

Mechanic Falls Town Council

April 1, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Cathy Fifield, Chair
Stephen Bolduc, Vice Chair

Nicholas Konstantoulakis
Wayne Hackett

Kieth Bennett

STAFF PRESENT:

Zakk Maher – Town Manager
Miranda Hinkley – Town Clerk
Lisa Prevost – Finance Director
Steve Turner - Janitor
Scott Penney – Public Works
Director

Jon Damon – Dep. Fire Chief
Tom Doherty – Dep. Fire Chief
Ben Limerick – Fire Fighter
Jeff Goss – Police Chief
Fred Sturtevant – Fire Chief
Nancy Petersons – Librarian

James Daigle – Police SGT
Aaron Tremblay – Police Officer
Andre Chasse – Police Officer
Ashley Cleaves – Recreation

OTHERS PRESENT:

Eriks Petersons, Reporter
Penny Emery
Sandra Ballard
Jessica Cummings
Mark Gary
Ned Claxton
Paula Stotts
Rena Berry
Walter Berry
Milton Walker

Martha Yates
Jessica Smith
Wayne Usher
Catherine Pressey
Dennis Michaud
Bob McLaughlin
Rain Tarrantino
Christopher Strout
Erica Benson
John Emery

Amanda Bosse
Donna Komanetsky
Dana Pinkham
Dorothy Bouchles
Charles Bouchles
Kelsey Earle
Tarsha Downing
Rudy Kyllonen

1.0 Councilor Fifield called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

2.0 We stood and saluted the flag.

3.0 Roll Call complete, all Council Members present

4.0 General Reports:

4.1 Council Meeting Minutes for March 4, 2019

Councilor Hackett moves to accept March 4, 2019 minutes as written, seconded by Councilor Bolduc and voted to accept by unanimous vote.

4.2 Municipal Financial Reports

Councilor Bolduc moves to accept the Financial Reports as submitted, seconded by Councilor Konstantoulakis. All in favor, so voted.

4.3 Report on Standing Committees & Departments

None

5.0 Public Hearings:

5.1 Municipal Budget Warrants

No Public Comment

5.2 Municipal Referendum Warrants

Milton Walker of 9 Riverside Drive in regard to question 1; feels that the Code Enforcement Officer should be a licensed Electrician and Plumber for inspections.

Catherine Pressey of 57 Bucknam Street in regard to question 1; feels the codes and zoning ordinances should be more closely monitored and enforced.

Milton Walker of 9 Riverside Drive in regard to question 3; questions if changes to the marijuana use in the town will come before the townspeople prior to implementation. The Town Manager explained that this referendum is allowing the Planning Board, Council and Code Enforcement to further review and develop rules prior to any applicant requesting the use.

5.3 Liquor License Dad's Place

5.4 Liquor License Silver Spur

No public comments regarding the above liquor license renewals. All Public Hearings closed at this time.

6.0 Comments from the Public:

Resident Penny Emery wanted an update on the buildings for Town Office. Town Manager responded that the USDA had final plans with fire exit and Accessibility issues all covered. Catherine Pressey has suggested we sell the other building (Medical Bldg located on Pleasant Street) and roll the money into this current loan. Milton Walker thinks a new review using actual figures and bids would be a better option. Talks continue around town regarding building a new building on the current municipal grounds.

Resident Rain Tarrantino of 272 North Street expressed concern of the Police Department being moved to the Headstart building and displacing the Before and After School Program. She states they serve 20-26 families as a state licensed non-profit childcare facility. The building is used by the Girls and Boys Scouts for meetings and Birthday parties are also held there. She states it is a "Community Building". She pays \$100 per month to lease this building and pays for electricity. The Town pays heat and water/sewer bills. She feels the Town is not making nor losing money. The Town Manager states that the idea was just one of the options being discussed in regard to the restructure of the Municipal Complex. The Council had not been informed as the PSAC was just looking into the feasibility. Elm Street School would not work for this program as they want too much rent AND Rain can not maintain her license if used at the school. Kelsey Earle of 181 Jordan Rd states she bought a house in this town solely due to the great things she heard about this program and Summer Camp. She further adds that parents are in a panic as sign-ups for next fall have begun but the fate of the program hangs in the balance. She disagrees with this recommendation as an option for PD. Jessica Smith of 13 Perkins Road states that her older child, 13yo, went there and younger sibling now attends. She states it is a safe, fun, well run, charitable organization. She states that the program is actively involved with the community. Danielle Loring of 46 Maple Street also sends her child to the program and agrees that it is an essential program that should not be displaced. Milton Walker of 9 Riverside Drive asked if the Senior Community Members exercise in this building as well and was advised that they do not. Sandra Ballard of 12 Clifford Street feels the Council should just sign the paperwork to renew the lease now. Erica Benson of 181 Elm Street is a full-time manager of a kitchen and single mom. She sends her children to the Before and After Program and can not change her schedule to accommodate a different daycare center. She is very nervous as her children are well taken care of and Rain provides the structure her child needs. Catherine Pressey of 57 Bucknam Street agrees that the Council should let these families have some security and sign the lease. Riley Smith of 13 Perkins Road states she is now 13 years old, but went to the Before and After Program run by Rain and felt safe and cared for as if she were their own child. Bob McLaughlin stood and stated that his granddaughter attends the program and they would be in a difficult situation if the program was no longer there. Jared Pinkham of 38 Morey Ave spoke that the Summer Recreation Program is better than someone's dusty livingroom filled with 3 other kids and their germs. He states that the working class need this for their children. Tarsha Downing wanted to know who made this recommendation as she is concerned about all the bait and switch that appears to be going on in the Town. The Town Manager advised that the PSAC (Public Safety Advisory Committee) suggested it as an option and that he only contacted Rain to see what options for relocation there were. This idea was in its infant stage and the Council had not even been made aware. He explained that the new building was going to cost much more than anticipated for rebuild of interior offices and would be cramped as well and the Council had asked him to come up with other options. Peter Ford of 6 Park Street also added that the PD will need additional space for evidence storage, which the Town Manager agreed that they need a garage,

evidence storage, and the clerk additionally needs records storage in a fireproof block vault. Catherine Pressey states that with a growing town as we keep stating, the new building will not work for us in 10-15 years. Jared Pinkham agrees that the municipal complex should remain where it is. Public Comments closed by Councilor Chair Fifield at 7:15pm.

7.0 Old Business:

7.1 Recreation Committee Appointments

The Recreation Committee met and approved the request of Ryan Cook, Derek Campbell and Kyle Hodgden to their committee. They are requesting appointment by the Town Council. The Town Manager advised that as current coaches, all three men have already passed background checks. Councilor Bolduc moves to appoint all three men to the Recreation Committee. Motion seconded by Councilor Konstantoulakis and voted unanimously to accept.

7.2 Municipal Budget Warrants

Councilor Bolduc moved to accept, Councilor Konstantoulakis seconded it, motion passes with 4 to 1 vote, with Councilor Hackett opposed.

7.3 Municipal Referendum Warrants

Councilor Bolduc moved to accept, Councilor Konstantoulakis seconded it, motion passes unanimously.

Councilor Konstantoulakis moves to suspend Roberts Rules of Order to add the Before and After Program to the agenda. Motion seconded by Councilor Bolduc. All in favor, unanimous. Councilor Bolduc moves to direct the Town Manager to sign another year to the Before and After School Program's Lease. Seconded by Councilor Konstantoulakis and so voted unanimous.

8.0 New Business:

8.1 Annual Report Dedication

The Council was given a list of five individuals to choose a recipient of Annual Report Dedication. They asked if they could choose two names and were advised that they also would be selecting a recipient for Spirit of America award in the near future. The Council chose candidate #2 (names withheld to prevent recipient from finding out) by motion of Councilor Hackett and second by Councilor Konstantoulakis. Voted Unanimous for candidate #2.

Councilor Konstantoulakis moved to suspend the rules to add the Spirit of America Nominee to the agenda, seconded by Councilor Hackett. Unanimous. Councilor Konstantoulakis then moved to nominate candidate #3 for the Spirit of America Award, seconded again by Councilor Hackett and so voted unanimous.

8.2 Age Friendly Task Force

The Town Manager introduced his idea to begin a new committee called the Age Friendly Task Force who will work to bring the Town up to AARP standards for Age Friendly Towns. Receiving the AARP certification also allows the Town to receive funding assistance for aging housing, etc. Councilor Bennett moves to create this committee and volunteers as liaison. Councilor Bolduc seconds motion and council votes unanimously to approve. The committee will be comprised of the Recreation Coordinator, council liaison and 5 community members.

8.3 Water Department Audit

Councilor Hackett moves to accept the Water Department Audit. Seconded by Councilor Konstantoulakis. Unanimous.

8.4 Recreation Coordinator

The Town Manager introduced the Recreation Coordinator, Ashley Cleaves, to the Council and Town. She is a graduate of USM and 2LT in the Army National Guard. She will join us part time assisting with aging, recreation and community events.

9.0 Ordinances, Resolves & Licenses:

9.1 Liquor License for Dad's Place

Renewal license application received. Approved by Police Chief Goss. Councilor Konstantoulakis moves to approve the request for liquor license renewal for the Silver Spur, seconded by Councilor Bolduc and voted unanimously to accept.

9.2 Liquor License for Silver Spur

Renewal license application received. Approved by Police Chief Goss. Councilor Hackett moves to approve the request for liquor license renewal for the Silver Spur, seconded by Councilor Bolduc and voted unanimously to accept.

9.3 RSU 16 Warrant Articles

Miranda explained that the school will hold their election in May rather than with the Town and State election in June. The people and council both wondered if this was legal for them to do and it is. Miranda would have to be present anyway as Registrar so having it at the Town office makes sense. The RSU will pay for the election in full. Councilor Konstantoulakis moves to approve, seconded by Councilor Bolduc and voted unanimously to approve.

9.4 DOT Overlimit Permit

The Maine DOT will be repaving from Oxford town line to the intersection on Pleasant Street. They need the Council's permission to carry vehicles over the weight limit onto this property. Councilor Konstantoulakis moves to approve, seconded by Councilor Bolduc and voted unanimously to approve.

10.0 Executive Session:

NONE

11.0 Adjourn:

Councilor Bolduc motioned to adjourn, Seconded by Councilor Konstantoulakis. All in favor, so voted. Meeting adjourned 7:41pm.