

**TOWN OF ROME, MAINE  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
JUNE 25, 2018  
MINUTES**

Chairman Richard LaBelle called the meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order at 6:00pm 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 for all or parts of the meeting were Ezra Berry, Carroll Bubar, Abby DiPietro, Tammy Lyons, Andrew Marble, and Ed Pearl.

Recitation of Pledge of Allegiance.

Charles/Stratton                      Motion to accept minutes for May 29, 2018, selectmen meeting as amended.  
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

Charles/Stratton                      Motion to accept minutes for June 11, 2018, selectmen meeting as amended.  
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

Code Enforcement Officer Andrew Marble addressed the board with a significant violation he discovered on Qualia Estates. Marble was at a neighboring property for a scheduled inspection when he discovered the violation. Many violations were found including unpermitted camp improvements, several trees and brush removed, filling and moving of earth around the property as well as an unpermitted shed installation. Code officer Marble stated that the violator took immediate action to correct what he could, as quickly as possible. Violator and resident Ezra Berry stated that 54 yards of erosion control mix was spread as needed around the property, as well as 50 trees purchased and planted to replace what was removed. Berry has also since paid double permit fees for all needed permits. Berry stated when asked that he knew he needed a permit for the camp improvements but that he neglected to file for the proper permits, but was unaware that tree cutting and ground work needed to be permitted as well. The Board spoke with Berry about the violation, asking who owns the property where the violation occurred, as well as who did the work performed and who will be paying the fine. Berry states that the property is owned by Robert Qualia and that Berry himself will be paying any fines associated with the violation. Berry also completed all of the work himself as well as paid for the trees and erosion control mix that was installed after the violation was discovered. The Board is pleased that Berry worked quickly to rectify the situation, but because of the size and severity of the violation it cannot go without consequence. Code officer Andrew Marble states that the usual fine would start at \$1,000, but because of the quick work to correct the violation his recommendation would be a \$500 fine. Selectman LaBelle states that he appreciates the quick work, but that he feels \$1000.00 is reasonable, if this happened nine years ago it would be a \$75,000 fine. If we let this go for \$500 then the next one is going to want it for \$500. Selectman Stratton agrees that "others would be happy to pay \$1,000 for this size violation.

LaBelle/Stratton                      Motion to fine Ezra Berry \$1000 for discussed violation.  
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)



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

The Board started discussion of implementing a purchasing policy. There was discussion of purchase caps, preferred vendors, as well as getting estimates before a commitment was made for the purchase. Selectman Charles feels \$100 is too low of a threshold and that maybe a max of \$250 would be more practical.

Selectman LaBelle asks the Board members to go through the proposed "Purchasing Policy" and see what they like and what they would to amend. Think over what would be good amounts for purchase orders and what would need board approval. Continued discussion at the next regular meeting.

LaBelle/Stratton                      Motion to issue a moratorium on expenses of \$500 or more until a purchasing policy is put into effect.  
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor. (3-0)

Selectman Stratton is still working on the flagpole revitalization project. She hasn't received as much response as she had hoped but she is still waiting for some responses and she will continue to reach out to residents to contribute.

LaBelle/Stratton                      Motion to vote for Elaine Aloes and Tim Curtis as District 3 representatives to Maine Municipal Associations' Legislative Policy Committee.  
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

Selectman Richard LaBelle spoke with Dave Golden of Rustic Taps and Catering. Their organization is planning to cater an event at the Travis Mills Foundation Saturday, June 30. Rustic Taps and Catering is hoping to serve mimosas and bloody marys at the event, and are looking for approval from the board.

Charles/Stratton                      Motion to sign Qualified Catering Organization Application for Catered Function for Rustic Taps and Catering for an event at Travis Mills Foundation on June 30, 2018.  
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

The Board received a thank you letter from Burke MacLeay for his \$50 scholarship, recognizing him as one of the top three Rome 8<sup>th</sup> grade students.

The Board has received certified notice from the Town of Belgrade regarding a code violation on Belgrade Stream. There is a public hearing on the "Application for Administrative Appeal" made by Shawn Grant/Brightside Marina. The hearing will be held July 18, 2018, at 7pm at the Belgrade Town office.

Stratton/Charles                      Motion to adjourn.  
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

Meeting adjourned at 7:54pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Abby DiPietro  
Assistant to the Selectman