

# Mechanic Falls Town Council/Planning Board

## September 16, 2019

### MEMBERS PRESENT:

Cathy Fifield, Chair  
Wayne Hackett, Vice Chair  
Absent-Kieth Bennett

Nicholas Konstantoulakis  
John Emery-recused/absent

### PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS:

Lou Goulet-Chair  
Paula Stotts  
Jeremy Klar  
Forrest Martin-Absent

Walter Goss-Vice Chair  
Lou Annance  
Paula Bolduc

### STAFF PRESENT:

Fred Collins Jr-Code Enforcement  
Julie Ward-Town Clerk  
Zachary Maher- Recused/absent  
Jack Conway- Town Attorney

### OTHERS PRESENT:

Eriks Petersons-Sun Journal  
Penny Emery  
Norma Crabtree  
Mark Stotts  
Catherine Pressey  
Sharon Webster  
Patricia Dyer  
Milton Walker

Sandra Ballard  
Dorothy Bouchles  
Nancy Lausier  
Vernice Pelletier  
John Pressey  
Tom Webster  
Rena Berry  
Les Johnson

Martha Yates  
Jimmy Vadeboncoeur  
Lori Vadeboncoeur  
Brenda Coleman  
Laurie Crane-Turton  
Adam Lee

**1.0** Councilor Fifield called the meeting to order at 701pm.

**2.0** We stood and saluted the flag.

**3.0** Roll Call complete

**4.0 General Reports: None**

**5.0 Public Hearings: None**

### **6.0 Comments from the Public:**

Norma Crabtree of Highland Avenue was questioning the absentee ballots and how long they would be available. She also wanted to know if a council person misses a meeting if they still get the whole stipend. Council Hackett stated that he believed you could miss 3 excused meetings.

Catherine Pressey of Bucknam Street wanted to know what this meeting was about and if this is to work towards the steps of the what is going to happen next with Code office. Councilor Fifield stated that it was a meeting with the council and planning board to what the first step would be. She also stated that the fence on 153 N Main Street is on a public way and should not be there. Councilor Hackett asked if she had gone to the Town manager to file a complaint and to explained that she has gone to the previous and current Town Manager and she felt like the Current Town Manager was the only one to take action.

Darlene Gray formally of Patterson Road wanted to let the Council know she was there to make a formal complaint against the Code office in regards to the mobile home she was living in.

Jimmy Vadeboncoeur of High Street was wondering if they were still considering a 3<sup>rd</sup> party investigation.

**7.0 Old Business:**

**7.1 Establish Rules of Procedure**

Councilor Fifield read letter from the Town Attorney explaining the Towns Charter procedure of the Code Enforcement Office investigation and expressing his concern on whether or not this is a personnel matter.

Code Enforcement Officer Fred Collins asked for a 3<sup>rd</sup> party investigation and also stated that he would like this to be done in executive session.

Laurie Crane Turton of Spring Street asking why the Town Manager was not dealing with this issue if it was not against a Town Department and against an employee and can he actually recuse himself due to conflict of interest.

Rena Berry wanted to know how the executive session was going to work and would the complainants be able to attend. Town Attorney explained that the public has no right in employee matters unless the employee waives his rights to an executive session.

Town Attorney Jack Conway suggested to the council that they needed to determine whether or not this is a Personnel issue against the Code Enforcement Office or the Code Enforcement Office.

Paula Stotts wanted to know about filing a complaint and the first step is to file a complaint with the Town Manager. There are forms available to file a formal complaint against any Town Department.

Mark Stotts of Standpipe road asked why the council would have to create an ordinance in order to investigate and why one had not been done before. Town Attorney Jack Conway stated according to the the Town Charter it is need to investigate any Town Department and he was unaware of any ordinance ever being done.

Councilor Hackett expressed concern on going over the complaints in public without crossing into a personnel issue. Paula Bolduc agreed and suggested setting a date, informing people where to get a form to file a formal complaint and then deal with it in executive session.

Councilor Hackett motioned to set a date and come back with the planning board to meet. Seconded by Councilor Konstantoulakis. Open for discussion, the date would be Monday September 23, 2019 at 7pm

**8.0 New Business: None**

**9.0 Ordinances, Resolves & Licenses: None**

**10.0 Executive Session None.**

**11.0 Adjourn:**

Councilor Hackett motioned to adjourn, Seconded by Councilor Konstantoulakis. All in favor, so voted. Meeting adjourned 7:49pm

Next Meeting September 23,2019 7pm (Council Room)