



Administrative Assistant to the Select Board

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Report for meeting of May 16, 2024

According to the thermometer on the wall, it's 73 degrees outside as I start this report for your next meeting. I believe today will be the first day of umpiring in short sleeves this season! We had the first lawn mowing today at the town properties, and the daffodils and tulips are in full bloom in the front gardens. I believe winter is over! Alas, we're expecting rainy weather for the rest of the week.

It's starting to become quite busy in the office in many aspects. Boat and camper registrations have picked up. May is one of our busier months for vehicle registration, and I'll have more on that in a bit.

Remember, your meeting will start at **6:30 PM!** The Code Enforcement Officer and Facilities Maintenance Director will be in for their annual performance reviews and contract discussions. We'll try to get the regular meeting ready to go at 7PM.

Minutes – May 2, 2024 – Please review the minutes if you could. If I remember correctly we were interrupted by a fire call on the Friday after the meeting, but they were mostly done before leaving.

Expenditure Warrant 26 – There are some non routine items on the warrant thus far. The Committee on Aging asked to order more reflective straps. The copier maintenance contract is here, as is the renewal of remote access for the CTV computer programming. Bob Ehlers of the Parks Commission is building a couple more picnic tables for Lamoine Beach and the lumber bill is on here. I'm expecting a bill for a new generator at the fire station as the old one is being replaced with a newer, more reliable (and slightly larger) one. The warrant will be updated on the website periodically and printed for meeting night.

Cash & Budget Report – As you've noted, excise tax is still coming in very strong. As of Wednesday morning, we have exceeded the 2024/25 excise revenue budget with nearly 2-months to go. In other words, any excise revenue from now through June 30th will be surplus revenue. The same is true with investment interest. We're way ahead of budget on that as well. The budget report is updated on the website periodically and will be printed for meeting night too.

Planning Board Vacancy – I've e-mailed the potential candidates for the alternate position on the board and two of the three you've not met with say they'll be at your meeting. You'll have a difficult decision to make.

Towne v. Code Enforcement Officer – A copy of the town's response as a Party in Interest (PII) is in your packet. I have nothing further than that to share other than the bills from Acadia Law are on the warrant.

Conservation Commission Grant – Larissa tells me that grant application for the latest Community Action Grant should be ready for board approval after the Conservation Commission meeting tonight (5/8/24).

Heating Fuel 2024/25 – The town hall propane and fire station heating fuel use have plummeted since installing the heat pumps. As of April the town hall had used 307 gallons of propane, and the fire station had used only 136 gallons of heating oil through March. I'm not sure how to proceed with preparing for the 24/25 season – if you wish to get bids for such a small amount or not.

June 20, 2024 Town Meeting – You should probably re-sign a discontinuance order for MacQuinn Road to post – it'll be the same as last time but with a different date. I have asked the attorney for MacQuinn to draft up a public hearing notice for June 6th. A draft town meeting warrant is in your packets.

Solar Project/Salt Sand Shed – Revision Energy is grateful for the new roof. The good news is that we've got road fund money for the roof project. I've put the quote from D&S in your packets and the roof will be installed late this month. Oy! I've also put the e-mail from Revision in your packets.

FEMA Storm Repairs – I meet with the FEMA Representative tomorrow (5/9/24) to wrap up the December 18th federal reimbursement. I feel for them – this is a horribly complex process on their part. I think they'll have all the material they've requested.

CTV System – This is turning into quite the complex project. The Cablecast engineer has been very helpful in designing a new system that will look much better and be much easier to use and far more user friendly for viewers. One issue is that our internet service is very slow. Not knowing much about these things, I never really noticed. When I ran the speed test there were numbers (download range 7.92 Mbps to 11.6 Mbps and upload range 2.16Mbps to 2/3 Mbps). Those meant nothing to me, then I ran a speed test at home, and download was 184 Mbps and upload was in the 15Mbps range). When I checked with Charter, it turns out of Internet service is really old, and what we're getting is what the service was originally agreed to. I am working on upping the speed to non stone-age, but it's likely it will cost more per month. Additionally, there are issues with our town e-mail domain which spectrum enterprise provides. We will have to find a new host for that using the dot-gov domain. And our phone system is antiquated. Bundling that with the internet will save money on the current line, and we could add a digital line (it's time!) for a less expensive cost. I'll keep you posted.

Waste Disposal Options – Had a nice conversation with Eastern Maine Recycling as a possible option. Lee Worcester is going to meet with me on Friday (the 10th) to look over our current system and see if they might be able to offer something equivalent for less money.

Expiring appointments – I'll have an updated sheet in your packet, probably on meeting night. I have a few more people to contact.

Meeting Schedule – You have a very busy stretch coming up. The Planning Board will hold the public hearing on the BLUO amendments on the 20th. The [special town meeting](#) for the school budget is the 21st. You've got some time between meetings that will require a signature on an expenditure warrant – I'll let you know when that's ready, most likely on May 30th. The June 6th meeting will start at 6PM with an employee review for the town clerk and then for the Hodgkins scholarships. Regular meeting will start at 7PM. On the 20th, you'll have a special town meeting for the MacQuinn Road and BLUO amendments and your regular meeting will follow.

Jo mentioned that she's not available the 2nd Thursday in July. We could have the meeting on the 18th instead. The Regular meeting for August is the 8th. I'm not available on the 15th. In September you'll go back to the 1st and 3rd Thursdays.

That's the agenda in a nutshell for now. See you at 6:30 PM on the 16th.

Stu