

## Draft Minutes

### MAIDSTONE AUDITORS' MEETING

Thursday, January 22, 2026

Hybrid Meeting, both in person at Town Hall and via Zoom Video Conference

Members present in Town Hall (in-person): Lister, Auditor, and Health Officer Sandra Gray and Auditor Jack Donnelly. Member present via Zoom: Auditor, Chair Donna Brisbin

Town Official present in Town Hall (in-person): Treasurer, Delinquent Tax Collector, Lister, Zoning Board and Planning Commission member Bob Champagne-Willis

The reconvened meeting was called to order at 2:03PM by Donna Brisbin, Chair

Bob had a correction on the draft minutes from January 15<sup>th</sup> to state that the opioid settlement is “for at least five years, some up to fifteen years”

He also had a correction to “the Essex County Sheriff’s Department” for the movement of the funds from the Reserve Fund to the General Fund.

The focus of the meeting was to discuss the Selectboard raises.

One thought was to ask them to reconsider and give COLA raises.

Another statement made was that there is a citizen’s initiative that will be on the Town Warrant at the March Town Meeting. It will have

to be discussed and voted on then. Passing it will depend on the number of voters who attend.

Jack discussed his thoughts on the increases. He does feel they should get one, based on their recommendation to give a COLA.

Bob discussed the fact that the voters can opt to amend from the floor any line item on the budget, including the Selectboard wages.

Donna feels that with the citizen's initiative in play, maybe we should let that vote decide. She does feel that the selectboard should get one, based on the fact that they did not get one last year. The last increase was in 2024 to \$1200.00 for each member with an extra \$200.00 for the Chair.

A recommendation of raising the pay \$150.00 for each member to equal \$1350.00 and keeping the extra pay at \$200.00 for the Chair was made.

Jack suggested that the line item should read %0.00 and wait to see what the Town Meeting result is.

Bob stated the at number needs to be on the line item, because the citizen's initiative is for COLA only.

A motion was made by Jack to not increase the wages as a result of the current 2026 wage freeze proposed by the Selectboard.

Seconded by Sandy.

A vote was cast and motion carried.

A recommendation is to send a letter to the Selectboard stating the intent of the Committee was to give a raise of \$150.00 to each of the Selectboard Members.

Bob discussed the education taxes. The NEK is reducing their budget and reducing the base rate, but based on our CLA, our Homestead rate will increase by 5%. The non-homestead rate will increase by 26%.

Donna will have the letter for the Town Report stating the Committee findings will be ready for the next meeting.

Donna made a motion to recess the meeting at 3:03PM to be reconvened at 2:00PM on January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2026, seconded by Jack.

A vote was cast and the motion carried.