

**TOWN OF ROME, MAINE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SEPTEMBER 5, 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, Tammy Lyons, Cecil Merry, Jay Merry, and Ed Pearl, Jr.

Recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Charles/Stratton Motion to accept minutes for August 21 2017 selectmen's meeting.
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

Selectman LaBelle opened the public hearing at 6:04 p.m. on the proposed General Assistance Ordinance, to include adjusted maximums, effective October 1, 2017. A brief summary of the changes proposed was given. There were no further questions or comments.

Selectman LaBelle declared the hearing closed at 6:07 p.m.

Stratton/Charles Motion to approve the revised general assistance ordinance for 2017-18.
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

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

Winter road maintenance contractor Cecil Merry, of Pavement Plus, Inc. discussed the terms of his contract with the board. He showed photos of his updated fleet, which includes nine trucks. There have been issues with turnaround locations, especially on Nickerson Lane, Drury Lane, Wentworth Court, Dry Point Drive, and Richardson Road. He will work with the Road Commissioner over the next year to try and find solutions.

The current contract will be extended automatically, under the terms of the current agreement. The contract price will be increased three percent over previous year.

The Road Commissioner is not present. Selectman Malcolm Charles states that we need to ensure that road shoulders are repaired when there are heavy rains that are causing washouts. This is happening in several locations on Wooster Hill Road.

Selectman Charles suggests that instead of paving the ends of Nickerson Lane and Foss Hill Lane that the Town instead hires a company like Lucas Tree or Asplundh trim the entire length of a road. He states that the Town should start a town-wide cutting program. There is no action taken.

Tammy Lyons states that she heard that Oak Ridge will not be graded this fall, but that is should because it is in poor condition. She further states that she believes the Town should not use contractor Rick Labbe to complete gravel road grading, as his equipment is not heavy enough.

Charles/Stratton Motion to sign cemetery quit claim deed for the sale of Lot 11 at Brookside Cemetery (Wooster Hill Rd.) to Lynn Mosher Bushnell, Donald J. Bushnell, Katharine B. McNutt, Rebecca B. Cain, and Stephen W. Bushnell.
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

Charles/Stratton Motion to sign cemetery quit claim deed for the sale of Lot 54 at Brookside Cemetery (Wooster Hill Rd.) to Jason Wilde.
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

Stratton/Charles Motion to accept the resignation of Doris Mathias from the Town of Rome Academic Options Exploratory Committee.
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

The Board of Selectmen reconsiders the abatement/supplemental action request from Walter Melvin. The Board has previously asked the assessing agent for an explanation, recommendation, and proper procedure for this request; none of this information is provided. Selectman LaBelle states that if the adjustment is made, it should be done for the time legally allowed and not just one year. Selectman Stratton states opposition to approving this request. Selectman LaBelle questions the assessment as separate parcels begin less than one larger combined parcel.

Stratton/Charles Motion to deny abatement/supplemental action related to the request of Walter Melvin. Any changes may be made for update as of April 1, 2018.
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

The municipal client seminar hosted by town attorney Jensen Baird Gardner and Henry is scheduled for September 28, 2017 in South Portland. It is free of charge; officials must pre-register.

There is additional training and sessions available at the Maine Municipal Association Annual Meeting at the Augusta Civic Center on October 4-5. Selectman LaBelle suggests that officials attend, as the information has been very valuable in the past.

LaBelle/Charles Motion to appoint Tammy Lyons as Rome's voting delegate to the 2017 Maine Municipal Association Annual Business Meeting.
LaBelle, Stratton, Charles in favor (3-0)

Kimberly Brooks states that the Rome Recreation Committee has rescheduled its annual yard sale to September 30 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. They are soliciting donations, as well as baked goods. Last year's pie sale was successful. Selectman Charles states that he will volunteer to cook hot dogs on the day of the sale.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly R. Brooks
Assistant to the Selectmen