

Town Council Meeting
June 20, 2023

Open Town Council Meeting: Councilor Ketch opened the Town Council meeting, Councilor Lugdon was excused and Councilor Wade participated via Zoom. Town Council members present included, Councilor Ketch, Councilor Delaware, and Councilor Clemons. Also present were Town Manager Melissa Doane and Fire Chief Eric Gifford

Review of Minutes: Councilor Ketch made a motion to accept the 6/6/2023 minutes as presented, seconded by Councilor Delaware, vote 4/0.

Citizens Request: None

Managers' Report: Melissa reported that at the last meeting the Town Council authorized her to list the 1988 tanker on Facebook Marketplace for \$5000. Melissa listed the truck the next morning and it was sold for \$5000 on June 8. Melissa will be placing the funds in the fire department capital reserves for future use, hopefully, to assist with the purchase of a utility vehicle for the department's use.

Melissa and Dean will be meeting with EDF Renewals regarding a potential solar project presumably the one located near Great Works Stream. The representative stated that a new RFP has been announced by the State for large solar projects and they plan on participating. The representative will provide updated information regarding the potential project. This meeting will also offer an opportunity for Dean and Melissa to discuss some of the concerns that have been raised thus far by residents.

The annual election was held on June 13, 2023, with 158 voters participating. All warrant articles passed, Mark Ketch and James Hatch were elected to the Town Council and Christina Ouellette was elected to the RSU board.

Melissa reported that the roof replacement started on June 9, 2023. There was minimal wood damage at the post office and no wood damage thus far on the municipal building. The contractor is suggesting adding vents and "Worley Birds" to add ventilation to cool the roof. He stated that it would add to the life of the shingles. The additional cost is \$1012.84, bringing the total cost of the project to \$42,802.84. Councilor Clemons made a motion to approve the ventilation, seconded by Councilor Delaware vote 4/0.

The Municipal Review Committee will be having a town hall tomorrow June 21, 2023, at 11:00. The meeting will be updating members regarding the public-private partnership with Innovative Resource Recovery.

Melissa noted that included in the warrant is the bill for the 2022-2023 school tuition, the amount of \$68,785.16 is \$3,214.84 below the budgeted amount of \$65,000.

The municipal assessor is requesting a supplemental assessment for Kevin Baker in the amount of \$500. Mr. Baker has failed to submit a new tree growth plan. According to Maine Statute, the applicant is to receive notice, then 2nd notice with a \$500 assessment. If the applicant fails to submit the

application after 6 months another \$500 assessment is done and then finally after another additional 6 months the property will be withdrawn from tree growth. Councilor Ketch asked if there had been any communication with Mr. Baker noting that perhaps he wishes to withdraw from tree growth. Melissa stated there had not been any communication, and if he did wish to withdraw there would be an additional tree growth penalty. Councilor Clemons made a motion to approve the supplemental assessment, seconded by Councilor Delaware, vote 4/0.

Melissa has completed the policies required by Maine Municipal Association to participate in the Workers Compensation Incentive Program. Melissa is asking Town Council to review the policies and approve them at the next meeting.

New Business: Councilor Ketch made a motion to accept the municipal budget as approved by the voters on June 13, 2023, for the fiscal year 2023-2024, seconded by Councilor Delaware vote 4/0.

Councilor Clemons made a motion to accept the Town Manager contract as presented, seconded by Councilor Delaware vote 4/0.

Councilor Clemons stated that he now has high-speed internet at Chemo Pond, he stated that he had spoken to several residents, including those that are seasonal and they too have signed up. Councilor Ketch asked about the pledge of funds that the town had committed to the broadband expansion at the Chemo Pond area. Melissa stated that a grant application had been made and ARPA funds had been pledged however there has been no additional information requested from the Town so she is not sure if those funds are still needed. Councilor Ketch asked if the funds are not requested, could the town use them in another manner. Melissa stated that the ARPA funds criteria allowed for up to 10 million dollars of use without restriction based on revenue loss due to COVID; if the funds are not needed then the funds could be redirected to another use.

Councilor Delaware reminded Town Council that there will be a senior luncheon at St Ann Church tomorrow at 11:30 am.

Unfinished Business: Councilor Delaware asked about the town line signs. Melissa stated that they have not had much luck, the only bidder on the project has offered a few additional designs, however, they are not exactly what Melissa had in mind to present. In addition, that bidder notified her that the \$5000 bid was for only one sign, not two. Cindy and Melissa have reached out to other sign companies and there has been little interest. They contacted Davinci Signs and they want 50% of the estimated cost upfront before offering a design. Councilor Delaware suggested that the existing signs be painted and restored.

Councilor Ketch asked if there had been anything further decided regarding the grub situation at the cemeteries. Melissa stated she had spoken to Audrey and she wished to leave it for now and perhaps add treatment and seed in the fall.

Councilor Ketch thanked Councilor Delaware for her service to the Town Council for the last two and half years. He added that her input, and guidance have offered a great deal.

Municipal Warrants: Councilor Ketch made a motion to accept the municipal warrants, seconded by Councilor Clemons vote 3/0 (Councilor Wade had not reviewed the warrants)

Next Meeting: The next meeting was set for July 5, 2023.

Adjourn: Councilor Ketch made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Delaware vote 4/0.