

**TOWN OF ROME, MAINE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
JULY 24, 2017
MINUTES**

Chairman Richard LaBelle called the meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order at 5:52 p.m. in the Harold & Bibby Alford Dining Hall at the Pine Tree Camp in Rome. Selectmen LaBelle, Stratton, and Charles were present. A quorum was declared. Also present at all or parts of the meeting were Kimberly Brooks, Carroll Bubar, Robert Crosby, Christine Leblanc, Shelby Lyons, Tammy Lyons, Doug Stratton, and Dawn Wilcox-Robinson.

Recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Charles/Stratton Motion to accept minutes for July 10 2017 selectmen's meeting.
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

Pine Tree Camp Director Dawn Wilcox-Robinson welcomed the Board to the camp. The Board expresses gratitude for the meal prepared prior to the meeting, as well as a tour of the facilities. Wilcox-Robinson is working to address concerns about alarms being generated from the camp's systems. The camp has installed a lock box for keyed access for Rome Fire. This should alleviate concerns about access, especially in the off-season. Wilcox-Robinson states that the camp is taking steps to prevent false alarms in the future. This includes the addition of secondary facilities personnel. She also states that recent weather/lightning/power outages have contributed to alarms.

Treasurer Tammy Lyons provided warrants for the previous meeting as well as for approval this evening. Lyons presents an abatement and supplemental request from Walter and Sara Melvin related to property on Nickerson Lane. For at least 40 years, the three parcels have been billed together and Mr. Melvin is now asking that these parcels be billed separately. Treasurer Lyons states this is a Town error; however, Selectman LaBelle states that this has been 40+ years and believes an update can be completed in 2018. Taxes have already been committed and he doesn't believe the Town has liability. LaBelle stated he would like to seek a legal opinion from Maine Municipal Association Legal Department regarding the Board's legal obligation to abate these properties.

LaBelle/Charles Motion to table action on supplement/abatement requests related to the
Walter and Sara Melvin parcels.
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

Stratton/Charles Motion to send a supplemental tax bill to Central Maine Power Company
(RE 230) in the amount of \$3,298.27.
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

The Board signs quit claim deeds for cemetery lots in the names of Donna Pearl and Jerry Forbes.

Treasurer Tammy Lyons provides the Board with the finalized certificate of assessment. This assessment included \$52,881 for overlay; there has been \$54,265 allowed in tax payment discounts from this allocation.

Selectman Malcolm Charles provided an update on the return of animal control equipment. Since the resignation of the previous animal control officer in March, she had failed to return the Town's department property. After multiple contacts, Selectman Charles went to the former ACO's residence to pick up the equipment. One large live trap, one small live trap, one catch pole, one medium crate, and cat catcher handles were all retrieved. This equipment will be turned over to the new animal control officer.

Animal Control Officer Robert Crosby provided an update on his work in town. He has researched chip readers that could be used to identify animal owners without having to take the animal to the shelter. This would be a cost savings created by a reduction in labor and travel costs associated with taking animals to the shelter. Crosby is requesting the Town authorize a one-fourth proportionate share of the chip reader.

Charles/Stratton Motion to authorize the purchase of a chip reader, with Rome's proportionate expense not to exceed \$100.
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

Road Commissioner Carroll Bubar provided an update on summer road projects. Bubar believes all necessary paperwork has been submitted in order to receive reimbursement from Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance related to the Watson Pond Road reconstruction project.

Bubar provides an update on the paving of the ends of gravel roads. He has received prices for completing Nickerson Lane and Ladd Road. Cecil Merry has provided the best price; he will bring these prices to the next meeting.

Maine Department of Transportation sent the Town a reply letter regarding the Town's request to have deer crossing signs installed near the intersection of Route 225 and Mercer Road. This was a concern voiced at Town Meeting and the Selectmen sent a letter to MaineDOT Commissioner. The Department states that an analysis of the area does not require the installation of deer crossing signs in this location.

Charles/LaBelle Motion to sign LRAP Certification for 2017-18.
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

Charles/Stratton Motion to sign a proclamation declaring the month of September Children's Cancer Awareness Month.
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

Stratton/Charles Motion to vote for Mary Sabins, Town Manager of Vassalboro as Vice President of Maine Municipal Association.
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

Stratton/Charles Motion to vote for James Bennett, City Manager of Biddeford, Jill Duson, At-Large Councilor in Portland, and Gary Fortier, Councilor of Ellsworth as Members of Maine Municipal Association Nominating Committee.
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

The Town's attorney, Jensen Baird Gardner Henry, has sent a save-the-date for a bi-annual legal update to be held on September 28 at 6:00PM in South Portland. The event is free of charge.

Tax Collector Tammy Lyons has copied the Board of Selectmen on a letter addressed to Richard Beck. Mr. Beck paid his 2017 taxes and dropped them at the Town Office on July 7, 2017. Tax Collector Tammy Lyons granted Mr. Beck the discount, which is in violation of the tax payment article approved at Town Meeting. The total discount amount that had been falsely granted was \$71.20. Selectman LaBelle requested that Lyons review transactions that were made to ensure no other discounts were given in violation of the article. The Board concurs that there are no exceptions that may be granted.

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly R. Brooks
Assistant to the Selectmen