



NEW PORTLANDER

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E-mail: nwprtInd@tds.net | Mailing Address: Town of New Portland, 901 River Road, New Portland, Maine 04961

Visit the Town of New Portland's web page at 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: Stacie Rundlett

Email newportlandtownmanager@gmail.com

Deputy Town Manager/Deputy Town Clerk: Mallory Stratton

Email newportlandclerk@gmail.com

Office hours: Same as the Town office hours

Town Clerk: Jianna Pinkham

Email newportlandclerk@gmail.com

Office hours: By appointment

LPI: Leo Mayo - 566-7341

Assessor's Agent: Audra Swanson

Wednesday 10am - 3pm

Email newportlandassessor@gmail.com

Fire Department: Chief Kip Poulin

Animal Control Officer: Dillon Wellman - 207-405-1134

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 Saturday of the month 9am

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

Tuesday & Saturday 8:30am - Noon

Thursday 3pm - 6pm

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 Manager

The Town Office will be closed on the following dates:

- Tuesday, November 2 for the State of Maine Referendum Election
- Thursday, November 11 in observance of Veteran's Day
- Thursday, November 25 in observance of Thanksgiving Day
- The Town Office will be closing early on Wednesday, November 24 at 2:00 pm.
- The Selectmen's meetings for the month of November have been postponed. If a meeting is rescheduled, it will be posted on the Town's website as well as the Town's FB page.

Stacie and Mallory will be having their Annual Giving Tree at the Town Office starting November 22. We will be taking gifts until December 20. There will be gift tags which will be hanging on the tree at the Town Office; these tags will have an item listed on it. Come and choose one of your choice. If you know of anyone in need for the holiday season please contact Stacie by email; newportlandtownmanager@gmail.com or Mallory at the Town Office 628-4441 or her email; townofnewportland@gmail.com

Submitted: Stacie Rundlett

Selectmen

Minutes for the September 20, 2021

Roster: Selectmen: Raymond Poulin, Tina Poulin, Wayne Rundlett; Town Manager: Stacie Rundlett, Brian Rundlett

1. Raymond called the meeting to order at 6:36 pm.
2. The Board reviewed the minutes from previous meeting. Wayne motioned to accept the minutes as written, Raymond seconded and all were in favor.

3. Old Business: *Junkyard violation*: The Board discussed with Stacie their findings of the junkyard violation on the property at 48 River Road. Raymond and Tina agreed the property was still in violation. The owner has until September 22, and Stacie will contact the town's attorney to confirm enforcement procedures.

ARPA funds: Stacie discussed with the Board information about a new town sign with a digital board for messaging. She provided them with a few samples. There was a discussion regarding the different samples provided. Raymond just wanted to know if the town sign wooden portion was wrapped in vinyl or if it was just vinyl decals on the white portion of the sign. He was concerned about vinyl decals and how long they would last with the weather exposure. Stacie would reach out to the sign representative and update the Board with her findings. Stacie also discussed with the Board the town border sign from Route 16 was being repaired by Jim Tindal, and it had been well over a year. Raymond suggested reaching out to Jim to check on the status. He suggested a couple of other local people who might be able to finish this work if Jim was unable to finish.

Stacie approached the Board for an update on their decision regarding additional essential worker pay. Raymond first stated he was still not on board with issuing any essential worker pay as of yet. He stated we have time to use the funds the best way that we can. He wasn't against doing it but wanted to wait to see if some other project would come up and didn't want to have used the funds on essential worker pay when it could have been used on a project. He stated that was his opinion. Wayne felt that the essential workers should get something out of the ARPA funds as they worked all year during the pandemic when they could have stayed home, and the town would have had to pay for unemployment. That wasn't the case, they worked. Tina questioned if anyone's income was cut? She asked if everyone was paid whether they worked from home or not. Stacie reminded the Board that no employees worked from home, which meant that no one's income was cut. Wayne shared with the Board many of the surrounding towns were issuing additional essential workers' pay out of the ARPA funding, even Embden is giving something to their employees who worked through the pandemic. Tina stated that we don't always have to do things because other towns are

doing it. Stacie reminded the Board in a previous discussion Raymond did state that he felt the Fire Department deserved something and maybe the Town Manager, but not the figures which were provided to the Board at that time. Stacie asked the Board if they were considering other figures? Or nothing at all? Stacie shared with the Board her feelings on the matter, that once the Board saw where the figures that were provided to them were going to what employees, they put a halt on considering essential worker pay. Tina asked Stacie where she got the figures that she provided them for the Fire Department? Stacie stated that the figures were from hours put in. Tina asked hours from what? Meetings or calls? Stacie stated both, and Tina said it was not. She had discussed the matter with Kip Poulin, and Kip told her that Stacie only asked for particular hours. Stacie stated that all of the Fire Department member figures for additional essential worker pay was based off incident reports and training meeting rosters that were provided to her from the chief. And she based an average from the end of the reports that were provided to her to the end of the year based off previous years reporting of hours, as the federal government says you can pay those essential workers through the year's end of 2021. Tina stated she felt if anyone was going to get anything additional, it would be the same amount whether the employee worked two hours or 40 hours, or the town do nothing. Stacie asked how she thought that was fair? Tina said if the town was going to pay essential workers for their work, it should just be the same figure for everyone because everyone is on the same level and should get the same amount of pay. She said she feels everyone should be treated equally. Stacie voiced that she didn't see that as fair as some people only worked 2.5 hours and others worked 40 or more hours and that is why she felt it should be based on the employees' hours put in. Tina stated in her opinion it was either the same amount for each employee or nothing at all, whether it was right or wrong of her, that was her thoughts on the matter. She stated that everyone has their own opinion. Stacie stated she hadn't heard Raymond's opinion on the matter other than he wants to wait. Stacie asked about at least giving a time frame. She reminded them she has been asking the Board to think on this matter since May. Stacie inquired why Tina was smirking? Tina stated let's be clear here, that she was

NEW PORTLANDER article submission deadline is November 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.

not going to sit and have a pissing match with anyone about this. She has a right to grin just like Raymond and Wayne have a right to grin. Stacie stated that she was not trying to have a pissing match. Tina told Stacie that she was not going to sit and have her demand that they make a decision that night. The town has all kinds of time to make a decision on the matter. Stacie discussed the matter of making the essential workers wait until 2023 or 2022 for the Board to make a decision on additional essential worker pay, and Stacie said yes you do. Tina stated that she felt they should do what's in the best interest of the Town of New Portland and Raymond agreed with that. That the ARPA funds are to be used in the best interest of the town and at this time they did not feel issuing essential worker pay was in the best interest of the town. Raymond reiterated he does not feel right issuing additional essential worker pay as he would be financially benefitting from that as a town employee. Stacie reminded them they could donate their portion if they felt they shouldn't benefit from the ARPA funding. Stacie stressed she didn't feel it was fair to those employees who continued working for the town during the pandemic instead of staying at home and collecting unemployment. That using some of the ARPA funds to pay the essential workers additional pay was a way to show those employees appreciation for continuing to keep the town running. She pointed out that even the ballot clerks took a risk from exposure for the Presidential election and managed to pull it off without a hiccup even though they had greater than 75% of the registered voters turn out, which was the biggest turn out New Portland has had. Tina stated that it wasn't that they didn't want to show appreciation, it was that they were trying to make a decision which was best for the town, not just for a few people. Stacie reminded them that it wasn't just a few people that it was anyone who worked for the town of New Portland during the pandemic, from the ballot clerks to the people who worked the summer roads crew. Raymond reminded Stacie that he has felt from the start he did not feel that any additional pay should be given to the ballot clerks or the road commissioner or his summer roads crew. Stacie inquired if the Board realized what each of those essential workers had to do to work during the pandemic? Raymond stated that he did, and that at this time to make things simple he is against issuing any additional pay to the essential workers. Brian Rundlett brought up that in the guidelines that the Federal Government issued of approved expenditures of ARPA money it states several times that additional funds to essential workers was an approved expenditure for employees who continued to work during the

pandemic. And that a lot of towns, cities and even counties were giving their essential workers some additional pay for continuing to work during this terrible time. Raymond stated that he was sorry, but all of these employees made their money. Stacie reminded the board that she as well as others would have made more money sitting at home, but she never even considered it. Raymond said he has never been against it, but that he was not going to commit to it right now, and if someone didn't like it, it was their problem because he was looking out for the Town of New Portland. He stated that was his opinion, and he did feel bad as some of these employees could use the extra funds, but if it wasn't there, their life wouldn't be any different so until he can exhaust all other ways to spend the ARPA funds, that's the way he is going to proceed. He stated that the town has until 2024 to decide on how to spend the funds, and there could be more changes coming from the Federal Government on ways to spend the funds once the Federal Government sees that a lot of the smaller communities do not have the infrastructure to spend the funds based on their guidelines. There was a discussion on funds being issued to the Library or the Fire Department and how if that is done, it is the town's responsibility to make sure that those entities spend the funds on approved expenditures based on the Federal Governments guidelines, and it would be Stacie's responsibility to make sure those entities do so, meaning more time spent and more focus for her. Raymond said it didn't matter if it was doing additional paperwork for separate entities, or if they gave money to employees for additional essential worker pay, she had to do the paperwork either way. Brian Rundlett stated to the Board he was concerned, and many people from the public have also expressed their concern to him, that since March when Tina had been voted in as selectmen, it appears Tina and Raymond have an agenda against Stacie. That since March, many complaints had come in to just Tina and or Raymond about Stacie or the office in general, which was not a regular occurrence prior to March. He felt it was two against one as far as the Board members. And that the Board didn't seem to have any issues with issuing additional essential worker pay until they saw how many hours Stacie had put in during the pandemic and how much she would get if they approved that additional pay based on hours worked. Tina and Raymond denied having an issue with Stacie. Stacie asks for the chairman to bring the meeting to order. Raymond ends the discussion on this matter.

4. Items by the Public: There was none.

5. Department Heads: There was none.
6. Items by the Town Manager:
 - a. The Board reviewed and signed payroll and A/P warrants.
7. Items by the Board of Selectmen:
 - a. The Board reviewed two abatement requests.
 1. Raymond motioned to accept an abatement request from Howard Wulf in the amount of \$4,449.57. Wayne seconded and all were in favor.
 2. Raymond motioned to accept an abatement request from Jonathan & Fiona Clapp in the amount of \$36.21. Wayne seconded and all were in favor.
 - b. The Board reviewed and signed a warrant for two Supplemental Taxes totaling \$4,485.78.
 1. Howard Wulf- \$112.89
 2. Jonathan & Fiona Clapp- \$4,372.89

Wayne motioned to adjourn the meeting. Raymond seconded and all were in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 pm.

These minutes were approved by the Board at the October 5 meeting. smr

Minutes for the October 5, 2021

Roster: Selectmen: Raymond Poulin, Tina Poulin, Wayne Rundlett; Town Manager: Stacie Rundlett, Glenn Mirlocca, Kyle Handrahan, Jasmine Wagg, Bobbette Turner, Ray and Amanda Jordan, Michelle Linscott, Mary and George Chimenti, James Reinhard, Brian Rundlett, Kip Poulin, Gary Agren

1. Raymond called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.
2. The Board reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting. Tina stated that the part of the meeting referencing smirking was not in the minutes, and she wanted them included. Stacie acknowledged. Tina motioned to accept the minutes as written with the additional part that was not reflected in current minutes. Raymond seconded and all were in favor
3. Old Business: *Junkyard violation notices*: Before and present photographs were provided to the Board by the town manager of Raymond Jordan's property which had received a junkyard violation notice. There was a discussion regarding the clean up efforts between Raymond Jordan and the Board. At this time the Board was satisfied with the matter.

ARPA funds: Stacie provided the Board with copies of the proposed digital sign quote as well as the quote from County Line Electric on the necessary electrical work that would need to be done if the digital sign was installed. There was a brief discussion from the public on why the town needs a digital sign and the details why this is being proposed. Raymond Poulin reminded the public this is just an option for use of the ARPA funds. He hopes that the restrictions will change and towns will have more options for approved projects with those funds. The Board made no decision on the matter. There was a discussion regarding other towns and how they are using their ARPA funds, and what has been proposed for projects so far for New Portland.

4. Items by the Public: Glenn Mirlocca discusses with the Board an ongoing issue with the water run off at the north end of his driveway. The Board members and Gary Agren discussed with Glenn possible ways to correct this problem. Raymond Poulin offered to bring his tractor over to assist Glenn with some of these ways to correct this at no charge. There was a lengthy discussion on the matter. Gary and Raymond Poulin agreed to stop by Glenn's property and determined the best way to address this issue and assist Glenn with correcting this problem.
5. Department Heads: Kip Poulin briefed the Board on 46 calls y-t-d and roughly \$5200 in payroll. The Forestry has an antifreeze leak; it might be a loose hose. There was a discussion regarding an invoice sent to an insurance company for a call dealing with a water truck on RTE 27. There was a discussion about rookies doing firefighter training. Gary Agren discussed with the Board grader work which was being done and possible brush work to be done. Freeman Ridge Road paving is still be done.
6. Items by the Town Manager:
 - a. The Board reviewed and signed payroll, A/P warrants.
 - b. Stacie updated the Board on CMP poles and holiday decorations. Any decorations which use power at a CMP pole is supposed to be documented and CMP is to be notified on wattage and hours used so that they can bill accordingly.
 - c. There were discussions on the town's digital mapping and that the Board was not going to continue due to lack of staff to update the digital mapping. Jasmine Wagg suggested having a high school student do the updating for community

service. Jasmine would find out if that could be an option and get back to the Board about it.

- d. Stacie shared with the Board a concern from a parent that the RSU #74 transportation department was requesting that a high school student be transported to and from the T at New Portland Hill Road and South Road. intersection due to dangerous conditions at the current bus turn around on New Portland Hill Road. The matter was tabled to give the Board time to visit the location in question.
 - e. Stacie updated the Board that 30 foreclosure notices were scheduled to be sent out by certified mail on October 12 for non-payment of 2019 real estate taxes. Tina questioned how the public was notified of properties that are put out for bid for non-payment of taxes. Stacie stated that it has to be posted in the New Portlander, the town website and usually posted in a local newspaper, The Irregular or Daily Bulldog.
 - f. Stacie updated the Board the Deveau property on the Chick Road had full payment of back taxes and a release deed was being prepared by the attorney for the Board at the next meeting. She also told the Board that most likely the Rapid Renewal link would be live later in the month. Stacie also updated that the TAN was paid off early and saved a considerable amount of interest. Raymond Poulin asked how the tax money was coming in, and Stacie stated it has been coming in steady. Stacie also told the Board that she was taking two days of vacation this week.
7. Items by the Board of Selectmen: Raymond Poulin discussed the sand that was being hauled into the Sand Salt Shed. He inquired if anyone had received a sample of the sand. Stacie noted Brent Davenport had been in the office and stated he received a sample of the sand prior to Jordan's hauling it. He also was keeping track of how much was being hauled. Stacie also ordered two loads of salt per Brent's request. Tina inquired about a digital copy of the previous meeting. Stacie stated she wasn't aware that she requested one but would get a copy of it to her.

Wayne motioned to adjourn the meeting, Raymond Poulin seconded and all were in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 pm.

These minutes were approved by the Board at the October 18 meeting. smr

New Portland Churches

At the time of this writing, the congregation of the Western Mountains Baptist Church is looking forward to a time of remembrance on Sunday, October 24. Ten years ago, the first worship services were being held in the new home of WMBC in New Portland; just over the town line of Kingfield, on Route 27. It had been a very exciting previous couple of years watching plans and resources fall into place for the new church building. This Sunday will be a time to celebrate all that God has done in and through WMBC. If you missed the celebration service, you may view the sermon and the testimonies on YouTube.

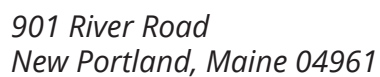
Saturday, November 13 at 1:00, the Women's Fellowship group is hosting a Ladies' Tea. There will be a time to spend time with new and old friends, enjoy tasty snacks and listen to a Christian woman as she shares much wisdom and truth about her journey with God. This year, the speaker will be WMBC's very own, Pat Sanders from Strong, formerly from Kingfield. Pat will be sharing her testimony of God's faithfulness in her life. There is no charge, and this event is open to the public. A contribution box will be available for donations to the New Hope Women's Shelter in Solon. Gifts of money or personal care items will be welcomed and appreciated.

Bridging the Gap, homemade meals delivered to the elderly, will take place on November 27. If you know of anyone interested in receiving a hot meal every month, please sign up with Cathy at 678-2442 or leave a message at the church, 265-2557.

Did you know that in addition to the physical library at WMBC, there is a large assortment of video resources available to anyone affiliated with the Western Mountains Baptist Church? RightNow Media is a "streaming library of more than 20,000 Bible study videos." Study topics include apologetics, parenting, marriages, and studies for women, men, children and much more. WMBC pays a small yearly fee to enable free access to a large variety of online education, support and encouragement. There is no cost to download RightNow Media. Go to westernmountainschurch.org. You'll find RightNow Media under the Media tab. While on the website, listen to a MicroCast or two.

May you have a happy and healthy November.

Submitted by Crystal Fitch



New Portland, ME
Permit No. 1

POSTAL PATRON
NEW PORTLAND MAINE 04961

