

MUNICIPAL OFFICERS MEETING MINUTES

November 21, 2024

7:00 PM

8:25 PM

Karen James

Eric Durgin

Cory Hale

The meeting was called to order with all three municipal officers in attendance. Dan Hester and Lura Sawyer present for a portion of the meeting.

The board opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.
Immediately went into the Special Town Meeting at 7 PM until 7:11 PM.

Board approved minutes from November 7th as typed.

Board signed previously approved warrant from November 14th and November 21st.

Added agenda item under Old Business – Durgintown Road update

Heat Pump/Pavilion Ownership: Dan Hester presented to the board that the Cultural Center would like to gift the Town of Hiram the heat pumps at the library and the newly constructed pavilion. Eric questioned the pavilion being gifted over because at a previous meeting, only the heat pumps were discussed being transferred over. Emma reached out to MMA this week to inquire about the pavilion being on the town's insurance and discovered that it could be gifted to the town, however Dan would need to check with Maine State Library about that because the grant was to Soldiers Memorial Library. The board decided to not accept the pavilion, and only accept the heat pumps. The pavilion will be up to the Soldiers Memorial Library to maintain.

Road Commissioner: Emma presented the board with how other local towns pay/contract with their road commissioners. Some towns pay the contractors direct, others have the road crew on salary. The board would like Emma to look over the last 4 years of what the Town has expended on materials, labor, etc. and research job descriptions for the position and circle back in December about it. The goal is to start advertising in December for the position.

Durgintown Road: Marylou informed the board that after the last meeting, Oxford County Sheriff's department and Maine State Police were contacted regarding the complaints of reckless driving. A Deputy from Oxford County came into the office the following day to inform us that they did visit the house on Rocky Knoll, as well as advised the people with concerns that they should call every time something happens. State Police never got back to the Office Staff.

Chimney Repair Quote: Ken Teele submitted a quote to repair the chimney at the Town Office for \$2600. The quote includes staging around the chimney and building it back up from the base of the roof. It was recommended by Ken to do it that way because the flashing was in bad condition as well as most of the bricks. The board would like to add the quote to the 2025 budget.

Board signed 2025 additional County Tax Assessment.

January Meeting Dates: Marylou suggested moving the January meeting dates to the 9th and the 23rd to give the staff more time to present the board with budget figures because of the short period from January 1st to town meeting. Board approved and would like to set a tentative workshop date for the 16th as well.

Health insurance rates increased 9% for 2025. The premiums went from roughly \$1055/month to \$1150/month. Board accepted the increase, which will be reflected on the December payment.

Potential TAP: Board reviewed list of delinquent taxes that are close to foreclosure. Marylou has spoken with almost all of them to have a plan in place, the others have no contact information with the town. There is one property that the board is contemplating going into a payment agreement with. They discussed the pros and cons of entering into a payment agreement, but they still need to review the details more. Decision was tabled until next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Emma Ouellette