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

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Sue Marston, Summer Recreation Director

Councilor Lou Annance called the meeting to order at 6:52pm.

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 Bolduc motioned to accept the minutes from August, as well as the Departmental and Financial Reports from August. Motion was seconded by Councilor Fifield and voted unanimously to accept.

**Public Comments:**

**2.01 Public Comments:** None

*Reports of the Town Manager:*

Old Business:

Item 3.01 Rescue Vehicle

Koriene spoke with the manager of Ripley & Fletcher Ford who has gone and examined the vehicle purchased from them for Rescue. He agrees that the vehicle is in no condition to be used for Rescue. He spoke with the auction company who provided no assistance and has a call into Ford Motor Corp. awaiting guidance from them.

Item 3.02 Year end 2017

We will not have a final Auditor report until Jan 2018, however the figures show over $150,000 being transferred into our General Fund. This was attributed to the efforts of all employees to maintain costs at a minimum and will help with the 2018 budget.

Item 3.03 East Dwinal Street

This subject is being tabled at this time. After speaking with Mr. Sturtevant who states there has been an increase in Cody’s business and he is not in favor of dissolving this road. Neighboring street residents had also voiced concerns of increased traffic in their area if the road is dissolved and expressed displeasure with this action. Jon Damon will likely move to rectify his issues.

Item 3.04 Fireworks Ordinance

An additional letter from a resident expressed that they would like to see the Consumer Fireworks Use banned from the town. No other info to discuss at this time as we are waiting for guidance from MMA and Chief Goss.

Item 3.05 Historical Society

There has been some discontent between the Historical Society and Angelican Church. The church is looking to replace windows in the building and Eriks Petersons feels this will jeopardize the historical value of the church. The church being active as well as numerous changes made to the building in the past have already excluded the building from being considered a Historic Site. Councilor Konstantoulakis has been working with both sides and feels he has rectified the situation. The Council discussed the need for a vote by the Historical Society to name a President.

Item 3.06 Steve French

Steve French, Director of the Water Department, was injured at his camp and broke the L1 portion of his back. He is currently hospitalized and awaiting determination on surgical intervention. He will be out of work for an extended period of time. Koriene visited the Water Department and met with the staff. She believes they have developed a schedule for coverage at this time.

New Business:

Item 4.01 Camp Connor

The Town of Poland has purchased the property known to the public as Camp Connor. Their intent is to utilize this facility for their summer recreation program. Sue Marston, Town of Mechanic Falls Summer Recreation Director was present and explained that the original intent was for the towns of Poland, Mechanic Falls, and Minot integrate their programs. Poland has stated that their rates will increase to $150 per child and that they intend to charge residents of Minot and Mechanic Falls a Non-Resident fee weekly. It is Sue’s belief that our program can sustain the effect of this new Camp. Our residents cannot afford to pay the higher rates and would be inconvenienced by traveling. She would be willing to continue our current program. Councilor Fifield moved to continue our program for Summer Recreation and forego the integration with Poland. Councilor Konstantoulakis seconded and the Council voted unanimously to accept.

Item 4.02 GA Maximums Approval

General Assistance maximum benefits have increased. The Council reviewed the updated document and Councilor Bolduc placed a motion to accept the new values. Councilor Fifield seconded the motion. All in favor, so voted. Document was signed and submitted.

Item 4.03 125th Anniversary of the Town

Nancy Petersons advised the Town Manager that 2018 is the 125th Anniversary of the Town of Mechanic Falls. She recommended celebrating monthly as we did with the Centennial celebrations. We do not have the resources to do this, Koriene has suggested we incorporate this celebration with Community Day. Council agrees.

Item 4.04 RSU Committee Representative

The RSU has formed a committee to resolve issues with communication. They are asking each Town to provide a representative to the committee from September through January. There are four candidates willing to represent Mechanic Falls. Carlton Beckett (who used to work in the school system, but has no children in the system), Eriks Petersons (who has no children in the school system), Justin Starbird (who has children in elementary school, but has voiced his opinion on the situation publicly), and Michelle Emery (who has no children in the system, however her child graduated last year and she was part of the Project Graduation Committee). The Council discussed each candidate and decided Michelle Emery would be the most non-biased representative with knowledge of the recent issues. Councilor Bennett moved to elect Michelle Emery as Representative to the RSU Communications Improvement Committee. The motion was seconded by Councilor Bolduc and voted unanimously to accept.

Ordinances, Resolves & Licenses:

Item 5.01 Employee Changes

Angela Grenier, Tax Clerk, worked her last day on 9/1/2017. We have hired a replacement for this position, however she will not start until 9/18/2017.

Wayne is no longer working for the Public Works Department. John Rowe, formerly part time, has accepted the full-time position.

**Item 5.02 Police Department Changes**

LT Paul Harrison will work his last day on 9/9/2017. His departure leaves two vacancies in the Police Department. We have hired two new officers, Eric and Ryan, both of which will need to attend the academy.

Item 5.03 Tax Abatements

Aaron Sasseville purchased property on Lewiston Street. The prior owner had a Homestead Exemption and Mr. Sasseville is requesting an abatement of Real Estate Taxes as the taxes increased at the time of purchase. The Council discussed the situation and concluded that Mr. Sasseville would not qualify for the exemption as he is utilizing the property for rental. Councilor Bolduc moves to deny the request for abatement. Councilor Fifield seconds the motion. All in favor, so voted.

Richard & Jennifer Tozier of 18 Dunlop Ave request an abatement of Real Estate Tax as they were given the Homestead/ Veteran’s Exemptions in their previous Town of Sedgewick and by state law, these exemptions should have automatically transferred to their new property. Councilor Fifield states that it is the responsibility of the homeowner to advise the Town of these exemption transfers. Councilor Bolduc moves to allow the abatement request as it is State law for the exemptions to be transferred. The motion is seconded by Councilor Konstantoulakis and voted 3-2 to accept (Councilors Fifield and Annance vote against).

Walter & Sharon Goss of Elm Street have purchased adjacent acreage. They are requesting a partial abatement as the land is being used as farmland. State Law requires all tax amendment be submitted no later than April 1st each year. Mr. Goss did not indicate the newly purchased land would be used for farming until July of 2017 and therefore is billed at the higher general use tax amount. Councilor Bolduc moves to deny the abatement request as the deadline imposed by the state was not met. Councilor Bennett seconds the motion and the Council votes 3-2 to deny the abatement request of Mr. & Mrs. Goss. (Councilors Annance and Konstantoulakis vote opposingly).

Northern Leasing Systems has placed a request for partial abatement of Personal Property taxes as they submitted their amended declaration and the disposed items remained on the invoice. This was clerk error and therefore should be abated. Councilor Bolduc moved to accept this abatement request, seconded by Councilor Fifield. All in favor, so voted.

Councilor Bolduc motioned to enter executive session under 1MRSA 405(6)(B). Councilor Konstantoulakis seconded and all members voted to enter executive session at 7:51pm.

Councilor Bolduc moved to end executive session, seconded by Councilor Konstatoulakis. All in favor for Council to emerge from executive session at 8:15pm.

Councilor Konstantoulakis votes to deny poverty abatement as there is ample time to procure the amount needed to pay. Motion seconded by Councilor Bolduc. All in favor, so voted.

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

Meeting Adjourned at 8:20pm