

**TOWN OF ROME, MAINE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
APRIL 11, 2016
MINUTES**

Chairman Richard LaBelle called the meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's Office at the Rome Community Center in Rome. Selectmen LaBelle, Archer and Charles were present. A quorum was declared. Also present at all or parts of the meeting were Kimberly Brooks, Dr. Andrew Cook, Gary Foss, Tammy Lyons, Andrew Marble, and Ed Pearl, Jr.

LaBelle/Charles Motion to accept minutes for April 4, 2016, selectmen's meeting
LaBelle, Archer, Charles in favor (3-0)

Rome's representative to RSU 18 School Board of Directors, Andy Cook, provided the Board of Selectmen with an update regarding the current budget process. Dr. Cook believes that the message sent to the district, with regards to not increasing the budget, was heard clearly. Cook believes there has been an increase in academic excellence, which must continue to be the focus of the RSU. Dr. Cook has been encouraged by the recent progress with the budget.

Selectman LaBelle questions whether the approximately 0.6 percent increase in schools will have a disproportionate impact on Rome. Preliminary figures indicate that Rome's budget will likely increase 5 percent if a 0.6 percent budget passes. There has also been information provided to the board that indicates the administration is using different numbers to project increases versus prior year. If this is the case, Rome could see another significant increase in tax commitment to the schools.

Director Cook states that he will determine what information is relevant and try to provide Rome with an accurate number in time for tax commitment.

Resident Hillary Schultz called to notify the Board of a tree down in the Village Cemetery. She has further inquiries regarding cemetery procedures. She was referred to Sexton Mike Proctor.

The Code Enforcement Officer is absent; there is no report.

Selectman Malcolm Charles provides an update on salt and sand contracts for Winter 2016-17. David Kincaid has offered a sand price of \$6.00 per yard delivered. This is the same price as last year. Kincaid does not have any interest in the stockpiling of the salt and sand.

Carroll Bubar notified the Board of conversations with Charlie Baeder, Executive Director of Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance (BRCA), and BRCA's willingness to financially assist with Watson Pond Road drainage and reconstruction. Baeder projects a \$10,000 commitment, but is working with Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP) for larger available sums of money. An update will be provided at a future meeting.

Selectman Archer noted that a bill had been received for brush work on the Watson Pond Road. The Road Commissioner had previously requested expense approval, which was unanimously denied at the time. The brush work would be done in closer conjunction to the road reconstruction, rather than independently. The bill is for \$990.00.

LaBelle/Archer Motion to freeze the brush account until further notice.
LaBelle, Archer, Charles in favor (3-0)

Selectman LaBelle states that he openly apologizes to Treasurer and Tax Collector Tammy Lyons for the significant miscommunications at the last meeting; he takes full responsibility.

Treasurer Tammy Lyons provided an update regarding the contracting of a credit card vendor. MuniPay was the original vendor, but Maine PayPort provides a competitive program that is better integrated with the Town's TRIO software. She recommends waiting until other towns complete the transition so that we are able to solicit feedback.

Fire Chief and Rescue Chief Gary Foss came in to complain about how payroll is being processed. Currently, time cards for Fire & Rescue are to be submitted on a quarterly basis and paid out.

Archer/LaBelle Motion to require Fire & Rescue timecards on a quarterly basis; any
payments on timecards will be made in full, year-to-date.
LaBelle, Archer, Charles in favor (3-0)

LaBelle/Charles Motion to sign Property Tax Payment Policy.
LaBelle, Archer, Charles in favor (3-0)

Selectman LaBelle notes that a new contract has been provided to the Town for dispatch services rendered through the Somerset County Communications Center. The pricing structure remains on a *per capita* basis.

Charles/LaBelle Motion to sign the contract between the Town of Rome and Somerset County
Communications Center, through June 20, 2018.
LaBelle, Archer, Charles in favor (3-0)

The Town received a letter of recognition and thanks from Belgrade/Rome Special Needs Food Pantry for the donation approved at Town Meeting.

The Town received a letter of recognition and thanks from Life Flight of Maine for the donation approved at Town Meeting.

Town Clerk Lois Stratton has requested that the Board review a contract for Maine's Accessible Voting System (AVS) equipment that will be given to the Town from the Maine Secretary of State. The equipment must be stored in a secure location at the office. The Town is responsible for ensuring there is proper insurance coverage on the equipment. Through current insurance provider Maine Municipal Association, the equipment is covered.

LaBelle/Charles Motion to sign the agreement between the Town of Rome and the Maine
Secretary of State regarding Accessible Voting System equipment.
LaBelle, Archer, Charles in favor (3-0)

Municipal Attorney Frank Underkuffler submitted notice of filing deeds with the Kennebec County Registry of Deeds for the Tuttle Cemetery, on behalf of the Town of Rome.

Selectman Charles notes that we still do not have signs for the cemeteries (regarding the mandatory clean up in May and October) and for the new side entrance. These signs are on order and should be complete within the next week.

The Town has received a request from the Travis Mills Foundation asking that the Town serve as “a conduit through which Deborah Johnson at DECD in Augusta, Maine provides the Travis Mills Foundation a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) of up to \$100,000.” This grant would be use for ADA improvements at the Maine Chance Retreat at 1002 Watson Pond Road.

Charles/LaBelle Motion to approve the request from Travis Mills Foundation; the Town shall act as a conduit for this grant opportunity.
LaBelle, Archer, Charles in favor (3-0)

LaBelle/Charles The meeting be adjourned.
LaBelle, Archer, Charles in favor (3-0)

Meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly R. Brooks
Assistant to the Selectman

Richard A. LaBelle, First Selectman

Kelly Archer, Second Selectman

Malcolm Charles, Third Selectman