

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 9, 2025

Council Members Present:

Michael Perkins, Chairman
Dana Wrigley Vice Chairman
David Groder

Robert Nutting
Kelly Roderick

Others Present:

Kelly Pinney-Michaud, Town Manager
Abigail Marshall, IT
Chris Cowan, Lieutenant Oakland Police Dept
David Coughlin, Oakland Fire Chief
Dan Mayotte, Waterville Fire Department
Ray Gruber
George Bailey

Kathleen Paradis, Town Clerk
Nathan Smart, Code Enforcement Officer
Rick Stubbart, Chief Oakland Police Department
Aaron Parker, Recreation Director
Sara Batteese, Waterville Communication Center
Jon Cox

The meeting was called to order by Council Chairman Michael Perkins and led those present in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. **Roll Call:** Roll call was taken all five council members were present.
2. **To consider approving the minutes of the March 26th, 2025, meeting:** It was moved by Dana Wrigley and seconded by Robert Nutting and voted 3-0 to accept the minutes of the March 26th, 2025.

Business Agenda:

1. **George Bailey:** Oakland Resident George Bailey spoke to the council and asked that we abide by the Federal Executive orders set forth by President Trump when applicable to the Town. He stated that we follow the rules put forth by Governor Mills and would like us to continue with following the Presidents' Executive order.
2. **Health Officer:** Town Manager Kelly Pinney-Michaud explained that our current health officer Tony Thibodeau as stepped down. We need to appoint a new officer to replace Tony. Chief Coughlin recommended Nathan Smart Code Enforcement officer to take over this position. Nate would have to attend training for 4-6 hours and have an interview. It was motioned by Dana Wrigley, seconded by David Groder, and voted 5-0 to appoint Nathan Smart as our new health officer.
3. **Community Gardens:** Aaron Parker, Oakland Recreation Director gave an update on the community gardens at the Overlook Park. Aaron stated that this year we have a citizen who wants to donate seedlings for ½ price and conduct classes helping residents understand the concept of

growing and taking care of a garden. The first class would take place around the 31st of May. We would not charge this year for a spot and maybe next year we could start charging again. He also explained that we would harvest salsa, do some canning and work with the Healthy Northern Kennebec Organization, and donate fresh produce to the Oakland Food Pantry, if the harvest is plentiful. He would put together a flyer and put notifications on our websites for the town.

4. **Updating the Waterville Communication Center:** Oakland Fire Chief David Coughlin introduced Dan Mayotte of the Waterville Fire Department and Sara Batteese Waterville Communications Center. Dan spoke to the council regarding a grant that is available to update the aging communication center as it has IT equipment over 20 years old. The Waterville Communication Center is 12th in the state for in taking emergency calls. The grant is \$100,000,000. He is requesting support from local communities and for local officials to write letters to Senator Collins in support of this project. The letters would have to be completed by the deadline of April 12th, 2025. Councilor Kelly Roderick asked what the plan would be if there was no funding. Dan stated that there may be other grants. Councilor Roderick also asked how this effects Delta Ambulance? A motion was made by David Groder seconded by Dana Wrigley and voted 5-0 to move forward with support for the new equipment for the communication center and gave permission for Town Manager to write a letter of support.

Old Business: The Town Manager updated the council on the 9 Pleasant Street property. She stated that herself along with Dana Wrigley, Nate Smart, Cheryl Gould, and building grounds director AJ Cain toured the building last Monday on the 7th and stated that the building is questionable. There were beams cut off in the attic, roof line sags, not sure if there are trusses on the addition. Councilor Wrigley stated that it was constructed in 3 sections, and it would be tough, and many renovations would need to take place in order to make it fit for a town office. Also, Kelly Roderick had asked for updates on the website and stated that she had noticed that some of the old information has now been corrected.

Managers' Report: The Town Manager informed the council that in Mid- May there would be a councilors' workshop regarding the sewer and fee structure with a Waterworth Presentation. She also stated that in this year's budget we may need a small rate increase. This will be held at the second council meeting in May. Kelly Pinney Michaud also educated the council on the HRT Program which is VOA Northern New England stated she met with Kristen Jiorle. This program would help the homeless and would give other resources to those in need in our community. This would be another resource available.

Other Business: Oakland Fire Chief asked the council to accept a \$200 Harbor Freight gift card to purchase equipment. It was affirmed by the council to accept the \$200 card. Kelly Roderick was also asked by a resident if we could put up a turtle crossing sign on McGrath Pond Road. There have been several incidents where these turtles have either been hit or have had a narrow escape. The Town Manager will ask the Public Works Director to have signs made. Also, there were inquiries regarding the paving on the Pond and Gallagher Roads where the water sits. We will speak to Jeff Hall on this situation.

Adjournment: It was moved by Kelly Roderick, seconded by David Groder, and voted 5-0 to adjourn.