

**TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 15, 2020**

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

Review of Minutes: Councilor Ketch made a motion to accept the Town Council Minutes of September 1, 2020, seconded by Councilor Clemons. Vote 4/0

Citizen's Request: none

Manager's Report: Melissa presented the updated foreclosure policy that was reviewed by one of the municipal attorneys, John Hamer. The new provisions include the option of offering the property to one or more of the abutters at a price to be determined by the Council, providing that the price is at least the amount of outstanding taxes, costs and interest. Councilor Wade made a motion to accept the changes to the Town of Bradley Foreclosure Policy, seconded by Councilor Lugdon. Vote 4/0

Melissa had a phone conversation with Mark Gallagher of EDF Renewables regarding the potential solar project. He stated that no affirmative information is available, but PUC feedback has been positive and a decision should be reached by October.

Melissa has started to prepare for the set up for the November election. She provided a list of a few of the items she would like to purchase for security, safety and efficiency. The booths that the town had been using are not compliant with COVID 19 restrictions. Since these requirements were unknown when preparing the budget, funds are not available to make these purchases. She would like the Town Council to consider using funds that they are appropriated by charter for unforeseen expenditures. A discussion followed regarding the costs of the crowd control barriers and possible alternatives. One of the suggestions was the possibility of renting some of the equipment requested, and Melissa will be checking into that.

In addition to the election set up equipment requested, Melissa suggested the possibility of an absentee ballot drop off box, which is recommended by the Secretary of State. Melissa has priced some of the potential boxes, as well as costs for installation. The costs for this project are estimated to run between \$560.00 and \$760.00. Melissa has been involved in surveys from Maine Municipal Association for the Governor's Office and the Secretary of State's Office regarding costs for the election set up. There has been no mention of the State providing a box or providing 100% reimbursement, however there has been discussion regarding costs. Melissa believes that as it stands now, the Town would be eligible for 80% reimbursement for the box and must cover the installation costs. The Town could wait to see what the State of Maine ultimately reimburses, however Melissa's concern is the availability of the boxes if the town were to wait.

After discussion, Councilor Ketch made a motion to expend up to \$1,000.00 to cover the costs of the election, which includes the drop box, tables and dividers for booths, seconded by Councilor Clemons. Vote 4/0

Melissa participated in a FEMA workshop regarding the grant application for the Fire Department's tanker replacement. The last round of awards is expected to be released on Friday, September 18. No information regarding how the town's application was scored will be available until after that date. If the town's application is not approved, Melissa will be reviewing the grant application with a FEMA representative who will review and offer suggestions for improving future applications.

Councilor Wade had emailed Melissa regarding recommendations for the Maine Municipal Association webinars that are taking place during the month of October. These webinars are in place of the traditional annual convention. The agenda packet is available on the MMA website and contains the programs offered. Melissa will assist in registering any councilors interested in attending. Melissa will be attending an event on October 7 and will also be participating in all of the webinars as a member of the Executive Committee.

New Business: A public hearing is set for September 29, 2020 at 6:30 regarding the new DHHS appendices A-H.

Unfinished Business: The Fall Clean Up is scheduled for this Saturday, September 19 from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. The cost is \$15.00 per resident for 2 loads. Electronics will also be collected at the Municipal Office during this time.

RSU #34 nomination papers are still available for the vacant board opening available in January. To date, there has been no interest. Nomination papers are due back to the Town by September 29, 2020, and she encourages the Town Council to seek a possible resident that may be interested.

Councilor Wade questioned whether there was any new information on the new town sign, but Melissa stated there is none.

Clean up of the road work on Highland Avenue and Bullen Street will continue over the next week or two.

Citizen's Request continued: Resident Audrey Wilcox questioned why Highland Avenue and Bullen Street received new pavement when in the past Ten Road, Deer Run Lane and High Point Place received a chip seal treatment. Melissa explained that so many cross culverts needed to be replaced on the new project that chip seal did not provide a cost savings. On the other roads, the chip seal treatment extended the life of the existing pavement, providing cost savings until the next repaving of the roads.

Municipal Warrants: Councilor Ketch made a motion to accept the following municipal warrants, seconded by Councilor Wade.

#17 in the amount of \$3,154.56

#18 in the amount of \$2,264.50

#19 in the amount of \$331.50

#20 in the amount of \$6,035.30

#21 in the amount of \$11,029.70

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for September 29, 2020.

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