

BOARD OF SELECTPERSON'S EXECUTIVE SESSION
December 20, 2018 5:00 p.m.
Conference Room

1. Pursuant to 1 MRS § 405 (6) (E) Consultation with Town Attorney on Legal Matters

BOARD OF SELECTPERSON'S EXECUTIVE SESSION
December 20, 2018 5:30 p.m.
Rumford Falls Auditorium

1. Pursuant to 1 MRS § 405 (6) (E) Consultation with Town Attorney on Legal Matters

BOARD OF SELECTPERSON'S MEETING MINUTES
December 20, 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.

Present: Christopher Brennick- Chairperson, Michael Peter Chase- Vice Chairperson, Mark Belanger- Selectperson, James Windover- Selectperson, John Pepin, Sr.- Selectperson

Attendees: Candice Casey, Jim Rinaldo, Deborah Laurinaitis, Stephanie Wilson, Jane Peterson, Felicia Biggs, Cathy Windover, Riley Windover, Gina Hinckley, Tamara Butler, Steve Dymont, Todd Papianou, Leah Kaulback, Kevin Kaulback, Marisa Bethea, Jim Theriault, Margaret Collette, Mitzi Sequoia, Kim Sequoia, Beth Bellegarde, Dieter Kreckel, Roland Louvat, Eric Davis, Richard Suydam, Rhonda Chase, Jason Wing, Dale Roberts, Joel Krochure, Joe Sirois, Ann Wood, Richard Coulombe, Peggy Mills, Mike Mills, Tom Bourret, Leiws Irish, Jan Irish, Kris Howes, Bob Chase, Josanne Dolloff, Brad Gallant, Linnell Geronda, Brad Adley, Jeff Sterling, Dick Lovejoy, Doug Maifeld, John Starr, Karen Wilson, George O'Keefe, Jr., Kelly Beauchesne, Craig Chamberlain, Mike Gallant, Burt Dennis, Alex Polinski, Linda-Jean Briggs, Adam Briggs, Jolene Lovejoy, Randy Therrien, Kathy Carey, Ed Carey, Marcus Palmer, Craig Zurhorst, Maureen Cook, Lawrence Briggs, Dan Garbarini, Garrett Garbarini

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

Mr. Brennick started the meeting asking everybody to have phones "off" or on "silent"

3. Public Hearing: Innkeeper's License for Kevin and Felicia Biggs dba: The Red Rose
Byron Street

Owner notified Board that screening is done prior to Air B&B rental.

Mr. Chase asked if any inspections were required from Code Enforcement Officer.

Chief Carter expressed, no verbiage in any of the Ordinances in regards to inspection or regulation for Air B&B, other than licensing.

Ms. Biggs expressed that she has spoken with Code Enforcement and has taken any and all precautions and safety measures regarding safety with Smoke Alarms in both bedrooms-hallways, kitchen, Carbon Monoxide Detectors, Fire Extinguishers on every floor and in the Kitchen, outdoor

attached building ladder for escape/evacuation in emergency, security cameras on and in the property... She expressed that she wants any person who rents her property to feel completely safe and secure.

4. Special Presentation or Award:
NONE

5. Comments

* Mr. Brennick made it clear what was acceptable at the meeting, for Public Comment. He explained clear guidelines...would not tolerate personal attacks, or debating on any issues. Would not be dealing with rumor and innuendo. They would only take evidence that is presented in writing to the Board. He asked citizens to be respectful to the Board and the audience. He set a time limit of 3-4 minutes per comment, he reserved the right to extend if necessary.*

A. Public Comment

Linda-Jean Briggs graciously came to wish the Board a Very Merry Christmas and presented each a Christmas gift that she and her husband purchased.

She received a round of applause

Mr. Sterling, expressed the grace and class of the Town Manager and asked for another round of applause. He thanked Ms. Lovejoy for Purple Ribbon worn in honor of Linda-Jean Briggs. He expressed a Thank you to Mr. Brennick for his announcement of clear guidelines for the meeting... He went on to express past history of treatment toward Town Managers' and actions that take place; never really seem to recover from... He spoke of rhetoric and poor governing of the Town...He asked the Board to, take a step back from the ledge and think it through." He encouraged them to think about, what is best for the Town; with no personal agenda. He thanked the Board and wished a happy holiday and for a better 2019.

Mr. Brennick reminded everybody to truly listen and learn.

Ms. Bethea, presented a letter regarding her opinion on what has transpired in the past three months. She expressed history of working with budgets and management...She asked the Board to make decisions based on facts and what is best for the Town. She expressed deterioration of the Town and asked the Board to diversify and grow; putting it on the citizen's for not supporting past business expansion...Zip Line, Chip Mill...She requested transparency and an updated and revised webpage.

Ms. Casey, spoke of six (6) FOAA requests not satisfied; in her opinion grounds for termination of Town Manager and recall of members of Select Board. In her opinion spoke of many violations. Chapter 11 Ordinance not satisfied, in her opinion.

Mr. Brennick reminded MS. Casey to submit evidence and proof, in writing, prior to making any claims. She has filed a formal complaint with the State Attorney General's Office.

Mr. Brennick reminded the audience of the "Public Comment" section of the meeting... Any allegations need to be in writing accompanied by proof and evidence of such. Reminded the audience that no decisions would be made at this meeting.

Mr. R. Chase, thanked Mr. Brennick for his response to Ms. Casey's claims, etc. He expressed, has been witness to six (6) years of her manipulation of the podium to any agenda she may have had on any given meeting night. He received applause. He went on to explain his nine (9) year tenure with the Town as Fire Chief worked under many Boards and three (3) Town Manager's in his tenure. He is now working for another Municipality which he expressed, has given him perspective. He offered," for far too

BOS Meeting APPROVED 01 03 2019

long, the Select Board of Rumford, globally as a Board, have been empowered far beyond the powers that have been given to them within the Charter of this Town.” He received applause. He went on to say, not to be dismissive in the fact, the Board has the highest and most important responsibility in the Town which is acknowledged. To move a Town forward, in his opinion requires consistency and a clear definition of roles and responsibilities. The Board’s role to set vision and policy. ”But, for far too long the Select Board in Rumford has been empowered to tell Department Heads how to run departments, to tell Manager’s how to manage Department Heads who manage departments; That’s not your role. You cause harm and detriment to this Town and our ability to progress. When you go down and start talking through the ranks; any organization is very clear with regard to chain of command and flow of communication. It becomes very hard to run an organization when through all the levels, the messages are different. You should speak about direction and policy with one voice; the voice of the Board; through votes when you set policy and direction. If individuals are going through the echelon of the workforce, redirecting people, causing havoc in the ability to lead an organization and run departments. ”In his opinion, he believes there are opportunities and items that require discussions, all within the purview of the Board.” A dozen years of observation, we finally have a Town Manager who understands what the roles of Town Manager are and roles of the Select Board. There are those who think they should have far more power than is really afforded to them, by our governmental system.” In his opinion, is the precipitating factor; he went on to encourage the Board to think about the roles of the Select Board and Town Manager and work through those to,” create a functional organization, for God’s sake. This is the most dysfunctional organization, driven from the top down. Define your roles, stay in your lane and hire the right people to do the job you want them to do. If they’re not, then ok. But, your job is not to get down into the ranks, telling people how to plow roads, how to fight fires... Your job is to lead an organization, put an infrastructure in place so the right people do the right jobs and get the Town moving.” He received a large round of applause.

Ms. Lovejoy, gave a brief history and summary of number of Town Managers in Rumford, since she has lived here and the reason’s they were let go by the Board. She also stated that Mr. Welch was the only Town Manager that retired from the position. She stated that several left or refused to renew their contracts due to Town Board of Selectperson’s, in one way or another. She expressed lack of faith in the Select Board and embarrassment in being from Rumford, due to actions and conduct by the Board. She expressed the year’s suffering as a Town; in headlines... She expressed in her opinion, what the new owners of the Mill, Nine Dragons must be thinking...reading the newspaper, “Town Manager suspended-on Administrative Leave.”; wondering if that act gave the owners a warm feeling about Rumford.? She came to celebrate with the employees of the mill; first time in many years, a Christmas party was celebrated, as well as a group that meets weekly regarding the Hotel project, what they must be thinking...She asked why anybody even bother to come to Rumford? She mentioned attending a meeting in Lewiston, in a room full of Town Managers; asking her, “why anybody would want to be a Town Manager in Rumford?” She also, expressed, “I am not proud to be from Rumford and I’m not proud of how things are being run.” She received a round of applause.

Mr. Burt voiced his strong support for the Town Manager, Ms. Briggs, “for the job she is doing and I also, urge the Board to reinstate her as soon as possible for the good of the Town and its’ citizens. I feel the need to express my disagreement with her suspension and how it was handled; heck if a simple break -down in communication was the criteria for a suspension; I believe we would have at least three (3) other Town Officials suspended here tonight.” He received a large round of applause. ”I hope the Selectperson’s will put aside whatever personal differences they may have with our Town Manager and work with her in good faith for good Town government.” He received a round of applause.

Mr. Sirois, spoke of his sadness when reading the news in the newspaper of the Town Manager’s suspension. “I wonder how we keep getting these Town Managers’ with impressive resumes and good recommendations, we read about them in the newspaper, we’re excited and pleased about it, he or she sounds like a good fit for the Town. Within a short time he or she is terminated by our Select Board. I wonder how that can be and how many more lives are going to be disrupted and if we will ever reach a point where nobody that is qualified will want to apply or run to come here as a Town Manager.” He spoke of the many management positions he has been in through his adult life... Spoke of there always

BOS Meeting APPROVED 01 03 2019

being progressive policies in place, for performance disciplinary actions of any kind, with criteria, steps /stages of progression. "First; an oral/verbal conversation took place, a written communication or notice, a counseling notice and lastly a probation action. Each step of the way, the employee was given an opportunity to improve on performance. If and when an employee ever had to be terminated; it would never be a surprise...May I ask, if the Select Board has a written progressive policy and if it has been applied to the situation with LJ or previous Town Managers'?"

Mr. Brennick expressed no known policy. He refused to discuss personnel matters at this time.

Ms. Sequoia, spoke of her disappointment in the Board of Selectperson's. She spoke of social media site managed by a member of the Select Board... "It is a horrific website. It demeans and casts a very poor light on the comings on and goings on in Rumford." A round of applause was heard. She expressed the history of Rumford rural community. She expressed a community filled with very kind, generous, thoughtful people...They don't spend time behind the scenes trying to make people look bad. That is not a nice thing to do. We are all adults here and if Linda-Jean had issues at work, not being dealt with, that is not on her; but the Board of Selectman. If the Board of Selectman and the people that write on these columns about being taxed out, if that was the issue why did you not have a 30 day, 60 day, 90 day evaluation?" She mention people commenting on a website, "justice, justice...There is no justice being done to a person who has brought more vision and prominence to this Town, than anybody and it's really disgusting to me that you can't even figure out a way to talk to someone who is self-confidant, a person who is intelligent and sit down and have an evaluation process. Reinstate her back into her job please!" She received a large round of applause.

Ms. Dolloff, speaking as a citizen and not as a State representative. She spoke of her love and appreciation for the Town, people, schools any/all people of Rumford. She spoke of the very difficult job of the Board of Selectperson's. She expressed her support for any decision they may make and move on. She wished the Select Board and the citizens a very Merry Christmas. She went on to say, she is praying for peace and wonderful New Year for all of us.

Mr. Therrien, representing Envision Rumford. Explained that he has approached Town Manager, expressing concerns regarding the current level/ state of leadership in Town, for some time. He expressed the equivalence of, "the parents are fighting and the kids are watching. What are you going to do about it? It is concerning and disruptive. Poor communication often leads to divorce... this is similar; few things are worse to a family unit. Now is not the time for this gentlemen! The opportunities that are present here in Rumford, the amount of intention and investment...People are watching, looking and judging. The opportunities here, in his opinion, are on par with the founding of this Town. Rumford has been through growth and contractions (approx..by 2/3 at last contraction 1/3 of people left here). People want to come here, wanting to get involved. I point to the welcome that Chief Reed received... If it wasn't for Chief Carter stepping up, at the time; would have been a complete and total embarrassment! Thanked Chief Carter for again, stepping up." He implored the Board, "if you believe in second chances; that's what Rumford has right now... Fix this! Communicate! It's not that hard gentlemen." Everybody has to work at communication; please do it respectfully, in a way that everybody can understand and support. Lead this community; we need it NOW! He received a large round of applause.

Mr. Zurhorst, expressed his full support for Linda-Jean; "always professional, pleasant and knowledgeable. I respect her vision and what she is doing for the Town. I ask that absent any proof of intentional wrongdoing, that Linda-Jean be reinstated in full and without question, as quickly as possible! Suspension or dismissal of a Town Manager is nothing to be taken lightly. The job of a Town Manager is akin to a CEO of a company...If the reason for the suspension was as reported, just based on a lack of communication; no justifiable reason or basis for suspension and certainly none for dismissal, if that were the eventual outcome. If there is a problem in any area (revaluation)...any and all issues must be resolved through appropriate discussion and management by the Select Board as a whole with Town Council. If this is not the reason, the upheaval caused by the Town Manager's suspension, makes it imperative to inform the public the reason or reasons for the action taken; to

BOS Meeting APPROVED 01 03 2019

reassure Town employees, residence and financial/banking institutions due cause to actions taken and not as result of a simple difference of opinion or personal vendetta. Very appreciative of Chief Carter for stepping in. He went on to express, "the unnecessary removal of the Town Manager would result in a loss of continuity, potentially leading to costly setbacks in time and money to the work being done to revitalize this community, which is so incredibly valuable. Further, would also, likely a black mark the Town in terms of recruiting future talent." In his opinion, "in the current economic climate, if this action taken against Linda-Jean were to continue to what appears to be a likely conclusion and was thought this was for any other reason than legal causes, I could have a negative impact on the Town's ability to borrow for tax anticipation or project loans; in terms of higher interest rates."

Ms. Cook, expressed her support for Town Manager. After reading the information in the newspaper; was shocked with what she read. Expressed her wish was that all people involved sat down like fair-minded people, in discussion of this matter, in relation to the revaluation... The Board of Assessors, the Select Board, Town Manager... If not, in her opinion, responsibility was not owned by both Boards. She hopes in light of what has come up... "Why was, the Town Manager was suspended, what was to be gained from this...?" She expressed she saw notice on the website concerning the revaluation. In her opinion, "why send out an expensive mailing. The finger pointing and blaming needs to stop. Be civil. We need to change the culture of those engaging in the incivility. She spoke of her disappointment in this situation and hopes the Board accepts responsibility for where the situation stands now. She spoke again, of her support for the Town Manager. She has been to meetings and interjected her interest and support with the work the Library has been doing. She asked the Board to stand up for what is right. She received a round of applause.

Mr. Papianou, spoke in appreciation for all those who "showed up tonight." He spoke, in his opinion of the nonsense and the loss of confidence in Town government. He spoke of the rich history of the Town and the statue of Hugh Chisolm and what he founded/built this community on... "What would he think today of what has caused all this unrest and instability? Get yourselves together and fix this!" He received a round of applause.

Mr. Starr, spoke of interaction with folks at a skating party... Two (2) members of the skating party had extensive experience in Town government... He explained what was going on in Rumford. People expressed laughter and amazement of history repeating itself with relation to Town Managers past and present... "Rumford is literally a laughing stock in this region! I hope it stops soon and we figure out a way to end this. He used a story of a person in a relationship, going thru several partners... " at some point you have to look at yourself as being the problem; it cannot be that everybody else is unsuitable." He received a large round of applause. "I hope this problem gets addressed soon. We don't want to talk about rumors and hearsay. However, we hear them all them all the time. Recently he heard somebody say, "I can't wait to get out of crazy town." He expressed, "we all know what Town he was talking about. This conversation was in response to the recent situation. He mentioned hearing a conversation on the street... to the effect that, as soon as out Town Manager made a mistake, certain selectman would take/use the opportunity to get rid of her. He expressed frustration that any person in this town would feel that way about any Selectman. "We have an issue here and I am extremely skeptical that the issue is L-J. I whatever happens as a result of this situation; that nothing like it happens again for a long, long time! In his opinion, When people leave this Town it should be for another opportunity or to be closer to family, not I'm baling out of crazy town!" He received a large round of applause.

Ms. Bellegarde, she expressed her pride in L-J's leadership.

Miss Wood, spoke in support of Town Manager and acknowledge the respect, appreciation and affection Town employees have expressed and shown for her. Town employees respect the appreciation the Town Manager has shown them. She received a large round of applause.

Dr. Kreckel, made a few comments... Due process with clear and transparent process/policy; for public trust... "Otherwise, these issues will come again and there will be no public trust in Town government.

These things need to be done the right way otherwise, you will lose and the Town will lose.” He received a large round of applause.

Officer Gallant, spoke. He mentioned that Mr. B Chase “nailed it” with his comment. He expressed that he doesn’t always agree with the Town Manager. But, they have had some in depth conversation and she has assisted him through some of his Muskie School classes; policy planning and management. He expressed wanting to see the Board, “take a step back”; gaining information and knowledge through a training or through other Board members in other Towns...”In my classes I have learned, from other Town Manager’s, that historically the Rumford Board is looked at as a joke, for their inability to know their role.” He acknowledged appreciation for those stepping up to the Select Board, as a big responsibility and requires a lot of time. However, often time people are in and out of their lanes and situations like this happen. No matter what happens, every Board member take a “step back” and consider what can be done better by the Board. He received a large round of applause.

Ms. Wilson spoke, of positive intent for people and outcomes. She expressed a conversation with the Town Manager, it was very clear that she (Town Manager) promised to do anything and everything within her power to make Rumford move forward; wanting the community to be a positive community with a positive economic future; stating that she (Town Manager) wanted to be a part of that future. Her positive intent in wanting to move Rumford forward into the future. Ms. Wilson, expressed she sees the revaluation as a positive and that somebody acknowledged the need and had only the very best interest of the Town and Citizens at heart. Ms. Wilson expressed that through this process, her taxes may not be accurate, that she is happy about the revaluation... A positive mind set in order to move our community forward and that these things are for the betterment of our community; not to hinder...Positive Intent is at the heart! She received a large round of applause.

Ms. Petersen spoke, to Thank Town Manager for provided to her and her husband. Isthmus Road construction... question of continuation onto Eaton Hill Road. She expressed, “the Town Manager took the time to go through all old records to verify when the last monies were allocated to work on Eaton Hill Road, which was 2007. She did not have to do that. She could have just said, I’ll look in to it. But, she didn’t. She followed through and got the information I requested. She received a large round of applause.

Mr. Howes spoke, Expressed that everybody has flaws; all need to learn and grow. He explained, “L-J and I got off on the wrong foot. We didn’t see eye to eye on things; it was miscommunication...L-J and I addressed this issue and she stepped up, met my demands and appreciated my view...In the past year I have met with her more than any Town Manager I ever met. In the past I did three (3) Pumpkin Fests and never spoke with a Town Manager until L-J. He expressed that the Board unanimously voted L-J in as Town Manager, to run this community. It took me half a decade to get the Select Board members to look me in the eye and respect me. His expressed his wish of treating the Town Manager with respect for all she is and has dealt with... “Pat her on the back, for all she has done and is doing for Rumford.” He also, thanked all those who came in support of the Town Manager. He mentioned that none of the haters and naysayers were present at this meeting. “Give her the respect she deserves, she has certainly earned mine!” He received a large round of applause.

Mr. Brennick suggested a 5 minute break prior to continuing with the meeting.

B. Town Manager's Report

Good Evening,

I find myself tonight both honored and sad. Honored to be asked to fill in and also to have LJ as my boss. Sad that we as a Town have found ourselves in this mess.

I accept this position to ensure we continue to move forward as a Town and get the business at hand done as professionally as possible

I've experienced in the short 3 days that I've been in this position that it is certainly not as easy as most may think. Jim you commented to me yesterday that you would not want to be in my shoes. I hope that was a realization that this is not an easy job.

I quickly realized that being pulled in 14 different directions is taxing. Managing 11 depts. and a variety of citizen issues can be overwhelming.

I can attest that LJ handles much of it with ease. I will also remind all of us that we are all human and mistakes can be/will be made. Even by me. Every one of the Town Dept. Heads are professional, qualified and do the best they can for this town to include LJ.

I am also very much aware of the tormenting that is prevalent by some citizens in this room and this community and find it completely unacceptable or in the best interest of the Town. The conspiracy theories are a sham. My reputation and career have been built on Integrity and I can tell you that the employees of this town are doing the work in the best interest of the town and are doing it legally.

I hope that we can put this matter behind us quickly and continue the work of moving this Town forward with new business and new residents working together to have the best Town we can have.

Thank You.

In other matters

I attended the Maine Criminal Justice Academy graduation last Friday where Ptl. Austin Couture graduated and is now a fully certified Law Enforcement Officer. Congratulations Ptl. Couture. Ptl. Brad Gallant and Canine NIKO also completed their required training and certification and are now a Maine Certified K9 in the detection of narcotics.

Rumford Fire Union has requested to start negotiations as their contract expires June 30, 2019. I can prepare a letter that we can begin after the New Year and hopefully schedule a first meeting.

The Jail renovation project is being prepared to go back out to bid. As discussed previously it will be put out to bid in the newspaper and on construction advertising sites such as the Dodge report, Construction Summary of Maine and others. We hope to receive more competitive bids than before. May you all have a safe and Happy Holiday Season.

Chief Stacy Carter
Acting Town Manager

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

Mr. Mills requested to purchase a gift card, to come from the Parks and Recreation budget, for person who wrote the grant for the track and lights. She did this work, free of charge to the Town; which would have cost approx. \$4000- \$6000. He requested to work with Chief Carter, as Acting Town Manager and the Select Board to purchase and present a \$500 LL Bean gift card and a plaque, in appreciation for her work and present it at a future BOS meeting with her family and friends present.

Mr. Chase, Mr. Brennick and Mr. Belanger expressed this request should be initiated by the Director of the Parks Department, Marcus Palmer. Mr. Palmer agreed to speak with Parks and Recreation Commission regarding this matter.

The Board agreed that this should be taken up the Parks and Recreation Commission; as this falls under their purview.

Mr. Coulombe, Thank Public Works for the demolition work, corner of Spruce Street and Holyoke Avenue, as well as, the Smithcrossing property, slated to come done next.

Fielded two (2) calls from DEP, per a citizen complaint, making sure all was being done appropriate to the law, with regards to asbestos removal. The buildings were tested and a company with expertise was hired to do the removal; all proper paperwork was completed and submitted prior to any demolition. He requested any citizen concerns or questions be directed to his office or the office of the Town Manager.

D. Selectperson's Report

Mr. Chase thanked all those who came in support of the Town Manager. "The public deserves to have their comments heard and have their questions answered; we serve and work for the public." Wished a safe and happy holiday to all and is looking forward to 2019.

Mr. Windover
NONE

Mr. Belanger wished everybody a Merry Christmas and the enjoyment of family.

Mr. Brennick thanked all those for coming in support of the Town Manager and encouraged an active citizenry. He expressed the more input and information the Board has the more informed and better decision making ability they have. He thanked Chief Carter and the Rumford Police Department for their thoughtful Christmas donation (Hannaford, Wal-Mart...) for disadvantaged families in the Mountain Valley High School system. Heartwarming and overwhelming kindness in many different ways... Clothing, winter gear, food, a place to stay... Wished happy holidays to all. He presented the Board with Christmas gifts.

6. Old Business
NONE

7. New Business

A. Approval of Minutes from Select Board Meeting of December 6, 2018

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

Mr. Chase mentioned a typo on page five (5) "angel" should read angle"

Motion was amended to approve with revision. Seconded by Mr. Pepin
Vote-4-1 Mr. Windover opposed

B. Approval of Minutes from Special Select Board Meeting of December 14, 2018 and December 17, 2018

Mr. Brennick made the motion to approve. Seconded by Mr. Belanger
Vote-5-0

C. Discussion and Action on Workshop Results

Mr. Pepin made a motion to TABLE item "C" until January 3, 2019 meeting, so the Assessors can get information to the public and provide the Board with additional information regarding revaluation.
Seconded by Mr. Brennick
Vote-5-0

D. Approval of the Town Warrant dated December 21, 2018 and Discussion on Current Fiscal Status

Mr. Brennick explained what the Board was requesting, budget vs. actual, with supported documentation for budgets over 50%, on a regular monthly schedule, to be presented at the second Board meeting of every month.

Mr. Chase requested voting on the warrant and allowing time for the Board to review this information for future discussion at the January 3, 2019 meeting.

Mr. Chase asked if quarterly may be a viable option, due to Finance Director's work load, etc.

Mr. Belanger stated that in the Charter, financial updates to the Board is a requirement, by the fifteenth (15th) of each month. He expresses a desire to receive that monthly.

Mr. Brennick and the Finance Director expressed, this was previously done on a monthly basis. However, Board members were not reviewing it and or discussing it; with the work load etc., at some point the action was discontinued. She agreed at the Boards request she is more than willing to create this document for a monthly review.

Mr. Brennick and Mr. Chase asked Finance Director how labor intensive and time consuming it would be to create this document on a monthly basis. She replied with approx. one (1) hour.

Mr. Brennick expressed to the Board, for any specifics from on particular data you wish to see, please notify Finance Director well in advance to allow how time to research any specific requests for the report.

Ms. Casey expressed this process is a matter of minutes to create.

Chief Carter interjected that this report is both time and labor intensive; research to accumulate averages, etc. added to her already extensive work load. This particular report is completely different from the report generated by the Town Clerk, which Ms. Casey requested and received.

Mr. Chase made the motion to approve the warrant. Seconded by Mr. Brennick

Mr. Belanger requested removing the payment invoice for revaluation process, at this time.

Mr. Chase amended his motion. Mr. Brennick amended his second.
Vote-3-2 Mr. Belanger and Mr. Windover opposed

E. Discussion and Action on Innkeeper's License for Kevin and Felicia Biggs dba: The Red Rose

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

Mr. Chase suggested inspection, etc. Mr. Coulombe explained, no Ordinance requirements for this process.

Ms. Biggs expressed she would welcome a property inspection, if the Town would like. She has completely outfitted her property with fire, smoke, carbon monoxide detectors, evacuation ladder, security camera... She has taken every precaution to assure safety to any person staying in and on her property.
Vote-5-0

F. Discussion and Action on Asbestos Removal Bids- 226 Knox Street

Mr. Belanger made a motion to approve Bid from Acadia Contractors, for \$8220.00. Seconded by Mr. Windover

Mr. Belanger asked what the quote was for Holyoke Avenue. Mr. Coulombe expressed approx. \$12000.00, much bigger building that required additional equipment to be used in the demolition process.

Mr. Chase requested an update on the Demolition Account balance. Mr. Coulombe replied with, approx. \$63,000.00. Sales of two (2) properties will be deposited into the account, as well.

Vote-5-0

G. Presentation of Proposed 2018-2019 Budget for Medicare- Stephanie Wilson 364-4099

Ms. Wilson reporting on results from Medicare meeting. They have increased their budget for allocation by, \$3.00 per Capita. Town of Rumford portion, \$8461.50. \$3.00 increase due to minimum wage voted by citizens. Director Mr. Milligan not receiving a raise in FY 2018-2019. Medicare Board voted Bob Chase- President, Reggie Arsenault- Vice-President, Jim Pulsifer- Treasurer. She wanted to set the record straight concerning a comment on social media; Board meetings are every other month, on the second Wednesday, at 6:30 p.m., at Medicare building. The meeting schedule has been exactly the same for many years. The Vice-President makes calls to Board members to confirm meetings, there is an agenda posted on the Medicare website...

Mr. Belanger asked who the representatives were from Rumford. Ms. Wilson replied with, herself, Mr. B Chase and Mr. Windover. Mr. Windover said he received an email from Mr. Milligan, who said, he did not know Mr. Windover was a representative from Rumford. Mr. Windover expressed he knew he was on the Medicare Board for over two (2) years and has tried to find out when the meetings were, but was unable to get that information; calling the office several times, with no returned calls.

Mr. Belanger expressed, the newspaper read 10% would be the increase. He asked if the amount Ms. Wilson explained to them equaled 10% increase to the subsidy. Mr. B Chase further explained, the subsidy went from 27 to 30, a per capita increase. Mr. B Chase replied with, yes it is 10% increase.

Mr. Belanger asked if the increase was primarily due to pay raises. Mr. B Chase responded, pay scales had to change due to minimum wage increase starting on January 1, 2019. At State level, continuing to see a decreasing trend in revenues; no reflection on how organizations are run, but rather State level issues. He went on to explain, an increase in call volumes; funded sources through Medicare and Medicaid has increased. However, the government pays only a fraction of the billed dollar amount. Obama care with incredibly high deductibles which are not being paid by the public. This being an EMS industry problem not a Medicare problem.

Mr. Belanger asked where the population numbers come from. Mr. B Chase explained, from the State of Maine census results, annually.

Ms. Wilson replied to Mr. Belanger with, population of 5641, being the reported numbers to the State of Maine census bureau. The budget went from \$135,384.00 to the approved budget of \$143,845.50.

Mr. B Chase offered another perspective that the Board does not always make subsidy increases, in relation to some municipalities that have a 2-3% increase every year. There have been no increases in the past few years, compounding the fact of the 10% increase this FY. He also, explained, they are not seeing any changes in the trends for years to come and will not make promises or guarantees for the future. Each year's budget will be evaluated as it stands...

Mr. Windover asked for the total operating budget amount. Mr. B Chase replied with, approx. total expenses of \$1,935,000.00. He elaborated on projected Medicare revenue from patients is approx. \$1,518,000.00 and from all the Towns only assess just under \$400,000.00...

Mr. Brennick mentioned it would be helpful to have a presentation, with printed documents...generally and globally...economics, revenues, etc.

Mr. B Chase suggested a workshop presentation, including structure, challenges, funding models, inter-local agreements and how the costs are shared across the eleven (11) Towns.

Mr. Windover asked how close Medicare is to paying their bond off. Mr. B Chase expressed a thirty year term, assuming approx. six (6) years into it.

Mr. Windover asked what amount of debt Medicare holds at this point in time. Ms. Wilson replied with, ambulances, equipment...

Mr. Brennick suggested adding all these questions to an agenda for a future workshop.

Ms. Casey added her input...interjecting her perception and opinion.

H. Discussion and Action on Budget for Street Light Project

Mr. Brennick explained the purpose and process of this project...Budgeted \$60,000.00; thinking project would move along much faster than it has... The account has been expended. Looking at options for what can be done.

Chief Carter explained," no fault to the Town at the process in which this project has moved along. We requested an audit; which had to be reconciled for inaccuracies with the numbers CMP had. We are not in a position to move forward with the lease, at this time. There is \$30,744.00 in the contractual side that could be used to pay for street lights moving forward. Once the \$30,744.00 is expended a stop gap measure will need to be in place for a short time period. After speaking with CMP the cost to acquire the fixtures is \$67,345.00. Speaking with RealTerm Energy, that cost could be rolled into the cost for changing the lights and moving forward. Projected cost, when first starting the project was an annual payment of \$30,774.00; payment not due during this FY. RealTerm is working with the municipal lease company to attain the most current figures, based on the number of fixtures that have been determined; will provide that amount, having asked for four (4) quotes: a seven (7) year term, ten (10) year term and with and or without CMP acquisition costs built in. He went on to say, hoping to have those early in the New Year for Select Board meeting; providing real numbers.

Mr. Belanger expressed concern with maintaining the lights. He asked what that might entail.

Mr. O'Keefe answered the questions relating to maintenance. The Town would be responsible for maintenance. However, CMP charges exceptionally high and extraordinary rates to maintain the lights now. The costs associated with the Town maintaining the lights offers no comparison to one (1) – two (2) days a year Public Works will have to go around to replace and maintain lights. It will be minimal to what we are paying now for monthly rental fee per fixture...

Mr. Belanger asked Liability questions in response to Public Works crews replacing bulbs, etc. Mr. O'Keefe does not believe there would be liability issue as long as proper equipment is being used. However, he does not know for sure, at this time. It would still be much less costly to have a journeyman to perform maintenance.

Mr. Chase suggested a maintenance account built into the FY budget for maintenance costs approx. \$10,000.00 annually that can be rolled over into the next FY.

The Board agreed it would be a great idea.

BOS Meeting APPROVED 01 03 2019

Mr. O'Keefe called CMP to be sure the discrepancies were addressed. RealTerm survey in the field had two (2) numbering sets and RealTerm had been recording the wrong numbers.

Mr. Brennick gave a brief description of the processes to Mr. Pepin, who was not on the Board when the process began...

Mr. Chase also added to the conversation and explanation to Mr. Pepin.

8. Adjournment

Motion made by Mr. Chase to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Belanger

Vote-5-0

At 8:52 p.m.

Acting Town Manager
Chief Stacy Carter

CSC;pc