

**Town Council Meeting
March 30, 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 16, 2021 Town Council minutes, seconded by Councilor Lugdon. Vote 5/0

Citizen's Request: Melissa reported that a letter had been sent for the Town Council by Patsy McCannell of 76 Carter Woods requesting that they consider approving a street light for the corner. Melissa informed councilors that she had driven through there after dark one night, and she would agree with the need for a street light in that area. Councilor Lugdon made a motion to approve the purchase and installation of the street light, seconded by Councilor Delaware. Vote 5/0

Manager's Report: Melissa reminded the Council that nomination papers are available now for two Town Council seats (Wade and Lugdon). Completed nomination papers are due back by May 4, 2021. At this time, only Councilor Wade has taken out nomination papers.

Melissa has advertised for the municipal budget public hearing for April 13, 2021, as the budget will be finalized at that Town Council meeting.

The Town Council was reminded that Melissa had received prior authorization to take a vacation during the week of April 26, 2021, therefore cancelling the April 27th Town Council meeting.

The Municipal Review Committee (MRC) hosted a public town hall meeting on March 25th. The committee is still in negotiations with DTE. As Melissa sits on the Board of MRC, she isn't able to provide detail further than what was provided publicly, but she did state that the Board is working diligently to open the Hampden facility to process solid waste. As was reported, the solid waste is currently going to the PERC facility. As there has been an increase in the tonnage, MRC is currently paying the difference, anticipating that they will be reimbursed once DTE, MRC and the bondholders can reach a final agreement.

Melissa requested that Twin City Heat Pumps provide a quote to install heat pumps in the fire station. It will be the same as quoted for the Municipal Building. She has received the authorization from Efficiency Maine and would expect the installation to take place sometime in late April or May. The cost for four 15,000 BTU heat pumps will be \$3,300.00.

Melissa provided the Town Council with a draft resolution regarding the 2021 Maine Spirit of America tribute.

Melissa has been participating in webinars regarding the American Rescue Plan funds. Although not yet determined, current information indicates that towns can only use the funds on water, sewer and broadband. She has spoken directly with Senator King's office and has expressed her concern regarding the uses being too narrow. If in fact the funds can only be designated for those items, Councilor Clemons expressed interest in having broadband established at Chemo Pond locations. Melissa indicated that she felt that broadband would be better handled at the County level, and has been in touch with County Commissioner Laura Sanborn to discuss this. She has also reached out to Patrick Adams of Maine DOT regarding the sidewalk grant that the town applied for in 2019. Patrick is going to speak with his colleagues about having a conversation with Federal officials to ask for some flexibility in this spending.

New Business: none

Unfinished Business: The Council reviewed the proposed personnel policy. Melissa will now be finalizing it and sending it to the Town attorney for final review before implementation.

Discussion continued on the proposed budget to be presented at the next Council meeting. Melissa added additional funding for heat pump maintenance for both the Municipal Building and Fire Station as well as an increase in the solid waste processing and ambulance contracts amounts over last year. This year's proposed budget remains under the cap set by town policy. Town Council asked that the budget be kept flat. This would make the budget \$24,402.00 under cap, which will be divided between municipal and fire capital improvements.

Melissa will be contacting the municipal attorney to draft a warrant article for a lease/purchase (if needed) to purchase new fire vehicle(s). A discussion was held on potential terms and rates. A \$20,000.00 reserve line item has been placed in the proposed budget for future purchases.

Councilors questioned whether a flag design had been received. Melissa reported that she hasn't heard back from Mr. Marquis, but knew that they were still trying to get designs and participation from Viola Rand School.

Councilor Delaware reported that 74 meals had been served at the most recent Four Season Seniors luncheon. The next one is scheduled for April 21, 2021.

Councilor Delaware questioned why Bradley wasn't listed in the RSU Community newsletter. Melissa indicated that it was due to the cost.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is set for April 13, 2021.

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

#65 in the amount of \$1,388.50

#66 in the amount of \$6,175.43

#67 in the amount of \$7,578.05

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