

## Town Council Meeting

July 5, 2022

**Open Town Council Meeting:** Town Manager Melissa Doane opened the Town Council meeting. All members of Town Council were present.

**New Business:** Councilor Lugdon made notice of signage on 114 Cram Street as it is starting to cross the street to the opposite side of the resident's home that is putting up the signs. Melissa was aware and was going to have the code enforcement officer look into the issue and have it taken care of.

Councilor Lugdon made a motion to nominate Councilor Ketch as Town Council chair for FY 22-23, seconded by Councilor Clemons, vote 5/0.

Councilor Wade made a motion to adopt the FY 22-23 Municipal Budget as approved by the voters on June 14, 2022, seconded by Councilor Lugdon, vote 5/0.

Councilor Ketch made a motion to approve the Treasurers Disbursement Warrant for Employee Wages, Benefits, and State Fees as presented. Manager Doane discussed it would allow only one signature from council on the warrant to be able to release the funds, seconded by Councilor Lugdon, vote 5/0.

**Sullivans Waste Disposal:** Representatives Liz and Carla were present in this discussion about possibly amending their contact with the Town of Bradley for trash pickup. It had been discussed by Councilor Ketch that no amendment was needed just a change in how things would be picked up. Pete who is the foreman for Sullivan's was not available to be present for the meeting. However, large items such as dog houses, cat carriers, furniture and metal are not going to be picked up during the regular weekly trash pick-ups, large items are to be disposed of at the fall/spring clean up the Town offers. Weekly trash pick up will contain weekly house hold trash and items that should either be bagged or in a contained unit. Boxes, which was one of the residents' complaints, will be picked up with regular trash pick-up. Boxes should be contained, multiple boxes should be broken down and either stored in a bigger box, bundled or in a plastic bin so they are not loose. Loose trash that is on the ground, will not be picked up as there are sanitary reasons and the workers are not responsible for items that are not contained. Since Melissa and Liz last spoke, the complaints of trash have not been an issue. There had been one complaint Manger Doane had received when his trash was not picked up for unspecific reasons,

after Manger Doane spoke to the resident, he did call Sullivans and they sent a worker back out to pick up the trash. Councilor Wade spoke about his experiences with Sullivans and stated he has not had any issues with trash pick-up, Styrofoam that comes with packages, can either be bagged or can go in the same box/container that the other boxes are stored in. Manager Doane did state that she agrees with Sullivans on not picking up large items, but would like residents being able to throw their cardboard out with regular weekly trash as well as she agrees that garbage should be either in a container or be bagged. The containers and the bags should not weigh more than 40lbs. Councilor Ketch recommends maybe sending reminders out to residents to keep them aware of the policies. Manager Doane did mention that reminders are on Facebook, the google page as well as the electronic sign outside of the municipal building to make residents aware.

**Review of Minutes:** Councilor Ketch made a motion to accept the Town Council minutes for 06/21/2022, seconded by Councilor Delaware, vote 5/0.

**Citizens Request:** None

**Managers' Report:** Melissa reported that she had contacted Maine Municipal Association regarding LD 290, the act to "Stabilize Property Tax for Individual 65 Years of Age". This law goes into effect on August 8, 2022. The Governor's Office has requested assistance from Maine Municipal Association, Maine Revenue, the Attorney General's Office and Maine Municipal Assessors Association. At this time the current bill states that 100% of reimbursement will be paid by the State to the municipalities, Manger Doane suspects that number will go down to 50% over time. When the homestead reimbursement was put forth it stated that the State would pay at 100% reimbursement to the Towns and as of now it is as low as 62% and could go to as low as 50%. No material is currently available; Melissa will provide more information as it does become available. Councilor Clemons presented into that it was going to cost \$315,000 to implement and \$7 million a year to process.

Melissa spoke with Novel Energy regarding the community solar contract. The project Bradley will be associated with is in Ashland, it is expected to be online between April or September of 2023.

Melissa spoke with the Town of Orono regarding the Ambulance services; they currently do not have the capacity to serve Bradley. The manager, Sophie Wilson stated she recognized the need for an outlining community such as Milford, Veazie, Bradley, etc. She is going to schedule a

meeting to define the needs and brainstorm for a solution. Melissa and Eric will be participating the meeting. Councilor Lugdon asked if the meeting would be open to the public, Melissa was not sure but would keep council informed.

Melissa will be filing tax liens for unpaid 2022 real estate taxes on Tuesday July 12. She requested a motion to allow authorization to release the checks to the Penobscot County Registry of Deeds for filling of the liens and to the USPS for mailings without the Town Council warrant signature. Councilor Delaware made the motion as presented, seconded by Councilor Ketch, vote 5/0.

The second check in regards to ARPA funds was received on 06/29/2022 the total amount received by the Town of Bradley was \$157,338.90. The unspent balance is \$127,745.06 with \$50,000 of the being committed to Chemo Pond broadband expansion. There is \$77,745 that needs to be spent by the year 2025.

Melissa spoke with ME-DOT once again regarding the sidewalk cost estimate. The preliminary engineering and right of way is estimated to be \$92,500 in which Bradley would be responsible for \$18,500. It appears the construction cost is expected to be \$450,000, with a 20% match the town would be responsible for and additional \$90,000, which is \$50,000 more than originally expected. ME-DOT did state that if the Town was to enter into the agreement and does not go through with the construction within 10 years, the Town will have to reimburse DOT. If the Town does not sign the agreement, it would be necessary to re-apply when pricing becomes more stable. If the Town moves forward with agreement, it is expected that the construction would start in 1 ½ to 2 years. The construction is to replace the sidewalk from Bullen Street to Cram Street. It would involve the removal of the old sidewalk and curbs and bring the new sidewalk out 5' except where the telephone poles are they would only be brought out to 4'. Melissa had suggested to either use the ARPA funds and then start budgeting out over time for the addition funds or if not going forward to look into another funding. At this time the Council had tabled the decision and will bring it back up for discussion at the next town council meeting.

Melissa anticipates on getting the valuation numbers for Mark before the July 19 meeting; therefore, Town Council can plan on doing the tax commitment as that meeting.

The fiscal year end was completed without error. Melissa did note that the amount the Town provided to her retirement is \$150.26 over. It appears that her required vacation and sick time buy out included the deduction. Melissa can speak to the auditor on how to reimburse the \$150.26, or the town Council could authorize the overage. Councilor Lugdon brought motion to authorize the overage, seconded by Councilor Wade, vote 5/0.

The spring clean-up tonnage invoice was received; 14.97 tons was collected. It was discussed that was a good outcome with the time period of the collection.

Councilor Wade had provided a resolution that was presented to him regarding the proposal that would put the Town of Bradley on record as opposing referendum to have the State of Maine take assets of major electric utilities by eminent domain. Melissa contacted Maine Municipal Association, they stated that no position on the proposal was made, and it was suggested that the proposal is still too premature. No further action was taken

Melissa stated that the nominations are completed for the 2022-2024 Legislative Policy Committee, the candidates for District 10 are herself and Kevin Howell, Town Manger of Carmel. A motion for approval of the two candidates and signatures are needed. Councilor Wade made the motion to accept the approval, seconded by Councilor Clemons, vote 5/0.

Melissa reported that Maine Municipal Association Risk Management had done a site survey on June 22, 2022 of the Post office and Fire Department, they found no issues. An earlier survey was done of the municipal office and salt shed. Town minor issues were found, they would like the tree removed form directly behind the building and the pavement repaired on the walkway beside the building, where is starting to bubble up and crack, it is a risk hazard. John Milligan is going to do the sidewalk repair and the Eric with the Fire Department will be moving the shed to behind the station as they would be able to use it and they will also be removing the tree.

**Unfinished Business:** Councilor Ketch was wondering if the paving on Boynton Street and culverts were completed, Manager Doane did let him know it was completed. He said that they look great.

Councilor Ketch was wondering if there had been any complaints about Fire Works from the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. No complaints were made.

**Municipal Warrants:** Councilor Ketch made motion to accept the warrants, second by Councilor Lugdon, vote 5/0. No concerns were brought up about the warrants.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday July 19, 2023

**Motion to adjourn:** Councilor Ketch, seconded by Councilor Wade, vote 5/0.