

AGENDA
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BATH, MAINE
Special Meeting
Wednesday, October 18, 2023, 6:00pm
City Council Chambers, Bath City Hall

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Roll Call

C. Public Hearing

- 1) PUBLIC HEARING: General Assistance Ordinance: Chapter 8A. With Maximums for October 1, 2023, to September 30, 2024 (*second passage*)

Adjourn To Workshop

Council Working Rules



BATH
MAINE *City of Ships*

OFFICE of the CITY CLERK

Darci Wheeler
City Clerk
dwheeler@cityofbath.com

Date: 09/13/2023

To: Bath City Council

From: Darci Wheeler, City Clerk

CC: Juli Millett, Finance Director/Assistant City Manager and Marc Meyers, Bath City Manager

The Adoption Process

The **municipal officers (i.e., selectpersons/council)** adopt the local **General Assistance Ordinance and yearly Appendices**, even in town meeting communities. The law requires that the municipal officers adopt the ordinance and/or Appendices **after notice and hearing**. Seven days posted notice is recommended unless local law (or practice) provides otherwise.

At the 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.

Summary of 2023 Amendments to Model GA Ordinance

Updates have been made to Appendix A (overall maximums), Appendix B (food maximums), and Appendix C (housing maximums) of the General Assistance Ordinance. There is also a new Recovery Residence Housing Maximums guide.

Appendix A – H

The enclosed Appendices A – H have been revised for your municipality's General Assistance Ordinance. These new Appendices, **once adopted**, should replace the existing Appendices A – H. Even if you have already adopted MMA's model General Assistance Ordinance, **the municipal officers must approve/adopt the new Appendices yearly**.

Attached please find the state updates to the General Assistance program effect 10/01/2023 to 09/30/2024. The appendices are updated as attached. The new appendices once adopted will replace the existing appendices.

[For use when adopting **updated appendices only** without amending the body of an existing GA ordinance]

MUNICIPALITY OF _____
GENERAL ASSISTANCE ORDINANCE

Pursuant to 22 M.R.S. § 4305(1), the municipal officers of the Municipality of _____, after notice and hearing, hereby amend the municipal General Assistance Ordinance by repealing and replacing appendices A through H of the existing ordinance with the attached appendices A through H, which shall be in effect from October 1, 202__ through September 30, 202__. This amendment will be filed with the Maine Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) pursuant to 22 M.R.S. § 4305(4), and a copy of the ordinance and amended appendices shall be available for public inspection at the municipal office along with a copy of the 22 M.R.S. chapter 1161.

Signed this _____ day of _____, 20____, by the municipal officers:

(Print Name)

(Signature)

[Please send a copy of the enactment page only to DHHS, 109 Capitol Street, SHS 11, Augusta, ME 04330-0011]

General Assistance Ordinance: Chapter 8A. With Maximums for October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2024 (first passage)

ORDINANCE

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BATH THAT THE CODE OF THE CITY OF BATH, ADOPTED FEBRUARY 2, 1977, AND SUBSEQUENTLY AMENDED, BE FURTHER AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:

Appendix A –H The enclosed Appendices A–H have been revised for your municipality’s General Assistance Ordinance. These new Appendices, once adopted, should replace the existing Appendices A–H. Even if you have already adopted MMA’s model General Assistance Ordinance, the municipal officers must approve/adopt the new Appendices yearly.

Appendix A- Overall Maximums

Persons in Household

2023/2024	1	2	3	4	5
Sagadahoc County	938	1118	1360	1857	2219

Persons in Household

2022/2023	1	2	3	4	5
Sagadahoc County	874	1031	1253	1650	1880

*Note: Add \$75 for each additional person.

Appendix B-Food Maximums

Please note: The maximum amounts for food are established in accordance with the U.S.D.A. Thrifty Food Plan.

Persons in Household

2023/2024	1	2	3	4	5
Sagadahoc County	291	535	766	973	1155

2022/2023	1	2	3	4	5
Sagadahoc County	284	516	740	939	1116

*For each additional person add \$219 per month.

Appendix C - Housing

2023/2024			2022/2023		
# Bedrooms	unheated	heated	# Bedrooms	unheated	heated
1	930	1101	1	856	1014
2	1118	1339	2	1026	1232
3	1563	1832	3	1373	1626
4	1857	2189	4	1538	1851

Appendix D – Utilities There was NO CHANGE in Utilities

1) 2023-2024 Electricity Maximums for Households Without Electric Hot Water: The maximum amounts allowed for utilities, for lights, cooking and other electric uses **excluding** electric hot water and heat:

<u>Number in Household</u>	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Monthly</u>
1	\$19.95	\$85.50
2	\$22.52	\$96.50
3	\$24.97	\$107.00
4	\$27.53	\$118.00
5	\$29.88	\$128.50
6	\$32.55	\$139.50

NOTE: For each additional person add \$10.50 per month.

2) 2022-2023 Electricity Maximums for Households With Electrically Heated Hot Water: The maximum amounts allowed for utilities, hot water, for lights, cooking and other electric uses **excluding** heat:

<u>Number in Household</u>	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Monthly</u>
1	\$29.63	\$127.00
2	\$34.07	\$146.00
3	\$39.67	\$170.00
4	\$46.32	\$198.50
5	\$55.65	\$238.50
6	\$58.68	\$251.50

NOTE: For each additional person add \$14.50 per month.

Appendix E – Fuel There was NO CHANGE in fuel

<u>Month</u>	<u>Gallons</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Gallons</u>
September	50	January	225
October	100	February	225
November	200	March	125
December	200	April	125
		May	50

Appendix F – Personal and Household Supplies There was NO CHANGE in Personal and Household Supplies

<u>Number in Household</u>	<u>Weekly Amount</u>	<u>Monthly Amount</u>
1-2	\$10.50	\$45.00
3-4	\$11.60	\$50.00
5-6	\$12.80	\$55.00
7-8	\$14.00	\$60.00

NOTE: For each additional person add \$1.25 per week or \$5.00 per month.

(No Change) Supplement for households with children under 5

When an applicant can verify expenditures for the following items, a special supplement will be budgeted as necessary for households with children under 5 years of age for items such as cloth or disposable diapers, laundry powder, oil, shampoo, and ointment up to the following amounts.

<u>Number of Children</u>	<u>Weekly Amount</u>	<u>Monthly Amount</u>
1	\$12.80	\$55.00
2	\$17.40	\$75.00
3	\$23.30	\$100.00
4	\$27.90	\$120.00

Appendix G Mileage Rate (NO CHANGE)

This municipality adopts the State of Maine travel expense reimbursement rate as set by the Office of the State Controller. The current rate for approved employment and necessary medical travel etc. is 46 cents (46¢) per mile.

Please refer to the Office of State Controller for changes to this rate; Telephone: 626-8420 or visit: <http://www.state.me.us/osc/>

Appendix H Funeral Maximums (There was no change in the Funeral Maximums)

Burial Maximums

The maximum amount of general assistance granted for the purpose of burial is \$1,475.

The municipality's obligation to provide funds for burial purposes is limited to a reasonable calculation of the funeral director's direct costs, not to exceed the maximum amounts of assistance described in this section. Allowable burial expenses are limited to:

- removal of the body from a local residence or institution
- a secured death certificate or obituary
- embalming
- a minimum casket
- a reasonable cost for necessary transportation
- other reasonable and necessary specified direct costs, as itemized by the funeral director and approved by the municipal Administrator.

Additional costs may be allowed by the GA Administrator, where there is an actual cost, for:

- the wholesale cost of a cement liner if the cemetery by-laws require one;
- the opening and closing of the grave site; and
- a lot in the least expensive section of the cemetery. If the municipality is able to provide a cemetery lot in a municipally owned cemetery or in a cemetery under municipal control, the cost of the cemetery lot in any other cemetery will not be paid by the municipality.

Cremation Maximums

The maximum amount of assistance granted for a cremation shall be \$1,025.

The municipality's obligation to provide funds for cremation purposes is limited to a reasonable calculation of the funeral director's direct costs, not to exceed the maximum amounts of assistance described in this section. Allowable cremation expenses are limited to:

- removal and transportation of the body from a local residence or institution
- professional fees
- crematorium fees
- a secured death certificate or obituary
- other reasonable and necessary specified direct costs, as itemized by the funeral director and approved by the municipal administrator.

Additional costs may be allowed by the GA Administrator where there is an actual cost, for:

- a cremation lot in the least expensive section of the cemetery

- a reasonable cost for a burial urn not to exceed \$55
- transportation costs borne by the funeral director at a reasonable rate per mile for transporting the remains to and from the cremation facility.

2023-2024 GA Housing Maximums Recovery Residences

The following Recovery Residence maximums are in effect from 10/1/2023-9/30/2024

Recovery Residences Rate

2023/2024	Weekly	Monthly
Sagadahoc County	206.44	825.75

Recovery Residences Rate

2022/2023	Weekly	Monthly
Sagadahoc County	177.45	760.50

