

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

September 10th, 2025

Council Members Present:

Michael Perkins, Chairman
Dana Wrigley, Vice Chairman
Kelly Roderick

Dave Groder
Robert Nutting

Others Present:

Kelly Pinney-Michaud, Town Manager
LT. Adam Sirois OPD
Angela Jurdak
Laurie Brann
Edward Roderick
Michelle Fontaine
Anita Chadderton
Sara Languet
Allee Stephens
Jennifer Courtice
Emily Newlle, EMT-OFD

Kathleen Paradis, Town Clerk
Jon Cox
Craig Sturtevant
Ray Gruber
Kevin Quirion
Janet Lund
Donald Borman
Alicia Barnes
Joseph Borman
Chris Courtice

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm 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 present.
2. **To consider approving the minutes of August 20, 2025, meeting and sign the warrant.** A motion was made by Dana Wrigley and seconded by Bob Nutting and voted 5-0 to accept the minutes and a sign the warrant.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Sarah Languet RSU 18 School Board Member:** Council Chairman Michael Perkins introduced Sarah Languet from RSU 18 School Board. Ms. Languet explained that on 8/20/25 there was a school board meeting as well as a council meeting regarding the collaboration for ATV access on school grounds. This was approved. Sara then stated that when we work together good things happen for the town and the schools. She wanted to present Town Manager Kelly Pinney-Michaud with a gift and a card for her hard work. The gift was an elephant wall plaque. The elephant as it was explained was a good luck charm and was uniquely made by a couple in Norridgewock. The Town Manager accepted the gift and thanked the school board.

2. **Delta Ambulance:** Chris Mitchell from Delta Ambulance explained the new fleet adjustment for calls with paramedics/non paramedics needs. Chris explained that 20% of most calls need paramedic care. He went onto explain the “fly-cars.” These vehicles will be staffed and support multiple non-paramedic ambulances. Kelly Roderick inquired that it would not change if you needed an ambulance. Kelly Roderick then stated that we currently pay \$35, is that going to change? Chris stated no, it will remain \$35 until 6/30/2026. Emily Newell from Oakland Fire Department explained that the fire department is permitted to have the Advanced Level and are licensed for the basic level EMT coverage. Michael Perkins asked if the cost to the town would increase for the upcoming budget year, Chris explained that he really did not have the figures with him and that there would be a meeting on Wednesday September 24, 2025, and all the information would be available at that time. Chris stated that they now have 24 full-time paramedics. Mr. Borman also asked if the price could go down. Chris stated that this information will be known at the meeting. Angela Jurdak asked how many towns are now serviced by Delta Ambulance and was told that there are 13. Council Chairman Michael Perkins thanked Chris for his information, and we will await the figures from the September 24th meeting.
3. **Memorial Hall Tenant:** Town Manager informed the council that Chris & Jennifer Curtice are new residents who purchased the home next to Memorial Hall. Chris is a contractor, and they are interested in starting up a retail and beauty business at Memorial Hall in the front 2 rooms on the first floor. With Chris being a contractor we could possibly draw up a contract with him and he could do most of the work. Michael Perkins asked about Scott Stevens Dance? Kelly Pinney-Michaud stated that he would not be affected. Kelly Roderick stated she had concerns due to the structure of the building and we are waiting for the Structural Assessment that the engineer did recently. She also stated that she does not believe the building is ready for any tenants at this point. David Groder stated he was not for or against, but we must make sure that the building is up to code compliance and look at the parking situation. Chris Curtice stated that he would charge market rate for his time and maybe even less. Michelle Fontaine asked how this would be with the TIF Grant. The Town Manager explained it would work as it did on Main Street. Dana Wrigley then suggested that we table this until we get the report back from the engineer in mid to late September.
4. **Daughters of the American Revolution-Authority to sign Proclamation:** The Town Manager explained that every year the Daughters of the American Revolution ask the Town of Oakland to sign a proclamation and put up a poster at the Town Office. It was moved by Dana Wrigley and seconded by David Groder and voted 5-0 to sign the proclamation.

Old Business:

1. **Safety Policy:** The Town Manager advised the council of 30-A MRSA §2608 “*An Act to Reinforce Free Speech at Town Meetings by Requiring Opportunity for Public Comment*”, which will become effective on September 24th, 2025. This bill would allow 2 minutes for each resident/person to speak at the meeting on the topic at hand. Robert Nutting stated that you must allow the amount of time to residents to discuss the issue. Janet Lund asked if there were 100 people that wanted to speak, does this address enough time to give them all their allotted time?

Robert Nutting stated that they would all be able to have the 2 minutes to speak. Kelly Roderick asked where they would be able to find this safety policy posted. The Town Manager explained it would be on the website. It was voted 5-0 to accept the safety policy with the modifications made.

Managers Report: Building & Grounds Update: All MMA issues have been corrected. The crew has installed a metal roof at Pleasant Point Park, repaired the metal roofing at the Cascade Building, and put up new swings and installed new components at the Oakland Boat Landing. Also 25 stumps and debris were removed from Lakeview Cemetery. Gary Bowman will be going to 20 hours per week beginning September 29 and will then retire in November.

Public Works: 2 old plow trucks have been put on Craigs List and the MMA Website for sale. All money made will go into Capital Lease Payment account, to lower next year's payment amount. Sealed bids back by September 25, 2025. The 3rd truck is now the transfer stations for use at the landfill. David Groder also suggested that we put the ad on govdeals.com. The trails committee and town have completed a Maine Trails Bond grant that was submitted on September 8, 2025, and this would be to build the Park & Ride.

Oakfest: Kathy is stepping down as Oakfest chair. The previous Town Manager wanted this event to fund itself, which it has for 10 years. The Town Manager asked the council the town could become the fiscal agent for Oakfest. All expenses for the event would be paid for and streamed through the town. We would create a special Revenue account in our ledger and funnel expenses & revenues through that account. There is currently \$9400 in the Oakfest account. It was motioned by Dana Wrigley seconded by Robert Nutting and voted 5-0 to have the Oakfest account moved into the towns general accounting system.

Nomination Papers update. They were available on 8/6/25 and must be returned by 9/15/25. Paper taken out to date are: 5 for council, with 2 that have been returned, 7 for budget & advisory with 3 that have been returned. 2 for RSU 18 school board, with none returned at this time.

Police Department: Final stage of MLEAP certification will happen tomorrow. There will be 7 people arriving tomorrow to look at the day-to-day operations of the department. Lt. Adam Sirois added that this accreditation would be real asset to the department. It would help lower insurance costs among other things.

Other Business: Kevin Quirion from the ATV Committee asked if the ATV Club could use the Wrigley Field for a park and ride club activity this Saturday 9/13/25. They would park their vehicles and trailers at Wrigley Field and then ride to Emden and back. It was motioned by Dana Wrigley and seconded by Robert Nutting and voted 5-0 to allow parking at the field.

Kelly Roderick asked if there could be more police patrol on Fairfield Street during the prime hours that people go to work and return to work as traffic is diverted because they cannot get on the interstate. LT. Sirois stated that they would have more patrol at these times. Town Manager also stated that Rice Rips Road will also need more patrol at these times as well.

David Groder asked the progress on the hot top the manholes, etc. Town Manager explained that Fairfield Street is done and that they have shimmed and should be ready to work on the manhole covers this week.

Adjournment: It was moved by Kelly Roderick, seconded by Dana Wrigley, and voted 5-0 to adjourn meeting at 7:10pm.