

Town Council Meeting
12/30/2025

Open Town Council Meeting: Council Chair Ketch opened the Town Council meeting; all Council members were present. Also, present was Town Manager Melissa Doane and Fire Chief Eric Gifford

Review of Minutes: Councilor Ketch made a motion to approve the minutes of December 16, 2026, seconded by Councilor Lugdon vote 5/0.

Citizens Request: None

Managers' Report: Melissa stated that the hearing of December 17, 2025 did not offer much of a change in regards to 114 Cram Street. The attorney that is representing Mr. Wing, Seth Harrow was present and stated that he has not had much success communicating with Mr. Wing as he reports he does not have a phone. The discussion focused on proceeding to a mediation and requesting the assistance of retired justice William Anderson. Another follow up court conference is scheduled for February 4, 2026.

Melissa explained that over the past several weeks Mr. Wing has been placing trash in the public right-of-way, and the contractor has not collected it because it was not properly contained. On December 18, Melissa sent a written correspondence to Mr. Wing requesting that the trash be containerized in accordance with policy and that containers not exceed 40 pounds. She also contacted the Sheriff's Department requesting assistance, as the items are in the public way and appeared to constitute littering. After reviewing the situation, the Sheriff's Department determined that neither condition met the threshold for a criminal violation, they classified it as a nuisance. Melissa subsequently purchased contractor-grade trash bags and left them at Mr. Wing's mailbox with a request that he use them and clean up the area. She also contacted two local contractors to inquire whether they would be willing to remove the items from the public way; both declined to do so without written authorization from law enforcement. In addition, the Town Attorney sent a letter to Sheriff Morton requesting assistance and outlining the court proceedings to date. Sheriff Morton responded that the department had encountered similar situations in other municipalities, where the towns proceeded through civil code enforcement and obtained court orders for property cleanup. Councilor Hatch made a motion to rent a portable toilet to be placed on the property to address the improper disposal of human waste. The Town Council discussed Mr. Wing's statements and the engineering report that he has a functioning septic system requiring hand-carried water, the board did question whether the system was currently operable due to the lack of heat, expressed concern about providing accommodations not available to other residents, and noted the possibility of damage to the portable toilet. Following discussion, Councilor Hatch withdrew his motion. The Town Council discussed the situation at length. The Town Council suggested that Melissa contact Maine Municipal Association and local legislative leadership.

Melissa stated that the Penobscot County Commissioners held the budget public hearing on December 23, 2025; it was reported that over a million was cut from the budget and other revenues were added. The final budget meeting will be tomorrow at 10:00 am.

Ann Delaware wished to let the Town Council know that the Historical Committee will be inviting those interested in looking at the historical items collected to the Municipal Office the first Wednesday of each month from 1 to 4.

Melissa requested authorization from Town Council to move forward with small claim proceeds for 2024 personal property collection for Bruce Crawford of Crawford Precision Wheel in the amount of \$317.43. Councilor Clemons made a motion to approve the proceeding, seconded by Councilor Wade, vote 5/0.

New Business: Councilor Ketch asked if there had been any issues with the roads due to the storms, Melissa stated that she did not know of any. Councilor Ketch also noted that the Post Office door was broken and questioned if that was the Town's responsibility to repair. Melissa stated it was and PDQ has been onsite and has ordered parts for the repair.

Unfinished Business: None

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

Next Meeting: The next meeting was set for January 13, 2026

Online Comment: Concerns and questions were raised by Facebook users regarding 114 Cram Street, the Town Council encouraged residents to contact law enforcement to assist with any safety concerns. There was also a comment regarding the office closing during weather, Melissa explained that the office does sometimes close due to the weather, however the closure is posted and is infrequent.

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