

MINUTES
RUMFORD BOARD of SELECTPERSONS MEETING
May 16, 2019 at 6:00 pm
Rumford Falls Auditorium

Present: Christopher Brennick-Chairperson, Michael Peter Chase-Vice-Chairperson, Mark Belanger-Selectperson, James Windover-Selectperson, Scott Cole-Interim Town Manager

Absent: John Pepin, Sr.

Attendees: Steve Dymont, Dale Roberts, Stacy Carter, Richard Coulombe, Kelly Beauchesne, Kevin Knox, Travis Noyes, Nate Gustafson, George O'Keefe, Jr., Chris Reed, Candice Casey, Ron Smith, Deborah Laurinaitis, Laurie Holtzman

6:00 pm

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

Mr. Brennick Requested to add Children's Advocacy Day, Rumford Eagles to the Agenda, after letter "B".

**Mr. Windover made the motion to add the item to the Agenda. Seconded by Mr. Belanger
Vote-4-0**

4. Public Hearing: **NONE**
5. Comments
 - A. Public Comment
 - B. Town Manager's Report

1. Island Project- Engineers to give update later in the meeting
2. Auditor- to give presentation later in the meeting
3. Poland Spring Community Fund- reflected in the agenda later in the meeting
4. Spring Clean-Up drawing to a close for 2019

C. Department Heads and Committee Chairs As Needed

Police Chief, Stacy Carter-

- 1.Updated the Board on an incident of Byron Street, large contingent of Police, Fire and Code Enforcement regarding an animal control complaint; basic farm running loose on Byron Street. Over 30 chickens, 20 rabbits, A few goats, pigs...Legal documents were obtained to seize the

animals. Conditions of the residence caused alarm; unfit for habitation. Fire Department assisted with protective- Hazmat gear for entering and evaluating the building. The residence contained deceased animals...

Economic Development Director, George O'Keefe, Jr-

- 1.Small business development activity has been extremely high
- 2.Waiting for closing on Connie's Place- AVCOG Attorney final disposition and deed
- 3.Holy Savior School site visit/assessment for redevelopment, with Ransom Environmental for Phase 1, moving forward
- 4.Poland Spring Project moving forward
- 5.Clough & Pillsbury building environmental site assessment (Brownfield Grant) approved and completed. Draft request for proposals with Interim Town Manager

Mr. Windover asked what is being done at the Holy Savior School site.

Mr. O'Keefe explained, Senior Housing with support of the Diocese in Portland.

D. Selectpersons

Mr. Chase- cautioned community about bird feeders and bear sightings

Mr. Belanger- brought up concerns regarding elections and wardens; Article 7 of the Town Charter- Specifically dictates, Selectpersons responsible for facilitating elections of the Town.

6. Items for Discussion and/or Action as Needed

A. Approve Minutes of Selectpersons Meetings Held On:

1. May 2, 2019
2. May 9, 2019

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

B. Communication from Sunie Drummond

Ms. Drummond not available to attend meeting.

Mr. Brennick asked for a motion to TABLE this item

**Mr. Belanger made the motion to TABLE item 1. Pending additional information and consultation with Chief Carter. Seconded by Mr. Brennick
Vote-4-0**

1. Receive Petition for Stop Signs-Waldo Street
2. Request to Close Off Oxford Street on May 25, 2019 or May 26, 2019
For Celebration of Life for Jayce Holt

Chief Carter explained the request from Ms. Drummond, as it was explained to him. Close off a portion of Oxford Avenue, between Cumberland Street and Rumford Avenue. She contacted the

Eagles Club for use of their vacant lot, on Oxford Avenue, for gathering, playing and safe entertainment in honor of Jayce Holt. He expressed no issues with this request. Suggested contacting Public Works, to provide barricades for this event.

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

Mr. Chase expressed concerns for setting a precedence for this type of event, though it was a tragic event.

Vote-3-1 Mr. Chase Opposed

C. Children's Advocacy Day- Rumford Eagles

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

Vote-4-0

D. Presentation of FY 2018 Audit

Ron Smith from, RHR Smith & Company, presented Audit for FY 2018

He expressed the Town is in the best financial condition it has been in, since he began auditing the Town. Fund balance = \$3.7 million. Based on \$19 million budget, for general fund= approx..75 days of fund balance= the same as the past three years. Town is fiscally stable. See no cash flow issues. Town is as financially healthy as it has always been and has improved from 2017 to 2018. Necessary raise in sewer rates will increase contingency fund for infrastructure, waste water and etc. projects. No financial issues for concerns.

Mr. Chase asked about increasing reserve (do to mill town) enough to handle three months, due to volatility in paper market; project for 3 months, as all mill towns in Maine.

Mr. Smith agreed completely, for stabilization. Charter does not address this, regarding a plan for contingency for the future in the event the largest tax payer in the area is no longer viable.

Interim Town Manager expressed that Mr. Smith received a number of phone calls from Town residents who are not Town Officials.

Mr. Smith went on to explain that concerns from citizens were unfounded and unsubstantiated. There were no indications of impropriety or willful gain, etc. of any kind.

Interim Town asked Mr. Smith how those external phone calls and concerns were handled.

Mr. Smith explained that he personally handled several. He investigated concerns and no issues were found, after due diligence.

Mr. Belanger asked questions regarding re-allocation of funds, revenue sharing, etc. He asked for information recommendations from Mr. Smith.

Mr. Brennick asked questions regarding debt burden.

Mr. Smith explained debt to revenue ratio %= Town is well within the limits. Nowhere near and zero concerns for the Town's debt portfolio. Towns are also, capped as to total debt amount allowed or permitted by municipalities. Rumford is nowhere close to the cap amount.

Mr. Windover asked questions regarding a purchase order system with relation to supporting paperwork for bills that are questioned.

Mr. Smith sees no advantage to a purchase order system. It would not at all be helpful in this instance. In his opinion, is no more than a cover page with a signature for paying bills; depends on what is to be accomplished, your intent regarding this type of system. To set up and manage is a great deal of work. Would need to have a discussion on good business decisions, concerning the symptoms of what is driving your concerns; process of procurement may be more the issue and those things can be addressed without requiring a PO system.

Mr. Chase asked about speeding up the process of receiving the audit back in a more, timely manner.

Mr. Smith explained, due to all the calls that were received regarding concerns from citizens, is what held up the audit. Due process was followed through...

- E. Review and Discuss FY 2019 Budget to Date
 - 1. Approve Expenditure Warrant

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

- 2. Approve Check #119425 for \$109,653 for Smith and Loveless

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

- F. Discuss and Approve Bylaws Poland Spring Community Benefits Fund

**Mr. Belanger made the motion to TABLE. Seconded by Mr. Windover
Vote-4-0**

- G. Authorize Posting of Firefighter Position (full-time)

Mr. Brennick suggested moving this item up after item "D". Fire Chief may need to leave the meeting. The Board agreed.

Mr. Brennick asked Chief Reed to explain the want and or need
Chief Reed gave a synopsis of his request and reasons for such.

Mr. Brennick made the motion to authorize posting. NO second, motion denied

Mr. Belanger suggested a discussion with Chief Reed and the Board prior to this motion.

Mr. Brennick reminded the Board, this position has been budgeted in current budget 2018-2019, as well as, 2020 budget. Not expending this funds; still budgeted and calculated into the tax rate.

Chief Reed explained, it will cost the Town more, due to overtime. He expressed decreasing to two on duty firefighters a day is ludicrous. The Town would be taking a high risk. Code of firefighters says, four two drivers, two to fight the fire, before an initial attack of the fire can happen.

Mr. Belanger asked about Call Force.

Chief Reed explained the numbers are dwindling. The training requirement is increasing and the individual's time to do training is decreasing. Training requirements are excessive and folks quit before finishing, due to time involved.

Mr. Chase explained that days of volunteerism is gone. Things have changed dramatically.

Chief Reed expressed call volume has gone up by fifty two calls this year. Did a ten year study to 2019 and call volumes have risen steadily, each Year. Call volumes increase and man power decrease. Sooner or later could well be catastrophic. He expressed his lack of support for going to two firefighters per shift.

Chief Carter spoke of his strong support for Chief Reed. He asked the Board to TABLE until a full Board is present, as was done a few weeks back for his request to fill a position.

Mr. Brennick asked about applicant pools.

Chief Reed expressed, a couple of good applicants, from Call Force.

**Mr. Brennick made the motion to TABLE. Seconded by Mr. Chase
Vote-2-2 Mr. Belanger and Mr. Windover Opposed**

H. Discuss Island Rehabilitation Project

Mr. Nate Gustafsen and Mr. Travis Noyes from CES presented, Island Rehabilitation Project-plans, costs and challenges.

Board was provided printed informational material.

**Mr. Windover made the motion to remove tree in front of Carlisle's and replant tree elsewhere on the island. Seconded by Mr. Belanger
Vote-4-0**

**Mr. Chase made the motion to complete outlined work to make the island safe. Take the funds from a Public Works related account, of approx. \$67,000. Seconded by Mr. Belanger
Vote-4-0**

Questions asked by the Board, were answered by CES.

Interim Town Manager also, gave clarification and interpretation on information he has been told and brought up to date on, by Sargent, CES, Clerk of Works and all others involved in the project.

I. Discussion and Action on Traffic Line Paint Bids

**Mr. Windover made the motion to approve bid from Hi-Way Safety Systems, Inc. for \$10,363.32. Seconded by Mr. Belanger.
Vote-4-0**

- J. Approve Municipal Quitclaim Deed with ~~Covenants~~ Restrictions-per Town Attorney
1. 226 Knox Street
 2. 142 Washington Street

Clarify language with Town Attorney

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

K. Counter Sign for Notice of Election

Completed

L. Eliminate Evening Hours for Voter Registrar

**Mr. Windover made motion to approve. Seconded by Mr. Chase
Vote-4-0**

7. Executive Session for Purpose of Union Labor Negotiations- **Start 7:54 p.m.
End 9:18 p.m.**

8. Adjourn
9:19 p.m.