

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 9, 2021

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

Review of Minutes: Councilor Ketch made a motion, seconded by Councilor Lugdon, to accept the minutes of the May 25, 2021 meeting. Vote 4/0

Citizen's Request: none

Manager's Report: Mark Gifford is requesting that the Town Council consider providing \$1,500.00 to update and replace older worn flags. The flags are hung prior to Memorial Day and stay until Labor Day. Melissa recommends that this request be granted using funds from the Town Council's undesignated fund. The amount each year is \$5,000.00, and only \$2,400.00 has been used, which was to pay for the additional electronic sign costs. A discussion was held that going forward, there may be an amount designated in the budget to fund a flag account for necessary replacements. Councilor Lugdon made a motion to provide the \$1,500.00, seconded by Councilor Wade. Vote 4/0

Melissa participated in a webinar hosted by Maine Municipal Association regarding the American Rescue Plan Act, but unfortunately did not receive much new information. Maine Municipal Association is asking for municipalities to be patient. Melissa has an executive committee meeting next Thursday, and she is hopeful to receive more guidance on expending funds. She has also volunteered to sit in on Maine listening sessions, which include municipal officials from all over the state discussing how these funds can best be spent. Councilor Wade mentioned that funds could be used for first responders for work during the pandemic. Melissa stated that she would speak with Chief Gifford as her intent is that the funds be used to benefit as many residents as possible.

Melissa discussed an option for the funds would be to redesign the front counter to offer two windows spread apart to allow for more than one customer transaction at a time. This would appear to be an acceptable use of the funds and would be beneficial to residents. She will be looking into this further and will provide estimates and design at a future meeting.

As broadband is an allowable expenditure and it is anticipated that the State will be receiving additional funds to distribute as grants, Melissa has invited Bill Varney from Premium Choice Broadband to speak to the Town Council on June 22. He is working with municipalities in this area to expand broadband service.

The spring clean up was last weekend. Melissa has not received the tonnage amounts. There were 81 stickers sold. There were no lines this year and very few complaints. The complaints received were that there was no tire disposal. Town Council may look at offering tire disposal at future clean ups. There were only a few residents that arrived with unbundled debris and were required to leave and contain it prior to unloading.

On June 3rd, Melissa met with representatives from Maine Department of Environmental Protection, Maine Department of Marine Resources, Maine Forest and Logging Museum and Chemo Pond Lake Association. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the assessment that was completed on the dam located at the museum. Melissa provided the minutes from the meeting. There seems to be a solution to controlling the water level which would involve installing two weirs before the dam spillways. The engineer who did the assessment is going to be working up a cost estimate. Melissa will be reaching out to DMR and DEP to inquire about specific funding. It was determined that the museum has authorization from DMR and DEP to place an additional board on the dam each year to assist with the water control. The additional 2-inch board was installed on Tuesday.

Melissa participated in a webinar with FEMA regarding the grant for the fire truck. There was no additional information provided, other than indicating that they have received 8,186 applications and 3,140 of those had made it to an actual peer review. It is anticipated that awards will be presented in July and August.

The annual referendum was held on June 8th. Out of 1253 voters, 60 votes were cast. All warrant articles passed and Councilor Lugdon and Councilor Wade were each elected to another 3-year term.

Melissa asked the Town Council for permission to close the office at 1:30 on Wednesday, June 30th to perform the financial year end closing. Councilors agreed to the closure.

Code Enforcement Officer Dean Bennett provided the Town Council with an update regarding Muriel Pulk's property on Main St. The property is still not fully in compliance. He has asked for direction from the Council. Melissa would like to attempt to schedule a site visit with Dean and Muriel to see if compliance can be reached before proceeding with legal action. Councilors were very agreeable to this.

Melissa had a meeting with University of Maine New Media Department professor Joline Blais and a student who will be the new intern for the town. They are hopeful to have the new website that was designed for the town transferred over by the end of next week. Melissa will then proceed with the intern to update information and train on using Word Press.

New Business: Melissa received a supplemental tax assessment request from the Assessing Agent, Mark Gibson. The supplemental assessment is due to a taxpayer removing real estate from the tree growth program. The amount of the assessment is \$998.20 to Weston and Lori Day regarding property located on Map 8, Lot 14-1. Councilor Ketch made a motion to accept the supplemental assessment, seconded by Councilor Wade. Vote 4/0

Councilor Wade raised concerns regarding ransomware issues. He suggested getting two router back ups, locating one at the Fire Station to back up the Municipal Building and vice versa. He suggested backing up to the routers as opposed to backing up to the cloud. Melissa will contact the computer company to discuss these options.

Work is beginning on the State paving of Route 178.

Councilor Delaware indicated that 75 people received lunches during the May 26th senior luncheon. The luncheons will not be offered during June, July and August, but hope to resume this fall. The food pantry passed out 10 boxes of food and this will continue through the summer. Senior exercise class on Wednesday at the Municipal Building has been restarted, with 7 attendees at this morning's class. Class is held at 10:00 on Wednesdays.

Unfinished Business: Melissa reported that four bids were received regarding the foreclosed property located at 6 Pine Street. The bids received were as follows:


David Spencer	\$3,750.00
Kaleb Gifford	\$5,100.00
Devon Hamel	\$7,001.00
Brian Wilcox	\$15,000.00

Councilor Lugdon made a motion to accept the bid of Brian Wilcox, seconded by Councilor Delaware. Vote 4/0

Melissa updated the Town Council on the flag project. She received an email from the teacher who initiated the flag design project that there basically was not enough student response to make it a student project. Councilor Delaware submitted a design and would like to have it approved. Councilor Ketch suggested that all the information be received regarding the judging that did take place.

Municipal Warrants: Councilor Ketch made a motion to accept the following municipal warrants, seconded by Councilor Lugdon. Vote 4/0

#83 in the amount of \$17,784.94
#84 in the amount of \$125,438.04



Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for June 22, 2021.

Adjourn: Councilor Lugdon made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Ketch. Vote 4/0