**Town Council Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday February 8th, 2017

Roll Call: Michael Perkins, Chairman Dana Wrigley

 Donald Borman Harold Buzzell

Others present: Gary Bowman, Town Manager Janice Porter, Town Clerk

 Jon Cox

Business Agenda:

1. It was moved by Dana Wrigley seconded by Harold Buzzell and voted 4-0 approving the minutes of the meetings held on January 25th, 2017, and to sign the disbursement warrant.
2. The Manager reported that the sale of 43 Gagnon Road has been finalized. After property taxes and broker fees were paid the town ended with $15,000. The Town Manager asked for Council input/direction on where the monies should be placed. It was moved by Dana Wrigley seconded by Donald Borman and voted 4-0 to place the $15,000 in the “new building” account. The Manager offered the following suggestions for the use of the money - to offset the 2017-2018 budget, place in the existing building fund or deposit in the fund equity account.
3. It was moved by Dana Wrigley, seconded by Harold Buzzell and voted 4-0 to approve the criminal drug forfeiture for the Police Department in the amount of $1,700. Said monies are designated for the purchase of police equipment.
4. The Manager reported that he believes that the issue has been resolved. The Fairfield ATV club will be applying for a state permit to operate on Route 23 along the Fairfield side only. Should the state permit be denied then possibly the club would return with a request to the town for access to Oakland’s end of the Gagnon Road.

Managers Report:

1. The Council will tour FW Webb in the spring when the kitchen display has been completed. Councilors are encouraged to visit this impressive facility at any time.
2. Town Manager reported that the town will be closing on 21 Railroad Ave within the next month. At that time the council will need to decide where to place those funds after paying the sewer bills and broker fees.
3. The Manager reported that the “Gazebo” project has raised approximately $18,000 thus far. The Manager asked for Council discussion regarding the use of $10,000 from the current “swimming area account” to be used for the construction costs of the Gazebo. The expenditure would provide the opportunity to order the package and start the work by AJ’s crew. The Manager is also looking for someone to donate the cement work for the project all with the hope that the project could be completed in plenty of time for “Oakfest”. Councilor Borman requested the Manager to ask Recreation Director Eric Seekins, if there is a project needed/wanted at the boat landing or Pleasant Point other than designating $10,000 toward the construction of the Gazebo. The Manager agreed to discuss the issue with Eric.
4. The Town Manager briefed the council regarding a meeting held with area Managers and members of the legislature regarding the Governor’s proposed budget plans. The meeting outlined “budget impacts on municipal programs, services and priorities.” Items of concern for all municipalities but not limited to -

General Assistance: The Governor’s budget proposes to repeal the state/municipal General Assistance program.

Revenue sharing: proposed to repeal the restoration to 5% by permanently reducing transfers to the revenue sharing program at the 2% level.

Homestead Exemption: The value of the exemption is to increase from $15,000 to $20,000. Proposal would set the homestead exemption at $20,000 but only Maine resident homeowners 65 years of age or older would qualify. In additional, the state reimbursement for lost property tax revenue would be reduced from 62.5% to 50%.

Other:

Adjournment: It was moved by Harold Buzzell seconded by Dana Wrigley and voted 4-0 to adjourn at 6:55 pm.