

**Town Council Public Hearing and Meeting**  
**April 21, 2026**

**Open Public Meeting:** Councilor Ketch opened the public hearing.

**Public Comment 2026-2027 Municipal Budget:**

Manager Doane presented her final budget for the hearing. She stated there will be a loss in State Revenue Sharing as the Town is losing the Rev II portion. The Town is no longer considered a high tax burden. The State has projected revenue sharing of \$228,248.69, though her calculations on historical collection is estimated to be \$255,000. To make up for this difference she increased revenue on the tree growth reimbursement and interest on checking, she also decreased funding for the municipal and fire department capital reserve. These changes have the budget \$941.96 below the budget cap, with a total increase of \$22,023.00.

Online comment from Louise Magoon inquiring about an increase in the tax rate. Melissa stated based on the valuation used in the 2025 tax rate, the impact will be just under ten cents. However, she does expect an increase in the valuation due to the functioning switch station added by Versant.

**Close Public Meeting:** Councilor Ketch closed the public hearing.

**Open Town Council Meeting:** Councilor Ketch opened the town council meeting, all members were present, also present was Town Manager Melissa Doane

**Review of Minutes:** Councilor Wade made a motion to approve the minutes of April 7, 2026, seconded by Councilor Clemons vote 4/0 (Councilor Ketch was excused).

**Citizens Request:** Resident Ann Delaware reported that 32 people were in attendance at the April Historical Bradley event. Bob Sinclair from the Orono Historical Society did a great job presenting information regarding the ferry from Orono to Bradley. She also stated that 52 meals were served and 12 delivered at the April senior luncheon; the next luncheon is May 20, 2026. Manager Doane added that WABI was at the historical event, however she has not seen any story broadcasted.

**Manager's Report:** Melissa reported that a court conference has been scheduled in person for May 22, 2026, regarding the case with Robert Wing. She also provided an update on the actions taken to address new violations. Melissa used civil service to provide Mr. Wing with the notice of violations she had originally mailed to him on March 5, 2026 and March 18, 2026. Both the original letters were returned unclaimed. Melissa further reported that both these letters were also mailed to Michael Hayden via certified mail. Additionally, the municipal attorney filed another nuisance complaint with the Superior Court in response to Mr. Wing placing more litter and debris in the public right of way. Mr. Wing is in custody in Penobscot County Jail due to a charge of threatening and bail violations, and has been in jail since April 10, 2026. Ann Delaware asked about the litter that is on the property of the Eastman's. Melissa stated she asked them to provide her pictures and information on when the litter was placed there and they have not done so. That litter is not on town property therefore the town can't clean it up with out an order from the court.

Melissa completed the updates to the Personnel Policy; it is now ready for Town Council approval. As stated at the previous meeting, the changes include including information on the required paid family leave act, use of surveillance in the office and clearer language in regards to using accrued time while on leave. Councilor Ketch stated that the language was pretty standard. Councilor Lugdon made a motion to approve the personnel policy as presented, seconded by Councilor Wade, vote 5/0.

Melissa hosted a meeting for Maine Forest and Logging Museum to meet with the Alewife Harvester on March 9, 2026. At the conclusion of the meeting, she was confident that the harvest would be occurring on museum property. As of yesterday, the harvester had still not been able to reach an agreement. She and Dean are meeting the harvester at the cemetery site tomorrow evening to see what can be done for site improvements. Department of Marine Resources was at the meeting and requested a change be made to the harvest plan allow recreational fishing on Blackman stream below the Maine Forest and Logging Museum Dam and that the fishery be open for four consecutive days. Councilor Lugdon made a motion to approve the harvest plan as presented, seconded by Councilor Clemons, vote 5/0. Councilor Wade suggested posting be placed on the property so that the traps are not tampered with. Councilor Ketch also asked who would monitor the recreational fishing; Melissa stated that the warden service and DMR will do that. Councilor Ketch asked with MFLM was having their alewife's day, Melissa reported it was May 23, 2026.

Melissa reported that she is taking a vacation May 8 and May 12.

**New Business:** None

**Unfinished Business:** Melissa reminded Town Council members and the public that nomination papers are available for two Town Council seats. The papers are due back on May 5, 2026 at 6:00 pm.

Melissa also reminded Town Council members and the public that the spring clean up is scheduled for May 2, 2026 from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm, as per usual there is a \$20 fee with a two-load limit.

Melissa stated that she took the picture of Viola Rand to Atlas Printing in Holden for scanning.

Councilor Ketch made a motion to approve the municipal budget as presented in public hearing to be placed before the voters at the annual referendum scheduled for June 9, 2026, seconded by Councilor Lugdon, vote 5/0.

Councilor Hatch asked if there was an update regarding the lights at the municipal parking and Cram Street; Melissa will follow up with Versant.

Councilor Wade asked if there had been any communication with the property owners who received letters from Dean regarding property clean up. Melissa stated that one has been working on the clean-up, the other two she will have to follow up with Dean. She added that she will be sending letters this week providing notice to them that the clean up is May 2.

**Municipal Warrants:** Councilor Ketch made a motion to approve the municipal warrants as presented, seconded by Councilor Clemons vote 5/0.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting was set for May 5, 2026.

**Online Comment:** Louis Magoon asked when the traffic change was going to happen on Cram Street, Melissa reported that she thought it was going to be in June. Ms. Magoon also asked if Michael Hayden can be held responsible for the property of 114 Cram Street. Melissa stated that Mr. Hayden receives every notice and service. He is also named on each court order.

**Adjourn:** Councilor Clemons made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Wade, vote 5/0.