



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
May 3, 2022, at 5:30 pm**

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

TOWN MANAGER: Gary M. Picard

RECORDING SECRETARY: Nathalie Morneau

OTHERS PRESENT: Beverly Madore, Thomas Kent, Connie Vanier, Sharon Picard, Tracie Stevens, Kevin Dube, Jane Carter, Denise Duperre, Jessica Blalock, Paul Lausier, Gerald Ouellette, Wayne Cyr, Caryl Albert, Wallace Talbot, Jason Houston.

Board of Selectmen Chairman Richard J. Dionne calls the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and established a quorum with Selectmen Christopher 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 asked if the Water Fountain at the gym will be replaced. *The fountain is due to be installed May 4.*

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

Richard J. Dionne asked if Mr. Wallace Talbot can be added to the agenda if he arrives. By Consensus, the Board did not have an issue.

Article 2 To Consider the Board Meeting Minutes of April 12, 2022.

5:32 P.M. **Jason Boucher motions to approve the board meeting minutes of April 12, 2022, as presented. Christopher Braley seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and motion carried.**

Article 3 To Consider the Treasurer's Warrants.

5:33 P.M. **Christopher Braley motions to approve the Treasurer's Warrants as presented. Jason Boucher seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and motion carried.**

Article 4 To Consider Discussion Regarding the Vandalism and Condition of the Gazebo at the Bicentennial Park.

This article was brought to the boards attention due to concerns shared via social media. The last few years the boards have been made aware of the deteriorating gazebo in the park. The Recreation Department tried to do



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some maintenance to try to buy some time. The parks have gone through numerous vandalisms. The Gazebo sits on a cracked slab that keeps moving. The sagging from the slab is causing shifting. The roof is rotten. It is now currently taped off to avoid anyone on the structure.

A citizen stated they noticed the 10 PM signage and is asking if more police patrolling can be done, if not cameras. The benches are in rough shape. *In regard to the cameras, high end cameras would be needed to avoid halos, zoom features, and WIFI capabilities for good quality footage.* There has been vandalism that the Rec Department has fixed up in the past including Bathrooms, paintings, doors broken, and feces smeared.

Cost to rebuild the gazebo could be part of the revitalization need to wait and see how much money will be available. Another option would be to raise money through taxes or fundraising through the community. Because it is a public facility this would have to go through engineering. The question was asked What would be the timeline for a new gazebo and what the replacement timeline due to activities in the park like Music in the Park. Could a tent with risers be sufficient for this year?

Wayne Cyr asked on behalf of the musicians if high wind and the sun hitting the musicians would be taken into consideration, and moving the staging between the fireplace/monument to face the church would be considered. This would help the quality of the sound, and the sun not in the musicians' eyes. If Reno's Electric could be asked for input on power, plugs and other electrical ideas because he is also a musician. The best idea would be if a musician committee could form to put their ideas together.

5:57 P.M. **Jason Boucher motions to tear down the existing gazebo and establish a committee for the musician input. Douglas Cyr seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and motion carries.**

Article 5 To Consider Concerns by Thomas Kent Regarding Snow Plowing on Town Streets.

Thomas Kent was present to talk to the board about the way the snow is being plowed on Hillcrest Ave. There is no one to the right of him towards Birch Street. The snow is plowed near the corner and goes back into his driveway. The plow drivers are not pushing the snow back enough and utilizing their wing. There are only 4 houses on the street. The trucks drop too much sand and salt, it should only be put at stop signs. When the snowblower blows the snow onto the property, it has chewed up markers, walls, puts sufficient weight on the retaining walls and has killed the grass behind the wall. The citizens of the street are asking for reducing the amount of sand/gravel that is being put on the street. The street is 4 lanes wide; do they have to blow the snow? *The board needs to treat everyone the same, it is complicated when it comes to snow.* One problem is the availability of trucks and contractors to pick up snow.

Douglas Cyr agreed, there is too much sand and salt on the roads.

Article 6 To Consider the 2022-2023 Madawaska School Budget Town Meeting Warrant.

6:30 P.M. **Douglas Cyr motions to approve the 2022-2023 Madawaska School Budget Town Meeting Warrant including Article 21 SRRF Program Funding debt forgiveness. Manon Raymond seconds the motion. 3 board members are in favor, Chris Braley and Jason Boucher did not vote. Motion Carried.**

Article 7 To Consider the 2022-2023 Town of Madawaska School Budget Validation Referendum Warrant.

6:33 P.M. **Manon Raymond motions to approve the 2022-2023 Town of Madawaska School Budget Validation Referendum Warrant as presented. Christopher Braley seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and motion carried.**



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Article 8 To Consider the Town 2022 Certified Ratio.

Every year the Town receives a Certified Ratio Declaration Form from the Property tax division. They set the developed parcel ratio of 102%, and the town can go 10% up/down from that number. This year's number can be between 92 -112.

6:39 P.M. **Jason Boucher motions to set the Certified Ratio for the Town of Madawaska to 112%. Christopher Braley seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and motion carried.**

Article 9 To Consider 2022-2023 Aroostook County Dispatch Services Contract.

Renewal of the Dispatch agreement for July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023, for Fire, EMS, and Police Department. Jason Boucher asked if there could be a protocol in place to call RCM when the radios are down.

6:40 P.M. **Christopher Braley motions to approve the 2022-2023 Aroostook County Dispatch Service Contract as presented, and to ask about the protocol for the radios. Jason Boucher seconds the motion. All Board members are in favor and motion carried.**

Article 10 To Consider Town/MDOT 2023 Sidewalk Improvements Project Plan Impacts Submittal.

The Plan Impacts Submittal was presented to the board to sign off. This would impact the area between 14th and 16th Ave sidewalks. The project has now expanded to both sides of the road so the sidewalks can be consistent. Construction is set to start next year and needs to be ADA compliant. The new port of Entry team has been asked politely to put back the sidewalk that was removed during construction.

6:50 P.M. **Jason Boucher motions to accept the Town / MDOT 2023 Sidewalk Improvements Project Plan Impacts Submittal as presented. Christopher Braley seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and motion carried.**

Article 11 Town Report Dedication.

Richard J. Dionne nominates Diane Boucher, retired from the Recreation Department.

6:52 P.M. **Christopher Braley motions to nominate Diane Boucher for the Town Report Dedication. Manon Raymond seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and motion carried.**

Article 12 To Consider Discussion Regarding Requests to Purchase Town Owned Properties.

7:35 P.M. **Christopher Braley motions to continue the meeting passed the 2 –hours. Jason Boucher seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and motion carried.**

Map 23, Lot 11

Gerard Raymond owns lot 11A which abuts the Towns lot 11. He has inquired if he can purchase a portion of the lot so he can extend the Potato Storage Building. The whole lot is 32 acres. Christopher Braley asked if the proceeds could go towards the Bicentennial Park project.

7:38 P.M. **Christopher Braley motions to put forward to the town's people in a warrant to put out to bid Map 23, Lot 11, the full lot for a minimum bid of \$30,000, proceeds to go to the Bicentennial Park Improvement and legal cost paid by the buyer. Jason Boucher seconds the motion. Jason Boucher seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and motion carried.**

Map 7

Andrew and Monica Levesque own lot 6 and is inquiring if they can purchase the parcel that intersects with Pleasant. This parcel provides access to the abutting lot 117. *Christopher Braley abstains from the discussion.*



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7:39 P.M. By Consensus, no motion to be taken. This property will not be presented on the warrant.

Map 10

Mark Cyr has inquired about the Undeveloped Street from intersection of Reed Ave and the intersection of 25th Avenue. This was considered last year at the Town meeting, but the town voters did not approve.

7:40 P.M. Jason Boucher motions to offer all abutting landowners the property, with legal cost covered by the buyer, and proceeds go the undesignated fund. Christopher Braley seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and motion carried.

Article 14 Manager's Report.

- ICMA Conference
- K-Mart Plaza Demo Project – Project should be completed next few weeks. All demolition has been completed.
- Facades Program – Project is getting close to beginning the construction phase. Once the contractor gets his budget the contractor will enter into agreements with the applicates.
- K-Mart Plaza Survey & Legal Work – The boundary survey is completed and being reviewed with Fish River Architects and the Town Engineers. Inn of Acadia was also talked to about swapping small corners of land, which would help improve the recreation trail route by rounding off the sharp 90-degree corners.
- 2022 Paving Projects – Looking to begin paving Mid-May to Mid-June. Manholes, Rings, and risers needed for paving have been ordered.
- Versant Power Utility Line Relocation – During the relocation process there was some damage to North 13th sewer line. Streetlights were removed and need to be reinstalled.
- 14th Ave – Main Street – opened the view off 14th Ave. The property is tax acquired and the sidewalk is part of the sidewalk modification. It can sit there for the time being if someone should park there should sign a waive of liability.
- Town Cleanup Project – All departments will be mixed together in groups and help clean up parks.

Article 13 To Consider Poverty Abatement Applications, Executive Session Required Pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A § 841 (2).

8:02 P.M. Jason Boucher motions to enter into executive session for a poverty abatement application, required pursuant to "36 M.R.S.A §841 (2)" for case 05/03/2022. Christopher Braley seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and motion carried.

8:20 P.M. Christopher Braley motions to come out of executive session for a poverty abatement application that is required pursuant to "36 M.R.S.A §841 (2)" for case 05/03/2022. Jason Boucher seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and motion carried.

Post Executive Session

Christopher Braley motions to deny the poverty abatement for case 05/03/2022 for property tax. Jason Boucher seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and motion carried.

Adjournment

8:20 P.M. Christopher Braley motions to adjourn. Jason Boucher seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and motion carried.