

TOWN OF ROME, MAINE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
January 4, 2021

Via zoom and in-person

Chairman Monica McCarthy called the meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order at 6:00 PM. Selectman McCarthy, Stratton, and Archer were present. Also present for all or parts of the meeting were, Barbara Brickett, Tammy Lyons, Julie Morrison, Christopher Raleigh, Joel Green (KVCOG), Charles Tetalman (KVCOG), Joan Orr, Cori Holt, Peter Callen, Barbara Russell, Jonathan Wells

Pledge of Allegiance

The approval of minutes December 21, 2020 until after the KVCOG presentation.

Public Comment

- Comprehensive Plan presentation started with Joel Greenwood. Greenwood stated that such a plan helps guide the Town in a direction that the residents want to see the Town go. State requires a town to have a Comprehensive Plan to apply for certain grants. Comp. Plan is considered a “legal backbone “on land development and use for ordinances. Plans are not required but they are a guider for adopting policies. KVCOG would contract services to assist in writing a plan and would work with a town committee. KVCOG would help with an inventory of what the Town currently is and then we would work on where the Town would like to be in 10-12 years. (such as internet access, road maintenance, land use policies, etc.) Public outreach to get opinions/suggestions during this process would happen with events or surveys. It could possibly take up to 18 months working and meeting with the Committee and Select Board over that time frame. This plan would also review existing ordinances.

Peter Callen suggested looking at the draft comprehensive plan that Dennis Phillips (former Planning Board Chair) had presented years before during the Cell Tower issue.

Callen also said that 7 Lakes Alliance would like to participate in the Committee. Cost of working with KVCOG would be billed over 2 budget years at approx. \$16,000-18,000.

A motion to approve the minutes of December 21, 2020 meeting was made by Stratton and seconded by Archer approved by all 3-0

- Joan Orr requested that the minutes be posted on the website. Archer reported that the launch of the Town's new website is scheduled for Jan 15th and minutes and agendas will be available after the Select Board has approved them.

- Barbara Russell and Peter Callan came to speak about Carbon Fees and Dividends.

They wish to have an article for which the Town will vote to show support for this initiative for Climate Change using Carbon fees and cash back dividends.

This puts a fee on carbon usage, starting at \$15 per ton gradually increasing each year with dividends given back to the people. The more you use fuels (carbons) the more fees it will cost.

They are supporting having 100% of all fees to be returned to the people in equal shares. 20 Towns in Maine have adopted this request.

It plans on having an independent agency collecting and distributing the funds (possibly monthly, yearly, or by tax credit). A \$49 per carbon ton tax projects a 40% reduction in carbon footprint.

A motion to place the Maine Resolution to take action with regard to Climate Pollution as a warrant article for this March was made by McCarthy and seconded by Stratton approved by all 3-0

Andy Marble CEO report

- Dwight Allison has purchased a large parcel of land by Little North Pond and wants to preserve the land from development. Marble expressed support for the Town to have a Comprehensive plan in place.

Road Commissioner Report

- N/A

Town Clerk Report Julie Morrison:

- Barbara Brickett read the Town Clerk report provided by Julie Morrison please see attachment. Morrison also wanted to know approximately how many ballots to print for this coming town election. See att

Tax Collector and Treasurer Report:

- Lyons reported the Town received a check for \$500 from Edward and Arlene Bragdon to be used for the Giving Tree the week of Dec 25th, 2020.

A motion to accept the \$500 for the Giving Tree to be deposited into the Recreation Committee account to be used for the giving tree was made by Stratton and seconded by McCarthy and approved by all 3-0

- The Town's audit will start on Jan 18th, 2020 and the report is to be ready by February 19th for the printing of the Town Annual Report.

Other:

- McCarthy tabled the approval of the Dec 1 budget workshop minutes until Wednesday Jan. 6th, 2021 budget workshop meeting.
- McCarthy reports that the video conference equipment is scheduled to be installed on January 18th.

A motion to approve a purchase up to \$700 for a computer for video conferencing equipment by Snow Pond Technology and to come from the contingency fund was made by McCarthy and seconded by Archer and approved by all 3-0

- The Board also approves the purchase of an external CD reader which the Assessors and the Tax Collector have need of was made.
- Liz Cloukey who has work on the Rome Scholarship Fund is retiring after many years. Dr. Andrew Cook, the Town's school board representative, has offered to take her place. A letter of Thanks and Appreciation will be sent to Liz for all her years of service for the town.

A motion to adjourn was made at 8:48 PM by McCarthy and seconded by Stratton and approved by all 3-0

Respectfully yours,

Barbara Brickett

Selectmen Assistant/Deputy Clerk

selectmenassistant@romemaine.com

Next Regular scheduled Selectmen Meeting will be

Monday February 16, 2020