

**Town Council Meeting**  
**October 1, 2019**

**Open Public Hearing:** The public hearing regarding general assistance ordinance appendices A-D and the Winter Parking Regulations was opened.

**Public Comment:** Town Manager Doane reported that over the last fiscal year there were no general assistance funds expended as the program is actually very difficult to be eligible for. She added that the appendices are established by the Department of Health and Human Services using their data. If the Town wished to use different amounts it could be done however a survey would be needed. Town Manager Doane also stated that the winter parking regulations are the same as in the past; the purpose is to prevent any disturbances for plowing.

**Close Public Hearing:** The Public Hearing was closed.

**Open Town Council Meeting:** Councilor Chair Ketch opened the Town Council meeting; all Town Council members were present.

**Review of Minutes:** Councilor Ketch made a motion to accept the minutes of 9/17/2019, seconded by Councilor Lugdon, vote 4/0 (Councilor Wade was excused 9/17/19). Councilor Clemons stated that the record indicates that the correction on the 9/3/19 minutes reflect a vote of 5/0 was needed to correct; however, he was absent the vote should be 4/0.

**Citizens Request:** No citizen requests, however Town Manager Melissa Doane addressed audience member Chief Gifford. She stated that there have been two major fires in Old Town over the last week and The Bradley Volunteer Fire Department was instrumental and assisting. Not only is the Town of Bradley fortunate to have such a dedicated department the entire region is. Each member of the Town Council extended praise for the department for their service.

**Managers' Report:** Melissa provided to the Town Council the letter that was written in support of the age friend communities. Town Council approved the letter.

Melissa has received a request from citizen Eric Degrasse to have an advertised meeting regarding the possible development of the ball field area. She is available each of the upcoming meeting from October 29 to December 10. Town Council was in favor of a public meeting on October 29.

The Penobscot County Commissioners will be hosting a ceremony on October 15 at 1:30 in the afternoon to honor those that were recipients of 2019 Spirit of America Foundation Award. Chief Gifford has stated he will be in attendance and Melissa also plans to attend.

Ann Delaware has volunteered to prepare the food for a brief get together in honor of Terry's 20 years of service. She would like to do either October 16<sup>th</sup> or October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 2:00. Melissa would like to know if any Town Council member can be available for that time for less than an hour. Town Council was in favor of gathering on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

In the past there was some discussion regarding the Town researching solar power. When Melissa was in Sugarloaf this summer for the MTCMA Institute she attended a presentation. She has contacted ReVision Energy and they have reviewed the area and the Town's expenses. The Town Office, Fire Station and Salt Shed use approximately 25,000 kilowatts per year costing around \$4400. To fund a solar project of that size would cost an estimated \$55,000 to \$65,000. This cost includes 63 panels that would be located on the southwest side of the fire station. The life expectancy of the project is 30 years. There would be some possible maintenance costs to consider, such as repairs to the roof in which the panels would have to be removed and re-installed, they would suggest investing in metal roof. If the Town was to borrow money to fund the project, it would require an interest rate of 2% or lower for a 15 term to make it cost effective. Larger projects that produce 50 Kilowatts are more due draw investors that take advantage of the tax credits, however due to towns low use that would not be the case. Melissa added the Emera would still charge a minimum fee of \$10 to \$20 per month for use of their system. Town Council discussed the option of having the installation on the ground rather than the roof. There is concern regarding snow and ice build up with a metal roof. The Town Council also discussed having the voters approve taking funds from undesignated fund balance to support the project. Melissa will contact Revision for additional information.

Melissa presented to the Town Council the 2019 Municipal Valuation Return. Municipalities are required to submit the information to Maine Revenue Service. The information includes a summary of municipal information used to formulate the tax commitment such as valuations exemptions, and tree growth information. Town Council approved the valuation return.

At the last information there a concern mentioned regarding a possible marijuana growth in Bradley. The Code Enforcement Officer has had a conversation with the property owner, each of the three residents have a medical marijuana card which provides them by law up to 6 mature plants each, therefore granting them the authority to have the 18 plants on the property. Melissa provided some additional packets of information that highlighted the new laws regarding marijuana.

Melissa reported that Will Lucas has repaired the gate at the cemetery. She has not received a bill for his work.

Melissa reminded Town Council that David Walker Superintendent of RSU 34 will be at the next meeting October 15 to discuss school choice. She has emailed each Council member a copy of the plan that was approved by the voters and the Department of Education. She also provided information regarding the additional tuition that was paid by the Town of Bradley in FY 18-19. Town Council discussed current school use and the number of students that take advantage of school choice.

#### **New Business:**

Councilor Richard made a motion to accept the General Assistance Appendices A-D as discussed in public hearing, seconded by Councilor Lugdon, vote (5/0).

Councilor Richard made a motion to accept the Winter Parking Regulations as discussed in public hearing, seconded by Councilor Lugdon vote (5/0).

**Unfinished Business:** Councilor Wade had provided information regarding an online quote for an electric sign, the cost estimate provided was \$14,444, however it does not include installation. Councilor Lugdon would like the Town Council to move forward with requesting prices from installation from area electricians. Town Council was in agreement and discussed the benefits of an electronic sign.

Councilor Ketch asked if everything was set for the clean up this weekend. Melissa stated that she was prepared to be there for the day to verify stickers. As of that time only 21 stickers had been sold and there had not been much discussion regarding the cost.

**Municipal Warrants:** Councilor Ketch made a motion to accept municipal warrant #21 in the amount of \$1642.00, warrant #22 in the amount of \$4278.84, warrant #23 in the amount of \$5370.85 and warrant #24 in the amount of \$161,680.39, seconded by Councilor Lugdon Vote 5/0.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting was set for October 15, 2019.

**Adjourn:** Councilor Wade made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Lugdon, vote 5/0.