

THE RANDOLPH REVIEW

July 2015

Town of Randolph, Maine
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Selectmen:

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Editor:

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Annual Town Meeting is July 29, 7:00 PM

T.C. Hamlin School

(Budget Committee meets five times)

Non-routine items this year will include:

- ❖ buying software to accept debit/credit cards at Town Office
- ❖ buying a sewer line remote camera
- ❖ fee for preliminary design of future Fire Station
- ❖ more funding for continual repairs to old catch basins & manholes for sewer system

The Budget Committee started meeting in May with figures from the Selectmen and then had to meet 4 more times. Most of the proposed items have the same recommendation of the Selectmen and the Committee. It is YOUR VOTE that will help determine how much your tax bill will be this year. And as we all know, it might be a hot July evening 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 2 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:

- ☞ Kennebec County -- \$84,256 - down \$6,502 from last year.
- ☞ MSAD #11 -- \$953,441 - up from last year's \$910,051 (already approved)
- ☞ Capital debt -- \$119,500. This is decreasing every year and it is down from last year's \$129,700. It is for 2 past projects: Belmont Street and Kinderhook St.
- ☞ 1st payment for replacement of Town Office roofing— \$5,420 - last year, we borrowed \$20K from town's Revolving Loan Fund to be paid back over 4 years at 4%
- ☞ Taxes being due on September 10 and March 10
- ☞ Office salaries -- \$90,900 - down slightly from last year.

- ☞ Law & Code Enforcement -- \$26,616 - same as last year. Breakdown is: \$10,500 for Police Chief and Harbormaster (Greg Lumbert); \$16,016 for code enforcement; \$100 for health officer. Positions are part time.
- ☞ Fire Department (volunteer) -- \$32,000 - same as last year for wages, equipment, and training. Wages=\$17K and operations, training and equipment =\$15K.
- ☞ NEW—Fire Department Turn out Gear-- \$6,000—for 3 new sets; Dep't now has 18 sets but some need replacement. (Budget Committee had "no recommendation" because it felt it should be part of the Dep'ts normal budget for planned equipment upgrades)
- ☞ 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.
- ☞ Fire Truck future replacement: -- \$5,000 to continue this Capitol account.
- ☞ Winter plowing/sanding -- \$62,000 - same as last year. The town has a 3 year contract with Mr. Ellis of Farmingdale and this is for year #2.
- ☞ Street sweeping/catch basin cleaning -- \$9,400 - same as last year. The town has a 3 year contract with Mr. Ellis of Farmingdale and this is for year #2.
- ☞ CMP -- \$21,000 (street lights — up \$3,180 from last year because rates for Electricity Maine went up)
- ☞ Hatch Hill -\$26,580 --for trash going to Augusta landfill- same as last year.
- ☞ Ambulance Service -- \$18,165 -up about \$1,277 from last year (fixed per capita fee plus \$\$/call for Gardiner Rescue).
- ☞ Office machinery -- \$1,700 - same as last year
- ☞ Hydrants - \$79,584- same as last year - for Gardiner Water District
- ☞ Emergency dispatch services -- \$21,712—same as last year. This is for using Lincoln County for E-911 service and fire dispatch and continuing to use Central ME Regional Communication Center for police dispatching, and equipment upgrades
- ☞ Road paving/sidewalk repair - \$25,000 - same as last year.
- ☞ Public Works (maintenance of roads, sewers, equipment) -- \$68,500 - up \$5,000 from last year.
- ☞ Public Works Vehicle Replacement - \$5,000 to continue a dedicated account for future replacement of vehicle
- ☞ NEW -- Central St. sewer repair - loan for up to \$75,000—about 150 ft. of this line is in critical condition and needs inspection and repair
- ☞ Sewer system Capital improvements-- \$40,000 - up from last year's \$20,000.... significant repairs are needed to our town system. This will provide funds for major manhole work and pipe work. See related story.
- ☞ Cemetery maintenance -- \$3,000 for maintenance/upkeep - down from \$6,000 because mowing is now done by contractor and not by town crew.
- ☞ Spring junk cleanup -- \$2,750 - up slightly from last year.
- ☞ General assistance -- \$6,000- down \$500 from last year.
- ☞ Town newsletter -- \$720 for 2 issues. Cost is about \$0.73 per household/issue.
- ☞ Town website -- \$850 - same as last year.

- ☞ Town wide property valuation -- \$15,000. This would be saved in a dedicated account for the inevitable valuation that may be needed 4 to 6 years from now.
- ☞ Town Comprehensive Plan -- \$1,000. This would be saved in a dedicated account for the future cost of updating our Plan in about 10 years from now.
- ☞ Selectmens' salary -- \$16,500 for all three ----same as last year
- ☞ NEW - sell our 1999 sewer rodding machine
- ☞ NEW - purchase a new sewer camera system -- \$11,000
- ☞ NEW - preliminary design fee for proposed new Fire Station -- \$25,000
- ☞ Software upgrade to allow electronic motor vehicle registrations - Selectmen recommend estimated cost of \$6,800 but Budget Comm. recommends zero.
- ☞ Software and equipment upgrade to allow town to accept debit/credit cards for payments at Town Office -- \$1,100 - this was defeated by 1 vote last year.
- ☞ Community benefits -- \$1,500 - same as last year. It will go to some local charities & food banks, KVCAP, & Spectrum Generations, and Town historian.
- ☞ Gardiner Library -- \$14,343 - down \$2,985 from last year..... this allows Randolph to be a "partner town" so that so that all Randolph residents can have unlimited access to the Gardiner Library. This money pays for the Library's operating expenses such as heat, lights, etc..
- ☞ Gardiner Area Boys/Girls Club -- \$10,629 --this is Randolph's share for operational & utility costs of the Club as one of the 4-town partners—same as last several years. About 100 girls/boys from Randolph took part in programming this year along with hundreds of community members who use the facility for other events.
- ☞ Sewer Ordinance change—add language to facilitate the clearing of obstructions

Credit/debit cards at Town Office??

It's a common reaction at the counter of the Town Office... *"really.....you don't take credit cards?"* It's because voters at last year's annual Town Meeting voted it down by one vote. It will be on the warrant again this year for the same cost of \$1,100. That cost is to buy Town Office software to allow citizens to use their cards for payments. If it is approved, then the cost to use personal cards will be \$1 for up to a \$40 charge and then 2.5% above \$40. That fee will be ADDED TO the payment in question. For instance, if you need to pay a bill of \$100, then you will pay a total of \$102.50 for that convenience. (If this fee policy was not in place, then the Town's cost would have to be absorbed by all taxpayers for the benefit of those people who use their cards.)

Don't FLUSH IT!!

Our town has an extensive sewer system which measures about 10.3 miles long. In addition to that are all the lateral service lines to each building. Much of this system is very old and is made of old clay pipe and has been "band-aided" over the years to fix localized problems. We have 2 major problems:

- 1) people put things down their drains that DO NOT belong there. While it may seem like "outta sight, outta mind", it costs Randolph taxpayers a lot of money to deal with stuff

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121 Kinderhook Street
Randolph ME 04346**

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"Randolph Review"
a newsletter written for
the residents of Randolph

that got flushed. The biggest culprits are cooking grease, anything labelled "flushable" like baby wipes, fabric softener balls, and women's hygiene products. Right now, there are many pipes in town that are nearly clogged with these things and it costs thousands of \$\$ to use cameras, hire crews, and flush or dig up these problems. PLEASE avoid dumping anything down the drain that will not flow easily through our system.

- 2) We do not have enough money to fix the old system which is why we will be asking for more \$\$ this year to 1) eliminate as much old clay pipe as possible, and 2) cut the infiltration volumes of rain or groundwater that flows freely into old cracked and broken basins. Then we pay to treat clean water in Gardiner.

Videos and photos will be shown at Town Meeting so you can see the problems that our small crew, contractor, and selectmen have to deal with constantly.

PLEASE ATTEND ON JULY 29

Hanley family extends many thanks

Wife Shirley Hanley and family want to extend a sincere "thank you" to all folks who offered their condolences for Peter Hanley who died on March 25, 2015. Peter & Shirley had been married 60 years and Peter served for many years as a town selectman. One of his legacies is the beautiful Randolph Veterans Memorial outside the Town Office. Simply put, it wouldn't exist if it hadn't been for Peter's (and Shirley's) efforts.