

Town Council Meeting
4/12/2022

Open Town Council Meeting: Council chair Mark Ketch opened the Town Council meeting. All members were present except for Councilor Wade who was excused.

Review of Minutes: Councilor Lugdon made a motion to accept the Town Council minutes from March 29, 2022, seconded by Councilor Clemons, vote 3/0 (Councilor Ketch absent 3/26/22).

Citizens Request: None

Managers' Report: Melissa provided information to the Town Council regarding a survey request from MRC. As has been previously discussed MRC is the stalking horse bidder on the facility. If there are no other successful bidders MRC will purchase the plant for 1.5 million dollars. To make the plant operational and additional 21.5 million will be needed. The MRC is looking for feedback from member communities to see if they would commit funds to assist with the operational start up. Melissa would like Town Council's thoughts; she believes the request for use of Bradley funds would require voter approval. The next election in which that would be possible will be November. Based on our average tonnage of 600 tons per year the suggested ask is \$300,000 to \$500,000. To date Melissa does not know what the repayment options are. Melissa briefed a history of the facility noting that the plant was operational and meeting established standards, however Coastal, the owner ran out of funds. The MRC board believes that the facility is the best option for solid waste disposal. The Town Council agreed that voter approval would be needed and that the Council is not in a position to make that decision and more information is needed before a recommendation to the voters could be made. Councilor Ketch noted that the next MRC town hall meeting is April 27; Melissa added that she has a MRC board meeting tomorrow in which she hopes to learn more about the developments on the sale and payback structure.

Melissa also provided Town Council with a proposal regarding placing a gravel pad at the 686 Main Street site to improve the site and clean ups. She is requesting that \$5000 of the proposal be taken from the yearly Town Council surplus and the remaining \$725 will be expended from the municipal repair account. Councilor Ketch stated that the area works great for the clean ups and it is a great service that is offered. Councilor Lugdon made a motion to remove funds from the Town Council surplus to make improvements to the clean up site, seconded by Councilor Delaware, vote 4/0.

Melissa met last week with a representative from Novel Energy. They are building a community solar farm in the Versant territory. They are offering a savings of 15% and would like to come and present the information to the Town Council on May 10. The presentation that Melissa has seen does not include a discount on the street light usage, however she has received information that net energy credits are allowable.

New Business: Councilor Delaware noted that there was a culvert issue on Boynton Street. Melissa stated that the culvert had started to sink earlier in the month on Saturday April 2 a hole was formed.

John Milligan placed cones on the area and filled with gravel until a new culvert can be installed. The new culvert has been ordered and the repair will be done soon. Melissa added that repairs such as that are normal and part of the road budget.

Councilor Delaware will be attending the school board meeting next week.

Councilor Ketch asked if spring clean ups have started on municipal grounds. Melissa stated that she has been in contact with the new contractor Adam Boucher and he will be doing the clean-up. She noted that the clean up is much greater than normal as no fall work was done. Evergreen Cemetery is a mess as it is full with oak and maple trees. In addition, there is a large tree that fell on Knapp Cemetery that will require equipment to remove. The work is on his schedule.

Councilor Ketch noted that there had been some street sweeping done in town. Melissa stated that work was done by DOT on the bridges. Melissa has scheduled the street sweeping. It has been mentioned to her that a softball group is interested in sweeping the sidewalks for a donation.

Councilor Ketch acknowledged the notice that was provided to the Town Council regarding the water rate increase. Melissa reported that those increases are factored into the new budget. The water district will be having a virtual public meeting on May 3.

Unfinished Business: Melissa provided some updated information regarding ambulance service. Councilor's Wade and Lugdon had been discussing the subject of the 120% increase. Melissa stated that she did not think it was possible for the Bradley Town Council to find an alternative before the budget needs to be finalized. It was her suggestion that the line item maintain and the Council work with the City of Old Town to perhaps negotiate a lower assessment. The Old Town Council meets in committee form the second Monday of each month. She would suggest being placed on the City Council's agenda for the May 16 meeting and bring the concerns to the City. Councilor Lugdon noted that there has been much discussion at the Council level that this amount is not sustainable. As Milford will be removed from the service, revenue it is likely that the service cost will increase. As has been said many times, Old Town has always offered Bradley a great service and up until this year the increase was reasonable, however a 120% increase is not something that should go unnoticed. Councilor Clemons stated that it would be reasonable for member committees to ask Old Town to change their methodology in billing member communities. There amount of usage needs to be considered. Councilor Ketch asked Chief Gifford if he thought Milford would be willing to take on another community. Chief Gifford noted that the service just started and it would be his recommendation to see how the transition goes. Melissa would like to see an open conversation with the City of Old Town before looking for alternatives. She has reached out to Laura Sanborn, our Penobscot Commissioner as EMS service and the cost associated with it is a regional issue. The Town Council reviewed the information provided by the City of Old Town which included outstanding debt by Town and the number of calls per member community. Town Council would like Melissa to request to be placed on the City of Old Town's May 16 agenda and work on a list of questions/concerns that would be presented.

Councilor Delaware made a motion for the Town Report Dedication, seconded by Councilor Ketch, vote 4/0.

Melissa provided to Town Council some additional changes to the municipal budget. The changes made place the budget \$9487.02 below the Town of Bradley self-imposed budget cap.

Chief Gifford did a quick presentation with the new thermal imaging cameras recently purchased with ARPA funds.

Municipal Warrants: Councilor Ketch made a motion to accept the municipal warrants as presented, seconded by Councilor Clemons, vote 4/0.

Next Meeting: The next meeting was set for April 26, 2022.

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