

## SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, May 9, 2016

### MINUTES

Attending:

*Councilor Terry McAvoy, Chair  
Mayor David Ryder  
Councilor Ivan McPike  
Councilor Mark Cormier  
Councilor Stephen Wilde  
Councilor Dennis Marble*

*Town Manager Angus Jennings  
Resident Bill Shakespeare  
Resident Tom Brann  
Resident Alex King*

*Chairman McAvoy called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.*

#### 1. MINUTES

- a. **April 11, 2016** – *Motion by Councilor McPike seconded by Mayor Ryder to approve the minutes as written. Approved 6-0.*

#### 2. OLD BUSINESS

- a. **Greater Penobscot Cable Consortium – update** – *Councilor McAvoy reported on research he has undertaken regarding the Consortium and the status of negotiations for an updated Cable Franchise Agreement. He spoke with Steve Cornell, the IT Director in Bar Harbor. Franchise fees may be up to 5% and tend to be between 3-5%. He noted that it's not really a franchise fee that the company is subject to, because the company simply passes those costs along to the consumer through a surcharge on bills. He said it's a hidden tax. The company is getting benefit of access to the public domain, and he questioned why rate payers should have to pay this. Councilor McPike noted that, even if the Town didn't include a 3% franchise fee he thinks the service provider may still charge customers. Councilor McAvoy said no, the fee is set by municipalities. Resident Tom Brann recalled that the Consortium was formed when Frontier came in, in order to support local cable channels. He said he thinks that local subscribers benefit from local channels. Councilor McAvoy said that now programming can be viewed through online streaming, but Councilor McPike and Resident Brann noted that not everyone has cable internet needed to stream content. Manager Jennings noted his understanding that work toward an updated franchise agreement stalled last summer, and Councilor McAvoy confirmed this saying there are no good faith negotiations toward an agreement. Councilor Marble noted that it doesn't feel like we have any leverage to get an updated agreement.*
- b. **Vendor requests to set up at Municipal Building concurrent with Hampden Farmers Market** – *Manager Jennings provided background on*

requests that have been received from multiple locally-based vendors who would or may like to set up in the town building parking lot concurrent with the Farmers Market. Councilor McAvoy said he is opposed to any private business set up on town property. He referred to the state statute defining Farmers Markets and noted that at least 75% of products need to be grown or processed by or under oversight of farmers. He said members of the Farmers Market are part of a larger umbrella organization, the Maine Federation of Farmers Markets, and he wondered about their organizational status (i.e. dba, corporation, non-profit etc). He noted that they have dues, rules and regulations. Manager Jennings noted that they Town Clerk has received certificates of insurance from all scheduled participants in the Hampden Farmers Market, as is required under that agreement. Mayor Ryder noted that the only problem with last year's Farmers Market was regarding the issue of who gets to be in it and who doesn't. Councilor Marble said that the Farmers Market operates under the umbrella of a non-profit, that the event brings the community together to buy fresh produce, and he wondered what the concern is about. Councilor McAvoy said his sole concern is regarding its set up on town property.

Councilor Marble said that he thinks we ought to allow the additional vendors to set up concurrent with the Farmers Market. Councilor McAvoy asked whether we would require that the Hampden Farmers Market be a not-for-profit. Councilor Wilde asked what is the main concern. Councilor McAvoy said it is a private business set up on town property. Councilor Wilde said these vendors aren't making much money and that they participate because they enjoy it. Mayor Ryder made a motion to accept up to four local vendors to set up concurrent with the Farmers Market. Councilor Marble seconded. Councilor McPike clarified that the vendors would need to be agricultural or "farmers markety" and Mayor Ryder and Councilor Marble agreed that was a friendly amendment to the motion. The Committee voted 5-1 in favor with Councilor McAvoy opposed. Councilor McAvoy noted that the town should have a policy in place for such requests in the future.

### **3. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. **Update from MMA Technology Conference regarding municipal broadband / high speed internet options – Kyle Severance, GIS/IT Specialist** – Manager Jennings noted that Kyle is out sick today and suggested that this issue could be taken up at next month's meeting. He said that it's his understanding that a broadband feasibility study would be a next step in the process, and Councilor McPike said this could help business. Manager Jennings said he'd look into whether a map could be prepared to indicate which parts of town have different types of internet service. It was agreed that this item would be included on the next agenda.

### **4. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None.**

**5. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS** – *Councilor Marble asked about the status of the Butler property (Dangerous Building hearing and Council order), and Manager Jennings said that an update on this matter is scheduled for an upcoming Council meeting.*

*There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM.*

*Respectfully submitted –  
Angus Jennings, Town Manager*