

BOARD OF SELECTPERSON'S MEETING
December 5, 2013, 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 Carlo Puiia.

ATTENDEES: Bromley Cook, Robert Chase, Matt Daigle, Brad Gallant, Mike Mills, Candice Casey, Bruce Farrin, Tom Bourret, Rick Blanchard, Ryan Palmer, Andrea York, Jim Rinaldo

5:30 Board Workshop - Discussion to include Recreation as part of the Municipal Budget

1. Meeting Called to Order at 7:00 p.m.
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 thanked those that attended the recreation workshop prior to the meeting. He expressed his concern of the revote on the interest rate on unpaid taxes. He also reminded those present of the Christmas in the Valley Parade that will be held tomorrow night.

Mr. Sterling complimented Mr. DiConzo for his job in refereeing the State Class A Football Game.

Mr. Adley also mentioned the Christmas in the Valley Parade and complimented the Public Works crew for their work in the last few days with the weather events we have had.

Ms. Lovejoy recognized EnvisionRumford for the Christmas decorations in the storefronts along Congress Street. She also mentioned the following events taking place: Festival of Trees on December 14, 2013 in the Town Hall, Christmas in the Valley Craft Fair at Mountain Valley High School on December 7, 2013, and the Christmas in the Valley Parade on December 6, 2013. She also complimented the Public Works Department for their work on the roads during the recent storms.

Mr. Buccina did not have a report for this meeting.

B. Town Manager's Report

The Town Manager mentioned that the Park and Recreation Department planted a live tree in Veteran's Park. It is small now but will grow and be used for future generations to have as a tree to decorate for the Town.

C. Department Manager's Report

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APPROVED WITH CORRECTION IN BOS ATTENDANCE 12 19 2013

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Fire Chief Robert Chase announced that the Christmas in the Valley Parade will begin at the Mountain Valley High School at 6:30 p.m. and continue to downtown Congress Street where Santa will light the tree and be available in the Fire Station afterward for photo ops for the children where hot chocolate and cookies will be available.

Tax Collector Thomas Bourret reported that the tax bills went out in mid-November and payments have been coming in steadily. The interest on unpaid taxes will not begin until December 15, 2013 so that people will have some extra time. He also commented that the interest rate on unpaid taxes was changed at the Special Town Meeting in October to put the rate back to 7 percent as well as change the due dates. He believed that the change would be an incentive to encourage citizens to pay timely and to alleviate properties going into the lien process for non-payment. Mr. Bourret conducted a survey of many towns in our area and found that most were using the rate of 7 percent for late payment of taxes. He also requested an opinion from our Town Auditor and MMA legal in which both entities discouraged the low interest rate as it could be construed as a low interest loan and payments would not be made. In view of the concern that some are having a difficult time paying their taxes, the Tax Collector's Office introduced a Tax Club program this year, approved by vote of the citizens, to help citizens spread out their tax payments over 8 months, interest free. The enrollment period is from August 1 to September 30.

Ms. Lovejoy asked the Tax Collector to define what a Poverty Tax Abatement is.

Mr. Bourret explained that the Board of Selectpersons decides upon whether this type of abatement could be allowed for a citizen who might apply and is based on their current financial situation.

5. Old Business

A. Request from Park Commission to Approve $\frac{3}{4}$ Ton Pickup Bid

The Town Manager reported that this item had not been approved at the last meeting, but the Park Commission requested that it be reconsidered.

Michael Mills, Superintendent of the Park and Rec Department, reported that the Park Commission believed that the monies for the truck has already been approved and the Board of Selectperson's should have authorized it.

Mr. Sterling reported receiving a call from Rick White of the Park Commission, who informed him that this purchase has been put off for three years.

Ms. Lovejoy explained the basis of the Board's decision was a consideration of repairing the truck as opposed to buying a new one.

Chairperson Buccina did not believe the Board of Selectpersons would consider changing their vote for the two items under old business for the Park and Rec Department without further information. The Chairperson of the Park Commission, who requested this item be reconsidered, was not in attendance at the meeting.

B. Request from Park Commission to Approve Bid for Sale of Dump Deckover

See Item 5A.

C. Request from Police Department to Approve Police Vehicle Bid

Police Chief Stacy Carter provided the cost of repairing the SUV instead of replacing it with a new vehicle. After his complete explanation, he respectfully requested that the Board reconsider their decision and approve the purchase of a replacement vehicle.

Mr. Sterling made a motion to reconsider the request from the Police Department to approve the Police Vehicle Bid. Vote: 3-2, Mr. Buccina and Mr. DiConzo opposed.

Mr. Adley made a motion to approve the bid from Rowe Auburn for \$21,876.00.

Mr. Buccina was concerned with the Board "flip-flopping" on their vote.

Vote on the motion: 3-2, Mr. DiConzo and Mr. Buccina opposed.

6. New Business

A. Request from Town Manager to Approve Minutes from the Selectperson's Meeting of November 21, 2013

Mr. Sterling made a motion to approve the minutes from the Selectperson's Meeting of November 21, 2013. Vote: 5-0

B. Request from Town Manager to Approve the Town Warrant dated December 6, 2013

Mr. Sterling made a motion to approve the Town Warrant dated December 6, 2013. Vote: 5-0

C. Approval to Appoint Police Officer

Police Chief Stacy Carter noted that this position is a vacancy that happened after layoffs. It is being filled with over-time currently and it is overworking the staff. Also, he does not know when another vacancy may occur due to illness, injury, or departure that would compound the over-time and overworking issue. He noted that this is not an addition to the force. It is not a vacancy caused by budget restrictions.

Ms. Lovejoy made a motion to approve the request and to appoint a police officer.

Mr. Buccina wondered if we could hold off until the Municipal Resources study is completed.

The Chief did not believe it to be suitable based on his earlier explanation.

Mr. Adley confirmed that we still have 2 police officers working 24/7.

Mr. Buccina would like information regarding the impact on over-time.

Fire Chief Robert Chase explained the concern of being able to absorb a vacancy at such a low level of staffing.

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

D. Personal Property Abatement Request from Tax Collector

Mr. Adley made a motion to approve the personal property abatement request from the Tax Collector. Vote: 5-0

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

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Mr. DiConzo made a motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to 1 MRS 405 (6) (C) with the Town Manager and Jim Rinaldo. Vote: 5-0

Executive Session In: 8:20 p.m.

Executive Session Out: 8:34 p.m.

No action was taken.

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

Mr. Sterling made a motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to 1 MRS 405 (6) (C) with the Town Manager and David Duguay. Vote: 5-0

Executive Session In: 8:36 p.m.

Executive Session Out: 9:05 p.m.

No action was taken and the matter was tabled.

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

Mr. DiConzo made a motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to 1 MRS 405 (6) (A). Vote: 5-0

Executive Session In: 9:15 p.m.

Executive Session Out: 9:57 p.m.

No action was taken and the matter was tabled.

Mr. Sterling made a motion to extend the meeting as it extended past 10:00 p.m. per the Organization Meeting. Vote: 5-0

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

Mr. Sterling made a motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to 1 MRS 405 (6)(A) for a personnel matter. Vote: 5-0

No action was taken.

11. Adjournment

Mr. Sterling made a motion to adjourn at 10:26 p.m. Vote: 5-0

Carlo J. Puiia
Town Manager

CJP/tp