

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 21, 2020**

Town Manager Melissa Doane opened the Town Council Meeting. Newly re-elected councilors Mark Ketch and Karen Richard were present along with Councilor Lugdon, Councilor Wade and Councilor Clemons.

New Business: A motion to nominate Mark Ketch as Town Council Chair was made by Councilor Wade, seconded by Councilor Clemons. Vote 5/0

Citizens Request: none

New Business Continued: A motion to adopt the FY 2020-2021 Municipal Budget as approved by the voters on July 14, 2020 was made by Councilor Wade, seconded by Councilor Richard. Vote 5/0

A motion to approve the Treasurer's Disbursement Warrants for employee wages and benefits was made by Councilor Richard, seconded by Councilor Wade. Vote 5/0

A discussion was held regarding options for the tax rate for fiscal year 2020-2021. Councilor Wade suggested the Manager's recommendation of 15.0 mil rate would add to the undesignated fund balance. If things continue with COVID-19 and school needs change, the additional funds could be used to offset taxes. He added that with the increase in the homestead exemption, taxpayers would see a lower bill. Councilor Lugdon and Councilor Clemons felt that the tax rate should remain at 14.9. There was some public comment outside of Town Council meetings regarding the budget. A tax rate hold will provide evidence to the residents that the Council is mindful of the tax rate. There was further discussion regarding the tax rate and overlay amount. Councilor Clemons made a motion to set the rate at 14.9, seconded by Councilor Lugdon. Vote 5/0

A motion to set the interest rate for delinquent taxes at 8% for the 2020-2021 tax commitment was made by Councilor Ketch, seconded by Councilor Wade. Vote 5/0

A motion to set the due dates for the 2020-2021 tax commitment as 09-25-2020 and 02-26-2021 was made by Councilor Wade, seconded by Councilor Lugdon. Vote 5/0

A motion to set the interest rate payable on approved abatements at 5% for the 2020-2021 tax commitment was made by Councilor Ketch, seconded by Councilor Clemons. Vote 5/0

A motion to set the interest payable on prepayments at 0% for the 2020-2021 tax commitment was made by Councilor Lugdon, seconded by Councilor Ketch. Vote 5/0

Councilor Ketch question whether there had been any citizen interest or request to continue with ZOOM or Facebook Live presentations of Council Meetings. Melissa indicated that there had been no requests. Councilors determined that they would revisit that option in the future.

Review of Minutes: Councilor Ketch made a motion to accept the minutes of July 7, 2020 as presented, seconded by Councilor Wade. Vote 4/0 with Councilor Richard abstaining due to absence at that meeting.

Manager's Report: A request was made by a resident to include councilors' email addresses on the town website. At this time, councilors will not be providing personal email addresses but the town will look at obtaining email options in the future, as the increased cost to add the accounts with the Town of Bradley designation was not budgeted.

Melissa provided election results. A total of 373 votes were cast, with 133 of them absentee ballots. All town articles on the ballot passed. Having the election at the fire station went well, though it was a bit of a challenge. There is no air conditioning in the building but fans were utilized to try to cool the building. Melissa is confident that the November election will also need to be held at the station and will be purchasing supplies to provide a better set up. Melissa thanked Chief Gifford and his crew for their assistance.

Due to the passing of the budget, Melissa will move forward with the signing of the contract for snow removal of the roads in the amount of \$42,000.00 for the 2020-2021 winter season. She will also move forward with the signing of the contract for the supplemental law enforcement services contract in the amount of \$7,000.00.

In addition, due to the passing of the budget, John Milligan started specific road projects slated in the budget. He had material delivered for the drainage repair on Highland Avenue and Bullen Street and started working on the build up and clean up of the shoulders on Ten Road and Baker Lane. Melissa will be sending letters to Highland Avenue and Bullen Street residents next week to inform them of the anticipated work schedule. She will also be in contact with other residents that are in need of culvert work.

Tax liens for the 2019 tax year were filed at the Registry of Deeds on Friday, July 17, 2020. A cash receipt error was discovered on one account, Jason Geroux with property at 57 Main St. Due to the error, his deadline was extended to August 1, 2020 before a lien will be placed on the property. These properties will have 18 months to make payment in full to avoid automatic foreclosure in January of 2022.

With the tax rate set, Melissa and the town's assessing agent will be completing the tax bill upload and billing this week. Melissa anticipates bills will be mailed early next week.

Members of Maine Municipal Association Workers Compensation fund that has a loss ratio of 50% or less received a dividend payment. The Town of Bradley's portion of the dividend was \$947.00. This money will be placed in miscellaneous revenue as it is not a budgeted amount.

Unfinished Business: Councilors reviewed the bids for the town foreclosed property at 6 Parlin Street. There were three bids received, the highest being \$8500.00 made by Michael Ogden. Melissa indicated that she has requested that Mr. Ogden speak with the Code Enforcement Officer before the deed transfer is completed to make sure that any activity on the property is approved. His intent is to repair the property to be used as a rental property. Councilor Ketch made a motion to accept Ogden's bid of \$8500.00, seconded by Councilor Richard. Vote 5/0

Councilors reviewed the bids regarding Highland Avenue and Bullen Street paving. Wellman's Paving was the lowest bid at \$91,468.88. Melissa has spoken with Wellman's regarding the project and indicated that the work should be completed by late August. Councilor Wade made a motion to accept this bid, seconded by Councilor Clemons. Vote 5/0

A discussion was held regarding the placement of a new electronic sign approved by voters on July 14, 2020. Melissa will be in touch with the bidders to confirm size and options before presenting that information at a future council meeting.

A brief discussion was held on the proposed solar project, with no official information received by the town as of today.

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

#3 in the amount of \$1,033.00

#4 in the amount of \$4,256.00

#5 in the amount of \$134,002.33

Next Meeting: The next meeting is set for August 4, 2020.

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