



Administrative Assistant to the Select Board

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Report for Meeting of March 7, 2024

Happy Late February! When you meet next, you will be a new board. Unless something goes haywire on Election Day Tuesday, you'll look remarkably like the present board!

I'm writing this on February 28th, the property tax due date. It's been a busy couple of weeks here at the office processing tax payments, and the checking account is quite healthy at the moment. We are getting rain and wind today. Not sure if we'll have any calls for the fire department. If we don't, this will be the first month in a very long time that the fire department has not had to respond to any 9-1-1 calls (I've probably jinxed that!).

We've had a chance to catch up on some things in the office, too. We've cleaned out the front office supply storage room and a couple of shelves in the vault. Mike Hodgkins has made some major recycling runs to the transfer station. Mike also fixed the front door closer. A wind gust apparently caught the door in one of those winter wind storms and partially pulled the bolts and nuts holding the closer through the door. He's put new washers on the outside of the door and they're holding well.

While this is considered the organizational meeting, there are a couple of things on the agenda to take care of, and more may be on an addendum, depending on what happens in the next week.

As deputy clerk I will open the meeting. If Gary and Jo have not yet been sworn in, I'll happily take care of that first thing.

Chair – You have been rotating the board chair for the past several years. Larissa was chair for 2023/24, Jo was chair for 2022/23, Gary was chair for 2021/22, Kathleen was chair for 2020/21, and Bob Christie was chair for 2019/20. Once you choose a chair, that person will take over running the meeting.

Vice Chair – Nathan has been the vice chair for the past two years.

Minutes – February 26, 2024 – Please review the minutes and submit written corrections if you could. They're fairly short.

Expenditure Warrant 21 – There will be the usual payroll and school warrants. We should also be able to move another large chunk of cash into the investment management accounts. I've not yet moved the \$70,000 voted to add to the fire truck purchase into that investment account, and that will be on here! The warrant will be posted on the website and periodically updated and printed for the meeting.

Cash & Budget Reports – This will also be posted on the website and periodically updated and printed for meeting night.

Checking Account Reconciliation – This will be e-mailed to you prior to the meeting for your consideration.

Policy Adoption – Annually, you have adopted four policies; [Disbursement](#), [Mileage](#), [Administrative Fees](#) and the [Board Procedures](#). I've updated those for 2024. No major changes except the mileage rate has gone up – it's a hybrid of the IRS & State of Maine rates.

Hodgkins Scholarship – We've received one application thus far. Last year the entire board was the subcommittee. I would suggest your first meeting in June start an hour early to take care of the awards.

Waste Management Report – I've submitted the annual report to the state for our transfer station and a copy is in your packet. There is no action to take.

Goals 2024/25 – This should be an interesting discussion. Here's what your discussion was last year according to the minutes:

***Goals** – The Board discussed what it hoped to accomplish beyond the usual routine matters for the next year. Jo said she would like to get input from the existing boards and committee so that coordinated thinking is accomplished. Kathleen said she'd like to look at whether larger scale development ties in with the Comprehensive Plan.*

Jo said Lamoine is doing well on ageism issues. She said there is a healthy community involvement in the school, and on town committees. She said the board should keep an eye on the Comprehensive Plan and follow through.

Larissa said she'd like to look 10-years down the road and see what future growth changes might lie ahead. She said future growth constantly changes and things degrade. Kathleen said she's received calls on the proposed "glamp—ground". She said it would be helpful if people looked at ordinances and understood how they work. Sabrina Jordan said she was present because she doesn't understand how much of the town works. She said an educational meeting to explain how each board works might be helpful. Jo said such a thing could happen. Mrs. Jordan asked if a resort such as the proposed glamping project will affect where the town goes in the future. A lengthy discussion followed.

Kathleen suggested some orientation sessions might be good. Jo said topical discussions held at the school might be educational. Kathleen offered to look at the Comprehensive Plan and make a list of what needs doing. Nathan said the discussion can continue.

Meeting Schedule – I've laid out potential meeting and warrant signing dates through August. You are not obligated to follow those dates. I know last year there was a period where the meeting night was switched to Mondays. You probably should discuss the dates.

Executive Session – I mentioned that my contract runs out at the end of June. I'll draft up a new contract which will coincide with my plans to retire in 2028. We can do the performance review as well, since that never seems to take very long.

All for now – see you on the 7th (or sooner). Stu