

**Town Council Meeting
February 10, 2026**

Open Town Council Meeting: Town Council Chair Mark 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 accept the minutes of January 27, 2026, seconded by Councilor Clemons, vote 4/0 (Ketch excused 1/27/26).

Citizens Request: Resident Ann Delaware informed the Town Council, that the Bradley Museum will be open tomorrow from 1 pm to 4 pm. She also noted that the senior luncheon will be next week, February 18 at St. Ann's Church.

Manager's Report: Melissa reported that a settlement hearing has not yet been set regarding 114 Cram Street. She received an email requesting her availability for several dates in March. There is a conference scheduled on Thursday the 12th at 1:30 pm at the courthouse she will be attending.

Melissa created a survey regarding the temporary flex posts installation on Cram Street to enhance safety. The survey was sent to the email list, posted on the Town website and Facebook page. As of this afternoon, there had not been any submissions to the survey. On the Facebook page there has been one comment in favor and one comment not in favor.

Superintendent Matt Cyr has been communicating with Melissa regarding the RSU budget. He will be presenting a draft budget to the RSU board on February 11. As discussed in the past the decrease in student enrollment and the increase in municipal valuations is creating an increased local share of education. Councilor Ketch asked where the valuation figures come from. Melissa reported that these valuations are from Maine Revenue, they review the Town sale comps and state a value; it is different that what is used by the Town for tax commitment. She also added that for education purposes a three-year average is used.

Melissa reported that all of 2024 Personal Property has been collected and there was no need to move forward with small claims proceedings.

New Business: Councilor Ketch asked if additional sand and salt will be needed. Melissa stated that she believes additional sand will be needed, she is hopeful the remaining salt will hold out, however with the number of storms that may not be possible.

Unfinished Business: The Town Council reviewed the RFP submissions for the 2026 alewife harvest. Proposal submitter Barrett Proulx was present. Melissa noted that the proposals received were very similar and she did not have a specific recommendation. She added that Mr. Proulx has been in regular communication with her, has discussed potential site improvements and lives locally in Eddington. Councilor Lugdon asked Mr. Proulx about selling fish onsite as mentioned in his proposal, expressing concern due to the proximity of the cemetery. Mr. Proulx stated that sales could instead take place at his residence in Eddington. Melissa noted that a location on Main Street may also be available for that

purpose. Further discussion took place regarding the harvest location, how the cemetery site could be used, and DMR's preference that the harvest occurs at the MFLM site. Councilor Wade made a motion to enter into a contract with Barrett Poulx for the 2026 alewife harvest, seconded by Councilor Ketch. Councilor Hatch asked that in the motion it be noted that a discussion with MFLM take place, vote 5/0. Mr. Proulx noted that he would like to have a longer contract in the future. Melissa stated that the intent of the Town is to have long term relationship with one harvester, however this first year will be a trial.

Melissa reported that she has made two revisions to the proposed budget since the original presentation. The changes include a \$300 increase in municipal dues and the addition of a complete Fire Department budget. With these adjustments, the proposed budget is currently \$44,956.94 above the budget cap. Councilor Lugdon requested additional information regarding fire hydrant usage and associated costs. Melissa stated that she will obtain further information from the Water District and provided a brief overview of hydrant usage. Councilor Ketch asked whether the bond payment for the fire station was included in the budget. Melissa confirmed that it was included, noting that voter approval will be requested in June to use Viola Rand funds to pay off the debt, without that approval, a payment appropriation is needed. Councilor Hatch noted that if the matter concerning 114 Cram Street is resolved, there may be potential savings in legal fees. Councilor Ketch stated that the Council will continue working on the budget, including reviewing carryforward balances and capital reserve accounts.

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

Next Meeting: The next meeting was set for February 24, 2026.

Online Comment: None

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