

Town Council Meeting
September 1, 2020

Open Town Council Meeting: Councilor Mark Ketch opened the Town Council meeting; all Town Council was present except for Councilor Richard who was excused. Also present was Town Manager, Melissa Doane

Review of Minutes: Councilor Lugdon made a motion to accept the minutes of August 18, 2020, seconded by Councilor Clemons, vote (3/0) Councilor Ketch was excused 8/18/2020.

Citizens Request: None

Managers' Report: The reclaim and paving of Highland Avenue and Bullen Street is complete. John Milligan will be going back in a few weeks to clean up the shoulders.

On August 17 there was an accident on Main Street, taking down a pole. During either the accident or the restoration of power a surge suppressor at the fire station was damaged. This has caused several issues with the boiler and bay doors. An insurance claim with Emera has been filed and reimbursement for the costs associated are expected to be reimbursed. Melissa also mentioned that on the 26th the municipal building area was hit by lighting causing a network failure. The system has been restored with minimal effort.

Melissa wanted Town Council to be aware that many municipalities in Maine are installing absentee drop boxes used for the return of absentee ballots. Voters or an immediate family member of the voter may return the sealed envelope containing the voted ballot into a secured drop box. There are several requirements for these boxes one being that the box is accessible outside the hours of the office, the box be secured so that it cannot be moved or removed. The State of Maine of Elections Division will reportedly reimburse 80% of the cost up to \$1500.00 for the box, they will not reimburse anything for installation. There has not been clear direction regarding this reimbursement, however Melissa would like to know if Town Council has any interest in obtaining a drop box, if so, Melissa will look further into the exact cost. Town Council requested that Melissa investigate the cost and installation and report back.

Melissa has forwarded the foreclosure policy to the municipal attorneys that adds language offering tax acquired property to be offered to the abutters before placing out to bid. Once feedback is received, she will share with Town Council.

Melissa meet with Sign Services and the sign has been ordered. She will be checking with Maine DOT as to if the sign can be moved closer to the road. It can be moved further back without an issue. Councilor Ketch asked if there was a timeline assigned, Melissa did not have one, however mentioned that dig safe and the electrician would be here this week.

New Business: Melissa explained that a small error had been discovered on the tax commitment. The error is regarding the Business Equipment Tax Exemption reimbursement. This error resulted in a difference in that reimbursement and overall overlay in the amount of \$37.25. Councilor Wade made a motion to amend the tax commitment done on July 21, 2020 to reflect a corrected BETE exemption valuation amount of \$27,700 not \$30,200. This amendment changes the BETE reimbursement to \$412.73 rather than \$449.98 and an overlay of \$34,263.34 rather than \$34,200.59, seconded by Councilor Lugdon, vote (4/0).

Unfinished Business: Councilor Ketch asked for a re-cap regarding the discussion that took place regarding the sidewalk grant. Melissa explained that the cost estimates came in at \$308,000 rather than \$150,000 therefore making the Town of Bradley's contribution much higher than the original \$30,000. Due to that increase the Town Council decided to table the grant application for this year.

Municipal Warrants: Councilor Ketch made a motion to accept municipal warrant #14 in the amount of \$2689.00, warrant #15 in the amount of \$5943.05 and warrant #16 in the amount of \$240092.27, seconded by Councilor Wade, vote 4/0.

Next Meeting: The next meeting was set for September 15, 2020.

Adjourn: Councilor Ketch made a motion to adjourn seconded by Councilor Clemons, vote 4/0.