

BOARD OF SELECTPERSON'S MEETING
June 19, 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: Arthur Chappell, Melody Holmquist, Michael Crews, Kevin Saisi, Richard Coulombe, Bob Chase, Phil Blampied, Deb Laurinaitis, Ron Smith, Roger Arsenault, Carlo Puiia, Andy Russell, Bruce Farrin, Terry Karkos, Stacy Carter

1. Meeting Called to Order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairperson Buccina
2. All present Pledged Allegiance to the American Flag
3. Requests of Citizen's Present

There were no requests presented.

4. Reports

A. Selectperson's Report

Mr. DiConzo congratulated Mr. Sterling and Mr. Belanger on their elections to the Board.

Mr. Sterling mentioned that he likes the new 6:30 p.m. start time for meetings.

Mr. Belanger thanked everyone who voted at the elections. He asked who would be responsible for removing some of the double telephone poles. The Town Manager will contact Fairpoint.

Mr. Adley welcomed back Mr. Belanger to the Board and also Mr. Sterling. He is looking forward to the earlier starting time. He thanked the citizens that came out to vote and although there were some long waiting times there were no complaints. We hope to have two new machines for next year.

Mr. Buccina noted that a Community Forum will be held to discuss the "Desperation" that some people are facing in our communities on Thursday, June 26, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Rumford Falls Auditorium. Pastor Justin Thacker will host the event. He reminded the public that Rumford will not hold a July 4th celebration this year. He hopes that it will come back next year. The River Valley Chamber of Commerce, as a 501(c)(3), has a balance left in the account to put towards a celebration. He informed citizens that weekly curbside recycling will be beginning June 30, 2014. He also spoke highly of the recent election and the high number of people who turned out to exercise their right to vote, although the waiting lines were long at times. He believes we can do better at explaining the Ordinances for clearer understanding for the voters. He wished Jolene Lovejoy well and thanked her for her years of service.

B. Town Manager's Report

The Town Manager added that not only does NORSWB make money in selling recycling materials it saves money, as it costs \$65 a ton to dispose of those materials in the regular waste stream.

An Ergonomic Study was done in the Town Offices and the Town was awarded a grant from MMA Risk Management for up to 2/3 of the cost, approximately \$2,000, for the General Assistance Office ergonomic improvements.

As natural gas is making an entry into the State of Maine, a workshop will be held by MMA in Augusta entitled, "Energy and Municipal Law Seminar," on July 22, 2014, from 8:30-12:00. He will try to get some people to attend this seminar.

There are several Board and Committee vacancies that have expired and we are looking for citizens to fill these position. The Board of Selectpersons will begin appointments at the next meeting of July 9, 2014.

The Town Manager welcomed Mark Belanger to the Board and welcomed back Jeffrey Sterling. He also thanked Jolene Lovejoy for her service.

C. Department Manager Reports (as needed)

There were no reports presented at the meeting.

D. Board and Committee Reports (as needed)

Kevin Saisi reported on the progress of the Charter Commission. Some recent issues discussed were regarding a spending cap and code of conduct language for the Board to review as a policy. Other issues to be discussed will be the alignment of the Ordinances with the Charter and the Tax Collector-Constable and Town Clerk-Treasurer positions. A summary of the Commission's work plan will be submitted to the press. Also discussed, was the potential for regional collaboration and whether it would be compatible with the Charter. He expressed appreciation for Board members and the Town Manager who were able to attend meetings.

Frank DiConzo mentioned that the Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee meeting will be changed to the second or third Monday of July because of the holiday.

5. Old Business

6. New Business

- A. Approval of Minutes from the Selectperson's Meeting of June 5, 2014 and Selectperson's Organization Meeting of June 11, 2014

Mr. Sterling made a motion to approve the minutes from the Selectperson's Meeting of June 5, 2014 and Selectperson's Organization Meeting of June 11, 2014. Vote: 4-0-1, Mr. Belanger abstained.

- B. Request from Town Manager to Approve the Town Warrant dated June 20, 2014

Mr. Adley made a motion to approve the Town Warrant dated June 30, 2014. Vote: 5-0

- C. Report from Town Auditor on Town Audit

Mr. Adley made a motion to allow non-resident, Ron Smith, to speak. Vote: 5-0

Mr. Smith spoke on the Town Audit and reported on the present financial condition that the Town is in. We are in good financial shape considering the challenges that we faced last year. We are above average for the communities in the state of Maine.

Mr. Adley made a motion to allow non-resident Deborah Laurinaitis, the Town's Finance Director, to speak. Vote: 5-0

Ms. Laurinaitis requested that the Board recommend the amount of money that is expended for the General Assistance program for the next budget vote. She explained that this process has worked well for 26 years and has contributed to our healthy fund balance that is used to offset taxes. She believes that we never know if the State may decide not to reimburse us the amount that we anticipate receiving.

Philip Blampied asked about the cash flow, tax rate and declining tax base.

Mr. Smith responded no to the latter questions, and the Town of Rumford was fortunate enough to be able to live off our cash flow last year while waiting for the budgets to pass.

Mr. Buccina would like to Town to continue to look at different ways of doing things

- D. Approval of Hawker's and Peddler's License for Melody Holmquist, dba Mel's Nature Treasures with permission for overnight set up

Mr. Buccina made a motion to approve the Hawker's and Peddler's License for Melody Holmquist, dba Mel's Nature Treasures with permission for overnight set up on July 4th, Labor Day and Columbus Day. Vote: 4-1, Mr. Adley opposed.

- E. Request from Ad Hoc Committee for Tax Acquired Property Program

Fire Chief Robert Chase explained that he has been working with Jennifer Kreckel of Envision Rumford and had previously worked with the former Code Enforcement Officer on the disposition of the tax acquired properties in town. They would like to come up with a process for looking at tax acquired properties and then to pilot that process by taking the current list and presenting information and recommendations to the Board.

Chief Chase requested having a workshop with the Board before their next meeting on July 24, 2014.

Mr. Buccina suggested the workshop for 5:30 p.m. before the meeting of July 24, 2014.

- F. Approval of Updated Emergency Operations Plan – Richard Coulombe

Emergency Management Director Richard Coulombe gave the Board an update of the Emergency Operations Plan.

Mr. Belanger made a motion to approve the update to the Emergency Operations Plan.

The Town Manager mentioned that the complete Plan is available for review or for copying for any Board members who are interested.

Vote to approve: 5-0

Phil Blampied asked to have the Emergency Operations Plan placed on the Town website.

G. Discussion of Offer on High Street Tax Acquired Property

Mr. Adley made a motion to allow non-resident, Clarence Michael Crews II, to speak. Vote: 5-0

Mr. Crews explained his offer of \$1,500.00 on the property at 387 High Street, which is currently in bad condition. He would like to turn it into a sustainable home that would enable his family to move here from South Carolina. He believes it would initially need at least \$20,000.00 in upgrades.

The Town Manager reported that he has looked at the property and the Fire Chief has recommended that this would be a good home for homesteading. He also reported that the offer covered the back taxes and interest that are owed on the property.

Chief Chase suggested that we could possibly get a larger price for properties that we put out to bid in the future to gain the best advantage for the Town and possibly save those additional monies beyond what is due to the Town into an account for the removal of unsafe properties.

Mr. DiConzo made a motion to accept the bid for \$1,500.00 from Clarence Michael Crews II for tax acquired property at 387 High Street.

Fire Chief Robert Chase added that the Board may want to consider adding a covenant that the building be brought up to a livable condition within a specific time frame.

Mr. DiConzo amended his motion to add a Covenant to make the building habitable within six months.

The Town Manager explained that a Quit Claim deed could contain language that the property would be inspected by the CEO who will determine if the Covenant has been fulfilled and will sign off on the property, if not the property comes back to the Town.

Vote: 5-0

H. Discussion to Re-Schedule July 3, 2014 Select Board Meeting

Mr. DiConzo made a motion to change the July 3, 2014 meeting to July 9, 2014 and July 17, 2014 meeting to July 24, 2014. Vote: 5-0

I. Approval of Warm Mix Asphalt Bid

The Town Manager reported on the bid opening as follows:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Pike Industries, Inc. | \$381,472.00 |
| 2. Bruce A. Manzer, Inc. | \$316,708.55 |

Mr. Sterling made a motion to award the Warm Mix Asphalt Bid to Bruce A. Manzer for \$316,708.55 provided they meet the bid specifications. Vote: 5-0

J. Approval of Transfer of Forfeiture Assets for Police Department

Mr. Adley made a motion to approve the transfer of forfeiture assets for the Police Department. Vote: 5-0

K. Request from Eddie Shurtleff to Place Betsy Ross Flags on Memorial Greens

Mr. Sterling made a motion to approve the request from Eddie Shurtleff to Place Betsy Ross Flags on Memorial Greens. Vote: 5-0

L. Discussion on Acceptance of Wells Fargo Offer to donate property and funds to Town

Fire Chief Robert Chase gave suggestions and provided information on the state of many of the town's deteriorating buildings that includes placing any excess funds into an account for the demolition of buildings that are deemed a safety hazard.

The Town Manager explained that the citizens will need to decide this matter.

Mr. DiConzo made a motion to place the offer from Wells Fargo to donate property and funds to the Town on a Special Town Meeting Warrant for the citizens to vote upon and to dispose of the property in a way that will benefit the town.

Mr. DiConzo amended his motion to add that the \$19,000.00 in funds go into a Building Demolition Fund.

Vote on the motion: 5-0

M. Approval of General Assistance Budget Recommendation

The Town Manager explained a spreadsheet containing information on the General Assistance program back to FY 2006-07. The trend is showing continued increases in the amount of assistance given out.

Mr. Sterling made a motion to recommend \$120,000.00 for the General Assistance Budget. Vote: 2-3, Mr. Belanger, Mr. DiConzo and Mr. Buccina opposed.

Mr. Buccina made a motion to appropriate \$65,000.00 for General Assistance with the revenues for General Assistance to go back into the General Assistance budget to off-set the tax burden.

Mr. Belanger wanted the Board to consider passing an Ordinance next year regarding a State Statute that allows communities to pass an ordinance to limit the maximum amount that is spent for the various categories of need and to place this issue on an upcoming agenda.

Mr. Adley asked about the wording of the Article. Mr. Buccina believes the explanation should state the revenues coming back would be put in the GA Fund. The Town Manager stated that he would have the Town Attorney review the wording for the Article for the Warrant. He estimated that revenues would be approximately \$50,000.00 that would be returned to the General Assistance budget and believes the voters should be aware of this. This would be total up to a \$115,000.00 GA program.

Mr. Buccina would like the voters to have an article worded that they would understand and that revenues that are dedicated for GA would be returned to that account.

Mr. Belanger believes that many people do not understand that the GA budget has money coming back and that the amount raised by taxes is not as high as thought.

Mr. Sterling asked if the Board had the authority to direct the monies to go back into the General Assistance account. The Town Manager believes there are sections of the Charter and Ordinances that show they have the authority and he will have the Town Attorney review this matter; however, the Town voters are the legislative body and once they vote on the budget and direct the monies, it should be fine.

Vote on the motion by Mr. Buccina: 5-0

N. Approval of Date for Special Secret Poll Meeting for General Assistance Budgetary Article and Land/Property Issues

The Town Manager explained that we have already discussed the Wells Fargo land issue, and that there is another land issue involving a vote by the Board to approve placing a Quit Claim Deed before the voters on the next Annual Town Warrant for Mark Davis, for land on Oak Street that abuts his property. This was overlooked and not placed on the Annual Town Warrant.

Mr. Belanger made a motion to add the land and property issues regarding Wells Fargo's offer and the Mark Davis request and the General Assistance Budget to the Special Secret Poll Meeting Warrant.

The Town Manager reported that Assessor's Agent Linnell Geronda stated that the title is unclear on the property that abuts Mr. Davis. The Assessor's had determined that it was not worth the cost of hiring a title attorney to clear up the few properties with this designation as their value was minimal. The Town manager stated that the Town can sign off on a Quit Claim Deed that would state that we are quitting on our claim or interest on this property.

Vote: 5-0

[NOTE: A date for the Special Secret Poll Meeting was not selected and will be placed on the next Agenda of June 30, 2014.]

O. Appointment of AVCOG General Assembly Representatives (2)

Mr. Buccina made a motion to appoint Frank DiConzo as the second AVCOG General Assembly Representative. Vote: 5-0

P. * Selection of Nominee for Legislative Policy Committee

Mr. Adley made a motion to select Gregory Buccina as the Nominee for the Legislative Policy Committee. Vote: 5-0

7. Executive Session pursuant to 1 MRS 405 (6) (A) for a personnel matter

Mr. Sterling made a motion to go into Executive Session at 9:35 p.m. pursuant to 1 MRS 405 (6)(A) for a personnel matter with the Town Manager. Vote: 5-0

Executive Session In at 9:41 p.m.
Executive Session Out at 10:03 p.m.

8. Adjournment

Mr. Sterling made a motion to adjourn at 10:04 p.m. Vote: 5-0

John E. Madigan, Jr.
Town Manager