

# **MARS HILL TOWN COUNCIL**

## **MINUTES 06/16/2014**

### **7:00 PM**

Council Members Present: Travis Kearney, Chairman; Nick McCrum, Tim Brewer, & Sam Mahan. Also present: Dave Cyr, Town Manager, Roger Libby, Diane Porter-Libby,

#### **Meeting Minutes**

Motion by McCrum, seconded Brewer to accept 05/19/14 as presented. 4-0 in favor.

#### **Warrants**

Warrants were circulated and signed.

#### **Old Business**

1. Sole bid for snow removal received from S.F. Burt & Son, Inc. was opened. There was discussion on whether, in light of possible collaboration with the Town of Blaine in the future, whether the Town should negotiate another year with the incumbent contractor, Steelstone Industries, or proceed with this contract. Motion McCrum, seconded by Brewer to award the three year contract to S.F. Burt and Son for the total amount of \$102,000. 4-0 in favor.
2. Manager updated the Council on a letter from USDA Rural Development regarding the Central Aroostook Snowmobile Club's application for groomer funding, which had been denied. No further action required.
3. Manager updated the Council on a letter from the Aroostook County Commissioners to Michael and Robin Gosselin denying their appeal of an earlier decision by the Mars Hill Town Council to reject a property tax abatement request. No further action required.
4. Manager updated the Council on the status of the sale of the 1995 International plow truck to the Town of Bridgewater. Jill Rusby had called earlier in the day to notify us that the truck had passed inspection by K&T Equipment, and the funding for the purchase had been approved at Town Meeting last week. The Managers will execute a bill of sale and title transfer later this week. No further action required.

#### **New Business**

- (1) Motion by Mahan, seconded by McCrum to appoint April L. Bell as Assistant Deputy Clerk, Deputy Registrar of Voters, Election Ward Clerk, and Deputy Overseer of the Poor. 4-0 in favor.

- (2) Chairman Kearney led the discussion on whether to allow an opportunity for the public at future Council meetings to provide input at the beginning of the meeting on specific items at that time rather than during Council discussions. This is a concept used locally by MSAD 42 and Westfield. The Council took this information under advisement and no further action was taken.
- (3) There was discussion between Council members whether the proposed location being requested was the optimum site for such a site and whether another site south of the IGA might be better suited. Article was tabled with the Manager to meet with the ATV Club to look at alternative sites and to bring it back at a future meeting. No further action required.
- (4) Motion by Brewer, seconded by McCrum to impose a \$20 fee on returned checks. 4-0 in favor.
- (5) Manager informed Council of need to enact a local ordinance to regulate electronic and changeable message signs to comply with MDOT regulations. No further action required at this time.
- (6) Discussion led by Councilor Brewer on the need to insulate the main heating loop at the Community Center and to consider having a consultant make recommendations on possible additional controls on the heating system to better regulate the boiler operation during warm weather months. Councilor Brewer to meet with Chappy Clark to determine whether Blaine had committed to insulate this pipe as part of their maintenance agreement. No further action required at this time.
- (7) Councilors reviewed and discussed the Action Plan recommended by MMA Risk Management Services to rectify problems noted during their April 28, 2014 visit to the Community Center. The Manager will meet with Blaine to discuss recommendations to address the noted deficiencies. There was also discussion on developing and implementing a plan to relocate the public entry to the north wall to circumvent ongoing operational and maintenance problems with the current entrance. No further action was taken at this time.
- (8) Council discussed and directed the Manager to impose the \$50 per month late fee on late rent payments from Sue Bell at the Community Center as part of the contract enacted in November 2014.
- (9) The Council discussed action taken by a previous council to provide \$2,000 in funding from the Gilpatrick Fund to be used towards the construction of a greenhouse at the High School. Past members of that Council indicated that their intent was that the greenhouse project had to become a viable project before funds were to be disbursed. Manager to check with Chappy Clark and/or Roger Shaw on progress and to make a formal request for the funding when appropriate. No further action was taken.
- (10) The Manager briefed the Council on the situation with action taken earlier to assist Russell Spittle, Sr. to assist him with the demolition of the existing home after he purchased and installed a mobile home on his property, Map 16, Lot 49. With the sale of the property from Russell Spittle, Sr. to Russell Spittle, Jr., we have second mortgage, which was a contradiction of the earlier agreement that the Town was to be reimbursed when the property was sold. Russell Spittle, Jr. had approached the Manager with an offer to pay \$100 per month until the debt was

- repaid in approximately 3 years. Motion by Mahan, seconded by McCrum to direct the Manager to develop a contract between the Town and Russell Spittle, Jr. to collect \$100 per month until the debt was paid.
- (11) The Manager requested that Articles 11 through 16 be tabled until the next meeting as the MVR was not fully developed. Motion by McCrum, seconded by Brewer to table Articles 11 through 16 until the next meeting on June 23.
  - (12) Tabled until June 23
  - (13) Tabled until June 23
  - (14) Tabled until June 23
  - (15) Tabled until June 23
  - (16) Tabled until June 23
  - (17) The Manager presented the Council with draft revisions to the Town's Personnel Policy. After discussion, the Manager agreed to finalize the proposed changes and bring it back to the Council for adoption. No further action was taken.
  - (18) After discussion on costs and benefits, no action was taken on this article.
  - (19) Chairman Kearney brought up the decision by representatives of the Town and the School Board to award scholarships to eight graduates from Mars Hill in the amount of \$175 each from the Estabrook Will fund. He also brought up the concern that the fund's self-sufficiency may be in jeopardy because of low rates of return in recent years. The Manger will bring the Estabrook Fund balance to the next Council meeting. No further action was taken.  
The Councilors wanted information on the tax bill status of the house that the Town had foreclosed on located on Map 18 Lot 62. The Manager will provide that information at the next meeting.  
Manager brought a notice of a meeting hosted by USA Energy Group LLC regarding information related to solid waste issues and the possible impact to the Town of Mars Hill. No further action was taken.
  - (20) Motion by McCrum, seconded by Brewer to enter into an Executive Session for the purpose of deliberating over poverty abatement case #PA2014-1 pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. §841 et seq. Council entered Executive Session at 8:42PM and out of Executive Session at 8:47PM. Motion by McCrum, seconded by Brewer to deny the request. 4-0 in favor.
  - (21) Motion by McCrum, seconded by Brewer to enter into an Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter involving David D. Cyr pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. §405(6)-A. Council entered Executive Session at 8:49PM and out of Executive Session at 8:55PM. Motion by McCrum, seconded by Mahan to authorize payment of the Health Plan Offset Stipend in the amount of \$4,000 annually to David D. Cyr. Payment shall be made on a monthly basis. 4-0 in favor.
  - (22) Next Meeting to be held at 6:00 PM on Monday, June 23, 2014 at the Mars Hill Town Office. Motion by McCrum, seconded by Brewer to adjourn. 4-0 in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 9:08PM.

Respectfully Submitted  
David D. Cyr Town Manager