



Treasurer, Town of Lamoine
Stu Marckoon
606 Douglas Hwy
Lamoine, ME 04605
(207) 667-2242

town@lamoine-me.gov

Proposed Municipal Revenue Budget FY 2024/25

I am pleased to submit a proposed budget for the next fiscal year. The philosophy in developing the revenue budget is on the conservative side, but based on some sort of reality. The bottom line shows estimated revenues down 5% or roughly \$51,000 on the first draft. Let's go through the budget line by line.....

Interest – Taxes – We dropped the estimated interest for the current fiscal year based on a rate reduction from the previous year. So far, that's playing out fairly accurately. Additionally, some long time liened property has been caught up to date and the number of delinquent properties seems to be dropping a bit. That said, I expect the rate will inch up in the coming year, so a \$500 increase is proposed.

Auto Excise – For some reason excise taxes have continued to remain strong. Our best year was in 2020/21 (the pandemic year) at \$472,000. It dropped a bit the next year but not as far as projected. Last year was \$450,479, well above the \$400,000 that was budgeted. The current year is still trending strong. A proposed \$20,000 increase to \$410,000 is still conservative compared to the past few years.

Boat Excise Tax – We dropped the expected revenue during the current fiscal year to \$3,000. We took in about \$3,900 in the previous fiscal year. A return to \$3,500 is proposed.

Administration Fees – This is for photocopy sales and no change is proposed.

Tax Lien Charges – This is the offset line to the administration budget expense line. Those whose property is placed into lien pay the costs associated with the lien filings and discharges as well as certified mail. No change to the line is proposed.

Agent Fees – A \$200 decrease is proposed to this line. It's a conservative figure. We might actually see a good bump in agent fees as the Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife has significantly increased the fee the town will get for selling registrations and license. I remain skeptical.

Revenue Sharing – In keeping with the conservative nature of revenue budgeting, the \$145,000 figure is based on a 10% cut from the actual that was received in FY 22/23. We're looking out a year and a half, and the cut is based on some past years where the legislature has raided revenue sharing. This is not actually part of the revenues article, as the only place revenue sharing comes out of the property tax is at tax commitment time.

General Assistance Reimbursement – This figure is unchanged and represents 70% reimbursement of the full G-A expense budget. We rarely spend for G-A, so it's unlikely we'll see the expense nor the full revenue.

Interest – Investments – No change is proposed from the current fiscal year budget. We did better than budgeted in FY 22/23. I get nervous as sometimes we lose money on a monthly basis, but the last month was very good and we're at nearly 80% of revenues received for FY 23/24 already.

Cell Tower “Rental” – This is an easy one to figure. We receive \$1,921.66 each month from American Tower for having their facility on the former landfill lot. We have many more years of that income flow coming in.

Hodgkins Trust Fund – No funding from this is anticipated at this time. The reason for the negative number is that we see funds added to this annually. The fund is for municipal building and parks use. At this time there are no plans for said funds.

Asset Sales Income – No major asset sales are planned at this time, thus no budget for revenues.

Turnout Gear – Fire Department – The fire department gear purchase was completed this year and we've received the money from the fire department for its share of the gear under the King Foundation grant. No income is anticipated.

Unbudgeted – Nothing is included in this line, thus “unbudgeted”. It's a placeholder for miscellaneous incomes that were not planned.

Surplus Use – We're waiting for our audit to be done. I anticipate that \$250,000 from undesignated fund balance is very doable.

Total – The total proposed municipal revenue is down \$11,747.54. That's less than the proposed drop from the fire department turnout gear grant and revenue sharing.

DESIGNATED FUND USE

Code Enforcement Fees – A \$200 increase is proposed from this line based on actual receipts. The large amount for 22/23 was from the “glampground” fee. The applicant has requested a refund and the Select Board is meeting with the town attorney to determine whether that's possible.

CEO Fund Transfer – A \$10,000 transfer from this account is well within the ability of the account which had over \$92,000 prior to the year-end closing for FY 22/23.

Plumbing Fees – These fees are briefly held by the town. The state gets 25%, the local plumbing inspector, by contract, gets the remainder.

Road Assistance – We've been getting over \$22,000 / year from the state, so that's been bumped up by \$2,000.

Road Fund Use – Because we didn't pave the roads last year, a sizable sum has accumulated in this fund. The paving cost this year was lower than budgeted as well. The proposed \$25,000 is a very conservative number to help lower the road budget.

Recreation Fees – The Recreation Committee is working on their budget. I've kept this the same for now.

Animal Control Fees – The amount we receive from dog licenses is fairly steady. The \$2,000 we currently budget may be a bit aggressive, so that's reduced by \$500.

TOTAL MUNICIPAL REVENUE BUDGET

The total proposed from non property tax sources is proposed to be \$942,760.00, which is down \$51,983 from the current (FY 23/24) year. That's roughly a 5% reduction in revenues.

At this point, pay no attention to the total municipal budget reduction of \$247,297 as all the budgets are not yet in. Still, the expenditure budget should be significantly reduced, so the reduction in revenues will still be a positive impact on the needed property tax.

Respectfully submitted,

Stu Marckoon, Treasurer