

Minutes of Meeting Held on July 18, 2019

The Board convened a public hearing at 5:37 pm in the Rumford Falls Auditorium with all members present (Belanger, Brennick, Chase, DiConzo, Pepin). Other town officials, members of the public, and representatives of the media were also present.

The hearing was held pursuant to charter requirement and for purpose of taking comment and facilitating discussion concerning several proposed ordinance amendments. Topics of these amendments included regulation of rental property maintenance and on-street parking of trailers.

No action was taken by the Board and the hearing was adjourned at 6:40 pm.

The Board then convened a meeting at 6:45 pm. All members were present (Belanger, Brennick, Chase, DiConzo, Pepin).

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

A meeting agenda was adopted by unanimous vote. It has been attached to these minutes.

The Board then considered comments from the public (none) and remarks from the town manager, police chief and code enforcement officer concerning various municipal matters.

On motion by Belanger and second by DiConzo, the Board voted unanimously to approve minutes for a meeting held on July 11.

On motion by Chase and second by Pepin, the Board voted 3-2 (Belanger, DiConzo) to approve an expenditure warrant dated July 18, 2019.

The Board voted unanimously to approve an August 9-11 temporary extension (enlargement) of serving area associated with liquor license held by the Fraternal Order of Eagles.

The Board reviewed an FY 19 budget report. No action was taken.

The Board, Town Clerk and others present discussed challenges and responsibilities associated with planning administration and maintenance of town cemeteries. No action was taken.

On motion by Brennick and second by Pepin, the Board voted unanimously to post a vacancy and conduct search for a permanent town manager with search oversight duties and tasks assigned to member Frank DiConzo.

On motion by Chase and second by Pepin, the Board voted unanimously to authorize a \$1,000 town donation to Envision Rumford in support of the fireworks display at Pumpkin Fest, said funds to be drawn from the Community Development fund.

The Board spoke with library trustee Jerry Cohen and reviewed results from a July 16 bid opening concerning replacement of concrete stairs and ramp at the library. Four firms drew plans and one firm submitted a bid. On motion by DiConzo and second by Chase, the Board voted unanimously to accept the bid of E.J. Perry Construction of Hallowell and authorize execution of a contract with total value of \$107,017.

The Board spoke with police chief Stacy Carter concerning police vehicles. On motion by Chase and second by Pepin, the Board voted unanimously to authorize a competitive bid process for replacement of an existing 2016 Ford in fleet.

The Board spoke with fire chief Chris Reed concerning fire department staffing strengths and strategies. On a motion by Brennick and second by Chase, the Board voted 4-1 (Belanger) to authorize the hiring of Chris Arsenault in the position of probationary firefighter.

The Board, town manager, and others discussed the downtown rehabilitation project and highlights of a July 16 meeting between contractor Sargent, engineering firm CES and town officials. No action was taken. The Chair requested that the engineers attend a future Board meeting.

The Board and town manager discussed bids received in the replacement of public works truck #22. No action was taken.

The Board and town manager discussed pending improvements to Eaton Hill Road. No action was taken. Member DiConzo requested that this item remain on future agendas.

The Board discussed pending sewer work on Smithville Road which must occur ahead of road improvements scheduled for 2020. On a motion by Brennick and second by DiConzo, the Board voted unanimously to authorize execution of a \$76,750 contract with Ted Berry Co. of Livermore for sewer line improvements via insertion and pipe sleeving techniques.

The Board and town manager discussed a June 28 letter from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection regarding groundwater inflow and infiltration issues which confront Rumford's sewer collection and treatment system. No action was taken following the discussion.

The Board and town manager discussed a matter concerning a wetlands mitigation matter affecting the town-owned Rumford Business Park and town compliance with certain permit requirements administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. On a motion by DiConzo and second by Chase, the Board voted unanimously to authorize execution of an agreement with TRC Company to retain said firm for representation of town interests in dealing with the Corps.

On motion by DiConzo and second by Chase, the Board voted unanimously to enter executive sessions for purpose of discussing real estate negotiations, for purpose of discussing union contract negotiations, and for purpose of discussing a personnel matter with the Board of Assessors.

The Board returned to open session.

On motion by Brennick and second by Chase, the Board voted unanimously to authorize Assessing employee Rachel Meisner to work as necessary and to exceed her position's budgeted 35 hour per week as needed for duration of property revaluation project.

The Board voted unanimously voted to authorize the town manager to execute both an amendment and a specific sidebar agreement with AFSCME Council 93 and its Local 1458-04 concerning public works employees' reimbursement for clothing under Article 34 of the overall collective bargaining agreement currently in effect.

On motion by Brennick and second by Pepin, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 10:09 pm.

Scott G. Cole
Interim Town Manager