

TOWN OF ROME, MAINE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
APRIL 18, 2017
MINUTES

Chairman Richard LaBelle called the meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order at 6:08 p.m. in the Selectmen's Office at the Rome Community Center 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, Abby DiPietro, Tammy Lyons, Ed Pearl, Jr., and Langston Ware.

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

Stratton/Charles Motion to accept minutes for April 13, 2017 selectmen's meeting
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

Resident Langston Ware presented the Board with questions related to the potential construction of fiber optic cable along the Route 225 corridor. Without any additional residents expressing interest, the individual cost is estimated at \$25,000. In order for Mr. Ware to move forward, Spectrum requires that a survey be conducted with a return of 35 interested households.

Selectman Stratton questions the current high-speed internet coverage throughout the Town. Would there be additional neighborhoods reached that may not be right near Route 225?

Selectman LaBelle suggests that Mr. Ware contact KVCOG, which is currently working on expanding access to high-speed internet in cooperation with ConnectME. LaBelle further suggests that seasonal households be contacted as there is a significant demand for quality internet access.

Selectman Charles suggests contacting local legislators to express concern over the lack of quality internet service within the Town.

There is no Code Enforcement Officer report.

Treasurer Tammy Lyons noted that there was a \$200.00 discrepancy in the Fire Department budget. It is recommended that the \$200.00 be reallocated from the Grants line. In the event a grant is received, the balance can be drawn from the appropriate line account.

Assessing Agent Matthew Caldwell has requested the Board schedule a meeting time for 2017 commitment. A special commitment meeting is scheduled for May 16, 2017, at 8:30 a.m. This meeting will be used to determine values, required monies to be raised by taxation, and the ending result of this year's mil rate.

LaBelle/Charles Motion to abate 2015 taxes on RE Accounts #1042 and 738, including any fees and interest that may have occurred.
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)
Note: These parcels are owned by the Travis Mills Foundation, a non-profit organization.

Road Commissioner Carroll Bubar provided an update on roadwork planning. Bubar has spoken with contractor Tom Tracy regarding the removal of trees along Watson Pond Road. He

estimates there is three days' work on that road. There is a large tree that should be the responsibility of Central Maine Power; he will be contacting them. Selectman LaBelle questions whether or not there are intentions to finish brush cutting on Jamaica Point Road, which was not completed last season, due to traffic safety.

Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance Executive Director Charlie Baeder has requested a meeting with members of the Board and the Road Commissioner to review the section of Watson Pond Road that will be reconstructed this season. The meeting is scheduled for April 26 at 10:00 a.m.

Grading is planned to take place next week on the Ladd Road and Oak Ridge.

Road Commissioner Bubar states his desire to improve the access road to Friedrich's Beach and is requesting the Recreation Committee's support, both in labor and financing. Recreation Committee member Tammy Lyons states they should conduct a site visit. A meeting is scheduled for May 6 at 12:00 p.m. Selectman LaBelle suggests including BRCA Executive Director Charlie Baeder in discussions, as there may be opportunity for cooperative, cost-saving work.

Maine DOT Regional Engineer David Allen has issued a letter to the Town reducing the speed limit of Jamaica Point Road to 35 miles per hour. Signs will be ordered and installed as soon as possible.

Selectman Lois Stratton provides an update on surveys for the Rome Educational Exploratory Committee. There have been three responses submitted; one expresses no interest in participating in the committee's work. The Board commits to reaching out to individuals to try and create interest in participating. All staff working in offices are encouraged to mention the service opportunity to customers.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly R. Brooks
Assistant to the Selectmen