

# THE RANDOLPH REVIEW

Town of Randolph, Maine

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July, 2010

published since 1989

[www.randolphmaine.gov](http://www.randolphmaine.gov)

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## Annual Town Meeting is July 21

7:00 PM

T.C. Hamlin School

(Budget Committee meets five times to  
come up with recommendations.....)



what do we get  
for our taxes in  
this town?

Here are just a few:

- ✓ Road repair
- ✓ Plowing/sanding
- ✓ Streetlights
- ✓ A Town Office
- ✓ Sewer/pump station maintenance
- ✓ Ambulance service
- ✓ Hydrants for fire protection
- ✓ Emergency dispatch service
- ✓ Gardiner Library free membership
- ✓ Fire Dep't/ Police/ Code enforcement
- ✓ Town newsletter & website

**Attorney Cliff Goodall will likely be the new moderator of this meeting.**

Once the Selectmen started on the budget in late May, the Budget Committee started meeting shortly thereafter to review the current and upcoming budget figures. The Budget Committee has almost the same recommendations as the Selectmen except for a few that are recommended to be lower. However, it is YOUR VOTE that will help determine how much your tax bill will be this year. So, c'mon down.....

Your taxes are determined by the amount of money necessary to fund all the operations of this Town .....plus the School District. In fact, the School budget accounts

for less than half of the entire budget. The County Tax and 3 long term loans account for about 17% of the budget. The remaining amount (about 38%) goes to operating the various programs in the Town of Randolph.

After reviewing the Selectmens' budget figures for the next year, it appears that the town mil rate will remain about the same as this year (14.3). However, the Budget Committee's recommendations are lower which would create a reduction in the mil rate. Only the Town Meeting voters can determine the final outcome.

**The following information is a sampling of the items which citizens will be voting on:**

- ☞ Office salaries -- \$74,000 -up \$2,000 from last year due to 3% pay increase
- ☞ Gardiner Library -- \$15,692 (based on borrowing of books, videos, etc. by Randolph residents) - same as last couple years. Upon approval, every citizen of Randolph can receive free use of the Library.
- ☞ Winter plowing/sanding -- \$75,468 - up a little from last year. This is Year 3 of the 3 year contract with Mr. Barry—no bidding. Each year it goes up 2% automatically.
- ☞ Street sweeping/catch basin cleaning -- \$10,326 -- up \$200 from last year's amount for Mr. Barry--- no bidding. Each year it goes up automatically a couple %.
- ☞ Selectmens' salary -- \$15,000 for all three -----\$5,000 for each (same as last year).
- ☞ Fire Department (volunteer) -- \$30,000 - same as last year for wages, equipment, and training. Wages=\$17K and operations=\$13K.
- ☞ Law & Code Enforcement -- \$24,200 - down from last year. Breakdown is: \$8,000 for Police Chief and Harbormaster (Greg Lumbert), \$500 for animal control, \$15,600 for code enforcement, and \$100 for health officer. All positions are part time.
- ☞ Emergency Management Dep't -- \$4,000 -- position held by the Deputy Fire Chief and is for training, generator & radio maintenance, and salary
- ☞ Ambulance Service -- \$10,580 (fixed per capita fee plus \$\$/call for Gardiner Rescue); way up from last year's fee of \$5,678.
- ☞ Public Works Vehicle Replacement - \$1,000 to continue a dedicated account for future replacement of vehicles
- ☞ General assistance -- \$5,000- this is less than last year because office staffer Raeleen York is now administering this program for needy residents on behalf of Board of Selectmen.
- ☞ Office machinery -- \$2,000 - down \$1,500 from last year
- ☞ Public Works (maintenance of roads, sewers, equipment) -- \$59,000 -down slightly from last year
- ☞ Road paving/sidewalk repair - \$20,000 - same as last year—fixing Maple Street
- ☞ Hydrants -- \$75,883- up 7% from last year -- for Gardiner Water District
- ☞ Community benefits -- \$2,200 - will go to some local charities and food banks, KVCAP, & Spectrum Generations
- ☞ Spring junk cleanup -- \$1,500 - same as last year.

- ☞ Cemetery (3) maintenance -- \$15,000 for maintenance/upkeep. Budget Committee recommends \$13,000 and have mowing go out to bid
- ☞ Gardiner Area Boys/Girls Club -- \$10,629 (this is Randolph's share in the operational costs of the Club as one of the 4-town partners)—same as last couple years.
- ☞ Town newsletter -- \$1,985 for 3 issues - up slightly per issue due to Post Office increase. Cost is about 73 cents per household each issue.
- ☞ Town website -- \$695 - about same as last year.
- ☞ CMP -- \$16,500 (street lights —down some from last year)
- ☞ Hatch Hill -\$28,665 (for our trash going to Augusta landfill— same price)
- ☞ Emergency dispatch services -- \$21,500 (down over \$3,000 from last year) due to July 1 switch to Lincoln County for E-911 service and fire dispatch, and continuing to use Central ME Regional Communication Center for police dispatching
- ☞ Kennebec County -- \$85,977 - up from \$81,077 last year
- ☞ Taxes being due on September 10 and March 10

The total amount for "contracted services" in town is \$291,549 under the Selectmens' budget. The Budget Committee is recommending a lower amount of \$280,549.

The capital debt is decreasing every year and it is down to \$166,150 from last year's \$182,150. This is because the Town Office building is now paid off. In November 2012, another one will be paid off.

### **Homestead Exemption Alert**

If you are one of the 448 homes in town that have enjoyed this \$13,000 deduction from your home valuation, that will change this year thanks to Legislative action. The exemption will now drop to \$10,000 per home. At the current "mil" rate of 14.3, that means a \$42.90 increase (14.3 x 3) for every household that currently has this exemption. Look at last year's tax bill to see if you are one of the 448 homes.

### **Construction Alert**

By the time you read this, the construction work on the town's sewer pump station next to the Fire Station will be underway by the contractor. Work will occur up until September 3 and there may be loud noises at various hours during the day and night. Please call 582-551 or 446-4043 if you have any questions.

### **Budget trivia?**

(answers on last page)

- |   |     |     |      |
|---|-----|-----|------|
| 1) how many streets exist in town besides Water & Windsor Streets?    | 26  | 37  | 57   |
| 2) How many area youth were served by the Boys/Girls Club last year?  | 577 | 892 | 1214 |
| 3) How many Gardiner library cards are issued to Randolph households? |     |     |      |

	598	345	127
4) What do we pay Gardiner Water District each year to keep the hydrants in service?	\$56,777	\$75,883	\$89,999
5) How much did it cost last year for the contractor to sweep our streets in the Spring?	\$5,678	\$10,124	\$15,111
6) How much does the City of Augusta charge the town for the "privilege" of having our rubbish brought there by private haulers?	\$28,665	\$2,865	\$10,131
7) How much does the City of Gardiner charge the town to provide ambulance service to Randolph residents?	\$8,123	\$10,580	\$13,333

### Workin' on the Rail Trail !

If it wasn't for Dan Albert and his three volunteer workers aged 71, 79, and 81, the new bridge on the trail would not have happened. As nonresidents of Randolph, this small team has created a marvelous opportunity to expand this old narrow gauge railroad bed into a quiet recreational path in town. The new bridge is several hundred feet off the north side of Windsor Street and spans a narrow section of Togus Brook. Built on the old abutments for the narrow gauge train, this span is built with donated girders from the MaineDOT and purchased materials from the crew..... and LOTS of hours from the team. Dave Hart, 71, is from Dresden, Ken Maguire , 79, is from So. Bristol, Dennis Holt, 81, is from Dresden (but born in Randolph), and Dan Albert is from Farmingdale. They are all rail enthusiasts. As a result of their work, anyone can now walk a good mile and a half along the old rail trail that used to ferry supplies, people, and food to Togus Hospital from the Kennebec River. The team's grand scheme is to hopefully have this trail connect with other trails that run in and out of Augusta.

Their website is maintained by Chris Coughlan and is linked from the town website at [www.oldnarrowgaugetrail.org](http://www.oldnarrowgaugetrail.org) and they're always looking for interested folks who may want to lend some advice, work, etc. Dan is available at 582-1916 or by email at [danpalb@aol.com](mailto:danpalb@aol.com)

Take the 5 minute walk on the path and check out their labor of love and their gift to the Town. Thanks gentlemen..... we certainly appreciate all your hard work and sweat.



## Town Office Hours

Monday - closed, Tuesday - 10 to 7, Wed to Fri - 10 to 5

## September 10 is Tax Day

Please remember that the first half of your tax bill (not mailed yet) is due on this date. After this date, an interest rate of 7% will be applied.

### **TOWN MEETING**

**\*\*\* PLEASE ATTEND ON JULY 21\*\*\***

It's YOUR voice & vote which determines YOUR taxes

The ideas and statements presented in this newsletter are those of the Editor (Peter Coughlan) and do not necessarily reflect those of the Selectmen who have reviewed the material before it was printed.

The "Randolph Review" is a periodic newsletter for the people of Randolph. It is approved and funded annually by the citizens of Randolph at the Town Meeting. Any questions or comments should be directed to the Town Office at 582-5808, or e-mail at [townofrandolph@roadrunner.com](mailto:townofrandolph@roadrunner.com) or Peter Coughlan at 582-2293 or [wilbah99@aol.com](mailto:wilbah99@aol.com). We would be interested in your feedback. Thank you.

Trivia Answers: 1) 57 2) 1214 3) 598 4) \$75,883 5) \$10,124 6) \$28,665 7) \$10,580