



Administrative Assistant to the Select Board

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Report for Meeting of July 21, 2022

Happy New Fiscal Year???!

It's been a while since you've had a "regular" meeting, so the agenda has piled on a bit. I apologize for the length, but nothing terribly time consuming is on the docket.

It's been very busy in the town office. The property tax bills got mailed out this week (Monday through Wednesday the 11th through the 13th). Jennifer and I managed to stuff all of the nearly 1,500 bills into envelopes in short order between customers. At the same time vehicle registrations and collection of 21/22 property taxes based on lien notices were quite brisk. Good for cash flow, but as far as getting behind the scenes stuff done, that's been delayed.

The new website is up and running. It looks sharp, but it's a very steep learning curve for me to be able to keep it updated. It will take some practice!

The company that is surveying the harbor was here yesterday and did their data gathering. David Herrick and Kevin Murphy carted them around the harbor in their private vessels.

Minutes – June 28, 2022 – Please review the minutes. I included a very brief summarization of our time with the Trenton Select Board in them.

Expenditure Warrant 1 – Thank you for signing this – it's amazing how quickly the bills accumulate. You're going to notice a lot of accounts payable on this and the next few warrants as bills from FY 2021/22 are still coming in.

Expenditure Warrant 2 – This will be updated on the website (I hope) and printed the day of the meeting. I expect the school department will be the bulk of it.

Cash & Budget Reports FY 2022 – We have over expended the solid waste budget. I got an inkling late in June this would likely happen. It's a result of higher container rental, increased tonnage, and the revised recycling transport agreement. You'll see later in the agenda a special town meeting for August 18th. This will be on that warrant (the only item thus far).

Cash & Budget Reports FY 2023 – This report has not yet been completed – it's a major undertaking that I just haven't been able to complete. It's a lot of excel work. I hope to have it by meeting night.

Tax Lien Status – The 30-day notices went out on June 17th. We'll start the lien filing process on July 17th. They will be filed by meeting night, and I'll print the list for you.

Excise Tax Report – The quarterly excise tax report will also be printed for your packet and (hopefully) posted on line. We're a lot over budget, but about \$34,000 less than the previous fiscal year (to be expected). And that would be why I intentionally budgeted low.

Encumbrance Order – I hope to prepare an order to encumber from FY 22 those projects that were authorized but not completed. Besides the usual road work, there's a garage door project for the fire station. There may be some others – I'll have that ready for the meeting.

Special Town Meeting – August 18, 2022 – As noted in the budget report for FY 22, the waste disposal budget is over budget. The outstanding bill on here will be the landfill well water monitoring bill, so my recommendation would be to appropriate from fund balance \$8,500 for waste disposal for FY 2022. The plan is to have this just prior to your meeting on August 18th – I can't imagine that it will generate a lot of public attendance.

PFAS – Landfill monitoring – I have written letters to the three homeowners whose wells tested slightly high for PFAS chemicals. Two have contacted the town office to say they'd like bottled water. I have called MDI Spring Water, but have not heard back from them. I plan to make contact with the fellow from the Maine DEP to come up with the game plan to supply water and install filters on the three wells.

Animal Control Update – A separate memo is in your packet. We had a zoom meeting this morning between five towns and hope to move forward. The next zoom meeting will be in August.

Traffic Light Maintenance – There is a contract offer from a newly formed traffic light maintenance company that is operating in our part of the world. I have tried for several years to get someone to do some PM work on the Rte 3/204 light (and to fix the signs), without any luck. King Electric had done some, but they've stopped and reportedly are closing down. This company will also be doing the Oak Point Road light in Trenton. I highly recommend that we start doing this.

Heating Oil Pre-purchase – Rob Liebow is monitoring fuel prices and we're in touch. If you've got any advice or guidance on this, please let me know. It's a roll of the dice at this point – at least crude oil prices have started to fall.

Returnables – The Grange has put in its application. They already are getting the proceeds from May (whenever those come in). The next available month is August. We've had no other applications. August is a big month! The deal is that one month per year per organization. Your call.

Appointments – We have an opening on the [Conservation Commission](#). Larissa reports Joanna Sands is willing to serve – she should be terrific!

Local Road Assistance Acceptance – You sign this annually. The form came in just after your last meeting. A copy is in your packet.

Fire Response Cost Recovery – The ordinance passed at the school budget town meeting, and the next steps are to set a fee schedule. The proposed schedule is enclosed in your packet. Then, the town can hire a firm to collect the funds from reports submitted by the fire department. Central Maine Cost Recovery has sent a proposed contract. They get \$25/incident or 20%, whichever is higher.

The fire chief now has some mixed emotions on billing for services. I'll ask him to see if he can attend the meeting.

New Website – It looks fantastic. As mentioned earlier on, it's a whole new animal to post things too, but I can do it to some extent. It's not quite as easy to maneuver as the previous site, but it's a lot less convoluted than our old site. I am very pleased with how it looks.

MMA Election – The ballot for Maine Municipal Association's annual election is in your packet. No one is opposed.

Staff vacation schedule – Jennifer is taking most of next week off. I am off the week after. We'll be closed at lunch time during my week off. I'll likely bring lunch with me when Jenn is off, but will have to leave to take care of some town business from time to time.

That's the agenda for now. The new Lamoine Quarterly should be out next week (I'm not sure why it's taking so long to print, but their press was recently under repairs).

See you on Thursday!

stu