Town Council Meeting

January 31, 2023

Open Town Council Meeting: Councilor Lugdon acting as Council Chair opened the Town Council meeting. Councilor Mark Ketch was excused and Councilor Delaware participated via zoom. Also present was Town Manager Melissa Doane.

Review of Minutes: Councilor Lugdon made a motion to accept the Town Council minutes from January 17, 2023 seconded by Councilor Wade, vote 4/0.

Citizens Request: None

Managers' Report: Town Manager Melissa Doane reported that Fire Chief Eric Gifford and the officers of the fire department will be going to inspect the tanker on February 13th. The expected delivery will be sometime in March.

Chief Gifford has asked Town Manager Melissa Doane to assist the department in writing a grant to FEMA to purchase an air compression station that will be used to fill the SCBA bottles. This grant will be a regional grant with Bradley and Old Town. Bradley Fire department will house the air compression station and the cost of the grant match split equally between the two departments. Manager Doane stated she does not have much more to add to as it was presented to her today. The estimated cost received is just under $80,000, as assumes the match is at least 15%, however has not done any research.

The MRC quarterly meeting was held January 26th. Unfortunately, there is nothing new to report, other than the Revere will not be closing on the plant today. Their exclusivity ends tonight at midnight and it is expected that an announcement will be made tomorrow.

Manager Doane noted that included in the warrant presented is a check to Camden National bank in the amount of $22,825 which is the yearly deposit from the budget appropriation for capital reserves. The check represents $21,000 for fire capital reserves and $1,825 for SCBA replacement reserves. The budget appropriated an additional $21,000 for municipal building capital reserves; however, Manager Doane did not include it in the deposit at this time. Next Friday the RFPs are due for the town line signs and the roof repairs. Depending on the outcome of the RFP's, the funds currently in the general fund may be used for the projects.

December 9, 2022, Manager Doane sent out the automatic foreclosure notice regarding the 2020 real estate taxes. The lien for these taxes were filed on July 23, 2022 creating an automatic foreclosure date of January 23, 2023. On December 9th, five notices were sent out, 4 of those property owners paid before the foreclosure date, allowing them the option to only pay the 2020 lien and have a regular lien discharged. One property owner, Stephen Roy did not make payment until 01/26/2023, therefore as per the foreclosure policy he was required to pay

all outstanding real estate taxes. A quitclaim deed is required to release the property back to Mr. Roy by a way of motion. Councilor Lugdon made a motion to approve the quit claim deed as presented, seconded by Councilor Wade, vote 4/0.

Town Manager Melissa Doane informed the Town Council that the initial court appearance for Robert Wing's Land Use Violation is Monday, February 6, 2023. As has been stated before, if Mr. Wing agrees to the stipulated judgment, then he is admitting to the violation in exchange for a reduction in fines. The municipal attorney has asked what a recommended fine amount would be. Melissa would recommend that the fine amount be all attorney fees which are currently at $2,506.00 and will increase due to the court appearance to an estimated $3500.00 and an additional amount of $3,500.00 for the fine. She is not sure if the judge would approve that amount due to financial hardship, however that is her recommendation if the Town Council approves. Councilor Lugdon made a motion to accept Manager Doane's recommendations, seconded by Councilor Clemons, vote 4/0. Town Manager Melissa Doane also drafted a letter written to be signed directly by the Town Council that would hopefully be submitted to a judge. Mr. Hamer has obviously asked to review the letter and he is unsure if it can be submitted into evidence as it could be inadmissible as hearsay. He did add that there may be a possibility that Melissa could take the stand and relay the information.

New Business: Town Manager Doane presented the first review of the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year Municipal Budget. She stated that as presented the budget is $40,305.15 above the self-imposed budget cap. The cost-of-living allowance provided in 2023 is 8.7% allowing for an allowable increase of $58,768.85. Manager Doane provided each council member a binder that provided her budget message notes that highlighted some considerations. Manager Doane also stated she is waiting on the final bill from the County Commissioners as well as the updated revenue sharing. Melissa is hoping that these amounts will come into an amount to bring the budget to a net even, which is only to increase by the cost-of-living. Councilor Lugdon stated that the ambulance budget stood out to him. Manager Doane stated Old Town had not done the official request yet. They are still working through the assessment grant process; she is hoping but feels doubtful, Old Town will re-consider the cost sharing as of right now the estimated cost has increased about $60,000.

Unfinished Business: None

Municipal Warrants: Councilor Lugdon made a motion to accept the municipal warrants as presented, seconded by Councilor Wade, vote 3/0. (Councilor Delaware was not provided the information)

Next Meeting: The next meeting is set for February 14, 2023

Motion to adjourn: Councilor Delaware made motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Wade, vote 4/0.