

Town Council Meeting
March 4, 2020

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

Review of Minutes: Councilor Ketch made a motion to accept the minutes of the February 18, 2020 meeting, seconded by Councilor Wade. Vote 4/0. Councilor Richard abstained from the vote due to her absence at that meeting.

Citizen's Request: Matt Acheson of Orono gave a presentation on fluoride and his work to provide information to communities to bring about a citizen's referendum to remove fluoride from community water. His presentation was intended to educate the town officials in Bradley and other communities and to eventually bring it to a vote in communities on whether to remove the fluoride additions to water supplies. Currently Orono and Veazie are putting it out to the voters via referendum. Manager Doane will reach out to Orono and Old Town Water to discuss this issue.

Manager's Report: Manager Doane will be attending a Maine Municipal Association meeting on municipal solar opportunities on April 28, 2020. Due to her attendance at this meeting, the Town Council Meeting will need to be changed to Wednesday, April 29, 2020. The Council was in favor of this meeting change.

Manager Doane confirmed that the date of the Spring Clean Up is May 2, 2020. Stickers have been ordered and will be available to residents soon.

An opinion was received from the municipal attorney regarding the possibility of changing the RSU consolidation plan to eliminate school choice for new students entering Bradley. As the information states, the Commissioner's Office has taken the position that towns that had school choice prior to joining an RSU must continue to have school choice. As also stated, the town can move forward with the referendum despite the legal concern. Superintendent Walker stated that he thought the RSU would support a district wide vote. If the vote was to eliminate school choice, there may be legislative or civil recourse from those that do not wish to eliminate the choice. The attorney also provided the case between Thornton Academy and RSU 21 in which it was decided by Maine Superior Court that school choice in that district was to continue. The Council questioned if legislative action should be taken first, and Councilor Wade stated that he would reach out to State Senator James Dill. Councilor Ketch also questioned if the civil recourse would be at the town level or at the RSU level.

Manager Doane met with representatives of Camden National Bank regarding the town's banking relationship. It was determined at the time of the bank changeover that money would need to be transferred to meet their investment account threshold of \$750,000.00. Councilor Wade made a motion to transfer funds from the General Fund to meet this requirement, seconded by Councilor Clemons. Vote 5/0

The State of Maine Primary vote brought out 401 Bradley voters, which was higher than expected. Doane will be speaking with Chief Gifford about using the fire station as a voting station during the November election to provide more room for voters. There may be a need for additional clerks as well as a push for more early voting. More information will be forthcoming as we get closer to voting day.

Manager Doane has been in contact with John Milligan regarding the proposed athletic field. She is not 100% confident that the project will be able to be accomplished as originally discussed. It may need to be a smaller project with only one softball field and a small practice field. After the basic work is completed there will be a lot of additional work that is needed that will require contractors. In the public hearing, there was a desire and intent to have two fields, a small practice field, a parking lot and a walking trail. Because of these potential changes, she feels that it will be necessary to have it on the agenda for a future council meeting so that the residents will be fully informed. She will wait for Milligan's cost estimate, which she has requested to include the potential costs of a Clerk of the Works and an engineer to help with the project.

New Business: none

Unfinished Business: Councilor Lugdon presented information regarding retirement funding for the Town Manager. These are changes that will need to be included in the new manager's contract which will begin on July 1, 2020. Currently, the Town's contribution is \$1,350.00 (1.76% of salary of \$75,000.00), with the Manager's contribution at \$1,530.00 or 2% of salary. The Town's contribution is currently fixed at the \$1,350.00 level by budget, but is not a "match". Councilor Lugdon moved that the contribution from the Town should be modified in both the amount of the contribution and the manner in which it is made, seconded by Councilor Wade. The following motion was made: The maximum contribution from the Town will be \$3,500.00 for the 2020-2021 budget year. The Town contribution will be calculated and contributed to the Manager's account through a "matching contribution" mechanism. For example, if the Manager contributes X% of salary to the retirement plan, the Town would match that amount contributed, with a maximum of \$3,500.00 for the entire budget year. The net change to the Budget is an increase of \$2,150.00 over the current budget for 2019-2020. Vote 5/0

Further discussion was held on the budget. Councilors agreed that there is very little room to move on budget items as costs such as fire hydrants, school budgets and other items are fixed costs. Further budget discussions will continue over the next few council meetings.

The grant proposal for the new fire truck is almost complete. Chief Gifford will have his final figures available for Manager Doane to submit the grant proposal next week.

Municipal Warrants: Councilor Ketch made a motion to accept the following warrants, seconded by Councilor Lugdon: Vote 5/0

#61 in the amount of \$1829.45

#62 in the amount of \$7147.92

#63 in the amount of \$125,462.30

#64 in the amount of \$671.00

The next Council Meeting is set for Tuesday, March 17, 2020.

Motion to adjourn made by Councilor Ketch seconded by Councilor Clemons.