

THE RANDOLPH REVIEW

July 2021

Town of Randolph, Maine
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Selectmen:

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Editor:

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Annual Town Meeting is July 28, 7:00 PM

 **Town Office**

Non-routine items this year will include:

- ❖ possible large donation to the Boys/Girls Club of Kennebec Valley on Pray Street in Gardiner.

The Budget Committee met in June to review figures from the Selectmen. All of the proposed items have the same recommendation of the Selectmen and the Committee. However, it is YOUR VOTE that will help determine how much your tax bill will be this year.

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 one long term loan account for less than 15% of the budget. The remaining amount (about 40%) 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 -- \$105,079 -- up \$2,300 from last year.
- ☞ MSAD #11 -- \$986,637 - up \$29,468 from last year (already approved)
- ☞ Capital debt -- \$175,000 -- up about \$56K due to 2 new bonds for Belmont Street work and new Fire Station plus payment for the past project on Kinderhook St. to be paid off by 2023
- ☞ Office salaries -- \$112,000 - down \$4,300 from last year due to not having 3 full time staffers
- ☞ Law & Code Enforcement -- \$29,700 - up \$5,600 from last year. Breakdown is: 12,000 for Police Chief and Harbor Master; \$15,600 for code enforcement; \$100 for health officer. Positions are part time.
- ☞ Fire Department (volunteer) -\$42,000 -same as last couple years for wages, equipment & training
- ☞ Emergency Management equipment -- \$3,200—same as last year. This work is done by the Fire Chief and is for training, generator & maintenance.
- ☞ Emergency communications --\$5,000 - same as last year for radio maintenance, tower rental, repeater
- ☞ Winter plowing/salting - \$70,000— same as last year. This is Year 2 of 3 year contract.
- ☞ Street sweeping/catch basin cleaning -- \$9,333 (catch basin cleaning is done every other year)
- ☞ CMP -- \$2,400 (street lights) — down \$3,600 from last year plus \$13K from previous year.
Huge savings due to switch to LED lights

- ☞ Hatch Hill -\$17,770 --for trash going to Augusta landfill- same as last year.
- ☞ Ambulance Service -- \$22,140 - down about \$4,600 from last year (fixed per capita fee + \$\$/call for Gardiner Rescue). Costs cover service + workers comp, insurances, + uncollected debt
- ☞ Hydrants - \$84,604 - up about \$600 from last year - for Gardiner Water District
- ☞ Emergency dispatch services -- \$26,500 — up \$1,500 from 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
- ☞ Public Works (maintenance of roads, sewers, equipment) -- \$77,500 - up \$5K from last year.
- ☞ Road paving/sidewalk repair - \$0 - still have \$55K from last year
- ☞ Road capital improvements-- \$300,000 - up \$175K from last year....will be used to do significant road repair on School, Central etc (\$150K from taxes + \$150K from Gen'l Fund)
- ☞ Sewer system Capital improvements-- \$15,000 - down \$85K from last year (have good balance)
- ☞ Cemetery maintenance -- \$12,700 for maintenance/upkeep -- up \$4200 from last year... fix road
- ☞ Buildings & lands -- \$12,000 - up \$5K from last year -- for building improvements, pest control, security, & fire extinguisher testing -- need to paint office interior and fix parking lot
- ☞ Townwide junk cleanup -- \$3,500 -up \$1,800 from last year -- will be done again in Spring
- ☞ General assistance -- \$6,000- same as last year.
- ☞ Town newsletter -- \$1,500 for 3 issues -- cost is about \$0.73 per household/issue.
- ☞ Town website -- \$1,400 - up slightly from last year.
- ☞ Town wide property valuation -- \$ 0 - have about \$90K now. This is being saved in a dedicated account for the inevitable valuation that may be needed 3 to 5 years from now.
- ☞ Selectboard salary -- \$18,000 total for all three ---- same as last year
- ☞ Community benefits -- \$3,000 - up slightly from last year. It will go to Chrysalis Place, KVCAP, Spectrum Generations, Lifeflight, Crisis & Counseling & Town historian. The Town receives many more requests but concentrates on funding more local agencies.
- ☞ Boys/Girls Clubs of Kennebec Valley -- \$11,250 - same as last year. This is Randolph's share for operational & utility costs of the Club as one of the 4 town partners. Normally over 125 girls/boys from Randolph took part in programming this year along with hundreds of community members who use the facility for other events.
- ☞ Gardiner Library -- \$16,433 - up slightly from last year -- this allows Randolph to be a "partner town" 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.
- ☞ Boys/Girls Clubs of Kennebec Valley - consider the donation of up to \$100,000 as a town to their capital project for their new facility to serve this region -- Gardiner has already committed \$500,000 and Pittston and West Gardiner will consider this next year.

Town to consider request for One Time Investment to Boys/Girls Clubs' GREAT FUTURES capital building project

by Ingrid Stanchfield, Chief Executive Officer

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Kennebec Valley has started construction on a much-needed new facility at 14 Pray Street in Gardiner. This project is replacing the 1952 school building with a 28,000 sq. ft new Clubhouse, age-appropriate playgrounds, and high school regulation soccer/lacrosse field. The new Clubhouse will offer an estimated 280 new Child Care spaces for children 6 weeks to grade

five and open up 25 new employment opportunities. It will also have a new commercial kitchen, dining hall, gymnasium, Child Care rooms and teen center.

As of today, we have \$536,000 left to raise toward our \$10,105,000 goal.

For the past 21 years the Club has served over 3,500 kids and adults annually. Club programs include State of Maine licensed Child Care for ages six weeks through grade five, teen programming, tutoring, meals, sports, summer camps, senior citizen programs and community meeting space for people of all ages.

On average the Town of Randolph has over 120 registered Club participants. This does not include the groups who use the facility during evening and weekend hours. I want to thank Randolph citizens for over 25 years of support and partnership for the good of our kids and communities.

Today we are asking you to make an investment of \$100,000 in this once in a lifetime capital project! Please come to the Town meeting on July 28th and support this investment.

If you would like to make a personal gift, please visit our website at www.bgckv.org and donate or call Ingrid Stanchfield at (207) 458-1335 for more information.

Cutting trees and vegetation in the "shoreland zone?"

As an example, if you live or work along the Kennebec River or near Togus Stream, it is highly illegal to clear vegetation or cut trees within 75 ft. of the high water mark due to state law and our local ordinance. In addition to being very visible to passerbys and neighbors, it can land you a significant fine and penalties from the Maine DEP. Other activities such as construction of buildings, structures, additions, or any type of filling, grading, or excavating may be illegal but, as a minimum, requires a permit from the town. Contact Greg (Code Enforcement Officer) with any questions BEFOREHAND.

Don't FLUSH it!!

"Flushable" just means problems and costs YOU money!

Six years ago, taxpayers voted to purchase an \$11,000 sewer camera machine. It has been EXTREMELY useful in our 10.3 mile long town sewer system. BUT.....we continue to have people putting the following items down the drain:

- cooking grease
- anything labelled "flushable" like baby wipes and hand wipes
- clothing and rags
- fabric softener balls,
- women's hygiene products.

While it may seem convenient to put it "outta sight, outta mind", it really is "outta sight and outta your pocket" to deal with stuff that got flushed. 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 very old sewer system.

**Town Office
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Randolph ME 04346**

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a newsletter written for
the residents of Randolph**



Annual Town Meeting

PLEASE ATTEND ON JULY 28 at 7:00— Town Office