



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

Madawaska Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Madawaska Safety Complex
Wednesday February 3, 2021 at 5:30 pm

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

Chairman Doug Cyr calls the meeting to order at **5:30 p.m.** and established a quorum with Selectmen Laurie Gagnon, Jason Boucher, Daniel Daigle, 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 Comment was submitted.

ARTICLES OF BUSINESS

Article 1 To Consider the Board Meeting Minutes of January 12 and 19, 2021.

5:32 P.M. **Manon Raymond motions to accept the board meeting minutes of January 12 and 19, 2021 as presented. Jason Boucher seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and motion carries.**

Article 2 To Consider the Treasurer's Warrant's

5:33 P.M. **Jason Boucher motions to accept the Treasurer's Warrant's as presented. Manon Raymond seconds the motion. 4 Board members are in favor, Daniel Daigle did not vote. Motion Carries.**

Article 3 To Consider the Town Six-Month Financial Expense and Revenue Reports.

5:34 P.M. **Jason Boucher motions to accept the town 6-month Financial Expense and Revenue Report as presented. Manon Raymond seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and motion carries.**



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Article 4 will be moved to the end of the agenda.

Article 5 To Consider an Application for Abatement of Property Taxes for Property Account #534.

Property owner had applied for Tree Growth in 2019, and it did not reflect on the 2020 bill. The town manager recommends the abatement request.

5:36 P.M. Jason Boucher motions to approve the abatement request for property taxes of account 534 in the amount of \$466.14. Manon Raymond seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and motion carries.

Article 6 To Consider an Application for Abatement of Property Taxes for Property Account #2070.

One of the owners of the property has deceased, wife remains. The homestead exemption was removed in error, the wife is still entitled to the homestead exemption. The Town Manager recommends the abatement request.

5:37 P.M. Jason Boucher motions to approve the abatement request for the property tax account 2070 in the amount of \$668.36. Manon Raymond seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and motion carries.

Article 7 To Consider a Proposal by Powers Roofing and Sheet Metal for the Roof Replacement on the Safety Complex Building.

Proposal by Powers Roofing and Sheet Metal came in at \$103,450. If the town would provide their own trucks a credit of \$9,200 would be applied.

5:38 P.M. Laurie Gagnon motions to accept for discussion. Jason Boucher seconds the motion.

Questions were brought up if we could reach out to other contractors for pricing.

Laurie Gagnon amends her motion and wants to table discussion. Jason Boucher accepts the amendment and seconds the motion. All board members are in favor to table. Motion carries.

Article 8 To Consider a Request for Religious Holiday Displays in the Town's Main Street Parks During the Holidays.

A request came in to display a manger at one of the town parks.

5:42 P.M. Jason Boucher motions to accept for discussion the religious holiday displays in the Town's Main street parks during the holidays. Laurie Gagnon seconds the motion.

Religious displays would appear when the other festive decorations appear. The group responsible for the religious decoration would be responsible to follow the timeframe of when the town's decorations are put up or taken down.

All board members are in favor and motion carries.



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Article 9 Update on the Town's Authorized Users to Maine Municipal Association Legal Services.

On January 6, 2018 a previous board had put in place restrictions on who could contact MMA legal services that included only the Town Manager, Board of Selectmen Chairperson and Finance/HR Director.

5:46 P.M. **Jason Boucher motions to Authorize all board of selectmen and include the previously authorized individuals to utilize MMA Legal Services. Daniel Daigle seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and motion carries.**

Article 10 To Consider an Offer for the Purchase Restaurant Equipment of the Former Orchids Restaurant, Assets Held by the Town of Madawaska UDAG Program.

Jason Boucher and the Town Manager had a discussion with the buyer of the Orchids building about the purchasing of the restaurant equipment.

5:48 P.M. **Manon Raymond motions to accept article as written for discussion purposes. Jason Boucher seconds the motion.**

Items that were discussed was the offer of \$2,500 by the purchaser, compared to full depreciation of the equipment all the way down to 30%, which came out to a value around \$12,500. The offer came back at \$5,000 for all items appearing on the list and items attached to the building. It was suggested to make 2 offers:

1. Offer \$7,500 everything goes includes hood system, fire suppression system, heat pumps and everything on the list.
2. Offer \$3,000 and the Town would remove Big Equipment (Fryer, Trays could be used within other departments in the town) Leave table, chairs, plates, utensils. Items would need to be removed before the closing of the building.

Manon Raymond motions to amend her motion. Jason Boucher accepts. Manon Raymond motions to submit an offer to the purchaser of \$7,500 for everything/as is or \$3,000 and the town removes the big equipment with a provided list. (The Fire Suppression system, hood system and heat pump would stay). Jason Boucher seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and motion carries.

Article 11 To Consider the Public Works Department Bid Specs for the Town's 2021-2022 Roads & Streets Paving Project.

6:01 P.M. **Jason Boucher motions to accept the Public Works Department Bid Specs for the Town's 2021-2022 Roads & Streets Paving Project. Manon Raymond seconds the motion.**

Advertising will be done in 2 ways, advertisement in the newspaper, and direct emails to the business Northeast Paving (formally Lane), Soderberg, SteelStone, and Trombley.

A question of financing was brought up about Bond Bank vs Area Bank Financing to see what interest rate would best fit.

All board members are in favor and motion carries.

Article 12 To Discuss and Consider the Town's Procedure for Disposing of Tax Acquired Property.

Annual Town Meeting Authorizes the Board of Selectmen to dispose of the property in the best interest of the town. The prior owner can redeem the property by paying all taxes, fees & interest. If the prior owner fails to redeem, The Board authorizes to set the terms of the sale of the tax acquired property. Terms can include but not be limited to, payment of all taxes, lien fees, interest, include a minimum bid, require a deposit, payment of quitclaim / legal fees by the buyer, and other non-typical conditions that the board deem fit. After the terms are set by the Board, goes out for advertising with a deadline for bids. The Board reviews and accepts bids and awards



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the bid to the highest bidder that met all the outline bid.

It was brought up to have a responsible time frame for bidding, post locally for everyone to see, and a minimum of 60 days to give potential bidders time to look at property.

6:20 P.M. Daniel Daigle motions once the town has acquired a tax acquired property that a bidding period of 60 days to give potential bidders the opportunity to bid. Laurie Gagnon seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and motion carries.

Article 13 To Discuss Board Member Considerations for Potential Business Opportunities in the Town of Madawaska.

Manon Raymond- Look into a laundry mat due to new construction coming into town with the bridge.
Veterinary Service – A lot of people have to go to Brewer for emergency service.

6:25 P.M. Jason Boucher motions to discuss the potential business opportunities. Laurie Gagnon seconds the motion.

Utilize the social media platform for surveys, business opportunities.

Article 14 To Discuss Board Member Considerations for the FY22 Town of Madawaska Budget.

Schedule the Finance Director and town Manger to sit down with the Department heads to meet to look over the budget to be presented to the board. *No action was taken.*

Article 15 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).

6:32 P.M. Jason Boucher motions to enter into executive session for 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.

6:59 P.M. Daniel Daigle motions to exit executive session discussing the Union Labor Negotiations with the Madawaska Police Department / New England Police Benevolent Association, Inc. executive session per “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: Laurie Gagnon motions to table the discussion of the Union Labor negotiations to be discussed farther as part of the Police Department budget as a whole. Jason Boucher seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and motion carries.

Article 16 Town Manager’s Report.

- Deputy Clerk Position interviewed last week with 7 applicates. Roxy Levesque is the successful applicate and will begin in 2 weeks.
- Town/CDGB Facades Program – applications were given out to businesses in the scope of work on Main Street between 6th Ave and 16th Ave. Deadline will be February 12.
- 2021 CDBG Downtown Revitalization Grant- if awarded it can be used for potential redevelopment for the mid-town shopping plaza.



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- Madawaska Land Port of Entry project – Contract was awarded to J & J Contractors inc. on January 19, 2021.
- Pollution Control Laborer Position – One candidate was interviewed last week and as of today, the candidate was offered the position.
- Recreation Department Vacancy – Jeff Marquis has resigned. The position will stay vacate for the time being.

No Action was taken.

Article 4 Other Business, Board Member Updates.

Manon Raymond received 2 emails from citizen Mike Fortin.

1. Snowmobile Issues – traveling through Dionne Street, is it allowed the length of the street?
 - Recommend asking Police Department to monitor speed / motion cameras
2. Issue with Snow – adjust the wing and sweeper, snow is being dumped in the truck turnaround. This would be a Police Department issue with snow being dumped in the roads /turn around.
 - Ask Kevin to speak with both men regarding snow being dumped/turn around to come to an agreement.

Daniel Daigle –

- Pertaining to Masks at Meetings - Requesting legal documentation enforcing the wearing of mask throughout the meeting
- Selectmen Stipend – Coming into budget season, looking at departments for cuts, as the board should lead by example

7:32 P.M. Daniel Daigle makes a motion all selectmen should forfeit their stipend until the Election in June. Laurie Gagnon seconds the motion. Daniel Daigle and Laurie Gagnon are in favor, Jason Boucher, Manon Raymond and Doug Cyr are opposed. Motion Canceled.

7:35 P.M. Daniel Daigle motions to go over the 2-hour meeting maximum. Laurie Gagnon seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and motion carries.

- Paul Cyr and Public Participation comment – subject in interpretation – no room for public participation in some form – Clarify what is the allowable form
- Selectmen Pyramid – asked at the last meeting if he could attend negotiation with the police department and the Board of Appeals meeting – meet with opposition – if you check with legal counsel you cannot prohibit a board of selectmen member from attending any board meeting that is in any form of matter connected to the Town of Madawaska.
- I-Pad & Emails & Hand Deliver Agendas

7:56 P.M. Daniel Daigle motions that this board, tells the police chief that he will continue to deliver by himself or a patrolman to Daniel Daigle residence until the situation of the I-paid or reception can be rectified.

Daniel Daigle Amends his motion with that this board directs the Town Manager to order the Police Chief to continue to deliver to Daniel Daigle personal residence until the I-paid situation is rectified. Jason Boucher seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and motion carries.

Other Business:

- To Consider Request to Re-open the Fitness Center.

Received correspondence from citizens to re-open the fitness center with the COVID situation. We need to ensure that members mask up in a public building.



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8:00 P.M. Jason Boucher motions to re-open the fitness center and to keep it closed 2 days a week to help facilitate the separation with people going in and cleaning crew, (Monday & Thursday). Laurie Gagnon seconds the motion for discussion. 2 board members are in favor, 3 oppose. Motion does not pass.

8:09 P.M. Laurie Gagnon motions to reopen the Fitness Center and to work with employees and Town Manager for the best cleaning schedule. Manon Raymond seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and motion carries.

- To Consider the Replacement / Purchase of the Climbmill Stairstepper for the Fitness Center. Community Gym has a stair stepper in rough shape and would like to replace.

8:11 P.M. Laurie Gagnon motions to approve \$4,995 from the reserve account for the replacement /purchase of the climbmill stairstepper for the fitness center. Jason Boucher seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and motion carries.

Daniel Daigle - Re-Opening of the Town Office

8:13 P.M. Daniel Daigle motions to re-open the town office maintaining social distance and requiring mask. Laurie Gagnon seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and motion carries.

Laurie Gagnon - If board members introduce items in other business, can the board have an indication of what to come to better prepare or research.

Daniel Daigle - Request on the next agenda pertaining the adventure of Simple Computers 101. Questions, uncertainties.

Jason Boucher - Simple Computers 101 – Would like to put out the information.

Due to Rumors circulating the business has lost business, lost customers, and lost employees because of the untruth that has been put out about what has been put out about Simple Computers 101.

Jason Boucher presents documents: Official 2004 Registration to do business in the Town of Madawaska, Letters sent to the neighbors at the time with all his intent, letters from the previous 2 town managers about service he has provided to the town of Madawaska, Filing of Tax's to the State of Maine going back to 2006.

Felony about someone else doing work: 1099 was shown to other board members to show the employee is legit. Expenses have been tracked and filed with the state.

Jason Boucher does not want to entertain discussing again at a later board meeting.

Adjournment

8:36 P.M. Manon Raymond motions to adjourn. Jason Boucher seconds the motion. 4 Board members are in favor and Daniel Daigle did not vote. Motion Carries.