

Town Council Meeting
May 11, 2021

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

Review of Minutes: Councilor Ketch made a motion, seconded by Councilor Wade, to accept the minutes of the April 13, 2021 meeting. Vote 5/0

Citizen's Request: none

Manager's Report: Melissa met with the New Media students from the University of Maine last week and the Town's new website is basically complete. The professor will be reaching out to the students in the next few weeks to hopefully get an intern for the summer to assist with the transition to a working website and to provide training on managing that website. Melissa had applied to UMaine's Foster Center for Student Innovation for intern funding and support but it was not awarded.

Melissa met with John Milligan regarding potential summer work, pending budget approval. He believes he can do some repairs to the village sidewalks for under \$8,000.00 that will help with accessibility and increase safety. The other work includes several driveway culvert replacements and the ditching of Broad Street and Penney Lane. She does not anticipate any paving this summer.

Melissa provided the Council with information regarding the operations of the Fiberight Facility in Hampden. As has been stated before, MRC is the owner of the land and the supply agreements. Bondholders actually own the facility. The bondholders have chosen DTE as their buyer. In order for DTE to receive their financing, it was necessary to make some fundamental changes to previous agreements. These changes include an option for DTE to purchase the land once the plant successfully operates for a 9 month period which includes the months of July and August. Also, a replacement of the rebate structure in which municipalities will get a flat rebate of \$1.50 per ton and a simple 2 year extension of the master supply agreement. MRC believes that with the acceptance of the changes, the sale will be completed by the end of June, with the plant operational by the end of the year. It is anticipated that MRC will recoup the costs associated with keeping the plant operational during the closure and the loan taken by Coastal Resources. Town Council asked Melissa if she thought the sale was beneficial, and she believes that it is the best option and knows that the MRC has been very diligent in their efforts.

At the last meeting, the Town Council asked Melissa to prepare an RFP for the property located at 6 Pine Street. The foreclosure policy states that the Town Council may, in its sole discretion, offer the property to one or more abutters at a price to be determined by the Council, provided that the price is at least the amount of the outstanding taxes, costs and interest. Melissa has

not received any communication from the abutters or Mr. Brooks. It would be her recommendation that the Town Council move forward with the RFP process. Councilors agreed with this action.

Melissa has been in touch with the family of Linda Hardesty. She will be at the May 25, 2021 Town Council meeting so that they may acknowledge her dedication to the Town and the Planning Board.

The staff has reviewed the personnel policy and no changes were requested. Melissa will review the final version and provide it to the Town Council for acceptance at the May 25, 2021 meeting.

The students involved with the RSU 34 Student Flag Project have created a flag judging form to be posted on our social media, printed at the town office, and distributed to the Viola Rand School. The students' choice is the water wheel design as it meets the flag design principles. The judging will end on May 30, 2021 and the results will be provided to the Council for the final decision. Councilor Ketch questioned what the next step would be. Melissa indicated that she believes that there will be a request to have a flag made and displayed.

Melissa has advertised for a public hearing to be held on May 25, 2021 at 6:30 pm regarding the annual referendum. The Town Report has been sent to the printers and the absentee ballots are available now.

New Business: Councilor Delaware indicated that she had completed her Newly Elected Officials webinar through Maine Municipal Association. She also indicated that she had received her certificate recognizing her for her Spirit of America Award as well as a congratulatory letter signed by several State officials.

Councilor Ketch questioned the "Environmental Complaint Form" received by ND Paper. This is newly available to residents to report issues. The form can be found on their website, <https://us.ndpaper.com> under "Contact Us". Melissa stated that she received the information from ND Paper. She has received complaints regarding the smell and this will provide an opportunity for residents to express their concerns.

Unfinished Business: Councilor Delaware questioned whether the April Sheriff's Department report had been received. Melissa indicated that it had not yet been received.

Resident Muriel Besse has received her Notice of Compliance regarding the condition of her property. Melissa will reconvene with CEO Dean Bennett regarding this notice.

Councilors questioned whether Melissa had received any information regarding the timing of paving on Route 178. She has not received any information.

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

#76 in the amount of \$6,934.37

#77 in the amount of \$6,154.55

#78 in the amount of \$125,516.07

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for May 25, 2021. The public hearing regarding the annual referendum will be held at this meeting.

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