

TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP/MEETING

Thursday, April 18, 2019

Bucksport Town Office Council Chambers

6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Mayor Stewart called the workshop to order at 6:00 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL

Councilors Present: Mark Eastman, Paul Bissonnette, David Kee, Peter Stewart, Daniel Ormsby, Robert Carmichael, Jr.

Councilors Absent: Paul Gauvin

2. BUCKSPORT ROBOTICS TEAM REQUEST

This item was passed over as the Bucksport Robotics Team requested to have it withdrawn from the agenda.

3. BUDGET REVIEW

a. Recreation

Down East Family YMCA's Operations Director, Nick Tymoczko, addressed the Council on behalf of the Recreation Department. Councilor Carmichael questioned whether or not the rent has increased, to which Town Manager Lessard explained that the rent is for the Senior Center. She further explained that there is a percentage increase annually in rent that moves with the lease.

Mr. Tymoczko went onto explain some of the part-time positions that fulfil duties in places such as the town pool and ice rink. Mayor Stewart questioned whether or not the coaches were paid, to which Mr. Tymoczko responded that they were not. He further explained that if no one is available to coach, he fills in. An increase in part time funding, he explained, will give incentive for more people to coach. There was also discussion on hiring a coordinator to help enhance the program.

Resident Jim Morrison asked Mr. Tymoczko why there was such an increase in phone bills, and whether or not the three phones that the Recreation Department has could be combined. Mr. Tymoczko stated that they could look into that.

Councilor Carmichael inquired whether or not the town has supported clearing the ice rink in the past, to which Town Manager Lessard stated that they have. The town has used its own equipment to take the first pass around the rink. The town has talked in the past about utilizing that method during extensive snowstorms.

b. Social Services/Agencies

***H.O.M.E. Inc. – Tracey Hair, Executive Director** – Ms. Hair explained to the Council that H.O.M.E. is a program that currently serves around 354 citizens of Bucksport. H.O.M.E. is*

requesting \$5,000.00 from the town.

Mayor Stewart questioned whether or not H.O.M.E. receives funding from other towns, to which Ms. Hair responded that they only request funds from Orland and Bucksport. Mayor Stewart encouraged Ms. Hair to seek funding from other towns. Town Manager Lessard pointed out that while in a meeting with RSU #25 Superintendent Jim Boothby, he noted that homelessness was a rising problem in RSU #25 for their student population.

Buck Memorial Library – Nancy Bourgon, Treasurer – Ms. Bourgon thanked the Council for their years of support and gave a brief history of the Buck Memorial Library. She stated that the library is requesting \$14,000.00 from the town of Bucksport, which has been the same request since 2002. She stated that the town first started helping the library financially in 1905. The library currently has two full-time staff, four volunteers, and serves approximately 2,950 people in Bucksport.

Councilor Carmichael questioned how many public computers the library currently has, to which Ms. Bourgon responded that they have two. They will be using funds to replace those computers this coming year.

Downeast Community Partners – A representative from Downeast Community Partners addressed the Council. They currently serve approximately 260 people in Bucksport and are requesting \$31,629.00 from the town.

Bucksport Community Concerns, Inc. – Laurie Hunt, Secretary – Ms. Hunt addressed the Council on behalf of Bucksport Community Concerns, Inc., an all-volunteer food pantry located in the basement of the Elm Street Congregational Church. The food pantry had 1,554 encounters with residents of Bucksport this year and is requesting \$4,500.00 from the town.

Councilor Bissonnette questioned what their main source of funding was, to which Ms. Hunt responded that it is private donations.

Downeast Transportation, Inc. – Mary Jane Bush addressed the Council on behalf of Downeast Transportation. She explained that this organization has provided weekly transportation to individuals for nearly twenty years. They are requesting \$3,592.00 from the town.

Eastern Area Agency on Aging – Dyan Walsh, Executive Director – Ms. Walsh addressed the Council. Last year they served a total of 180 people in Bucksport and are requesting \$2,500.00 from the town.

Bucksport Area Child Care Center – Kira Luscher, Director – Ms. Luscher explained that the center provides childcare to approximately 60 children in the town of Bucksport. They are requesting \$2,000.00 from the town.

Councilor Bissonnette questioned why their fund request was lower this year, to which Town Manager Lessard explained that the Council gave them more money than they requested last year due to building repairs.

Bucksport Bay Healthy Communities Coalition – Geoffrey Bellows, Treasurer – Mr. Bellows addressed the Council and explained the various programs that the coalition offers for the overall wellbeing of residents of Bucksport. They are requesting \$15,000.00 from the town.

Bucksport Area Senior Center – William Foster, Director – Mr. Foster addressed the Council

and stated that the Senior Center will be doing the same as years past but will be adding more programs. They are requesting \$6,000.00 from the town and serve approximate 400 senior citizens in Bucksport.

Hospice Volunteers of Hancock County - Valerie Sulya addressed the Council on behalf of Hospice Volunteers of Hancock County. They are a free of charge service and are requesting \$1,000.00 from the town.

LifeFlight of Maine/The LifeFlight Foundation – Tom Judge, Executive Director – Mr. Judge addressed the Council and outlined the services that LifeFlight provides. They transported 64 patients from Bucksport between the years 2011 to 2018. They are requesting \$1,231.00 from the town.

Maine Family Planning/WIC Nutritin Program – Savannah Havey approached the Council on behalf of Maine Family Planning. They are asking all towns to contribute \$45.00 per participant. Bucksport has 107 participants, therefore, they are requesting \$4,815.00 from the town.

Families First Community Center – Dawn Coffin, President – Ms. Coffin approached the Council and explained that Families First offers residential and outreach programs. She stated that she was unsure as to whether or not any residents from Bucksport will participate. They are requesting \$1,000.00 from the town.

Northern Light Home Care & Hospice – Jamie Roy approached the Council on behalf of Northern Light Home Care & Hospice. They serve approximately 108 individuals in Bucksport and are requesting \$250.00 from the town.

Health Equity Alliance – A representative from Health Equity Alliance approached the Council and explained that they offer free of charge services to those in all counties of Maine except Cumberland and York. They serve approximately 50 people in Bucksport and are requesting \$500.00.

c. Marina

Harbor Master Michael Ormsby approached the Council and stated that this budget uses no tax dollars – it is funded solely by fees from the marina. He went onto explain that they are looking for a fulltime staff person for 28 weeks. A discussion was held in regards to crane rental, to which Harbor Master Ormsby responded that they use the crane twice per year; once to put the docks into the water, and once to remove the docks from the water.

Community & Economic Development Director Richard Rotella addressed the Council in regards to the Waterfront. These funds cover the waterfront, Silver Lake, Ian's Playground, and Main Street. He further clarified that these accounts used to be classified under Recreation.

d. Capital Budget

Councilor Carmichael spoke to Town Manager Lessard in regards to updating the security at the Town Office, to which Town Manager Lessard stated that she hasn't received the figures back yet.

Mayor Stewart questioned Assistant Fire Chief Michael Denning in regards to the truck that the Fire Department is asking to purchase. He asked that Assistant Chief Denning consider looking

into used trucks.

Highway Road Foreman Jay Lanpher approached the Council and provided them with information in regards to paving. He went on to explain about reclaiming, grading, and milling. He stated that the Council should consider designating more funds in the budget for paving, and that they should develop a paving schedule rather than doing it all at once.

Mayor Stewart questioned what the overall process would look like. He stated that he would like to determine exactly what roads to pave, get the community involved, and then asked Town Manager Lessard whether or not it would need to go to referendum. Town Manager Lessard stated that it should, and further explained that the research would need to be completed by the beginning of September in order to get the article prepared for the November election.

Councilor Kee stated that he will be resigning the Town Council as of July 30, 2019. His seat will be advertised and voted on at the November election.

4. ADJOURN

*Councilor Carmichael moved and Councilor Ormsby seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.
Motion Passed 6-0.*

Respectfully submitted,



*Jacob R. Gran
Town Clerk/Council Secretary*

Minutes approved by Town Council on _____

Yes _____ No _____ Abstained _____