

Town of Porter

71 Main Street, Porter, ME 04068
Phone: (207) 625-8344 – Fax: (207) 625-4120
www.portermaine.org

SELECT BOARD MEETING AGENDA April 30, 2025 – 4:00 pm Porter Town Hall

Routine Agenda Items:

- Motion to accept the agenda
- Motion to accept the minutes of the April 16, 2025 Select Board Meeting
- Road Advisory Committee
- EMA Director
- Animal Control Officer's Report
- Code Enforcement Officer/Plumbing Inspector's Report
- Local Health Officer
- Road Commissioner's Report
- Review of Action Items
- Approve/Sign Payroll Warrant #17 & Accounts Payable Warrant #18
- Town Treasurer
- Town Clerk
- John Lowry
- Jeff Cypher
- John O'Donnell
- Conservation Commission – (first meeting of each month)

Old Business:

A. _____

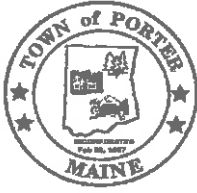
New Business:

- A. Review of Legal Services Proposal from PretiFlaherty
- B. Land Share Riders ATV Club 2025 Municipal Grant Application Request

Other Business: Time Permitting

Adjourn Meeting

Adjournment: No later than 5:30 pm. Any business not concluded by the time of adjournment will be taken up at 9:00 am the following day or at another date determined.



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Select Board Meeting Minutes April 30, 2025 – 4:00 pm Porter Town Hall

The Select Board meeting was called to order by Chairperson John Lowry at 4:02 pm.

➤ **Roll Call:**

In attendance were: Select Board members John Lowry, Jeff Cypher and John O'Donnell; Treasurer Dawn Campbell; Town Clerk Maureen Scanlon; 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 16, 2025 Select Board Meeting Minutes:**

John O'Donnell made a motion to accept/approve the minutes from the April 16, 2025 Select Board meeting as written. It was seconded by Jeff Cypher. Motion carried with all in favor.

➤ **Road Advisory Committee Report** – Road Advisory Committee Member Aaron Wedgewood asked to move the Road Advisory Committee Report to the end of the routine agenda items for future meetings. This will be done going forward.

Aaron had nothing to report on, but asked for, and received, an update on several of the ongoing projects.

He suggested that the Road Advisory Committee set-up a regular time for meetings. It was decided that the meetings will be held on a regular basis after the first Select Board meeting of the month.

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

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

➤ **Code Enforcement Officer/Plumbing Inspector Report** – Code Enforcement/Plumbing Inspector Dan Davis submitted his report for the time period of March 19, 2025 through April 29, 2025. In his absence, there was no discussion on his report.

A copy of this report is hereby attached to and does become a part of the original set of these minutes.

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

➤ **Road Commissioner Report** – Brad Sanborn reported on the following:

- There is a problem with beavers on Mason Road that is causing damages to the roadway. He has addressed it with the game wardens and received their approval to hire a licensed trapper to remove the troublesome beavers. Trapper Frankie Meyers has agreed to remove them at a cost of \$40.00 per beaver. Brad is not sure how many beavers there are at this location.

John Lowry made a motion to allow Brad to have the beaver problem taken care of. It was seconded by John O'Donnell. Motion carried with all in favor.

- Road sweeping starts this Friday. There was some discussion on the roads that are being addressed.
- Dirt roads are being graded. There was some discussion regarding the fact that some of these roads will need gravel material added to them.
- Two 25 mph speed limit signs are needed in the School Street area. These will be ordered and installed.

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

- **Appoint two (2) Saco River Corridor Commission Members. (Rob Heard & Elizabeth Jakofsky's terms ended on November 1, 2204.)**

Maureen Scanlon reported that Steve Bennett has expressed an interest in being appointed to the SRCC. However, she has not been able to contact him and confirm whether or not he wants to proceed with the appointment. She will let the Board know if he does. John O'Donnell offered to stop by and talk to Steve about it.

- **Bickford Pond Dam repairs to be completed.**

The contractor has been sent the signed contract for this project. A start date has not been determined yet. There was some discussion on this project.

- **Send letters to the State Engineer for the common sidewalk between Porter and Hiram.**

John Lowry will be following-up with Aaron Wedgewood on this item.

- **Vet's Park – Resolve problem of lack of water for watering flowers.**

Roger Berube was not present at this meeting. He was going to speak to the owners of the home near the park to inquire if they would allow the gardeners to access water from their

spigot for the watering of the flowers at the park. If they do not allow this, other options will be explored further.

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

P/R Warrant #17 was approved and signed for \$11,242.06

A/P Warrant #18 was approved and signed for \$145,122.51

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

- The Town Hall Rental form that was recently revised needs another fine-tuning adjustment made to the fee section for better clarification in the documentation process. The Board unanimously approved this amendment.
- She reminded the Board that she will be on vacation from May 20th through May 22nd.
- The Personnel Policy needs to be revised to correct a contradiction regarding vacation usage. This contradiction will cause Dawn to lose two of her accrued vacation days. There was discussion on the need to correct this in the policy and several other items that need fine-tuning.

The Board unanimously agreed to approve the carry-over of Dawn's two vacation days, so that she will not be forfeiting them.

- In observance of the Memorial Day holiday on Monday, May 26th, the office will be closed on Friday, May 23rd.
- The trailer for the Radar Speed Limit sign is registered through 5/31/2026. There was some discussion on getting the sign ready for this season.
- Dawn distributed the updated spending report as of 4/30/2025 to the Select Board.

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

- Town Office/Hall meeting room rental applications submitted for approval:

1. Approved – 8/17/2025 (8:00 am to 6:00 pm) – Baby Shower – Emma Ouellette
2. Approved – 9/26/2025 (6:00 pm to 9:00 pm) – Artisan Auction (to raise money for missions) – Kezar Falls Assembly of God

- The School Budget meeting will be held on Monday, May 5th at 7pm in the cafeteria at the Middle School. This meeting is open to the public, who are encouraged to attend.
- She informed the Board that she will be on vacation from June 15th through June 20th.

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

- He and Treasurer Dawn Campbell have applied to FEMA for a one-time extension to complete the Old Meetinghouse Road culverts project.
 - Interviews have started for the open job position. A decision on the successful candidate has not been made yet.
- **Jeff Cypher** – had nothing to report.
 - **John O'Donnell** – had nothing to report.
 - **Conservation Commission Report** – No report given.
 - **OLD BUSINESS:**

There were no “Old Business” agenda items.

- **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - A. Review of Legal Services Proposal from PretiFlaherty**

John Lowry explained that the town has received a proposal to provide legal services from the law firm of PretiFlaherty. Cameron (Cam) Ferrante will be the main attorney that will handle the town's legal matters. It was noted that the town's former law firm, Jensen Baird, will no longer be providing legal services for municipalities. Additionally, the town's former attorney, Ben McCall, has also left the law firm of Jensen Baird. John has been communicating with Cam Ferrante about providing legal services for Porter. There was some discussion on the fee scale which is a bit higher than the fees previously charged by Jensen Baird, but are lower than other providers of this service.

John O'Donnell made a motion to retain the legal services of Cameron (Cam) Ferrante with PretiFlaherty for the Town of Porter. It was seconded by Jeff Cypher. Motion carried with all in favor.

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

Tom Espinosa, president of the Land Share Riders ATV Club explained that the club is trying to obtain a grant in which the funds are required to “pass through” a municipality. The funds will be used to perform repairs on the trails that are not only used by ATVs, but also by snowmobiles and hikers. By receiving the additional grant funds from the State, the club will be able to do a lot more repair projects than they would have been able to do if they were providing the full funding themselves. The State will not send grant funds directly to ATV clubs, therefore, if the town agrees to accept the funds on behalf of the ATV club, the town will pay the club for the repair projects when receipts are submitted for reimbursement. There was some discussion on the logistics of how this process would work. The Select Board is not opposed to this idea; however, they would like to see the completed application and have the town's new attorney review it before they agree to moving forward on it. It was noted that the application must be submitted to the State's grant program by May 31st. If the club submits this information in advance of the next regularly scheduled meeting on May 14th so that the Select Board can review it before the meeting date, this matter will be considered under the “Old Business” portion of that

meeting. This is due to the fact that a Special Town Meeting will be held immediately after that Select Board meeting which means there will not be any time to review the application materials during the regular meeting.

The club members informed the Select Board of some of the projects that they have previously completed in the past in regards to trail system and signage along it. There was some discussion on the possibility of allowing ATV access on specific portions of the town roads to allow continuity of the trails from one section to another. The club members were tasked with providing specific recommendations to the Select Board for their consideration.

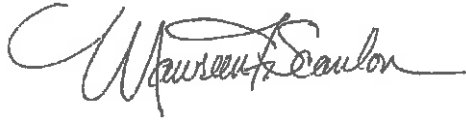
➤ **OTHER BUSINESS:**

- A. In effort to keep the Select Board updated on the status of the situation at Douglas Mill Road, Ashley Post explained that an attorney has been retained by several of the Douglas Mill Road abutters to obtain a court date to pursue the removal of the obstructions on the roadway. For full disclosure, she also explained that Mr. Thibodeau has notified them that he plans to take the town to court over this matter. John Lowry stated the town has been told verbally that Mr. Thibodeau intends to have a sheriff serve the town with a court document, but that has not occurred yet. Fundamentally, this is a civil matter between the abutters. The town has every reason to believe that there is a public right-of-way retained on that road.
- B. A couple of residents asked for an update on the Bickford Pond Dam repairs. They arrived at this meeting after there was discussion on it under the Action Items portion of the meeting. John Lowry updated them and responded to their specific questions.
- C. Several residents were in attendance to advise the Select Board that the deplorable conditions at 18 School Street have escalated to unbearable conditions. In addition to the increased amount of debris, the residents, and their visitors, at this location are up and outside partying all night long. Not only are they extremely loud, but they appear to be under the influence of drugs/alcohol and are walking around the neighborhood naked and urinating in public, even during daylight hours. They continue to drive their ATV up and down the road at all hours of the day and night. The children in this neighborhood are having issues at school because they are exhausted from lack of sleep, due to these disturbances all night long. The residents are continuing to call the police, but not much has changed, if anything, the situation has become worse. It was noted that several of these individuals have been seen loitering around the Vulcan Electric Company at the end of Endfield Street, which has been burglarized several times recently. It was stated several times that the residents are in fear for the safety of their children and themselves. The Select Board expressed frustration in this matter, and that they are very concerned about it. They encouraged the residents of this neighborhood to continue to contact the police to report any incidents, but to also reach out to their state legislators. They are the ones that can ultimately changes the existing laws to allow more authority at the local level for addressing these matters. The Board also agreed to hold another public hearing on this matter and invite the local state legislators to that hearing in order to allow the residents to express their concerns directly to them. A date for the public hearing has not been set yet.

➤ **Meeting Adjournment:**

John O'Donnell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:45 pm. It was seconded by Jeff Cypher. Motion carried with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maureen F. Scanlon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

Maureen F. Scanlon
Town Clerk