

**TOWN OF ROME, MAINE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SEPTEMBER 17, 2018
MINUTES**

Chairman Richard LaBelle called the meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order at 6:05 pm in the Community Room 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 Travis Burton, Evelyn Charles, Abby DiPietro, Gary Foss, Larry Garrison, Dennis Keschl, Tammy Lyons, Dan MacKenzie and Ed Pearl Jr.

Recitation of Pledge of Allegiance.

Stratton/Charles Motion to accept minutes for August 20, 2018 selectmen meeting.
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

This evening's meeting began with discussion of regionalizing fire services with Belgrade Town Manager Dennis Keschl as well as Belgrade Fire Chief Dan MacKenzie. Representing Rome Fire and Rescue Departments were Chief Gary Foss and Assistant Chief Ed Pearl Jr. Currently, there is a mutual aid agreement between Rome and Belgrade; this discussion explores whether it would be realistic to pursue a regionalization between Rome and Belgrade, offering more consistent coverage for both towns. Regionalization could reduce costs over time, but ultimately is geared toward offering better coverage and availability of services to both Rome and Belgrade. Belgrade Chief Dan MacKenzie points out that there are less and less volunteers every year and that coverage is limited because of this. Chief MacKenzie states that something will need to be done soon, whether the towns join forces or do something individually in each town. Chief MacKenzie believes it will get worse quickly for both towns. It is an unfortunate situation, but luckily Rome and Belgrade chiefs are cooperative and work well together. Rome Fire Chief Gary Foss is in support of going forward with exploring a joint effort between the two towns. Chief Foss says he is able to attend many calls but in some cases isn't able to get to the call before Delta. Chief Foss stated that he is more than happy to sit on the board and look into regionalization with an open mind. Chief Foss says it may not "save" money in all areas but in time it could be worthwhile. This wouldn't strengthen one town more than another, but would increase coverage for both. Rome Assistant Chief Ed Pearl states that he has a hard time believing it will save money, but he understands the situation.

Rome Selectman Malcolm Charles remembers a time when LEAA organization had many issues when they tried a regionalization similar to what is being discussed. Selectman Charles feels strongly that it is important this regionalization be kept between Belgrade and Rome and not include other towns. He saw first-hand the problems created with too many chiefs. Selectman Charles feels we should be doing our own dispatching and having our people out there making decisions instead of someone in Augusta trying to make the decisions for our department and crews.

Chief MacKenzie feels the first step is to create a committee to see if this regionalization is even feasible. Selectman Charles reiterates his hope to keep it as small as possible. Also pointed out in the meeting was the way that our two towns are situated around the many lakes in the area; geographically, this union makes the most sense. Selectman Richard LaBelle states that he recognizes that this likely isn't a cost-savings venture, but is pleased at the prospect of getting a bigger "bang for the buck" with much better coverage for both communities at a similar cost. Chief Foss also mentioned the added benefit to the community with a lower ISO rating by having full time coverage; this could possibly lower homeowner insurance premiums. Chief Foss also added, "both of our towns work great together!"

Stratton/Charles Motion to support the drafting of guidelines for a committee to explore the merging of the two town's fire and rescue departments.
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

The selectboard mailed copies of the fire department generator request for proposals to twelve local businesses; only one bid was received in response. Generators of Maine, of Belgrade, submitted a proposal in the amount of \$11,400.96. This amount is to include:

- Installation of 14kw RESA generator on a pre cast concrete pad.
- Kohler 100-amp RXT transfer switch next to electrical meter.
- Install 2-120 gallon propane tanks.
- Dig a ditch from the generator to transfer switch.
- Install PVC conduit, electrical line, control wires and back fill ditch.
- Dig a ditch from the generator to the propane tanks and install propane line.
- Back vent for regulator.
- Make all propane connections.
- Leak check the propane system.
- 6' high galvanized fencing to come out 10' from building, 20' across and 10' back to the building with a 4' door.

Upon completion of the installation, Generators of Maine will perform a Kohler certified startup which includes parts and labor for 5 years. Yearly generator service beginning in 2019 is \$245, which includes new plugs, oil, oil filter, air filter if necessary, and check for any loose connections and run generator and transfer switch through a power outage. Also stated in the proposal, Generators of Maine is not responsible for any fees incurred by CMP or Cable/TV utility. This project is scheduled to be completed by October 31, 2018.

Stratton/Charles Motion to authorize the expenditure of \$10,000 which was approved at Town Meeting and appropriate \$1,400.96 from contingency for the purchase and installation of Kohler Generator at Mercer Road Rome Fire Station.
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

Road Commissioner Carroll Bubar was not present, but passed along that he would like to move forward with consideration of sand and salt purchase for winter road maintenance. Bubar has received a price for sand from Warren and Kincaid at \$6.50 per yard delivered to the Rome sand/salt shed. Road Commissioner Bubar also relayed that Morton Salt had been awarded the joint purchasing contract with Kennebec Valley Council of Governments. He recommends both vendors and has submitted purchase order requests for consideration.

Stratton/Charles Motion to enter contract with Warren and Kincaid for winter sand at \$6.50/yard delivered.
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

Stratton/Charles Motion to contract with Morton Salt for up to 420 tons of road salt.
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

LaBelle/Stratton Motion to sign purchase order for Carroll Bubar to stock pile winter road material, on a time and materials basis.
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

Road Commissioner Bubar also passed along confirmation that the interior walls of the sand/salt shed have been washed in preparation of the shed being filled with winter road material.

Selectman LaBelle opened the public hearing on the proposed General Assistance Ordinance, to include adjusted maximums, effective October 1, 2018. A brief summary of the proposed changes was given. There were no further questions or comments.

Selectman LaBelle declared the public hearing adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Stratton/Charles Motion to accept General Assistance Ordinance with appendices A-D, effective October 1, 2019 - September 30, 2019.
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

Sexton Michael Proctor has made the Board aware of several trees at Brookside Cemetery on Wooster Hill Road that have become overgrown. Currently there is a large tree growing on at least one lot that has already been sold.

Charles/Stratton Motion to put article in warrant for Town Meeting in March to remove trees and stumps from Brookside Cemetery.
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

Tax Collector and Treasurer Tammy Lyons had a gentleman inquire about an unused cemetery plot in Village Cemetery on Mercer Road. This is a lot that his grandfather had purchased many years ago and only two of the five plots in the lot have been used. The gentleman was wondering if there is any issue with himself as an heir being buried there. The Board has no objections to him using the unused plots, as long as he had legitimate claim to ownership. The Board did not take a position on the legal ability of the gentleman to claim plots.

Charles/Stratton Motion to accept a donation for the flagpole project from Rick Labbe Construction in the amount of \$200.
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

Selectman Lois Stratton updated the Board on the progress of the flagpole revitalization project. Selectman Stratton has ordered the new pole and expects it to arrive sometime next week. She has also gone to Gagne and Son to order the remaining materials needed for the project. Selectman Stratton believes she has raised enough to fund the remainder of the project. There are also plans to move the flag to the center of the community Center lawn; currently the flag is getting caught up in the evergreen on the Community Center lawn which is tattering the flag.

Charles/Stratton Motion to accept a donation from Lawrence Garrison totaling \$400: \$100 to Rome Fire Department, \$100 to Rome Rescue Department, \$100 to Rome Recreation Committee, \$100 to Rome Scholarship Fund.
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

LaBelle/Stratton Motion to accept a donation to Rome Fire Department from Aaron Clifford for table rental in the amount of \$20.
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

The Town of Rome has been awarded the Excellence Award by the Board of Judges in the 2018 Maine Municipal Association (MMA) Municipal Report Competition. Awards are given to the top three reports in five different population categories.

The Board has received a request from MMA asking them to assign a voting delegate.

The Board has been asked to provide a letter of support for the Waste Management of Maine: Cross Roads facility expansion. Selectman LaBelle recuses himself from the Board for the purposes of this discussion.

Charles/Stratton Motion to sign and forward a letter of support for the Cross Roads facility expansion.
Stratton, Charles in favor; LaBelle abstains (2-0-1)

LaBelle/Stratton Motion to approve the format for junkyard/automobile graveyard application and application for Automobile Recycling Business Permit.
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles opposed (0-3)

Charles/Stratton Motion to table consideration of the format for junkyard/automobile graveyard application and application for Automobile Recycling Business Permit, until advice is sought from the municipal attorney.
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Abby DiPietro
Assistant to the Selectman