

MINUTES

Cumberland Town Council Meeting

Town Council Chambers

MONDAY, October 11, 2021

6:00 P.M. Ordinance Committee Meeting re: Marijuana Ordinance

7:00 P.M. Call to Order

Present: Councilors Copp, Edes, Foster, Gruber, Segrist, Storey-King and Vail

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Councilor Gruber, seconded by Councilor Segrist, to accept the September 27, 2021 meeting minutes as presented.

VOTE: 7-0 UNANIMOUS

II. MANAGER'S REPORT

In recognition of Indigenous Peoples Day, Councilor Foster read the following statement:

Since today is recognized as Indigenous People Day in Maine and as we celebrate our 200th birthday as a town, I thought it would be appropriate to take a moment to acknowledge that the land we are gathered on, and the lands our municipality serves, are the ancestral lands of the Wabanaki people.

As we together look to build a community that recognizes the value of each member's varying background, culture, and perspective, we recognize the importance of honoring the Indigenous people, their knowledge, and their collective support of one another.

Town Manager Shane introduced School Board Chair, Tyler McGinley, who gave the following update: Just like every sandwich shop, just like every corporate business, just like every delivery truck right now, everyone is struggling with staffing shortages. The school district is no different. The district is currently down 16 Ed-Techs, which is a lot. Ed-Techs do everything from giving teachers breaks to one-on-one support for students who need extra support. Not having 16 of them, with every child in school right now, is a lot. The minimum requirement to be an Ed-Tech is a 2-year degree. Daily and permanent substitutes are also down. Permanent sub positions pay \$150 per day with a 4-to-5-day requirement. Daily subs are paid \$100 per day. We also need lunch and recess aids. These positions are 2-hours per day and can be very flexible. The job descriptions are on the district's website under employment opportunities, and you can call the central office if you have questions.

We are all still living and working with COVID, and public schools have a lot of unknowns. She doesn't want anyone with questions to be hesitant about asking about protocols. Everybody in our district is doing everything that they can do to make sure that our schools are safe and healthy.

Town Manager Shane shared that the special electronics waste event this past weekend was a huge success. This coming week will be the start of bulky waste pick up week. A reminder to residents that if it will fit in a trash bag, it is not bulky waste.

III. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Michael Doyle of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, said that his sources from Scarborough have been reporting about the Police Chief hiring process there, and another fellow named John O'Malley (a Scarborough Police Officer). He wrote a story about John O'Malley based on complaints that he was never available for backup in the Scarborough Police Department because he was dating 2 women, while still married to his wife. He was planning to be the Chief of Police in Scarborough after Robbie

Moulton retired. Chief Rumsey was also being considered for the Chief's position. According to his source, the selection committee said that if you (O'Malley) become Chief, Doyle is going to rerun the article about you with the two women, as well as the other things that he has information about, that he has not written yet.

He received a letter from Chief Rumsey telling him who he could talk to in this Town and under what conditions he could talk to him. He had to send Chief Rumsey his emails to Jeff Porter to have them approved to send along to the School Board. He does not think that Chief Rumsey or Jeff Porter's pay grade rises to the point where they can tell him who he can communicate with. There is something in the Constitution that states that you are allowed to address grievances to elected officials unencumbered by others telling you who you should address the complaint to, or what you can say in it. There is something called freedom of speech. Where are the letters to the people who attacked him on election day? The Chief didn't send them letters.

His sources in Scarborough said that they are not going to hire somebody who is on the wrong side of Doyle (Rumsey), and he eliminated himself from the Chief of Police position in Scarborough, because he wrote him a letter, and he posted it on his website. His only comment is, if you do stupid stuff it's going to catch up with you. If you do stuff that is incorrect and take advantage of the situation because you're the Chief of Police in Cumberland, he is going to print what you do on his website. Currently, he is just a few thousand hits away from 4 million hits on his website, with a distribution list of 67 names. A lot of people read his website from all over the country. He is actually stunned that he gets that many hits. The average commercial website gets about 8,000 hits per year. At one point this year, he was getting 8,000 hits per hour. He cautioned people in this town, Scarborough, or any other town to choose your battles wisely, because if you're not on the right side of the battle, it's going to look bad for you on his website. He thinks that Chief Rumsey could have been Chief of Police in Scarborough, but not with the comment that he's already on the wrong side him, which he is.

Mr. Doyle went on to say that there were no indigenous people on the North or South American continents. All of them crossed over from Asia on the land bridge across the Bering Sea 20,000 years ago. There were no horses on the North American continent until the Europeans brought them here during the exploration of the new world. For us to keep saying that these people are indigenous, they invaded this continent way before the Europeans did and they took control of it. The industrial age ran up against the stone age, and that's how we prevailed over them over a period of centuries. They walked across that bridge and came right down the west side of North America, Central America and into South America, over a period of thousands of years. He doesn't know who's indigenous here. There were no people in this part of the world until they came across from Asia.

IV. LEGISLATION AND POLICY

21 – 103 To hold a Public Hearing to consider and act on an Automobile Graveyard Permit for Cumberland Salvage for the period of November 1, 2021 – October 31, 2022.

Chairman Vail explained that this is an annual renewal and staff is recommending approval.

Chairman Vail opened the Public Hearing.

No public comment.

Chairman Vail closed the Public Hearing.

Motion by Councilor Storey-King, seconded by Councilor Gruber, to approve the Automobile Graveyard Permit for Cumberland Salvage for the period of November 1, 2021 – October 31, 2022.

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

21 – 104 To set a Public Hearing date of October 25th to consider and act on authorizing the Town Manager to solicit bids for a Tax Anticipation Note for \$2,000,000.00, as approved in the FY'22 budget.

Town Manager Shane said that he and the Finance Director do not think that we will have to use a Tax Anticipation Note this year. It appears that we will be in good financial shape and if we do need one, it won't be until the first of the year. This is more of a safety net. He recommended setting the Public Hearing for October 25th.

Motion by Councilor Copp, seconded by Councilor Segrist, to set a Public Hearing date of October 25th to consider and act on authorizing the Town Manager to solicit bids for a Tax Anticipation Note for \$2,000,000.00, as approved in the FY'22 budget.

VOTE: 7-0 UNANIMOUS

V. NEW BUSINESS

Councilor Segrist – We were able to arrange a meeting with Eric Jorgensen, Director of Communications and Government Affairs at Maine State Housing Authority. He and one of his colleagues will be joining us on the 18th to talk about the process of building a senior care facility, how it can be financed, and answer any other questions the Town Council may have.

He and Councilor Copp will meet with the Town Manager to review the current list of businesses in Town in order to get a better idea of who the businesses are, where they are located, whether it's a home business or a separate taxable entity. They are also looking at locations where future businesses might relocate to.

In regard to the senior property tax assistance program, he and Councilor's Edes and Gruber are still working on this. He had a call with the Town Manager and Finance Director last month and they talked about our accounting software and ways to track potential changes in how tax bills go out and whether taxes can be frozen at a particular rate. He hopes that there will be something to present on this to the Council in the coming weeks.

Councilor Storey-King – The Ordinance Committee met earlier this evening and we are prepared to share our marijuana ordinance with the Town Attorney for their review. Then, it will be presented to the Town Council for a public hearing.

The Chairman of the Library Advisory Board and the Library Director have met and discussed putting together a budget that will be more informative for the Town Council, related to the needs of the Library. They would like to come before the Town Council before we begin our budget process to explain where they are at and where they would like to be.

Councilor Gruber – In the spirit of the Red Sox, who are playing tonight, he has no new business.

Chairman Vail – There is a Finance Committee meeting on October 20th at 5:00 p.m. Our final meeting with Maine Intercultural Communication Consultants is on October 26th at 4:00 p.m. A meeting with the Town Council, North Yarmouth Select Board and School Board will take place on November 9th at 6:30 p.m.

The newly paved roads around Town are looking good.

Councilor Foster – The North Yarmouth hope garden will be planted tomorrow evening at 6:00 at the Community Center. People from North Yarmouth joined us in planting our hope garden, so she is extending an invitation for anybody who could not attend ours and would like more information about the Yellow Tulip Project, to attend the event in North Yarmouth.

She thanked the Town Manager for the bicycle signs that were put up at the 3 railroad crossings that say “cyclists can use the entire lane”.

Councilor Edes – He enjoyed Councilor Foster’s words at the beginning of the meeting regarding Indigenous Peoples Day. He feels that it was needed, and he was thankful that prepared the statement.

Councilor Copp – He will continue to make a donation at every Town Council meeting to the 4-H fund that benefits the Food Pantry.

Town Manager Shane – The 4-H auction was a great success. He has never seen the prices so high, and the kids did amazingly well. Pork prices were over \$5.00 per pound. That is the highest he has seen that in over 10 years of going to the auction. He purchased a steer and two pigs for the Food Pantry.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilor Storey-King, seconded by Councilor Gruber, to adjourn.

VOTE: 7-0 UNANIMOUS

TIME: 7:38 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by,

Brenda L. Moore
Council Secretary

(Not present at meeting. Minutes prepared from recording)