



NEW PORTLANDER

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DOUG KERR PHOTO

E-mail: nwprtld@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

Town Manager: Stacie Rundlett

Email..... newportlandtownmanager@gmail.com

Deputy Town Manager: Lori Alyea

Email..... townofnewportland@gmail.com

Office hours: Same as the Town office hours

Code Enforcement Officer: Jeff Drew - 207-453-4258 ext 0

Town Clerk: Jacob Pinkham / Deputy Town Clerk: Lori Alyea

Email..... newportlandtownclerk@gmail.com

Office hours: By appointment

LPI: Dan Gilbert - 207-938-3866

Assessor's Agent: Audra Swanson

Wednesday..... 10am - 2pm

Email..... newportlandassessor@gmail.com

Fire Department: Chief Kip Poulin

Animal Control Officer: Stacie Rundlett - 491-8007

Remember...

- **Selectmen's Meeting**
1st Tuesday & 3rd Monday of each month6:30pm
- **New Portland Fire Department Meeting**
2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month6:30pm
- **Library Board of Trustees Meeting**
2nd Saturday of the month 9am
- **Planning Board Meeting**
1st Wednesday of the month6:30pm
- **New Portland Water District**
2nd Wednesday of each month.....6:30pm
- **School Board Meeting**
1st Wednesday of each month 6pm
- **New Portland Community Library**
Tuesday & Friday9:00am - 12pm
Wednesday3pm - 6pm
Thursday3pm - 6pm
Saturday.....9am - 12pm
- **Kingfield-New Portland Transfer Station**
Wednesday, Saturday, Sunday..... 7:30am - 4:30pm
- **New Portland Post Office Customer Service Hours**
Monday - Friday7am - 9am & 2pm - 4pm
Saturday.....7am - 10:30 am

Selectmen

Selectmen's Notes: It's April! Let April showers bring in May flowers and some warmer weather. Mud season is also here. Town elections were held on March 6. Re-elected were Janet White, three year term as selectman; Dallas Landry, three year term on the school board; Jacob Pinkham, three year term as town clerk. One seat on the school board is still open. It is a two-year term. If interested please let the town office know. Better yet come to a selectmen meeting and talk to us.

The town meeting went well, lasted a little over an hour. If you would still like a town report they can be picked up at the town office during business hours. It has a beautiful picture of the Wire Bridge on the cover.

Hope you have all seen the new Welcome to New Portland signs on RT 27 and Rt 16. They really catch your eye, very bright and colorful.

It is mud season. If you encounter a road issue, please let the town office know during business hours. After hours, please contact one of your selectmen. We will address the issue as soon as possible. Thank you. Grading and rock racking will need to wait till the roads release all of the winter frost and dry up some.

Still looking for someone to work with Janet and Roger White to take over the flower beds at the town grounds. This is a volunteer position. The most time-consuming work is the watering and weeding that needs to be tended to weekly. If interested in this great community work please come to a selectmen meeting and speak with Janet.

Earth Day is this April on Wednesday 22, 2026. So, let's do spring clean-up at the Wire Bridge on Saturday 25, 2026. We will meet at 9:00 am at the bridge area. Please bring your own rake and gloves. A trailer to haul debris away, trash bags, a chainsaw and an operator will be provided. If rain, we will try for the following Saturday, same time.

All of our meetings are open to the public. Come join us and see how it works. This year Dave will be the chair at all meetings. All three of us are equal and work well with each other, for the betterment of our great New Portland.

Submitted: Janet White, Ray Poulin, Dave Veilleux - Selectmen

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes: February 3, 2026

Roster/ Selectmen: Raymond Poulin, Janet White, David Veilleux, Town Manager: Stacie Rundlett, Lori Alyea, David Cary, James Reinhard, Peter Ford, Kip Poulin

1. Janet called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.
2. The board reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting. Raymond motioned to accept the minutes as written, David seconded and all were in favor.
3. Department Heads: Kip shared with the board briefly that there hadn't been too many things going on.
4. Items by the Town Manager: a.) The Board reviewed and signed the payroll and A/P warrants. b.) The Board reviewed and signed Treasurer's Reports. c.) There was a brief discussion on a proposal from Heritage Printing for printing the New Portlander. It appears it would save the town some money if we went with Heritage Printing, and all the board members discussed having a more local company do them would be great. d.) There was a discussion regarding the new town signs. The board asked David Cary if he would install them. David agreed.
5. Items by the Board of Selectmen: a.) The board reviewed and signed annual town meeting warrant. Stacie would make sure that it was posted in all of the usual places. b.) There was a brief discussion regarding the next scheduled meeting. All were in favor of cancelling it.
6. Items by the Public: None

The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 pm.

These minutes were approved by the Board at the March 3 meeting. smr

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes: March 3, 2026

Roster/ Selectmen: Raymond Poulin, Janet White, David Veilleux (absent), Town Manager: Stacie Rundlett, Lori Alyea, Kip Poulin, Pat Mitchell, Peter Ford, James Reinhard, Robert Shibley (owner of Bob's Cash Fuel), Chuck Taylor, Olivia Kunesh (from KVCOG)

1. Janet called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

2. The board reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting. Raymond motioned to accept the minutes as written, Janet seconded and all were in favor.
3. Olivia Kunesh from KVCOG presented a presentation about Community Resilience Partnership and reviewed a list of community actions. There was some discussion on how this is a free program through the State of Maine and KVCOG will work with the town if we would like to join. There is funding for specific community actions. After her presentation, the board members were in agreement to proceed with this partnership as it may help the town gain access to grants for certain projects, and it's free. The next step would be for the board of selectmen to enact a municipal resolution. She would review all the data she received at this meeting and draft a resolution for the board to consider.
4. Department Heads: a0. Kip updated the board on fire calls and contracting a company to go after the trucking company for billing for the extended amount of time spent on calls for tractor trailers off the road and dealing with traffic control. Kip discussed with the board members that the compartment door on the truck is finally fixed, and they are able to access the equipment in that compartment. He told them he is also having some trouble with the generator on the truck. He will be pricing out a new one and get back to the board on the matter. b.0 Pat informed the board he had posted all of the town roads already. He also informed the board he did find a trailer and sander from the same company. After a discussion regarding these two pieces of equipment, Raymond motioned to authorize Pat to spend no more than \$10,000 total on the two pieces of equipment. Janet seconded and all were in favor.
5. Items by the Town Manager: a.) The board reviewed and signed the payroll and A/P warrants. b.) The board reviewed and signed the treasurer's report for January 2026. c.) Stacie reviewed the proposal from Heritage Printing with the board. Raymond would be abstaining from voting on the matter as his other half is the owner of Heritage Printing. Janet stated this matter would need to be tabled until David was able to be there. The board asked Stacie to invite Dallas Landry to the next meeting. Stacie would also invite Buffi, from Heritage Printing, as well.

NEW PORTLANDER article submission deadline is April 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.

6. Items by the Board of Selectmen: None
7. Items by the Public: a.) Robert Shibley from Bob's Cash Fuel updated the board on his new project that will basically duplicate what he has in Madison, here in New Portland on Rte. 27 near the Kingfield town line. He stated that things have started, and they are basically in the permitting stage. Not only will there be propane and gas at this location, there will also be a parts warehouse for local contractors to have access to basic supplies for plumbing needs. All at the meeting were very excited to hear of this project. b.) There was a discussion regarding the Kingfield/New Portland Transfer Station. Some people are still arriving at the transfer station without stickers and have been able to dump their trash. Janet reiterated to the public this shouldn't be happening and at some point there would be surprise inspections of vehicles like there was at the beginning of January. She said it would not be announced and will be a surprise, so get your stickers.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 pm.

These minutes were approved by the Board at the March 16 meeting. smr

Submitted: Stacie Rundlett, Town Manager

Superintendent RSU 74

March 19, 2026

To: Residents of New Portland

Last evening, I presented to the full board our budget for the 2026-2027 school year. This has not been an easy budget to put together as it was evident the budget was increasing significantly due to raises in the salary lines and the fact our health insurance rates have been 10% or greater for consecutive years. We have been fortunate to have had your support when the board had approved budgets that saw increases where we asked for additional staff to assist with providing extra instruction for students who were impacted by the years the district was operating after COVID where students did not attend school daily. At the time we shared that we felt this was a temporary need. In some areas we are acknowledging the immediate needs have been met while others are still climbing the ladder to what we see as success for the students. This budget has several (6.4) positions being removed. While some are positions that are due to retirements, others are positions where people will be let go. The budget shows roughly a 2% increase but with the additional funds we received from the State, the budget forward to the taxpayers shows

roughly a 3.5% decrease. The increase from the State is the result of funding due to enrollments in the area of Special Education. The board will be asked to take a formal vote on the budget at the April 1 monthly meeting in the CCS library.

Other than the finance committee meeting to review drafts of the budget, the restructure committee on March 11 to discuss a strategic plan to ensure RSU 74 can continue to provide programs necessary to prepare our students for their endeavors beyond high school. Factors we need to consider include viewpoints of the communities on what our programs need to look like and our fiscal capacity to provide the continued support for these programs. I will keep you posted on our progress.

As this month closes out and April begins, we will be on a mad dash to the finish line in June as the last quarter of a school year seems to end as soon as it begins. Thank you for your continued support for your schools in RSU 74. As stated above our next monthly meeting is April 1, and I am available if you have any questions. Email is the quickest way to get a response. Respectfully yours...

Submitted: Mark. L. Campbell, Superintendent of Schools

School Board

The March 4 board meeting was held at CCS. Food options included a fruit/veggie tray and cookies. I ate more than my share of cookies.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adjustments to the Agenda: The agenda item concerning the town of Strong was moved from Item Six to earlier in the meeting. Two appointments were added to the agenda.

The Audit: Jen Connors from the RKO accounting firm discussed the 2025 fiscal year audit. She used phrases like, "clean opinion", "no material weaknesses", "no significant deficiencies", and "met compliance requirements". Those statements indicated to me that the audit went very well.

Strong School: Representatives from the town of Strong attended. Strong is exploring the possibility of leaving RSU 58. If they were to do that, they would need to find a district (or districts) willing to educate their high school age student population. They have talked with surrounding districts: Farmington, Rangeley, RSU 74, SAD 58 (so kids could stay at Mt. Abram if they so chose). The Strong reps wanted to see if RSU 74 would accept Strong's high school-age students if the withdrawal from 58 were to occur. The board voted 11-2 to "enter into an agreement with the new Strong SAU to accept the designated school

of guaranteed acceptance for the SAU." Though there is an agreement in place, there are still hurdles to go before Strong students can attend CHS. If other schools accept them as well, it is possible that few, if any Strong students will attend CHS.

Minutes: The minutes of the January board meeting were approved.

Appointments: Jordan Enos - Admin Assistant to Tammy Wyman and Chris Roux; Margaret Brown - Secretary, CCS

Resignations: Gabrielle Lord - GS, Pre-K Ed Tech One; Jenah Leeman - CCS Admin Assistant

Nomination: Chandra Holt - Title One Ed Tech 3, GS

Superintendent's Report: Mr. Campbell added quite a bit to his written report. The April board meeting will be held at CCS, and it will begin at 5:30 pm. Somerset Health will do a presentation. Mr. Campbell has withdrawn the request asking the town of Embden to consider allowing the district to use the Community Center as a location for a day treatment program. The last few school budgets have added a great deal to local share for taxpayers. The superintendent is reluctant to bring another large increase this year. Though the recent ED 279 document showed the district getting a large increase in state funding, this is likely to be a one-time bump. Even with the ED 279 extra funding, the budget, as now projected, would represent another substantial increase. At a recent board meeting, the board approved the lighting project for all schools. To cut costs, GS has been removed from the initiative, bringing that cost down by roughly \$75,000. The superintendent has asked the admin team to identify other possible cuts. After COVID, new positions were added. Mr. Campbell expects that staff reductions will be necessary in order to keep the budget increase at what he thinks will be an acceptable level. The board's Restructure and Finance Committees will meet next week. The superintendent would like to see a multi-year plan created to help assess future building needs.

Admin Reports: Jean Butler, Geoff Case, and Tammy Wyman chose not to add to their written reports. Rachel Merrill said due to low numbers, it is unlikely CHS will have a boys' tennis team this year. The Madison athletic director reached out to Ms. Merrill to propose a combined CCS-Madison middle school track team. No decision has been made. Chris Roux discussed a recent situation at CCS where a window was left open over the weekend and a pipe burst. The sheetrock and insulation has been removed. It is expected the repairs will be complete and kids will be able to use the room again early in the week of March 9.

Committees: The board's Negotiations Committee

met on February 9 and February 11. The Finance Committee met on February 25.

Public Participation: No one spoke.

Policy: The second reading of Policy BBAA - Student Representation to the School Board was approved. More Policies: Policies BDED - Buildings and Grounds Committee, BDEC - Policy Committee, and BDED - Finance Committee were removed. And One Last Policy: The first reading of Policy BDE - Board Standing Committees was approved.

CCS Softball Field: The board voted to approve the naming of the CCS softball field.

A Long Executive Session: The board entered executive session to discuss negotiations. It was a lengthy one, lasting roughly ninety minutes. When they emerged from executive session the board voted to: Approve contracts for administrators at the amount of money and years that they discussed in the executive session. To change Rachel Merrill's title from Dean of Students/Athletic Director to Assistant Principal/Athletic Director. To authorize the superintendent to work with Ms. Merrill to determine fair compensation for the change in job description/ additional responsibilities.

The final agenda item was adjournment.

Submitted: Dave Ela, President of Carrabec Teachers Association

New Portland Community Library

A huge thank you to all residents who voted to approve our funding request for the coming year! And thank you to everyone who baked for and attended our book and bake sale last month! We simply can't do what we do without all our exuberant patrons, supporters, and volunteers. You are so appreciated!

Reminder that we have numerous free puzzles plus books and DVDs available by donation, plus a table full of both fiction and non-fiction in our meeting room that are free to a good home. Please help us free up space for new books by taking a bag or box full of these mostly hardcover volumes, including many children's books.

What's up in April: BOOK CLUB meets Monday, April 13 at 5:00 pm at the library to discuss the much-talked-about book Theo of Golden by Allen Levi. We will have a few loaner copies at the circulation desk you can check out. Multiple people who read lots of books have this 2024 novel on their all-time favorites list. ANNUAL PATRON APPRECIATION OPEN HOUSE is Saturday, April 18 at 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. Stop by to enjoy some refreshments, browse, chat, sit and relax - this is our time to pamper you. REIKI with Michelle

on Saturday, April 25 from 9:00 – 11:30 am. Enjoy a 15-minute session of chair reiki; all donations benefit the library. *Save the date!* Saturday, June 13 will be our annual plant/book and craft sale, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm. Call or email to reserve your outdoor space, just \$20 per space, and leave your name, how many spaces you'd like, and what you will be selling. BYO table and tent, please. (rain or shine!)

Library Hours: Tues/Fri/Sat – 9:00 am to 12:00 pm; Wed/Thurs – 3:00 to 6:00 pm. Online catalog: <https://opac.libraryworld.com/> then enter Library Name/ Password: NPCL

Not yet a patron? It's free! Come in and amp; get your library card and enjoy two

weeks with each book you check out. Need more time? Call or email to renew. I can't imagine my life without books.

Submitted: Beth Perera

Kingfield Seniors Group

Hope all are staying safe! With the change of seasons, we are experiencing a lot of roller coaster weather. Last month's meeting we enjoyed the musical talents of Wayne from the group Thrive. Our next potluck/meeting is Monday, April 6 at noon. We meet at Western Mountains Baptist Church. Attendance is free and you need not be a resident of Kingfield or a member of the church. This is not a church sponsored program.

All seniors are invited and do bring a friend and/or neighbor. We are always happy to meet new people as well as connect with old friends! You may call me if you have any questions. Nanci at 207 628 4461.

Submitted: Nanci Lehto Mahlmann

New Portland Churches

New Portland Church: Well! Spring got sprung on us a little early. So much of our snow gone by the middle of March. Not fun for those of us who enjoy our winter activities. Now we are approaching our true spring season and soon there will be daffodils, tulips and hyacinth growing in our yards and seedlings flourishing on the windowsills waiting for the last frost and warmer spring soils. Ah, the soft warm breezes of April... and the occasional snowstorm.

Our final Warming Wednesday of the season will be held on April 1 from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm. It has come to our attention some folks don't attend because they think it might be a "churchy" event. We want to

add a slogan to our event: Warming Wednesday, "No sermon, just soup!" There is nothing preachy about our luncheons. It is just a chance to gather with neighbors and enjoy a nice meal with good company. So, to anyone who has been reluctant? Have no fear, and we will see you on April 1.

Easter Sunday is April 5. We will be celebrating the resurrection of our Lord at our usual time with a service at 11:00 am. Expect the meeting house to be brightly decorated with spring garlands and the floral scent of Easter lilies will be drifting in the air. Coffee hour will start at 10:30 am (or maybe a little before) and expect some special treats just for the holiday.

Sometimes events in life can be overwhelming and it is helpful to reach out to a minister for guidance, reassurance or just a non-judgmental ear to hear our troubles. Although we have no official minister at the New Portland Church we do have a rotation of excellent ministers who are on-call throughout the month to do hospital visits and cover any spiritual emergencies that might arise in our community. If you are in need of help, please call Nan at 628-6061. As Clerk of Session for the church she can connect you with the minister who is on call that week.

As always, we would love to see you at coffee hour at 10:30 am with worship following at 11:00 am unless otherwise noted in the schedule. If you have any questions about whether a worship service or Wednesday luncheon will be cancelled please call Nan at 628-6061.

The list of ministers for the month of April: April 5 Easter Sunday – Pastor MaryEllen Royce, April 12 – Pastor Drew Goodridge, April 19 – Pastor Debby Bliss Bujnocki, April 26 – Rev. Stan Wheeler. Respectfully...

Submitted: Nan Berry



The New Portlander

Established July 1994

901 River Road
New Portland, Maine 04961

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26 WMBC Service 10:00 am NPCC Service 10:30 am	27 NPCL 9:00 am - noon Fire Department Meeting 6:30 pm	28 NPCL 9:00 am - noon Fire Department Meeting 6:30 pm	29 NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm	30 NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm		
19 WMBC Service 10:00 am NPCC Service 10:30 am	20 Selectmen's Meeting Town Office 6:30 pm Town Office Closed Patriots Day	21 NPCL 9:00 am - noon	22 NPCL 9:00 am - noon Earth Day	23 NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm	24	25 NPCL 9:00 am - noon
12 WMBC Service 10:00 am NPCC Service 10:30 am	13 NPCL 9:00 am - noon Fire Department Meeting 6:30 pm	14 NPCL 9:00 am - noon Fire Department Meeting 6:30 pm	15 NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm	16 NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm	17	18 NPCL 9:00 am - noon
5 Easter WMBC Service 10:00 am NPCC Service 10:30 am	6 Kingfield Seniors Group WMBC noon	7 NPCL 9:00 am - noon Selectmen's Meeting Town Office 6:30 pm	8 NPCL 9:00 am - noon Warming Wednesday 1:00 am - 1:00 pm School Board 6:00 pm CCS New Portland Water District 6:30 pm Planning Board 6:30 pm	9 NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm	10	11 NPCL Trustees Meeting 9:00 am NPCL 9:00 am - noon Wire Bridge 5th - Travelers 6:30 pm Meeting Room
			1 April Fool's Day NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm	2 NPCL 3:00 - 6:00 pm	3 Good Friday	4 NPCL 9:00 am - noon