

BOARD OF SELECTPERSON'S MEETING
February 20, 2014, 7:00 p.m.
Rumford Falls Auditorium

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

ATTENDEES: Dan Richard, Kevin Saisi, Debbie Laurinaitis, Candice Casey, Kevin Knox, Terri Palmer, Mike Mills, Eric Giroux, Bruce Farrin, Terry Karkos, Bromley Cook, Stacy Carter, Jim Windover, Carlo Puiia, Kevin Kaulback, Richard Scagliola

1. Meeting Call to Order at 7:00 p.m.
2. All present Pledged Allegiance to the American Flag

A Moment of Silence was held in honor of the memory of Bruce Barry a former Fire Fighter for the Town of Rumford.

3. Requests of Citizen's Present

Candice Casey asked that we adjust the way the budgets articles are presented.

Richard Scagliola reported trouble on the sidewalk near his house and wants to close the sidewalk in front of his house. The Chair suggested that we have more police patrol in the area. Mr. Scagliola reported that he has a camera and will be recording the sidewalk.

Former Town Manager Carlo Puiia explained the cable franchise fees acceptable uses. The Auditorium sound system was paid by Time Warner not from the franchise fees. The Town paid for the labor to install the system from the reserve balance of the franchise fees that were being held for the improvement of the sound in the Auditorium. A live feed for Mountain Valley High School was also installed in that agreement. State of Maine law gives the Board authority to do what they want; however, local law specifies that two-thirds goes to cable access programming, not necessarily the local access station, to give flexibility for various reasons. Negotiations are complete with Time Warner on the sound system.

4. Reports

A. Selectperson's Report

Mr. Adley gave an "attaboy" to the Public Works Department for their work during the many winter storms we have had.

Ms. Lovejoy, Mr. DiConzo and Mr. Sterling did not have a report for this meeting.

Mr. Buccina requested funding for a young man at Mountain Valley High School to attend a leadership conference. The Board was not in favor of supporting through the Town, but may decide to do so on their own.

B. Town Manager's Report

The Town Manager reported that he has been working with the Assessor and Assessor's Board Chairperson regarding the reduction in valuation for the paper mill this year and whether they should apply for Sudden and Severe. The consensus was that the effort to apply at this late date would not get anywhere. The statute has been amended and is much more stringent to eliminate abuse. He has spoken to legal services at MMA and the legal representative for the Board of Assessors. Another representative from Maine Revenue Services agreed that we would not meet the qualifications under the new statute. All involved in the process agreed not to pursue Sudden and Severe.

A Quit Claim Deed was issued to Norman and Rebecca Gagnon by the Board on December 19, 2013 for tax acquired property at 134 Penobscot Street adjacent to their property. The Gagnon's promised to tear down the building at their cost and paid \$250 for associated fees. Since that time Mr. Gagnon found out that he would be responsible for the payment of the taxes, in excess of \$800, as he would be the owner of record on April 1st and the building would still be there. He was not interested in spending any more money on the property. The Town Manager believed the best way to handle this would be to rescind the motion that was made, destroy the Quit Claim Deed and refund the \$250 to Mr. Gagnon. After April 1st, we can start the process again with Mr. Gagnon, who will not have to pay the taxes and would take the building down at no cost to the Town.

Mr. Adley rescinded his motion to approve the Quit Claim Deed for Norman and Rebecca Gagnon for tax acquired property at 134 Penobscot Street. Vote: 5-0

Another request for funds from the cable franchise fees will be on the next Agenda for a Professional Logging Event at Black Mountain of Maine.

WVAC sent a request for cable franchise fees. This will go on the next Agenda for a vote by the Board.

The COPS Grant for the Police Department was not approved for funding.

Next Wednesday is the first budget workshop with the Board, Department Heads and Finance Committee.

The Easement for the Witas property on Swain Road had to be corrected as the property deed was in only one name and not two. The Board resigned the Easement. This matter had been voted upon by the residents of town on November 7, 2013.

C. Department Manager's Report

There were no Department Manager Reports at the meeting.

5. Old Business

A. Discussion on Town Manager Copier Bid

The Town Manager explained that the recently approved bid from Transco for the copier for the Town Manager's Office was for a Xerox WorkCenter. This machine has been found to be noisy, much slower in printing and not comparable to the older Savin model that needed to be replaced. Transco has replaced the Xerox with a Konica Minolta bizhub 654 as a demonstration model and this machine has proved to be comparable, efficient and less noisy. The cost of the demo unit is \$3,450.00 more.

Discussion ensued about the bid process and the specifications.

Mr. DiConzo made a motion to add an additional \$3,450.00 to the bid for Transco for the demonstration model. Vote: 5-0

B. Discussion with Park Commission to Replace One-Ton Truck and Dump Deckover Trailer

Dan Richard, Chairperson of the Park and Recreation Commission, requested that the Board reconsider the bid as the cost of repairing the old truck is \$6500 and it is only worth \$4500 in trade in. The truck is 14 years old and was scheduled to be replaced through the Capital Plan a few years ago and has been put before the Board on two occasions for replacement. The funds are available in the Capital Plan.

Mr. DiConzo wanted to know if the Park and Rec Department could use a truck currently used by the Public Works Superintendent before considering rescinding a previous motion.

Ms. Lovejoy made a motion to rescind the November 21, 2013 motion, "not to purchase a truck." Vote: 4-0-1, Mr. Adley abstained.

Mr. DiConzo made a motion to purchase the truck, if a ¾ ton truck is not available within the Town vehicles, or go back out to bid if the bidders will no longer honor their prices.

This bid may have to go back out to bid as it has been some time since the bids were received.

Ms. Lovejoy believes the process has been extended long enough and was doubtful that a truck would exist that is not being used by the Town.

The consensus of the Board was to have Dan Richard check to see if the bids would still be honored and act upon this at the next meeting.

Mr. DiConzo rescinded his motion, Mr. Adley his second.

The Town Manager clarified the intent of Mr. DiConzo's motion: that the Town Manager will look to see if we have a ¾ ton truck available at the Public Works Department. If so, we will purchase the dump trailer to go with it. If a comparable truck is not available, we will see if the bidders will honor their bids. If they do not, then the truck and dump trailer will be re-bid and placed back on the next Agenda.

C. Discussion on Paving of Sidewalks on Congress Street

The Town Manager explained that the Sidewalk Ordinance specifies that abutters to sidewalk construction must pay half the cost with the Town paying the other half. He believes this means new construction, not reconstruction, yet the Ordinance is not clear. He suggested that we revise the Ordinance in April for more clarity.

Discussion ensued regarding the options of concrete or asphalt sidewalk reconstruction and the possibility of natural gas lines coming through the area in the future. The Board had previously voted to reconstruct the Congress Street sidewalks with concrete.

Carlo Puiia explained that the tree selection issue had been given to the Envision Rumford group who is working with the Downtown Main Street organization.

Mr. Buccina stressed that the sidewalks be repaired and the tree stumps be removed.

Mr. Buccina believes this issue needs more research going forward. For safety reasons this should be a priority. We can decide down the road what we will do regarding plantings.

Ms. Lovejoy believes the sidewalks need to be done, rather than repair them now and then replace then later.

Mr. Buccina believes we need some expertise in whether we can make repairs that will last for a good period of time or to begin replacing.

Ms. Lovejoy was concerned about whether the Public Works Department would do this work and their need to know to plan for the budget and work schedules.

Mr. DiConzo left the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Kevin Knox asked about placing the streetlights adjacent to the buildings rather than the edge of the sidewalk to make snow cleanup easier and more efficient.

D. Discussion on Tree Plantings on Congress Street

This item was briefly discussed under 5C.

6. New Business

- A. Request from Town Manager to Approve Minutes from the Selectperson's Meeting of February 6, 2014

Ms. Lovejoy made a motion to approve the minutes from the Selectperson's Meeting of February 6, 2014. Vote: 4-0

- B. Request from Town Manager to Approve the Town Warrant dated February 21, 2014

Mr. Adley made a motion to approve the Town Warrant dated February 21, 2014. Vote: 4-0

- C. Approval of Liquor License and Special Amusement Permit for Hotel Rumford

The Town Manager explained that the liquor license inspection had been denied by the Code Enforcement Officer initially but since then he has given his approval.

Ms. Lovejoy made a motion to approve the Liquor License and Special Amusement Permit for the Hotel Rumford. Vote: 4-0

- D. Request for Support for FM Radio Station – Kevin Saisi

Kevin Saisi explained the purpose and goal of establishing an FM radio station to help promote the area. He requested \$10,000.00 from the cable franchise fees to help in the initial set up. Signage would be placed along main routes into town to let people know where to tune in. Packets of information were provided to the Board with details of his proposal.

Ms. Lovejoy asked if there was any liability to the Town if we donate funds. Mr. Saisi answered that there would not be any as it would be a donation.

Police Chief Stacy Carter was concerned about any interference with the signal from the radio tower that is used for emergency communications. Mr. Buccina asked him to look into whether this would or would not interfere.

Mr. Sterling asked if further funding requests would be made. Mr. Saisi explained that this funding is for initial capital start up and anticipates they will be able to fund the operations.

Mr. Sterling and Ms. Lovejoy found merit in the proposal and the idea to help promote the area.

Mr. Adley and Mr. Buccina were concerned about the cable franchise fees being used for this purpose and believed an initiated article request may have been the best route to follow for funding which would allow the citizens to decide.

Mr. Adley made a motion to table this item to the next meeting. Vote: 4-0

E. Approval of Personnel Policy Amendments

The Town Manager explained the changes that have been proposed to bring the Personnel Policy up to date in sections 8 and 39.

Ms. Lovejoy made a motion to approve the changes as presented. Vote: 4-0

F. Appointments to Boards and Committees

Mr. Adley made a motion to appoint Roger Arsenault to the Board of Appeals. Vote: 4-0

Ms. Lovejoy made a motion to appoint Jonathan Starr to the Board of Appeals. Vote: 4-0

Ms. Lovejoy made a motion to appoint Josanne Dolloff to the Finance Committee. Vote: 4-0

Ms. Lovejoy made a motion to reconsider her earlier motion to appoint Jonathan Starr to the Board of Appeals as he could only serve on one Town committee at a time. Vote: 4-0

Mr. Adley made a motion to appoint Jonathan Starr to the Finance Committee. Vote: 4-0

Mr. Adley made a motion to appoint Greg Buccina to the Northern Oxford Regional Solid Waste Board. Vote: 4-0

Ms. Lovejoy made a motion to appoint Candice Casey to the Planning Board as an Alternate. Ms. Casey, who was present, declined the nomination.

Mr. Adley made a motion to appoint James McDonald as Sealer of Weights and Measures. Vote: 4-0

Mr. Adley made a motion to appoint Bromley Cook to the Implementation Committee. Vote: 4-0

Mr. Adley made a motion to appoint Gary Morrison to the Implementation Committee. Vote: 4-0

Ms. Lovejoy made a motion to appoint Frank DiConzo to the Implementation Committee as a representative of the Board. Vote: 4-0

Ms. Lovejoy made a motion to appoint Jonathan Starr to the Implementation Committee as an Alternate. Vote: 4-0

Mr. Buccina made a motion to appoint Candice Casey to the Implementation Committee as an Alternate. Vote: 3-1, Mr. Adley opposed.

Mr. Sterling made a motion to continue the meeting after 10:00 p.m. Vote: 4-0

G. Discussion to Fill Vacancy in Police Department

Police Chief Stacy Carter explained that we recently lost Patrolman Dan Carrier as he accepted a position in the Mexico Police Department. Not filling this position would cause more overtime in the Department. The Chief was looking for the Board's approval to move forward in the interview process as there are costs involved in psychological testing for applicants.

Mr. Sterling asked if there was a possibility to share a position with the Mexico Police Department as we are looking towards regionalizing. Chief Carter explained that this would be difficult as this is a full time position. Any new hire would be informed that due to possible budget cuts, the position may be affected.

Ms. Lovejoy made a motion to give the Chief permission to proceed in the hiring process. Vote: 4-0

H. Discussion on Formation of Consolidation Study Groups

The Town Manager discussed the sub-committee groups that were suggested by Don Jutton of Municipal Resources. The Board agreed to attend a Joint Meeting with the Town of Mexico at 5:30 p.m. prior to Mexico's regular meeting on Tuesday, February 25, 2014. The Town Manager will confirm with the Mexico Board.

The Town Manager also explained a need to support the River Valley Growth Council in order to keep Jim Rinaldo working on economic development specifically with the possibility of natural gas lines coming into town. The Town of Mexico recently approved giving \$1,000 from their \$2,000 economic development budget.

Mr. Sterling asked about the funds that were recently approved for Glen Holmes and Western Maine Community Development.

7. Executive Session pursuant to 1 MRS 405 (6)(C) for an economic development matter

Mr. Sterling made a motion to go into Executive Session at 10:29 p.m. pursuant to 1 MRS 405 (6)(C) for an economic development matter. Vote: 4-0

Executive Session in at 10:37 p.m.

Executive Session out at 10:50 p.m.

No action taken.

8. Adjournment

Mr. Sterling made a motion to adjourn at 10:51 p.m. Vote: 4-0

John E. Madigan, Jr.
Town Manager

JEMJr/tp