

Town Council Meeting
April 11, 2023

Open Town Council Meeting: Council Chair Mark Ketch opened the meeting; all members were present including Town Manager Melissa Doane.

City of Old Town & Friends of Maine/EMS- Informed Community Self- Determination

Presentation (ICSD): Kevin McGinnis who represents Friends of EMS for Maine, a group of volunteers doing projects to support the EMS system. Their goal currently is to help EMS services especially in small, rural ambulance services that are in trouble. They also help ambulance services that have other issues, which happens to be the case in Old Town. Mr. McGinnis spoke that Old Town EMS services are both clinically and operational sound, he also mentioned that the increase in subsidies over the last couple of years are due to increased staffing as well as increase in the wages for current and new members. EMS is a very competitive market and very few people are willing to join and an increase in wages helps attract those members to stay or join. He noted that there were other reasons for increased subsidies, such as when a partner withdraws from service. This withdrawal has an impact on the regional response and cost to the towns as that revenue is no longer there; the other partners are forced to make up the difference. After doing research they have come to determine the 86% of the work the Old Town Fire and EMS does is EMS calls. They do try to bill out to partners a 50/50 amount where half of the cost comes from fire services and the other half comes from EMS services, however EMS calls are much more frequent. When Milford withdrew from Old Town the cost was not passed to all partners, Old Town covered the cost. Another issue that was brought up with the increase is the cost of unpaid patient services as well as what services can be billed. Councilor Lugdon brought up his concern that if the increases keep going, the way they do, he wonders if the small town of Bradley will be able to afford it. Councilor Wade also was questioned if there was a way to change the billing from only considering population but also taking use into account. Mr. McGinnis and Scott Wilcox, Old Town Public Safety Director stated that there had been that discussion however it was not feasible.

Review of Minutes: Councilor Wade made a motion to accept 3/28/2023 Town Council Minutes, seconded by Councilor Lugdon, vote 4/0. (Councilor Ketch was excused)

Citizens Request: None

Managers' Report: Manager Doane stated that the bill submitted by Representative James Dill "An Act to Allow Regional School Units with School Choice to opt out of School Choice " is scheduled to have a public hearing on Tuesday April 18th at 1:00. The hearing was originally set for March 29th, however was postponed. Manager Doane has submitted written testimony in support of the bill. Other testimony was submitted in support of Maine's Principals Association

and Maine Education Association. The Maine School Management Association had opposed the bill due to the bill that is written does not address the issue of a student being in the transition period. Melissa does plan on attending the public hearing.

Manager Doane has provided a letter to the resident at 114 Cram Street that the property is in compliance with the land use ordinance. Melissa has asked the resident to reach out to her to arrange to have the dumpster removed. Melissa has also contacted the municipal attorney and he has filed a motion to continue for the pending court case, which will allow a 3-month review of the property to see if he stays in compliance before any court proceedings are dismissed. Councilor Lugdon asked Melissa how much time she had spent with the resident to get him to come into compliance in which Melissa responded that she really did not spend too much time, she spent a great deal of time with him on the 27th and 28th of March, however since then the contact has been minimal. She reported that Mr. Wing was in the office on April 4th and gave her praise, though she was out sick. Councilor Ketch asked what would happen if he did not stay into compliance. Manager Doane responded that if he does not stay in compliance, the court proceeding will continue, he will have to pay for the clean-up fees, the dumpster as well as the attorney cost; this is all per the agreement he signed.

The MRC has announced last week that a new partner, Innovative Resource Recovery has been selected to assist with the re-opening of the plant. A town hall meeting is scheduled on April 13th at 1:00 to provide more details. Councilor Ketch asked Manager Doane if the meeting would be streamed in which she replied that it would, however registration is required, she will email Town Council the link.

New Business: Councilor Lugdon made a motion to accept the Acceptable Use Agreement as presented, seconded by Councilor Wade, vote 5/0.

Councilor Ketch made a motion to accept the Cyber Incident Reporting Policy as presented, seconded by Councilor Clemons, vote 5/0.

Councilor Ketch made a motion to accept the Disaster Recovery Policy as presented, seconded by Councilor Wade, vote 5/0.

Unfinished Business: Councilor Ketch asked Manager Doane how we did on the salt and sand in which Manager Doane replied that they did run out of sand; however, the cost did go from \$10 a ton to \$22. She also noted that it was necessary to order two loads of salt, however there is a large amount available for the 2023-2024 plowing.

Councilor Lugdon asked if the roads were still posted in which Manager Doane stated that at this time, they are but she is planning on taking the signs down by the end of the month.

Councilor Ketch asked about the solar ordinance, in which Manger Doane mentioned that at the last meeting CEO Dean Bennett presented the ordinance to the Council in which each

member received a copy, they will be again be presented at the public hearing on April 25th in which the Council will vote on and if accepted, they will go into effect 30 days after the hearing.

In regards to the 2022-2023 municipal budget there has not been any changes since the last meeting; the budget as it stands is \$4678.39 over self-imposed budget cap. At the last meeting there was brief discussion regarding the possible mill rate. The discussion specified that no surplus funds or carryforwards were being used in that calculation. Melissa also added that the RSU provided information that more funding is expected from the State. Superintendent Cyr, who was present in the audience, stated that additional funding will be used towards the task from municipalities.

Councilor Ketch addressed an email that had been received regarding the line item for office staff expenses and what that had covered. Manager Doane stated she was not exactly sure what exact amounts the email referenced. However, she stated that salaries were raised by the cost of living which is addressed in the charter, the training line item increased slightly due to April's desire to become a certified clerk, which is a huge benefit to the Town. Melissa added that the health insurance line item increased by 6%, which is low in comparison.

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

Next Meeting: Set for April 25, 2023 @ 6:30, there will also be a public hearing regarding the municipal budget, updated fee schedule, solar ordinance and floodplain management plan ordinance.

Motion to adjourn: Councilor Ketch made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Wade, vote 5/0.