

TOWN OF BELGRADE
BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS MEETING
TUESDAY / AUGUST 18, 2009 / 7:00 P.M./ TOWN OFFICE

Convened 7:00 p.m./ Adjourned 9:30 p.m.

Officials in Attendance:

Dan Newman	Selectperson, Chair	Jack Sutton	Budget Com & TS Com.
Bruce Plourd	Selectperson	Gayle Finkbeiner,	Budget Com.
Melanie Jewell	Selectperson	Bruce Galouch	T.S. Committee
Ricky Damren	Selectperson	Mike Barrett,	Building/Senior Cit. Com
Dennis Keschl	Town Manager		

Absent: Chris Merrow

Order of Business:

1. The Board reviewed the meeting minutes of the August 4th, 2009 meeting. Ricky Damren made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Bruce Plourd seconded the motion. **CLOSED 4/0/1 ABSENT (CHRIS MERROW)**

Unfinished Business:

1. The Town Manager informed the Board that Mike & Julie Benecke had the Fire Marshall's office inspect the North Belgrade Community Center. There are a number of areas of the building that need to be addressed. **(Please see the attached email)** The Town Manager will contact the Board of Parks & Recreation to let them know what has been discussed and will bring the information back to the Board.

New Business:

1. The Town Manager reviewed the history of the organization of the Ad-Hoc Senior Citizen Committee for Tax Relief.

Mike Barrett, Chair of the Committee, provided a draft ordinance as well as draft guidelines for the implementing the program. **(Please see the attached copies)** The implementation of this program would require an article at town meeting to adopt an ordinance as is required by MRSA 36, section 2, 6232 Sub 1A. Mike addressed the board and told them that this program extends the opportunity for seniors to perform work for the town in lieu of payment of property taxes. It would be up to the Selectpersons to determine how many positions would be available in a given year and the guidelines surrounding the administering of the program. He said the committee had wanted to add in to the "Eligibility Guidelines" that one needs to be a current participant in the circuit breaker program. Mike said a group of representatives from the Town of Saco, who run this program within their community, came and spoke with their committee. They were told there have been a number of areas in the municipality where they have found this to be a cost savings. Some of the examples provided were:

painting of municipal vehicles, elections, checking road signs, etc. Mike feels the tasks that are available are only limited by a municipality's imagination.

Melanie Jewell commented that the ordinance needed to state that the monies provided would be in the form of a tax rebate, so people would understand that seniors are not being paid money for their service to the town.

The Town Manager said he has spoken with MMA about this program. They said there are a few towns that have adopted the program and some work it through their General Assistance program. MMA has some concerns about the Worker's Compensation and the liability, because the seniors are earning money and if there is an injury, a claim could be made against the town. There needs to be additional conversation about how this would all work so it would not place the town at jeopardy for worker's comp claims.

Mike Barrett stated it was important that the jobs chosen for seniors are jobs in which they would not get hurt. He said manning the information booth on Rt. 27 would be an example of a job that would be beneficial to the town, and would not put anyone in jeopardy of being harmed. This program could also allow for other residents who may be willing to perform the work on behalf of someone else that may not be capable of performing any service on their own.

Ricky Damren asked how the seniors would be covered in the event there was an incident in which someone was harmed, and if this would be viewed as an increase in the wages of the senior citizen.

The Town Manager stated that the town's general liability would cover them, and yes, this is an increase in their wage, which is claimable income through the Federal Government, but the State has given an exemption with the implementation of the program to the municipality.

Dan Newman commented that perhaps the town could get a hold of one of the local representatives and write a letter to see if there could be some clarification on the workers comp issue surrounding this program.

Jack Sutton asked if before the program is implemented would there be a budgetary address regarding the cost of the program, through tax relief, transportation cost, etc.

The Town Manager said that if the ordinance passes next March, there will be discussions as to how much money the Board would like to place into the budget. All the departments could be looked at to see if they have funding in their budget to pay for any work that may be done by a volunteer senior in the program. Money earned from this program may not necessarily have to pay for all of one person's taxes; it could be just for a portion of their taxes.

Mike Barrett will go back to the committee and modify the document and send it back to the board for approval.

2. The Town Manager stated that at the last building committee meeting, there was some discussion about providing educational flyers and a final report to residents, but the committee did not have a budget to work with. They would like to have \$1,000 to \$2,000 made available to them. There was no money allocated to them from the town meeting, and the only money currently available in the town budget is the Selectpersons emergency funds. The manager reminded the board, that there is a \$5,600 legal fee that will need to be addressed by the end of the year and may have to come out of their emergency fund.

Mike Barrett stated that at some point the committee will need to get information out to the town, but right now there is not anything available for money. Mike said the committee would like to go to the Transfer Station and discuss the new building with residents, but they would like to have some educational information sheets to hand out.

Bruce Galouch asked about the town newsletter and if this was a possibility to get the information out. Bruce also commented on whether or not there would be a survey as was discussed at town meeting and discussed at a couple of selectpersons meetings he had attended.

The Town Manager stated the building committee had a brief discussion on sending out a survey, and they had decided they were given a task by the Board of Selectpersons to come up with a building that was located on the Depot Road property and was downsized and this has been their focus.

Ricky Damren said he supports the building, but he does not believe that the money being requested should be taken out of the Selectpersons emergency fund as he did not feel this constituted an emergency.

Jack Sutton stated that this is a very important topic to the town and the information needs to get out; possibly the Long Range Planning Committee has money in their budget that could be utilized for the public education, as long as it is factual and is not a sales pitch, as this new building does relate to the future planning of the municipality. Jack further commented that he felt the first attempt failed because it was not a complete proposal. There was no information concerning the ongoing cost, the loss of property tax, the cost of the long term maintenance and general upkeep of the new facility.

The Town Manager stated that he felt Jack is right and the information that needs to be provided should be a credible estimate. He further commented that the funds may be able to come out of the Long Range Planning budget, as it does constitute plans for the future, and he will contact MacGregor Stocco to see if there is money they would approve in their budget for educational materials.

Bruce Plourd stated he agrees with Ricky concerning the request not being an emergency. He further commented that he did have a problem allocating money for this purpose that had not been approved by the taxpayers.

Dan Newman said that there is frustration on behalf of the building committee members, because what they want to print is a report on the size, maintenance, etc., on the facility and it is the Select Board that has requested the committee to do this. They are looking for some sort of support from the Board to be able to complete their task and get their work done.

Melanie Jewell commented that perhaps there is operating money from the various stakeholders that could be requested; such as the Food Pantry, Historical Society or the Friends of the Library for the printing.

Jack Sutton commented that maybe the information should go out in the form of a special factual newsletter, and this way it will reach everyone.

The Town Manager said he will contact all the stakeholders and the chair of the LRPC, MacGregor Stocco to see if there are available monies.

Ricky Damren made a motion to table this agenda item until the September 1, 2009 board meeting when the Town Manager has had an opportunity to contact all stakeholders as well as the LRPC, Chair to see if there is funding from any of these sources. Melanie Jewell seconded the motion. **CLOSED 4/20/1 ABSENT (CHRIS MERROW)**

3. The Transfer station Committee would like to employ the services of Lynn Orne, who is a compliance consultant coordinator, to keep the employees up to date on their annual required trainings and to make sure they are in compliance with required safety standards at the facility. Ms.Orne is already employed by the town's Fire Department.

Melanie Jewell asked if the training would cost \$1,200 for the employees and would this take place during their regular work hours or would this be additional.

The Town Manager said the training cost is not \$1,200; this is just keeping the records and making sure there is consistency with inspections and making the Transfer Station Supervisor aware of the types of trainings and the waivers that may need to be signed.

Ricky Damren asked if the Cemetery crew was part of this.

The Town Manager said that currently the Cemetery Crew has had their necessary required trainings that are relevant to their area of work.

Ricky further questioned about combining the work done with the fire department and the Transfer Station to see if the town could receive a better price. Dan asked the same

question as to why the Town is paying the same price for thirty employees as it is paying for five employees.

The Town Manager stated that this is the cost per department and he will contact her, but this is the department charge.

Melanie Jewell made a motion to approve of employing the services of Lynn Ornes for the amount of \$1,600 to provide the Transfer Station Attendants with a manual and keeping them updated on annual required trainings. Ricky Jewell seconded the motion. **CLOSED 4/0/1 ABSENT (CHRIS MERROW)**

4. The Board reviewed the Tabor II resolution and the excise tax resolution they had requested the town manager to draft. The Town Manager stated that what Tabor II is ultimately saying is that there is no need for town meeting, as it overrides the purpose of the town meeting. These draft resolutions were sent out to the board in advance and to the committee chairs for their review on Monday. He realizes they may not have had an opportunity to review them, but felt the board could wait until their September 1, 2009 meeting to approve.

Melanie Jewell commented that she feels both this and the excise tax issues needed to be addressed in the upcoming newsletter. She feels they should not be part of the Town manager's updates, but rather a separate bulletin.

Gayle Finkbeiner said he is glad to say he felt it was incumbent upon the selectpersons to say they would sign a resolution addressing the Tabor II issue.

Melanie Jewell made a motion to table the Tabor II and the excise tax resolutions until the September 1, 2009 board meeting. Ricky Damren seconded the motion. **CLOSED 4/0/1 ABSENT (CHRIS MERROW)**

5. Excise Tax Resolution – Please see the above discussion

6. The Town Manager said the question on whether or not the Transfer Station Road should be part of the Transfer Station budget or the road budget had come up recently. He felt it should go before the board for their discussion. The Transfer station road is two-tenths of a mile is currently plowed by Ron Bellavance in the snowplowing contract. The impact to the budget will be the same, but moving this road into the Transfer Station budget will provide a more accurate operational cost of the Transfer Station. The removal of the Transfer station road from the road budget will provide an overall annual savings of \$1,400 in the road budget.

Both Ricky Damren and Bruce Plourd stated they felt the road should be taken out of the road budget and moved to the Transfer Station Budget, which would aid in getting a true overall operational cost of the Transfer Station Budget.

A comment was made that the sign for the Transfer Station road was missing. The manager will have it checked on.

Melanie Jewell made a motion to approve of removing the Transfer Station Road out of the road budget and move it into the budget for the Transfer station for the upcoming budget year. Ricky Damren seconded the motion. **CLOSED 4/0/1 ABSENT (CHRIS MERROW)**

The Town Manager will speak with Ron Bellavance to see if he wants to continue plowing the Transfer Station road until the remainder of his contract, or if he would be ok with removing it from the contract for this winter snowplowing season.

7. The Town Manager informed the board that there has been a lower than normal intake of property tax payments in the office. Normally the town takes in 12% and currently it is running at 7.5%. He said we possibly may be running short for September payments that need to be made. He is requesting the board add an additional \$500,000 to the tan note.

Melanie Jewell asked how this will impact the cost to the municipality.

The Town Manager said the additional cost to the municipality is approximately \$1,000 a month or 2% plus legal fees.

Ricky Damren asked if the Town Manager and treasurer thought this amount would be enough and take the town through until the end of the year.

The Manager said yes, he felt this would be enough and that the town may be ok, but to be safe, he and the treasurer both feel that the board needs to authorize the increase of the towns tan note.

Melanie Jewell made a motion to approve of the following;

That the 2009 Tax Anticipation Note dated March 13, 2009, and awarded to Bangor Savings Bank, Bangor, Maine, be amended by increasing the principal amount of said Note to an amount deemed appropriate by the Treasurer and Chair of the Select Board to meet anticipated revenue shortfalls, within the limits set by U.S. Treasury Regulations, and further that the Treasurer and Chair of the Select Board be authorized to execute an Allonge of the 2009 Tax Anticipation Note and such other documents as may be necessary to complete said amendment, provided, however, that all other terms and conditions of said 2009 Tax Anticipation Note shall remain in full force and effect.

Ricky Damren seconded the motion. CLOSED 4/0/1 ABSENT (CHRIS MERROW)

The Town Manager will look at this tomorrow and see what the maximum deficit will be. He said the town is looking at implementing tax clubs and hopefully this would provide some help in the payment of taxes.

Bruce Plourd commented that Belgrade is not the only town in this position; the Town of Vienna had also just had to borrow additional money.

8. The ideas for energy efficient block program are a new opportunity available to municipalities. The Town Manager is not looking for decisions this evening, but rather is looking for ideas to submit for the grant. An article will be placed in the newsletter requesting ideas for the grant.

9. The Board reviewed **Municipal Warrant # 36** for the amount of **\$441,170.87**. Bruce Plourd made a motion to approve of **Municipal Warrant # 36** for the Amount of **\$441,170.87**. Ricky Damren seconded the motion. **CLOSED 4/0/1 ABSENT (CHRIS MERROW)**

10. The Board reviewed **Manual Warrant #2403** for the amount of **\$2,908.75**. Melanie Jewell made a motion to approve of **Manual Warrant #2403** for the amount of **\$2,908.75**. Ricky Damren seconded the motion. **CLOSED 4/0/1 ABSENT (CHRIS MERROW)**

The Board reviewed **Manual Warrant #2404** for the amount of **\$435.04**. Melanie Jewell made a motion to approve of **Manual Warrant #2404** for the amount of **\$435.04**. Ricky Damren seconded the motion. **CLOSED 4/0/1 ABSENT (CHRIS MERROW)**

Updates & Announcements:

*The Town Manager provided his updates to the board. **(Please see the attached updates)**

* **Additional:** The Manager has spoken with Patti Kimball concerning her property, and while she said she did not feel that the board understood her situation, he assured her that they did and thanked her for all the work she had done to enhance the property, but reminded her that it was public property. Patti requested that the town place no signs at the location at all.

* It was mentioned that the two police officers at the Lobster Bake, was more than was needed and perhaps this should be reviewed in the alcohol policies.

*Bruce Plourd said that he had concerns about an individual this past weekend that was unloading shingles at the transfer station. The individual had backed up to the edge of the cement and was throwing shingles and could have easily slipped and fallen into the trailer, as there was no gate in place. Bruce thought that perhaps there should be a designated area where the shingles could be dropped off and then they could be removed by the skid steer.

Melanie Jewell made a motion to table the executive session on the annual review of the Town Manager, until Selectperson, Chris Merrow could be in attendance. Ricky Damren seconded the motion. **CLOSED 4/0/1 ABSENT (CHRIS MERROW)**

Dan Newman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m.. Ricky Damren seconded the motion. **CLOSED 4/0/1 ABSENT (CHRIS MERROW)**

Respectfully Submitted
Mary J. Vogel, Executive Secretary to the Board of Selectpersons