

THE RANDOLPH REVIEW

July 2016

Town of Randolph, Maine
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Selectmen:

Mark Roberts
Bob Henderson
Matthew Drost

Editor:

Peter M. Coughlan

Annual Town Meeting is July 27, 7:00 PM

T.C. Hamlin School

(Budget Committee meets four times)

Non-routine items this year will include:

- ❖ dealing with "dangerous buildings"
- ❖ fee for architectural design of future Fire Station
- ❖ replace old Animal Control ordinance with a more modern one
- ❖ reduce Budget Committee members from a total of 15 to 9
- ❖ skipping next year for the Spring town-wide cleanup

The Budget Committee started meeting in June with figures from the Selectmen and then had to meet 3 more times. 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 1 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:

- ☞ Taxes being due on September 13 and March 13 - 7% interest after that
- ☞ Kennebec County -- \$83,561 - down \$695 from last year (down again).
- ☞ MSAD #11 -- \$974,034 - up \$20,593 from last year (already approved)
- ☞ Capital debt -- \$119,400. This is decreasing every year. It is for the past project on Kinderhook St.
- ☞ 2nd payment for replacement of Town Office roofing— \$5,420 - 2 years ago, we borrowed \$20K from town's Revolving Loan Fund to be paid back over 4 years at 4%
- ☞ Office salaries -- \$91,700 - up \$1,015 from last year.

- ☞ Law & Code Enforcement -- \$27,100 - up about \$500 from last year. Breakdown is: \$9,000 for Police Chief and Harbormaster (Greg Lumbert); \$18,000 for code enforcement (Bob StPierre); \$100 for health officer. Positions are part time.
- ☞ Fire Department (volunteer) -- \$36,000 - up \$4,000 from last year for wages, equipment, and training. Wages=\$18K and operations, training and equipment =\$18K.
- ☞ 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 #3.
- ☞ 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 #3.
- ☞ CMP -- \$20,000 (street lights) — down \$1,000 from last year
- ☞ Hatch Hill -\$17,772 --for trash going to Augusta landfill- down \$8,808 from last year.
- ☞ Ambulance Service -- \$8,709 - down \$9,456 from last year because Dresden is now included (fixed per capita fee plus \$\$/call for Gardiner Rescue).
- ☞ Office machinery -- \$10,000 - up \$8,300 from last year - need to buy new copier and computer & Motor Vehicle printer (plus maintenance fee)
- ☞ 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
- ☞ Public Works (maintenance of roads, sewers, equipment) -- \$68,500 - same as last year.
- ☞ NEW -- Closson St. inspection & repair - take up to \$75,000 from General Fund
- ☞ Public Works Vehicle Replacement - \$5,000 to continue a dedicated account for future replacement of vehicle
- ☞ Road paving/sidewalk repair - \$30,000 - up \$5,000 from last year - plan to pave Maureen, Hillcrest, and upper School Streets
- ☞ Sewer system Capital improvements-- \$10,000 - down \$30,000 from last year....will be used with last year's balance to do significant repairs to manholes and pipes in our town system on Cheney Ave, Meadowview Drive, and other large infiltration sections
- ☞ Cemetery maintenance -- \$7,500 for maintenance/upkeep--because mowing is now done by contractor and not by town crew.
- ☞ Buildings & lands -- \$24,000 - for new rear office door, parking lot paving, pest control, security, & fire extinguisher testing
- ☞ Spring junk cleanup -- \$1,500 - half of what is normally needed/year..... NO Spring cleanup is planned for 2017 due to declining interest (taking a year off)
- ☞ General assistance -- \$6,000- same as last year.
- ☞ Town newsletter -- \$700 for 3 issues.....about same as last year. 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 3 to 5 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 - preliminary design fee for proposed new Fire Station -- \$40,000
- ☞ Community benefits -- \$1,500 - same as last year. It will go to some local charities & food banks, KVCAP, & Spectrum Generations, and Town historian.
- ☞ 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.
- ☞ Gardiner Library -- \$14,773 - up \$430 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..
- ☞ NEW--Animal Control Ordinance replacement —this new ordinance replaces the former 1991 one and will allow the town more flexibility in enforcement.
- ☞ NEW -- Budget Committee changes - the proposal is to reduce the total member number from 15 to 9 elected citizens serving 3 year terms



Putting grease down the drain does this..... and your taxes pays to fix it



Don't FLUSH IT!!

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

- cooking grease
- anything labelled "flushable" like baby wipes
- clothing and rags
- fabric softener balls, and
- 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

**Town Office
121 Kinderhook Street
Randolph ME 04346**

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U.S. Postage
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"Randolph Review"
a newsletter written for
the residents of Randolph

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.

PLEASE ATTEND ON JULY 27

Remember that the town office
now can take credit or debit
cards for a small fee