

Oakland Tow Council Minutes

September 8, 2021

Council members present: Michael Perkins Dana Wrigley
Robert Nutting David Groder
Donald Borman

Others: Gari Bowman, Town Manager Janice Porter, Town Clerk
Kelly Pinney Michaud Kelly Roderick
Edward Roderick Jon Cox
Patrick Linehan

Business Agenda:

1. It was moved by Dana Wrigley seconded by David Groder and voted 5-0 approving the minutes of the previous meeting and signing/approving the disbursement warrant.
2. It was moved by Dana Wrigley seconded by Robert Nutting and voted 5-0 to approve the town of Oakland joining the Maine Public Employees Retirement System (Maine PERS) as a participating Local District effective October 1, 2021, and:
 - a.) To offer Special Plan 3C to its permanent, full-time police officers who work at least 40 hours per week, 52 weeks per year.
 - b.) To authorize Gari Bowman, Town Manager to sign the agreement between the Town and Maine Public Employees Retirement System.
 - c.) To exclude all other employees, including its elected officials and its election workers, from participating in MainePERS.
3. It was moved by Dana Wrigley seconded by Donald Borman and voted 5-0 to approve the first reading of the General Assistance ordinance and appendix A thru H, as amended by DHS. Second reading will be held on September 22, 2021.
4. It was moved by Dana Wrigley seconded by Robert Nutting and voted 5-0 to appoint the Town Manager, Gari Bowman, as the voting delegate for the MMA Business Meeting.
5. After considerable conversation regarding keeping our meetings in person or adopting a hybrid zoom/in person style meeting the Council directed the Town Manager to further research the need versus the cost of spending approximately \$6,000 on equipment. Possibly the equipment would not be compatible for future use in the new office. The Manager will further check on the probability of use of that equipment in a future building along with researching surrounding community use for their meetings. Some voiced their concerns that this would only be used by a select few being given the opportunity to participate in the meetings. Others felt that meetings should be kept in person. Further discussion will take place at the next council meeting.

6. There was considerable conversation regarding the possible spending plan for the towns' ARPA funds (American Recovery Act Funds) in the amount of \$666,000. Said funds are to be spent by the year 2026. The Manager was asking for a definitive direction and guidance from the Council. Gari suggested that the funds should be used to address problem areas in the sewer lines located at the lower end of Oak Street and south end of Alpine Street. Sewer pipes are sagging and cracked in those locations. With those repairs we would alleviate excess I/I from being sent to Waterville for treatment. Eventually ending in lowering sewer rates for all users. There was a concern that monies spent on this project would only benefit the sewer users and not all taxpayers.

A suggestion was made about the possible use of a "Hazard Mitigation Grant" for necessary sewer repairs. Further research will be done on the criteria for use.

The Manager stated that Boyd Snowden would attend the next Council meeting on September 22nd to discuss the two (2) proposed plans for the sewer reconstruction.

Prior to the next meeting Councilors will review information, provided by Gari, on the ARPA updates for eligible uses by expenditure category.

7. Gari discussed an update on the brown tail moth issue. The City of Waterville has earmarked \$100,000 for mitigation of the moth. Gari stressed the importance of the removal of the moths in our town as well. Information for our Oakland residents will be seen on social media and posted about town with the pertinent information for destroying the nests and the safety concerns for safe removal prior to spring.

Adjournment: It was moved by David Groder seconded by Dana Wrigley and voted 5-0 to adjourn at 6:55 pm.