gina Hinckley of Rumford Center asked to enact an ordinance regarding truck traffic. She would like a "No Engine Brake" sign. She also asked for a speed limit to be changed from 35 to 25. She has taken videos and recording of the traffic situation and has had her home shaking and windows breaking. The Town Manager noted that the Board of Selectpersons have authority for traffic related concerns yet, the Maine DOT has sole authority for speed limits, even on town roads, for the purpose of uniformity. The Town Manager noted that we could check with the MDOT if the Board was willing. Mr. Belanger asked if the speed limit was being enforced and if anyone is ever stopped. Ms. Hinckley said they have reported the problem, but the Police are usually busy handling more serious crimes and have not been able to get there and there are only two available at night. Ms. Hinckley noted that the truckers driving by know the routes and should be aware of the speed limits. She is also writing down the names of the trucks and is planning on calling the companies. They are the chip trucks and pulp trucks. She noted that the Police Department was going to send out letters, but she is not sure if this happened. Chairperson Adley mentioned that the Town could send a letter to the companies that are contributing to the problem. Police Chief Carter noted that the MDOT governs the speed limits on Route 2, unless a town way. The Town can vote to put up a sign for a "Jake brake." Enforcement has been difficult as there are many calls to respond to, and anything on the outside loop is not able to be enforced as the officers are called back to town for another more serious call. He just completed a grant with Bureau of High Way Safety for speed enforcement that will bring money in to help with speed enforcement in the documented areas of crashes because of speeding. This grant pays for extra manpower. Mr. Adley would like the sign request on the next Board Agenda. The Town Manager could contact the MDOT in the meantime, and also discuss writing letters to the trucking companies to slow down should be discussed on the next Agenda.

Chief Stacy Carter introduced proposed changes to the Chapter 45 Sex Offender Ordinance regarding the distance they may live from a school. The GRCC does not fall within that designation and he would like to add language to include them and also licensed Day Cares.

Chief Charter also noted that Chapter 30-C is not consistent with State law and he would like us to review the Ordinance to be sure it is in compliance (MRS 17 1021).

Frank DiConzo requested a change to Charter Article XII, Section 1, to not require the Moderator to be a Rumford resident. He noted that it may be helpful to have a neutral party moderate our meetings.

Beth Bellegarde brought up a concern about how we pay our Moderator and possibly compensate them by another method other than a flat rate of \$100 for the Annual Town Meeting and \$50 for Special Town Meetings as they also oversee the Elections (an all day event). She was also concerned about how State Law and our Charter are messy in the responsibility of the Moderator.

Gina Hinckley had an ordinance suggestion that your trash is where people can see it. Her neighbor has old televisions, snowmobiles and, car parts out in their front yard. Mr. Adley noted that we do have some ways to address these issues but it must go through the legal process and owners have property rights. Ms. Hinckley noted that the Town has been trying to attract others to come to our area, but these types of things make the Town look bad.

Jennifer Kreckel was asked about the writing of an ordinance to address roof drains emptying into the sanitary sewers. She noted we can only fine them, we cannot make them change; we can only try to work with them to bring their drainage system into compliance. Discussion ensued regarding floor drains, roof drains and any other mechanism that empties into the sanitary sewer. She is working on that at this time. She is planning on using statutory violations and the ordinance would go into effect upon passage by the voters. Mr. Belanger asked if anyone could be grandfathered. Attorney Kreckel noted that we have been given a directive by the MDEP as we are in violation, and she does not believe anyone can be grandfathered. The roof drains are all through town, not just on the Island. She asked how we are going to address this. Will the CEO beginning checking buildings throughout town. Mr. DiConzo was concerned that people be contacted as soon as possible so they are able to plan to take care of their buildings and so that we can come into compliance. Mr. Belanger asked how long it would take for people to come into compliance so that it does not take years to get resolved. The Town Manager noted that the Rumford-Mexico Sewerage District was cited by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection because of the Inflow and Infiltration problems. It is still the obligation of the contributing towns to remedy the situation as we are treating much more sanitary sewer water than needs to be treated. The suggested deadline for correction of the violation was agreed to be 180 days.

Fire Chief Chase noted that the MDEP was concerned about the floor drains at Fire Stations emptying into the storm drains as they go directly to the river and may contain waste oil and soapy water from washing vehicles for example. The Town Attorney asked if the floor drain issue was part of the MDEP violation. The Town Manager said no, but that this is a good point as this water is contaminated and should be treated. It was determined to find out what the MDEP regulations are on the floor drains before the Town Attorney drafts an ordinance to correct this problem. The Town Manager noted that there were 15 buildings that failed the smoke test that had been completed. There is also a test with dye that will be done in the near future to gain further information.

Frank DiConzo explained that he would like the Town to adopt the State's Model Wind Energy Facility Ordinance. Our Wind Energy Facility Ordinance is on the Town website. He will send an email to Board members listing the differences between the two. He believes that the State's ordinance is less restrictive and may encourage a wind power business to consider our area. He wants to be business friendly especially if the paper mill closes. Mr. Sterling noted that he has been asked by citizens about bringing this back up ever since it was passed and he is struggling with whether the Board should bring this back up to bring forward to the citizen's to vote upon. The Board noted that they are bringing this back to a vote based on the requests by citizens.

The Ordinance Public Hearing was concluded at 7:00 p.m.