



Town of Porter

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Select Board Meeting Minutes May 14, 2025 – 4:00 pm Porter Town Hall

The Select Board meeting was called to order by Chairperson John Lowry at 4:05 pm.

➤ **Roll Call:**

In attendance were: Select Board members John Lowry, Jeff Cypher and John O'Donnell; Treasurer Dawn Campbell; Town Clerk Maureen Scanlon; Code Enforcement Officer Dan Davis; Road Advisory Committee Member Aaron Wedgewood

➤ **Motion to Accept the Agenda:**

John O'Donnell made a motion to accept/approve the agenda. It was seconded by Jeff Cypher. Motion carried with all in favor.

➤ **Motion to Accept/Approve the April 30, 2025 Select Board Meeting Minutes:**

John O'Donnell made a motion to accept/approve the minutes from the April 30, 2025 Select Board meeting as written. It was seconded by Jeff Cypher. Motion carried with all in favor.

➤ **Emergency Management Report** – No report given.

➤ **Animal Control Report** – No report given.

➤ **Code Enforcement Officer/Plumbing Inspector Report** – No report given.

➤ **Local Health Officer Report** – No report given.

➤ **Road Commissioner Report** – Dawn Campbell reported that Road Commissioner Brad Sanborn has informed her that all the roads have been graded and calcium is going done tomorrow.

A proposal for repairs to Dana Weeks Road in the amount of \$51,300.00 was submitted for consideration. John Lowry read aloud the details of the proposal. It was noted that this is a revision of a quote that was originally submitted two years ago.

➤ **Review of Action Items** – Items addressed:

- **Item Removed: 17 Chapel Street** – potentially needs to be addressed in the same manner as 18 School Street. – There was some discussion on this item. It has been

determined that this property is not as bad as the situation at 18 School Street. There is no need to pursue this matter any further, at this time. However, the Code Enforcement Officer will reach out to the property owners to discuss the need for them to address the conditions there before the situation escalates.

- **Bickford Pond Dam repairs to be completed.** – John Lowry reported that the contractor will not be starting this repair project until the culverts have been replaced on Old Meetinghouse Road. This must be completed first before the repairs can be made to the Bickford Pond Dam.

➤ **Approval of Payroll & Accounts Payable Warrants:**

P/R Warrant #19 was approved and signed for \$5,188.70

A/P Warrant #20 was approved and signed for \$40,474.19

➤ **Treasurer** – Treasurer Dawn Campbell reported on the following:

- Dawn distributed the results of the 2025-2026 Road Salt bids from the Southern Maine Planning Development Commission. By being part of this organization, the town is able to secure better pricing on certain products/services. Eastern Salt is once again the lowest bidder this year. The price per ton is up slightly this year at \$83.40 from last year at \$79.20, which is approximately the same percentage of increase from the prior year.
- Dawn distributed the updated bank balances as of April 30th on all of the accounts. There was some discussion on several items. The town has a CD that is coming up for renewal. Every year she re-negotiates the terms of it and is working towards obtaining the highest interest rate possible for this account.
- She received an e-mail request for permission to allow the Red Cross to put out an a-frame sign on the front lawn of this building announcing upcoming blood drives for the week prior to the date of it. They hope this will generate more blood donations. The Select Board approved the placement of the blood drive sign prior to the drives.
- She explained, in detail, a situation that resulted in one of the local trucking companies having to pay excise tax in the amount of \$752.69 for excise tax on a truck that did not have the registration completed by the State before the renewal date occurred, which means that the excise tax was paid for this vehicle, for a time period that the truck was not allowed to be driven on the road yet. This was due to the timing of the purchase of the new truck (in January) and the renewal period for the fleet of all the trucks owned by this entity (February). Unfortunately, the computer program did not flag this problem and it was missed by both the town office staff and the trucking company staff until recently. It was noted that the truck has now been registered for a full year. Both the Treasurer and the Town Clerk/Tax Collector recommended that the Select Board approve a reimbursement of the excise tax in the amount of \$752.69 to the trucking company.

John Lowry made a motion to reimburse the trucking company for the excise tax that was paid in the amount of \$752.69. It was seconded by John O'Donnell. Motion carried with all in favor.

- Updated the Select Board on the status of the ongoing interview process for the open job position.
- Updated the Select Board on the required process and status of locating the heirs of the deceased owners for the recently foreclosed upon properties.
- Updated the Select Board on the status of Unclaimed Funds from the State of Maine.

➤ **Town Clerk** – Town Clerk Maureen Scanlon reported on the following:

- Town Office/Hall meeting room rental applications submitted for approval:
 1. Approved – 6/1/2025 (8:00 am to 11:30 am) – Children’s Sunday School Program (Children’s Award Program) – Rhonda Sanborn Wedgewood
 2. Approved – 6/26/2025 (4:00 pm to 7:00 pm) – Sacopee Valley Health Center (Annual Meeting) – Lisa Hart
- I have not heard back from Steven Bennett regarding the vacant seat on the Saco River Corridor Commission that he mentioned he was interested in filling.
- The Rescue Chief’s report for April 2025 is included in the meeting packet.
- The School Budget Validation Referendum Election will be held here from 3pm to 8pm next Tuesday (May 20, 2025).
- A total of 106 certified mailings of the 30-day Lien Notices were mailed to property owners on May 9th which affects 98 accounts.

➤ **John Lowry** – reported on the following:

- He will make the necessary notifications of the road closure, in order to replace the culverts on Old Meetinghouse Road, when this project is scheduled. He has been draining the dams in preparation of the repairs that will be done on the Bickford Pond Dam.
- The boards have been put back into Colcord Pond Dam, because it doesn’t impact the work that will be done on the Bickford Pond Dam.
- Gave an update on the status of the situation on Douglas Mill Road. The town has been advised that Mr. Thibodeau has withdrawn his current lawsuit against the town. The town’s attorney has advised the Select Board that it was filed in the wrong court. However, some of the abutters of the road have filed a lawsuit against Mr. Thibodeau for blocking their access of the right-of-way.
- Reviewed the road paving projects for this year.

➤ **Jeff Cypher** – reported on the following:

- Shane Lajoie is helping him get the radar speed sign ready for the upcoming season.

➤ **John O'Donnell** – reported on the following:

- He suggested paying the office personnel the extra day's pay when a holiday falls on a Monday instead of requiring them to take a day off either the week before or the week after a holiday. There was some discussion on this matter with no decision having been made.

➤ **Conservation Commission Report** – No report given.

➤ **Road Advisory Committee Report** – Road Advisory Committee Member Aaron Wedgewood had nothing to report. It was noted that there will be a Road Advisory Committee meeting after the Special Town meeting tonight.

➤ **OLD BUSINESS:**

There were no "Old Business" items.

➤ **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Land Share Riders ATV Club 2025 Municipal Grant Application Request

This item was "tabled" because there was no representative from the Land Share Riders ATV Club at this meeting.

B. Discussion on Status of Conditions at 35 Waddell Road

Maureen Scanlon reported that this agenda item was at the request of David Newman who is a property abutter of 35 Waddell Road. Although Mr. Newman was not present at this meeting, there was some discussion on this matter. Code Enforcement Officer Dan Davis reported that he did an inspection of the property last week and it has been cleaned up a lot since he last inspected it. He recommends not pursuing this matter any further at this time.

➤ **OTHER BUSINESS:**

A. There was some discussion on holding another public hearing regarding the situation at 18 School Street. It will be held on Wednesday, June 11, 2025 at 5:30 pm, after the regularly scheduled Select Board meeting. There was some discussion on inviting people to this public hearing that need to hear about the problems the town is facing in matters like this situation, such as State legislators, etc.

B. Dan Davis offered to serve the town in the capacity of Associate Health Officer in order to help Dr. DeKay, who is the town's Health Officer. He has already been attending free training for this position.

John Lowry made a motion to appoint Dan Davis as the town's Associate Health Officer. It was seconded by John O'Donnell. Motion carried with all in favor.

➤ **Meeting Adjournment:**

John Lowry made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:28 pm. It was seconded by John O'Donnell. Motion carried with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Maureen F. Scanlon". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Maureen F. Scanlon
Town Clerk