

**TOWN OF ROME, MAINE  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MAY 14, 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 Carroll Bubar, Abby DiPietro, Larry DiPietro Jr., Sue Ellen Greenan, Peter Kallin, Tammy Lyons, Ed Pearl Jr., Denny Phillips, and Peter Schultz.

Recitation of Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Code Enforcement is not present; there is no report.

Resident Denny Phillips addressed the Board regarding his continued concern about being able to have access to the Town's attorney. He contends that the Town should be responsible for clarifying whether the municipal quitclaim deed implies tenants-in-common or joint tenants. Mr. Phillips states that the Town is not run in a town manager form of government and that the Chair does not have the authority to limit the authority of the elected tax collector/treasurer. Selectman LaBelle states that as long as a majority of the board supports a position that the position will stand. Further, LaBelle states that if the Board votes not to authorize the payment of legal fees incurred as a result of the tax collector/treasurer utilizing the municipal attorney, it ultimately will prohibit access to the attorney.

Selectman LaBelle states that it is not the role of the municipality to clarify that position or provide legal opinions. The respective parties should consult with their own licensed attorney that can provide clarification. For the town to allow resident inquiries to the municipal attorney, the attorney could potentially create a conflict of interest in representation.

Larry DiPietro Jr. addressed the board regarding his father's auto graveyard/junkyard becoming compliant. His proposal addressed many of the issues that are keeping it from being in compliance. Including painting the fence that has been assembled on the north side of the property a more natural color. He also stated their plans to more securely stabilize said fence and to add additional footage to screen a larger area behind the fence. He also stated that they are willing to install a wooden fence on the southern side of the property, and they are committed to getting the auto graveyard/junkyard into compliance and to keep it up so that the board and Mr. DiPietro aren't having to revisit this issue year after year.

Charles/Stratton            Motion to conditional approval of shielding constructed of telephone poles and panels.  
Stratton, Charles in favor; LaBelle opposed (2-1)

Road Commissioner Bubar provided an update of the North Pond Road reconstruction. Bubar stated that as of today (May 14, 2018) paving is complete. They will still need to do drive way entrances as well as backfilling the shoulders along the sides of the road. Bubar also stated that because of the

increase of the actual road height, that they had to do a longer “dust pan” at the entrance to Pine Tree Camp road to prevent a large drop off from North Pond Road onto the Pine Tree Camp entrance road.

Also this evening, Rick Labbe Construction submitted invoices totaling \$25,627.50 for work completed on North Pond Road.

Grading is planned to take place on Nickerson Lane later this week.

Selectman LaBelle received notice of the dates for the 2018 APWA Highway Congress. It is scheduled for June 7, and is to take place at the Skowhegan State Fairgrounds.

Tax Collector and Treasurer Tammy Lyons provided an update on her office. Lyons has received a call from Dorothy Milligan; her property was foreclosed on Oct. 6, 2016 due to unpaid property taxes. Ms. Milligan would like to repurchase this property. Lyons informed Ms. Milligan that she would need to pay all back taxes and fees including 2017 & 2018 to bring her account current. The board has no objections to Ms. Mulligan working toward reacquiring this property. Although the board did ask that Tax Collector Lyons ask Ms. Mulligan to wait until after 2018 tax commitment takes place so that she may be given an accurate amount to pay to bring this property current on any taxes/fees owed. Lyons will contact Ms. Mulligan with the total amount due after the commitment has been completed.

The Board has received a request to redeem a tax-acquired property from the family of Robert & Janice Moreau. After reviewing the language approved at town meeting, the property is only to be released back to the party from whom it was taken. If someone wishes to redeem the property, the quitclaim deed must be made back to the original owners.

The 2018 Town of Rome tax commitment will take place in a special board meeting on May 23, 2018. Selectman LaBelle and Stratton are all planned to be in attendance as well as Tax Collector/Treasurer Tammy Lyons, and Matt Caldwell from RJD Appraisal. After this commitment Lyons has set a tentative date of June 2 -July 2, 2018 as the 30 day window for the 3% early payment property tax discount.

Selectman Richard LaBelle asks Tax Collector/Treasurer Lyons how the transition to TD Bank has gone so far. Lyons replied that it has gone smoothly and that she has notified many of the state agencies of the change in account numbers and banking center. Lyons stated that she has yet to get through to InforMe to make the necessary updates, but that she has reached out to them and will follow up to make sure the updates are made in a timely manner.

Selectman Lois Stratton wonders if the board will continue to purchase a meal for election officials on election days. She expressed concern over the amount it cost the town for each event, and wondered if we may consider other options. Other options were discussed including purchasing a sandwich platter or something similar to be available for election officials throughout the day during election events.

Assistant Fire Chief Ed Pearl, Jr. made the board aware of plans to hold a craft fair at the Community Center on December 1, 2018, the hours for the fair will be 9-3. Tables will be available for vendors to rent. Pearl also while at the meeting presented the Board with a monies totaling \$100 from vendors for table rental.

LaBelle/Charles            Motion to accept \$100 table fee payment to be deposited into the "Fire Enterprise" account.  
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

Selectman Malcolm Charles made the board aware that he would be out of town for the next regular meeting on May 29, 2018.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:44pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Abby DiPietro  
Assistant to the Selectman