

# TOWN OF BELGRADE BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS

TUESDAY / OCTOBER 21, 2008 / 6:30 P.M./ TOWN OFFICE

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED 6:30 P.M./ CLOSED 6:34 P.M./ SELECTPERSONS MEETING  
OPENED 6:34 P.M./ ENTERED EXECUTIVE SESSION 8:47 P.M./ RE-ENTERED  
SELECTPERSONS MEETING 8:50 P.M./ ADJOURNED 9:02 P.M.

## Officials in Attendance:

Melanie Jewell	Selectperson, Chair	Pam Tracy	Treasurer
Ricky Damren	Selectperson, V. Chair	Gayle Finkbeiner,	Budget Committee
Richard Carey	Selectperson	Jack Sutton	Budget Committee
Dan Newman	Selectperson	Dennis Purington	Budget Committee
Dennis Keschl	Town Manager	Tom Streznewski	Budget Committee
Bill Pulsifer	Deputy Fire Chief	Jeff Stevens	Fire Department
Scott Damren	Facility Supervisor & Sexton		
Jessica Moore	Recreation Director		
Genevieve Hall	Board of Parks & Recreation		
Conrad Shaw	Fire Dept. & Building Com.		
Fred Perkins	Board of Parks & Recreation		
Gary Fuller	Code Enforcement Officer & Plumbing Inspector		
Gordon Pow	Building Committee		

Others in Attendance: Brittany Norton and Julia Schnee

## Public Hearing on the General Assistance Ordinance and the yearly

### Appendices

Melanie Jewell declared a quorum and opened the public hearing on the General Assistance Ordinance at 6:30 p.m. The town manager stated there is a slight increase of 2.5% under the General Assistance maximums and appendices. The law requires the board must accept both the ordinance and the appendices.

There was no further discussion. Ricky Damren made a motion to close the public hearing at 6:33 p.m. Dan Newman seconded the motion. **CLOSED 4/0/1 ABSENT (CHRIS MERROW)**

Ricky Damren made a motion to open the Selectpersons meeting at 6:34 p.m. Richard Carey seconded the motion. **CLOSED 4/0/1 ABSENT (CHRIS MERROW)** Ricky Damren made a motion to adopt the ordinance as posted and the appendices for the period of October 1, 2008 through October 1, 2009. Richard Carey seconded the motion. **CLOSED 4/0/1 ABSENT (CHRIS MERROW)**

## Order of Business:

1. The board reviewed the meeting minutes of the October 2, 2008 meeting. Ricky Damren made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Dan Newman seconded the motion. **CLOSED 4/0/1 ABSENT (CHRIS MERROW)** Ricky Damren requested that the minutes

be placed in their books only and a copy of the backup was not necessary. The Board agreed.

#### **Unfinished Business:**

1. The Town manager informed the Board that the Code Enforcement Officer recommended the Board consider having a soil test done on the Town property located on the Castle Island Road. This may enhance the value of the property. There is currently a culvert and driveway in place. Ricky Damren made a motion to place an amount of money necessary, in the 2009 municipal budget, to have a soil test performed on the Castle Island Road, town-owned property. Dan Newman seconded the motion. **CLOSED 4/0/1 ABSENT (CHRIS MERROW)**
2. The Town Manager addressed the Board on the subject of the Regional Code Enforcement for the town. He requested the Board provide some direction for him so he may prepare for the upcoming budget meeting on November 15<sup>th</sup>. He asked whether or not the board wanted him to proceed forward with splitting code enforcement money set aside for water quality. Melanie Jewell said she agrees with setting up a reserve account for lake preservation for \$20,000, but is not totally signed on for another \$40,000 for regional code enforcement at this time. Dan Newman and Melanie Jewell both inquired as to whether or not Rome had decided to move forward with regional code enforcement. Dan Newman stated he felt if we were going to move forward with regional code enforcement at the is time, he would rather the Town have an agreement in place with the surrounding communities. Melanie said she got the impression that this position would not be only one person, but rather there would be two. The Town manager said he would speak with MacGregor Stocco, (KVCOG) and see what Rome and the other surrounding towns have decided to do and bring the information back to the board on November 4<sup>th</sup>. Ricky Damren said he felt this was a good idea and worth looking at. He also feels Gary would be instrumental in this area and perhaps the Town is not quite ready to move towards full-time code enforcement.

#### **New Business:**

1. Melanie Jewell welcomed Brittany Norton to Belgrade as the new deputy clerk in the town office and introduced her to everyone present. Ricky Damren made a motion to appoint Brittany Norton to the position of Registrar for the Town of Belgrade. Chris Merrow seconded the motion. **CLOSED 4/0/1 ABSENT (CHRIS MERROW)**
2. Pam Tracy provides an overview of the 2009 Budget to the Board of Selectperson and the budget committee. **(Please see the attached 2009 Budget Overview)** After the presentation of the overview, both the Board of Selectpersons& Budget Committee asked questions regarding the budget prep.

#### **General Government:**

Dennis Purington asked whether or not the wages for this year and last year for Pubic Safety are the same and if it is enough money. Fire Department Chief Jeff Stevens said that they had raised the wages in 2006 and what was in the budget was adequate.

Gayle Finkbeiner asked if the 12% in Health Insurance was through Maine Municipal Association. Pam Tracy said it was, and the numbers are just estimated because they do not meet until November. He also questioned whether or not there was a co-pay on the insurance. Pam Tracy stated that town employees were subject to co-pays.

Jack Sutton stated that the General Government portion of the budget is 11% greater than last year, what is considered a reasonable increase, and where do we want to end up as a town? Melanie Jewell stated that she would find it difficult to make any kind of recommendations for the evening, as everyone had just received their books and would like to have time to review the information. Town Manager, Dennis Keschl, reminded everyone present that the meeting is just an overview, and some of the projections of money coming from surplus and revenue have not been factored in.

Dennis Purington stated that there is a cost that is not reflected yet in the budget, this is the building committee's expected request. Dennis continued to say he thought Jack has a good point about what is an acceptable increase.

Jack Sutton asked what the price of heating fuel was going to be budgeted at. Pam said she had put it into the budget at \$4.50. Ricky Damren reported that the school has locked in at \$4.08, and recommended Connie Packard be contacted at the MSAD 47 District Office to confirm the information.

#### **Public Safety:**

Jack Sutton inquired about the job on the parking lot at the fire station. He thought this work was being done by the association. Jeff Stevens said much of the work was done by the association members and that the association paid to have it done thus far. Jeff continued that they really needed to get it paved, due to the lack of parking currently at the facility, and they would also like to use the space for training purposes. He said, out of the money requested, whatever is not used will go back into the General fund. Jack asked who gives approval for the budget the town or the budget. Jeff stated it was just a proposal.

#### **Public Works:**

Dennis Purington asked whether the new town garage is the beginning to a Public Works department. The Town manager stated no, that there is a genuine need for a garage, for the town vehicle, to repair equipment and to store equipment and that is why this item is being proposed in the budget. Dennis Purington asked what was wrong with the building at the Cemetery for the repair of equipment. Scott Damren stated the floor of the garage entrance is in disrepair. The new proposed garage would either be housed at the transfer station or the cemetery.

Dennis Purington asked about the stand alone bulk fuel tank. The Town manager stated that it would be placed on a skid so that it may be moved from either the transfer station or the cemetery.

#### **Social Services:**

Dennis Purington asked about the \$5,000 fuel assistance fund. This was one of the items on the spreadsheet passed out at the prior meeting. Currently there is a fund set up by volunteer donations. The Town manager stated he had requested this be placed into the budget. Melanie Jewell said, the intent of the fund is for people who are on the border and do not qualify for any other form of assistance. The policy will be made available for the budget meeting on November 15<sup>th</sup>. Jack Sutton asked about the legality of Towns using funds for assistance which is not on an assisted basis. What is the validity of the town doing this? The town manager stated there is a legal question

that is still out there, but many towns are setting up these kind of funds to help out residents.

Dennis Purington asked if the town sent out letters to Social services who do not meet the budget deadline. The town manager stated that many towns have a formal form to be filled out by Social service groups requesting support. The town manager stated if we did not set a deadline and continued in this fashion then we will be subject to have them petition. Ricky Damren made a motion to set October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008 as the budget deadline for Social Service requests for this year, and to set the last business day of October for all future budgets. Dan Newman seconded the motion. **CLOSED 4/0/1 ABSENT (CHRIS MERROW)**

#### **Debt Services:**

Dennis Purington asked what the interest rate was that the Town earned this year. Pam said she put a million and a half in at 3.2% and had another million and half to go into the bank, Pam said basically the Town is just breaking even. Jack Sutton stated that over the year the amount of vehicle excise and the local funding from roads roughly equates to what is spent on the roads. There is currently a petition to cut excise tax in half. If the legislative accepts, the \$330,000 of revenue that we count on, we would be losing.

3. Jessica Moore was present for a quarterly update. **(Please see the attached update)** She did not have any new information for the board. She said there is a leak in the boiler that needs to be attended to. The Town manager is taking care of handling the cost of the ice damage repairs. There are fifteen students in the after school program. The recreation committee is looking into a community calendar and selling them.

Jessica said she would like to speak on behalf of Julia Schnee and feels strongly that Julia should be on the Board of Parks & Recreation. Fred Perkins stated this would mean a change in the Board of Parks & Recreation's by-laws and 50% of the taxes are paid by non-residents who own two properties. Melanie Jewell stated the reason that the guidelines were set, is that some of the non-residents live here only a couple of months of the year, and they would be making decisions for people who live here year-round. Since then she has had discussions with Sue Perrino and has had a change of mind on those individuals who own property and operate a business, but are not residents of Belgrade. Melanie requested that this be placed on the agenda for the November 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. Fred Perkins said one person on a board cannot make a change, Melanie replied, it would depend on the size of the board and we would have to look at how this will impact other boards.

4. The Board reviewed the resignation letter of Kristie Wood to the Tree committee. Ricky Damren made a motion to accept the letter of resignation with regret and to send a certificate of appreciation. Dan Newman seconded the motion. **CLOSED 4/0/1 ABSENT (CHRIS MERROW)**

The Board reviewed the resignation letter of Sue Perrino to the Board of Parks & Recreation. Ricky Damren made a motion to accept the letter of resignation with regret and to send a certificate of appreciation. Dan Newman seconded the motion. **CLOSED 4/0/1 ABSENT (CHRIS MERROW)**

The Board reviewed the application of John Vogt to the Appeals Board. Ricky Damren made a motion to appoint John Vogt to the Appeals Board for a term to expire in 2011. Dan Newman seconded the motion. **CLOSED 4/0/1 ABSENT (CHRIS MERROW)**

The Board reviewed the application of Tom Streznewski to the budget committee. Ricky Damren made a motion to appoint Tom to the budget committee with a term to expire 2010. Dan Newman seconded the motion. **CLOSED 4/0/1 ABSENT (CHRIS MERROW)**

5. The board reviewed the resignation letter of Fire Chief Jeff Stevens as chief. Ricky Damren made a motion to accept the resignation effective December 31, 2008, with regret. Richard Carey seconded the motion. **CLOSED 4/0/1 ABSENT (CHRIS MERROW)**

The Town manager recommends the board appoint Dan Mackenzie to the fire department as chief, effective January 1, 2009. The fire department held a vote and supports the decision to appoint Dan as the chief. Ricky Damren made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Town Manager and the fire department to appoint Dan MacKenzie as the new fire chief effective January 1, 2009. Richard Carey seconded the motion. **CLOSED 4/0/1 ABSENT (CHRIS MERROW)**

6. The board took no motions on the background checks for the concealed weapons permits.
7. The Board reviewed the abatements. Ricky Damren made a motion to approve of the abatement of **\$127.22** to Inergy Propane. Richard Carey seconded the motion. **CLOSED 4/0/1 ABSENT (CHRIS MERROW)** Ricky Damren made a motion to approve the following abatements; Martha & Jason Bergeron for the following amounts; **\$152.86, \$161.17 and \$169.62**. Dan Newman seconded the motion. **CLOSED 4/0/1 ABSENT (CHRIS MERROW)**
8. The Board discussed the land on the Smithfield Road. There has been some renewed interest in the Town owned property. Ricky Damren made a motion to place the town property on Rt. #8 back into the legal ads for bids. Richard Carey seconded the motion. **CLOSED 4/0/1 ABSENT (CHRIS MERROW)**
9. The Board reviewed **Municipal Warrant # 45** for the amount of **\$63,318.22**. Richard Carey made a motion to approve of **Municipal Warrant # 45** for the amount of **\$63,318.22**. Ricky Damren seconded the motion. **CLOSED 4/0/1 ABSENT (CHRIS MERROW)** There was some questions about the amount that was paid to the animal control officer. The town manager will look further into it.
10. The Board reviewed **Manual Warrant #2357** for the amount of **\$537,329.26**. Richard Carey made a motion to approve of **Manual Warrant #2357** for the amount of **\$537,329.26**. Ricky Damren seconded the motion. **CLOSED 4/0/1 ABSENT (CHRIS MERROW)**

### **Updates & Announcements:**

- The Town Manager reviewed his updates with the Board. ( **Please see the attached updates**)

### **Executive Session:**

Ricky Damren made a motion at 8:47 p.m., to enter into executive session pursuant to Title 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (A) for the purpose of discussion a payment plan for a property under foreclosure. Dan Newman seconded the motion. **CLOSED 4/0/1 ABSENT (CHRIS MERROW)** Ricky Damren made a motion to re-enter the selectpersons meeting at 8:50 p.m.. Dan Newman seconded the motion. **CLOSED 4/0/1 ABSENT (CHRIS MERROW)** Ricky Damren made a motion to accept the payment plan submitted. Dan Newman seconded the motion. **CLOSED 4/0/1 ABSENT (CHRIS MERROW)**

Ricky Damren made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 p.m.. Dan Newman seconded the motion. **CLOSED 4/0/1 ABSENT (CHRIS MERROW)**

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