

Town Council Meeting
June 18, 2024

Open Town Council Meeting: Council Chair Mark Ketch opened the Town Council meeting. All members were present except for Councilor Wade. Also present was Town Manager Melissa Doane.

Review of Minutes: Councilor Ketch motioned to accept the 6/4/2024 minutes as presented, seconded by Councilor Hatch, vote 4/0.

Citizens Request: None

Managers' Report: Melissa has learned that Consolidated Communications is no longer offering discounted packages for copper line phone services as they wish to discontinue them. This came to her attention when the phone bill increased from \$138 to \$245 and she called to find out why. They are offering voice over the internet for \$185.00 per month, which includes internet service. This will provide savings as the current phone cost was budgeted at \$138.00 and the internet at \$65.00. Consolidated has the change in a queue for work, so she is hopeful it will be soon and will work. According to the sales representative, no special phones are needed; they will work with an adaptor. She also checked with Spectrum for the same service and the price was much higher, they also require a purchase of different phones which cost \$1000. The service from Spectrum is designed for much larger companies and has many different features. Melissa added that to have voice over the internet, at least 20 megabits are needed, and we reportedly have 25. Melissa had him test a few other places in town such as the Eddington line of Main Street, Ten Road, and Boynton Street; the megabits were only 10, however some on Main Street were 25. She would suggest that Bradley residents communicate with Consolidated to inquire about the internet if they are unhappy with their current provider.

Melissa did receive a communication from the Maine Connectivity Authority regarding fiber connectivity in Bradley. They reported that 38 locations have assumed fiber connectivity, 571 locations have high-speed cable, 11 locations have cable or DSL and 9 locations have no connections. The 20 locations with cable/DSL and no connections will be flagged for fiber using new funding, however, the other locations are not eligible for fiber upgrades at this time. They are working with the providers to upgrade existing networks. Melissa also investigated Starlink; it appears to cost \$120 per month and requires an equipment purchase of around \$600.00 Councilor Lugdon would like the Town to investigate if a vendor would invest in the placement of fiber which would have no cost to the Town.

Melissa received an update regarding 114 Cram Street. Last Friday the municipal attorney Tim Pease had a conference with a judge and Mr. Wing regarding the dangerous building issue. Mr. Wing acted in his typical fashion and the judge was not able to proceed. The judge is going to attempt to get an attorney to be appointed as guardian ad litem; Mr. Wing's previously appointed attorney will no longer work with him. Melissa also noted that she received a Writ of Execution that was recorded against the property of 114 Cram Street for the unpaid fines and attorney fees in regards to the land use violation. Councilor Clemons confirmed that the liens will be paid if the property is sold. Melissa verified that to be true, adding that the Town has liens on the property currently from a clean-up that occurred in 2012.

Melissa provided the results of the election; all warrant articles passed and Councilors Lugdon and Wade were elected to additional 3-year terms.

The ballot for the Maine Municipal Association Legislative Policy Committee is available, the candidates include Melissa, Benjamin Breadmore from Houlton, Andrew Hart from Carmel, and Paula Scott from Hampden. Councilor Ketch requested that the candidate profiles be provided to the Town Council for the next meeting, the ballot is due on August 1, 2024.

Melissa reminded the Town Council that the office will be closed tomorrow for Juneteenth and will be closing at noon on June 28, 2024, for the fiscal year-end.

New Business: Councilor Lugdon made a motion to approve the Town Manager Contract for 2024-2025 as presented, seconded by Councilor Clemons vote 4/0.

Councilor Lugdon noted that there has been a large bear on Ten Road and that residents should be aware. Councilor Clemons stated that there was a bear on Bradley Shore Road last year; they contacted the Maine Warden Service and they do not remove bears any longer.

Councilor Ketch asked who was doing the flowers at the Town Park and Municipal Building, noting that they looked great. Melissa reported that Pat Bingaman has been doing them.

Councilor Ketch asked about equipment at 686 Main Street. Melissa stated that she has arranged to have some ditching work on High Point Place. John Milligan is going to be using the site as a fill dump area; he was there today to make a site to access the back of the property.

Unfinished Business:

Councilor Ketch asked if any dates were provided to Melissa regarding a possible court hearing for 114 Cram Street. Melissa stated that the emails seem to indicate that there will not be much more done until the Judge can find a guardian ad litem.

Councilor Clemons asked if there was an update regarding the Blackman Stream Dam. Melissa stated that she had contacted the engineer a few weeks ago, and he was going to go to the site. It was reported to him by the Museum that damage had occurred over the winter to the other spillway. Melissa plans on following up with him next week, she also noted that no repairs can be done until July 15, due to fisheries. Councilor Clemons stated that the water at Chemo Pond is dropping.

Municipal Warrants: Councilor Ketch made a motion to accept the municipal warrants as presented, seconded by Councilor Lugdon. Councilor Ketch verified that the invoice for excess tuition was for the school choice cost. Melissa stated it was, she also noted that the amount had decreased slightly from last year. Vote 4/0.

Next Meeting: The next meeting was set for July 2, 2024.

Adjourn: Councilor Ketch motioned to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Lugdon vote 4/0.