

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
September 14, 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 August 31, 2021 meeting. Vote 4/0 Councilor Lugdon abstained from voting as he was not present for that meeting.

Citizen's Request: none

New Business: The Premium Choice solar representative has postponed his attendance until the September 28, 2021 meeting.

Manager's Report: Melissa thanked the Town Council for their recent support and also thanked them for the condolence flowers.

The Town of Bradley has been invited by the City of Bangor and the Town of Orono to join in an RFP process to produce a regional climate action plan. Melissa would like to know what the Town Council's thoughts were regarding joining this effort. Councilor Ketch questioned whether they were looking for funding or other commitments; Melissa hadn't heard anything yet regarding that issue. Councilor Wade was concerned about getting a non-partisan agenda and that any action may create pressure on the ND Paper mill. Councilor Wade also indicated that UMaine already does research on local climate issues and Councilor Lugdon indicated that the DEP and EPA already are involved in these issues so questioned the need for additional oversight. Lugdon also indicated that he didn't see an issue with Bradley attending to see what it actually entailed. Councilor Ketch indicated that he would be interested if able to log into a ZOOM meeting to see what it entailed. Councilor Lugdon made a motion, seconded by Councilor Delaware, to leave it up to the discretion of the Town Manager on whether or not to attend. Vote 5/0

Melissa received a quote and drawing regarding a proposed display hutch for the historical items that Councilor Delaware acquired from Oscar Emerson. The quote was provided by Bradley resident Michael Bowen, who has a business that specializes in furniture and cabinet making. The cost for the hutch is \$2,700.00. Councilors questioned whether the donations would fill the cabinet, and Melissa indicated that more than likely they would fill it and not have extra room for other items. Councilor Wade made a motion, seconded by Councilor Lugdon to accept the bid of \$2,700.00 and leave it up to the Town Manager's discretion as to which account to expense. Vote 5/0

Melissa has a meeting next week with a student from Husson University regarding the updated website internship.

Melissa provided to the Town Council a draft RFP that she has been working on with Chief Gifford regarding the fire tanker replacement. In June, voters approved the replacement by means of a purchase and financing agreement. Melissa would like to move forward with the advertisement of the RFP once Chief Gifford has given his final approval. Town Council was in support of Melissa moving forward with advertising for bids.

Melissa stated that it will be necessary to have a public hearing on September 28, 2021 for the yearly general assistance appendix updates. The updated General Assistance Ordinance provided by Maine Municipal Association is also to be included. Melissa provided a memo to the Council that provided information on viewing the ordinance as amended.

Typically, each year the Town Council has also had a public hearing regarding the winter parking regulations. Melissa is researching the possibility of creating an ordinance in which these regulations are automatic rather than addressing it each year.

Melissa has started the process of addressing the ARPA funds. She is attending the Maine Municipal Association retreat this week and believes that will be a high topic of discussion. In addition, she has organized a meeting with MMA and the Penobscot County Managers for October 7, 2021 to discuss spending options.

Melissa received a quote from Mike Smith regarding the office remodel that came in at \$13,500.00. She will be working on a complete estimate and cost for the Town Council to consider for the next meeting.

The computer/network back up has been installed. Melissa will start a schedule of having the off-site back up changed weekly. Also installed was the additional wireless network that allows Melissa to access her machine remotely, which will also allow her remote access to the electronic sign.

Councilor Lugdon questioned the status of the Hampden trash facility. Melissa indicated that DTE is still trying to get financing but hasn't yet been successful. Four other companies that are interested have toured the facility with the Executive Director. Councilor Ketch asked whether the original technology would need to be used. Melissa indicated that initially they would need to use the same technology as that is what had been approved by the DEP. Any changes would need to be subsequently approved.

Unfinished Business: Town Council reviewed the municipal grounds bids that were received on 8/31/2021. Only two bids were received. One bid was from Boucher Property Management in

the amount of \$13,900.00 with an additional \$1,000.00 for hedge trimming. The other was from Hatch's Outdoor Services in the amount of \$9,800.00 with an additional \$1,400.00 for hedge trimming. Melissa would make the recommendation that the Town move forward with the bid from Boucher as she has spoken with the references provided, City of Old Town and Town of Greenbush, and they had positive recommendations. The current budget is \$9,400.00 with an additional \$1,000.00 for hedge trimming. Audrey Wilcox, cemetery superintendent, agreed with Melissa that it was necessary to move forward quickly. Councilor Wade asked about the possibility of a multi-year contract. Melissa would like to see a one-year contract initially to see how it works out, and then possibly multiple years going forward. Councilor Delaware made a motion, seconded by Councilor Wade, to accept the Boucher Property Management bid at their proposed price. Vote 5/0

Councilors indicated that they would like to invite additional solar companies to future meetings to explain their proposals in person. It is difficult to evaluate the proposals as they are not clear as to what is included in each proposal. Councilor Wade suggested checking with the University of Maine's Engineering Department to see if they would be able to provide guidance on what the town's needs were to be assured that the proposals will cover those. Councilors were concerned with the limited savings over such a long period of time and whether it would be worth it. Councilor Clemons indicated that his son works in solar and he will question him as to what the town should be looking at.

New Business: Councilor Delaware has spoken with John Milligan II and Howard Jack, school board representatives, to ask them to attend a council meeting per month, with Bradley Councilors attending Old Town School Board meetings on a monthly basis. Milligan and Jack agreed that it was a good idea. Councilors were in support of this idea.

Councilor Ketch asked if there had been any confirmation regarding the additional funds received for education. David Walker had previously suggested that these amounts would be added to the town's surplus account with the RSU. Melissa stated that she believed it would be an RSU Board decision and nothing further has been discussed.

Councilor Ketch asked if there had been any additional comment made regarding the tax lien error. Melissa stated that as the attorney represented the tax lien was filed correctly, however the taxpayer could request an abatement of interest as that amount was not recorded. The abatement should be granted.

Councilor Ketch also questioned whether the planned sidewalk repairs had been completed. Melissa indicated that all planned work had been completed, which only included village sidewalk work. They will look next year at the possibility of improving additional sidewalks.

Councilor Delaware stated that she had requested that the curbing be painted in the parking lots. The black on black makes it difficult for some to differentiate. Melissa stated that she has hired Zach Carlow to paint.

Councilor Ketch asked if the planned sidewalk repair was complete. Melissa stated it was, noting that it was a "band aid". Audience member Audrey Wilcox asked why the entire sidewalk wasn't done. Melissa stated it was not budgeted and only the village sidewalk was slated for repair.

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

#19 in the amount of \$4,460.06

#20 in the amount of \$2,334.00

#21 in the amount of \$5,814.63

#22 in the amount of \$158,275.15

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for September 28, 2021.

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