

## **General Assistance Ordinance For the Town of Baldwin**

**Background:** In accordance with Title 22 MSRA Section 4305, the Town of Baldwin is required to administer a general assistance program in accordance with an ordinance enacted by the municipal officers, after seven days of posted notice and a hearing. As outlined by the Maine Department of Health and Human Services, the process to adopted the ordinances and any appendices is:

At the public hearing, the municipal officers should:

1. Allow all interested members of the public an opportunity to comment on the proposed ordinance;
2. End public discussion, close the hearing; and
3. Move and vote to adopt the ordinance either in its posted form or as amended in light of public discussion.
- 4.

The Maine Municipal Association maintains a model General Assistance Ordinance that they update as required to reflect changes in Maine statues and to reflect the state accepted criteria for determining GA eligibility. The MMA model GA ordinance is used by a majority of towns in Maine.

In accordance with Title 22 MRSA Section 4305.3-A municipalities may also establish maximum levels of general assistance by ordinance. The legislature periodically updates and revises rules for determining “maximum levels of assistance.” The maximum levels of assistance must set reasonable and adequate standards sufficient to maintain health and decency. The schedule of maximum levels of assistance ordinance is generally treated as an appendix to the town’s GA ordinance. The maximum level of assistance established by municipal ordinance is subject to review by the Department of Health and Human Services. The maximum level of assistance ordinance, the GA ordinance, and any other amendments or modifications are required to be submitted to the Maine Department of Health and Human Services. MMA annually publishes a “General Assistance Ordinance Appendix” which is distributed by the Maine Department of Health and Human Services. These annual appendix updates must be approved annually by the selectmen.

**Ordinance:** Baldwin hereby adopts the MMA General Assistance Ordinance as its General Assistance Ordinance. A copy of that Ordinance is incorporated by Reference and attached hereto. When the MMA model ordinance is updated, it may be presumed to have been adopted automatically and will become the Baldwin General Assistance Ordinance unless the municipal officers order otherwise. Annual Appendices revisions will be presumed to have been approved annually by the Municipal Officers unless they order otherwise. A copy of this ordinance, including all forms and notices, shall be filed with the Department.

This ordinance and a copy Title 22 Chapter 1161 of the Maine Revised Statutes shall be available in the town office, and be accessible to any member of the public. Written notice to that effect shall be posted in the Town Offices.

Baldwin Board of Selectmen

Date

Olin Thomas

Jeff Sanborn

Bob Flint