

**TOWN OF ROME, MAINE  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
SEPTEMBER 6, 2016  
MINUTES**

Chairman Richard LaBelle called the meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Room 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, Pam Christensen, Scott Christensen, Dick Greenan, Tammy Lyons, Cecil Merry, Kathleen Ross, and Madeline St. Amour.

Archer/Charles            Motion to accept minutes for August 22, 2016 selectmen's meeting  
LaBelle, Archer, Charles in favor (3-0)

Selectman LaBelle opened the public hearing on the 2016 Wind Energy Facility Moratorium Ordinance at 6:01 p.m. This ordinance is due to expire under the sunset provision, unless extended by a vote of the Board of Selectmen.

There was no public comment on the ordinance.

Selectman LaBelle closed the public hearing at 6:02 p.m.

Charles/Archer            Motion to extend 2016 Wind Energy Facility Moratorium Ordinance  
LaBelle, Archer, Charles in favor (3-0)

Residents Scott and Pam Christensen spoke on behalf of Mountain Drive residents, in reference to the Baker lots. They are trying to gain an understanding as to what the property could potentially be used for with the proposed restrictions, in addition to the reasons for the restrictions.

Winter snow removal contractor, Cecil Merry of Pavement Plus, Inc., inquired regarding the plans for stockpiling salt and sand for the upcoming season. He is offering off-site storage for salt, if the Town believes this to be a reasonable option. He stated that often in December, road surfaces require additional salt application in order to prevent freezing on roads. The Board will consider this offer and will discuss at the next meeting.

Animal Control Officer Kathleen Ross provided the Board with a brief update. There have been no significant issues in the Town of Rome recently. Ross also requests that physical addresses and phone numbers be recorded, when possible, for dog owners. This makes licensing enforcement much easier. Ross provided the Board with a list of eight dogs that are no longer in Town; this list will be supplied to the Town Clerk for record updates.

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

The Road Commissioner is not present; there is no report. Selectman LaBelle states that brush cutting was completed on Jamaica Point Road. The job was well done and completed in a timely fashion. The big hill was not completed, as it is currently in a dangerous spot on the road. This project may be considered later in the season.

The Road Commissioner is also continuing to finalize open project coordinated with Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance (BRCA) on Watson Pond and North Pond Roads. The Town must complete minor changes in order to complete the project in accordance with the grant specifications. The Town will then be able to receive reimbursements from BRCA.

Tax Collector and Treasurer Tammy Lyons provided an update on the state of her office. There was an error in assessment on properties owned by Batchelder and Cerrato on Mercer Road. The properties were broken up, but the original assessments were not accurately recorded. Incorrect tax bills were generated and sent to the wrong parties. Abatement and supplemental actions were approved by the Board of Selectmen, intended to correct the error; however, these actions impacted the incorrect accounts.

The abatement results in a check being incorrectly sent to Batchelder. Batchelder has not paid taxes since 2014, yet received the check. Lyons believes the check has been cashed, but has not verified that. Lyons is requesting an abatement for Cerrato, as the family could use the money.

Selectman LaBelle states that there is responsibility by all parties and that the Town must ensure that all required paperwork is completed. He questions whether Batchelder has any liens on the property, as taxes have not been paid. Lyons states that liens have been discharged. LaBelle questions whether or not the Town is able to retroactively lien the property, given the conditions. LaBelle questions whether a supplemental bill is required in order to recoup monies from Batchelder. He recommends that Lyons seek advice from Maine Municipal Association Legal Department prior to taking any action on the request. LaBelle further questions why there is no written explanation and recommendation from the assessing agent.

LaBelle/Charles        Motion to table action on abatement request for Cerrato until the Tax Collector contacts Maine Municipal Association Legal Department for clarifications on abatements, supplemental bills, and the recommendation path to continue.  
LaBelle, Archer, Charles in favor (3-0)

Lyons informs the Board of Selectmen that the Town received a \$50.00 bill for road dues from Wildwood Estates Association. The bill is on a property that was tax-acquired property. A contact at the association informed Lyons that they will make an attempt to contact the current owner and that the Town is not responsible for the bill.

Lyons states that all releases of tax-acquired properties have been completed. Legal documents have been prepared for signatures and filing.

Selectman LaBelle requests that the Tax Collector and Treasurer not open mail generally addressed to the Town, unless the destination is clear. This has been discussed by the Board of Selectmen and Treasurer in recent history, yet the mail has been opened again this week. LaBelle stressed the importance of maintaining a system where there is accountability. It is the responsibility of the Selectmen to ensure that bills are properly received and paid. The Treasurer should not be adding items to the general or payroll warrants until approved by the Board. Lyons stated that she had a busy day and that she was working ahead on the warrant.

LaBelle/Charles        Motion to approve Zoe Lane as road name for Batchelder/Cerrato driveway off Mercer Road.  
LaBelle, Archer, Charles in favor (3-0)

Assistant to the Selectmen and Recreation Committee member Kimberly Brooks provided a summary of the recent Recreation Committee yard sale. The committee raised \$1,510.14, with the generous support of so many donors throughout Town; the event was a success. Brooks states that resident Cheryl Hasenfus has expressed interest in joining the Recreation Committee for the open seat.

LaBelle/Charles        Motion to appoint Cheryl Hasenfus as a member of the Recreation Committee for a two year term, to expire March 10, 2018.  
LaBelle, Archer, Charles in favor (3-0)

Selectman LaBelle noted that the Town received a dividend of \$127.00 from Maine Municipal Association Risk Management, stemming from the Town's insurance services.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly R. Brooks  
Assistant to the Selectmen

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Richard A. LaBelle, First Selectman

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Kelly Archer, Second Selectman

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Malcolm Charles, Third Selectman