

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, May 2, 2016

MINUTES

Attending:

Mayor David Ryder

Councilor Greg Sirois, Chair

Councilor Ivan McPike

Councilor Mark Cormier

Councilor Terry McAvoy

Councilor Dennis Marble

Councilor Stephen Wilde

Town Manager Angus Jennings

Chairman Sirois called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

1. Meeting Minutes – April 19th, 2016 – *There was a motion and a second to approve the April 19, 2016 minutes as written. Approved 7-0.*

2. Review & Sign Warrants – *Warrants were reviewed and signed by Committee members.*

3. Old Business

- a. Review of foreclosed property sale process for Map 1 Lot 56** – *Manager Jennings reported that the tax acquired property at 1037 Kennebec Road had been advertised for public sale but that the former owner of record of the subject property had offered to repurchase the property for the advertised minimum bid price of \$9,000. The former owner had not received the certified mailings in January or March – all of which were returned to the Town unclaimed – but had received the notice of public sale that was sent by regular mail. The property had been in the family for more than 50 years and the family had built the home themselves. Manager Jennings had discussed the matter with the Town Attorney, who advised that the Town owns the property and can sell it or not at its option. Manager Jennings expressed that the Town's sole concern is receiving the past taxes due, together with any incurred costs. With the Committee's recommendation and the Counsel's consent, Manager Jennings would accept the funds and rescind the notice of public sale, with the re-purchaser responsible for any legal ad or mailing costs not already embedded in the purchase price.*

Motion by Councilor Marble, seconded by Councilor Wilde, to accept the offer contingent upon receipt of \$9,000 in addition to any additional direct expenses.

During discussion, Mayor Ryder said that he feels this sets a precedent, and says the Town has no teeth. Councilor Marble said that he feels there is value in taking steps to keep a property in the hands of its original owner, provided back taxes are paid. Mayor Ryder pointed out that this property has proceeded to tax foreclosure in the past. Councilor Cormier said it seems to him that if the Town is getting its money this is what matters. The motion was approved 6-1 with Mayor Ryder opposed.

4. New Business

- a. Managers preview of FY17 budget** – *Manager Jennings provided an overview of the Budget Message that he'd circulated to the Committee. He reported that he's still working on elements of the Personnel budgets.*

5. Public Comment – *None.*

- 6. Committee Member Comments** – *Members of the Committee requested to receive packet materials regarding the proposed Budget in hard copy format to facilitate their review. Councilor McPike said he would support adding one or two additional meetings dedicated to the budget rather than get pressed for time in the meetings that are scheduled. Councilor Sirois agreed.*

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted –
Angus Jennings
Town Manager