

**Town Council Meeting**  
**July 15, 2025**

**Open Town Council Meeting:** Town Manager Melissa Doane opened the Town Council meeting, with all Town Council members present except for Councilor Hatch, who was excused.

**Election of Town Council Chair:** Councilor Lugdon made a motion to nominate Councilor Ketch as Town Council Chair for FY 25-26, vote 4/0.

**Sheriff Troy Morton:** Penobscot County Sheriff Troy Morton was present. Sheriff Morton discussed the department's frustration with the court system and the lack of assistance that is received regarding mental health issues in the communities. Sheriff Morton stated that the jail has many individuals who require treatment, but there is no facility available to accommodate them. There are also individuals that the department deals with regularly who refuse to accept the assistance offered to them. The prosecutors are reluctant to move forward with pressing charges or prosecuting charges due to the lack of jail space and mental health assistance. Sheriff Morton also suggested that the Town of Bradley investigate expanding coverage and sharing a full-time deputy with the Towns of Eddington and Clifton. He stated that this increase in coverage would provide for a quicker response in Zone 3, essentially giving Bradley full-time coverage. Manager Doane asked for the cost and if the other towns were interested. Sheriff Morton stated that with the interest, he would start exploring the details. Sheriff Morton also said that if this budgetary item were possible, the current contract with the County for coverage could be expanded. Further discussion with the Town Council included the shared frustrations of the courts, gratitude for the Sheriff's department services, and a desire to increase coverage.

**Review of Minutes:** Councilor Wade made a motion to accept the June 24, 2025, Town Council Minutes as presented, seconded by Councilor Lugdon, voted 3/0 (Councilor Ketch was not present at the June 24th meeting).

**Citizens' Request:** Resident Rick Trimm stated that he is concerned about the speeding on Cram Street. He mentioned a radar sign to Sheriff Morton. Sheriff Morton noted that it often encourages drivers to go faster. Sheriff Morton encouraged residents to notify Manager Doane when traffic is an issue. Mr. Trimm also stated that he has had difficulty with traffic coming from Baker Lane, as people often fail to stop at the stop sign. He has had several issues when going to Great Works Stream. Mr. Trimm also commented that there was no flagpole at the Municipal Office, and one is located at Boynton Street Park, although flag placement has not occurred for many years. Manager Doane stated she would contact DOT and ask for suggestions on highlighting the stop sign at Baker Lane. She further noted that the flag placement has many requirements, such as lighting, a half-mask, and damage control; however, she does not have a staff person who can monitor these regularly. Councilor Ketch stated that, unfortunately, drivers often become accustomed to a specific traffic pattern and fail to abide by the laws, but suggested using a white line or a lighted stop sign to remind them of the stop at Baker Lane.

Mr. Trimm also inquired about 114 Cram Street, and the signs on his property are offensive to children passing by. Manager Doane agreed, adding that the Town has another court hearing on July 23rd, although she frankly does not feel that anything will come of it, as the judge is sympathetic to Mr. Wing.

She stated that the court had previously ordered him to remove all but one sign and to clean up the property. This order also provided that he pay fines and attorney fees. Mr. Wing has not done any of those things; in fact, he has made a bigger mess of his property and added more signs. The Town continues to address the issue with the courts without success; the legal fees for this specific instance are approximately \$23,000.

**Managers' Report:** Melissa reported that the shim pavement work will be done on Boynton Street, Cram Street, and Highland Avenue on Thursday of this week. It is anticipated that the actual chip seal will be done on August 11.

Melissa also reported that the new website is live. She would encourage everyone to take a look and let her or the staff know what things need to be updated or changed.

Melissa worked on and shared an RFP regarding the Viola Rand School. She would like to advertise the RFP this week with a due date of August 21. The Town Council can review the proposals received at the August 26 meeting, and if more time is needed, at the September 9 meeting. The Town Council was in favor of moving forward with the RFP.

Melissa spoke with real estate agent Jody Hammond, who is from Bradley. He examined the property as best he could, although he did not enter the building due to concerns about rodents. He believes the property should be listed at \$55,000. With Town Council approval, Melissa will work on listing the property. She did mention to Mr. Hammond that the Town does not want a situation in which a person believes they can purchase the property and live in it in its current condition. There will need to be a plan for habitation and or demolition. Councilor Lugdon stated that it was required by law to list the property with a real estate agent rather than a bid. The Town Council was in favor of the sale price.

Melissa also noted that she was notified by several of the neighbors that Mr. Wing was seen looking into the windows of the property at 43 Highland Avenue. With the neighbors' help, no trespassing signs have been placed around the property. She also believes that the Sheriff's Department had a conversation with him. It was also reported that he was seen looking into the windows of the school; RSU also posted signs on the property to deter this activity.

The new photocopier is scheduled to be installed on July 22, 2025. The fire department will use the old copier, and the older copier at the station will be removed.

Melissa also requested that the Town Council consider either rescheduling the August 12 meeting to August 11 or canceling it. She has her annual vacation scheduled around that timeline. The Town Council agreed that the meeting could be moved or canceled; this decision will be determined at the next meeting.

**New Business:** Motion to approve the Treasurer's Disbursement Warrant for Employee Wages and Benefits, made by Councilor Clemons, seconded by Councilor Ketch, vote 4/0.

Motion to set the tax rate (mil rate) for the 2025-2026 Tax Commitment at 11.75 per thousand, made by Councilor Lugdon, seconded by Councilor Wade, voted 4/0.

Motion to set the interest rate payable on prepayments for the 2025-2026 taxes collected at 0% made by Councilor Lugdon, seconded by Councilor Clemons, vote 4/0.

Motion to set the interest rate payable for abatements for the 2025-2026 tax year at 3.5%, made by Councilor Lugdon, seconded by Councilor Wade, vote 4/0.

Motion to set the due dates for the 2025-2026 tax commitment as September 26, 2025, and February 27, 2026, made by Councilor Ketch, seconded by Councilor Clemons, vote 4/0.

Motion to set the rate of interest for delinquent taxes for the 2025-2026 tax commitment at a rate of 7.5% made by Councilor Ketch, seconded by Councilor Wade, vote 4/0.

Councilor Clemons stated that the bears are coming around dumpsters on Bradley Shore Road. This is due to the overflow coming from the larger population of residents in the summer. The Association has placed a third dumpster there this year. The association would like to make this a regular practice and has requested that it be included in the municipal budget for next year, which would incur an additional \$740.00.

**Unfinished Business:** None

**Municipal Warrants:** Councilor Ketch made a motion to accept the municipal warrants as presented, seconded by Councilor Lugdon. Councilor Ketch asked for clarification on the invoice to Harris Computing, and the tree removal, vote 4/0.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting is scheduled for July 29, 2025.

**Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn made by Councilor Ketch, seconded by Councilor Lugdon, vote 4/0.