

**Town Council Meeting**  
**7-6-2010**

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

**OPEN TOWN COUNCIL MEETING:** Town Manager Doane opened the Town Council meeting at 6:30 pm.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Motion to appoint Councilor Sally Strout as Town Council chair for the 2010-2011 fiscal year made by Councilor Coulter, seconded by Councilor Gifford, vote 5/0.

Town Manager Doane explained that she had done a few options in regards to the RSU assessment and its affect on the tax commitment. The first option is to use \$87,323 of the school designated fund which has a balance of \$478,544 and keep the RSU tax appropriation exactly the same as last year which is \$1,001,664. This option puts the mill rate at 11.90 per thousand and an overlay of\$ 19,146.15, dropping the mill rate by .10 cents. The other option is to not use any of the fund balance, which brings the mill rate up to 12.60 per thousand with an overlay of \$10,460.16; the third option is to use an even \$100,000 of the fund balance which decreases the mill rate to 11.80 per thousand with an overlay of \$20,589.36. Councilor Strout asked what Manager Doane's recommendation would be. Manager Doane stated the \$100,000 dollar option was an even number and would be easier for record keeping and in addition it lowers the mill rate by .20 cents per thousand and provides a very healthy overlay. She reminded Town Council that overlay is placed in undesignated fund balance if not used for abatements. Motion to use \$100,000 of the school undesignated fund balance to offset the RSU 34 assessment for the 2010 tax commitment made by Councilor Gifford, seconded by Councilor Wilcox, vote5/0. Councilor Gifford asked if the remaining amount of 378,544 would be used in future years, Manager Doane explained that once the 2009-2010 audit is complete the Town will likely have to forward the entire fund balance to the RSU, however it will be up the Town Council on how it will be used in the future.

Motion to set the tax rate for the 2010 tax commitment as 11.80 per thousand made by Councilor Gifford seconded by Councilor Strout, vote 5/0.

Motion to set the rate of interest for delinquent taxes during the 2010 tax commitment at a rate of 7% made by Councilor Gifford seconded by Councilor Coulter vote, 5/0.

Motion made to set the due dates for the 2010 tax commitment as September 24, 2010 and February 25, 2011 made by Councilor Coulter, seconded by Councilor Strout vote, 5/0.

Motion to accept the treasurers disbursement warrants for employee wages and benefits policy for 2010-2011 fiscal year, made by Councilor Gifford seconded by Councilor Wood, vote 5/0.

**REVIEW OF MINUTES:** Councilor Gifford made a motion to accept the June 22, 2010 minutes as presented, seconded by Councilor Coulter, no discussion vote 4/0 (Strout abstained)

**CITIZENS REQUEST:** None

**MANAGERS REPORT:**

Manager Doane received notification from the municipal attorney, John Hamer that the charter does not indicate that appropriations lapse if not expended during the fiscal year in which it was appropriated, if Council finds the work to be an emergency you may encumber the funds into the next fiscal year. Peter Currier has stated he will do the work for \$4450, she has transferred the funds.

Manager Doane reported that on Tuesday June 29, 2010 she signed a bid with the State of Maine for Winter Salt with a price of \$66.99 per ton, last year the Town paid \$70.33 per ton. She has also spoken with D&H Construction they will do the road plowing for the same price as last year, 40,800. The budgeted amount was 44,800. Town Council signed the contract for Winter Plowing 2010-2011.

Ann Delaware did some research regarding placing a better gate at Evergreen Cemetery. She has spoken with Peter Roderick who is a blacksmith; he can construct a gate using the old gate in which Charlie and Audrey Wilcox have pieces to. He will charge \$20.00 per hour; he estimates the total to be around \$1000. There are funds in the FA Powers account to pay for the gate if Town Council wishes to do so. The FA Powers fund has a balance of 29305, the principal balance was \$22,700 there is 6605 available. Councilor Gifford made a motion to use funds from the trust account to construct the gate, seconded by Councilor Wood, no discussion vote 5/0.

Randy Bragg has spoken with the Maine DEP regarding the Salt Shed movement, Manager Doane received notification that they must approve any Salt shed location changes. Randy seems to think that the new location will be approved. His only concern was that there was a setback regarding drinking wells, however there are no wells in the area as it is all public water. Manager Doane stated that the onset of the conversation with DEP started with a complaint regarding the salt and sand area, which DEP investigated. Since the location will be moved DEP is allowing the area to stay as is for now, however if the location does not move, DEP is going to require the Town to build a better wall and replace vegetation on the bank of the river. Councilor Strout asked if any grant funds would be available for the project since DEP had raised concerns. Manager Doane stated that she had spoken with John Cullen with DEP about the program; however he didn't believe they had funds any longer, though he thought they could look into groundwater funds. Years ago DEP had investigated all municipal salt sheds and placed them on a category list for replacement, the higher the category the greater need there were funds for those projects, however that has all been expended.

Manager Doane has spoken to Bob Fenney several times over the last few weeks. The project is still on task, he expects the floor to be poured next week and framing to start shortly after. He is willing to schedule a meeting with Town Council and the building committee if there appears to be a need.

Several Councilors stated that they had reviewed the site during off hours, and saw no need to meet at this time. Manager Doane stated that perhaps once the framing begins a meeting would be required.

Crack sealing on Boynton Street, Cram Street, Elm Street, Highland Avenue and Parlin Street will begin tomorrow July 7.

Reminder to Town Council that Manager Doane will be on vacation July 13-16.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Councilor Gifford questioned the letter from Charles Norburg to Gerald Roy in regards to the property clean up. Manager Doane stated she understood that Mr. Roy was still working on the property and was 90% done; Charles was providing Mr. Roy with direction as to what was left to do. Manager Doane further explained that the biggest issue was to if the Town needed to continue with the court case, in which Manager Doane did not feel was necessary as Mr. Roy as almost done. Councilor Strout asked what the status of the other properties were. Manager Doane stated that Rose Brooks has her barn down and is about 80% done with the clean up, there is some asbestosis there in which professional clean up will be necessary. Ed Buck is still constructing his fence and currently has a September 1 deadline. Muriel Besse has cleaned up all that was under her hut/tarp, 114 Cram Street property is a mess, however it is basically because of a poorly constructed fence and the lawn not being mowed, the town has no enforcement on those items. Councilor Strout asked about the Williams property near the old junkyard. Manager Doane stated that Charles had reviewed the property and felt that a cleanup had been done. The property too is a mess, however it is a large pile of wood, which Mr. Williams sells and a large burn pile. Manager Doane stated that the Town spent \$9000 in legal fees and is not sure that anything was really gained expect possibly the Roy's moved forward with their clean up which has been an issue for years. She further stated that the new land use ordinance will be ready for adoption in September and hopefully that will give the Town more area for enforcement.

**MUNICIPAL WARRANTS:** Councilor Coulter made a motion to accept warrant #2 in the amount of \$42905.55 and warrant #3 in the amount of \$2373.33, seconded by Councilor Gifford, no discussion, vote 5/0.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting is set for July 20, 2010 at 6:30 pm.

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