

**TOWN OF ROME, MAINE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SEPTEMBER 4, 2018
MINUTES**

Chairman Richard LaBelle called the meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order at 5:30 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 Abby DiPietro, Tammy Lyons, Andrew Marble, 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 *Town of Rome v. Larry and Janet DiPietro* and regarding *Robert and Janyce Volodkevich v. Town of Rome*.
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

Enter executive session at 5:30pm.

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

Executive session adjourned at 6:12 pm.

Recitation of Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Assistant Fire Chief Ed Pearl, Jr. approached the board regarding a credit card promotion received from Wright Express (WEX). Mr. Pearl wanted the Board's opinion on looking further into implementing the cards for use in the fire/rescue vehicles. Selectman Stratton stated that she doesn't like credit cards and likes the current arrangement the Town has with Sweet Dreams. Selectman LaBelle doesn't feel that we use enough fuel to justify the use of a credit card system and that the savings is minimal (likely 1.5 cents per gallon) relative to the administrative tasks associated with managing the cards. LaBelle says "It's great to save money, but if it isn't substantive why bother?"

Selectman Stratton also asked Mr. Pearl for more information regarding the craft sale the Fire/Rescue Department is planning. The sale is scheduled for Dec. 1, 2018 and will take place at the Rome Community Center from 9-3 pm. 6' vendor tables are available now to rent for \$20. For more information reach out to Shelby Christianson at 615-9430, Nikole Clement at 660-2979, or Nikki Cunningham at 314-8930.

Road Commissioner is not present; there is no report.

Tax Collector/Treasurer Tammy Lyons offered an update on her office. Lyons had a gentleman new to the area stop by her office inquiring about using the Community Center fields for dog training.

Lyons also made the Board aware of service charges totaling \$285 on the most recent TD Bank statement. Lyons researched the cause of the charges, and discovered that TD Bank charges a fee each month for processing more than 500 checks. During the discount period offered to Rome's taxpayers we

exceed the allotted 500 processed checks. The Board recommends looking into establishing another deposit account that can be used to avoid charges. As discussed, Lyons will look into opening a deposit account.

The Board questioned Tax Collector Lyons as to why she granted discounts on tax payments two weeks after the deadline for the tax payment discount period. Lyons stated that she had account payments that she received before the deadline and that there were issues with the checks. She mailed a letter to the taxpayers and once a corrected check was issued Lyons accepted the payments and granted the discount. Selectman LaBelle stated that the Town Meeting Warrant is very clear in the language of the discount and that it was improper to grant the discounts. The Board stated they felt this was improper procedure for the situation. It clearly contradicts the language in the warrant for the Tax Collector to grant discounts after the 30 day window.

Selectman LaBelle declared the meeting in recess at 6:35 pm.

Selectman LaBelle called the meeting back to order at 6:37pm.

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| LaBelle/Charles | Motion to accept an anonymous donation in the amount of \$50.00 for the flag pole revitalization project. LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0) |
| Stratton/Charles | Motion to accept \$50.00 donation to the Fire Department and \$50.00 donation to the Rescue Department from Michael and Barbara Barrett. LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0) |
| Stratton/LaBelle | Motion to adjourn. LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0) |

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Abby DiPietro
Assistant to the Selectman