



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

**Madawaska Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes &
Board of Selectmen / Finance Committee Budget Meeting Minutes
Madawaska Safety Complex Fireman's Meeting Room
March 8, 2022, at 5:00 pm**

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

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Linda M. Cyr, James M. Cyr

TOWN MANAGER: Gary M. Picard

RECORDING SECRETARY: Nathalie Morneault

OTHERS PRESENT: Raylan Lagasse, Denise Duperre, Steve Albert, Mark Madore, Donna Leonard, Caryl Albert, Paul Lausier, Francis Gendreau, Jason Parent, David and Deanne Daigle, Lorraine Marston, Danielle Hebert, Theresa Theriault, Jane Carter

Board of Selectmen Chairman Richard J. Dionne calls the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and established a quorum with Selectmen Christopher Braley, Jason Boucher, Doug Cyr, and Manon Raymond.

- **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 made the board aware of the potholes on Bridge Street/Main, 11th Ave, and there is a dip on Riverview Street.

ARTICLES OF BOARD OF SELECTMEN OF BUSINESS

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

- To Consider a Request by the Grand Isle Sewer Plant for dewater of Sludge

Selectman Raylan Lagasse from Grand Isle came to the Board of Selectmen to see if Madawaska Pollution Control could dewater their sludge that is in their storage tanks. Grand Isle would be responsible for transporting. Currently, sludge needs to be dewatered for disposal. They do have a long-term plan in the works and using Madawaska would only be short term fix until their plan can be placed. Grand Isle has roughly 20,000 gallons to treat / dewater.

A sample was given to Mark Madore, which presented a 3% concentration in the sample. Mark would like to have another sample before he can be sure how to proceed with dewatering. Grand Isle would transport an average of 4-6,000 gallons per load to Madawaska, for 3-4 weeks, an average of 1 load per week.



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5:09 P.M. Jason Boucher motions to allow the Madawaska Pollution Control to dewater Grand Isle's Sludge as a temporary fix and will keep the Board of Selectmen up to date. Christopher Braley seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and motion carries.

- Public Works

Public Works is a hard-working department working tirelessly with the many snowstorms. Snow pick up has been challenging this year due to the availability of contractors and employees. Public Works has been berated and harassed throughout the days and nights and it is unacceptable. The Town Manager asked if the residents could leave the staff alone with phones calls, texts, and messengers – when the staff is home, they are home to sleep.

Residents that are pushing the snow into the road are violating the law. There are multiple incidents seen all over town with trucks, tractors, and snow scoops being pushed into the roads.

By Consensus, The Board is recommending No Tolerance for this behavior, to notify/report, document, and press charges against anyone who places snow in the road. There needs to be more pressure. Town Manager will let the Chief of Police know.

Article 2 To Consider the Board Meeting Minutes of February 22, 2022.

5:10 P.M. Christopher Braley motions to approve the Board of Selectmen Minutes of February 22, 2022 with the provided revision of Article 10. Jason Boucher seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and motion carries.

Article 3 To Consider the Treasurer's Warrants.

5:10 P.M. Jason Boucher motions to accept the Treasurer's Warrants as presented. Christopher Braley seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and motion carried.

Article 4 To Consider the Winter Road Salt Concerns by Town Resident Wallace Talbot.

Mr. Talbot was not in attendance to the meeting; the Article will be tabled if he does not show.

5:35 P.M. Jason Boucher motions to table the Article. Christopher Braley seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and motion carries.

Article 5 To Consider a Concern by Steven Albert Regarding Paying Property Taxes for Property Along Island Road on Long Lake.

Steven Albert recently bought 750 Beaulieu Road located on the corner of Beaulieu Road and Island Road, but does not live on the Island. Pelletier Island Association has requested for Steven Albert to pay Association Fees of \$375 yearly for the use of 200ft of road. The previous owner paid the Association Fee. Steven Albert would like the Town of Madawaska to pay the \$375 yearly fee either to the association or reduce off his taxes or maintain the 200 feet of road for plowing.

By Consensus, No Action was taken, the issue is with the Island Association.

Article 6 To Consider a Sewer Abatement Request for Sewer Account #73760.

The request of abatement came in due to a leak in the water hose that was used to water the garden. The water did not go through the sewer system.



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5:22 P.M. Christopher Braley motions to deny the sewer abatement request for Sewer Account #73760. Manon Raymond seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and motion carries.

Article 7 To Consider the Continuation of the Employee's COVID Leave Policy.

The COVID voluntary benefit is currently still in effect provided the employees remained masked. Some of the staff are asking if mask can be removed. The policy would still be effective requiring a positive test if contracting COVID.

5:28 P.M. Jason Boucher motions to remove the masking requirement from the Employee COVID leave policy with a follow up 6-month review. Christopher Braley seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and motion carries.

5:36 P.M. Jason Boucher motions to adjourn the Board of Selectmen Meeting portion. Christopher Braley seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and motion carries.

BUDGET ARTICLES BOARD OF SELECTMEN & FINANCE COMMITTEE

5:44 P.M. The Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee Meeting was called to order.

***Some articles were taken out of order due to presentations.*

Article 7 To Consider the Intergovernmental Budget, Dept 710.

County Tax – an increase of \$22,788, assessment is sent onto the towns. The town has no discretion on this bill.

VRF – an increase of \$37,450, due to labor cost, tonnage. Tonnage is based on a projection, but the towns only pay for what is brought in. VRF pays an admin cost of \$22,370 and increases 2% per year.

Northern AAA Airport- decrease of \$1,003 due to last census.

Hydrant Rental – increase of \$39,495, a 14% rate increase for Hydrants. Also do not have any control on this bill.

Streetlights – increase of \$4,000, The town is now the owner / operator of streetlights. They are paying for themselves. Before the conversion the Town had a rental fee. When a streetlight is out, the town hires a contractor to fix.

NMDC – Increase of \$130.

MMA – Increase of \$19.

Chamber – Increase of \$4,235. The chamber has an interim director currently. The Trade show will be happening this year with 60% spots already sold. They are working on helping promote businesses through Facebook / Website. They would like to see businesses more involved with the town. The interim director has been a member of the board for 1 year. The Chamber wants to go a different direction with more online presence. The Chamber is currently only open 2 days a week. The office is a rented property.

- Board Member would like a list of Events the Chamber has participated in and what roles the chamber plays.
- Working with the Beautification Committee and Acadian Festival
- Collection of Dues from other towns – Frenchville, St. Agatha and Grand Isle have been asked for appropriations based upon business and population of their town.
- Tourism – Bigger Online presence, publication for Snowmobiling, Calendar with photos.

Acadian Festival – Increase of \$1,800. Made up of 4-person committee member. The Acadian Festival is in the process of developing a new website with new events.

Four Seasons- No change



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Farmers Mkt – No change

This budget is seeing an increase of \$109,014.

Article 8 To Consider the Social Services Budget, Dept 720.

ACAP – Jason Parent was in to make a presentation to the board members. Over the course of the year ACAP has provided 1411 services to residents in Madawaska and St. David. They also have helped 743 people in Pandemic Relief for rental assistance and purchase groceries for families that had covid. It is their 50th year anniversary this year. They also have partnered with Aroostook Agency on Aging for home energy appointments / programs. The increase of \$662 is based off of .40 per capita and will stay at this rate for the next 10 years. ACAP currently has 210 employees and has 25 open positions. They are currently trying to have a mobile service unit to the areas that do not have an office available.

Historical Society – Asking for the same appropriation of \$9,000 or more. Fran Gendreau gave a detailed presentation about what was done last year, and what would need to be done in the future. They have worked on cutting down trees due to rodents. The Family Reunion trees are being replaced about 3 a year. There was damaged done by Trombley this year taking the wrong road and sunk down to the axles. The Bell is in bad shape. They want an Agricultural Building for the artifacts that are in storage currently – Would like to have a grant. They want a rest room facility, they have applied for ARPA funds at the county level but will need money to be matched. Fundraising was attempted and brought in about \$2,000. The rec department mows the law for the historical society.

This budget is seeing an increase of \$662.

Article 1 To Consider the Governing Body Budget, Dept. 100.

Governing Body is showing a flat budget.

A question was posed as to when the Governing Body's salaries were last adjusted. One selectman suggested to increase wages to 3100 / 2600 to attract new members on the future board. This current board would not be included. When running on a board you do not run to get paid, other board are also not paid.

Article 2 To Consider the General Assistance Budget, Dept 120.

The General Assistance Budget is unchanged. General Assistance Director does a great job keeping the expenses low. The state does pay back about 75%.

Article 3 To Consider the Municipal Building Budget, Dept 130.

Table Dept 130, to next meeting.

Article 4 To Consider the Safety Building Budget, Dept 135.

Table Dept 135, to the next meeting.

Article 5 To Consider the Elections Budget, Dept 140.

This budget is showing an increase of \$834, due to increases of wages due to minimum wage.

