

**Town Council Meeting**  
**June 9, 2020**

**Open Public Hearing:** Council Chair Mark Ketch opened the public hearing regarding the Town of Bradley Municipal Election Warrant.

**Public Comment:** Manager Doane stated that the municipal election warrant that was presented during the May 26, 2020 had an error. It was discovered when preparing the ballots. The municipal election warrant presented is correct and reflects the municipal budget that was approved by the Town Council after the public hearing on May 12, 2020. No other comments.

**Close Public Hearing:** Councilor Chair Mark Ketch closed the public hearing.

**Open Town Council Meeting:** Town Council Chair Mark Ketch opened the Town Council meeting; all Council members were present. Town Manager Melissa Doane was also present.

**Review of Minutes:** Councilor Lugdon made a motion to approve the May 26, 2020 minutes as presented, seconded by Councilor Wade, vote 4/0 (Councilor Ketch excused May 26, 2020).

**Citizens Request:** Bradley resident Kristina Cote was present to speak to the Town Council regarding the tax foreclosed property of 6 Parlin Street, she is an abutter to the property and is interested in purchasing. Ms. Cote stated she intended to remove the building and create a large lawn area for her property. Manager Doane stated that she and Dean had been in the property, there are a lot of personal belongings in and on the property. It was discovered that the previous owner had left rifles, Melissa has contacted the Penobscot Sheriff's Department to remove them. They contacted the previous owner; Mr. Cates and he has retrieved them and other personal items. Melissa has had the locks changed on the home. Melissa had also prepared and presented a bid package that set the minimum bid at \$4500 to cover the taxes from 2017 to 2020 and any anticipated advertising and legal fees. The Town Council discussed the property and past procedures regarding real estate tax foreclosure sales. It was determined that foreclosure policy should be changed to provide abutters a chance to purchase foreclosed property before placing out to competitive bid. Councilor Wade made a motion to move forward with the competitive bid process as presented regarding 6 Parlin Street, seconded by Councilor Clemons, vote 5/0.

**Managers' Report: COVID-19-** Still operating with by appointment only with reduced hours. Terry was on vacation last week, however plan on speaking to both Cindy and Terry to see if they are comfortable with opening the office back to normal hours and they would work together each day as before. If they are still uncomfortable waiting on costumers, they could continue to make appointments. The days open are busy and is making it difficult for the staff to complete other tasks assigned, especially Melissa.

Melissa provided Town Council with a memo outlining Executive Order 53 which discussed excise tax collection. As the memo states the municipal officer can set a timeline in which expired registrations can be registered, changing it to be sooner than the 30 day after the state of emergency has ended. It

was Melissa's recommendation that the Town do nothing. Residents may register their vehicles by making an appointment if they choose to do so. If they wish to use the extended period they may do so also. We will continue to encourage residents to register their vehicles timely so not to have any confusion with law enforcement. The purpose of the order was to provide municipalities an opportunity to collect excise tax timely for budgeting purposes. To date we have an uncollected balance of \$44,000, \$300,000 was budgeted. Melissa expected that the figure will be around \$30,000. While this is a short fall, we have over collected in several of the revenue accounts, such as Maine Revenue Sharing. This amount to date is \$19,000. Town Council agreed with Melissa's recommendation, no further action needed.

The Governor also issued Executive Order 56 which outlined information regarding town meetings, Melissa did not do a memo to outline. This order does not affect the Town of Bradley as the Town had already made the decision to change the annual town meeting/referendum to July 14 and can do so by charter. This order assists municipalities that operate under an open Town Meeting form of government. One change is that the RSU's are now allowed to receive voter approval for the budget by referendum vote rather than have an open meeting, then a ballot to confirm acceptance of what was approved prior. Melissa has emailed Superintendent David Walker to ask how RSU 34 intendeds to approve their budget.

Melissa received an email from Jim O'Connor from Pine Tree Solar asking if Bradley was interested in solar power for municipal use. As we have discussed this in the past, she asked him to prepare information for town council review. He is willing to speak directly to the Town Council if that is something of interest. The estimated cost for a 30-year system is \$45,600 with a projected cost savings of \$178,218 over the life of the system. Melissa did request that he price out a ground mount system either at the municipal complex or the ballfield area. She further explained that per the Town of Bradley Purchasing Policy it would have to go out to bid. He however was still interested in speaking to the Town Council.

Coastal Resource of Maine/Fiberight has temporarily closed due the inability to secure financing from outside sources to recoup lost revenue and fund improvements to the plant. The Municipal Review Committee had an executive committee meeting last week via zoom; however, it was held in executive session. Melissa is hopeful that information will be received this week, if not she will contact the MRC Executive Director early next week to receive an update. This news is obviously very concerning as Bradley is no longer accepting recycling as this facility provides that service. In addition, our trash is being bypassed to Juniper Ridge.

**New Business:** Councilor Ketch asked if the Town was issuing Yard Sale Permits. Melissa stated that residents can still obtain permits.

**Unfinished Business:** Councilor Richard made a motion to accept a municipal quitclaim deed to release any and all interest to the inhabitants of the Municipality of Bradley may have due to unpaid taxes for the 2017 tax year recorded in book 14875 page 141 in the Penobscot County Registry of Deeds against Lillian & Terry Coulter, seconded by Councilor Wade, vote 5/0.0

Melissa stated that Councilor Ketch had returned his nomination papers and would be placed on the ballot for July 14, 2020. Councilor Richard stated she had intended to return papers as well and would like to continue to serve, however because of personal reasons she did not do. Melissa stated that she can reach out to voters and request to be a write in.

**Municipal Warrants:** Councilor Ketch made a motion to accept municipal warrant in the amount of \$6,138 and municipal warrant # 83 in the amount of \$125,923.53, seconded by Councilor Richard, vote 5/0.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting was set for June 23, 2020. Councilor Clemons asked to be excused.

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