



**PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION**

**The outgoing Madawaska Town Manager acknowledged for seven years of service**

**MADAWASKA, MAINE** - The Town of Madawaska Board of Selectmen presented outgoing Town Manager Gary Picard a homemade plaque showcasing his seven years of accomplishments as Madawaska's manager at the February 28, 2024, regular meeting.

Appointed to Town Manager on June 19, 2017, Picard achieved a long list of large and small accomplishments.

The breakdown lists as follows:

**2017**

- Hiring Industrial Appraisal Firm to assess Twin Rivers
- Acquire Property near K-Mart Parking Lot for new farmer's market.
- Upgrade and Replacement of Computer System and Network capabilities.
- Review and evaluation for Sex offender ordinance.
- Phone System Upgrades
- Joint Meetings (Madawaska with City of Edmundson) for Bridge Project
- New Rooster Ordinance
- Unveiling of Town Strategic Plan
- WWTF and Collection System Upgrade for Pollution Control
- Interlocal agreement for CEO between Madawaska and Grand Isle.

**2018**

- Phase 1 – Planning / Proposal Grant – applications for Downtown Revitalization
- Acquisition of land owned by catholic diocese (Bicentennial Park)
- Signing of the Madawaska/Edmundson International Bridge Joint Resolution
- Moratorium ordinance regarding retail recreational marijuana
- Spot Blight – Maine Community Development Block Grant
  - 300 Main (Blue Sky Hotel (86 Year old))
  - 346 Main (Old my brothaz tattoo) 112 years old
  - 342 Main (Richardos) 51 years old
  - 342 Main (Castle building / pizza shop) 68 years old
- Bike Maine – Aroostook County tour with 2-day layover in Madawaska (Sept 11-12)
- MDOT / Madawaska Sidewalk project
- LED Street light project
- Downtown revitalization / multi-use trail (securing easements along twin rivers)
- Improvements to the website
- Interlocal agreements for Code Enforcement Officer – St Agatha, Grand Isle, Eagle Lake
- Demolishing of 247 Main Street (Apartment building corner of 14th / Main)
- Demolishing of 507 Main Street (Meth House)
- Demolishing of 106 11th & 309 Main Street (Pro Photo / Apartment building / Laundry mat)
- Sewer Pump Station Upgrades
- Valley Unified

**2019**

- Design of 11th Ave Sidewalk, Main Street Bumpouts, Green-space Parks, Off Street Parking Lots
- Madawaska Streets & Roads Paving Project
- Midtown Plaza Property – Acquisition old Subway building
- Acquisition of 92 5th Ave – Property for sewer line relocation
- Flooding of Boat Landing Facilities building
- Top of Maine Trade Show / Downtown Revitalization Booth
- Build Maine Conference Attendance to focus on Economic Development
- Emerald Ash Border – Bugs in Dionne Park

- Sludge Dewatering alternatives
- Northern Border Regional Commission Grant Award (\$500,000 grant for downtown revitalization)
- Town vs. Cayer Shoreland Zoning case to Maine Supreme Court
- Acquisition of Blue-Sky Hotel
- Appointment to legislative Blue Ribbon Highway Funding Commission

#### 2020

- Town Manager served as Economic Director and Code Enforcement officer due to vacancies.
- Start of COVID – Close to Public, Open with limited access ...
- COVID preparedness plan
- COVID Business Boost Program
- UDAG Microloan Program & UDAG Loan Moratoriums for businesses
- International Bridge and Customs
- Recuses injured nursing student trapped inside car wreck.
- Town Roads and Street Paving Bond
- Madawaska & St Agatha ambulance coverage proposal
- 100,000 CDBG grant for Façade Improvements
- Madawaska Police Association Bargaining Unit
- Madawaska Communications and Social Media Policy
- Dispatch Service Agreement for Ambulance, Fire and Police
- 1st annual Flea Market with chamber
- Solar Project in St David
- Demolition of Blue Sky Hotel
- Collaborate with chamber and Rec dept to decorate for Halloween.
- Main streets trunk or treat
- Transfer of properties with GSA for Vital Drive
- Town Sewer Line relocation – MDOT worked with towns engineers for relocation of sewer line at the location of new bridge and bridge abutment – sewer line easements from Eastern Maine railway (new location will be on the eastern Maine railway property).
- Sale of Property: Town Pit in Frenchville
- Resignation of Finance Director and Town Clerk

#### 2021

- Created Excel spreadsheet for tax account for tracking for assessing.
- Twin Rivers and Town of Madawaska dispute of “term Sheet” agreement
- Excel Spreadsheets for Tax and Sewer tracking
- 300,000 CDBG Downtown Revitalization grant – use for redevelopment of Mid-town plaza.
- Riverview Street Survey and undeveloped connector of Main Street
- Digital Tax Maps
- Work Leave CoVID Policy for staff.
- Hiring of new Deputy Clerk
- Building Demo at the K-Mart Parking lot
- Fish River Rual Health Center – finalize site footprint.
- Shoreland Zoning Amendments
- Fire Protection Agreement with Baie Creuse
- Changes to Land Use Codes related to Building Permitting and Changes in Definitions

*Something only the staff knew..... An elderly woman called the town office to report a fire alarm / CO2 alarm. The girls called the Fire department for her, Gary ran out of his office to 14th Ave to make sure the lady was out of the home.*

#### 2022

- Working with engineers Planning and Engineering of Kmart Plaza Infrastructure and revitalization project
- Sale of Tax acquired property 296 Main (Brys quick stop)
- Payment instead of taxes – solar farm in St. David
- Parks and Recreation Director Search
- Annual work incentive program
- Food Sovereignty Ordinance
- ICMA Conference in Boston
- Kmart plaza survey and legal work
- Versant Power Utility Line relocation – relocation of poles and streetlights

- Fully staffed Rec dept
- Employee Annual ‘Earned’ Incentive Benefit policy.
- Commercial Driver’s License (CDL) Stipend Policy
- Tanker Endorsement
- Green Point leach field / Easement
- Propane line easement – locating propane utility line across streets.
- Change of Ambulance Billing to Comstar
- Bids for Aspen Road property
- Ambulance Department Stipends
- Parking Lot & Recreational Trail improvements – preliminary engineering assessments
- Town of Madawaska and Library Agreement

*Something only the staff knew- Gary would donate towards the beautification committee such as supplies: Christmas Tree / Tree Tips, pulling Santa/Mrs Clause in parade. Gary would stop at the parks early in the morning to work on beautifying, pulling weeds etc*

### **2023**

- No Rec Director / Program Coordinator
- Moratorium Ordinance – Commercial Solar Farm and Solar Garden Installations in Medium Density Residential and High-Density Residential District
- MDOT Village Partnership Initiative
- Update Employee Handbook
- Change over of IT to Reboot It
- EDA grant application
- MDOT sidewalk project extends to 16 and 17th Ave.
- Investigation of PFAS in Madawaska
- Dunkin Donuts possibility
- Aroostook Agency on Aging Access Points
- Efficiency Review of Madawaska Police Department
- Acquisition of Land on 3rd Ave - land abutting to Multi-Purpose for Recreational Trail Access and Preservation
- Zoning Ordinance Update Proposal
- Community Development Block Grant Program – Housing Assistance Grant – 322 Main Street – Heritage Building
- WWTF and Collection System Upgrades
- Charging Station (EV) by pocket park - EV DC Fast Chargers
- Bicentennial Park Gazebo Project

*Something only the staff knew- Gary used his own truck / plow to plow streets to help out public works.*

### **2024**

- EDA admin Contract between Madawaska and NMDC
- Secured 2 million EDA funds for the Midtown Parking area

### **Appointments**

- President / Treasurer – Madawaska Foreign Zone Corporation
- Maine Service Centers Coalition
- Administrator – Valley Recycling Facility
- Maine Municipal Association Legislative Policy
- Northern Maine Development Commission
- Aroostook County Highway Connections Stakeholders Group
- GSA Panel - Port of Entry
- Road Commissioner
- Madawaska Street Naming Contest panel of judges

February 5, 2024 – Resignation

March 5, 2024 – Last Day in office



**PHOTO: Town Manager Gary Picard (left) is pictured receiving his Acknowledgement of Appreciation plaque from the Madawaska Selectmen Vice Chairman Jason Boucher, Chairman Richard Dionne and Chris Michaud at his last Board of Selectmen meeting. Missing from photo is Manon Bilodeau-Raymond.**

~contributed photo

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March 5, 2024  
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