

**Town Council Meeting**  
**3/29/2022**

**Open Town Council Meeting:** Councilor Lugdon opened the Town Council meeting all members present except for as Council Chair Mark Ketch as he was excused.

**Review of Minutes:** Councilor Lugdon made a motion to accept the Town Council minutes from 3/15/2022, seconded by Councilor Wade vote 3/0 (Delaware abstained)

**Citizens Request:** None

**Managers' Report:** Melissa reported that the spring clean up has been set for June 4<sup>th</sup> and will be from 7:30 am to noon. Melissa would like to try to have residents use their receipt as identification of residency rather than purchase stickers. The office would number and highlight the receipt as a method of tracking the loads. Typically, the residents do not attach the stickers to the window so it is necessary to ask for their number anyway.

In setting up the clean-up, Melissa discovered that the Town had not received a bill for the fall clean up. That bill is included in the warrant, she noted that there was 10.37 tons of debris collected in October.

Melissa did work on a spreadsheet in attempt to spread the cost of the ambulance service to 50% population and 50% average calls using the data that the City of Old Town had provided. She forwarded the information to Bill Mayo last week with the additional follow up questions that were posed at the last meeting. He responded that he will look at the information and get back to her.

Melissa met with the intern last week at the Town Office, he measured the Town Council room and obviously was able to get a better idea on what was needed for remote and live streaming. He will be working on a new proposal. In preparation for the new equipment Melissa did provide information regarding the required remote participation policy. Maine Municipal Association provided guidance regarding accommodations for the disabled. As noted, the key word is "reasonable" and the town is not required to provide accommodations that would present an undue hardship. Councilor Lugdon asked if the Town was required to live stream the meetings. Melissa reported that they were not however it could be a way to encourage public participation. Melissa added that the policy is needed in case the Town Council wants or needs to have the meeting virtual. Councilor Wade noted that if only one Council member was not able to attend an in-person meeting, they could do so as outlined by the policy. Melissa will add the policy to the public hearing calendar.

In balancing the general fund checking for February it was discovered that the RSU had not cashed their January 2022 assessment check. Melissa contacted the finance director Barbara Grindle and she stated that it had not been received. The re-issue is presented in the warrant. This opened up the conversation regarding Bradley's fund balance with the RSU. The superintendent was planning on using the additional funds received for this current year to lessen the assessment for 2022-2023, that amount

is \$73,226.67. Melissa was under the assumption that this decision would be that of the Town Council. The RSU is also hopeful that the Town will use the existing balance of \$61,000 as well. Melissa requested the Town Council's thoughts regarding the fund balance. Councilor Lugdon questioned if any of those funds could be used towards the legal costs associated with the subject of school choice. Town Council discussed the orientation of the fund balance and the historical use. It was the consensus of the board that the funds will be used at the discretion of the Town Council when the tax rate is set. The Council has historically been able to maintain a fair and consistent tax rate and would like to continue that practice.

**New Business:** Councilor Delaware asked if Melissa could write an article for the Community Connections newspaper highlighting the office remodel. Town Council suggested that the article be written in the Town Report.

Councilor Delaware reported that the next senior drive-thru luncheon will be on April 20<sup>th</sup>; lasagna will be served. She also reported that the senior exercises are now taking place at the municipal buildings on Wednesday's.

**Unfinished Business:** Melissa reported that she had made two changes to the municipal budget as approved by Town Council at the last meeting. Those changes included adding single dental coverage for Cindy and April and removal of the purchase of the portable thermal imaging cameras as they were purchased with ARPA funds. These changes have placed the municipal budget \$6286.84 below the budget cap. Councilor Lugdon stated that he is having a difficult time accepting the 120% increase in the ambulance contract price. Melissa stated that she had posed some additional questions to the City Manager, those included what the funding sources they referred to in the meeting, why depreciation was included in the budget, how many calls were chargeable and what is the % of uncollected costs per member town. Town Council continued to discuss the ambulance service. Chief Gifford stated that Old Town will be at a training in Bradley on the 14<sup>th</sup> with the ambulance.

**Municipal Warrants:** Councilor Lugdon made a motion to accept the warrants as presented seconded by Councilor Clemons, vote 4/0.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting was set for 4/12/2022.

**Adjourn:** Councilor Lugdon made a motion to adjourn seconded by Councilor Delaware, vote 4/0.