

**EXECUTIVE SESSION AGENDA- \*AMENDED\* April 4, 2018\***

**April 5, 2018 6:00 p.m.  
Rumford Falls Auditorium**

1. Personnel Matters, pursuant to § MRSR: Title 1, Chapter 13, Subchapter 1, Section 405-6A

Mr. Chase made the motion to go into executive session. Seconded by Mr. Brennick.

Vote-2-2 Mr. Belanger and Mr. Windover opposed

**BOARD OF SELECTPERSON'S MEETING MINUTES**

**April 5, 2018 6:30 p.m.  
Rumford Falls Auditorium**

***PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS MUST BE ADDRESSED FROM THE PODIUM  
FOR DIGITAL RECORDING PURPOSES. PLEASE RAISE YOUR HAND TO BE RECOGNIZED  
BY THE CHAIRPERSON OR COME TO THE PODIUM.***

1. Call to Order

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

Moment of Silence for Retired Rumford Town Clerk- Mary Ann Prue, who passed away on March 30, 2018 in Bangor

3. Public Hearing: Hawker and Peddler License for Dana Levasseur- Doing Business as, Mr. and Mrs. Sausage

Mr. Davis asked for an explanation/ definition of the License.

Mr. Brennick explained to audience satisfaction.

Limousine License- James Peterson, Matthew Peterson, Matthew Foreman- Doing Business as, Vacationland Limousine

NO public comment.

4. Special Presentation or Award:

None

5. Comments

A. Public Comment

B. Town Manager's Report

- Spoke at the Rotary Club meeting about the downtown project. This is another community engagement opportunity provided for the grant purposes
- Attended the Investing in the Future Forest Economy seminar—where all governmental and private funders gathered to discuss the future of the industry and transitional opportunities

- Met with GWI the company that provides our phone/internet service to discuss service and contractual options
- Met to discuss the progress of the written CDBG application in light of the 3/30 deadline
- Attended the Broadband Seminar in Belfast to learn from other communities how and who was addressing their needs
- Received notification our intern will be in place for the summer—need to follow up with information to her University for internship credit
- Attended the 30<sup>th</sup> DARE graduation. This year more than 100 5<sup>th</sup> graders participated in the program. I want to commend Sgt. Doug Maifeld for his role in this program over the past 25 years. The essays written by those children were so well put together you wouldn't think you were listening to 5<sup>th</sup> graders writing and reading them. I also would like to thank their teachers and principals for embracing the program and incorporating it into their curriculum. This inclusion, without a doubt, is why the students did so well with the essays.
- Attended the PUC hearing in Hallowell where the Water District addressed their questions and/or concerns for the large scale extraction project
- Attended inspection day at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy. Our cadet, Ashley Rich, is doing quite well and continues to rise through the ranks of her class
- Met with a number of departments to discuss operational adjustments to work load and procedure
- Met with new business owner to encourage collaboration on a number of projects
- Met with Court Maintenance Engineer to address the need for a handicap van accessible spot
- Welcomed our new Chief Chris Reed and his wife Stephani to Rumford

C. Department Head or Committee Chair Report (as needed)

\*Chief Carter updated the Board- In receipt of four Highway Safety Grants- Dedicated Details/Patrols: OUI Enforcement \$2650.00, Speed Enforcement \$3400.00, Distracted Driver \$8000.00, Seatbelt Enforcement \$2350.00 = Total \$16,400.00. Funds are a result of Crash Statistics

\*Removal of Jail cells, to accommodate for office space.

\*Community concern and inquiries regarding School Resource Officer, due to recent school shootings and child safety. Chief Carter will apply for a Grant in July for this purpose. Partnering with School District.

\* Reported Drug Arrests: WTMTW news report/article. Expanded on the reason Rumford was not listed; as arrests were done in other towns, though Rumford was in on investigations, etc. Conducted highway stops with help of State Police, etc. before drug traffickers could get into Rumford, aiming it more difficult to seize the drugs.

\*26 Arrests in 2017\*

Mr. Brennick thanked Chief Carter and the Police Department for participating in “Lock-Down Drills” at Mountain Valley High School and for feedback for better training and implementation of safety plan.

#### D. Selectperson's Report

Mr. Windover congratulated the DARE graduating class of 2018.

Mr. Belanger brought forth document obtained regarding “Roof Drain” Ordinance. Information and details that were not included in the Rumford Ordinance. Given to Town Attorney for review and possible amendment of the Rumford Ordinance document.

Town Attorney came to the microphone, explained that she and Code Enforcement Officer are aware and have discussed the verbiage that was inadvertently left out; making corrections/amendments as necessary. She will review document that was voted on by the Town of Rumford.

Mr. Chase congratulated the DARE graduating class of 2018.

Mr. Brennick also, congratulated the DARE graduating class of 2018. He gave Appreciation to Officer Maifeld the Rumford Police Department for their work with fifth grade students and children in the community.

#### 6. Old Business

None

#### 7. New Business

##### A. Approval of Minutes from Select Board Meeting of March 15, 2018

Mr. Belanger made the revised motion to approve amended (Mr. Theriault strike status of absent; as per his resignation dated for 3/15/2018-per Mr. Brennick) Seconded by Mr. Windover  
Vote-4-0

##### B. Approval of the Town Warrant dated April 5, 2018

Mr. Windover made the motion to approve. Seconded by Mr. Chase  
Vote-4-0

#### C. Introduction and Approval of Fire Chief- Chris A. Reed

Mr. Brennick mentioned news article, social media chatter. Read the Ordinance Chapter 4, Section 3 for policy, process and procedure regarding nominations of appointed Police and Fire Chief Candidates. He spoke of Chief Reed's impressive, training, long distinguished service, exemplary qualifications, experience, recognitions and distinctions.

Mr. Brennick made the motion to allow Chief Chris Reed to speak and introduce himself. Seconded by Mr. Belanger  
Vote-4-0

Chief Reed gave his introduction and verbal curriculum vitae.

Mr. Chase spoke of the strong qualifications and tenure of the interview committee. He mentioned that it was a unanimous vote/ decision by the interview committee to choose this candidate over all others; most impressive resume' he has ever seen in his 27 year career, as a firefighter. In Mr. Chase's opinion, no better candidate out there; very privileged to have a candidate of Mr. Reed's caliber.

Mr. Belanger spoke of past experience in respect to hiring of a Police Chief or Fire Chief. He expressed his displeasure of not being included in the interview/ decision making process. Brought up possibility of Regionalization, as in relation to the Charter. He expressed his anger concerning the entire process and the way this was handled; regarding a recently published new article, etc.

Mr. Brennick and Mr. Belanger entered into a heated, tenuous debate.

Mr. Chase interjected with facts and that no process or discussion concerning Regionalization, was brought before the Board. He questioned Mr. Belanger his personal agenda for bringing this matter up at this meeting and not well advance or suggesting a workshop to address these matters prior to this meeting; it been months since Chief Chase gave his resignation in January; more than ample time to address any and all concerns regarding process and etc.

Mr. Brennick scolded Mr. Belanger for his behavior as a Selectperson of this Town; coming forth at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour with concerns and questions, etc.; never once coming forth with concerns or questions prior to this meeting. In Mr. Brennick's opinion, a personal agenda and show of bully tactics to make a statement, on, Mr. Belanger's part. Mr. Brennick also, expressed his esteem and confidence in those on the interviewing committee; as well as their tenure and experience. This example of behavior shows a lack of respect to them, their expertise and knowledge. These are highly trained, knowledgeable people that the Town pays very well, for their expertise. Mr. Brennick expressed his strong displeasure and annoyance at the way Mr. Belanger conducts himself on social media and this meeting; as well as, the lack of respect and concern Mr. Belanger for employees. Mr. Brennick expressed his concern for losing an excellent Fire Chief candidate over Mr. Belanger's outburst and ridiculous behavior.

Mr. Windover expressed that during Budget negotiations and workshop, he brought up the idea for Regionalization, relating to Fire Department. He added however, that nothing was brought up at a Select Board meeting.

Town Manager explained, the interview process had already begun at that time.

Chief Carter came to the microphone expressing his disgust, disgrace and embarrassment for the behavior, of this Board. The Board gave direction to the Town Manager to go out nationally to search for a Fire Chief Candidate months previous. He expressed the basic formality for the Board to approve the

Candidate the Town Manager and highly qualified Interview Committee bring forth, as the ideal Candidate. The exhaustive search and interview process has resulted in this fine gentleman and a very competent Fire Chief, to replace a very competent Fire Chief (Chief Chase). The interview committee unanimously decided on Mr. Reed. His credentials, qualifications, experience, knowledge... made him the very best choice to succeed Chief Chase. He suggested that the Board "Make it right"!

A standing ovation and round of applause, from the audience, followed Chief Carter's speech.

Mr. Windover expressed, in the past, a member of the Select Board was present during interviews for "Chief" positions. In his experience," it has always been done that way." He expressed his desire for input when hiring those positions.

Mr. Siasi came to the microphone, apologized to Chief Reed for the display and behavior of the Board. The procedure was followed exactly as written, by law, in the Ordinance Article. He stated, "Because, something is done a certain way in the past, doesn't mean this Town Manager has to handle the process in the same way. If you don't like the procedure, then you should work to change it."

Mr. Windover interjected, "The procedure has been this way for years." The written Ordinance Article does NOT mandate the Town Manager include the Board in the selection process." May have been common practice but, it is not mandated in the procedure." The Board would need to amend the Ordinance Article and present it for a public vote, if wanting to mandate being included in the process.

Mr. Windover disagreed. Expressed his right to disapprove the process and the Candidate.

Chief Chase came to the microphone, expressed his tremendous support for Fire Chief Candidate, Chief Reed. He expressed his excitement for leaving Rumford Fire Department in the best possible hands. He also, reminded the Board that proper procedure was followed, as written. He expressed, "In my most recent experience and past experience the Select Boards in Rumford, have been far over reaching and over powered with some of the things they have been afforded the opportunities to do beyond what their real roles are. Councils and Select Boards should be policy makers and vision makers and should not be involved in personnel matters until Ordinances dictate that. They should not be involved in department operations and I have seen in Rumford a propensity and habit for Select Boards to be over empowered. I also, firmly believe this is the first Town Manager that we have had that understands the true roles of Government and the responsibilities of the people within those echelons of Government." He went on to express the growing pains that need to be overcome. In his opinion, "This is the right way to Govern." He explained to the Board that he understood, in the past they had been empowered to have input into the process. It doesn't necessarily mean it was right or wrong or required of the process. He expressed his ultimate confidence in the way the process transpired, manifested and the group that were chosen to interview were the ideal, for this process. He expressed his inability and unavailability to continue aiding and assisting the department as he has for the past 14 weeks; his situation has changed. He expressed his displeasure and angst for the "theatrics" that went on here tonight, or whether or not another viable Candidate that would risk coming here." The issues regarding process should be discussed in another forum." It would be a shame, a shame to miss this opportunity with him. It would be a shame for the Town. I strongly encourage you to make this right."

Audience members stood before the Board and spoke of support for Fire Chief

Mr. Belanger asked employment/probationary (up to 1 year) related questions. Town Manager explained that a contract has not been written up as of this day, as she was waiting for Board Approval on the Candidate.

Mr. Belanger asked Chief Reed questions relating to his philosophy of running a Fire Department/ managing Firefighters, Fiscal Challenges/ Responsibility, where he stands on Volunteer Force and Regionalization. Chief Reed answered all questions.

Mr. Brennick asked questions related to Chief Reed's experience with abandoned buildings. Chief Reed answered questions.

Mr. Belanger thanked Chief Chase for his years of service and diligence.  
He also, expressed that he would, in the future speak up with concerns and questions.

Mr. Brennick also, Thanked Chief Chase for his service.

Mr. Chase spoke of his brief meeting with Chief Reed; found he and his wife to be very good people.

Mr. Chase made the motion to approve Chief Chris Reed as Fire Chief. Seconded by Mr. Windover  
Vote-4-0

A standing ovation and round of applause, from the audience.

Mr. Brennick welcomed Chief Reed and his wife Stephanie

#### D. Discussion and Action on Rumford FREE Catholic Library Exemption Request

Town Manager introduced Attorney Bill Dale, from Jensen Baird. Legal Assessing Process; define and identify process for proper notification on request for Assessment Tax Exemption.

Mr. Brennick made the motion to allow Attorney Dale to speak. Seconded by Mr. Belanger  
Vote-3-0 (Mr. Windover stepped out for a moment)

Attorney Dale specializes in Maine Municipal Property Tax issues. Special Out- Side Council for Board of Assessors. Tax Abatement from Catalyst and Rumford Hydro. Special unique situation- Maine Statute- Exception allegation of error or irregularity in the assessment process. Non-profit Catholic FREE Library Pine Street. Applicant and applicant's attorney not present. Evidence/ Exhibits/Deeds/LLC's were presented for the Board's review, proving unmaintained/vacant building. Mr. Bourret (Tax Collector) explained that taxes are current for this property. \$6000.00 yearly x 3 years = \$18000.00 owner requesting back taxes from 2015, 2016, 2017.

Mr. Brennick asked questions regarding appeals process/proper notice. Attorney Dale explained process and property owner responsibility.

Mr. Chase expressed his concerns regarding all the legal fees this process has accumulated; the third time this request has been presented.

Mr. Siasi(Planning Board) addressed the Board. In his opinion, the information provided leaves no doubt as to this building being abandoned and should be pursued by the Code Enforcement Officer. Discussion by Planning Board, has determined as abandoned.

Code Enforcement addressed the owner to obtain a "change of use" permit, to which the owner and Attorney for the owner never replied.

Per recommendation form Town Assessors Office-Pursuant to 36 MRSA, Subsection 841, Paragraph 1. 36 MRSA, Subsection 652, Paragraph 1A- charitable and benevolent

Mr. Chase asked about occupancy. Tax Assessor answered questions.

Mr. Windover made the motion to deny the request and adopt the decision of the Board of Assessors.  
Seconded by Mr. Chase  
Vote-4-0

#### E. Discussion and Action on Executive Session Personnel Matter

Mr. Brennick made the motion to remove letter "E". Was inadvertently added to agenda, in error.

Seconded by Mr. Belanger.

Vote-4-0

#### F. Approval of Hawker and Peddler License for Mr. and Mrs. Sausage

Mr. Windover made the motion to approve. Seconded by Mr. Chase

Vote-4-0

#### G. Approval of Limousine License for Vacationland Limousine- James Peterson, Matthew Peterson, Matthew Foreman

Mr. Belanger made the motion to approve. Seconded by Mr. Windover

Vote-4-0

#### H. Approval Town of Rumford Personal Property Disposition Policy DRAFT 09 14 2017

Mr. Windover made the motion to table discussion to May 3, 2018 meeting. Seconded by Mr. Belanger

Vote-4-0

#### I. Discussion and Action on Workshop Proposal

Mr. Belanger made the motion for May 10, 2018 Workshop date-Sewer Billing with Tax Collector Mr. Bourret and Town Manager. Seconded by Mr. Windover

Vote-4-0

#### J. Discussion and Action on Date for Lifting Winter Parking Ban 2018

Mr. Windover made the motion to approve lifting Winter Parking Ban as of April 6, 2018. Exception; plowable snow storm. Seconded by Mr. Brennick

Vote-4-0

#### 8. Adjournment

Mr. Chase made the motion to adjourn, Seconded by Mr. Belanger

Vote-4-0

8:12 p.m.

Linda-Jean Briggs  
Town Manager

LJB/pc