

**TOWN OF ROME, MAINE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MARCH 14, 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, Carroll Bubar, Albert Knight, Tammy Lyons, Ali Pearl, Ed Pearl, Jr. and Kathleen Ross.

Charles/Archer Motion to accept minutes for March 7, 2016, selectmen's meeting
Archer, Charles in favor; LaBelle abstain (2-0-1)

The Code Enforcement Officer is attending the Appeals Board meeting; there is not report.

Road Commissioner Carroll Bubar provided a brief update regarding the condition of town-maintained roads. He is recommending that we wait until after the frost is out and roads dry up before any work is completed on gravel roads. The Ladd Road is in very poor condition and may require attention before ideal working conditions are realized. This spring, Bubar would like to focus on improving gravel quality and progressively building up the crown of the road.

Road Commissioner Bubar suggests allocating \$1,000 or \$2,000 each year for each gravel road mile for improvements.

Resident Albert Knight commended Bubar for a well done job of ditching the Foss Hill Rd. last season.

Knight inquired as to how many years an individual may not pay taxes before the town forecloses on the property and sells the property. Selectman LaBelle stated that after three years of unpaid taxes, a property is foreclosed upon and is then listed as 'tax acquired'. Traditionally, the Town of Rome forecloses on a property three times before selling a property. The owner is entitled to first refusal, if he/she is willing to pay all back taxes, interest, and fees.

Selectman LaBelle stated that it was important to maintain accurate and appropriate municipal records of appointments. He asks that the board approve appointments for all appointed positions within the town.

Archer/LaBelle Motion to appoint Kimberly Brooks as Excise Tax Collector and BMV
Agent, appointment to expire April 1, 2017.
LaBelle, Archer, Charles in favor (3-0)

Charles/LaBelle Motion to appoint Lois Stratton as Deputy Excise Tax Collector, appointment
to expire April 1, 2017.
LaBelle, Archer, Charles in favor (3-0)

Charles/LaBelle Motion to appoint Kimberly Brooks as Assistant to the Selectmen,
appointment to expire April 1, 2017.
LaBelle, Archer, Charles in favor (3-0)

- LaBelle/Charles Motion to appoint Andrew Marble as Code Enforcement Officer, appointment to expire April 1, 2017.
LaBelle, Archer, Charles in favor (3-0)
- Charles/Archer Motion to appoint Andrew Marble as Health Officer, appointment to expire April 1, 2017.
LaBelle, Archer, Charles in favor (3-0)
- LaBelle/Charles Motion to appoint Andrew Marble as Licensed Plumbing Inspector, appointment to expire April 1, 2017.
LaBelle, Archer, Charles in favor (3-0)
- Archer/LaBelle Motion to appoint Andrew Marble as 911 Addressing Officer, appointment to expire April 1, 2017.
LaBelle, Archer, Charles in favor (3-0)
- LaBelle/Charles Motion to appoint Ed Pearl, Jr. as Director of Emergency Management, appointment to expire April 1, 2017.
LaBelle, Archer, Charles in favor (3-0)
- Archer/Charles Motion to appoint Gary Foss as Fire Chief, appointment to expire April 1, 2017.
LaBelle, Archer, Charles in favor (3-0)
- Charles/LaBelle Motion to appoint Gary Foss as Rescue Chief, appointment to expire April 1, 2017.
LaBelle, Archer, Charles in favor (3-0)
- Archer/LaBelle Motion to appoint Michael Proctor as Sexton, appointment to expire April 1, 2017.
LaBelle, Archer, Charles in favor (3-0)

The appointment papers of all residents nominated to the Recreation Committee and Budget Committee by the legislative body at the Annual Town Meeting are signed by the Board of Selectmen. Town Clerk Lois Stratton will contact all of the aforementioned appointees for swearing in.

Planning Board appointments must be completed before next Monday at 7:00 p.m. There has been prior discussion regarding the interviewing of each member and interested candidate.

- LaBelle/Charles Motion to schedule special selectmen's meeting for Thursday, March 17, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.
LaBelle, Archer, Charles in favor (3-0)

Treasurer Tammy Lyons stated that she has received a request for completion of a salary survey from Rangeley, Maine. She will complete the document and return. Lyons states that the remaining balance in the Global Towers legal account is \$1,460.03. There are \$1,283.61 in bills that will be paid on next week's warrant. This leaves a balance of \$176.42.

Selectman LaBelle questioned whether or not officer pay is current, ahead, or behind. Lyons will research payment history to ensure that all officials are properly compensated through the Annual Town Meeting on the next warrant.

LaBelle/Charles Motion to enter executive session to discuss personnel pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A §405(6)(A)
LaBelle, Archer, Charles in favor (3-0)

Executive session entered at 7:55 p.m.
Executive session adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Resident Rose Talbot filed a complaint with the Board as to the poor condition of the Watson Pond Road. Mrs. Talbot submitted bills from November and December 2015, requesting that the Town reimburse her for repairs. Bills for new tires, mounting, and balance total \$1,027.31.

Charles/LaBelle Motion to deny payment of Mrs. Talbot's automobile repair invoices.
LaBelle, Archer, Charles in favor (3-0)

Selectman Archer states that the cost of oil is not the same as last week. In order to join the RSU 18 oil contract, it was essential for there to be a decision quickly after the School Board of Directors agreed to the contract.

Charles/Archer Motion to table any action regarding winter heating fuel contracts
Archer, Charles in favor; LaBelle abstain (2-0-1)

Selectman Archer is planning to attend the FirstPark/KRDA budget meeting on Thursday, March 24.

Animal Control Kathleen Ross came in to ask about her contract and change of compensation. Selectman LaBelle stated that an inquiry had been submitted to Maine Municipal Association (MMA) Legal Department for guidance; there should be an answer before close of business next day. There may need to be a new contract drawn to reflect adjusted compensation rates.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly R. Brooks
Assistant to the Selectman

Richard A. LaBelle, First Selectman

Kelly Archer, Second Selectman

Malcolm Charles, Third Selectman