

**TOWN OF ROME, MAINE  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
October 1, 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 Dana Delisle, Abby DiPietro, Gary Foss, Tammy Lyons, Cecil Merry, and Ed Pearl, Jr.

LaBelle/Charles            Motion to enter executive session pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405(6)(E) to discuss pending legal matters with municipal counsel regarding *Volodkevich v. Town of Rome*.  
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

Enter executive session at 6:00 pm.

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

Executive session adjourned at 6:23 pm.

Recitation of Pledge of Allegiance.

Stratton/Charles            Motion to accept minutes for September 17, 2018 selectmen's meeting.  
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

Stratton/Charles            Motion to accept minutes for September 18, 2018 selectmen's meeting.  
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

Road Commissioner Carroll Bubar was not present this evening, but did pass along that he has completed stockpiling the sand and salt for winter road maintenance.

Cecil Merry owner of Pavement Plus is contracted by the Town for winter road maintenance. Mr. Merry was in this evening to go over the contract and discuss plans for the coming plow season. Merry is contracted to receive a 3% increase; with this increase it brings his 2018-2019 contract amount to \$65,750.48, with 13 payments of \$5,057.73. The Board does have some concerns going into this winter regarding equipment; Mr. Merry states that the goal is to have three trucks plowing Rome roads per storm. The Board also asked Mr. Merry if he would consider using our road commissioner Carroll Bubar as point of contact throughout the season, Merry agreed to think about it. Fire chief Gary Foss had some concerns going into this winter as well. Foss states that at times he doesn't feel like the fire stations are getting plowed out and kept cleared out regularly. Foss states that as chief he is responsible for any and all fire/rescue calls, but he cannot be responsible if we aren't able to get trucks out of the station. Mr. Merry will plan to be at the next Selectman meeting scheduled for October 15 to finalize the contract.

Stratton/Charles            Motion to table code enforcement report.  
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

Ed Pearl, Emergency Management Director was present for the meeting this evening to discuss the Town's future emergency action plan. Selectman Lois Stratton is concerned that the Town doesn't have a solid emergency action plan and wanted to discuss how we would be able to help residents in case of an emergency. Pearl states that the Community Center is listed as our emergency shelter, he also has available everything needed to survive 3-4 days other than perishable food available at the station for use in an emergency situation. There is the issue of the Community Center's water not being suitable for drinking; in the future, a solution to this will need to be looked into. Also discussed is what criteria would the Town need to meet in order to open the Community Center up to be used as an overnight shelter in an extreme emergency that would put families out of their homes. Chief Foss also suggests putting a notice in the annual Town Report letting residents know that in the event of an emergency the Community Center will be open as an emergency shelter.

Town of Belgrade Town Manager Dennis Keschl has put together an agreement outlining the mission of the proposed Joint Study Committee; this proposed committee is being formed to investigate the merger of our local fire protection and rescue services.

Town of Rome Fire and Rescue Chief Gary Foss attended the meeting this evening to continue discussion of the proposed Town of Belgrade and Town of Rome Fire and Rescue Regionalization. Foss is in favor of the investigation committee as well as the regionalization proposal. Foss has stated though that this is just discussion of a committee and that this isn't changing anything just yet. Foss has been in contact with larger municipalities and that this is a wide spread problem. Cities such as Augusta are having the same problems finding full time employees. Foss states he could "care less" the cost as long as he is able to provide coverage to the residents. Chief Foss would like to see a diverse group of members on the committee, not just fire personnel. Selectman Malcolm Charles wonders if it would be beneficial to reach out to summer residents in hopes they may have different ideas or better ways to move forward. Many things will need to be explored; i.e. Insurances, equipment and equipment maintenance, buildings, etc. Selectman LaBelle feels that sufficient time is needed for the Committee to explore ideas and find out what is feasible, he feels that this March's annual meeting is too soon, but the following year's annual meeting is too far away. LaBelle is in hopes that possibly in August of 2019 to have findings available to move forward with a decision.

Charles/Stratton            Motion to authorize First Selectman LaBelle to sign "Joint Study" Committee to investigate the "Merger" of our local fire protection and rescue services.  
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

Resident Dana Delisle approached the Board inquiring how to apply for property tax abatement. The Board urged Mr. Delisle to file a formal tax abatement application.

Town Clerk Abby DiPietro approached the Board this evening to propose Aimee Robinson as Deputy Town Clerk and Deputy Excise Tax Collector. Ms. DiPietro is excited to have someone reliable and experienced available to work in the office in case of trainings or to cover in case of illness versus closing the office.

Stratton/Charles            Motion to appoint Aimee Robinson Deputy Excise Tax Collector.  
Stratton, Charles in favor; LaBelle abstains (2-0-1)

Town Clerk DiPietro also spoke with the Board this evening about Town Office signage as well as replacing the worn out cork boards at the entrance of the Community Center. Mrs. DiPietro will reach out to local sign companies and get an estimate for the proposed signage.

Selectman Lois Stratton asked Tax Collector/Treasurer Tammy Lyons for an update regarding the previously discussed deposit account. Ms. Lyons said she hasn't looked into it yet because the account would primarily be needed during discount period offered the first 30 days after tax bills are issued. Lyons also stated that she received further clarification on the monthly service fees for our accounts at TD Bank; in order to avoid the \$60.00 per month service fee the balance on the checking account must stay above \$225,000 each month, otherwise the Town will be charged the monthly service fee.

Lyons offered further update of her office; she has received a check from Dead River for \$115.85, upon discussion with Dead River she discovered that the check is reimbursement of overpayment for GA oil purchased in 2014-2015, to be deposited into the miscellaneous revenue account. Lyons also provided follow up paperwork approved on September 18, 2018 to be signed for the LaRou property tax abatement.

Charles/Stratton            Motion to sign 2018 Municipal Valuation Report.  
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

The Board has received a workers' compensation renewal application from MMA.

Stratton/Charles            Motion to accept a donation to Rome Fire Department from Michael and Penny  
Julia for 3 craft fair table rentals in the amount of \$60.00.  
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

The Board will send a courtesy letter to a resident of North Pond Road, letting them know that their parking on the side of North Pond Road will interfere with winter road maintenance.

The Board has received a letter from ISO; the Town of Rome has been reviewed and approved at a public protection classification of 8B/10.

The foreclosure date for 2016 property taxes is Friday, October 5, 2018.

MMA Convention is this week, Wednesday and Thursday October 3 & 4, 2018 at the Augusta Civic Center.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Abby DiPietro  
Assistant to the Selectmen