

**TOWN OF ROME, MAINE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
JANUARY 9, 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, Archer, and Charles were present. A quorum was declared. Also present at all or parts of the meeting were Charlie Baeder, Carroll Bubar, Gary Foss, Tammy Lyons, Ed Pearl, Jr., and Kathleen Ross.

Archer/Charles Motion to accept minutes for December 27, 2016 selectmen's meeting
LaBelle, Archer, Charles in favor (3-0)

Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance Executive Director Charlie Baeder provided the Board with a copy of a proposed cost-sharing agreement for road work done on Watson Pond Road. There was a previous agreement for the majority of earthwork completed under the major reconstruction project, but because the Town did additional work, Baeder has been able to secure additional grant funding. Under the proposed cost-sharing agreement, the Town will be reimbursed an additional \$1,600.00 for roadwork done on Watson Pond Road.

LaBelle/Charles Motion to sign cost-share agreement between the Town of Rome and
Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance.
LaBelle, Archer, Charles in favor (3-0)

The Code Enforcement Officer is not present, but did provide an update to Selectman LaBelle in advance of the meeting. The previous violation notice issued to a property owner on Crystal Spring Lane has been brought into compliance with the minimal standards. Larry DiPietro, Sr. of Augusta Road is being issued a violation for failure to secure a tax certificate for the moving of a mobile home, as well as failure to secure plumbing and building permits for the installation of a new mobile home on the property.

Animal Control Officer Kathleen Ross requested a new contract with the Town of Rome for animal control services. The previous contract expired December 31, 2016. Selectman LaBelle proposed a renewal of the previous contract, to which Ms. Ross stated she would like further negotiations. Ross states she made less money in 2016 than in 2015. Selectman LaBelle requests that this contract be added to the next meeting agenda to allow for proper notice and consideration.

LaBelle/Charles Motion to extend current Animal Control Services contract between the
Town of Rome and Kathleen Ross for a period of 30 days, expiring January
30, 2017, in order to negotiate new contract.
LaBelle, Archer, Charles in favor (3-0)

Assistant Fire Chief Ed Pearl, Jr. presented the Board of Selectmen with proposed 2017 budgets for Fire, Rescue, and EMA. The request includes a request for \$50,000 for the refurbishment of a fire truck.

Fire Chief Gary Foss spoke about the proposed budgets. Foss also spoke regarding a recent voluntary inspection with a division of Maine Labor Standards Board. This inspection helps to

prevent future workplace violations. Under the Shapes program, the Fire Department is being recognized for their compliance. The Board requests that the recognition and presentation be coordinated with Town Meeting.

LaBelle/Charles Motion to approve a referendum article for Town Meeting: Shall an ordinance entitled “Ordinance Prohibiting Retail Marijuana Establishments and Retail Marijuana Social Clubs in the Town of Rome” be enacted? 30-M.R.S.A. §3002(3)
LaBelle, Archer, Charles in favor (3-0)

The Board of Selectmen schedule a public hearing on the aforementioned ordinance and other proposed referendum questions on January 23, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.

The Board of Selectmen meet with the Planning Board to provide them with an update on proposed ordinances and public hearings. The Planning Board is working on a proposed Wind Tower Ordinance. Selectman LaBelle also explains the current position in the process to secure a new legal services provider for the Town.

Selectman LaBelle notes the need to appoint a Registrar of Voters, under State law. He suggest the reappointment of Kimberly Brooks with the hope that Ms. Brooks would resign the appointment when a new Town Clerk is elected.

LaBelle/Archer Motion to appoint Kimberly Brooks as Registrar of Voters for a term to expire December 31, 2018.
LaBelle, Archer, Charles in favor (3-0)

The Board of Selectmen review all proposals submitted under the Town’s recent Legal Services Request for Proposals. Eight bids were received and reviewed for compliance with the RFP specifications. Bids were received from the following firms:

Skelton, Taintor & Abbott	Auburn
Farrell, Rosenblatt & Russell	Bangor
Perkins & Thompson	Portland
Bernstein Shur	Augusta
O’Donnell, Lee, McCowan & Phillips	Waterville
Jensen, Baird, Gardner & Henry	Portland
Rudman & Winchell	Bangor
Preti Flaherty	Augusta

Charles/Archer Motion to accept all bids received for legal services.
LaBelle, Archer, Charles in favor (3-0)

LaBelle/Archer Motion to accept \$100.00 donation to Rome Fire & Rescue in memory of Allan Ruez from Scott and Pam Ruez Christensen
LaBelle, Archer, Charles in favor (3-0)

The Board of Selectmen schedule a meeting with the Budget Committee for January 24, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. Current revenue and expense sheets will be created and proposed warrant articles will be distributed to the committee members.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly R. Brooks
Assistant to the Selectmen