

TOWN OF ROME, MAINE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
JANUARY 5, 2018
MINUTES

Chairman Richard LaBelle called the meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order at 8:30 a.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 was Tammy Lyons.

Recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Board completed an initial review of the Fire Department budget proposal. In the budget, there is a request for \$10,000 for the purchase and installation of an on-demand generator for the westside fire station. The Board supports this request, but considers a reduction in deposit to the Fire Truck account to support this purchase.

The Board completed an initial review of the proposed Rescue budget. Training and education should be combined. There is also unanimous concern regarding low equipment maintenance budget proposals. For both departments, Selectman Stratton will be asking about a list of new equipment needed. There is discussion regarding the need for truck accounts and the timeline for truck replacement.

Charles/Stratton Motion to warrant an article for the appropriation of the carry forward balance from the Rescue New Truck Account for 2018.
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

Charles/LaBelle Motion to warrant an article to raise and appropriate \$200 for the Emergency Management budget.
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

Charles/Stratton Motion to warrant an article for the purchase and installation of an on-demand generator for the Westside Station, to be put out to bid.
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

LaBelle/Charles Motion to warrant an article for the appropriation of the carry forward balance from the Transfer Station Savings Account for 2018.
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

Charles/Stratton Motion to warrant an article for the authorization of the 3 percent discount for taxes paid in full within 30 days of tax billing.
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

Charles/Stratton Motion to warrant an article to authorize all sales monies received be applied against the respective expense account.
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

- Charles/Stratton Motion to amend the warranted article to support the Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance Youth Conservation Corps program at \$4,000 as requested, not \$3,600 as previously voted on December 13, 2017.
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)
- Charles/Stratton Motion to warrant an article: To see if the Town will vote to set the due date for 2018 property taxes (October 31, 2018) and to charge interest at the rate of 7.00% per annum on taxes unpaid as of November 1, 2018.
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)
- Charles/Stratton Motion to warrant an article: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen, on behalf of the Town, to dispose of any property acquired by the Town for non-payment of taxes, and to execute quit-claim deeds or bills of sale, as the case may be. Before putting the foreclosed property up for sale, the Tax Collector may offer the property to the previous owners for payment of all back taxes, fees, and interest. If they decline, the property will be advertised for sale and sold by sealed bid. The Selectmen shall have the right to accept or reject any and all bids, and to allow the Selectmen to authorize the Treasurer to waive automatic lien foreclosures when it is in the best interest of the Town. The sale of the property shall be advertised in three conspicuous places (Community Center, Eastside Fire Station, Mt. Phillip Grange) within the Town and a local daily newspaper (Morning Sentinel) for three consecutive days at least two weeks prior to the sale.
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)
- Stratton/Charles Motion to warrant the following articles:
To see if the Town will vote to apply all franchise fees, tree growth reimbursements, and veteran tax exemptions to the contingency fund and allow the Selectmen to use the funds for unexpected expenses and/or to cover overdrafts.
- To see if the Town will authorize the Board of Selectmen to sell by bid or auction, or on such terms and conditions as deemed in the best interest of the Town, such equipment, vehicles, or furniture as are no longer necessary for Town operations.
- To see if the Town will authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept or reject any conditional gifts/grants of money, or personal property, to the Town and to appropriate and expend funds for the purpose for which the gift/grant was made, in accordance with any conditions imposed by the donor.
- To see if the town will vote to appropriate all of the money received from the State for snowmobile registrations to the Rome Ruff Riders for the maintenance of their network of snowmobile trails, on condition that those trails be open in snow season to the public for outdoor recreation purposes at no charge, and to authorize the municipal officers to enter into an agreement with the Club, under such terms and conditions as the municipal officers may deem advisable, for that purpose.
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

- Stratton/Charles Motion to warrant an article: To see if the town will vote to appropriate all of the money received from the State for park fee sharing program to the Rome Recreation Committee.
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)
- LaBelle/Stratton Motion to warrant an article as follows: To see if the Town will vote from the floor 5 members to serve on the Budget Committee to review all items to be inserted into the Town Warrant requiring the appropriation of monies and their recommendations noted. The terms of Barbara Holt (three-year full member), Peter Serrada (three-year full member), Sandra Phillips (one-year full member), Hillary Schultz (one-year alternate), and Pierette Kelley (one-year alternate) expire.
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)
- LaBelle/Stratton Motion to warrant an article: To see if the Town will vote from the floor one member to serve on the Recreation Committee. The terms of Tammy Lyons (two-year term), Cheryl Hasenfus (two-year term), and Andy Cook (one-year term) expire.
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

Treasurer and Tax Collector Tammy Lyons inquired about the Board's thoughts surrounding changes to existing elected positions and converting them to appointed positions. Members of the Board provide their opinions about the idea, process, and ultimate improvement of services for the people of the Town. Selectman Stratton stated that she calculated existing salaries of all of the smaller positions and that would more than adequately support a full-time office position. Selectman LaBelle stated that he didn't believe there were adequate checks and balances and that as times change, so must we. Selectman Charles states that this would not only provide expanded access to the office, but it would create a quality full-time job. This is not an indication of current employee performance, but rather a need to expand services to residents and taxpayers.

It is also noted that if such a transition were to occur, it would not take place until 2019. Further, the job would be posted so that new and existing candidates could be considered.

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

Meeting adjourned at 11:01 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard A. LaBelle
First Selectman