



Administrative Assistant to the Select Board

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Report for January 5, 2023 Meeting

It certainly was an interesting Christmas holiday weekend following the storm of December 23, 2022 that battered the state. I am writing this on the 29th. The fire department has responded to a dozen calls since the 23rd, the bulk of them being trees down on power lines and across roads. About all we could do was place traffic cones on the roads as they involved lines that we cannot touch.

Because so many people were without power for a lengthy period, I decided to offer the town office as a warming center on Christmas Day and the Monday holiday. Jennifer came in for a couple hours on the Monday to supervise things while I did some storm damage assessment.

More on the storm later in the report.

I've been in and out of the office for the week as high school basketball is on vacation schedules with daytime games. Jennifer took Tuesday as a vacation day, and we were closed in the afternoon. My granddaughter and her parents spent a couple of days with us which was a true delight, so after a Christmas Day with no power, this was truly needed!

I've been trying to get the Lamoine Quarterly done. The storm and fire calls have cut deeply into that. I should be able to finish things up during the weekend, working from home.

You've got a fairly hefty agenda. Prior to your meeting, the new Facilities & Infrastructure Committee will hold its initial meeting starting at 6PM.

[Minutes – December 15, 2022](#) – Please look over the minutes; written corrections are very much appreciated.

[Expenditure Warrant 14](#) – Thank you for signing this on an off week. Let me know if there are any questions regarding the warrant.

[Expenditure Warrant 15](#) – This should be fairly light as the school warrants are on warrant 14. It'll be posted on line and updated periodically.

[Cash & Budget Reports](#) – This will also be posted on the website and updated periodically, and printed for meeting night.

Tax Lien Foreclosure Update – As of this writing, only one 2020/21 tax lien remains unpaid. The person who requested an installment plan came up with funds to pay the lien.

[Checking Account Reconciliation](#) – That will be done prior to the meeting and e-mailed to you for review.

Quarterly Excise Tax Report – As the 4th quarter of 2022 ends, this will be updated and posted on the website and printed for your meeting.

Animal control – County Contract – A draft of the contract is in your packet. The towns that are contemplating this will meet via zoom on the 5th, so the contract will be slightly updated I suspect.

RFP – Heat Pumps/Solar – Larissa has drafted up a revised RFP. I will be going over that prior to the meeting with any suggested changes. Many thanks for the work on this! Her draft is in your packet. If you notice any changes that are needed, let us know.

RFP – Assessor – Brian Thomas sent along the electronic version of an RFP and I've made some revisions to that and he reviewed them and had no further modifications to suggest. It's in your packet.

Town Meeting March 2023 – **Food Sovereignty Ordinance** – The Lamoine Grange has submitted a proposed ordinance and requested that it go before voters at the March town meeting. I have accumulated some information and some concerns about the proposed ordinance. The memo is in your packet.

Shoreland Zoning Map Amendment – The Planning Board is required to hold a public hearing on the proposed map amendment prior to it being voted upon at the town meeting. I have suggested they hold it at 6:30 PM at their February meeting. They meet on Monday the 2nd of January to decide whether to do that.

Draft Town Meeting Warrant – Thanks to Larissa for several edits to the first draft. In addition to those corrections, the food sovereignty ordinance article is on the warrant for now and the LD1 increase article has been added, as the municipal budget will exceed what the town's limit currently stands at.

Town Report Draft – The cover is drafted at least. Once the quarterly gets finished, this is the next big project. With your permission I will contact Xpress Copy to see what price change there might be for printing this year.

Storm Report – Marlboro Beach – The beach took a direct hit from a combination of extreme high tide, severe waves and wind. It severely eroded the traditional vehicle access drive beyond the pavement, wiping out most of the vegetation and leaving a lot of debris. One of the Parks Commissioners moved the debris to the side of the road and the Parks and Conservation Commissions will meet there on December 31st to assess the damage and give some idea of the cost to repair things. Once I have that figure, a Form 7 will be submitted to the Hancock County EMA.

Bloomfield Park – This storm didn't cause any damage, but a wind storm a few weeks back brought down a huge evergreen tree and left part of it hung up in other trees. A professional tree person will be needed to bring this down. Mike Hodgkins has put caution tape around the area. I will seek your permission to request estimates for that job.

Fire Calls – As noted in the report introduction the fire department responded to numerous fire calls between December 23 and December 28. Only one call during the storm saw fire apparatus deployed – members responded in their vehicles to the scenes to confirm that trees were on power lines. I placed a bunch of cones in my pickup and set them out where needed. All but one has been retrieved, and one of those got crushed. I would like to purchase 25 more road cones from the Road Budget as we never seem to have enough! Under a state bid contract, this would cost about \$936.00 but we can order from another vendor for less (\$625.00 plus shipping).

Power Restoration – As I write on 12/29 there were just five outages left in Lamoine to be restored; Heron Lane, Orlin Lane, and Fox Run. At the height of the storm more than 380 customers were without power for multiple days. Most were restored within 3-days, and some areas of town went more than 5-days without power. As noted in the introduction I took it upon myself (as local EMA director) to open up the town hall as a warming center on Christmas Day and the next day. My wife graciously agreed to accompany me. Nancy and Jeff Holt saw the Facebook post and brought cookies, and there were other offers to supply food. Several people took advantage of the facility. I kept the Facebook page updated with the number of outages, the warming center info and estimated repair times and the comments seemed well received. Any thoughts you might have on this are most welcome!

Fire Truck Accident – Last evening (12/28/22) Pumper 403 was involved in a rear-end accident on a very slippery Jordan River Road in Trenton. The car the truck hit sustained significant damage. The Sheriff's Department investigated and our insurance carrier has been notified and is on the job. In case you were wondering, NO, I was not the driver (for a change). No one was hurt. I've put some of the paperwork in your packets.

PFAS Installation – The three water filters have been installed. I will ask our LPI to inspect the installs per the suggestion of Maine DEP. We will also be asking for reimbursement for the costs once we get the bill.

Facilities & Infrastructure Committee – The initial meeting is an hour before this meeting.

Lamoine Committee on Aging – Jo may have an update on this committee which has met a couple of times.

And that completes the agenda. We will see most of you on Thursday the 5th – and Happy 2023!

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