

THE RANDOLPH REVIEW

Town of Randolph, Maine
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Annual Town Meeting is July 25

7:00 PM

T.C. Hamlin School

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



Is it time for
Randolph to
have its own
police car?

Non-routine items this year will include:

- ❖ purchasing a used town police car for the constable to do radar speed control and respond to the growing number of criminal activities
- ❖ changing the annual municipal positions election date from June to November to coincide with normal November elections (last year it was changed from March to June)
- ❖ purchasing property on Kinderhook St to eventually relocate the old Fire Station building and town garage on Water Street which is in the floodplain.
- ❖ adopting a new fireworks ordinance and another one on exempting active military personnel from vehicle excise tax

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

The Budget Committee started meeting in May but without figures from the Selectmen, it was difficult to make any real progress in reviewing the upcoming budget figures. Once

figures became available in June, the Budget Committee started meeting regularly. While many of the proposed items have the same recommendation of the Selectmen and the Committee, there are several items where the Budget Committee is recommending less than the Board. These will certainly generate discussion on the Town Meeting floor, however, it is YOUR VOTE that will help determine how much your tax bill will be this year. So, c'mon down..... it may be hot but the discussion may be hotter!

Your taxes are determined by the amount of money necessary to fund all the operations of this Townplus 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 15% of the budget. The remaining amount (about 39%) goes to operating the various programs in the Town of Randolph.

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

- ☞ Town Police car for constable - up to \$8,000 for vehicle purchase and equipment.
- ☞ Property purchase at 104 Kinderhook St. - up to \$32,000 for future relocation of new fire department building and public works garage from the Water St. floodplain.
- ☞ Office salaries -- \$74,500 - same as last year
- ☞ Gardiner Library -- \$16,971 (based on borrowing of books, videos, etc. by Randolph residents) - up \$494 from \$16,477 from last year. Upon approval, every citizen of Randolph can receive free use of the Library. Budget Committee vote was 7 to 3.
- ☞ Winter plowing/sanding -- \$73,988 - up 2% from last year by contract.
- ☞ Street sweeping/catch basin cleaning -- \$10,124 - up 2% from last year by contract.
- ☞ Selectmens' salary -- \$15,000 for all three -----\$5,000 for each (same as last year).
- ☞ Fire Department (volunteer) -- \$35,000 - up \$5,000 from last year but Budget Committee recommends \$32,000 for wages, equipment, and training. Wages=\$17K and operations, training and equipment =\$18K.
- ☞ Fire Truck future replacement: -- \$10,000 to increase the Capitol Equipment account.
- ☞ Law & Code Enforcement -- \$24,700 - up \$1,000 from last year. Breakdown is: \$8,000 for Police Chief and Harbormaster (Greg Lumbert), \$1,000 for Animal Control, \$15,600 for code enforcement, and \$100 for health officer. Positions are part time.
- ☞ Emergency Management equipment -- \$2,000—same as last year. This work is now done by the Fire Chief and is for training, generator & radio maintenance.
- ☞ Ambulance Service -- \$8,940 --down from last year's \$11,446 because US Census showed lower population in Randolph (fixed per capita fee plus \$\$/call for Gardiner Rescue)
- ☞ Public Works Vehicle Replacement - \$1,000 to continue a dedicated account for future replacement of vehicles
- ☞ General assistance -- \$6,500- up \$1,500 from last year because of additional need from needy residents plus state reductions.
- ☞ Office machinery -- \$1,500 - same as last year
- ☞ Public Works (maintenance of roads, sewers, equipment) -- \$69,700 but Budget Committee recommends \$60,500 which is the same as last year.

- ☞ Road paving/sidewalk repair - \$30,000 - up \$10,000 from last year but Budget Committee recommends \$25,000
- ☞ Hydrants -- \$75,916- same as last year -- for Gardiner Water District
- ☞ Community benefits -- \$2,200 - same as last year and will go to some local charities and food banks, KVCAP, & Spectrum Generations
- ☞ Spring junk cleanup -- \$750 - half of last year's amount.
- ☞ Cemetery (3) maintenance -- \$15,000 for maintenance/upkeep but Budget Committee recommends \$14,000 which is the same as last year.
- ☞ Gardiner Area Boys/Girls Club -- \$10,629 (this is Randolph's share in the operational & utility costs of the Club as one of the 4-town partners)—same as last several years. 106 girls/boys from Randolph took part in programming this year along with hundreds of community members who use the facility for other events.
- ☞ Town newsletter -- \$1,229 for 3 issues. Cost is about \$0.73 per household per issue.
- ☞ Town website -- \$825 - same as last year.
- ☞ CMP -- \$17,000 (street lights —same as last year)
- ☞ Hatch Hill -\$26,665 --for trash going to Augusta landfill— \$2,000 less than last year.
- ☞ Emergency dispatch services -- \$23,703 (same as last year) for using Lincoln County for E-911 service and fire dispatch (\$7,472) and continuing to use Central ME Regional Communication Center for police dispatching (\$12,342), and equipment upgrades (\$3,889).
- ☞ Kennebec County -- \$94,083 - up from \$88,403 last year.
- ☞ MSAD #11 -- \$810,704 - up 3% from last year's \$787,693
- ☞ Capital debt -- \$162,700. This is decreasing every year and it is down from last year's \$165,500. It is for 3 past projects: Belmont Street, Closson Street, and Kinderhook St.
- ☞ Town Comprehensive Plan -- \$8,000. Our 1996 Plan is outdated and expires at the end of 2012 because it is not consistent with the law. The estimated cost to update it is about \$15,000 so the Planning Board recommended to create this funding to begin the process and raise the second half this year. It is important because it provides legal basis for ordinances, land use regulations, and many grant programs require a consistent and updated Plan to be eligible for funding.
- ☞ Taxes being due on September 12 and March 12

Fireworks ordinance?

A proposed ordinance (very similar to Farmingdale's) will be ready for discussion at this meeting. In fact, it is now available to review on the town website.

State law governs the sale and use of fireworks in Maine. It allows the following:

- 1) a state license for selling them. A town can establish a permit process too.
- 2) The use of them by persons 21 years or older between 9 AM and 10 PM with some specific exceptions on July 4 and other dates
- 3) The use of them by people on their own property or on other person's property with their specific permission.

4) A town can adopt an ordinance to prohibit or restrict the sale or use of them within the town.

Our proposed ordinance is more restrictive than state law but has some inconsistencies that the Constable and Budget Committee felt uncomfortable with as written. That is why the Budget Committee voted 8-0 for "no passage" whereas the Selectmen voted 3-0 for passage.

September 12 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.

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 or Peter Coughlan at 592-1790 or wilbah99@aol.com. We would be interested in your feedback. Thank you.