

TOWN COUNCIL MINTUES  
JUNE 28, 2023

Roll Call: Dana Wrigley                      Robert Nutting  
              David Groder

ABSENT: Michael Perkins, Chairman  
              Donald Borman

Others: Ella Bowman, Town Manger                      Kathy Paradis, Deputy Clerk  
              Nichole Stenberg Town Assessor                Christine Nutting, Asst. Assessor  
              Jon Cox    Kelly Roderick  
              Sentinel Reporter

Business Agenda:

1. It was moved by David Groder and seconded by Robert Nutting and voted 3-0 accepting the minutes of the June 14<sup>th</sup> meeting and signing of the weekly warrant.
2. Town Assessor Nichole Stenberg spoke regarding the property tax increase for land and buildings. Nichole explained that the land values would increase by 10% and buildings by 20%. We are vastly below 60% of value and we are now at 72% according to the 20-21 sales. Total taxable would be \$100,000,000 and would drop mil rate to 14.5. Nichole did a comparison on houses one was Oxen Drive and that would be a \$25-\$30 increase tax bill would go from current year of \$3015 to \$3044 this coming tax year. The other residence was on Allagash Drive and it turned out to be at the same rate. This was on a \$200,000 home. Robert Nutting explained that the property tax freeze program is partially going away, but there will be some type of program from the state that is being worked on in the legislature. Dana Wrigley asked if we could please keep our residents informed of all these changes.
3. A discussion was initiated by Ella Bowman to purchase a new hay mulcher for public works. Jeff Hall had obtained quotes from different establishments, and he could obtain one for around \$10,000. Ella advised the council that we have \$20,000 left in the capital improvement account that could be used for equipment. It was moved by David Groder seconded by Robert Nutting and Voted 3-0 approving the purchase of the hay mulcher for \$10,000.
4. It was moved by Robert Nutting seconded by David Groder and vote 3-0 to accept the \$10,000 anonymous donation to complete the Pleasant Point Park playground.
5. It was moved by David Groder seconded by Robert Nutting and voted 3-0 approving Dave Savage as an alternate planning board member to replace Mark Stevens.
6. Ella Bowman gave a discussion that the State of Maine will be closed on Monday July 3<sup>rd</sup> and was asking the council if the Town Office could be closed on that same day using the day after Thanksgiving Holiday as a paid day for Monday. Ella explained that the day after Thanksgiving was established as a holiday for employees years ago and with the 4-day work week this would be a holiday that the employees would be losing. David Groder asked about the Transfer Station and it was stated that they transfer station gets the Thursday/Friday holidays at Thanksgiving and they will be closed on Wednesday July 5<sup>th</sup> to compensate for the Tuesday Holiday. Dana asked Kathy about the State closure on Monday July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Kathy stated that if someone were to come into the office to register any type of vehicle and there was any type of problem, we

would not be able to contact the state for any assistance. It was moved by Dana Wrigley seconded by Robert Nutting. Voted 3-0 to Close the town office on Monday July 3<sup>rd</sup> with the employees using the Friday after Thanksgiving Holiday.

7. Ella Bowman began a discussion regarding the intersection of Fairfield Street County Road and Gagnon Road intersection. There have been 21 crashes with injuries from the years 2013-2022 with the most recent one happening on Tuesday June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The State could put a flashing yellow light by the cost would be at the town's expense. Ella stated that she has met with Chief Michael Tracy to discuss this intersection and it was advised that we could put up a sign just before the hill advising us to use caution ahead. The council agreed that this is a very dangerous intersection and that we need to come up with a solution.

Adjournment: It was moved and seconded and voted 3-0 to adjourn at 6:30pm