

GLENBURN TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING #25
June 08, 2023 at 7:00 PM
At the Glenburn Municipal Building 144 Lakeview Road

MINUTES

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

a. ROLL CALL

Present were Councilors Chris Grotton, John Caruso, Maurice Day, and Richard Cookson. Chris Cookson was absent.

b. CITIZEN INPUT - OPPORTUNITY FOR

No one in the audience chose to address the Council.

c. [25-22-01] Sheriff Troy Morton will be attending to discuss the Glenburn sheriff's contract.

Sheriff Morton stated that he has had discussions with Town Manager Dan McClung regarding the sheriff's contract. He is concerned about the change in the relationship with the Maine State Police and resource sharing. It has been in place for many years, and it has dramatically changed over the last few years. Last year, Penobscot County was split up into six different zones. The State has had a change in some of their needs and resources, and they have brought forward some issues and challenges that they are facing, and they have come forward to many counties to talk about changing their ability to provide rural patrol services throughout the counties. Last year with the major shift in command structure with the State, they asked the sheriff's department to reduce the State zones to three and to switch the sheriff department's zones from three to four and two. They switched to a four and two which was difficult to do knowing that the county has only one revenue source and that is the county property tax.

Coming into this fiscal year, the State has come back again and talked about making another adjustment and another reduction to the County. Sheriff Morton has three towns whose contracts are expiring June 30th of this year. He is concerned about staffing, and they have made an adjustment in wages to help open up the pool of applicants. There has been some legislation that has gone forward, and they are hoping for help with funding for additional positions.

Andre Cushing, State Representative for District 2, which includes Glenburn, and Chair of the Penobscot County Commissioners, stated that there are still some unknown factors related to what the final disposition will be of the State Police coverage within Penobscot County. There is also the question of what the resources will be to cover the positions that are necessary. Penobscot County is the third largest county in the State. Tonight, they are offering to extend the current contract with the Town of Glenburn for 90 days at the current rate so that the town has the same surety of coverage for now. They will reassess, and within 60 days they will come back and explain what they have learned from the legislative process and the negotiations with the State Police. There are some unknown variables that need to be identified before they can sign another one-year contract.

John Caruso asked if the problem is money or is it not being able to get people to fill the needed positions, and Representative Cushing stated that it is a combination of the two. Mr. Grotton asked where the Town of Glenburn sets on the priority list for upcoming academy graduates and recruits. Sheriff Morton stated that the issue is when they are taking on three more zones or one more zone with three people, that is the immediate start up of having three more vehicles and three more people.

Maurice Day stated that he understands that the town is being offered a 90-day extension of the current contract with an offer for a new one-year contract in 60 days. Isn't the current contract a three-year contract? Representative Cushing apologetically stated that he mistakenly said a one-year contract because that is what the State has been offering them; however, he will come back with a three-year contract.

Sheriff Morton talked about the option of partnering with other towns. Mr. McClung asked who might the town partner with, and Sheriff Morton stated that would be up to the town but it would have to be a town that is close and has the makeup similar to Glenburn. Mr. McClung questioned if partnering with another town would be viable for Glenburn. He prefers a three-year contract in the same manner that the town now has.

Representative Cushing stated that they will continue the current rate for the next 90 days as a gesture of commitment. However, they need to access what the ultimate cost will be to the county to provide the level of personnel and equipment that is needed to fill these positions if they lose coverage in another zone.

John Caruso asked what happens if the State does not get the money for extra personnel and equipment. Does this mean that a town that has five officers and a five-year contract that is expiring will lose some officers so that those officers can be spread out throughout other zones that do not have coverage. Mr. Grotton stated that the feeling from the town's constituents is that Glenburn seems to be in a different priority level than other communities because there are three, four, even five deputies in other communities that, because they are willing to pay for it, are getting a lot of extra services and Glenburn is losing 100% of their services. It feels like other communities are getting everything they want before we get anything that we need. The question is are other communities going to be treated that same way if their contract hypothetically runs out six months from now and the department is still shorthanded, will the priorities with those communities moving their deputy to a zone coverage be the same as it seems like it is for ours? Sheriff Morton answered that every town has to be treated the same. Mr. Grotton stated that the reality is this is a nationwide issue that it is not going to get any better, and law enforcement is not going to be able to do some of the things that are not critical services. Mr. Grotton stated that those are the decisions solely of the sheriff; however, the reality from the community, which is who Mr. Grotton cares about and is his primary concern in this matter, is having law enforcement services in their community and taking care of its people. It feels like we are or potentially may be losing all of our coverage and will have to rely on zone coverage which is a much lower level of service in many ways. It feels like other communities are getting everything that they want because they are willing to pay for it, and Glenburn would also be willing to pay for it. We have been very supportive of the sheriff's department and public safety in general. The Penobscot County Sheriff's Department and Deputy Steve Boyd have been recognized by Mr. Grotton many times in many ways. This community is starting to get the sense that they are not very high on the priority list. Mr. Grotton is not certain how that happened or why or what the underlying reasons are; however, that is what is frustrating.

Mr. Grotton stated that Mr. Caruso's question may have been, "Where is Glenburn on the priority list and are we being treated differently than other communities?" Representative Cushing referenced the SRO (school resource officer) in Hermon and advised that this is the second year that they have asked for that. They were finally able to find the right person with the dynamics to be an SRO, and that is how they got them this year. They asked for them two years ago. The challenges facing them right now is personnel and not finding staffing. The State Police have not answered them yet as to what negotiations they will have. He feels that asking for a promise is unfair. Mr. Caruso stated that he is not asking for promises. He is asking if they are going to be treated the same as other communities, and Mr. Cushing stated that they will employ a similar metric when they decide what their staffing level is and what they are able to do to provide the balanced coverage that they need for the citizens in towns in this county that do not have their own law enforcement.

- d. [25-22-02] Council discussion, to see what action the Town Council will take regarding offer received on the tax acquired lot located at 3114 Broadway Map 14 Lot 028.

April Bailey stated that Mr. Tocci was willing to purchase this property. He came in today and paid in full. She has a Quit Claim Deed. Maurice Day motioned to accept the offer of \$4,000.00 on this tax acquired property. The motion was seconded by John Caruso and unanimously approved with a 4-0 vote.

- e. [25-22-03] Council discussion, to see what action the Town Council will take regarding entering executive session to discuss personnel request pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(A).

John Caruso motioned to enter into Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Maurice Day and unanimously approved with a 4-0 vote.

John Caruso motioned to return from Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Maurice Day and unanimously approved with a 4-0 vote.

- f. [25-22-04] Council discussion, to see what action the Town Council will take regarding the personnel request.

Maurice Day motioned to approve the personnel request. The motion was seconded by John Caruso. Mr. McClung requested that the funding source be included in the motion. Mr. Day rescinded his motion and Mr. Caruso rescinded the second on the motion. Mr. Day motioned to approve the personnel request for funding in the amount of \$2,500.00 to be taken from the ARPA fund. The motion was seconded by John Caruso and unanimously approved with a 4-0 vote.

- g. [25-22-05] Council discussion, to see what action the Town Council will take regarding paving bids for 2023.

Mr. McClung stated that there were six contractors that bid on the project. The lowest bid was from Wellman Paving at \$93.25 a ton. Richard Cookson motioned to award the paving to Wellman Paving. The motion was seconded by John Caruso and unanimously approved with a 4-0 vote.

- h. [25-22-06] Council discussion, to see what action the Town Council will take regarding accepting a grant in the amount of \$10,000 for the training facility as well as an update from Chief Lavoie.

Fire Chief Chris Lavoie stated that approximately three months ago they received a grant in the amount of \$30,000.00 from the County Commissioner to put towards the training facility that the fire department shares with Orono and Veazie. Being as frugal as possible, they were looking at using the University of

Maine's Engineering Department to put the engineering stamp on the burnt building; however, they cannot fulfil that obligation. Maine Fire Services Institute provided names of two engineers in the State that can do that. The department received a quote, and they submitted a supplemental grant to the county commissioners for \$10,000.00 which was awarded to the department just recently. John Caruso motioned to accept a \$10,000.00 grant from Penobscot County for additional funding for the engineering stamp for the burnt building. The motion was seconded by Maurice Day and unanimously approved with a 4-0 vote.

Chief Lavoie reviewed the use of other recent grants and his plan to submit grant applications to other avenues as well. He also reviewed other community services that the fire department is involved with on a regular basis.

i. [25-22-07] Council discussion regarding upcoming meeting dates.

Mr. McClung discussed Council meeting dates for the summer months.

j. [25-22-08] Treasurer's Warrant #25 – APPROVAL OF,

John Caruso motioned to approve Treasurer's Warrant #25. The motion was seconded by Maurice Day and unanimously approved with a 4-0 vote.

k. [25-22-09] Minutes of May 25, 2023, Regular Council Meeting APPROVAL OF

Maurice Day motioned to accept the May 25, 2023 minutes as written. The motion was seconded by John Caruso and unanimously approved with a 4-0 vote.

Manager/Council Items/Other Business

Mr. McClung stated that road line striping is being done now. He talked to the contractor on the stone work to be installed in the front of the building and on the new digital sign that was discussed at last month's meeting. A meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, June 15th with the engineer and contractor for some open issues still on the punch list for the town office.

The Town Meeting is Wednesday, June 14th. Deputy Town Clerk Katie Allen will moderate the meeting as the usual moderator is out-of-town.

April Braley received an application for a catering permit for a barn dance at a property on Pushaw Road as a fundraiser for Polly's Push Bar that raises money for 9/11 victims. They are having a vendor for food and alcohol, and serving alcohol requires a State permit which requires approval from the Town Council. All liability insurance is their responsibility, and the town has no liability. Maurice Day motioned to approve a catering permit for a fundraiser on Pushaw Road providing a State permit is obtained for alcohol being served at the event. The motion was seconded by John Caruso and unanimously approved with a 4-0 vote.

Mrs. Braley stated that at the next meeting, town employees Katie Allen and Michaela Polk will present the new Glenburn App. It is now live. There is a QR code in the town report booklet. You can scan this code with your cellphone camera and then tap it to take you to the App Store where you can download the [Go Glenburn App](#).

Mr. Grotton thanked Mr. Cookson for stepping in to fill a vacant position on the Town Council for the remaining of the fiscal year. It was much appreciated.

ADJOURNMENT

John Caruso motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Maurice Day and unanimously approved with a 4-0 vote, and the June 8, 2023 Town Council Meeting was adjourned at 8:41 PM.

A true record, as approved by the Town Council: July 6, 2023

Daniel McClung, Secretary to the Council