

Mechanic Falls Town Council

February 4, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

STAFF PRESENT:

Zakk Maher – Town Manager
Miranda Hinkley – Town Clerk

OTHERS PRESENT:

Eriks Petersons, Reporter	Jay Bryant	
Paula Stotts	Jessica Cummings	Thomas Webster
Penny Emery	Mary Martin, RSU16	Sue Marston
Sandra Ballard	Ken Healy, RSU16	Mark Gary

- 1.0 Councilor Fifield called the meeting to order at 6:32pm.
- 2.0 We stood and saluted the flag.
- 3.0 Roll Call complete, Wayne Hackett absent

4.0 General Reports:

4.1 Council Meeting Minutes for January 7, 2019

4.2 Municipal Financial Reports

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

4.3 Report on Standing Committees & Departments

Councilor Konstantoulakis opened the discussion advising that he did not make it to the Recreation or Library Trustee Meetings. The Historical Society sponsored a ham and turkey dinner and raised over \$200. The Town Manager met with several Recreation Committee members to discuss the future of the committee in regard to structure and financial oversight. The new Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) met to work on re-evaluation of the Town and its assets. The Development Commission could work independently with AVCOG in the hopes to focus on the more under-utilized assets and improve jobs and quality of life for our residents. They could also assist with grant requests and be included in Planning Board discussions for ordinances. Councilor Fifield reports that she attended the School Board meeting and it went well. We have a member vacancy which is being addressed. The Planning Board met and then had its first joint workshop with the Council for Marijuana Ordinance discussion. The Planning Board will meet again on February 19th due to the holiday on February 18th. The Town Manager reports that the sand/salt is getting very low and the Public Works team is working on obtaining more. They need 2 solid days without activity to truck, mix and re-pile. We are still struggling with the furnaces. The furnace located in the Fire Dept/Public Works building is intermittently shutting off. It is in need of pump replacements. Zakk is working on quotes to present to the Council. In addition, Zakk updated the Council on the Water Line Extension project. The original intent was to utilize the Water Department's fund balance monies to complete this project and then replenish once reimbursed by the State. It is now the feeling of the Water Department Manager that doing so would deplete the fund to dangerous levels. They will therefore be seeking a short term loan of \$100,000 to cover the cost of the project until reimbursement which would be at time water is safe for consumption as proven by water testing.

5.0 Public Hearings: NONE

6.0 Comments from the Public:

6.1 FY 19-20 RSU Budget

Ken Healey, Superintendent to RSU16, and Mary Martin came to present the budget comments for the school. He states that he asked his staff to create a budget that would allow all programs and staff to remain in place adding the natural increases for salary and benefit increases. This budget created only a minimal % increase to last year's budget. He then asked them to create a list of wants/needs in which they were working to prioritize. They will present all information to the school budget committee and the school board. Once an agreed upon budget is complete, there will be a public hearing at the high school, following an election for the residents to vote to approve or deny. They have not received a subsidy agreement from the Department of Education, but there is a lot of chatter of favorable figures. Governor Mills supports the 55% subsidy. They have moved the Budget Election up to May to allow approval prior to the school year ending. They feel this will better chances at hiring as they would be in the candidate pool early. Renovations to the Middle and High Schools continue. Payments will commence in the fall in the amount of \$441,000 (Mechanic Falls portion being \$72,000 at 16.9%). The RSU would like to see full communication between schools and towns. The Town Managers and School Officials have been meeting monthly for breakfast to communicate any issues or news between Towns and RSU16. Any election related information should be directed to and requested from Stacie Field and Lauren Henry. No other public comments.

7.0 Old Business:

7.1 Charter Amendment Review

This topic will be tabled for the next meeting in an effort to have all Council Members in attendance. *Motion:* Councilor Konstantoulakis, *Second:* Councilor Bolduc, *Result:* Unanimous

7.2 RSU16 Board Appointment

Application received from Meghan Lewis for appointment to the RSU16 School Board as an interim member until the June election. Ms. Lewis replaces Aaron Ouellette. Councilor Bolduc moves to appoint Meghan Lewis as interim School Board Member, seconded by Councilor Bennett. All in favor, so voted.

7.3 Financial Oversight Resolve

This topic will be tabled for the next meeting as requested by the Recreation Committee to allow more time to discuss. *Motion:* Councilor Konstantoulakis, *Second:* Councilor Bolduc, *Result:* Unanimous

8.0 New Business:

8.1 Summer Recreation

Sue Marston presented the FY 19-20 Budget for the Summer Recreation Program (Summer Camp). There will be minor changes as minimum wage is increasing and the Director and Assistant Director were not in alignment with other area towns. The figures used were based on this current year's participation. They are looking to increase from 6 weeks to 8 weeks and this would require additional field trips. The transportation costs remain unchanged, however she would like to discuss the possibility of returning to the RSU16 busses for transportation in an effort to keep it local. Sue also advised that she and her entire staff will not be returning this year. Zakk advised that he would like to continue discussions regarding this Recreation Coordinator position in hopes that this role could oversee such a program. The staff is in fact considered employees of the Town currently, we would like to have the Coordinator as department head to provide support/structure and continue a sustainable program regardless of staff turnover. The Council thanked Sue Marston for her 15 years of dedication. Councilor Bennett moved to accept the budget as written. The motion was seconded by Councilor Bolduc and voted unanimously to accept.

8.2 Mutual Aid Agreement

The Council has reviewed this agreement and have no issues other than they would like to hear the FD Staff's opinion on the matter. We will table this until March to allow Fire Chief Sturtevant or Deputy Chiefs Doherty and/or Damon to attend. *Motion:* Councilor Bolduc *Second:* Councilor Konstantoulakis *Result:* Unanimous

8.3 Budget FY19-20 Schedule

Budget meetings and timeline discussed. Budget meetings will be held on February 21, March 8, and March 21 (if needed) at 7pm. Councilor Bolduc moves to accept these meeting dates and times as presented, seconded by Councilor Bennett. All in favor, so voted.

8.4 Burnstein-Shur BAN Extension

The current BAN for the new municipal building will lapse on March 20th. We are looking at requesting another 6-month extension. This will be discussed at the March meeting.

8.5 Maine Council on Aging Task Force

Zakk has become part of a 9-month Task Force working with the Maine Council on Aging and AVESTA to recommend how to allow aging individuals to remain in the home. They are advising on meals, transportation, etc. On that note, he has not received anything formal from AVESTA regarding the purchase of the current municipal building, however, Governor Mills has released the funds associated with this sale. Guidelines have been placed that all but preclude the Town of Mechanic Falls and similar sized Towns from having access to those funds. Zakk is arguing that we want to access those funds and grants.

8.6 MTCCA Legislative Policy Committee

Miranda advised that as part of her continued Certification as Municipal Clerk, she is encouraged to participate in County and State Boards and Committees. She has chosen The Maine Town and City Clerk's Association's Legislative Policy Committee. She is receiving information on upcoming laws being presented at the Legislature on Fridays, reviewing them over the weekend and participating in a conference call on Tuesdays to discuss the position of the Association. They can support, oppose or neither and offer comments regarding the proposed laws to the Legislature. As the decisions made at the State greatly affect the Town, Zakk agreed that this was an appropriate Committee to obtain membership in.

8.7 Appoint GA Administrator

The General Assistance Administrator has been contracted out for numerous years. Zakk received a message from the Shannon Moxcey (GA Administrator) requesting a leave of absence. The Town must provide General Assistance and can not delay decisions for return of staff. Miranda, (Town Clerk) is handling these requests now as she has worked closely with Shannon in the past. She will be attending official training later this month. Zakk asks the Council to appoint Miranda Hinkley as General Assistance Administrator ongoing. Councilor Bolduc placed the motion to appoint Miranda Hinkley as General Assistance Administrator, seconded by Councilor Konstantoulakis and voted unanimously to appoint.

9.0 Executive Sessions

9.1 Title 1 M.R.S.A. Section 405(6) F

Motion: Councilor Bolduc *Second:* Councilor Konstantoulakis *Result:* Unanimous
Council declared out of executive session for Title 1 M.R.S.A. Section 405(6)F.

9.2 Title 1 M.R.S.A. Section 405(6) A

Council moves to re-enter executive session quoting Title 1 M.R.S.A. Section 405(6) A. *Motion:* Councilor Bolduc
Second: Councilor Konstantoulakis *Result:* Unanimous

10.0 Ordinances, Resolves & Licenses:

10.1 Abatement Request

Councilor Bolduc moves to partially approve the poverty abatement request submitted for review. The Town will abate the 2017 tax year to avoid imminent foreclosure in the amount of \$496.56. The property owner will need to discuss a payment arrangement on all remaining property taxes owed. The remaining lien would not mature until next January allowing one year for the owner to pay. This motion was seconded by Councilor Konstantoulakis and voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

10.2 Office Closure

We will be closed on February 18th in observance of President's Day.
for vote in February.

11.0 Adjourn:

11.1 Adjourn

Councilor Bolduc motioned to adjourn, Seconded by Councilor Konstantoulakis. All in favor, so voted. Meeting Adjourned 8:15pm.