

# THE RANDOLPH REVIEW

July 2018

Town of Randolph, Maine  
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Selectmen:

Mark Roberts  
Bob Henderson  
Matthew Drost

Editor:

Peter M. Coughlan

**Annual Town Meeting is July 25, 7:00 PM**

**T.C. Hamlin School**

**(Budget Committee met three times)**

**Non-routine items this year will include:**

❖ raising money to replace our 33 year old fire truck.

The Budget Committee started meeting in May with figures from the Selectmen and then only had to meet 2 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 Town .....plus 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 12 and March 12 --- 8% interest after that
- ☞ Kennebec County -- \$88,967 - up 3.6% from last year.
- ☞ MSAD #11 -- \$911,529 - down \$83,465 from last year (already approved)
- ☞ Capital debt -- \$118,800. It is for the past project on Kinderhook St.
- ☞ 4<sup>th</sup> and final payment for replacement of Town Office roofing— \$5,420 - 4 years ago, we borrowed \$20K from town's Revolving Loan Fund to be paid back over 4 years at 4%
- ☞ Office salaries -- \$89,780 - down about \$2,000 from 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: - \$80,000 to supplement the \$69K that has been building in an account every year (\$5K/year) for this eventual purchase. One of the two town trucks is 33 years old and is getting costly to repair. Our Chief has found a "used" one for about \$150K. This \$80K would not necessarily raise taxes.
- ☞ Winter plowing/sanding - \$64,500—same as last year .
- ☞ Street sweeping/catch basin cleaning -- \$4,520 -same as last year.
- ☞ CMP -- \$19,000 (street lights) — same as last year
- ☞ Hatch Hill -\$17,770 --for trash going to Augusta landfill- same as last year.
- ☞ Ambulance Service -- \$32,946 - up about \$11,100 from last year because Dresden is not included anymore (fixed per capita fee plus \$\$/call for Gardiner Rescue). Also, costs have increased for workers comp, insurances, and uncollected debt.
- ☞ Office machinery -- \$2,000 - same as last year
- ☞ Hydrants - \$79,584- same as last year - for Gardiner Water District
- ☞ Emergency dispatch services -- \$22,580 — up \$868 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 - about same as last year.
- ☞ Road paving/sidewalk repair - \$25,000 - up \$10,000 from last year
- ☞ Sewer system Capital improvements-- \$80,000 - up \$50,000 from last year....will be used with last year's balance to do significant repairs to manholes and cost share with DOT on raising manholes on their Windsor St project.
- ☞ Cemetery maintenance -- \$3,500 for maintenance/upkeep....down \$1,800 from last year.
- ☞ Buildings & lands -- \$5,500 - same as last year -- for building improvements, pest control, security, & fire extinguisher testing
- ☞ Spring junk cleanup -- \$1,500 - half of what is normally needed/year..... this is 1<sup>st</sup> half of amount needed for Spring 2020 cleanup
- ☞ General assistance -- \$6,000- same as last year.
- ☞ Town newsletter -- \$1,625 for 3 issues.... Cost is about \$0.73 per household/issue.
- ☞ Town website -- \$1,100 - up slightly from last year.
- ☞ Town wide property valuation -- \$15,000—down \$5,000. This is being 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, KVCA, & 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 -- \$15,145 - 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..

## LED streetlights?

- *Is it possible for the town to save dollars paid to CMP by switching to LED streetlights?.....YES!*
- *Is the town working on it? .....YES*

The process of switching from our old sodium light fixtures to new efficient LED lights is not as simple as just swapping out the lamps. There are new Maine laws and PUC regulations that require a specific process and it all takes time. But, in the end, we can switch them over and the town will use much less electricity and will pay less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the current \$19,000/year bill for our 113 streetlights.

Pete Coughlan has been voluntarily working with adjacent towns to collectively work with a company to prepare to inventory, assess need, design new lights where needed, and finally replace the current heads with LED heads. Some of the current lights may be removed and not replaced, whereas, new lights may be added to new locations. The focus will be on intersections and overall public safety. As this project develops, there will be public meetings and information on the website. It is probable that no lights will actually be changed until late this year or in 2019.

## Riverside Disposal to build garage

On the north end of town east of Water Street, the company will be constructing a 60' by 120' maintenance garage soon. They currently have no garage for maintaining their disposal trucks and dumpsters. The Planning Board issued them a conditional use permit on June 20 which now allows them to begin construction. The garage will only operate during the day and will be 1000 ft. east of Water St and 1500 ft. north of Belmont St. neighbors.

Three public meetings were held for residents.

## Don't FLUSH it!!

Three 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
- 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.

"Flushable" just means problems and costs money!

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



**Annual  
Town  
Meeting**

**PLEASE ATTEND ON JULY 25 at 7:00**