

**MINUTES
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
STANDISH, MAINE
TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2021
STANDISH MUNICIPAL CENTER
6:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Pomerleau, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL

Councilors present: Delcourt, Gaba, LeClerc, Libby, Paul and Pomerleau.

Councilor Butler was excused.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (S)

Moved by Libby seconded by LeClerc and voted to approve the minutes of December 9, 2020 Town Council meeting.
(Unanimous)

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

There were no petitions or communications at this meeting.

REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

Mr. Giroux announced that there was no report this evening.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

There were no Public Hearings at this meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Leclerc – Ordinance Committee – no report.

Councilor Gaba- PWD Steering Committee – no report.

Councilor Libby – Finance Committee – noted that the committee met and reports that the Town's finances are right on track.

Councilor Delcourt – Appointments Committee – met tonight and are bringing forward an order on tonight's agenda.

Councilor Paul – Personnel Committee – met to discuss potential budgetary items.

Councilor Pomerleau – Capital Improvements Committee – no report.

Moved by Libby seconded by Leclerc and voted to add the following orders to the agenda.

5-21 Amendment to Town of Standish Fee Schedule -Gravel Pit Fees and 6-21 Call for Public Hearing for the FY 2022 Capital Improvements Plan.

VOTE ON ADDING ORDERS 5-21 AND 6-21 TO THE AGENDA. 6 yeas

CONSENT CALENDAR

There were no Consent Calendar items at this meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There were no items of unfinished business on the agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

1-21 Authorizing the Town Council Chair to Send Notice of Resumption of Proposed Discontinuance of a Portion of Middle Road to Abutting Property Owners [Pomerleau]

Chair Pomerleau called for public discussion on the order, hearing none, she called for Town Council discussion.

Councilor Libby questioned if the Town still owns the right-of-way?

Bill Giroux, the Town Manager explained that the Town has never had any intention of improving these sections of these roads. He explained that roads are often improved when a sub-division established, and the road is built. What this action will do is release the two sections of roads, noting that we still could improve them if the Town wanted to do so. The action will allow people who own property on the road the right to make improvements to the road. He said that the public will still be able to pass over the roads. If this process is approved, it would allow someone to build on the road as long as all other requirements are met. He said that this would be an advantage to the property owners on the roads.

Chair Pomerleau called for additional Council discussion, hearing none, she called for the roll call vote.

VOTE: 7 Yeas

2-21 Authorizing the Town Council Chair to Send Notice of Resumption of Proposed Discontinuance of a Portion of Moody Road to Abutting Property Owners [Pomerleau]

Moved by Leclerc seconded by Gaba and voted to dispense with the Clerk's reading of the order. (Unanimous)

Mr. Giroux announced that members of the viewing public that have questions regarding these roads can contact him.

Chair Pomerleau called for public discussion on the order.

Kevin Cote announced that he has a closing on a property on the Moody Road on Friday. He said that he was looking for reassurance regarding this matter. He questioned if he would be able to get a building permit for the property in question next week?

Bill Giroux explained that Mr. Cote would have to discuss building permits with the Code Enforcement Department.

Mr. Cote voiced his concerns that he was laying his neck out, and perhaps he couldn't be able get a permit.

Mr. Giroux agreed that he was sticking his neck out purchasing the property prior to the Town action to discontinue the road. He said that that the road will not be discontinued until all the steps are followed, noting that he could not build on that road at this time.

Mr. Cote asked why he couldn't build at this time?

Mr. Giroux said that the road does not meet town standards. He continued to explain if this process is approved abutters would not have to bring the road up to town standards.

Cote asked if this is discontinued, when does it go into effect?

Mr. Giroux said that if this moves forward the process should be completed in the spring.

Mr. Cote asked if he would be able to clear the lot immediately following the closing?

Giroux said that was a question that the Code Enforcement Officer would have to answer. He said that the staff will have to answer these types of questions.

Mr. Cote reiterated that the public will still be able to travel over the road, but the maintenance will fall on the abutters.

Mr. Giroux said that is the common practice that in the better weather people use that road to go to the Transfer Station, that won't change, there will still be a public easement. He went on to say that there are roads like this all over the state.

Mr. Cote said that he was satisfied to learn that this will possibly wrap up soon.

Councilor Delcourt voiced his concerns that we were putting the burden of fixing these roads on the property owners.

Mr. Giroux said that we don't have to fix the road now, at this time we only fix it to the point to allow us to go through the roads.

Councilor Delcourt questioned if this process will allow owners to improve the roads so they can build?

Mr. Giroux said that they don't have to do too much, just enough for them to pass.

Chair Pomerleau called for additional Council discussion, hearing none, she called for the roll call vote.

VOTE: 7 Yeas

3-21 Town Council Appointments to Various Boards or Committees [Delcourt]

Moved by Delcourt seconded by Libby to amend the order as follows, noting that the Town Council can appoint to these seats until the next municipal election follows:

Erika Ewers to the Planning Board
Arianna Tilton to the Budget Committee
Patricia Frechette to the Budget Committee (Unanimous)

VOTE ON ORDER AS AMENDED: 6 Yeas

4-21 Authorize Permanent Change in Polling Location for the Town of Standish [Pomerleau]

Chair Pomerleau called for public discussion on the order, hearing none, she called for Town Council discussion.

Councilor LeClerc voiced his concerns with the Town's equipment being outside and not available for the crew to get the in the event of an emergency. He was curious if the Fire Department was in favor of this change? Will they have access to their equipment, he noted that he understands the need for the space during Covid but the permanent change makes him uneasy.

Mr. Giroux noted that it's not just the Covid issue, we've outgrown the Sebago Lake Room to use as the polls. He said that you may remember how crowded the Sebago Lake Room was. He said what they have done, and plan to do in future, is move the equipment out of the bays. The vehicles have all the equipment that they need already on them. He continued to explain that the Fire Chief has approved this. He said that the fire staff are still located here and at the other stations.

Councilor LeClerc said that he understands the rationale but was concerned with the life and death issues.

Mr. Giroux said that we could have never run this last election in Sebago Lake Room. He said what we really need is a community center. He said that you don't have to support it if you don't want to, but we think that it's the best option.

Councilor LeClerc said that he just needed more information.

The Clerk noted that the polling location can be changed if we get a community center. The Clerk said that we couldn't have held the past year's elections in the Sebago Lake Room.

Mr. Giroux explained that the state does not allow the polls to change locations per election.

Councilor Libby said that it will not affect the ability of the emergency personnel to a call because equipment is stored on the vehicles.

Councilor Delcourt asked that the Fire Chief comes to speak about this matter, to let them know about the response process.

Mr. Giroux said that he certainly could address them, he continued to explain that the Chief is fine with the polls being held in the fire bays. He explained that some vehicles are out back, some are across the street – traffic control is provided in the event they need to get out of the lots. Mr. Giroux said that the Chief could address them in an upcoming meeting.

The Clerk explained that the fire bays were used as the polls in July, August and November. The Clerk said that she and the Manager and Fire Chief discussed the use of the fire bay thoroughly.

Councilor LeClerc voiced his apprehension how this change may impact the Public Safety Department's response to calls. He suggested that this be tabled so they can be provided with additional information.

Mr. Giroux said that this action is time-sensitive due to upcoming elections.

The Clerk said that the decision and another location would have to be approved by the February Council meeting. The Clerk went on to say that the Sebago Lake Room is no longer an adequate space for the polls in her opinion. The Clerk said that the state has approved this move, however anything can be changed.

Councilor Libby said that if this location is not approved, where are we going to go, since the Sebago Lake Room is not adequate?

Councilor LeClerc asked what the Clerk anticipated for future voter turnout, noting that the spring election typically has lower turnout.

The Clerk said that the spring election usually has lower turnout, however 2,000 people through the door is difficult to handle in the Sebago Lake Room.

Councilor LeClerc asked if it would be easier if was held in the bays?

The Clerk said that it is far more efficient, if Covid restrictions were not in place, all of the voting booths could be used Election Day to allow people to move through quicker. The Clerk explained that in the Sebago Lake Room we are limited to the number of booths that can be set up. The Clerk said that she was glad that both locations were in this

building because it was far more convenient. The Clerk said that her recommendation would be to move the polls to the fire bays.

Mr. Giroux said that this location has worked for three elections, staff supports the location change, and the Chief thinks his operation will be fine.

Councilor Libby said that holding the elections in the Sebago Lake Room impacts the day-to-day Town Office operations as well. He went on to say that even at a small election the Sebago Lake Room is crowded.

Councilor Paul said the only difference in holding the polls in the bays is that the vehicles are outside the bays.

Chair Pomerleau called for additional Council discussion, hearing none, she called for the roll call vote.

WHEREAS in May of 2020 the Town Council authorized a temporary change in the polling location in Standish due Covid-19 social distancing requirements, and

WHEREAS the Fire Department vehicle bays has proven to be an ideal location, allowing ample room to conduct the polls providing better space for equipment, staffing and voters, now be it

ORDERED for that the polling location for the Town of Standish be permanently moved to the Fire Department vehicle bays at Central Station, 175 Northeast Road, Standish, Maine.

VOTE: 5 Yeas – 1 Nay, LeClerc

5-21 Amendment to Town of Standish Fee Schedule - Gravel Pit Fees [Libby]

Chair Pomerleau called for public discussion on the order, hearing none, she called for Town Council discussion.

Councilor Leclerc said regarding the fee going from \$100 to \$500 could he get some more information on the increase?

Mr. Giroux said that the ordinance requires that gravel pits are inspected annually. Continuing, he explained that the inspection needs to be done by a civil engineer which costs a lot more money, than what the fees are set at. When it costs more it comes out of the taxpayer’s pocket for the inspection, those costs should be paid by the pit owner. This amendment to the fee brings the amount closer to the actual costs.

Councilor Libby said that there is quite a lot of time involved in the inspection.

Chair Pomerleau called for additional Council discussion, hearing none, she called for the roll call vote.

ORDERED that the Town of Standish Fee Schedule is amended as follows, effective immediately:

GRAVEL PITS	
Annual Renewal Fee	\$50 \$75
Annual Inspection Fee for Type I & II pits *	\$100 \$500
Annual Inspection Fee for Type III & IV pits * ..	\$300 \$750
Blasting Fee	\$40
Gravel Pit Application Fee	\$2,200
Gravel Pit 5 yr Review w/no Expansion	\$200
* Annual Inspection fees due by 4/1	

VOTE: 6 YEAS

6-21 Call for Public Hearing for the FY 2022 Capital Improvements Plan [Pomerleau]

Chair Pomerleau called for public discussion on the order, hearing none, she called for Town Council discussion, hearing none she called for the roll call vote.

ORDERED that a Public Hearing will be held on Tuesday, February 9, 2021 at the Standish Municipal Center during the regularly scheduled meeting of the Standish Town Council which starts at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of soliciting discussion of the FY 2022 ten-year Capital Improvements Plan.

VOTE: 6 YEAS

PUBLIC ITEMS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming meetings were announced.

Councilor Paul asked for an update on the timeline for the Covid vaccine program for the Public Safety staff?

Chair Pomerleau said that they are receiving the vaccines now.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

An executive session was not held at this meeting.

ADJOURN

Moved by Libby seconded by Leclerc and voted to adjourn. The meeting adjourned 6:35 pm by unanimous consent.

Submitted by: Mary Chapman
Clerk/secretary