

THE RANDOLPH REVIEW

October, 2013

Town of Randolph, Maine

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Selectmen:

Bob Henderson

Ed Gorham

Pete Hanley

Editor:

Peter M. Coughlan

Vote on Tuesday, November 4

The polls at the Town Office will be open from 8 AM to 8 PM. There are 5 Bond Issues and local elections on the ballot this day. There is one position for Selectman, one MSAD #11 School Board position, and four positions for Budget Committee. Absentee ballots are available now so come to the Town Office if this is more convenient. A sample ballot is on the website.

For the Budget Committee, 4 positions are currently open but only two of those current members took out papers. **Pete Coughlan and Pete Oakes** took out nomination papers and their names are officially printed on this ballot. Mr. Coughlan and Mr. Oakes have both been on the Budget Committee since 1989 (except when Mr. Oakes was a selectman). The two remaining positions must be filled with write-in votes. **Ben Carr** is also interested in continuing his time on the Committee. He has been a member since 2005 and is running as a write in candidate. At the time of this printing, neither this Editor or the Town Office has been told of anyone else willing to fill these positions.

For School Board, no one took out nomination papers for this one position which is being vacated by longtime Board member Tyler Trott. However, **Amber Carr** has expressed interest in running as a write in candidate. Amber and her husband Ben live on Water St south of Kinderhook St and have been there for 13 years. (Ben is a member of the town's Budget Committee). She is a native of Gardiner and her uncle formerly owned the feed store on Water St. Amber is a stay-at-home Mom to their 2 kids—a son in kindergarten and a daughter in High School. She is very involved in her kids' activities and has the time to dedicate to this important position. When she heard that no one had taken out nomination papers, she realized that she needed to step up and represent the town and use her time to work for the benefit of our kids.

In order to vote for a write-in candidate, one must write that person's name on the blank line AND put a checkmark in the adjacent box. Otherwise, the vote will not count.

For Selectman, three candidates returned their nomination papers for this one position --- **Mark Roberts, Patricia Putnam, and Doug Clark.**

The job of Selectman requires time and a knowledge of municipal government, including accounting, roads, budgeting, assisting the poor, handling all types of town business, sewer issues, municipal law, and many other issues.

Mark Roberts has been a resident of Randolph for 7 years with his wife and 2 sons and one daughter. He is originally from Phippsburg and has been a member of the Town's Planning Board for several years. He is the Engineering Supervisor for the Dep't of Defense's Veteran & Emergency Management Bureau which oversees all the state's armories. He has a BS degree in Mechanical Engineering from U. of Maine in 1991.

Patricia Putnam was born in Randolph and lived here until she was 32 when she moved away for the next 20 years. She moved back into town in October 2012 and is currently an Office Administrator at an Augusta prosthetics/orthotics clinic.

Doug Clark was born in Connecticut but has been a resident of Randolph in Rockwood Village for the last 14 years. He was the former Gardiner Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent for 11 of his 17 years at the Plant. He has been employed by the Kennebec Water District serving Waterville and Winslow area since 2007. He has a BS degree in Environmental Science from Johnson State College in VT.

Phone calls were made to each candidate for Selectman and the responses to each of the subjects are as follows in their words:

Municipal Experience

Mark: been on the Planning Board for several years and I routinely deal with Code Enforcement Officers in other towns as part of my job.

Patricia: none

Doug: none except for my former work at the Gardiner Treatment Plant

Why Are You Running?

Mark: I have the financial background with my state job and being the Chairman of Board of the Gardiner Area Boys/Girls Club. I also have the leadership skills for the job and I listen to both sides on all issues.

Patricia: I miss what the town used to be and I want to help it get clean and



friendly again. My Dad and Uncle used to be Selectmen here too in the 70's.

Doug: I like Randolph and its current services and want to keep them going. I want to be part of making things better.

What are some important issues in town right now?

Mark: working with the gas line folks; maintaining our sewers & roads; expanding our tax base; and the fate of TC Hamlin School.

Patricia: we need more businesses in town and there is no place for kids to play. We need more young families.

Doug: we need to create economic growth and generate more revenue when our costs are going up. We need to keep our taxes stable.

Have you been involved in our community relative to town business or volunteer work?

Mark: current Board Chairman for last 7 years of the Boys/Girls Club of Greater Gardiner but been on Board for 14 years; youth soccer coach for 11 years; town ballot counter; Town Planning Board for several years; received town's Spirit of America award for volunteer work in 2008

Patricia: not much but I am a member of the Randolph Methodist Church.

Doug: not much lately but I do help with music and youth groups at a church in Hallowell

How many Town Meetings attended in last 5 years?

Mark: every one of them plus the Special ones too

Patricia: none because I just moved back into town last Fall

Doug: a couple

What is your SHORT Term Goal?

Mark: review town's infrastructure maintenance plan; plan the impacts of the gas line

Patricia: get the town and school yard cleaned up again

Doug: gas line construction; keeping costs down; maybe consolidating services

What is your LONG Term Goal?

Mark: ensure taxpayers are getting their money's worth; review town contracts; review oversight of employees & their expectations/goals; move forward with new Fire Station or consider collocating with other town buildings; complete our new Comprehensive Plan

Patricia: need more businesses in town; create a friendly waterfront with a dock or small park

Doug: keep tax rate down; bring in businesses; apply for grants

What is your knowledge or experience with.....?

ACCOUNTING:

Mark: do it everyday by managing a \$4M budget for 60 projects plus my work on the Board of Boys/Girls Club

Patricia: part of my job for last 36 years

Doug: oversee a current \$900K budget and do it daily with capital planning and audits

ROAD MAINTENANCE:

Mark: oversee road projects for culverts, parking lots, paving and erosion control

Patricia: none

Doug: not much

COMPUTERS:

Mark: very comfortable and use many programs every day

Patricia: very comfortable/use them a lot

Doug: very comfortable and savvy and could run plant operations off my laptop.

MANAGEMENT:

Mark: manage all state armories and buildings for Me Army Nat'l Guard plus 6 employees; also manage Board of Directors for Boys/Girls Club in Gardiner

Patricia: have been office manager for several jobs

Doug: have managed union employees, city and public works employees

What are your hobbies?

Mark: woodworking, sea kayaking, and running/cycling

Patricia: biking, hiking, and camping

Doug: music and guitar playing; play at the Vassalboro Grange Hall in summer and play occasionally at Spectrum Generations in Augusta.

PLEASE VOTE ON NOVEMBER 5

What are the 5 Bond Issues about?

All details can be found at: <http://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/upcoming.html>

Question 1: \$14,000,000 bond issue to provide funds for the State's share of maintenance, repair, capital improvements, modernization and energy efficiency projects for Maine Army National Guard readiness centers and support facilities and the purchase of land for training and to draw down federal matching funds?

Question 2: \$15,500,000 bond issue to enhance educational and employment opportunities for Maine citizens and students by updating and improving existing laboratory and classroom facilities of the University of Maine System statewide?

Question 3: \$100,000,000 bond issue for reconstruction and rehabilitation of highways and bridges and for facilities or equipment related to ports, harbors, marine transportation, freight and passenger railroads, aviation and transit, to be used to match an estimated \$154,000,000 in federal and other funds?

Question 4: \$4,500,000 bond issue to provide funds for a public-private partnership for a building project for a new science facility at the Maine Maritime Academy to be matched by other funds?

Question 3: \$15,500,000 bond issue to upgrade buildings, classrooms and laboratories on the 7 campuses of the Maine Community College System in order to increase capacity to serve more students through expanded programs in health care, precision machining, information technology, criminal justice and other key programs?

Gas Line Construction in Randolph

You cannot miss the construction in town. Summit Gas is on the "fast track" to complete the Randolph section so that gas can flow from across the river from Pittston north to Augusta and on to Madison in the very near future.

In Randolph, the town property on the corner of Water and Elm Streets which houses the Fire Department, pump station, and Town Garage will see major changes.

First, the Selectmen decided to raze the Town Garage and move its contents to the new storage box next to the Town Office parking lot. The \$6,000 cost of razing the building is being paid by Summit Gas. The \$3,200 cost of the new storage box is being paid by the town.

Second, a Special Town Meeting vote held on October 2 allows the town to grant a permanent easement to Summit Gas for construction of a 12 by 23 foot regulator station at this site. Summit will pay the town a one time fee of \$25,000. It will be raised above the floodplain like the pump station and will be used for future distribution lines to service the homes and businesses in town.

Third, an above ground main line valve will be located in a chain link fenced area on the corner for future maintenance purposes.

Town Website & Email

First, the town website has been changed from ".gov" to ".org". Rather than pay \$125/year to the Fed'l government for the .gov URL, we are now paying about \$15/year for .org.

Second, if you haven't signed up yet for town email and be the first to get local news rather than reading it (maybe) in the KJ, simply go to the town website front page and sign up with your email address. Over 170 people have already done that. It's the BEST WAY to stay informed.



Town Office E-mails

Town Office : townofrandolph@roadrunner.com

Town Treasurer (Janet Richards): treasurerofrandolph@roadrunner.com

Town Clerk (Lynn Mealey): townofrandolph@roadrunner.com

Town Registrar of Voters (Raeleen York): registrarofrandolph@roadrunner.com

Dog Licenses are now available for 2014

Although the deadline for licensing is still a couple months away, 2014 licenses are now available at the town office.

The ideas and statements presented in this newsletter are those of the Editor (Pete Coughlan) and do not necessarily reflect those of the Selectmen who have reviewed the material before it was printed.

The "Randolph Review" is a periodic newsletter for the people of Randolph. It is approved and funded annually by the citizens of Randolph at the Town Meeting. Any questions or comments should be directed to the Town Office at 582-5808, or e-mail at townofrandolph@roadrunner.com or Peter Coughlan at wilbah99@aol.com.

We would be interested in your feedback. Thank you.