

Mechanic Falls Town Council

January 6, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Cathy Fifield, Chair
Nicholas Konstantoulakis
Tarsha Downing

John Emery
Kieth Bennett, Vice Chair

STAFF PRESENT:

Zakk Maher – Town Manager
Julie Ward – Town Clerk
Jeff Goss-Police Chief
Andre Chasse-PD

John Rowe-PW
Steve Turner- Transfer Station
Jim Daigle-PD

OTHERS PRESENT:

Milton Walker
Laura Vincent
Paula Stotts
Norma Crabtree
Mike Kyllonen
Mary Martin
Pam Doyle
Tom Doherty
Robert Oehme
Kathy Pray
Peter Ford Sr
Victoria Cleary
Erik Pennanen

Rudy Kyllonen
Valerie Emery
William Dyer
Adam Lee
Debbie Kyllonen
Forrest Martin
Verna Coolidge
Kelli Doherty
Tim Nugent
Carla Pray
Brenda Coleman
Ashley Cleaves

Eriks Petersons-Sun Journal
Lou Annance
Patricia Dyer
Ken Healy
Katie Daigle
Pam Grondin
Jeff Coolidge
Jessica Cummings
Jessica Smith
Nancy Petersons
Laurie Crane Turton
Sean Cleary

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 present

4.0 General Reports:

4.1 Meeting Minutes for December 2nd

Councilor Emery motioned to approve the meeting minutes for November 4th, and 20th seconded by Councilor Bennett, all in favor so voted.

4.2 Department Reports as submitted

Councilor Konstantoulakis motioned to approve department reports, seconded by Councilor Downing, all in favor so voted.

5.0 : Special Presentation

5.1: RSU School Budget

Ken Healy started with presentation of what is in works for the school budget. The teachers and support staff are being under paid and they have been working on negotiations for the last several months. Ken Healey said a community survey done last year revealed that 70% felt the teachers weren't paid enough, that 54% thought the support staff were underpaid and that 59% believed the bus drivers' pay was too low. They will be asking for an increase, but as of right now he was not sure of how much. The Legislature past a law which required the minimum starting salary of \$40,000 for teachers needed to be phased in over three years, starting with the 2020-21 school year. Mr. Healy also invited everyone to the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the expanded addition of Bruce M. Whittier Middle School at the high school on Monday January 13th at 7:45 a.m. An open house will be held from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. the same day.

Mary Martin would love the community to give their input, she believed transparency is important during this process. She encouraged the town people to attend meetings. She also stated that teacher and support staff salaries are the committees priority this year.

6.0: Comments from the Public:

Paula Stotts of 87 Standpipe Road wanted to know how the investigation of the code office was coming along. She stated that she felt that it should not be the Planning Boards responsibility to be involved in the review. She also requested that the council make an immediate decision n regards to video taping all Planning Boards meetings and have it available to the public for viewing.

7.0 Old Business:

7.1 22 Pleasant Street Update

Town Manager Zakk Maher stated no showings or interest, the realtor will be launching a social media campaign on building and would like to set up a time to meet with the council to discuss price reduction. Town Manager Zakk Maher stated that the Realtor is not available on Monday nights and there would have to be a special meeting.

7.2 Council Discussion Topics

Councilor Fifield brought up the Code Review and said she would speak to the Planning Board Chair Lou Goulet about the investigation.

The recording of the Planning Board was discussed, Councilor Downing motioned to record the planning board and add to Youtube for viewing, seconded by Councilor Konstantoulakis, all in favor, so voted.

7.3 Reschedule Don Gerrish Workshop

Council was given options of the of January 6th thru 9th or January 14th thru 16th. Town Manager will reach out to Don Gerrish for January 14th-16th.

8.0 New Business:

8.1 Library Trustee Appointment

Councilor Emery motioned to approve appointment of Patti Dyer and Laura Vincent to the Library Committee, seconded by Councilor Downing, all in favor so voted.

8.2 Budget Committee Schedule

Final Department budgets should be submitted by January 31st. There are 2 openings on the Budget Committee, if anyone is interested, they should fill out a Committee Application. The schedule is as follows:

February 13th Budget/Council: Packets Available
February 20th Budget/Council: 1st Meeting review
March 5th Budget/Council: 2nd Meeting review
March 19th Budget/Council 3rd Review-Council will schedule Public Hearing
April 5th Council- Public Hearing/Council Approval
June 9th Municipal Election Budget on Ballot

Councilor Konstantoulakis motioned to accept the schedule, seconded by Councilor Downing, all in favor, so voted.

8.3 Recreation Coordinators position

Councilor Downing was unable to attend last meeting, due to Elected Officials training. Chair Justin Starbird of the Recreation Committee suggested not replacing the position and give the remaining funds from the position for the Recreation to spend for programs. Councilor Konstantoulakis asked if the position benefited the committee. Justin Starbird said he felt there were some deficiencies. he felt that it wasn't a 20hr week position. He also said if they received 5000.00 from the Town, they would still have to run fundraisers to maintain programs.

Town Manager Zakk Maher asked Justin Starbird if the position should be budgeted in the next year, and Mr. Starbird told him he would get back to him on it.

Councilor Emery questioned how the ballot was written in June 2018, and wanted to make sure the council could give the committee the remaining funds. Town Manager Zakk Maher said yes, because we are not moving funds from another line, and it is staying with the Recreation Committee.

Councilor Konstantoulakis motioned to give the Recreation Committee the remaining money left in the budget for this year, seconded by Councilor Downing, all in favor, unanimous.

8.4 Historical Society Location

Eriks Petersons presented to the council that Larry Roy had offered 2 rooms with everything included for around \$500.00 a month, Bill French also offered some room where the Crooked Hook used to be for around the same price. Unfortunately, the Historical Society does not have the funds to be able to do those options. Town Manager Zakk Maher had offered the Municipal Building, with use of a display in the Council Room as well as wall space, they could also use the closet space on the stage in the gym. The old books that are currently down there will be disposed of.

Paula Stotts of Standpipe Rd asked about security issues and how the public can view items. Town Manager Zakk Maher stated the items can be reviewed anytime the Town office is open.

Councilor Downing motioned to invite the Historical Society to utilize the space at the Municipal Building, seconded by Councilor Bennett, all in favor, so voted.

8.5 Notice to Government Entity Pursuant to 14 MRS 8107

Councilor Fifield stated that this was to provide transparency to the public, and due to the Town Attorney being sick, there was no answers that she could provide and that the Executive Session was cancelled.

9.0 Ordinances, Resolves Policies & Licenses

9.1 Mechanic Falls Water Audit Engagement Letter

Councilor Konstantoulakis motioned to approve the Water Department Audit, seconded by Councilor Downing, all in favor, unanimous.

10.0 Executive Session: Legal Counsel Title 1 MRS Sec. 405 (6)(E)

None Town Attorney was unable to attend meeting.

11.0 Adjourn:

Councilor Bennett motioned to adjourn, Seconded by Councilor Downing, all in favor, so voted. Meeting adjourned 7:34pm