MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lou Annance, Chair

Wayne Hackett, Vice Chair

Cathy Fifield

Stephen Bolduc

Nicholas Konstantoulakis

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Koriene Low – Town Manager

Miranda Hinkley – Town Clerk

Fred Sturtevant - Fire Chief

Jon Damon – Dep. Fire Chief

Scott Penney – Public Works

Jeff Goss – Police Chief

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Michael Garey

Craig Densmore

Councilor Lou Annance called the Public Hearing meeting to order at 6:31pm.

Two homeowners from Yates street were the only town residents to attend the hearing. Both expressed that it is extremely inconvenient for them to have to drive around Elm to enter Yates Street as a one-way street. Council reiterated that if the street were to revert back to the original ordinance, there will be NO parking on either side of the street. The Council explained that the ordinance was changed temporarily as a trial due to concerns of those living on Yates Street and of the Police department regarding parking and through traffic. The two representing Yates street agreed that not having parking is a concern for some, however, those people were not present and the two that attended did not have issues with there being an ordinance against parking on the street. Representatives from public works and from Fire/Rescue agree that the one-way access is inconvenient and that having vehicles on the side of the road impedes snow removal and rescue efforts.

At 7:05, Councilor Annance closed the Public Hearing and called the regular Council Meeting to order with all Council Members present. We stood and saluted the flag.

**Reports:**

* 1. **Council Meeting Minutes** November 7, 2016
  2. **Departmental Reports Submitted (Revised FD Report submitted)**
  3. **Municipal Financial Reports**

Councilor Bolduc made a motion to approve the reports and meeting minutes as submitted. Seconded by Councilor Hackett. So voted. Unanimous.

**Public Comments:**

**2.01 Public Comments:** No publiccomments.

*Reports of the Town Manager:*

Old Business:

Item 3.01 Yates Street Parking

After hearing the public concerns and comments from Fire/Rescue and Police representatives, the Council discussed briefly their thoughts on the Yates Street ordinance. Councilor Fifield obstatined from voting on this issue as her family has personal interest in the outcome of the vote. Councilor Bolduc motioned to return Yates Street to its former two-way traffic with no parking on either side. Councilor Konstantoulakis seconded the motion. All in favor. So voted.

Item 3.02 Historical Society

The Town Manager received an email from Mr. Vaill stating the attorneys were working together to try and determine how to move forward with the transfer of the Elm Street building. The Anglican church does not wish to have a mortgage to the town against the building. This matter was discussed and because it appears there is not a simple resolution and in an attempt to save the Townspeople from paying astronomical legal fees, the Council agreed to continue with the original deed to grant the Anglican Church the Elm Street building without a promissory note. Councilor Konstantoulakis motioned to continue as planned with the transfer of property with original stipulations and no promissory note. This motion was seconded by Councilor Bolduc and unanimously voted to accept. The Town Manager will contact Mr. Vaill to obtain the necessary signatures. Councilor Konstantoulakis did mention that the Historical Committee would like the town to obtain insurance against damage on the artifacts owned by the Historical Society. Since these items can not be replaced no matter the denomination of funds received from insurance for damage, the Town Council agrees that insurance is not necessary. If the Historical Society would like, they may obtain insurance, however the Council feels it would be better served if the items were cataloged and pictures were taken of the documents to preserve them electronically.

Item 3.03 Assessor

Current Assessor fees were discussed and the option to convert to a bid plan. Councilor Hackett stated that since the Town is not due to be re-evaluated for 6 years, the topic should be discussed at a later time.

Item 3.04 County Update

The Judge has made a determination in the lawsuit against Androscoggin County which is not in the Towns favor. The Town Manager requested the Council to discuss whether the Town wanted to pursue the lawsuit further. The Town does not wish to devote any further funding to this matter. The Town Manager will meet with the Attorney and advise of the Town’s decision.

Item 3.05 Harvest Hill Update

The current owners of Harvest Hill property have been in contact and will be satisfying the amount needed to avoid foreclosure no later than 15 January. The Town Manager was hoping the new owners would satisfy the account to current, however does not believe this is the case. Regarding personal property tax owed by Harvest Hill Farms (Peter Bolduc), the argument is that Andover Covered Bridge filed for bankruptcy, NOT Harvest Hill Farms. Peter Bolduc still owes this money and in the Town Ordinance, personal property taxes have always been attached to the real estate they reside on. In this case, the new owners would be responsible for satisfying the personal property taxes associated with the property prior to applying money toward the real estate taxes.

New Business:

Item 4.01 Holiday Luncheon

In the past, the Town has closed for the afternoon to have an appreciation luncheon for its employees. The Town Manager was requesting to do the same this year. She would like to have this Dec 20th or 22nd. Councilor Bolduc motioned to allow the Town offices to close early to have an appreciation luncheon for its employees. Seconded by Councilor Konstantoulakis and voted unanimously to accept.

Item 4.02 Mutual Aid Auburn

An agreement was proposed to allow mutual aid with the City of Auburn Fire/Rescue. The Town Manager can not make this determination on her own as it would be a conflict of interest as her son is Chief of Auburn’s Fire Department. Councilor Bolduc motions to accept agreement for mutual aid with Auburn which was seconded by Councilor Hackett. All in favor, so voted.

Item 4.03 Employee Health Insurance

Due to the 11.25% increase in MMA provided insurance, the Town Manager has reviewed other options for Health Insurance for Town employees. If the Town remains insured through MMA, employee contributions would have to increase to 15% of the total premiums (tripling the amount each employee currently pays each pay period). A new Anthem based insurance through Northern Benefits is available. This option puts the Town in with a larger pool of employees and therefore has less expensive premiums, however the copays and deductibles would increase under this plan. And no cost life insurance is not included as was with MMA. The Town Manager is also proposing we increase the Town’s contribution to HRA for its employees as this will assist with easing the increased copays and deductibles. Often the full HRA is not absorbed by the employee and is returned to the Town’s general fund. New enrollment would take place January 1, 2017 and therefore a vote is needed at this meeting. The Council reviewed all the implications of changing in detail. Employees would not have to switch providers. Councilor Hackett motioned to switch employee health insurance to the Northern Benefits Plan. This motion was seconded by Councilor Bolduc. All in favor, so voted.

Ordinances, Resolves & Licenses:

Item 5.01 Holiday Hours

Christmas falls on Sunday this year. The Town offices will observe on Monday, December 26th. The same goes for New Year’s Day. The Town will observe this holiday on Monday, January 2nd. The next Town Council meeting will take place on Tuesday, January 3, 2017.

**Item 5.02 Liquor License Renewal Requests**

Silver Spur Bottle Club renewal submitted for approval. Police Chief Goss has approved this request with no problems reported from previous license. Councilor Bolduc motioned to approve the renewal of the Silver Spur’s Bottle Club license, seconded by Councilor Konstantoulakis. So Voted, Unanimous.

Item 5.03 Approval of Recreation Committee Member Katrina Seeley

Member has not completed all necessary paperwork, this matter will be discussed at January meeting.

Item 5.04 Approve Budget Committee Members Carl Beckett and Yvon Gilbert

Councilor Konstantoulakis motioned to approve the voluntary membership of Yvon Gilbert and Carl Beckett to the Budget Committee. Councilor Bolduc seconded the motion and the Council voted unanimously to approve.

Item 5.05 Approve American Legion Request to Allow Games of Chance

The American Legion Post 150 has requested the Town allow Games of Chance to continue to be offered at their establishment. Councilor Hackett motioned to approve the request for Games of Chance at the American Legion which was seconded by Councilor Bolduc. All in favor, so voted.

Item 5.06 Approve Adding Miranda Hinkley and Remove Jennifer Boenig from the Recreation Committee Bank Accounts

The Town will be transitioning all Recreation Committee financing back to the Town Office for accountability and auditing purposes. Miranda Hinkley, Town Clerk, will be primarily responsible for the day to day operations of the Recreation Committee and Lisa Prevost, Finance Director, will assist with end of year and auditing requirements. The Town Manager is requesting the approval of the Town Council to add the Town Clerk to the bank accounts and remove Jennifer Boenig who graciously has been volunteering her time to maintain the accounts. Councilor Bolduc motioned to accept the request and add Miranda Hinkley to the Recreation Committee accounts and remove Jennifer Boenig from the same. This motion was seconded by Councilor Fifield and voted unanimously to accept.

Councilor Bolduc then motioned to adjourn. Councilor Hackett seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:07pm by unanimous vote.