September 8th, 2025 6pm Minutes

- 1. CALL TO ORDER and FLAG SALUTE Chairman Butch Asselin presided. Selectmen Elizabeth Olsen, Selectmen Joey Chretien, Town Administrator Alicia Bryant, and Highway Forman Brian Whittier were all present. Citizens Jim and Ruth MacDonald, Judy Haggerty, and Martha Moore were all present.
- 2. ACTION ON MINUTES Action on Minutes dated August 25th, 2025 Board reviewed the minutes dated August 25th, 2025. Elizabeth motioned to accept the minutes dated August 25th, 2025 with the fix of under public comments 4.1 be changed to 4.2. Joey second, 3-0.
- 3. PUBLIC COMMENTS Jim MacDonald questioned the size of the TV that the board will approve. Historical society is looking into the range of 55-inch to 65-inch TV. They will shop around and get the better deal but want things to be seen. Elizabeth suggested that the board can pay the difference of a bigger, as a bigger TV is better for visibility. Butch also noted he would willingly pay the difference himself.

4. BUSINESS ITEM –

- 4.1. Discussion regarding the loader Brian gave updated quotes on the repairs needed from Steve Tucci and Pete Adams, along with several tire quotes. Butch asked what the differences in quotes went over then the other. Brian discussed the differences and stated that we will still need tires. Board is pleased with the trade in price of \$23,000. Joey questioned if the tire quotes included the tires being loaded with calcium chloride, yes. Butch asked if the loader came with any warranty. Brian thought the quote included information on that but will reach out to see. Butch asked if the board wanted to pay Pete \$15,000 to fix it and \$10,985 for tires (cheapest tire quote -recaps) or trade in the current loader and spend \$24,500, saving money and gaining a newer to us loader. Butch motion to accept the quote from Abbott Equipment Sales for the acquisition of 2011 Case 621E loader for the price of \$24,500 with our trade in of \$23,000, pending special Town Meeting approval. Elizabeth second, 3-0.
- 4.2. Review and discussion of proposed contract from Mid-Maine Waste Action Corporation —Alicia went over the proposed contract from Mid-Maine Waste Action Corp, stating current rates and the proposed contract rates. Board reviewed, and noted the cheaper rates with signing a contract. Elizabeth motioned to sign the contract with Mid-Maine Waste Action Corporation for five years. Butch second, 3-0.
- 4.3. Discussion of the condition of Patten Road Butch moved 4.3, Discussion of condition of Patten Road, to the start of business items. Brian gave an update on the current condition of Patten Hill Road. Stating it was previously agreed upon that a citizen would care for the road, well, the road needs a lot of attention and he suggested that the Town take it back over. Butch asked about property line and where the road ends and driveway begins. Brain went over the boundaries of the stone walls, town road, and property lines. Elizabeth asked it was a known public way, Brian stated yes, it is until the

that point. It became a public way once the state wide mandated when into effect in 1970s. Brian stated the road needs about a weeks' worth of work to bring in back up to our standards, saying 6-8 truck loads of gravel, the road being tipped to the right, culverts, ditching and addressing the travel lane over the width of the town's secondary roads ordnance. Butch asked when was the last time the town did anything on the road. Brian had said once Roland came on board that he was told by Downy that they didn't do anything on that road due to a citizen was taking care of it, Brian noting it was all second-hand information. Elizabeth asked the citizens present from Patten Hill Road that they had brought this to the board before. They agreed, stated when they came to a meeting about the increase in taxes, they had raised a question about their road and maintenance. Elizabeth agreed and stated that the board had then said to the Highway Department that they needed to start maintaining that road to the owners. Brian noted it had not been. Elizabeth apologized on behalf of the Town that is hadn't happened. Brian went over the tentative plan for Patten Hill Road. Butch asked if the board had the proper equipment needed for the job. Brian yes, we have the backhoe and all we need for equipment, culverts, and dirt, may need some more dirt. Board suggested that we right a letter to Pete Adams stating no longer caring for the road and discussed getting in touch with Pete and other neighbors about agreeing on a place to turn around and checking into the registry of deeds to see about property lines and land surveys Butch motioned to authorize Alicia to draft a letter stating that the Town will be building up the road and that the Town will be plowing and maintaining it. Elizabeth seconded, 3-0.

- 4.4. Review of School Board resignation letter and open position Board reviewed Marylin's resignation letter for the school board committee. Elizabeth expressed that its sad news to hear, thought she would do great in this, and having to make the resignation. Stated it give the board the right to appoint someone. Butch noted we will have to advertise.
- 4.5. Review of letter from Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission regarding open board position Board reviewed the letter from Lake Auburn Watershed. Alicia noted she was in talks with Minot and Buckfield to see if they had any person of interest. The Board would like more information on this; what are the by-laws, when do they meet? Alicia to check into this more and report back.
- 4.6. Review of decision from the Department of Labor letter Alicia reviewed the follow up letter from the Department of Labor, noting total of fees \$1750, breaking down to the Fire Department \$1050, the Highway Department \$350, and the Transfer Station \$350. Previous total was \$2100. Butch gave a recap for the meeting from the Department of Labor. Butch asked how we should pay for it. Elizabeth noted pay fees by department and do it by line item and contract and fees. Elizabeth moved to pay \$1750 to Department of Labor, split up by department amount due, under contracts and fees. Butch second, 3-0.
- 4.7. Review monthly reports *Board reviewed and discussed monthly reports*.

5. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES – Highway Department putting up winter sand this week and will be completed by the end of the week. Had to put brush off as this worked out better for hauling the sand with Youland this week. Was able to find someone to fill in for Aaron being out and to help with equipment in putting the sand away.

We previously discussed Patten Hill Rd, now that it is approved, they plan on starting on fixing that next week.

Transfer Station update, no trespassing sign on the gate and around got blown away, ordered new metal ones, hoping they last longer. Brian has reviewed photos of the camera and have followed up with people to let them know, we are watching.

Library CD was up for renewal, let it roll over for another 6 months, same rate, and let the committee decide, they still have their savings if needed.

Heard from the lawyer about an update with the deed. They did agree with us that we should have it and that it wasn't done. School board will be revoting on it the 15th of September. New copier came on Friday! Joey asked about the fax part of the machine. Got quotes of a digital fax line or cloud line. Elizabeth and Joey asked about the price of a traditional fax line. Will check into and report back.

School Board had a straw pole vote for the new Middle School. Once they count will send to the state and you will see the vote this November. Oxford Hills is in the last group to be fully funded school through the state, however it has to be built completely by the state standards and needs. The school building committee heard from citizens regarding some wants and needs. A larger High School gym was proposed along with and outdoor court yard learning, both not covered by the state and will go to vote this fall pending the straw vote.

- 6. SELECTMEN ITEMS Elizabeth mentioned the County Budget Committee reached out about having an opening. Gino was on the committee previously. Butch would like more information about when they meet and by-laws. Elizabeth suggested Butch or Joey would be great.
 - Elizabeth asked if we are still on track for having the special Town Meeting. Alicia said we were waiting until what the decision was today for the loader and if it needed to be added to the warrant article. Alicia went over timeline for flyer and preparation and getting the warrant signed. Elizabeth suggested sending the flyer to the printer and have them print and seal it and send out with the short turnaround. Board mentioned moderators to check in with. Butch asked where we are with BlueStar Accounting and Advisement. Alicia mentioned we still had him on board as there is money in the budget for him and the fact of putting in more then the 32 hours weekly, it's up to the board. Butch mentioned for the coming budget that there may be questions as one of the purposes of having an administrator was to not continue with BlueStar. Alicia questioned if we would still keep him on for audit and preaudit Board did agree to budget for him next year for consulting and audit purposes. Elizabeth questioned having him review the books quartile bases. Board discussed Alicia hours worked and what is needed for help, administrator more hours, front help, temporary help. Help may be continuing with BlueStar for now. Board agreed as long as we are decreasing the needs, which we are, board is happy, and willing to continue.
- 7. SIGN WARRANTS Warrants #45 & #46 Elizabeth motioned to sign Warrants #45 and #46. Butch second, 3-0.

- 8. EXECUTIVE SESSION Pursuant to 1M.R.S. § 405(6)(A) to discuss interviews and personnel matters *Elizabeth motioned to enter into executive session to discuss personnel matters at 7:59pm. Butch second, 3-0. Elizabeth motioned to come out of executive session at 8:28pm. Butch second, 3-0.*
- 9. ADJOURNMENT Elizabeth motioned to adjourn at 8:28pm. Butch second, 3-0.