

# OFFICE OF SELECTMEN

## TOWN OF MONTVILLE

414 CENTER ROAD  
MONTVILLE, MAINE 04941

May 20, 2020

Dear Montville Residents;

Hope you remain well, as we all continue to adjust to the current circumstances. We want you to know that the Board continues to operate the Town as smoothly as we are able, while following the Covid-19 state regulations, safe protocol practices, and recommendations from our Emergency Management team. These directives do make it challenging but not impossible, just different.

We ask for your patience as the Board oversees town matters during these unprecedented times. We will continue to work through this period of uncertainty, while we make the best decisions to be fiscally responsible and cautiously proactive in resolving pressing issues for the Town. Take care of yourselves and your neighbors. We will find our way together through this challenging time.

With appreciation,  
The Montville Select Board

### UPDATES TO SHARE WITH YOU

#### **Town Meeting**

There have been many inquiries about the Town meeting and when it may be rescheduled. We are waiting for a decision from Governor Mills, as to how municipalities should move forward on this. Residents should know that the Select Board has been authorized by the legislature to observe the Warrant articles and maintain the same budgetary expenditures voted on at the 2019 Montville Town meeting until a new 2020 Warrant and budget can be voted on.

#### **Property Taxes**

Residents should be aware that there is a significant amount of back taxes that have not been paid and were due pre-Covid19. These uncollected funds are causing pressure on the town budget as our expenditures for the unexpected storms and annual costs are demanding. Although the 2020 tax commitment will not happen until July, the Board is asking residents who are able to pay an advance on their property taxes, pay the 2019 designated amount. Once the 2020 taxes are calculated, the treasurer will send you a bill for the remainder due. This would help to alleviate our cash flow problems that will exist if substantial taxes remain uncollected prior to tax commitment. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

#### **Assessing**

The 2020 assessing season has started. The Select Board has hired Murphy Appraisal Services to act as an assessor's agent for the town. Both the Board and agent will work together to prepare the 2020 tax commitment.

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### **Town Office**

The Board, Clerk, and Treasurer have decided to maintain current abbreviated hours and recommended Covid-19 safety protocols for the immediate future. The Select Board will also continue to meet via Zoom until further notice. We will all reassess in the coming weeks to see if we can begin to moderate some of these temporary changes. We will update residents by June 1st. Several ideas are being considered that could help to create “safe” spaces for staff and residents.

### **Roads**

The town roads suffered extensive damage from the April snow and rain storms. The bridge on Morse Road and several culverts were severely impacted. Richard Peavey, our newly appointed Road Commissioner, has been working closely with the Board to make these repairs as soon as possible. The Board recently accepted a bid to repair the Morse Road last week and the bridge is now open. Grading, ditching, and brush cutting will be a priority on most roads this summer.

### **Transfer Station**

The Unity Area Regional Recycling Center in Thorndike is open to residents for “self-serve” drop off only. Our transfer station will not accept recyclables until further notice. The decision to have Roll-Off is still being considered but a final decision will be forthcoming in the coming weeks.

### **“No Spray” Article**

Article 8- No Spray Budget Agreement, in this year’s Warrant, asked residents to consider voting on funds designated for managing vegetation on state roads in lieu of MDOT spraying. This budget agreement with MDOT is required in order to activate Montville’s No Spray Article. Due to the postponement of our Town meeting and the delay in voting, the State will resume spraying this spring. If you have property that runs parallel to a state road and are interested in managing the vegetation to avoid spraying, you may enter into a personal agreement with MDOT. Contact Mark Davis at MDOT for more information [Mark.Davis@maine.gov](mailto:Mark.Davis@maine.gov)

### **Contacts**

Please continue to contact the Town office (342-5544) or John York, Emergency Management Director, (382-3077) if you have Covid-19 related concerns or are in need of assistance. Check the town website for updates [www.montvillemaine.org](http://www.montvillemaine.org)