MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lou Annance, Chair

Cathy Fifield, Vice Chair

Stephen Bolduc

Nicholas Konstantoulakis

Kieth Bennett

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Koriene Low – Town Manager

Miranda Hinkley – Town Clerk

Les Johnson – Transfer Station Manager

Jeffrey Goss – Chief of Police

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Stephanie and Kyle Bates

Rick Dionne

Councilor Lou Annance called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.

We stood and saluted the flag.

**Reports:**

* 1. **Council Meeting Minutes**
  2. **Departmental Reports Submitted and Code Enforcement**
  3. **Municipal Financial Reports**

Previous minutes and departmental reports were reviewed by the council members with no questions for clarification. Councilor Fifield motioned to accept the minutes from June, as well as the Departmental and Financial Reports from June and July. Motion was seconded by Councilor Bolduc and voted unanimously to accept.

**Public Comments:**

**2.01 Public Comments:** None

*Reports of the Town Manager:*

Old Business:

Item 3.01 Dwinal Street

The town is still meeting with all residents affected by the change of Dwinal Street from a town road to a private way. Jeff Sturtevant remains to be met with regarding this matter.

Item 3.02 Preliminary Budget Results

The budget recently closed for 2016-17. Funds will need to be transferred to Reserve Account. Report will be prepared and presented at September meeting.

Item 3.03 Scott Penney

Scott Penney will be out of work due to a surgical procedure through August. Surgery went well and he is virtually pain free and walking well.

Item 3.04 Mutual Aid Minot

The mutual aid agreement with Minot appears to be working very well. The fire department was awarded 4 new radios. Fred Sturtevant will be attending NIMMS Meeting on Thursday. The Council can opt to attend as well or sign a waiver to abstain as long as they understand that they will not be able to be in command during a disaster. All Council members signed waiver.

Item 3.05 Rescue Vehicle

The vehicle recently purchased at Ripley and Fletcher Ford for the Rescue department was in a previous accident which was not disclosed at the time of purchase. This is evident through damage found while completing add-on equipment for Rescue. A letter was delivered to the dealership by Koriene Low and given to Joe Galetta requesting a equal vehicle trade and $11,000 to cover adaptations already made.

Item 3.06 Fireworks Complaint

Members of the community were present and complained that the current fireworks ordinance is not being enforced. When complaints are made to dispatch, some dispatchers are unaware of the ordinance and state that fireworks are not illegal in Maine. Others dispatch an officer, but by the time our officers get the call and can respond, the individuals releasing the fireworks have dispersed. Chief Goss explained that they have to be able to prove without a doubt, who actually lit the explosive. They also must be able to prove that the devices were lit outside of allowed time or within an area that is not permissible. Mr. and Mrs. Bates as well as Mr. Dionne are asking that the current ordinance be amended or that fireworks become completely banned for personal use within the town. Mr. Dionne mentioned that other towns require a Fireworks Permit similar to an Open Burning Permit. The Council has scheduled a Public Hearing on August 24th at 7pm to discuss this matter. Advised residents at meeting to gather support for the meeting.

New Business:

Item 4.01 Mil Rate Established

Two options were presented to the Council by the Town Manager for the 2017-2018 Mil Rate. Option 1 increased the amount per $100,000 to $68.00 with an overlay of $9,952.57. The mil rate would be 22.00. Option 2 would increase the cost per $100,000 to $100.00 allowing a slightly larger overlay. The reasons provided for an increased mil rate despite cutting town employee hours are increase in homestead exemption allowed for homeowners, decrease in amount reimbursed to town for the homestead exemption, a 1% decrease in revenue sharing from the state, and a decrease in relief for the school. The town essentially lost $3 million in town valuations and increased $3 million in exemptions. Finally the County Tax increased. Councilor Bolduc moved to accept option 1, setting the mil rate to 22.00 with an overlay of $9,952.57. Councilor Konstantoulakis seconded the motion. All in favor, so voted.

Item 4.02 Sewer Update

Nick Konstantoulakis, who serves as Manager of the Sewer District on a full time basis, provided information regarding a sewer update which is necessary and will incur fines if not completed by December 31st. The state is requiring we assume a loan of $305, 000 of which they will reimburse $147,000. The loan is to be used to update the sewer system. The work will be completed over night and will require residents to abstain from flushing during those hours.

Item 4.03 Transfer Station Bids

Les Johnson sent Requests for Bids to 4 companies regarding testing and compilation of results needed for the Transfer station. Only 2 companies returned a bid. CES, Inc. bid $27,600 and SME bid $21,000 for the exact same work using the same lab. Councilor Bolduc moved to accept the bid placed by SME. Councilor Fifield seconded the motion and all voted unanimously to accept.

Item 4.04 Commendation for the Police Department

On July 2nd, Officers Daigle and Harrison were responding to support the Sherriff’s Office on a Domestic call. The suspect was threatening officers as well as self harm. He poured gasoline in the kitchen and was refusing to come out of the house, resulting in a standoff situation. The officers maintained the safety of all involved and were able to diffuse the situation with no injuries. The Sherriff’s Office has sent a letter of commendation.

Ordinances, Resolves & Licenses:

Item 5.01 Accept Resignation of Paula Bolduc from the Planning Board

Councilor Fifield motioned to accept the resignation of Paula Bolduc from the Planning Board. Councilor Konstantoulakis seconded the motion. Councilor Bolduc abstained as the member in question is his spouse. All others in favor, so voted.

**Item 5.02 Town Office Holiday Closure**

The Town Office will be closed on September 4th in observance of Labor Day. The next Council meeting with therefore be moved to September 5th.

Item 5.03 Accept Resignation of Nate Edwards and Removal of Darryl Gibson from the Recreation Committee

The Recreation Committee recommends the removal of Darryl Gibson from the committee as he has missed a great deal of the meetings. Nate Edwards requests to resign. Councilor Bolduc moves to accept the resignation of Nate Edwards and removal of Darryl Gibson from the Recreation Committee. Motion seconded by Councilor Konstantoulakis and voted unanimously to accept.

Item 5.04 Sign Assessors Letter County

All Councilors signed the County Assessors Letter as required.

Councilor Bolduc motioned to enter executive session under 1MRSA 405(6)(F). Councilor Konstantoulakis seconded and all members voted to enter executive session at 7:54pm.

Councilor Konstantoulakis moved to end executive session, seconded by Councilor Fifield. All in favor for Council to emerge from executive session at 8:29pm

Councilor Fifield motions to adjourn this meeting of the Town Council, Seconded by Councilor Bolduc and unanimously accepted.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30pm