



Administrative Assistant to the Select Board

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Report for Meeting of December 21, 2023

You meet next on the longest night of the year – not because of the meeting, but it's the winter solstice on the 21st – the first official day of winter. The meeting will start right after the [special town meeting](#).

Speaking of the town meeting, one of you ought to be the moderator for the meeting. I will open the town meeting and accept nominations for moderator. That will require a written vote and the moderator will swear an oath and then can start the meeting. The town meeting warrant is in your packet.

To keep you up to date on major town developments in the past couple of weeks....Mondays are apparently "storm days". The last three have seen your fire department respond to 10 dispatched calls for storm related matters. I'll have more on the latest storm further down this report.

We have been dealing with mice and drafts at the town hall the past few days. It's been cold outside and despite the bait stations, mice have been coming inside to get warm. We've caught one in a snap trap, and Modern Pest was here today (12/13) and put more bait stations in the building. Jennifer has set three traps (she's on a mission!). We might have to employ an office cat!

Speaking of cats, our regional ACO is out of town, and I'm the backup. Responded to Mill Road this afternoon for an allegedly stray cat – it had no interest in getting into a cat carrier for a ride to the Small Animal Clinic. I've left the carrier with the complainant.

On a much sadder note, our long time school bus driver Dean Merchant's son died in a car crash on Sunday. The school started a go fund me page and it apparently has exceeded the fund raising goal for Cole Merchant's funeral. We live in a very caring town.

The agenda for Thursday's meeting is relatively mild.

[Minutes – December 7, 2023](#) – Please look over the minutes and if you can give me written corrections, that is most helpful.

[Expenditure Warrant 15](#) – This is a large warrant – both in the number of vouchers and in price as the school warrant is hefty – the MDI tuition bill is on that. The warrant is on line and will be updated periodically and printed for the meeting. We'll have to move \$350,000 from investments to cover this.

[Cash & Budget Reports](#) – The report is also on the website and will be updated periodically.

Foreclosures – One lien has been paid, ten remain outstanding. An updated list will be printed and in your packets.

Audit – As noted, our auditor is here tomorrow. They hope to be able to wrap up things shortly after the 1st of the year.

Solar Update – Things are progressing with Revision. They've made application to Versant and we have account numbers (we think). An engineer was here today to look over the salt/sand shed and the school. You will be kept updated.

Certificate of Appreciation – As e-mailed earlier today, there will be a certificate ready for you to sign in recognition of Carol Allen who has delivered Lamoine's mail for 22-years. We can discuss how to recognize her along her route.

Storm Damage – The rain and wind on December 11, 2023 caused a fair amount of damage in town. The Buttermilk Road sustained the most infrastructure damage. Richard McMullen was there to repair the most serious damage on Monday. We've submitted a report to the Hancock County EMA to see if the county might qualify for FEMA funding.

PERC/GRACE – Larissa (and maybe Nathan) plan to attend the meet & greet tomorrow. We should learn more after that.

Map 3 Lot 2 – Holly Taylor has agreed to try to help us sell a portion of this lot that you had surveyed. We'll be talking tomorrow.

Budget Committee Recommendations – The committee wrapped up its work on Monday the 11th. A copy of the budget as recommended is in your packet. The committee is also recommending the Donation Review Ordinance be changed with the maximum recommendation increasing to \$800.00.

Draft Town Meeting Warrant – The hope is to have a draft town meeting warrant ready for initial review for this meeting. I'm in hopes that a final warrant will be ready for you to sign in January.

Vacation Days – I would like to take a couple days right after Christmas off, and four days in April. Bonnie & I are planning a trip to our nation's capital. I've never been.

That's the bulk of the agenda for now. See you on Thursday.

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