

**Public Hearing
and
Town Council Meeting
May 24, 2022**

Roll Call and Open Public Hearing: Council Chair Mark Ketch opened the public hearing. All Town Council members were present except for Councilor Wade, who was excused.

Public Comment regarding June 14, 2022 Municipal Referendum: Manager Doane explained the warrant articles

Article 1 is asking for voter approval to expend \$1,648,679.00 for the municipal expenditures.

Article 2 is asking for voter approval to received \$1,648,678.00 in municipal revenues (\$710,300 revenues, \$262,875 transfer from reserves and \$675,504 raised from taxes).

Article 3 is asking for voter approval to allow Town Council to receive and expend miscellaneous grant or other funds. Melissa explained that this article approval last year provided Town Council the authorization to received and expend ARPA funds.

Article 4 is asking for voter approval to authorize the State to issue licenses for the sale of liquor to be consumed on premises of licensed establishments on Sundays. She further explained that there are no current licenses, however this approval will allow if there are any future requests.

Council Lugdon asked for clarification regarding transfers from reserves, Melissa explained that is the carryforward from the current budget.

Close Public Hearing: Council Chair Mark Ketch closed the public hearing.

Open Town Council Meeting: Council Chair Mark Ketch opened the Town Council meeting.

Review of Minutes: Councilor Ketch made a motion to accept the Town Council minutes from May 10, 2022 seconded by Councilor Lugdon, vote 4/0.

Citizens Request: None

Managers' Report: Melissa reported that the cross culvert on Boynton Street will be replaced tomorrow. John Milligan will be around town for the next few weeks doing miscellaneous road work. Originally Melissa has intended to do a paving RFP for Broad Street, Brown Street and Penney Lane. However, with the prices of petroleum and diesel other communities have had to postpone paving for 2022. The streets that were slated for an overlay are in good condition and there is no immediate need. It would be her recommendation that the paving be held off in hopes that 2023 will have different pricing. She added that any un-used budget amount can be carryforward to the 2023-2024 budget. Town Council was in agreement.

Melissa reported that the Town Report will be ready on the 31st of May.

Melissa stated that \$707 has been raised for the Great Works Stream booklet "Let's go Up Stream" therefore the Town will stop accepting donations and 500 copies will be printed.

Last week Melissa met with Maine Gravesite Maintenance a company in Charleston that specializes in cleaning and repairing headstones. In walking both Evergreen and Knapp Cemetery there were many graves of veterans that are in need of repair. They suggested that the Town start budgeting between \$5000 to \$7000 per year for cemetery restoration, which Melissa will add to the 2023-2024 budget. They have placed the Town on their summer of 2024 work schedule. Melissa has also called a few contractors requesting quotes to remove several large trees that are dead. There is concern that if the trees fall, they will be damage to stones. Councilor Lugdon asked about the established trusts for cemetery care. Melissa stated that she will likely be asking for Council approval to expend some of those funds to take care of the trees, however she would recommend that the restoration become part of the normal budget so not to deplete the trusts.

The RSU Budget Meeting is set for May 24 at 7:00 at the Leonard Middle School Cafeteria. The assessment for the 2022-2023 budget is presently \$23,115.98 more than this current year. As the Town Council moves forward with the tax commitment in July the Town Council can determine how much if any of the Bradley fund balance should be used to reduce the assessment. Councilor Ketch noted that the RSU proposal provides using all of the additional funds received in the current year. Melissa recommended that Town Council continue to be cautious. If the entire amount is used with the current tax commitment it will likely cause a large increase in the tax rate in the future. It is best to wait and see the valuation calculation.

Melissa reported that there have been some interested bidders for the Fiberright facility. The board will be doing meetings Wednesday and Thursday afternoon to review the technical and financial capabilities.

Chief Gifford supplied Melissa with a proposal in which the Town of Milford presented to Greenbush for ambulance service. Greenbush is slightly different than Bradley has they has first responder service. The proposed price for Milford to provide service is \$55,000. Councilor Lugdon stated that he thought a regional solution is needed which would involve the County. Melissa agreed adding that it may even look like a regional agreement. Councilor Ketch noted that regionalized service would make sense, as Orono is going through Old Town to back up Milford and Old Town is going through Milford and Greenbush to do the same. Chief Gifford from the audience stated that the problem is statewide. Melissa stated that she would like to continue the conversation with Old Town, however there is a discussion to be made with Orono and Milford.

New Business: Councilor Ketch asked if the mowing was behind schedule. Melissa stated that the contract provides that there will be 2 mows in May, she asked that it be mowed before Memorial Day, she therefore expects it to be done tomorrow.

Councilor Lugdon stated that a new pole was installed on Cram Street and the bottom wires are very low to the ground. Melissa will call Versant and see if she can find a solution.

Councilor Ketch stated that he had attended the last school board meeting. There was discussion regarding the future of federal funds, and how it is anticipated that they will be less. He confirmed that the Town Council should be prudent in spending any school reserves.

Councilor Delaware reported that the Historical Committee event that was held last week had 17 in attendance. There was a lot of excitement in showcasing the new historical items that have been received. She also explained that Councilor Wade had given her a book from the Greenbush Historical Society and it described how Bradley, Milford, and Greenbush came from Indian Township 4.

Unfinished Business: Councilor Ketch made a motion to accept the warrant calling the June 14, 2022 municipal election, seconded by Councilor Clemons vote 4/0.

Councilor Delaware asked if there was going to be any further discussion regarding community solar. Councilor Lugdon stated that he had done some research and confirmed that these large projects are from out of state companies. He also did research on Novel and did not find anything alarming. Councilor Clemons also had done some research; the companies are looking for subscribers to commit though the assets have not been built. Melissa reported that because of our low electrical use, the Town can be eligible for a 1-year subscription rather than the 10 that was presented. She can bring back that information at the next meeting.

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

Next Meeting: The next meeting is set for June 7, 2022

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