

**TOWN OF ROME, MAINE  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
OCTOBER 2, 2017  
MINUTES**

Chairman Richard LaBelle called the meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order at 6:00 p.m. 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 at all or parts of the meeting were Fred Alghren, Abby DiPietro, Janet DiPietro, Larry DiPietro, Sr., Bill Garland, Tammy Lyons, and Ed Pearl, Jr.

Recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Charles/Stratton        Motion to accept minutes for September 18, 2017 selectmen's meeting.  
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

Resident Fred Alghren of Peninsula Drive expresses concern over a lack of quality cellular service. In the past, his cell phone has worked adequately, but technology has changed and we have insufficient coverage. He would like to poll residents to determine whether or not building a cell tower is favorable. The Board recommends he discuss his inquiries with the Planning Board and discuss the current ordinance.

Bill Garland, of Modern Woodmen of America, would like to complete a service project for the Town of Rome. He would like to improve the flagpole at the Community Center. This would include relocating the flagpole away from the tree, setting the flagpole, paint the pole, and replace the flag. The work would be completed October 21. There will be no cost to the Town.

Stratton/Charles        Motion to authorize Bill Garland to rehabilitate the flagpole at the Rome  
Community Center.  
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

Town Clerk Abby DiPietro discussed her proposal to adjust her office hours moving forward. Her proposal was to be effective October 2, but she delayed in order to discuss it with the Board. Her proposed hours are: Monday/Tuesday/Thursday 12:00 to 4:00 pm. Saturday hours will not change. This proposal would not impact motor vehicle registration and would increase resident access to the office. After discussion, the Board agrees with moving ahead with the new hours, beginning October 10. We will review the status of the hour change at the October 30 meeting.

The Town Clerk also states that she will look to establish a policy on requesting vital records and submitting marriage intentions. This will help to manage workload during office hours.

Code Enforcement Officer is not present; he has provided a written report to the Board. The DiPietro junkyard permits for Augusta Road and Mercer Road have not been renewed. They expired September 30. The Board will direct the Code Enforcement Officer to move ahead with violation enforcement.

LaBelle/Charles        Motion to direct the Code Enforcement Officer to proceed with enforcement  
of violations against DiPietro junkyards.  
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

- LaBelle/Charles      Motion to sign corrective cemetery quit claim deed for Lots 149 and 150 and Lots 129 and 130 at Rome Village Cemetery, in the name of Jerry Forbes. LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)
- Charles/LaBelle      Motion to sign the 2017 Municipal Valuation Return for the Town of Rome. LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)
- Charles/Stratton      Motion to grant abatement application from Antonio RJ Bellavance on Real Estate account 1942 in the amount of \$1,600 value (\$14.35). LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)  
Note: The account was assessed for one additional acre.
- Charles/Stratton      Motion to deny abatement application from Fritz and Jacqueline Ebner on Real Estate account 1103. LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)  
Note: The assessing agent states that all properties in the neighborhood are assessed equally.

The Town has received a thank you letter for its contribution to Maine Public.

Selectman LaBelle attended the recent Municipal Client Seminar sponsored by municipal attorney Jensen Baird Gardner & Henry. He found that seminar very informative

Selectman Charles notes that the preventative maintenance in the salt/sand shed is being done well and there is one section that will have to be completed next year, as there was excess product remaining in the building. The Road Commissioner has also done some work around the perimeter of the building. There are also lights inside the building that need to be replaced; a preliminary estimate is \$4-500 each—2 are required.

Selectman Charles noted that recent shim work has been completed on Wooster Hill Road and North Pond; this will help with winter snow plowing, as well.

Selectman Charles states that there is still a need to reinforce shoulders on hills, to prevent the extent of washouts. He has mentioned this to the Road Commissioner and the work will be progressively completed.

Selectman Charles was approached by the Belgrade Town Manager about consolidating code enforcement services between the Towns of Rome, Belgrade, and Mount Vernon. This would not exclude any current employees from future consideration. This proposal would allow for a more uniform enforcement, especially around the lakes. Town Manager Keschl would like to speak with the Rome Board in the future.

Tax Collector and Treasurer Tammy Lyons provided an update on the status of her office. She has presented the Board with a list of properties that will be in automatic foreclosure status, which will take place October 4. The list contains 11 properties.

- LaBelle/Charles      Motion to recess, pending further business. LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

Meeting recessed at 7:30 p.m.

Selectman LaBelle called the meeting back to order at 7:37 p.m.

Resident Larry DiPietro, Sr. submits an application for junkyards at Mercer Road and Augusta Road.

LaBelle/Stratton      Motion to waive public hearing requirements on the Application for Automobile Graveyard and/or Junkyard Permit for Larry DiPietro, Sr. on Mercer Road at Map 7 Lot 13.  
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

LaBelle/Stratton      Motion to grant Application for Automobile Graveyard and/or Junkyard Permit for Larry DiPietro, Sr. on Mercer Road at Map 7 Lot 13.  
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

Charles/Stratton      Motion to enforce public hearing requirements on the Application for Automobile Graveyard and/or Junkyard Permit for Larry DiPietro, Sr. on Augusta Road at Map 21 Lot 24-A, due to the comments provided to the Board by the Code Enforcement Officer.  
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

Stratton/Charles      The meeting be adjourned.  
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

Meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly R. Brooks  
Assistant to the Selectmen