

Town Council Meeting

October 13, 2020

Open Town Council Meeting: Councilor Mark 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.

Councilor Ketch called the meeting to order. Pine Tree Solar, a two year old Maine company, had requested time to present information to the Council. They are a local solar company that provides installation of solar equipment for residential, commercial and municipal customers. Based upon their review of the town's electrical bills, they felt that they could offer the town an installation at a rough cost of \$226,000.00 which would provide a 30 year cost savings of approximately \$775,000.00 based upon current rates, with an 8.5 year break-even point. Their presentation included information on the equipment, as well as the software program utilized, warranties, degradation of equipment and possible locations and footprint for the project. As it stands now, the town would only be able to produce enough energy for its own buildings' use, and would not be allowed to produce extra for profit.

After the presentation, councilors discussed how to proceed with the information. Items to be researched include fencing costs, insurance costs, and location. The council was in favor of Melissa doing more research to potentially bring the item forward for voter consideration next year.

Review of Minutes: Councilor Ketch made a motion, seconded by Councilor Wade, to accept the Town Council Minutes of September 29, 2020. Vote 4/0 Councilor Richard abstained from the vote due to her absence at that meeting.

Citizen's Request: None

Manager's Report: The absentee ballot drop box that was ordered and installed did not work as expected. Melissa contacted MD Smith who then built a work around for the box, and it is now working properly. After participating in a webinar last week with Maine's Deputy Secretary of State, Melissa is hopeful that the State will be covering the costs of the installation of the ballot boxes. It may also be prudent to keep the box operational after the election should there be future operational changes due to COVID-19 restrictions. Melissa has also applied for a grant from the Center for Tech and Civic Life to assist with increased election

costs. The grant opportunity was presented by the Maine Clerks' Association. Other towns have used the grant funds to assist with absentee mailing costs, costs associated with social distancing requirements and expenses that occurred due to required changes in polling places.

The final totals have been received regarding the fall clean up. A total of 36 tons was collected at a cost of \$3,220.55. The town received \$1,800.00 in sticker sales. An additional 5000 pounds of electronics was collected. Melissa recommended that the Town Council consider increasing the fee. The Council was in favor of monitoring the clean up during the Spring event. A change that will be implemented next year will be a requirement that all materials be contained with no loose trash accepted.

Melissa provided a detailed printout to the Town Council regarding the summer road repair/improvement expenditures. The completed projects came in \$15,374.87 below budget, including the unexpected Cram Street drainage replacement which cost \$14,623.00.

Councilor Lugdon questioned the Sheriff's report indicating that Bradley was provided 16 hours of coverage for August. Melissa indicated that it was a typical coverage and that there is typically less coverage in fall and winter.

New Business: Councilor Lugdon questioned whether the town was going to be sufficiently staffed with poll workers for the upcoming election. Melissa indicated that there is enough coverage and has 6 teams of workers for counting. Per the Governor's Executive Order, all poll workers are required to wear masks at all times. The Secretary of State's office will be providing protective equipment. It is suggested that voters wear masks, but the town is not able to mandate this.

Two individuals took out nomination papers for the open RSU 34 position, but no one returned them. Therefore, the ballot has no candidates, so voters may write-in a selection.

Unfinished Business: Councilors questioned whether there was an update on the new sign installation. Melissa has met with the pole company and the posts have been installed. New electrical service will need to be installed. There is no definitive date on sign delivery at this time.

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

#25 in the amount of \$2,999.87

#26 in the amount of \$1,921.50

#27 in the amount of \$6,029.98

#28 in the amount of \$184,651.08

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for October 27, 2020.

Adjourn: Councilor Wade made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Richard. Vote 5/0