



Administrative Assistant to the Select Board

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Report for Meeting of May 8, 2023

Holy cow, this has been a very productive week in the plush corner office. We have started to convert that nasty old cash that sits into the bank into things that the municipality will benefit from for the future!

This weekend, Mike Hodgkins plans to install a new sink in the restroom. An estimator from American Concrete/Shawnee Steps dropped by this morning (Friday April 28th) to measure up for replacement steps. We have an estimate we can well afford. The cistern system for the school/fire department is under design and will be less than feared. The remaining ARPA funds will go to the fire department side of that project. And speaking of ARPA, I managed to maneuver around the federal reporting system and file the required report prior to the deadline! What an awful process that is.

Your meeting will start at 6:30 PM with reviews for Jennifer and me. Rebecca, and I hope Mike Hodgkins will be reviewed on May 22nd. The review sheets are in your packet. They should take 15-minutes each.

Minutes – April 24, 2023 – Please do your usual excellent job of reviewing the minutes and getting corrections to me.

Warrant 24 – Not much on the warrant as I write. There will be a bill for a little over \$63 for cell phone chargers as I've upgraded the town cell phone line, but did not have a charger to go with the new phone. The phone and case also cost a bit over \$60, but that'll be billed with the cell phone bill. The phone that I carry is rather old technology and was starting to become a bit unreliable. The new phone is 5G compatible and the price was right! The sink project bill from Home Depot was just under \$500. State payables, payroll and the normal stuff should be on the warrant as well. I'll post and update the warrant periodically and print one for meeting night.

Cash & Budget Reports – We're looking good on both expenses and revenues at this point. These will also be posted periodically and printed on meeting night.

Checking Account Reconciliation – I should have this done by May 2nd and will e-mail it to you.

Snow Plowing Contract – To date, we've not received any proposals. The deadline is May 4th. I do expect at least one.

Board of Appeals – Superior Court Appeal – A copy of the paperwork that was delivered here this week is in your packet. E-mail from town attorney Pileggi is in your packet regarding representation in this matter.

Town Meeting Warrant – The Budget and Facilities & Infrastructure Committees are meeting jointly on the non-education portion of the proposed warrant. I should have their recommendations on the warrant that you'll sign on Thursday. The land purchase article

has changed from the previous version you saw as things are progressing quickly (see later in the agenda).

Appointments – The [Committee on Aging](#) has recommended that Nancy Pochan be appointed.

There are several pending appointments to the Recreation Committee. The current chair has asked to wait until the prospective appointees have a chance to meet with the committee. I've put that e-mail in your packet.

[Returnables](#) – The Grange has submitted an application for the returnables. The next month available is May. They last benefitted in December.

Memorial Day – I recalled that after last year's ceremony, more board members offered to help Gary with the planning. We're in May – time to start planning! I bought mulch today and the girl scouts will be dressing up the memorial area with that on May 20th I am told. I also have cemetery flags and will plan on placing those (Jo helped last year and that was fun!).

Heat Pumps – We have confirmation from Efficiency Maine that they will pay rebates to the town of \$84,000. We'll need to sign a document once the projects are done to get the money. The heat pumps should be going in the town hall and fire station shortly.

Land Purchase – The proposal has come together quickly. Dan Pileggi and the realtor have the purchase and sale agreement in your packets. I'm prepared to cut the check for the earnest money. Presuming the town meeting approves, we'll have to hire bond counsel and go through that process to get the money. I'm proposing that \$335,000 be financed over 5-years, with \$15,000 coming from the community center fund.

There are some issues you'll have to decide moving forward. There are two dwellings on the land. A mobile home that the current owner plans to vacate is on the property, and the home that the deceased owner lived in will come with the purchase. What to do with those creates some opportunities and options. There is also the gravel lease with Gott's that runs through 2028 which produces a small amount of income that the town would receive. Then there's the whole "what do we plan to do with this" matter which the Facilities and Infrastructure Committee will have a lot more flexibility to work with, provided the town meeting says OK.

The proposed closing date will be around July 21st. I'm sure there will have to be some signatures on a bunch of papers.

Solar project – Revision seems optimistic we'll be able to hook up to Versant. Tina Meserve e-mailed a couple of questions in regard to the heat pumps, which I've forwarded to Dave's World. I've put that e-mail in your packets.

[Facilities & Infrastructure](#) – The committee is meeting with the Budget Committee on May 2nd.

Aging Committee – That committee meets on May 12th.

Animal Control Officer – Daniel McKay is fully on board and working now. I've posted his information on the personnel area of our website and have his business cards in the town office. You may accept my resignation as interim ACO!

Cistern at School/FD – We have placed the order for three 10,000 gallon tanks. It was much less than expected (we thought it might be \$40,000 each, but three will cost less than \$60,000 total). I think we're in good shape on that project.

Comprehensive Plan Review – This is basically a place holder. There's a lot on your plate right now.

Transfer Station Injury – I have reported a possible injury at the facility. You have been advised of the situation. We have to discuss a long term replacement. The injured party has suggested a name, I would like to see us advertise for potential replacements. He is not sure how long he'll be out of commission or if he plans to retire.

Employee Contract Status – FYI, Jennifer will have two years left on her contract beginning July 1st. I'll be entering the final year of my contract July 1st. The rest of the contracted employees (Rebecca, Chris and Mike) all work on a 1-year contract.

The Planning Board meets on Monday and will determine whether the dome camping resort application is complete. If it is, a public hearing will be scheduled at a date to be determined, and it'll have to be at the school, as they expect a lot of comment.

It's been a bit busy as the sun shines. See you on May 8th.

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