

Town Council Meeting
October 12, 2021

Open Town Council Meeting and Roll Call: Councilor Ketch opened the Town Council meeting: all Council was present.

Review of Minutes: Councilor Ketch made a motion to accept the 9/28/2021 Town Council meeting as presented, seconded by Councilor Wade, vote 5/0.

Citizens Request: None

Managers' Report: Melissa provided via email a draft letter regarding the Town Council's support of the Chemo Pond Broadband Connect ME grant. Before submitting she requested thoughts from the Town Council; Town Council approved the letter.

A turn down letter was received from FEMA regarding the grant application. As expected, it was due to low call volume that the application did not make it to peer panel review. Our regional specialist did recommend that we continue submit applications for the pumper. He stated the scoring system will be changing for the 2021 grant funds reducing the weight of the call volume in the pre-scoring portion.

The salt and sand have been completed and is ready for snow and winter plowing.

The audit for the fiscal year 2020-2021 was originally scheduled for September 28, however the auditor was directly exposed to COVID. The fieldwork is now scheduled for October 19.

Melissa has spoken to Mike Smith and his is not able to start work on the office remodel until the first of the year.

Melissa provided Town Council with an update regarding the subject of school choice. Melissa was hopeful that Maine Municipal Association would be able to assist with changing the legislation that provides retaining school choice for municipalities that had it before school consolidation. Unfortunately, they are not able to do so and suggested that the Town work directly with an attorney that is familiar with the school consolidation laws. Mr. Walker, the RSU superintendent suggested Drummond and Woodsum. Melissa has emailed them and they are determining if there are any conflict-of-interest issues.

The Town received \$78,578.16 which represents the first half of the ARPA funds. Melissa hosted, with Maine Municipal Association meeting last week a meeting regarding the ARPA funds. It was suggested that all receivers hold off on expending the second half of the funds until they are received; apparently there is some early talk that federal government maybe making changes to the initial allotment amount. In the meeting Melissa learned that the projects she had recommended thus far are for sure an allowable use for the funds. She also learned of a "tracker" through National League of Cities that

provides information on what other communities nationwide are doing with the ARPA funds. Projects that promote outdoor activities are allowable such as park development and rehabilitation.

The clean up on October 2 was a success though a tonnage amount has not been received as of yet. In speaking with the contractor, they would like to try to do the clean-up starting at 8 and end at noon. Melissa believes that with the set up as it was this can be done very easily. A majority of the property owners had come through by 9:30 am.

Melissa also provided details regarding the sale of liquor in Bradley. Legislative changes required the Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations to review all local option votes regarding the sale of liquor. It was discovered that only beer is covered for on premises consumption. To make a change to allow all liquor sales, voter approval is needed. Therefore, a warrant article will be included on the June of 2022 referendum. Councilor Ketch asked if food trucks were allowed to sell liquor. Melissa stated she did not know and would assume not as they would need approval for each community that they serve. She added that food trucks are required to get permits from the municipalities if they serve on a municipal roadway.

The fire department has achieved a renewal of the Maine Department of Labor's SHAPE award. The Town Council congratulated the Department.

New Business: Melissa wished for clarification from the Town Council regarding the Town's website content. Recently they had been discussing via email some resource websites that could be helpful to the residents. Melissa asked if they would like to set some guidelines. Councilor Wade suggested that the intern research and assist in developing a policy. Councilor Lugdon suggest that if a resource page is created that a disclaimer be added. Councilor Ketch added that websites that provide free services would be appropriate.

Councilor Delaware stated that she will be attending the RSU board meeting tomorrow night and will get a schedule of the meetings.

Councilor Delaware stated that there will be a free luncheon drive thru at St. Ann's Church on October 20, 2021 at 11:30 am. In addition, there will be free food for those in need event at Holy Family Church on October 25 from 9:30 to 12:00.

Unfinished Business: Councilor Ketch made a motion to accept the purchasing policy that was updated on September 28, 2021, seconded by Councilor Delaware, vote 5/0.

Municipal Warrants: Councilor Ketch made a motion to accept the municipal warrants as presented, seconded by Councilor Wade, vote 5/0.

Next Meeting: October 26, 2021

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