



**Norridgewock Select Board
Meeting Minutes
February 7, 2024
6:00 PM
Conference Room, Norridgewock Town Office**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Matthew Everett, Chair
Kelsea Bickford
Ronnie Blodgett
Dylan Wentworth

STAFF PRESENT

Richard LaBelle, Town Manager
Peter Lyman, Bookkeeper

MEMBERS ABSENT

Lindsey Lynch, Vice Chair

Also present for all or parts of the meeting was Matt Libby (Financial Advisor, Choice Wealth Advisors).

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mr. Everett.

2. Pledge to the Flag

3. Presentation/Financial Update by Matt Libby of Choice Wealth Advisors

Mr. Libby provided the Board with an update on the status of the Town's current investments managed by his firm. He presented a Portfolio Position document, which showed the Town's position as of December 31, 2023. There was discussion regarding economic conditions, especially inflation and interest rates. The recession predicted for 2023 was avoided; however, there are market indications that a mild recession is likely for 2024.

4. Review/Approve Minutes of January 17, 2024

Mr. Blodgett made a MOTION to approve the minutes of January 17, 2024. Seconded by Mr. Wentworth. MOTION PASSED.

5. Member Reports

Mr. Blodgett inquired about the intersection at Routes 2 and 201-A and noted safety concerns. The light timing is off, inadequate signage, and the road isn't striped to delineate between the thru-lane and turning lane.

Mr. Blodgett also discussed the FEMA Relief trailer parked at Somerset County's EMA building. This trailer allows people impacted by the December 18 storm to seek public assistance.

6. Town Manager's Report

See Attached.

7. Discussion/Action on February 7, 2024 General Warrant 2024-02

Mr. Wentworth made a MOTION to approve and sign General Warrant 2024-02 in the amount of \$122,065.91. Seconded by Mr. Blodgett. MOTION PASSED.

8. Public Comment

None.

9. Public Hearing on Proposed Amendments to the Town of Norridgewock Sewer Use Ordinance

Mr. Everett opened the public hearing at 6:29 PM.

Mr. LaBelle provided a brief overview of the proposed changes to the ordinance. Primarily, the proposed amendments aim to convert all of the commissioner's seats to staggered three-year terms. There are also grammatical and formatting adjustments proposed.

Mr. Everett closed the public hearing at 6:30 PM.

10. Discussion/Action on Appropriation of Grant Funds

The Board discussed the opportunities for the funds and whether the funds should be retained by the Town for future disaster relief or distributed to individuals. Mr. Everett stated that he supports the Town retaining the funds as it would be difficult to distribute funds to claimants equitably. Mr. Blodgett stated that he spoke with County Emergency Management officials who said the funds were intended for the Town and that individuals should seek assistance through the trailer at the EMA Building in Skowhegan.

Ms. Bickford stated that she believes the funds should be targeted at more immediate needs and that gaps exist for individuals. She states opposition to the Town retaining the funds.

Ms. Bickford made a MOTION to table action on this item. Seconded by Mr. Wentworth. MOTION FAILED, 3-1 (Bickford in favor; Everett, Blodgett, Wentworth opposed).

Mr. Wentworth made a MOTION to appropriate the \$20,000 grant from Somerset County to the Emergency Management account to support future disaster relief efforts. Seconded by Mr. Blodgett. MOTION PASSED, 3-1 (Everett, Blodgett, Wentworth in favor; Bickford opposed).

11. Discussion/Action on TIF Committee Recommendation

Mr. Wentworth made a MOTION to accept the TIF Advisory Committee's recommendation and award a matching grant in the amount of \$7,500.00 to the Norridgewock Sportsmen Association for the installation of trail signage, kiosks, etc., as presented. Seconded by Ms. Bickford. MOTION PASSED.

12. Discussion/Action on Donations

Mr. Wentworth made a MOTION to accept donations from New Balance in the amount of \$4,000.00 for Recreation, \$1,000.00 for Oosoola Days, and \$1,000.00 for the Norridgewock Community Christmas Program. Seconded by Mr. Blodgett. MOTION PASSED.

13. Discussion/Action on Appointments

Ms. Bickford made a MOTION to appoint Linda Quimby to the TIF Advisory Committee for a term to expire April 2026. Seconded by Mr. Wentworth. MOTION PASSED, 3-1 (Bickford, Blodgett, Wentworth in favor; none opposes; Everett abstained).

14. Discussion/Action on Downtown Pedestrian/Sidewalk Upgrade Project

Mr. LaBelle discussed the project as presented to him by the Maine Department of Transportation. The project is for sidewalk and lighting enhancements. There are significant incremental costs associated with the project that stem from the upgrade of decorative lighting (and the addition of lamps up Main Street to Perkins Street), as well as the extension of the sidewalk to Ferry Road (Oosoola Park).

Mr. Blodgett made a MOTION to authorize the Town Manager to proceed with project plans, as proposed by the State of Maine. Seconded by Mr. Wentworth. MOTION PASSED.

15. Discussion/Action on Uncollectable Personal Property Taxes

Mr. Wentworth made a MOTION to write off personal property taxes committed to The Maine Fudgery & Candy for 2018 and 2019 in a total amount of \$85.89. Seconded by Ms. Bickford. MOTION PASSED.

16. Other Business

Mr. Blodgett made a MOTION to add *Discussion/Action on Release of Tax Acquired Property* to the agenda. Seconded by Mr. Wentworth. MOTION PASSED.

Mr. Wentworth made a MOTION to approve and sign a quitclaim deed releasing the Town's tax-acquired interest in property located at 132 Skowhegan Road (Map 20, Lot 44) to Gregory P. Savard and Barbara L. Savard. Seconded by Mr. Blodgett. MOTION PASSED.

Note: The grantees are the parties from whom the property was taken, and the property was released after the grantees paid all back taxes, interest, and fees.

Mr. Wentworth made a MOTION to add *Discussion/Action on Letter of Recognition* to the agenda. Seconded by Mr. Blodgett. MOTION PASSED.

Mr. Wentworth made a MOTION to approve and sign a letter of recognition and condolence to the family of Mr. Joseph Poirier, a benefactor of the Town's Community Food Access fund. Seconded by Ms. Bickford. MOTION PASSED.

Mr. Wentworth made a MOTION to add *Discussion/Action on Power Line Maintenance Responsibility*. Seconded by Ms. Bickford. MOTION PASSED.

Mr. Wentworth made a MOTION to authorize the expense of the CIAC tax associated with Central Maine Power, assuming responsibility for power line maintenance at Ashley J. Wing Family Memorial Park (estimated at \$933.27). Seconded by Mr. Blodgett. MOTION PASSED.

17. Adjournment

Mr. Blodgett made a MOTION to adjourn at 7:13 PM. Seconded by Mr. Wentworth. MOTION PASSED.