

**Town Council Meeting  
February 18, 2020**

**Open Town Council Meeting:** Councilor Ketch opened the Town Council meeting. Councilors in attendance were: Councilor Ketch, Councilor Lugdon, Councilor Wade and Councilor Clemons. Councilor Richard was excused. Manager Melissa Doane was also present.

**Review of Minutes:** Councilor Wade made a motion to accept the minutes of the February 4, 2020 meeting, seconded by Councilor Clemons. Vote 3/0. Councilor Ketch abstained from the vote due to his absence at that meeting.

**Citizen's Request:** none

**Manager's Report:** Resident Bruce Crawford has paid his delinquent 2018 personal property taxes in full. Therefore, it is not necessary to proceed to small claims court.

Manager Doane received notification last week that the Land and Water Conservation Fund has opened up a grant opportunity for governments to assist in the development of public outdoor recreational facilities. These projects would be approved by the Maine Department of Conservation and would include open space park development such as the School Street parcel development. There is voter approval required with a 50% match. At the February 4<sup>th</sup> meeting there was a discussion regarding requesting voter approval to remove funds up to \$20,000.00 to develop the School Street parcel. The Town Council is in favor of Manager Doane moving forward with a grant request for the proposed School Street parcel and Ballfield project. This grant would require voter approval that we accept the grant and voter approval that the town would contribute the remaining 50% cost.

Manager Doane received information that the State of Maine Department of Transportation was not funding any new BIKEPED projects in this year's work plan. This means that the sidewalk grant will not be funded. DOT provided information on the scoring system of the town and the project. Manager Doane emailed them updated information to adjust their scoring and requested that the Town's application be reviewed again with the correct information and be submitted for next year's grant applications in hopes of funding at that time.

May 9<sup>th</sup> was the scheduled date for the Spring Clean Up that was agreed upon with Sullivan's Waste Disposal. However, a scheduling conflict came up with Sullivan's and they needed it changed to May 2<sup>nd</sup>, which is the only date they and Electronic End are available. Manager Doane is not available to be on site that day, but due to the scheduling error Sullivan's will

provide personnel to verify stickers and addresses and to collect funds if necessary. The Council was in favor of going forward with May 2<sup>nd</sup> with Sullivan's personnel.

**New Business:** Councilor Ketch received some census information that he will review and then forward on to town office personnel for completion.

**Unfinished Business:** Manager Doane is working on a grant with Chief Gifford for a new pumper tanker for the Fire Department. If approved, the town's portion of the \$350,000.00 cost will be \$17,000.00-\$18,000.00 which will come from the capital reserve account. The grant will need to be submitted by March 15<sup>th</sup>.

A brief discussion was held regarding the upcoming Spirit of America award and the Town Report dedication.

Councilor Lugdon provided a summary to the Council to read and discuss at a future meeting. The summary was regarding retirement plan information to potentially offer to town employees in the future. The Council expressed appreciation for the information and will have further discussions to incentivize employees to remain with the town. There was also discussion on plans to research health plans to be able to offer a better package of benefits to town employees.

Discussion began on the new budget. Manager Doane has not yet received the Penobscot County budget, but is anticipating approximately a \$5000.00 increase over last year. That is one factor needed to continue with the Town's budget process. Chief Gifford is working on the Fire Department budget, and that is expected to be completed soon. Discussions were held on water/hydrant costs and school tuition costs, with final amounts expected shortly. Ambulance costs from the City of Old Town are anticipated to be higher this year, and that increase is included in the new budget proposal. Reconstruction costs for Bullen St. and Highland Avenue will be included in the new budget. Both roads are anticipated to be reclaimed this year, along with some new cross culvert installation. Manager Doane indicated that she is hopeful that Bradley's water bills may go down in the coming year due to the City of Old Town receiving higher fees from ND Paper starting up.

It is also anticipated that additional funds will be designated to capital reserves next year as the last bond payment of \$40,000.00 is due this year, freeing those funds.

**Municipal Warrants:** Councilor Ketch made a motion to accept the following municipal warrants, seconded by Councilor Lugdon: Vote 4/0

#58 in the amount of \$1044.00

#59 in the amount of \$6082.00

#60 in the amount of \$22,298.38

The next Council Meeting is set for Wednesday, March 4, 2020.

Councilor Ketch asked about the information provided by Manager Doane in regards to a Bradley flag. Doane explained that she had visited an 8<sup>th</sup> grade class at Old Town Elementary School. They have been working on designing a Bradley flag; this is due to the Maine Bicentennial Celebration. The students expressed an interest in attending a meeting once they have a flag designed. Doane further explained that she and Ann Delaware had met with the Pride group at Viola Rand School and they are hoping to have events at the school on May 30<sup>th</sup>. The firefighters will also be doing a pancake breakfast.

**Executive Session: 10a. Motion to enter into Executive Session Pursuant to 1 MRSA section 405 6F to discuss the evaluation of the Town Manager made by Councilor Ketch, seconded by Councilor Wade. Vote 4/0**

**10b. Motion to exit Executive Session Pursuant to 1 MRSA section 405 6F to discuss the evaluation of the Town Manager made by Councilor Ketch, seconded by Councilor Wade. Vote 4/0**

Motion to adjourn made by Councilor Wade, seconded by Councilor Ketch. Vote 4/0