

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 28, 2021

Open Public Hearing: Councilor Ketch opened the public hearing on the General Assistance Ordinance Appendices A-H and the General Assistance Ordinance. Town Manager Melissa Doane stated that the only change made to the ordinance was that assistance now allows for recovery services housing. She recommended approval. Councilor Wade made a motion to accept the new General Assistance Ordinance and Appendices A-H, seconded by Councilor Clemons. The new ordinance was signed by all councilors. Vote 5/0

Close Public Hearing: Councilor Ketch closed the public hearing.

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 Lugdon, to accept the minutes of the September 14, 2021 meeting. Vote 5/0

Councilors welcomed Bill Varney of Premium Choice Broadband. He discussed the history of his company and expanded to where they are currently installing services. Based upon the needs of the underserved area of Chemo Pond, Varney feels that it is worth doing some work to see whether there is enough interest in the area. Councilor Clemons assured him that there would be enough interest from residents in the area, and also indicated that the area continues to grow, with year-round residency increasing. ARPA funds (American Rescue Plan Act) are available to be used for broadband installation. Councilor Lugdon expressed concern about only providing for one area of the town, but it was determined that only the Chemo area would be eligible as other areas of Bradley are served by other companies. Varney indicated that now would be a good time to get started as the adjoining town of Clifton is currently working to obtain broadband and the two towns could submit applications for grants to cover some of the costs. It is anticipated that if Bradley does sign on, it will take approximately a year to complete the process. The cost is anticipated to be approximately \$200,000.00 of which \$100,000.00 may be covered by a ConnectMaine grant, \$50,000.00 from Premium Choice, leaving \$50,000.00 due from the town. Councilors let Varney know that they would discuss it further and would be in touch with him.

Citizens Request: none

Manager's Report: Melissa provided to the Town Council a draft ordinance that would restrict winter parking. The ordinance mirrors the restrictions that are placed into effect each year, however, by implementing the ordinance, the restrictions would automatically take place and a

public hearing would not be necessary. With posting requirements, the next public hearing would be October 26, 2021. Councilors agreed to move forward with the public hearing to adopt the ordinance.

Melissa stated that she met with Boucher Property Management last week and was able to complete the contract for the grounds mowing.

The RFP for the tanker truck has been advertised with a due date of November 3, 2021. Melissa participated in a webinar with FEMA and all grants have been awarded for the fiscal year 2020. They anticipate that the fiscal year 2021 grants will be open for November and December. The department may consider starting the grant process to replace the 2002 Pumper, as Chief Gifford has indicated that there are some electrical issues.

Melissa has completed the ARPA application process and the request has been accepted. The amount that Bradley will receive is \$157,156.30.

Melissa provided to the Town Council a detailed estimate regarding the proposed office remodel to provide additional counter space and allow for at least 2 customers at a time. Melissa received a bid from Mike Smith for the construction work, and combined with electrical and furniture, the cost would be \$20,350.00. She suggested not putting the work out to bid, as it would cause unnecessary delays and proposed an amendment to the purchasing policy allowing Town Council to waive the bidding requirements due to emergency labor and supply shortages. Councilors were in agreement. Councilor Wade made a motion, seconded by Councilor Delaware, to move forward with the office remodel under an emergency declaration using funds from ARPA to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Vote 5/0 Councilor Wade then made a motion, seconded by Councilor Lugdon, to redesignate the purchasing policy as presented by Melissa. Vote 5/0

Sullivan's Waste provided notice to the office that they wished to adhere more strictly to their contract. The contract requires that all trash must be bagged and tied, no bag can weigh over 40 pounds, cardboard must be broken down and bundled, syringes must be disposed of in a capped container and there will be no roadside furniture pick up.

Melissa stated that the MRC has issued a notice of a fundamental matter, which basically asks members to allow for the board to make a change to the agreements that were reached in 2016. This matter is granting authorization for the board to terminate the signed lease with Coastal Resources. Coastal had been in default of this lease since May of 2019. It is the board's hope that this will encourage the bond holders and bidders to move more quickly. No action is required.

Bradley resident John Milligan II returned his nomination papers for the RSU director and will be on the November 2, 2021 ballot.

The summer road expenditures came in under budget.

New Business: Councilor Lugdon discussed the districting changes that are forthcoming, and feels that the proposed changes will be beneficial to Bradley.

Melissa will be attending the first meeting of the regional climate action plan with the City of Bangor and Town of Orono. The meeting date has not been set.

Councilor Delaware will be attending the school board meeting on October 13th and will get a schedule going from there.

Councilor Ketch questioned what the next steps for the broadband issue would be. After discussion, it was determined that the Council was in favor of moving forward with the process. Councilor Delaware made a motion, seconded by Councilor Lugdon, to expend \$50,000.00 of the awarded ARPA funds to proceed with Premium Choice Broadband for the Chemo Pond upgrade. Melissa will draft the letter to them advising of the wish to move forward. Vote 5/0

Discussion was also held regarding potentially outfitting the council room for livestreaming of council meetings. Melissa will research to see if ARPA funds could be used for that as it would be a COVID-19 mitigation effort to reduce the number of people gathered in one room. Melissa will be discussing the livestreaming options with the Husson University intern.

Unfinished Business: none

Municipal Warrants: Councilor Ketch made a motion to accept the following warrants, seconded by Councilor Lugdon:

#23 in the amount of \$2,313.00

#24 in the amount of \$8,714.78

#25 in the amount of \$124,750.65

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for October 12, 2021.

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