



TOWN OF MADAWASKA
328 St. Thomas Street Suite 101, Madawaska, Maine 04756
207-728-6351

Madawaska Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Madawaska Safety Complex
Thursday April 15, 2021 at 5:00 pm

SELECTMEN PRESENT: Douglas Cyr, Laurie Gagnon, Jason Boucher and Manon Raymond
TOWN MANAGER: Gary M. Picard via Zoom
RECORDING SECRETARY: Nathalie Morneault
OTHERS PRESENT: Caryl Albert, Mark Madore, Kevin Dube

Chairman Doug Cyr calls the meeting to order at 5:00 PM and established a quorum with selectmen Laurie Gagnon, Jason Boucher and Manon Raymond.

- **Pledge of Allegiance.**
- **Public Participation; closed to in- person participation, participation via written comments.**

This portion of the meeting is to allow the public to inform the Board regarding their concerns. During Board of Selectmen meetings closed to in-person public participation, persons interested in addressing the Board shall do so by submitting written comments to the Town Manager no later than noon on the day of the Board Meeting. Comments received will be distributed to the Board and read aloud. Please be advised that individuals addressing concerns will be placed on the Board's next regular meeting agenda unless the issue addressed is one of an emergency nature. The Chairperson or Acting Chairperson will use his/her discretion as to whether action on any particular issue should be taken at this meeting. Items regarding personnel issues or town employees cannot be discussed in open session. **Board Meetings can be viewed live by accessing the link on the Town's website @ www.townofmadawaska.com or www.stjohnvalley.live**

No Public Participation was submitted.

ARTICLES OF BUSINESS

Article 1 To Consider Other Business and Adjustments to the Agenda.

Public Works gave an update regarding 16th Ave culvert failing. 3 weeks ago, there was flooding over the road. Ed Pelletier and Sons were contacted to bring in fill and rip rap materials.

5:07 P.M. **Jason Boucher motions to approve the transfer from the Public Works reserve for \$9,235.25. Laurie Gagnon seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and motion carries.**

Article taken out of order:

Article 4 Presentation of the FY20 Annual Audit by RHR Smith, via Zoom.

Ron Smith by RHR Smith gave a presentation regarding the 2020 annual audit. Mr. Smith strongly recommended a Tax stabilization fund in case the largest taxpayer does not pay.

No action was taken.



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Article 1 To Consider Other Business and Adjustments to the Agenda.

Town Manager would like to have 2 board members present at the Zoom Mediation with the Cayer's and the Town of Madawaska hearing.

5:41 P.M. Laurie Gagnon motions to nominate Doug Cyr and Jason Boucher to go to the hearing. Manon Raymond seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and motion carries.

Article 2 To Consider the Meeting Minute of March 2, 17, 23, and 30, 2021.

5:42 P.M. Jason Boucher motions to approve the meeting minutes of March 2, 17, 23 and 30, 2021 as presented. Manon Raymond seconds the motion All Board members are in favor and motion carries.

Article 3 To Consider the Treasurer's Warrants.

5:43 P.M. Manon Raymond motions to accept the Treasurer's Warrants as presented. Jason Boucher seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and motion carries.

Article 5 To Consider a Real Estate Abatement Request for Account #631.

A request for an abatement was submitted to the assessor for a demolition of a building on a property to reflect the 2020 Billing Tax bill. The owner would like \$23,800 building value removed. The assessor recommends to deny abatement due to assessment dates being set in statute as April 1st of each year. The building was demolished on 06/06/2020.

5:43 P.M. Laurie Gagnon motions to pro-rate the bill with the value to reflect June 6, for discussion. Manon Raymond seconds the motion for discussion.

Discussion was made that in the past the town would pro-rate. The boards change and it becomes inconsistent.

Jason Boucher, Laurie Gagnon and Manon Raymond all vote in favor of pro-rating the building. The owner will pay \$90.64 for building. Motion Passes.

Article 6 To Consider a Sewer Abatement Request for Account # 20785.

A request was made for a sewer abatement due to Hot water pipe burst in the late summer/early fall. A letter was received by the water district.

6:03 P.M. Laurie Gagnon motions to approve the sewer abatement request of \$4,749 for account #20785. Jason Boucher seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and motion carries.

Article 7 To Consider a Property tax Abatement Request for Account #170.

Property owner had applied for a transfer homestead exemption in 2019, and it was not applied.

6:04 P.M. Jason Boucher motions to accept the property tax abatement request for account #170 in the amount of \$668.37. Manon Raymond seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and motion carries.



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Article 8 To Consider a Property tax Abatement Request for Account # 1077.

Property owner had applied for a transfer homestead exemption in 2019, and it was not applied.

6:05 P.M. Laurie Gagnon motions to accept the property tax abatement request for the account #1077 in the amount of \$668.36. Manon Raymond seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and motion carries.

Article 9 To Consider a Property tax Abatement Request for Account # 2759.

An application for abatement of property tax is requested due to the owner still owns the house, and homestead should not have been removed.

6:07 P.M. Laurie Gagnon motions to approve the abatement request in the amount of \$668.36 for property #2759. Jason Boucher seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and motion carries.

Article 10 To Consider a Property tax Abatement Request for Account # 1453.

Property owner had applied for a transfer homestead exemption in 2019, and it was not applied.

6:08 P.M. Laurie Gagnon motions to accept the property tax abatement request in the amount of \$668.37 for account #1453. Jason Boucher seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and motion carries.

Article 11 To Consider the Termination of the Current Endico Land Lease, and New Requests for a Land Lease Agreement.

Endico lease has 30 acres agreement for a farmer to utilize and upkeep. The current tenant, David Ouellette of Lakeshore Farms would like to terminate agreement.

6:10 P.M. Manon Raymond motions to terminate the agreement with David Ouellette of Lakeshore Farms and Town of Madawaska for the endico site. Jason Boucher seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and Laurie Gagnon abstains. Motion Carries.

Two Farmers are interested in the endico site, Morin Farms of St David, and Pelletier Farms of Frenchville.

6:20 P.M. Jason Boucher motions to enter into a lease agreement with Morin Farms. Laurie Gagnon seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and motion carries.

Article 12 To Consider Requests for Proposals for Town Audit for Three years Beginning FY21.

2 proposals were received from Chester M. Kearney and RHR Smith and Company.

	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
RHR Smith and Company	15,000	15,000	15,000
Chester M. Kearney	12,500	13,000	13,500

The school is part of the town, and it is difficult to have 2 different auditing firms. The school uses Chester M. Kearney. It would be a lot easier if both school and town would have the same auditing firm.



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6:26 P.M. Laurie Gagnon motions to accept Chester M. Kearney for the Town audit for 3 years starting FY21. Manon Raymond seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and motion carries.

Article 13 To Consider Union Labor Negotiations with the Madawaska Police Department / New England Police Benevolent Association, Inc., Executive Session Recommended: 1 M.R.S.A § 405 (6)(D).

6:27 P.M. Laurie Gagnon motions to enter into executive session discussing Union Labor Negotiations with the Madawaska Police Department / New England Police Benevolent Association, Inc., executive session recommended: "1 M.R.S.A. §405 (6)(D)." Manon Raymond seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and motion carries.

7:10 P.M. Laurie Gagnon motions to exit out of executive session discussing Union Labor Negotiations with the Madawaska Police Department / New England Police Benevolent Association, Inc., executive session recommended: "1 M.R.S.A. §405 (6)(D)." Manon Raymond seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and motion carries.

Post Executive Session action: Jason Boucher motions to accept Police Departments Contract as presented. Laurie Gagnon seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and motion carries.

Next Board Meeting Date: May 4, 2021 at 5:30 PM

Adjournment

Jason Boucher motion to adjourn at **7:16 P.M.** Manon Raymond seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and motion carries.