



## Town Council - Meeting Agenda

November 18, 2025 @ 6:30pm  
Council Chambers - 1 Portland Avenue

[www.oobmaine.com/town-council](http://www.oobmaine.com/town-council)

*\*Members of the public wishing to view the meeting from home may tune into Local Access TV (Channel 3 or 1301 - check with your provider) or by clicking the Meeting Videos link on oobmaine.com.)*

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

### **ROLL CALL:**

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:**

Fire Department – Chief Gilboy – Captain Michael Baker and Lieutenant Nicki Tarbell Promotion Pinning, swearing in of Liam Callahan, Christopher DuMais, Anthony Weems, Henry Janosick and Kevin Giesow.

### **GOOD & WELFARE:**

### **PRESENTATION:**

### **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:**

Accept the minutes from the 10/21/2025 Regular Town Council Meeting.

Chair: Shawn O'Neill

**PUBLIC HEARING – LIQUOR LICENSE & APPROVALS:**

23 Washington LLC, The Local, OOB, (309-1-5), 23 Washington Avenue, m-s-v  
in a restaurant.

Chair: Shawn O’Neill

## **PUBLIC HEARING – BUSINESS LICENSE & APPROVALS:**

23 Washington, LLC, Aaron Gregory, The Local, OOB, (309-1-5), 23 Washington Avenue, victualers with prep and alcohol.

Anne Paterson, (323-9-5), 31 Temple Avenue, one (1) seasonal short-term rental.

Joel French, (303-2-1-9), 1 Saunders Avenue #9, one (1) year-round rental.

Mischelle McCormick, (210-2-53-2), 16 Smithwheel Road #2, one (1) year-round short-term rental.

CSI Associates, LLC, Meagan Achenbach, (205-7-9), 10 Imperial Street, two (2) year-round rentals.

Anne and David Marchant, (108-1-6-37), 131 Temple Avenue #37, one (1) year-round rental.

Karen Perriello, (310-6-1-52), 39 West Grand Avenue #52, one (1) year-round short-term rental.

Gregory Damon, (312-6-3), 28 Fern Avenue, one (1) year-round short-term rental.

George R. Cunningham, (316-4-1-2C), 1 Seacliff Avenue #2C, one (1) year-round rental.

Miguel Macosso, (403-4-17), 15 Poplar Street, one (1) year-round rental.

Robert Linardy, (206-11-11), 10 Fern Park Avenue, two (2) year-round rentals.

Katheryn and Scott Gibbons, (208-1-9-26), 23 Trinity Way, one (1) year-round short-term rental.

Maureen O. Duca, (305-4-1-401), 1 Cleaves Street #401, one (1) year-round short-term rental.

Fina Klein, Gratitude Massage and Wellness, C. Rose Wellness, (107-3-1-G1), 1 Granny Smith Court, massage therapist.

Ragged Edge LLC, Joseph Rosseau, Crosswinds Motel, (303-4-7), fourteen (14) year-round rentals.

Eternitas LLC, Centurion Property Management, (211-4-11), 137 Temple Avenue, thirty-two (32) year-round rentals.

Chair: Shawn O'Neill

# TOWN MANAGER REPORT

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**AGENDA ITEM #8891**

**Discussion with Action:** Approve the quote from AAA Police Supply in the amount of \$10,570.00 for the purchase of ammunition and simunitions for the Police Department from account #20131-50501 Police Operating Supplies with a balance of \$37,565.60.

Chair: Shawn O'Neill

# AAA Police Supply

940 Providence Highway  
 Dedham, MA 02026  
 P: (781) 326-8845  
 F: (781) 326-3963  
 E: aaapolicesupply@gmail.com



## Ammunition Order Form

Order Date:	
Agency:	OLD ORCHARD BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT
Address:	16 E. EMERSON CUMMINGS BLVD
	OLD ORCHARD BEACH, ME 04064
Contact:	OFC. WILLIAM WATSON
Work Phone:	207-934-4911
Cell Phone:	207-671-4187
Email Address:	WWATSON@OOBMAINE.COM
Purchase Order #:	

QTY:	Part Number	Description	Price	Extension
2	53619	SPEER GOLDDOT 147 GRN	407.00	814.00
13	AE9FP	FEDERAL 147 GRN FMJ	240.00	3120.00
2	T223T	FEDERAL 55 GRN BLUE TIP	425.00	850.00
14	AE223	FEDERAL 55 GRN FMJ	220.00	3080.00
4	LE13200	FEDERAL TACTICAL 00 BUCK	187.00	748.00
6	LE127RS	FEDERAL TACTICAL 1 OZ SLUG	193.00	1158.00
1	532077X	9MM FX TRAINING	358.00	358.00
1	5360149	.223 FX TRAINING	442.00	442.00
			<i>Total of Order:</i>	10570.00

<b>Ammunition Must be Delivered By:</b>	/	/
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<b>Notes:</b>	
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Please be sure the Exemption Certificate is completed properly.  
 Fill out the TOP section only and STOP at Statement of Ultimate Vendor.  
 Leave the bottom portion blank.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY  
ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO TAX AND TRADE BUREAU

**EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE (USE BY STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS)**  
(For use by State and local governments (section 4221(a)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code).)

(DATE) 10 / 28 / 2025 I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT I AM (TITLE OF OFFICER) CHIEF  
OF (STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT) OLD ORCHARD BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT; THAT I AM  
AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE THIS CERTIFICATE; AND THAT THE ARTICLE OR ARTICLES SPECIFIED BELOW ARE BEING PURCHASED FROM  
(AAA POLICE SUPPLY WILL CIRCLE ONE MANUFACTURER BELOW) FOR THE EXCLUSIVE USE OF:  
(GOVERNMENTAL UNIT) OLD ORCHARD BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT  
OF (STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT) TOWN OF OLDORCHARD BEACH, STATE OF MAINE

I UNDERSTAND THAT THE EXEMPTION FROM TAX IN THE CASE OF SALES OF ARTICLES UNDER THIS EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE TO A STATE, ETC., IS LIMITED TO THE SALE OF ARTICLES PURCHASED FOR ITS EXCLUSIVE USE\*. I UNDERSTAND THAT THE FRAUDULENT USE OF THIS CERTIFICATE FOR THE PURPOSE OF SECURING THIS EXEMPTION WILL SUBJECT ME AND ALL PARTIES MAKING SUCH FRAUDULENT USE OF THIS CERTIFICATE TO ALL APPLICABLE CRIMINAL PENALTIES UNDER THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE.

(SIGNATURE) \_\_\_\_\_ (PRINTED NAME) ELISE CHARD  
(ADDRESS) 16 E. EMERSON CUMMINGS BLVD. OLD ORCHARD BEACH, ME 04064

\* A SALE OF AN ARTICLE TO A STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT FOR RESALE IS NOT CONSIDERED TO BE A SALE FOR THE "EXCLUSIVE USE" OF THE STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT, WITHIN THE MEANING OF SECTION 4221(A)(4) OF THE CODE, AND, THEREFORE, SUCH SALES MAY NOT BE MADE TAX-FREE. SUCH SALES MAY NOT BE MADE TAX-FREE EVEN IF THE REALES ARE MADE TO GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, OR THE ARTICLE IS AN ITEM OF EQUIPMENT THE EMPLOYEE IS REQUIRED TO POSSESS IN CARRYING OUT HIS DUTIES.

**STATEMENT OF ULTIMATE VENDOR**

**(THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY AAA POLICE SUPPLY ONLY)**

AAA POLICE SUPPLY - 940 PROVIDENCE HIGHWAY - DEDHAM, MA 02026 OF WHICH THE UNDERSIGNED IS A SALESPERSON, IS THE ULTIMATE VENDOR OF THE ARTICLES SPECIFIED BELOW. THE ARTICLES WERE PURCHASED BY THE ULTIMATE VENDOR TAX-PAID AND WERE THEREAFTER RESOLD TO THE AGENCY ABOVE FOR THE PURPOSE OF FIREARMS TRAINING AND NOT FOR RESALE. THE EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE (1) IS RETAINED BY THE ULTIMATE VENDOR, (2) WILL, UPON REQUEST, BE FORWARDED TO THE MANUFACTURER CIRCLED BELOW AT ANY TIME WITHIN 3 YEARS FROM THE DATE OF THIS STATEMENT FOR USE BY THAT MANUFACTURER TO ESTABLISH THAT CREDIT OR REFUND IS DUE IN RESPECT OF THE ARTICLE, AND (3) WILL OTHERWISE BE HELD BY THE ULTIMATE VENDOR FOR THE REQUIRED 3-YEAR PERIOD. ACCORDING TO THE BEST KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF OF THE UNDERSIGNED, NO STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF THE EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN EXECUTED, AND THE UNDERSIGNED UNDERSTANDS THAT THE FRAUDULENT USE OF THIS STATEMENT MAY SUBJECT THE UNDERSIGNED OR ANY OTHER PARTY MAKING SUCH FRAUDULENT USE TO ALL APPLICABLE CRIMINAL PENALTIES UNDER THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE.

(SIGN) \_\_\_\_\_ (PRINT) \_\_\_\_\_ (DATE) \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

FEDERAL  
(THE KINETIC GROUP  
SALES LLC)

HORNADY MFG CO

CCI/SPEER  
FEDERAL  
(THE KINETIC GROUP  
SALES LLC)

SIMUMITION  
(GD-OTS)

INTERNATIONAL

ALS  
(PACEM)

# OF CASES	ITEM #	INVOICE DATE	INVOICE #
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## AGENDA ITEM #8892

**Discussion with Action:** Approve the quote from JWC Environmental for the purchase of a Wastewater grinder in the amount of \$13,759.22 from account #30181-50551 Sewer Reserve Fund Operating Equipment Expense with a balance of \$1,075,168.72.

Chair: Shawn O'Neill

Council Information

Department: Wastewater

Meeting date: November 18, 2025

Subject: Replacement grinder for the primary sludge holding tank

Commentary: This grinder is in place to protect the dewatering equipment. The existing grinder is approximately ten years old and is showing signs of wear. Since it was not included in the project the department would like to replace it.

Recommendation: Approve proposal from JWC Environmental for \$13,759.22.

**Discussion with action: Diana will need to give you the sewer connection fee account and balance.**

Respectively submitted by,

Christopher White

Wastewater Superintendent



Customer Service Center  
 2600 S. Garnsey Street  
 Santa Ana, CA 92707 USA  
 Phone: 949 833-3888  
 Toll Free: 800 331-2277  
 Fax: 714 242-0240

**Customer:** 5035256

Old Orchard Beach WW.T.P.  
 1 Portland Avenue  
 Old Beach, ME 04064  
 US - UNITED STATES

207-934-4416

**Quote Number:** C-123490-D0C9-B

**Quote Date:** 10/24/2025

**Terms:** Net 30

**Pricing:** Valid 60 Days

**FOB:** Origin

**Lead Time:** 4-5 Weeks ARO / Shipping & Handling Included

**Grinder Serial #:** S001916-GA-2-1

**Ticket #:** C-123490-D0C9

**Project:** Old Orchard Beach WW.T.P.

We thank you for your inquiry and are pleased to quote pricing and delivery on the equipment listed below. This quotation is subject to terms and conditions listed on the JWC Environmental "Terms and Conditions" page, and in Clarifications and Exclusions listed below.

Part Number	Description	Qty	Unit Price	Extended Price
EVAL_CA	30004-0012 S001916-GA-2-1	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
30004T-1200	30004T-1200 Muffin Monster Upgrade 11T Cam Cutters 1:1 Stack Hardened Alloy STL Seals: Standard Buna N Elastomers Cork & Rubber Gaskets Motor Type: Electric Less Motor Less Reducer New Spool Less 6" Unibody Housing Grinder SN: TBD Paint Epoxy Green	1	\$13,759.22	\$13,759.22
A34827-DI	UNIBODY BASE COVER ASSY Paint: Epoxy Green	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
MANUALS	O&M MANUALS ***Include with Equipment***	2	\$0.00	\$0.00
Shipping	Shipping & Handling Included	1	\$0.00	\$0.00

*Please verify serial number is correct.*

**Sub Total** \$13,759.22  
**Tax**  
**Total** \$13,759.22

**Notes:**



Customer Service Center  
2600 S. Garnsey Street  
Santa Ana, CA 92707 USA  
Phone: 949 833-3888  
Toll Free: 800 331-2277  
Fax: 714 242-0240

1. Please fax or mail a Purchase Order for the total amount and we can process your order. Please include the following:  
Bill to Address, Ship to Address, and sales tax exemption certificate.
2. Reference the JWC quote number on your purchase order..
3. Availability of parts are subject to change at any time.
4. 20% restocking fee on all returns.
5. Sales tax is not included in price.
6. JWCE standard one year warranty included except for older models i.e. GTS, MS and SPF models.
7. Subject to attached JWC Environmental Standard Terms and Conditions of Sale.

**Clarifications and Exceptions**

1. Subject to attached JWC Environmental Standard Terms and Conditions of Sale.
2. All quotes on orders over \$250,000 include milestone payments of 30% on Approved Submittals; 70% on Shipment.

**Thank-You for your Business!**

**JWC Environmental Inc**  
**Irene Gomez**  
**Customer Service**



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2600 S. Garnsey Street  
Santa Ana, CA 92707 USA  
Phone: 949 833-3888  
Toll Free: 800 331-2277  
Fax: 714 242-0240

Please provide the following information. Failure to do so may delay processing of order. Quote #: C-123490-D0C9-B

All orders will be billed the applicable sales tax, based on the "ship to address", unless a valid tax exemption certificate is provided prior to shipment.

Bill To Name & Address:

Ship To Name & Address:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

PO# \_\_\_\_\_

Payment terms: Net 30 FOB: Origin

Preferred Shipping Method (Required to Process Your Order):

Prepay & Add to Invoice

Collect Account #: \_\_\_\_\_

Carrier: \_\_\_\_\_

JWCE will add shipping and handling charges to invoices unless otherwise specified.

Credit cards:

I authorize JWCE to process this order on my credit card and add shipping and handling charges.

Credit card orders are processed after order ships. You will be contacted by JWC Accounting for payment.

Please fax or email your PO and most recent tax certificate to:

Fax (714) 242-0240

Email [servicesales@jwce.com](mailto:servicesales@jwce.com)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



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2600 S. Garnsey Street  
Santa Ana, CA 92707 USA  
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Toll Free: 800 331-2277  
Fax: 714 242-0240

## JWC ENVIRONMENTAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE

Unless otherwise specifically agreed to in writing by the buyer ("Buyer") of the products and or related services purchased hereunder (the "Products") and JWC Environmental (the "Seller"), the sale of the Products is made only upon the following terms and conditions. Whether these terms are included in an offer or an acceptance by Seller, such offer or acceptance is conditioned on Buyer's assent to these terms. Seller rejects all additional, conditional and different terms in Buyer's form or documents.

### PAYMENT TERMS

Subject to any contrary terms set forth in our price quotation, order acceptance or invoice the full net amount of each invoice is due and payable in cash within 30 days from the date of the invoice. If any payment is not received within such 30-day period, Buyer shall pay Seller the lesser of 1 ½% per month or the maximum legal rate on all amounts not received by the due date of the invoice, from the 31st day after the date of invoice until said invoice and charges are paid in full. Unless Sellers documents provide otherwise, freight, storage, insurance and all taxes, duties or other governmental charges related to the Products shall be paid by the Buyer. If Seller is required to pay any such charges, Buyer shall immediately reimburse Seller for said charges. In all cases, regardless of partial payment, title to the Products shall remain the Sellers until payment for the Products has been made in full. All orders are subject to credit approval by Seller. All offers by Seller and/or acceptance of Buyer's order shall be nullified by any failure of Buyer to obtain credit approval. Furthermore, Buyer shall not assert any claim against Seller due to Buyer's inability to obtain credit approval. Irrevocable Letter of Credit from Buyer in form and term acceptable to Seller is required for Product orders delivered outside the United States of America

### DELIVERY

Unless otherwise provided in our price quotation, delivery of the Products shall be made F.O.B. place of manufacture. Any shipment, delivery, installation or service dates quoted by the Seller are estimated and the Seller shall be obligated only to use reasonable efforts to meet such dates. The Seller shall in no event be liable for any delays in delivery or failure to give notice of delay or for any other failure to perform hereunder due to causes beyond the reasonable control of the Seller. Such causes shall include, but not be limited to, acts of God, the elements, acts or omissions of manufacturers or suppliers of the Products or parts thereof, acts or omissions of Buyer or civil and military authorities, fires, labor disputes or any other inability to obtain the Products, parts thereof, or necessary power, labor, materials or supplies. The Seller will be entitled to refuse to make, or to delay, any shipments of the Products if Buyer shall fail to pay when due any amount owed by it to the Seller, whether under this or any other contract between the Seller and Buyer. Any claims for shortages must be made to the Company in writing within five calendar days from the delivery date and disposition of the claim is solely subject to Sellers determination

### PRICES

Prices of the Seller's Products are subject to change without notice. Quotations are conditioned upon acceptance within 30 days unless otherwise stated and are subject to correction for errors and/or omissions. Prices include charges for regular packaging but, unless expressly stated, do not include charges for special requirements of government or other purchaser. Prices are subject to adjustment should Buyer place an order past the validity period of the quotation or delay delivery of Products beyond the quoted lead time for any reason.

### RETURNS

No Products may be returned for cash. No Product may be returned for credit after delivery to Buyer without Buyer first receiving written permission from the Seller. Buyer must make a request for return of Product in writing to Seller at its place of business in Costa Mesa, California. A return material authorization number must be issued by the Seller to the Buyer before a Product may be returned. Permission to return Product to Seller by Buyer is solely and exclusively the Sellers. Product must be returned to Seller at Buyers expense, including packaging, insurance, transportation and any governmental fees. Any credit for Product returned to Seller shall be subject to the inspection of and acceptance of the Product by the Seller and is at the sole discretion of the Seller.

### LIMITED WARRANTY

Subject to the terms and conditions hereof, the Seller warrants until one year after commissioning (written notification to Seller by Buyer required) of the Product or until 18 months after delivery of such Product to Buyer, whichever is earlier, that each Product will be free of defects in material and workmanship. If (a) the Seller receives written notification of such defect during the warranty period and the defective Products use is discontinued promptly upon discovery of alleged defect, and (b) if the owner ("Owner") forwards the Product to the Seller's nearest service/repair facility, transportation and related insurance charges prepaid. The Seller will cause any Products whose defect is covered under this warranty to either be replaced or be repaired at no cost to the Owner. The foregoing warranty does not cover repairs required due to repair or alteration other than by the Seller's personnel, accident, neglect, misuse, transportation or causes other than ordinary use and maintenance in accordance with the Seller's instructions and specifications. In addition, the foregoing warranty does not cover any Products, or components thereof, which are not directly manufactured by the Seller. To the extent a warranty for repair or replacement of such Products or components not manufactured directly by the Seller is available to Buyer under agreements of the Seller with its vendors; the Seller will make such warranties available to Buyer. Costs of transportation of any covered defective item to and from the nearest service/repair center and related insurance will be paid or reimbursed by Buyer. Any replaced Products will become the property of the Seller. Any replacement Products will be warranted only for any remaining term of the original limited warranty period and not beyond that term.

### DISCLAIMER OF WARRANTIES AND LIMITATIONS OF LIABILITIES

THE SELLER'S FOREGOING LIMITED WARRANTY IS THE EXCLUSIVE AND ONLY WARRANTY WITH RESPECT TO THE PRODUCTS AND SHALL BE IN LIEU OF ALL OTHER WARRANTIES (OTHER THAN THE WARRANTY OF TITLE), EXPRESS, STATUTORY OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, ANY IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE AND ANY STATEMENTS MADE BY EMPLOYEES, AGENTS OF THE SELLER OR OTHERS REGARDING THE PRODUCTS. THE OBLIGATIONS OF THE SELLER UNDER THE FOREGOING WARRANTY SHALL BE FULLY SATISFIED BY THE REPAIR OR THE REPLACEMENT OF THE DEFECTIVE PRODUCT OR PART, AS PROVIDED ABOVE. IN NO EVENT SHALL THE SELLER BE LIABLE FOR LOST PROFITS OR OTHER SPECIAL, INDIRECT OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES, EVEN IF THE SELLER HAS BEEN ADVISED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH DAMAGES. THE TOTAL LIABILITY OF THE SELLER TO BUYER AND OTHERS ARISING FROM ANY CAUSE WHATSOEVER IN CONNECTION WITH BUYER'S PURCHASE, USE AND DISPOSITION OF ANY PRODUCT COVERED HEREBY SHALL, UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES, EXCEED THE PURCHASE PRICE PAID FOR THE PRODUCT BY BUYER, NO ACTION, REGARDLESS OF FORM, ARISING FROM THIS AGREEMENT OR BASED UPON BUYER'S PURCHASE, USE OR DISPOSITION OF THE PRODUCTS MAY BE BROUGHT BY EITHER PARTY MORE THAN ONE YEAR AFTER THE CAUSE OF ACTION ACCRUES, EXCEPT THAT ANY CAUSE OF ACTION FOR THE NONPAYMENT OF THE PURCHASE PRICE MAY BE BROUGHT AT ANY TIME

The remedies provided to Buyer pursuant to the limited warranty, disclaimer of warranties and limitations of liabilities, described herein are the sole and exclusive remedies.

Unless specifically agreed to in writing by the Seller, no charges may be made to the Seller by Buyer or any third party employed by buyer for removing, installing or modifying any Product.

The Seller and its representatives may furnish, at no additional expense, data and engineering services relating to the application, installation, maintenance or use of the Products by Buyer. The Seller will not be responsible for, and does not assume any liability whatsoever for, damages of any kind sustained either directly or indirectly by any person through the adoption or use of such data or engineering services in whole or in part.

### CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

Except with the Seller's prior written consent, Buyer shall not use, duplicate or disclose any confidential proprietary information delivered or disclosed by the Seller to Buyer for any purpose other than for operation or maintenance of the Products.

### CANCELLATION AND DEFAULT

Absolutely no credit will be allowed for any change or cancellation of an order for Products by Buyer after fabrication of the Products to fill Buyer's order has been commenced. If Buyer shall default in paying for any Products purchased hereunder, Buyer shall be responsible for all reasonable costs and expenses, including (without limitation) attorney's fees incurred by the Seller in collecting any sums owed by Buyer. All rights and remedies to the Seller hereunder or under applicable laws are cumulative and none of them shall be exclusive of any other right to remedy. No failure by the Seller to enforce any right or remedy hereunder shall be deemed to be a waiver of such right or remedy, unless a written waiver is signed by an authorized management employee of the Seller and the Seller's waiver of a breach of this agreement by Buyer shall not be deemed to be a waiver of any other breach of the same or any other provision.

### CHANGES IN PRODUCTS

Changes may be made in materials, designs and specifications of the Products without notice. The Seller shall not incur any obligation to furnish or install any such changes or modifications on Products previously ordered by, or sold to, Buyer.

### APPLICABLE LAW, RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES AND SEVERABILITY

This agreement is entered into in Costa Mesa, California. This agreement and performance by the parties hereunder shall be construed in accordance with, and governed by, the laws of the State of California. Any claim or dispute arising from or based upon this agreement or the Products which form its subject matter shall be resolved by binding arbitration before the American Arbitration Association in Los Angeles, California, pursuant to the Commercial Arbitration Rules, excepting only that each of the parties shall be entitled to take no more than two depositions, and serve no more than 30 interrogatories, 10 requests for admissions and 20 individual requests for production of documents, such discovery to be served pursuant to the California Code of Civil Procedure. Any award made by the arbitrator may be entered as a final judgment, in any court having jurisdiction to do so. If any provision of this agreement shall be held by a court of competent jurisdiction or an arbitrator to be unenforceable to any extent, that provision shall be enforced to the full extent permitted by law and the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

### ASSIGNMENT

This agreement shall be binding upon the parties and their respective successors and assigns. However, except for rights expressly provided to subsequent Owners of the Products under "Limited Warranty" above, any assignment of this agreement or any rights hereunder by Buyer shall be void without the Company's written consent first obtained. Any exercise of rights by an Owner other than Buyer shall be subject



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to all of the limitations on liability and other related terms and conditions set forth in this agreement.

**EXCLUSIVE TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

The terms and conditions of this agreement may be changed or modified only by an instrument in writing signed by an authorized management employee of the Seller. This instrument, together with any amendment or supplement hereto specifically agreed to in writing by an authorized management employee of the Seller, contains the entire and the only agreement between the parties with respect to the sale of the Products covered hereby and supersedes any alleged related representation, promise or condition not specifically incorporated herein.

SELLER'S PRODUCTS ARE OFFERED FOR SALE AND SOLD ONLY ON THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS CONTAINED HEREIN. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY DIFFERENT OR ADDITIONAL TERMS OR CONDITIONS CONTAINED IN BUYER'S SEPARATE PURCHASE ORDERS OR OTHER ORAL OR WRITTEN COMMUNICATION, BUYER'S ORDER IS OR SHALL BE ACCEPTED BY THE COMPANY ONLY ON THE CONDITION THAT BUYER ACCEPTS AND CONSENTS TO THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS CONTAINED HEREIN. IN THE ABSENCE OF BUYER'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS CONTAINED HEREIN THE SELLER'S COMMENCEMENT OF PERFORMANCE AND/OR DELIVERY OF THE PRODUCTS, OR THE SELLER'S STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE RECEIPT OF BUYER'S PURCHASE ORDER, SHALL BE FOR BUYER'S CONVENIENCE ONLY AND SHALL NOT BE DEEMED OR CONSTRUED TO BE ACCEPTANCE OF BUYER'S DIFFERING TERMS OR CONDITIONS, OR ANY OF THEM. ANY DIFFERENT OR ADDITIONAL TERMS ARE HEREBY REJECTED UNLESS SPECIFICALLY AGREED UPON IN WRITING BY AN AUTHORIZED MANAGEMENT EMPLOYEE OF THE SELLER. IF A CONTRACT IS NOT EARLIER FORMED BY MUTUAL AGREEMENT IN WRITING, BUYER'S ACCEPTANCE OF ANY PRODUCTS COVERED HEREBY SHALL BE DEEMED ACCEPTANCE OF ALL OF THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS STATED HEREIN. THE SELLER'S FAILURE TO OBJECT TO PROVISIONS INCONSISTENT HERewith CONTAINED IN ANY COMMUNICATION FROM BUYER SHALL NOT BE DEEMED A WAIVER OF THE PROVISIONS CONTAINED HEREIN.

F360JWCE0107

## AGENDA ITEM #8893

**Discussion with Action:** Approve the quote from Vortex Services for the Fall 2025 Pump Station cleaning in the amount of \$18,300 from account #20161-50342 Waste Pumping Expense with a balance of \$36,190.00.

Chair: Shawn O'Neill

## Council Information

Department: Wastewater

Meeting date: November 18, 2025

Subject: Clean wet wells at the pump stations and tanks at the facility

Commentary: The department budgets for Vortex to come in and clean out pump station wet wells and tanks at the facility two times a year. Price includes labor, truck and confined space team for a total of four days. The price does not include the disposal costs to bring the waste to Eco Maine.

Recommendation: Approve proposal from Vortex Services for \$18,300.00 out of account #20161-50342.

### **Discussion with action:**

Respectively submitted by,

Christopher White

Wastewater Superintendent



<b>To:</b> Town of Old Orchard Beach, ME	<b>Contact:</b> Chris White
<b>Address:</b> 1 Portland Ave Old Orchard Beach, ME 04064	<b>Phone:</b>
	<b>Email:</b> cwhite@oobmaine.com
<b>Project Name:</b> ME - Old Orchard Beach - Fall 2025 Pump Station Cleaning	<b>Bid Number:</b> 2513564
<b>Project Location:</b> Old Orchard Beach, ME	<b>Bid Date:</b> 10/24/2025

Item #	Item Description	Estimated Quantity	Unit	Unit Price	Total Price
1	Municipal Vactor Truck W/Supervisor & CDL Operator (8h Onsite)	4.00	DY	\$2,700.00	\$10,800.00
2	Support Truck (8h Onsite)	4.00	DY	\$100.00	\$400.00
3	Confined Space Technician (8h Onsite)	4.00	DY	\$1,520.00	\$6,080.00
4	Confined Space (per Day)	4.00	DY	\$255.00	\$1,020.00

**Total Bid Price: \$18,300.00**

**Notes:**

- We are proposing a "Day Rate" contract. <4h per day will be considered 1/2 day, hours in excess of 8h will be prorated on the invoice.
- Proposal includes standard signs and cones. Any additional maintenance of traffic (MOT) needed will be provided by Others.
- Owner will provide a portable hydrant meter and access to onsite water for our use free of charge.
- Owner will provide a local area and pay disposal fees to dispose the debris that is pulled from the cleaning process after it is decanted. Disposal site must be less than 10 miles away from job site.
- Owner will provide access to each and every structure.
- If necessary, Owner will provide Permits & Fees. Vortex will provide our standard insurance coverage. OCP or railroad insurance & or longshoreman insurance is not included.
- Water used to clean Pump Stations to be decanted in the pipe segment or adjacent pipe/outfall area. Any turbidity control will be provided by Others.
- Mechanical Cleaning / Tuberculation removal not included in bid proposal.
- Our Bid Proposal is valid for 30 days from the bid date.
- Site Restoration will be performed by Others.
- This is a unit priced contract and the actual billing will be based on actual durations. Durations are provided for budgeting purposes, we will not exceed the provided durations without prior authorization.
- Standard wages are included. Therefore, Prevailing wages and or Union Wage Rates are not included in this bid proposal.
- Our bid proposal as submitted reflects the current material pricing established on or before the bid date listed within our proposal. In the event of unforeseen price increases of our raw materials, Vortex reserves the right to adjust our unit rate or overall bid proposal accordingly to account for such price increases.
- Payment terms: Net 30 days. Interest will be added to balances outstanding after 30 days
- Vortex's bid proposal shall be incorporated into the subcontract agreements. Vortex will initiate this project upon an agreement or receipt of a subcontract or purchase order. Copies of payment and performance bonds must be provided to Vortex.

<p><b>ACCEPTED:</b> The above prices, specifications and conditions are satisfactory and are hereby accepted.</p> <p><b>Buyer:</b> _____</p> <p><b>Signature:</b> _____</p> <p><b>Date of Acceptance:</b> _____</p>	<p><b>CONFIRMED:</b> <b>Vortex Services LLC</b></p> <p><b>Authorized Signature:</b> _____</p> <p><b>Estimator:</b> Paul Pomerleau (207) 754-3320 paul.pomerleau@vortexcompanies.com</p>
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## AGENDA ITEM #8894

**Discussion with Action:** To approve the Purchase and Sale agreement between Multivision Investments, LLC and the Town of Old Orchard Beach for a certain parcel of land MBL 315-16-1, along Ocean Ave. in the amount of \$425,000 from the Unassigned Fund Balance with a balance \$13,382,169.44, and to authorize the Town Manager to sign the Purchase and Sale Agreement and documents required at closing.

Chair: Shawn O'Neill

## PURCHASE AND SALE AGREEMENT

THIS PURCHASE AND SALE AGREEMENT (the “Agreement”) made as of this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024, by and between **MULTIVISION INVESTMENTS, LLC**, having a mailing address of 163 Mountain Road, Falmouth, ME 04105 (the “Seller”), and the **TOWN OF OLD ORCHARD BEACH**, a Maine municipal corporation and body politic having a mailing address of 1 Portland Avenue, Old Orchard Beach, ME 04064 (the “Town”).

In consideration of the mutual promises and covenants contained herein and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, the parties hereby agree as follows:

### **AGREEMENT:**

1. **PREMISES.** Seller agrees to sell and the Town agrees to buy, on the terms and conditions hereinafter set forth, a certain lot or parcel of land situate along Ocean Avenue in the Town of Old Orchard Beach, County of York, and State of Maine, being the property described in a deed dated February 3, 2023 and recorded in the York County Registry of Deeds in Book 19192, Page 815 (the “Property”).

2. **PURCHASE PRICE.** The Town agrees to pay for the Property the sum of Four Hundred Twenty Five Thousand and 00/100 (\$425,000.00) (the “Purchase Price”), as adjusted for all closing costs and prorations referenced herein, which shall be paid to Seller at Closing in immediately available funds by Town check, attorney trust account check or wire transfer in accordance with wiring instructions provided by Seller within a reasonable time prior to Closing (as hereinafter defined).

3. **TITLE.** Seller shall convey the Property to Town at the Closing in fee simple with good, marketable and insurable title, free and clear of all liens and encumbrances except Permitted Encumbrances (as hereinafter defined), utility easements of record, and other easements, restrictions and covenants of record which do not materially and adversely affect the Town’s intended use of the Property in the Town’s sole discretion. Seller agrees that, after the Effective Date (as hereinafter defined), it shall not permit or suffer encumbrance of the Property with any liens, easements, leases or other encumbrances without Town’s prior written consent. Within thirty (30) days of the Effective Date (the “Title Review Period”), Town shall notify Seller in writing (the “Title Objection Notice”) of any matters affecting title to the Property that are objectionable to Town in Town’s sole discretion (“Title Defects”). In the event the Town shall notify Seller in writing of any Title Defects within the Title Review Period, Seller shall have a reasonable period of time, not to exceed thirty (30) days, in which to remedy such defects (the “Title Cure Period”) and the Closing will be extended until ten (10) days after the expiration of the Title Cure Period. In the event that Seller shall be unable or unwilling to cure said defects within the Title Cure Period, Town may (i) choose to close notwithstanding such title defects, with no reduction in the Purchase Price, or (ii) terminate this Agreement and neither party shall have any further obligation hereunder. Town shall be deemed to have waived the right to object to any matter affecting title as of the end of the Title Review Period, except for any mortgage, tax lien, mechanics’ lien, judgment lien, or other financial liens encumbering the Property which shall be discharged as of or at the Closing (for which no formal objection is required), if Buyer fails to specifically identify such matters in the Title Objection Notice (each matter not objected to being a “Permitted Encumbrance”). The above notwithstanding, the Town’s satisfaction with title of the Property shall be a condition to Town’s obligation to close under this Agreement.

4. **CLOSING.** Unless otherwise extended under the terms of this Agreement, The closing of

this transaction shall take place ten (10) days after the end of the Title Review Period and Title Cure Period (if relevant), at 10:00 a.m. EST, at the offices of Bernstein, Shur, Sawyer and Nelson, or by mail, or, if the Town and Seller shall mutually agree in advance and in writing, at another time and place, time being of the essence (the “Closing”). At the Closing, Seller shall execute and deliver to the Town, against payment of the Purchase Price, a Warranty Deed to the Property in accordance with the Short Form Deeds Act, 33 M.R.S.A. §§ 761 et seq., (the “Deed”), together with: (i) a Certificate of Non-foreign Status (as required by Internal Revenue Service regulations); (ii) a standard form title insurance “Seller’s Affidavit” regarding mechanics liens and persons in possession with indemnification; (iii) affidavits regarding underground storage tanks and smoke detectors (as required by Maine Law); (iv) applicable Maine State REW forms; (v) such other reasonable and customary affidavits and certificates as may be requested by Town or its title insurer (all of the foregoing, collectively, the “Closing Documents”).

5. ADJUSTMENTS, PRORATIONS AND CLOSING COSTS.

(a) No real estate tax prorations or adjustments will be made at Closing. Seller shall remain responsible for paying in due course the outstanding real estate taxes on the Property for the fiscal year starting July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026. It is expressly acknowledged that the Town is exempt from real estate taxes and assessments as an instrumentality of the State of Maine.

(b) The Seller shall be responsible for paying the Seller’s portion of the Maine real estate transfer tax; it being expressly acknowledged that the Town is exempt from paying its own portion of such tax pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. § 4641-D(1).

(c) The recording fee for the Deed shall be paid by the Town.

(d) The cost of any title examination and title insurance premium shall be paid by the Town.

(e) Each party shall pay its own legal fees and costs incurred in connection with this transaction.

6. RISK OF LOSS, DAMAGE, DESTRUCTION AND INSURANCE. Prior to Closing, all risk of loss or damage to the Property shall be borne by Seller. In the event that, prior to Closing, the Property is destroyed or damaged by fire or other casualty, the Town shall have the option, to be exercised within thirty (30) days of the occurrence of such fire or other casualty and with written notice to Seller, to (i) cancel and terminate this Agreement; or (ii) elect to close notwithstanding such destruction or damage as may exist, with no reduction in the Purchase Price.

7. INSPECTION. Town or its agents upon reasonable prior notice to Seller or its agent (i.e., at least 24 hours) may enter the Property at all reasonable times within an inspection period of thirty (30) days from the Effective Date hereof (the “Inspection Period”) in order to conduct such inspections and engineering studies as Town may deem necessary for its acquisition of the Property, including but not limited to a general building inspection, survey, Phase 1 inspection, water system tests, air quality tests, suitability of the Property for expansion or renovation, compliance of the Property with applicable municipal codes, or any other inspection within Town’s sole discretion. Town may, within the Inspection Period, notify Seller in writing that Town is not satisfied (within Town’s sole discretion) with the results of any of its inspections under this Section and upon receipt of such notice this Agreement shall terminate. If such notice is not received by the end of the inspection period, this inspection contingency shall be considered satisfied automatically, and Town shall have no further right to terminate under this section. The above notwithstanding, the Town’s satisfaction with its inspection of the Property shall be a condition to Town’s obligation to close under this Agreement.

8. POSSESSION, OCCUPANCY & CONDITION. Unless otherwise agreed by both parties in writing, possession of the Property, free and clear of tenants and occupants, shall be given to the Town upon recording of the Deed. The Property shall then be in substantially the same condition as it was as of the Effective Date of this Agreement.

9. FINANCING. This transaction is not subject to financing.

10. DEFAULT; REMEDIES. In the event that Seller defaults in any of its obligations hereunder for a reason other than the default of the Town, the Town shall have the right to pursue all legal and equitable remedies available to it, including the right to seek specific performance. In the event that the Town defaults in any of its obligations hereunder for a reason other than the default of Seller, Seller may pursue reimbursement of its expenses incurred in good faith in reliance on this Agreement, and this Agreement shall terminate and neither party will have any further obligation hereunder.

11. MISCELLANEOUS.

(a) Time. Time is of the essence of this Agreement.

(c) Broker. Town and Seller represent to the other that it has not utilized the services of a real estate broker with respect to this transaction other than Brandon Mitchell of Malone Commercial Brokers, being Seller's Broker, and each shall defend, indemnify and hold the other harmless from any claims of any other real estate broker arising out of or with respect to this transaction by through and under the respective parties. Seller acknowledges and agrees that all fees and charges due to Seller's Broker shall be paid by Seller. The terms of this provision shall expressly survive the termination of this Agreement and Closing.

(d) Notices. All notices and other communications required or permitted to be delivered hereunder shall be in writing and delivered in hand or mailed postage prepaid, by United States mail, to the parties or their agents, with evidence of receipt by the primary addressee, at the following addresses or to such other address as the person to whom notice is to be given may have previously furnished to the other in writing in the manner set forth above:

TO THE TOWN:           Town of Old Orchard Beach  
                                  1 Portland Avenue  
                                  Old Orchard Beach, ME 04064  
                                  Attn: Town Manager  
                                  Email: [dasanza@oobmaine.com](mailto:dasanza@oobmaine.com)

WITH COPY TO:        J. Hanover Shinay, Esq.  
                                  Bernstein, Shur, Sawyer & Nelson, P.A.  
                                  100 Middle Street, West Tower  
                                  Portland, ME 04101  
                                  Email: [jshinay@bernsteinshur.com](mailto:jshinay@bernsteinshur.com)

TO SELLER:            \_\_\_\_\_  
                                  Multivision Investments, LLC  
                                  163 Mountain Road  
                                  York, ME 03909

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

WITH COPY TO: Eleanor Dominquez  
Ainsworth, Thelin & Raftice  
7 Ocean Street  
South Portland, ME 04106  
Email: edominguez@atrlaw.pro

(e) Entire Agreement. This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between Seller and the Town and there are no agreements, understandings, warranties or representations between Seller and the Town except as set forth herein. This Agreement cannot be amended except by written instrument executed by Seller and the Town.

(f) Binding Effect and Survivability. This Agreement will inure to the benefit of and bind the respective executors, estates, heirs, successors and assigns of Seller and the Town.

(g) Identical Counterparts, Facsimile and Electronic Signatures. This Agreement may be simultaneously executed in any number of counterparts, each of which when so executed and delivered shall be deemed an original, but all of which together shall constitute one and the same instrument. This Agreement may be transmitted between the parties by facsimile machine and e-mail and signatures appearing on faxed or e-mailed instruments shall be treated as original signatures.

(h) Applicable Law; Severability. This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Maine. If any provision of this Agreement is determined to be invalid or unenforceable, it shall not affect the validity or enforcement of the remaining provisions hereof.

(i) Effective Date; Business Days. The Effective Date of this Agreement shall be the date of the last signature of the parties. Except as otherwise expressly set forth to the contrary, the use of the term "days" in this Agreement, including all addenda now or later made a part hereof, shall mean business days defined as excluding Saturdays, Sundays and any observed Maine state and federal holidays. Deadlines in this Agreement, including all addenda now or later made a part hereof, shall be counted from the Effective Date, unless another starting date is expressly set forth, beginning with the first day after the Effective Date, or such other established date, and ending at 5:00 p.m. EST on the last day counted.

(j) Confidentiality. Town and Seller understand that the terms of this Agreement are confidential but authorize the disclosure of the information herein to the agents, attorneys, lenders, appraisers, inspectors and others involved in the transaction necessary for the purpose of closing this transaction.

12. FURTHER ASSURANCES. Buyer and Seller shall cooperate to execute such further instruments and take such further actions as are reasonably necessary to consummate the transfer contemplated hereby, including additional approvals required by the Town, provided however, that the foregoing shall not constitute the waiver of any discretion of any elected or appointed Board or official acting on behalf of the Town of Old Orchard Beach.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, Seller and the Town have caused this Agreement to be executed by their respective duly authorized representatives as of the dates indicated below.

WITNESS:

\_\_\_\_\_

**MULTIVISION INVESTMENTS, LLC**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Its: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

WITNESS:

\_\_\_\_\_

**TOWN OF OLD ORCHARD BEACH**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Diana Asanza

Its Town Manager

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## AGENDA ITEM #8895

**Discussion with Action:** Accept an easement from Dominator Golf LLC for public pedestrian passage on and over the sidewalk as depicted on the plan entitled Wild Dunes Way and Ross Road, together with the right of the Town to construct, maintain and repair said sidewalks.

Chair: Shawn O'Neill

**SIDEWALK EASEMENT**

**DOMINATOR GOLF, LLC**, a Maine limited liability corporation with a mailing address of 65 Wild Dunes Way, DOB, ME 04064 ("Grantor"), grants to the **TOWN OF OLD ORCHARD BEACH**, a municipal corporation, with a mailing address of 1 Portland Avenue, Old Orchard Beach, Maine (the "Town"), the following rights and easements over a portion of Grantor's property in the Town of Old Orchard Beach, County of York, Maine, described as follows:

An easement for public pedestrian passage on and over the sidewalk as depicted on the Plan entitled Wild Dunes Way - Rosabel, a copy of which is on file in the Planning Department of the Town of Old Orchard Beach, and a reduced copy of a portion of which is attached as Exhibit A hereto. Together with the right of the Town to construct, maintain and repair said sidewalks.

This easement is located upon and burdens the property of Grantor described in a deed dated 6/29/2009 and recorded in the York County Registry of Deeds in Book 15668 Page 0529.

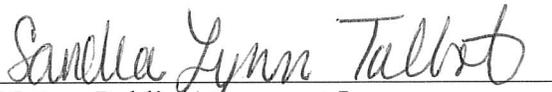
DOMINATOR GOLF, LLC

  
By: Domenic Pugliares, Its:

STATE OF MAINE  
COUNTY OF YORK, ss.

October 27, 2025

PERSONALLY APPEARED the above named Domenic Pugliares, in his capacity as owner of Dominator Golf, LLC and acknowledged the foregoing instrument to be his free act and deed and the free act and deed of Dominator Golf, LLC.

  
Notary Public/Attorney at Law

SANDRA LYNN TALBOT  
Notary Public, State Of Maine  
My Commission Expires March 17, 2032

**Exhibit A**

Easement: Dominator Golf, LLC to the Town of Old Orchard Beach for public pedestrian passage on and over the sidewalk at the corner of Wild Dunes Way and Ross Road



## AGENDA ITEM #8896

**Discussion with Action:** Accept an easement from Dominator Golf LLC for public pedestrian passage on and over the sidewalk as depicted on the Plan entitled Long Cove Dr and Wild Dunes Way Sidewalk Easement, together with the right of the Town to construct, maintain and repair said sidewalks.

Chair: Shawn O'Neill

**SIDEWALK EASEMENT**

**DOMINATOR GOLF, LLC**, a Maine limited liability corporation with a mailing address of 65 Wild Dunes Way, Old Orchard Beach ME 04064 (“Grantor”), grants to the **TOWN OF OLD ORCHARD BEACH**, a municipal corporation, with a mailing address of 1 Portland Avenue, Old Orchard Beach, Maine (the “Town”), the following rights and easements over a portion of Grantor’s property in the Town of Old Orchard Beach, County of York, Maine, described as follows:

An easement for public pedestrian passage on and over the sidewalk as depicted on the Plan entitled **Long Cove Dr and Wild Dunes Way Sidewalk** Easement, a copy of which is on file in the Planning Department of the Town of Old Orchard Beach, and a reduced copy of a portion of which is attached as Exhibit A hereto. Together with the right of the Town to construct, maintain and repair said sidewalks.

This easement is located upon and burdens the property of Grantor described in a deed dated June 29, 2009 and recorded in the York County Registry of Deeds in Book 15668 Page 0529.

DOMINATOR GOLF, LLC

\_\_\_\_\_  
By: Domenic Pugliares, Its:

STATE OF MAINE

COUNTY OF YORK, ss.

\_\_\_\_\_, 2025

PERSONALLY APPEARED the above named Domenic Pugliares, in his capacity as \_\_\_\_\_ of Dominator Golf, LLC and acknowledged the foregoing instrument to be his free act and deed and the free act and deed of Dominator Golf, LLC.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public/Attorney at Law

**Exhibit A**

Easement: Dominator Golf, LLC to the Town of Old Orchard Beach for public pedestrian passage on and over the sidewalk at the corner of Long Cove Dr and Wild Dunes Way.



**AGENDA ITEM #8897**

**Discussion with Action:** Amend Appendix A—Schedule of License, Permit and Application Fees, by updating the Towing Fee section.

Chair: Shawn O'Neill

## APPENDIX A

### SCHEDULE OF LICENSE, PERMIT AND APPLICATION FEES<sup>1</sup>

- (a) All fees and charges required by ordinances or policies of the Town of Old Orchard Beach for permits, licenses, approvals and applications therefor, and all fees and charges collected by the Town of Old Orchard Beach where state law authorizes or requires the town to set the amounts of such fees and charges, shall hereafter be established by the town council by order as the schedule of license, permit and application fees.
- (b) All existing ordinances and policies of the Town of Old Orchard Beach are amended by deleting the specific amounts of any fees required in such ordinances or policies and substituting therefor the words: "as specified in the schedule of license, permit and application fees established by the town council."
- (c) The town clerk is directed to make the changes in the texts of existing ordinances and policies necessary to implement this appendix.
- (d) In the event any fees or charges in effect on the date of enactment of this appendix are inadvertently omitted from the initial schedule of license, permit and application fees established upon enactment of this ordinance, such fees and charges shall remain in effect and the town clerk is directed to include them in the schedule of license, permit and application fees whenever such omission is discovered.
- (e) The Council may by order establish any new fees or charges which the council deems necessary or appropriate to defray the costs of operating programs, delivering services or administering any ordinances or policies. The town clerk shall include any such new fees or charges in the schedule of license, permit and application fees.
- (f) With the exception of special events permits, town and RSU 23 owned properties are exempt from the fees set forth in appendix A.

(Ord. of 4-1-2003(3), §§ 1—5; Ord. of 6-22-2011(3); Ord. of 7-22-2014(1); Ord. of 8-4-2015(2), added 8-18-2015; Ord. of 1-19-2016(2); Amd. of 6-7-2016(1); Ord. of 6-6-2017(1); Ord. of 11-16-2021(2); Ord. of 3-1-2022(2); Ord. of 11-1-2022; Ord. of 3-4-2025(1))

AMBULANCE BILLING FEES	(Amended by adding 1/20/04)
BLS Transport, Code A0429	\$860.00
ALS 1 Transport, Code A0427	\$950.00
ALS 2 Transport, Code A0433	\$1,200.00
BLS Loaded Mile, Code A0380	\$14.50
ALS Loaded Mile, Code A0390	\$14.50
Non-Transport Fee	\$50.00
Assist Private Ambulance	\$70.00
ASSESSORS OFFICE FEES	(Amended by adding 1/20/04)
Standard:	

<sup>1</sup>Editor's note(s)—Printed herein is the town's schedule of license, permit and application fees as amended through November 1, 2022.

Old Orchard Beach, Maine, Code of Ordinances  
APPENDIX A SCHEDULE OF LICENSE, PERMIT AND APPLICATION FEES

Includes Property Location, MBLU, Owner, Mailing Info, Property Type and Assessed Value—Sorted by Parcel, Alpha, Street	\$100.00
Customized Lists	\$150.00
List in Label Format	\$150.00
Maps-Complete set 11x17	\$50.00
Single Maps	
Large	\$5.00
Small	\$1.00
Complete Property Record Card	
Double-sided	\$2.00
Copy of Recorded Deeds, per page	\$1.50
Historical Research, per hour	\$20.00
Historical Record Copies, per page	\$1.00
<b>BUILDING</b>	
Minimum Building Permit Fee	\$40.00
Re-Inspection Fee	\$75.00 per return inspection following noncompliance with a notice of violation or order to correct violations of building, plumbing or electrical code standards. (The initial follow-up inspection is at no charge). This fee also applies to permittees that arranged for an inspection on a date and time certain and are found to be incomplete and a follow-up inspection is required.
Residential Use (Single family, two-family)	
Finished space	\$10.00/\$1,000.00 of construction cost at fixed cost of \$100.00 per sq. ft.
Unfinished space such as cellar or attic with access and 6 feet or more of headroom, open decks	\$.20 per sq. ft.
Residential Garage (attached and detached)	\$.30 per sq. ft.
Sheds	\$40.00
Additions/Alterations	\$8.00 (per \$1,000.00 of construction cost)
Commercial Uses including multifamily residential and lodging uses	\$100.00
One Story Including Foundation	\$.80 per sq. ft.
Each Additional Floor	\$.40 per sq. ft.
Miscellaneous	
Boarding up of Seasonal Facilities	\$25.00
Swimming Pool	
Inground	\$25.00 plus \$.20 per square foot
Above Ground	\$25.00 plus \$.20 per square foot
Moving Buildings	\$40.00
Demolition	\$100.00
Signs	\$40.00
Mfg. Housing Unit Replacement or Entry to Park	\$40.00
Building without a permit	Double permit fee
Street Opening Fees	

Old Orchard Beach, Maine, Code of Ordinances  
APPENDIX A SCHEDULE OF LICENSE, PERMIT AND APPLICATION FEES

Excavation Application Fee	\$100.00
All Street Openings	\$1,000.00 (lump sum deposit)
All Sidewalk and Curbing Openings	\$500.00 (lump sum deposit)
Excavation contractor's license	\$100.00 per year (7/1 to 6/30)
ELECTRICAL PERMITS	
Minimum Electrical Permit Fee	\$35.00 Residential
	\$45.00 Commercial
Re-Inspection Fee	\$50.00 per return inspection beyond two staff inspections.
Per Square Foot (Residential)	\$0.045
Per Square Foot (Industrial, Commercial)	\$0.055
Low Voltage & Computer Networking	\$10.00 (minimum)
Boiler-Burner	\$10.00
Pumps-Circuits	\$10.00 (minimum/each)
Air Conditioners	\$10.00 (minimum)
Controls-Alarms	\$10.00 (minimum)
Transformers	\$10.00 (minimum/each)
Motors	\$10.00 (minimum/each)
Signs	\$10.00 (minimum/each)
Additional Circuits (over 110V)	\$10.00 (each)
Additional Circuits (110V or less)	\$10.00 (each)
Alterations per room	\$10.00 (each)
Temporary Services	\$10.00 (per 100 amps)
Permanent Services (up to 200 amps)	\$10.00
Permanent Services (over 200 amps)	\$10.00 (per 200 amps)
FIRE DEPARTMENT	
	(Amended 1/20/04)
Re-inspection fee	\$50.00 per return inspection beyond two staff inspections.
Fire/Rescue Run Report	
First Page	\$10.00
Each Additional Page	\$1.00
LICENSE ORDINANCE CATEGORIES	
	ALL FEES ARE PER YEAR (Amended 2/16/10)
Adult Use Marijuana Business License Application	\$500.00 (Amended by adding 11/16/21)
Adult Use Marijuana Store License	\$7,500.00 (annually) (Amended by adding 11/16/21)
Initial New Business License Application— Administrative Fee	\$500.00 (one-time fee) (Amended by adding 4/5/22)
Renewal Business License—Administrative Fee	\$250.00 (annual fee) (Amended by adding 4/5/22)
Re-inspection fee	\$60.00 per return inspection beyond two staff inspections.
Amusement arcade	\$15.00 per unit not to exceed \$300.00
Amusement park	\$30.00 per unit not to exceed \$350.00
Auto body shop	\$150.00
Automotive graveyard	\$500.00
Body piercing	
• Commercial body piercing establishment	\$100.00

Old Orchard Beach, Maine, Code of Ordinances  
APPENDIX A SCHEDULE OF LICENSE, PERMIT AND APPLICATION FEES

• Commercial body piercer	\$100.00
Bowling alleys	\$150.00
Boxing and wrestling shows	\$250.00 (per show)
Campgrounds	\$75.00 plus \$2.50 p/site fee
• Recreational vehicle sales	\$75.00
Car wash	\$150.00
Child care facility and nursery	\$100.00
Coin operated amusement devices accessory to another licensed activity	\$20.00 (per unit)
Dog kennels	\$150.00
Function hall	\$150.00
Games of skill	\$100.00 per game not to exceed \$600.00
Gasoline pumps and sidewalk tanks (the maintenance and operation of sidewalk tanks and pumps for the sale and distribution of gasoline and other volatile inflammable liquids for fuel or power)	\$75.00 per pump
Ice cream trucks (per truck)	\$350.00
Innholders, lodging houses, hotels, motels, and seasonal rentals	\$25.00 per unit up to 10 units, then \$7.50 thereafter
Junk dealer/junk yards	\$150.00
Laundromat/dry cleaning establishment	\$150.00
Massage establishments	
• Therapeutic massage establishment license	\$100.00
• Massage therapist license	\$100.00
• Combined massage establishment/massage therapist license	\$150.00
Miniature golf course (indoors or outdoors)	\$150.00
Parking lots	\$300.00
Personal services	\$150.00
Rental of merchandise, including furniture and self-storage, as well as "water toys" as defined in and permitted by the Town of Old Orchard Beach, Maine ordinance regulating use of motorized and non-motorized water toys on town beach, units/compartments	\$150.00
Retail (including repair/maintenance of goods)	\$150.00
Riding stables	\$150.00
Seasonal rentals units	\$25.00 per unit first 10 units, plus \$7.50 per unit thereafter
Temporary seasonal housing—Owner-occupied single-family residence	NO FEE
Service stations (including automotive repairs, care, and fuel services)	\$150.00
Signs, erection and maintenance of signs, banners, awnings, marquees, and other temporary or permanent structures, excepting temporary or	\$75.00

Old Orchard Beach, Maine, Code of Ordinances  
APPENDIX A SCHEDULE OF LICENSE, PERMIT AND APPLICATION FEES

permanent structures of public utilities corporations, on the sidewalk, roadways, and streets of said town. Permanent signs affixed to buildings or sign poles extending over the town right-of-way are exempt.	
Tattoo establishment (see ordinance regulating same)	\$150.00
Tow trucks	\$150.00
Used car lots	\$150.00
Vehicles for hire (per vehicle) (only based in OOB)	\$150.00
Vending machines	\$20.00 (per unit)
Victualers without preparation and no alcohol sales	\$150.00
Victualers without preparation with beer, wine, and/or liquor consumed on premises or take-Out	\$300.00
Victualers with preparation and no alcohol sales	\$200.00
Victualers with preparations with beer, wine, and/or liquor (consumed on premises or take-out)	\$325.00
Sidewalk cafe	\$150.00 plus \$2.00 per sq. ft.
Year round rentals	\$25.00 (per unit)
MISCELLANEOUS	(Amended 1/20/04)
Auctions	\$25.00
Billboards	\$10.00 (per billboard)
Bottle Clubs	\$375.00
Car Trailers And Car Trailer Parks	\$25.00 (up to 10 house-car trailers)
Additional House-car Trailers	\$2.50 (per house-car trailer)
Community Antennae Television System	
Application	\$25.00
Demolition Material Deposited at the Old Orchard Beach Demolition Site (per load)	
Single Axle Dump Truck	\$10.00
Dual Axle Dump Truck	\$20.00
Tractor Trailer Combo	\$40.00
Per day/Week Days—1 day	\$100.00
Per day/Week Days—½ day	\$75.00
Per day/Holiday/weekends—1 day	\$150.00
Per day/Holiday/weekends—½ day	\$100.00
DVD, per copy	\$15.00 (Amended by adding 9/7/04; Amended 10/2/12)
Flood Hazard Development Permit	\$1.00 (per \$1,000.00 valuation)
Horse Permits	\$20.00
Licensing Performing Arts Facility Application Fee	
Mass Gathering Permit	\$75.00
Photocopying-single sheets	
8½ × 11, each copy	\$0.25
8½ × 14, each copy	\$0.50
11 × 17, each copy	\$1.00

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Parking at all pay stations, meters and pay by parking app	\$4.00 per hour (Amended by adding 3/13/22; Amended 3-4-25)
Resident and non-resident Parking Permits: Payment of parking permits does not guarantee a parking space is available.	\$50.00 per residential parking permit for Milliken Street/Memorial Park municipal parking lots, and Town Hall after hours and on weekends. (Amended 3/1/22)
	\$75.00 per residential parking permit for Milliken Street/Memorial Park municipal parking lots, Town Hall parking lots after hours and on weekends and all parking meters and pay stations and pay by app (per permit) (Amended by adding 3/7/17; Amended 3/1/22)
	Residential parking permits are limited two per household
	\$150.00 per nonresidential parking permit for Milliken Street municipal parking lot. Does not include overnight parking. (Amended 2/7/12; Amended 3/1/22)
	\$300.00 per nonresidential permit, for overnight parking in the Milliken Street municipal lot only, (Amended by adding 10/21/14; Amended 3/1/22)
	\$100.00 nonresidential parking permit, seven consecutive days, parking in Milliken Street parking lot only, allows overnight parking. (Amended by adding 3/1/22; Amended 3/4/25)
	\$1,000.00 nonresidential parking permit includes Milliken Street Parking lot, allowing overnight parking; Memorial Park Parking Lot; on-street parking meters six -hours, the front and back parking lots of Town Hall, including Veteran's Square. Parking at the Town Hall and Veteran's Square is limited to after Town Hall business hours. Business hours are Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Tuesday 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (Amended by adding 3/4/25)
Returned Check Fee	\$20.00
Solid Waste Flow Control application fee	\$100.00
Special Amusement Permit	\$100.00
Special Events Permits application fee	\$50.00 (per day)
Tattoo Establishments	
Application Fee	\$100.00
License Fee	\$150.00 (per annum)
Towing Fees	
Towing:	
Service Call, gas, jumpstart, lockout, tire change etc.	\$75.00
Hookup/drop, Day or Night	\$25.00
Non-crash Tow Day (7:00 a.m. to 6 p.m.)	\$130.00

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Non-crash Tow Night (6:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.)	\$135.00
Crash Tow, Day (7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.)	\$150.00
Crash Tow Night (6:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.)	\$150.00
Use of Dollies or Go Jacks	\$25.00 (per tow)
Add'l charge per man hour each full hour after the first hour on the scene.	\$15.00
Recovery:	
Pull out only, Day (7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.)	\$130.00
Pull out only, Night (6:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.)	\$135.00
Pull out plus tow, Day or Night	\$200.00
Storage:	
Vehicle storage, per day	\$50.00
EV-Vehicle Storage, per day	\$100.00
Release Fee to be charged for pickup after working hours.	\$50.00
PLANNING DEPARTMENT FEES	(Amended by adding 1/20/04)
8½ × 11, per map	\$10.00
11 × 17, per map	\$25.00
42" map	\$100.00 per hour
36" map	\$100.00 per hour
24" map	\$100.00 per hour
PLUMBING PERMITS	
Minimum Plumbing Permit Fee	\$40.00
Re-inspection fee	\$50.00 per return inspection beyond two staff inspections.
Per Fixture	\$10.00
Installation of new drainage pipes or relocation in a building but not installation of fixtures	\$40.00
Hook-up fee for connection of mobile home which bears the HUD seal or modular home which bears the Manufactured Housing Board seal to a building sewer	\$75.00
Hook-up fee for connection to a public sewer when piping is installed beyond the jurisdiction of the sanitary district.	\$150.00
Transfer fee: Permit is valid only for the named applicant and may be transferred by payment of transfer fee	\$15.00
Complete Systems	
Non-engineered system	\$250.00
Primitive Disposal System (includes alt. toilet)	\$100.00
Engineered System	\$200.00
System Components (installed separately)	
Treatment Tank	\$80.00
Holding Tank	\$100.00
Alternative Toilet	\$50.00
Disposal Area	\$150.00

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Engineered Disposal Area	\$150.00
Separated Laundry Disposal System	\$35.00
Seasonal Conversion Permit	\$50.00
POLICE DEPARTMENT FEES	(Amended by adding 1/20/04)
Police Reports	
First Page	\$10.00
Each Additional Page	\$1.00
Copy of Video Tape	
Tape Provided	\$10.00
No Tape Provided	\$13.00
SEWERS	(Amended 6/6/06)
Disposal of Septic Tank Waste at the Treatment Plant	
Per Gallon assessed to the septic hauler	\$0.10
Administration fee per load	\$10.00
Application Fee	\$50.00 (per vehicle/annual basis)
Septic Tank Sludge Disposal Ordinance	
Application Fee	\$3.00
Solid Waste Flow Control Ordinance	
Annual fee for each vehicle licensed	\$100.00
Annual fee for each applicant licensed for activities not involving the transport of solid waste.	\$100.00
Connection and Inspection Fees	
(1) New dwellings, per dwelling unit	\$3,300.00
(2) New living units in hotels, motels, cabins, mobile home parks or additions thereto, per living unit	\$3,300.00
(3) New commercial or industrial buildings and all other buildings, the principal use of which does not consist of dwelling units or living units	\$4,125.00
Plus, per plumbing fixture	\$550.00
Plus, per any dwelling unit or living unit accessory to the principal use of the building (such per unit charge may be applied against the per-fixtue charges attributable to those units)	\$3,300.00
(4) New tent and trailer parks	\$4,125.00
Plus, per site	\$550.00
(5) Enlargements and additions to existing tent and trailer parks, per site	\$550.00
(6) Enlargements and additions to existing buildings, per additional plumbing fixture	\$275.00
Plus, per each new dwelling unit or living unit (the per-unit charge may be applied against the per-fixtue charge attributable to such units)	\$3,300.00
(7) Swimming pools, per pool	\$550.00
(8) Conversion of seasonal structures to year round dwelling units or living units, per dwelling unit or living	\$2,475.00 plus \$275.00 for each new fixture

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unit up to and including the number of units existing before the conversion	
Plus, per each unit in excess of the number of units existing before the conversion	\$3,300.00
(9) Replacement, relocation or reconstruction of the existing service connection (connection between the building sewer and the public sewer), per connection	\$550.00
Plus any other fees due under subsections (1) through (8) of this subsection.	
(10) Replacement of a dwelling unit due to deterioration or economic obsolescence including manufactured housing units as defined in chapter 78, per unit	\$750.00
Plus, for each additional plumbing fixture	\$275.00
(11) Change of use of an existing structure without expansion, per gallon per day of additional flow as specified in table 7.2 of the state plumbing code, as may be amended from time to time	\$4.75
(12) Whenever more than one of subsections (1) through (9) of this subsection applies, in full or in part, the required fee shall be determined by applying the subsection or combination of subsections which results in the largest fee.	
TAX OFFICE FEES	(Amended by adding 1/20/04)
Incoming Fax (proof of insurance)	\$2.00
Town Clerk, Non-Certified copy of a Vital Record	\$4.00
VOTER REGISTRATION FEES	(Amended by adding 1/20/04; Repealed 1/2/12)
ZONING	
Conditional Use	
Standard Application	\$250.00*
Home Occupation	\$100.00*
Child Care Facilities	\$250.00*
Wireless Telecommunication Facilities	\$500.00
Administrative Wireless Telecommunications	\$500.00*
Adult Business	\$500.00*
Appeal from Restrictions (Section 4.3.5)	\$300.00*
Campgrounds	\$400.00 plus \$20.00 per campsite* *Plus Peer Review Costs
Design Review	
Administrative Design Review(replacement and repair)	\$70.00
Administrative Design Review (expansions and new improvements)	\$150.00*
Design Review Certificate Review	\$300.00*
Certificate of Appropriateness	\$250.00*
Certificate of Non-Applicability	\$25.00

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Certificate of Economic Hardship	\$100.00
Amendments to Approved Plans	\$200.00* *Plus Peer Review Costs
Driveway Permits	
Driveway Permit	\$50.00 (includes one pre-construction and one post-construction inspection)
Re-Inspection Fee	\$50.00 (per occurrence)
Inspection Fees	
Administrative Applications	\$50.00 per return inspection beyond two staff inspections.
Subdivisions, Site Plans, Private Ways,	Direct cost of town engineer
Conditional Uses	Inspection, plus 10% processing fee
Drawdown Request	\$25.00 (per request)
Mineral Extraction	
Registration Fee	\$100.00 per acre*
Renewal Fee	\$100.00 plus \$20.00 per acre* *Plus Peer Review Costs
Parking Waivers	\$100.00
Private Way	
Class 1 Review Fee (Serving a Single Lot)	\$150.00*
Class 2 Review Fee	\$200.00*
Class 3 Review Fee (Serving 3 or more lots)	
If not part of the subdivision approval	\$200.00 (plus \$100.00 per lot over two*) *Plus engineer peer review fees
Sign Applications	
Administrative Design Review (signs under 20 s.f.)	\$125.00
Administrative Design Review (signs over 20 s.f.)	\$150.00
Sign Permits (signs under 20 s.f. outside of DD or HO districts)	\$100.00
Shoreland Zoning Permits	
Administrative Permit	\$100.00*
Planning Board Permit	\$150.00*
Special Exception	\$200.00* *Plus Peer Review Costs
Site Plan Review	
Sketch Plan	\$200.00*
Administrative Site Plan Review Fee	\$200.00*
Plenary Site Plan Review	\$200.00 (first 1,000 s.f. of building, parking and site improvements, plus \$100.00 per ea. add'l 1,000 s.f. of improvements)
Amendments to Approved Plans	\$200.00 (plus \$25.00 per 1,000 sq. ft. of change*) *Plus Peer Review Costs
Subdivisions	
(Lots)	
Sketch Plan	\$100.00 (plus \$10.00 per lot)

Old Orchard Beach, Maine, Code of Ordinances  
APPENDIX A SCHEDULE OF LICENSE, PERMIT AND APPLICATION FEES

Minor (4 lots or less)	\$250.00 (plus \$100.00 per lot over two*)
Preliminary Subdivision Review	\$400.00 (plus \$50.00 per lot*)
Final Subdivision Review	\$400.00 (plus \$30.00 per lot*)
Amendments to Approved Plans	\$200.00 (plus \$50.00 per lot changed*) *Plus Peer Review Costs
(Condominiums)	
Sketch Plan	\$100.00 (plus \$3.00 per unit*)
Minor (4 lots or less)	\$250.00 (plus \$20.00 per unit over two*)
Preliminary Subdivision Review	\$400.00 (plus \$15.00 per unit*)
Final Subdivision Review	\$300.00 (plus \$10.00 per unit*)
Amendments to Approved Plans	\$200.00 (plus \$10.00 per unit changed*) *Plus Peer Review Costs
Zoning Board of Appeals	
Miscellaneous Appeal	\$75.00
Variance	\$75.00
Administrative Appeal	\$150.00
Zone Changes	
Zone Map Amendments	\$500.00 (plus costs of notifications and map redrafting)
Zone Text Amendments	\$500.00 (plus costs of notifications and publications)

## AGENDA ITEM #8898

**Discussion with Action:** The Chamber of Commerce has an approved Special Event Permit for their annual Car Show, for September 11th and 12th, 2026, approved March 4th, 2025. Request to move the dates to September 18th and 19th, 2026.

Chair: Shawn O'Neill

**AGENDA ITEM #8899**

**Discussion with Action:** Repeal and replace the General Assistance Ordinance.

Chair: Shawn O'Neill

# **GENERAL ASSISTANCE ORDINANCE**



**MAINE MUNICIPAL  
ASSOCIATION SINCE 1936**

**Prepared by Maine Municipal Association  
September 2025**

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**ARTICLE I – Statement of Policy**

The Municipality of \_\_\_\_\_ administers a general assistance (GA) program available to all persons who are eligible pursuant to the standards provided in this ordinance, state law (22 M.R.S. §§ 4301-4326), and Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) regulations.

The program will make every effort to recognize the dignity of applicants while helping eligible persons achieve self-maintenance by promoting the work incentive. When possible, the program will connect recipients with rehabilitative, preventive, and protective services to alleviate non-financial needs. The GA program will not place unreasonable restrictions on the personal rights of applicants or recipients, nor will it discriminate based on sex, age, race, nationality, religion, sexual orientation, or disability. The municipality is committed to including qualified individuals with disabilities in municipal services, programs, and activities. As a result, the municipality will promote a GA program, that when viewed in its entirety, is readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities. GA applicants with physical or mental disabilities that require a reasonable accommodation in order to access and/or utilize the GA program are encouraged to contact the municipality to make an accommodation request.

The program provides trauma-informed services and culturally and linguistically appropriate services to all applicants. “Trauma-informed services” means services that acknowledge and are informed by the widespread effects of trauma and recognize the potential paths for recovery; recognize the unique signs and symptoms of trauma in applicants, clients, families and staff; respond by fully integrating knowledge about trauma into policies, procedures and practices; and seek to actively avoid retraumatization. “Culturally and linguistically appropriate services” means services that are designed to serve culturally diverse populations in a person’s preferred language; function effectively within the context of cultural beliefs, behaviors and needs presented by a person who applies to or is a recipient of assistance from the program and the person’s community; contribute to a work environment that supports diversity; promote community engagement; build trust and relationships with applicants and recipients; actively support and enable recipients to make informed choices; and value and facilitate the exchange of information with recipients. (22 M.R.S. § 4305(7)).

The Administrator will act promptly on all applications for assistance and requests for fair hearings and will provide GA applicants with information regarding their rights and responsibilities under the program. Within 24 hours after receipt of an application, the Administrator will provide the applicant a written decision, whether or not assistance is granted, that will state the specific reasons for the decision. The Administrator will also provide the applicant written notice that the applicant may appeal to the municipal fair hearing authority if dissatisfied with the decision. When an applicant is determined to be eligible, assistance appropriate to the need will be furnished within 24 hours after the completed application is submitted except when the Administrator issues non-emergency assistance conditionally on the successful completion of a workfare assignment (*see Ordinance § 5.6*).

The Administrator will maintain complete and accurate records pertaining to each applicant and recipient. These records are confidential as a matter of law. (22 M.R.S. § 4306).

The Administrator will post notice stating the regular business hours when an application may be obtained, the designated business hours when an application may be accepted and processed, and

ARTICLE I – Statement of Policy

the Administrator, or other designated person/entity that will be available to take applications in an emergency at all other times. A copy of this ordinance and Maine GA law will be available to any member of the public upon request. Notice to this effect will be posted.

The Administrator will complete training including, but not limited to, the purpose of the GA program, the delivery of trauma-informed services and culturally linguistically appropriate services as defined above, and the laws governing the GA program's administration, procedures, and requirements no later than 120 days after appointment or election. (22 M.R.S. 4302-A).

**ARTICLE II – Definitions**

**Section 2.1—Common Meaning of Words**

Unless otherwise apparent or defined, all words in this ordinance will have their common meaning.

**Section 2.2—Special Definitions**

**Administrator.** See “General Assistance Administrator,” below.

**Applicant.** A person who has submitted an application for GA directly or through an authorized representative, or who has, in an emergency, requested assistance without first completing an application. All persons on whose behalf an authorized application has been submitted or on whose behalf benefits have been granted shall be considered applicants.

**Application Form.** A standardized form used by the Administrator to allow a person to apply for GA benefits. The application form also confirms that a person has made an application. The application form is not complete unless signed by the applicant.

**Basic Necessities.** Food, clothing, shelter, fuel, electricity, potable water, non-elective essential medical services as prescribed by a physician, nonprescription drugs, basic telephone service where it is necessary for medical or work-related reasons, property taxes when a tax lien placed on the property threatens the loss of the applicant’s place of residence, and any other commodity or service determined essential by the municipality.

“Basic necessities” do not include:

- Phone bills
- Cable or satellite dish television
- Mail orders
- Vehicle payments
- Credit card debt\*\*
- Furniture
- Loan re-payments\*\*
- Cigarettes
- Alcohol
- Pet care costs
- Vacation costs
- Legal fees
- Late fees
- Key deposits
- Security deposits for rental property (except when no other permanent lodging is available unless a security deposit is paid, and a waiver, deferral or installment arrangement cannot be made between landlord and tenant to avoid need for immediate payment of the security deposit in full). (22 M.R.S. § 4301(1)).

\*\* Repayments of loans or credit will be treated as having been spent on basic necessities when the applicant can provide verification of this fact.

**Case Record.** An official file containing application forms; correspondence; narrative records and all other communications pertaining to an applicant or recipient; written decisions regarding

eligibility including reasons for those decisions and types and amounts of assistance provided; records concerning an applicant’s request for fair hearing; and fair hearing decisions.

**Categorical Assistance.** All state and federal income maintenance programs.

**Claimant.** A person who has requested a fair hearing.

**Deficit.** An applicant’s deficit is the appropriate overall maximum level of assistance for the household (see Ordinance § 6.8) less the household income (calculated pursuant to Ordinance § 6.7), provided that this calculation yields a positive number. If the household income is greater than the appropriate overall maximum level of assistance, the household has no deficit.

**Disabled Person.** A person who is presently unable to work or maintain a home due to a physical or mental disability that is verified by a physician or qualified mental health provider.

**Dwelling Unit.** A building or part thereof used for separate living quarters for one or more persons living as a single housekeeping unit. (22 M.R.S. § 4301(2)).

**Earned Income.** Wages or Income-in-kind derived by providing goods or services to an individual, company, organization, or other entity.

**Eligible Person.** A person who is qualified to receive GA benefits from the municipality according to the eligibility standards in this Ordinance, Maine law (22 M.R.S. ch. 1161), and DHHS regulations (10-144 C.M.R. ch. 323). If otherwise qualified, “Eligible Person” includes U.S. citizens; non-U.S. citizens who are lawfully present in the United States as described in 8 U.S.C. § 1621(a)(1)-(3); and non-U.S. citizens who are pursuing a lawful process to apply for immigration relief. Assistance for non-citizens pursuing a lawful process for immigration relief shall not exceed 24 months beginning with assistance provided after July 1, 2015. “Eligible Person” does not include a fugitive from justice as defined in 15 M.R.S. § 201(4). (See “Pursuing a Lawful Process,” below)

**Emergency.** Any life-threatening situation, or a situation beyond the control of the individual which, if not alleviated immediately, could reasonably be expected to pose a threat to the health or safety of a person. At the municipality’s option, it includes a situation which is imminent and which may result in undue hardship or unnecessary cost to the individual or municipality if not resolved immediately. (22 M.R.S. §§ 4301(4), 4308(2), 4310).

**General Assistance (“GA”) Program.** A service administered by a municipality for the immediate aid of persons who are unable to provide the basic necessities essential to maintain themselves or their families. A GA program provides a specific amount and type of aid for defined needs during a limited period of time and is not intended to be a continuing “grant-in-aid” or “categorical” welfare program. This definition shall not lessen the municipality’s responsibility to provide GA benefits to a person each time that the person is in need and is found to be eligible to receive GA. (22 M.R.S. § 4301(5)).

**General Assistance (“GA”) Benefits.** Benefits provided to a person through the GA program.

**General Assistance (“GA”) Administrator.** A municipal official designated to receive applications, make decisions concerning an applicant’s right to receive assistance, and prepare records and communications concerning assistance. They may be an elected overseer or an authorized agent such as a town manager, welfare director, or caseworker. (22 M.R.S. § 4301(12)).

**Homelessness.** “Homelessness” means a situation in which a person or household is: (a) living in a place that is not fit for human habitation; (b) living in an emergency shelter; (c) living in temporary housing, including but not limited to a hotel, motel, campground, unlicensed campsite or rehabilitation facility; (d) exiting a hospital or institution licensed under 22 M.R.S. ch. 405 or a correctional facility where the person or household resided for up to 90 days if the person or household was in an emergency shelter or a place not fit for human habitation before entering the hospital, institution or correctional facility; (e) losing the person’s or household’s primary nighttime residence and lacking the resources or support networks to remain in that residence; or (f) fleeing or attempting to flee violence and has no other residence.

**Household.** “Household” means an individual or a group of individuals who share a dwelling unit. When an applicant shares a dwelling unit with one or more individuals, even when a landlord-tenant relationship may exist between individuals residing in the dwelling unit, eligible applicants may receive assistance for no more than their pro rata share of the actual costs of the shared basic needs of that household according to the maximum levels of assistance established in the municipal ordinance. The pro rata share is calculated by dividing the maximum level of assistance available to the entire household by the total number of household members. The income of household members not legally liable shall be considered as available to the applicant only when there is a pooling of income. (22 M.R.S. § 4301(6)). Residents of a Recovery Residence are not considered a shared household.

**Income.** “Income” means any form of earned or unearned income in cash or in kind received by the household including:

- Net remuneration for services performed;
- Cash received on either secured or unsecured credit;
- Payments received as an annuity, retirement or disability benefits;
- Veterans’ pensions and/or benefits;
- Retirement accounts or benefits;
- Workers’ compensation payments;
- Unemployment benefits;
- Federal and/or state tax returns;
- Income from pension or trust funds;
- Student loans;
- Benefits under any state or federal categorical assistance program such as TANF, Supplemental Security Income, Social Security and any other payments from governmental sources (unless specifically prohibited by any law or regulation);
- Court ordered support payments (e.g., child support);
- Household income from any other source, including relatives or unrelated household members; and
- Rental income.

The following items will not be considered as income or assets that must be liquidated for the purposes of deriving income:

- Real or personal income-producing property, tools of trade, governmental entitlement specifically treated as exempt assets by state or federal law;
- Actual work-related expenses, whether itemized or by standard deduction, such as taxes, retirement fund contributions, union dues, transportation costs to and from work, special equipment costs and childcare expenses; or
- Earned income of children below the age of 18 years who are full-time students and who are not working full-time.

In determining need, the period of time used as a basis for the calculation shall be a 30-day period commencing on the date of the application. This prospective calculation shall not disqualify an applicant who has exhausted income to purchase basic necessities, provided that the income does not exceed the income standards established by the municipality. (22 M.R.S. § 4301(7)).

- Benefits received pursuant to public benefit programs that are specifically exempt from being counted as income for purposes of GA. These programs include:
  - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (7 U.S.C. § 2017(b))
  - Li-Heap (42 U.S.C. § 8624)
  - Family Development Accounts (22 M.R.S. § 3762)
  - AmeriCorp VISTA program benefits (42 U.S.C. § 5044 (f))
  - Property tax rebates issued under the Maine Property Tax Fairness Credit program, but only if the money is spent on basic necessities (22 M.R.S. § 4301(7))
  - ASPIRE Support Service Payments (10-144 CMR Chapter 323)

**Initial Applicant.** A person who has not previously applied for GA assistance in this or any other municipality.

**Just Cause.** A valid, verifiable reason that hinders an individual from complying with one or more conditions of eligibility or from attending a scheduled fair hearing. (22 M.R.S. §§ 4301(8), 4316-A(5)).

**Landlord.** A person who owns a property and allows another person to use that property in return for payment. (22 M.R.S. § 4301(8-B)).

**Lump Sum Payment.** A one-time or typically nonrecurring sum of money issued to an applicant or recipient. Lump sum payment includes, but is not limited to, retroactive or settlement portions of social security benefits, workers' compensation payments, unemployment benefits, disability income, veterans' benefits, severance pay benefits, or money received from inheritances, lottery winnings, personal injury awards, property damage claims or divorce settlements. A lump sum payment includes only the amount of money available to the applicant after required deductions have been taken from the gross lump sum payment. A lump sum payment does not include conversion of a non-liquid resource to a liquid resource if the liquid resource has been used or is intended to be used to replace the converted resource or for other necessary expenses. (22 M.R.S. § 4301 (8-A)).

**Material Fact.** A material fact is a fact that necessarily has some bearing on the determination of an applicant's GA eligibility, and which would, if disclosed to the Administrator, have some determinable effect on the calculation of eligibility or the issuance of a grant of assistance.

**Maximum Levels of Assistance.** The amount of financial assistance for a commodity or service as established in Ordinance § 6.8 or the actual cost of any such basic necessity, whichever is less.

**Misconduct.** For purposes of the GA work requirement (22 M.R.S. § 4316-A), misconduct shall have the same meaning as “misconduct” in 26 M.R.S. § 1043(23). (*See Ordinance Appendix I*). Generally, misconduct occurs when an employee violates their obligations to the employer. Employees who engage in a pattern of irresponsible behavior to the detriment of the employer’s interest may also be found guilty of misconduct.

**Misspent Income.** Misspent income includes income-in-kind received, or paid for, by a GA repeat applicant from sources, including friends or relatives, for the payment of bills that are considered unnecessary costs, such as cable bills, credit card debt, court fines and related court costs, payments to reimburse a municipality for false representation, tobacco and alcohol products, and similar items. Misspent income will be considered as available to the applicant when determining use of income for the previous 30-day period.

**Municipality.** Any city, town or plantation administering a GA program.

**Municipality of Responsibility.** The municipality which is financially liable for the support of an eligible person at the time of application. (22 M.R.S. §§ 4301(9), 4307).

**Need.** The condition whereby a person’s income, money, property, credit, assets, or other resources available to provide basic necessities for the individual and the individual’s family are less than the maximum levels of assistance. (22 M.R.S. §§ 4301(10), 4308).

**Net General Assistance Costs.** Those direct costs incurred by a municipality in providing assistance to eligible persons according to standards established by the municipal officers. These do not include the administrative expenses of the GA program. (22 M.R.S. §§ 4301(11), 4311).

**Operator.** The lawful owner of a recovery residence or an individual or company designated by the lawful owner to have primary responsibility for the day-to-day operations of the recovery residence and for acquiring and maintaining certification pursuant to Title 5, section 20005, subsection 22 of the recovery residence in order to receive housing assistance payments through the GA program. (22 M.R.S. § 4301(11-A)).

**Period of Eligibility.** The time for which a person has been granted assistance. The period of eligibility may vary depending on the type of assistance provided; however, in no event shall this period extend beyond one month. (22 M.R.S. § 4309(1)).

**Pooling of Income.** “Pooling of income” means the financial relationship among household members who are not legally liable for mutual support in which there occurs any commingling of funds or sharing of income or expenses. This ordinance establishes a rebuttable presumption that persons sharing the same dwelling unit are pooling their income, except that applicants that who request assistance while residing in a Recovery Residence are not considered to be commingling funds. Applicants who request that the determination of eligibility be calculated as though one or more household members are not pooling their income have the burden of rebutting the presumed pooling of income.

**Potential Resources.** Sources of financial assistance, including programs, services, non-liquid assets or trusts which typically require people to apply in writing and/or wait a period of time before eligibility is determined or the potential income is released.

**Pursuing a Lawful Process to Apply for Immigration Relief.** Taking reasonable, good faith steps to apply for immigration relief within twelve months of arrival to the United States, with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services or before an immigration judge or federal court. (See DHHS regulation, 10-144 C.M.R. ch. 323, for additional guidance).

**Real Estate.** Any land, buildings, homes, mobile homes, and any other things affixed to the land. (22 M.R.S. § 4301(13)).

**Recipient.** A person who has applied for and is currently receiving GA.

**Recovery Residence.** “Recovery residence” means a shared living residence for persons recovering from substance use disorder that is focused on peer support, provides to its residents an environment free of alcohol and illegal drugs and assists its residents by connecting the residents to support services or resources in the community that are available to persons recovering from substance use disorder. 5 M.R.S. § 20003(19-D).

**Registered Domestic Partner.** An individual registered as the domestic partner of the applicant pursuant to 22 M.R.S. § 2710.

**Rehabilitation Facility.** An inpatient facility that is operated for the primary purpose of assisting in the rehabilitation of disabled persons through an integrated program of medical services and other services that are provided under competent professional supervision.

**Repeat Applicants.** All applicants for GA benefits that are not initial applicants are repeat applicants. For purposes of this ordinance “repeat” and “subsequent” shall have the same meaning.

**Resident.** A person who is physically present in a municipality with the intention of remaining in that municipality in order to maintain or establish a home, and who has no other residence. A person who applies for assistance in a municipality who is not a resident of that municipality, or any other municipality is the responsibility of the municipality where the person first applies. That municipality must take an application and grant assistance to the applicant if they are eligible, until they establish a new residence in another municipality. (22 M.R.S. § 4307).

**Resources.** Resources include any program, service, or other sources of support which are an alternative to or supplement for GA. There are two kinds of resources: “available” and “potential”. Potential resources are programs, services, non-liquid assets, or trusts that typically require people to apply in writing and/or wait a period of time before eligibility is determined or the potential income is released.

Potential resources include, but are not limited to, state or federal assistance programs, employment benefits, governmental or private pension programs, available trust funds, support from legally liable relatives, child support payments, and jointly held resources where the applicant or recipient share may be available to the individual. (22 M.R.S. § 4317). Potential resources

include the TANF (previously known as AFDC) program, Food Stamps, fuel assistance (HEAP), subsidized housing, and similar programs.

Available resources include resources which are immediately available to the applicant or which can be conveniently secured by the applicant without delay, such as cash on hand or in bank accounts, assets for which there is an immediate and available market, or support from relatives which is being made available at the time of application and for which the applicant does not have to take any unreasonable steps to secure (e.g., relocation beyond the immediate region). At the discretion of the Administrator, a minimum balance required by a financial institution in order to obtain free checking or in order to maintain the account shall not be considered an available resource.

The Administrator reserves the right to inform GA clients of services, commodities or facilities made available by private organizations or charities; however, eligibility for GA benefits shall not be based or conditioned on the use of a private charitable resource(s).

**30-Day Need.** An applicant’s 30-day need is the sum of the household’s prospective 30-day costs, from the date of application, for the various basic necessities. For the purpose of this calculation, the 30-day cost for any basic need shall be the household’s actual 30-day cost for the basic necessity or the maximum 30-day cost for the basic necessity as established by this ordinance, whichever is less.

**Unearned Income.** Unearned income is income acquired from investments and other sources unrelated to employment. Unearned income also includes unemployment compensation, taxable social security benefits, pensions, annuities, and distributions of unearned income from a trust or any other income not meeting the definition of earned income.

**Unforeseen Repeat Applicants.** A repeat applicant who has not applied for assistance within the last twelve months and who has been regularly employed or receiving support from a public benefit program or private source and who has unexpectedly become unemployed through no fault of their own or whose benefits (e.g., through an available resource) have ceased through no fault of their own.

**Unmet Need.** An applicant’s unmet need is the household’s 30-day need (established by Ordinance § 6.6) less the household income (calculated pursuant to Ordinance § 6.7), provided such a calculation yields a positive number. If the household income is greater than the household’s 30-day need, the household does not have an unmet need.

**Work Requirements.** Work requirements are obligations the Administrator places on applicants as directed and/or authorized by 22 M.R.S. § 4316-A to the extent such obligations (1) ensure a continuing potential eligibility for GA when complied with, (2) result in ineligibility when violated, and (3) are not merely optional, discretionary, or advisory. Work requirements include registering for work, looking for work in good faith, accepting all suitable job offers, maintaining employment, performing workfare, and participating in training, educational, or rehabilitation programs that will assist the participant in securing employment.

## ARTICLE III – Administrative Rules and Regulations

### Section 3.1—Confidentiality of Information

Case records and all other information relating to a GA applicant or recipient are confidential and will not be disclosed to the general public. (22 M.R.S. § 4306).

**Release of Information.** Applicants, recipients, and their legal representatives have the right to review their case records. No record will be released to a third party unless the Administrator receives a signed consent form in which the applicant expressly authorizes the release of their records to the specified parties. Whenever the Administrator releases any information, they will make a notation in the applicant’s file stating to whom the record was released and the date. The Administrator may charge a reasonable fee for reproduction of records.

**Information from Other Sources; Penalty.** Information concerning an applicant or recipient furnished to the municipality by DHHS or any other agency or institution pursuant to 22 M.R.S. § 4314, is confidential. The Administrator will also comply with laws requiring confidentiality of vital statistic records such as birth, marriage, and death records. (22 M.R.S. § 2706).

Any representative of a financial institution or any employer of a GA applicant who, upon receipt of a written release signed by the depositor/employee and a written request from the Administrator, refuses to provide necessary information to the Administrator in order to verify an applicant’s eligibility must state in writing the reason for the refusal. National banks are also obligated to disclose deposit information to the Administrator upon receipt of a written request and release signed by the depositor. Additionally, when a municipality or its agents are acting in accordance with section 4313(2) to verify eligibility for funeral or cremation benefits, an officer of a financial institution must disclose the amount deposited upon receipt of a written request from the municipality or its agents and a notarized affidavit signed by the overseer of the municipality or its agents stating that the named depositor is deceased. Any such person who refuses to provide information, without just cause, may be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$25 nor more than \$100. Any person, including the applicant, who knowingly and willfully makes a false representation of a material fact to the Administrator commits a Class E crime. (22 M.R.S. §§ 4314, 4315).

**Misuse of Information.** Misuse of any information relating to an applicant or recipient is a punishable offense. (22 M.R.S. § 42(2)).

### Section 3.2—Maintenance of Records

The Administrator will maintain complete and accurate program records. (22 M.R.S. § 4306). These records are necessary to: (a) document and account for municipal program expenditures; (b) document and support decisions concerning applicants and recipients; and (c) ensure relevant information is available for any fair hearing or judicial review of the Administrator’s decisions.

**Case Records.** The Administrator will maintain a separate case record, in paper or digital format, for each applicant or recipient. Each case record will include at least:

- household applications;
- household budget sheets;

### ARTICLE III – Administrative Rules and Regulations

- the types and amounts of assistance provided;
- narrative statements describing the nature of the emergency situation whenever GA is granted in amounts greater than the applicant's mathematical eligibility (i.e., deficit or unmet need, whichever is less);
- written decisions;
- requests for fair hearings and the fair hearing authority decisions;
- workfare participation records;
- repayments to the municipality;
- narrative writings documenting the need for GA, the results of home visits, collateral information, referrals, changes in status;
- client authorization(s) for the release of GA information and/or reason(s) for the release of confidential information;
- adjustments in aid, and suspension or termination of eligibility;
- physician's documentation;
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI) interim assistance reimbursement authorization forms; and
- vendor forms

Case records will not include information that is irrelevant to the applicant's or recipient's application or the Administrator's decisions.

**Retention of Records.** GA records shall be retained for at least three full years. The three-year period shall coincide with the state government's fiscal year which begins July 1 and ends on the following June 30. Records may be destroyed after three years by supervised shredding, burning or an appropriate digital deletion/destruction process. If a recipient's records contain SSI reimbursement forms, the recipient's records should be retained so that the municipality may seek reimbursement.

## ARTICLE IV – Application Procedure

### Section 4.1—Right to Apply

**Who May Apply.** Any person may apply for GA. The head of the family, any other responsible household member, or an authorized representative must apply in person, except in special emergency situations (see Ordinance § 4.9) or when the applicant resides at an emergency shelter and the municipality has made an agreement with that emergency shelter to presume shelter residents eligible for GA benefits. (22 M.R.S. § 4304(3)). In such cases, the Administrator may require a representative to present a signed statement documenting that they are authorized to apply on behalf of the named applicant. The applicant or representative must complete a written application and any other forms necessary for the Administrator to determine eligibility. (22 M.R.S. §§ 4305, 4308). With notice, all members of the household receiving GA may be required to physically present themselves to the Administrator. Note that fugitives from justice are ineligible for GA benefits.

**Telephone Applications.** When a person has an emergency but is unable to apply in person due to illness, disability, lack of childcare, lack of transportation or other good cause, and they cannot send an authorized representative, the Administrator will accept an application by telephone. The telephone application is subject to written verification by mail and a visit to the applicant’s home with their permission. (22 M.R.S. § 4304).

**Written Application Upon Each Request.** Each request for assistance will be administered in accordance with these guidelines, and the Administrator will make an independent determination of eligibility for GA each time a person applies. (22 M.R.S. §§ 4308, 4309).

**Applications Available/Accepted; Posted Notice.** Any person may obtain an application for GA during the municipality’s regular business hours. Applications will be accepted and processed during designated daily hours that will not total less than 50% of the municipality’s regular business hours. In an emergency, however, the Administrator or their designee will be available to accept applications for assistance whenever necessary.

The municipality will post notice stating the regular business hours when an application may be obtained, the designated daily hours during which applications for assistance will be accepted and processed; and contact information for the Administrator available to take emergency applications at all other times. In addition, the posted notice shall state that the municipality must issue a written decision on all applications within 24-hours and will include the DHHS toll-free telephone number for reporting alleged violations or complaints. (22 M.R.S. § 4304).

### Section 4.2—Application Interview

Except when it is impractical, the Administrator will interview each applicant in person before making a decision. Interviews will be conducted in private, although the applicant may be accompanied by a legal representative, friend, or family member.

**Section 4.3—Contents of the Application**

An application must contain the following information:

- a) the applicant’s name, address, date of birth, SSN or appropriate United States Customs and Immigration Services (USCIS) documentation, and phone number;
- b) the names, date(s) of birth, and SSN(s) or appropriate USCIS documentation of other household members for whom the applicant seeks assistance;
- c) the total number of individuals living with the applicant;
- d) employment and employability information;
- e) a listing of all household income, resources, assets, and property;
- f) the applicant’s household expenses;
- g) the types of assistance requested;
- h) a statement of the penalty for false representation;
- i) the applicant’s permission for the Administrator to verify information;
- j) the signature of applicant and date.

If an initial applicant is unable to provide identification records (e.g., SSN card/number) because the record may have been lost, stolen or misplaced, the Administrator may allow the initial applicant a reasonable amount of time (e.g., five working days), to obtain copies of identification records. Provided the initial applicant makes a good faith effort to obtain the item/record sought, GA benefits necessary to cure an immediate and/or emergency need shall not be withheld. In such cases the Administrator may elect to provide a prorated amount of GA (e.g., five days’ worth), while the applicant attempts to obtain the required information.

**Section 4.4— GA Administrator’s Responsibilities at the Time of Application**

The Administrator will inform all applicants of: (1) their rights and responsibilities; (2) general program requirements for applying for and receiving GA, and (3) application requirements, eligibility guidelines, applicant rights, and applicant reimbursement obligations.

**Application Requirements.** The Administrator will help applicants complete application forms and inform applicants of any other information or documents necessary to evaluate the applicant’s eligibility. The Administrator will fully explain the purpose of any forms consenting to release of the applicant’s information and any benefit reimbursement agreements before the Administrator requests the applicant’s signature or written authorization.

**Eligibility Requirements.** The Administrator will inform the applicant, either orally or in writing, of the eligibility requirements of the program, including:

- the income standard of need;
- the applicant’s ongoing use-of-income, work-related, and resource-related responsibilities, as described in the section immediately below;
- the reduction in assistance that results from spending household income on non-basic necessities;
- immigration status (see definition of “Eligible Person”); and
- the disqualification penalties associated with committing fraud, failing to perform work-related assignments without just cause, or failing to make a good faith effort to secure potential resources when the requirement to attempt to obtain those resources has been explained to the applicant in writing.

**Applicant Rights.** The Administrator will inform all applicants of their right to:

- review the municipal GA ordinance and Maine GA statute and regulations;
- apply for assistance;
- receive a written decision concerning eligibility within 24-hours after application;
- confidentiality of the application and other records;
- contact the DHHS with complaints;
- challenge the Administrator’s decision by requesting a fair hearing.

**Reimbursement/Recovery.** The Administrator will inform the applicant/recipient that they must reimburse the municipality the amount of GA benefits they have been granted if they subsequently have the ability to pay. The municipality may also, as appropriate, contact and inform the applicant/recipient’s legal representative of the recipient’s obligation to repay the municipality.

The municipality may also recover the amount of assistance granted to a recipient during the previous 12 months from any relative legally liable for the applicant’s support, such as a spouse, or the parents of persons under the age of 25. (*See Article VIII, “Recovery of Expenses”*). (22 M.R.S. §§ 4318, 4319). Whenever applicable, the Administrator will explain the liens a municipality may place against a recipient’s real or personal property, such as the mortgage or capital improvement lien, the Workers’ Compensation lump sum payment lien, or the SSI “Interim Assistance Agreement” lien, described in Article VIII, “Recovery of Expenses.”

#### **Section 4.5—Responsibilities of the Applicant at Time of Application**

The applicant is responsible to provide accurate, complete, and current household information and verifiable documentation at the time of each application concerning:

- Income
- Resources
- Assets
- Employment
- Use of income
- Names and addresses of any relatives legally liable for the applicant’s support
- Any change in this information from a previous application that would affect household eligibility. (22 M.R.S. § 4309).

In addition, the applicant must accurately report and provide verifiable documentation that shows the applicant:

- a) has remained employed, if previously employed, and has not quit work without just cause or been discharged from employment for misconduct;
- b) has been seeking employment, if previously unemployed or employed on a part-time basis, has accepted any suitable offer of employment, and has satisfactorily performed all workfare assignments or had just cause not to perform those assignments;
- c) has made use of all available and potential resources when directed in writing to such a program by the Administrator, including, but not limited to, other government benefit programs or the assistance of liable relatives of sufficient means; and
- d) has participated in any training, retraining, educational or rehabilitative program when appropriate and when directed in writing to such a program by the Administrator, in order to diminish the applicant’s need for GA. (22 M.R.S. §§ 4316-A, 4317).

#### **Section 4.6—Action on Applications**

**Written Decision.** The Administrator will issue a written decision concerning the applicant’s eligibility within 24 hours after the applicant submits a written application. Assistance will be furnished to eligible applicants within that period except when the municipality is permitted by law (and pursuant to Ordinance § 5.6) to issue assistance conditionally on the successful completion of a workfare assignment. (22 M.R.S. §§ 4305, 4316-A, 4321). A written decision will be given each time a person applies, whether assistance is granted, denied, reduced, or terminated.

**Content of Decision.** The Administrator’s written decision will contain:

- a) the type and amount of benefits granted, or the applicant’s ineligibility for benefits;
- b) the period of eligibility if the applicant is eligible for assistance;
- c) the specific reasons for the Administrator’s decision;
- d) the applicant’s right to a fair hearing; and
- e) the applicant’s right to notify the DHHS if they believe the municipality has acted illegally. (22 M.R.S. § 4321).

#### **Section 4.7—Withdrawal of an Application**

An application will be considered withdrawn if the applicant requests in writing that the application be withdrawn; or if the applicant refuses to complete or sign the application or any other document needed by the Administrator.

#### **Section 4.8—Temporary Refusal to Accept Application**

Under special circumstances, the Administrator may temporarily refuse to accept applications. Such circumstances include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a) When the applicant’s conduct is abusive, disruptive, or harassing, or when the applicant is under the influence of drugs or alcohol. In these situations, the applicant will be asked to leave; if the applicant refuses to leave, the police may be summoned. The applicant will be informed that an application will only be accepted when their conduct is under control.
- b) If the Administrator believes that an applicant’s behavior presents a threat to the health or safety of the public or to a municipal employee, if the applicant’s behavior is violent, or if an applicant has engaged in abusive, disruptive or harassing behavior and has been required to leave on more than one occasion, the applicant may be required to designate a third party to apply for assistance on their behalf and the applicant may be prohibited from entering the municipal building;
- c) When a third person applies for assistance on behalf of the applicant that person may be required to provide written verification that they have been duly authorized to act as a representative for the applicant. (22 M.R.S. § 4308).

#### **Section 4.9—Emergencies**

An “emergency” means any life-threatening situation, or a situation beyond the control of the applicant which if not alleviated immediately could reasonably be expected to pose a threat to the health or safety of the applicant or a member of the household. (22 M.R.S. § 4301(4)). An emergency includes homelessness or imminent homelessness. Even if an applicant is otherwise ineligible to receive GA benefits, unless they are disqualified as provided below, emergency

assistance may be granted to applicants who lack sufficient income and resources to meet the emergency need and also have not had sufficient income and resources to avert the emergency. (22 M.R.S. § 4308).

A municipality may provide emergency assistance when the municipality determines that an emergency is imminent and that failure to provide assistance may result in undue hardship and unnecessary costs to either the applicant or the municipality.

**Disqualification for Emergency Assistance.** A person who is currently disqualified from receiving GA due to a violation of Ordinance §§ 5.5, 5.6, 5.7, 5.8, 5.9 or 6.4 is ineligible to receive emergency assistance. (22 M.R.S. § 4308(2)(A)). However, dependents of a disqualified person may be eligible for assistance. For the purposes of this section, “dependents” are defined as: (1) a dependent minor child; (2) an elderly, ill or disabled person; or (3) a person whose presence is required to provide care for any child under the age of 6 years or any ill or disabled member of the household. (22 M.R.S. § 4309(3)).

If one or more members of a household are disqualified and assistance is requested for the remaining dependents, the eligibility of those dependents will be calculated by dividing the maximum level of assistance available to the entire household by the total number of household members.

**Assistance Prior to Verification.** Whenever an applicant informs the Administrator that they need assistance immediately, the Administrator will grant, pending verification, the assistance within 24 hours, provided that:

- a) after interviewing the applicant the Administrator has determined that the applicant will probably be eligible for assistance after a verification of information is completed; and
- b) the applicant submits documentation when possible, to verify their need. The Administrator may contact at least one other person to confirm the applicant’s statements about his/her need for emergency assistance. No further assistance will be authorized until the applicant’s eligibility is confirmed. (22 M.R.S. § 4310).

Benefits provided prior to verification are limited as follows:

- a) The authorization of benefits may not exceed 30 days.
- b) Until there has been full verification confirming the applicant’s eligibility, further benefit may not be authorized.
- c) The authorization of benefits may not exceed levels of assistance established in 22 M.R.S. § 4308. (22 M.R.S. § 4310(4)).

**Telephone Applications.** If a person has an emergency need and cannot apply in person due to illness, disability, lack of transportation, or other good cause, and if there is no authorized representative who can apply on behalf of the applicant, the Administrator shall accept an application over the telephone. (22 M.R.S. § 4304).

Assistance will not be granted after a telephone application if the applicant refuses to allow the Administrator to verify information provided by the applicant either by visiting their home or by mail, and the Administrator cannot determine eligibility through any other means.

**Limitation on Emergency Assistance.** Applicants are not automatically eligible for emergency assistance. If an applicant had income which could have been used to prevent all or part of an emergency, but they spent that income on items which are not basic necessities, the applicant will not be eligible to receive GA to replace the misspent money. (22 M.R.S. §§ 4308(2) & 4315-A).

All applicants must provide the Administrator with verifiable documentation demonstrating that the applicant lacked sufficient income to avert the emergency situation. According to the following criteria, the Administrator may limit emergency assistance to cover only the difference between the amount of money necessary for the household to avoid the emergency and the amount of income available to the household during the applicable time period.

- a) The applicable time period shall be the 30 days preceding the application for emergency assistance, except in those cases where the emergency was created by a negative account balance for a commodity or service (such as rent, mortgage, or utility payments), and the negative account balance was created over a longer period of time. In such cases, the applicable time period shall be the consecutive length of time the account balance has been in the negative.
- b) The Administrator shall seek from the applicant all information pertinent to the applicant's ability to provide for their basic necessities for the applicable time period, including evidence of all income and resources received over that period of time.
- c) The Administrator shall calculate all costs per month for the household's basic necessities during the applicable time period, consistent with the maximum levels established by this ordinance for the specific basic necessity or the actual monthly cost, whichever is less, including all costs associated with averting the particular emergency situation for which the applicant is seeking assistance.
- d) From the total household costs for basic necessities during the applicable time period, the Administrator shall subtract the total income and lump sum payments available to the household for the applicable time period, as well as the total GA actually received during the applicable time period.
- e) The Administrator may restrict the issuance of emergency assistance to the difference yielded by the computation in subsection (d), even when such a grant will not totally alleviate the emergency situation.
- f) The Administrator may waive this limitation on emergency assistance in life threatening situations or for initial applicants; that is, persons who have never before applied for GA.
- g) Nothing in these criteria may be construed as prohibiting a municipality from electing to alleviate an emergency situation in the most cost-effective manner available, provided such a determination of eligibility for emergency assistance is in conformance with GA law.

The municipality cannot exceed maximum levels of assistance for an applicant household for more than 30 days in a 12-month period when assistance is granted for housing in a hotel, motel, inn or other lodging place.

#### **Section 4.10—Residence**

The Administrator shall provide GA to all eligible applicants who are residents of this municipality. A resident is a person who has no other residence, is physically present in this municipality and who intends to remain here and establish a household.

The municipality also recognizes its responsibility to provide assistance to eligible persons who apply here and who are not residents of this municipality or any other municipality. If a person who is not a resident of any municipality applies in this municipality first, the Administrator will determine their eligibility and, if eligible, will grant assistance until they establish a residence in another municipality. (22 M.R.S. § 4307).

**Moving/Relocating.** The municipality will not consider moving or transporting an applicant or recipient into another municipality unless the person requests assistance to relocate to another municipality. If the Administrator determines the applicant is eligible and grants financial assistance to help with the requested relocation, this municipality will be responsible for providing assistance to the applicant for 6 months after they move including processing applications and determining eligibility for assistance.

**Institutions.** If a resident of this municipality enters an institution located in another municipality (such as a group home, shelter, rehabilitation center, nursing home, or hospital) and requests assistance while at the institution, they will be the responsibility of this municipality for up to 12 months after they enter the institution if the conditions of 22 M.R.S. § 4307 and § 4313 are met. The municipality thereafter retains responsibility for an applicant in an institution only if the applicant has maintained a home in this municipality to which they intend to return. The municipality also recognizes its responsibility for applicants residing in an institution in this municipality if such an applicant had no residence prior to entering the institution. (22 M.R.S. § 4307(4)).

**Temporary Housing.** Hotels/motels and similar places of temporary lodging are considered institutions if the municipality grants financial assistance for, makes arrangements for, or advises or encourages an applicant to stay in temporary lodging.

**Note:** A municipality which illegally denies housing assistance will be responsible for the applicant for up to 12 months if, as a result of the denial, the applicant stays in temporary lodging. The municipality may also be subject to other penalties. (22 M.R.S. § 4307(4)).

**Disputes.** When the Administrator believes that an applicant is a resident of another municipality, but that municipality disputes its responsibility, the Administrator will notify DHHS' Augusta office (287-3654 or 1-800-442-6003). If the applicant applies in this municipality first, the Administrator will determine their eligibility and, if eligible, will grant assistance until the DHHS has concluded which municipality is responsible for providing assistance. If another municipality was responsible, the DHHS will recover the amount due from the other municipality. (22 M.R.S. §§ 4307(5), 4307(6)).

## ARTICLE V – Eligibility Factors

A person will be eligible for GA if they are an “Eligible Person” as defined in section 2.2, is in need, and has complied with the eligibility requirements set forth below. (*For guidance in determining whether an applicant is an Eligible Person, contact DHHS at (800) 442-6003 (TTY: 287-6948)*).

### Section 5.1—Initial Application

**Initial Application.** For initial applicants, need will be the sole condition of eligibility, except that all applicants, including initial applicants, are disqualified for a defined period (1) for quitting employment without just cause or for being discharged from employment for misconduct (*see Ordinance § 5.5*) or (2) who are fugitives from justice as defined in 15 M.R.S. § 201(4), (22 M.R.S. § 4301(3)). An initial applicant is a person who has never before applied for GA in any municipality in Maine. (22 M.R.S. § 4308(1)).

“Need” means that the applicant’s income (including prorated income, where applicable), property, credit, assets or other resources are less than the overall maximum level of assistance contained in Ordinance § 6.8 or the applicant’s 30-day need, whichever is less, and they do not have adequate income or other resources available to provide basic necessities.

**Repeat Applicants.** Persons who are not initial applicants are repeat applicants; these are persons who have previously applied for GA at some time, including persons on whose behalf a GA application was previously made at any time, provided that the applicant was not a dependent minor in the household at the time of the previous application. To be eligible for GA, repeat applicants must be in need and meet all other eligibility requirements. The eligibility of repeat applicants may also be adversely affected to the extent they have not used their income and resources to secure basic necessities.

### Section 5.1A – Presumptive Eligibility

A person who is provided shelter in an emergency shelter for the homeless located in the municipality shall be presumed to be an eligible person. Presumed eligibility may not exceed 30 days within a 12-month period. After the period of presumed eligibility, full eligibility must be verified before assistance will be issued. When presumptive eligibility is determined under this section, no other municipality may be determined to be the municipality of responsibility during that 30-day period.

### Section 5.1B – Recovery Residences

The Administrator will not deny GA benefits to a person for the sole reason that the person is residing in a recovery residence. Beginning July 1, 2022, housing assistance will not be provided to a person residing in a recovery residence that has not been certified in accordance with 5 M.R.S. § 20005(22), except that the person may receive housing assistance while residing in an uncertified recovery residence for one 30-day period only. The Administrator will inform the person of the requirements and time limits regarding recovery residences. A person who is ineligible for housing assistance under this subsection may remain eligible to receive GA for other basic necessities. Upon request by a person residing in a certified recovery residence, who has been determined eligible for housing assistance, housing assistance payments will be issued to the operator of the certified recovery residence instead of to a landlord.

### **Section 5.2—Eligibility for Categorical Assistance**

Receipt of categorical assistance will not disqualify an otherwise eligible person. Benefits received from other assistance programs will be considered as income when determining need, with the exception of Food Stamps, which will not be counted as income or resources or otherwise taken into consideration when determining need. (7 U.S.C. § 2017 (b)).

In addition, fuel assistance (HEAP/ECIP) received by an applicant will not be considered as income; that is, the Administrator will always compute the heating needs of an applicant who has received HEAP or ECIP as if that applicant paid all costs associated with their fuel needs. (42 U.S.C. § 8624(f)). When an applicant has received HEAP or ECIP, GA heating energy needs will be calculated pursuant to Ordinance § 6.7, subsection (c) under “Types of Income”. For several additional exceptions please refer to the definition of “Income” in this Ordinance (see Ordinance § 2.2, page 7, subsection 4).

Applicants or recipients must apply for other program benefits within 7 days after being advised in writing to do so by the Administrator. Persons who, without just cause, make no good faith effort to obtain a potential resource will be disqualified from receiving assistance until they make a good faith effort to obtain the benefit. (22 M.R.S. § 4317).

### **Section 5.3—Personal Property**

#### **a) Liquid Assets.**

No person owning assets easily convertible into cash, including but not limited to, bank deposits, stocks, bonds, certificates of deposit, retirement accounts, life insurance policies and other marketable security will be eligible for GA unless and until they use these assets to meet their basic needs, and thereby exhausts them. At the discretion of the Administrator, liquid assets need not include a reasonable minimum balance necessary to obtain free checking. Although one checking account per household may be allowed, any monies over the minimum required to obtain free checking are to be considered available liquid assets.

#### **b) Tangible Assets.**

No person owning or possessing personal property, including but not limited to: a motor vehicle (except as provided immediately below in subsection c), or a boat, trailer, recreation vehicle or other assets that are convertible into cash and are non-essential to the maintenance of the applicant’s household will be eligible for GA. Exceptions may be made when a person is making an initial application or is an unforeseeable repeat applicant as defined in Ordinance § 2.2 or when reasonable efforts to convert assets to cash at fair market value are unsuccessful. Tools of a trade, livestock, farm equipment and other equipment used for the production of income are exempt from the above category and are not considered available assets.

#### **c) Automobile Ownership.**

Ownership of one automobile per household will not make a person ineligible for assistance if such vehicle is essential for transportation to employment or for seeking employment, obtaining medical care, rehabilitation, or training facilities, or for any other reason the GA Administrator determines reasonable for the maintenance of the applicant’s household. GA recipients who own an automobile with a market value greater than \$8,000 may be required, with 7-day’s written notice, to make a good faith effort to

trade that automobile for an automobile with a market value of less than \$8,000. Any income received by the applicant by virtue of such a trade down must be used for their basic necessities. Failure to liquidate or trade down the excess value of any automobile asset can result in disqualification. (22 M.R.S. § 4317).

The Administrator will neither pay nor consider as necessary any car payment or vehicle maintenance cost, including insurance, for which the applicant is responsible. However, if the vehicle's value is \$8,000 or less and the applicant is utilizing the vehicle for an "essential" reason (see above), the Administrator may choose to not consider reasonable car payments, reasonable car insurance or reasonable associated costs of maintenance as "misspent" income. GA for travel-related needs shall be computed in accordance with Ordinance § 6.8(F)(7), (8) "Work Related/Travel Expenses."

**d) Insurance.**

Insurance available to an applicant on a non-contributory basis or required as a condition of employment will not be a factor in determining eligibility for GA. Life insurance with a cash surrender value may, at the discretion of the Administrator, be considered as a tangible asset.

**e) Transfer of Property.**

Applicants who transfer assets for less than fair market value to someone else solely for the purpose of establishing eligibility for GA will not be granted GA benefits to replace the uncompensated value of the transferred asset. Assistance will be denied within a 120-day limit up to the uncompensated value of the asset which was transferred unless the transfer of asset is fraudulently misrepresented, in which case a 120-day disqualification will be issued. There will be a presumption that the applicant transferred their assets in order to be eligible for GA whenever property is sold for less than the fair market value or when the transfer occurred within 30 days prior to applying for GA unless the applicant can demonstrate the existence of a good faith transaction.

**Section 5.4—Ownership of Real Estate**

**a) Principal Residence.**

Solely for purposes of GA, the applicant’s principal residence, including any adjoining land, is considered an exempt resource, even if temporarily unoccupied because of employment, job training, education, illness, or disaster, provided the applicant demonstrates an intent to return. If the applicant owns land in excess of the minimum lot size for the zone or district in which the home is located, that land may be considered a potential resource if:

1. The applicant has received GA for the last 120 consecutive days; and
2. The applicant has the legal right to sell the land (e.g., any mortgagee will release any mortgage, any co-owners agree to the sale, zoning or other land use laws do not render the sale illegal or impracticable); and
3. The applicant has the financial capability to put the land into a marketable condition (e.g., the applicant can pay for any necessary surveys); and
4. The land is not utilized for the maintenance and/or support of the household; and
5. A knowledgeable source (e.g., a realtor) indicates that the land in question can be sold at fair market value, for an amount which will aid the applicant’s financial rehabilitation; and
6. No other circumstances exist which cause any sale to be unduly burdensome or inequitable.

If conditions above are met, the Administrator may condition the receipt of future assistance on the applicant’s good faith efforts to sell, or render saleable, land which could be used to provide necessary support for the applicant (e.g., the applicant owns 100 “excess” acres. Sale of 10 of the acres would provide for the necessary support; therefore, the entire 100 acres need not be sold at the present time.) Assistance shall not be denied during the time that the applicant is making a good faith effort to sell or render saleable the land in question.

Once the applicant ceases to receive assistance the obligations under this section shall also cease.

**b) Other Property.**

If the applicant or dependents own real property other than that occupied as the principal residence, continued GA eligibility will depend on the applicant making a reasonable effort to:

1. Dispose of the property at fair market value in order to convert the property into cash which can be applied toward meeting present need; or
2. Obtain a loan against such property which may be used to meet present need. Applicants who transfer their excess property to a third party in order to become eligible for GA will be ineligible.

If an applicant is granted assistance in the form of a mortgage payment or capital improvement payment, the municipality may claim a lien against the property. The lien shall not be enforceable until the sale of the property or upon the death of the recipient (*see also Ordinance § 6.8*). 22 M.R.S. § 4320.

### Section 5.5—Work Requirement

All GA recipients are required to register for work, look for work, work to the extent of available employment, and otherwise fulfill the work requirements, unless the applicant is exempt from such requirements as provided below.

**Employment; Rehabilitation.** All unemployed applicants and household members who are 16 years of age or older and who are not attending a full-time primary or secondary school intended to lead to a high school diploma will be required to accept any suitable job offer and/or meet with job counselors, attend employment workshops and rehabilitative services, except as provided below (*see “Exemptions”*). Applicants must demonstrate to the Administrator that they are available for work and are actively seeking employment.

A “suitable job” means any job, which the applicant is mentally and physically able to perform. “Available for work” means that applicants must make themselves available for work during normal business hours prevailing in the area and show that no circumstance exists which would prevent them from complying with the work requirement.

**Verification.** Unemployed applicants or applicants employed on a part-time basis must provide verifiable documentation of their pursuit of employment at the time of each application. At a minimum, such documentation will consist of a list of the employers contacted, the date and time of the application contact, and the name of the employer representative contacted. “Pursuit of Employment” means actually submitting a written application or applying for a job in person when reasonable or submitting a written application or letter of inquiry to employers.

For the duration of any repeat applicant’s period of unemployment or partial employment, the Administrator will establish the number of employers per week to whom each non-exempt applicant shall be required to apply in order to fulfill their work search requirements. The number of weekly employer contacts required by the Administrator shall be reasonably related to the number of potential employers in the region and the number of hours per week the applicant has available for work search activities after considering all time the applicant must devote to existing employment obligations, workfare obligations, and required classroom or on-site participation in job training, educational, or rehabilitation programs. Fulfillment of these requirements will not be expected at the time of the initial application but will be a condition of eligibility for subsequent assistance.

**Ineligibility.** After being granted assistance at the time of initial application, applicants will be considered ineligible for further assistance for 120 days if they, without just cause:

- a) refuse to register for employment with the Maine Job Service;
- b) refuse to search diligently for employment when the search is reasonable and appropriate; recipients who unreasonably seek work at the same places repeatedly will not be considered to be performing a diligent work search and will be disqualified;
- c) refuse to accept a suitable job offer;
- d) refuse to participate in an assigned training, education or rehabilitation program that would assist the applicant in securing employment;
- e) fail to be available for work; or
- f) refuse to participate or participate in a substandard manner in the municipal work program (*see Ordinance § 5.6*).

**Ineligibility Due to Job Quit or Discharge for Misconduct.** No initial or repeat applicant who has quit their full-time or part-time job without just cause or who has been discharged from employment for misconduct (*see definition in Appendix I*) will be eligible to receive GA of any kind for 120-days from the date the applicant is separated from employment. (22 M.R.S. §§ 4301(8), 4316-A (1-A)).

**Just Cause.** Applicants will be ineligible for assistance for 120 days if they refuse to comply with the work requirements of this section without just cause. With respect to any work requirement, just cause will be considered to exist when there is reasonable and verifiable evidence that:

- a) the applicant has a physical or mental illness or disability which prevents them from working;
- b) the work assignment pays below minimum wages;
- c) the applicant was subject to sexual harassment;
- d) the applicant is physically or mentally unable to perform required job tasks, or to meet piece work standards;
- e) the applicant has no means of transportation to or from work or a training or rehabilitation program;
- f) the applicant is unable to arrange for necessary childcare or care of ill or disabled family members; or
- g) any reason found to be good cause by the Maine Department of Labor (DOL), or any other verifiable reason the Administrator considers reasonable and appropriate will be accepted as just cause. (22 M.R.S. § 4316-A(5)).

**Applicant’s Burden of Establishing Just Cause.** If the Administrator finds that the applicant has violated a work-related rule without just cause, it shall be the responsibility of the applicant to establish the presence of just cause. (22 M.R.S. § 4316-A).

**Eligibility Regained.** Persons who are disqualified for 120 days because they violated a work requirement may regain their eligibility if and only when they become employed or otherwise satisfy the Administrator that they are complying with the work requirement by fulfilling the work requirement(s) the person violated.

For the purpose of regaining eligibility by becoming employed, “employment” shall mean employment by an employer as defined in 26 M.R.S. § 1043 or the performance of a service for an employer who withholds from the employee a social security tax pursuant to federal law.

The special provisions regarding the opportunity to regain eligibility after a disqualification for workfare violations are detailed in Ordinance § 5.6, under “Eligibility Regained.”

**Dependents.** Failure of an otherwise eligible person to comply with the work requirements shall not affect the eligibility of any member of the person’s household who is not capable of working, including:

- a) a dependent minor child;
- b) an elderly, ill, or disabled person; and
- c) a person whose presence is required in order to provide care for any child under 6 years of age or for any ill or disabled member of the household. (22 M.R.S. § 4309(3)).

If one or more member(s) of a household is disqualified and assistance is requested for those remaining members of the household who are dependents, the eligibility of those dependents will be calculated by dividing the maximum level of assistance available to the entire household by the total number of household members.

**Exemptions.** The above work requirements do not apply to any person who is elderly, physically or mentally ill or disabled. Any person whose presence is required to care for any pre-school age child or for any ill or disabled member of the household is also exempt from these requirements.

The requirements of this section will not be imposed so as to interfere with an applicant’s existing employment, ability to pursue a bona fide job offer, ability to attend an interview for possible employment, classroom participation in a primary or secondary educational program intended to lead to a high school diploma, classroom or on site participation in a training program which is either approved by the DOL or determined by the DOL to be expected to assist the applicant in securing employment, or classroom participation in a degree-granting program operated under the control of the DOL.

### **Section 5.6—Municipal Work Program**

Each applicant and any member of the household who is capable of working may be required to perform work for the municipality, including work for a non-profit organization, as a condition of receiving assistance. (22 M.R.S. § 4316-A(2)).

As part of the municipal work program, the municipality can require recipients to participate in training, education, or rehabilitative programs that will assist the recipient in securing employment. The work requirement provisions found in Ordinance § 5.5 regarding just cause, dependents, and exemptions also apply to the municipal workfare program.

**Consent.** Persons assigned to the work program are required to sign a form stating that they understand the requirements of GA and the work program. Before signing the form, the Administrator will read it to the applicants or allow the applicants to read it themselves. The form will also state the number of hours the applicants must work and the hourly rate by means of which the duration of the work assignment is calculated. In addition, the consent form shall describe the consequences of failing to adequately perform part or all of the workfare or workfare-first assignment.

**Subtracting Value of Workfare Performed from Client’s GA Debt.** Pursuant to 22 M.R.S. § 4318, individuals who received GA benefits are obligated to repay the municipality when and if they become able (see Ordinance Article VIII). However, persons performing workfare shall have the value of the workfare performed deducted from any and all GA debt including GA liens (e.g., Workers’ Compensation Settlement, SSI Retroactive Payment, Capital Improvement, Home Mortgage) that might exist against their settlements, payments or other such property.

**Limitations.** The work requirement is subject to the following limitations. (22 M.R.S. § 4316-A(3)).

- 1) No person shall, as a condition of eligibility, be required to perform any amount of work that exceeds the value of the net GA that the person receives under municipal GA standards. Any person performing work under this subsection shall be provided

## ARTICLE IV – Application Procedure

with net GA, the value of which is calculated at a rate of at least the prevailing minimum wage under state or federal law at the time the workfare was performed.

- 2) No workfare participant shall be required to work for a nonprofit organization if that work would violate the participant's basic religious beliefs.
- 3) In no case shall eligible persons performing work under this subsection replace regular municipal employees.
- 4) In no case will work performed under this subsection interfere with an eligible person's:
  - a) existing employment;
  - b) ability to follow up on a bona fide job offer;
  - c) attendance at an interview for possible employment;
  - d) classroom participation in a primary or secondary educational program intended to lead to a high school diploma; or
  - e) classroom or on-site participation in a training program which is approved by the DOL or determined by the DOL to be reasonably expected to assist the person in securing employment, or classroom participation in a degree-granting program administered by the DHHS or the DOL.
- 5) In no case may an eligible person be required to work more than 40 hours per week. An eligible person who has full or part-time employment shall be exempt from the work requirement to the extent that the work requirement in combination with their regular employment would result in the person working more than 40 hours per week.
- 6) In no case will an eligible person be required to perform work beyond their capabilities. However, when an illness or disability is claimed, an eligible person may be required as a condition of receiving assistance to present a doctor's statement detailing the extent of the disability or illness. (22 M.R.S. § 4309).

If the Administrator requires a doctor's statement to verify an applicant's illness or disability and the applicant is not currently under the care of a provider, the municipality may pay for the doctor's evaluation if the applicant has no means to pay for the exam. However, in such a case the Administrator will choose the doctor. If there is a no-cost or low-cost health care option, the municipality may elect to refer the client to such a resource. The Administrator will not require verification of medical conditions which are apparent, or which are of such short duration that a reasonable person would not ordinarily seek medical attention. (22 M.R.S. § 4316(5)).

- 7) In no case may an eligible person with an immediate need (i.e., a person in an emergency situation who has not been disqualified from receiving assistance for committing a program violation) be required to perform work under this subsection prior to receiving GA. The Administrator shall meet immediate needs upon receiving written assurance from the eligible person that they are willing to work to maintain eligibility for GA. When the recipient has no immediate need, workfare

participation may be required prior to receiving GA in accordance with the “workfare first” policy below.

**“Workfare First” Policy.** Pursuant to 22 M.R.S. § 4316-A(2)(D), the Administrator may, in accordance with the following guidelines, require a GA recipient to perform a workfare assignment prior to the actual issuance of the GA benefit conditionally granted.

- 1) In no circumstance will emergency GA for which an applicant is eligible be withheld pending the satisfactory performance of workfare.
- 2) All workfare participants under this policy will be provided a written decision within 24 hours after submitting an application for GA and prior to performing any workfare for the municipality associated with that request for assistance.

That written decision must include:

- a) a specific description of the amount of GA being conditionally granted to the household, and for which basic needs;
  - b) the period of eligibility for which the GA grant is being issued (in days or weeks, but not to exceed 30 days);
  - c) the rate, at a dollar-per-hour basis (but not less than the prevailing minimum wage), upon which the duration of the workfare assignment is calculated;
  - d) the actual duration of the workfare assignment that must be performed, in hours, before the GA grant will be actually issued;
  - e) the specifics of the workfare assignment(s), including the general nature of the type of work being assigned, location(s) of worksite, date(s) and time(s) of assigned workfare, workfare supervisors’ names and contact telephone numbers; and
  - f) any other pertinent information related to the workfare assignment(s) the recipient will be expected to perform.
- 3) As previously provided in this section, all workfare participants must sign a consent form that informs the participant of their workfare-related rights and responsibilities, including the consequences of failing to perform all or part of the workfare assigned without just cause.
  - 4) If a portion of the workfare-first assignment is satisfactorily performed but there has been a failure to perform the remainder of the assignment, without just cause, the Administrator shall issue a grant of GA benefits corresponding to the number of workfare hours satisfactorily performed multiplied by the hourly rate used to calculate the workfare assignment. In addition to any disqualification penalty that may apply, the remaining value of the conditionally issued GA grant shall be terminated, and notice of the partial termination, together with the reasons; therefore, will be issued to the workfare participant in accordance with Ordinance § 6.10.
  - 5) If any part of the workfare assignment is not performed because the workfare participant was temporarily unable to perform the assignment for just cause reasons, it shall be reassigned or excused at the discretion of the Administrator.

**Work-Related Expenses.** A participant’s expenses related to work performed under this section will be added to the amount of net GA to be provided to the person (22 M.R.S. § 4316-A(2)(E)). The municipality will provide any special clothes or equipment the recipient needs to perform their work assignment.

**Disqualification.** Any person who either willfully fails to perform or willfully performs below average standards the work assigned by the municipality, will be ineligible for assistance for 120 days (22 M.R.S. § 4316-A(1)). As soon as the Administrator knows that a recipient failed to fulfill the work assignment, the Administrator will notify the recipient in writing that they are disqualified for 120 days starting from the last date of authorized assistance unless the recipient can show just cause. The workfare participant has the burden of demonstrating there was just cause for any failure to perform a workfare assignment.

**Eligibility Regained.** Recipients who are disqualified from receiving assistance because they have violated the requirements of the municipal work program may regain their eligibility under the following conditions:

- Recipients who fail to complete the first municipal work assignment they have been given will be disqualified from receiving assistance during the next 120 days, although dependents in the household may be eligible (*see Ordinance § 5.5, “Dependents”*).
- If during the 120-day disqualification period the recipient requests an opportunity to perform the work assignment which they, without just cause failed to perform, the disqualified recipient will be given one opportunity to regain eligibility. The Administrator will give the recipient a work assignment as soon as possible.
- If a recipient under a 120-day disqualification has an emergency need and the Administrator is unable to schedule a work assignment in time to alleviate the emergency, the Administrator will provide sufficient assistance to the recipient to avert the emergency. However, the provision of emergency assistance will not bar the Administrator from subsequently enforcing the previously issued 120-day disqualification if the recipient fails to regain eligibility by satisfactorily performing the work assignment. The amount of emergency assistance granted will be considered in the computation of the total number of hours the recipient must work.
- Recipients who have asked for the opportunity to regain their eligibility during a 120-day disqualification period and who agreed to fulfill the assignment which they previously failed to perform but who, without just cause, fail to fulfill their municipal work assignment will be considered to have acted in bad faith. In such a circumstance, the Administrator will enforce the 120-day disqualification for the term of its initial duration.
- If a workfare participant regains eligibility under this section but is subsequently disqualified within the initial 120-day period of ineligibility for failing to comply with the municipal work program, that participant will be ineligible for a new 120-day period beginning with the new disqualification date but will be provided no opportunity to requalify.
- Any recipient who intentionally causes damage to property, harasses or harms other employees or who otherwise conducts themselves in a disruptive manner and is discharged by the work supervisor will not be entitled to regain eligibility by returning to the work program. Eligibility may be regained by otherwise becoming employed and meeting the definition of need.

**Reports.** The Administrator will itemize the assistance that has been provided to persons who work for the municipality in reports to the DHHS. (22 M.R.S. § 4316-A(2)).

**Section 5.7—Use of Resources**

Each applicant is responsible to make a good faith effort to utilize every available or potential resource that may reduce their need for GA (*see Ordinance § 2.2, definition of “Resources”*). Persons who refuse or fail to make a good faith effort to secure a potential resource after receiving written notice to do so are disqualified from receiving assistance until they make an effort to secure the resource. Applicants are required to prove that they have made a good faith effort to secure the resource. (22 M.R.S. § 4317).

**Minors.** A minor under the age of 18 who has never married and is applying independently for GA and who is pregnant or has a dependent child or children will be eligible to receive GA only if the minor is residing in the home of their parent, legal guardian or other adult relative, in which case the entire household will be evaluated for eligibility. Exceptions to this limitation on eligibility will be made when:

- 1) the minor is residing in a foster home, maternity home, or other adult-supervised supportive living arrangement; or
- 2) the minor has no living parent or the whereabouts of both parents are unknown; or
- 3) no parent will permit the minor to live in the parent’s home; or
- 4) the minor has lived apart from both parents for at least one year before the birth of any dependent child; or
- 5) the DHHS determines that the physical or emotional health or safety of the minor or the minor’s dependent child or children would be jeopardized if the minor and their child or children lived with a parent; or
- 6) the DHHS determines, in accordance with its regulation, that there is good cause to waive this limitation on eligibility. (22 M.R.S. § 4309(4)).

Any person under the age of 25 who is applying independently from their parents for GA will be informed that until they reach the age of 25, the applicant’s parents are still legally liable for their support and the municipality has the right to seek recovery from the parents of the cost of all assistance granted to such a recipient to the extent their parents are financially capable of repaying the municipality. (22 M.R.S. § 4319).

With regard to such application, the municipality may seek verification of the applicant’s need for GA by contacting their parents. If the applicant’s parents declare a willingness to provide the applicant with their basic needs directly, and there is no convincing evidence that the applicant would be jeopardized by relying on their parents for basic needs, the Administrator may find the applicant not to be in need of GA for the reason that their needs can be provided by a legally liable relative.

**Mental or Physical Disability.** Any applicant who has a mental or physical disability must make a good faith effort to utilize any medical or rehabilitative services which have been recommended by a physician, psychologist or other professional retraining or rehabilitation specialist when the services are available to the applicant and would not constitute a financial burden or create a physical risk to the individual.

**Written Notice; Disqualification.** The Administrator will give each applicant written notice whenever the applicant is required to utilize any specific potential resource(s). Any applicant who refuses to utilize potential resources, without just cause, after receiving written 7-day notice will be ineligible for further assistance until they have made a good faith effort to utilize or obtain the

resources. GA will not be withheld from the applicant pending receipt of a resource if the applicant has made, or is in the process of making, a good faith effort to obtain the resource.

**Forfeiture of Benefits.** Any applicant who forfeits receipt of, or causes a reduction in, benefits from another public assistance program due to fraud, misrepresentation, a knowing or intentional violation of program rules or a refusal to comply with that program’s rules without just cause will be ineligible to receive GA to replace the forfeited benefits. To the extent the forfeited benefits can be considered income under GA law, the value of the forfeited benefits will be considered income that is available to the applicant for the duration of the forfeiture.

To the extent the forfeited benefits were provided in the form of a specific, regularly issued resource of a calculable value rather than in the form of income, that resource, up to its forfeited value, need not be replaced with GA for a period of 120 days from the date of the forfeiture— unless the municipality is prohibited by federal or state law from considering the forfeited resource as available with respect to local public assistance programs. (22 M.R.S. § 4317).

### **Section 5.8—Period of Ineligibility**

No one will have their GA terminated, reduced, or suspended prior to being given written notice and an opportunity for a fair hearing. (22 M.R.S. §§ 4321-4322). Each person will be notified in writing of the reasons for their ineligibility, and any person disqualified for not complying with the ordinance will be informed in writing of the period of ineligibility.

**Work Requirement.** Applicants/recipients who do not comply with a work requirement are disqualified from receiving assistance for a period of 120 days (unless they regain their eligibility) (*see Ordinance §§ 5.5, 5.6*). If an applicant/recipient is provided assistance and does not comply with the work requirement, the applicant/recipient shall be disqualified for 120 days following the end of the period covered by the grant of assistance. The Administrator shall give recipients written notice that they are disqualified as soon as the Administrator has sufficient knowledge and information to render a decision of ineligibility.

**Fraud.** Persons who commit fraud are disqualified from receiving GA for a period of 120 days (*see Ordinance § 6.4, “Fraud”*). The Administrator shall give recipients written notice that they are ineligible as soon as the Administrator has sufficient knowledge and information to render a decision. If the disqualification for fraud is issued before the expiration of a grant of assistance, the period of ineligibility shall commence on the day following the end of the period covered by the grant of assistance. If fraud is discovered after the period covered by the grant of assistance has expired, the period of ineligibility will commence on the day of the written notice of ineligibility.

### **Section 5.9 – Unemployment Fraud**

An applicant who is found ineligible for unemployment compensation benefits because of a finding of fraud by the DOL pursuant to 26 M.R.S. § 1051(1) is ineligible to receive GA to replace the forfeited unemployment compensation benefits for the duration of the forfeiture established by the DOL. 22 M.R.S. § 4317.

## **ARTICLE VI – Determination of Eligibility**

### **Section 6.1—Recognition of Dignity and Rights**

Any determination or investigation into an applicant’s eligibility will be conducted in a manner that will not violate the applicant’s privacy or personal dignity or violate their individual rights.

### **Section 6.2—Determination; Redetermination**

The Administrator will make an individual, factual determination of eligibility each time a person applies or reapplies for GA. The Administrator will make a redetermination of eligibility at least monthly but may do so as often as necessary to administer the program efficiently and meet the needs of the applicants. Upon any application, the Administrator will determine the applicant’s eligibility on the basis of a 30-day prospective analysis, but may elect to disburse that applicant’s assistance periodically, e.g., weekly, throughout a 30-day period of eligibility pursuant to that initial eligibility determination.

The Administrator may redetermine a person’s eligibility at any time during the period they are receiving assistance if the Administrator is notified of any change in the recipient’s circumstances that may alter the amount of assistance the recipient may receive. Once a recipient has been granted assistance, the Administrator may not reduce or rescind the grant without giving prior written notice to the recipient explaining the reasons for the decision and offering the recipient an opportunity to appeal the decision to the fair hearing authority. (22 M.R.S. § 4309).

### **Section 6.3—Verification**

**Eligibility of Applicant; Duration of Eligibility.** The overseer shall determine eligibility each time a person applies or reapplies for GA. The period of eligibility will not exceed one month. At the expiration of this period applicants/recipients may reapply for assistance and the person's eligibility will be redetermined.

**Applicant's Responsibilities.** Applicants and recipients for GA are responsible for providing to the Administrator all information necessary to determine eligibility. If further information or documentation is necessary to demonstrate eligibility, the applicant must have the first opportunity to provide the specific information or documentation required by the Administrator. When such information is unavailable, the Administrator must accept alternative available information, which is subject to verification.

Each applicant and recipient has the responsibility at the time of application and continuing thereafter, to provide complete, accurate, current information and documentation concerning his/her:

- Need
- Income
- Employment
- Use of income
- Expenses
- Assets & liabilities
- Use of available resources
- Household composition

## ARTICLE VI – Determination of Eligibility

**Initial Applicants.** Persons who have not applied for assistance in this or any other municipality are considered initial applicants and must have their eligibility determined solely on the basis of need. Initial applicants are not subject to eligibility conditions placed on repeat applicants (*see below*). However, such applicants must still provide the GA Administrator with reasonably obtainable documentation adequate to verify that there is a need for assistance. In addition, initial applicants must also comply with both lump sum and relevant work rules (i.e., quit job).

**Repeat Applicants.** All applicants for GA who are not initial applicants are repeat applicants. The eligibility of repeat applicants must be determined on the basis of need and all other conditions of eligibility established by law and this municipal ordinance.

The Administrator will require documentation of a repeat applicant's income, use of income, assets and resources plus actual bills and receipts for rent, utilities, fuel, telephone, medical services, and other basic necessities. In addition, repeat applicants instructed to seek employment shall verify their work search results, (e.g., provide a list of the employers contacted, the date and time of the application contact, and the name of the employer representative contacted) as required by the Administrator.

Repeat applicants must provide updates to information reported on previous applications, including changes in his/her household or income that may affect his/her eligibility.

**Unforeseen Repeat Applicants.** Unforeseen repeat applicants are applicants who have not applied for assistance within the last twelve months and who have been regularly employed or receiving support from a public benefit or private source but who have unexpectedly become unemployed through no fault of their own or whose income and/or benefits (e.g., through an available resource) have ceased through no fault of their own. Such unforeseen repeat applicants may be considered initial applicants for purposes of verification requirements and misspent income if the Administrator finds that imposing the general verification requirements and misspent income rules imposed on repeat applicants would be unreasonable or inappropriate.

**Administrator's Responsibilities.** In order to determine an applicant's eligibility for GA, the Administrator first must seek information and documentation from the applicant. Once the applicant has presented the necessary information, the Administrator must determine eligibility. The Administrator will seek verification necessary to determine eligibility and may contact sources other than the applicant for verification only with the specific knowledge and consent of the applicant – except that the Administrator may examine public records without the applicant's knowledge and consent.

Appropriate sources, which an Administrator may contact, include, but are not limited to:

- DHHS, any other department or agency of the state, or non-profit organizations
- financial institutions
- creditors
- utility companies
- employers
- landlords
- physicians
- persons with whom the applicant/recipient is a cohabitant
- legally and non-legally liable relatives

Assistance will be denied or terminated if the applicant is unwilling to supply necessary information, documentation, or permission to make collateral contacts, or if the Administrator cannot determine that eligibility exists based on information supplied by the applicant or others.

**Redetermination of Eligibility.** The Administrator may redetermine a person's eligibility at any time during the period that person is receiving assistance if the Administrator is informed of any change in the recipient's circumstances that may affect the amount of assistance to which the recipient is entitled, or that may make the recipient ineligible, provided that once a determination of eligibility has been made for a specific time period, a reduction in assistance for that time period may not be made without prior written notice to the recipient stating the reasons for the action and an opportunity for the recipient to receive a fair hearing upon the proposed change.

**Penalty for Refusing to Release Information.** Any person governed by 22 M.R.S. § 4314 who refuses to provide necessary information to the Administrator after it has been requested must state in writing the reasons for the refusal within 3 days of receiving the request. Any such person who refuses to provide the information, without just cause, commits a civil violation and may be subject to a fine of not less than \$25 nor more than \$100 which may be adjudged in any court of competent jurisdiction. Any person who willfully renders false information to the Administrator is guilty of a Class E crime. (22 M.R.S. §§ 4314(5), 4314(6), 4315).

#### **Section 6.4—Fraud**

It is unlawful for a person to knowingly and willfully make a false representation of a material fact to the Administrator in order to receive GA or cause someone else to receive GA. (22 M.R.S. § 4315). A person who commits fraud in an effort to receive GA benefits may be prosecuted for this offense.

False representation means any individual who knowingly and willfully:

- a) makes a false statement to the Administrator, either orally or in writing, in order to obtain assistance to which the applicant or the applicant's household is not entitled;
- b) conceals information from the Administrator in order to obtain assistance to which the applicant or applicant's household is not entitled; or
- c) uses GA benefits for a purpose other than the purpose for which they were intended.

No person may be denied assistance solely for making a false representation prior to being given an opportunity for a fair hearing.

**Period of Ineligibility.** When the Administrator finds that a person has knowingly and willfully misrepresented material facts for the purpose of making themselves eligible for GA, the Administrator shall notify that applicant in writing that they must reimburse the municipality for the assistance they were not entitled to receive and that they are ineligible for assistance for the longer of: (a) a period of 120 days; (b) until they reimburse the municipality for the assistance; or (c) until they enter a reasonable written agreement to reimburse the municipality. (22 M.R.S. § 4315).

For the purpose of this section, a material misrepresentation is a false statement about eligibility factors in the absence of which some or all of the assistance would not be or would not have been granted.

The notification of ineligibility issued by the Administrator shall inform the applicant of their right to appeal the Administrator's decision to the fair hearing authority (FHA) within 5 working days of receipt. The period of ineligibility shall commence on the day following the end of the period

covered by the grant of assistance fraudulently received or upon the date of notification of ineligibility, whichever is later.

**Right to a Fair Hearing.** Any applicant who is denied assistance for making a false representation will be afforded the opportunity to appeal the decision to the fair hearing authority (FHA) in accordance with Article VII of this Ordinance. No recipient shall have their assistance reduced or revoked during the period of eligibility before being notified and given the opportunity to appeal the decision. Any person who is dissatisfied with the decision of the FHA may appeal that decision to the Superior Court pursuant to Rule 80-B of the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure. (22 M.R.S. § 4309(3)).

**Reimbursement.** If a recipient does not appeal the decision or if the FHA determines that a recipient made a false representation, the recipient will be required to reimburse the municipality for any assistance received to which they were not entitled. The recipient may enter a reasonable written agreement to reimburse the municipality over a period of time.

**Dependents.** In no event will the ineligibility of a person under this section serve to disqualify any eligible dependent in that household. (22 M.R.S. § 4309(3)). In the event one or more members of a household are disqualified and assistance is requested for the remaining dependents, the eligibility of those dependents will be calculated by dividing the maximum level of assistance available to the entire household by the total number of household members.

### **Section 6.5—Period of Eligibility**

The Administrator will grant assistance to all eligible persons for a period that is sufficient to meet their need but in no event may a grant of assistance cover a period in excess of one month. (22 M.R.S. § 4309). Upon receiving a completed and signed application the Administrator will determine the applicant’s eligibility on the basis of a 30-day prospective analysis.

When an applicant submits an incomplete or unsigned application, due to the 24-hour decision requirement placed on the GA Administrator, the GA Administrator shall render a notice of “ineligibility” and advise the applicant that they have a right to reapply as soon as they have the necessary information and/or as soon as is practicable for the applicant.

Although eligibility is determined on a 30-day basis, for reasons of administrative efficiency, the Administrator may elect to disburse an applicant’s assistance for shorter periods of time, such as weekly, throughout the 30-day period of eligibility. When the Administrator elects to disburse GA for a period of time less than 30 days, subsequent grants of assistance during that 30-day period may be issued pursuant to the initial determination of need unless the applicant’s financial situation changes substantially enough to warrant a redetermination of eligibility.

### **Section 6.6—Determination of Need**

The period of time used to calculate need will be the next 30-day period from the date of application. (22 M.R.S. § 4301(7)). The Administrator will calculate applicants’ expenses according to the actual expense of the basic necessity or the maximum levels for the specific necessities allowed in Ordinance § 6.8, whichever is less. The sum of these expenses, as calculated for a prospective 30-day period, is the applicant’s 30-day need. Applicants will not be considered

eligible if their income and other resources exceed this calculation except in an emergency. (22 M.R.S. § 4308(2)) (*see Ordinance § 4.9*).

Applicants will also not be considered in need of GA if their income, property, credit, assets or other resources available to provide basic necessities for their household are greater than the applicable overall maximum level of assistance set forth in the beginning of Ordinance § 6.8. (22 M.R.S. §§ 4301(10), 4305(3-B)). The difference between the applicant’s income and the overall maximum levels of assistance established by this Ordinance is the applicant’s deficit.

Once an applicant’s deficit has been determined, the specific maximum levels of assistance for each basic necessity shall guide Administrator’s distribution of assistance for which the applicant is eligible. (*See Ordinance Appendices A-H*). The specific maximum levels of assistance for each basic necessity are intended to be reasonable and sufficient to help recipients maintain a standard of health and decency. (22 M.R.S. § 4305(3-A)).

**Income for Basic Necessities.** Applicants are required to use their income for basic necessities. Except for initial applicants, no *applicant* is eligible to receive assistance to replace income that was spent within the 30-day period prior to an application for assistance on goods and services that are not basic necessities. All income spent on goods and services that are not basic necessities will be considered available to the applicant and combined with the applicant’s prospective 30-day income for the purposes of computing eligibility. (22 M.R.S. § 4315-A). Applicants who have sufficient income to provide their basic necessities but who use that income to purchase goods or services which are not basic necessities will not be considered eligible for assistance. Persons who exhaust their income on basic necessities and who still need assistance with other basic necessities will be eligible, provided that their income does not exceed the overall maximum level of assistance.

**Use-of-Income Requirements.** The Administrator may require that anyone applying for GA provide documentation of their use of income. This documentation can take the form of cancelled checks and/or receipts which demonstrate that the applicant has exhausted all household income received over the last 30-day period. Except as is deemed appropriate by the Administrator for “unforeseen” repeat applicants (*See Ordinance § 6.3*); repeat applicants may be required to verify that expenditure of income was for basic necessities. Income expended that cannot be verified will generally be considered available and in such case will be added to the 30-day prospective income.

Allowable expenditures include reasonable shelter costs (rent/mortgage); the cost of heating fuel, electricity, and food up to the ordinance maximums; telephone costs at the base rate if the household needs a telephone for medical reasons, the cost of non-elective medical services as recommended by a physician which are not otherwise covered by medical entitlement, Hospital Free Care or insurance; the reasonable cost of essential clothing and non-prescription drugs, and the costs of any other commodity or service determined essential by the Administrator.

Items not considered to be basic necessities and thus will not be allowed in the budget computation include:

- Internet services
- Cable or satellite television
- Cellular phones, except when deemed essential by the overseer
- for medical or work related purposes
- Cigarettes/alcohol
- Gifts purchased

## ARTICLE VI – Determination of Eligibility

- Pet care costs
- Costs of trips or vacations
- Paid court fines
- Repayments of unsecured loans
- Legal fees
- Late fees
- Credit card debt

The municipality reserves the right to apply specific use-of-income requirements to any applicant, other than an initial applicant, who fails to use their income for basic necessities or fails to reasonably document their of income. (22 M.R.S. § 4315-A). Those additional requirements will be applied in the following manner:

- 1) The Administrator may require the applicant to use some or all of their income, at the time it becomes available, toward specific basic necessities. The Administrator may prioritize such required expenditures so that most or all of the applicant's income is applied to housing (i.e., rent/mortgage), energy (i.e., heating fuel, electricity), or other specified basic necessities;
- 2) The Administrator will notify applicants in writing of the specific use-of-income requirements placed on them;
- 3) If upon subsequent application it cannot be determined how the applicant's income was spent, or it is determined that some or all of the applicant's income was not spent as directed and was also not spent on basic necessities, the applicant will not be eligible to receive either regular or emergency GA to replace that income; and
- 4) If the applicant does not spend their income as directed but can show with verifiable documentation that all income was spent on basic necessities up to allowed amounts, the applicant will remain eligible to the extent of the applicant's eligibility and need.

**Calculation of Income and Expenses.** When determining eligibility, the Administrator will subtract the applicant's net income from the overall maximum level of assistance found at the beginning of Ordinance § 6.8. If income is greater than the overall maximum level of assistance, the applicant will not be eligible except in an emergency (*see Ordinance § 4.9*). If income is less than the overall maximum level of assistance, the applicant has a deficit.

The municipality will provide assistance in an amount up to the deficit to the extent the applicant also has an unmet need and is in need of basic necessities. The municipality will not grant assistance in excess of the maximum amounts allowed in Ordinance § 6.8 for specific basic necessities except in an emergency or when the Administrator elects to consolidate the applicant's deficit, as provided immediately below.

**Consolidation of Deficit.** As a general rule, and to the extent of their deficit, applicants will be eligible for assistance for any basic necessity up to, but not exceeding, the maximum amount allowed for that necessity in this ordinance or the actual 30-day cost of the necessity, whichever is less. Under certain circumstances, however, and in accordance with the following conditions, the Administrator may consolidate the applicant's deficit and apply it toward a basic necessity in an amount greater than the ordinance maximum for that necessity.

- 1) The practice of consolidating the deficit and applying it toward a basic necessity in amounts greater than the ordinance maximum shall be the exception rather than the rule;
- 2) The total GA grant cannot exceed the total deficit unless the applicant is in an emergency situation; and

- 3) The need for the application of the recipient’s consolidated deficit toward a basic necessity was not created by the recipient mispending their income or resources in violation of the use-of-income requirements of this ordinance.

### **Section 6.7—Income**

**Income Standards.** Applicants whose income exceeds the overall maximum level of assistance provided in Ordinance § 6.8 shall not be eligible for GA except in an emergency. Each time an applicant applies, the Administrator will conduct an individual factual inquiry into the applicant’s income and expenses.

**Calculation of Income.** To determine whether applicants are in need, the Administrator will calculate the income they will receive during the next 30-day period commencing on the date of application and identify any assets or resources that would alleviate their need. For all applicants other than initial applicants, the Administrator will also consider as available income any income that was not spent during the previous 30-day period on basic necessities as well as any income that was spent on basic necessities in unreasonable excess of the ordinance maximums for specific basic necessities. If a household’s income exceeds the amount of the household’s need for basic necessities, up to the maximum levels contained in Ordinance § 6.8, applicants will not be considered in need.

Exceptions will be made in emergency situations, which may necessitate that the maximum levels be exceeded. (22 M.R.S. § 4308) (*see Ordinance § 4.9*). To calculate weekly income and expenses, the Administrator will use actual income received or actual anticipated income.

**Types of Income.** Income that will be considered in determining an applicant’s need includes:

- a) **Earned Income.** Income in cash or in kind earned by the applicant through wages, salary, commissions, or profit, whether self-employed or as an employee, is considered earned income. If a person is self-employed, total income will be computed by subtracting reasonable and actual business expenses from gross income. When income consists of wages, the amount computed will be the income available after taxes, social security and other payroll deductions required by state, federal, and local law. Rental income and profit from produce that is sold is considered earned income. Income that is held in trust and unavailable to the applicant or the applicant’s dependents will not be considered as earned income.

Note: Actual work-related expenses such as union dues, transportation to and from work, special equipment or work clothes, and childcare costs will be deducted from an applicant’s income. (22 M.R.S. § 4301(7)).

- b) **Income from Other Assistance or Social Services Programs.** State/federal categorical assistance benefits, SSI payments, Social Security payments, VA benefits, unemployment insurance benefits, and payments from other government sources will be considered as income, unless expressly prohibited by federal law or regulation. Federal law prohibits Food Stamps and Fuel Assistance payments made by the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP and EPIC) from being considered income. The value of the food stamps or fuel assistance will not be used to reduce the amount of GA the applicant is eligible to receive. Although applicants may have only a limited or reduced need for GA for heating fuel or electricity if a recently received HEAP/ECIP benefit has

sufficiently credited their account or otherwise prevented the fuel-related costs for the prospective 30-day period.

The Administrator’s obligation is to always compute the heating needs of an applicant who has received HEAP or ECIP as if that applicant paid for their total fuel costs. Accordingly, in such cases, the Administrator will budget for the household’s heating energy needs according to actual usage, up to the ordinance maximums, but the Administrator may, with written notice to the applicant, hold in reserve the heating energy portion of the applicant’s deficit until such a time during the period of eligibility that the applicant has a demonstrable need for the disbursement of heating energy assistance; that is, the applicant’s fuel tank can accept a minimum fuel delivery or the applicant no longer has a positive credit balance with their utility company. The municipality is not obligated to divert any recipient’s heating energy allowance toward non-heating purposes solely on the basis of the recipient’s receipt of HEAP/ECIP.

Other programs whose income cannot be counted for purposes of GA eligibility include:

- Family Development Accounts (22 M.R.S. § 3762)
  - Americorp VISTA program benefits (42 U.S.C. § 5044(f))
  - Property tax rebates issued under the Maine Property Tax Fairness Credit program, only so long as the money is spent on basic necessities. (22 M.R.S. § 4301(7))
- c) **Court-Ordered Support Payments.** Alimony and child support payments will be considered income only if actually received by the applicant. The Administrator will refer cases in which support payments were not actually received to the Maine DHHS Child Support Enforcement Unit. In order to be eligible for future GA benefits, applicants referred to DHHS for support enforcement assistance shall be required to follow-through with such services. Because child support payments are considered a resource, applicants must make a good faith effort to secure such payments.
- d) **Income from Other Sources.** Payments from pensions and trust funds will be considered income. Payments from boarders or lodgers will be considered income as will cash or in-kind contributions provided to the household from any other source, including relatives. (22 M.R.S. § 4301(7)).
- e) **Earnings of a Son or Daughter.** Earned income received by sons and daughters below the age of 18 who are full-time students and who are not working full-time will not be considered income. The unearned income of a minor in the household will be considered available to the household.
- f) **Income from Household Members.** Income from household members will be considered available to the applicant, whether or not the household member is legally obligated for the support of the applicant, if the household members pool or share their income and expenses as a family or intermingle their funds so as to provide support to one another.
- g) **The Pooling or Non-Pooling of Income.** When two or more individuals share the same dwelling unit but not all members of the household are applying for GA, the Administrator shall make a finding under a rebuttable presumption that the entire household is pooling income. (22 M.R.S. § 4301(12-A)).

One or more applicants for assistance can successfully rebut the presumption that all household income is being pooled by providing the Administrator with verifiable documentation affirmatively demonstrating a pattern of non-pooling during the duration of the shared living arrangement. Such documentation would include evidence of the entire household’s expenses, bank statements, cancelled checks, receipts, landlord statements or

other vendor accounts clearly supporting a claim that the applicant has been and is presently solely and entirely responsible for their pro-rata share of household costs.

If the applicant is unable to successfully rebut the municipality's presumption that all household income is being pooled, eligibility of the entire household will be determined based on total household income. If the applicant successfully rebuts the municipality's presumption that all household income is being pooled, the applicant's eligibility will be determined on the basis of their income and their pro-rata share of actual household expenses.

- h) Lump Sum Income.** A lump sum payment received by any GA applicant or recipient prior or subsequent to the date of application for GA will be considered as income available to the household. However, verified required payments (i.e., any third-party payment which is required as a condition of receiving the lump sum payment, or any payments of bills earmarked for the purpose for which the lump sum payment was made) and any amount of the lump sum payment which the applicant can document was spent on basic necessities, as described below, will not be considered available income.

Where a household receives a lump sum payment at any time prior or subsequent to the date of application for GA, the Administrator will assess the need for prorating an applicant's eligibility for GA according to the following criteria. (22 M.R.S. § 4301(7), (8-A)):

- 1) identify the date the lump sum payment was received;
- 2) subtract from the lump sum payment all required payments;
- 3) subtract from the lump sum any amount the applicant can demonstrate was spent on basic necessities, including all basic necessities as defined by the GA program such as: reasonable payment of funeral or burial expenses for a family member; any reasonable travel costs related to the illness or death of a family member; repair or replacement of essentials lost due to fire, flood or other natural disaster; repair or purchase of a motor vehicle essential for employment, education, training or other day-to-day living necessities. Repayments of loans or credit, the proceeds of which can be verified as having been spent on basic necessities; and payment of bills earmarked for the purpose for which the lump sum is paid must also be subtracted. (22 M.R.S. § 4301(7), (8-A));
- 4) add to the remainder all income received by the household between the date of receipt of the lump sum payment and the date of application for GA; and
- 5) divide the sum created in subsection (4) by the verified actual monthly amounts for all of the household's basic necessities. 22 M.R.S. § 4305(3-B).

This dividend represents the period of proration determined by the Administrator to commence on the date of receipt of the lump sum payment. The prorated sum for each month must be considered available to the household for 12 months from the date of application or during the period of proration, whichever is less.

The household of an initial applicant that is otherwise eligible for emergency assistance may not be denied emergency assistance to meet an immediate need solely on the basis of the proration of a lump sum payment. (22 M.R.S. § 4308).

**Section 6.8—Basic Necessities; Maximum Levels of Assistance**

**Overall Maximum Levels of Assistance.** Notwithstanding any of the maximum levels of assistance for specific basic necessities listed in Ordinance Appendices B-H, an applicant’s eligibility for GA will be first determined by subtracting their income from the overall maximum level of assistance designated in Appendix A for the applicable household size. (22 M.R.S. § 4305 (3-B)). The difference yielded by this calculation shall be the applicant’s deficit.

Applicants will be eligible for GA up to the calculated deficit to the extent the applicant is unable to otherwise provide the basic necessities essential to maintain themselves or their families. Applicants with no deficit shall be found ineligible for GA unless they are in an emergency, in which case eligibility for emergency GA will be determined according to Ordinance § 4.9.

**Maximum Levels of Assistance for Specific Basic Necessities.** The municipality will grant assistance to eligible applicants for basic necessities according to the maximum levels for specific types of assistance set forth below. The Administrator, in consultation with the applicant, may apply the amount of the applicant’s deficit toward assistance with any one or combination of necessities not to exceed the total deficit. These maximum levels will be strictly adhered to unless the Administrator determines that there are exceptional circumstances and an emergency is shown to exist, in which case these absolute levels will be waived in order to meet immediate needs.

In all cases either the actual expenses the applicant incurs for basic necessities or the maximum amount allowed in each category, whichever is less, will be used in determining need.

In roommate situations, the applicant’s need for common living expenses for rent, fuel, electricity, etc., will be presumed to be reduced by an amount equal to the other household members’ proportionate fair share of the common living expenses. No applicant will be allowed to claim a need for any expense which has been or will be paid by another person. In addition, as a general rule the municipality will not provide a benefit toward a basic need by paying a bill that is issued to a person not living with the applicant’s household or that has otherwise been incurred by a person who has not been found eligible to receive assistance.

Temporary exceptions to this general rule may be made by the Administrator in the following circumstances: (1) a recent, unplanned separation has occurred in the household resulting in the sustained or permanent absence of a former household member in whose name the bill was customarily issued; (2) the applicant and members of the applicant’s household were or will be the sole recipients of the commodities or services covered by any bill to be paid or partially paid with GA; and (3) the applicant will make a good faith effort to direct the vendor to issue future bills in the name of the applicant or other responsible person residing in the household.

- (A) **Food.** The Administrator will provide food assistance to eligible persons up to the allowed maximum amounts designated by the U.S.D.A. Thrifty Food Plan for the appropriate household size.

For this purpose, the municipality hereby incorporates by reference the U.S.D.A. Thrifty Food Plan, as distributed by the Maine DHHS on or about October of each year. See Ordinance Appendix B for the current year’s food maximums.

## ARTICLE VI – Determination of Eligibility

In determining need for food, the Administrator will not consider the value of the food stamps an applicant receives as income. (22 M.R.S. § 4301.7(A); 7 U.S.C. § 2017(b)). The municipality will authorize vouchers to be used solely for approved food products.

The Administrator will exceed the maximums when necessary for households having members with special dietary needs. The Administrator may require a doctor's statement verifying there is a special dietary need requiring an expenditure for food that is greater than the ordinance maximums.

- (B) **Housing.** The Administrator will provide assistance with rent or mortgage payments that are reasonable and/or within the allowed maximum levels. See Ordinance Appendix C for the current year's housing maximums. It is the applicant's responsibility to find suitable housing, although the Administrator may help the applicant find housing when appropriate. The Administrator will inform the applicant of the allowed housing maximums to assist the applicant in their search for housing. The allowed maximum for any applicant will be the categorical housing maximum representing the minimum dwelling unit space necessary to adequately shelter the applicant household. Applicants requesting assistance for housing that contains more bedrooms than are necessary for the number of household members will be provided assistance according to the maximum level for the number of rooms actually needed.

**Temporary Lodging.** The municipality cannot exceed maximum levels of assistance for an applicant household for more than 30 days in a 12-month period when assistance is granted for housing in a hotel, motel, inn or other lodging place as defined in 22 M.R.S. § 2491(7-F).

**Large Recovery Residences.** The maximum amount of housing assistance provided to or on behalf of a person residing in a recovery residence, as described in 22 M.R.S. § 4309(6), with occupancy of 26 or more beds, is equal to 70% of the maximum levels of housing assistance available for a person residing in a recovery residence with occupancy of 25 or fewer beds. (22 M.R.S. § 4305(3-E)).

**Rental Payments to Relatives.** The municipality may elect to not issue any rental payment to an applicant's relatives unless the rental relationship has existed for at least three months and the applicant's relative(s) rely on the rental payment for their basic needs. For the purpose of this section, a "relative" is defined as the applicant's parents, grandparents, children, grandchildren, siblings, parent's siblings, or any of those relative's children. (22 M.R.S. § 4319(2)).

**Rental Payments to Non-Relatives.** When applicants are living in private homes with the owner or sharing dwelling units with people who are not pooling income or who are not legally liable relatives, the amount allowed as the applicant's shelter expense will be the applicant's pro rata share of the actual, total shelter cost, up to the ordinance maximum. (22 M.R.S. § 4301(6)).

Any housing assistance issued to a recipient in such a circumstance will be issued, whenever reasonably possible, to the landlord or property owner with the most superior interest in the property; i.e., to a landlord before a tenant, or to a mortgagee before a mortgagor.

When the municipality issues in aggregate more than \$600 in rental payments to any landlord in any calendar year, a 1099 form declaring the total amount of rental payments issued during the

calendar year will be forwarded to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) pursuant to IRS regulation (see § 6041(a) of Internal Revenue Code).

Any landlord wishing to regularly receive rental payments from the municipality on behalf of applicants renting rooms from the landlord's own residence must, at a minimum, make a good faith effort to obtain a lodging license from the DHHS Division of Health Engineering, pursuant to 10-144A CMR, Chapter 201, as a condition of that landlord receiving future GA payments on behalf of their tenants.

**Mortgage Payments.** In the case of a request for assistance with a mortgage payment, the Administrator will make an individual factual determination of whether the applicant has an immediate need for such aid. In making this determination, the Administrator will consider the extent and liquidity of the applicant's proprietary interest in the housing. Factors to consider in making this determination include:

- (1) the marketability of the shelter's equity;
- (2) the amount of equity;
- (3) the availability of the equity interest in the shelter to provide the applicant an opportunity to secure a short-term loan in order to meet immediate needs;
- (4) the extent to which liquidation may aid the applicant's financial rehabilitation;
- (5) a comparison between the amount of mortgage obligations and the anticipated rental charges the applicant would be responsible for if they were to be dislocated to rental housing;
- (6) the imminence of the applicant's dislocation from owned housing because of their inability to meet the mortgage payments;
- (7) the likelihood that the provision of housing assistance will prevent such dislocation; and
- (8) the applicant's age, health, and social situation.

These factors shall be considered when determining whether the equity in the shelter is an available asset which may be substituted for the assistance the municipality would otherwise be required to provide.

The Administrator shall consider issuing a benefit in response to the applicant's request for mortgage assistance to the extent the applicant is otherwise eligible for GA if after review of the criteria above, the Administrator determines that:

- (1) the monthly mortgage obligation is in accordance with the maximum levels of assistance available for housing appropriate to the applicant's household size;
- (2) there is no capacity in the accumulated equity in the property, when considered in the context of the applicant's borrowing capacity with the mortgagee or the general lending community, to suspend the mortgage obligation temporarily or re-amortize the mortgage in such a way as to suspend or reduce the mortgage obligation; and
- (3) the failure to provide a mortgage payment in a timely manner could jeopardize the applicant's continued right of possession of the property.

If a mortgage payment is necessary, the Administrator will pay the actual amount due, up to the amount allowed according to the maximum levels listed below. After an initial application, assistance with such payments will be given only after the applicant has made all reasonable efforts to borrow against the equity of their home. If there is not sufficient equity in the home with which

to secure a loan, and if the monthly mortgage payments are not realistically in line with the rental rates for similar housing in the area that could meet the applicant’s needs, the Administrator will inform the applicant that they are responsible for finding alternative housing within their ability to pay and will be obligated to make all reasonable efforts to secure such housing.

**Liens.** The municipality may place a lien on the property in order to recover its costs of granting assistance with mortgage payments. In addition, a municipality may claim a lien against the owner of real estate for the amount of money spent by it to make capital improvements to the real estate. (22 M.R.S. § 4320). No lien may be enforced against a recipient except upon their death or the transfer of the property. Further, no lien may be enforced against a person who is currently receiving any form of public assistance, or who would again become eligible for GA if the lien were enforced.

If the municipality determines that it is appropriate to place a lien on a person’s property to recover its costs of providing GA for a mortgage payment or capital improvement it must file a notice of the lien with the county registry of deeds where the property is located within 30 days of making the mortgage payment. That filing shall secure the municipality’s or the state’s interest in an amount equal to the sum of that mortgage or capital improvement payment and all subsequent mortgage or capital improvement payments made on behalf of the same eligible person, plus interest and costs.

Not less than 10 days prior to filing the lien in the registry, the municipal officers must send notice to the owner of the real estate, the GA recipient, and any record holder of the mortgage by certified mail, return receipt requested, that a lien on the property is going to be filed with the registry. This notice must clearly inform the recipient of the limitations upon enforcement plus the name, title, address and telephone number of the person who granted the assistance. The municipal officers must also give written notice to the recipient each time the amount secured by the lien is increased because of an additional mortgage payment. This notice must include the same information that appeared on the original intent-to-file notice sent to the recipient.

The municipality may charge interest on the amount of money secured by the lien. The municipal officers will establish the interest rate not to exceed the maximum rate of interest allowed by the State Treasurer to be charged against delinquent taxes. The interest will accrue from the date the lien is filed.

**Property Taxes.** In the event an applicant requests assistance with their property taxes, the Administrator will inform the applicant that there are two procedures on the local level to request that relief: the poverty abatement process (36 M.R.S. § 841(2)) and GA. If the applicant chooses to seek property tax assistance through GA, or if the applicant is denied a poverty tax abatement, the Administrator may consider using GA to meet this need only if:

- a) the property tax in question is for the applicant’s place of residence;
- b) there is a tax lien on the property which is due to mature within 60 days of the date of application;
- c) as a matter of municipal policy or practice, or on the basis of information obtained from the applicant’s mortgagee, if any, it is reasonably certain that a tax lien foreclosure will result in subsequent eviction from the residential property; and
- d) the applicant, with sufficient notice, applies for property tax relief through the Maine Property Tax Fairness Credit program, when available.

**Housing Maximums.** The maximum levels of housing assistance contained in this ordinance have been derived either from a locally accomplished fair market rental survey or the fair market rental values developed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). If the maximum levels of housing are derived from the HUD values made effective as of every October 1, and adjusted to disregard the current and averaged utility allowances as developed by the Maine State Housing Authority, those levels are hereby incorporated by reference. See Ordinance Appendix C for the current year’s housing maximums.

If and when the maximum levels of housing assistance in this Ordinance are derived from a locally developed fair market rental survey, a record of that survey will be submitted to the DHHS, General Assistance Unit, and the maximum levels of housing assistance will be incorporated into this Ordinance pursuant to the ordinance adoption and amendment procedures found at 22 M.R.S. § 4305.

**Note.** The maximum amount of housing assistance provided to or on behalf of a person residing in a recovery residence, as described in 22 M.R.S. § 4309(6), with occupancy of 26 or more beds, is equal to 70% of the maximum levels of housing assistance available for a person residing in a recovery residence with occupancy of 25 or fewer beds. (22 M.R.S. § 4305(3-E)).

(C) **Utilities.** Expenses for lights, cooking, and hot water will be budgeted separately if they are not included in the rent. Applicants are responsible for making arrangements with the utility company regarding service, including entering into a special payment arrangement if necessary.

Assistance will be granted to eligible applicants on the basis of their most recent bill. The municipality is not obligated to pay back bills or utility security deposits. Exceptions may be made in emergency situations pursuant to section 4.9.

Disconnection of utility service will not be considered an emergency in all cases. The Administrator will make an individual, factual analysis to determine if the termination of utility service constitutes an emergency. The Administrator will consider the household composition, the time of year, the age and health of the household members, and other appropriate factors in reaching a decision. Applicants who had sufficient income, money, assets or other resources to pay their utility bill when it was received, but who spent all or part of their income on items which were not basic necessities, will not be eligible to receive GA to replace those funds.

Applicants have the burden of providing evidence of their income and use of income for the applicable time period (22 M.R.S. § 4308(2)) (*see Ordinance §§ 4.9; 6.3*). The Administrator will notify applicants in writing that they must give the Administrator prompt notice if their utility service is to be terminated or if their fuel supply is low. It is the applicant’s responsibility to attempt to make arrangements with the utility company to maintain their service and to notify the Administrator if assistance is needed with a utility bill prior to service being terminated.

**Electricity Maximums for Households Without Electric Hot Water.** See Ordinance Appendix D for the current year’s electricity maximums.

**Electricity Maximums for Households that Use Electrically Heated Hot Water.** See Ordinance Appendix D for the current year’s electricity maximums.

**Non-Electric Utilities.** The allowed amount for water and sewer utility service will be budgeted at a 30-day reasonable usage rate.

- (D) **Fuel.** Expenses for home heating will be budgeted according to the actual need for fuel during the heating season (September through May) provided such expenses are reasonable, and at other times during the year when the Administrator determines the request for fuel assistance is reasonable and appropriate.

Assistance will be granted to eligible applicants on the basis of their most recent bill. The municipality is not responsible for back bills except in an emergency as provided in Ordinance § 4.9. Applicants are responsible for monitoring their fuel supply and requesting assistance prior to depleting their fuel supply. When applicants who have been informed of this responsibility run out of fuel nonetheless, and can show no just cause for failing to give the Administrator timely notice of their need for fuel, the Administrator shall find that the emergency was not beyond the applicants’ control, and process the emergency request accordingly, pursuant to Ordinance § 4.9. See Ordinance Appendix E for the current year’s fuel maximums.

- (E) **Personal Care and Household Supplies.** Expenses for ordinary personal and household supplies will be budgeted and allowed according to the applicant’s actual need for these items. Personal and household supplies include: hand soap, toothpaste, shampoo, shaving cream, deodorant, dish detergent, laundry supplies and costs, household cleaning supplies, razors, paper products such as toilet paper, tissues, paper towels, garbage/trash bags light bulbs and supplies for children under 5 years of age. See Ordinance Appendix F for the current year’s personal care and household supplies maximums.

- (F) **Other Basic Necessities.** Expenses falling under this section will be granted when they are deemed essential to an applicant’s or recipient’s health and safety by the Administrator and, in some cases, upon verification by a physician. Assistance will be granted only when these necessities cannot be obtained through the utilization of available resources.

- 1) **Clothing.** The municipality may assist a household with the purchase of adequate clothing. Before assistance will be granted for clothing, the GA Administrator must be satisfied that the applicant has utilized all available resources to secure the necessary clothing. In some circumstances, clothing will be a postponable item. Exceptions to this would be, for example, if fire, flood or unusually cold weather makes extra clothing an immediate necessity, special clothing is necessary for the applicant’s employment, or a household member is without adequate clothing.
- 2) **Medical.** The municipality will pay for essential medical expenses, other than hospital bills (*see below*), provided that the municipality is notified and approves the expenses and services prior to their being made or delivered. Medical expenses include prescriptions, devices, treatments, or services that are determined to be ‘medically necessary’ by a licensed physician. The municipality will grant assistance for medical services only when assistance cannot be obtained from any other source and the applicant would not be able to receive necessary medical care without the municipality’s assistance. The applicant is required to utilize any resource, including any federal or state

program, that will diminish their need to seek GA for medical expenses. The municipality will grant assistance for non-emergency medical services only if a physician verifies that the services are essential. Provided there is no cost to the applicant, the Administrator may require a second medical opinion from a physician designated by the municipality to verify the necessity of the services.

Generally, the municipality will issue GA at the established Medicaid rates for all medical services, prescriptions, or other medical commodities. Before authorizing GA for any medical expenses, the Administrator will inform the pharmacy or medical service provider of the municipality's intention to pay for the medical service at the Medicaid rate and ask to be billed accordingly.

Ordinary medical supplies/non-prescription drugs will be budgeted at the actual amount when the applicant can demonstrate a need for such items. Allowable supplies include bandages, aspirin, cough syrup, and other generic brand, non-prescription medicines. In addition, the basic monthly rate for telephone service will be budgeted when a telephone is essential to the health and safety of the household. In order for telephone service to be considered an allowable expense the applicant must provide a written statement from a physician certifying that the telephone is essential.

- 3) **Hospital Bills.** In the event of an emergency admission to the hospital, the hospital must notify the Administrator within 5 business days of the admission. Notification must be by telephone, confirmed by certified mail, or by certified mail only. If a hospital fails to give timely notice to the Administrator, the municipality will have no obligation to pay the bill.

Any person who cannot pay their hospital bill must apply to the hospital for consideration under the Hospital's Free Care Program as provided in Title 22 M.R.S. § 1716. Anyone who is not eligible for the hospital's free care program may apply for GA. Applicants must apply for assistance within 30 days of being discharged from the hospital and provide a notice from the hospital certifying that they are not eligible for the hospital's free care program.

Before the Administrator will consider whether to allow a hospital bill as a necessary expense, the applicant must enter into a reasonable payment arrangement with the hospital. The payment arrangement will be based upon the Medicaid rate. In determining an applicant's eligibility, the municipality will budget the monthly payment to the hospital the applicant has agreed to pay. The applicant's need for assistance with a hospital bill will be considered each time they apply by including the amount of the bill in the applicant's monthly budget, but the recipient will be responsible for making any necessary payments to the hospital pursuant to the use-of-income requirements found at Ordinance § 6.6.

- 4) **Dental.** The municipality will pay for medically necessary dental services only. As is the case with medical services generally, the municipality will issue GA for dental services at the established Medicaid rates for those services, and before authorizing the GA benefit for dental services, the Administrator will inform the dentist or dental surgeon of the municipality's intention to pay at the Medicaid rate. If full mouth extractions are necessary, the municipality will pay for dentures provided the applicant has no other resources to pay for the dentures. The applicant will be referred to a dental clinic in the area whenever possible. The Administrator will expect the applicant to bear a reasonable

part of the cost for dental services, including extractions and dentures, taking into account the applicant’s ability to pay.

- 5) **Eye Care.** In order to be eligible to receive GA for eyeglasses, an applicant must have their medical need certified by a person licensed to practice optometry. The Administrator will provide assistance for eyeglasses to eligible persons only after the applicant has exhausted all other available resources and generally only at the Medicaid rate.
- 6) **Telephone Charge.** A payment for basic telephone will only be allowed if a telephone is necessary for medical reasons as verified by a physician. At the discretion of the GA Administrator, minimum/basic telephone services may be allowed for households with children, for households where job search or work-related reasons exist and/or for any other reasons the Administrator deems necessary.
- 7) **Work-Related Expenses.** In determining need, reasonable and actual work-related expenses will be deducted from earned income. These expenses include childcare costs, work clothes, supplies and transportation at the actual costs not to exceed the ordinance maximum. See Ordinance Appendix G for the current maximum mileage allotment. The applicant is required to provide documentation substantiating the costs and that the expenses were necessary.
- 8) **Travel Expenses.** In determining need, necessary travel which is not work-related will be budgeted if the applicant can satisfy the Administrator that the prospective need for travel is necessary. For applicants in rural areas, weekly transportation to a supermarket will be considered, as will any medically necessary travel. See Ordinance Appendix G for the current rate at which such necessary travel will be budgeted. This rate shall be construed to subsidize all costs associated with automobile ownership and operation, including gas/oil, tires, maintenance, insurance, financing, licensing/registration, excise tax, etc.
- 9) **Burials, Cremations.** Under the circumstances and in accordance with the procedures and limitations described below (*see Ordinance § 6.9*), the municipality recognizes its responsibility to pay for the burial or cremation of eligible persons. See Ordinance Appendix H for the current maximums.
- 10) **Capital Improvements.** The costs associated with capital improvements/repairs (e.g., heating/water/septic system repair) will generally not be budgeted as a basic necessity. Exceptions can be made only when the capital improvement/repair has been pre-approved by the Administrator as a necessary expense and the monthly cost of the capital improvement/repair has been reduced as far as reasonably possible; for example, by means of the applicant entering into an installment payment arrangement with the contractor. The Administrator may grant GA for capital improvements when:
  - 1) the failure to do so would place the applicant(s) in emergency circumstances;
  - 2) there are no other resources available to effect the capital repair; and
  - 3) there is no more cost-effective alternative available to the applicant or municipality to alleviate an emergency situation.

In some cases, the entire immediate cost of the capital improvement can be mitigated by the applicant entering into an installment payment arrangement with a contractor. The municipality reserves the right to place a lien on any property pursuant to 22 M.R.S. § 4320 when GA has been used to effect a capital improvement. The lien process shall be accomplished in the same manner as for mortgage payments, as described in subsection (B) “Liens”, above.

### **Section 6.9—Burials; Cremations**

**Funeral Director Must Give Timely Notice.** In order for the municipality to be liable for a burial or cremation expense, the funeral director must notify the Administrator prior to the burial or cremation or by the end of three business days following the funeral director's receipt of the body, whichever is earlier. (22 M.R.S. § 4313(2)). This contact by the funeral director shall begin the process of developing an application for burial/cremation assistance on behalf of the deceased. It is the funeral director's responsibility to make a good-faith effort to determine if the family or any other persons are going to pay all or part of the burial expenses. If family members or others are unable to pay the expenses, and the funeral director wants the municipality to pay all or part of the expenses, the funeral director must make timely contact to the Administrator. In addition, the funeral director may refer legally liable relatives to the Administrator so that a timely determination of financial capacity may be accomplished.

**Application for Assistance Shall be Calculated on Behalf of the Deceased.** For the purposes of determining residency, calculating eligibility and issuing GA for burial or cremation purposes, an application for assistance shall be completed by the Administrator on behalf of the deceased.

With regard to residency, the municipality of responsibility for burial expenses shall be the municipality in which the eligible deceased person was a resident at the time of death as residency is determined under Ordinance § 4.10.

Although legally liable relatives may be asked to provide information regarding their income, assets, and basic living expenses, that information will not be construed as an application for GA in as much as living persons are not eligible for burial assistance. To clarify this point of law, although legally liable relatives have a financial responsibility to pay for the burial or cremation of their relatives, that financial responsibility only exists to the extent the legally liable relatives have a financial capacity to do so. Therefore, legally liable relatives who are themselves eligible for GA, have no legal obligation to pay for the burial or cremation of their relatives. For these reasons, all GA issued for burial or cremation purposes shall be issued on behalf of, and in the name of, the deceased.

**The Financial Responsibility of Certain Family Members.** Grandparents, parents, children and grandchildren of the deceased whether or not living in or owning property in Maine, and the spouse or registered domestic partner of the deceased, are financially responsible for the burial or cremation of the deceased to the extent those relatives, individually or as a group, have a financial capacity to pay for the burial or cremation either in lump sum or by means of a budgeted payment arrangement with the funeral home. Accordingly, at the request of the Administrator, all legally liable relatives must provide the Administrator with any reasonably requested information regarding their income, assets, and basic living expenses. The Administrator may also seek information from financial institutions holding assets of the deceased. Maine law requires a financial institution to disclose the amount deposited in the corporation or association when the municipality or its agents are acting in accordance with section 4313(2) and provide a written request and a notarized affidavit signed by the Administrator of the municipality or its agents stating that the named depositor is deceased.

**Consideration of the Financial Responsibility of Family Members.** Generally, when the Administrator can make a finding that one or more of the deceased's legally liable relatives have an obvious and demonstrable financial capacity to pay for the burial or cremation, by lump sum

payment or by means of a reasonable payment arrangement, the municipality will not grant the requested burial or cremation assistance. When the Administrator is unable to make such a finding, the following proration of familial responsibility will be implemented.

**Proration of Familial Responsibility.** A proration of familial financial responsibility will be used when no legally liable relative possesses an obvious and demonstrable capacity to pay for the burial or cremation, but one or more of the financially liable relatives is found to have a financial capacity to make a partial financial contribution, or the Administrator is unable to determine the financial capacity of one or more of said relatives.

Under these circumstances, each legally liable relative is considered to be responsible for their pro rata share of the total municipal contribution that would exist if no legally liable relatives had a financial capacity to contribute. Furthermore, and as long as all other eligibility factors have been satisfied, the municipality will provide as a burial or cremation benefit the aggregate of all pro rata shares less the share of any legally liable relative who refuses to cooperate with the Administrator by providing information or documentation reasonably necessary to determine that relative's financial capacity, and less any share or part of a share attributable to a legally liable relative who can financially contribute or partially contribute toward the burial or cremation to the extent of that relative's share.

**Eight Days to Determine Eligibility.** The Administrator may take up to 8 days from the date of an application for burial/cremation assistance to issue a written decision regarding the amount of the municipal contribution toward the burial or cremation. The 8-day eligibility determination period from the date of application shall be used as necessary to make third-party collateral contacts, verify the listing of legally liable family members and determine their respective financial capacities to contribute to the burial or cremation, contact the personal representative of the deceased's estate, if any, and other related administrative tasks. The Administrator shall not use this 8-day period allowed by law to unreasonably delay the municipality's decision.

**The Municipal Obligation to Pay When Legally Liable Relatives or Others Can Contribute.** The figures provided in this section are the maximum benefits provided by the municipality when no contributions toward the burial or cremation are available from any other source. To the extent any legally liable relatives of the deceased have a financial capacity to pay for the burial or cremation, that financial capacity shall be deducted from the maximum burial costs allowed by this section. In addition, any other benefits or resources that are available, such as Social Security burial benefits, veterans' burial benefits, or contributions from other persons, will be deducted from the maximum amount the municipality will pay, except there will be no deduction from the municipal benefit level with respect to any contribution provided for the purpose of publishing an obituary notice up to an aggregate contribution limit for this purpose of \$75 when a paid receipt demonstrating the purchase of an obituary notice is provided to the Administrator.

**Burial Expenses.** The Administrator will respect the wishes of family members concerning whether the deceased is interred by means of burial or cremated. See Ordinance [Appendix H](#) for the maximum levels of burial assistance.

**Cremation Expenses.** In the absence of any objection by any family members of the deceased, or when neither the Administrator nor the funeral director can locate any family members, the Administrator may issue GA for cremation services. See Ordinance [Appendix H](#) for the maximum assistance levels for cremations.

**Section 6.10—Notice of Decision**

**Written Decision.** Each time a person applies, the Administrator will provide a written decision to the applicant after making a determination of eligibility. The decision will be given to the applicant within 24 hours after a completed and signed application is received (22 M.R.S. § 4305(3)) (*see Ordinance § 4.6*).

In order to comply with the statutory requirement to issue a decision within 24 hours, if an applicant submits an incomplete or unsigned application, the Administrator may decide to issue a notice of “ineligibility” and provide the applicant with another application to submit as soon as is practicable for the applicant.

The Administrator must explain the applicant’s right to a fair hearing in the Administrator’s written notice of decision.

**Contents of Decision.** After an application has been completed, applicants will be given written notice of any decision concerning their eligibility for assistance. In addition to the items listed in Ordinance § 4.6, the notice of decision will include a statement that:

- a) the applicant has the right to a fair hearing and how to request a fair hearing, and;
- b) the applicant has the right to contact the DHHS if they believe the municipality has violated the law. The decision will include contact information for the appropriate DHHS office.

**Disbursement of GA.** Except when the Administrator determines it is impractical, all GA will be provided as a voucher or purchase order payable to a vendor or through direct municipal payment to a provider of goods or services. GA will not be issued in the form of a cash payment to an applicant unless there is no alternative to the cash payment, in which case the Administrator shall document the circumstances requiring GA to be issued in the form of cash. (22 M.R.S. § 4305(6)).

**ARTICLE VII – The Fair Hearing**

**Section 7.1—Right to a Fair Hearing**

Within 5 working days of receipt of a written notice of denial, reduction or termination of assistance, or within 10 working days after any other act or failure to act, the applicant or their authorized representative has the right to request a fair hearing. (22 M.R.S. § 4322). The right to review a decision of the Administrator is a basic right of the applicant to a full evidentiary hearing and is not limited solely to a review of the decision.

**Section 7.2—Method of Obtaining a Fair Hearing**

Upon receiving notification of the decision of the Administrator, all claimants will be informed of how to request a fair hearing. All complaints that are not clear requests for a fair hearing will be answered by a personal interview or in writing by the Administrator. If the client is satisfied with the adjustment or explanation, the Administrator will make an entry in the case record and file any correspondence involved.

**Written Request.** To obtain a fair hearing, the claimant, or their authorized representative, must make a written request within 5 working days of receipt of the Administrator’s decision to grant, deny, reduce or terminate assistance, or within 10 working days after any other act or failure to act. The Administrator will make a form available to request a fair hearing and will assist the claimant in completing it if necessary. On the printed form, the claimant will give the following information:

- a) the decision on which review is sought;
- b) the reason(s) the claimant is dissatisfied and why the claimant believes they are eligible to receive assistance; and
- c) the relief sought by the claimant.

The Administrator may not deny or dismiss a request for a hearing unless it has been withdrawn (in writing) by the claimant.

**Scheduling the Fair Hearing.** Upon receipt of the completed written request, the FHA must meet and hold the hearing within 5 working days. The Administrator will notify the claimant in writing when and where the hearing will be held. (22 M.R.S. § 4322). In addition to the date, time and place of the hearing, the notice of fair hearing shall include, at a minimum, the claimant’s rights to:

- a) be their own spokesperson at the fair hearing, or at the claimant’s own expense be represented by legal counsel or another;
- b) confront and cross-examine any witnesses presented at the hearing; and
- c) present witnesses on their own behalf.

Arrangements for the date, time, and place of the hearing will take into consideration the convenience of the claimant and hearing authority. The claimant will be given timely notice to allow for preparation and will also be given adequate preliminary information about the hearing procedure to allow for effective preparation of their case.

**Section 7.3—The Fair Hearing Authority**

The municipal officers will appoint a fair hearing authority (FHA) that will determine, based on all the evidence presented at the fair hearing, whether the claimant(s) were eligible to receive assistance at the time they applied for GA. The FHA is charged with ensuring that GA is administered in accordance with state law and this ordinance.

The FHA may consist of the municipal officers, one or more persons appointed by the municipal officers to act as the FHA, or, if designated by ordinance, a municipal board of appeals created under 30-A M.R.S. § 2691. (22 M.R.S. § 4322). In determining the FHA, the municipal officers will ensure that all person(s) serving as FHA must:

- a) have not participated in the decision which is the subject of the appeal;
- b) be impartial;
- c) be sufficiently skilled in interviewing techniques to be able to obtain evidence and the facts necessary to make a fair determination; and
- d) be capable of evaluating all evidence fairly and realistically, explaining to the claimant the laws and regulations under which the Administrator operated, and conveying to the Administrator any evidence of unsound, unclear, or inadequate policies, practices or actions.

**Section 7.4—Fair Hearing Procedure**

At the time that written notice of the date, time, and place of the fair hearing is provided to a claimant, they will also be given adequate information about the hearing procedure to allow them to effectively prepare their case. The claimant shall be permitted to review their file before the hearing. At a minimum, the claimant will be provided with the following information regarding fair hearing procedures. All fair hearings will:

- a) be conducted in private, with only to the claimant, witnesses, the claimant’s legal counsel, others whom the claimant wants present, and Administrator, the Administrator’s agents, counsel and witnesses present;
- b) be opened with a presentation of the issue by the FHA;
- c) be conducted informally, without technical rules of evidence, but subject to the requirements of due process;
- d) allow the claimant and the Administrator the option to present their positions for themselves or with the aid of others, including legal counsel;
- e) give all participants an opportunity to present oral or written testimony or documentary evidence, offer rebuttal; question witnesses presented at the hearing; and examine all evidence presented at the hearing;
- f) result in a decision, based exclusively on evidence or testimony presented at the hearing; and
- g) be tape recorded, and result in a written decision that is given to the claimant and filed with evidence introduced at the hearing. The FHA will allow the claimant to establish all pertinent facts and circumstances, and to advance any arguments without undue interference. Information that the claimant does not have an opportunity to hear or see will not be used in the fair hearing decision or made part of the hearing record. Any material reviewed by the FHA must be made available to the claimant or their representative. The claimant will be responsible for preparing a written transcript if they wish to pursue court action.

The FHA shall admit all evidence if it is the kind of evidence upon which reasonable persons are accustomed to rely in the conduct of serious affairs. (22 M.R.S. § 4322).

**Claimant’s Failure to Appear.** If the claimant fails to appear at the hearing, the FHA will send a written notice to the claimant indicating that the Administrator’s decision remains unchanged because of the claimant failure to appear. The notice will state that the claimant has 5 working days from receipt of the notice to provide the Administrator with information demonstrating “just cause,” for failure to appear.

“Just cause” for a claimant’s failure to appear at a fair hearing, may include:

- a) a death or serious illness in the family;
- b) a personal illness which reasonably prevents the party from attending the hearing;
- c) an emergency or unforeseen event which reasonably prevents the party from attending the hearing;
- d) an obligation or responsibility which a reasonable person in the conduct of their affairs could reasonably conclude takes precedence over the attendance at the hearing; or
- e) lack of receipt of adequate or timely notice; excusable neglect, excusable inadvertence, or excusable mistake.

If the claimant (or his/her attorney) establishes that just cause existed, the request for the hearing will be reinstated and a hearing rescheduled.

If a claimant who is represented by legal counsel fails to appear at a fair hearing, legal counsel shall not testify in place of the claimant on matters of ‘fact’ but may cross examine witnesses and make ‘legal’ arguments on behalf of the claimant.

### **Section 7.5—The Fair Hearing Decision**

The FHA’s decision will be binding on the Administrator, and will be communicated in writing to the claimant within 5 working days after completion of the hearing. Written notice of the decision will contain:

- a) a statement of the issue;
- b) relevant facts brought out at the hearing;
- c) pertinent provisions in the law or GA ordinance related to the decision; and
- d) the FHA’s decision and the reasons for it.

A copy of the decision will be given to the claimant. The hearing record and the case record will be maintained by the Administrator.

The written decision will state that if the claimant is dissatisfied with the fair hearing decision, they may appeal pursuant to Maine Rule of Civil Procedure, Rule 80B. To take advantage of this right, the claimant must file a petition for review with the Superior Court within 30 days of receipt of the fair hearing decision.

When the decision by the FHA or court authorizes assistance to the claimant, the assistance will be provided within 24 hours.

**ARTICLE VIII – Recovery of Expenses**

**Recipients.** The municipality may recover the full amount of assistance granted to a person from either the recipient or from any person liable for the recipient, or their executors or administrators in a civil action. However, prior to recovering assistance granted, the municipality shall “offset” the value of any workfare performed by a GA recipient against the repayment obligation, at a rate not less than minimum wage.

Before filing a court action to seek repayment of GA benefits previously provided to a recipient, the municipality will seek voluntary repayment after written notice and discussion with the recipient. However, the municipality will not attempt to recover such amounts if, as a result of the repayment, the recipient would again become eligible for GA. (22 M.R.S. § 4318).

**Recipients Anticipating Workers’ Compensation Benefits.** The municipality shall claim a lien on any lump sum payment under the Workers’ Compensation Act or similar law of any other state, which lien shall equal the value of all GA payments made to a recipient of any such lump sum payment. (22 M.R.S. § 4318, 39-A M.R.S. § 106). After issuing any GA on behalf of a recipient who has applied for or is receiving Workers’ Compensation, the municipality shall file a notice of the municipal lien with the GA recipient and the Maine Office of Secretary of State, Uniform Commercial Code division.

The notice of lien shall be filed on a UCC-1 form which must be signed by the GA recipient who has applied for or is receiving Workers’ Compensation. Any GA applicant who has applied for or who is receiving Workers’ Compensation benefits and who refuses to sign a properly prepared UCC-1 form will be found ineligible to receive GA until they provide the required signature. The municipality shall also send a photocopy of that filing to the recipient’s Worker’s Compensation attorney, if known, the applicant’s employer or the employer’s insurance company, and, at the Administrator’s discretion, to the Workers’ Compensation Board. The lien shall be enforced at the time any lump sum Workers’ Compensation benefit is issued.

**Recipients of SSI.** All applicants who receive GA while receipt of their Supplemental Security Income (SSI) assistance is pending or suspended (and which therefore may be retroactively issued to the applicant at a later date), will be required to sign a statement on an Interim Assistance Agreement form distributed by the DHHS that authorizes the Social Security Administration to direct a portion of any retroactive SSI payment to the municipality and/or the state in repayment for the GA granted. Any GA applicant who has applied for or who may be applying for SSI, or who may be required to apply for SSI pursuant to 22 M.R.S. § 4317, and who refuses to sign the Interim Agreement SSI authorization form will be found ineligible to receive GA until they provide the required signature. (22 M.R.S. § 4318).

**Relatives.** The spouse of an applicant, and the parents of any applicant under the age of 25, are liable for the support of the applicant (22 M.R.S. § 4319). In addition, the grandchildren, children, parents, grandparents, the spouse and a registered domestic partner, are liable for the burial costs of each other. The municipality considers these relatives to be available resources and liable for the support of their relatives in proportion to their respective ability. The municipality may complain to any court of competent jurisdiction to recover any expenses made on behalf of a recipient if the relatives fail to fulfill their responsibility. (22 M.R.S. § 4319).

**ARTICLE IX – Severability**

If any provision of this ordinance is declared invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not invalidate any other provision of the ordinance.

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## 2025-2026 GA Overall Maximums

### Metropolitan Areas

#### Persons in Household

COUNTY	1	2	3	4	5*
<b>Bangor HMFA:</b> Bangor, Brewer, Eddington, Glenburn, Hampden, Hermon, Holden, Kenduskeag, Milford, Old Town, Orono, Orrington, Penobscot Indian Island Reservation, Veazie	1,137	1,225	1,566	2,008	2,401
<b>Cumberland County HMFA:</b> Baldwin, Bridgton, Brunswick, Harpswell, Harrison, Naples, New Gloucester, Pownal, Sebago	1,317	1,463	1,920	2,410	2,934
<b>Lewiston/Auburn MSA:</b> Auburn, Durham, Greene, Leeds, Lewiston, Lisbon, Livermore, Livermore Falls, Mechanic Falls, Minot, Poland, Sabattus, Turner, Wales	988	1,093	1,395	1,829	2,030
<b>Penobscot County HMFA:</b> Alton, Argyle UT, Bradford, Bradley, Burlington, Carmel, Carroll plantation, Charleston, Chester, Clifton, Corinna, Corinth, Dexter, Dixmont, Drew plantation, East Central Penobscot UT, East Millinocket, Edinburg, Enfield, Etna, Exeter, Garland, Greenbush, Howland, Hudson, Kingman UT, Lagrange, Lakeville, Lee, Levant, Lincoln, Lowell town, Mattawamkeag, Maxfield, Medway, Millinocket, Mount Chase, Newburgh Newport, North Penobscot UT, Passadumkeag, Patten, Plymouth, Prentiss UT, Seboeis plantation, Springfield, Stacyville, Stetson, Twombly UT, Webster plantation, Whitney UT, Winn, Woodville	923	968	1,271	1,601	1,895
<b>Portland HMFA:</b> Cape Elizabeth, Casco, Chebeague Island, Cumberland, Falmouth, Freeport, Frye Island, Gorham, Gray, Long Island, North Yarmouth, Portland, Raymond, Scarborough, South Portland, Standish, Westbrook, Windham, Yarmouth; Buxton, Hollis, Limington, Old Orchard Beach	1,517	1,721	2,212	2,798	3,429
<b>Sagadahoc HMFA:</b> Arrowsic, Bath, Bowdoin, Bowdoinham, Georgetown, Perkins UT, Phippsburg, Richmond, Topsham, West Bath, Woolwich	1,141	1,285	1,579	2,212	2,651

**Appendix A**  
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COUNTY	1	2	3	4	5
<b>York County HMFA:</b> Acton, Alfred, Arundel, Biddeford, Cornish, Dayton, Kennebunk, Kennebunkport, Lebanon, Limerick, Lyman, Newfield, North Berwick, Ogunquit, Parsonsfield, Saco, Sanford, Shapleigh, Waterboro, Wells	1,278	1,443	1,778	2,347	2,586
<b>York/Kittery/S.Berwick HMFA:</b> Berwick, Eliot, Kittery, South Berwick, York	1,487	1,681	2,168	2,807	3,641

\*Note: Add \$75 for each additional person.

**Non-Metropolitan Areas**

**Persons in Household**

COUNTY	1	2	3	4	5*
<b>Aroostook County</b>	803	871	1,085	1,486	1,569
<b>Franklin County</b>	842	936	1,228	1,621	1,816
<b>Hancock County</b>	1,139	1,140	1,349	1,787	1,791
<b>Kennebec County</b>	985	991	1,276	1,599	1,913
<b>Knox County</b>	972	987	1,200	1,597	1,780
<b>Lincoln County</b>	1,190	1,213	1,375	1,807	2,217
<b>Oxford County</b>	937	942	1,223	1,623	2,024
<b>Piscataquis County</b>	848	943	1,236	1,489	1,738
<b>Somerset County</b>	932	1,002	1,177	1,532	1,661
<b>Waldo County</b>	1,117	1,123	1,347	1,734	2,284
<b>Washington County</b>	871	875	1,136	1,582	1,695

\* Please Note: Add \$75 for each additional person.

## **2025-2026 Food Maximums**

Please Note: The maximum amounts allowed for food are established in accordance with the U.S.D.A. Thrifty Food Plan. As of October 1, 2025, those amounts are:

<b>Number in Household</b>	<b>Weekly Maximum</b>	<b>Monthly Maximum</b>
1	\$ 69.30	\$ 298.00
2	126.98	546.00
3	182.56	785.00
4	231.16	994.00
5	275.12	1,183.00
6	330.47	1,421.00
7	365.35	1,571.00
8	416.05	1,789.00

**Note: For each additional person add \$218 per month.**

## 2025-2026 GA Housing Maximums (Heated & Unheated Rents)

**NOTE: NOT ALL MUNICIPALITIES SHOULD ADOPT THESE SUGGESTED HOUSING MAXIMUMS!** Municipalities should ONLY **consider** adopting the following numbers, if these figures are consistent with local rent values. If not, a market survey should be conducted and the figures should be altered accordingly. The results of any such survey must be presented to DHHS prior to adoption. **Or, no housing maximums should be adopted and eligibility should be analyzed in terms of the Overall Maximum—Appendix A. (See Instruction Memo for further guidance.)**

### Non-Metropolitan FMR Areas

<b>Aroostook County</b>				
Bedrooms	<b>Unheated</b>		<b>Heated</b>	
	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	149	640	181	779
1	155	667	196	844
2	192	826	245	1,054
3	273	1,174	338	1,451
4	278	1,196	356	1,529
<b>Franklin County</b>				
Bedrooms	<b>Unheated</b>		<b>Heated</b>	
	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	158	679	190	818
1	170	732	211	909
2	225	969	278	1,197
3	304	1,309	369	1,586
4	336	1,443	413	1,776
<b>Hancock County</b>				
Bedrooms	<b>Unheated</b>		<b>Heated</b>	
	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	231	995	260	1,118
1	231	995	260	1,118
2	260	1,118	307	1,322
3	351	1,509	408	1,756
4	351	1,509	408	1,756
<b>Kennebec County</b>				
Bedrooms	<b>Unheated</b>		<b>Heated</b>	
	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	196	841	224	964
1	196	841	225	968
2	243	1,045	291	1,249
3	307	1,321	365	1,568
4	367	1,578	437	1,877

**Non-Metropolitan FMR Areas**

<b><u>Knox County</u></b>	<b><u>Unheated</u></b>		<b><u>Heated</u></b>	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	192	828	221	951
1	192	828	224	964
2	225	969	273	1,173
3	307	1,319	364	1,566
4	336	1,445	406	1,744
<b><u>Lincoln County</u></b>	<b><u>Unheated</u></b>		<b><u>Heated</u></b>	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	243	1,046	272	1,169
1	243	1,046	277	1,190
2	266	1,144	314	1,348
3	356	1,529	413	1,776
4	438	1,882	507	2,181
<b><u>Oxford County</u></b>	<b><u>Unheated</u></b>		<b><u>Heated</u></b>	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	184	793	213	916
1	184	793	214	919
2	231	992	278	1,196
3	313	1,345	370	1,592
4	393	1,689	462	1,988
<b><u>Piscataquis County</u></b>	<b><u>Unheated</u></b>		<b><u>Heated</u></b>	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	159	685	192	824
1	172	739	213	916
2	227	977	280	1,205
3	274	1,177	338	1,454
4	317	1,365	395	1,698
<b><u>Somerset County</u></b>	<b><u>Unheated</u></b>		<b><u>Heated</u></b>	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	183	788	212	911
1	191	820	228	979
2	220	946	267	1,150
3	292	1,254	349	1,501
4	308	1,326	378	1,625

**Non-Metropolitan FMR Areas**

<b>Waldo County</b>	<b><u>Unheated</u></b>		<b><u>Heated</u></b>	
Bedrooms	<b>Weekly</b>	<b>Monthly</b>	<b>Weekly</b>	<b>Monthly</b>
0	226	973	255	1,096
1	226	973	256	1,100
2	260	1,116	307	1,320
3	339	1,456	396	1,703
4	453	1,949	523	2,248

<b>Washington County</b>	<b><u>Unheated</u></b>		<b><u>Heated</u></b>	
Bedrooms	<b>Weekly</b>	<b>Monthly</b>	<b>Weekly</b>	<b>Monthly</b>
0	169	727	198	850
1	169	727	198	852
2	210	905	258	1,109
3	303	1,305	361	1,551
4	316	1,360	386	1,659

**Metropolitan FMR Areas**

<b>Bangor HMFA</b>	<b><u>Unheated</u></b>		<b><u>Heated</u></b>	
Bedrooms	<b>Weekly</b>	<b>Monthly</b>	<b>Weekly</b>	<b>Monthly</b>
0	231	993	260	1,116
1	243	1,043	280	1,202
2	310	1,335	358	1,539
3	402	1,730	460	1,977
4	481	2,066	550	2,365

<b>Cumberland Cty. HMFA</b>	<b><u>Unheated</u></b>		<b><u>Heated</u></b>	
Bedrooms	<b>Weekly</b>	<b>Monthly</b>	<b>Weekly</b>	<b>Monthly</b>
0	273	1,173	301	1,296
1	298	1,281	335	1,440
2	393	1,689	440	1,893
3	496	2,132	553	2,379
4	604	2,599	674	2,898

<b>Lewiston/Auburn MSA</b>	<b><u>Unheated</u></b>		<b><u>Heated</u></b>	
Bedrooms	<b>Weekly</b>	<b>Monthly</b>	<b>Weekly</b>	<b>Monthly</b>
0	196	844	225	967
1	212	911	249	1,070
2	271	1,164	318	1,368
3	361	1,551	418	1,798
4	394	1,695	464	1,994

**Metropolitan FMR Areas**

<b><u>Penobscot Cty. HMFA</u></b>	<b><u>Unheated</u></b>		<b><u>Heated</u></b>	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	181	779	210	902
1	183	786	220	945
2	242	1,040	289	1,244
3	308	1,323	365	1,570
4	363	1,560	432	1,859
<b><u>Portland HMFA</u></b>				
	<b><u>Unheated</u></b>		<b><u>Heated</u></b>	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	319	1,373	348	1,496
1	358	1,539	395	1,698
2	461	1,981	508	2,185
3	586	2,520	644	2,767
4	720	3,094	789	3,393
<b><u>Sagadahoc Cty. HMFA</u></b>				
	<b><u>Unheated</u></b>		<b><u>Heated</u></b>	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	232	997	261	1,120
1	256	1,103	293	1,262
2	313	1,348	361	1,552
3	450	1,934	507	2,181
4	539	2,316	608	2,615
<b><u>York Cty. HMFA</u></b>				
	<b><u>Unheated</u></b>		<b><u>Heated</u></b>	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	264	1,134	292	1,257
1	293	1,261	330	1,420
2	360	1,547	407	1,751
3	481	2,069	539	2,316
4	524	2,251	593	2,550
<b><u>York/Kittery / S. Berwick HMFA</u></b>				
	<b><u>Unheated</u></b>		<b><u>Heated</u></b>	
Bedrooms	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	312	1,343	341	1,466
1	349	1,499	386	1,658
2	450	1,937	498	2,141
3	588	2,529	646	2,776
4	769	3,306	838	3,605

## 2025-2026 Electric Utility Maximums

### ELECTRIC

**NOTE:** For an electrically heated dwelling also see “Heating Fuel” maximums below. But remember, an applicant is *not automatically* entitled to the “maximums” established—applicants must demonstrate need.

**1) Electricity Maximums for Households Without Electric Hot Water:** The maximum amounts allowed for utilities, for lights, cooking and other electric uses *excluding* electric hot water and heat:

Number in Household	Weekly	Monthly
1	\$19.95	\$ 85.50
2	\$22.52	\$ 96.50
3	\$24.97	\$107.00
4	\$27.53	\$118.00
5	\$29.88	\$128.50
6	\$32.55	\$139.50

**NOTE:** For each additional person add \$10.50 per month.

**2) Electricity Maximums for Households With Electrically Heated Hot Water:** The maximum amounts allowed for utilities, hot water, for lights, cooking and other electric uses *excluding* heat:

Number in Household	Weekly	Monthly
1	\$29.63	\$127.00
2	\$34.07	\$146.00
3	\$39.67	\$170.00
4	\$46.32	\$198.50
5	\$55.65	\$238.50
6	\$58.68	\$251.50

**NOTE:** For each additional person add \$14.50 per month.

**NOTE:** For electrically heated households, the maximum amount allowed for electrical utilities per month shall be the sum of the appropriate maximum amount under this subsection and the appropriate maximum for heating fuel as provided below.

## 2025-2026 Heating Fuel Maximums

<u>Month</u>	<u>Gallons</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Gallons</u>
September	50	January	225
October	100	February	225
November	200	March	125
December	200	April	125
		May	50

**NOTE:** When the dwelling unit is heated electrically, the maximum amount allowed for heating purposes will be calculated by multiplying the number of gallons of fuel allowed for that month by the current price per gallon. When fuels such as wood, coal and/or natural gas are used for heating purposes, they will be budgeted at actual rates, if they are reasonable. No eligible applicant shall be considered to need more than 7 tons of coal per year, 8 cords of wood per year, 126,000 cubic feet of natural gas per year, or 1000 gallons of propane.

## 2025-2026 Personal Care & Household Supplies Maximums

<u>Number in Household</u>	<u>Weekly Amount</u>	<u>Monthly Amount</u>
1-2	\$10.50	\$45.00
3-4	\$11.60	\$50.00
5-6	\$12.80	\$55.00
7-8	\$14.00	\$60.00

**NOTE:** For each additional person add \$1.25 per week or \$5.00 per month.

### SUPPLEMENT FOR HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN UNDER 5

When an applicant can verify expenditures for the following items, a special supplement will be budgeted as necessary for households with children under 5 years of age for items such as cloth or disposable diapers, laundry powder, oil, shampoo, and ointment up to the following amounts:

<u>Number of Children</u>	<u>Weekly Amount</u>	<u>Monthly Amount</u>
1	\$12.80	\$55.00
2	\$17.40	\$75.00
3	\$23.30	\$100.00
4	\$27.90	\$120.00

## **Mileage Rate**

This municipality adopts the State of Maine travel expense reimbursement rate as set by the Office of the State Controller. The current rate for approved employment and necessary medical travel, etc. is 54 cents (54 ¢) per mile.

Please refer to the Office of State Controller for changes to this rate: Telephone: 626-8420 or visit: <http://www.state.me.us/osc/>.

## **Funeral Maximums / Burial Maximums and Cremation Maximums**

The maximum amount of general assistance granted for the purpose of burial is **\$1,620**.

The municipality's obligation to provide funds for burial purposes is limited to a reasonable calculation of the funeral director's direct costs, not to exceed the maximum amounts of assistance described in this section. Allowable burial expenses are limited to:

- removal of the body from a local residence or institution
- a secured death certificate or obituary
- embalming
- a minimum casket
- a reasonable cost for necessary transportation
- other reasonable and necessary specified direct costs, as itemized by the funeral director and approved by the municipal Administrator.

Additional costs may be allowed by the GA Administrator, where there is an actual cost, for:

- the wholesale cost of a cement liner if the cemetery by-laws require one;
- the opening and closing of the grave site; and
- a lot in the least expensive section of the cemetery. If the municipality is able to provide a cemetery lot in a municipally owned cemetery or in a cemetery under municipal control, the cost of the cemetery lot in any other cemetery will not be paid by the municipality.

### **Cremation Maximums**

The maximum amount of assistance granted for a cremation shall be **\$1,125**.

The municipality's obligation to provide funds for cremation purposes is limited to a reasonable calculation of the funeral director's direct costs, not to exceed the maximum amounts of assistance described in this section. Allowable cremation expenses are limited to:

**Appendix H**  
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- removal and transportation of the body from a local residence or institution
- professional fees
- crematorium fees
- a secured death certificate or obituary
- other reasonable and necessary specified direct costs, as itemized by the funeral director and approved by the municipal administrator.

Additional costs may be allowed by the GA Administrator where there is an actual cost, for:

- a cremation lot in the least expensive section of the cemetery
- a reasonable cost for a burial urn not to exceed \$55
- transportation costs borne by the funeral director at a reasonable rate per mile for transporting the remains to and from the cremation facility.

## **APPENDIX I – Definition of Misconduct (26 M.R.S. § 1043 (23))**

23. Misconduct. “Misconduct” means a culpable breach of the employee's duties or obligations to the employer or a pattern of irresponsible behavior, which in either case manifests a disregard for a material interest of the employer. This definition relates only to an employee's entitlement to benefits and does not preclude an employer from discharging an employee for actions that are not included in this definition of misconduct. A finding that an employee has not engaged in misconduct for purposes of this chapter may not be used as evidence that the employer lacked justification for discharge.

A. The following acts or omissions are presumed to manifest a disregard for a material interest of the employer. If a culpable breach or a pattern of irresponsible behavior is shown, these actions or omissions constitute "misconduct" as defined in this subsection. This does not preclude other acts or omissions from being considered to manifest a disregard for a material interest of the employer. The acts or omissions included in the presumption are the following:

- (1) Refusal, knowing failure or recurring neglect to perform reasonable and proper duties assigned by the employer;
- (2) Unreasonable violation of rules that are reasonably imposed and communicated and equitably enforced;
- (3) Unreasonable violation of rules that should be inferred to exist from common knowledge or from the nature of the employment;
- (4) Failure to exercise due care for punctuality or attendance after warnings;
- (5) Providing false information on material issues relating to the employee's eligibility to do the work or false information or dishonesty that may substantially jeopardize a material interest of the employer;
- (6) Intoxication while on duty or when reporting to work, or unauthorized use of alcohol or marijuana while on duty except for the use of marijuana permitted under Title 22, chapter 558-C;
- (7) Using illegal drugs or being under the influence of such drugs while on duty or when reporting to work;
- (8) Unauthorized sleeping while on duty;
- (9) Insubordination or refusal without good cause to follow reasonable and proper instructions from the employer;
- (10) Abusive or assaultive behavior while on duty, except as necessary for self-defense;
- (11) Destruction or theft of things valuable to the employer or another employee;

- (12) Substantially endangering the safety of the employee, coworkers, customers or members of the public while on duty;
- (13) Conviction of a crime in connection with the employment or a crime that reflects adversely on the employee's qualifications to perform the work; or
- (14) Absence for more than 2 work days due to incarceration for conviction of a crime.

[PL2019, c. 125, §1 (AMD).]

B. “Misconduct” may not be found solely on:

- (1) An isolated error in judgment or a failure to perform satisfactorily when the employee has made a good faith effort to perform the duties assigned;
- (2) Absenteeism caused by illness of the employee or an immediate family member if the employee made reasonable efforts to give notice of the absence and to comply with the employer's notification rules and policies; or
- (3) Actions taken by the employee that were necessary to protect the employee or an immediate family member from domestic violence if the employee made all reasonable efforts to preserve the employment.

[PL 2019, c. 125, §1 (AMD).]

**AGENDA ITEM #8900**

**Discussion with Action:** Accept the resignation of Jay Kelley from the Planning Board.

Chair: Shawn O'Neill

**AGENDA ITEM #8901**

**Discussion with Action:** Set the public hearing date of December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025, to amend the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 54, Traffic and Vehicles, Section 54-187 to establish three (3) parking spaces on Ross Road in front of MBL 102-2-10 for access to a carry-in boat launch on Mill Brook.

Chair: Shawn O'Neill

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair: Shawn O'Neill