

**TOWN OF ROME, MAINE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
AUGUST 7, 2017
MINUTES**

Chairman Richard LaBelle called the meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's Office at the Rome Community Center in Rome. Selectmen LaBelle, Stratton, and Charles were present. A quorum was declared. Also present at all or parts of the meeting were David Bernier, Kimberly Brooks, Carroll Bubar, Larry Garrison, Tammy Lyons, Walter Melvin, Ed Pearl, Jr., Kerry Smart, and Louis Turner.

Stratton/Charles Motion to accept minutes for July 24, 2017 selectmen's meeting
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

LaBelle/Stratton Motion to approve the abatement/supplemental action for Walter Melvin, contingent upon the review and assessment by the assessing agent. This shall include a three year supplemental bill on any additional value not assessed in years past. Final review of these applications will be made at the next regular meeting.
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance Executive Director Charlie Baeder presented the Board with a check for \$10,000. This represents support to offset additional work completed on Watson Pond Road throughout the reconstruction project. Road Commissioner Carroll Bubar worked closely with Baeder to ensure that the project protected area resources.

Mr. Baeder stated that representatives from the US EPA will be in the area during the third week of September (tentative) to see the results of some of these similar projects. Members of the board are encouraged to attend and provide feedback on the program.

Selectman LaBelle inquired as to options for Dry Point Road ditching and armoring. This has been a long-standing problem that should be resolved as soon as possible. Mr. Baeder states that this should be a relatively low cost solution that may be complimented by Route 27 roadwork. It is possible that an improvement may be made before the end of this year.

LaBelle/Charles Motion to authorize a separate payroll warrant, to be paid on Tuesday, for past due wages on Fire Department timecards that showed discrepancies between employee reporting and that of the Department.
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

The Town has received a check returned from Maine Water Works for an overpayment of \$224.80. This check will be voided and the expense returned to the appropriate account.

The Board of Selectmen received a thank you letter from former RSU 18 Superintendent Gary Smith. The letter was kind and thanked the Town for the cooperation during his tenure.

The RSU 18 School Board of Directors voted to return a portion of unanticipated funds from the State to taxpayers. This resulted in a reduction of Rome's monthly payment to \$151,259.59.

LaBelle/Charles Motion to nominate Lois Stratton as representative to Kennebec Valley Council of Governments General Assembly.
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

LaBelle/Stratton Motion to nominate Malcolm Charles as representative to Kennebec Valley Council of Governments General Assembly.
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

The Board reviewed a series of communications from RSU 18 Superintendent Carl Gartley and Rome's School Board Director Dr. Andrew Cook. The series of emails were related to the upcoming meeting in consideration of a \$3.9 million bond for the construction of a new track and field facility at Messalonskee High School.

It was also noted that Director Cook was not appointed to any subcommittees of the School Board. The Board expresses disappointment with Chairman Isgro's failure to involve Director Cook and this concern will be voiced at the School Board meeting on Wednesday.

The Board reviewed the current contract for winter road maintenance between the Town and Pavement Plus. Selectman LaBelle suggests the need for clarification and/or specification for trucks as provided in contract Section 6, subsection b.

Stratton/Charles Motion to request Cecil Merry of Pavement Plus to attend the next meeting of the Board to discuss possible revisions to the existing contract.
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

Tax Collector and Treasurer Tammy Lyons stated that there were several discrepancies between timecards submitted by firefighters and those submitted on their behalf by the Department. Lyons expressed a strong level of discomfort in the existing process of Fire/Rescue payroll. She states that there must be consistent reporting. Selectman LaBelle suggests that a policy be created to ensure that accurate reporting is being made by the employee and not by the Department, generally.

The Board reviewed the process of creating General Warrants on a bi-weekly basis. The Board will request that all requests for payments be submitted to the Town Office before close of business the Thursday before a Selectmen meeting. This will allow for ample review, signing, and entering into the warrant system.

Resident Louis Turner provided an update on a tree at his property on Mercer Road. He states that the tree is dying and is in the public right of way. He has contacted Central Maine Power Company who told him that they were not planned to do any work in the area this year; it may happen next year. Mr. Turner asks if the Town would consider removing the tree; he is willing to pay a portion of the costs.

LaBelle/Charles Motion to ask the Road Commissioner to seek estimates for the removal of said tree on the Louis Turner property.
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

Charles/Stratton Motion to authorize the Road Commissioner to contract with Pavement Plus, Inc. for the paving of the ends of the road of Nickerson Lane and Ladd Road.
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

LaBelle/Charles

The meeting be adjourned.

LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly R. Brooks
Assistant to the Selectmen