

Mechanic Falls Town Council

September 4, 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Cathy Fifield, Chair
Stephen Bolduc, Vice Chair
Nicholas Konstantoulakis
Kieth Bennett
Wayne Hackett

STAFF PRESENT:

Zakk Maher – Town Manager
Miranda Hinkley – Town Clerk
Jeffrey Goss – Chief of Police

OTHERS PRESENT:

Eriks Petersons, Reporter Arthur Montana
Lou Annance

- 1.0 Councilor Fifield called the meeting to order at 6:31pm.
- 2.0 We stood and saluted the flag.
- 3.0 All members present.

Councilor Bennett moves to suspend Robert's Rules of Order to allow an additional item be added to the agenda. Seconded by Councilor Hackett and voted unanimously to allow.

4.0 General Reports:

- 4.1 Council Meeting Minutes for August 8, 2018
- 4.2 Departmental Reports Submitted
- 4.3 Municipal Financial Reports

Councilor Bolduc moves to accept the Minutes and Reports as submitted, seconded by Councilor Hackett. All in favor, so voted.

5.0 Public Comments: Individuals limited to 5 minutes of speaking time.

Eriks Petersons of 9 Pearl Street is requesting the Town look into a large dead branch hanging from the top of a tree at the corner of Pearl and Mitchell Streets. He states it has been like this for approximately 1 month and feels it is a danger to those passing through. The Town Manager will inform the Public Works Department and have this branch removed.

6.0 Old Business:

6.1 Loitering Complaints

Businesses will keep an eye out for vehicles parking on the street for more than the allotted timeframe. It is the belief of the Town Administration that we are enforcing the ordinances as they are written and were intended.

6.2 Volunteer Code of Conduct

The Town Manager kept all the same information from the previous version but shortened the length to fit on one page. The Council questions whether it is legal to restrict weapons for volunteers. The Town Manager will reword the document to include all volunteers and present for vote at next meeting.

6.3 Lane Road Bids

The property on Lane Road that the Town acquired through non-payment of real estate taxes is a 74-acre lot

zoned as rural. If the Town wishes to sell this property, there would have to be a bid process due to the way in which it was acquired. The Council would need to determine a minimum bid.

6.4 Winterbrook Rd

Town-owned property on Winterbrook Rd is not within the 400ft aquifer buffer, but is within the 3000ft buffer area. This property was not obtained through tax-acquired process and therefore can be listed for sale without a bid. All sales of town-owned properties would go to the general fund unless otherwise stipulated during the sale process. The sales are not needed right now, perhaps the Council will revisit in a year. The Council does not feel that the Manager needs more on his agenda at this time.

6.5 Welcome signs/slogan.

The Town is looking to place 6 welcome signs on major routes as vehicle enter into the town. \$1100 will be paid by the Development Commission and the Town will match with an additional \$1100. Councilor Konstantoulakis moves to accept the full color sign that reads "Welcoming Families & Businesses". Councilor Bolduc seconds and the Council votes unanimously to accept.

7.0 New Business:

7.1 Fire/Rescue Repeater discussion tabled.

7.2 Police Cruiser Purchase.

The Police Department placed a request for bids and received one back from Quirk at \$29,080. They would be trading in the current cruiser which would offset the upfitting required for the PD use. Two other vehicles were presented, however none were within the specs needed. Councilor Bolduc placed a motion to accept the bid from Quirk for purchase of a new cruiser at \$29,080. Motion seconded by Councilor Konstantoulakis. All in favor, so voted.

7.3 Office Closure.

The Town Manager has requested that the Town Clerk's Office be closed on October 3rd to allow the employees to attend training at the Maine Municipal Association's Annual Convention. This is a two-day event, however the Manager did not want to disrupt business for two days. Councilor Bolduc moves to allow the Town Clerk's Office to close on October 3rd for employee training, seconded by Councilor Hackett and unanimously voted to close.

7.4 Collection of taxes

The Collection of taxes will require a three-part vote. (1) to release Koriene Low from all indebtedness by signing the Certificate of Settlement. Councilor Bolduc moves to accept and sign, seconded by Councilor Hackett and unanimously approved. (2) to assign the indebtedness to Zachary Maher by certificate of Recommitment. Councilor Bolduc moves to accept and sign, seconded by Councilor Hackett and unanimously approved. (3) to allow the collection of all current and past due taxes a Warrant of Completion will be voted on and signed. Councilor Bolduc moves to accept and sign, seconded by Councilor Hackett and unanimously approved.

7.5 Committee/Board Updates.

Each Councilor attends a different committee/board meeting and in the interest of open communication, the Town Manager thought it may be a good idea for them to spend a few minutes providing an update at each meeting. No objections.

7.6 ****Addition to Agenda**** Information/Internet Security

The Town Manager has created a policy regarding Internet/Information Security that he would like the Council to adopt. This policy was prompted by other municipal entities around the US noticing increase in data breaches, harmful viruses, etc. The Council reviewed the draft document and felt that it was heading in the right direction. They will vote on final draft once complete.

8.0 Ordinances, Resolves & Licenses:

8.1 Burnstein Shur Anticipation Note.

For the purchase and renovations of the new Town Office an extension is needed for the temporary funding that is due to expire in November 2018. Councilor Hackett was not present for the previous vote/discussion as his term began July 2018. He would like to know what the \$724,500 is broken down to include. The Town Manager was also newly hired and does not have the information directly in front of him. The question was presented that the townspeople voted on \$500,000 for new building purchase and renovations in addition to refinancing the current bonds of \$224,500 on the current municipal building. Since the current bonds cannot be refinanced or paid off early, why are we still borrowing \$724,500? The Town Manager will gather all information and send it to the Councilors and a special meeting will be called to vote on this article.

8.2 Abatement Requests

Two residents have placed applications for abatement. They are both for \$436.00 for errors with homestead exemption. The first happened when a Veteran and his wife separated and the Veteran moved out. The Veteran's exemption was to be removed, but all exemptions were removed instead. Councilor Hackett enters a motion to approve this abatement. Councilor Bolduc seconds the motion. All in favor, so voted. The other was a new homestead exemption that the Tax Clerk entered but due to system error, it did not save. Councilor Hackett enters a motion to approve this abatement. Councilor Bolduc seconds the motion. All in favor, so voted

8.3 Liquor License Renewal

An application for liquor license renewal has been received from the Crooked Hook Tavern. Chief Goss has reviewed the request and signed recommending approval. No issues have been reported with this establishment. Councilor Bolduc moves to approve this license renewal, seconded by Councilor Konstantoulakis. The Council unanimously votes to approve.

Councilor Bolduc motioned to adjourn, Seconded by Councilor Hackett. All in favor, so voted. Meeting Adjourned 7:42pm.