

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
May 13, 2026

Council Members' Present:

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| Michael Perkins, Chairman | Dana Wrigley, Vice Chairman |
| Susan Leigh | Robert Nutting |
| Kelly Roderick | |

Others Present:

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| Kelly Pinney-Michaud, Town Manager | Kathleen Paradis, Town Clerk |
| Christine Nutting | Abby Marshall |
| Randall Marshall | William Cochran |
| Linda Bemis | Rhonda West |
| Shelley McFadden | Caroline Clark |
| Lorri Nandrea | Cheyenne Gallivan |
| Terri Buckingham | George Bailey |
| Alicia Barnes | Kevin Quirion |
| Dawn Smith | Angela Jurdak |
| Lea Mullen | Richard Mullen |
| Ruby Mullen | John Irwin |
| Adam Lowell | Doug Dickinson |
| Kathy Moores | |

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Council Chair Michael Perkins and let those present in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

- 1. Roll Call:** Council Chair Michael Perkins took roll call. All five councilors were present.
- 2. To Approve the minutes of April 26, 2026, meeting, and the minutes from the Town Meeting of May 5, 2026, and to sign the warrant:** Dana Wrigley made a motion that we accept the minutes of April 26, 2026 and was seconded by Susan Leigh. It was voted 5-0 to accept the minutes as written. It was moved by Susan Leigh and seconded by Dana Wrigley to accept the minutes from the Town Meeting of May 5, 2026, and voted 5-0 to approve the minutes. The warrant was also signed at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Oakland Policy-Maine Excise Tax for 100% Disabled Veterans:** Christine Nutting Motor Vehicle Agent for the Town of Oakland spoke to the council regarding the policy for 100% Disabled Veterans Excise Exempt Policy. Christine stated that she had reached out to area towns to see what their policy was regarding the excise tax exemption for veterans who are 100% disabled. She stated that some towns are doing it on a case-by-case basis. Christine also stated that we had recently been informed that it would also be for non-residents who have a summer residence as well that would qualify if the vehicle stayed here in Maine. She also stated that this does not seem like a good idea to her and was asking for guidance from the council. Dana Wrigley made a motion that we move forward with the policy. Robert Nutting asked on how long after registering their vehicles would they have to get the

exemption? Christine explained that it would be 30 days as discussed at a prior meeting. Susan Leigh then asked if we could provide signage to let these individuals know of the exemptions. Ms. Nutting then stated that it is very misleading for the ladies at the counter to know if they qualify unless they bring in the proper paperwork from the VA Administration. It does not just apply to the Veterans Plate but other plates as well. Robert Nutting then stated that it used to be if you were a disabled veteran then you received a disabled veteran plate. Christine then stated that yes then the law had changed that they could have a disabled veteran plate or a veteran plate. Then the law became that they could apply to any plate. Mr. Nutting, also inquired if we would know when they come into register their vehicle that they qualify for the exemption? Ms. Nutting then stated we would know on a re-registration and that we require each veteran to bring in their letter for the VA Administration showing they get 100% disability. Susan Leigh then stated that if these individuals do not know about the exemption, then this is where the signage would be helpful. Alicia Barnes stated that she was cross checking on the VA Website and saw that the veterans were also eligible for the \$6000 tax exemption as well. Christine stated that she is the Assistant Assessor as well as being the Motor Vehicle Agent for the town. She stated that we cannot use the information from motor vehicles to give to the assessing department. Motion made by Dana Wrigley seconded by Robert Nutting and voted 5-0 to put the new policy into effect.

2. **RSU 18 Budget Warrant Signatures:** The Town Council signed the RSU 18 Budget Warrant to be posted regarding the School Budget Validation meeting on Thursday May 21, 2026, at 6:00pm at the Messalonskee High School. The Town Manager also advised that we will be voting on the school budget on June 9th, 2026, the same day as the primaries.
3. **Accept 2026-27 Paving Bids:** The Town Manager informed the council that we received five paving bids this year. The highest bid was \$210,432.00 and the lowest bid was \$151,248.00. There was another bid from Littlefield' Construction that was \$151,188.00 and Public Works Director Jeffrey Hall had stated to the Town Manager that he would like to accept the bid from Littlefield's Construction. The paving would be done on Rice Rips Road, Sacha Lane and grade the Sexton Parking lot. It was moved by Dana Wrigley, seconded by Susan Leigh, and voted 5-0 to accept the bid of \$151,188.00 from Littlefield's Construction.
4. **Board of Assessment:** The Town Manager informed the council that Nichole Stenberg, the Town Assessor, stated that we had two vacancies to fill on the Board of Assessment, these are appointed positions, and she cannot do that. The Town Manager stated that Chris Courtice and Cindy Reese would like to fill those positions as Alternates. They are both knowledgeable and would be good on this board. It was moved by Dana Wrigley, seconded by Susan Leigh, and voted 5-0 to appoint Chris Courtice and Cindy Reese to the board.
5. **ATV Access Route Permit Application:** The Town Manager informed the council that Phase 1 is now complete, and we are now working with forestry to get ARP with DOT and Department of Conservation and Forestry. This would allow access on State Roads, and we would be able to go from the triangle, Oak, Main and Pleasant Street, then up High Street to the overlook. The Manager would also like to get access to RT 11 so individuals can go to the Boat Landing for the concerts. Susan Leigh also asked that this included Water Street as

well. The Manager stated that back in 2023 this had been investigated by the previous Town Manager but lacked letters of support. She stated that she has written a letter of support along with the local business owners. She also stated that it would be busy on the weekends in the area. Dana Wrigley made a motion to send the application to DOT and Dept of Conservation and Forestry. It was seconded by Susan Leigh and voted 5-0 to proceed with application. Kelly Roderick then asked if the ATV operators must ride with traffic. Kevin Quirion then stated that yes, they must follow the same rules as motorists. The Town Manager also stated that the Police Department is collaborating with the Fish and Wildlife Service as well. Doug Dickinson stated that he is a member of the Fairfield ATV Club and they are doing the same as well. John Irwin stated that amp for the trails would also be helpful.

6. **Social Media Policy:** The Town Manager informed the council that the social media policy for the town was done on January 13, 2016. We have now created a new policy with regulations of personal use, employee rights, etc. There are only two people who have access to adding information to the website and one is Aaron Parker, our Recreation Director. It was motioned by Dana Wrigley, seconded by Susan Leigh, and voted 5-0 to accept the social media policy.

7. **June 30th, 2026, closing at 2:00pm for Year End Processing:** The Town Manager inquired from the council if the Town Office could close at 2:00pm on June 30th, for the year end processing of reports and close for the fiscal year. She stated that the employees would be able to get all the required reports done such as motor vehicles, etc. She stated that she would be working until 7:00pm with Finance Director Cheryl Gould to complete the processing. It was moved by Dana Wrigley, seconded by Kelly Roderick, and voted 5-0 to close the office at 2:00pm on June 30th, 2026.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Friends of Messalonskee: Adam Lowell, a member of the Friends of Messalonskee, spoke to the council that there is a lot of signage at the boat landing that is negative. The Friends of Messalonskee would like to install a sign board that would have sponsors and other friendly information for individuals that use the waterfront park. The materials have been donated by Hammond Lumber. Leighton Signs would build the sign. FOM would have three sponsors and would be listed on the sign as well. It was moved by Dana Wrigley and seconded by Susan Leigh voted 5-0 to authorize FOM to build the new sign for the waterfront park.

The Town Manager asked the council if it would be ok for Angela Jurdak to clean up the swimming area of the boat landing. It was approved by the council and thanked Angela for cleaning up the area.

Councilor Kelly Roderick then asked if we could extend the moratorium for the mobile home parks where the new law will take effect of the end of June. Could we extend it? Council Chairman Michael Perkins stated that we would put in on as an agenda item for the next council meeting. Kelly Roderick also inquired about the ordinance that was sent to the Town Manager in April? Are we going to consider approving? The Town Manager stated that she

will make copies of the submitted ordinance and will put it on the next agenda. Town Manager also stated they will be holding a mobile home park committee meeting on Monday May 18, 2026, at the Police Station at 6:00 p.m. Susan Leigh stated that she was concerned because she feels that the committee needs to discuss this. George Bailey stated that he believes the park owners as they stated that they will not raise the rent. Rhonda West stated that they had raised the rent quite a bit last year. Shelby McFadden stated that the maintenance company has no idea that the town is mediating for the park residences and the owners. Town Manager asked her to please get her a name and phone number and bring it to the committee meeting on Monday and she will contact them.

Councilor Dana Wrigley stated that Representative Nutting's weekly newsletter had a great article regarding ticks and Lyme Disease and we should make copies available for our employees who work outside, public works, maintenance.

Last item on the agenda will be safety training, which is a private meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved by Susan Leigh, seconded by Kelly Roderick, and voted 5-0 to end the public meeting and enter safety training at 6:40pm.