

# Town of Belgrade

## Board of Selectpersons

December 20th, 2016 / 6:30PM

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### In Attendance

Michael Barrett (Chair)

Cheryl Cook (Selectperson)

Rick Damren (Vice Chair)

Carrie Castonguay (Town Manager)

Ernie Rice (Selectperson)

Anthony Maffei (Select Board Assistant)

Gary Mahler (Selectperson)

Howard Hollinger

Paul Lessard

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### Meeting Minutes

#### *6:30PM Stand for pledge of allegiance*

- The board opened the meeting at 6:30PM

- Paul Lessard came in to discuss the sign ordinance in the new Commercial Development Plan that was put forth by the Planning Board. Gary Mahler voiced his concerns with the plan as well, noting that the rules are the same for the entire town, but really should be different for different areas. Paul offered to team up with Dennis Keschl to re-write the sign ordinance in order to make the ordinance more efficient for the town. They say the ordinance, as it is written, goes too far in some areas, but not far enough in others as it would allow for 32square foot signs in the Belgrade village as it is written. Mike Barrett made a motion to allow Paul Lessard and Dennis Keschl to re-write the sign ordinance. Gary Mahler seconded the motion. **(4-1)**

- The board discussed a piece of land being donated to the town. The board noted that taking it by donation may be cheaper than having to go through the foreclosure process on the piece of property. Ernie

Rice made a motion to put it through a town vote and let the residents decide. Rick Damren seconded the motion. **(5-0)**

- The Town Manager raised a question about the health insurance for town employees. As the policy is written, employee health insurance is to be paid in full, but right now employees are currently responsible for a percentage of their insurance. Ernie says the board changed the rule in a meeting a couple of years ago, and isn't sure why the handbook hasn't been re-written to show the changes that were made. Ernie made a motion to table the discussion until we have had a chance to look back at the official record from the meetings where the rule was changed. Rick Damren seconded. **(5-0)**

- Ernie Rice made a motion to appoint Karen Childs as Health Officer. Gary Mahler seconded. **(5-0)**

- Ernie Rice made a motion to appoint Kathy Ross as Animal Control officer for another year. Gary Mahler seconded. **(5-0)**

- Gary Mahler made a motion to appoint Nancy Mares as the Town Historian for another year. Ernie Rice seconded. **(5-0)**

- Gary Mahler made a motion to appoint Jeremy Damren as Emergency Management Director for another year. Mike Barrett seconded the motion. **(4-0-1) Rick Damren Abstain**

- The Town Manger asked the board if the Town Office can close at noon on the final business day of the year in order to allow employees enough time to perform their yearend closing tasks. Gary made a motion to accept the close at noon on the last business day of 2016. Cheryl Cook seconded the motion. **(5-0)**

- The board discussed 2% cost of living raises for town employees. Gary made a motion to accept the 2% raises. Cheryl Cook seconded the motion. **(5-0)** After a brief discussion Gary Mahler asked to have his motion reconsidered. **(5-0)** Ernie Rice made a new motion to allow for merit based raises up to 2% for employees. Rick Damren seconded the motion. **(5-0)**

- Mike Barrett brought up that there is no sign coming into town on route 27 from Rome. Town Manager will look into whether or not we have a sign to put up there or if we would have to buy one.

- The Board discussed Warrant #169 (\$19,881.39). Ernie Rice made a motion to accept the warrant. Gary Mahler seconded. **(5-0)**

- Ernie Rice made a motion at 7:39PM to enter into an Executive Session – 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(A) Personnel Matters. Gary Mahler seconded the motion.

- Gary Mahler made a motion at 7:53PM to exit Executive Session – 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(A) Personnel Matters. Ernie Rice seconded the motion.

- Ernie Rice made a motion to regretfully accept Cheryl Cook's resignation from the Select Board. Gary Mahler seconded the motion. **(4-0-1)**

- Gary Mahler made a motion to end the Select Board Meeting. Rick Damren seconded the motion.

***Select Board Meeting adjourned at 7:54PM***