

MINUTES
BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS' MEETING
March 7, 2019 at 5:00 pm and 6:30 pm
Rumford Falls Auditorium

5:00 pm

5:15pm

1. Convene in Open Session in Jury Room
2. Executive Session – Negotiations – 1 MRSA §405(6)(D)
3. Recess

Present: Christopher Brennick-Chairperson, Michael Peter Chase-Vice-Chairperson, Mark Belanger-Selectperson, John Pepin, Sr.-Selectperson, Scott Cole-Interim Town Manager

Absent: James Windover-Selectperson

Attendees: Steve Dymont, Richard Coulombe, Douten Thomas, Donna Thomas, Bill Porter, Calvin Burgess, Marcus Palmer, Bob Chase, Maris Bethea, Deborah Laurinaitis, Stacy Carter, Dan Richard

6:30 pm

1. Call to Order in Auditorium
2. Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag
3. Adopt Agenda w/ Amendments as Needed

Mr. Brennick made a motion to amend the agenda to add to Item K- Approval of Extra Town Building Funds for the Jail Project floor. Seconded by Mr. Belanger
Vote-4-0

Mr. Chase made a motion to amend the agenda to add to Item K- Action on Negotiator to Work the Town on Collective Bargaining Agreements. Seconded by Mr. Belanger
Vote-4-0

4. Presentation of Boston Post Cane – Mr. Joseph Buccina, Oldest Citizen of Rumford
A certificate was presented to Mr. Buccina. A round of applause ensued.

5. Public Hearings:

- A. Liquor License: Jason and Erica Chamberlain dba: Chamberlain's, JEC, LLC

NO Comments

B. Taxi License: Gilbert Garry Scott dba: Private Taxi
NO comments

6. Action Following Public Hearings:

A. Approve Liquor License for Jason and Erica Chamberlain dba Chamberlain's

Mr. Chase made the motion to approve. Seconded by Mr. Pepin
Vote-4-0

B. Approve Taxi Cab License for Gilbert Garry Scott dba Private Taxi

Mr. Belanger made the motion to approve. Seconded by Mr. Brennick
Vote-4-0

7. Comments

A. Public Comment

None

B. Town Manager's Report

Boat Ramp Project

Movie Film Crew- Allagash- in Town 3/12/19 and 3/13/19 filming

Budget- Island Project, Loan from Bond Bank, March 15, 2019

Finance Committee- Department Budgets, March 11, 2019 at 6:00pm

Executive Session- Negotiation, Island Project, March 13, 2019 at 5:00pm, Jury Room

Finance Committee- Initiated Articles Public Hearing, March 13, 2019 at 6:00pm and possibly, March 14, 2019 (if needed)

C. Department Heads and Committee Chairs As Needed

None

D. Selectpersons

Mr. Belanger requested that storm drains/catch basins be addressed asap.

Mr. Brennick Thanked Public Works/Highway crews for their hard work, throughout these winter months.

8. Items for Discussion and/or Action as Needed

A. Approve Minutes of Select Board Meeting Held February 21, 2019

Mr. Belanger made the motion to approve. Seconded by Mr. Chase
Vote-4-0

B. Approve Expenditure Warrant Dated March 8, 2019

Mr. Chase made the motion to approve. Seconded by Mr. Pepin
Vote-3-1 Mr. Belanger Opposed

C. Consider Abutter's Bid for 7 Earnest Street Parcel

Bid proposal for .23acres, \$300 presented by Denise and Steven Letarte

CEO, Mr. Coulombe expressed to the Board, he sent two rounds of letters out to abutters with no replies. He requested authorization to put an ad in the newspaper, lot for sale.

Mr. Belanger agreed.

Mr. Chase asked if the lot was buildable. Mr. Coulombe replied with, yes.

Consensus by the Board, the Bid proposal is too low to accept.

Mr. Coulombe mentioned two additional lots, he would like to advertise for sale.

No Action taken on Bid proposal.

D. Action on Hosmer Field Lighting Project w/ Additional Work Estimate

Mr. Palmer explained the Bids, information not included, requirements and additional work related to project at \$12,680.00 = Total Bid Package Utility Service & Assistance, Inc. of \$290,514.00.

Mr. Chase made the motion to approve Bid from Utility Service & Assistance, Inc. for \$290,514.00. Seconded by Mr. Pepin
Vote-4-0

E. Authorize Payment of Med-Care Special Assessment

Mr. Chase and Mr. Pulsifer explained reimbursement rates, cumulative revenues, number of calls...Over \$146,000.00 revenue shortfall. Expense increase due to minimum wage increase and wage compression; causing urgent reassessment/revaluation of budget. \$4 per capita one- time assessment. Subsidy was 24 per capita going to 28 per capita, as of July 2019.

Mr. Brennick asked subsidy questions. Mr. Chase explained the circumstances and fiscal conservativeness...MedCare Board realizes should have incrementally increased the subsidy by \$1 per year, in preparation for a situation like this.

Mr. Belanger asked how aggressively revenues are collected. Mr. Chase explained Government reimbursements, such as Medicare-58% of transports, reimbursed rate of 45.89% of billing amount and Medicaid even lower than Medicare, have been the largest issue. Uninsured Patients-\$164,297.00 billed and \$72,275.00 collected. Currently writing off between, \$62,000.00 - \$65,000.00 annually for deductible transfers. 0 funding of Capital reserves.

Mr. Pulsifer elaborated on the situation of shortfall. He spoke of the instability in the Healthcare system.

Mr. Brennick asked if this instability is unique to MedCare or a State wide issue. Mr. Chase replied, seems to be a gap everywhere depending on demographics... Global problem is universal. Costs have increased and reimbursement rates have decreased. Transportation mileage is very high, due our rural setting; mileage rates are reimbursed at a specific rate no matter the location. Work being done through advocacy to increase reimbursement rates on the Government level.

Mr. Brennick asked Interim Town Manager which account funds would come from. Interim Town Manager replied, overdraft on the line trickles down to fund balance. An expenditure to be charged from the Contingency Account, depending on fund balance. MedCare \$22,564.00 Contingency \$18,769.82. Use Contingency and any gap funds.

Mr. Belanger suggested special Town Meeting for voter approval, he would not vote without authorization from the citizens.

Mr. Pulsifer spoke further of history of how MedCare was set up thirty years ago.

Finance Director, Deborah Laurinaitis answered fund questions.

Mr. Brennick made the motion to use the MedCare amount and the Contingency funds to pay the Special Assessment and schedule a Town Meeting for authorization to recoup funds to reimburse Contingency Account, to pay the assessments through the end of the FY.

Conversation continued...

Chief Carter suggested policy and procedure for Special Town Meeting and rules for the motion at hand with stipulations for early payment on contract. Utilities will require the same procedure, for Special Town meeting.

Mr. Brennick rescinded his original motion.

Mr. Chase made the motion to transfer from the Contingency Account, \$18,000.00 into Health and Sanitation, to help pay the Special MedCare Assessment and schedule a Special Town Meeting for authorization/voter approval for the \$22,564.00, Special Assessment from MedCare. Once authorized, transfer \$18,000.00 back into the Contingency Account. Seconded by Mr. Pepin

Mr. Chase asked Finance Director for her opinion. She replied a motion and vote are needed to transfer funds into the Health and Sanitation Account to be used for this purpose.

Mr. Belanger asked additional questions regarding funds for this purpose and for Utilities... Finance Director replied with her interpretation... She suggested discussing this with the Auditor prior to doing anything.

Vote-3-1 Mr. Belanger Opposed

F. Discussion and Action on Ordinance Requests

Mr. Brennick gave explanation of the process...

Chapter- 25 H- Section 2 adding letter “K”- Property Maintenance Ordinance

Mr. Barnett, spoke of costs associated with snow removal and tremendous amount of snow.

Mr. Burgess, President of RUMMEX, spoke of costs associated with snow removal and the tremendous amount of snow. He read Lease agreements with responsibility of tenants for lawn care and snow removal. Not all Landlords of multifamily dwellings have these Lease Agreements. All have a provision but, not all provide the same language. This language is for liability issues.

Mr. Belanger, asked Mr. Burgess what issues/effect the new proposal to the Ordinance would cause or have for Landlords? Mr. Burgess replied, the group would like some time to review and discuss the entire Ordinance prior to responding.

Mr. Brennick, explained the approval would be to place this on the ballot, for a vote from citizens, in June.

Mr. Chase, expressed elderly and handicapped safely being able to come and go from their places of residence.

Mr. Thomas, spoke of the difficulty of snow removal due to Public Works placement, when plowing. He asked the Board not to act in favor of the Ordinance proposal, unless it includes every single family home, multifamily unit, business...

Ms. Neary addressed concerns. She explained the costs would be significant to Landlords, need to have clear expectation, language as it stands, contains gray areas/subjective, language that would need to be addressed, with specifics.

Chief Carter agreed with the concept of the proposal for public safety and access reasons. He agreed placing this Ordinance on multifamily units is discriminatory. Enforcement issues; Police Department does not have the man power to deal with enforcement of Ordinances. They are dealing with crime, etc. Code Enforcement Officer does not have the time to deal with the enforcement of these Ordinances. He expressed, not prudent to continue to “burry” the Town in Ordinances.

Mr. Ziko, spoke of enforcement issues and the responsibility of the tenants. Sand, salt, shovels, etc are provided by Landlords. It is up to the tenants to contact the Landlords, not the Town of Rumford with building and maintenance issues.

Mr. Richard, spoke of his lease agreement and tenants responsibility; salt, sand shovels, etc are provided for tenants to be able to do a little bit for themselves. He is not in favor of the Ordinance proposal.

Mr. Belanger made the motion to REJECT the Ordinance proposal. Seconded by Mr. Brennick
Vote-4-0

Chapter-23 B- Permanent Road Improvement Fund Ordinance

Finance Director, Ms. Laurinaitis, spoke of Ordinance proposal by Ms. Casey as being too aggressive for the Town of Rumford, at this time. It would be more prudent to make a gradual attempt over time.

Mr. Chase made the motion to increase amount from Excise Tax from \$400,000 to \$500,000, as proposed by Finance Director. Seconded by Mr. Belanger
Vote-4-0

Chapter-19- Traffic Regulations Ordinance

Eliminating the hours (11pm-6am) for which Parking Ban can be instituted.

Chief Carter, spoke of his lack of support for this proposal. We do not have parking facilities to accommodate for businesses and etc. It puts everybody in violation and effects businesses with on street parking. There are already mechanisms in place by Public Works- signs for particular areas, DO NOT PARK THIS SIDE OF STREET- SNOW REMOVAL, etc. Enforcement is another difficult issue.

Mr. Belanger brought up formatting changes, which are a benefit.

Mr. Belanger made the motion to approve the Ordinance proposal, REJECTING/striking the change in hours for posting Parking Ban. Seconded by Mr. Pepin
Vote-4-0

Chapter-40- Temporary Signs and Advertising Banners Ordinance

Adding "Banners" back in, Formatting change, removal of redundant language, size change to 32 square feet (4x8 feet), removes all other temporary signs from the language.

Mr. Brennick made the motion to approve with the changes. Seconded by Mr. Chase
Vote-4-0

Chapter-42- Licenses for Victualers, Innkeepers, Lodging Houses and Short Term Rentals

Adding term, "Short Term Rentals" and all appropriate language pertaining to, Formatting changes, Licensing requirements, Liability Insurance, STRIKES Innkeeper and Lodging House licenses, Adds language referring to inspection by Code Enforcement Officer prior to Licensure, adds compliance language.

Mr. Belanger asked questions to CEO concerning protection of the Town through this Ordinance. CEO replied, yes, we will be protected/covered through this Ordinance.

Mr. Chase made the motion to approve with changes as written. Seconded by Mr. Pepin
Vote-4-0

G. Review Current Status of FY 19 Budget

Only concern is Utility-per Finance Director

H. Authorize Code Enforcement Officer to Advertise Sale of Town-Owned Property

CEO- 209 Pine Street
Lot Maple Street
7 Earnest Street

Sent two letters to abutters with no reply. Would like permission to advertise for Bids for approval by BOS

Mr. Belanger made the motion to approve. Seconded by Mr. Chase
Vote-4-0

I. Consider Town Manager Draft Job Description

Mr. Brennick wrote up the job description, details, criteria, requirements, responsibilities, etc.as per the Town Charter. He explained the development to the Board.

#11 Mr. Chase suggested change language from “Leads” to “Supports” in negotiating Collective Bargaining Agreements and ensures adherence to Collective Bargaining Agreements.

#16 Mr. Brennick suggested change “Ensures the Town’s Purchasing Policy” to “Ensures that all Town Charter, Ordinances and Policies are followed.”

Mr. Chase asked about the language, “Mission” for Community Development?
Mr. Brennick suggested replacing with, “Vision”

Mr. Chase asked Interim Town Manager for input and or suggestions. Interim Town Manager’s opinion was that it encompassed what the job is about, in the generic sense.

#19 Mr. Brennick suggested language, “Intergovernmental Coordination to ensure policies and procedures are followed...”

J. Consider Firm to Conduct Town Manager Search

Mr. Belanger asked to TABLE this Item, pending additional information, for the March 21, 2019 Agenda. Seconded by Mr. Chase
Vote-4-0

K. Approve Peak-A-Week Hiking Club Parking Pass for Wednesdays at Info Center

Mr. Chase made the motion to approve. Seconded by Mr. Pepin
Vote-4-0

Mr. Brennick made the motion to release \$5000 from the Municipal Building, Capital Fund for basement floors. Seconded by Mr. Chase
Vote-4-0

Mr. Brennick made the motion to Authorize Interim Town Manager to enter into a Contract with a Collective Bargaining Negotiator. Seconded by Mr. Belanger
Vote-4-0

L. Adjournment

Mr. Chase made the motion to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Pepin
Vote-4-0
8:45 pm