

**Town Council Meeting**  
**1/18/2022**

**Open Town Council Meeting and Roll Call:** Councilor Ketch opened the Town Council Meeting; all Councilors were present. Also present was Town Manager Melissa Doane and Fire Chief Eric Gifford.

**Review of Minutes:** Councilor Ketch made a motion to accept the 1/4/2022 Town Council Minutes as presented, seconded by Councilor Wade vote 5/0.

**Citizens Request:** None

**Managers' Report:** Melissa reported that she met with the Maine Department of Marine Resources on January 11. They are willing to pay for the repairs needed to the dam at the Maine Forest and Logging Museum using ARPA funds, which become available in July. The project will include replacing the timber spillway with concrete, creating a wier system to control the water and removal of the roll dam. DMR asked if the interested parties could assist with the cost of the engineering plans and RFP process which is estimated to be \$15,000. In the summer of 2021, Melissa secured funds from Brookfield to help with the project. She made contact with them again last week and they have committed \$10,000 towards the project. She attended the MFLM board meeting last week and was able to get approval to move forward with the project and for them to commit the \$10,000. Melissa has also asked Chemo Pond Lake Association to contribute towards the project; Councilor Clemons confirmed they will contribute \$1000.00. The Towns of Clifton and Eddington each has appropriated \$1000 for the establishment of the Blackman Stream Dam Commission; they have committed those funds to the project. Melissa is looking for the Town of Bradley support to use of the \$1000 appropriated in the current budget. Councilor Ketch asked as DMR is using ARPA funds is it possible to be reimbursed for the first phase. Melissa stated that she did not believe so and they were also looking for buy in from each party. Councilor Wade made a motion to approve the \$1000 appropriated for Blackman Stream to the project as described, seconded by Councilor Delaware, vote 5/0. Councilor Lugdon asked about the liability of the dam once the project is complete. Melissa stated that Maine Forest and Logging Museum has an order from DEP to maintain a certain water level. The liability will continue to be theirs. Councilor Wade asked if all the parties would be included in the design of project repair. Melissa stated she hoped to have a representative from each entity involved at some point, however the project if being paid for by DMR will need their approval. She did add that the museum requested that there be a peer review once the plans are complete. Councilor Wade asked if the engineering would be going to RFP. Melissa stated she did not believe it would, she was hopeful that the construction would not as well. There was some discussion that if a reputative contractor could be secured, there is a possibility that the RFP process will not be needed. She added that the spillway is in need of repair immediately and proceeding with the RFP is timely. Councilor Clemons stated that all parties are interested and understand that the integrity of the dam is priority.

Melissa also would like to have the Town Councils approval for the Town to act as a pass through for this project once the ARPA funds from DMR are committed. There will be reporting requirements that the Museum may not be able to handle due to their operations being volunteer based. The only cost to the

town would be Melissa's time. Councilor Lugdon made a motion to allow the Town of Bradley to act as the passthrough agent for the project as described, seconded by Councilor Delaware, vote 5/0.

Melissa also reported that she had a conversation with and Greg Im, an attorney from Drummond Woodsum who was recommended to the Town to assist with analyzing and changing the school choice option. In the fall of 2021, they had reported that they were researching conflict of interest as they represent RSU 34. They have had the necessary discussions and believe through an outlined engagement letter; they can assist with a change to the re-organization plan that the voters approved in 2009. The change would have to be approved by the voters of the entire RSU and then would need final approval from the Department of Education, however, they believe it is possible as the plan provides for procedure to change. Mr. Im was going to contact Mr. Walker and have a conversation about the process. The estimated cost to do the work was between \$3,000 to \$7,000. She suspects that Mr. Walker may be waiting for his named replacement before committing to a vote. Once she learns more, she will be contacting the Town of Alton to see if they are interested in joining Bradley and sharing costs. Councilor Wade stated that as the plan is written it does not seem fair, as the Town has no control over the expenditures of the school of choice. The amount above and beyond what is approved by the State is passed to the Town. Melissa agreed adding that there is no reimbursement even though it is an educational expense. Councilor Ketch asked how the voting would be weighted, if Alton and Bradley voted no but Old Town voters approved, would it pass. Melissa was not sure, that needs further discussion. Melissa also added that she would like to present it to the voters that if you have a student enrolled in a choice school then the town will still be responsible for the difference. She would like to discuss even adding language that if proof can be provided that a parent paid real estate taxes at the time of the vote, they too would continue to be eligible for school choice. As the cost continues to increase and there is no reimbursement from the State, it would be beneficial to have school choice phased out.

In December Melissa sent certified letters to three outstanding 2020 personal property tax owners giving them until January 11, 2021 to pay in full or be subject to small claims proceedings. Melissa will need Town Council's approval to move forward with a motion and order for the one outstanding account of Milligan's Landing, allowing Melissa to represent the Town of Bradley in the small claim proceedings. The amount in personal property tax as of today is \$329.56 and additional small claims fee of \$70.00. Councilor Lugdon made a motion to approve the motion and order, seconded by Councilor Clemons, vote 5/0. Councilor Delaware asked if there had been any communication with from Ms. Milligan, Melissa stated there had not.

The Town has received a request from the Old Town Project Graduation to make a donation for the 2022 event. Bradley has 13 students graduating from Old Town; in 2021 the Town donated \$250.00. Councilor Wade made a motion to approve a donation in the amount of \$400, seconded by Councilor Lugdon, vote 5/0. It was added that the letter should note that the increase of donation was due to the larger than normal number of students.

Melissa provided Town Council a memo to discuss the yearly capital reserve transfer. As noted on the memo, \$21,000 was designated for municipal capital and \$21,000 for fire capital reserve. In addition, there was \$30,000 designated for the anticipated tanker. Town Council has discussed using these fire

capital funds and the payment amount towards the down payment to lessen the lease payment. Melissa had a discussion with Campden National Bank and if that is the case, they suggested leaving the funds in the general fund. Melissa would like Town Councils thoughts on the funds. Councilor Delaware made a motion to keep the funds in the general fund, seconded by Councilor Clemons, vote 5/0.

Melissa will be on vacation from March 6 to March 13, it does not at this time effect any meetings associated directly with the Town of Bradley.

The intern, Will has done a proposal for streaming equipment. She has not had an opportunity to review or discuss the proposal in detail. HCP computers are coming tomorrow to review the counter network and computer needs she will be asking for their opinions.

**New Business:** Councilor Delaware reported that at the senior luncheon they served 75 meals, the next luncheon is scheduled for March 16.

Councilor Delaware asked for a representative from the Council to attend the next school board meeting of February 16, Councilor Lugdon will attend. Councilor Clemons will attend the March meeting.

Councilor Ketch inquired about the plowing of the post office parking lot as it has not been plowed properly. Melissa reported that the Postal Service uses a different plowing company this year.

Councilor Clemons suggested that the Town request a write up in the Maine Town and City in the People section regarding Terry's retirement.

**Unfinished Business:** None

**Municipal Warrants:** Councilor Ketch made a motion to accept municipal warrant #53 in the amount of \$50796.95 and warrant #54 in the amount of \$7488.59, seconded by Councilor Clemons, vote 5/0.

**Set Next Meeting:** The next meeting is set for February 1, 2022

**Executive Session:** Councilor Ketch made a motion to enter into executive session pursuant to 1 MRSA § 406 (6) (A) to discuss the evaluation of the Town Manager, seconded by Councilor Lugdon vote 5/0.

Councilor Lugdon made a motion to exit executive session pursuant to 1 MRSA § 406 (6) (A) to discuss the evaluation of the Town Manager, seconded by Councilor Clemons vote 5/0.

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