

◆The Lamoine Quarterly◆

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January 2010

School Principal Spared in Cutting Plan

(Lamoine) - Despite a \$742,000 state subsidy reduction to RSU # 24, a proposed plan to share a principal with Hancock's school is off the table for this school year. Initially, Val Perkins had agreed to retire at the end of March with Hancock Principal Mike Hammer sharing duties between the two schools for the remainder of the school year. Perkins has since agreed to stay until the end of June, and the RSU Board shelved the sharing plan for the current school year.

The retirement and sharing plan was part of the overall strategy developed by teachers and administrators in the school district that will avoid major layoffs during the 2009/10 school year. The idea galvanized several parents who oppose the idea of sharing the school's principal with another school. Parents attended numerous RSU #24 committee and board meetings in late November and December to plead their case.

In a flurry of e-mail communications, some parents suggested that sharing a principal was unwise. Lamoine PATRONS chair Angie Butler wrote: "We need a physical person in that school in which to work with. NOT someone 20 minutes away, who is hardly in his own school because of meetings... It

is NOT NOT NOT feasible to share this position."

Former Selectman Brett Jones wrote to an e-mail list that "it seems the idea of fundamentally changing or quite possibly closing the Lamoine School is at the fore of Mr Webster's thoughts. Given the heavy handedness that's gotten us to the point of them recommending the "retirement" of Val Perkins, I'm left very worried for the future of our school."

Superintendent Webster had responded to the earlier e-mail communications with "The goal is not to close the Lamoine School. The goal is to keep the school open! We do that by keeping dollars in the classroom with teachers and programs and looking for ways to take advantage of our RSU 24 resources in administration and other areas."

RSU 24 Representative Jon Morren voted in favor of the curtailment plans, albeit with great reluctance because of the impact on the Lamoine operation. The last minute reprieve for the Lamoine principal's position may be temporary—the entire district faces a \$2-million dollar state funding loss. State revenue shortfalls and the reluctance to raise taxes other than the property tax forced the reductions.

New Fire Truck Arrives, In Service

(Lamoine) - A day before the first large storm of the winter blew into town, Lamoine's Fire Department took delivery of its newest truck in the Fire Department Fleet. The 2009 Ford chassis has a body with a compressed air foam pump and 300-gallons of water on board, along with various forest fire fighting tools, marine rescue gear, and traffic control devices. Firefighters learned how to operate the pump at their meeting on December 8, 2009, and loaded up the truck in anticipation of potential calls the next day. None of the calls required the truck's use.

The new truck was financed through town meeting using a variety of sources, including a \$20,000 donation

from the Lamoine Volunteer Fire Department Corporation, a \$35,000 loan, \$25,000 from the capital projects account, and \$10,000 from the fire truck reserve. The total project came in at slightly above the \$90,000 level.

In placing the new truck in service, the department has sold a 1986 pickup truck to the Dennys River Fire District in Washington County and a 1976 pumper to the truck manufacturer which will ship it to the Aroostook County Town of Crystal for its first piece of fire apparatus. The 1976 truck was the first brand new truck purchased in Lamoine. It was also the last "yellow" truck in the fleet. The new truck will also tow the rescue boat.

Town Meeting Set for April 6, 7

Nomination Papers Available January 11, 2010

(Lamoine) - Selectmen have set Tuesday, April 6, 2010 as municipal election day in Lamoine to be followed by the annual open town meeting on April 7th. The town meeting warrant is still being developed, and it is likely that a special town meeting will be needed later in the spring to deal with some issues that annual meeting, including any additional amount that might have to be raised for additional tuition money for those students choosing to attend non RSU 24 high schools.

Two Selectmen and one Tax Assessor will be elected at the polls on April 6th. Incumbents whose terms expire are Selectmen Richard Fennelly Jr. and Kermit Theall. Assessor Jane Fowler's term also expire. Persons interested in running for office may pick up nomination papers beginning on Monday, January 11, 2010. A minimum of 25 signatures is required for a candidate's name to be placed on the ballot. The papers must be returned to the Town Clerk's Office no later than Monday, February 22, 2010. Absentee ballots will be made available no later than March 7, 2010.

What's On Tap

The town meeting warrant will be prepared in February, and most likely signed by the Selectmen at their February 18, 2010 meeting. Other than budget questions, voters will likely be asked to consider several changes to the Building and Land Use Ordinance, including regulation of commercial water extraction (see related article, page 2), and review criteria for Home Occupation Permits. The town meeting will also likely be asked to approve a series of articles that deal with a regional shellfishing ordinance (see related article, page 5). This would include adoption of the ordinance and adoption of what is known as an Interlocal Agreement to allow the towns involved to jointly administer that ordinance.

Voters will be asked if they wish to change the due date for the first half of property taxes from October 31st to August 31st. The earlier due date is designed to alleviate some cash flow issues that resulted from creation of RSU # 24. Instead of the town paying a small bill in the summer months when school is not in session, all RSU municipalities make 12 equal installments to fund the schools. That resulted in payments being made beyond the due date last summer, and very little money in the bank, lower investment interest income that is used to offset property taxes. More on the budget in the article on page 6.



The Newest Lamoine Fire Truck

This 2009 Ford was placed into service on December 8, 2009 and will respond to brush fires, traffic accidents, water rescues, and serve as a command vehicle.

Water Extraction Regulations In Works *Moratorium Discussed, On Hold for Now*

(Lamoine) - The town has not received any applications—not even an inquiry—from anyone looking to extract water in large quantities for export from town. That’s not to say the vast quantities of water in the aquifer that runs under Lamoine might not be attractive to a bottling company. The Conservation Commission continues to focus on the aquifer and ways to protect the source of drinking water from pollution and depletion.

Several members of the Commission met with Selectmen in December to urge passage of a moratorium on commercial water extraction proposals, only to find out the Planning Board was already working on amendments to the Building and Land Use Ordinance to regulate such activity. An informational meeting and hearing is set for Tuesday, January 19, 2010 at 6:30 PM at the Town Hall to hear public comment on the proposed amendments and to make

any final adjustments to the proposal before the town meeting votes in April. The Conservation Commission took no formal action on recommending a moratorium to run simultaneously with the ordinance development.

The draft ordinance changes would require proposed developments to explain the potential impact and safeguards to the groundwater regardless of where in town the development is proposed. Commercial and Industrial water extraction would be allowed, provided the developer can provide documented proof from licensed engineers that the extraction will not reduce the amount of groundwater beyond the aquifer’s water recovery rate during a drought. The proposals set 122,000 gallons per month as a threshold to require the hydro-geological study on the impact of the water extraction. Below that level, extraction operations would be required to install a meter and supply data to the town on how much water is being removed.

Tower to be Operational Soon

(Lamoine) - Cellular telephone users should have lots more reception bars on their phones in late January as the new tower comes on line. Workers were pouring cement for the pad where the tower will stand a week before Christmas. Construction supervisor Lincoln Everhard says the longest part of the construction process will be installation of the power line running from Lamoine Beach Road into the site next to the former town landfill. The tower will have a light on top, requiring electricity before it can be erected.

Verizon Wireless will be the first service on the tower. Everhard expects more companies will locate on the tower as well. He said it will only take a couple of days to put up the tower, and a few days to construct the building that houses the equipment that runs the receivers and transmission equipment. Final wiring will take a couple of weeks at the most.

The Town and Verizon negotiated a lease of a 40,000 square foot piece of land at the site for \$12,000 per year over a 15-year period, with automatic renewals. The tower construction coincides with towers in Trenton and Bar Harbor to better cover the area for cellular telephone service. Much of Lamoine has been a “dead zone”, and the most often asked question by folks coming to and calling the town office has been when the tower would be working. The answer, as of today is: “very soon”.

Agreement Signed on Cutting Violation

(Lamoine) - Selectmen and property owners Ronald and Marie Simons signed a consent agreement to bring to a close a violation at a subdivision off Douglas Highway. The town cited the Simons after a contractor clear-cut two lots within the 250-foot resource protection zone. The notice of violation and correction order required that trees be replanted within the Shoreland Zone. That planting took place earlier this year.

Code Enforcement Officer Dennis Ford and Stephanie MacLagan of the Maine Department of Environmental inspected the plantings on the property on December 8, 2009 and found that the trees were planted thicker than what was called

for in the notice of violation. They will return to the property after the winter to inspect the survival rate of the trees and to see that the soil is stabilized.

The consent agreement also called for a minimal fine and attorneys fees to be paid by the Simons to the town. The Selectmen and CEO noted the good cooperation shown by Mr. & Mrs. Simons in correcting the violations. The cutting was observed in the fall of 2008 and the landowners responded nearly immediately to the town’s concerns.



Lamoine’s Code Enforcement Officer Dennis Ford (left) and Stephanie MacLagan of the Maine DEP look over the plantings at a subdivision adjacent to the Jordan River.



The Cell Phone Tower goes.....here
Workers braved cold weather in December prepare to pour the cement that will be the base of the cellular telephone tower to be built on property adjacent to the town’s former landfill.

Junkyard, Gravel Permits Issued

(Lamoine) - The Board of Selectmen renewed two Automobile Graveyard permits held by Pro Auto Center this fall, and asked that the permit application form be updated to make the review more effective. The junkyards are located on Douglas Highway and Marlboro Beach Road. There were no objections to the renewals.

The Planning Board approved a number of renewals and changes to gravel pits owned or operated by Doug Gott & Sons. The permits for the pits behind the transfer station were renewed. A pit off Douglas Highway in North Lamoine that had been discontinued received a new permit with conditions that had to be met. Gott has proposed a new pit to be located off Lamoine Beach Road and adjacent to current pits between Route 184 and Mill Road. That may come up in January.

Home Occupation Code Studied

(Lamoine) - The Planning Board is putting the finishing touches on details and review criteria for home occupation permits. Home Occupations are businesses that operate from a residence which are regulated by the Building and Land Use Ordinance. Other than being defined, the Planning Board has little guidance on permit issuance. An informational hearing is set for January 19th.

Sculpture Set at Permanent Lamoine State Park Home



The arrival
 "Dialogue" was brought on a flat bed trailer to the State Park on November 10th.

(Lamoine) - Lamoine became the home of the first of a half dozen granite sculptures crafted in the summer of 2009 at the Schoodic Sculpture Symposium. The giant work by German sculptor Roland Mayer was set in place on Veterans Day at Lamoine State Park.

Called "Dialogue", the sculpture is made of three prominent pieces of granite with differing shapes and textures. It sits on the lawn to the left of the entrance road

Fishing Derby, Fun Day Set

(Lamoine) - The Lamoine Parks Commission and the Frenchman Bay Riders Snowmobile Club plan to hold their 2nd annual Family Fun Day at Blunt's Pond on Saturday, February 13, 2010. An ice-fishing derby, ice skating, and other activities around the pond highlighted last year's event. Folks also enjoyed flying kites on the ice, snowmobiling, and some hot cocoa.

The Snowmobile Club received approval to enlarge its parking area, so a lot more vehicles can be accommodated at the pond. The Parks Commission and Snowmobile Club will be finalizing plans for the fun day in January. Details will be posted on the town's website. A permit for the fishing derby has already been issued by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. Last year trophies were given to children who landed the biggest fish from the pond.



Now That's Fun!
 Anna Norris holds the big pickerel she and her dad Brian pulled from Blunt's Pond at the 2009 Fun Day & Derby

into Lamoine State Park. Numerous fundraising events raised in excess of \$8,000 needed to fund the sculpture and its placement in Lamoine. The State Bureau of Parks and Lands also contributed a significant donation to the Sculpture Symposium to cover the costs of the project. Commissioner Patrick



A crane carefully places the granite pieces on the pad.

Lower Speed Limit Sought On Mill Road

(Lamoine) - The town has written to the Commissioner of the Department of Transportation to seek a 25 MPH speed limit on the lower end of Mill Road. The area is a fairly densely populated neighborhood and the road is quite narrow, which may justify a lower posted limit.

The issue came to light following a request from Hancock County Deputy Sheriff Chris Thornton following a brief high speed chase that began on Mill Road. The default speed limit of 45 MPH is currently in effect, but no speed limit signs are posted. Deputy Thornton was able to find the offending vehicle on another road and arrested the driver and another man.

By state statute, the MDOT and the state police set speed limits on all roads and streets in Maine. The town received a letter from the MDOT promising a study of the road soon.

Parks Kiosks Ordered

(Lamoine) - Kiosks for Lamoine Beach Park and Bloomfield Park are finally in construction nearly 3-years after town meeting funded them. The Parks Commission worked with numerous groups to make sure the information on the three sided kiosks was accurate. A design firm in Ellsworth put the final product together and a company in Canada is producing the high tech panels. Parks Commission Chair Kerry Galeaz told Selectmen the plan is to install the kiosks at both parks in the spring of 2010. No kiosk is planned at Marlboro Beach at this time. The kiosks contain historic and environmental information about the two parks, as well as the rules for using both parks.

McGowan said "Maine's passions for the arts and for nature are even more powerful when they come together in any one special place."

While the installation at the State Park was a relatively low key event, there will be a celebration next spring that should involve the entire community. Planning is already underway, though no final date has been set.

The community is grateful to Symposium Director Jesse Salisbury for coordinating the effort to craft and place the sculpture in town. It will cost nothing to drive in and see the work, and with luck will spend many centuries at its location.



The final product—November 11, 2009

Building Permits Issued

(Lamoine) - Code Enforcement Officers Dennis Ford and Michael Jordan issued the following permits since the last edition of the Lamoine Quarterly.

#	Name	Type
36	Bragdon, Terry	Mobile Home
37	Sutter, Jay	Shed
38	McArdle, Paul	Residence
39	Chase, Tom	Garage
40	Bond, Vernon	Sun Room
41	Smith, George	Sun Room
42	Wardwell, K.	Deck
43	Trites, Robert	Residence
44	West, Ronald	Addition
45	Solley, James	Shed
46	Albee, John	Residence
47	Stanwood, Robt	Residence
48	Lamoine, Town	Parking Lot
49	Jewell, Duane	Garage
50	Wilder, Mike	Barn

The number of permits is down slightly from 2008 when 58 building permits in total were issued. Permits are also listed on the town's website (www.lamoine-me.gov)

Culvert Added at Needles Eye Flood Area



Workers from John W. Goodwin, Jr. work to install a second, overflow culvert on Needles Eye Road in early November.

(Lamoine) - So far, so good for a section of Needles Eye Road that flooded nearly every time it rained hard in Lamoine. A second culvert designed to handle overflow runoff from large storms was installed to keep the water from washing over the road, potentially ruining the road bed in that area. Since installation, two good sized rain storms have hit the area, and the road did not come close to flooding during either storm.

The Maine Emergency Management Agency helped to fund the project through what's known as a Hazard Mitigation Grant. Such grants are designed to reduce flooding damage through improvements similar to the installation in Lamoine. The project

scored fairly high when the grant application was submitted in 2009. A picture of a vehicle crossing the flooded area, driving by barricades set up by the fire department was very convincing according to project manager Joann Mooney of MEMA.

The town awarded the bid to John W. Goodwin, Jr. of Southwest Harbor. There was a pretty big glitch, t h o u g h . A

miscommunication between workers saw the existing culvert removed and replaced, instead of the addition of the second culvert. The removed culvert had started to rot away, and would not have lasted many more years anyway. Goodwin agreed to install the 2nd culvert (both are now plastic) only for the actual cost of the culvert, no additional labor was charged. Selectmen agreed to the offer and the work was completed within less than a week.

MEMA has paid \$4,000 of its obligation of what turned out to be a \$6,800 project. The original budget had been in the \$7,200 range. Once the project receives a final inspection from MEMA, it is expected that the final \$1,100 will be sent to the town. The town's share of the project is about \$1,700.

Fire Calls Keep Department Hopping

(Lamoine) - The final quarter of 2009 saw a wide variety of calls for firefighters. In early October the Lamoine Volunteer Fire Department responded to a call from the US Coast Guard to help search for a missing sailor. The person who reported 56-year old Dr. John Myers of Freeport missing was unsure where the sailor had departed in a trip to his cottage in Salisbury Cove. Lamoine VFD personnel were able to determine that Dr. Myers left from Hancock and assisted the Coast Guard in the 2-day search that ended when the doctor's body was found in Bar Harbor.

The department responded to a pair of motor vehicle accidents in October—one at the intersection of Lamoine Beach Road and Shore Road, and the other near Wolf Run on the Shore Road. The second accident involved partially dismantling the front of the vehicle which started smoking when the battery short circuited.

Halloween Day brought a pair of calls to the Lamoine Beach area on a very windy day. The first call of an uncontrolled brush fire was unfounded, the second call for a lawn tractor fire found that was out on arrival.

In November a woods fire of mysterious origin was quickly extinguished on Mill Road. The Maine Forest Service looked for the cause of the blaze which scorched approximately 3-tenths of an acre of wooded land owned by the Cold Spring Water Company and determined it was likely intentionally set. The department stood by the fire station

the very next night while Franklin Fire responded to three woods fires started with a flare gun.

A chimney fire on the Needles Eye Road on a cold morning in December brought a fast response from the fire department. A buildup of creosote inside the chimney caught fire. After putting chemicals down the chimney and checking for extension into the home, the homeowners were advised to have a professional check the chimney.

In mid-December firefighters rushed to Douglas Highway in North Lamoine after a stove fire was reported in Selectman Gary McFarland's home. The fire was out on arrival, but the home was full of smoke. A high power fan was set up to evacuate the smoke, and the stove checked to make sure the fire was out. No one was hurt in the fire, but the stove was badly damaged.



So Long, Old Faithful
The LVFD's 1976 Ford has been traded in for the new truck 405. Engine 402 was the first truck purchased new by the town and served the town for 33-years. It will now be used by firefighters in the Aroostook County Town of Crystal.

Fire Dept. Lot Denied. No Appeal Planned

(Lamoine) - The Board of Selectmen has decided to let the chips fall where they may in regard to setting the fire department off from the school lot. A plan for the fire station lot was submitted to the Planning Board and subsequently denied by the board due to setback issues created by the new lot, as the school would be too close to the abutting property line with the fire station.

Under school consolidation law, school property is transferred to Regional School Unit # 24. The RSU agreement stipulated that the town would retain a piece of land where the fire station and its parking area and septic system presently sit.

Selectmen decided not to appeal the denial at this point, as no deed has been issued to the RSU. Planning Board Chair and Local School Advisory Committee member Gordon Donaldson suggested that the Selectmen stand pat until the Maine Legislature applies possible changes to the RSU law which could include potential withdrawal provisions. Donaldson noted a majority of voters in Lamoine favored repeal of the consolidation laws in November. There presently is no plan to withdraw.

Fire Department To Replace Radios

(Lamoine) - A policy change by the Federal Communications Commission is proving costly to fire departments around the nation, Lamoine included. The FCC has determined that all public safety agencies that use the 150Mhz range will have to broadcast using what's called narrow band technology effective on January 1, 2013. While that may seem a long way off, there are a lot of things that must take place prior to the changeover date—especially making provisions to purchase new radios.

Most of the radios and pagers the fire department utilizes are wide-band transmitters and receivers. Those will become illegal on the switchover date, and because of the nature of narrow band technology, older pagers will be difficult to hear when the new broadcast technology is used. The town is budgeting \$12,495 in the 2010/11 budget to upgrade the handheld 2-ways, mobile transmitters, and pagers. The Hancock County Emergency Management Agency has already provided 7 narrow band compatible pagers. The department is also submitting grant applications to help with the purchase of the new radios. The department will still use the same frequencies.

MDOT Gracious but Realistic at Meeting

(Lamoine) - The Maine Department of Transportation knows its roads in Lamoine are in less than stellar shape. Officials from Nankervis Trucking, the town's plow contractor, asked if something could be done with the rutting on Route 204 and Mud Creek Road because the deep grooves in the road make it difficult to remove the snow and ice.



Crews from the Maine Department of Transportation graded Pinkhams Flats and Partridge Cove Road before the snow fell.

Regional Supervisor Dale Doughty and Area Supervisor Joe Lacerda met with the Selectmen in October to discuss the road situation. Like all state agencies, MDOT is short on money but long on need. Paving is being farmed out to the absolute worst roads in a huge area first, and Lamoine's not on the list, yet. In fact there was not enough in the budget to even shim up the ruts on Mud Creek Road.

The MDOT did agree to ride with Road Commissioner Mike Jordan and Sam Nankervis to look over the situation, and the shoulders on Route 204 were deemed to be a high priority because of the many deep drop-offs. A grader was sent to town

to get the shoulders evened up making it a lot safer should a driver get off the pavement.

Lacerda has also been very responsive to reports of potholes on the state roads in town, patching those in early December. The MDOT also took care of a flooding problem on Jordan River Road, by removing a smaller inlet at the offending culvert, and rebuilding the outlet area so that water could escape in higher volumes. Two major rainfalls tested that repair, and it seems to be working a lot better.

The MDOT may be able to do some shim work on Mud Creek next year.

Shellfishing Ordinance Nearly Ready

(Lamoine) - Voters in seven communities including Lamoine will likely be asked at their respective town meetings (in Ellsworth the City Council makes the decision) whether to adopt a regional ordinance to regulate shellfish harvesting. Representatives from the communities have been busy hammering out the legislation with assistance from the Maine Department of Marine Resources.

The latest ordinance draft would require commercial diggers to obtain a license. One requirement to obtain a license will be proof of community service—most commonly participation in coastal cleanup activities along the mud flats.

Fees Examined

(Lamoine) - At the suggestion of the Budget Committee, Lamoine's Planning Board is looking at the fees charged for various permits to make sure they fairly reflect the town's cost. Subdivision lots, for instance, are charged \$50 each. The town incurs mapping costs to alter the tax maps and create lot cards for the assessors, costs to purchase and install street signs, and staff time to assign addresses for newly constructed homes.

It's not clear if any recommendations to alter the fee structure will go before the April town meeting this year. Revenues from permits have dropped as construction slowed in 2009.

The area from Trenton to Sorrento is one of the few in Maine that is not locally regulated, and as such, harvesters from up and down the coast flocked here when red tide shut down much of Maine to shellfish harvesting. The area was not badly affected by red tide this year.

Ellsworth's Community Development Director Janet Toth has been extremely helpful in coordinating the effort. In addition to the ordinance, the town will be asked to enter an inter-local agreement for enforcement, and to fund its share of the shellfish warden position created by the ordinance. The final funding amount has yet to be determined by the committee.

Recycling Studied

(Lamoine) - Selectmen are studying the numbers as the town's recycling transportation contractor is offering a single-stream program, meaning folks would no longer have to sort recyclable materials by type (i.e. plastics, paper, glass, tin). A single-stream collection process would have all the recyclables put into the same container and full containers would be shipped to Pine Tree Waste for processing. The town could choose to generate income from the recycling or pay a flat fee for processing. Many other towns in Maine are also studying single-stream as opposed to sorted recycling options.

Volunteers Continue to Clean Up

By Georgia Munsell

(Lamoine) - This fall the Adopt-A-Highway volunteers who now number 70 have continued to pick up litter on our town roads. A number of volunteers don't just pick up trash in the spring and the fall as requested, but do so every day or week of the year.

Some adopters have had a drop out of the program, but fortunately new ones have stepped in to take their place. We welcome Priscilla McAneny, Bill Reynolds, Phyllis and Larry Mobraaten, Doug Stewart, Jackie Haines and Gregg Tehennepe, and Nancy and Steve Heitert to our ranks.

We thank all our Adopt-A-Highway volunteers for giving their time and effort to help us keep Lamoine looking so beautiful.



Volunteers Mark Munsell and Herb Watson (with a little 4 legged help) load bags of litter picked from their adopted section of road in the fall of 2009

No Conflict on Advisory Panel

(Lamoine) - Selectmen and the Local School Advisory Committee have ruled there is no conflict of interest on the part of committee member Bonnie Marckoon. Mrs. Marckoon was hired by Ellsworth High School as the JV Cheering Coach for this season. Because she is not directly supervised by the RSU 24 central office or the Lamoine Consolidated School, the ordinance ruled that she may continue to serve on the local committee.

The Lamoine Quarterly

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Town Computers Upgraded

(Lamoine) - The various computers used for conducting town business have been upgraded to the latest version of office software, thanks to a cooperative buying program from RSU 24. Microsoft's Office 2007 Suite can cost up to \$400 for each installation, and the town has 5 computers using the software. For about \$50 each the software was installed on the five computers and is working well. The new software is compatible with all the older versions of the programs that were installed on the computers and brings the town up to date on that software.



*Here, Kitty, Kitty
Maybe not—this shot of a bobcat comes from Meadow Point Road resident Will Yancey*

Snow Contract to Bid in February

(Lamoine) - The Town and Nankervis Trucking are in the final year of the 3-year snow removal contract. Budgeting for the 2010/11 costs is purely guesswork at this point, and some significant changes have been made since the previous contract was negotiated. Selectmen plan to send the contract out to bid in February and have the results back in time for the April Town Meeting.

Among the changes are the addition of the salt/sand storage shed, and elimination of the school lot's snow removal from the municipal portion of the contract. The school portion will be bid in conjunction with the overall contract, but the cost will be borne by RSU 24, which should lower the municipal cost. By agreement this season the town is billing RSU 24 for a portion of the overall contract cost for snow removal at the school.

Fuel cost and storm escalators were added to the present contract and are expected to continue in the new document.

Proposed Budget Holds Tax Line

(Lamoine) - Lamoine's Budget Committee is recommending spending cuts of approximately \$44,000 while anticipated non property tax revenues have dropped about \$42,000. That should mean the municipal tax commitment (the portion of property not funding schools or county government) should stay stable in 2010/11. There's a "but" attached, though. Not yet included in the budget are tuition costs to non-RSU 24 schools or any costs to enforce the proposed Shellfish Ordinance (see page 5).

Among the departments seeing proposed reductions are solid waste, planning, social services requests and paving. Administration is budgeted to rise by just a little more than 1.8%, which is the amount of cost-of-living increases the Budget Committee and Selectmen agreed to in past years. Road maintenance is proposed to rise 11.19%, due to anticipated plowing cost increases and crack sealing operations. Public Safety budget costs are up slightly—the fire department is budgeted for less than the current year, but the ambulance contract rises by \$3,485 in the next budget cycle.

Among lower revenue projections are excise taxes, investment interest and state revenue sharing. Income from the rental of the new cell tower will help offset some of the losses.

State Say Property Values Up

(Lamoine) - Maine's Property Tax Division says Lamoine is worth \$283,750,000, up \$11,650,000 from the 2009 State Valuation. Figures used to determine the valuation are derived from actual property sales, now approximately 2-years old. It's expected that the valuation may level off for the 2011 state valuation due to market conditions. The town valuation as of April 1, 2009 was \$247,105,350, up \$2,713,150 from the 2008 taxable valuation.

Eel Grass Studied

By Carol Korty

(Lamoine) The 7th grade began a new project this year: **The Eelgrass Restoration Project.** Chris James, our school's science teacher, is working with a project designed by Dr. Jane Disney of MDI Biological Laboratory to teach students about the vital role eel grass in providing a "nursery" for small fish, mussels, lobsters and other crustaceans. Students have been maintaining two eelgrass tanks in their classroom to observe the natural process of seeding. Their enthusiasm and ideas impressed Anita Bernhardt of the Maine Department of Education on her visit to the school. On January 26, 2010, they will present their findings at a Youth Eelgrass Summit at MDI Biological Laboratories along with students from other participating schools on MDI.

Conservation Commission Focuses on Water

By Amy Morley

(Lamoine) - The Lamoine Conservation Commission has produced two written brochures to help educate the Lamoine community about our aquifer: The Mini-Handbook of Lamoine's Groundwater Hydrology, prepared by Willem Brutsaert, PhD, a Surface and Groundwater Engineering Hydrologist and a resident of Lamoine, and a shorter more condensed version of Willem's Mini-Handbook. Copies of both of these are available at the Town Hall, and the full Mini-Handbook is available at the Town website.

The LCC is holding a series of screening of documentary films about global water issues. The first showing on November 11 at the Lamoine Town Hall was Flow, an investigation into the world water crisis. If you missed it and would like to view this informative film, we've learned it is available through Netflix. LCC will show Tapped, a made-in-Maine film, in various venues in February and March. This documentary examines the role of the bottled water industry.



Karla Butler studies Eel Grass set up in the classroom aquarium.

Audit Released

(Lamoine) - If you're a number cruncher, then the 2009 annual town audit is for you. Completed in early December by Jim Wadman, CPA, the audit shows the town ended fiscal year 2009 with an undesignated fund balance (surplus) of \$310,537. Years ago the Budget Committee and Selectmen set a \$300,000 target for the fund balance, and despite a tough economic year, that has been maintained.

The full audit will be published in the 2009 Town Report and is posted on the town's website.

Flags Take Beating

(Lamoine) - The flag display on the utility poles of Lamoine came down a little later than scheduled this fall. An inventory of the flags removed showed that 14 had to be replaced due to tearing and fraying, and that another 10 will be hard pressed to make it through the summer of 2010.

Additionally, a half dozen poles sustained damage this summer, either from passing trucks or just the elements and will need to be replaced. The Budget Committee and Selectmen approved a slightly higher budget for maintenance of the flag display that goes up in May.

Bottles Earn Local Groups \$\$

(Lamoine) - Returnable containers dropped off at the transfer station are bringing in some nice cash amounts for local groups to help with fund raising. Since being instituted last winter, the following amounts have been paid:

Special Childrens Friends	\$93.90
Veterans Memorial Fund	\$191.35
Lamoine 8th Grade Class	\$188.60
Frenchman Bay Riders	\$129.35
Lamoine Cheerleading	\$118.55
Lamoine Patrons	\$409.35
Cub Scout Pack #88	\$367.15
Lamoine Parks Commission	\$219.90

Community groups are reminded to fill out an application (available from the town's website) and returnable proceeds will be forwarded to the group for the month designated by the Selectmen. Groups must meet certain criteria to qualify to receive funding.

Lamoine Community Arts News

By Carol Korty

(Lamoine) - The members of LCA are planning a series of play reading evenings to be held at various homes in the community during the upcoming months. In addition to having fun, we try to expose ourselves to different styles and playwrights as we look for scripts that fit our skills and community interest! If you'd like to join us and/or join LCA please call Carol Korty (667-4441) for details.

You can also look for us during the Cabaret entertainment night at the Lamoine school gym where we will contribute a short performance to the evening's festivities. The next Quarterly will give particulars on our Readers' Theater performance in May at the Grange. This has been a well received and attended event in the past --a must see!

GET WET

(Lamoine) - For the 4th year, students in grades 6 and 5 will test water samples brought from home for the **GET WET! project**. This on-going project continues to provide the town with data on the presence of nitrates, chloride, iron, pH, hardness, and conductivity in our drinking water. Lamoine's testing will occur in late February under the supervision of John Peckenham and classroom teachers Tim Barlow and Sherry Young Language Arts teacher Carol Duffy will give an additional dimension by assigning an "ecological mystery" story, Who Really Killed Cock Robin? by Jean Craighead George.

Historical Society Plans Repairs to Meeting House

By Muffet Stewart

(Lamoine) - Have you driven by the East Lamoine Meeting House recently? Sue and Jim Hodgkins along with Joe Reynolds have done a magnificent job of replacing clapboards on the front and on the bell tower and painting the front and sides of the building. The helping hand parties were defeated by bad weather in June, but the Hodgkins have worked through the summer to keep the project going. They have buttoned it up for the winter, to be continued in the spring. Mr. Huebner, the steeple man with the bucket truck will be participating in the steeple repair and will get back to it as soon as the weather allows in the spring. All hands will be welcome once again! This building, one of the oldest in Lamoine, is a historical treasure which is worth the effort to preserve. Once renovations are complete, we look forward to having more public events in addition to the "Pot Luck Concert" and summer worship service the Sunday following each year.

If you would like to make a tax deductible donation to the renovation fund for the East Lamoine Meeting House, please mail your check to Lamoine Historical Society, 362 Lamoine Beach Road, Lamoine, Maine, 04605. We welcome donations in any amount. If you would like to be a Lamoine Historical Society member and receive advance notice of upcoming events and opportunities as well as the newsletter keeping you up to date on the renovation progress, please add \$10.00 to your check.



The "Pot Luck Concert" is held each August in the East Lamoine Meeting House. Shown here are David Henry, Marion McFarland and a bevy of talented Lamoine residents you will recognize, at one of these

Liens Satisfied

(Lamoine) - The town did not take possession of any property through the lien process this December. With a deadline of December 16th to pay or make other satisfactory arrangement, all the properties with a tax lien from 2007/08 got the payment to the town office on time. The town sent out a total of nine foreclosure notices are required by law, giving the taxpayer 30-to-45 days notice before the property automatically became property of the town. It has been several years since the town has auctioned any foreclosed property.



Helping Mommy Vote

Two year old Ella Montgomery looks on as her mom, Jessica, places November 2009 ballot in the official box.

Off Year Election Brings High Turnout

(Lamoine) - Same sex marriage, a cut to excise tax, another shot at a Taxpayer Bill of Rights, medical marijuana and repeal of mandatory school consolidation brought voters out in record off-year numbers. When the ballots were counted, 891 voters had submitted their choices, 59% of the 1,500 registered voters. Here's how the town voted:

Issue	Yes	No
Same Sex Marriage Repeal	433	455
Excise Tax Reduction	221	662
Sch. Consolidation Repeal	459	415
TABOR II	336	544
Medical Marijuana	491	395
Transportation Bond	578	299
Petition Certification	451	418

Vital Statistics

(Lamoine) - Three new little ones to welcome this quarter. **Alyssa Jaide Turner** was born on October 1st at Maine Coast Memorial Hospital. **Ella Hurd O'Connell** was born at Maine Coast on October 20th. Her mom, Sara, is a former Parks Commissioner. And **Morris Nikolai Yett** was born at MDI Hospital on December 4. His grandmother is Lamoine teacher Margaret Burnett.

Two residents with close ties to the Lamoine Volunteer Fire Department passed away this quarter. **Patricia Francazio** of Lamoine Beach Road died November 12th. Her husband Dean is one of Lamoine's firefighters. She was 41. And **Mark Linscott** of Douglas Highway passed away on December 5th at age 51. He was a former member of the Lamoine VFD.

Congratulations are due to **Will and Sharon Stephenson** who were re-married on October 8th by Deputy Town Clerk & Notary Stu Marckoon in Ellsworth. **Jonathan Harris and Sarah Junkins** were married on October 11th in Bangor. Jon is a member of the Lamoine VFD. **Vaughn Nichols and Mary Beth Harmon** were married on October 31st in Hancock. They reside on Buttermilk Road.

January 2010 Lamoine Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>The Transfer Station is open normal hours January 1 & 2 The Fire Department meets on Tuesday Nights at 7PM</i>					1-Town Office Closed	2-Town Office Open 8-Noon
3	4-7PM Parks Cmsn.	5-7PM Planning Board	6-7PM Assessors	7-7PM Selectmen	8	9
10	11-Nomination Papers Available	12	13-7PM Conservation Commission	14	15	16
17	18-Holiday 6:30 School Adv. Cmte.	19-6:30 Ordinance Info Hrg. 7PM Parks Cmsn*	20	21-7PM Selectmen	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30-Town Office Open 8-Noon
31	*Parks Commission meets at Snowmobile Club on 1/19/10					

February 2010 Lamoine Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2-7PM Planning Board	3-7PM Assessors	4-7PM Selectmen	5	6-Town Office Open 8-Noon
7	8	9	10-7PM Conservation Cmsn	11	12	13-Fun Day at Bloomfield Park
14	15-President's Day (Office Closed)	16-7PM Parks Commission	17	18-7PM Selectmen	19	20
21	22-Nomination Papers Due	23	24	25	26	27-Town Office Open 8-Noon
28-2nd Half Taxes due	Be sure to check the town's website (www.lamoine-me.gov) for calendar updates.					

March 2010 Lamoine Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2-7PM Planning Board	3-7PM Assessors	4-7PM Selectmen	5-Absentee Ballots Available (Town Meeting)	6-Town Office Open 8-Noon
7	8	9	10-7PM Conservation Cmsn.	11	12	13
14	15	16-7PM Parks Commission	17	18-7PM Selectmen	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27-Town Office Open 8-Noon
28	29	30	31	Expect a public hearing on proposed ordinance changes—date to be announced—check the website		

Remember These Dates:

Family Day @ Blunt's Pond—Feb 13
 2nd 1/2 Property Tax Due—Feb 28
 Municipal Election Day—April 6
 Annual Town Meeting—April 7

State Government Is Closed the Following Days:

New Year's Day	Friday, January 1, 2010
Shutdown Day	Friday, January 15, 2010
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	Monday, January 18, 2010
President's Day	Monday, February 15, 2010
Shutdown Day	Tuesday, February 16, 2010
Shutdown Day	Friday, March 12, 2010

The Lamoine Quarterly January 2010

Inside this issue:

- 1 School Principal Kept On
- 1 New Fire Truck Arrives
- 2 Cell Tower Going Up
- 3 Sculpture placed @ Park
- 3 Family Fun Day Set
- 4 New Culvert Added
- 5 MDOT, Selectmen Talk
- 6 Town Budget Drafted
- 7 Bottle Money Paid Out
- 7 Vital Statistics

And Much, Much More!



Town of Lamoine
 606 Douglas Highway
 Lamoine, ME 04605