

Mechanic Falls Town Council

October 2, 2017

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lou Annance, Chair
Cathy Fifield, Vice Chair

Stephen Bolduc
Nicholas Konstantoulakis

Kieth Bennett

STAFF PRESENT:

Koriene Low - Town Manager
Miranda Hinkley - Town Clerk

OTHERS PRESENT:

John Hawley, RSU 16
Tina Meserve, RSU 16

Barry Vail, Anglican Church
Elaine Vail, Anglican Church

Paula Stotts

Councilor Lou Annance called the meeting to order at 6:58pm.
We stood and saluted the flag.

Reports:

1.1 Council Meeting Minutes

1.2 Departmental Reports Submitted and Code Enforcement

1.3 Municipal Financial Reports

Previous minutes and departmental reports were reviewed by the council members with no questions for clarification. Councilor Fifield motioned to accept the minutes from September, as well as the Departmental and Financial Reports from September. Motion was seconded by Councilor Bolduc and voted unanimously to accept.

Public Comments:

2.01 Public Comments: None

Reports of the Town Manager:

Old Business:

Item 3.01 RSU Presentation

Mr. Hawley and Ms. Meserve presented a slide show on the proposed updates to the Regional High School and Middle School. The school administrators are hoping to rid the school of its mobile units, create space for a Special Education classroom, move the entrance to a consolidated entrance and locate the office staff from each school at the new entrance to enhance security. They explored a number of options to rectify space issues, finding the current model to be the most beneficial for the cost. The State will not be assisting with funding the \$7,181,730.00 project which leaves the burden on the taxpayers of Minot, Mechanic Falls and Poland. Mechanic Falls portion would amount to \$73,478.08 or 16.37% of the total cost. This would impact a \$100K home by \$53.72 for a total loan duration of 15 years. The school department would like to point out that although the first year would be costly to the citizens, the remaining years would show relief in that previous loans will mature in 2020 and 2015.

Item 3.02 Police Department Positions

The two officers conditionally hired did not complete the academy training leaving us with 2 openings again in the Police Department. We have had a few applicants, one of which seems promising.

Item 3.03 Tobacco-Free Ordinance

The Council Members reviewed the proposed ordinance for Tobacco Free Recreation areas. Atty Conway had

previously approved the format and wording. Councilor Bolduc moved to accept the Tobacco Free Ordinance as written, seconded by Councilor Fifield. All in favor, so voted.

Item 3.04 Fireworks Ordinance

A rough draft of the new Fireworks Ordinance was presented to the Council for their review and input. Councilor Bennett questioned if we could include all combustible materials rather than just combustible structures. After discussion, this comment will not be added as it would eliminate all use (grass is combustible, etc.). All members would like to see the Fire Department involved in the process as suggested by Councilor Fifield. The Council Members will further review and forward any suggestions to the Town Manager for approval by the Town Attorney.

Item 3.05 Meeting with Poland Town Manager

The Town Manager met with the manager of the Town of Poland to discuss the mutual assistance between the two towns. Poland Manager states that after witnessing the two town's Public Works Department collaborating for a common goal, he feels that jeopardizing the relationship of the towns by asking for funding for rescue would be detrimental.

Item 3.06 Budget Committee

We are coming up on Budget season and our committee has a few vacancies. We received applications for Lou Goulet and Brian Ahlquist to join the budget committee. The Council reviewed the applications and a motion was entered by Councilor Bolduc to appoint both Lou Goulet and Brian Ahlquist to the Budget Committee. Councilor Fifield seconded the motion. Councilor Konstantoulakis voted to accept Lou Goulet, however had to abstain from voting regarding Brian Ahlquist. Votes were unanimous to accept both parties. Melanie Judd is a current member of the budget committee however she has been unable to attend regularly. The Council requested the Town Manager contact Ms. Judd to see if she is interested in remaining a committee member and can volunteer the required time.

Item 3.07 Rescue Update

Ford Motor Company has stepped in regarding the vehicle purchased with accident damage that was disclosed and are assuming all costs. Ripley and Fletcher received an Expedition last Friday which was comparable and acceptable. We are awaiting further information.

New Business:

Item 4.01 Anglican Church

The Anglican Church, represented by Barry Vail, requests a Subordination Agreement be signed by the council allowing the church to take a loan on the Elm Street property for the purpose of renovating the building. The Church has been established for one year, financials presented show increased membership and sufficient income. Counselor Bolduc moved to accept the church's request for subordination agreement, seconded by Councilor Konstantoulakis and voted unanimously to accept.

Item 4.02 Marijuana

The Town Manager provided an update on the legislatures discussion regarding legalization of marijuana for recreational use. The intent is to charge a 10% sales tax as well as a 10% excise tax to generate funding in the town. It was requested that additional monies be awarded to the towns to assist with increased police and code enforcement costs. Medical Use is handled by DHHS whereas Recreational Use would be regulated by the Department of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. The Town should consider what type of ordinances they would like to adopt regarding growth such as odor control, areas to grow under, etc. The State believes the average median price for Oct 2017 is \$2000.00 per pound, however they are figuring a decrease to \$1300.00 per pound once readily available. The legalization will likely cause a significant increase to Attorney costs. Paula Stotts requested a joint workshop for the Planning Board and Council. She further requests funding for Planning Board Members to attend training through MMA.

Item 4.03 Local Food Bill

There is a bill currently in the legislature regarding the regulation and inspection of naturally grown food. This bill was called back by the Governor for review.

Item 4.04 Standpipe Road Turn Around

There has been an increase in trash dumping on Standpipe road. Large items such as tires, furniture, etc. as well as common trash are being left on the side of the road. Paula Stotts offered to load the items and bring them to the transfer station as long as fees were waived for the items. The Council agreed to waive fees and also offered the Public Works crew to come remove the items. The Stott family will take care of this.

Item 4.05 New Town Signs

Sign dimensions and quantity were discussed for placement of entrance into the Town on the major routes. Council Chair Annance suggested we place six (6) 5x6 signs on the major routes entering the town. This suggestion will go to the development committee for review and decision.

Ordinances, Resolves & Licenses:

Item 5.01 Vote & Sign Androscoggin Dispatch Contract

The Council reviewed the contract renewal for Androscoggin Dispatch. Councilor Fifield placed a motion to accept the contract as written. Councilor Bolduc seconded the motion and the council voted unanimously to accept.

Item 5.02 Abatement - Pressey

An Abatement request was entered as Catherine Pressey noticed when reviewing her information on the O'Donnell website that she was being charged for the same building on two different lots. The State regulates that an abatement can only be requested 1 year in arrears. Councilor Bolduc moved to accept the request to abate \$33.00 in Real Estate taxes for Catherine Pressey as this was due to Town error. Motion was seconded by Councilor Bennett. All in favor, so voted.

Item 5.03 Update on the Medical Condition of Steve French, Water Department Director

Steve French is now home in a brace and will be able to remove the brace in two months if all goes well. He has assistance from Home Health for Rehabilitation. He has a new iPad and would love emails from any.

At 8:44pm a motion was placed by Councilor Fifield to enter executive session quoting 1MRSA 405 6 C. This motion was seconded by Councilor Bolduc and voted by council unanimously to enter executive session.

Councilor Bolduc moved to end executive session, seconded by Councilor Konstatoulakis. All in favor for Council to emerge from executive session at 9:01 pm.

Councilor Konstantoulakis votes to deny poverty abatement as there is ample time to procure the amount needed to pay. Motion seconded by Councilor Bolduc. All in favor, so voted.

A Vote was needed for Referendum Question to be entered in the November 7, 2017 election. Councilor Bolduc moves to accept the Referendum as written. Councilor Konstantoulakis seconded the motion and the council voted unanimously to accept.

Councilor Bennett motions to adjourn this meeting of the Town Council, Seconded by Councilor Bolduc and unanimously accepted.

Meeting adjourned 9:12pm

