

Town of Van Buren., ME.

Council Meeting Minutes

January 7, 2020

1. Chairman called meeting to order @ 1800. All Councilors present.
2. Modified agenda to include 4 e. (Workman's comp grievance) executive session under M.R.S.A. 405 (6) (A). Motion by Gary L. seconded by Maurice C. to accept modified agenda as written. All in favor, motion carried.
3. Accept minutes of 12-17-19 and emergency meeting of 12-26-19 as written. Motion by Maurice C. seconded by Gary L. All in favor, motion carried.
4. New Business:
 - a. Ambulance Director Appointment: Ben Zetterman hired as new Ambulance Director and is present. His starting salary will be \$57,000/year.
 - Gary L. asked to enter into executive session to discuss new hire under M.R.S.A. 405 (6) (A). executive session entered @ 1808 hours.
 - Motion made by Gary L. seconded by John B. to exit executive session @ 1824. All in favor.
 - Motion made by Gary L. seconded by Maurice C. to set Ben Zetterman's starting salary at \$57,000/year. Motion carried, all in favor.
 - b. Cedar Room Smoke House-Renovation/Construction update:
 - Town Manager advised she visited site, flooring installed and some construction in works. Propane hookup still scheduled for mid-January. Water has been turned on, furnace has been looked at and mortgage/deed being drafted this coming week
 - c. Police Hire(s)-Update: Town Manager advises that previous candidate not coming and no one has been hired. Sergeant Dyer asking to have permission to offer wages to possible candidates with consulting Town Manager without having to have a special town meeting.
 - Pete M. made motion to give Sergeant Dyer and Town Manager discretion of proposing wage(s) for next Police Officer hire(s). Town Manager will notify Council ASAP with text and/or email. Maurice C. seconded, all in favor, motion carried.
 - d. Financials:
 - Council reviewed quarterly financials
 - e. Workman's Compensation Grievance-M.R.S.A. 405 (6)(A) executive session.
 - Motion made by Joey O. seconded by Gary L. to enter into executive session M.R.S.A. 405 (6) (A) at 1923 hours. All in favor, motion carried.
 - Motion made by John B. seconded by Maurice C. to exit executive session M.R.S.A. 405 (6) (A) at 1941 hours. All in favor, motion carried.
 - Motion by Gary L. seconded by Joey O. to give Town Manager authority to pursue the recommendation of our legal counsel on this matter. All in favor, motion carried.
5. Town Manager Report:
 - Holiday gift cards and County looking to change their fiscal year which will affect us. More to come once decision is made at County level.

6. Town Councilors Reports:

John B. –asked about Community Center usage for public and also Recreation Director concerns.

Maurice C. nothing to report

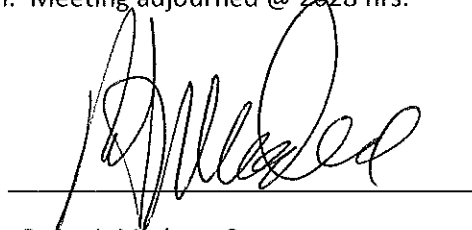
Pete M. – asked if we had contacted Dead River yet for municipal building purposes. Town Manager advised this week.

Gary L.-nothing to report

7. Public Comment: None

8. Sign Warrants: Council signed warrants.

9. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned @ 2028 hrs.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Madore', is written over a horizontal line.

Peter J. Madore, Secretary

Respectfully submitted,

1-22-2020

Town of Van Buren., ME.

Council Meeting Minutes

January 22, 2020

1. Secretary called meeting to order @ 1806. All Councilors present except for Chairman who notified Town Manager at 1615 hours that he could not make meeting. Motion made by Maurice C. seconded by Gary L. to elect Gary L. as pro temp chairman for said meeting. All in favor, motion carried
2. Modified agenda to include adjusting order to 4a. (Economic development) executive session under M.R.S.A. 405 (6) (C), 4b. Visit/inspect 88 Main St., 4c. Ambulance/Police hires and 4d. other business. Motion by Maurice C. seconded by John B. to accept modified agenda as written. All in favor, motion carried.
3. Accept minutes of 1-7-2020 as written. Pete M. recommended amending word "setting" to "proposing" under 4c. -hiring of Police Officer(s)....per email received from Gary L. Motion by John B. seconded by Maurice C. to accept minutes as amended. All in favor, motion carried.
4. New Business:
 - a. Council Executive session - Economic Development under 1 M.R.S.A. 405 (6) (C):
Executive session entered @ 1816 hours.
- Motion made by John B. seconded by Gary L. to exit executive session @ 1838. All in favor.
-Motion made by Gary L. seconded by Maurice C. to write a response letter for correspondence received. Motion carried, all in favor.
 - b. Visit 88 Main St. (Cedar Room Smoke House)-Public Invited:
-Town Manager, Town Council and Code Enforcement Officer departed Town Office @ 1848 in route to 88 Main St., all returned @ 1905. Flooring not complete, waiting for heat lines to be run, owner(s) will notify Town Manager when flooring complete. Propane tanks and some lines installed with no propane in tanks as of yet. Kitchen equipment purchased by owners and visible during inspection. Facility will be inspected upon completion of flooring before any further decisions made. Mortgage almost complete for 88 Main St.
 - c. Ambulance/Police Hire(s)-Update: Town Manager advising proposed hiring of Mike Morrow of Van Buren, Advanced EMT to FULL-TIME at a rate of \$14.70/hr. He is willing to advance his education to Paramedic and will be available for 2nd call outs. Also, make offer to Amy Dionne EMT-Paramedic for temporary fulltime employment at a rate of \$17.02/hr. She is former employee of VBAS and is currently working for ASI.
-Motion made by John B. seconded by Maurice C. to hire these 2 EMT's. All in favor, motion carried.
Also, Ambulance Director recommending PART-TIME hiring of Jacob Theriault, EMT at a rate of \$12.00/hr. Thomas Langley, Advanced EMT at a rate of \$15.74 and Jonathan Cote, EMT at a rate of \$13.62/hr.
-Motion made by John B. seconded by Pete M. to hire all 3 part-time EMT's. All in favor, motion carried.
Town Manager advising proposed hiring of 2 PART-TIME Police Officers: Sam Fuller for 1 day a week at a rate of \$20.60/hr. He is currently working for PIPD.

Also, Keith Ouellette for 1 day a week at a rate of \$25.90/hr. He is currently a Sergeant for Caribou PD and originally from VB.

-Motion made by Gary L. seconded by John B. to hire these 2 part-time Police Officers. All in favor, motion carried.

d. Other: (SCRAMBLED Diner) Economic Development under 1 M.R.S.A. 405 (6) (C)

-Executive session entered at 1924 hours

-Motion made by John B. seconded by Maurice C. to exit executive session @ 2004. All in favor, motion carried.

-Motion made by Gary L. seconded by John B. to loan \$16,724 out of revolving loan to SCRAMBLED Diner with flat rate of interest (prime + 1) and add \$10,000 previous loan. First payment due April 1, 2020. All in favor, motion carried.

5. Town Manager Report:

-Grant season: CDBG for TULSA and also Sewer Dept. being worked on. Town Manager also going to call Dead River.

6. Town Councilors Reports:

John B. nothing to report

Maurice C. nothing to report

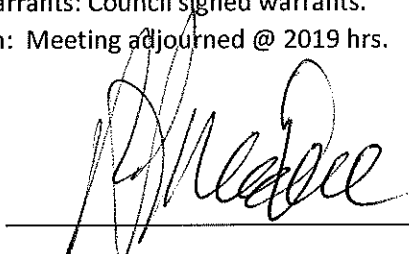
Pete M. – will be working on 2 grants for Fire Department: FEMA for Bunker gear and Truck and STK Grant for Gear washer and Gear drying racks/storage racks

Gary L.-nothing to report

7. Public Comment: None

8. Sign Warrants: Council signed warrants.

9. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned @ 2019 hrs.



Peter J. Madore, Secretary

Respectfully submitted,



Town of Van Buren., ME.

Council Meeting Minutes

February 4, 2020

1. Chairman called meeting to order @ 1800. All Councilors present.
2. Accept/Modify Agenda: Motion made by Gary L. seconded by John B. to accept modified agenda to include the elimination of 4d (Peter Morrow, State Street, Sewer charges-Ted Smith) which has been taken care of. All in favor, motion carried.
3. Accept minutes of 1-22-2020 as written: Motion made by Gary L. seconded by John B. to accept. All in favor, motion carried.
4. New Business:
 - a. Pine Tree Apartments – Realty Resources CEO- Andrew Altmaier: Subject has not yet arrived, moving on to 4b.
 - b. Sheriff's Dispatch Contract for 2020: Reviewed by Council, motion made by Gary L. seconded by Maurice C. to accept as written. All in favor, motion carried.
 - c. Cedar Room Smokehouse 2nd Installment/Mortgage Deed: (Chris and Penny Barber present) Motion made by Gary L. seconded by John B. to enter executive session under 1 M.R.S.A. 405 (6) (C). All in favor, executive session entered @ 1808 hours.
 - Executive Session exited @ 1857 hours.
 - Motion made by Gary. L seconded by John B. for 2nd disbursement installment direct payment (\$3000) to Whistlestop located in Fort Kent, ME. for purchase of kitchen equipment for Cedar Room Smokehouse. All in favor, motion carried.
 - SECOND motion by Gary L. seconded by Maurice C. when foreclosure comes out for 88 Main St. we, (Town of Van Buren) will NOT act on it, as long as "good faith" payments can be made towards the delinquent sewer lien. All in favor, motion carried.
- Back to 4a. Subject, Andrew Altmaier has arrived. Mr. Altmaier talked to Council on ideas to help Realty Resources market Pine Tree Apartments.
5. Town Manager Report:
 - Tax acquired property update(s).
6. Town Councilors Reports:
 - John B. nothing to report
 - Maurice C. nothing to report
 - Pete M. – Snowmobile Groomer updates: 1 is in Presque Isle for repair, new groomer still in Quebec being retrofitted....arriving in 2-3 weeks
 - Gary L.-nothing to report
7. Public Comment: None
8. Sign Warrants: Council signed warrants.
9. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned @ 1944 hrs.

Respectfully submitted,


Peter J. Madore, Secretary

2-18-2020
Date

Town of Van Buren., ME.

Council Meeting Minutes

February 18, 2020

1. Secretary called meeting to order @ 1800. All Councilors present except for Chairman J. Ouellette and Councilor M. Corbin who notified Town Manager they could not make meeting. Motion made by Pete M. seconded by John B. to elect Gary L. as pro temp chairman for said meeting. All in favor, motion carried
2. Modified agenda to include adjusting order to 4b. and c. which will cover the Cyr Plantation/Hamlin Fire contracts and the Revolving Loan Committee for 66 Main Street (SCRAMBLED DINER) recommendation. Motion by John B. seconded by Gary L. to accept modified agenda as written. All in favor, motion carried.
3. Accept minutes of 2-4-2020 as written. Motion by Gary L. seconded by John B. to accept minutes as written. All in favor, motion carried.
4. New Business:
 - a. Recreation Committee Appointees: Received volunteer committee applications from Rick Dolan and Paul Violette for recreation committee. Also, John B. advised he received verbal request from Jacky Morales for volunteer recreation committee. Motion made by John B. seconded by Gary L. to accept all 3 applicants for Volunteer Recreation Committee. All in favor, motion carried.
 - b. Cyr Plantation and Hamlin Fire contracts: \$15,213.00 for Cyr Plantation and \$21,336.00 for Hamlin. Contracts are for ONE year (Jan 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020) with a 3% increase from last year as have been determined by previous administration which was the last year of a 5 year contract for both Towns. It is planned to have a re-evaluation with these 2 communities during budget process for next year. Motion made by John B. seconded by Gary L. to accept the Cyr Plantation and Hamlin ONE YEAR fir contracts as written. All in favor, motion carried.
 - c. Revolving Loan Committee – 66 Main St. (SCRAMBLED DINER) – recommendation:
 - Motion by Gary L. seconded by John B. to enter executive session under Economic Development 1 M.R.S.A. 405 (6) (C), all in favor, motion carried. Executive session entered at 1841 hours.
 - Motion made by Gary L. seconded by John B. to exit executive session @ 1918 hours. All in favor, motion carried.
 - Motion made by Pete M. seconded by Gary L. to propose up to \$55,000 of revolving loan fund money for the purchase of 66 Main Street then loan will be consolidated with prior loans at the flat rate (4.75%). Buyers will have yearly payments. All in favor, motion carried.
5. Town Manager Report:
 - Grant(s) update: DEP grant for (drying bed-dewatering) SEWER Dept. project. Town may have to look into asking J.D. Irving to buy back a little land near the Sewer Dept. processing facility. Also, working on CDBG grants for TULSA and a couple of small business proposals.

6. Town Councilors Reports:

Pete M. - working on both FEMA grants for the Fire Department. GROOMER UPDATE: The older John Deere has been repaired and is in service. The new (NEW HOLLAND Groomer) is still in Quebec and is just about complete, hopefully coming by end of this week.

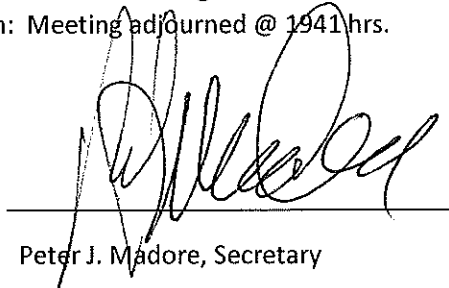
Gary L.- asked about list of foreclosure(s), Town Manager advised she is working with these on a case by case basis and a lot is going on. Pete M. asked if we know the foreclosures are obviously going to happen to keep council updated.

John B. – asked about a revolving fund for High School sports teams when they have to go out of Town and play the next morning....it was determined that school should look into and maybe budget for such occurrences first and possibly Town could help also in future.

7. Public Comment: Dayton Grandmaison asked about CDBG process. Town Manager gave him information on how process worked.

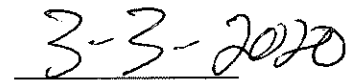
8. Sign Warrants: Council signed warrants.

9. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned @ 1941 hrs.



Peter J. Madore, Secretary

Respectfully submitted,



Town of Van Buren., ME.

Council Meeting Minutes

March 3, 2020

1. Meet at Council Chambers - Carpool to Limestone to tour Fire Station @ 1630. Returned at 1800 hrs.
2. Chairman called meeting to order @ 1806, all Councilors present.
3. Accept/Modify Agenda: Motion made by Gary L. seconded by John B to accept agenda as written. All in favor, motion carried.
4. Accept minutes of 2-18-2020 as written. Motion by Gary L. seconded by John B. to accept minutes as written. All in favor, motion carried.
5. New Business:
 - a. Knights of Columbus Liquor License Renewal: Motion made by Gary L. seconded by Pete M. to accept renewal. All in favor, motion carried.
 - b. Maine DOT Keegan Project – Land Acquisition/Drainage Easement: Council reviewed Maine DOT schematic which shows area State of Maine will acquire (drainage easement) by eminent domain when project is accomplished. Project was cancelled last minute last year due to lack of funds, Town Manager/Town has option to request this 2 year project to begin this year by contacting DOT commissioner. No motion was needed, consensus of council was to accept.
 - c. Tax Acquired Property agreements:
 - 1) Map 15 Lot 84 (112 Bridge Street): Zac Gagnon offered \$4661.14 for property to cover outstanding tax/sewer debt for purchase of property. Motion made by Gary L. seconded by Joey O. to accept offer. All in favor, motion carried.
 - 2) Map 18 Lot 130 (114 Tyler Street): Leronimo Holdings LLC offered \$6530.88 for purchase of property (minus reimbursement from VB Housing) to cover outstanding tax/sewer debt for this property. Motion made by Gary L. seconded by Maurice C. to accept offer. All in favor, motion carried.
 - d. RHR Smith – Review 2018-2019 Audit: Council reviewed audit, motion made by Gary L. seconded by John B. to roll over the \$5,562 excess marked for street lights into next year's budget for the same purpose which is to replace older street lights with modern LED bulbs. All in favor, motion carried.
6. Town Manager Report:

-Sewer Gritter Pumper Repair: Pump located at Main Sewer processing plant was sent out to Portland, ME. for repair at a cost of \$19,041. A new pump would have cost over \$31,000 with no guarantee it would have lasted any longer. 20 year life span on these pumps are well above normal and the last time this pump was repaired was over 20 years ago.

-Grant(s) update: DEP grant for (drying bed-dewatering) SEWER Dept. project. Town may have to look into asking J.D. Irving to buy back a little land near the Sewer Dept. processing facility. Also, working on CDBG grant for this year for SCRAMBLED Diner as TULSA was not ready for this year's application period. TULSA will apply for this grant next year.

-Council set date for OPEN PUBLIC MEETING for the repurposing of old GATEWAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL for April 14, 2020 @ 1900 hrs @ High School Auditorium.

7. Town Councilors Reports:

Maurice C. – nothing to report

Pete M. - both FEMA grants for the Fire Department will be submitted this week.

Joey O. – nothing to report

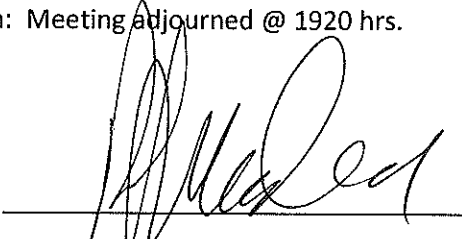
Gary L.- gave resignation letter as of this evening for position(s) on Town Council and Revolving Loan Committee. Everyone wished him well.

John B. – advised noting to report but is working on a project and will advise Council in near future.

8. Public Comment: None

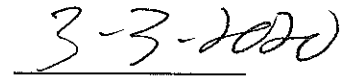
9. Sign Warrants: Council signed warrants.

10. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned @ 1920 hrs.



Peter J. Madore, Secretary

Respectfully submitted,



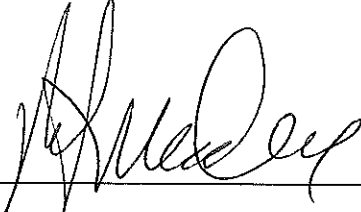
3-3-2020

Town of Van Buren., ME.

Council Meeting Minutes

March 17, 2020

1. Open Public Hearing on CDBG Public Infrastructure Grant: Secretary P. Madore called hearing to order @ 1812 hours (all councilors present except for Chairman J. Ouellette). Town Manager advising total cost of mandatory dewatering project for Sewer Dept. will be approximately 2.6 million dollars.
2. Public hearing closed @ 1822 hrs.
3. Secretary Pete M. called Council meeting to order @ 1823 hours. (Joey O. missing)
4. Accept/modify agenda: Town Manager requesting addition to 6 b. concerning signing of payroll warrants. Motion by Maurice C. seconded by John B. to accept modified agenda, all in favor, motion carried.
5. Accept minutes of Council meeting held March 3, 2020: Motion made by Maurice C. seconded by John B. to accept minutes as written. All in favor, motion carried.
6. New Business:
 - a. Discuss Contingency Plans for Town Services during coronavirus pandemic: Town Manager in close contact with various State and Local entities as this situation progresses. Currently, Town Office personnel in place for this week but doors to building locked and citizens advised to call with questions or go online to pay bills, register vehicle etc. Emergency services will respond to emergency calls and have implemented safety procedures as well as can be expected. Highway crews will remain on duty, Recycling center will remain open for the week utilizing safety prevention procedures. NO public allowed at this time into ANY Town facilities and other non-critical Town facilities will be close at least for the next 2 weeks. NOTE: All subject to change on short notice and we will be adapting to ongoing crisis as needed.
 - b. Warrant signing for payroll: Town Manager inquiring about possibility of having only ONE Councilor sign PAYROLL WARRANTS only in the event of non-availability Councilors (per State Law). This would be on a yearly basis and procedure would need to be reviewed and signed by current Council yearly also. Motion by John B. seconded by Maurice C. to change procedure and allow only ONE Councilor the ability to sign the PAYROLL warrant for the next year. All in favor, motion carried. It is noted all OTHER warrant signing procedures will remain the same.
7. Town Manager Report:
 - present lawsuit litigation with workman's comp still ongoing and posting of weight limits for heavy loads on secondary roads will be done shortly.
8. Town Councilors Reports:
 - Maurice C. – nothing to report
 - Pete M. – Fire, Police and EMS personnel met last night for coronavirus procedures
 - John B. – nothing to report
9. Public Comment: None
10. Sign Warrants: Council signed warrants.
11. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned @ 1920 hrs.


Peter J. Madore, Secretary

Respectfully submitted,

3-18-2020

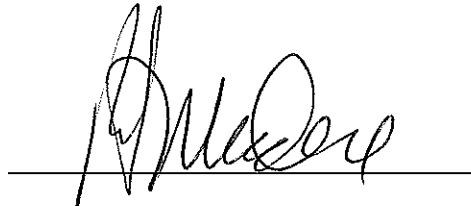
Town of Van Buren., ME.

Council Meeting Minutes

April 21, 2020

1. Chairman called virtual Zoom meeting to order @ 1805. All Councilors present except for John B.
2. Accept/Modify Agenda: Motion by Pete M., seconded by Maurice C. to accept agenda as written. All in favor, motion carried.
3. Accept minutes of 3-17-2020 as written: Motion by Maurice C., seconded by Pete M. to accept minutes as written. All in favor, motion carried.
4. New Business:
 - a. Accept DEP Grants: Sludge/Drying Bed Sewer project is proceeding. Town Manager advised Town has received \$500,000 grant from Maine State infrastructure program towards this project. Also, Town Manager currently working on CDBG Grant towards same project. Motion made by Joey O., seconded by Maurice C. to accept \$500,000 State Infrastructure Grant awarded to Town. All in favor, motion carried. Also, motion made by Maurice C., seconded by Joey O. to apply for Sustainability Grants towards this project in the amount of up to \$70,000. All in favor, motion carried.
 - b. Move Town Elections to July 14, 2020: Due to Covid-19 pandemic and recent State mandated procedures, the annual Town elections will be moved to July 14, 2020 with the annual Town Meeting to be held on July 15, 2020. Also, the elections for Town Council position(s) will be extended to May 8 as deadline to apply. All in favor, motion carried.
 - c. Review of Road Conditions: List of streets needing road repair/asphalt was reviewed. It was decided that Councilors would take a look at the streets needing attention and discuss at next meeting.
 - d. Update on Gagnon's Hardware Building situation: Town Manager advising that DEP would be on site tomorrow taking samples for possible hazardous substances. Grant money for teardown/disposal currently not available. After DEP inspection, we will access cost options for teardown and disposal. Pete M. inquired about asking DEP if it would be possible to move debris ourselves to another parcel of Town owned property for burial to save money. DEP advised Town Manager they will help us as much as possible and concerns will be asked to higher management at DEP.
 - e. Convent Garage and clean-up: Pete M. advising an individual asked about garage in rear of old Convent building. Individual advising if he could move old garage to his property that he would clean up collapsed rear porch/debris in the back of the old Convent building which is a current safety and eye sore issue. Council agreed to this proposition and individual will contact Town Manager for further guidance.
 - f. Other: Cedar Room Smokehouse: Council needs to discuss this issue in executive session. It was agreed that council would partake in a virtual Zoom executive meeting after the adjournment of this meeting

5. Town Manager Report: Town Manager gave budget/staffing updates due to the current covid-19 pandemic situation. Budget is looking good and we still do not know what the State will monetarily give us at this point.
6. Town Councilors Reports:
Pete M. – nothing to report
Joey O. – nothing to report
Maurice C.- nothing to report
7. Public Comment: Tammie Desjardins (Champlain St.) Asked if we could seriously look into asphaltting Alexander Road to Lynne St. due to dust problem. Council will review.
8. Approve Warrants: Motion made by Joey O., seconded by Maurice C. to approve current warrants. All in favor, motion carried.
9. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned @ 1847 hrs.
10. 4 f. cont. EXECUTIVE SESSION (virtual Zoom) for Cedar Room Smokehouse began at 1850 hours. EXECUTIVE SESSION exited at 1902 hours.


Peter J. Madore, Secretary

Respectfully submitted,

4-22-2020

Town of Van Buren., ME.

Council Meeting Minutes

May 5, 2020

1. Chairman called virtual Zoom meeting to order @ 1800. All Councilors present.
2. Accept/Modify Agenda: Motion by Joey O., seconded by Maurice C. to accept agenda as written. All in favor, motion carried.
3. Accept minutes of 4-21-2020 as written: Motion by John., seconded by Joey O. to accept minutes as written. All in favor, motion carried.
4. New Business:
 - a. 2020 Road Paving Projects: All Councilors had a list of roads/streets needing paving which were visually verified also. Highway Supervisor in attendance and subject was discussed. It was agreed that Alexander Road up to at least Lynne St. needs attention. Also discussed were Fulton, Watermill, St. Bruno, Cloverhill Dr. and a few others. Council agreed to let Highway Supervisor prioritize what needs to be done with budget available and advise. Input/opinions were given by Council on this matter. Hot top price is currently \$90/ton.
 - b. Solid Waste Hauling Contract: This contract has more than one entity interested in bidding for this service for the coming year. Motion made by Maurice C., seconded by Joey O. to put Solid Waste contract out to bid. All in favor, motion carried.
 - c. Rescind motion made February 4th item 4c: Motion made by John B., seconded by Joey O. all in favor, motion carried....to RESCIND motion made at February 4 item 4c Council meeting which read: "Motion by Gary L., seconded by Maurice C. when foreclosure comes out for 88 Main St. we, (Town of Van Buren) will NOT act on it, as long as "good faith" payments can be made towards the delinquent sewer lien. All in favor, motion carried.
 - d. 3-Phase Electrical Service across Main St. to 66 Main Street: SCRAMBLED DINER needs 3 phase power for their diner expansion/equipment. Easiest/Cheapest way is to run 3-phase power across the Main Street on a separate pole to that building. Motion made by Maurice C., seconded by Joey O. to grant permission to run 3-phase electrical power across Main St. to 66 Main St. All in favor, motion carried
 - e. Quitclaim deed for 109 Champlain Street: Motion made by Maurice C., seconded by John B. to issue Quitclaim deed for 109 Champlain St. (Gary Ouellette). All in favor, motion carried.
 - f. Preliminary Budget 2020-2021: Town Manager went over the status of current budget and preliminary overview for next fiscal budget. Copy will be sent to all Councilors for further review/recommendations taking into consideration the current COVID-19 pandemic for State contribution which has not been determined as of yet. Currently, we are looking ok for next year.
5. Town Manager Report: -Current COVID-19 operational precautions will remain in place for the time being for Town operations/business.
 - Jay Lajoie advises his company will cease making beet powder in the Industrial Park building due to a business decision and lack of revenue. Equipment will be moved out and building will become available .

6. Town Councilors Reports:

Pete M. – nothing to report

Joey O. – asked about update for the demolition of Gagnon's Hardware. Town Manager advising DEP has not received the results of the asbestos/mold tests as of yet. Also, possibility of moving debris to another site is still in the works and should be hearing something this coming week.

Maurice C.- Mike Carbonneau again asking about spring pipe/minor flooding in his backyard. Once again Council agreed that the problem is not on Town property and that he will have to address issue with abutting private land owner.

John B. – nothing to report

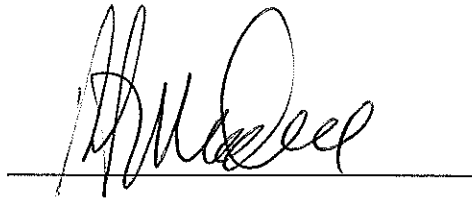
7. Public Comment: Paul Nadeau advising he will be running for the 1 year available seat on the Town Council and had a few questions concerning Ambulance, LED Street lights, Sewer rates and paving.

Steve Dobson advises we might see an increase of folks coming to visit the County for tourism due to the current pandemic situation and folks looking to come to a low risk area. We should take advantage of this if it does occur, Council agreed.

-New resident in town (Abraham) who just purchased house on Main St. chimed in stating he likes the Town thus far. Also, asking for information on how to pay outstanding sewer/property tax bill for property he just purchased.

8. Approve Warrants: Warrants will be signed at Town Office.

9. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned @ 1925 hrs.



Peter J. Madore, Secretary

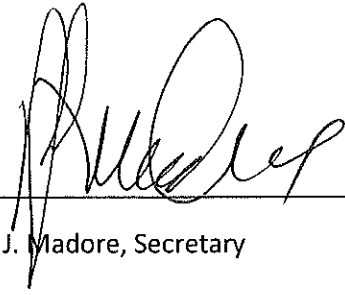
Respectfully submitted,

5-6-2020

Town of Van Buren., ME.

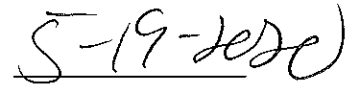
May 19, 2020

1. Chairman called virtual Zoom meeting to order @ 1800. All Councilors present.
2. Accept/Modify Agenda: Joey O. requested an addition to agenda to add 5d. which will include discussing demolition various structures. Motion by John B. seconded by Maurice C. to accept modified agenda. All in favor, motion carried.
3. Accept minutes of 5-9-2020 as written: Motion by Maurice C. seconded by John B. to accept minutes as written. All in favor, motion carried.
4. Old Business:
 - a. 2020 Road Paving Projects: Rick Sirois advises 3 bids were received for 800 tons to resurface part of Alexander Road, Clover Hill Drive and Fulton St. Tromblay's had lowest bid at \$89.65/ton. Motion made by Joey O. seconded by John B. to accept bid from Tromblay's for \$89.65/ton. All in favor, motion carried.
 - b. Gagnon's Hardware Update: Town Manager advises asbestos found from DEP testing in matting of some floor tile. DEP Nick Archer will be contacting us with recommendations and disposal options. May qualify for Brownfields, may be able to get some funding. Joey O. asked if we could have old adjacent furniture store looked into also as roof has collapsed. This will be looked into also.
5. New Business:
 - a. Snow Groomer Loan Agreement: Devin Parent advises after grant the loan balance is \$76,852. Discussed 10 year loan @ 4.75% which would total \$80,500 or \$8,050/year payment for 10 years with no penalties if paid early. Motion by Joey O. seconded by John B. to accept this loan proposal. All in favor, motion carried.
 - b. Tax acquired property Bid for 108 Pine Street: Abraham participating on Zoom meeting advises he is interested in property at 108 Pine St. Concerns from Joey O. about true condition of building (house) and wants him to be sure he can fix it. Council gave him permission to go back and inspect house even if it means cutting holes in walls to inspect. Abraham will go back to inspect and let us know. Other properties in question for possible destruction in town were discussed by Town Manager/Council.
 - c. Government Offices Status: Everything will remain status quo as far as Town operations due to Covid-19 and CDC guidelines until further notice
 - d. Demolition to various structures: Discussed under 5b.
6. Town Manager Report:
 - Budget Review looking ok for the upcoming year
 - FEMA yet to approve RPA, but has sent email
 - Senate working on helping local governments due to pandemic, we will be getting something, formulas being set up for how much.
 - NMDC and EDA monies available, Bob Clark states there is forgivable grant money....looking into possible reuse of old Gateway School.
7. Town Councilors Report: No Councilor has anything to report.
8. Public Comments: None.
9. Approve Warrants: Warrants will be signed at Town Office.
10. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned @ 1922 hrs.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Madore', is written over a horizontal line.

Peter J. Madore, Secretary

Respectfully submitted,

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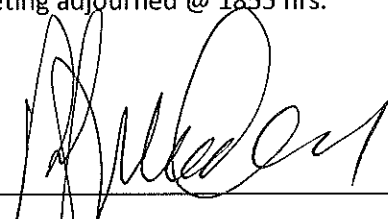
Town of Van Buren., ME.

June 2, 2020

1. Chairman called virtual Zoom meeting to order @ 1800. All Councilors present.
2. Accept/Modify Agenda: Motion made by Maurice C. seconded by John B. to accept the agenda as written. All in favor, motion carried.
3. Accept minutes of 5-19-2020 as written: Motion by Joey O. seconded by John B. to accept minutes as written. All in favor, motion carried.
4. New Business:
 - a. Open Solid Waste Hauling Bids: Received only one bid from R.F. Chamberland for a 3 year contract proposal to haul solid waste from Recycling Facility to Canada disposal site for \$52.50 per ton. Also, will supply 2 trailers to recycling center so we always have a trailer to dump trash in. Motion by Joey O. seconded by John B. to accept RF Chamberland sole bid to haul solid waste. All in favor, motion carried. NOTE: Did NOT receive bid proposal from
 - b. Offer to buy 105 Notre Dame: Town Manager advises receipt of \$12,000 for this property from Abrihim Behfar to purchase this property. Motion made by Joey O. seconded by Pete M. to accept \$12,000 offer with quit claim deed to be issued. All in favor, motion carried. NOTE: 108 Pine St. will be added to list for demolition
 - c. Discuss building improvements at Highway Department Garage: Rick S. explained proposed construction of 12X40 extension to be utilized as breakroom/office/parts room. Staff would basically build structure to save costs. Council agreed to move forward after total quote for project is reviewed. Highway Supervisor will have all information for next meeting.
 - d. 2021 Audit Contract: RHR Smith charging \$9,800 for audit this coming fiscal year. Motion made by Joey O. seconded by Maurice C. to give Town Manager authorization to sign the Audit Contract with RHR Smith. All in favor, motion carried.
 - e. Other: We will have a budget meeting on June 9, 2020 @ 1800 to finalize budget for coming fiscal year.
5. Town Manager Report:
 - CDBG Grant for Sewer Dewatering Project: Town Manager advises good news of grant award from CDBG for \$990,000 towards project.
 - advises grant for SCRAMBLED still in the running for \$90,000 grant to hire 3 full time employees for the next year.
 - Tony Martin has applied for building improvement grant in the amount of \$59,000 for Marion Drive Apartments
 - 88 Main St. (Cedar Room Smokehouse): Town Manager/Ben Zetterman/Police witnessed Chris and Penny Barber removing their personal items to finalize transfer of building back to the Town. All went well.
 - DEP coming to test 8 residential houses for possible asbestos issues (scheduled for demolition). Also, Nick Archer from DEP asking State if we can haul off demolished buildings to another Town owned site, awaiting reply. Nick Hodgkins from DEP also looking into possible Brownsfield funds to help us for demolition costs.
 - June 4th is teacher parade for students due to COVID 19.
 - June 14th is Borderview parade for residents due to COVID 19.

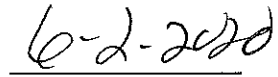
-June 14th is drive by Phil Marquis residence to pay respects due to his death.

6. Town Councilors Report: Pete M. nothing to report, Joey O. nothing to report, Maurice C. nothing to report, John B. asking if we could possibly open Champlain Street Park for the kids. Town Manager advises we are following current CDC guidelines due to COVID 19. The park is posted due to liability issues. Subject to change as time progresses and will not enforce removing anyone who chooses to take it upon themselves to utilize facility.
7. Public Comments: None.
8. Approve Warrants: Warrants will be signed at Town Office.
9. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned @ 1855 hrs.



Peter J. Madore, Secretary

Respectfully submitted,



Town of Van Buren., ME.

June 9, 2020

ZOOM BUDGET MEETING w/ BUDGET COMMITTEE for upcoming 2020-2021 fiscal year

1. Zoom meeting called to order @ 1800. All Councilors present with exception of Joey O. Budget Committee consisted of J. Bresett, B. Gereben and D. Lajoie
2. Reviewed proposed municipal budgets for the following departments:
 - Police – Luke Dyer
 - Ambulance – Ben Zetterman
 - Fire – Brian Caron
 - Highway – Rick Sirois
 - Recycling – Rick Sirois
 - Sewer – Rick Sirois
 - Recreation –
 - Library - Justin Martin
 - General Government – Nancy Troeger

Adjourn: Motion made by John B. seconded by Maurice C. to adjourn meeting @ 1953 hrs. All in favor, motion carried.



Peter J. Madore, Secretary

Respectfully submitted,

6-9-2020

Town of Van Buren., ME.

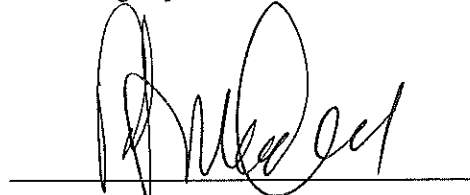
June 16, 2020

1. Chairman called virtual Zoom meeting to order @ 1800. All Councilors present with exception of John B.
2. Accept/Modify Agenda: Motion made by Joey O. seconded by Maurice C. to accept the agenda as written. All in favor, motion carried.
3. Accept minutes of 6-9-2020 (budget meeting) as written: Motion made by Joey O. seconded by Maurice to accept, all in favor. Pete M. asked about minutes of last meeting minutes for 6-2-2020. Council agreed to review those minutes at next meeting, all in favor.
4. New Business:
 - a. Sewer rate increase: It was decided after discussion that we would NOT increase sewer rate of 1.5% for this year even though it was a plan to do so to help offset costs with major upgrade projects for Sewer Dept due to current hardship(s) associated mainly with COVID 19 pandemic. The increase would only generate \$5-6000. Council will revisit any possible increase next year. Motion made by Joey O. seconded by Pete M. NOT to increase the sewer rate by 1.5% for this year. All in favor, motion carried.
 - b. Highway Department Breakroom/Office cost and electrical estimate (Rick Sirois): Rick S. advising he has received one quote for the electrical work for upcoming breakroom project. It was decided to get at least one more electrical quote and come back with total figures for next meeting.
 - c. 2020-2021 Budget: Review of 2020-2021 budget with flowing motions:
 - motion made by Joey O. seconded by Maurice C. to accept 2020-2021 General Government budget as proposed. All in favor, motion carried.
 - motion made by Joey O. seconded by Maurice C. to accept 2020-2021 Police Department budget as proposed. All in favor, motion carried.
 - motion made by Joey O. seconded by Maurice C. to accept 2020-2021 Fire Department budget as proposed. All in favor, Pete M. abstained. Motion carried to include change to Fire Dept. CIP total request for 2020-2021 which was reduced to \$28,500 total this year.
 - motion made by Joey O. seconded by Maurice C. to accept 2020-2021 Highway Department budget as proposed. All in favor, motion carried.
 - motion made by Joey O. seconded by Maurice C. to accept 2020-2021 Recycling Department budget as proposed. All in favor, motion carried. NOTE: RF Chamberland has backed out of contract award to haul trash to Canada as per vote in 6-2-2020 minutes. Deschaine Sanitation has agreed to continue service for \$49.50/ton.
 - motion made by Joey O. seconded by Maurice C. to accept 2020-2021 Library budget as proposed. All in favor, motion carried.
 - motion made by Joey O. seconded by Maurice C. to accept 2020-2021 Economic Development budget as proposed. All in favor, motion carried.
 - motion made by Joey O. seconded by Maurice C. to accept 2020-2021 Miscellaneous Account budget to include adding a line for demolition for \$4000 which makes a total of \$303,085. All in favor, motion carried.
 - motion made by Joey O. seconded by Maurice C, to accept Wastewater budget as proposed. All in favor, motion carried.

-motion made by Joey O. seconded by Maurice C. to accept Ambulance Department budget as proposed. All in favor, motion carried.

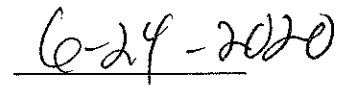
-WARRANT ARTICLES will be reviewed next week (date to be later determined).

- d. Adult Use Marijuana Opt In/Opt Out discussion: Town Manager advising we have an interested party of maybe establishing a business of this type in town. After discussion, it was agreed to have more discussion at a later date and no official vote was taken.
- e. Town Meeting Update/MMA Checklist: Looking to have annual meeting at School with adhering to current CDC policy for COVID 19. More to follow as the July 15 meeting date approaches.
5. Town Manager Report:
 - DEP has visited all the probable demolition sites in town and each one of them may have some sort of asbestos issues. We will most probably need to mitigate this with outside help for proper testing.
 - Presently in South Dakota for funeral, advising will need to quarantine for 14 days upon return and may get COVID test done.
6. Town Councilors Report: Pete M. nothing to report, Maurice C. nothing to report, Joey O. asking about Van Buren Cove (Long Lake) Beach cleanup. Town Manager advising we have no legal right to longer be there and it belongs to County. Irving was supposed to take care of, she will reach out to County Commissioner to see if we can partner up to get this done for the sake of the safety of public.
7. Public Comments: Paul Nadeau: asked about Ambulance write offs, made a suggestion for annual Town Meeting and thanked Ben Zetterman and present Council for hard work this year and budget is looking good for upcoming year.
8. Approve Warrants: Warrants signed at Town Office today before meeting.
9. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned @ 1938 hrs.



Peter J. Madore, Secretary

Respectfully submitted,



Town of Van Buren., ME.

June 24, 2020

ZOOM BUDGET MEETING w/ BUDGET COMMITTEE for upcoming 2020-2021 fiscal year

1. Zoom meeting called to order @ 1802 by Chairman. All Councilors present. Town Manager present.
2. Reviewed proposed revenues for fiscal year 2020-2021.
3. Reviewed Articles 5-17: Motion made by Joey O. seconded by John B. to accept appropriation figures as presented. All in favor, motion carried.
4. Reviewed Articles 18-27: Motion made by Joey O. seconded by John B to accept all answers as YES to these recommendations. All in favor, motion carried.
5. Reviewed individual Articles as follows:
 - Article 28: Motion made by Joey O. seconded by John B. to amend this article from \$10,000 to \$12,000 for the purpose of adding a breakroom/office addition to the Highway Department Building with a YES vote. All in favor, motion carried.
 - Article 29: Motion made by Joey O. seconded by Maurice C. to accept as written as a YES vote. John B. voted yes, Pete M. abstained.
 - Article 30: Motion made by Joey O. seconded by Maurice C, to accept as written as a YES vote. John B. voted yes, Pete M. abstained.
 - Article 31: Motion made by Joey O. seconded by Maurice C. to accept as written as a YES vote. All in favor, motion carried.
 - Article 32: Motion made by Joey O. seconded by Maurice C. to accept as written as a YES vote. All in favor, motion carried.
 - Article 33: Motion made by made by Joey O. seconded by Maurice C. to accept as written as a NO vote. All in favor, motion carried.

-Luke Dyer addressed Council advising Red Cross awards will be televised on WAGM tomorrow @ 7 p.m. to honor Bruce Smith who was the gentlemen that helped Chief Bresett in Jan of 2019 after he was hit by vehicle at an accident and brought to hospital by Mr. Smith also.

Adjourn: Motion made by Pete M. seconded by Joey O. to adjourn meeting @ 1840 hrs. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter J. Madore, Secretary

Town of Van Buren., ME.

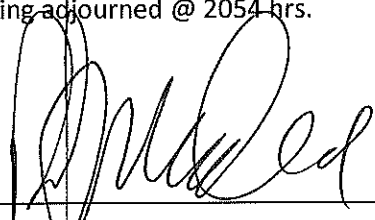
July 7, 2020

1. Meeting called to order by Chairman Joey O. at 1939. All Councilors present.
2. Accept/Modify Agenda: Going to move 5d. as first item under new business (Cedar Smokehouse- Penny and Chris) as they have been waiting 1.5 hours due to long assessors meeting. All in favor, motion carried.
3. Accept minutes of 6-2-2020 and 6-24-2020 (budget meeting) as written: Motion made by Joey O. seconded by Pete M. to accept, all in favor.
4. Old Business:
 - a. Ratify Warrant Articles: \$75,000 CIP was omitted in General Govt. figures by mistake for Town Report warrant article and has been corrected. Also, Article 31 was updated for sewer pump improvement/replacement project. Motion made by Joey O. seconded by John B. to ratify latest warrant articles as printed with updates for Annual Town Meeting. All in favor, motion carried.
5. New Business:
 - d. Revolving Loan (Penny Sullivan and Chris Barber) Cedar Room Smokehouse in Executive Session M.R.S.A. 405 (6) (C): Motion made by Joey O. seconded by John B. to enter executive session at 2000, all in favor, motion carried.

-Motion made Joey O. seconded by John B. to exit executive session at 2022, all in favor, motion carried.

-Motion made by John B. seconded by Maurice C. to revisit with Penny and Chris for the full repayment of the \$8,500 (plus interest) owed back to the Town by Cedar Room Smokehouse (Penny Sullivan and Chris Barber) after the 10 monthly payments of \$316.99 has been received for the EQUIPMENT portion of the loan. All in favor, motion carried.
 - a. Accept Cyr Plantation Ambulance Contract for 2020-2021: Motion made by Joey O. seconded by John B. to accept contract for 1 year for \$2220. All in favor, motion carried.
 - b. Discuss/Approve fireworks for August 8, 2020: Motion made by Joey O. seconded by John B. to have fireworks at old Gateway School and spend the total line item amount of \$4000 for fireworks. All in favor, motion carried.
 - c. Fuel Oil Contract-put out for bids: Council agreed to have Town Manager go out for bids again this year. All in favor.
 - d. CEO discussion of properties: Tony M. had letters ready for mailing for various properties that have trash and junk build up and are in violation of various codes and ordinances. Discussed properties in question with council.

6. Town Manager Report:
 - Elections/Town Meeting (July 14 and July 15 respectively)
 - Grant Implementation Training on ZOOM July 9th from 0900-1500. Town Manager will be partaking in this training.
 - MDOT work on Castonguay from July 13-15 for culvert and bridge upgrade (road will be closed).
7. Town Councilor Reports: Nothing to report from any Councilor.
8. Public Comment: None.
9. Approve Warrants: Warrants signed.
10. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned @ 2054 hrs.



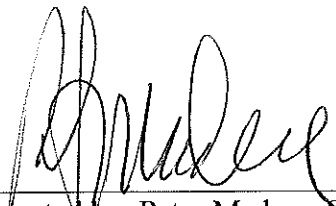
Peter J. Madore, Secretary

Respectfully submitted,

7-7-2020

Organizational Town Council Meeting
July 15, 2020

1. Call meeting to order/ attendance – Four councilors present (Joey Ouellette, Peter Madore, Paul Nadeau, Maurice Corbin) along with town clerk
2. Motion to nominate chairperson
Motion by: Peter Madore to elect Joey Ouellette
2nd by: Maurice Corbin
Motion carried
3. Motion to nominate secretary
Motion by: Maurice Corbin to elect Peter Madore
2nd by: Paul Nadeau
Motion carried
4. Meeting and time discussion
First and Third Tuesday of each month at 6 pm
5. To appoint Town Clerk for a 3-year term
Motion by Paul Nadeau to appoint Jessica Cyr as Town Clerk
2nd by: Maurice Corbin
Motion carried
6. Motion to adjourn 7:31pm
Motion by: Paul Nadeau
Second by: Peter Madore
Motion Carried


Accepted by: Peter Madore, Secretary

Town of Van Buren
Regular Council Meeting
August 4, 2020

5. Call meeting to order –attendance.

Meeting called to order at 7:16 p.m. Councilors present: Joey Ouellette, Chair, Maurice Corbin, Paul Nadeau.

Absent: Peter Madore, John Beaulieu. Town Manager Nancy Troeger Present.

6. Accept Modify agenda:

Motion by Joey Ouellette, seconded by Maurice Corbin to appoint Paul Nadeau –secretary pro temp.

Motion carried.

Motion by Paul Nadeau, seconded by Maurice Corbin to add subsection 1-2 to item 8d, Keegan Sewer repair.

1. Monitor on going sewer issue under a garage property in Keegan.
2. Electrical work at the Van Buren Town Garage addition.

7. Adopt minutes of council meetings for July 7, 2020 and July 15, 2020

Motion by Joey Ouellette, seconded by Maurice Corbin to adopt council meeting minutes of July 7, 2020.

Motion carried.

Motion by Paul Nadeau, seconded by Joey Ouellette to adopt annual organizational meeting minutes of July15, 2020.

Motion carried.

8. New Business.

A. Sign Phase II documents for both CDBG Grants.

Motion by Paul Nadeau, seconded by Joey Ouellette to sign all Phase II documents for the CDBG Grants

Motion Carried.

B. Fuel Bid opening.

Motion by Paul Nadeau, seconded by Joey Ouellette to award Fuel Oil bid to Van Buren Tulsa.

Motion Carried.

C. Rick Laplante- Sewer Extension Request.

Motion by Paul Nadeau, seconded by Joey Ouellette to table this request to the council meeting of August 18, 2020.
More research and information needed to reply to this request.

Motion carried.

D. Keegan sewer repair

Town of Van Buren., ME.

August 18, 2020

1. Meeting called to order by Chairman Joey O. at 1805. All Councilors present.
2. Accept/Modify Agenda: Motion by Paul N. seconded by John B. to accept agenda as written All in favor, motion carried.
3. Accept minutes 8-4-2020 as written by pro temp secretary P. Nadeau: Motion made by Paul N. seconded by Maurice C., all in favor.
4. Tabled Business: Rick LaPlante Sewer Extension: Paul N. asking Chairman Joey O. to remove himself from discussion due to conflict of interest. Chairman Joey O. advised he would stand back and abstain from voting on any issue pertaining to this subject. Paul N. advised that according to the Town of Van Buren Wastewater Ordinance under section V (Sewer Extensions) subsection 2. In this instance the developer of the project would have to incur all costs and that the Town was not liable for any costs. It is noted at this time that Rick LaPlante stood up with crumpled rolled papers, walked up to the table in front of Councilman Paul Nadeau pointed the papers at Councilman Nadeau's face and stated "this is not the end, you have no idea what's coming your way for you and your friend, you will fucking regret this and you are not done with me!" Afterwards, Mr. LaPlante started to angrily walk out of the meeting and Councilman Nadeau asked "what friend are you talking about?" Mr. LaPlante turned around as he was walking out and stated "you know who and go fuck yourself." Mr. LaPlante continued to his vehicle and drove away as nothing else was said. Afterwards, a motion was made by Paul N. seconded by John B. to deny sewer extension request as written. 3 in favor, 1 opposed and 1 abstained. Motion carries.
5. Old Business:
 - a. Updates on Gagnon's Hardware-DEP rules, estimate costs of testing and abatement:
 - Town Manager advising DEP will not allow us to move and bury at another location but, can be buried on current property. Much discussion ensued as to possible remedies to finalize this project. It was decided to take care of abatement and at least totally knock down structure before winter and bury and cover rubble next spring if not sooner. Town Manager will report cost of abatement procedure and send out bid(s) for demolition.
 - b. Update/Status of other tax acquired properties:
 - Reviewed current list from Town Manager of properties that have been tax acquired and possible actions for each.
6. New Business:
 - a. Wayne Marquis-Executive Session 1 M.R.S.A. 405 (6)(C)-Economic Development
 - Motion made by Joey O. seconded by John B. to enter executive session at 1901 hours. All in favor, motion carried.
 - Motion made Joey O. seconded by John B. to exit executive session at 1925 hours. All in favor, motion carried.

b. Gateway School Discussion (Date, Place, COVID 19 restrictions): Decision made to have informational public gathering at prior vegetable processing plant in industrial zone on September 9, 2020 at 1800 hours.

c. Open Boiler Bid: Received ONE bid from Adams Heating for \$55/hour weekdays, \$75/hour for nights and weekends and 20% above cost on parts.

-Motion made by Paul N. seconded by Joey O. to accept Boiler bid from Adams Heating. All in favor, motion carried.

d. NEW GRANTS:

1. Keep Maine Healthy 2020 Municipal COVID-19 Awareness (State of Maine): Received \$29,937.00 to be used for Public digital information sign and various cleaning supplies and PPE

2. Americorps Planning Grant (Federal) for Van Buren Resiliency Project: Received \$41,145 for the Van Buren Resiliency Project to help children and other people in our community.

7. Town Manager Report:

a. CBDG awards that need to be approved/disapproved by Council:

1. 2020 Sludge/Dewatering Grant for \$990,000

-Motion made by Paul N. seconded by John B. to accept this grant award. All in favor, motion carried

2. Economic Development Grant for SCRAMBLED DINER for \$90,000 matching (50/50) for building improvements/operational expenses. Concerns were raised from Public attendees, Town Manager explained grant and audit process to various questions. Motion made by Paul N. seconded by Pete M. to accept this grant award. 4 in favor, 1 opposed.

b. Donated Ambulance:

-Ambulance donated from Ambulance Corps in Connecticut is in Waldo, ME. and will be here soon. Ambulance comes fully loaded with equipment and supplies.

8. Town Councilor Report:

- Maurice C. nothing to report

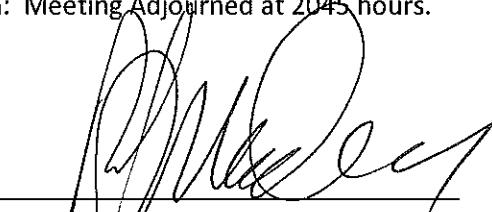
- Joey O. Asking if Animal shelter building is still operational. Town Manager advising yes and is still certified. Building needs TLC and will be looked into. Also asked CEO Martin on status of letters sent out to individuals to clean up properties. Letter have been received and problem areas are beginning to get cleaned up.

-Pete M. nothing to report

-John B. passing along issue for Recycling Center that on Friday and Saturday, trailer fills fast and have to dump trash on floor. Town Manager stated this is a reoccurring problem and contractor is supposed to have trash dumped, will be looked into again.

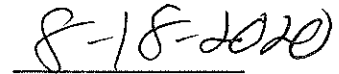
Paul N. wants to NOTE FOR RECORD that he felt he was threatened this evening previously by Rick LaPlante for item 5 a. on the agenda in front of witnesses to include the Councilors, Town Manager, CEO, Highway/Sewer Manager and Public attendees.

9. Public Comment: Tony Vaillancourt asking why Eddie Saucier was doing cleaning duties at the Town Office when Nicholas Cormier is on unemployment. Town Manager advising this is a personal issue and does not need to discuss these types of issues with the public due to confidentiality.
10. Sign Warrants: Councilors signed warrants and pertinent paper work.
11. Adjourn: Meeting Adjourned at 2045 hours.



Peter J. Madore, Secretary

Respectfully submitted,



8-18-2020

Town of Van Buren., ME.

September 1, 2020

1. Meeting called to order by Chairman Joey O. at 1800. All Councilors present.
2. Accept/Modify Agenda: Motion by Paul N. seconded by John B. to accept agenda as written All in favor, motion carried.
3. Accept minutes 8-18-2020 as written: Motion made by Maurice C. seconded by John B., all in favor.
4. New Business:
 - a. Review and discuss asbestos sampling and testing requirements for Gagnon's Hardware complex (3 buildings):

Town Manager advises asbestos engineer was on site for all 3 buildings looking at structures. Estimates were given for sampling either to be hauled off site which was \$2,470.25 (limited testing required) and to be buried on site which would require more extensive testing at a cost of \$7,344.80. Expensive to haul all rubble to landfill vs. burying it on site.

- Motion made by Joey O. seconded by Paul N. to have full survey performed at the cost of \$7,344.80. All in favor, motion carried.

-Motion made by Paul N. seconded by John B. to Use the revolving loan fund to pay for survey cost for the amount of \$7,344.80. All in favor, motion carried.

NOTE: As soon as we receive the final cost and approval for the abatement cost. A special Town Meeting will be called (if needed before regular scheduled meeting) to go out for demolition bids.
 - b. Discuss current status of Town sludge fields and future use or sale of these fields.

-licensing rules and DEP regulations and legal requirements and recommendations:

Wastewater Manager (Rick S.) advising we may be spreading sludge until 2022 as dewatering /dry bed system project is proceeding. The Wastewater/Town does own the property and can sell it when deemed necessary. However, due to chemical infiltration issues such as PFAS/PFOS and others, Town has to be careful in selling due to possible liability issues. Currently working with DEP on this issue which is ongoing. We will hold on to this property for the time being as we may not be able to get relicensed for sludge spreading at another site. Town will keep all interested parties for this land informed as things change.
5. Town Manager Report:
 1. Advising Dead River is receptive into the Town acquiring their building/land for possible new construction of Fire Station if the Town proceeds into building/remodeling current complex for new Municipal Complex. Either provide them an office space somewhere in new complex or buy outright....asking \$90,000. Agreed upon by councilors to table subject and have this topic put on the next agenda.
 2. Paving update: Paving will be performed in 2 weeks.
 3. Advertising for Gateway School meeting for Sept. 9th at Vegetable Processing Plant.

6. Town Councilor Report:
 - Maurice C: Asking to change out cemetery flag as it is in poor shape
 - Joey O. nothing to report
 - Pete M. nothing to report
 - John B. nothing to report
 - Paul N. nothing to report
7. Public Comment:
8. Sign Warrants: Councilors signed warrants and pertinent paper work.
9. Adjourn: Meeting Adjourned at 1945 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter J. Madore, Secretary

Town of Van Buren., ME.

September 15, 2020

1. Meeting called to order by Chairman Joey O. at 1800. All Councilors present except for John B.
2. Accept/Modify Agenda: Motion by Paul N. seconded by Pete M. to modify agenda as written to move the Public Comments section (item 7) to right after 4d. All in favor, motion carried.
3. Accept minutes 9-1-2020 as written: Motion made by Paul N. seconded by Maurice C. All in favor.
4. New Business:
 - a. Caribou VFW-Present Appreciation awards to Van Buren Police and Fire Departments:
-VFW Commander and Dan Bruno and Nelson Grivois presented these awards. Police Department represented by Officer Chandler Madore and Fire Department was represented by Derek Grivois and Pete Madore.
 - b. Wastewater Abatements:
 1. Acct. 539 for \$591.66-change in status from 3 to 1 residential, 118 Tyler St. Motion made by Paul N. seconded by Maurice C. to abate. All in favor.
 2. Acct. 504 for \$295.83-no sewer hook up installed yet, 106 Regan Dr. Motion made by Paul N. seconded by Maurice C. to abate. All in favor.
 3. Acct. 571 for \$246.50-sewer capped 9/11/2020 State St. (Peter Morrow). Motion made by Paul N. seconded by Maurice C. to abate. All in favor.
 - c. Maine Forest Service requests support from Van Buren Town Council on clean up of railroad ties pile in upper Keegan:
-Maine Forest Service is looking to enforce and mitigate massive railroad tie pile in upper Keegan that was placed there by former Van Buren Resident Guildo Rioux. These ties are from Washington County and were originally slated to be ground up and sold to Edmunston, New Brunswick Bio Mass Plant. Size of piled up ties is cause for concern due to Fire and DEP hazard also close proximity to St. John River. Ties are creosote based which is a toxic substance. MFS looking for Town support in case of court action. Town Council agrees with input from citizens in audience that this site needs to be cleaned up and will support State in moving forward. Town Manager will contact MFS.
 - d. Dead River Property-Discuss purchase options:
-After discussion and possible buying options to acquire this property to possibly construct new Fire Station in conjunction with updating Municipal Complex, it was Council's consensus to meet with representatives from Dead River. Town Manager will contact and try to set up a meeting.
 - e. Discuss confidential records-Executive Session M.S.R.A. 405(6)(f):
-Motion made by Paul N. seconded by Pete M. to enter into executive session at 1845. All in favor.

-Motion made by Paul N. seconded by Joey O. to exit executive session at 1900. All in favor

-Motion made by Paul N. seconded by Maurice C. to send 30 day demand letter to Chris and Penny Barber D/B/A Cedar Room Smokehouse. All in favor.

5. Town Manager Report:

1. Update on building demo of Gagnon Hardware Bldg. complex: Still waiting on abatement results, as soon as it comes in Council will meet. Council ok'd sending out bid to contractor(s) for demolition, push back and bury debris on site. Bid package will go out ASAP.

6. Town Councilor Report:

- Maurice C: going to South Carolina until November
- Joey O. nothing to report
- Pete M. nothing to report
- John B. nothing to report
- Paul N. nothing to report

7. Public Comment:

8. Sign Warrants: Councilors signed warrants and pertinent paper work.

9. Adjourn: Meeting Adjourned at 1936 hours.

Respectfully submitted,



Peter J. Madore, Secretary



Town of Van Buren., ME.

Council Meeting Minutes

Special Meeting-September 30, 2020

-Secretary called meeting to order @ 1753 hours at Community Center, Pete M., John B., and Paul N. present. Joey O. and Maurice C. not present.

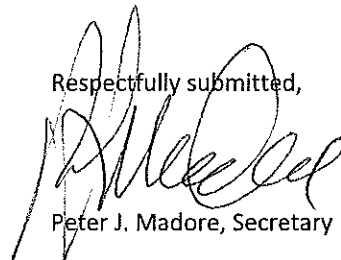
1. Town Manager Update for Gagnon's Hardware Building Complex: Asbestos testing results were handed out and Town Manager met again with Clinton from County Abatement for what needs to be removed. Also, cost quote for project from County Abatement is \$22,000 to \$26,000 for removal for the 3 buildings slated for demolition and \$700 a day if they have to be on scene during demolition. They can start abatement as soon as Monday October 3rd and total time needed for completion of abatement is 2-3 weeks. NOTE: Funds for project demolition is coming from revolving loan and NOT taxpayer funds.

-Motion made by Paul N. seconded by John B. to move forward with asbestos abatement process, not to exceed high end of quote of \$26,000 utilizing revolving loan funds. All in favor, motion carried.

2. Adjourn

-Motion made by Paul N. seconded by John B. to adjourn meeting. All in favor, meeting adjourned at 1818 hrs.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter J. Madore", is written over the typed name.

Peter J. Madore, Secretary

10-1-2020

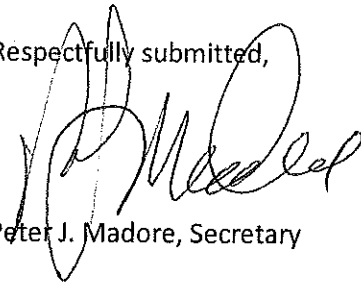
Town of Van Buren., ME.

Assessors Meeting Minutes

October 6, 2020

1. Call meeting to order @ 1800 by Chairman Joey O. at 1825 hours. All Councilors present except for Maurice C.
2. Accept/Modify Agenda: Motion made by Paul N. seconded by John B. to accept agenda as written. All in favor.
3. Adopt Minutes – (July 7-adopted). Minutes already adopted at previous meeting.
4. New Business:
 - a. Real Estate Abatement – Account #RE536: Motion made by Paul N. seconded by John B. to accept abatement of Account #RE536 located at 642 Main St. for the amount of \$11.12. All in favor, motion carried.
 - b. Real Estate Abatement- Account #RE1331: Motion made by Paul N. seconded by Pete M. to accept abatement of Account #1331 located on Settlement Road in the amount of \$264.77. All in favor, motion carried.
 - c. Real Estate Abatement -Account # RE1376: Motion made John B. seconded by Paul N. to accept abatement of Account #RE1376 in the amount of \$338.20. All in favor, motion carried.
 - d. Real Estate Abatement-Account RE143: Motion made by Paul N. seconded by John B. to accept abatement of Account #RE143 located at 119 Maple Ave in the amount of \$246.97. All in favor, motion carried.
 - e. Re eval Questions/Concerns Comments: Tony. M advises the post re-evaluation process went relatively smoothly with few complaints and we are moving forward. Council thanked Tony for the push to get this done.
5. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 1845 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

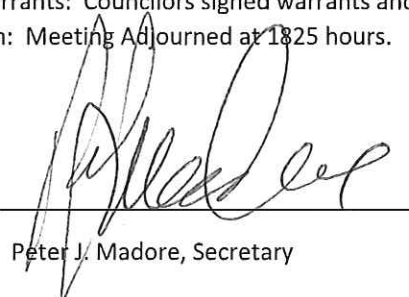

Peter J. Madore, Secretary

10-7-2020

Town of Van Buren., ME.

October 6, 2020

1. Meeting called to order by Chairman Joey O. at 1801. All Councilors present except for Maurice C.
2. Accept/Modify Agenda: Motion by Paul N. seconded by John B, to modify agenda as written to change 4 a. as written from "Knights of Columbus" to "American Legion Post 49" Bottle Club Registration. All in favor, motion carried.
3. Accept minutes 9-15-2020 as written: Motion made by Paul N. seconded by John B. All in favor.
4. New Business:
 - a. American Legion Post 49 Bottle Club Registration: Motion made by Paul N. seconded by John B. to accept. All in favor, motion carried.
5. Town Manager Report:
 1. Update on building demo of Gagnon Hardware Bldg. complex: Abatement will begin on Monday, October 12th by County Abatement.
 2. COVID 19 Awareness Grant Update: Condon signs beginning this Friday to install digital sign at Town Office. Facebook informational COVID 19 page being set up and informational flyers for businesses being created
 3. Highway Department received a 2/3 - 1/3 matching Safety Grant from the Ed McDonald Foundation (State of Maine) for safety equipment in the amount of \$2400.... \$1600 paid by State, \$800 paid by Town.
6. Town Councilor Report:
 - Joey O. nothing to report
 - Pete M. Asked about update from Town Manager for Dead River talks. Trying to get representative at our next meeting.
 - John B. decorating Town for Halloween and Christmas again 🍷
 - Paul N. nothing to report
7. Public Comment: Dayton Grandmason asking about Gagnon's Hardware and if we were tearing it down. Answer was "yes" along with Dufour Furniture Bldg. and old Gray House behind.
8. Sign Warrants: Councilors signed warrants and pertinent paper work.
9. Adjourn: Meeting Adjourned at 1825 hours.


Peter J. Madore, Secretary

Respectfully submitted,


10-7-2020

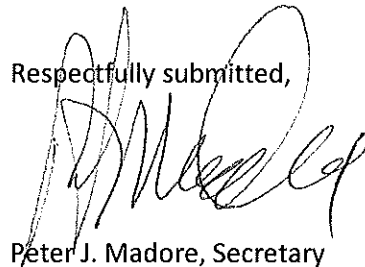
Town of Van Buren., ME.

Assessors Meeting Minutes

October 20, 2020

1. Call meeting to order @ 1800 by Chairman Joey O. at 1800 hours. All Councilors present except for Maurice C.
2. Accept/Modify Agenda: Motion made by Paul N. seconded by John B. to accept agenda as written. All in favor.
3. Adopt Minutes from October 6, 2020: Motion made by Paul N. seconded by John B. to adopt minutes. All in favor, motion carried.
4. New Business:
 - a. Real Estate Abatement – Account #RE395: (Glen Madore-126 Tyler Street): Glen Madore voicing his discontent with reevaluation of taxes on his residence. States his taxes doubled and had correspondence to show evaluation increased approx. \$44,000 with a tax increase of \$700. Tax Assessor explained his situation and evaluation reflects true market value and that his property had been under valued for years and also there were many improvements performed. Explained his right to appeal any decision made by Council. Chairman Joey O. requested this issue be tabled until next meeting to be held on Nov 4, 2020 so a better idea of situation can be reviewed to make proper decision. Item tabled until November 4, 2020 Assessors Meeting.
5. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 1835 hours.

Respectfully submitted,



Peter J. Madore, Secretary

10-21-2020

Town of Van Buren., ME.

Council Meeting Minutes

October 20, 2020

1. Open Hearing on Annual General Assistance Ordinance Adoption: 1835 hours- Town Manager advising public with minor changes on this program. No comments from public.
2. Closed public hearing at 1837 hours
3. Council Meeting called to order by Chairman Joey O. at 1837. All Councilors present except for Maurice C.
4. Accept/Modify Agenda: Motion by Joey O. seconded by Paul N. to accept agenda as written. All in favor, motion carried.
5. Accept minutes of October 6, 2020 and Special Council Meeting held on September 30, 2020 as written: Motion made by Paul N. seconded by Joey O. to accept minutes of October 6, 2020. All in favor, motion carried. Motion made by Paul N. seconded by John B. to accept minutes of September 30, 2020. All in favor, motion carried.
6. New Business:
 - a. Discuss the purchase of Dead River property (with Ryan Rogers) for the purpose of building new Town Office and Safety Complex in near future: Ryan Rogers advising Dead River would sell property for \$90,000. They are staying in Van Buren but are no longer looking to own any buildings if/when they sell. They just want to rent an office space somewhere in VB to conduct business. They would rent from us if we purchased while new complex is being renovated/built at current location until demolition.
 - b. Discuss the status/future of the Town's position and/or ordinance on commercial cannabis growing (requested by Gary Vaillancourt): Discussion between Council, Gary Vaillancourt and Brad Lajoie (who is also interested in opening commercial marijuana grow facility in VB): Council agreed it should be put to a vote of the people(referendum) whether or not to "opt in" to allow any type of a marijuana entity to be established in Van Buren. Council would deem decision based on public approval/denial. Also, if approved, various ordinances would have to be created, approved and adhered to afterwards. Motion made by Paul N. seconded by Joey O. to hold Town Public Meeting to allow citizens to vote on whether or not to allow any commercial marijuana establishments in Van Buren. Public Meeting to be held on November 12, 2020. All in favor, motion carried. (Town Manager will also contact MMA for guidance on this subject).
 - c. Sewer Pipe repair in Keegan-proposals-Rick Sirois: Received 3 various quotes for repair of this broken pipe from Ed Pelletier and Sons, option 1 for \$24,885, option 2 for \$8,925 and option 3 for \$11, 895. Rick Sirois advising option 2 would be best course of action for pipe bursting of 150 feet of 8 inch main sewer pipe and we do NOT have to move and or demolish garage that sits on top of pipe. Motion made by Paul N. seconded by John B. to move forward with option 2 of the proposal in the amount of \$8,925.00. All in favor, motion carried.
 - d. Adopt General Assistance Ordinance for 2020-2021. Motion made by Paul N. seconded by Joey O. to adopt this ordinance for 2020-2021. All in favor motion carried.

- e. Legal Opinion from Town Lawyer, John Hamer, on current complaints-status of and recommendations-executive session required. Motion made by Joey O. seconded by Pete M. to enter executive session under 1 M.R.S.A 405 (6) (A) at 2020. All in favor, motion carried. Motion made by Joey O. seconded by Pete M. to exit executive session at 2035. All in favor, motion carried. Motion made by Paul N. seconded by Joey O. to authorize Town Manager to move forward with settlement option for pending litigation as discussed in executive session. All in favor, motion carried.

7. Town Manager Report:

1. Update on building demo of Gagnon Hardware Bldg. complex:
Abatement process is moving forward and should be completed soon.
Rick Sirois to mark where sewer line crosses property in back of this complex property before digging begins for demo.
2. COVID 19 public awareness sign up and running at Town Office.
3. SCRAMBLED Diner update: remodeling to begin soon on building.
4. Pavement Update (Rick Sirois) -almost complete.

8. Town Councilor Report:

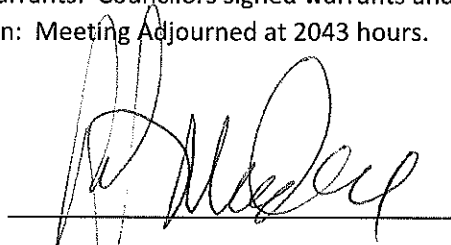
- Joey O. update on Gagnon's Hardware abatement
- Pete M. states we all need to be on same page with proposal of new/improved municipal complex and let engineering firm advise us on best course of action for Town Office part of complex as to whether or not we can remodel vs. rebuild
- John B. asking if we could install pole near states street for banners. One side of street is personal property and Town Manager will see if feasible.
- Paul N. thanking Highway Crew for their hard work with various projects lately and also Town Office staff for their work and dedication during these tough times.

9. Public Comment: Sam Fuller advising he wants to purchase the 3 worst properties in Town to demolish and bury, wants the land afterwards for investment purposes. Offered \$800 for the 3 properties located at 113 St. Francis, 108 Pine and 137 High Streets which are all abandoned and in extreme poor condition. Also, the Town is not collecting any taxes on these properties. Decided to add this as an agenda item for next meeting (Nov 4) for proper voting by Council.

10. Sign Warrants: Councilors signed warrants and pertinent paper work.

11. Adjourn: Meeting Adjourned at 2043 hours.

Respectfully submitted,



Peter J. Madore, Secretary

10-21-2020

Town of Van Buren., ME.

Assessors/Council Meeting Minutes

November 4, 2020

1. Call meeting to order @ 1800 by Secretary Pete M. at 1800 hours. All Councilors present except for Joey O. (Maurice C. was attending by ZOOM due to self-quarantine). Tony M. and Nancy T. also present. Motion made by Pete M. seconded by Maurice C. to elect Paul N. as pro temp Chairman for this evening, all in favor, motion carried.

2. Old Business: Tax Abatement Request-Glen Madore: This was a tabled issue from previous meeting (October 20, 2020). Mr. Glen Madore present and asking if decision has been rendered by Assessors. Tony M. advising no change on his behalf and ascertains the new tax assessment is fair and justified. Discussion followed between Mr. Madore and Board of Assessors and ultimately resulting in a unanimous decision by Board that new assessment was justified.

Motion made by Pete M. seconded by John B. to deny the abatement request by Mr. Glen Madore requesting a \$33,000 decrease from new assessment value of \$99,000 for map lot # 18-124, account #395 located at 126 Tyler St., Van Buren, ME. All in favor, motion carried.

Board did advise Mr. Madore of the appeal process through the County Commissioners. Mr. Madore advised he would be in tomorrow morning to pick up the necessary paperwork.

3. Adjourn Assessors Meeting: Meeting adjourned at 1814 hours.

4. Open Council Meeting: Pro Temp Chairman Paul N. called meeting to order at 1815 hours.

5. Accept/Modify Agenda: Motion made by John B. seconded by Pete M. to accept agenda as written. All in favor, motion carried.

6. Accept Minutes of Assessors and Council Meetings on October 20, 2020:

-Motion made by John. B seconded by Pete M. to accept the minutes of the Assessors meeting of October 20, 2020. All in favor, motion carried.

-Motion made by John B. seconded by Pete M. to accept the minutes of Council Meeting of October 20, 2020. All in favor, motion carried.

7. Old Business:

a. Updates on opting in and writing an Ordinance on Adult Use and Medical Marijuana Business: Paul N. gave informative briefing and handouts from ZOOM Meeting he attended with MMA. Discussion and questions back and forth with interested parties in audience. Interested party/parties will pass around petition for signatures in Van Buren as a beginning step towards this process. Council asked interested parties to make sure they have all their required information through the State in order if and when this goes forward so process can transition smoothly at all levels.

b. Gagnon's Hardware abatement and demolition schedule/issues: Town Manager advises abatement process has gone as far as possible at this time. When demolition begins, roofing off a

false roof will have to be removed as building is being demolished by contractor. Also, sewer line had been marked by Sewer Department and items such as fluorescent lights and salvageable item will be removed by Highway crew and Town Manager next week. Pete M. advises 2 local possible contractors were contacted (Ayotte Farms and Rioux Logging). Ayotte Farms say they cannot do the demo at this time and Rioux Logging states they can do the demolition and Gabriel Rioux will meet with Town Manager next week for contract possible agreement and specifics.

8. New Business

a. Review 1st Quarter expenses: Town Manager reviewed handouts with Council for 1st Quarter expenses.

9. Town Manager Updates: Working on finalizing multiple grants, set up date with Council for Special Town Meeting on November 9, 2020 at 1800 via ZOOM to discuss Police Department issue.

10. Town Council Update: Maurice: Nothing to advise

John: Requesting a sign to fill in space under new COVID sign, Town Manager advising Pete Ashley might make us one and its being looked into....good idea! Also, requesting a business list from Nancy for windows on Main St. to be decorated by that committee, she will get. Asked Tony M. about the code enforcement letters and happenings, Tony advises its ongoing and has gotten better.

Pete: We will be putting up Christmas lights on street Poles, Town Christmas Tree and Farmers market again this year this coming week.

Paul: BIG THANKS to the TOWN OFFICE girls/crew for OUTSTANDING JOB at the voting polls yesterday. JOB WELL DONE! Many compliments!!

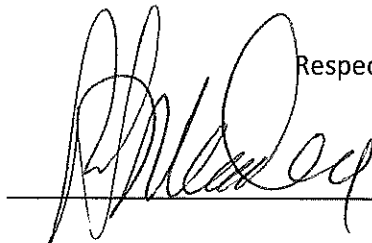
11. Public Comment: Ben Zetterman and Angela Fuller asking about sale of 3 tax acquired and dilapidated properties (113 St. Francis, 108 Pine and 137 High Streets) as was discussed in previous meeting dated October 20, 2020. Motion request by Pro Temp Chairman Paul N. for \$300 for all three properties. Motion made by Pete M. seconded by John B. to sell these 3 properties for \$300 to Ben Zetterman, Sam and Angela Fuller. All in favor, motion passed. They will meet with Town Manager for specific conditions/sale agreement/quick claim deed.

12. Sign Warrants: Council signed one warrant, Secretary signed previous minutes.

13. Adjourn: Motion made by John B. seconded by Maurice C. to adjourn meeting at 1938. All in favor, motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Madore:



Date :

11-5-2020

Town of Van Buren., ME.

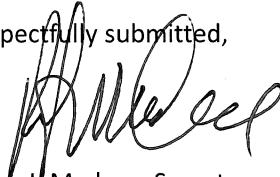
Council Meeting Minutes

Special Meeting via ZOOM-November 9, 2020

1. Chairman called meeting to order at 1804 hours. All Councilors present, Town Manager present.
2. New Business:
 - a. Police Personnel Matters (Luke Dyer) Executive session under 1 M.R.S.A. 405 (6) (A):
Motion made by Paul N. seconded by Maurice C. to enter executive session at 1804 hours. All in favor, motion carried. Motion made by Paul. N. seconded by John B. to exit executive session at 1903 hours. All in favor, motion carried
 - b. Economic Development (Tony Martin) under 1 M.R.S.A. 405 (6) (C): NO SHOW
3. Adjourn Meeting: Motion made by Paul N. seconded by Maurice C. to adjourn meeting at 1915 hours. All in favor, meeting adjourned.

NOTE: Next regular Town Council Meeting scheduled November 17, 2020 @ 1800 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter J. Madore', written over the printed name.

Peter J. Madore, Secretary

Town of Van Buren., ME.

Council Meeting Minutes

November 17, 2020

ZOOM MEETING

1. Open Council Meeting/Attendance: Secretary Pete M. called ZOOM meeting to order @ 1800. All Councilors present except for Joey O. Town Manager present. Motion made by John B. seconded by Maurice C. to elect Paul N. as pro temp Chairman for this meeting. All in favor, motion carried.
2. Accept/Modify Agenda: Motion made John B. seconded by Maurice C. to accept agenda as motion carried
3. Accept Assessors and Council minutes of November 4, 2020 and special Council meeting on November 19, 2020: Motion by John B. seconded by Maurice C. to accept Assessors meeting minutes of Nov. 4 All in favor, motion carried. Motion made by John B. seconded by Maurice C. to accept minutes of Town Council meeting on Nov. 4 All in favor, motion carried. Minutes for special Town Council ZOOM meeting on Nov 19 will be tabled until next meeting.
4. Old Business:
 - a. Gagnon's Hardware demolition schedule/issues: Received a quote from Gabby Rioux for \$75,000 to demolish and bury the 3 buildings. Council agreed to put it out to bid which will probably push process into next year. Town Manager will apply for Enterprise Grant through CDBG up to \$100,000 (75/25 matching) grant for pocket park for this area to help Town pay for demo/rehab. John B. will come up with a plan and examples of what site would look like for this grant.
5. Tabled Business-Economic Development-Executive session (Tony Martin): Motion made by Maurice C. seconded by John B. to enter Executive Session at 1839 hours under 1 M.R.S.A. 405 (6) (C). All in favor, motion carried. Motion made by John B. seconded by Maurice C. to exit Executive session at 1940 hours. All in favor, motion carried.
 - Motion made by John B. seconded by Maurice C. to restructure Tony Martin's revolving loan for repayment to \$2,500 to be paid on November 18, 2020 and \$200 a month until October of 2021 and payment plan for remainder will be revisited at that time. All in favor, motion carried.
6. New Business:
 - a. Discuss Town Insurance Policy for Fulltime Employees: Town Manager asking (per employee request) If someone falls under their spouse's medical insurance, if they could possibly get an incentive for eye and dental care under Town. Discussion back and forth, no decision made by Council.
7. Town Manager Updates:
 - Judy Gagnon asking about taxes on her camp on Desjardins Road. Chairman Joey O. talked too her. We will look into possibly grading the road next time Highway crew is grading Alexander Road.
 - Auditor update
 - Workman's Comp settlement almost complete

-Bottomz up Bar and Grill will be changing their liquor license to "Restaurant level1" due to COVID restrictions for Bars.

8. Town Council Updates:

-John B. Christmas window reveal will be evening of Nov 28.

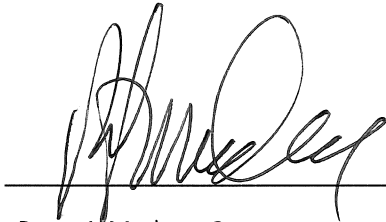
-Maurice C. nothing to report

-Pete M. Christmas Light parade from top of State St. to Chanel Apartments on Nov 27 @ 1800

-Paul N. Thanking Nancy for the hard work lately with all the grant packages.

9. Public Comment: Town Manager received letter from Ann Roy asking if we could have the TRUMP Trailer removed at the bottom of State St. Council agreed this is private property and made no decision.

10. Adjourned: Motion made by John B. seconded by Maurice C. to adjourn ZOOM meeting at 1952 hours. All in favor, motion carried.


Peter J. Madore, Secretary

Respectfully submitted,

11-18-2020

Town of Van Buren., ME.

Council Meeting Minutes

December 1, 2020

ZOOM MEETING

1. Open Council Meeting/Attendance: Chairman called ZOOM meeting to order @ 1800. All Councilors present except for John B. Town Manager present.
2. Old Business:
 - a. Police Department discussion w/ Luke Dyer (Executive Session) under 1 M.R.S.A. 405 (6) (A): Motion made Paul N. seconded by Maurice C. to enter into executive session at 1803 hours. All in favor, motion carried.
 - Motion made by Paul N. seconded by Maurice C. to exit executive session at 1855 hours. All in favor motion carried. NOTE: John B. joined meeting at 1900 hours.
 - Motion made by Paul N. seconded by Maurice C. to abolish the Van Buren Police Department. All in favor, motion carried.
3. Modify/Accept Agenda: Motion made by Paul N. seconded by Joey O. to accept the agenda as written. All in favor, motion carried.
4. Adopt Minutes of 11-9-2020 (special Town Meeting) and 11-17-20 (regular Town Meeting)
 - Motion made by Paul N. seconded by Joey O. to accept minutes of special Town Meeting held on 11-9-2020. All in favor, motion carried.
 - Motion made by Paul N. seconded by Maurice to accept minutes of 11-17-2020. All in favor, motion carried. NOTE: John B. joined meeting at 1900 hours.
5. New Business:
 - a. Bottomz up Bar and Grill formal update of Restaurant license:
 - Motion made by Paul N. seconded by Maurice to accept Bottomz Up Bar and Grill to accept license update to "Restaurant Class 1" per State of Maine Guidelines. All in favor, motion carried.
6. Town Manager Updates:
 - Asking if all Town employees could have full day off with pay on December 24 instead of just the 4 hours (1/2 day). Motion made by Pete M. seconded by Maurice C. to give Town employees the full day off with pay (8 hours) on December 24, 2020. All in favor, motion carried.
 - Mike Carbonneau called once again about flooding ditch on his property. Not a Town issue, he will have to pursue on a civil basis.
 - Asbestos sampling came in under budget for Gagnon's Hardware complex at \$5,600
 - Van Buren Resiliency Project update: Genesis Project offering engineering and assessment to Property (Gateway School).
 - Condon Signs to update new COVID/Town digital sign to lower it and put up a lighted municipal sign in conjunction to enhance the look.
7. Town Council Updates:
 - John B. Maybe have a Town wide house decoration with prizes?? Town Manager advising that old Chamber of Commerce might have some money left over.
 - Maurice C. nothing to report

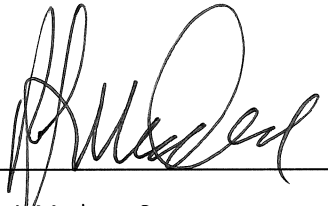
-Pete M. Presented some ideas/photos of gazebos for new pocket park (if grant is granted) and idea about moving the Town's information booth from the bottom of State St. (Gabby Rioux's) property to lot belonging to Town between Farmer's Market and Soteria Ministries. Also, we should build floor at Farmer's Market to have a LEVEL floor to walk on. Also, maybe look into moving Boy Scout Camp from Champlain St. to Main St. as a beautification measure?

-Paul N. Asking if we received payment check from Tony M., Town Manager advises yes. Also if transaction from the Fullers/Zetterman for the 3 old houses has gone through, Town Manager advises yes. Thanking Pete M. and John B. for the decorating in Town (to include the wives) and for help on Light Parade.

-Joey O. nothing to report

8. Public Comment: None

9. Adjourned: ZOOM meeting adjourned at 1923 hours. All in favor, motion carried.



Peter J. Madore, Secretary

Respectfully submitted,

12-15-2020

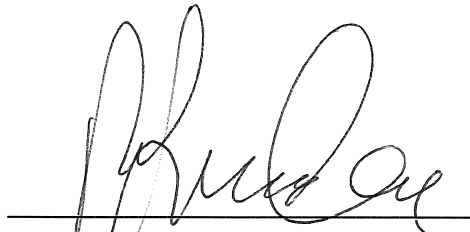
Town of Van Buren., ME.

Council Meeting Minutes

December 15, 2020

ZOOM MEETING

1. Open Council Meeting/Attendance: Chairman called ZOOM meeting to order @ 1801. All Councilors present, Town Manager present.
2. Adopt minutes from December 1, 2020: Motion made by Paul N. seconded by Maurice C. to accept the minutes of 12-1-2020 as written. All in favor, motion carried.
3. Modify/Accept Agenda: Motion made by Paul N. seconded by Maurice C. to accept the agenda as written. All in favor, motion carried.
4. Old Business:
 - a. Continued discussion for marijuana opt in possibilities/ordinances:
Much discussion on this subject, referendum vote possible, 60 day window. Town Council will meet with Planning Board at next regular scheduled Council meeting on January 5, 2021 to discuss ordinances for said subject. Informational meeting for public would be held BEFORE referendum. Looking at POSSIBLE referendum in March of 2021.
-Motion made by Paul N. seconded by Maurice to go to referendum to allow the citizens of Van Buren to opt in/out to any marijuana activities or establishments. All in favor, motion carried.
5. Town Manager Updates:
 - requesting we as the Town respond to emails/letter request for signage issues when asked about. No discussion, Town Manager will handle.
6. Town Council Updates:
 - Paul N. wishing everyone Merry Christmas and safe holiday season. Thanking Highway crew for good work.
 - John B. nothing to report
 - Maurice C. nothing to report
 - Pete M. nothing to report
 - Joey O. nothing to report
7. Public Comment: None
8. Adjourned: ZOOM meeting adjourned at 1915 hours. All in favor, motion carried.



Peter J. Madore, Secretary

Respectfully submitted,

12-16-2020