

**TOWN OF ROME, MAINE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
APRIL 25, 2016
MINUTES**

Chairman Richard LaBelle called the meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order at 6:11 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 Charlie Baeder, Kimberly Brooks, Carroll Bubar, Andrew Cook, Tammy Lyons, Ed Pearl, Jr., and Kathleen Ross.

LaBelle/Charles Motion to accept minutes for April 19, 2016, selectmen's meeting
LaBelle, Charles in favor; Archer absent (2-0)

Selectman LaBelle provided a brief update regarding the recent site visit to the Watson Pond Road to review earthwork needs as a part of the summer reconstruction project. Road Commissioner Carroll Bubar stated that proposed contractor Rick Labbe would like to bill the project by the hour. Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance (BRCA) Executive Director Charlie Baeder stated that his organization needed a project breakdown and accurate estimate of the project, by culvert project. LaBelle echoed the same sentiment on behalf of the Town. The estimate for earthwork completion is 20 days from the project start date.

Road Commissioner Bubar stated that the driveway on Drury Lane with a blocked culvert that was causing water to go over the road has been fixed.

Archer/Charles Motion to hire Mark Tracy to clean the two furnaces at the fire station and
one furnace at the Community Center.
Archer, Charles in favor; LaBelle abstained (2-0-1)

Selectman Archer will contact Mr. Tracy to arrange for the furnace cleaning and maintenance.

Archer/LaBelle Motion to accept the draft management letter for the 2015 audit.
LaBelle, Archer, Charles in favor (3-0)

The complaints received about damage to bus turnarounds has been forwarded to the school district. A request for bus turnaround list was submitted two weeks ago, as was a request for clarification as to the responsible party for maintaining these turnarounds. The Board awaits a response to both requests.

The RSU 18 Public Hearing on the proposed school budget for 2016-17 is being held at Belgrade Central School on April 27 at 6:00 p.m.

The Rome Board of Appeals will be holding a hearing on the proposed Camp Caruso project on Tuesday, April 26 at 6:30 p.m.

Archer/Charles Motion to approve a special warrant for the refund of \$20.00 to Mr. Thomas Duffus; an overpayment to the excise tax collector.
LaBelle, Archer, Charles in favor (3-0)

Tax Collector Tammy Lyons provided the Board with an update on 2016 property tax bill mailing. The bills will be mailed on Tuesday, April 26, 2016. The 30-day discount period will end May 26, 2016.

Treasurer Tammy Lyons states that she is opposed to the Selectmen selling foreclosed properties without waiting three foreclosure cycles. Selectman LaBelle stated that the Board has a duty to get the properties back on the tax rolls. Also, the previous owner has the first right of refusal to pay back taxes and taxes for the current year in order to regain ownership of the property.

Code Enforcement Officer Andrew Marble stated that he has received a complaint from resident Julie LaRue about the condition of the Burnham property on Watson Pond Road. Marble will conduct a site inspection visit on Wednesday and will follow up with the necessary documentation.

Code Enforcement Officer Marble also stated that the DiPietro property on Route 27 has grown to be in violation of the junkyard laws again. He believes that there will need to be corrective action before the next permit is issued.

Rome's representative to the RSU 18 Board of Directors, Andrew Cook, provided the Board with an update from Monday's public hearing in Oakland. He also provided the Board with copies of the handouts available at the meeting. He stated that while the district's budget is up less than one percent, Rome could see an increase ranging from 3 to 7 percent. He attributes this disproportionate increase to an increased enrollment (relative to other member towns), increased valuation (relative to other member towns), as well as funding that Rome does not receive from the state.

Treasurer Tammy Lyons provided account balances and ledger of transactions to Selectman Archer for review. This review is being conducted on a monthly basis as a corrective measure, at the recommendation of the Town's auditing firm.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly R. Brooks
Assistant to the Selectman

Richard A. LaBelle, First Selectman

Kelly Archer, Second Selectman

Malcolm Charles, Third Selectman