



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  
November 16, 2021 at 5:30 pm**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Richard J. Dionne, Christopher Braley, Jason Boucher, Manon Raymond, Doug Cyr  
**TOWN MANAGER:** Gary M. Picard  
**RECORDING SECRETARY:** Nathalie Morneault  
**OTHERS PRESENT:** Caryl Albert, Sam Cyr

**Board of Selectmen Chairman Richard J. 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.

*No Public Participation at this time.*

**ARTICLES OF BOARD OF SELECTMEN OF BUSINESS**

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

More information was provided to the board members for Engie, Covid-19 Vaccination and testing, an email status from the assessor, and National Incident Management System Zoom for senior officials.

By Consensus – National Incident Management System Zoom will be taken as Article 11.

**Article 2** To Consider the Board Meeting Minutes of October 12 and 19, 2021.

**5:32 P.M.** Jason Boucher motions to approve the Board Meeting Minutes of October 12 and 19, 2021 as presented. Christopher Braley seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and motion carries.

**Article 3** To Consider the Treasurer's Warrants.

**5:33 P.M.** Douglas Cyr motions to accept the Treasurer's Warrants as presented. Jason Boucher seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and motion carries.

**Article 4** To Consider the Amended & Final Solar Supply Contract Proposals from Engie (Madawaska Solar, LLC), Novell Energy Solutions, Nordic Solar Power LLC.

Recap of the proposals from:

Engie – has broken ground in St. David site for project, \$10,000 donation to the Beautification committee, and will commit to paying \$2,000 per megawatt per year which would be about \$8,000 annually.



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Doug Cyr and Christopher Braley both enjoyed Engie proposal, and the project has begun. They are also using local contractors for the project.

Richard Dionne mentioned Engie is a big developer with sites all over, they do have the resources.

Manon Raymond stated Engie was more grounded on their presentation.

Novel – has a site in Frenchville. They cannot commit to paying in lieu of taxes. They would give \$10,000 donation to a non-profit or charity. Their proposal would include a discount for 5-year terms with a 2-year replacement with / without REC's.

Nordic Solar Power, LLC is a local Aroostook County team. They have currently acquired a piece of land on Dionne Street and working with the planning board.

Jason Boucher mentions Nordic does have a well written, strict contract. If they do not build in town there will be no payment in lieu of taxes.

Christopher Braley mentioned the project has not begun in Madawaska, but did like how the representative was very forthcoming and quick with questions and answers.

Richard Dionne liked the openness from the representative.

**5:56 P.M.**      **Jason Boucher motions to go with Nordic Solar Power, LLC for the proposed 5-year contract. Christopher Braley seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and motion carries.**

**Article 5**      To Consider a Phone Line Contract Proposal by Consolidated Communications.

After porting over our fax lines to online, there are some locations that will need a hard line. This proposal is for the remaining fax lines at a cost of \$30.50 each line.

**6:06 P.M.**      **Christopher Braley motions to approve the proposal as presented by Consolidated Communications for a phone line contract. Jason Boucher seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and motion carries.**

**Article 6**      To Consider Town 2021-2022 Tax Commitment.

The assessor has completed the work needed for tax commitment. Town Manager has provided a list of comparable mil rates for area towns. A rough estimate of the undesignated fund balance was also provided. Something to think about when choosing a mil rate is what to choose for an overlay, this is the cushion for next year.

**6:25 P.M.**      **Jason Boucher motions to set the Town of Madawaska 2021-2022 Tax Commitment Mil Rate at 22. Douglas Cyr seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and motion carries.**

**Article 7**      To Consider the Sale of a Tax Acquired Properties.

Three properties have become tax acquired. Per the Town of Madawaska Town Meeting article, Letters need to be mailed to the property owner to have a chance to redeem property within 30 days. If no response the town can go out to bid.

**6:28 P.M.**      **Jason Boucher motions to send letters to property owner for Map 004 Lot 18L, if they do not redeem after 30 days, to go out to bid with the minimum bid starting at \$678.06. Manon Raymond seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and motion carries.**



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**6:29 P.M.** Jason Boucher motions to send letters to property owner for Map 004 Lot 18, if they do not redeem after 30 days, to go out to bid with the minimum bid starting at \$11,614.88. Christopher Braley seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and motion carries.

**6:30 P.M.** Jason Boucher motions to send letter to property owner for Map 006 lot 215, if they do not redeem after 30 days, to go out to bid with the minimum bid starting at \$6092.90. Christopher Braley seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and motion carries.

**Article 8** To Consider Bids Received for Surplus Equipment at the Parks & Recreation Department.

Parks and Recreation Department put out to bid for a Used 2003 John Deere Power broom Attachment and a Used 2003 John Deere 60" Snowblower Attachment. Bids closed on October 22, 2021. 2 Bids were received:

October 14	Lot #2	\$550.00	Conrad Beaulieu
October 14	Lot #1	\$60.00	Conrad Beaulieu

**6:32 P.M.** Christopher Braley motions to accept the bids for Lot 1 & 2 as presented. Jason Boucher seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and motion carries.

**Article 9** To Consider the Adoption of an OSHA/COVID Compliant "Vaccinate or Test" Workplace Employer Policy for Town Employees.

As of November 5, any workplace with over 100 employees would need to be vaccinated or test weekly with a facemask by January. This has now been put on hold.

Question arose on how to move forward when an employee is exposed / test positive and sent home. Does the town pay or does the employee use their EBT time?

**7:00 P.M.** Jason Boucher motions today going forward, any employee out of work due to any reason COVID related illness will need to use sick leave time or unpaid time off regardless of their vaccination status until different guidance comes out. Christopher Braley seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and motion carries.

**Article 10** Discussion Regarding Vandalism on Town Park Facilities.

Numerous locations throughout the town parks and facilities have had vandalism done such as painted playground Equipment kicked and damaged.

Board members asked the Recreation Director to have more cameras installed and move around, and to place signs stating under surveillance. They did ask for the community members if they see something to say something.

**Article 11** National Incident Management System- Overview for Senior Officials Zoom

Aroostook County Emergency Management is hosting a Zoom for Senior Officials (Executive, Elected, and Appointed) on December 7, 8, 16.

Richard Dionne, Jason Boucher, and Christopher Braley were interested in December 8 training, Town Manager will sign up everyone and send the link.

Next Board of Selectmen Meeting: December 14, 2021, at 5:30 P.M.



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**Adjournment**

**7:22 P.M.**

**Jason Boucher motions to adjourn. Douglas Cyr seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and motion carries.**