

RUMFORD BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS

RUMFORD, ME

Minutes of Meeting Held on December 19, 2019

Present: Peter Chase- Selectperson, Mark Belanger – Selectperson, John Pepin – Selectperson, Stacy Carter – Town Manager.

5:31 p.m. Entered Executive Session on motion by Mark Belanger, second by John. VOTE 3-0

End Executive Session at 6:04 p.m. No Action.

6:30pm in Auditorium

Meeting was called to order by Peter Chase.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Agenda adopted with no amendments.

Public Hearing: River Valley Taxi License, no public comments.

Action taken to approve River Valley Taxi License. Motion made by Belanger, second by John. VOTE 3-0

Comments:

Jolene Lovejoy congratulates Stacy Carter on his retirement as Police Chief and welcomes him as Town Manager.

Jolene also expressed her appreciation for the Festival of Trees and Christmas in the Valley. She was pleased to see the turnout and the efforts by Stephanie Reed and the volunteers.

Town Manager:

Report annual NIMS CAST to be filed. NIMS (National Incident Management System) required qualifications for eligibility to apply and receive Federal preparedness grant awards. Three Select Board members will need to participate in the training.

Grant examination through the Revitalize Maine Efficiency Grant for energy efficiency in the Municipal Building. Hopefully to offset the cost of upgrades for windows and thermostat controls.

Renewal for our Court Rental Agreement. The current agreement does not include the maintenance costs. Upgrades are needed which should be partially funded by our renters.

Christmas in the Valley largest crown for the lighting of the trees. Festival of Trees drew a large crowd as well. Balcony in the Auditorium was opened to accommodate, which opened up some safety concerns that were identified.

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FERC hearings regarding Brookfield relicensing. Brookfield seemed to be very responsive of requests.

Workshop necessary for Public Works prior to budgets. Request to schedule that meeting for January 9th for a meeting date. Tentatively scheduled.

Department Heads;

Dale Roberts, Public Works. Brief update on the department. There is a new software program in use to measure the severity of the road conditions and the estimated cost for repair will prove to be helpful in identifying need and budgetary planning.

Full time employee has resigned and Dale requesting to appoint one of the seasonal employees for the position.

Brief discussion ensued about ongoing insurance claim with no resolution at this point.

Hancock street sidewalks to be upgraded and road widened to make it a little wider for roadside parking and improve overall appearance.

Select Board Comments:

Mark Belanger addresses the emergency response from our Fire and Emergency Responders. Job well done, the outcome was unfortunate but could have been drastically worse.

Mark asks about an update on the Canal St. bridge street light. George O'Keefe took a moment to explain the problem is in the process of being fixed and will be coordinated with other repairs.

Mark also questioning Memorial Bridge lighting. Dale addressed, stating poles belong to DOT. Discussion followed. DOT has the project on hold, Dale will follow up with them.

Peter Chase, also that's the response of the Fire Department and Emergency Responders on their work on the fire on Spruce St.

Peter was impressed as well with the efforts for the Festival of Trees.

Peter also attended the Brookfield/FERC meetings and was encouraged with FERCs stress on the recreation surrounding the River which may prove to be a positive for the recreational use for the area surrounding the Rive in that area.

Approval of minutes from December 5th 2019. Motion made by Mark and second by John.
VOTE 3-0

Update on Poland Springs:

Mark Dubois presents the Town with his update. Pumping tests have been performed and have been successful, there is enough water here to support a factory installation.

However, market for bottled water has not grown. It is difficult for Poland Spring to

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compete with the decreased costs in bottled water from competitors such as Coke or Pepsi. Their focus is less on decreasing costs and more increasing quality. Hopes for a bottling facility in Rumford is still a great possibility.

Motion to add Article to Agenda for the Warrant by Peter Chase, second by John. VOTE 3-0

Appointment of the new Police Chief. Two qualified applicants from within the department, qualified and capable to lead the department having already displayed leadership on the force. Stacy Carter presents the Board with his recommendation for the position. Tony Milligan. Motion was made by Mark Belanger to approve the appointment of Tony Milligan, second by John Pepin. VOTE 3-0 Applause. Tony Milligan will be sworn in as Chief on January 2, 2020.

RSU 10 Agreement for School Resource Officer. Doug Maifield will be in the position. School Board approved the funding for the position. It is a part-time temporary position funded by RSU 10. His initial payroll will come from the Town of Rumford and will be reimbursed by RSU 10. Duties and powers will be given to Officer Maifield by the Town of Rumford. Officer Maifield will remain as a reserve officer while not on duty for the School, however, will remain a part-time employee. Question presented by Mark Belanger regarding the use of a Rumford Police vehicle. Preference would be if there is an available vehicle to be used by the Officer should he have to respond to an emergency, that he be in a marked unit with emergency capabilities. Further questioning costs on the vehicle and whose responsibility it would be. Motion made by Peter Chase to approve the School Resource Officer, second by John Pepin. Brief discussion ensued with concerns regarding costs to the Town with the use of the vehicle. VOTE 2-1 (Belanger)

Tree Harvesting Plan. Town Farm Lot in Isthmus Road. Plan is out of date and trees need to be harvested before the town loses the monetary value of the harvestable trees. Process has stalled because of the boundary lines, deeded access is unclear due to unclear boundary. Discussion ensued and a motion was made to implement a plan for harvesting the Town Farm Lot by Mark Belanger, second by John. VOTE 3-0

Budget vs. Actual is to be reviewed and followed up on at the next meeting.

Motion made to accept Warrant #25 by Peter Chase, second by John Pepin. VOTE 2-1 (Belanger)

Grand opportunity for Sand and Salt Shed. George O'Keefe presented the potential for a grant opportunity as well as the risk involved. Dale Roberts explained the need for the shed as our outdoor storage leaves our supply out in the elements which can sometimes reduce its effectiveness in treating the conditions. Town match on the Grant would be 25% in kind. If the Grant can be submitted without a design there will be no upfront costs to the town. If the design has to be included it could cost the Town wherein lies the risk. Should the Town not be approved for the Grant there is no reimbursement for the design costs. Mark Belanger made a motion to proceed on the Grant Application for a Sand and Salt Shed to be located at the Highway Department without spending money on the design, second by Peter Chase. VOTE 3-0

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Discussion of Sewerage Damage at Holy Savior School. The Town insurance denied liability to the Town. Holy Savior School is seeking reimbursement of \$20,000 for the damage that occurred. Previous correspondence suggests the Town will assume responsibility. Stacy Carter will speak with the Town insurance for further information. Topic tabled.

Motion was made to move to executive session at 7:54 by Mark Belanger, second by John.
VOTE 3-0

Entered Executive Session at 7:54pm.

Executive session ended at 8:48pm with No Action.

Motion made to adjourn by Mark Belanger, second by John Pepin. VOTE 3-0