

**TOWN OF ROME, MAINE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
JANUARY 22, 2019
MINUTES**

Chairman Richard LaBelle called the meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order at 6:03 pm 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 Abby DiPietro, Fred Gagnon, Sandy Gagnon, Richard Greenan, Pierrette Kelly, and Tammy Lyons.

Recitation of Pledge of Allegiance.

Charles/Stratton Motion to accept minutes for January 7, 2019 selectmen's meeting.
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

Road Commissioner is not present; there is no report. The Board is pleased with the road conditions, no complaints/concerns have been received by the Board.

Selectman Malcolm Charles feels that this years brush budget should be used to focus on bigger brush and trees. Charles feels the need to remove bigger trees throughout town but sees a more urgent need on Wooster Hill Road. It was also mentioned that Wooster Hill Road will receive more aggressive brush cutting in preparation of next year's anticipated road reconstruction.

Also, the Board has been made aware that the sand and salt supply is getting low. Selectman LaBelle has been in contact with the salt distributors and salt is available when needed; LaBelle is also in contact with the sand distributor and is working on securing more sand for this season.

Code Enforcement Officer not present; there is no report.

Town Clerk Abby DiPietro presented the board with a sample ballot for the March 8th, 2019 local election.

Tax Collector/Treasurer is not present; there is no report.

The Board received a request from the Dams Committee in the amount of \$80,000; \$60,000 for permitting and engineering costs for the Wings Mills Dam project and \$20,000 for continuing repair to all three Belgrade Dams. Rome's share of this amount would be \$21,000, a significant increase from last year's request of \$5,400. This request is to cover the costs of a nearly \$190,000 "permanent" repair to the Wings Mills Dam. Resident and Dams Committee alternate member Richard Greenan was in attendance this evening to answer questions relating to the funds request and repairs. Mr. Greenan states that there have been extensive inspections and testing done on the Wings Mills Dam and that State Dams Inspector Tony Fletcher believes they are on track with the proposed plan for repair. Mr. Greenan also states that there are no forecasted concerns from Inland Fisheries & Wildlife (IF&W) or the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP); there will be nothing added or removed from the water so there are no concerns to that aspect of the project.

To date, the Board of Selectmen has voted to warrant an article for only \$2,700 to fund the regular operations and maintenance of the dams. Mr. Greenan is requesting the board reconsider its position.

- LaBelle/Stratton Motion to warrant an article for \$5,400 for the regular maintenance and operation of the three Belgrade dams.
LaBelle in favor, Stratton, Charles opposed (1-2). MOTION FAILS.
- Stratton/Charles Motion to raise and appropriate Rome’s portion of the \$10,000 operating budget or \$2,700, for article for continued maintenance and operation of the three Belgrade dams.
Stratton, Charles in favor, LaBelle opposed (2-1)
- Charles/Stratton Motion to warrant an article to raise and appropriate \$15,600; contingent upon a revised letter of request from Dams Committee chairperson clarifying the requests for funding.
LaBelle, Stratton in favor, Charles opposed (2-1)

Selectman LaBelle states that while he supports the article to propose fully funding the Dams Committee’s request, he would like the record in the Town Warrant to reflect that he recommends adoption of the passing article to partially fund the request.

The Board feels there is need for one final budget meeting; this meeting has been scheduled for January 29 at 5:30pm. This final meeting will be a last minute final review of the 2019 budget and will preempt the scheduled Budget Committee meeting at 6:30 that evening.

KVCOG has invited the Town to a Meet and Greet to meet their new Executive Director, Laura Cyr. This event is scheduled for Wednesday, February 20, 2019 from 11am-1pm. RSVP is requested.

The Board has received notification from Waste Management of this year’s rates; the annual increase was set at 3.5%, but will be capped at 3%.

Two purchase order-eligible invoices were received for services/repairs ordered by the Fire Department.

- Charles/Stratton Motion to send a letter to fire officials reinforcing the Town of Rome Purchasing Policy; also, to send communication to vendors making them aware of the Town of Rome purchase order policy.
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

Selectman Lois Stratton would like to nominate Alice VanDerwerken and David Sprague for the Spirit of America Award. Selectman LaBelle agrees with Ms. Stratton that Alice and David have done a lot for the community over the years and are deserving of the award.

- LaBelle/Stratton Motion to award 2019 Spirit of America Award to Alice VanDerwerken and David Sprague.
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)
- Stratton/Charles Motion to accept \$100 donation from Dwight Allison to the Rome Fire Department.
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

Charles/Stratton Motion to accept \$100 donation from Dr. Arthur Brown to Rome Fire
Department.
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Abby DiPietro
Assistant to the Selectman