

Town of Amherst Maine

Selectman Meeting

August 21, 2024 6:00 PM | Meeting called to order by Westley Ellington

In Attendance

Phil Deckers, Crystal Butterfield, Wes Ellington

Approval of Previous Month's Minutes

The Selectboard voted 3 to 0 the previous month's minutes

Approval of Warrant

The selectboard voted 3 to 0 the current warrant

Roads

- Winter sand bill still outstanding. Need to get from Herbert Jordan.
- Frank Chick will be mowing town roads
- A committee will be formed in conjunction w/ Aurora for road patching
- The culvert on the MacDonald Rd. needs to be replaced
- 118 Smith Rd notified of wash out at driveway. This section will be graded.

School

- Enrollment numbers - Wes to reach out to School Board

Town Office

- Received 2022 Audit from Wadman's; Need to follow up on deficiencies
- Selectman signed Excise Tax Collection agreement
- Wes posted HC Commissioners Caucus Warrant
- ~~Received 20~~
- Deanne and Karen are compiling documents and getting to Wadman's

Correspondence

- Meeting minutes to Wadman's for 2023 audit
- The money from the cemetery accounts was moved from Bangor Savings to Machias Savings
- An issue was raised on 006-080 for raw sewage
 - Code Enforcement performed an inspection and found no issues

Other Business

- Update on trash contracts
- Wes to create Annual Town Report and Warrant

- Motion made to adjourn meeting at 7:40 PM

◦ Vote Passed 3-0

Next Meeting

August 11, 2024 at 6:00 PM; Amherst Town Hall

Town of Amherst Maine

Selectman Meeting

October 22, 2024 @ 6:00 PM | Meeting called to order by Westley Ellington

In Attendance

Phil Deckers, Crystal Butterfield, Wes Ellington

Approval of Previous Month's Minutes

The Selectboard voted 3 to 0 the previous month's minutes

Approval of Warrant

The selectboard voted 3 to 0 the current warrant

Roads

- Town residents have brought up speeding through town on Rt. 181
 - Crystal Butterfield is going to attempt to re-program the sign to 45 mph
 - If we can get it re-programmed we will put it on Rt. 181

School

- It was requested that the annual ~~town~~ meeting date/time be posted for Town Residents
 - Phil will discuss with Thomas Deckers

Town Office

- Wes has annual commitment info compiled for Assessor.
 - Will send to Mark Gibson
- The Selectboard voted 3-0 to use 2024 auto excise for "Other Revenues" in 2025 commitment
- Crystal is going to verify Town Savings available from Karen

Correspondence

- * Audit: Wes provided response to Karen informing her that \$13,587.40 of S L F R F funds were allocated to offset increased costs due to Covid.
 - Wes needs to send Selectboard Minutes for fiscal year 2023
 - These should be online and just need to be forwarded.
- * Town Selectboard signed the supplementary assessment to Thomas Keister in regard to account 11 mpg 4, Lot 12 in the amount of \$500.00 for failure to submit a transfer recertification Tree Growth application

Other Business

- Wee to send an email to MMA Legal regarding verbiage for a Maine Food Sovereignty Act ordinance.
 - Once we get to an ordinance that the Selectboard is comfortable recommending a special town meeting will be held
- Union River Solid Waste Management District meeting, will be held at Osborne Community Center on October 30th @ 6:00PM
 - Town Selectboard will be in attendance
 - The URSWMD, has been meeting with vendors to discuss contracts moving forward
- Motion made to adjourn meeting at
 - Selectboard voted to adjourn @ 7:06 PM

Next Meeting

November 13 at 6:00 PM; Amherst Town Hall

Town of Amherst Maine
Selectman Meeting

December 18, 2024 @ 6:00 PM | Meeting called to order by Westley Ellington

In Attendance

~~Phil Deckers~~, Crystal Butterfield, Wes Ellington

Approval of Previous Month's Minutes

The Selectboard voted 2 to 0 the previous month's minutes

Approval of Warrant

The selectboard voted 2 to 0 the current warrant

Roads

- The Selectboard needs create for 2025 road repairs
- Discuss 2024 Plow Contract with Herbert Jordan

School

- Wes Ellington to record School Board attendance record from Superintendent's Office

Town Office

- Karen Bridges (Town Treasurer) reported that as of 10/24/24 the Town Savings and Checking Accounts equal \$12,421.¹⁰
 - This is approximately \$100,000 from this time three years ago
 - Town Selectboard to research and discuss upgrade or investment opportunities
- Wes Ellington has requested support with language for an ordinance regarding "Right to Food" Amendment in the state of Maine

Correspondence

Other Business

- ARPA Funds are closing and final reporting is due by December 31, 2024.
- Wes Ellington to contact Deb Palmour regarding Planning Board attendance
- Finalizing Domestic Waste Contract with Cassela
 - Once finalized we (the selectboard) need to communicate new rules and requirements of pick up
- The selectboard voted ~~2-0~~ 3-0 to update the Town Maps
- The selectboard will consider and discuss a frequency for updating maps moving forward

- Motion made to adjourn meeting at 6:48 PM
 - Motion Passed 2-0

Next Meeting

January 15, 25 at 6:00 PM; Amherst Town Hall

Town of Amherst Maine

Selectman Meeting

January 14, 2025 @ 6:00 PM | Meeting called to order by Westley Ellington

In Attendance

Phil Deckers, Crystal Butterfield, Wes Ellington

Approval of Previous Month's Minutes

The Selectboard voted 3 to 0 the previous month's minutes

Approval of Warrant

The selectboard voted 3 to 0 the current warrant

Roads

- The Selectboard discussed the need for above normal road repairs during the summer of 2025.
- The Selectboard needs to define scope of work and solicit multiple bids.
- Currently the Selectboard is not certain where our "Banked" LRAP funds are.
- We need to understand how much we have.
- What constitutes Capital Investment or Improvement

School

- No discussions on the school

Town Office

- The Selectboard would like to thank and acknowledge Ron Storace for his donation of new lights in the Town Meeting Room.
- Received Worker's Compensation Certificate from Maine Municipal Association
- We need to begin investigating plow pricing and contracts for fiscal year 2025.
- * Herbert Jordan will not be contracting the town's plowing after this year.

Correspondence

- Food Sovereignty Ordinance Discussion
 - The Selectboard held a discussion around the language provided by MMA along with advice given.
 - The Selectboard voted 3-0 to re-open discussions at the next Selectboard meeting. This will give the Selectboard more time to review and perform any additional research needed.

Other Business

- Waste Contract Discussion

- Goes into effect February 3, 2025
- Pick up on Monday now
- Starting in Amherst Snow, so trash will need to be out early
- Household trash only
- ★ Awaiting a monthly cost for Amherst yet
- Total contract for 2025 is \$104,000.00
- Selectboard needs to find out when Karen Bridges will be leaving for winter

- Motion made to adjourn meeting at 4:30 PM
 - Motion passed 3-0

Next Meeting

February 19, 25 at 6:00 PM; Amherst Town Hall

Town of Amherst Maine
Selectman Meeting

March 13, 2025 6:00 PM | Meeting called to order by Westley Ellington

In Attendance

Phil Deckers, Crystal Butterfield, Wes Ellington

Approval of Previous Month's Minutes

The Selectboard voted to approve the previous month's minutes

Approval of Warrant

The selectboard voted to approve the current warrant

Roads

- There ~~are~~ is \$95,888 of LRAP Funds in our accounts.
- We need to come up with a plan to repair town roads using LRAP
- We need to take bids on snow plowing

School

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Town Office

- Kim Stephenson would be interested in leading a group to restore the Town Hall
- The Selectboard will move forward with a hearing and a vote on Food Sovereignty ordinance in April, Selectboard to post state

Correspondence

- Steve Jordan sent a letter saying that the monthly trash bill will go to \$4687.00 in July
- Phil to talk w/ Steve about increase

Other Business

- Union River Ice out on March 13, 2025
- Motion made to adjourn meeting at 6:42 PM
- o Passed/Failed 2 - 0

Next Meeting

at PM; Amherst Town Hall

- Roads were posted on March 10, 2025
- Tentatively removing on May 5th, 2025
- Signs came from White Signs, expect bill
- Flags will be inventoried on Tuesday, March 18th, 2025

Town of Amherst Maine
Selectman Meeting

Wednesday April 16th @ 6:00 PM | Meeting called to order by Westley Ellington

In Attendance

✓ Phil Deckers, ✓ Crystal Butterfield, ✓ Wes Ellington

Approval of Previous Month's Minutes

The Selectboard voted 3-0 to approve the previous month's minutes

Approval of Warrant

The selectboard voted 3-0 to approve the current warrant

Roads

- Road Postings are tentatively planned to be taken down May 5th, may be sooner
- Best proposal for Town Road repairs is \$3,500
- Selectboard will hold Special Town Meeting on May 7th to vote on funding
- The Town enrolled in local salt bid program on April 5, 2025 for next winter

School

- Annual Budget Meeting to be held on May 28th
- Selectboard is requesting School Board member attend May Selectboard Meeting for update

Town Office

- The Select Board votes 3-0 to move forward with a Special Town Meeting to discuss and vote on Proposed Town Food Sovereignty Ordinance, May 7th
- The Selectboard has been advised to hold off ~~at~~ on sales of tax acquired property until the most recent laws have been sorted.

Correspondence

- Galen Cole Foundation's Annual Flag Match Program (Town to purchase \$20)

Other Business

- The Select Board discussed the need of soliciting Town Plowing bids for next year
- The Selectboard will recommend a minimum of a 3 year contract
- To post for bid the Plow Contract in two physical, Town Website, and Town Facebook
- Motion made to adjourn meeting at 7:03 PM
- o Passed/Failed 3 - 0

Next Meeting

May 14, 2025 at 6:00 PM; Amherst Town Hall

Town of Amherst Maine

Selectman Meeting

May 21, 2025 6:00 PM | Meeting called to order by Westley Ellington

In Attendance

✓ Phil Deckers, Crystal Butterfield, ✓ Wes Ellington

Approval of Previous Month's Minutes

The Selectboard voted 2 to 0 the previous month's minutes

Approval of Warrant

The selectboard voted 2 to 0 the current warrant

Roads

- Snow plow bid opportunities were discussed, but a date has not been set yet for formal bid postings. The selectboard finalizes the posting verbiage within the next week or so. The town will provide sand and salt, proof of insurance is required, need road ~~miles~~ mileage.

School

- School budget meeting is May 28th, 2025 at 6:30 PM.

Town Office

- Rebecca Albright has requested a change of annual pay to \$5,000.00 per year for services as LEO and CEO. Phil Deckers will reach out to discuss with her that this will have to be voted on at the town meeting in September.
- The Selectboard voted 3-0 (Crystal Butterfield by phone) to adopt a town policy suspending any non-town copies or faxes due liabilities incurred by the town. The policy is attached.

Correspondence

- Downeast Community Partners has requested \$1,926.70 to cover 5% of what they claim residents of the Town of Amherst have used in the last year. The selectboard will table this discussion until next month's meeting when all members are in attendance.
- The Mariaville food kitchen is requesting \$500.00 to help offset the cost of food being used by residents of the Town of Amherst. The selectboard will table this discussion until next month's meeting when all members are in attendance.

Other Business

- Wesley Ellington submitted a formal letter informing the town that he would not accept a nomination to the Selectboard at the Annual Town Meeting in September.

• Motion made to adjourn meeting at 7:15 PM

◦ Voted 3-0

Next Meeting

June 28, 2025 at 6:00 PM; Amherst Town Hall

NOTICE

The Selectboard has voted 3-0 due to concerns of liability to the Town of Amherst that photocopying or faxing anything not related directly to town business will no longer be permitted. This policy goes into effect immediately upon the vote by the Selectboard which is May 21, 2025.

For questions related to this administrative policy please do not hesitate to contact your Selectboard Members.

Town of Amherst Maine
Selectman Meeting

June 18, 2025 @ 6:00 PM | Meeting called to order by Westley Ellington

In Attendance

✓ Phil Deckers, ✓ Crystal Butterfield, ✓ Wes Ellington

Approval of Previous Month's Minutes

The Selectboard voted 3 to 0 the previous month's minutes

Approval of Warrant

The selectboard voted 3 to 0 the current warrant

Roads

- Nick Boulli was in attendance to discuss a new road sign needed for the new subdivision being built on Rt 131
 - we need to follow up w/ Deb Palmer on next steps
 - Road association is to be established
 - Once we have approval from the Planning Board the town will procure the sign from White Signs
 - Discussed w/ Deb in person and approved for purchase. Phil to order. ^{Harmony Lane}

School

- Airlins Community School budget passed on May 28th, 2025.
 - The new budget represents an increase for the town of Amherst of ~~\$16,439.30~~ from \$272,984.35 to \$289,425.65.
\$16,439.30

Town Office

- Phil Deckers spoke w/ Rebecca Albright on annual salary increase and that it would require a vote at the annual town meeting.
 - Rebecca was good to wait on vote.
- Town completed fiscal year 2025 1.25% under allocation

Correspondence

- Received Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Audit back from Wadman's
 - The Select Board has reviewed. No disagreements or compliance issues noted.
- Received data request for information pertaining to the 2025 Fiscal audit
 - Crystal Butterfield has sent that request to parties with that information
- The Select Board received a request for reimbursement of tire from resident who damaged due to roadwork.
 - Crystal has corresponded w/ Maine Municipal for guidance and insurance
 - awaiting follow up.

Other Business

- Deb Palmer was in attendance to discuss the updated ordinance, which they are proposing for town vote at the annual town meeting. This ordinance is specific to Accessory Dwelling Units.
 - Motion made to add a public hearing session and vote to update the Land Use Ordinance as written.
 - Vote passed 3-0
 - Was to publish the proposed changes on town website for review by town
- Deb Palmer will be writing a forestry grant (for 50% reimbursement) to bridge Herbert Jordan's pond and upgrade the associated dry hydrant.
 - The town needs to consider increasing water capacity for fire protection.
 - The grant is for 50% reimbursement up to \$2,000.00
- Motion made to adjourn meeting at 7:12 PM
 - 3-0 Passed

Next Meeting

July 16th, 2025 at 6:00 PM; Amherst Town Hall

Road Cont...

- Need to re-mount sign for Diversion Lane
- Phil is working to complete agreement with salt contract for upcoming year.
- The Select Board will post a notice for bid for annual snow plowing.
 - Post at Town Office, Post at General Store, Post on Facebook, Post on Website
 - Crystal to write posting once mileage received from Phil
 - Bids due by July 15th, 2025

Correspondence Cont...

- Received Plumbing Permit and check from Yael Calhoun which has no amount of payment.
 - Was to ask Karen to follow up to determine path forward.
- Motion made not to provide funding to Downeast Community Partners
 - Voted 3-0 not to fund
- Motion to add an Article to annual town warrant to request \$500 to support the Mariaville Food Kitchen
 - Voted 3-0 to add article to warrant