

Town Council Meeting

September 27, 2022

Opening of Public Hearing: Councilor Ketch open the public hearing for General Assistance Ordinance Appendices A-G. Manager Doane stated as per every year it is required that the municipal officials hold a public hearing regarding the general assistance appendices. The levels are established by the Department of Health and Human Services. Councilor Ketch was wondering if they could make changes to the appendix, in which Manager Doane did state that changes could be done yes, however, they would be required to have resident surveys done, as wells as show reasonable reasons why to change the appendix from what the State of Maine has set it too.

Close public hearing: Council Chair Ketch closed the public hearing with a motion to be made to accept the General Assistance Ordinance Appendices A-G with the guidelines the State of Maine Department of Health and Human Services has set, seconded by Councilor Lugdon. Vote 5/0

Open Town Council Meeting: All member of the Council were present, except for Councilor Ann Delaware who is participating remotely. Town Manager Doane was also present.

Review of Minutes: Councilor Ketch made a motion to accept the Town Council Minutes from 09/13/2022 seconded by Councilor Wade. Vote 5/0

Citizens Request: Glen Mower, who is currently running for Treasurer of Penobscot County was present and wanted to introduce himself to the Town Council. He stated that he is going to different Town Meetings around the County to introduce himself as well as give the members of Council a copy of his agenda if he is elected. Council Ketch, asked what his biggest challenge is going to be in which Mr. Mower responded that the remodel of the jail is going to be the biggest challenge he sees. Councilor Lugdon, asked Mr. Mower how many people were running for the Treasurer of Penobscot County, in which he responded that there are only two. Mr. Mower did provide a little feed back about him self stating that he has helped with non-profit organizations, he has helped with community service around Penobscot County as well as he runs his own business.

Managers' Report: Manager Melissa state that she has a web meeting with Camden National Bank last week to go over the town's investment accounts. She had concerns that there is a continual loss on the monthly statements. It was explained to her that the majority of the investments are held in bonds and as interest rates increase the value of the bond will go down until they mature, which in turns creates the loss on the paper. Councilor Lugdon, asked Town Manager Doane when the maturity date was, she responded that the bonds would mature in the year 2026.

The funds have been approved through the State of Maine Procurement office, a construction meeting was held las Wednesday with Thorntons, the engineer and Maine Forest and Logging Museum. They were scheduled to move equipment this week and being the prep work. As Maine Forest and Logging is having their annual living history days this weekend, the construction on the spillway will hopefully start next week. Manager Doane, further explained that there had been concerns from Chemo Pond Lake Association that a 2-weir system was not being built. Manager Doane met with Leslie, the Board President, last Friday in which she explained that a 2-weir system was not engineered due to permitting. It had been originally discussed when the study was completed, however, engineering found that the level of the permitting would be much greater due to the water impacts for the entire stream and pond. The system that is being built is to improve the design that is currently in place and stop the use of boards to control the water. Councilor Lugdon was wondering is they think a second weir will be needed, Manager Doane responded that no, they do not believe a second weir will be needed and that the one weir will do what they need it to do.

The fall clean up is set for this Saturday 10/01/2022. April has volunteered to work the cleanup; as of this afternoon only 8 residents have paid the \$15.00 fee. Councilor Ketch, asked if residents could pay on the day of the cleanup. Manager Doane, responded that yes residents can pay on that day, however, we do like if they can pay ahead of time, but yes, we will collect payments on the day of the clean-up.

The Municipal audit field work was completed last Tuesday. The auditor and Manager Doane spoke about updating the capitalization policy which provides a threshold purchase dollar amount of \$1000.00 to record inventory. This policy was created in 2004 and as is well known \$1000.00 is not a large amount. The auditor suggested using a \$5000.00 threshold instead. Manager Doane will start working on creating that policy and provide a draft to the Town Council.

Councilor Ketch, Councilor Lugdon, and Town Manger Melissa Doane spoke at the RSU school board meeting on September 21, 2022. The meeting did not go that great; however, it was left with some discussion with Representative Dill to consider a change in the legislative. Manager Doane believes that the issue of school choice has not been discussed with the board in sometime and are not fully aware of what the actual cost are. She has reached out to the finance director to get information on how much Alton, Bradley and the RSU have been paying with in

the last 5 years. In addition, she reached out to the Department of Education to find out how many municipalities have the same arrangement as Bradley. Manager Doane would like to get in contact with those municipalities to see if they are having the same issues with the cost of school choice. Once she has more information, she will work on getting a report to the RSU school Board and try to present the issue again to them. Council Ketch asked if they know how it will affect the number of future enrolled students, will the RSU school participations number decrease. Manager Doane is not sure if the school board has a full understanding on how school choice will affect the future enrollment to RSU34 schools. At this time school aged children in Bradley do not have choice of school until they reach the 6th grade. Councilor Lugdon thought that Manager Doane had done a wonderful job at the meeting and does feel that the school board doesn't feel that they fully understand why the Town of Bradley would like to phase out school choice. Manager Doane was in hopes that at the meeting she could have presented to the School Board on how much money they were spending out for RSU34. Manager Doane did mention that former Superintendent Mr. Walker did see how much money it was costing them for school choice especially when it came time to do the yearly budget, they tended to go over budget because it is unknown how many students are going to be participating in School Choice. Council Ketch as Manager Doane if she has thought about have a vote about school choice with the resident. Manager Doane, stated that she was all for having the resident vote, she would like to provide the residents more information before doing so. Councilor Lugdon, feels that once the parents know all the facts about school choice and have a true understanding about why the Town of Bradley would like to start phasing it out. Councilor Wade brought up the School Voucher program and that more schools are looking to take them, such as John Bapst High School. He feels that the big this is the cost to the Municipalities such as Alton, Bradley and the RSU. With the school board not having no representation for the municipalities it is hard to tell. Councilor Lugdon feels that with a spread sheet that Manager Doane can construct if she gets the data from Maine Department of Education will also help with showing the cost of school choice. Manger Doane felt that she thought they were on the same page, however, it was shown that they were not and she feels that we should follow what the voter chose back when they decided to merge Alton, Bradley and RSU to one school district.

Town Manger Melissa Doane has prepared the RFP for the tanker lease purchase which she presented. It is her intention to advertise it in the Bangor Daily News on 10/01/2022, 10/08/2022 with a due date of 11/16/2022 in which the Town Council will review at the 11/22/2022 meeting.

New Business: Councilor Ann Delaware has a sit-down senior luncheon scheduled for the second Wednesday in October at 11:30am. Councilor Lugdon brought up the issue on the dangerous buildings in which they had received a memo from Manger Doane on. One home that was brought to the attention to the Town Manger after a resident made a comment on, the owner of the home has passed away, Town Manager Doane did talk to the nephew of the decease, and he

stated that the home is in probate right now, but once her affairs are completed with the court, they will be taking care of the mess at the home and he was hoping to be able to take advantage of the Fall Clean-up this weekend.

Unfinished Business: Councilor Lugdon asked Manager Doane how long the resident of 114 Cram Street had to come into compliance. Manger Doane responded that she believes he has until 10/01/2022, she has spoken with the Code Enforcer Dean who stated that the resident is starting to come into compliance and has removed a majority of the signs from the property.

Municipal Warrants: Councilor Ketch made a motion to accept the municipal warrants as presented, seconded by Councilor Lugdon, vote 4/0. Ann was unable to vote as she did not receive the municipal warrants.

Next Meeting: The next meeting was set for October 11, 2022

Motion to adjourn: Councilor Wade made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by councilor Ketch.