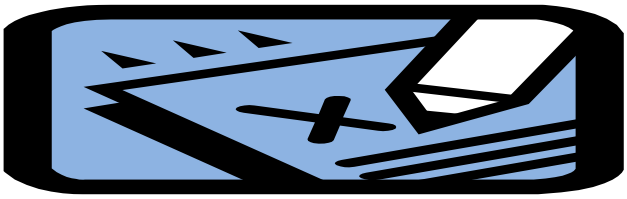
TOWN OF BRIDGTON, MAINE
TOWN MEETING GAZETTE
2016

Bridgton's 2016 Annual Town Meeting will be held Tuesday, June 14, and Wednesday, June 15. Residents may register to vote at the Town Office Monday through Friday from 8:00AM to 4:00PM or on Election Day at the polls. *Remember to bring proof of identity and residency*. If you have any questions, please call Laurie Chadbourne, Town Clerk and Registrar of Voters at 647-8786. Town Meeting is your opportunity to have a voice in Bridgton's future.



BALLOT VOTING - Tuesday, June 14

The polls will be open from 8:00AM to 8:00PM at the Bridgton Town Hall, 26 North High Street, to act on **Articles 1 through 7** of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. The deadline to request an *absentee ballot* is Thursday, June 9, 2016. After this deadline, a voter may request an *absentee ballot* only if the voter completes a **Special Circumstances Application** and indicates one of the four allowable reasons to request an *absentee ballot* after this deadline.

Article 1 is for the election of a moderator to preside at Town Meeting. The polls open upon the election of the moderator.

Article 2 is for the election of the following:

- One Select Board member for a three-year term (Select Board members shall serve as Assessor, Overseers of the Poor and Wastewater Commissioners). There are two candidates: Karen M. Hawkins and Kenneth J. Murphy. Voters may also write in candidates.
- Two directors of the Maine School Administrative District #61 for a three-year term. There are two candidates: Debra C. Albert and Karen L. Eller. Voters may write in candidates.
- Two members of the Planning Board for a three-year term. There are three candidates: Deborah A. Brusini, Donald S. Collins and Catherine J. Pinkham. Voters may also write in candidates.
- One member of the Water District Board of Trustees for a three year term. There is one candidate: Wesley F. Gorman. Voters may also write in candidates.

Articles 3 through 6 described below, are proposed amendments/additions to the Bridgton Ordinances. The full text of the amendments are available at the Town Office and on the Town website (www.bridgtonmaine.org).

Article 3: The proposed revisions to the Bridgton Sewer Ordinance changes the way the sewer allocation is determined freeing up 7,000 gallons of capacity for current and future users.

Article 4: The proposed changes to the Shoreland Zoning Ordinance includes updating the official map to include recent lot splits, adding surveyor as an option to certify existing conditions and adding a note referring to Section 15.R as additional requirements under Section 15.B.

Article 5: The proposed changes to the Site Plan Review Ordinance include deleting Article XI

Sections 5, 6, 7 and 8; Sections 1, 2 and 3 are new; and revised wording in Section 4 to bring the Ordinance into conformity with State law regarding regulating Medical Marijuana.

Article 6: The proposed changes to the Tower Ordinance addresses the number of copies of documents required for submittal for revisions or changes to a previously approved application.

Article 7 described below, is a referendum question placed on the Warrant by citizen petition.

Article 7: The Article asks the Town to approve $10,000 for the Bridgton Food Pantry to cover increased expenses and costs. Said funding to be raised through taxation.

OPEN VOTING - Wednesday, June 15

Articles 8 through 41 will be voted on at the open portion of the Annual Town Meeting to be held at 7:00PM, June 15, at the Town Hall. Please refer to the Annual Town Meeting Warrant for the articles and budget details.

Article 8: Is the ***revenue*** side of the proposed FY16–17 budget less revenues from the Unassigned Fund Balance (Art. 21), Community Development Block Grant (Art. 22) and Trust Funds (Art. 23 and 24). It includes the anticipated non-property tax revenue that offsets the proposed expenditures reducing the property tax commitment. Overall ***revenues*** (inclusive of all the aforementioned Articles) are projected to increase by 6.5%, much of it attributable to the following: bringing in $70,000 from the Tax Increment Financing Development Fund to off-Capital Expenditures (Art. 14); increase in Excise Tax Revenues of $30,000 and increase of $48,000 in Homestead Exemption reimbursement.

Articles 9 through 20 present the ***appropriation*** (expenditure) side of the proposed FY16–17 Budget. Gross appropriations increased by 5.8%. The net appropriation increase (offset by a 6.5% increase in anticipated revenues) is 5.4%.

Article 9, General Government: Please refer to the Town Meeting Warrant for a detailed breakdown. Significant changes include a Grant Writer ($39,250: 40 hours/wk at $18.87/hr), increased Recreation programming and an additional 8 hours for the Administrative Assistant position ($6,678 increase: 8 hours/wk at $15.00/hr- 16 hrs Code Enforcement, 16 hrs Community Development, 8 hrs Finance and General Government).

Article 10, Public Safety: Please refer to the Town Meeting Warrant for a detailed breakdown. Significant changes include changing from a stipend part-time Fire Chief to a full-time salaried Fire Chief ($48,000 annual salary: $31,129 difference from stipend of $16,971) and a new Police Officer ($45,262 base annual pay).

Article 11, Public Works: Please refer to the Town Meeting Warrant for a detailed breakdown. Significant changes include a full-time employee with time split between Cemeteries (25 weeks) and Public Works (28 weeks) ($32,916 total annual wage) and a full-time seasonal (25 weeks) in Cemeteries ($14,010 total annual wages).

Article 12, Board of Selectmen: Currently, the Chair receives $1,506 and the Board members receive $1,027.50 each for a total appropriation of $5,615. As proposed, the Chair would receive $1,750 and the Board $1,300 each for a total appropriation of $6,950.

Article 13, Planning Board: Currently, the Planning Board receives no stipend. As proposed, the Chair would receive $1,000 and the Board, including the 2 alternates, $750 each for a total appropriation of $5,500.

Article 14, Capital Expenditures: Please refer to the Town Meeting Warrant for a detailed breakdown. The Fire Department is requesting $35,000 (balance to come from Reserves) to replace Engine 5 and $15,000 to replace the cab and chassis of the Reel Truck; $40,000 for Marketing: Branding consultant, promotional trade shows, new website and advertising campaign; $676,610 Public Works: paving (Salmon Point, Mt. Henry, Chickadee and Sam Ingalls Roads), new roof and plow truck; $105,000 to replace the bathroom and playground at Salmon Point Beach; $30,000 for bid-ready plans and specifications for the Streetscape Project; and $85,000 to re-side, paint the interior, new sign and build an office at Town Hall.

Article 15, Capital Expenditures Reserve: Please refer to the Town Meeting Warrant for a detailed breakdown. Reserve Funds are established for financing the acquisition or reconstruction of a specific, or a type of, capital improvement; financing the acquisition of a specific item or type of capital equipment; or a sinking fund account for paying a funded debt.

Article 16, Outside Agencies: Please refer to the Town Meeting Warrant for a detailed breakdown.

Article 17, Outside Services: Please refer to the Town Meeting Warrant for a detailed breakdown.

Article 18, Contingency Account: The appropriation is used for unanticipated costs.

Article 19, Long Term Debt: Payment and interest for two Public Works trucks and the Town Hall.

Article 20, County Fees and Taxes: Please refer to the Town Meeting Warrant for a detailed breakdown.

Article 21, Unassigned Fund Balance: This is used to reduce taxes.

Article 22, Community Development Block Grant Capital Reserve: These funds are used towards the following projects: Bridgton Community Center Electrical Project, Salmon Point Bathroom, Town Hall Renovations, Main Hill Parking Project and Street Scape Bid Documents. The following Social Services are funded: Fuel Collaborative, Kettle Dinners, Backpack Program, Family Crisis Services, St. Peter's Dinners, Food Pantries and Recreation Summer Camp Financial Assistance. Funds also off-set the costs of the Administrative Assistant and Director of Planning, Economic and Community Development.

Article 23, Bridgton Trust Fund: Please refer to the Town Meeting Warrant for a detailed breakdown. Authorizes the use of the trust fund revenue for the noted purposes.

Article 24, Moose Pond Trust Fund: Please refer to the Town Meeting Warrant for a detailed breakdown. Authorizes the use of the trust fund revenue for the noted purposes.

Articles 25 through 38 are annual housekeeping articles.

Article 25: Sets the tax due dates, the tax delinquency dates and establishes the interest rate for unpaid taxes.

Article 26: Authorizes the Select Board to fund property tax abatements from the tax overlay account and to pay interest to taxpayers who pay amounts in excess of amounts finally assessed.

Article 27: Establishes the interest rate for unpaid wastewater charges.

Article 28: Authorizes the Tax Collector to accept pre-payment of taxes.

Article 29: Authorizes the Select Board to enter into boundary line agreements.

Article 30: Waives foreclosure of tax lien mortgages when ownership would be contrary to the town's best interest.

Article 31: Authorizes the Select Board to dispose of tax-acquired properties.

Article 32: Authorizes the Select Board to dispose of real estate acquired by non-payment of wastewater fees acquired properties.

Article 33: Authorizes the Select Board to dispose of Town owned property deemed surplus.

Article 34: Moves unexpended balances to the Unassigned Fund Balance and authorizes the Select Board to use monies from the Unassigned Fund Balance to pay for deficits in the upcoming fiscal year.

Article 35: Authorizes the Select Board to dispose of Town owned equipment deemed surplus.

Article 36: Authorizes the Select Board and treasurer to accept gifts, real estate, etc. on behalf of the town.

Article 37: Authorizes the Select Board to apply for and accept grants unless it requires the expenditure of other funds not appropriated to that purpose.

Article 38: Authorizes the Select Board to participate in the Cumberland County Housing and Community Development Programs of the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development and to execute an agreement with Cumberland County to formalize the agreement.

Articles 39 through 41 request approval by the voters for the purpose stated therein.

Article 39: The property owners of Home Run Road are asking the Town to accept Home Run Road as a Town Road. The road provides access to the Town of Bridgton Kendall Ham Recreational Facility as well as access for the property owners.

Article 40: The Select Board is seeking permission to purchase the properties owned by Andrew and Lisa Clark on Nulty Street. One property has the redemption center and the other is a paved parking area across the street from the center. The plan is to develop the redemption center into a Welcome Center with public bathrooms and commercial space. The parking lot is to be used for bus parking. The acquisition and closing costs are to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance and not to be raised from taxes.

Article 41: If Article 40 is approved, the Select Board is requesting that $150,000 be used from the Unassigned Fund Balance to the remodel office area into a Welcome Center with public bathrooms. The requested funds are not to be raised from taxes.