

**Town Council Meeting
November 19, 2024**

Open Town Council Meeting: Councilor Lugdon, acting as Town Council chair, opened the Town Council meeting. Council Chair Mark Ketch was excused, and all other members were present. Also present was Town Manager Melissa Doane and Fire Chief Eric Gifford

Review of Minutes: Councilor Lugdon motioned to accept the minutes of November 5, 2024, seconded by Councilor Wade, vote 4/0.

Citizens Request: Resident Ann Delaware shared that the senior luncheon will be held tomorrow, November 20, 2024, at 11:30 a.m. at St. Ann Church. She also asked if Melissa had any feedback from the University of Maine students regarding the ballfield. Melissa stated she has communicated with them; however, they are still working on the project.

Managers' Report: Melissa provided a memo to the Town Council that highlighted the financial responsibility for the Town of Bradley regarding the Maine Paid Family and Medical Leave Act. She explained that the Maine Department of Labor stated in a recent training that volunteer firefighters, municipal officials, and ballot clerks would be considered in the employee count. Therefore, the town must contribute 50% of the 1% required. The town can pay the entire 1% or have employees contribute 50% of the 1%. The cost to the Town for the fiscal year 24-25 would be estimated to be \$1235 for the entire 1% or \$617.50 for the 50% of the 1%. As she also noted in the memo, there are savings due to decreased hours. Councilor Hatch asked if there was a way that the Town could opt out of the program; Melissa stated that it was a tax that needed to be assessed; however, as the program is developed, the town can investigate providing a benefit that would be the same that would be perhaps less expensive. Currently, the Town offers short-term disability; it may be determined that this benefit is no longer needed. Councilor Clemons motioned to pay the complete 1%, seconded by Councilor Wade, vote 4/0.

Melissa contacted three vendors that do land surveys and site evaluations to determine the cost of conducting a feasibility study on 43 Highland Avenue. She received a cost of \$2000 from Haley Ward and spoke with Brent Hartt from Sewall Company today; he would like more information before providing a cost estimate. Due to the warm fall, she would recommend completing this work before the town Council decides what to do with the property. Councilor Lugdon motioned to allow Melissa to complete a feasibility study in an amount not exceeding \$2000, seconded by Councilor Hatch, vote 4/0. Councilor Wade suggested that the cost for the boundary survey could be deducted from the excess funds due to the prior owner.

Melissa would like the Town Council to consider canceling the December 31, 2024, meeting. The office will close at noon on New Year's Eve and will be closed on January 1 for New Year's. She added that the Council will have two meetings in December without the 31st meeting. Councilor Wade motioned to cancel the December 31, 2024 meeting, seconded by Councilor Clemons, vote 4/0.

New Business: Councilor Lugdon moved to approve the Regional Animal Control Contract for 2025, seconded by Councilor Wade, vote 4/0.

Councilor Lugdon motioned to approve the reduced work-hour agreement as presented, seconded by Councilor Clemons, vote 4/0.

Councilor Lugdon moved to leave the decision to cast a ballot for the MRC Board of Directors at the discretion of the Town Manager, seconded by Councilor Clemons, vote 4/0.

Councilor Wade asked if the Sheriff enforced the winter parking ban. Melissa said they do upon complaint, which only occurs when a vehicle hinders storm cleanup.

Unfinished Business: Councilor Lugdon motioned to approve the resolution regarding the valuation of property designated as submerged wasteland, seconded by Councilor Hatch, vote 4/0.

Councilor Lugdon asked if there had been further communication with the property owners of 5 Cram Street. Melissa acknowledged that a follow-up with the owner was necessary, and she would speak to Code Enforcement Officer Dean Bennett to attempt to get the property clean-up started again.

Resident Ann Delaware asked if there was any update regarding Robert Wing; Melissa reported there was no update.

Property owner Richard Ouellette thanked the Town Council for approving the abatement request on his Great Works Stream camp.

Municipal Warrants: Councilor Lugdon motioned to approve the municipal warrants as presented, seconded by Councilor Wade, vote 4/0.

Next Meeting: The next meeting was set for December 3, 2024. Melissa reminded the Town Council that the Planning Board will meet tomorrow night, November 21, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn made by Councilor Wade seconded by Councilor Clemons vote 4/0.