

Town Council Meeting
2/126/2010

COUNCIL PRESENT: Oscar Emerson, Audrey Wilcox, Fred Gifford, Lillian Coulter, Nicholas Wood. Town Office staff present, Town Manager Melissa Doane

BLUE COLLAR YARD PRO'S: Town Council signed a contract with Blue Collar Yard Pro's for municipal grounds maintenance and mowing.

REVIEW OF MINUTES: Councilor Gifford made a motion to accept the February 2, 2010 minutes as presented, seconded by Councilor Wood, no discussion vote 3/0.

CODE ENFORCEMENT UPDATES: Code Enforcement not present.

Manager Doane stated that she and Charles visited 114 Cram Street on February 4, 2010, Mr. Hayden and Mr. Wing have done a lot of clean up to their property and would like to do more, however the weather has slowed the process. Manager Doane explained to them that she felt that Town Council would agree to a May 1, 2010 deadline. Councilor Gifford made a motion to accept the May 1, 2010 deadline, seconded by Councilor Emerson, no discussion, vote 5/0.

Manager Doane stated that she had received an e-mail from John Hamer, municipal attorney regarding Gerald Roy properties. Mr. Hamer stated that Mr. Roy's attorney filed a motion to set aside the default judgments against him, he recommends that the Town file a short objection even though the Town Council granted until May 1 to comply. If we do not object, the motion may just be granted as a matter of course, if we do object it is possible that the court may not rule on the motion until May, at which time we can decide what to do based on Gerald's performance. Councilor Gifford made a motion to have the attorney file the short objection as recommended, seconded by Councilor Emerson, no discussion vote 5/0.

Councilor Wilcox asked about the shed on Highland Avenue, the code enforcement officer had set a deadline of January 21 or fines would be imposed, yet nothing has occurred. She stated that there seems to be a continual problem with follow up. Manager Doane stated she would address the issue with Charles Norburg, she was expecting him to be in attendance of tonight's meeting. When she and Mr. Norburg meet with Mr. Hayden and Mr. Wing she reported that she would be discussing these issues at this meeting.

Councilor Wilcox also stated that the home in which Hugh Williams lives at on Main Street, near the Gerald Roy properties needs to be addressed as soon as possible.

MANAGERS REPORT: Manager Doane wanted to thank the Town Council for their support and understanding during the last month and half. She stated that the support allowed her to take care of her family in a time of need, and she is very much appreciative.

Manager Doane attended the Chemo Pond Board of directors meeting on January 20, 2010; there was discussion between her, Chief Gifford and the directors on how to improve fire coverage. A suggestion was to have water access for tank fill up year round. The directors and Chief Gifford will be exploring this in the spring. Manager Doane is going to research any grant opportunities that may be available. In addition Chemo Pond North Association is in need of a special meeting to discuss with their membership the special assessment necessary for a culvert replacement. Manager Doane offered the association use of the municipal building; they will hold a special meeting on Wednesday February 24 at 5:30 pm.

Manager Doane stated that there has been a lot of media discussion regarding State budget cuts and how that will affect municipalities. Many municipalities are making cuts to the current budget to offset the anticipated decrease in State funding. Manager Doane explained that in the current budget excise tax revenue was anticipated as \$180,000 and it appears the actual will be \$220,000. The revenue was figured lower because of the November 2009 referendum question regarding excise tax. Maine Revenue projects that the Town of Bradley will receive \$76,000, the budget anticipated \$112,000. The difference between these two line items is a wash; therefore no budget cut in the current budget is needed at this time.

Kevin Phinney was summons for the alleged barking dogs, his arraignment date is March 4.

Manager Doane received an update from Maine DOT regarding the Jenkins Bridge replacement; they will be using a temporary bridge and making contact with landowners regarding right of way and easement issues within the next month. They will be using an innovative tubs constructed at University of Maine, called a "bridge in a backpack". The schedule is exactly the same, they will start this summer.

There was a fire station building on February 10, 2010, the plan is still to have the bids ready for early March. The discussion was based around water, heating and electrical needs. There will be another meeting on March 1 at 5:30. Thomas Macho is planning on coming to the lot this week to work on brush.

Manager Doane reported that the 2007 liens expired on January 21, 2010. One property was foreclosed on which is Steve Woods of 10 Moores Dr. In the past the Town Council has allotted another letter reminding them that their time has expired before starting the eviction process. Councilor Gifford made a motion to send a letter giving extended time, 30 days, for redemption, seconded by Councilor Emerson, no discussion vote 5/0.

The second and fourth graders at Viola Rand School have expressed an interest in starting recycling at the school. Manager Doane has ordered recycling bins and will be discussing with the students what they will need to do to begin the project.

NEW BUSINESS:

Manager Doane presented the 2010-2011 municipal budget, she explained that budget as presented is \$165,692 over budget cap. This is largely due to the fact that there was no cost of living allowance granted this year, therefore by charter the budget cannot be increased unless voted upon by Town Council. The major increases in expenses, was the water district, county tax and the fire station bond payment. Manager Doane further explained that decreases in revenues as a result of loss of Maine Revenue Sharing and return on investments also contribute the budget cap overage. She also added that if Town Council has reviewed the budget they will note that there is no wage increases and most other items have stayed exactly has last year. Councilor Wilcox stated that this did appear to be a bare bones budget and any cuts would be extremely difficult. Manager Doane agreed, stating that it may be necessary for Town Council to consider using money from undesignated surplus to fund municipal services. She added that this had not been done in Bradley before; several municipalities do this to help offset a tax increase. Councilor Wilcox asked if the voters would have to approve that, Manager Doane stated that it would be an article on the Town Warrant for the June referendum, should the Town Council wish to do this. Taking money from undesignated surplus may be necessary until the economy turns around and revenues are received from that. Councilor Emerson stated that he thought discussion regarding the budget could be done at each Town Council meeting, that workshops were not necessary, Manager Doane agreed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Manager Doane stated that she was under the impression that there was no public attendance at the February 2, 2010 salt shed building committee meeting, Councilor Emerson stated that the only people in attendance was himself and Councilor Gifford. Councilor Emerson stated that he had briefly discussed the idea of placing a new salt shed at this parcel of land (165 Main St), with architect Robert Fenney, he suggested that placement on the property may require a lot of DEP permitting, which could be very costly. There was further discussion between Town Council regarding placing a new salt shed at 695 Main Street (former Currier lot). Councilor Chair Emerson stated that a formal discussion should be done with Robert Fenney to see if it would be possible to have Salt Shed at the 165 Main Street before further discussion on which property is best suitable. Manager Doane stated that the next Building Committee Meeting is scheduled for March 1, 2010 at 5:30 p.m.

Councilor Gifford stated that he would like to have Senator Rosen's office contacted again regarding the Tracks at the Route 178 and Route 2 intersection. He has been successful in the past about assisting in getting them repaired. Councilor Wood stated he would be seeing Senator Rosen during the upcoming week and would have him check into the situation, he agreed a repair was necessary.

Town Council began review of the municipal expenditures the following outlines discussion:

- Wage Freeze, including ACO request for increase
- Place audit out to bid to reduce cost for upcoming year
- Closely review and monitor legal fees, anticipated carry forward may be less then originally suspected.
- Reduction to machinery and equipment line item

- Fire Department budget presented as \$39829
- Review of road work, appears to be one of the few accounts in which reduction can be made
- Discussion regarding charging residents for spring, fall and Household Hazardous Waste Cleanup. Town Council in support of attempting to asses a fee per clean up a \$10.00 per load was discussed.

MUNICIPAL WARRANTS: Councilor Coulter made a motion to accept warrant 64 in the amount of \$109,608 and warrant #65 in the amount of \$4497.69, seconded by Councilor Gifford, no discussion, vote 5/0.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting is set for March 2, 2010 at 6:30 pm.

ADJOURN: Motion made Councilor Wilcox to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Gifford, no discussion, Vote 5/0.