

Loring Development Authority of Maine
Board Meeting Minutes
August 30, 2023
154 Development Drive, Suite F
Loring Commerce Centre, Limestone, Maine

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Jeremy Fischer at 9:30 a.m.

LDA Board Members participating by online conference: Jeremy Fischer, Patrick Paradis, Lee Umphrey, Lynn Bromley, Tim Crowley, Kristine Logan, Suzie Paradis, Joe Sleeper, Kris Doody, Galen Weibley, Denise Garland, Ben Shaw, and Grace O'Neal.

LDA Board Members absent: None.

Others participating: Melissa Lizotte, Aroostook Republican; Corey Bouchard, WAGM; Steve Levesque, SHL Enterprise Solutions; Tony Levesque, Ft. Fairfield; Roger Felix, Loring Job Corps; Kristie Moir, Loring Job Corps; Alan Mulherin, Town of Limestone; Paul Towle, Aroostook Partnership; Bill Dobbs, Limestone Schools; Chris Durepo, Town of Limestone; Donna Perrault, DFAS; Reginald Bosse; DFAS; Trisha House, Senator Collins' office.

LDA staff participating by online conference: Carl Flora, Jon Judkins.

2. Identification of board members and others

Board member attendance was taken.

3. Minutes of Meetings of April 19 and May 24, 2023.

MOTION: Motion was made by Tim Crowley and seconded by Lee Umphrey to accept the minutes of the June 21 and July 17, 2023 meetings as presented.

VOTE: Motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

4. Budget Status. Mr. Flora indicated that Jonathon Judkins, LDA's new Finance Director, had been working with Donna to revise the budget to account for recent changes in the revenue and expense lines and to reflect adjustments in staffing and contracting with outside third-parties such as the Maine Rural Water Association. A Finance Committee meeting will be organized to review the budget and make a recommendation to the full board. The annual audit is also in full swing and will need to be approved for inclusion in the State's audited financial statements in October.

5. Green 4 Maine (G4M) progress and update.

Mr. Flora stated that G4M appears to be making good progress. We're aware of some recent leases that have been finalized and others that are still in negotiations. The Synergen Solar project is now on-line and the construction of the Bob Cleaves (BD Solar) project is well underway. Steve Levesque provided details of a recently-released Loring Newsletter and mentioned the open house hosted by G4M on July 1 which was well-attended including a number of pilots who were able to land their aircraft. DG Fuels continues to progress with attention now turned to the Maine project as the Louisiana project is now moving forward. Steve mentioned the Airport Master Planning process which is now underway and will develop a business case for the airport's financial sustainability.

6. Drinking Water Status.

Mr. Flora stated that LDA had engaged Maine Rural Water Association (MRWA) to operate our water system. The current system requires a Class 4 operator because of the complexity of the treatment process. The longer-term goal is to conduct a feasibility analysis of a potential interconnect with the Limestone Water and Sewer District, and assuming there is good potential, to build a line bringing water from LWSD's well field to Loring. The treatment issues will be greatly reduced as a result and we will be able to mothball the current plant to be used in the event we attract a large volume water user. It appears there is infrastructure funding to accomplish such a project. Patt Paradis stated that he had had some positive dealings with Kirsten Hebert (Executive Director of MRWA) in Augusta and hoped that she would be available to discuss water issues with the board at a future meeting.

7. Fire Protection Status

Mr. Flora and the board discussed the Town's 14 – day notice that fire services would be terminated. The Town has issued a number of conditions it would like to see addressed if fire services are to continue. They revolve around payments for past services, and an increase in a PILOT payment going forward. Concerns were also raised about the condition of some buildings on Manser Drive and road conditions impeding emergency vehicles. A meeting of the Town Select Board is scheduled for August 31 to consider the issue.

8. Personnel and contracting.

Mr. Flora reviewed the current staffing of the LDA and stated that a job search was underway to replace the Facilities Manager position. At present, Jon Judkins is the only full-time employee of the LDA. Donna Sturzl and Carl Flora are casual, part time employees. Jason Dionne has handled some of the field operations previously carried out by Neal Haines and other staff.

9. Public Comment and Media Question and Answer

A question was asked whether LDA had discussed fire services with any other communities and Mr. Flora said that LDA had reached out to Caribou.

Other comments were received concerning the federal entities which do not pay taxes or pay for fire services but receive the benefit of those services in the communities they occupy. One noted that the address for Loring locations was Limestone, Maine.

MOTION: Motion was made by Pat Paradis and seconded by Kristine Logan to enter into Executive Session for confidential discussions concerning personnel, economic development and real estate matters pursuant to Title 1 M.R.S.A. Section 405 Subparagraphs 6.A. and 6.C.

VOTE: Motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

Executive Session followed.

Return from Executive Session.

7. Adjourn

There being no further business before the board, the meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 12:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,


Kris Doody
Secretary