

MINUTES

Cumberland Town Council Meeting
Town Council Chambers
MONDAY, November 12, 2018

7:00 P.M. Call to Order

Present: Councilors Copp, Edes, Gruber, Stiles, Storey-King and Turner

Excused: Councilor Bingham

I. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Councilor Gruber, seconded by Councilor Stiles, to accept the October 22, 2018 meeting minutes as presented.

VOTE: 6-0-1 (Edes abstained) MOTION PASSES

II. **MANAGER'S REPORT**

Town Manager Shane said that we had a very successful election. The 44% of absentee voters kept the lines down on Election Day. Town Clerk, Tammy O'Donnell and her team did a phenomenal job.

Construction around Town will be wrapping up for the season soon. The weather has been our biggest deterrent. We were not able to do finish paving in the rainy conditions. Middle Road and Main Street final paving will be on hold until spring.

III. **PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

None

IV. **LEGISLATION AND POLICY**

18 – 143 To consider and act on a tax abatement request for property identified as Map R03/Lot 49B.

Town Manager Shane explained that the Bancroft's are requesting a tax abatement for a barn on their property that was sold in 2008. When the property was divided, the barn was assessed to both properties. The Assessor discovered the error and abated the taxes for the current year, but explained to them that under State Law, they are not eligible for any additional abatement. Property owners are responsible to know what they are being taxed for and the law does not allow any additional relief for this oversight. The Town Manager said that his recommendation is to support the letter from the Assessor and not grant the abatement.

Chairman Copp asked if there is any public comment on this item.

There was no public comment.

Motion by Councilor Gruber, seconded by Councilor Stiles, to support the Tax Assessor's decision to not abate any additional taxes for property identified as Map R03/Lot 49B per State Statute.

VOTE: 6-0 UNANIMOUS

18 – 144 To hear a report from the Ordinance Committee re: Medical Marijuana.

Councilor Storey-King explained that that someone could obtain a license to grow medical marijuana and be a registered caregiver (at present time, we have 22 registered caregivers in Cumberland). The Ordinance Committee has discussed where any new caregivers should be located in Town going forward. An overlay district was chosen

for the OC South District (Route One), the Highway Commercial District (Main Street near the Railroad tracks) and the VCC Zone (Route 100). We are not trying to go after people who have a legitimate business and provide services for people with legitimate needs, but we want to make sure that these operations stay legitimate.

Chairman Copp asked if there were any comments from the public.
No public comment.

V. **NEW BUSINESS**

Councilor Gruber – The Food Pantry is holding its annual Thanksgiving Basket distribution this Thursday. The entire Council Chambers will be filled with food. It is a great event and he wants to thank everybody that is involved.

The annual Aging in Place forum was another successful event this year.

Councilor Edes – There was a story on the local news this evening about Amtrak increasing their daily trips to 5 round trips per day, with the earliest trip leaving Brunswick at 4:00 a.m. For him, this makes the quiet zone issue a little more urgent.

Councilor Storey-King – She sat in on a Conservation Subdivision Committee meeting recently. Their work is very tedious and they have been at it for almost 2 years. She feels confident that they are close to the end. They are doing a great job.

She wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Chairman Copp – Longtime resident, Charlie Googins passed away recently. Charlie was a great guy and true gentleman.

Hunting season has begun. Please be aware of this. He has seen people out walking their dogs and riding their horses with no orange on.

Councilor Stiles – He reminded the public that he continues to collect money for the 4-H auction to benefit the Food Pantry.

He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Councilor Turner – His wife had knee replacement surgery recently and she borrowed medical equipment from the Fire Department. This is a wonderful service that they offer that residents should be aware of. He thanked the Council and Town staff for the get well soon flowers that they sent her.

He sent condolences to the Googins family on the passing of Charlie Googins.

Town Manager Shane – The Town owns a gravel pit off Sweetsir Road in North Yarmouth that Portland Water District is interested in purchasing because it is adjacent to 3 of their production wells. If the Council is interested in pursuing this, the Manager said that he can get more information and an appraisal of the property done.

The Town was notified recently that there was a duck blind discovered at Knight's Pond. We do allow tree stands for hunting on Town owned property as long as they are marked with the owners contact information. We should consider doing the same for duck blinds if the Council desires.

Chairman Copp said that this makes sense and the Council agreed.

Town Manager Shane said that he would let the Land Trust know.

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION pursuant to Title 36 M.R.S.A. Section 841(2) to consider and act on applications for tax abatement based on hardship.

Motion by Councilor Stiles, seconded by Councilor Turner, to recess to EXECUTIVE SESSION pursuant to Title 36 M.R.S.A. Section 841(2) to consider and act on applications for tax abatement based on hardship.

VOTE: 6-0 UNANIMOUS

TIME: 7:47 P.M.

Reconvene to regular session at 7:56 P.M.

Motion by Councilor Edes, seconded by Councilor Turner, to approve poverty abatement request #1 based on hardship.

VOTE: 6-0 UNANIMOUS

Motion by Councilor Stiles, seconded by Councilor Gruber, to deny poverty abatement request #2 based on hardship because the applicant does not meet the poverty threshold per the Town of Cumberland General Assistance Ordinance.

VOTE: 6-0 UNANIMOUS

Motion by Councilor Stiles, seconded by Councilor Gruber, to table poverty tax abatement request #3. The lien will not be placed on this property until June 2019 and the lien will not ripen until December 2020. We recommend that the applicant return to the Town Council in October 2020 for consideration should their current circumstances not change.

VOTE: 6-0 UNANIMOUS

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilor Stiles, seconded by Councilor Gruber, to adjourn.

VOTE: 6-0

TIME: 7:57 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by,

Brenda L. Moore

Council Secretary

Not present at meeting. Minutes prepared from recording of meeting.