

**TOWN OF ROME, MAINE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
OCTOBER 31, 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, Attorney Mary Denison, Tammy Lyons, Lincoln Nye, and Ed Pearl, Jr.

Archer/Charles Motion to accept minutes for October 17, 2016 selectmen's meeting
LaBelle, Archer, Charles in favor (3-0)

The Code Enforcement Officer is not present; there is no report.

Attorney Mary Denison, of firm Lake & Denison, provided a brief outline of the Letter of Agreement of No Enforcement Action regarding the Baker Lots. This includes certain lot restrictions, as well as a payback to the Town of Rome in the amount of \$10,000 to offset incurred legal fees.

LaBelle/Archer Motion to sign the Letter of Agreement of No Enforcement Action, with
regards to the Baker lots.
LaBelle, Archer, Charles in favor (3-0)

Selectman LaBelle suggests that with the conclusion of the Baker lots issue, the Town consider Attorney Denison as new municipal counsel. LaBelle believes that Town is at a crossroads, where the Town's best interest is not being effectively served. He believes Attorney Denison has been most professional in interactions regarding the Baker lots. Attorney Denison suggests the Board issue a Request for Proposals for Municipal Legal Services to get a stronger idea of the current municipal attorney market. Denison would be pleased to provide a list of potential attorneys that may be solicited for a submission.

Research will be done to draft an RFP for municipal legal services. It will be presented at a future meeting for discussion and action.

Road Commissioner Carroll Bubar provided an update on recent road work. He completed a ditching project on North Pond Road. The project is long overdue and included the replacement of several bad culverts. Bubar also received over 35 traffic safety signs through a MaineDOT grant program. The actual cost of the signs is over \$1,800.00; the charge to the Town is less than \$200.00. The signs will be progressively installed, as time permits.

Bubar suggests that the Town explore the purchase or building of a structure that can store road equipment. The basement of the Community Center is not most appropriate for storage and requires unsafe carrying up and down steep stairs. He suggests a pre-fabricated structure approximately 16' x 16'. He will seek price quotes from several vendors and re-present this idea to the Board.

Archer/Charles Motion to authorize the disposal of cement culverts at the Community Center
LaBelle, Archer, Charles in favor (3-0)

Treasurer and Tax Collector Tammy Lyons provided an update on the status of her office. She asks the Board of Selectmen to review a list of accounts to determine which revenue accounts should offset expense accounts.

Lyons submits request for payment of lien discharge fees in an approximate amount of \$800.00.

Lyons still awaits information regarding bonds. Camden National Bank does not offer competitive bonds; Maine Municipal Bond Bank remains an option, but has not provided pricing information.

Lyons is also in receipt of a letter from Attorney Lori Blaisdell regarding the Cerrato/Batchelder tax discrepancy. Blaisdell requests the Town refund the monies and properly apply them to a different account; however, Lyons followed legal procedures for applying tax payments. Blaisdell's office made several errors in issuing the original deed and on several corrective deeds, which may be the source of these issues. Lyons has drafted a response letter to Attorney Blaisdell explaining the Town's legal application of tax payments. The Town applied the payments with the information provided and maintains no liability.

Archer/Charles Motion to sign 2016 Municipal Valuation Return
LaBelle, Archer, Charles in favor (3-0)

Resident Lincoln Nye spoke on behalf of the Rome Ruff Riders snowmobile club. The club would like to establish a facility where equipment can be stored and meeting space provided. Nye suggests a structure on the Community Center property or the potential purchase of the old town office. Currently, the asking price of the old town office is approximately \$75,000. If building a new structure, Nye suggests a garage-style structure near the Community Center with approximate dimensions of 24' x 36'.

The club is working to develop the Town's economy through expanding the network of trails. The club has been responsible for purchasing a significant amount of equipment, as well. Nye suggests that the Town purchase or construct the facility and the club maintains it. Selectman LaBelle questions the legal ramifications of such a transaction; also, there are liability concerns. This discussion is very preliminary and Nye will provide more information at a future meeting.

Selectman Archer provided an update from the recent FirstPark General Assembly meeting that she attended with Andy Cook. Archer states that there has not been any significant progress or developments at the park. There is nothing on the table that might indicate and new or potential for new businesses. The Executive Director of KRDA, Brad Jackson, would like to see the construction of a spec building on the property.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly R. Brooks
Assistant to the Selectmen