



Administrative Assistant to the Select Board

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Report for Meeting of November 17, 2022

Whew! It's been a very hectic past month in the town office. The 2022 election kept the staff hopping, and Town Clerk Jennifer Kovacs-Lord did a remarkable job keeping everything in order and appointing the staff to run the polls and process absentee ballots. There were no issues at all on Election Day, and many of our voters have passed along compliments to the staff for that. I am writing this on Thursday the 10th – the state police were here to pick up the voting machine sticks for the ranked choice voting processing in the 2nd congressional district.

Perhaps the business in the town office will tail off a bit, giving us a chance to get some work done behind the scenes – such as budget prep! I am looking forward to tonight's infrastructure/facilities meeting, and then a holiday tomorrow.

Next week Jennifer is taking Monday off. I'll be in later than usual on Tuesday as we are taking my Dad to meet my sister and introduce him to the assisted living center where we hope he will make his next home.

You have a fairly lengthy agenda for next Thursday. Some of it shouldn't take all that long.

Minutes – November 3, 2022 – Please review the minutes and if you have written corrections, please let me know.

Expenditure Warrant 11 – The warrant is posted on the town's website and will be printed for the meeting. The largest bill so far is the November plowing bill. There's a chance of snow showers next Tuesday night – but the trucks have been quiet for now. The election staff payroll is on the warrant, and regular payroll will also be there.

Cash & Budget Reports – This will also be periodically updated on the website and printed for meeting night. At this writing, all looks well.

Bids – PFAS Water Filters – The RFP went out the day after the last meeting. So far we have one back, I'll expect more by meeting day.

Lamoine Beach Play Structure - In 2019/20 the town meeting appropriated funds from the Hodgkins Trust Fund to purchase and install the play structure at Lamoine Beach. That has finally been installed, but the funding for it was closed into the Hodgkins Trust Fund after the fiscal year ended. A bill should be coming at some point for that, and it should be paid for from the Hodgkins fund. Just wanted to let you know ahead of time.

Facilities and Infrastructure – As mentioned, I am looking forward to tonight's meeting. We can discuss the next steps.

Elder Issues – I offered up some names to Jo for serving on a committee. She plans a meeting the day after this meeting to start rolling.

Assessing – As you are likely aware, the [town meeting](#) gave strong approval to the ordinance change to do away with the elected Board of Assessors on July 1, 2023 and to give authority to the Select Board to hire an assessor. That means you've got to hire an assessor. My suggestion would be to schedule a meeting with the Board of Assessors and plan out how to advertise for an assessor to get ready to come on board on July 1st. While that seems like it's a long ways off, it isn't!

Appointments – Gregg Tehennepe of Buttermilk Road stopped by the office last week and expressed interest in serving on a town committee. I suggested the tech committee and budget committee as both are in his wheelhouse and he agreed. I've put an e-mail from him in your packets and recommend appointment.

Shellfishing Update – I suspect Kathleen can give the latest update, but there is an e-mail from the Frenchman Bay Shellfishing group about a proposed major hike in recreational license fees next year.

Returnables – The Grange has submitted another request for the returnables. They've benefitted in August (we've not received that check yet), and the next available month is December.

Road Naming Orders – We have two roads (drives that serve multiple dwelling units) that need names. The property owners have given suggested names, and the orders are in your packet.

General Assistance Ordinance – MMA has developed an updated ordinance (beyond the annual numbers update). Maine DHHS has suggested adoption. To do so, you will need to hold a public hearing. My suggestion is your next meeting. The ordinance is over 110-pages long – I did not put copies in your packet, but I will post a link on the website.

Budget Workshop – I have a budget proposal from the Parks Commission, have requested from the Rec Committee chair a budget. The fire department should formulate a budget next week. I'll do up the roads budget and capital improvements next and perhaps we'll know the Shellfishing budget by next week. There has been some procrastinating only because it's been so busy with elections!

That's it for now.

stu