TOWN OF RUMFORD

BOARD *of* SELECTPERSONS Minutes

February 1st at 6:00 p.m.

 Rumford Falls Auditorium

6:00 Public Hearing Discuss acceptance/use of RES building

 January 2026 Time frame

Brennick stated that he would like to see the RES building as a recreation building to enhance our recreation in our area. DiConzo stated for many years I wished that we had a facility that accommodate 2-102 years old. Mainly because we need it. The town is starting to grow and we need recreation. We need a building that is handicap accessible and is not a hazard. The RES building has many areas that can grow and create a beautiful recreational building. Sax stated that it is pretty awesome that this board is so transparent, and I feel this is a great project. Brennick stated this is why we are having these meetings so we can be transparent and hear the citizens ideas and continue to be heard. Carter stated that we have a 2-year time frame before the building is vacated. Within the next 2 years we will be applying for grants to pay to refurbish this building. We will be putting out a RFQ for the building to see what it is going to cost to fix up the building with little affect to the tax payers.

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Adopt Agenda
4. Public Hearing:

Action Following Public Hearing:

1. Special Presentation or Award: Life Saving Award – Jesse & Mandy Morgan & Beth Ann Heath
	1. Public Comment:
	2. Town Manager’s Report: George O’Keefe Economic developer is working on a grant through FEMA that would assist with furthering mitigation plan and provide technical assistance or risk assessment with Town Flood walls. Another grant which would possibly help fund the comprehensive plan and add a component of transportation study. Working on obtaining information on properties that have repetitive loss due to the flood, to assist with mitigation. FEMA representatives will be coming on Saturday to see if our building will be suitable to meet with citizens for the losses they may have had. Federal Disaster declaration has been declared, FEMA will be coming. As far as the town needs we are slowly progressing through insurance claims on parks equipment.

Official Groundbreaking of new school will be Feb 21st at 11 am

* 1. Department Heads and Committee Chairs
	2. Select Board: DiConzo stated thank you to the people that have come to our meetings and input for any concerns. Also thank you to public works for keeping the roads clean. Parks department thank you as well for helping get some stuff out of the parks buildings. Thank you to Envision Rumford for all the hard work to raise money for the victims. Sax thanked the organizations as well and it is amazing how well we have been able to help each other out and rebuild. Brennick echoed what DiConzo said.

Brennick stated we will have to do an executive session on Wednesday 7th at 6:00pm

1. Discuss/Approve minutes from 1/17/2024 & 1/18/2024

DiConzo motioned to approve and seconded by Pepin

Vote 4-0-1 (Theriault)

1. Discuss/ Approve Warrant #31 & 33

DiConzo motioned to approve and seconded by Pepin

Vote 5-0

1. Discuss Envision Rumford (Relief Fund)

Derek Taber stated he would like the first request to be up to $400 and they can come back a month later for a second request of another $400. We can help pay for appliances but if you lose an Xbox, we will not help replace that. There is parameters and application to follow. Carter stated he wanted to be clear that this fund is not General Assistance. Citizens can apply for General Assistance and if they qualify that’s great if not then we can try for the relief fund monies. Carter also wanted to point out that the Town of Rumford did not set the parameters that Envision Rumford did. This is a program that Envision Rumford has initiated, and they are looking at the Town to help distribute as we have an established avenue. It is a first come first serve but the second request have a time stamp. If we run into issues the Town can ask Envision Rumford.

Brennick motioned to administer disaster relief and DiConzo seconded

Vote 4-0-1 (Sax)

1. Discuss/ Approve Parks Department truck

We are replacing the truck due to the original truck was damaged in the flood on 12/18/23.

DiConzo motioned to approve O’Connor Bid and seconded by Brennick

Vote 5-0

1. Discuss/ Approve Oxford County ME Hazard Mitigation Plan – 2024 update.

Brennick motioned to approve and seconded by Theriault

Vote 5-0

1. Discuss Proposed Sewer Rate

The Rumford water district is in the beginning process of updating their treatment plant. The system has not been updated since the plant was originally built and it is much needed. We can expect for the next 2 years of increase on sewer rate in order to meet the funding requirements in order to get the process completed. We will go from a biannual billing to a quarterly billing. This current year will be split. We will set a sewer rate at the next meeting as a unit rate the same as in the years past but in the 3rd and 4th quarter, we will switch to the new method will be water consumption with a base rate and everything over the set usage amount will be the overage. That is what most communities in the State use. If there is no water used over the unit rate, then they only pay the unit amount. We have to be able to do maintenance on pumping stations and our lines. The work that public works does helps keep the sewer functioning, there was a major cost increase in parts for pumping station. We are required to upgrade as much as we can with our aging system. We have a lot of clay piping in the ground that will need to be replaced, as well as manholes. We are trying to spread the cost out because it would cost millions of dollars if we did all at once. Roberts from public works has asked for a part time worker to do sewer maintenance because our lines need to be flushed to keep what we have working. We have 2 out of the 20 pumping stations that need to be replaced and we need to be adequality funded in order to replace them. Our proposal for sewer rate $592, $596 or $600 per unit and the difference in those in the amount of money added to the contingency fund. There is about $237,000.00 in contingency fund right now, that fund is used to cover abatements or unforeseen emergencies within the sewer system.

Pepin motioned to approve proposed amount of $600 per unit and seconded by Theriault

Vote 5-0

1. Discuss/Approve Appoint School Board member

DiConzo motioned to appoint Darcy Klein Bean and seconded by Theriault

Vote 4-0-1 (Brennick)

1. Discuss/ Approve Lodging Market Study

Brennick motioned to approve Camoin Association and seconded by Theriault

Vote 4-0-1 ( Pepin)

1. Discuss/ Approve HVAC Systems for Public Works Garage

 Carter stated that we need to update the system so we can be more efficient as the demand is high for the town garage. The boiler currently is always running in order to be able to put heat in the bay area. Whether or not the heaters are calling for heat or not in the bay areas the boiler is always running. We use an extraordinary amount of fuel at the town garage. We are considering changing to propane and use heat pumps in the office areas. We would have a back up system in case something happens. We were told we could do the change over in phases. The boiler is the original from when the garage was built.

Brennick motioned to approve Community Energy plus any additional costs and seconded by Sax

Vote 5-0

1. Discuss/Approve Town of Rumford Annual Town Report BID

Brennick motioned to approve Snowman Group BID and seconded by DiConzo

Vote 5-0

1. Discuss offer on Tax Acquired property

Sax motioned to approve cash offer of $20,000 no points and seconded by DiConzo

Vote 5-0

1. Adjourn

DiConzo motioned to adjourn at 7:48pm and seconded by Theriault

Vote 5-0