

Town Council Meeting
March 16, 2021

Open Town Council Meeting: Council Chair Mark Ketch opened the Town Council meeting. Councilors in attendance were Councilor Ketch, Councilor Lugdon, Councilor Wade, Councilor Clemons and Councilor Delaware.

Review of Minutes: Councilor Ketch made a motion to accept the March 2, 2021 Town Council minutes, seconded by Councilor Lugdon. Vote 5/0

Citizen's Request: none

Manager's Report: Mr. Marquis, the Old Town teacher who was encouraging students and residents to submit designs for community flags, has extended the Alton and Bradley submission deadline to March 17th. Both Alton and Bradley only received three submissions each, and he was hoping for more elementary school participation. He has reached out to Viola Rand staff encouraging participation.

Bradley resident Audrey Wilcox asked that the Town Council consider dedicating the Town Report to Linda Hardesty. Linda has just recently resigned from the Planning Board after serving since 1984. She was instrumental in creating the land use ordinance for the town. As a vote was taken at the last meeting to dedicate this year's Town Report to the municipal staff, election clerks and fire department for all of the additional work involved in the 2020 elections, Melissa would like to suggest that the Town Council choose Linda as the recipient of the Spirit of America Award. Councilors agreed with this suggestion.

Melissa has met with the students at the University of Maine regarding the new website update. They plan on meeting with her on a weekly basis. The students are also interested in a summer internship with the Town. Melissa has applied for a grant through the University of Maine Center for Innovation in the amount of \$1,950.00 and Maine Town and City Management in the amount of \$1,500.00. With the potential of these funding sources, it creates a great opportunity for the students as well as the Town, by providing technology based duties.

The Town has received an additional payment of \$856.00 from Maine Municipal Association relating to the claim due to a pole accident near the Municipal Building. As MMA was able to collect 85.6% of the damages, the final cost to the town was \$144.06.

Melissa has prepared a memo that highlights the 3 quotes received in regards to the heat pump project. The quotes are for two 15,000 BTU units, one for the conference room and one for the main office. Councilors related their favorable experience with their own heat pumps. Melissa

has the authority to choose the vendor per the town purchasing policy, and she will be making that decision soon. Councilor Wade also made a motion, seconded by Councilor Delaware, to purchase a unit for the Fire Station as well. Vote 5/0

Melissa has prepared a Request for Proposal regarding municipal solar. The intent of the RFP is to have a solar array that will produce enough energy to cover the cost of the municipal electricity. This would be achieved by using a net meter proposal in which the Town would ultimately produce electricity at a set kw rate to pay consumption and delivery fees. Melissa provided in the RFP that the proposers look at specific sites, which include the roof of the municipal building, the roof of the fire station, ground install by and behind the fire station, 636 Main Street ground install, Brown Street ground install and Broad Street ground install. Melissa indicated her intent to release the RFP in June or July and to consider putting it out to referendum in the November election. Councilors also requested that fencing around the installations be included in any RFP.

Last week Melissa received comment back from the municipal attorney regarding the new personnel policy changes. She is still reviewing the suggested changes and will have the document ready for the 3/31/2021 Town Council Meeting.

New Business: Motion to accept the municipal quit claim deed regarding property of 6 Cram St., Map 15, Lot 35. The deed releases the Town's vested interest in the property due to payment of the 2018 tax lien filed in Book 15213, Page 50. Motion made by Councilor Wade, seconded by Councilor Clemons. Vote 5/0

Councilor Lugdon brought up the issue of the road damage on Cram St. near Louis Lane. He feels that the Old Town Water District bears responsibility for the damage. Melissa will look into this matter.

Unfinished Business: Councilor Delaware has spoken with Oscar Emerson regarding his building on Main St. He has offered first refusal on the property to the town when he decides to sell. Melissa has left him a message as she is looking for dimensions needed for display of items he is willing to donate to the Town, and will discuss that with him at the same time.

Councilors discussed the deterioration of the pavement on Rt. 178 and questioned whether DOT notifies the town if they will be doing any significant work on the issues. Melissa indicated that she has not received any indication that they will be repairing the surface or road shoulders.

Councilor Delaware indicated that the next senior drive thru luncheon will be held on March 24th at noon at St. Ann's Church.

Councilor Clemons indicated he read that Maine Municipal Association will be holding public hearings on a number of items, including restructuring excise tax. Melissa indicated that they do this almost every year and each time it has been voted down.

Councilor Delaware requested that the Town consider putting additional information in the annual Town Report. She specifically asked for information on new construction from the Code Enforcement Officer as well as information regarding student enrollment. Melissa will request that information from CEO Bennett and will contact Principal Leonard at Viola Rand School to see if she can provide that information in her report to the town.

After the end of the current legislative session, Melissa will be in contact with local representatives to discuss school choice and the fiscal impact on budgets.

Melissa met with Federal government representatives last week and there was a conversation on the new stimulus bill. She is not yet aware of the amount, if any, Bradley will receive. Per the bill, funding cannot go to tax reduction. More discussion will be held as further information is received.

Further budget discussions were held. Melissa informed councilors that the Penobscot County tax was \$5,500.00 lower than anticipated. She also added a \$1,000.00 budget item for non-profits that the Council approved at the last meeting.

A discussion was also held on potential fire equipment financing, should the recent grant applications not be approved.

Next Meeting: The next Council Meeting is set for March 31, 2021.

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

#63 in the amount of \$8,138.30

#64 in the amount of \$9,568.85

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