

## **AGENDA**

**SELECT BOARD/ASSESSORS' MEETING  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2025  
WILLIAM L. PULLEN MUNICIPAL BUILDING MEETING ROOM  
ONLINE NON-INTERACTIVE AT TOWN HALL STREAMS  
6:30 p.m.**

1. Call Select Board Meeting to order.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Approve minutes of Tuesday, January 7, 2025
4. Approve Treasurer's Warrants
  - a. Payroll: January 15 & 22, 2025
  - b. AP: January 21, 2025
5. Planning Board "Qualification" Resolution
6. Board/Committee Appointment – Zoning Board of Appeals
7. Other Business
8. Town Manager Report
9. Public Comment
10. Committee Reports
  - a. Broadband
  - b. Thompson Working Group – Next Meeting, January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00pm
  - c. Resiliency Committee
11. Select Board Reports
12. Adjourn



# Town of Union

Select Board Meeting - Tuesday, January 21, 2025

**AGENDA ITEM:** # 5

**SUBJECT:** Potential Planning Board “qualification” conflict. Concern brought forward by resident Catherine Meyer.

**PURPOSE:** Confirm or dismiss perceived “qualification” conflict with sitting Planning Board Member John Mountainland.

*1.12.4.4. All members of the Planning Board must be residents of the Town of Union and registered voters. A member of the Board of Selectmen, Zoning Board of Appeals member, or the spouse of a member of the Board of Selectmen or a Planning Board member may not be a member of the Planning Board.*

**BACKGROUND:** Concern was brought to the Town Manager on December 16, 2024.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** None

**STATUS / PROCESS TO DATE:** The Town Manager brought concern before the Select Board at their January 7, 2025 meeting. Decision was made to seek clarification from Maine Municipal Association (MMA) Legal. Town Manager sent correspondence to MMA Legal on January 8, 2025.

Reply below was received from MMA Legal on January 8, 2025.

*The short answer to your question is that the spouses you described **are allowed to concurrently be in office** because Union’s Land Use Ordinance is unenforceable. Additionally, no other statutory conflict of interest exists for these positions. See MMA’s Conflict of Interest packet for more information on incompatible offices by statute.*

*The general rule surrounding qualifications for municipal office is found in 30-A MRS § 2526. Only selectboard members and school board members are required to be registered voters of the municipality they are going to serve, and any other municipal official is only required to be a resident of Maine, a U.S. citizen, and at least 18 years of age. The only way to add additional qualifications for office is **by municipal charter**.*

*Union does not have a municipal charter, thus the town is not able to impose additional qualifications for office. Therefore, the Land Use Ordinance (1.12.4.4. Qualifications) providing the additional qualifications to the statute (municipal residency and the spousal relationship) is unenforceable.*



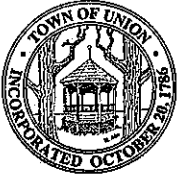
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**PROPOSED ACTION:** No action required regarding the status of Board qualifications 1.12.4.4.

Recommend that staff and the appropriate Boards/Committees review the Land Use Ordinance section 1.12.4.4 to re-write this section to ensure language is enforceable, as well as replace "Board of Selectmen" with Select Board throughout the document. Bring revised document before the voters once the appropriate review process has occurred.

**ATTACHMENTS:** None



# Town of Union

Select Board Meeting - Tuesday, January 21, 2025

**AGENDA ITEM: # 6**

**SUBJECT:** Review and consider application of resident Ellen Harrison for the Zoning Board of Appeals.

**PURPOSE:** Fill vacancies for the Zoning Board of Appeals. At present five of the seven seats are vacant.

**BACKGROUND:** Applicant has submitted "Statement of Interest Form".

**FISCAL IMPACT:** None

**STATUS / PROCESS TO DATE:** Application Pending

**PROPOSED ACTION:** Motion to appoint Ellen Harrison to the Zoning Board of Appeals or Table the application of Ellen Harrison.

**ATTACHMENTS:** None



## Town Manager's Report

To: Union Select Board

From: Todd Souza, Town Manager

Date: January 21, 2025

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### General

1. Budget Timeline & Goal Setting
2. Goal to Reduce Paper - Use of Tablets
3. Board/Committee Status Update

### Communications

1. Tour of the Thompson Community Center – Representatives from Representative Pingree, Senator King and Senator Collins Offices

### Education

1. Erosion Control Class with the Public Works Staff

### Thank You

1. Thank you to the Union Fire & EMS Department and the Surrounding Area Departments for their aid in the Depot Road Fire
2. Thank you Received from Penquis – Donation \$2,037.50