Town of Rutland
Office of the Select Board
Minutes: January 27, 2020
Meeting Opened: 6:02 P.M.

Attendance:
Board Members Present: Sheila Dibb, Leah Whiteman, Mitch Ruscitti, Jeff Stillings, Wayne Walker
Board Members Absent: None
Staff Members Present: Mike Nicholson (Town Administrator), Tomeca Murphy (Secretary)

**Please note this meeting was recorded for transmission on Rutland Public Access TV & YouTube**

Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes, Treasury Warrant & Payroll

• Motion to approve Treasury Warrant #16 and Payroll—Motion made by Mitch Ruscitti, seconded by Leah Whiteman; vote unanimous at 6:40 P.M.

Petitions, Applications, Awards & Presentations
Representative Kim Ferguson and Senator Anne Gobi were in attendance to present information pertaining to the Governor’s budget, which came out last week. They stated that they like to attend the Select Board meetings annually to communicate about the budget. Anne emphasized that the Governor's initial budget is just a starting point and economists are predicting steady growth for 2021. The state is also wrapping up legislation season with 6500 bills filed, all being addressed by February 5th. Mr. Nicholson thanked them both for their open lines of communication and Anne and Kim said they appreciate the town's feedback in order to know what is needed. Senator Gobi stated they would be meeting with executives regarding Long Pond on January 29th, prompting Jeff Stillings to inquire about the Ware River Watershed initiative. There have been some complaints from residents and hunters regarding gates being closed at the Prison Camps and Anne said she would share these concerns. Sheila Dibb shared that the town has 2 watersheds, offering outdoor recreation and that access is being minimized. She also expressed concern that the town has a water supply issue, but that money from the state is minimal. Sheila also inquired about school funding and whether they foresee a request for an increase in the budget. Rep. Ferguson said that with the Student Opportunity Act, there will be some help given, especially around special needs. However, she said it’s a 7 year long process, so it will take some time. Mr. Nicholson also thanked them for their help with obtaining a $3,900 grant for the Student Safe program and $2,300 for the Senior Safe program. Finally, Sheila inquired about the Rainy Day fund and Senator Gobi said the chairman's goal is to beef it up as much as possible.

Also, 3 long time employees of the Rutland Fire Department were recognized for their decades of service upon their retirement. Deputy Chiefs Jeff Lowe, Darren Ross and Kevin McCarthy were conveyed keys to the town of Rutland and thanked for their hard work and dedication. Their families were in attendance and Mr. McCarthy's daughters accepted the key on his behalf. Also in attendance was Captain Justin Bassett as a representative of the Fire Department in Chief Knipe's absence.

Town Administrator Update
The Rutland Police Department held their annual volleyball game at Devereux School and it went very well. In fact, Chief Monaco received a letter from one of the students sharing that events such as this has helped to
change their view of law enforcement personnel.

The annual MMA conference was held on January 24th and discussion will be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

The town received an EPA notice regarding the MS-4 permit (storm water standards). The bylaws were supposed to have been written and passed by May 2008 and they were not. So, they now need to be passed by June 30, 2020. Chief Joe Buckley of the DPW is working with the bylaw subcommittee on this task.

Both the Community Hall Annex and the Franklin Wood building have received upgraded LED lighting courtesy of the Green Communities Initiative.

At an upcoming meeting, a representative from the Collins Center will be in attendance to discuss the charter process—it will be an informational meeting only.

On February 10th at 10:00 A.M., Secretary Elizabeth Chen from Executive Office of Elder Affairs will be coming to tour the Senior Center and it will be open to the public. The board also praised Mr. Nicholson for his efforts in getting Governor Baker’s staff into the town.

Old Business

078—Town Administrator Evaluation
Sheila has compiled the 5 criteria based on the input of all the board members and wanted to ensure that everyone has submitted everything they would like included in the evaluation. It was not complete for presentation at this meeting, so it will be added to the next agenda.

007—U.S. Census Bureau
The census will be sent out in the near future to all residents and the town asks that everyone please complete it. The government is looking to hire census workers at an hourly rate of $22 with mileage reimbursement. The forms are available at Community Hall and it has also been posted on the town’s website, at the senior center and at the library.

New Business

088—Cable Advisory Committee Appointment, Corrine Palmer
Former cable employee, Corrine Palmer, will be added as the 5th member of the Cable Advisory Committee.

Motion to appoint Corrine Palmer to the Cable Advisory Committee—Motion made by Mitch Ruscitti, seconded by Jeff Stillings; vote unanimous at 6:33 P.M.

089—Historical Commission Appointment, Mason Rainford
Mason Rainford, senior at Wachusett Reg. High School, has been chosen as a new member of the Commission. This now means that the board will have a quorum and can begin to hold meetings again. The board was very impressed with Mason's resume and his enthusiasm to join the Commission.

Motion to appoint Mason Rainford to the Historical Commission—Motion made by Mitch Ruscitti, seconded by Wayne Walker; vote unanimous at 6:31 P.M.

090—Treasurer/Collector Contract Signing
Rebecca Tuttle, treasurer/collector, was in attendance to sign her contract that will begin at the start of the fiscal year. The board thanked her for her hard work and also congratulated her on her recent appointment as the President of the Worcester County Treasurer’s Association.
Motion to sign 3 copies of the Treasurer/Collector contract for Rebecca Tuttle—Motion made by Mitch Ruscitti, seconded by Wayne Walker; vote unanimous at 6:35 P.M.

Public Comment

Michael Baril, Uxbridge—Mr. Baril stated he was in attendance to follow up since the last meeting. He wanted to provide clarification of information presented previously. After giving Mr. Baril the opportunity to speak, Mr. Nicholson clarified that upon the advisement of town counsel, the issue can no longer be discussed due to the nature of the complaints. KP Law advised that Mr. Baril would need to file his complaints with the District Attorney's office as it is now outside of the town's purview. The board asserted that they have helped point him in the right direction as best as they can, but they can be of no further help moving forward.

Adjournment
Motion to close the meeting—Motion made by Mitch Ruscitti, seconded by Jeff Stillings; vote unanimous at 7:05 P.M.

Note: Chairman of the Board, Sheila Dibb, left the meeting early due to illness.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tomeca Murphy
Secretary