


Town of Freeport

MEMO

MEMO TO: Peter Joseph, Freeport Town Manager
FROM: Johanna Hanselman, General Assistance Administrator 
SUBJECT: **Agenda Item for September 15, 2020 – Setting a Public Hearing for October 6, 2020** regarding State Mandated General Assistance Ordinance and Appendix Updates
DATE: September 3, 2020

Each year, the Town Council is required to adopt revisions to the local General Assistance Ordinance and/or Appendices as made by the Maine Department of Health and Human Services. The law requires that the municipal officers adopt the revised ordinance and/or appendices after public notice and hearing (language below). This fall revisions include changes in Appendices related to Overall Maximums, Food Maximums, Housing Maximums, and Mileage Rate Maximums.

Additionally, after the Town Council has adopted these amendments, General Assistance law requires that DHHS be sent a copy of the amended Ordinance and Appendices. This year in lieu of the Town Council needing to sign the Adoption Form, DHHS will accept the Adoption Form along with a certified copy of the minutes attached as proof that the Town of Freeport has adopted the current General Assistance Ordinance and maximums.

“To consider action relative to approving proposed amendments to Chapter 46: General Assistance Ordinance and Appendices A- H for the period October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021.”

BE IT ORDERED: That a Public Hearing be scheduled for October 6, 2020 at 6:30 pm to discuss amendments to Chapter 46: General Assistance Ordinance and Appendices A- H for the period October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021.”

2020-2021 GA MAXIMUMS SUMMARY SHEET

Note: The overall maximums found in *Appendices A, B, C, D, E, and F* are effective from October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021.

APPENDIX A - OVERALL MAXIMUMS

<u>County</u>	<u>Persons in Household</u>					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	\$1,179	\$1,284	\$1,668	\$2,180	\$2,654	\$2,729

NOTE: For each additional person add \$75 per month.

(The applicable figures from Appendix A, *once adopted*, should be inserted here.)

APPENDIX B - FOOD MAXIMUMS

<u>Number in Household</u>	<u>Weekly Maximum</u>	<u>Monthly Maximum</u>
1	\$ 47.44	\$ 204
2	86.98	374
3	124.42	535
4	158.14	680
5	187.67	807
6	225.35	969
7	249.07	1,071
8	284.65	1,224

NOTE: For each additional person add \$153 per month.

APPENDIX C - HOUSING MAXIMUMS

Number of Bedrooms	<u>Unheated</u>		<u>Heated</u>	
	Weekly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
0	\$238	\$1,025	\$262	\$1,126
1	\$253	\$1,089	\$284	\$1,222
2	\$331	\$1,422	\$371	\$1,596
3	\$438	\$1,833	\$487	\$2,096
4	\$532	\$2,288	\$593	\$2,551

(The applicable figures from Appendix C, *once adopted*, should be inserted here.)

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APPENDIX D - UTILITIES

ELECTRIC

NOTE: For an electrically heated dwelling also see “Heating Fuel” maximums below. But remember, an applicant is *not automatically* entitled to the “maximums” established—applicants must demonstrate need.

1) **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	\$14.00	\$60.00
2	\$15.70	\$67.50
3	\$17.45	\$75.00
4	\$19.90	\$86.00
5	\$23.10	\$99.00
6	\$25.00	\$107.00

NOTE: For each additional person add \$7.50 per month.

2) **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	\$20.65	\$89.00
2	\$23.75	\$102.00
3	\$27.70	\$119.00
4	\$32.25	\$139.00
5	\$38.75	\$167.00
6	\$41.00	\$176.00

NOTE: For each additional person add \$10.00 per month.

NOTE: For electrically heated households, the maximum amount allowed for electrical utilities per month shall be the sum of the appropriate maximum amount under this subsection and the appropriate maximum for heating fuel as provided below.

APPENDIX E - HEATING 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

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NOTE: When the dwelling unit is heated electrically, the maximum amount allowed for heating purposes will be calculated by multiplying the number of gallons of fuel allowed for that month by the current price per gallon. When fuels such as wood, coal and/or natural gas are used for heating purposes, they will be budgeted at actual rates, if they are reasonable. No eligible applicant shall be considered to need more than 7 tons of coal per year, 8 cords of wood per year, 126,000 cubic feet of natural gas per year, or 1000 gallons of propane.

APPENDIX F - PERSONAL CARE & 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.

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

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2020-2021 Mileage Rate

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 45 cents (45¢) 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/>

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

Appendix H

Effective: 10/01/20-9/30/21

- 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.