

**Town Council Meeting**  
**9/24/2024**

**Open Public Hearing:** Councilor Wade, acting as council chair, opened the public hearing regarding general assistance appendix A-H.

**Public Comment:** Melissa stated that the State of Maine Department of Human Services prepares the presented appendixes which are to be used from October 1, 2024, to September 30, 2025. Councilor Clemons asked how many general assistance cases are done. Melissa responded that less than 10 cases per year are typically processed, with very few being eligible.

**Close Public Hearing:** Councilor Wade closed the public hearing.

**Open Town Council Meeting:** Councilor Wade opened the Town Council meeting. Members who were excused were Councilor Lugdon and Councilor Ketch; members present included Councilor Wade, Councilor Clemons, and Councilor Hatch. Also present was Town Manager Melissa Doane

**Review of Minutes:** Councilor Wade moved to accept the 9/10/2024 Town Council minutes as presented, seconded by Councilor Hatch, and voted 3/0.

**Citizens Request:** None

**Managers' Report:** Melissa contacted three local licensed appraisers and obtained Mark Bilyk from Orono to appraise 43 Highland Avenue. The cost of the appraisal was \$750.00. Melissa was unsure of the timeline but will follow up before the next meeting.

Melissa reported that the salt and sand are ready for the winter plowing season.

Melissa also reported that she had contacted Maine DOT regarding the vegetation on Route 178 and asked that they remove it and cut it back.

Melissa noted that the crack sealing company added more crack seal to the access road as requested.

Melissa reminded the Town Council and members of the public that the fall clean-up is scheduled for October 12 from 8 to noon. Residents are required to obtain a \$15.00 receipt from the municipal office to use the day of the clean-up. As in the past, two loads per household are allowed. She also noted that if any elderly or disabled residents need assistance, they should contact Melissa soon so she can arrange for pick-up.

The Community Resilience Workshop was well attended, and most of the survey alluded to the need for more green, usable space. For more input, an online survey is available. This link is available on the municipal website and Facebook.

Melissa received notification last week that a civil engineering student had selected the ballfield project as a capstone project. She looks forward to learning more about the development and will share information as it becomes available.

Melissa informed the Town Council that she learned last week that the Maine Municipal Association's municipal official manual, which is available on their website, had been updated. Town Council members must have a login that they can have; she would encourage the Town Council to review the changes. If any member would like an updated copy printed, please let her know.

Melissa provided a memo to the Town Council detailing a sought nomination to the Municipal Review Committee. The election will be held in October and November, with six slots to fill. Melissa's seat does not expire until 2027. However, she would like to recommend that the Town of Bradley support Belle Ryder. Ms. Ryder provided a bio for the Town Council review. Councilor Hatch asked for more information regarding her role with MRC. Melissa stated that Belle has been on the board for a short time but is in the officer role of treasurer. This is due to her experience working for the Town of Orono. Councilor Clemons motioned to nominate Belle Ryder to the Municipal Review Committee Board, seconded by Councilor Wade, voted 3/0.

Melissa also provided information for the Town Council to review regarding an abatement request from Jeff Morin for the land that the town sold him in 2017. She recommends that the Council review his request and place it on the agenda for the October 8 Town Council meeting.

**New Business:** Melissa stated that United Technologies Center (UTC) will hold a referendum on November 5. The ballot will ask for voter approval to obtain a bond of \$1,874,300 for capital acquisition of advanced technology and modernization of 18 of 23 programs of study at UTC. Town Council approval and signature are needed as this is considered a local election. Councilor Hatch questioned how this would benefit the communities. Melissa stated that she searched very quickly for information on the bond's direct purpose and could not find anything. She also pointed out that the responsibility of the Town is to provide a ballot, and it is up to UTC to get the information out to the voters so they may vote accordingly. Councilor Clemons noted that the description provided states that this will not affect local tax dollars. Councilor Wade motioned to approve the election warrant as presented, seconded by Councilor Clemons, and voted 3/0.

**Unfinished Business:** Melissa provided information from Mark Gibson regarding the abatement of 113 Cram Street; the amount he decreased due to 114 Cram Street was 10%. Councilor Wade noted that Councilor Lugdon, who was absent this evening, had concerns about the effect of the abatement. Councilor Hatch motioned to table the discussion until there was an entire board, seconded by Councilor Wade. Melissa stated that if any payments have been made and an abatement has been granted, the Town will have to pay 8.5% interest on the abated amount as the tax due date is Friday, September 27, 2024.

Councilor Hatch noted a copy of an email provided by a resident who was upset with the Town Council's decision not to have more work done on the embankment of Bullen Street. He stated he felt bad for the resident and questioned if there was anything the council needed to do. Melissa stated they could if the

Town Council wanted, address the situation again. She added that she had based her decision not to do any additional cleanup on the fact that by next spring, the removal of the vegetation would not be noticeable. Shortly, there could be snow there. Councilor Wade stated he went to look at the property and could see there were small alders; however, he was confident it would grow back, as that happens with his wood lots. Melissa also noted that she can reevaluate the situation if it is un-slightly next year and the vegetation does not grow back as expected.

Resident Mike Eastman from Facebook Live asked for an update regarding 114 Cram Street. Melissa stated that she received an email today reporting that there had not been any movement. The municipal attorney had reached out to the guardian ad litem, Mr. Toothaker, who acknowledged that he was behind on the case. Mr. Toothaker asked what direction the town wanted to go: demolish the house. Town Council asked that Melissa inquire if it is legal to have this open-ended and if the court could set a timeline.

Councilor Wade motioned to adopt the General Assistance Appendix A-H, as presented in the public hearing, seconded by Councilor Clemons, vote of 3/0.

**Municipal Warrants:** Councilor Wade motioned to accept the municipal warrants as presented, seconded by Councilor Hatch, vote 3/0.

**Next Meeting:** The next Town Council meeting was set for October 8, 2024.

**Adjourn:** Councilor Clemons made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Hatch, vote 3/0.