

**TOWN OF ROME, MAINE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
OCTOBER 3, 2016
MINUTES**

Chairman Richard LaBelle called the meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order at 5:30 p.m. at the DiPietro property on Augusta Road in Rome. Selectmen LaBelle, Archer, and Charles were present. A quorum was declared. Also present at all or parts of the meeting were Terry Batchelder, Kimberly Brooks, Carroll Bubar, Michael Burnham, James Cerrato, Andrew Cook, Janet DiPietro, Larry DiPietro, Jr., Carl Gartley, Tammy Lyons, Sandra Mitchell, and Madeline St. Amour.

Selectman LaBelle called the meeting to order at the DiPietro property. A tour of the property from the edge of Route 27/Augusta Road was completed by the Board of Selectmen. The meeting was recessed at 5:42 p.m. to return to the Community Center.

Selectman LaBelle called the meeting back to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Room of the Rome Community Center. A quorum was once again declared; the meeting proceeded.

Charles/Archer Motion to accept minutes for September 19, 2016 selectmen's meeting
LaBelle, Archer, Charles in favor (3-0)

Rome's representative to RSU 18 School Board Dr. Andrew G. Cook and RSU 18 Assistant Superintendent/Chief Academic Officer Carl Gartley provided an update on the condition of the RSU. Dr. Cook presented a slate of proposed topics of discussion for this update.

Selectman Charles questioned the recent string of communications regarding district staff and criminal background compliance. Director Cook stated that an Oakland resident had a lack of information and inaccurate information was disseminated to members of the school board, as well as numerous elected officials throughout the district. Cook assured the board that there was no question that the district was compliant. Mr. Gartley stated that it is district policy that no contract will be awarded without proper certifications.

Dr. Cook provided an update on the district's cost-sharing committee; the next meeting is Thursday. This committee is exploring the mix of valuation versus pupil attendance in funding the additional local share of education. This local share is what is considered to be above and beyond essential funding, as determined by the State. Cook believes the formula should likely be based more heavily on student count.

Gartley informed the board of governance meetings in October and November to preempt 2017-18 budget discussions. Selectman LaBelle stated that he was very disappointed in the recent budget approval that was "sold" as a one and one-half percent increase. This recent increase resulted in an approximate 8 percent increase to the Town of Rome.

The district's facilities committee continues to meet; they are expected to present to the School Board in the coming weeks. It is likely that the proposals will be presented to each individual Town for explanation and clarifications.

Code Enforcement Officer Andrew Marble is not present; he has submitted a written report to the Board of Selectmen. He stated that he believes Michael Burnham, of 855 Watson Pond Road, to be in compliance after the recent violation citation.

LaBelle/Archer Motion to rescind the violation issued to Michael Burnham.
LaBelle, Archer, Charles in favor (3-0)

Charles/LaBelle Motion to approve junkyard permit application for Larry DiPietro, Sr. on
property owned by Shannon Holt on Mercer Road.
LaBelle, Charles in favor; Archer abstained (2-0-1)
Note: Archer abstains as she is the sister of property owner Shannon Holt.

Selectman LaBelle states that he is fairly pleased with the continued condition of the southern end of DiPietro's property. While it is not in great condition, the used car portion is in compliance. LaBelle does not believe the northern portion of the property is at all in compliance; there is no shielding and LaBelle still does not believe that box trailers qualify. LaBelle recommends disapproving the application.

Charles/Archer Motion to approve junkyard permit application for Larry DiPietro, Sr. on
property owned by Larry DiPietro, Sr. on Augusta Road.
Archer, Charles in favor; LaBelle against (2-1)

The Road Commissioner is not present; there is no report. There were no complaints received by the Board regarding roads.

Archer/LaBelle Motion to pay \$500.00 from contingency to Kennebec Welding for the urgent
repair of the overhead door at the salt/sand shed.
LaBelle, Archer, Charles in favor (3-0)

Archer/Charles Motion to hire Wire Guys to install the outside power receptacle at the
salt/sand shed to be in compliance with insurance requirements.
LaBelle, Archer, Charles in favor (3-0)

Selectman LaBelle provided a brief summary of the situation regarding the tax accounts of Terry Batchelder and James Cerrato. The bank improperly paid taxes on the Cerrato, causing the payments to be applied to Batchelders. Treasurer and Tax Collector Tammy Lyons presented a legal opinion from Maine Municipal Association Legal Department stating that the Town does not have a legal avenue by which to resolve the issue. MMA Legal recommends that the two owners work together and include their attorney, bank, and/or tax payment services company to resolve the payment dispute among themselves. The Town does not have a role in this situation.

The Board received an offer to settle the dispute stemming from the Baker Lots on Mountain Drive. The offer, presented by Attorney Mary Denison, represents the interests of the potential buyers of the respective lots. Selectman LaBelle suggests that the Town has spent far too much time and resources on this case and that a reasonable resolution should be agreed upon.

The conditions of the offer are:

1. *Each lot must be merged with the purchaser's current shorefront lot and the merger shall be perpetual and shall run with the land.*
2. *None of the Baker lots can be individually developed with a new dwelling on it.*
3. *The 35' easement to the lake appurtenant to the six lots shall be extinguished.*

4. *At closing, the sum of \$10,000 shall be deducted from Sellers' proceeds and paid directly to the Town of Rome as payment in lieu of prosecution for violations of the earlier court order.*

LaBelle/Archer Motion to accept the offer to settle the Baker Lots dispute, as proposed by Attorney Denison.
LaBelle, Archer, Charles in favor (3-0)

Archer/LaBelle Motion to approve the Kennebec County Revised Hazard Mitigation Plan Resolution.
LaBelle, Archer, Charles in favor (3-0)

Selectman LaBelle stated that reminders have been posted in local papers to remind residents of the new cemetery cleanup expectations, effective October 15.

A 'thank you' card was received from Rome student Kaleb Watkins, expressing thanks for the recent scholarship award. It is believed that the scholarship was one of the scholarships awarded by Liz Tonge.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly R. Brooks
Assistant to the Selectmen

Richard A. LaBelle, First Selectman

Kelly Archer, Second Selectman

Malcolm Charles, Third Selectman