



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

Madawaska Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Madawaska Town Office Board Chambers
August 18, 2021 5:30 pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Richard J. Dionne, Chris Braley, Jason Boucher, Manon Raymond, Doug Cyr

TOWN MANAGER: Gary M. Picard

RECORDING SECRETARY: Nathalie Morneault

OTHERS PRESENT: Jim Soucy, Denise Duperre, Real Hebert, Kevin Dube, Caryl Albert, Eric Cyr, Paul Lausier, Gerald Ouellette, Linda Cyr, Jay Houston.

Board of Selectmen Chairman Richard Dionne calls the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and established a quorum with Chris Braley, Jason Boucher, Manon Raymond, and Doug Cyr.

- **Pledge of Allegiance.**
- **Public Participation.**

This portion of the meeting is to allow the public to inform the Board regarding their concerns. Public Participation is limited to ten minutes, of which two minutes will be allotted individually. 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.

Paul Lausier mentioned the 3rd Ave pot holes have been filled in, but would like to see the whole road re-tared.

ARTICLES OF BOARD OF SELECTMEN OF BUSINESS

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

Town Manager would like to add to other businesses consideration of the Assessor's Amended Certification of Assessment and Amended Certificate of Assessment. *By Consensus, this will be taken as Article 11.*

2 Department Heads would like to address the board.

Ambulance Director, Eric Cyr is questioning the yearly Oaths the employee's sign. Is it necessary to have them done yearly, or can it be changed to be done upon employment. Town Manager will check with MMA on what can be done.

Public Works Director, Kevin Dube expressed concerns regarding their truck fleet. The 2001 Western Star plow motor, box, frame, and cab is finished. Time frame for a new unit is about 6 months to 1 year out. They could possibly get by with switching out a snow rack truck with the western star. *It was recommended to check into pricing for lease financing and revisit with the board.*

Article 2 To Consider the Board Meeting Minutes of July 13, and July 29, 2021.

5:40 P.M. **Jason Boucher motions to approve the board meeting minutes of July 13, 2021, as presented. Chris Braley seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and motion carries.**



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5:41 P.M. Chris Braley motions to approve the board meeting minutes of July 29, 2021, as presented. Jason Boucher seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and motion carries.

Article 3 To Consider the Treasurer's Warrants.

5:41 P.M. Jason Boucher motions to accept the Treasurer's Warrants as presented. Chris Braley seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and motion carries.

Article 4 To Consider a Catering Permit Application for the Par & Grill Restaurant, LLC @ 9 Green Point Road on September 5, 2021.

5:42 P.M. Jason Boucher motions to accept the catering permit application for the Par & Grill Restaurant, LLC at 9 Green Point Road on September 5, 2021. Doug Cyr seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and motion carries.

Article 5 To Consider the Maine Municipal Association Voting Ballot for the Election of Vice-President and Executive Committee Members.

A voting ballot was presented to the board for Vice-President and executive committee members. Vice-President has one seat available with one candidate. Executive Committee Members have 3 candidates with 3 seats available.

5:43 P.M. Jason Boucher motions to accept the candidates for the Vice-President and Executive Committee Members as presented. Doug Cyr seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and motion carries.

Article 6 To Consider Information provided by the Ambulance Director Related to Stand-by Call-in Rates of County Area Ambulance Departments.

EMS Director contacted other departments in the Aroostook County for their standby procedures and pay. Eric Cyr provided a copy of his study and read it to the board. There have not been any adjustments to standby in many years. Eric Cyr would like to work on adjustments and work on a proposal to attract personnel to standby. The department is currently working on putting together a training class. They work with 6 Full-Time licensed employees and 5 Part-Time employees, this does not include drivers. The board also questioned what the procedure is when Madawaska responses out of town and has no backup.

- The average response times when the last study was made it is typically 5-minute response time for Madawaska area, 11 minutes for Frenchville, and 15 minutes for St. Agatha.
- During the course of a month, 6-12 times you can see 2 ambulances out at the same time and there are times all 3 are out also.

Mr. Real Hebert questioned if the department has 6 Full time staff, why not add-on 2 more Fulltime employees and replace standby? Why can staff be on call after a shift like Houlton? Why does Madawaska need 3 ambulances if there is no staff? What is the average pay for 2 positions? If the Town would pay more then you would get employees.

Article 7 Approval of the Shoreland Zoning Amendments by the Maine Dept. of Environmental Protection.

No Motion was needed. A letter from State of Maine Department of Environmental Protection was presented to the board about the approval of the Amendments to the Town of Madawaska Shoreland Zoning Ordinance that was approved on June 15, 2021, at Town Meeting.



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Article 8 To Consider Quotes Received for a New Tanker Truck for the Madawaska Fire Department.

Fire Chief, Jim Soucy is looking for approval for a new tanker truck for the Madawaska Fire Department. Currently, the fire departments fleet at the lake has 7 trucks with the newest being 1994, and 5 in-town trucks with 1 hazmat truck the state owns, the newest truck in-town is 2001. Fire chief would like to slowly start upgrading the fleet. The board questioned what was done in the past for trucks. The last time money would put aside for a truck was for ladder and \$50,000 was put aside a year.

The quotes received are not top of the line trucks, more scaled down. The new truck will need equipment like Hoses. Two proposals were received for consideration.

Allegiance Fire and Rescue	Pierce International MV 1500 GPM Triple Combination Pumper	423,727.00
Autotronics	2022 International MV607 Hale QMax-XS 1500 GPM **Add on of upgraded pump	400,000.00 12,880

Under lease financing no town meeting is needed. Lease option gives a Lease to own plan with a 5–7-year financing. It is currently a year out for the truck to be delivered. Payment is only due upon delivery.

6:34 P.M. Jason Boucher motions to approve the quote from Autotronics for 412,880.00 including the upgraded pump. Christopher Braley seconds the motion.

Richard Dionne expressed concerns that this should go to special town meeting.

All board members are in favor and motion carried.

Article 9 To Consider Legal Advice from MMA Legal Regarding Board of Selectmen Rules & Procedure Regarding the Recording of Public Meetings.

This article comes before the board due to at the end of a Board of Appeals meeting, Town Manger went to shut off the camera and a citizen got confrontational about the Town Manger touching the camera. There have been after the meeting conversations being captured after meetings when an unmanned camera is left in the room. The Town cannot prohibit cameras in public meetings but can dictate how they are run. Can we have a policy for installation for cameras in meetings?

Richard J. Dionne read out a statement from MMA Legal, “all persons shall be entitled to attend public proceedings and to make written, taped, or filmed records of proceedings, or to live broadcast the same provided the writing, taping, filming, or broadcasting does not interfere with the orderly conduct of proceedings.” Richard J. Dionne concern is release of Liability for the equipment.

Jason Boucher concerns is showing transparency. The board room is a public area and cameras are allowed. His concern is why there are conversations/meetings happening after a meeting, meetings are legal and done correctly. If the town of Madawaska wants to limit on who, why, how cameras are being used, someone has something to hide and not for full transparency. Nobody needs to check the camera that is in the room, it turns on and off by itself. If there’s a person other than yourself in the room, also treat it as your getting recorded. In the state of Maine it is legal for anybody to record a public meeting as long as 1 person knows that, that meeting is being recorded.

6:45 P.M. Jason Boucher motions that the board does not come up with any procedures/ policy that would limit the use of cameras in a public setting, to remain transparent with all public meetings. Manon Raymond seconds for discussion.

Even if a meeting is adjourned, the camera can continue to record until the last person leaves the building. Citizens are voicing concerns on what is happening before / during / after a meeting. WOWL has also left an unmanned camera in the building due to not having a student available to record.

Chris Braley expressed how there is a misconception of something happening behind the scenes. Discussions between 1 or 2 people is not considered a meeting. Not everything needs to be live broadcasted. If citizens have



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concerns they should bring themselves to the meetings.

One (Jason Boucher) is for, 2 (Richard J. Dionne and Christopher Braley) are against, 2 (Doug Cyr and Manon Raymond) abstain. Motion is not carried.

Article 10 To Consider an MDOT request for comment for a MDOT Driveway opening permit for Linda Cyr at 276 Main Street.

Linda Cyr has purchased the 276 Main Street, which she has turned into a residential apartment for her tenant, the president of the bridge project. She is looking to remove the curb on the sidewalk and make a driveway available for her tenant to be able to back in/out of driveway into main street. Linda Cyr submitted an application for Driveway / Entrance Permit to MDOT as part of procedure MDOT asked for the town of Madawaska comment. The town of Madawaska owns the sidewalks, not main street. Main Street would lose 2 parking stalls on Main Street if the driveway would be created. Public Works expressed safety concerns with a crosswalk crossing right at the corner of the lot, he also questioned snow removal.

Questions arose if a Land Use Application was submitted that showed parking included. Also, if a change of use from Commercial to residential was applied/granted.

7:10 P.M. **Jason Boucher motions to table discussion until more information is available. Doug Cyr seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and motion carries.**
Linda Cyr asks if she can be moved ahead of the next meeting.

Article 11 To Consider the Assessor's Amended Certification of Assessment and Amended Certificate of Assessment.

The state Valuation Audit for the Town of Madawaska is complete. They did find a couple items that the town will need to issue supplemental tax bills for. An amended Certification of Assessment and Amended 2020 Enhanced BETE Municipal Tax Rate Calculation Form was presented to the board with the reflected changes.

7:16 P.M. **Chris Braley motions to accept the Assessor's Amended Certification of Assessment and Amended Certificate of Assessment as presented. Jason Boucher seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and motion carries.**

Next Board of Selectmen Meeting: September 13, 2021, at 6 PM

Adjournment

7:18 P.M. **Chris Braley motions to adjourn. Jason Boucher seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and motion carries.**