

**TOWN OF ROME, MAINE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
DECEMBER 26, 2017
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, Stratton, and Charles were present. A quorum was declared. Also present at all or parts of the meeting were Kimberly Brooks, Carroll Bubar, Robert Crosby, Gary Foss, Tammy Lyons, and Ed Pearl, Jr.

Recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Charles/Stratton Motion to accept minutes for December 11, 2017 selectmen's meeting.
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

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

During the recent storm, the plow contractor notified the Road Commissioner of vehicles obstructing the roadway on the south end of Jamaica Point Road. Road Commissioner Carroll Bubar went to the area and noted that cars were parked on both sides of the road and made it nearly impossible for a plow to pass through. A draft letter is reviewed to send to property owners in the Jamaica Point Association.

Stratton/Charles Motion to send a letter to members of the Jamaica Point Association
regarding roadside parking on the south end of Jamaica Point Road.
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

Animal Control Officer Robert Crosby provides an update on business at the Humane Society Waterville Area. There have been outbreaks recently which have cause the shelter to refuse animals. Over the past few months, communication with the shelter has been poor and service has been lacking.

Stratton/Charles Motion to sign a contract with Somerset Humane Society (Skowhegan) for
2018 shelter services, in the amount of \$1,115.

Charles/Stratton Motion to amend the motion on the floor to allow the First Selectman to sign
the contract on behalf of the full Board.
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0); the amendment passes.

The amended motion is called for a vote: To authorize the First Selectmen,
on behalf of the Board, with the Somerset Humane Society (Skowhegan) for
2018 shelter services in the amount of \$1,115.00
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

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

The Treasurer and Tax Collector is not present; there is no update.

A budget workshop is scheduled for the Board on January 4, 2018 at 8:30 a.m.

Selectman Charles notifies the Board of his absence planned for the January 22 meeting.

Bruce Flaherty of Spirit of America Foundation is seeking nominations for the 2018 recipient. The public and members of the board are asked to submit nominations as soon as possible. The award is given annually to an individual or organization that has demonstrated remarkable volunteer efforts within the municipality.

Selectman LaBelle also requests that the Board consider potential dedicatees for the annual town report. Once again, a group or organization can be recognized for service to the Town of Rome. The Board must also begin to consider a photograph for the front of the annual report.

State Representative Gary Hilliard is planned to attend the January 8, 2018 meeting to discuss regional emergency dispatch services and consider any avenues that the State could help to streamline these processes.

Fire Chief Gary Foss came in to ask for an explanation of hours not being paid on recently submitted time cards. Selectman LaBelle stated that per diem charges were excluded, as this new position was never authorized by the Board, nor was the Board aware of such a position being rolled out until timecards were submitted. There was discussion during 2017 budget meetings, but the Chief never came to the Board to discuss introducing the position, candidate selection, wage expectations, scheduling, job description, etc. Fire Chief Foss disputes the claim.

Fire Chief Foss speaks about the need to regionalize services and consider helping Belgrade fund its department, as Belgrade responds to many of Rome's calls that go unanswered with existing staff. Selectman LaBelle states that if cooperative efforts are to be made between communities that the appropriate bodies from each town should be managing that. There have been discussions regarding regionalization of other services in the past and the Board remains open to expanding services and reducing costs.

Fire Chief Foss submits his budget proposal for 2018; the rescue budget it down and the fire request is up. The Board will review the budget proposal more in depth at the budget meeting and will finalize its consideration at the next regular meeting.

LaBelle/Charles Motion to accept a donation of \$100.00 from Arthur Brown, MD to the Rome Fire Department, with thanks.
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

Tax Collector and Treasurer Tammy Lyons noted that her office received payment for a property identified as Map 14, Lot 008-A and owned by Jodie Castanza. This will allow the Town to release its interest in the property.

LaBelle/Charles Motion to sign a quitclaim deed to Jodie Castanza releasing the Town's interest in property identified as Map 14, Lot 008-A.
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

Treasurer Lyons states that the auditor is planned to begin January 25-26, 2018.

On behalf of the Recreation Committee, Ms. Lyons stated that the annual Christmas program received donations of \$215.00 and spent a total of \$245.00—this nets a \$30.00 expense out of the recreation account. Selectman Stratton asks how many families were served by the program; Ms. Lyons states that four families were assisted.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly R. Brooks
Assistant to the Selectmen