



Town of Maine Minutes

Monday, November 9, 2015
Board of Supervisor Meeting

Town of Maine Town Hall
6111 N. 44th Avenue
Wausau, WI 54401

The Board of Supervisors of the Town of Maine held a regular monthly meeting at the Town of Maine Town Hall on Monday, November 9, 2015. Accounts Payable were reviewed at 5:00 p.m. with General Business at 8:00 p.m.

Agenda

1. Call meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. – Betty Hoenisch, Town Chairperson
2. Review Bills Payable
3. 5:45 p.m. – Town Board members and Town Attorney will travel to the Town of Texas Municipal Center, T4510 River Hills Rd., Wausau, WI to attend the Town of Texas Informational Meeting
4. 8:00 p.m. – General Business
5. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
6. Motion to Approve Bills Payable
7. Clerk's Report
 - A. Motion to dispense of the reading of the minutes from the October 12, 2015 Board Meeting, the October 14, 2015 Special Board Meeting, the October 19, 2015 Special Board Meeting/Closed Session, the October 26, 2015 Special Board Meeting, and the October 28, 2015 Special Board Meeting and 2016 Budget Workshop and approval of those minutes.
8. Chairman's Report
9. Supervisor's Report
10. Treasurer's Report
11. Zoning Administrator's Report
12. Fire Department Report
13. Comments from the audience on Other Business items below
14. Other Business:
 - A. Discussion & possible action on Action Appraisals & Consultants Contract for 2016 & 2017
 - B. Discussion & possible action to approve Jess Kufahl's Private Way Agreement
 - C. Discussion & possible action to review & approve Vierbicher's Contract
 - D. Discussion & possible action to approve resolution authorizing the Town of Maine to enter into loan with the Village of Brokaw
 - E. Discussion & possible action on Brokaw's 2016 Maintenance Agreement for N. 32nd Avenue & Falcon Drive
 - F. Discussion & possible action on 2016 Emergency Services Agreement with the Village of Brokaw
 - G. Discussion & possible action on 2016 Emergency Services Agreement with the Town of Berlin
 - H. Discussion & possible action on 2016 Emergency Services Agreement with the Town of Stettin
 - I. Discussion & possible action regarding Maine Fire Department Chief position
15. Report from audience on culverts, road issues, or requests to have an item placed on the next Town Board Meeting agenda
16. The next Board of Supervisor Meeting will be December 14, 2015.
17. Adjournment

Notice & agenda of this meeting was posted at the Red Granite Bar & Grill, Richard's Restaurant & Bar, Schmidt's Bar & the Town of Maine Town Hall, 6111 N. 44th Avenue, Wausau, WI on November 6, 2015.

Tina M. Meverden, Town of Maine Clerk

Monday, November 9, 2015 Board of Supervisor Meeting

The Board of Supervisors of the Town of Maine held a regular monthly meeting at the Town of Maine Town Hall on Monday, November 9, 2015 at 5:00 p.m.

Chair Hoenisch called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Review Accounts Payable

Present were Chair Betty Hoenisch, Supervisor Tad Schult, Supervisor Keith Rusch, Clerk Tina Meverden, Treasurer Cindy Bailey, and community members. Town Attorney Randy Frokjer joined the meeting at 6:00 p.m. at the Town of Texas' Informational Meeting held at the Town of Texas Municipal Center. Zoning Administrator / Building Inspector Rich Grefe was not in attendance.

Town Board Members attend the Town of Texas Informational Meeting

At 5:45 p.m., Chair Hoenisch, Supervisor Schult, and Supervisor Rusch travelled together to the Town of Texas Municipal Center, T4510 River Hills Rd., Wausau, WI to attend the Town of Texas' Informational Meeting. Maine Town Board Members discussed the Town of Maine's involvement in the Brokaw matter as well as how the Town of Texas is partnering with the Town of Maine to remedy the issue. In addition, the Town Board answered questions proposed by community members.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Motion to approve accounts payable bills

Chair Hoenisch called for a motion to approve the accounts payable bills. Supervisor Schult made a motion to approve the accounts payable bills, seconded by Supervisor Rusch. Motion carried.

Minutes Approval

Chair Hoenisch called for a motion to dispense of the reading of the minutes from the October 12, 2015 Board Meeting, the October 14, 2015 Special Board Meeting, the October 19, 2015 Special Board Meeting / Closed Session, the October 26, 2015 Special Board Meeting, and the October 28, 2015 Special Board Meeting and Budget Workshop and approval of those minutes.

Motion by Supervisor Rusch to dispense of the reading and approve the minutes as submitted from the following meetings: October 14, 2015 Special Board Meeting, the October 19, 2015 Special Board Meeting/ Closed Session, the October 26, 2015 Special Board Meeting, and the October 28, 2015 Special Board Meeting and Budget Workshop. He asked that approval of the October 12, 2015 Board Meeting minutes be made with the following correction: the last sentence in paragraph five of page nine should be changed from "He stated that the water in the area was not coming from under County Road K." to "He stated that the water causing the erosion was not coming from under County Road K." The motion was seconded by Supervisor Schult. Motion carried.

Clerk's Report

Clerk Meverden reported that she attended two election training sessions on September 30th and November 4th that were hosted by County Clerk, Nan Kottke. She explained that there are seven additional election courses she has placed on her calendar to attend. Clerk Meverden added that she has invited her Chief Election Inspectors to attend the training seminars with her in preparation for the elections of 2016.

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Clerk Meverden listed other election related tasks she has been involved with:

- *receiving and processing voter registration forms
- *contacting fifteen area municipal clerks to gather data on wages paid to poll workers
- *researching the process involved in setting up a referendum
- *working with staff at the G.A.B. as well as the County Clerk, the Daily Herald, and Chair Hoenisch to prepare notices, publications, and entries into the Statewide Voter Registration System in preparation for the December 8, 2015 Referendum Election

Clerk Meverden explained that she has notified twenty-four different entities of the resolution the Town Board has passed to enter into negotiations for a cooperative agreement with the Village of Brokaw and the Town of Texas. She stated that as of Friday, October 9, 2015 all entities have received notification and a copy of the Resolution.

Clerk Meverden ended by thanking Treasurer Bailey for taking notes at last month's board meeting and Chair Hoenisch for reading the fire department report in her absence. Clerk Meverden noted that she has Meniere's Disease and attacks often surface unexpectedly – which was the case with last month's meeting.

Chairman's Report:

Chair Hoenisch reported that the Town continues to work on the Brokaw matter. She stated that the Town Board attended an Informational Meeting earlier this evening hosted by the Town of Texas. Chair Hoenisch noted that the meeting went well and that the Town of Texas plans to hold additional informational meetings in the future.

Chair Hoenisch stated that the Attorneys for Brokaw, Maine, and Texas continue to work on the Cooperative Boundary Agreement.

Chair Hoenisch explained that the Town Board approved the Incorporation Resolutions on October 26, 2015. As a result, a referendum will be held on December 8, 2015 for the electors to vote on whether or not the Town of Maine should become a village.

Chair Hoenisch shared that she is currently working on a newsletter that will be sent to Maine residents the week of Thanksgiving explaining the Brokaw matter and the step toward pursuing village status. She added that four informational meetings – held on December 2nd, 3rd, 5th, and 6th – will be hosted by the Town Board for residents desiring to know more about village status and future plans as they relate to the Village of Brokaw.

Chair Hoenisch reported that Supervisor Rusch worked on brushing out the N. 60th Avenue canoe parking pad. She added that on October 16, 2015 both she and John Marquardt worked to define the area better before American Asphalt shaped and paved it. Chair Hoenisch stated Public Works ordered a sign to designate the area as a canoe pad. She noted that as soon as the sign is installed, the DNR will be able to sign off on the project.

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Chair Hoenisch listed other projects completed or currently in process:

- *American Asphalt shaped and paved the N. 60th Avenue and Naugart Drive intersection.
- *American Asphalt put one of two layers on two Decator Drive culvert patches.
- *Public Works hauled 3M granules, sand, and salt in preparation for winter road work.
- *Chair Hoenisch worked with Public Works on new address signs and posts needing installation.

Supervisors Report:

Supervisor Schult's Report

Supervisor Schult reported that a new cover for the salt shed should be installed within the next couple of days. He added that Public Works is working on completing a list of "to dos" before winter arrives.

Chair Hoenisch asked Supervisor Schult about "the swales in the field", to which he replied that he is hoping to meet with Lee Van Der Geest possibly tomorrow to address the issue.

Supervisor Rusch's Report

Supervisor Rusch reported that he did receive some calls on the N. 60th Avenue and Naugart Drive intersection and added that the area has now been patched.

Supervisor Rusch noted that he received a concern about the lack of informational meetings regarding the Brokaw issue. He explained that a newsletter is being created and will be sent out soon to inform residents of the dates of upcoming meetings to share information on the matter.

Supervisor Rusch shared that he had talked to an individual concerned with events taking place in the round barn at Willow Springs. The concern was that the noise emanating from events at the round barn is impacting the neighborhood around it. The individual questioned whether Willow Springs was permitted to hold events in the round barn.

Supervisor Rusch stated that the conditional use file for Willow Springs was reviewed and a meeting has been set up with the owner to review the requirements laid out in the permit on November 19, 2015. He surmised that a public hearing may be needed in the future to determine what will be allowed at the facility. Chair Hoenisch added that Fire Inspector Jeff Pollard will be in attendance at the November 19, 2015 meeting to add his expertise on the matter.

Supervisor Rusch informed residents that he attended a City of Wausau Waterworks meeting regarding possible land acquisition near Campus Drive for drilling a new well. Discussion at that meeting centered on purchasing the Hanz pit to potentially site water wells in the future. A consensus was made to contact Mathy Construction to inquiry about the cost of the property. Supervisor Rusch reported that the City engineer stated that there is not a current need for the City to site more wells. His opinion was that there was not much support for the purchase at the City meeting.

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Treasurer's Report – October 2015

Town of Maine General Accounts:

Checking Account..... Beginning Balance on 9/30/2015	- \$ 5,414.23
Deposits	- \$ 60,351.38
Disbursements	- \$ 57,642.91
Balance on 10/31/2015	- \$ 8,122.70
Garbage/Recycling CD..... Balance on 10/31/2015	- \$ 33,705.23
Money Market Account... Beginning Balance on 9/30/2015	- \$ 293,519.82
Deposits and Interest	- \$ 66,680.64
Disbursements	- \$ 60,351.38
Balance on 10/31/2015	- \$ 299,849.08

Town of Maine Fire Department Accounts:

Checking Account..... Balance on 10/31/2015	- \$ 806.08
Memorial & Donations Money Market Account... Balance on 10/31/2015	- \$ 26,101.37
Equipment Outlay Account... Balance on 10/31/2015	- \$ 59,000.18

Treasurer Bailey reported that residents can expect their property tax statements in approximately a month. She noted that those at the Marathon County Treasurer's office have been kind in answering her questions regarding requirements to be completed for tax season. She thanked Chair Hoenisch for the hours of assistance and training she has provided as she learns the tasks required of the job.

Chair Hoenisch called for a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Supervisor Schult made a motion to approve Treasurer's report, seconded by Supervisor Rusch. Motion carried.

Zoning Administrator's Report – October 2015

In Rich Grefe's absence, Supervisor Rusch provided the October 2015 Zoning Administrator's Report. He reported that Mr. Grefe had issued five permits for the month of October – two permits for garages, one for a deck, one for a commercial building, and one for electrical service.

Chair Hoenisch shared that Mr. Grefe completed eleven inspections for the month of October, one of those being a zoning inspection and ten being building inspections.

Fire Department Report:

Clerk Meverden read a report submitted by Interim Chief Joe Bozinski concerning the status of Maine Fire Department for October 2015. To view the report as read by Clerk Meverden, see the concluding pages of these minutes.

Comments from audience on Other Business Items

No comments were provided by community members regarding agenda items A through I.

Other Business:

A. Discussion and possible action on Action Appraisals & Consultants Contract for 2016 and 2017

Chair Hoenisch reported that Mr. Zacharias, his wife Amy, and staff have done a wonderful job on the Town's assessment issues. She explained that Mr. Zacharias provided a contract for his assessment services for 2016 and 2017 at \$9,400 per year – a savings of approximately \$5,000 per year over the Town's previous assessor.

Chair Hoenisch noted that Mr. Zacharias' contract states that he will provide an electronic copy of Market Drive at no additional charge to the Town. This software can be downloaded to the Town's computer and accessed when property value and assessment questions arise.

Chair Hoenisch asked if the Town Supervisors would like the paper copies of the assessment records once Mr. Zacharias has transferred them to an electronic form. Supervisor Rusch suggested the Town retain the paper copies.

Chair Hoenisch inquired if language should be added to the contract with Action Appraisals & Consultants to include a "New Construction" clause where the Town Board would assist Mr. Zacharias with gaining access to new construction. Attorney Frokjer and Supervisor Rusch suggested the clause not be included.

Supervisor Rusch made a motion to approve the 2016 and 2017 contract with Action Appraisals & Consultants pending a revision stating the Town would like to retain the paper copies of assessment records, seconded by Supervisor Schult. Motion carried.

B. Discussion and possible action to approve Jess Kufahl's Private Way Agreement

Chair Hoenisch reported that the Plan Commission approved Mr. Kufahl's Private Way Agreement at a meeting on November 2, 2015. She explained that the Kufahls were asked to provide a name for their Private Way that began with the letter N since it is located off of Naugart Drive. The Kufahls provided two possible names – Night Star Way and Night Wind Way – of which Chair Hoenisch submitted to Marathon County. Since both names were acceptable to the County, the Kufahls decided to name their private way Night Star Way.

Chair Hoenisch asked Attorney Frokjer if the selected name for the private way should be included in the final agreement. Attorney Frokjer replied that the name is normally not provided in the Declaration of Terms and Conditions document but it can be included if the Kufahls would like it to be.

Supervisor Schult made a motion to approve Jess Kufahl's Private Way Agreement, seconded by Supervisor Rusch. Motion carried.

C. Discussion and possible action to review and approve Vierbicher's Contract

Chair Hoenisch asked Attorney Frokjer to explain the contract with Vierbicher and any possible revisions it may need before approval.

Attorney Frokjer explained that he has been working with Town of Texas Attorney and Vierbicher staff to revise a contract with Vierbicher that satisfies all parties involved. He noted that the Town of Texas is involved because they have agreed to pay half of Vierbicher's fees. He went on to discuss liability provisions and terms of termination – two items he believes need to be removed and / or revised before approval of the contract.

Supervisor Schult made a motion to approve the Vierbicher contract pending the deletion of paragraph nine in the *Terms and Conditions* section of contract as well as making changes to paragraph fifteen of the *Terms and Conditions* to allow either party to terminate the contract with reasonable notice, seconded by Supervisor Rusch. Motion carried.

D. Discussion and possible action to approve resolution authorizing the Town of Maine to enter it loan with the Village of Brokaw

Attorney Frokjer stated that a question has been presented asking if the Town should make the loan to Brokaw contingent on incorporation of Maine. He noted that the Town of Maine will pay and has paid on a number of things regarding Brokaw already – things like Attorney's fees, fees for accounting work, and fees for Vierbicher's consulting services.

Attorney Frokjer explained that the note with Brokaw is a promissory note. He shared that the Town through the loan is trying to keep Brokaw out of dissolution and all the other unfavorable options that might occur.

Supervisor Schult stated that if the Town of Maine does not keep Brokaw viable during the period of time in which Vierbicher is writing grants to receive funds from entities like Rural Development, the Town will not be eligible for the grant money. Attorney Frokjer clarified that the Town of Maine does not qualify for the grant money because the average income of its residents is too high. He noted, however, that the Village of Brokaw qualifies for the funds and thus a reason for keeping them an entity (until at least the grant monies are awarded).

Attorney Frokjer added that the Town of Maine does not want the Village of Brokaw to dissolve and leave the Town with its debt without a way to properly handle the Tax Incremental District and other issues that involve a cooperative plan. He added that more information about the matter will be provided in the newsletter to residents as well as at the informational meetings coming up.

Attorney Frokjer gave an illustration to show that the Town of Maine must take an active approach to the Brokaw matter; for if Maine does not become actively involved, the implications for the Town could be less than favorable. He offered some possible outcomes that may result if the Town of Maine backs away and does nothing.

Attorney Frokjer stated that he believes there is a silver lining to incorporating as a village. He noted that with village status the Town can protect its borders and tax base – although village status will mean a lot of extra work for Clerk Meverden and Chair Hoenisch.

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Chair Hoenisch asked for clarification on posting the resolution. Attorney Frokjer stated that if the resolution is passed, it can be posted in three locations. He added that the resolution is contingent in its language on Brokaw authorizing its resolution and documents on the matter.

Justin Grueneberg asked how much the Town of Maine is loaning to the Village of Brokaw and where the money is coming from. Attorney Frokjer replied that the loan to Brokaw is for \$31,000.00. Chair Hoenisch explained that the money is coming from funds that were allocated for the Falcon Drive project. The project is being postponed as a result of a D.O.T. bridge project that has interfered with the Town's timeline on the road work. Chair Hoensich then transitioned into other costs incurred as a result of the Brokaw matter, like the requirement to publicize the resolution on incorporation in the Wausau Daily Herald.

Supervisor Rusch explained that during the most recent Budget Workshop the Town Board decided the funds normally allocated to road paving would go toward incorporating and consolidating with the Village of Brokaw. He noted that the Town is not ignoring road maintenance, as it will do crack filling and chip sealing in 2016.

Attorney Frokjer stated the municipal tax rate for 2016 will be very similar to what the Town of Maine currently has.

Chair Hoensich added that the Town roads have been brought into compliance and that they are so much better than they were ten years ago. She reiterated that road maintenance like lane wedging and crack filling will still be done – the only item not done in 2016 will be the asphalt paving.

Supervisor Rusch made a motion to approve the resolution authorizing the Town of Maine to enter into a loan with the Village of Brokaw, seconded by Supervisor Schult. Motion carried.

E. Discussion and possible action on Brokaw's 2016 Road Maintenance Agreement for N. 32nd Avenue and Falcon Drive

Chair Hoenisch reported that after receiving advice from Attorney Frokjer she discovered that the Town of Maine still needs to have a Road Maintenance Agreement with the Village of Brokaw because the Cooperative Boundary Agreements are not yet in place. She added that in the future Maine will no longer receive any funds from Brokaw for Road Maintenance, but Maine will receive funding from the D.O.T. in the form of road aids when Brokaw consolidates with Maine.

Chair Hoenisch explained that the fees charged for the Road Maintenance Agreement will not be increased per advice from Attorney Frokjer.

Supervisor Schult made a motion to approve Brokaw's 2016 Road Maintenance Agreement for N. 32nd Avenue and Falcon Drive, seconded by Supervisor Rusch. Motion carried.

F. Discussion and possible action on 2016 Emergency Services Agreement with the Village of Brokaw

Chair Hoensich stated that the same scenario exists for the 2016 Emergency Services Agreement with the Village of Brokaw as was explained previously with the 2016 Road Maintenance Agreement with Brokaw.

Supervisor Schult made a motion to approve the 2016 Emergency Services Agreement with the Village of Brokaw, seconded by Supervisor Rusch. Motion carried.

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Bob Pound asked what would happen if the contract for emergency services with Brokaw extends only for six months rather than an entire year – Has the Town Board anticipated what would happen if only half the fees were collected? How would this work in terms of the budgetary process?

Attorney Frokjer explained that the intent on the Cooperative Boundary Agreement is to have an oversight committee that will govern the finances on the different services needed for Brokaw. Collectively, this committee will have to decide what funds are available and where these funds will be allocated.

Attorney Frokjer noted that Brokaw's equalized value is down. Last year its equalized value was at over twenty-five million dollars, and this year the equalized value is down to slightly over eighteen million dollars – comprising a 29% drop in value. Attorney Frokjer stated that even with the mill rate, Brokaw will not be able to generate the same amount of funds. He doubted whether the Village of Brokaw will generate enough money to cover all their expenses.

Attorney Frokjer explained that because of the financial situation Brokaw is currently facing, the Town of Maine is uncertain if it will receive all of what is due for the Emergency Services Agreement. He added that the situation is unknown and beyond our control.

Chair Hoenisch reported that Town of Texas residents are asking the same questions. As a result, the Town of Texas Town Board wants to postpone their Budget Public Hearing until they have more solid answers on the situation. She explained that waiting to have the Budget hearing can cause difficulties as tax bills have to be out in the mail by December 10th. Chair Hoenisch ended by saying the best that the Town of Maine Town Board can do is use the funds normally allocated for asphalt paving to cover the unforeseen expenses – it is the best they can do considering the circumstances.

Discussion continued on both the Village of Brokaw's lowered valuation and the significant drop of valuation of the former mill property.

Attorney Frokjer stated that one positive to the situation is that legislators and others will probably be more sympathetic toward Maine and thus be more willing to provide aid.

G. Discussion and possible action on the 2016 Emergency Services Agreement with the Town of Berlin

Chair Hoenisch reported that she spoke with Interim Fire Chief Joe Bozinski. He recommended the Town follow protocol and increase 2016 fees for Emergency Services provided to the Town of Berlin by 3 percent.

Supervisor Schult made a motion to approve the 2016 Emergency Service Agreement with the Town of Berlin for the amount of \$9,683.00, seconded by Supervisor Rusch. Motion carried.

H. Discussion and possible action on the 2016 Emergency Services Agreement with the Town of Stettin

Chair Hoenisch stated that the 2016 Emergency Services Agreement includes a 3 percent increase over the previous year's contract.

Supervisor Schult made a motion to approve the 2016 Emergency Services Agreement with the Town of Stettin for the amount of \$10,065.00, seconded by Supervisor Rusch. Motion carried.

I. Discussion and possible action regarding Maine Fire Department Chief Position

Chief Hoenisch reported that both she and Supervisor Rusch attended the interview of Brec Ohrmundt for the Maine Fire Chief position on October 14, 2015.

Supervisor Rusch read a letter of recommendation from Interim Fire Chief Joe Bozinski providing the date of Mr. Ohrmundt's interview, the procedure used to conduct the interview (as outlined in the Fire Department bylaws), those present at the interview, and a recommendation made by the Town of Maine Fire Department Officers. The recommendation by the Officers was made not to select Mr. Ohrmundt for the position of Fire Chief by a vote of four to zero. Two individuals present at the interview in an advisory capacity only – Hamburg Fire Chief Ken Gauerke and Chair Hoenisch – agreed with the decision made by the Fire Department Officers.

Chair Hoenisch stated that it is the desire of Fire Department members to have a permanent Fire Chief. She asked if the Town Board could possibly have a meeting in closed session to discuss the next steps the Town should make to find an individual to fill the position.

Attorney Frokjer suggested the meeting to discuss the Fire Chief Position should be an open meeting. He also stated the Town Board could repost the position again and go through another interview process, as the first time around the process was deemed a failed search.

Attorney Frokjer explained that the Fire Department Bylaws have to be followed. The bylaws state that when there is an opening for a position in the Fire Department, it must be posted. Supervisor Rusch stated that the bylaws define the next step then – the position of Fire Chief will need to be posted again.

Chair Hoenisch again expressed her desire to go into closed session on the matter. Attorney Frokjer explained that a closed session meeting could be had if the subject for the meeting centered on personnel or possible litigation, but in this case it cannot meet in closed session because the Town desires to brainstorm on its next step to fill the Fire Chief position.

Supervisor Schult suggested that the Town call the interview for the position a failed search and put the subject of filling the Fire Chief position on the agenda again for next month.

Mike Wanke asked a question regarding outside sources applying for the Fire Chief position. Chair Hoenisch replied that no individuals from outside of the department applied for the position, however, Town Supervisors spoke with others outside the department to see if there was any interest in the Maine Fire Chief position. The Town Board did not pursue that option because those with possible interest lived too far away to manage the Fire Department.

Justin Grueneberg suggested the Fire Department members take a vote amongst themselves to determine who they would like to be Fire Chief. Attorney Frokjer replied that the bylaws do not allow for that procedure to fill the position of Fire Chief.

Attorney Frokjer explained that the fire department is a 60.55 department, meaning ultimately the Town Board makes the final decision to fill open positions within the fire department.

Justin Grueneberg asked why Mr. Ohrmundt was not qualified for the position. Attorney Frokjer stated that the Town Board followed the recommendation of the unanimous vote by the Officers to not recommend Mr. Ohrmundt for the position. It was not a matter of qualifications that the decision was based upon.

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Attorney Frokjer again suggested if the Town chooses to accept the recommendation of the Fire Department Officers and not select Mr. Ohrmundt as Fire Chief, the position should be reposted.

Discussion centered on the following...

*The reposting process

*Different avenues to “get the word out” regarding the position so that more interest can be generated

*Why the position needs to be posted versus keeping an Interim Fire Chief

*Outside and inside sources for filling the Fire Chief position (both are acceptable and allowed)

Justin Grueneberg asked if the minutes from the interview on October 14, 2015 are available. Chair Hoenisch asked Fire Captain Jeremy Bozinski if a fire department member took minutes for the interview. He replied that he did not think so. Chair Hoenisch then went on to explain how the interview transpired – a list of questions were asked (similar to those used in other interviews) and a vote was taken afterwards by the parties in attendance.

Supervisor Rusch explained that the list of questions can be made available. He added that normally an interview is not open for “public consumption” – an individual is normally not brought in for an interview and then details regarding the interview are then disclosed to the public.

Mr. Grueneberg questioned why those who voted after the interview felt Mr. Ohrmundt was not qualified for the position. Supervisor Rusch explained that nobody stated Mr. Ohrmundt was not qualified, he simply was not recommended for the position.

Mr. Grueneberg mentioned a list of eighteen signatures in support of Mr. Ohrmundt for Fire Chief. Supervisor Schult stated Mr. Grueneberg was not totally accurate in saying that eighteen people support Mr. Ohrmundt for the position as Fire Chief as listed on the signature sheet. He added that there have been “repercussions” as a result of the signature sheet.

Discussion centered on the various procedures used to select Fire Chiefs and other leadership within various fire departments. Attorney Frokjer then gave history on how leadership positions within Maine Fire Department were selected and the process whereby the current bylaws were created. He explained that elections for positions were held every two years with fire department membership determining the leadership, however, the procedure was not followed for many years and no elections were held. The procedure for selecting Fire Chief and Officers then changed when fire department members became dissatisfied and voted to change the procedure to what is now outlined in the current bylaws.

Discussion continued on the following items...1) The Fire Department Bylaws and what is needed to modify them; 2) Other fire departments and how they operate compared to Maine Fire Department; 3) The fracture that exists within Maine Fire Department; 3) Public comments given during times noted on the agenda; 4) Community members withholding comments during *Other Business* items so that the Town Board can discuss and act without interruption; 5) Respect of audience and Town Board for one another (no interruptions during inappropriate times and maintaining composure at all times); and 6) A timeline to meet and discuss how to proceed with the resolution of fire department issues, including the next steps to take to fill the fire chief position.

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Chair Hoenisch suggested that Mike Wanke first talk to fire department members and then request a meeting with the Town Board to resolve Fire Department issues. When Mike Wanke asked to set up a meeting, Supervisor Schult stated that it would have to wait until possibly January or February so that the Town Board can first address the issues with incorporation and Brokaw.

Supervisor Rusch made a motion to accept the recommendation from the Fire Department Officers regarding the interview for Maine Fire Chief and tentatively schedule a meeting with the Fire Department in early 2016, seconded by Supervisor Schult. Motion carried.

Report from audience on culverts, road issues, or requests to have an item placed on the next Town Board Meeting agenda

Dale Nass asked if IROW drivers have the right to turn around in personal driveways, as they are destroying his driveway by doing so. Supervisor Schult stated that garbage drivers should not be using residents' driveways. Chair Hoenisch asked for Mr. Nass's address and commented that she will contact IROW about the matter.

Mark Babl asked if there is a set distance off the road where vegetation and bushes need to be trimmed back so as to not block visibility. Chair Hoenisch explained that the Town likes to keep vegetation out of the road right-of-way if at all possible.

Mr. Babl noted overgrown bushes at the intersection of Falcon Drive and 32nd Avenue. Chair Hoenisch addressed Public Works employee, John Marquardt, who was in attendance at the meeting and asked if he could go check out the area in question. Mr. Marquardt responded that the property owner who lives at the intersection planted the bushes.

Chair Hoenisch asked Supervisor Schult if he would visit the homeowner and discuss the matter with him. Supervisor Schult agreed to do so.

Schedule next monthly Board of Supervisor Meeting for Monday, December 14, 2015 with bill approval at 6:30 p.m. and general business at 7:30 p.m.

Chair Hoenisch notified community members of the Budget Public Hearing and Special Town Meeting on Monday, November 16, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment.

Chair Hoenisch called for a motion to adjourn. Supervisor Schult made a motion to adjourn at 9:43 p.m., seconded by Supervisor Rusch. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted and approved on December 14, 2015.

Tina M. Meverden

Town of Maine Clerk