

**MINUTES  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
STANDISH, MAINE  
TUESDAY, MAY 11, 2021  
STANDISH MUNICIPAL CENTER  
THE TOWN ATTORNEY ATTENDED THIS MEETING REMOTELY USING ZOOM  
6:00 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**ROLL CALL**

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

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (S)**

Moved by LeClerc seconded Gaba voted to approve the minutes from the April 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Town Council Meetings. **VOTE: 7 Yeas**

**PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no petitions or communication at this meeting.

**REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER**

Mr. Giroux said that as you may know the Federal Government passed the American Rescue Plan, we have been waiting to learn what the guidelines will be for utilizing the funding that we will be received will be. He said that Standish will receive \$1.1 million, town staff is reviewing the federal guidelines document to determine the acceptable use of the funds. Mr. Giroux suggested that a Council committee be established to determine the use of the funds as provided under the federal guidelines. He recommended that the Economic Development Committee work with the Town Planner to recommend where the funds will be spent, with the final decision being approved by the Town Council. Mr. Giroux said that there has been a proposal to improve broadband service in the area and he believed that this funding could be used in this type of project since both the state and the county support this effort. The Economic Development Committee will take this matter up at their next meeting. He said that the funds need to be spent by the end of 2024.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**19-21 Amendments to Standish Town Code, Chapter 146, Floodplain Management Ordinance  
[Leclerc]**

Chair Pomerleau called for public comments, hearing none, she called for Council comments, hearing none, she called for the roll call vote and the hearing was closed.

**VOTE: 7 Yeas**

**Public Hearing for upcoming June 8, 2021 Municipal Referendum Questions**

The Clerk summarized the referendum questions for the public.

Chair Pomerleau called for public comments, hearing none, she called for Council comments.

Councilor Delcourt directed a question to the Town Manager regarding the revaluation, he asked if it is voted down will it be done? And if it is voted down, how will we stand with the state?

Town Manager, Bill Giroux said if it is voted down it will not be done, and he said that our valuation will remain out of whack with the state.

Councilor LeClerc followed up by asking what did it mean that we would be in trouble with the state?

Bill Giroux explained that the state mandates that the valuations fall with a certain range and they enforce that valuations are maintained. He said that since the latest valuation we have factored or adjusted valuations, however that never addresses whether the property are properly assessed, that is what the revaluation does. He said that revaluations should be done about every 10-years, we're way past the timeline and the revaluation would take some time to complete.

Chair Pomerleau called for additional Council comments, hearing none, the hearing was closed.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilor Paul – Personnel Committee – no report

Councilor Delcourt – Appointments Committee – no report

Councilor Libby – Finance Committee – no report

Councilor Pomerleau – Capital Improvements Committee – no report.

Councilor Gaba – PWD Steering Committee – no report.

Councilor Butler – Economic Development Committee – announced that last week there was a meeting in Steep Falls with the Presumpscot Regional Land Trust to discuss the trails system in the region.

Mr. Giroux noted that the Town owns 300 +/- acres adjacent to the Land Trust's property. The Land Trust is interested in the Town providing them with a permanent easement over our property. He said that the Town is not in agreement with their proposal noting that this matter may come before the Town Council in the future.

Councilor LeClerc – Recycling Committee – explained that he had asked the Town Manager to provide a record of the estimated savings to the Town since removing the recycling silver bullets from town. Councilor Leclerc reported said that the estimated savings has been approximately \$25,000 to \$30,000.

Councilor LeClerc – Ordinance Committee – continues to review sidewalk requirements.

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

There were no Consent Calendar Items on this agenda.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **28-21 Amendments to Standish Town Code, Chapter 181, Land Use, Regarding Medical Marijuana (First Reading) [LeClerc]**

Chair Pomerleau called for public comments.

Councilor LeClerc made a motion to send this back to the Ordinance Committee, it was his opinion that this needed additional review.

Chair Pomerleau called for a second on Councilor LeClerc's motion.

Moved by LeClerc seconded by Butler and voted to send this ordinance back to committee.

Councilor Delcourt questioned Councilor Butler's ability to vote on this matter.

**VOTE ON MOTION TO SEND THIS ORDINANCE TO COMMITTEE: 3 YEAS – Butler, Gaba and LeClerc – 4 Nays, Delcourt, Libby, Paul and Pomerleau**

Chair Pomerleau called for public comments.

Jamie Tuttle of Woodcrest Drive said that he was here this evening to learn more about this ordinance. He said he is a recovered addict, and that cannabis saved his life. He cited various medical conditions where medical marijuana is a beneficial therapy. His opinion is that it is a good alternative for opiates, and he understands that many have an opinion that is different from his. He offered his assistance to work on this ordinance.

Mr. Giroux said that this is the group that will decide on the matter and they've heard your comments.

Freeman Abbott of Northeast Road said that he supported this ordinance, noting that Industrial Zones is the appropriate location for this type of use. This ordinance doesn't restrict it, it allows it in the Industrial Zone.

Chair Pomerleau called for additional public comments, hearing none, public comments were closed. She called for Council comments.

Councilor LeClerc said at the state-wide vote Standish voters as a whole supported marijuana legalization. That being said, when this was discussed in the Ordinance Committee it was discussed in generalities, and it came to light that an unintended consequence of this ordinance, if adopted, is that a business that had been working with the Town to open a facility would not be allowed to do so, since the proposed facility is not in an Industrial Zone. Since this unintended consequence has not been fleshed out, he cannot support this ordinance.

Councilor Gaba asked Councilor LeClerc if in regard to the unintended consequences, was he was referring to the language on page 12 regarding the effective date?

Councilor LeClerc said the that he was referring to the fact that the location of the proposed business was not in the Industrial Zone so it would not be allowed. He suggested that wording could be added that would allow this project since the applicant acted in good faith.

Councilor Paul said that he would like to have this move to public hearing to get more input from the public.

Councilor Delcourt what will prevent someone getting medical marijuana with this set-up?

Chair Pomerleau said noting will be prevented.

Councilor Libby called the question.

Chair Pomerleau called for the roll call vote.

**VOTE TO MOVE THIS ITEM TO PUBLIC HEARING AT THE JUNE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING: 4 Yeas – Delcourt, Libby, Paul and Pomerleau – 3 Nays – Butler, Gaba and LeClerc**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**37-21 Change Date of Regular Council Meeting in June to June 1, 2021 [Pomerleau]**

Chair Pomerleau called for public comments, hearing none, she called for Council comments.

Councilor Leclerc suggested that the Council meeting should be held after the Town Meeting.

The Clerk explained that this process has be the procedure that the Town has followed for years.

**VOTE: 7 Yeas**

**38-21 Acceptance of Street Name for Access Road in Dow Corner Cemetery – Neal Dow Drive [Pomerleau]**

Mr. Giroux explained that Mr. Dow has been the caretaker of the Dow Corner Cemetery for approximately 38-years. The Cemetery Association has asked the Town to accept the name of this private road.

Chair Pomerleau called for public comments, hearing none, she called for Council comments, hearing none, she called for the roll call vote.

**VOTE: 7 Yeas**

**39-21 Authorize Finance Director to Issue Municipal Quit Claim Deed to Christina Hendrix (Map 075 Lot 29 Sub 000-000) [Libby]**

Moved by Gaba seconded LeClerc and voted to dispense with the Clerk's reading of the order. **VOTE: 7 Yeas**

Chair Pomerleau called for public comments, hearing none, she called for Council comments, hearing none, she called for the roll call vote.

**VOTE: 7 Yeas**

**PUBLIC ITEMS**

There were no public items.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Clerk announced details of the June 8 election.

Several upcoming meetings were announced.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was not an executive session at this meeting.

**ADJOURN**

Moved by Libby seconded by Gaba and voted to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m. by unanimous consent.

Submitted by:  
Clerk /Secretary

