

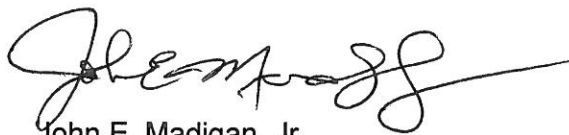
BOARD OF SELECTPERSON'S MEETING AGENDA

January 5, 2017 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 TO GIVE YOU PERMISSION TO COME TO THE PODIUM.

1. Meeting Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag
3. Public Hearing (as needed)
4. Requests of Citizen's Present
5. Reports
 - A. Town Manager's Report
 - B. Department Manager Reports (as needed)
 - C. Board and Committee Reports (as needed)
 - D. Selectperson's Report
6. Old Business
 - A. Discussion on the Code Enforcement Officer Position
7. New Business
 - A. Approval of Minutes from Special Meeting of December 15, 2016
 - B. Approval of the Town Warrant dated January 6, 2017
 - C. Appointment of Reserve Police Officer
 - D. Discussion on the Letter from Maine Historic Preservation
 - E. Discussion on MDOT Letter regarding Center Line Rumble Strips
8. Adjournment



John E. Madigan, Jr.
Town Manager

JEMJr/tp

BOARD OF SELECTPERSON'S MEETING
January 5, 2017 6:30 p.m.
Rumford Falls Auditorium

PRESENT: Chairperson Jeffrey Sterling; Vice-Chairperson Mark Belanger; Selectpersons Michael Peter Chase, James Windover, Christopher Brennick; Town Manager John Madigan, Jr.

ATTENDEES: Frank DiConzo, Anne Morin, Mike Razzi, Stacy Carter, Bruce Farrin, Bob Chase, Eric Davis, Candice Casey, Kevin Knox, Brie Weisman, Jon Starr, Gina Hinckley, Seth Carey, Mitzi Sequoia, Kim Sequoia

1. Meeting Call to Order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairperson Sterling
2. Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag
3. Public Hearing (as needed)
4. Requests of Citizen's Present

Len Greaney said he was presenting a petition with 30 signatures to call for a Special Town Meeting to allow Rumford citizens to vote on a Water Rights Moratorium. He read a prepared statement as follows: Until now the Rumford voters have been denied the right to vote their opinion regarding the sale of their water. A moratorium vote at this meeting would turn the tide for voter rights. This meeting would allow voters to decide if the critical decision needs to pause for the Nestle surge. During the moratorium the Rumford Water District with Nestle would need to compete against those who represent the will of the voters. We plan to create a Rumford Water Rights Ordinance to submit to officials in February.

Chairperson Sterling explained that the Board will accept the petition and have the Town Clerk verify the signatures, and as the Charter dictates, the Board will meet again on Tuesday, January 10, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. The Citizen Petition will also be sent out for legal review in order to have something back by Tuesday's meeting..

Mr. Brennick would like copies made for all the Board members.

Candice Casey noted that this is a business, not an entity of the Town. She suggested that the petition be sent out to the Town Attorney before they schedule a meeting that may have to be cancelled as she does not believe they have jurisdiction on this matter. She also asked about the status on the ordinance being drafted regarding marijuana.

Chairperson Sterling answered that the Select Board has been invited to attend the Planning Board's workshop of January 18, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the Auditorium where they will begin drafting the ordinance on marijuana.

Anne Morin requested that the Board read the petition that was presented and in doing so, this would get them off the hook. If the water is not the Select Board's responsibility, this will leave the responsibility with the Rumford Water District Board. She said someone needs to be responsible for this group and does not recall electing the members to the Rumford Water District Board that do not answer to anyone. She believes the Rumford Water District hired lawyers, at great cost, to write up a revision to their Charter which eliminated any responsibility to the inhabitants of the

Town and suggested the Board read this. She alluded to a Representative that took something to Augusta and had it signed and is now out of a 14 year career in public service. She has not seen a groundswell about us selling our water and believes it would take pressure off the Board if everyone would bring the facts out. She noted attending a meeting in November [Rumford Water District] that raised more questions than gave answers. She is a property owner that lives down the street where they will be digging. Who is responsible if she does not have any water in her well, she asked. She asked why the Water District has their own legal firm on retainer rather than the one that handles other Town business. Also, why did they draw up a new version of their Charter that eliminated others' say. She also asked the Board to get more information. She noted there was a newspaper article about a water truck crash driven by people on contract from Florida, so there will not be any truck driver jobs for our area. She asked Nestle to bring all their facts to the table and let the people decide, not three people on the Rumford Water District Board.

Seth Carey requested a formal answer to the written requests that were given to the Board at their last meeting. He also requested more information and a discussion regarding the new flooring installed in the Town Hall's main hallway and the process of its selection. In the future he would like the historic nature of the building taken into consideration for these types of projects. Chairperson Sterling will look into this.

5. Reports

A. Town Manager's Report

The Town Manager placed information in Board members mail boxes regarding suggestions for repairs on the front granite steps.

A copy of a draft Legislative bill from Senator Keim, was also placed in the Board's mailboxes. She is attempting to amend the Rumford Water District Charter that would allow an exception for water extraction and resale to be subject to vote by voters in the District. Senator Keim was looking for co-sponsors. The Town Manager asked for any comments to be directed to him on this subject. The Town Manager was asked if he would co-sponsor the bill.

Department Manager Reports (as needed)

Police Chief Stacy Carter noted that between January 23 and February 3, the dispatch window will be close as the Administrative Assistant will be at the Academy for training. They have also received a few applications for their open Police Officer positions and are going through them now. The applicants do not have the required training at this point and would need to attend the 100 hour course at the Academy at the end of the month and then they will be looked at further. They hope to have one or two names to bring forward in February to fill the vacant positions. The Department also has four truck tires for a pick up, that was traded in when the Code Enforcement Truck was purchased, that are in storage at the Public Works garage. As they do not fit any vehicles currently in the fleet, he will be placing them out to bid.

Fire Chief Robert Chase reminded everyone about helping to keep fire hydrants and call boxes shoveled out. They get complaints from citizens every year about snow that is being deposited on fire hydrants that are near commercial establishments. The Department is going to try to address this next week to make sure the hydrants are reachable.

B. Board and Committee Reports (as needed)

None.

C. Selectperson's Report

Mr. Brennick noted some concerns with snow by Chisholm School as it is a dangerous spot near the rotary. The Town crew has done a good job overall on the removal of the snow banks.

Mr. Chase wished all a Happy New Year.

Mr. Windover thanked the Public Works Department for the snow removal from the big storm.

Mr. Belanger was concerned about the sidewalks not being plowed on Waldo Street near some businesses. He also shared concerns about the granite stair repair suggestion received from H.E. Callahan granite vendor. He contacted someone about this type of repair and the repair turned yellow after a year. He believed a decision had been made authorizing the repair here and wanted someone held accountable as it did not go before the Board. The Town Manager responded that we still have the final payment to make [and there has only been a proposal to repair thus far.]

Mr. Sterling noted that the Select Board has been invited to a workshop with the Planning Board on Wednesday, January 18, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the Rumford Falls Auditorium as they begin to draft a marijuana ordinance for the Town. The Town Attorney will also be present. He noted that he has a thick envelope with what looks to be a report from the Rumford Water District that he has not had a chance to review yet.

The Town Manager noted that the Rumford Water District has a report that is placed in the Town's Annual Report every year.

Len Greaney responded that it was their Consumer Confidence Report.

Mr. Sterling offered to make a copy of the contents of the envelope for Mr. Greaney and Mr. Greaney said he would appreciate it.

Mr. Sterling noted that the Select Board will be meeting next Tuesday, January 10, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the Rumford Falls Auditorium to discuss the citizen's petition that was submitted this evening regarding calling of a Special Town Meeting.

6. Old Business

A. Discussion on the Code Enforcement Officer Position

Fire Chief Robert Chase explained he was not able to attend the last meeting due to a training commitment and that the letter he submitted (attached) regarding this position contained details of his recommendation for the Code Officer position to be a full time position. Over the past two years he has observed that we are losing ground on code enforcement efforts with a part time position. Compliance inspections have fallen to very minimal and addressed only when complaints come in. When a medical or fire call comes in, the Fire Department visually notice that there are some code violations, yet they are not able to address the violations as they are there on an emergency basis and the part time Code Officer is having a hard time keeping up. He also suggested having the position answer to the Fire Chief as the Fire Department is usually more aware of tenant/landlord problems in buildings. The Fire Department is not able to find resolutions to the issues as they are not authorized to effect any change. With a pro-active approach, we have safer buildings for tenants, fire fighters, etc. He also sees additional benefits if the person had fire fighter training experience as they struggle with the availability of only a Monday through Friday

daytime Call Force who have jobs in the day where they cannot leave. This person could help by stepping out of Code to help the Fire Department when needed during that time. They could also help provide documentation for recordkeeping purposes which would help the Department build a data base of violations to track that are noted by Code Enforcement.

Chairperson Sterling noted that the Board may hold off on hiring a new Code Officer until the new Town Manager starts.

Kevin Knox asked if this was made to be a full time position, could the person have oversight on the projects that the Town has going on.

Mr. Chase noted that the subcontractor will have a person in charge of this task, somewhat like a Clerk of the Works.

Someone asked who is shoveling out the fire hydrants. Chief Chase answered that the Fire Department is responsible and works on this with the Call Force. They also asked if this had anything to do with the Rumford Water District. Chief Chase said the Water District does help with their larger equipment and the Fire Department shovels out what is left. He also asked if the Town rents the fire hydrants from the Water District. The Town Manager noted it is referred to hydrant rental but there is actually a PUC ruling on fire hydrants based on the Water District and the needs.

Mr. Chase asked if there was money in the budget for a full time Code Officer. The Town Manager noted that we budgeted for half time this year with no health insurance. It would require an increase in the budget for next year. It will take a couple months to get someone on board and we can use the Contingency Account to offset the costs from this year's budget.

Chief Chase believes we could get a stronger candidate if we offer a full time position and due to the number of multi-family buildings there are many codes that must be enforced.

Frank DiConzo noted that the Planning Board will take a more active role with Code Enforcement and agrees with a full time position so that building inspections are in compliance.

Chief Chase noted there will be a gap of time to fill and there is a need of accountability and a vision. He has been discouraged with the dangerous buildings that we have.

Mr. Windover believes the Code Officer should report to the Planning Board and not the Fire Chief.

Mr. Brennick believes that there needs to be accountability with this position...

Mr. Belanger believes there is a State Statute about this and we should look into the Code Enforcement authority and guidelines.

Chief Chase noted that he would be happy to meet with the Planning Board to devise some job performance expectations regardless of who they report to before we advertise the position.

Mr. Brennick would like us to write up a job description and give feedback to the Select Board.

7. New Business

A. Approval of Minutes from the Select Board Meeting of December 15, 2016

Mr. Windover made a motion to approve the minutes from the Select Board meeting of December 15, 2016. Vote: 5-0

B. Approval of the Town Warrant dated January 6, 2017

Mr. Windover made a motion to approve the Town Warrant dated January 6, 2017. Vote: 5-0

C. Appointment of Reserve Police Officer

Police Chief Stacy Carter explained that he presented the Town Manager the name of Norman Lewis of Newry, who retired from the Maine Warden Service for 27 years.

Mr. Windover asked if this would help alleviate overtime. Chief Carter responded that it will.

Chief Carter noted that he has been through the Maine Criminal Justice Academy for the Warden Service and we will do a field training program with him for law enforcement here.

The Town Manager thanked Chief Carter for finding a person to fill this position as it has become very difficult to do so.

Mr. Windover made a motion to approve the appointment of Norman Lewis as a Reserve Officer for the Police Department. Vote: 5-0

D. Discussion on the Letter from Maine Historic Preservation

The Town Manager brought to the Board's attention that Maine Historic Preservation Commission decided to nominate the Congress Street area to the National Historic Register. And also because the Town owns property in the area, there is a letter requesting if the Town has any comments about this, they can make them.

The Town Manager noted that we should try to get everything restored to the original designs.

Mr. Chase noted that property owners can do whatever they want to their building, but if they want to take advantage of the tax credits, they must follow Maine Historic Preservation guidelines.

E. Discussion on MDOT Letter regarding Center Line Rumble Strips

The Town Manager noted that there are two additional areas to be done along Route 2: South of the Blue Iris Motor Inn to west of Gordon Avenue; and west of the Ellis River Road to just west of Rumford-Hanover town line. The MDOT offered to have someone come in to talk about why they do the centerline rumble strips, we need only make the request to them.

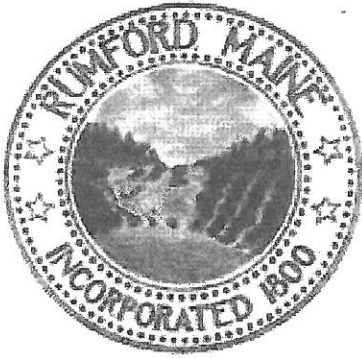
8. Adjournment

Mr. Windover made a motion to adjourn at 7:35 p.m. Vote: 5-0



John E. Madigan, Jr.
Town Manager

JEMJr/tp



Rumford Fire Department

151 Congress Street
Rumford, Maine 04276
Office: 207-364-2901
Fax: 207-364-5641



December 7, 2016

To: Mr. Madigan, Town Manager

From: Robert Chase Rumford Fire Chief

Re: Code Enforcement

Mr. Madigan,


I understand that you wish to discuss a plan for the Code Enforcement Position. Unfortunately I will be unable to attend the meeting on December 15th. I would like to offer the following thoughts for your consideration.

First, I am a firm believer that pro-active Code Enforcement is an integral component in reducing the loss of life and property from fire. Secondly, I also believe that pro-active Code Enforcement is vitally important to the quality of life in our town. In particular, Code enforcement is the primary tool to allow us to deter and clean up blight, promote healthy neighborhoods, and present a professional appearance to residents and future investors in our community.

To this end I would make the following recommendations:

- 1) Please consider making the Code Enforcement position full time. I believe that our current arrangement has left us in a reactionary position, mostly addressing complaints. Few pro-active inspections have been completed. I have concerns that if we do not follow through on any previously cited violations and we do not look at each Multi-Family building on a regular basis we will quickly revert to the unsafe conditions that were present prior to our adoption of NFPA 101 Life Safety Code.
- 2) I believe that the Code Enforcement Position should report directly to me. Many Code enforcement issues and concerns are directed to my department, many are found by firefighters at emergency scenes, and there would be great benefits to public safety if Code Enforcement findings could be integrated into our information system. Additionally, many code related issues have been driven from the Fire Department. An example would be the disposition and demolition of dangerous Tax Acquired buildings. We have driven this issue but struggle with follow-up because the Fire Department has limited authority in enforcement. Additionally, Ordinance 25D makes the Fire Chief the "Authority Having Jurisdiction" over the enforcement of fire code yet if the Code Enforcement Officer does not report to me I have limited ability to control the effectiveness of this enforcement.
- 3) I believe that we should look to hire a Code Enforcement Officer who is also a firefighter, even if that means that we may have to offer some Code Enforcement training. When Mr. Kent was Code Enforcement Officer I regularly encouraged him to join the call-force. I believe that by gaining firefighting knowledge he would have a better perspective on code issues. Additionally it would be helpful to have another Firefighter available during weekdays when it is most difficult to get help.

I acknowledge that these suggestions do not go far enough in helping you start the hiring process but I would be eager to work on this issue further when I am back in the office on December 19th.


Robert Chase
Rumford Fire Chief