

**TOWN OF ROME, MAINE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MAY 16, 2016
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, Archer and Charles were present. A quorum was declared. Also present at all or parts of the meeting were Kimberly Brooks, Carroll Bubar, Andrew Cook, Gary Foss, Richard H. LaBelle, Tammy Lyons, Andrew Marble, and Ed Pearl, Jr..

Charles/Archer Motion to accept minutes for May 9, 2016, selectmen's meeting
LaBelle, Archer, Charles in favor (3-0)

Rome Representative to the RSU 18 School Board, Andrew Cook, provided an update on the RSU 18 budget process. He mailed a letter to all town voters with his thoughts on the budget and asking for resident support. Cook stated that the Messalonskee Messenger was printed with an incorrect date for the referendum vote. There will be an ad in the newspaper to correct the date of the vote: May 24.

Cook said that there are several high profile resignations expected in the coming weeks. Cook is seeking official and public input regarding district leadership. He will gladly accept verbal or written concerns. Selectman LaBelle states that he has serious reservations about filling the superintendent vacancy internally.

Andy Cook serves as a General Assembly representative from Rome to KRDA/FirstPark and is on the Executive Board, as well. In the last week, he provided his feedback regarding the performance of Executive Director Brad Jackson. He believes there is a lot of work to be done, but Jackson has made significant progress. There are many on the executive board who believe that if Jackson were to do what is expected by the executive board, he would require a doubling of salary.

Road Commissioner Carroll Bubar provided an update on Watson Pond Road reconstruction. Work began today to remove boulders and reclaim the pavement.

Selectman Charles noted that there has been significant damage on shoulders of the road; it is important that we fill in shoulders near mailboxes. Charles suggests that Bubar ensure these repairs are made. Selectman Archer states that the Town's mailman should be contacted to ensure the most serious areas are addressed first.

LaBelle/Charles Motion to authorize the expenditure of no more than \$1,000 to repair
shoulders near mailboxes, including labor and materials.
LaBelle, Archer, Charles in favor (3-0)

Road Commissioner Bubar states that he will decide by next week if he is able to coordinate the stockpiling of salt/sand for the upcoming winter season. If he is interested in coordinating the stockpiling, he will provide the Board with costs.

Selectman LaBelle stated that an invoice was received from Mark Tracy Heating; there are recommendations for additional furnace maintenance that has been deferred. Selectman Archer will contact Tracy in order to schedule the maintenance on the furnace at the Community Center.

The Board is in receipt of a “thank you” letter from the Belgrade Lakes Association (BLA). There was also a book on lake protection that the BLA gifted to the Town. The letter and book were acknowledgment of the donation approved at the annual Town Meeting.

Fire & Rescue Chief Gary Foss expressed concern over not having adequate daytime coverage, in the event of an emergency. He believes that Belgrade will ask Rome to begin paying for use of the full-time Belgrade employee, now covered through our mutual aid agreement. Selectman LaBelle states that he would rather see the money directly invested in Rome than sending money to Belgrade. LaBelle suggests exploring the possibility of hiring a combination emergency responder/administrative assistant. The position would be best suited by ensuring that enhanced training and treatment be a part of the proposal; we must be able to expand services if there is expanded investment.

Selectman LaBelle requests that Foss develop a proposal for a potential position, including qualifications, expectations, compensation, etc. If a proposal arises of this discussion, it would likely go before voters in March 2017.

The Board of Selectmen will begin the summer meeting schedule after Memorial Day. The Board will meet on Tuesday, May 31, then June 13, and every other week until Labor Day. This seasonal adjustment will be noticed in the Morning Sentinel.

LaBelle/Charles 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 Selectmen

Richard A. LaBelle, First Selectman

Kelly Archer, Second Selectman

Malcolm Charles, Third Selectman