

## Town Council Meeting

January 03, 2023

**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.

**Review of Minutes:** Councilor Ketch made a motion to accept the Town Council minutes from 12/16/2022, seconded by Councilor Wade, vote 5/0.

**Citizens Request:** No citizen's present

**Managers' Report:** Town Manager Melissa Doane as well as Councilor Lugdon attended a meeting at the Old Town High School regarding the change of use of the Viola Rand School. Mr. Cyr and Mr. Doty explained many items, such as a steady decrease in enrollment, an imminent budget deficit and a desire to have a central administrative office. They presented a plan that included using Viola Rand School to house the RSU Pre-K program and have students from Bradley attend Old Town Elementary School. There were several parents in attendance and they voiced their concerns with the change. Town Manager Melissa Doane encouraged the parents to stay engaged and assist with solutions. Councilor Lugdon added the School Board meeting was the same as what was presented at this meeting. Councilor Lugdon also stated that there are 2 School Board members that are not in agreement with closing Viola Rand School and sending students to Old Town Elementary School. Councilor Ketch asked if the board knows when they will have a final decision. Councilor Lugdon responded by saying that at this time it is under advisement, and thinks the school board will go back and revise their plan. Councilor Ketch asked if the plan was just for Viola Rand or if there are more pieces to decide before making a decision. Councilor Lugdon stated that there is discussion regarding Viola Rand School as well as the Alton Elementary School, they want to move the 5<sup>th</sup> grade students from Alton Elementary School to Old Town Elementary School, Councilor Wade asked if they would do the move mid school year; Councilor Lugdon stated that the change would not happen until the start of the new school year. Town Manager Doane added that she believed that the change was going to be part of the school budget process. Councilor Lugdon commented that in his opinion the school department used funds from Covid to hire more staff, now that the Covid funds are no longer going to be available, the new positions that had been created are now going to either need to be funded or be dissolved.

Robert Wing, resident of 114 Cram Street was served notification of the February 6, 2023 land use violation court date. Councilor Wade had also provided an email regarding some suggestions to assist with Mr. Wing getting the assistance he needs and to hopefully improve the living conditions of the neighborhood. Town Manager Doane stated that one suggestion was to have the CEO visit the home to see if condemning the home is possible. Manager Doane

reported that in the past it has been the legal guidance that the property is not a candidate for condemnation as the property has the opportunity to have running water and has a working septic system. The resident could use the septic system by hand carrying water or meet the requirements of the Water District to have water installed. In addition, the email suggested that Adult Protective Services be in contact with him; Manager Doane has reached out to them and they are not willing to do so as they have attempted several times in the past to assist Mr. Wing and he refuses to follow the rules and policies for any programs. Adult Protective Services actually stated that law enforcement can require he get help by arresting him and having a forced evaluation done. Councilor Wade also mentioned a similar case in Clifton, Maine, Town Manager Melissa Doane spoke with the Town Manager of Clifton and they have their own Police Department and are able to get assistance much easier than with County or State provided law enforcement. Manager Doane intends to speak with the municipal attorney further about these specifics at the court hearing. Councilor Wade stated the judge should know that Adult Services is not willing to help and thinks the judge should be aware of what is going on. Manager Doane is hoping that she and Code Enforcement Officer Dean Bennett can relay to the judge about the ongoing issues they have with the resident, perhaps providing a copy of the letter that was written to the district attorney.

Town Manager Melissa Doane spoke with Representative Jim Dill and he will be moving forward a bill to allow municipalities the ability to opt out of school choice with voter approval. As it is unknown how many other towns and cities in Maine are facing the same issue as Bradley, this bill will provide additional information and sentiment. Councilor Lugdon mentioned that the bill might not pass the first time around, but feels that if it stays circulating and as the legislatures get educated on school choice, the bill might get passed at some point. Manager Doane mentioned that at this time grades 6-12 have the option of school choice.

Maine Municipal Association offers a workers compensation incentive program that can save up to 10% on insurance rates. Manager Doane stated the hardest part of a worker compensation program is the record keeping, as the Fire Chief Eric Gifford is already participating in the OSHA SHAPE program his records are perfect. The Maine Municipal Association encouraged the Town to sign up. It is necessary that the Town Council approve and sign the resolve to grant permission to join the program. Councilor Ketch made a motion to approve and sign the workers compensation incentive program resolve, seconded by Councilor Clemons, vote 5/0.

In December, Manager Doane sent certified letters to outstanding personal property tax owners giving them until December 22, 2022 to pay in full or be subject to a small claims proceeding. The only account left outstanding is Black Bear LLC which is Spencer Ice Cream. To move forward with a small claims proceeding it is necessary for the Town Council to approve a Motion and Order. Manager Melissa Doane will send a return receipt certified mailing giving the owners an additional 14 days from receipt of the letter to make payment in full. As Manager Doane believes the owners travel south for the winter, it may be necessary to have them served upon their return. Their mailing address is listed at 499 Broadway in Bangor which is the UPS store.

Motion was made by Councilor Lugdon to approve the Motion and Order as presented, seconded by Councilor Delaware, vote 5/0.

As required by the managers contract, Manager Doane provided to Town Council documentation to perform her yearly review. Councilor Ketch responded that there will be an Executive Session at the next town meeting.

**New Business:** Councilor Delaware stated that the next senior luncheon will be held on Wednesday January 18, 2023 at St. Anns, it will be a sit down starting at 11:30, being served will be homemade tomato soup, grilled cheese sandwiches, and apple crisp for dessert.

Councilor Ketch asked about the Besse property in which Councilor Wade said the home is being occupied and that he has seen someone raking and cleaning up the property.

Councilor Wade asked about two properties on Main Street, as the condition is poor. Town Manager Doane stated that she will have Code Enforcement Officer Dean Bennett do an inspection on the properties.

**Unfinished Business:** Councilor Clemons spoke about the broadband internet that was supposed to be up in December 2022 at Chemo Pond, at this time he stated that the first two miles had been installed, which is in Clinton. He stated that the current contract includes Clifton and Holden, he is anticipating that Bradley's broadband will be up in the fall of 2023. There are a total of 5 miles of replacement poles.

Councilor Clemons asked Manager Doane about the light in the parking lot, Manager Doane responded that she doesn't believe it is an actual light but she will take another look at it.

Town Manager Melissa Doane mentioned that the tree branch which was laying on a wire, located on Bullen Street was actually growing into the wires and had not fallen.

**Municipal Warrants:** Councilor Ketch made motion to accept the municipal warrants as presented, seconded by Councilor Wade, vote 5/0.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting is set for January 17, 2023

**Motion to adjourn:** Councilor Lugdon made motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilor Clemons, vote 5/0.