

TOWN OF RUMFORD BOARD *of* SELECTPERSONS MINUTES

April 1, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

Municipal Building Auditorium

6:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order
2. Special Presentation or Award: Citizen of the Year 2020

Citizen of the Year for 2020 was awarded to Roger White. Chris Brennick spoke on Mr. White's contribution to Rumford and all his efforts for Rumford Community Home including allowing residents to fish at a small pond at his home. Brennick noted many other events he has helped at for the Rumford Community Home Residents. Brennick spoke on many other things Roger White has done for the community over the past year.

3. Public Hearing: Victualers License for Kick Stand. No comments.
4. Action following Public Hearing: Discuss/Approve Victualers License for The Kick Stand doing business at 1177 Route 2 Rumford, Maine

Motion to approve the Victualers License for The Kick Stand doing business at 1177 Route 2 Rumford, Maine made by Diconzo and seconded by Chase. Questions asked and answered. Vote 5-0 in favor.

5. Adopt Agenda: Change Warrant to 45
6. Comments

- a. Public Comment: None
- b. Town Manager's Report

Stacy Carter stated he received reports of large pines that had blown down on the Town Farm lot. Carter spoke with Brian Milligan about status of getting the lot harvested. Milligan went in on March 17th to get the status of the land. Milligan states he is putting a bid out to have 15 acres cut that can be accessed from Water District land. They will be able to reach some of the blow downs then as well. Carter states they will have the remainder of the lot cut next winter, requiring a temporary bridge.

Carter stated a Public Notice of Intent was received from the Church of Safe Injection referencing a mobile syringe service. They have applied to CDC for certification.

DECD has approved the TIF extension on March 25, 2021.

Carter noted April meetings are needed to work on several ordinances including a Marijuana Ordinance, creation of a Cemetery Ordinance, Review and update Personnel Policy as well as Sewer Rate Policy.

Carter noted the town received Cable Franchise Fees totaling \$47,892.36. 2/3rds of that fee is due to go out to WVAC with a remainder of \$14,964.12 for projects or the general fund.

c. Department Heads and Committee Chairs

Dale Roberts stated the sweeper is in service and is scheduled to do Hancock Street next week. Roberts also noted that he would start removing road postings at end of next week.

George O'Keefe stated that improvement in employment status is slow. O'Keefe noted the strong interest in energy projects.

d. Select Board

Chase noted he was glad to be back to live meetings but encouraged people to still be very cautious. Chase had questions on proposed VA Clinic Site. Carter answered his questions.

Brennick noted deadlines for elected positions and at this point no one has taken out paperwork for the Charter Commission and that it is a very important position that needs to be filled.

7. Approve Minutes from March 18, 2021 and March 25, 2021
Motion by Diconzo and seconded by Theriault to approve the minutes of March 18 and 25, 2021. Vote 5-0 in favor.
8. Approve Warrant # 45
Motion to approve Warrant #45 by Diconzo and seconded by Theriault. Vote 5-0 in favor.
9. Discussion/Action ref Tax Acquired property at 986 Prospect Ave.
Mr. Brett Kelly stated he would have Mr. Wardwell do some work as soon as the ground is not frozen. He also wants to pay \$5,000 on his back taxes now and further installments later.

Carter spoke on property foreclosure and that set timelines were followed. Although there was a communication with the Town Clerk he did not further communicate until after the foreclosure. He was advised to redeem the property the entire amount would be due. To bring this property current would be in the vicinity of \$22,000 in back taxes and back Sewer fees of \$3,400 and given its April 1st he would also owe an additional \$ 5,866.00 to bring it current. In his letter today he would like to make a partial payment and do some clean up and reuse it. Carter also advised the same occurred for his property that burned on Spruce Street. The town has just put together a letter on a dangerous property with the process to be started. Carter has gone over the time frame allowed to clean that property up. Carter stated he hoped to clean up the back lot where there is rubble and reuse that building that is currently there but it has deteriorated further because of mold and damage. An abutting neighbor had come in to discuss that if the wind is blowing he cannot be outside and some medical difficulties related to this property. Carter states not only the looks of the property need to be considered but the health of the neighbors. Town Manager Carter recommends the Town of Rumford not to redeem the property but as the Town is the current owner to clean it up and then put the property out for sale. Carter stated it's hard to believe at this point with no work having been done on the properties that the past owner who could not make one year's payment will make 4 years payments and clean up and development. Once cleaned up a new owner could develop the properties and bring good things to Rumford. Carter spoke on money in current budget as well as possibilities for the Fire Department to do some training during demolition.

Code Enforcement Officer Richard Coulombe also spoke on the properties.

Chris Brennick is asking how fast the town could getting going on cleaning up these properties. Carter stated they could start the process very quickly.

Brennick made a motion seconded by Diconzo to reject redemption of property made by Mr. Kelly and put a rush on demo on the damaged part of building without live fire. Discussion. Vote 5-0 in favor.

10. Appoint Fire Fighter

Chief Reed spoke on prospective candidate for the open Firefighter position.

Motion by Chase and seconded by Theriault to approve the hiring of Matthew Winter for the Firefighter position. Vote 5-0 in favor.

11. Approve Order of Road Discontinuance for Railroad St.

Motion by Brennick and seconded by DiConzo to discontinue road on Railroad Street. Vote 5-0 in favor.

12. Discuss/Approve Closing of Exchange Street between Congress/River St. Apr 11 9am to 1pm for GRCC

Discussion on closing the street temporarily for a Corn Hole Tournament.

Motion by Brennick and seconded by Diconzo to close Exchange Street between Congress and River Street. Vote 4-0-1 (McLean) Motion passes.

13. Discuss/Approve Gravel/Sand bids

Motion by Brennick and seconded by Diconzo to approve Gravel and Sand Bid from Swasey at \$77,800. Vote: 5-0 in favor.

14. Discuss/Approve Winter Sand bid

Motion by Brennick and seconded by Diconzo to approve Winter Sand bid for 2,000 yards for \$28,000 by Knox Loam and Gravel. Vote 5-0 in favor.

15. Discuss/Approve Asphalt bids

Motion by Chase and seconded by Theriault to approve Pike's Asphalt bid for \$320,012. Vote 5-0 in favor

16. Discuss/Approve Warrant for Annual Town Meeting

Brennick reviewed the warrant for the Annual Town Meeting. Brennick noted that the budgets and initiated articles that the finance committee is working on so he will not review at this meeting if there is no disagreement.

Motion by Diconzo and seconded by Theriault to Approve the June Warrant for Annual Town Meeting. Discussion Vote 5-0 in favor

17. Discuss/Approve Purchase/Sale Agreement for 1 Railroad St.

Stacy discussed with the board what steps have to happen for this purchase/sale to happen.

Motion by Diconzo and seconded by Chase to allow the Town Manager to sign purchase and sale agreement for 1 Railroad Street. Vote 5-0 in favor.

18. Discuss/Approve Pole Permit Bridge Street

Motion to approve the Pole Permit on Bridge Street made by Chase and seconded by Diconzo. Vote 5-0 in favor.

19. Discuss American Recovery Act funds

Carter mentioned he discussed this at the last meeting and was hoping for more information for this meeting. Carter states he attended a webinar and got some

information but is still waiting for guidance to come down from the U.S. Treasury. Carter learned it is a two year funding package. The estimate he received is approximately \$570,000 and will come in two installments. The first installment can be expected within 90 days of approval. The Town can expect around \$285,000 this year and the same next year. Spending options listed thus far is to help offset business losses. Carter noted State Revenue share is up and Excise tax is consistent. The other thing mentioned that funding could be used for was infrastructure. Carter has been given a lot of suggestions for use of funds by citizens but will wait to bring to the board after guidance is given by the US Treasury.

20. Discuss Board Goals

Carter discussed board goals from a list that was made earlier in the year. O'Keefe also spoke on preservation of Fire station. Board reviewed items completed and to be completed. Questions are asked and answered.

21. Adjourn

Motion by DiConzo and seconded by Theriault to adjourn at 8:09 p.m. Vote 5-0
Adjourned.