

**Select Board & Board of Assessors Special Meeting-  
Agenda  
July 19, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m.  
Town Hall, 4 Pump Street.**

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. New Business**
  - a. Construction Overlimit Permit and Agreement**
- 3. Adjournment of Meeting**

**Manager commentary for July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Special Meeting Agenda packet item.**

**Item: 1 – Call to Order**

Manager Commentary: Select Board Chair Karen Paz called for a Special Select Board meeting via email (see attached) as permitted under Section 10 of the Newcastle Select Board Bylaws.

**Item: 2A – Construction Overlimit Permit and Agreement**

Manager Commentary: Attached is the document the state requires elected officials agree to and sign to permit the state to direct traffic and overlimit equipment down local roads. Many of the prepared details can be found in the prior attached item.

A proposed motion: **“to agree to the construction overlimit permit pursuant to MRSA 29-A section 2382 and waive the bond required as allowed by MRSA 29-A section 2388.”**



# Calling a Special Meeting

**Karen Paz** <kpaz@newcastlemaine.us>  
To: Town Manager <townmanager@newcastlemaine.us>

Wed, Jul 19, 2023 at 12:19 PM

Kevin,

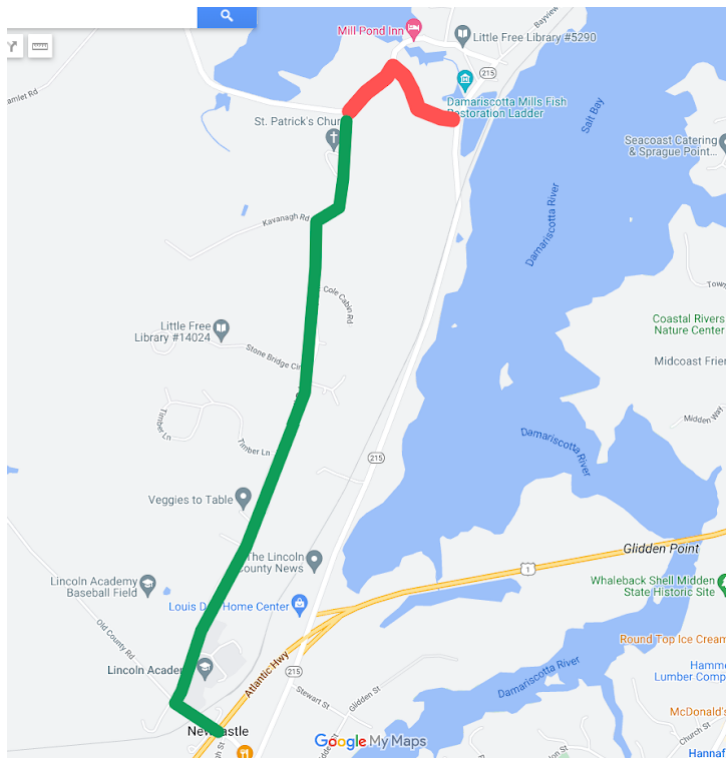
We need to call a Special Select Board meeting for 3:30 today at the town office to sign the MDOT form allowing redirection of traffic during paving of 215.

Thanks,  
Karen

On Wed, Jul 19, 2023 at 11:46 AM Town Manager <townmanager@newcastlemaine.us> wrote:  
Karen,

Please see the attached document. This was meant to be in front of the Select Board on Monday for approval, however the contractor for the state (which also happens to be Hagar Enterprises) is ahead of schedule and will likely be paving the section affected by the attached tomorrow and/or Friday.

From my conversations with both Seth and George from the state, the traffic coming south on 215 would only be directed down Academy Hill Rd (green line) while paving is occurring on the one-way portion of Austin Rd (Red line). Roughly 4 hours? It would not have enough of an impact on our roads to require a bond and I would recommend approving the agreement without said bond.



In order to allow this and authorize the state to redirect traffic down Academy Hill Rd, we would need to call a special meeting today.

In your current bylaws, see Section 10. Special & Emergency Meetings

### Section 10. Special & Emergency Meetings

All meetings other than regularly scheduled meetings shall be considered a Special Meeting. Every reasonable effort must be made to notify all Select Board members in advance of a Special Meeting.

Notice must be made to a newspaper of general circulation in the town and posted at the town office. A Special Meeting may be called by three methods:

ITEM: 1

1. **The Chair may call a Special Meeting at any time.**
2. The Chair shall call a Special Meeting if requested by a quorum of Select Board members.
3. A Special Meeting may be called by the Vice Chair if the Chair may not be reached by normal methods.

I am never in favor of special meetings, but without your signatures (page 2 of the attached document), this has the potential to cause a significant disruption in traffic and frustration for residents (and likely headaches for staff answering the phone).

I know that this may be an inconvenience for you and a quorum of the select board, but I hope they'll understand the urgency.

If you're on board, please 'reply all' **that you're calling a special meeting for 4pm (or earlier if possible so staff aren't there too late?) on July 19th at Town Hall.**

If you want to talk through this some more, give me a call.

**Once you give the ok:**

I will scramble to connect with select board members to find at least two others who can attend.

**Shelly/Lauren** - can you divvy up responsibilities to:

1. notify the paper
2. print a copy of the document
3. someone stay to record the meeting, collect signatures, and scan and email to me/George at the state

Thank you for this consideration!

Kevin

**Kevin L. Sutherland**

**Interim Town Manager**



**Town of Newcastle**

4 Pump Street  
Newcastle, Maine 04553

207-563-3441

[www.newcastlemaine.us](http://www.newcastlemaine.us)



STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
16 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0016

Janet T. Mills  
GOVERNOR

Bruce A. Van Note  
COMMISSIONER

Shelly Clifford, Town Clerk  
Re: Town of Newcastle  
4 Pump Street  
P.O. Box 386  
Newcastle, ME 04553

6/12/2023

**Subject:** Drainage Improvements  
**Project No.:** 024355.00  
**Location:** Newcastle  
**Roadway:** US Route 1B & Route 215

Dear Ms. Clifford:

The Maine Department of Transportation will soon solicit quotes for the subject project for construction, and pursuant to 29-A MRSA § 2382 (7) we have established a "Construction Area." A copy of 29-A § 2382 is enclosed for your information. Also included is an agreement, **which requires signature by the municipal officers**, and additional background documents.

The agreement stipulates that the municipality will issue a permit for a stated period of time to the MDOT contractor for transporting construction equipment (backhoes, bulldozers, etc.) that exceed legal weight limits, over municipal roads. The agreement acknowledges the municipality's right to require a bond from the contractor to "guarantee suitable repair or payment of damages" per 29-A MRSA.

29-A MRSA § 2382 (7) states that "*the suitability of repairs or the amount of damage is to be determined by the Department of Transportation on state-maintained ways and bridges, otherwise by the municipal officers.*" In other words, municipal officers determine the suitability of repairs on municipal ways and bridges.

The State cannot force municipalities to allow overweight vehicles to travel on posted municipal roads. Municipal postings supersede overweight permits. However, the agreement requires municipalities to make reasonable accommodations for overweight vehicles that are operated by contractors and the MDOT in connection with the construction project.

The specific municipal roads involved are not necessarily known at present, as the contractor's plan of operation won't be known until just prior to the start of work. If the municipality plans to require a bond; the amount of the bond should be determined prior to the start of work. If the project number administratively changes, you will be notified, and the agreement modified accordingly. Please return the completed agreement to my attention. Should you have any questions, please contact me at 207 624-3410.

Sincerely,

George M.A. Macdougall, P.E.  
Contracts & Specifications Engineer  
Bureau of Project Development

*Please return this AGREEMENT*, when completed, to:

Maine Department of Transportation  
ATTN.: George Macdougall, Contracts & Specifications Engineer  
#16 State House Station, Child Street  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0016

**Project No.:** 024355.00  
**Location:** Newcastle

Pursuant to 29-A MRSA § 2382, the undersigned municipal officers of the Town of Newcastle agree that a construction overlimit permit will be issued to the Contractor for the above-referenced project allowing the contractor to use overweight equipment and loads on municipal ways.

The municipality may require the contractor to obtain a satisfactory bond pursuant to 29-A MRSA § 2388 to cover the cost of any damage that might occur as a result of the overlimit loads. If a bond is required, the exact amount of said bond should be determined prior to the use of any municipal way. The MaineDOT will assist in determining the amount of the bond if requested. A suggested format for a general construction *overlimit bond* is attached. A suggested format for a construction *overlimit permit* is also attached. This construction overlimit permit does not supersede rules that restrict the use of public ways, such as posting of public ways, pursuant to 29-A MRSA § 2395.

The maximum speed limit for trucks on any municipal way will be 25 mph (40 km per hour) unless a higher speed limit is specifically agreed upon, in writing, by the Municipal Officers.

**TOWN OF NEWCASTLE**  
By the Municipal Officials

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

Newcastle  
024355.00  
June 12, 2023

**SPECIAL PROVISION 105**  
**CONSTRUCTION AREA**

**Construction Areas** located in the Town of Newcastle have been established by the Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT) in accordance with provisions of 29-A § 2382 Maine Revised Statutes Annotated (MRSA).

*The sections of highway under construction in Lincoln County:*

***Project 024355.00** begins at Pump Street and extends northwest 0.05 of a mile on US Route 1B and 0.06 of a mile on Route 215.*

Per 29-A § 2382 (7) MRSA, the MDOT may “issue permits for stated periods of time for loads and equipment employed on public way construction projects, United States Government projects or construction of private ways, when within construction areas established by the Department of Transportation. The permit:

- A. Must be procured from the municipal officers for a construction area within that municipality;*
- B. May require the contractor to be responsible for damage to ways used in the construction areas and may provide for:
 
  - (1) Withholding by the agency contracting the work of final payment under contract; or*
  - (2) The furnishing of a bond by the contractor to guarantee suitable repair or payment of damages.*

*The suitability of repairs or the amount of damage is to be determined by the Department of Transportation on state-maintained ways and bridges, otherwise by the municipal officers;**
- C. May be granted by the Department of Transportation or by the state engineer in charge of the construction contract; and*
- D. For construction areas, carries no fee and does not come within the scope of this section.”*

The Municipal Officers for the Town of Newcastle agreed that an Overlimit Permit will be issued to the Contractor for the purpose of using loads and equipment on municipal ways in excess of the limits as specified in 29-A MRSA, on the municipal ways as described in the “Construction Area.”

As noted above, a bond may be required by the municipality, the exact amount of said bond to be determined prior to use of any municipal way. The MDOT will assist in determining the bond amount if requested by the municipality.

The maximum speed limits for trucks on any town way will be 25 mph (40 km per hour) unless a higher legal limit is specifically agreed upon in writing by the Municipal Officers concerned.

## **GENERAL GUIDANCE**

### **CONSTRUCTION OVERLIMIT PERMIT AND BONDING**

The Maine Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) establishes requirements and standards for the permitting of non-divisible over dimensional and overweight vehicles and loads (collectively overlimit loads) on state roads. These state motor vehicle permits are available on-line. 29-A MRSA and Secretary of State Administrative Rules Chapters 155-157 apply. Additionally, municipalities and county commissioners may issue overweight permits for travel on municipal and county ways maintained by that municipality or county. These permits are typically single trip permits requiring vehicle registration data, intended route etc.

**However, in this case we're dealing with *Construction Permits*** involving overlimit loads in support of construction projects. According to 29-A MRSA § 2382 (7), a Construction Permit is a permit “*for a stated period of time that may be issued for loads and equipment employed on public way construction projects, United States Government projects or construction of private ways, when within construction areas established by the Department of Transportation*”. According to 29-A § 2382 MRSA, the construction overlimit permit must be procured from the municipal officers for overweight loads on a municipal way in support of a construction project within that municipality.

**By signing the attached agreement, the municipality agrees to issue construction overlimit permits to the MDOT construction contractor.**

#### **Frequently Asked Questions:**

##### **A. Why sign the document in advance of the actual construction contract?**

**Response:** There are three primary reasons: First, to comply with 29-A § 2382. Second, to ensure that there are no surprises regarding the use of municipal roads by the Maine DOT contractor (to reasonably reduce risk and thus keep the cost of construction down) and third, to ensure the town is aware of its rights to control its own roads, and its rights to require a separate contractor's bond. (This is in addition to the Payment Bond and the Performance Bond the Maine DOT requires of the contractor).

##### **B. Different roads may require different levels of scrutiny. How is a posted road handled?**

**Response:** Despite the general construction overweight permit, the contractor cannot exceed the load limit on a posted municipal road without specific municipal permission. 29-A § 2395 MRSA notes that any ways requiring special protection (such as posted roads) will continue to be protected and overweight permits are superseded by such postings. In such a case the contractor would have to use an alternate route.



C. Is there any reason why the contractor cannot be held to indemnify and hold harmless the Municipality beyond the simple posting of a bond?

Response: The objective of our standard letter is to deal with overweight equipment and trucks on municipal ways during construction of a Maine DOT construction project. The bond merely provides a measure of protection against damage to municipal ways as a direct result of construction activity. Other areas of risk and indemnification are beyond the scope of our letter.

D. Are we required to obtain a bond?

Response: No. In fact, few municipalities have required a construction bond. It is a matter of risk management.

E. If used, what amount should be required on the bond?

Response: Previous MDOT letters used to speak about a maximum bond amount of \$14,000 / mile (\$9,000 / kilometer ) of traveled length, however 29-A § 2382 sets no maximum. The amount of the bond (if any bond is required at all) is based on the individual situation. The MDOT will assist in providing a bond amount estimate if so requested.

F. Why the blanket approval?

Response: The blanket approval we seek is the reasonable accommodation by the municipality to allow the Maine DOT contractor to use town ways (if required ) to haul overweight construction equipment and trucks. This theoretically gives the municipality and the MDOT time to discuss exceptions to a blanket approval. In general, this avoids unnecessary risks and saves money for all concerned in the long run.

G. Who determines the suitability of repairs?

Response: For municipal ways, the suitability of repairs may be determined by municipal officers. The MDOT will assist.

H. What is a non-divisible load?

Response: Per Chapter 157 (The Administration of Over-Dimension and Overweight Permits) under the Secretary of State administrative rules (See Rule Chapters for the Department of the Secretary of State on line), a non-divisible load is defined as: A load which, if separated into smaller loads or vehicles, would:

- 1) make it unable to perform the function for which it was intended;
- 2) destroy its value or;
- 3) require more than eight work hours to dismantle using appropriate equipment. Sealed oceangoing containers, spent nuclear materials in casks, and government-controlled military vehicles and their loads will be considered non-divisible

I. What is the standard for Overweight trucks and equipment?

Response: Overweight means a weight that exceeds the legal limits established in 29-A MRSA Chapter 21.

J. This is an unorganized township with no county or municipal roads. Why should I respond?

Response: Because of limited staff, we send out a standard letter to cover contingencies and minimize risk to the construction process. From time to time the letter may not have a practical application. In most cases of unorganized territories, the agreement is signed and returned as a matter of routine. This ensures that surprises will not be encountered after the start of construction regarding travel over municipal and county ways.

Additional tips:

False Information - Permit are invalidated by false information. A permit is invalidated by the violation of any condition specified by the terms of the permit or by false information given on the application. On evidence of such violation of falsification, the permittee may be denied additional permits.

Proper Registration - Overload permits do not relieve the registrants of vehicles from their obligations to properly register their vehicles in accordance with Motor Vehicle Laws.

Agent's Power of Attorney - If you do require a contractor's bond, make sure you have a copy of the Surety Agent's power of attorney authorizing the surety agent to sign for the surety. Keep the power of attorney with your duplicate original bond at the municipality. The contractor will also have a duplicate original.

Other bonds - The Maine DOT requires a payment bond and a performance bond of the contractor which is held against unsatisfactory performance on the part of the contractor for all construction projects over \$100,000. (The Miller Act (40 U.S.C. 270a-270f) normally requires performance and payment bonds for any federal aid construction contract exceeding \$100,000. 14 MRSA § 871 provides a similar requirement for state funded construction projects.) These bonds cover the proper performance of the contract and the payment of all employees, suppliers and subcontractors.

December 10, 2004  
Supercedes February 7, 1996

**SPECIAL PROVISION 105**  
**OVERLIMIT PERMITS**

**Title 29-A § 2382 MRSA Overlimit Movement Permits.**

**1. Overlimit movement permits issued by State.** The Secretary of State, acting under guidelines and advice of the Commissioner of Transportation, may grant permits to move nondivisible objects having a length, width, height or weight greater than specified in this Title over a way or bridge maintained by the Department of Transportation

**2. Permit fee.** The Secretary of State, with the advice of the Commissioner of Transportation, may set the fee for single trip permits, at not less than \$6, nor more than \$30, based on weight, height, length and width. The Secretary of State may, by rule, implement fees that have been set by the Commissioner of Transportation for multiple trip, long-term overweight movement permits. Rules established pursuant to this section are routine technical rules pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter II-A.

**3. County and municipal permits.** A county commissioner or municipal officer may grant a permit, for a reasonable fee, for travel over a way or bridge maintained by that county or municipality

**4. Permits for weight.** A vehicle granted a permit for excess weight must first be registered for the maximum gross vehicle weight allowed for that vehicle.

**5. Special mobile equipment.** The Secretary of State may grant a permit, for no more than one year, to move pneumatic-tire equipment under its own power, including Class A and Class B special mobile equipment, over ways and bridges maintained by the Department of Transportation. The fee for that permit is \$15 for each 30-day period.

**6. Scope of permit.** A permit is limited to the particular vehicle or object to be moved, the trailer or semitrailer hauling the overlimit object and particular ways and bridges.

**7. Construction permits.** A permit for a stated period of time may be issued for loads and equipment employed on public way construction projects, United States Government projects or construction of private ways, when within construction areas established by the Department of Transportation. The permit:

A. Must be procured from the municipal officers for a construction area within that municipality;

B. May require the contractor to be responsible for damage to ways used in the construction areas and may provide for:

(1) Withholding by the agency contracting the work of final payment under contract; or

December 10, 2004  
Supercedes February 7, 1996

(2) The furnishing of a bond by the contractor to guarantee suitable repair or payment of damages.

The suitability of repairs or the amount of damage is to be determined by the Department of Transportation on state-maintained ways and bridges, otherwise by the municipal officers;

C. May be granted by the Department of Transportation or by the state engineer in charge of the construction contract; and

D. For construction areas, carries no fee and does not come within the scope of this section.

**8. Gross vehicle weight permits.** The following may grant permits to operate a vehicle having a gross vehicle weight exceeding the prescribed limit:

A. The Secretary of State, with the consent of the Department of Transportation, for state and state aid highways and bridges within city or compact village limits;

B. Municipal officers, for all other ways and bridges within that city and compact village limits; and

C. The county commissioners, for county roads and bridges located in unorganized territory.

**9. Pilot vehicles.** The following restrictions apply to pilot vehicles.

A. Pilot vehicles required by a permit must be equipped with warning lights and signs as required by the Secretary of State with the advice of the Department of Transportation.

B. Warning lights may be operated and lettering on the signs may be visible on a pilot vehicle only while it is escorting a vehicle with a permit on a public way.

With the advice of the Commissioner of Transportation and the Chief of the State Police, the Secretary of State shall establish rules for the operation of pilot vehicles.

**9-A. Police escort.** A person may not operate a single vehicle or a combination of vehicles of 125 feet or more in length or 16 feet or more in width on a public way unless the vehicle or combination of vehicles is accompanied by a police escort. The Secretary of State, with the advice of the Commissioner of Transportation, may require a police escort for vehicles of lesser dimensions.

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A. The Bureau of State Police shall establish a fee for state police escorts to defray the costs of providing a police escort. A county sheriff or municipal police department may establish a fee to defray the costs of providing police escorts.

B. The Bureau of State Police shall provide a police escort if a request is made by a permittee. A county sheriff or municipal police department may refuse a permittee's request for a police escort.

C. A vehicle or combination of vehicles for which a police escort is required must be accompanied by a state police escort when operating on the interstate highway system.

**10. Taxes paid.** A permit for a mobile home may not be granted unless the applicant provides reasonable assurance that all property taxes, sewage disposal charges and drain and sewer assessments applicable to the mobile home, including those for the current tax year, have been paid or that the mobile home is exempt from those taxes. A municipality may waive the requirement that those taxes be paid before the issuance of a permit if the mobile home is to be moved from one location in the municipality to another location in the same municipality for purposes not related to the sale of the mobile home.

**11. Violation.** A person who moves an object over the public way in violation of this section commits a traffic infraction.

Section History:

PL 1993, Ch. 683, §A2 (NEW).

PL 1993, Ch. 683, §B5 (AFF).

PL 1997, Ch. 144, §1,2 (AMD).

PL 1999, Ch. 117, §2 (AMD).

PL 1999, Ch. 125, §1 (AMD).

PL 1999, Ch. 580, §13 (AMD).

PL 2001, Ch. 671, §30 (AMD).

PL 2003, Ch. 166, §13 (AMD).

PL 2003, Ch. 452, §Q73,74 (AMD).

PL 2003, Ch. 452, §X2 (AFF).