



# NEW PORTLANDER

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Visit the Town of New Portland's web page at [newportlandmaine.org](http://newportlandmaine.org)

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## TOWN OFFICE INFORMATION

Phone: 628-4441 • Fax: 628-4440

### Town Office Contact Information and Hours of Operation:

#### Office Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday ..... 10am - 5pm  
Thursday ..... 12pm - 6pm  
First Saturday of the month ..... 8am - noon  
(except Dec., Jan., Feb., Mar. and permitting it's not a holiday weekend)

#### Town Manager/CEO, Deputy Clerk: Stacie Rundlett

Email ..... [nwprtInd@tds.net](mailto:nwprtInd@tds.net)

#### Town Clerk: Kristen Mitchell

Email ..... [newportlandtownclerk@gmail.com](mailto:newportlandtownclerk@gmail.com)

LPI: Leo Mayo - 566-7341

#### Assessor's Agent: Mike Malesky

Monday ..... 1pm - 5pm  
Email ..... [HUDSONBAYAXE@gmail.com](mailto:HUDSONBAYAXE@gmail.com)

#### Fire Department: Chief Kip Poulin

Animal Control Officer: Keith Mudgett, Jr. - Cell: (207) 248-2874

## Remember...

- **Selectmen's Meeting**  
1st Tuesday & 3rd Monday of each month ..... 6:30pm
- **New Portland Fire Department Meeting**  
2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month ..... 6:30pm
- **Library Board of Trustees Meeting**  
2nd Tuesday of the month ..... 6pm
- **Planning Board Meeting**  
1st Wednesday of the month ..... 6:30pm
- **New Portland Water District**  
2nd Wednesday of each month ..... 6:30pm
- **School Board Meeting**  
1st Wednesday of each month ..... 6pm
- **Recreation Committee**  
1st Thursday of each month ..... 6:30pm
- **New Portland Community Library**  
Winter Hours - September 1 to May 31  
Tuesday & Saturday ..... 10am - Noon  
Wednesday ..... 4pm - 6pm  
Thursday & Sunday ..... 1pm - 3pm
- **Kingfield-New Portland Transfer Station**  
Wednesday, Saturday, Sunday ..... 7:30am - 4:30pm
- **New Portland Post Office Customer Service Hours**  
Monday - Friday ..... 7am - 9am, 2pm - 4pm  
Saturday ..... 7am - 10:30am

## Town Clerk

Thursday, February 27, 2020, at 6:00 pm is the last day to request an absentee ballot without special circumstances for the 2020 Presidential Primary Election.

Monday, March 2, 2020, at 5:00 pm is the last day to request an absentee ballot without special circumstance for the 2020 Municipal Election.

The municipal election ballot will read as follows:

### Board of Selectmen - 3 year term

Wayne Rundlett

### RSU #74 School Board - 3 year term

Write-In

### RSU #74 School Board - 1 year term

Write-In

You can call the office at (207) 628-4441 during regular business hours, email me at [newportlandtownclerk@gmail.com](mailto:newportlandtownclerk@gmail.com)

*Submitted: Kristen Mitchell, Town Clerk*

## Town Manager

The Town Office will be Closed on Monday, February 17th in observance of President's Day.

*Submitted: Stacie Rundlett*



# Selectmen

## Minutes for Selectmen's Meeting December 16, 2019

Present: Raymond Poulin, Wayne Rundlett, Andrea Reichert; Present: Stacie Rundlett, Brian Rundlett, Kristen Mitchell, Michael Wales, Kip Poulin

1. Call the meeting to order: Andrea called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.
2. Review minutes from previous meeting: Raymond motioned to accept the minutes as written, Wayne seconded and all were in favor.
3. Old Business:
  - a. Wayne briefly discussed with the board that Lloyd Dalton notified Stacie that during this upcoming school year some high school students would assist in cleaning up the graveyard on Atwood Hill Road that had been in a selectmen's meeting discussion a short time ago.
4. Department Heads: Kip went over his proposed 2020 budget with the board members. There is an increase from years past as the department needs to purchase turn out gear to be compliant with regulations.
5. Items by the Public: There were none.
6. Items by the Town Manager:
  - a. The board reviewed and signed payroll and A/P warrants.
  - b. The board and Stacie reviewed a draft policy for residents to access sand salt mixture. The board was in agreement to this draft, and Stacie will post it accordingly. The board agreed that two five-gallon pails of sand per storm for residential use only. There was some discussion regarding liability and the board asked Stacie to contact MMA to confirm details on how to proceed with this part of the project. There was also a brief discussion regarding the lumber that was left on site from the project. This lumber was proposed to be used to build a small shed to store the sand for the public to use. Brian volunteered to get tarps to put on the lumber as it currently is exposed to the elements.
  - c. The board and Stacie reviewed a draft policy for internal control of financial policies and procedures. The board was in agreement to this draft. The board decided to continue more budget talks at their next scheduled meeting and tentatively schedule the budget committee meeting for Saturday, January 25 at 9:00 am.
  - d. Andrea motioned to enter into executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(A) for personnel matters at 7:17 pm. Wayne seconded and all were in favor. At 7:41 pm the board entered back into the public meeting. There were no decisions made in executive session.
7. Items by the Board of Selectmen: There were no items by the board.  
Meeting adjourned at 7:42p.m.

*These minutes were approved by the Board of Selectmen at the January 7th meeting. smr*

*Submitted: Stacie Rundlett, Town Manager*

# RSU 74 / School Board

## What is Cost of Doing Business?

Over that last few years that I have served as superintendent in RSU #74 I have discovered a phrase that often gets uttered during the budget season. That phrase is "the cost of doing business."

As I have been thinking recently about RSU #74 and our annual budget season, I am determined to work to publically illustrate this year just what those "costs of doing business" really are.

Costs such as facilities and utilities, curriculum, assessments, supplies, transportation and human capital all have their places in the operational budget of the school system. But beyond that, I have been thinking about what we "get" from our investment in the school system?

As I have been thinking about this, I realized that just last month, for example, we have not only educated our children (the basic requirement of the school system), we have provided food, gifts and personal toiletries to families along with helping to raise money for fuel assistance, administered medications, checked for scoliosis, vision screening and dental health. The school system is not only the educational center for the public, it has become the epicenter for the public providing services beyond educational needs...

***Did you know...*** RSU #74 has received over \$300,000 worth of services for STEAM education, and Alternative Education over the last few years? ...Therefore, we know we have to help meet basic human needs before we can meet educational needs; this means the school system has become so much more.

In addition to the basic human needs that the school system fulfils, major cost drivers in the budget such as school facilities and special education continue to rise. Like home ownership, there is a cost to owning our schools and maintaining them.

So, this year, as we begin participating in another budget season, I will make it my aim to discuss all of the costs of doing business!

All of these goals above reflect the direction in the approved strategic plan, governed by the RSU #74 school board.

***RSU #74 continues to work to save money:*** Saving money comes in a variety of ways. It also comes from bringing a variety of money INTO the school district.

Over the last three years we have received monies from grants for our STEAM education programs as well as Alternative Education.

Our STEAM education has fostered many, many new opportunities for children (and teachers) by working on innovative learning that will propel them into the 21st century workplace. Additionally, we have improved programing for students who have needed alternative or

multiple pathways from high school down to grade six. We are pleased to continue to work with Madison and Bingham on these efforts. Lastly, we have been able to cut a bus run and reroute travel time to have a very limited effect on students, while saving money at the same time.

I will continue to make the commitment to find the best educational programs, efficiently.

***District Goals: Just a reminder of the things we are working on this year...***

Goal 1: Data Driven Instruction - This means that we are taking a closer look at our assessments to determine student needs, and allow this information to inform our instruction!

Goal 2: Community Involvement - This means we are working to make our schools more and more inviting to the public and creating more opportunity to be in the public to serve. RSU # 74 continues to work to save money.

Goal 3: Trauma-Informed Schools - This means that our school district is making a concerted effort to become more informed about child and family crisis, and how to serve them better.

*Submitted: Mr. Michael Tracy, Superintendent*

**Board Meeting for January**

The January board meeting was held at Garrett Schenck. I only sampled two food items, but the meatballs and the chocolate dessert were both outstanding.

Minutes: The minutes of the December 4 board meeting and the December 11 special board meeting were approved.

Superintendent Report: Mr. Tracy thanked the Garret Schenck staff for the food which they had prepared. He thanked his administrators for their work in presenting at the data meeting that was held prior to the board meeting. The superintendent informed the board that teacher contract negotiations will begin soon. A video was played that can be found on the RSU 74 Facebook page.

Admin Reports: Jean Butler welcomed the board to Garret Schenck. She said the place settings at the board table were made by Mrs. Hebert's kindergarten students. Tom Desjardins updated the board on the wrestling program. About 40 kids attend each practice. The wrestlers will compete in five tournaments; the first tournament is only two weeks away. In March, the Cobra wrestlers will host a tournament at Carrabec High School.

Committees: The Academic Committee met on December 18. The committee discussed how NWEA and SAT data is used to inform instruction.

Appointments: Andrew Ferrari - CHS jv boys' basketball; Jessi Campbell - secretary, CHS

Resignation: Anthony Pranses - CHS math

Election: Bruce Dostie - CHS math

Citizens: Brenda Mullin spoke. She wanted the board to be aware that prior to the meeting, she handed Bob Demchak some letters signed by many RSU 74 staff members. The letters expressed support for the work that Mr. Tracy has done during his time as superintendent.

Van Issue: The board voted to spend up to \$34,000 for a minivan that has cameras.

Budget Timeline: The budget process will unfold during March, starting with the March 4 board meeting. Budget meetings are scheduled for March 11 and 18.

Next Board Meeting: February 5 at Solon Elementary.

*Submitted: Dave Ela, President Carrabec Education Association*

## **Recreation Committee**

Members on the committee are Judi Wills (chair), Kristen Mitchell, Stacie Rundlett, Marilyn Gorman, Nicole Shamaly and Terry Gaudette.

This past fall we had a Fall Festival at the community room. Many activities were available. We had students from Carrabec High School come and did face painting for the younger children. What a great time and good job they did. We had three scarecrows entered for judging. We had golf tournament, fry pan toss.

We rented a bounce house (pumpkin shaped), and the children had a blast. We also had pumpkins for kids and parents to paint and bring home. The students from Carrabec High School helped the kids paint their pumpkins also.

Last winter the Recreation Committee was asked to help school kids with a donation. The Stacey McClusky, teacher at Carrabec Community School sent us names of students who lived in New Portland who wanted to learn to cross country ski. A check was sent so each student could participate. The Recreation Committee received pictures of kids skiing and having fun, along with thank-you cards.

I wanted to share this information and work which the Recreation Committee has done so citizens would know what we have accomplished and would like to continue to do over the next year. We will request money for future activities and fun for the children and parents to share.

Thank you in advance.

*Submitted: Judi Wills*

**NEW PORTLANDER article submission deadline is February 20 by 4:00 pm.**

Any articles, submissions, information for publication should be received by:

**Dallas Landry • PO Box 34, North New Portland, ME 04961 • phone 628-4201 • email: alderswamp2@gmail.com**

If there are any questions or needs regarding the receiving of the *New Portlander*, those inquiries should be directed to the Town Manager.







## Wire Bridge Sno-Travelers

The meeting was called to order with eight members present.

The treasurer's report was read and accepted.

Lewis updated the club on the condition of trails. The groomers have been out opening the trails, moving blowdowns and cutting some branches. Several club members have also been out clearing trails. Lewis wanted to remind people if they did work on trails to keep track of the amount of time they spent working and give the information to Brad for the grants. Dave reported that one of the bridges on the Wire Bridge trail needs to have some planks replaced. More snow is needed and cold weather before the groomers will be able to go out and groom.

Lewis and Kendall will get together and figure out a system to number the bridges on the trails. Then signs will be made and placed on each bridge.

Lewis also mentioned the MSA meeting will be held in Kingfield. Six of our club members have expressed an interest in going. The meeting will be January 18 at Webster Hall in Kingfield. A social hour will be held from 5:00 – 6:00 pm with dinner and the business meeting following.

Lastly, a discussion was held concerning the best time to hold club elections and as whether to still hold a meeting in August. The last few years we have not had enough members attending our May meeting to hold elections, so we have delayed it until the fall.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:09 pm.

Our February meeting will be Saturday, February 8.

*Submitted: Joyce Knowles*

## New Portland Community Church News for February 2020

Winter progresses as usual. It won't be long before we are in mud season as the year flies by.

The New Portland Community Church will have its annual congregational meeting and potluck on Sunday, February 9 following the worship service. Anyone with an interest is welcome to attend the meeting which will commence shortly after noon at the North Village Church.

Journey of Faith continues to be held at the Fairbanks Church in Farmington on Tuesdays at 4:00 pm. We are studying a new book called World Religions and Cults 101 by Bruce Bickel and Stan Jantz. The book addresses questions about why there are so many religions, how are they different and why are they important. From Islam to Jehovah's Witnesses to Darwinism and Naturalism, the book features key teachings, biographies of leaders and study questions for each religion. It should prove to be a really interesting study and will take 12-15 weeks to complete. All are welcome to join the conversation at 4:00 pm Tuesdays at Fairbanks Union Church.

As always, all are welcome at the North New Portland Church on Sunday morning at 10:30 am for coffee hour followed by 11:00 am worship services every Sunday. See you there. Respectfully...

*Submitted: Nan Berry*

## Church News

The Western Mountains Baptist Church had approximately 50 folks stay after the Sunday service on January 19 to enjoy a taco fellowship lunch. Between last week's ice storm and this week's snow storm getting out to attend church has been extra challenging for some. Cancelling church is extremely rare, if there is ever any doubt if church is going to be held due to a storm, a cancellation notice will be posted on the WMBC facebook page or call/text Pastor Tom at 557-3802.

Got kids? Know of any who like roasted hot dogs, sledding, hot chocolate and have a lot of energy to burn off? The Family Fun Day (aka Sledding Party) will be held after the church service on Sunday, February 16. Bring sleds, warm clothes and adult supervision for all children. Food and warmth will be available at WMBC; sliding will take place on Gilmore Hill. By the way, we do realize adults like to slide too, so adults are welcome to join us for a few hours of playing in the snow together.

The Women's Ministry Fellowship meeting have changed their day and time for the winter. Instead of Tuesday evenings, they are now meeting the second and fourth Saturdays at 1:00 pm at the church. They are hoping for more participation from area women by moving the meetings to the weekend and during the daytime. FMI call Pat at 265-4164.

The winter edition of the WMBC Newsletter has recently been published. All quarterly newsletters can be found on the website at [www.westernmountainschurch.org](http://www.westernmountainschurch.org) along with a calendar of events and other information. Feel free to check it out and let us know what you think.

If you do not have a church family and would like to see what WMBC has to offer, consider joining us any Sunday morning. At 9:00 am there is Sunday School for all ages including adults. Our worship service begins at 10:00 am. There is no dress code, so come as you are. Free coffee and snacks are available before and after the church service. Various Bible studies and small groups are held during the week to encourage learning and growing in faith. As Pastor Tom often says, "Our walk in faith is not intended to do alone". If Sunday morning is not a good day or time for you to get involved, drop by one of the other events to meet some folks and be involved that way.

*Submitted: Crystal Fitch*



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