



GARDINER CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET



Meeting Date	03/06/2019	Department	City Council
Agenda Item	4.7 Accept Minutes of February 20, 2019		
Est. Cost	n/a		

Background Information	The minutes from the February 20, 2019 meeting are attached for the City Council's approval.
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Requested Action	'I move to approve the February 20, 2019 minutes as presented.'
City Manager and/or Finance Review	The City Manager recommends the above action.
Council Vote/ Action Taken	
Departmental Follow-Up	

City Clerk Use Only	1 st Reading _____	Advertised _____	EFFECTIVE DATE _____
	2 nd Reading _____	Advertised _____ w/in 15 Days	
	Final to Dept _____	Updated Book _____	Online _____

Mayor Hart called the meeting to order at 6:01pm.

▪ **ROLL CALL**

Patricia Hart, Mayor at large; Councilors: Terry Berry, District 1; Tim Cusick, At large; Marc Rines, District 4; Jon Ault, At large; Maryann White, At large; Amy Rees, District 2; Shawn Dolley, District 3

Also in attendance: City Manager, Christine Landes; City Clerk, Kelly Gooldrup; Al Nelson, Tony LaPlante, James Toman, Jessica Lowell, Denise Brown, Ingrid Stanchfield, Logan Johnston, George Trask, Cristina Salois, Augusta Mayor Rollins

▪ **PUBLIC COMMENT (anything not on the Agenda)**

Logan Johnston presented the results of the Valentine's Day Fire Relief Fundraiser. We raised \$2,107.00 so far. He thanked the Council for attending. He was grateful to the staff at Johnson Hall who donated everything, the staff and volunteers at Gardiner Main Street which staffed the whole event, Joe Gould from Two Gramps who raised money across the street during the fundraiser and the many volunteers who brought baked goods and ran 50/50 raffles. All the performers donated their fees.

Mayor Hart thanked Logan and all the folks who helped out. It really was a great evening.

▪ **PETITIONS/PUBLIC HEARINGS**

None

▪ **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Mayor Rollins from the City of Augusta will discuss the possibility of the city joining the Mayors Coalition

Mayor Rollins from the City of Augusta will be discussing the opportunity for the City of Gardiner to join the Mayors Coalition at a discounted rate for the upcoming fiscal year 2020. This opportunity is presenting itself as partnering up with the City of Hallowell and each of the municipalities paying half the fee.

Mayor Rollins commented that he appreciates the City of Gardiner's consideration to the Mayor's Coalition. He is entering his fifth year as the City Mayor of Augusta. He explained briefly what the Mayor's Coalition is about. As Mayor's, we are a voice to the legislation. We track about 80 legislative initiatives. This year, we are very aggressive in recruiting because there is a big initiative coming before the voters called the local option sales tax. Maine Municipal, the Service Center and the Mayor's Coalition are all supporting it.

Councilor Ault asked if the partnering up with the City of Hallowell will be a long standing relationship.

Mayor Rollins replied that the board was not comfortable with the two Cities partnering up as some smaller municipalities are paying full price. So they are offering to new recruits, half off the first year. The fees are affected by the number of members.

Councilor Ault asked how many members are there currently.

Mayor Rollins responded that there are 11 other municipalities.

Councilor Ault asked what the goal for new members for this year.

Mayor Rollins replied that they are hoping to get five new members.

Councilor Ault asked if the motion in front of us is to include it in the budget.

City Manager Landes replied that this is just to gather support from the City Council to place this in the budget pending further review. We may end up cutting it at some point when we see all the numbers. We cannot place it in the budget until the Council says approves it.

Mayor Hart asked if we wanted to get in on the current legislation before the budget is final, is there money to pay for it.

City Manager Landes said yes we could find it. She asked Mayor Rollins what fiscal year does the membership run, is it July 1 or January 1.

Mayor Rollins responded that he would have to check on it. The City of Augusta is putting together a series of events in late July or early August for the bicentennial and would like to feature all the Cities and Towns on the Kennebec River. Converge in Augusta with perhaps a parade of Towns, activities, music, lectures and food.

Mayor Hart asked the Council if they would like to move this discussion to the next meeting after getting more information.

Councilor Ault replied that he would recommend moving it to the next meeting.

2. Update from Ingrid Stanchfield/Boys and Girls Club of Kennebec Valley

Director Stanchfield of the Boys and Girls Club of Kennebec Valley will be present to brief the City Council on activities and events that have occurred over the past year.

The Boys and Girls Club of Kennebec Valley, along with other major non-profits, have been asked to present to the City Council as part of the upcoming review of the FY20 budget.

Ingrid Stanchfield, CEO of The Boys and Girls Club of Kennebec Valley, Ingrid Stanchfield, thanked the Council and the residents of Gardiner. The B&G Club is celebrating 20 years as a Boys & Girls Club. As of today, there are 658 registered program participants. We are currently full in the childcare facility and getting calls all the time. There are 37 early childhood kids from Gardiner that participate in programs from the age 6 weeks to age 5 years old. There are 106 school age kids from just Gardiner that are in childcare. There are 79 kids from Gardiner come to the teen center, which covers six grade through High School. Another 115 kids from school age to teen population come to the summer program. There are 321 from Gardiner that play sports with us. We have 50 employees, which 24 reside in Gardiner or South Gardiner. We are your year round community center. We have activities such as Oldies but Goodies, Zumba, basketball, church groups, girl scouts, Rotary, and many other social organizations that need a place to meet. We are also your polling place for Elections. We are looking at the feasibility of developing 14 Pray Street.

Mayor Hart congratulated the Boys & Girls Club for their 20 years.

Councilor Rees said she has spoken with some big employers within the City and are grateful for what you offer and their employees in terms of childcare.

3. Request from Southern Kennebec Child Development Corporation to renew lease of the former South Gardiner School/Cristina Salois

Manager Landes had asked Ms. Salois to attend the City Council meeting this evening. Attached are the previously signed documents that allowed the lease, and ultimately the extension of that lease, to Southern Kennebec Child Development Corporation.

The original lease was granted in February 2009 and Scott Morelli, then City Manager extended it in 2014 for five more years. The cost of this lease has been \$1.00 per year. The primary purpose of this lease was to allow a pre-school program to run (aka Head Start), a summer feeding program to occur, and a day-care center.

The lease states that at the end of the term the property shall be surrendered in as good condition as it was in the beginning of the term; usual wear and tear expected.

The City Council is being asked to consider extending the lease with whatever terms and conditions they deem appropriate.

Cristina Salois thanked the City of Gardiner for the support that has been given for many years. Head start is a child development program for at risk children and their families. In addition to the child development programming, we also offer confidence of services including health, nutrition, special education and social work services. We are spread out over Southern Kennebec County, but we have two locations in Gardiner including this one in South Gardiner. In addition to Head start programming, we offer services in the community such as the child and adult food program, we distribute car seats in partnership with the Department of Public Safety, and we are members of the Gardiners Thrive Coalition. Currently, the South Gardiner location provides us with a facility to support infants and toddlers and their families as well as being the hub of our home base program which serves 55 children and their families. In the past couple of years, we have been able to make some improvements to the South Gardiner location and had access to some Federal funding to assist with putting a new furnace in the building and some new playground equipment. In the Gardiner location, we were able to a new roof on last year. As Ingrid mentioned in her presentation, there is a huge need for childcare and child development services in Maine, so we have been seeking both State and Federal funding to increase our capacity to serve kids, particularly in the Gardiner area.

Mayor Hart stated that this is a great example of repurposing the old school building for wonderful reasons to help our young families and young children thrive. Thank you for that work and keeping those building teaming with kids.

Councilor Ault moved to approve extending the lease for five-years, with an option to renew for five-years, to Southern Kennebec Child Development Services with the same terms and conditions as previously documented in lease dated 2/15/2009.

Councilor Cusick seconded.

Mayor Hart asked for any discussion. Seeing none. All those in favor. Unanimous

4. Discussion with Police Chief Toman and Fire Chief Nelson regarding dispatch services at Central Maine Regional Communications Center

Police Chief Toman, Fire Chief Nelson, and City Manager Landes will present to the City Council a history of the ongoing dispatching situation that has now presented itself not only as a financial issue for the city, but also a safety issue.

Chief Toman stated that this journey has been pretty well publicized since August to tonight. On August 27, 2018, the State of Maine gave the City of Gardiner and the Kennebec County Sheriff's Office a ten month notice that indicated they would no longer be providing dispatch services for us. We had been using the State for dispatch services for fourteen years prior to that notice. Prior to that, we had our own dispatch center that was decided to be shutdown as a consolidation and cost savings effort. The State is changing to a different program in July 2019. The new system will not be compatible with our system. So we set out find a solution. Various options regarding the dispatching services have been researched, and in that research we have found that the cost will be substantially more than what we have paid the MRCC in the past. There were costs ranging from the City of Waterville: \$420,465 (year one), Town of Lisbon: \$365,452 (year one), purchasing Spillman and having RCC dispatch (not ideal due to interface issue): \$364,000 (year one), and to the possibility of reopening our own dispatch: \$1M (est. year one).

We then rallied around the aspect of keeping KCSD, and the other 21 municipalities affected (using the IMC program), at the CMRCC. That came in at a price tag of \$638,821 for all towns, including us and KCSD. Our price, in that, was \$111,000. Realizing that the other municipalities may reject having to 'support' Gardiner in this proposal, since they had a price tag of about \$350k to go as a unit to Augusta, we felt that putting another number on the table would be a bit of an incentive. Chief Toman placed the \$185k number on the table. This number is half of the other options available at the present time.

Also, in the discussion, we have learned that there was an Emergency Communications Governing Board that was dissolved by the Legislature a few years back. The Manager has asked for support from local Representatives and Senators to present a bill to recreate that Board. Currently we have a sponsor: Dennis Keschl, Belgrade, and a co-sponsor, Craig Hickman, Winthrop.

City Manager Landes commented that at the County Commissioners meeting last week, even though the other 21 municipalities would be paying substantially more than the originally proposed number, they were in support of not leaving Gardiner out on their own. They felt that we should all stick together and try to solve this as a team.

Mayor Hart asked Chief Toman was the difference is between PSAP, RCC and the local dispatch.

Chief Toman replied that the PCAP is its own dispatch center. A call comes in and they dispatch out to the appropriate units.

Mayor Hart asked if the fire department is included with this dispatch service.

Chief Nelson replied yes. We do not use the same record management system as the police department though.

Mayor Hart asked why the City of Gardiners call volume is so high.

Chief Toman replied that we are a very active agency. We have agency initiated calls like motor vehicle stops and then we have citizen calls like domestic disputes and motor vehicle accidents.

Chief Nelson replied on the EMS side, we get calls even for lift assists. Someone fell and needs help getting up but not injured, car accidents and strokes. On the fire department side, could be something small like a smoke detector going off and we go check it out.

Councilor Rees asked for clarification about the cost. In the years past, we have been spending about \$75,000 a year.

Chief Toman responded that it was between \$67,000 and \$75,000 per year.

Councilor Berry commented in following the articles, are they really not going to change anything, but are adding staff.

Chief Toman responded that they are not adding staff, they are dedicating staff. There may be vacancies that they are in the process of filling, but they are dedicating existing staff to sitting and operating our records management software.

Councilor Berry stated that the disappointing fact that there is a lack of leadership from the State of Maine on regionalization.

Councilor Ault thanked Chief Toman for the breakdown of the events of this situation. He asked if the high call volume includes the ambulance service with partner communities.

Chief Nelson responded that it does include the partner communities. The way we budget the ambulance service is the dispatch fee that Gardiner is charged is then broken-down by the percentage of calls. We take the percent and build it in to the budget and the partner communities pay a portion of that percent.

Councilor Ault stated that he was relieved to hear what City Manager Landes said about the other communities sticking together. He originally understood it to mean that we were on our own with the other twenty one communities having a solution.

Mayor Hart commented that we are in good hands with these three people representing our community.

Councilor Ault moved to support the City Manager in the quest for proposed legislation concerning the Emergency Communications Governing Board, and to support the proposed offer of \$185,000 for continued dispatch services at CMRCC for the next three years.

Councilor White seconded.

Mayor Hart asked for any discussion. Seeing none. All those in favor. Unanimous

5. Discussion with Chief Nelson regarding staffing and the SAFER Grant

Chief Nelson will be present to update the Council on the SAFER Grant. This grant allows funding to increase staffing in the Ambulance/Fire departments of the city.

Attached are: notice from Senator King's office regarding application periods, and a printout of the SAFER website page.

Chief Nelson explained that the SAFER Grant opened on February 15 and will close on March 22. The year 2017 fire call volume was 247 instead of the original report of 171 calls. The handout in front of you has the original proposal of six employees and a breakdown of costs for adding three employees instead of six people. The cost for three would be about half. If we only hired three people, we would have to change the staffing and the way calls are handled because we would not be able to staff the ladder truck and the engine truck. Only the engine truck would be able to be staffed. Provided we get the SAFER Grant, the average cost to the residents would

be \$29.21 per home first the first year if we only hired three people. It would drop a little bit in the second year. You also have the average for hiring six people on the paper in front of you.

Mayor Hart asked what the last page is about.

Chief Nelson replied that a question asked during the last meeting was how many calls were given away to other ambulance services. The paper shows the count over the years.

Mayor Hart asked if there is anything new from Senator King's office on grant availability.

Chief Nelson replied that it opened on February 15, so we can apply anytime and it has to be completed by March 22.

Mayor Hart asked what the amount available is in total.

Chief Nelson responded that he is not sure exactly, but it is Nationwide and is hundreds of millions.

Mayor Hart asked if there are quotas for different areas of the Country.

Chief Nelson replied that it is open competition based on need. There are two portions: computer scoring and a narrative piece.

Mayor Hart stated that when we setup the station for a regional ambulance service, it was with the ambulance helping to fund the firefighters. What does that mean for the formulas if we add firefighters?

Chief Nelson responded that the way we are proposing this is so it will not go into the ambulance budget. The ambulance pays 65% of the wages and benefits of all the employees and the City pays 35% right now. It wouldn't be fair to go to the other communities and say you need to pay for that. Unless we are going to be a true regional department and respond their smoke detector calls.

Councilor Berry asked if the City has ever applied for a grant and then said no we don't want it.

Chief Nelson responded not since he has been working there.

Councilor Berry asked if there are any ramifications to being accepted for the grant and then saying we are not going to take it. Would it affect applying for future grants?

Chief Nelson replied that he doesn't know but can ask. There is a place in the application to withdraw the application, but not sure at what point it becomes detrimental.

Councilor Berry stated that he has a hard time with this proposal. He wonders if there really is a problem with being short staffed. In the past few years there have been significant fires and we have managed fine.

Chief Nelson commented that he understands the impact to the tax payers and would recommend anything negative if he didn't think it was worth the effort. The possibilities in this case are immense if there is no one in the fire station and something happens. We have been lucky so far with minor injuries. What hasn't happened is there is a structure fire and no one is in the station and someone needs to be rescued. It is a matter of time before something like that happens. The question to the Council is what level of coverage you really want to have for the City. Last summer there was kitchen fire on Ash Street and four people on duty. They showed up, two people went in and put out the fire. We violated the law, because they legally cannot enter that building because they don't have two people to go in to rescue them. They do it anyway.

Councilor Rees commented that it is a very difficult decision and she is hearing a lot of concern about taxes. Is there a way to have people take some on call? I had put together a plan to look at.

Chief Nelson commented that he did look at the plan. We did look at this about a year ago with internal discussion, and the hurdle we hit was that when people are off duty, they have other lives including family obligations and even other jobs. They are already getting ordered in to

cover sick, vacations and other things. I would have to order them in to do the on call. We can't do volunteer because there is no consistency.

Councilor Rees commented that if people are working other jobs, and we pay them to be on call and if they get called in, to receive overtime, wouldn't that be something the existing employees may want to consider.

Chief Nelson replied that anything like that would have to be negotiated with the Union. It may be something we could explore. We are open to solutions.

Councilor Cusick commented that there are concerns about taxes to the residents and maybe we do need to step back and explore other options like what Councilor Rees suggested.

Chief Nelson stated it would have to be negotiated. He is more concerned with the long term impact on the people we have and we don't want to burn out our existing employees.

Councilor Cusick said we can't expect them to be here all the time. Councilor Berry brought up dispatching and regionalization. That would be great, but I don't see that happening for many years.

Chief Nelson stated that he had a conversation with the Winslow Fire Chief who comes from Fairfax County Virginia. They have a huge county department so he understands how regionalization works and he is asking why this has never happened here.

Councilor Cusick commented that he is interested in the answer that Councilor Berry asked about not accepting the grant if we get it. We have been very lucky so far, but this station is left alone a lot and time is essential when there is someone in a fire and in need of rescuing.

Chief Nelson said that he can ask by email and when he gets a response, he can forward it to the council.

Councilor White commented that she agrees with what everyone has said and would like the answer to not accepting the grant if approved for it. She is concerned with the timing and wants to know if Chief Nelson will have time to complete the grant if we don't make a decision until March 6.

Chief Nelson replied that he has not opened it fully, but the narrative piece is a copy and paste from the previous grant we applied for and some of the questions will be the same. It will just take some dedication.

Councilor Dolley said we are supportive and recognize the need for staffing. Similar to everyone else around the table, there was sticker shock and are wondering if there is a way to do it less expensive. Looking at the six firefighters on the year four, represents about 13.5% of the City half of the budget. That is not a onetime cost. In this form, it would be hard to support, but other options may be a possibility.

Mayor Hart stated that it sounds like the Council is interested in exploring other options. She asked Chief Nelson what he thought of a committee being setup to explore options.

Chief Nelson replied that we could do that. He recommended that the Union president, member of the department, a Councilor and maybe a citizen should be on the committee.

Mayor Hart commented that we should form a small committee. We do have a motion in front of us. What is your interest Council?

City Manager Landes stated that it was just a suggestion. We can wait until the next meeting to make the decision.

Councilor Ault asked if in the event that we do elect with SAFER funds and we have to include it in the budget, and we don't get the award until after the budget season is completed. Do we budget with or without the SAFER Grant?

Mayor Hart replied that we could just not authorize those budget positions.

City Manager Landes said that she would put it in the budget with the SAFER Grant.

Mayor Hart asked for any comment from the audience.

George Trask expressed his concerns about dispatch. He said we have most of the infrastructure in place for our own dispatch. We have the location, towers and radios. We would have to hire dispatchers, but for around \$80,000 each including benefits we could have up to 7 and still be under a half a million a year. Maybe we could have other Towns pay us for the service. My other topic is about hiring six firemen. The surrounding Towns have volunteers. Why don't we have more volunteers? Hiring six more firemen is not the answer. You shouldn't even be considering the SAFER Grant because we can't afford six more people. We have enough people already.

Mayor Hart thanked him for coming and his suggestions such as going to the High School looking for people who may want to become fire fighters.

Mayor Hart thanked Chief Nelson for coming.

6. Use of TAP surplus to reimburse GBOT

City Manager Landes presented the following:

TAP Surplus Account

Initial TAP	\$25,168
57 Mt Vernon	(-3,400)
23 Adams St	(-4,900)
Balance	\$16,868
Newest TAP	\$29,100
Balance	\$45,968
GBOT	\$29,999
Remaining Balance	\$15,969

Previously, the City Council approved using tax acquired property sale funding to 'clean-up' other properties within the city. With the most recent sale of tax acquired properties, the city will have a balance of \$45,968. The City Manager is asking the City Council to approve a one-time use of these funds to reimburse Gardiner Board of Trade \$29,999, which was lent to the city to purchase 2 Highland Avenue. The GBOT has requested to be reimbursed in FY20, however, using these funds will alleviate place that amount in the upcoming budget.

City Manager Landes stated that during the last meeting, property located at 33 Capen Road was sold to Mark Mansir for \$28,500. Mr. Mansir is backing out of that bid. There are no legal ramifications in doing so as we checked with the attorney. Tax Collector Kathy Cutler reached out to Justin Healey who had bid \$20,020 and is still interested in purchasing the property. So that reduces your TAP balance by \$8,500. If we reimburse the GBOT, we would still have about \$7,500 in the account. At your next meeting, I will be bringing four more properties for review to send out to bid.

Mayor Hart asked if the Developers Collaborative intent to purchase from the City have anything that ties the GBOT payment in that or is that strictly between the City and Developers Collaborative.

City Manager Landes replied that the purchase and sale agreement for 2 Highland Avenue was between the City and GBOT.

Mayor Hart asked if the contract between the City and Developers Collaborative have any reference to the GBOT.

City Manager Landes replied that it does not.

Councilor Berry asked if the TAP money is a surplus above what needed to go back to the departments, Sewer District and Tax Collector.

City Manager Landes replied that it is the profit that the City made on those properties.

Councilor Ault commented that he will vote in favor of this proposal. He remembered the issue with trying to sell the Highland Avenue properties.

Councilor Dolley asked in regards to the property where the bidder withdrew, would it make sense to put the property back out to bid to try to get more money.

Councilor Berry asked how many bids were received for that property.

City Manager Landes responded that we received five bids. The lowest being \$6,000 and the highest being \$28,500 who you originally awarded the bid to.

Councilor Berry commented that he would take the second bid and move on.

Councilor White asked if this was the property where one of the bidders was an abutter.

City Manager Landes replied that she didn't recall.

Mayor Hart commented that Tax Collector Cutler notified us that there was one bidder on one property that the City had a negative history with. Is this the same gentleman?

City Manager Landes replied that his partner was the issue and was a lower bidder.

Councilor Berry commented that he wants the motion to add the language that returns the \$29,999 to the TAP fund because when we got the Summer Street property, we agreed to pay back the creditors of any money that we got out of those lots. If we leave the money in the pot, we will be subsidizing the creditors of T.W. Dick. So that should come out of that sales price and not get mingled in.

City Manager Landes replied that she and Denise Brown had met about this and made a note on the future creditors sheet that the one dollar that you paid GBOT plus this money would automatically go back to surplus. If you want to add it for clarification, I have no issues with that.

Councilor Berry asked if we agreed to pay \$10,000 GBOT for their services and is that \$10,000 in this \$29,999.

City Manager Landes replied that GBOT asked for the \$30,000 two meetings ago and I assumed it was, but it was before my time here. They are already asking where they can spend the money next.

Councilor Berry moved to approve using \$29,999 of tax acquired property proceeds to reimburse the Gardiner Board of Trade and that at time of the sale of Highland Avenue property, that money gets reimbursed to the TAP.

Councilor Dolley seconded.

Mayor Hart asked for any discussion. Seeing none. All those in favor. Unanimous

Councilor Rees moved to accept the bid from Justin Healey for 33 Capen Road in the amount of \$20,020.

Councilor Berry seconded.

Mayor Hart asked for any discussion. Seeing none. All those in favor. Unanimous

7. Consideration of 2019 Goals and Meeting Guidelines from February 2, 2019

On February 2, 2019, the City Council held a retreat to discuss progress on the 2017 goals, new goals for 2019/2020, and how to properly run a meeting. Facilitator Craig Freshley put together the attached summary of your meeting. Council will now discuss and debate these goals and meeting guidelines.

City Manager Landes commented that she did edit Anne's name by taking Russell out and put Davis in.

Mayor Hart asked Councilor Rines if he had anything to add to this as he was not able to attend the session.

Councilor Rines replied that he did read it and felt it was well done.

Councilor Cusick moved to approve the 2019 Council goals and meeting guidelines, as written in the attached document.

Councilor White seconded.

Mayor Hart asked for any discussion. Seeing none. All those in favor. Unanimous

8. Accept minutes of February 6, 2019

Councilor Ault to accept the minutes of the February 6, 2019 meeting as presented.

Councilor Cusick seconded.

Mayor Hart asked for any discussion. Seeing none. All those in favor. Unanimous

Mayor Hart thanked the City Clerk for the good work and the speed of getting the minutes to us.

▪ CITY MANAGER REPORT

- Mr. Hughes spoke to us about 22 Cedar Street. We are continuing to work with his legal counsel.
- 728 River Avenue was a TAP sold to John Donohoe with the condition that it be torn down within six months or the City could buy it back for a dollar. I reached out to him two weeks ago as it had not been torn down and last Friday the building was torn down.
- Please read the Federal issues paper in front of you as I am going to Washington D.C. to speak as representation from Maine with MMA on these issues. So if you have any suggestions that you would like me to take with me, please get them to me.
- Our new Economic Development Director hit some severe weather which cause his arrival to be delayed. He will be starting tomorrow, so please stop by to say hello at some point. There will be a welcoming celebration that you have been invited to as well. I will be emailing businesses around the City to invite them as well. March 14 from 5:30pm to 7:00pm in the Hazard Room of the Library.
- Department Heads have been diligently working on the budget. We have done our first round and will do a refine so we will be ready for the March Budget Workshop.
- Asked Mayor Hart how we should discuss the dedication to annual report. Should it be in open session or executive session? Mayor Hart recalled open session. Councilor Ault thought executive. City Manager Landes commented that we have received one recommendation for

the dedication and that person is deceased. Jessica Lowell from the Kennebec Journal asked what part of the law would you use to discuss it in executive session? City Manager Landes responded that she would have to look it up and get back to her.

▪ **CITY COUNCIL REPORT**

Councilor Ault: all set

Councilor Cusick: all set

Councilor White: Stated that she enjoyed the fire relief fundraiser event. She thanked Logan for the update regarding the event. She announced that she will not attend the next Council meeting.

Councilor Berry: Dilly Dilly on the evening, but I will be at the next meeting.

Councilor Rees: all set

Councilor Dolley: all set

Councilor Rines: all set

Mayor Hart: Recognized all the community efforts that have been happening the last few weeks to raise money for people in need, from the Fire Relief Fund to the young man that works at Two Gramps Brew Pub. It is really heartwarming to see what goes on in our small City and what we are able to do when we work together. She was struck by both organizations that spoke tonight. They have repurposed our old buildings and we struggle with what to do with old buildings in the community. She thanked everyone for working well with sticky issues like what was presented by Chief Toman and Chief Nelson tonight.

▪ **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

a) **Pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A § 405 (6)(A): Discuss Contract Negotiations for Assessing Service**

Councilor Cusick moved to go into executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6)(A):

Discuss Contract Negotiations for Assessing Service at 8:15pm

Councilor Rees seconded.

Mayor Hart asked for any discussion. Seeing none. All those in favor. Unanimous.

Councilor Berry moved to come out of Executive Session at 8:32pm.

Councilor Dolley seconded.

Mayor Hart asked for any discussion. Seeing none. All those in favor. Unanimous.

Councilor Berry moved to allow the City Manager to enter into a contract with Curt Lebel, Assessor, per the contract terms.

Councilor Dolley seconded.

Mayor Hart asked for any discussion. Seeing none. All those in favor. Unanimous.

b) **Pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A § 405 (6)(A): First Part of Six-month review process of City Manager Landes/Council Only**

Councilor Rees moved to go into Executive Session pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405 (6)(A):

Procedural planning concerning the six-month review of City Manager Landes at 8:35pm.

Councilor Berry seconded.

Mayor Hart asked for any discussion. Seeing none. All those in favor. Unanimous.

Councilor Rees moved to come out of Executive Session at 8:50pm.

Councilor Ault seconded.

Mayor Hart asked for any discussion. Seeing none. All those in favor. Unanimous. No action taken.

▪ **ADJOURN**

Councilor Ault moved to adjourn.

Councilor Dolley seconded.

Mayor Hart asked for any discussion. Seeing none. All those in favor. Unanimous 8:50pm

(Draft minutes until approved during the March 6, 2019 Council Meeting)