

Town Council Meeting
October 15, 2019

Open Town Council Meeting: Councilor Ketch opened the Town Council meeting; all Town Council members were present. Also present was Town Manager Melissa Doane.

David Walker Superintendent RSU #34-School Choice: Town Council had requested that Mr. Walker provide information to them regarding school choice. Mr. Walker explained that the current RSU plan requires that students grade 6 to 12 have the option of choosing a school outside of the RSU, the town is required to pay the difference from what the RSU charges for tuition and what the other school charges, the last cycle was a cost of \$7500. He stated that he does not believe that amount will decrease as the RSU has a lower tuition rate than those other schools. At the time of the school consolidation there was a large push that school choice remains an option for students that had it. Mr. Walker explained that he had spoken with their attorney and it is their opinion that town could place the issue to the voters asking for the RSU to amend the consolidation agreement. He suggested that if the town was to move forward with this type of referendum, the students that are currently using the school choice option be allowed to maintain their status. Town Council further discussed the history of school choice, school consolidation, regionalization and budgetary comments.

Review of Minutes: Councilor Ketch made a motion to accept the minutes of 10/1/2019, seconded by Councilor Lugdon, vote (5/0). Melissa noted that Bradley resident Audrey Wilcox had noted a name correction for Erin Degrasse and Willey Lucas. She has made those changes.

Citizens Request: None

Managers' Report: Melissa stated that she was at the fall clean up on Saturday October 5. She reported that she only sold 5 additional stickers and collected funds for 8 tire disposals. The tonnage numbers have not been received so she is not able to provide information on if her attendance was helpful. The clean-up was busy from 8 in the morning until 1 then nothing. Her recommendation for the spring will be to have the site open from 8 to 1, improve the area so that the container trucks can service more than one car at time and not offer tire disposal. In regard to the electronic clean-up 3400 lbs. of materials were collected. Councilor Wade stated that the driveway and ditch area should be looked at as the culvert is crushed and there is a lot of growth in the area.

The public hearing/listening session for the Ballfield development has been set and advertised for October 29.

Melissa has completed the entries for the 2018-2019 municipal audit, she will be working on the Management discussion and analysis this week and is therefore hopeful that the audit will be complete by November 1.

The Municipal Review Committee the board that has been established to handle our municipal solid waste is seeking nominations for election of 3 directors, if a Town Council member is interested.

Melissa has reached out to Wilcox Electric, Climo Electric and Bradeen Electric to request pricing for the sign installation, however not received any response. Melissa would like to know if the Town Council is interested in her preparing a request for proposal for the work. Melissa did communicate with the sign company that Larry had contacted and they have provided signs to the Town of Milford, Town of Woodstock and Town of Madawaska. Councilor Lugdon asked if there were funds in the current budget in which the Town Council could vote on purchasing the sign. Melissa stated that funds of \$36,000 were available in the capital reserve account. Audience member, Audrey Wilcox stated that she believed such a large expenditure outside of the normal budget should be given to the voters. Town Council discussed different signs and the fact that the item would be on the June referendum. The Town Council was in favor of placing the item on the June referendum, requesting that the funds be removed from undesignated fund balance.

Melissa also contacted Revision Energy regarding the proposed municipal solar project. Melissa provided the Town Council with the communication in which they state they would like clarification if a request for proposals will be needed before issuing any further pricing. Melissa provided to Town Council a copy of the Town's purchasing policy in which it states expenditures over \$10,000 be subject to competitive bidding. Melissa has reached out to the Town of Lincolnville to inquire if they had done an RFP. She also has a copy of an RFP that the Town of Sebago did for their municipal project. If the Town Council is interested, she will attempt to put an RFP together for the project. Councilor Wade stated that the RFP should include a proposal for pole mount, ground mount and roof mount. Town Council was in favor for placing the item on the June Referendum.

The Banking RFP's were due on October 10, proposals were received from Bangor Savings Bank, Camden National Bank and Bar Harbor Trust. Melissa has emailed each for some clarification and included their responses with the proposals. Melissa would suggest that each Town Council member review the proposal and submit questions to her by Thursday of next week and she will get answers for the October 29 meeting.

New Business: Councilor Ketch referenced a letter that was sent from Manager Doane to Facility and Construction Services thanking the business for repairing the cemetery gate, he too acknowledged the Town Council's appreciation. He also acknowledged a letter from the City of Old Town thanking the Bradley Volunteer Fire Department for their assistance with the recent fires.

Councilor Wade provided to Manager Doane information on cannabis licensing, he would like the Town to consider how property with marijuana growths can be valued properly for tax revenue. Melissa will provide the information to the tax assessing agent.

Councilor Ketch asked if there was any information the Town Council should know before the meeting regarding the Ballfield, Melissa stated that she will bring some property information to the meeting such as google earth images and tax maps. She reminded Town Council that there are some restrictions on the property, that it be for recreational and river friendly activities. The use can also not provide a revenue to the Town. Councilor Richard clarified that funds could be used to support the use as the property is designated.

Unfinished Business: Councilor Ketch reminded the Town Council that the event for Terry Knapp would be tomorrow at 2 pm.

Municipal Warrants: Councilor Ketch made a motion to accept municipal warrants in the amount of \$1899.32, warrant #26 in the amount of \$5,376.63 and warrant #27 in the amount of \$32,027.88, seconded by Councilor Clemons, vote 5/0.

Next Meeting: Next meeting was set for October 29, 2019

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