

Town Council Meeting June 21, 2021

Open Town Council Meeting: Council Chair Mark Ketch opened the Town Council meeting. All Town Council members were present. Also present was Town Manager Melissa Doane.

Sullivans Waste Disposal: Due to illness Sullivan's Waste representatives were not able to attend, they requested to be put on the July 5, 2022 agenda. Manager Doane stated that she did provide a memo to the Town Council with a copy of the current contract. Councilor Ketch referenced a letter which was sent by Sullivans requesting a change, the letter states it was due to an uptick in COVID cases and he wondered if that was still the case. Melissa was not sure if that was still the case, however the contractor intends to keep these regulations which she does not believe are specific to the contract. Melissa stated she has provided the residents with these regulations, however there has been numerous complaints and a few weeks ago she spent 2 hours reviewing trash that was not picked up and she did not feel that was necessary. This prompted her to thoroughly review the contract and make contact with Sullivans and request that they address Town Council.

Review of Minutes: Councilor Ketch made a motion to accept the Town Council minutes from 06/07/2022, seconded by Councilor Wade, vote 5/0.

Citizens Request: None

Managers' Report: Melissa received notification that she has been appointed to the Blue-Ribbon Commission to Study Emergency Medical Services. She is not sure exactly what that the process will be, however she believes it will be 6 meetings and a report to the legislature in December. Councilor Lugdon made a motion that the Town Council not only support the nomination but thank her for the initiative and dedication in doing so, seconded by Councilor Delaware vote 5/0.

The City of Old Town was recipient of a grant with EMS for Maine to do a self-determination of their EMS service. The grant will evaluate the Old Town EMS service, develop options to the current type and level of service, and facilitate an informational program to leaders and taxpayers. Councilor Lugdon stated that he watched the video of the City of Old Towns budget meeting, it does not appear that they have adjusted the Bradley line item, he is hopeful that this grant will bring some movement towards a change in the cost sharing. Councilor Ketch asked if there was anything we should do in preparation for the next budget cycle. Melissa recommended that the town reach out to the Town of Milford and the Town of Orono to learn about their service and if it would be viable to have an agreement with them. Melissa added that it would recommend that the conversation be with Old Town that we don't want to leave their service however it is necessary to be fiscal responsible. Councilor Lugdon asked if we were "locked in" with Old Town, Melissa stated that there is no signed agreement, however service has always been provided. Town Council requested that the conversation start for other alternatives before payment is made to Old Town.

Melissa stated that the election was a success with 176 ballots casts. Councilor Clemons was elected to another 3-year term in addition all warrant articles were passed.

It is believed that the MRC will be new owner of the plant. The receiver, the bondholders and the court are now finalizing the ownership. It will be necessary for the MRC Board to identify funding opportunities and qualified partners to assist. It is estimated that 20 million dollars is needed to acquire the facility, resolve liens, and have the startup costs required. It will be very interesting as PERC is aging and currently is bypassing all solid waste to Juniper Ridge. Councilor Ketch asked what the advantage was, Melissa stated the board would have liked to had purchaser/operator, however there were no qualified bidders. There were several bidders and interested parties however could not provide the financial and technological capabilities needed. The benefit is that MRC will own a 50-million-dollar facility and has the members trash to make it work, the board will now need to find a partner/operator.

Melissa requested an update regarding the Sidewalk grant from the DOT. In January the estimated cost of was \$317,400 with the town having a 20% match. This match of \$63,480 was going to consist of \$30,000 removal from undesigned fund balance as approved by the voters and the additional would be drawn off the ARPA funds received. DOT is going to do another estimate as the costs for construction projects in 2022 have been tripled from what was originally expected. If the cost comes in at the \$600,000 to \$900,000 cost the 20% match will likely be too great. Councilor Ketch questioned if the Town would be eligible for the grant in the future when the cost is reasonable.

April Cookson has expressed an interest in becoming the Town Clerk and Registrar of Voters for Bradley. April and Cindy currently are Deputy Clerks and perform 90% of the duties prescribed to both these positions. The biggest change would be in regards to town ordinance and public hearing certifications and elections. Melissa would become a Deputy Clerk after April is fully trained. April will start the start the process of becoming a certified clerk. The Town of Bradley Charter states that the Town Manager shall serve as the Town Clerk and Registrar of Voters unless otherwise directed by the Town Council. Councilor Ketch asked about the certification, Melissa reported that there is training documentation required. Councilor Lugdon asked if could be a stepping stone for her, Melissa stated that it could be, adding it would be a benefit to have another employee who knows how to do elections. Melissa will do the election with April in November and would always be available to assist in the future. Councilor Wade asked if the training would have a cost, Melissa stated that there is no budgetary concern. Councilor Wade made a motion to move forward with training April Cookson to become the Town Clerk, seconded by Councilor Clemons vote 5/0.

New Business:

Councilor Lugdon noted that there was note from a resident to Town Council regarding the speeding on Highland Avenue and Cram Street. The resident requested speed bumps, he suspected that would be very difficult. Melissa agreed as there is no public works department to assist with the upkeep and plowing would be difficult. Melissa will contact the Penobscot County Sheriff's office and request that patrol be done at more specific times.

Councilor Ketch announced that a thank you from the Old Town Seniors Project Graduation Card was received.

Councilor Lugdon made a motion that the Town Manager Contract be accepted, seconded by Councilor Wade, vote 5/0.

Unfinished Business: Councilor Wade asked if there has been any review of the roads to see how they are withstanding. Councilor Lugdon reported that Cram Street, Baker Lane and Ten Road and are doing well. Manager Doane stated she reviews the roads on a continual basis and there are no issues. The roads that were slated to be overlaid this year include Brown Street, Broad Street and Penney Lane. The large increase in cost and the fact that they are in good condition caused a decision to be made to table that for the future.

Councilor Delaware, expressed concern about roof repair on the municipal building, she found a piece of roof on the ground. Manager Doane confirmed that the roof will need to be replaced and it is the capital improvement plan. There was discussion of the possibility of the metal roof replacement.

Councilor Ketch asked if there were any new information regarding the community solar project and a date when the savings would be expected. Melissa stated that she had submitted all the necessary paperwork and was not aware what the date of service was.

Councilor Clemons stated that he had communication with Bill Varney regarding broadband at Chemo Pond. He confirmed that they had not received grant funding and did plan on reapplying in the next round. He also stated that his company had paid the make ready fees for the pole; the companies that owns the poles have until end of September to do so; Mr. Varney has a crew ready to go for October 1.

Municipal Warrant:

Councilor Ketch made a motion to accept the municipal warrants as presented, seconded by Councilor Wade. Councilor Lugdon asked what the check to the RSU for \$60,041 was for in regards to excess tuition, Melissa stated that was for school choice tuition which is paid yearly. Vote 5/0.

Councilor Wade asked if there had any information supplied regarding the Supreme Court decision regarding using state funds for a religious school, the court ruled that those funds can be used. Councilor Clemons stated that the municipality has to pay those funds, he also stated there is a prevision against discrimination which would halt funding, these religious schools are open against the LGBQ community. Manager Doane was not aware of these rulings

Next Meeting: Set for July 5, 2022

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn made by Councilor Wade seconded by Councilor Ketch Vote 5/0