

**TOWN OF ROME, MAINE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SEPTEMBER 18, 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 Kimberly Brooks, Carroll Bubar, John Fantoli, Larry Garrison, Terry Hughes, Tammy Lyons, Ed Pearl, Jr., and Langston Ware.

Recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Stratton/Charles Motion to accept minutes for September 5, 2017 selectmen's meeting.
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

Road Commissioner Carroll Bubar provided an update on local road maintenance. He states that he is working on maintaining the salt/sand shed: cleaning off the inside walls and putting a coat of preservative on the concrete. He requests approval to replace an interior light; this is approved. He estimates that stockpiling of winter salt/sand will begin in three weeks.

The entrance to Ladd Road will be paved by Pavement Plus, Inc. Bubar will also contact Cecil Merry about shimming the 0.25 miles of Wooster Hill Road, beginning at Route 225. This project will be a short-term fix, if the pricing fits within the budget. This will come back to the Board at a future meeting.

Resident Terry Hughes, of Monica Ridge (a private way off Oak Ridge), serves as treasurer and secretary of his road association. He is requesting that the Town consider taking over the maintenance of Monica Ridge and inquires about the process of getting an article on the warrant for town meeting. He believes the cost to the Town will be minimal. Selectman LaBelle states his opposition to such an idea, as the Town has too many roads to currently maintain. Also, there are numerous other roads with greater tax base and/or traffic that would be eligible for the same consideration. Selectman LaBelle is opposed to the Town taking responsibility for any other roads. Mr. Hughes will present the Board with proposed language for a warrant article at a later date.

Resident Langston Ware, of Jamaica Point Road, spoke about his desire to see a bus stop built at the intersection of Jamaica Point Road and Route 225. He believes the current stop is unsafe. Selectman LaBelle states that this is an issue to be handled by the school department and that the bus stop should be in front of his residence. Bus driver Tammy Lyons stated that she had made other arrangements for pickup, but has now made adjustments for a turnaround at Bear Spring Camps. This turnaround must be approved by the school board.

Mr. Ware also inquired about high speed cable access near his residence. He is struggling to make progress with any contacts in order to bring an expanded service to the area. Selectman Charles recommends contacting our state representative

October 4 is the date of automatic foreclosures. Selectman LaBelle notes that many lien certificates filed by the Tax Collector & Treasurer have not met the standard for proper notification. The municipal attorney suggests that any property subject to foreclosure be reviewed by the attorney for adequate notification documentation. In some instances, there may be opportunity to issue a curative notice to certain parties, prior to moving forward with the foreclosure process.

The attorney strongly suggests the Tax Collector & Treasurer participate in training in order to learn the proper lien and notification process. Attorney Sally Daggett spent a brief time with Ms. Lyons in order to advise of the proper procedure, but has not heard back since. Attorney Daggett stated that the top priority should be ensuring that property descriptions are accurately recorded in the billing and collection systems. Attorney Daggett suggests training with her or with Maine Municipal Association. It is essential this be done as soon as possible. Failure to complete proper training will require the attention of the Board of Selectmen to protect the Town's best interests.

Town Clerk Abby DiPietro attended a consolidated Bureau of Motor Vehicles training in order to achieve registration authorizations. She is now authorized as a new registration agent.

LaBelle/Stratton Motion to accept the donation of \$400.00 from Lawrence Garrison (\$100 to Rome Fire, \$100 to Rome Rescue, \$100 to Rome Campership Fund, \$100 to Rome Scholarship Fund), with thanks.
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

The Code Enforcement Officer is not present; there is no update.

LaBelle/Chalres Motion to appoint Abby DiPietro as Deputy Excise Tax Collector.
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

Town Clerk Abby DiPietro submitted a notice of her intention to change office hours, effective October 2, 2017. The new hours for the clerk would be Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday 12:00 to 4:00 p.m.; Saturday hours will remain the same, and marriage intentions would be by appointment only. Selectman Stratton expresses concern over the proper cross-training in the office and suggests delaying the implementation of the new schedule; the board concurs.

The Board will notify Town Clerk DiPietro of their position and will request her presence at the next regular meeting.

It is noted that all Town Offices will be closed for the Columbus Day holiday on October 9; the excise tax/motor vehicle office will be open that Saturday, October 7.

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