



Administrative Assistant to the Select Board

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Report for Meeting of October 6, 2022

Happy end of the first quarter of FY 2023! Gotta say I'm glad we live in Maine and not Southern Florida this week. I wonder if Hurricane Ian might mean that some of our snow-birds will stay later in the fall.

It has been an extremely busy time in the town office this week. The revaluation folks are in daily and have had remarkably nice weather to conduct their property visits in. We've had a few inquiries about them at the town hall but no one seems to be upset. The crew reports good cooperation in the field.

Our auditors will be here on Tuesday the 4th of October. There is some field testing work they've sent over which is keeping us busy copying and compiling records.

Mike Hodgkins went to install the new window in the back room, and when he cut away the wall board, there were electric lines running in the space where the window is going. Arthur Ashmore responded quickly and has rewired that area to make it window ready. Very impressive.

Jennifer Kovacs-Lord is busy preparing for the November 8, 2022 election. We're printing up 1,100 ballots for the local referendum question. Absentee ballot requests have been pouring in!

I am writing this on Thursday the 29th. The Lamoine Quarterly will be printed either tomorrow or Monday October 3rd. Thank you especially to Larissa for a thorough editing job.

Remember, Nathan is running the meeting on the 6th. Jo did say she might be done with her event sooner than expected and may swing by if she's available. The agenda seems long, but shouldn't be too bad.

[Minutes September 15, 2022](#) – Please look over the minutes in your packet and get back to me with changes please.

[Expenditure Warrant 7](#) – Thank you for signing the warrant prior to the regular meeting. The big checks on this were the county tax and school payroll. The total was \$250,114.69. Please let me know if you have any questions.

[Expenditure Warrant 8](#) – This should be considerably smaller, though there most likely will be the school operations and payroll warrants. Town payroll, the payroll taxes, and the month end state reports will be on here as well. The warrant will be posted and periodically updated on the website.

[Cash & Budget Reports](#) – A printed copy of the budget report was with warrant 7. This too will be periodically updated on the website.

Checking Account Reconciliation – I suspect this will be ready from our bank on Monday and I'll endeavor to get the reconciliation done and e-mailed prior to the meeting.

Quarterly Excise Tax Report – The written report will be with your materials on meeting night and posted on the website.

Meeting with Northern Light Medical Transport – This is the ambulance service with whom we contract in Lamoine. Andi McGraw is the new chief of that service and has agreed to come speak to the board and bring figures about how many runs they make and how often another service has to be dispatched to handle calls here. What prompted the meeting was a recent change that placed Bar Harbor lower on the priority to provide backup service. Apparently either Sullivan or Schoodic EMS is the primary backup now.

Public Hearing Date – November 8, 2022 Referendum – By law you have to hold a public hearing on any local referendum question. My suggestion is to set the date for your next regular meeting on October 20, 2022. The order will be ready to sign on Thursday.

General Assistance Ordinance – The annual changes to the GA Ordinance are ready for adoption. A public hearing is scheduled for this meeting as required. Following closure of the hearing, you typically move to adopt the annual ordinance update as required.

Grading Estimates – There's an e-mail from Kelley & Sons to grade the entrance to Bloomfield Park, the dirt portion between Marlboro Beach Road and the beach, and the entrance to the former landfill. Let's discuss these.

MacQuinn Road (Hancock) – The administrator in Hancock called this week. The MacQuinn Company has expressed an interest in gating off their facility from through traffic due to vandalism and speed issues. She advises that Hancock will likely erect signs only at this point and only on the Hancock side of the company entrance. The problem traffic appears to be coming from Route 1. It was very kind of Hancock to let us know and I've asked her to keep us informed.

Camping Concern – There's a memo in your packet with another concern regarding camping on a nearby property. I will also pass this along to the CEO.

State Valuation 2023 – As expected the town's total state valuation rose sharply for 2023. The new valuation is proposed to be \$363,600,000. That's up from \$326,900,000 for 2022, or 11.23%. The state report is in your packet, along with a print out of total valuation history since 1993 (the last full revaluation).

Community Center – A memo from Jo is in your packet regarding this now semi-permanent agenda item.

Elder Programs – Jo also supplied communication on this semi-permanent agenda item.

Pedestrian Visibility – At one point the State of Maine had some sort of promotion program to encourage pedestrian visibility. I e-mailed the link on the state's DOT website for the Heads Up program, but have not heard back from anyone yet.

Budget Schedule 2023/24 – It's time to start thinking about that (beyond time actually). I'll start putting things together after your meeting and try to schedule an initial Budget Committee meeting later in October. Let's discuss budget priorities.

Annual Town Meeting Date(s) – If you stick with the same schedule you've used in the past, the election would be on March 7, 2023 and the open meeting on March 15, 2023 (beware the Ides of March?). I will draw up an order for those dates if that's how you wish to proceed.

Transfer Station Holiday Schedule – Christmas and New Year's Day both fall on Sundays this year. Let's discuss the operating hours for Christmas Eve & New Year's Eve.

That's what I have for the moment. See you on Thursday.

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