

THE RANDOLPH REVIEW

July 2017

Town of Randolph, Maine
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Selectmen:

Mark Roberts
Bob Henderson
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Editor:

Peter M. Coughlan

Annual Town Meeting is July 26, 7:00 PM

T.C. Hamlin School

(Budget Committee meets five times)

Non-routine items this year will include:

❖ marijuana to prohibit retail operations..... or enact a 6 month moratorium?

The Budget Committee started meeting in May with figures from the Selectmen and then had to meet 4 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 -- \$85,860 - up slightly from last year.
- ☞ MSAD #11 -- \$994,994 - up about \$15,900 from last year (already approved)
- ☞ Capital debt -- \$119,400. It is for the past project on Kinderhook St.
- ☞ 3rd payment for replacement of Town Office roofing— \$5,420 - 3 years ago, we borrowed \$20K from town's Revolving Loan Fund to be paid back over 4 years at 4%
- ☞ Office salaries -- \$91,700 - same as last year.
- ☞ Law & Code Enforcement -- \$27,100 - same as last year. Breakdown is: \$9,000 for Police Chief and Harbormaster; \$18,000 for code enforcement; \$100 for health officer. Positions are part time.

- ☞ Fire Department (volunteer) -- \$36,000 - same as 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 - unknown as of this printing. A new 3 year contract will begin.
- ☞ Street sweeping/catch basin cleaning -- unknown as of this printing. The contract will be combined with the snowplowing bid this year.
- ☞ CMP -- \$19,000 (street lights) — down \$1,000 from last year
- ☞ Hatch Hill -\$17,772 --for trash going to Augusta landfill- same as last year.
- ☞ Ambulance Service -- \$21,838 - up about \$13,100 from last year because Dresden is not included anymore (fixed per capita fee plus \$\$/call for Gardiner Rescue).
- ☞ Office machinery -- \$2,000 - down \$8,000 from last year (bought new copier and computer & Motor Vehicle printer 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
- ☞ Public Works (maintenance of roads, sewers, equipment) -- \$78,000 - up \$9,500 from last year.
- ☞ Road paving/sidewalk repair - \$15,000 - down \$15,000 from last year - plan to pave Kinderhook
- ☞ Sewer system Capital improvements-- \$30,000 - up \$20,000 from last year....will be used with last year's balance to do significant repairs to manholes and pipes in our town system and fix large infiltration sections
- ☞ Cemetery maintenance -- \$5,300 for maintenance/upkeep....down \$2,200 from last year.
- ☞ Buildings & lands -- \$5,500 - for building improvements, pest control, security, & fire extinguisher testing
- ☞ Spring junk cleanup -- \$1,500 - half of what is normally needed/year..... one Spring cleanup is planned for 2018 after not doing it this past May (took a year off)
- ☞ General assistance -- \$6,000- same as last year.
- ☞ Town newsletter -- \$650 for 3 issues.....down slightly from last year. Cost is about \$0.73 per household/issue.
- ☞ Town website -- \$1,000 - up slightly from last year.
- ☞ Town wide property valuation -- \$20,000. 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
- ☞ 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 -- \$14,921 - up slightly 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-- Marijuana Ordinance — the town will be voting on either 1) a complete prohibition on all retail aspects of recreational marijuana, or 2) a 6 month moratorium with a one time 6 month extension. A poorly attended Public Hearing was held on July 10.



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



Clogged pipe

Don't FLUSH IT!!

Two 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. 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 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.

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Randolph ME 04346**

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



**Annual
Town
Meeting**

PLEASE ATTEND ON JULY 26