

Town Council Meeting

May 23, 2023

Open Public Hearing: Council Chair Mark Ketch opened the public hearing, all Council Members were present, Councilor Clemons joined late. Also present was Town Manager Melissa Doane.

Public Hearing: Councilor Ketch asked if there was any public comment regarding the Annual Referendum Ballot. Town Manager Melissa Doane reported that the referendum will be held on June 13 at the Fire Station. The ballot for the referendum will be 3 questions/articles. Article 1 is asking for authorization for municipal expenditure, article 2 is asking for authorization regarding municipal revenues and article 3 is asking for authorization to accept grants and other unexpected funds from the State or Federal resources. Councilor Lugdon asked Manager Doane, why there is article 1A to elect a moderator. Manager Doane explained that though the Town of Bradley has a secret ballot form of town meeting a moderator is still required. The ballot clerks that are present do by the stroke of hands; they will elect a moderator before the Town Meeting begins at 8:00 am.

Close Public Hearing: Councilor Ketch closed the public hearing and opened the Town Meeting.

Madeline Jenson-Penobscot Climate Action Plan Introduction: Madeline Jenson introduced herself as one of the planners with BACTS, short for Bangor Area Comprehensive Transportation Systems. Present with Madeline Jenson and Executive Director of BACTS, Sara Devlin. Joining via Zoom is Olivia Vila, also a planner. They are part of the Penobscot Climate Action Plan. Madeline, Sarah, and Olivia presented information regarding the background of the project as well as updated the Town Council on Phase I and what to expect when they entered Phase II. Councilor Ketch asked Madeline, how they see small towns like Bradley fitting into their project. She reported that the data will come from recent and upcoming surveys. Councilor Ketch added that when looking at the slides, the two biggest contributors were residential households and transportation. The Town of Bradley consists of many residential homes in which they residents live in Bradley and use transportation to go out to work. Councilor Ketch asked Madeline what suggestion she might have if she has worked with a smaller community. Madeline stated that there have been no decisions yet so she is unsure, however, from what she has learned thus far there are concerns regarding the heating costs in old homes. Therefore, weatherization may become part of their toolkit. Councilor Delaware mentioned that when she had first met them about a month ago or so, she asked if they would be bringing in buses to Bradley. Madeline stated it is possible the tool kit would recommend expanding public transportation; however, it would largely be up to the City of Bangor if they want to provide public transportation in the area as well as for the Town of Bradley if they want to pay for the services. Councilor Lugdon asked where they planned on going next. Madeline stated that at this time they just want to engage with the people. Town Manager Melissa Doane stated she had put the first survey on the town's website and Facebook page. She had mentioned that maybe reframing the survey identifying as Climate Change, as it tends to bring a stigma. Phrasing the name as well as making it broader and more categorized so more residents may participate. Councilor Delaware stated it

was complex and thinks if they could have something that was not in so many words so people could understand what they are doing would help. Councilor Lugdon added that he has heard a little bit about the opportunities, but wonders about mitigation. Madeline stated that the process they are currently working on is trying to identify ways to fix the issues they know about. Councilor Ketch asked what type of commitment would be expected from the working groups. Olivia explained that the commitment would consist of at least 3 Zoom meetings, emailing, and collaborating on ideas with other members of your working group. Councilor Lugdon asked for the website people can go to if they wish to learn more about their project which Madeline provided, www.penobscotclimateaction.org.

Review of Minutes: Councilor Ketch made a motion to accept the minutes of May 9, 2023, with discussed changes, seconded by Councilor Delaware. (Vote 5/0)

Citizens Request: None

Manager's Report: Manager Doane mentioned that she did not work the spring clean-up, April did and she mentioned that it was steady, there had been no issues and it went very well. There was no tonnage amount to date.

Melissa reported that the cemeteries received the first mowing two weeks ago. There is a large amount of bare ground due to grubs. Audrey would like to have a couple of the plots taken care of due to perpetual care accounts. Manager Doane stated that she spoke with the contractor yesterday, he is going to provide a quote for the cost of both cemeteries and a breakdown of the specific plots if it is too costly.

Manager Doane reported the roof project will be starting on June 5th or June 12th. The contractor is anticipating limited blocking of the customer areas. He is planning on doing the front entrances on Sunday when both buildings being closed.

In January the Town Council authorized the Town of Bradley to participate in the Maine Municipal Associations Workers' Compensation Safety Incentive Program, the first review of the Town of Bradley properties and records is tomorrow. Melissa has been working on reviewing OSHA standards and is interested in the outcome. Manager Doane will keep the Council informed as the process moves forward.

The annual town report was released on Friday. The first copy was given out on Thursday night to Michael Strout, the grandson of Sally Strout. Manager Doane reported that there was an error as the Historical Committee and Bradley Four Seasons reports were left out. Copies of these reports were made and placed inside of the reports that are out for the public. April will be scanning the reports into the online pdf. The website has been down; however Melissa is hopeful to have the update done over the weekend.

The Department of Human Services audited the General Assistance files today, the review indicated that our records are in compliance with the statutes and policies, and we had no issues.

New Business: Councilor Ketch asked Manager Doane if she knew what was going on at the Milford, Bradley town line. Manager Doane stated she was unsure, she recalled back in 2020 she had participated in a public hearing; the land owners of the storage units were going to build a retirement community behind there. She does not know if that is what is going on there or not. Manager Doane also does not believe it would affect the land owned by the Town of Bradley. Councilor Lugdon stated he heard it was going to be a garage for people to work on their trucks as did Councilor Delaware.

Unfinished Business: Councilor Lugdon made a motion to accept the annual referendum warrant, seconded by Councilor Delaware. (Vote 5/0)

Councilor Delaware stated there had been 66 Luncheons served, they will be having one more in June and will be taking July and August off.

Councilor Ketch asked Manager Doane if the street sweeping was completed, as it was looked good, Manager Doane stated that they did complete the street sweeping.

Municipal Warrants: Councilor Ketch made a motion to accept the municipal warrants as presented, seconded by Councilor Lugdon. (Vote 5/0)

Next Meeting: The next meeting is set for June 6, 2023.

Motion to adjourn: Councilor Ketch made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Delaware. (Vote 5/0)