



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

**Madawaska Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Madawaska Safety Complex
Tuesday January 12, 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: By Zoom: Louis Cousins, County Assessor, Caryl Albert, Ross Dubois, Eric Cyr

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.**

Chairmen Doug Cyr asked for a moment of silence for the fallen soldier from the events that happened at the capital and for a peaceful transition at the white house.

- **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**

2 Letters were submitted and read out loud.

1. Lori Bouchard – submitted an email of concern regarding Article 8 discussing personal property. One letter was sent to the town manager, and another letter was sent to the board. *This will be discussed on Article 8.*
2. Paul Cyr – submitted an email opposing to close in person public participation comments and closing meetings to the public. *Title 1, §403-A Public proceedings through remote access during declaration of state of emergency due to COVID-19 was forwarded to Mr. Cyr.*

Daniel Daigle asked due to long meeting if the Board of Selectmen can have more frequent meetings. This issue was brought up in the pass, and was supported with majority of the selectmen. Another item



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was brought up was the Town of Madawaska has larger room availability to be able to support a larger crowd for in-person public meetings.

Jason Boucher made a statement regarding Live Streaming with St. John Valley Live. It donates 100% of its time to have streaming services available as a public service. It would like to thank its past donors to keep the service going; there are no tax dollars involved in the service. Also, the economic development prop plan that Simple Computers 101 got involved with. Price comparisons were done in comparison with other companies for what is being developed for the Town; other companies were estimated at 15,000 versus Simple Computers of \$5,000 or lower.

ARTICLES OF BUSINESS

Taken Out of Order:

Article 14 To Consider Consultations with Legal Counsel, Executive Session Recommended: 1 M.R.S.A § 405 (6)(E).

5:51 P.M. Laurie Gagnon motions to enter into executive session under 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(E) to consult with legal counsel about pending declaratory judgment action between Town of Madawaska and Twin Rivers Paper Company. Manon Raymond seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and motion carries.

6:33 P.M. Manon Raymond motions to exit out of executive session under 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(E) discussing with legal counsel the pending declaratory judgement action between Town of Madawaska and Twin Rivers Paper Company. There is no post executive session action to be taken. Jason Boucher seconds the motion. All board members are in favor, Daniel Daigle did not vote. Motion Carries.

Article 8 To Consider an Application for Abatement of Property Taxes for Personal Property Account #248.

6:34 P.M. Manon Raymond motions to consider the application for abatement of property taxes for personal property account #248 for discussion. Laurie Gagnon seconds the motion for discussion.

Daniel Daigle begins the discussion addressing the board about refusing to acknowledge or accept the Personal Property Tax bill. He would like to request from the board to make it become null and void, based on his information.

- A packet was given to the board members about Maine Statue definition of Personal Property when it comes to Taxation.
- Pictures were given out showing furnishings were placed.



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March 24 Governor Mills had a mandate restricting lodging. The day after March 25 the Other Maine was closed. *A 706A form was not submitted for this billing cycle reflecting the changes.* A new 706A form can be submitted.

7:23 P.M. Jason Boucher motions to cease discussion. Manon Raymond seconds the motion. All board members are in favor, Daniel Daigle did not vote. Motion Carries.

7:24 P.M. Manon Raymond motions to amend pervious motion and to table Article 8 until sufficient documentation can be provided. Laurie Gagnon accepts the changes. All board members are in favor, Daniel Daigle did not vote. Motion Carries.

7: 25 P.M. Jason Boucher motions to continue the Board of Selectmen meeting after 2 hours. Manon Raymond seconds the motion. 4 Board of members are in favor and Daniel Daigle is opposed. Motion Carries.

Article 1 To Consider the Board Meeting Minutes of December 15 and 18, 2020.

7:25 P.M. Jason Boucher motions to accept the Board meeting minutes of December 15 and 18, 2020 as presented. Manon Raymond seconds the motion. All board members are in favor, Daniel Daigle did not vote and motion carries.

Article 2 To Consider the Treasurer's Warrant's

7:26 P.M. Laurie Gagnon motions to accept the Treasurer's Warrant's as presented. Jason Boucher seconds the motion. All board members are in favor, Daniel Daigle did not vote and motion carries.

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

7:26 P.M. Jason Boucher motions to table the Town 6-month Financial expense and revenue reports. Manon Raymond seconds the motion. All board members are in favor, Daniel Daigle did not vote and motion carries.

Article 4 Other Business, Board Member Updates.

Manon Raymond sent an email to the Library board on their input on how the Library operates with no response. For the next agenda she would like to discuss the possibility of a laundry mat and veterinary service.

Doug Cyr – The fitness center and multipurpose center will be kept closed for the time being with review.

Article 5 To Consider Bids for the Fournier Road Tax Acquired property.



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One bid was received at 8:32 am on December 3, 2020. Sealed bid was opened by Manon Raymond. Bid received was by Candace Cyr for \$7258 for the property on Fournier Road. Deposit is for \$725.80.

7:43 P.M. Jason Boucher motions to accept the bid from Candace Cyr for \$7258 for the property on Fournier Road. Manon Raymond seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and motion carries.

Article 6 To Consider a Land Donation to the Town on Girard Street.

Mr. Collin would like to donate a piece of land off Girard Street on lot 201-B. The board members do not see a need for this piece of land at this time.

7:45 P.M. Manon Raymond motions to accept for discussion. Laurie Gagnon Seconds the motion for discussion. No board members are in favor, 4 members are opposed, Daniel Daigle did not vote. Article is not approved.

Article 7 To Consider a Sewer Abatement for Account 30785.

Sewer abatement request is due to a water leak underneath the trailer and not part of the sewer line. Consumption to be abated.

7:47 P.M. Jason Boucher motions to approve the sewer abatement for the account 30785, for the amount related to the consumption. Laurie Gagnon seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and motion carries.

Article 9 To Consider a Request by the Police Department to Replace One Police Cruiser.

Police Department has 3 vehicles currently, and would like to retire the 2017 Ford SUV with 170,422 miles due to maintenance cost and safety issues. Question arose of why the need of another vehicle.

7:50 P.M. Laurie Gagnon motions to allow the Police Department Chief to go out to bid. Jason Boucher seconds the motion. 4 members are in favor and Daniel Daigle opposes. Motion Carries.

Article 11 To Consider an Executive Session for Personnel Matters per 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (A).

A written request letter by email was given to the board of selectmen by Eric Cyr to have this session in open session.

Daniel Daigle received 2 calls by business owners that were upset due to a post. The past boards have had discussions on guidelines regarding social media and it never went anywhere. Mr. Daigle asked to please refrain from posting anything that can bring retribution.

Manon Raymond stated when a policy is done, the board members needs to be included in this policy.

Article 10 To Consider an Executive Session for Personnel Matters per 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (A).



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A written request letter by email was given to the board of selectmen by Gary M. Picard to have this session in an open session.

Daniel Daigle started the discussion regarding multiple items:

- Address assault and ambush publicly on Daniel Daigle
- Refusing to meet with Senator Collins due to ICMA
- Not meet the expectations of the board, acceptable code of ethics

8:35 P.M. Daniel Daigle motions to discuss for disciplinary action. Manon Raymond motions to discuss. Daniel Daigle motions to discipline and 4 board members are against.

Discussion: Problem in communication between board members and town manager. Need to work together to move forward.

Daniel Daigle started off discussion #2 with 2 town trucks and a payloader being on private parking lot. When Mr. Daigle called the town manager about this activity, the town manager hung up the phone. Daigle Parking lot agreement expired June 2020. The agreement needs to be brought up in the next board of selectmen meeting.

9:15 P.M. Daniel Daigle motions to discipline the Town Manager for insubordination due to hanging up the phone. Manon Raymond seconds the motion. Daniel Daigle to discipline, 4 board members are opposed – they would like to give a verbal warning instead.

Article 12 Update on the Offer for the Purchase Restaurant Equipment of the Former Orchids Restaurant, Assets Held by the Town of Madawaska UDAG Program.

The current buyer has rescinded their offer on the equipment due to the fixtures.

10:00 P.M. Jason Boucher motions to remove the fixtures and go to auction. Laurie Gagnon seconds the motion.

The board gave guidance for the Town Manger and a couple board members have a conversation with Norstate, have legal opinion on the fixtures, and/or remove the contents before the building is sold.

10:05 P.M. Jason Boucher motions to amend his original motion pending the discussion with Norstate and attorney and what is/isn't a fixture and what the next steps is for the fixture. Laurie Gagnon seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and Daniel Daigle did not vote. Motion Carries.

Article 13 Manager's Report.

- Riverview Street Survey
- Sewer Easement near the New International Bridge
- Police Department Union Contract Negotiation
- FY 2021 Budget Development
- CDBG Facades Program
- Gov Mills proposed FY22/23 Biennium Budget



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- Town of Madawaska/Twin Rivers Paper Property Tax Dispute
- Local Solar Project

10:10 P.M. Jason Boucher motions to not read the Manager's Report. Laurie Gagnon seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and Daniel Daigle opposes. Motion Carries.

Adjournment

10:10 P.M. Laurie Gagnon motions to adjourn. Jason Boucher seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and Daniel Daigle opposes. Motion Carries.