

Town Council Meeting
June 6, 2023

Open Town Council Meeting: Councilor Ketch opened the Town Council meeting; all council members were present. Also present were Town Manager Melissa Doane and Fire Chief Eric Gifford.

Review of Minutes: Councilor Ketch made a motion to accept the minutes of May 23, 2023, seconded by Councilor Wade, Councilor Clemons requested a few changes, vote 5/0.

Citizens Request: None

Managers' Report: Melissa stated that the website was compromised on May 13, 2023. She was able to work with the domain/website host Dream Host to restore the site, the cost for the service was \$199.00, however, they were able to do the repair over Memorial Day weekend with little assistance from her. The host does offer a monitoring package for \$710.00 per year in which they will perform all the backups, updates, and tracking. As the year-end budget closes, she will be reviewing the administration accounts to see if funds are available for this service as it would be a huge benefit to have updates and backups completed regularly and correctly.

Representative James Dill contacted Melissa regarding LD 809, the act to allow municipalities the option to phase out school choice. As was expected the vote was ought to not pass. Mr. Dill did state he will try again next session. Melissa has placed it in her calendar to start communicating with Mr. Dill in September or October so perhaps an improved bill could be submitted. Councilor Ketch clarified that the issue with the bill seemed to be that there was no language permitting students currently enrolled in school choice to remain.

Typically, the Town Council allows the office to close early on June 30 so the staff can perform the fiscal year-end work. Melissa would like to have permission to close the office at noon on June 30, 2023. Councilor Lugdon made a motion to approve the closure, seconded by Councilor Delaware, vote 5/0.

At the last meeting, Melissa stated that the Maine Municipal Associations first review of the Town of Bradley safety records and policies would be taking place on May 24. Melissa reported that the visit went well, however, it is necessary for the Town to adopt several policies which will need Town Council approval. These include slip and fall, hazardous material, evacuation, etc. She has started working on those policies and will be bringing them forward soon.

The bids for the 1988 tanker were due on June 1; there were no bids. Chief Gifford and Melissa discussed it and would like to try to list it for sale in the amount of \$5000 on Facebook Marketplace. Town Council was in favor of posting the truck for sale.

At the last meeting, Melissa informed the Council that the cemeteries had an issue with "grubs." The cost to remove the damaged lawn, and replace the topsoil with loam, seed, and straw would be \$1150 for Evergreen and \$1300 for Knapp. Melissa has not spoken to Audrey; she is not sure if she will want

the Council to remove funds from the reserve for the repair or see how the summer goes. Audrey was concerned about the Powers Plot; Melissa was going to try to repair herself once the weather changes.

Also in regards to the cemeteries, in the 2023-2024 municipal budget, funds in the amount of \$5000 were allotted for cemetery stone repair. The company Maine Gravesite Maintenance does not believe they will be able to do any work this summer due to illness.

The tonnage for the spring clean-up held on May 13 was 16.14 which is normal. Councilor Ketch asked if the Town should consider going to a longer one-day event rather than two short events. Melissa stated that the budget for 23-24 includes two events. She would also suggest that the Town provide ample notice if it is decided to have only be one event. Town Council discussed that the process works well.

Melissa would like to have Town Council approval to issue a check to the United States Post Office on June 13, 2023, for mailing the 30-day notices regarding the 2022 unpaid real estate accounts. Councilor Clemons made a motion to approve the disbursement, seconded by Councilor Wade, vote 5/0.

Melissa reminded the Town Council that the municipal annual referendum is next Tuesday, June 13, 2023.

Notification was received from RSU 34 that all the presented budget articles passed at the May 31, 2023 meeting. The warrant and notice of the budget validation referendum to be held on June 13, 2023, requires Town Council motion to approve and signatures. Councilor Ketch made a motion to accept the warrant and notice, seconded by Councilor Wade, vote 5/0.

New Business: Councilor Ketch asked what was being done on the transmission line, Melissa stated that she believed it to be regular maintenance. Melissa did report that Dean will be providing Town Council with a detailed memo regarding a Versant Switching Station that will be located off Route 178 near Morin Fuel. The switching station will go on land and easements currently owned by Versant. Melissa participated in the public hearing and she asked about noise. She was told that there will be no noise associated with the station as there is not any transformers.

Councilor Delaware stated that there will be a senior luncheon on June 21, 2023, at 11:30 at St. Ann Church.

Councilor Clemons reported that the first hook-up of fiberoptic broadband was done at Chemo Pond.

Councilor Wade asked Manager Doane what effect the PERC closure would have on the Fiberight facility. Melissa stated that there had not been a board meeting since the announcement. She added that MRC has had a contract with PERC to take solid waste, however, PERC has not been operational for a very long time. The misconception is that the removal of MRC's waste from PERC prompted the closure, however, that is simply not true. The MRC did announce that they are eager to assist with the continued operation of the PERC facility as it is believed that both facilities can promote affordable solid waste disposal.

Unfinished Business: Councilor Lugdon asked what the status was of the air compressor filling station at the fire station. Melissa stated that there is a filling station at the station now which was entirely paid for by the City of Old Town. The system has been used to fill the departments SCBA's. She noted that the system is used, and she had submitted a grant application to FEMA and assistance from both Senator Collins and King's office, there has not been any notice of funding.

Melissa reported that the roof replacement has been delayed due to the weather, however, she did meet with the contractor on Monday to pick out a color.

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

Next Meeting: The next meeting was set for June 20, 2023, Councilor Lugdon and Councilor Wade will be absent.

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