

**TOWN OF ROME, MAINE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
FEBRUARY 5, 2018
MINUTES**

Chairman Richard LaBelle called the meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order at 5:45 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, Andrew Cook, Elaine Eadler, Lynn LaBelle, Tammy Lyons, Ed Pearl, Jr., and Hannah Workman

Recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

The membership of the Academic Options Exploratory Committee presented the Board with a report of their findings and provided a summary. The members also took an opportunity to answer questions from the public and members of the board. The one page summary of findings and recommendations to the town will be printed in the Town Report.

The Board of Selectmen expresses sincere thanks for the work of the committee in completing their research and findings.

Selectman LaBelle declared the public hearing adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

Selectman LaBelle declared the meeting recessed at 6:21 p.m., as there was no quorum.

Selectman LaBelle called the meeting back to order at 6:24 p.m. A quorum was declared.

Stratton/Charles Motion to accept minutes for January 22, 2018 selectmen's meeting.
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

Stratton/Charles Motion to accept minutes for January 29, 2018 selectmen's meeting.
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

Stratton/Charles Motion to accept minutes for January 30, 2018 selectmen's meeting.
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

School Board Director Dr. Andrew Cooks speaks briefly with the board regarding scholarship opportunities. He has been approached by Liz Tonge about coordinating scholarship efforts and a plan to raise funds to support the scholarships. The current awards are generous, but may be more impactful if larger, as costs of higher education continue to rise.

At 6:13 p.m., Selectman LaBelle called the public hearing to order with regards to the proposed Town Meeting articles converting the positions of Tax Collector, Treasurer, and Town Clerk from elected to appointed positions. There was no public comment.

Selectman LaBelle declared the public hearing closed at 6:13 p.m.

Tax Collector and Treasurer Tammy Lyons provided the board with updated balances in order to complete the Town Report. She states that the auditor is working on finalizing the short report for the report, as well. One of the auditor's major concerns was the process of commitment.

Selectman LaBelle states that the process was completed in an effort to expedite the tax billing process, at the request of the Tax Collector. The decision was made incorrectly and will be avoided in the future. Treasurer Lyons also stated that the monies for the contingency account were not carried forward, as they were excluded from the previous year's warrant.

Assistant Fire Chief Ed Pearl, Jr. inquired as to the final recommendations of the emergency services budgets, after receiving final review from the Board of Selectmen, then the Budget Committee. The Board of Selectmen made adjustments to the budgets, as seen best fit for the town and the Budget Committee fully supported the Board's recommendations. Assistant Chief Pearl stated that he will be meeting with Treasurer Lyons in order to review department finances.

The Board discussed whether or not to leave the article regarding North Pond Road reconstruction and paving on the secret ballot, to be voted on Friday, March 9. There was no action, as the Board is pleased with the previous motion. A public hearing on this question will be held on Tuesday, February 20, 2018, at 6:00 p.m.

Code Enforcement Officer Andrew Marble provided an update on his office. There are several violations being worked on; we are working towards compliance. The DiPietro junkyard on Augusta Road was supposed to begin the process of clean-up; the final date to begin was January 29, 2018. A note demanding compliance was sent on February 1, 2018, via certified mail.

The Board discusses whether or not articles 4, 5, and 6 regarding the transition from elected to appointed officials should appear on secret ballot or considered at open town meeting. The consensus was that, due to a lack of public participation in public hearings that the articles should be sent for discussion and debate on the floor of open town meeting. If those present wish, there can be a motion to vote by written ballot during the open meeting.

LaBelle/Stratton Motion to consider articles 4, 5, and 6 of the 2018 Annual Town Meeting at open town meeting, and not a items on referendum.
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

Charles/Stratton Motion to sign Town Meeting warrant, pending the insertion of finalized 'Spent' numbers from the Treasurer.
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

Charles/Stratton Motion to award the Town's 2018 Spirit of America award to Carroll Bubar.
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

LaBelle/Stratton Motion to dedicate the annual report to Peter Schultz.
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

LaBelle/Charles Motion to authorize the expenditure of \$1,474.60 from contingency to pay for the 2017 shelter contract with Humane Society Waterville Area.
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)
Note: This contractual service was rendered in 2017, but the unspent balance lapsed into the Town's surplus.

An invitation was received from the Superintendent of Schools to attend the RSU 18 Governance Meeting on February 8, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

The Board has received an e-mail from Belgrade Town Manager Dennis Keschl discussing the possibility of creating a group to discuss regionalization and leveraging funds from the Fund for the Efficient Delivery of Services. The Board has agreed to consider any options.

LaBelle/Stratton Motion to approve sign request, pursuant to MaineDOT regulations, for Sticky Diamond; directional signs to be located at the intersections of Routes 225 and 27 and be in compliance with State standards..

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

Note: A second request was received from the applicant to place signs at the intersection of Routes 225 and 8. There was no action taken, as the Board does not have jurisdiction.

Charles/Stratton The meeting be adjourned.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly R. Brooks
Assistant to the Selectmen