

Dear Herb Bates,

1/3/2026

I am writing as a resident of the Town of Palmyra to formally request your resignation from the Board of Selectmen due to ongoing concerns regarding actions taken outside the scope of individual selectman authority under Maine municipal law and established Maine Municipal Association (MMA) guidance.

Under Maine law and longstanding MMA guidance, the Board of Selectmen acts only as a collective body. Individual selectmen do not possess independent authority to enter into agreements, authorize expenditures, direct contractors, or bind the municipality without an affirmative vote of the board taken at a properly posted public meeting. Any such unilateral actions exceed the legal authority of a single selectman and expose the town to financial and legal risk.

It is my understanding that agreements and commitments have been made without full board approval and without proper documentation in the public record. In addition, subcontracted mowing work associated with these actions is in question of its completion. Your independent actions have resulted in obligations or liabilities for the town for not less than \$16,000.00 and perhaps \$19,500.00. This reflects a lack of oversight and compliance with accepted municipal contracting and procurement practices as outlined by MMA.

MMA guidance further stresses that selectmen have a fiduciary duty to safeguard public funds, follow adopted policies, and maintain transparency and accountability in all municipal operations. Actions taken independently of board authority undermine public trust, weaken internal controls, and conflict with the principles of open and lawful governance required of municipal officers.

For these reasons, and in the interest of protecting the town and restoring confidence in municipal leadership, I respectfully request that you resign from your position as Selectman, effective as soon as practicable.

This request is made with consideration for the seriousness of the role and the importance of adherence to Maine municipal law, MMA standards, and the public trust entrusted to elected officials.

Sincerely,
Lorna Rowe

Palmyra Resident