

Minutes of the 2023 Annual Town Meeting

Prior to the start of business Town Clerk Jennifer Kovacs-Lord appointed Kathleen DeFusco, Carol Mason, and Joanna Sands as ballot clerks for said meeting. The ballot clerks were sworn in by Mrs. Kovacs-Lord and Mr. Stuart Marckoon.

Deputy Town Clerk Stuart Marckoon called the meeting to order at 7:55 AM at the Lamoine Town Office.

1. To choose a moderator to preside over said meeting. – **It was moved and 2nd to elect Maurice Joseph Marshall as moderator. Written ballots were cast unanimous in his favor. Mr. Marshall appointed Stuart Marckoon as the Deputy Moderator. Both signed their oaths of office.**

Moderator Marshall opened the polls at 8:00AM and Deputy Moderator Marckoon closed the polls at 8:00 PM.

2. To elect the following Town Officers by secret ballot:
 - a. Municipal Officer & Overseers (1 position, term to end town meeting 2026)
 - b. School Committee Member (2 positions, terms to end at town meeting 2026)

Election Results:

Municipal Officer & Overseer (Select Board)

Mason, Nathan C III 45

School Committee (Select 2)

Donaldson, Gordon 48

Montgomery, Matthew 44

Total Ballots Cast	52
Registered Voters	1,626
Turnout Percent	3.2%

March 15, 2023

Open Town Meeting
Wednesday, March 15, 2023

Town Clerk Jennifer Kovacs-Lord appointed and sworn in Lynda Tadema-Wielandt as ballot clerk for said meeting. Ballot Clerk Lynda Tadema-Wielandt and Town Clerk Jennifer Kovacs-Lord checked in 102 voters at the open town meeting.

Prior to the start of business:

S. Josephine Cooper chair of the Lamoine Select Board presented the Citizen of the Year award to Amy Duym.

Maurice Marshall opened the Town Meeting at 6:10 PM. Deputy Moderator Stuart Marckoon announced the results of the Election from March 7, 2023. Mr. Marshall established that he would operate according to the Maine Moderator's Manual. Stuart Marckoon made a motion to allow non-residents to speak at the moderator's discretion. It was moved and 2nd and the motion passed on a hand vote.

3. To see if the town will vote to set the date that property taxes will be due in two equal payments on August 31, 2023 and February 28, 2024, and to fix the rate of interest at 6% to be charged on the unpaid amounts beginning September 1, 2023 and March 1, 2024 respectively, and to fix the rate of interest paid for overpayments at 2% per annum. **It was moved and 2nd to pass as written. The motion passed on a hand vote.**
4. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard to offer to sell any property automatically acquired by tax liens to the previous owner(s) for payment of all back taxes, fees and interest; should the previous owner decline to redeem the property after 30-days' notice, to authorize the Selectboard to advertise for sealed bids on same, and stating the lowest bid acceptable, and to execute, upon specific town meeting approval, a quitclaim deed to the highest responsible bidder; and further to allow the Selectboard to authorize the Treasurer to waive automatic lien foreclosures when it is in the best interest of the Town. If sale is to anyone other than the former owner, the Selectboard shall follow the special sale process required by 36 M.R.S.A. §943-C for qualifying homestead property. **It was moved and 2nd to pass as written. The motion passed on a hand vote.**
5. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard to sell and/or dispose of any property or fixtures deemed to be surplus and unusable to the Town and worth less than \$2,500 fair market value, under such terms and conditions as they deem advisable after advertising such items publicly. . **It was moved and 2nd to pass as written. The motion passed on a hand vote.**
6. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate all funds from the money received from the State of Maine for registration of snowmobiles to the Frenchman Bay Riders Snowmobile Club for the purpose of maintaining snowmobile trails. . **It was moved and 2nd to pass as written. The motion passed on a hand vote.**
7. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the tax collector or treasurer to accept pre-payments of 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 taxes not yet committed and set the rate of interest at 0% for overpayments pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. § 506. . **It was moved and 2nd to pass as written. The motion passed on a hand vote.**
8. To see if the town will amend the Shoreland Zoning Ordinance Map, by changing the designation of that portion of Map 13 Lot 50 lying within the Shoreland Zone currently owned by Glenn and Donna Crawford from limited Residential District to Commercial Fisheries and Maritime Activities District. . **It was moved and 2nd to pass as written. Kathleen Rybarz made a motion to decide the question on a written ballot which was 2nd. The motion to vote by written ballot passed on a hand vote. . Glenn Crawford spoke about the fishing history of his property. He said that at the time the shoreland zoning ordinance was enacted it was zoned residential, but prior to zoning the property was used for commercial fishing. He said he would like his zone to change to commercial fishing for the future of the fishing community. There was a lengthy discussion on Limited Commercial and Commercial Fisheries & Maritime Activities District. Robert Christie spoke briefly about the history of Glenn Crawford's property. Ballots were distributed and the motion passed 51 yes, 49 no, with 2 blanks.**
9. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Administration and to set the salaries of the following elected officers whose salaries will be paid from the Administration Account of the General Fund, and to authorize the Selectboard to establish the rate of compensation for appointed officials.

Position	Recommended Salary (Budget Committee & Selectboard)
Selectboard (Chair)	\$1,800.00
Selectboard (non-chair, 4 positions)	\$1,200.00

(The Budget Committee & Selectboard recommend \$300,235.53 and the salaries as outlined above.)
It was moved and 2nd to approve the article at the recommended amount. The hand vote in favor was unanimous.

10. To see what sum the Town of Lamoine will vote to raise and appropriate for the support of social service organizations listed below, which made written requests for funding from the Selectboard, and met the criteria of the Town Meeting Donation Requests Ordinance adopted November 7, 2000, as amended.

Requesting Agency	Requested	Recommended
American Red Cross	\$600.00	\$600.00
Community Health and Counseling Services	\$400.00	\$400.00
Downeast Horizons	\$700.00	\$700.00
Eastern Area Agency on Aging	\$700.00	\$700.00
The Grand Auditorium	\$700.00	\$700.00
Families First Community Center	\$500.00	\$500.00
Friends In Action	\$700.00	\$700.00
Northern Light Home Care & Hospice	\$700.00	\$700.00
Hospice Volunteers of Hancock County	\$700.00	\$700.00
Lamoine Grange # 264	\$700.00	\$700.00
Lamoine Historical Society	\$700.00	\$700.00
Lifeflight Foundation	\$700.00	\$700.00
Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry	\$700.00	\$700.00
Downeast Community Partners	\$700.00	\$700.00
Women, Infants & Children Clinic	\$700.00	\$700.00
Total	\$9,900.00	\$9,900.00

(The Budget Committee & Selectboard recommend \$9,900.00 as outlined above. The donation requests ordinance requires the Selectboard to recommend no more than 5% of one mill, which is \$13,622.98.)
It was moved and 2nd to approve the article at the recommended amount. The hand vote in favor was unanimous.

11. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for library services. *(The Selectboard and Budget Committee recommend \$8,600.00. The Ellsworth Public Library has requested funding of \$8,600.00).* **It was moved and 2nd to approve the article at the recommended amount. The hand vote in favor was unanimous.**

12. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Public Safety Expenditures. *(The Budget Committee, Selectboard and Fire Department recommend \$114,225.00.)* **It was moved and 2nd to approve the article at the recommended amount. The hand vote in favor was unanimous.**

13. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for waste disposal including operation of the Lamoine Transfer Station, shipment to the Penobscot Energy Recovery Company, recycling contractor, monitoring of wells around the former landfill, and to authorize the Selectboard to continue the contract of disposal of septic sludge. *(The Selectboard and Budget Committee recommend*

\$197,180.00.) **It was moved and 2nd to approve the article at the recommended amount. The hand vote in favor was unanimous.**

14. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Code Enforcement, including operations of the Planning and Appeals Boards, and to authorize expenditure of the state share of local plumbing fees to the Maine Department of Human Services. *(The Selectboard and Budget Committee recommend \$36,200.00.)* **It was moved and 2nd to approve the article at the recommended amount. The hand vote in favor was unanimous.**
15. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Road Maintenance. *(The Budget Committee and Selectboard recommend \$254,637.50.)* **It was moved and 2nd to approve the article at the recommended amount. The hand vote in favor was unanimous.**
16. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for major road projects including additional appropriations for re-pavement of Marlboro Beach Road, Maxwell Avenue & Lorimer Road and repaving Needles Eye Road. *(The Budget Committee and Selectboard recommend \$311,000.00.)* **It was moved and 2nd to approve the article at the recommended amount. The hand vote in favor was unanimous.**
17. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Maintenance. *(The Parks Commission, Recreation Committee, Selectboard and Budget Committee recommend \$35,102.00.)* **It was moved and 2nd to approve the article at the recommended amount. The hand vote in favor was unanimous.**
18. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for enforcement of the Frenchman Bay Regional Shellfish Ordinance *(The Budget Committee and Selectboard recommend \$3,000.00.)* **It was moved and 2nd to approve the article. The hand vote in favor was unanimous.**
19. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for capital projects and debt service payments. *(The Selectboard and Budget Committee recommend a total of \$121,417.97 for the following projects):*
 - *Land Conservation Fund, \$5,000.00*
 - *Fire Truck Bond Payment \$64,917.97*
 - *Fire Department Turnout Gear Replacement - \$30,000.00*
 - *Athletics Fields Capital Fund (New) - \$1,500.00*
 - *Fire Department Emergency Repairs Fund - \$10,000.00*
 - *Community Center Planning \$10,000.***It was moved and 2nd to approve the article at the recommended amount. The hand vote in favor was unanimous.**
20. To see if the town will authorize the Select Board to utilize an amount not to exceed \$20,000 from the Alan and Leurene Hodgkins Trust Funds to assist with installation of heat pump systems at the Lamoine Town Hall and Lamoine Volunteer Fire Station in conjunction with a Maine Community Action Grant during Fiscal Year 2022/23. **It was moved and 2nd to approve article as written. Stuart Marckoon explained that the bids for the installation of the heat pump systems came in less than the budgeted amount so no additional monies will be needed. The motion failed by a hand vote.**
21. To see which revenues the Town will vote to appropriate for inclusion in the non-education portion of the budget to offset local property taxes.

Revenue Fund	Amount	Fund Total
General Fund		
Interest on Real Estate Taxes	\$7,500.00	
Automobile Excise Taxes	\$390,000.00	
Watercraft Excise Taxes	\$3,000.00	
Administration Fees	\$100.00	
Tax Lien Charges	\$4,000.00	
Agent Fees	\$7,000.00	
General Assistance Reimbursement	\$2,100.00	
Interest on Investments	\$15,000.00	
Rental Income – Cell Phone Tower	\$23,060.00	
Hodgkins Trust Fund	\$1,500.00	
Donation – Lamoine Vol Fire Dept	\$15,000.00	
Undesignated Fund Balance (Surplus)	\$200,000.00	
		\$668,260.00
Road Fund		
LRAP Program (State Funding)	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
Code Enforcement Fund		
Code Enforcement Fees	\$8,500.00	
Transfer from Code Enforcement Fund	\$10,000.00	
Plumbing Permit Fees	\$3,500.00	\$22,000.00
Other Funds		
Recreation Fees		\$3,000.00
Local Animal Control Fees		\$2,000.00
Total Offsets to Local Property Tax		\$715,260.00

(NOTE): Municipal Revenue Sharing will also reduce the tax commitment and is not included in the above figure. *(The Selectboard and Budget Committee recommend the revenue figures listed above.)* **It was moved and 2nd to pass article with the recommended amount. The motion passed on a hand vote.**

22. To see if the Town will vote to continue and establish the following funds:

Fund Balance Account	Balance June 30, 2022
Code Enforcement Fund	\$100,693.64
Fire Truck Reserve Fund	\$317,165.96
Road Assistance Fund	\$103,025.07
Education Capital Fund	\$10,388.74
Animal Control Fund	\$6,194.19
Revaluation Reserve Fund	\$112,701.84
Insurance Deductible Fund	\$10,912.48
Harbor Fund	\$32,090.79
Cable TV Channel Fund	\$73,964.17
Parks Fund	\$14,200.44
Capital Improvements Fund	\$54,069.47
Land Conservation Fund	\$5,685.60
Veterans Memorial Fund	\$5,534.54
Conservation Commission Fund	\$1,258.08
Flag Display Maintenance Fund	\$2,409.70
Allen & Leurene Hodgkins Fund	\$62,178.78
Recreation Fund	\$22,990.85
Town Hall Renovation Fund	\$104,022.11
Heating Assistance Fund	\$17,310.10
Sesquicentennial Celebration Fund	\$13,711.31
Transfer Station Capital Fund	\$101,958.67

Education Fund (from operations)	\$1,726,328.12
Education Special Ed Reserve	\$150,000.00
Education Secondary Tuition Reserve	\$35,000.00
Education – Facilities Maintenance Reserve	\$92,884.00
Cemetery Care Fund	\$5,992.84
Whitcomb Woods Maintenance Fund	\$3,721.31
Fire Truck Emergency Repairs Fund	\$0.00
Athletic Fields Capital Fund (New)	\$0.00

(NOTE): Most funds are part of continuing operations, so the balance of 6/30/22 does not reflect any appropriations, expenditures or revenues for the current fiscal year. These are unaudited balances, as the warrant was prepared prior to publication of the annual audit for FY 2022.

(The Selectboard and Budget Committee recommend continuing and establishing the above funds.)

It was moved and 2nd to pass with the recommended amounts. The motion passed on a hand vote.

23. To see if the town will vote to increase the property tax levy limit of \$360,144.00 established for the Town of Lamoine by State law in the event that the municipal budget approved under the preceding articles will result in a tax commitment that is greater than the property tax levy limit. **It was moved and 2nd to approve article as written. Ballots were distributed and the motion passed 10 yes, 0 no.**
24. To see if the Town will authorize expenditure of funds from the Harbor Fund for improvements at the Harbor area as suggested to and approved by the Selectboard, and to authorize the Selectboard to set the compensation of the Harbor Master and Deputy Harbor Master to be paid from the Harbor Fund. Expenditures are not to exceed available amounts in said fund. **It was moved and 2nd to pass article as written. The article passed on a hand vote.**
25. To see if the Town will authorize expenditure of funds from the Cable TV Fund for operation of Lamoine’s Cable TV channel as suggested to and approved by the Selectboard, and to authorize the Selectboard to set the compensation of the Cable TV Operations Manager and Information Technology Director. Expenditures are to be deducted from and Revenues are to be added to the Cable TV fund. Expenditure amounts are not to exceed available amounts in said fund. **It was moved and 2nd to pass article as written. The motion passed on a hand vote.**
26. To see if the Town will authorize expenditure of funds from the Veterans’ Memorial Fund as recommended to and approved by the Selectboard for the purposes of maintaining the memorial, not to exceed the available amount of the fund. **It was moved and 2nd to approve article as written. The motion passed on hand vote.**
27. To see if the Town will authorize expenditure of funds in the Conservation Commission Fund as recommended to and approved by the Chair of the Conservation Commission for commission projects, said funds not to exceed the available amount of the fund. **It was moved and 2nd to pass article as written. The article passed on a hand vote.**

There being no further business to transact, Moderator Marshall declared the town meeting adjourned at 7:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer M. Kovacs-Lord, Town Clerk