

**TOWN OF ROME, MAINE  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
DECEMBER 11, 2017  
MINUTES**

Chairman Richard LaBelle called the meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order at 5:00 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, Tammy Lyons, Lincoln Nye, Ed Pearl, Jr., Cary Tyson (via phone), and Langston Ware.

Recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Charles/Stratton        Motion to accept minutes for November 27, 2017 selectmen's meeting  
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

Resident Langston Ware has been researching the possibilities for broadband and/or cable expansion in the Town of Rome. He has recently met with representative from Kennebec Valley Council of Governments (KVCOG) to discuss the process. There is a need to conduct a population survey and may be necessary to distinguish between full-time and seasonal residents. There may be existing data from a Maine Broadband Coalition survey.

Cary Tyson, representative from KVCOG, joined via telephone and reinforced the importance of knowing who owns and maintains existing poles. There is also great import in determining the primary use of the proposed expansion—residential or commercial? This would determine whether or not the expansion would be coax or fiberoptic.

Mr. Ware states that there are several potential vendors to consider for network extensions, including, but not limited to Charter/Spectrum, Time Warner Cable, and Axiom Cable.

Selectman Charles states that previous survey inquiries have produced very poor response rates from townspeople. He questions if there is any data that can be used from previous surveys.

Selectman LaBelle inquired about any information that may have been gathered under the ConnectME funding that was administered by KVCOG. There may already be information collected and/or compiled; there is no need to duplicate work. He also suggests working with neighborhoods to determine demand for expanded service. If there is no demand, this process may be moot.

Code Enforcement Officer Andrew Marble provides an update on his office. He has sent out numerous junkyard violations, requesting property owners clean up properties in order to come into compliance with State and local regulations. These violation notices are intended to correct violations, but also stem expanded violations.

Road Commissioner Carroll Bubar states that roadwork has been quiet over the last two weeks. He has not received any complaints with regards to winter road maintenance. Mr. Bubar would like to meet with representatives from Maine Department of Transportation regarding the proposed project on Route 225. Bubar has heard that there may be islands installed on either end of the road and would like to offer input from the Town's perspective.

A cage has been constructed to protect a culvert on Crystal Spring Camps Lane which has been continually blocked by beaver activity. He will keep the board apprised of any success had with this cage.

Charles/Stratton      Motion to send a letter to Pine Tree Camp requesting consideration of financial assistance for the reconstruction and paving of North Pond Road. LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

Treasurer and Tax Collector Tammy Lyons provided a brief update on her office. In the last two weeks, she received a counterfeit \$100 bill, which was not detected until she attempted to deposit the money into the bank. There are no internal controls to detect counterfeit bills, for which the Town will have to absorb the cost of the counterfeit money.

LaBelle/Stratton      Motion to issue a policy memorandum requiring all employees handling cash to use a counterfeit pen on any bill \$20 or more. This policy shall also require the Treasurer immediately check any money when receiving it from another Town employee. LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

LaBelle/Charles      Motion to sign a quit claim deed releasing the Town's interest in the property formerly owned by the Heirs of Barton Richardson back to the Heirs of Barton Richardson. LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

LaBelle/Charles      Motion to accept donations in the amount of \$175.00 to support the Recreation Committee's Christmas Program:

Chris Moore	\$25.00
Hillary Schultz	\$100.00
Doyle Vatour	\$50.00

LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

Selectman LaBelle declared the meeting recessed at 6:05 p.m. to attend a Christmas gathering with members of the Town's boards and committees.

Selectman LaBelle called the meeting back to order at 7:07 p.m. The Board thanked Selectman Stratton for her work in organizing and providing the prior reception. It was enjoyed by all in attendance and was noted that it had never been so inclusive of the committee volunteers.

Charles/Stratton      Motion to send letters to Representative Gary Hilliard and Senator Rodney Whittemore requesting support in overhauling the current emergency services communication/dispatch services system and to streamline processes. LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

The Town's attorney has reviewed materials related to 2015 liens and tax-acquired property. There are a couple properties that will require mailing a curative notice; some of the foreclosures will stand.

Resident Lincoln Nye, on behalf of the snowmobile club Rome Ruff Riders, requests the Town's support of \$1,000 for the club. He will submit a report from the club for publication in the Town Report.

The Board begins the process of workshopping the proposed 2018 budget and warrant articles.

Charles/Stratton	Motion to warrant an article to raise and appropriate \$5,000 for General Assistance. LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)
Charles/Stratton	Motion to warrant an article to raise and appropriate \$19,000 for maintenance and operation of Rome Community Center. LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)
Charles/Stratton	Motion to warrant an article to raise and appropriate \$10,000 for Community Center capital reserve account. LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)
Charles/	Motion to warrant an article to raise and appropriate \$15,000 for care and maintenance of Town-owned cemeteries. There is no second; the motion is withdrawn.
LaBelle/Stratton	Motion to warrant an article to raise and appropriate \$13,500 for care and maintenance of Town-owned cemeteries. LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)
Charles/Stratton	Motion to warrant an article to raise and appropriate \$2,000 for old stone repair in Town-owned cemeteries. LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)
LaBelle/Charles	Motion to warrant an article to raise and appropriate \$30,000 for maintenance of the Town's roads and bridges. LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)
LaBelle/Stratton	Motion to warrant an article to raise and appropriate \$10,000 for roadside mowing and brush cutting. LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)
Stratton/Charles	Motion to warrant an article to raise and appropriate \$50,580 for the purchase and stockpiling of salt/sand. LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)
Stratton/Charles	Motion to warrant an article to raise and appropriate \$2,500 for maintenance of the salt/sand shed. LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)
LaBelle/Stratton	Motion to warrant an article to raise and appropriate \$18,000 for insurances. LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)
Stratton/Charles	Motion to warrant an article to raise and appropriate \$500 for notary services. LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)
LaBelle/Stratton	Motion to warrant an article to raise and appropriate \$5,000 for audit services. LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

Stratton/Charles      Motion to warrant an article to raise and appropriate \$22,750 for assessing services.  
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

LaBelle/Charles      Motion to warrant an article to raise and appropriate \$67,750 for snow removal contract.  
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard A. LaBelle  
First Selectman