

**TOWN OF ROME, MAINE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
NOVEMBER 13, 2018
MINUTES**

Chairman Richard LaBelle called the meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order at 6:00 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 Dr. Andrew Cook, Abby DiPietro, Tammy Lyons, and Ed Pearl, Jr.

Recitation of Pledge of Allegiance.

Stratton/Charles Motion to accept minutes for October 15, 2018 selectmen's meeting.
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

Stratton/Charles Motion to accept minutes for October 29, 2018 selectmen's meeting.
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

Dr. Andrew Cook, Rome's representative to FirstPark/KRDA spoke regarding the changes, or lack thereof, at FirstPark. Dr. Cook presents a document to the Board for review and consideration. The position of the organization seems glim and the likelihood that Rome will ever benefit from this relationship is not great. Dr. Cook suggests the Town consider hiring an attorney to review the Town's ability to exit the intergovernmental relationship at KRDA when the organization becomes breakeven. As of the last report at the General Assembly, this will happen in the next couple of years when the current debt is retired.

Dr. Andrew Cook, Rome's representative to the RSU 18 Board of Directors spoke regarding school system updates. He further discusses the recent release of local debt share, for which Rome is disproportionately responsible. With the fewest number of students attending RSU 18, Rome has the greatest portion of long-term debt. This long-term debt represents over \$6 million for which the Town is responsible. Dr. Cook suggests the Board take steps in attempt to revisit the local cost-sharing formula, which was defeated upon last review.

Selectmen LaBelle and Charles attended a regional meeting with Kennebec County Sheriff Ken Mason on October 29 to discuss the current and future relationships with regards to emergency dispatch. Presently, Maine RCC dispatches Rome's calls for State Police and the Sheriff's Office; however, the State is forcing software changes that won't interface with the Sheriff's system. The cost of upgrading will be significant and the State has expressed a lack of interest in renewing any dispatch contracts in 2019. The Sheriff suggests creating a relationship with the City of Augusta for dispatching services. This will represent an increase of approximately \$1,000 for Rome; however, it remains the recommendation of the Sheriff. Sheriff Mason has committed meeting with the Town in order to discuss the relationship moving forward, which will also allow for support in advance of 2019 budgeting.

Road Commissioner is not present; there is no report. No road complaints/concerns received by the Board.

Code Enforcement officer is not present; there is no report.

Town Clerk Abby DiPietro commented that she conducted a successful election November 6. There was a great turnout of voters, totaling at 535 votes. Also, Ms. DiPietro has asked the Board to draft and sign a letter of thanks to be distributed to the ballot clerks for the great work they did for the town at the recent November election.

Tax Collector/Treasurer Tammy Lyons offered a report from her office.

The Town's Assessing Agent, RJD Appraisal, has completed and submitted their quarterly review. 234 parcels were visited; all parcels visited were part of Maps 5, 24, 25, 26 and 27. 63 parcels received changes, totaling an increase in valuation of \$188,200, and a decrease in valuation of \$92,000, with a net gain of \$96,200.

LaBelle/Stratton Motion to approve a supplemental action on Map 9 Lots 11+14 (portion of) real estate account 232 in the amount of \$2,805.40 to Malcolm and Evelyn Charles representing a tree growth penalty.
LaBelle, Stratton in favor; Charles abstained (2-0-1)

The Board received notice of a Governance Meeting hosted by RSU #18. The meeting is scheduled for November 29, 2018, at 6:30 pm and is to take place at Messalonskee Middle School.

Selectman Stratton has proposed implementing a "book swap" at the Community Center during the winter months. There will be a shelf in the hallway with books for residents to swap out books of their own or to borrow and return when done. Selectman LaBelle will make information available on the town website as it becomes available.

The Board received an email of thanks from Sarah Melvin in regards to information received related to a previous abatement application, as well as the handling of the abatement application.

Selectman LaBelle has asked the Board to be thinking ahead in terms of a potential Spirit of America recipient, as well as dedication and a cover photo for the annual Town Report.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Abby DiPietro
Assistant to the Selectman