

TOWN OF BRIDGTON, MAINE TOWN MEETING GAZETTE 2017

Bridgton's 2017 Annual Town Meeting will be held Tuesday, June 13, and Wednesday, June 14. 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 13

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 8, 2017. 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:

- Two Select Board members for three-year terms (Select Board members shall serve as Assessor, Overseers of the Poor and Wastewater Commissioners). There

are three candidates: Robert Murphy, Frederick Packard and William Vincent. Voters may also write in candidates.

- One director of the Maine School Administrative District #61 for a three-year term and one for a one-year term. There is one candidate for the three-year term: Cynthia B. LeBlanc and none for the one-year term. Voters may write in candidates.
- One member of the Planning Board for a three-year term. There is one candidate: Brian J. Thomas. Voters may also write in candidates.
- One Planning Board Alternate Member seat for a three-year term is open. There is one candidate: Charles Kenneth Gibbs. Voters may also write in candidates.
- One member of the Water District Board of Trustees for a three year term. There is one candidate: Barry N. Gilman. Voters may also write in candidates.

Articles 3 described below, is a proposed 180 day moratorium on retail marijuana establishments and retail marijuana social clubs. The full text of the Ordinance is available at the Town Office and on the Town website (www.bridgtonmaine.org).

Article 3: The proposed moratorium provides the Town time to develop rules and regulations to govern the sale of marijuana and marijuana social clubs.



OPEN VOTING - Wednesday, June 14

Articles 4 through 34 will be voted on at the open portion of the Annual Town Meeting to be held at 7:00PM, June 14, at the Town Hall. Please refer to the Annual Town Meeting Warrant for the articles and budget details.

Article 4: Is the *revenue* side of the proposed FY17-18 budget less revenues from the Unassigned Fund Balance (Art. 17), Community Development Block Grant (Art. 18) and Trust Funds (Art. 19 and 20). 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 decrease by \$9,453. Notable differences from last year include an increase in Excise Tax Revenues of \$40,000 and \$42,000 from the Reserve Accounts.

Articles 5 through 18 present the *appropriation* (expenditure) side of the proposed FY17-18 Budget. Gross appropriations increased by \$21,856. The net appropriation increase (including Revenue reduction of \$9,453) is \$31,309.

Article 5, General Government: Please refer to the Town Meeting Warrant for a detailed breakdown. The cost center increased by \$42,085 mostly attributable to employee wage adjustments (3%).

Article 6, Public Safety: Please refer to the Town Meeting Warrant for a detailed breakdown. The cost center increased by \$101,695. Significant changes include increased

building maintenance costs, protective gear purchases for the Fire Department and wage adjustments per the Union Contract for the Police Department (3%).

Article 7, Public Works: Please refer to the Town Meeting Warrant for a detailed breakdown. The cost center increased by \$66,311. Significant changes include funding to upgrade the Veteran's Park and wage adjustments per Union Contract (3%).

Article 8, Board of Selectmen: The Chair receives \$1,750 and the Board \$1,300 each for a total appropriation of \$6,950. No change from last year.

Article 9, Planning Board: The Chair receives \$1,000 and the Board, including the 2 alternates, \$750 each for a total appropriation of \$5,500. No change from last year.

Article 10, Capital Expenditures: Please refer to the Town Meeting Warrant for a detailed breakdown. The cost center decreased by \$126,360.

Article 11, Capital Expenditures Reserves: 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. No change from last year.

Article 12, Outside Agencies: Please refer to the Town Meeting Warrant for a detailed breakdown. The cost center decreased by \$54,500.

Article 13, Outside Services: Please refer to the Town Meeting Warrant for a detailed breakdown. The cost center decreased by \$4,299.

Article 14, Contingency Account: The appropriation is used for unanticipated costs. No change from last year.

Article 15, Long Term Debt: Payment and interest for two Public Works trucks and the Town Hall. The cost center increased by \$36,437 for the purchase of a new plow truck.

Article 16, County Fees and Taxes: Please refer to the Town Meeting Warrant for a detailed breakdown. The cost center increased by \$38,307.

Article 17, Unassigned Fund Balance: This is used to reduce taxes. No change from last year.

Article 18, Community Development Block Grant Capital Reserve: These funds are used towards the following projects: Lower Main Street Project; Community Center Roof; and Pondicherry Square and Monument Intersection Construction drawings. The following Social Services are funded: Kettle Dinners, Navigator Program, Backpack Program, Family Crisis Services and the Bridgton Food Pantry. Funds also off-set the costs of the Administrative Assistant and Community Development Director. The cost center decreased by \$4,571.

Article 19, Bridgton Trust Fund: Please refer to the Town Meeting Warrant for a detailed breakdown. This article authorizes the use of the trust fund revenue for General Assistance, Cemeteries, Downtown Landscaping, School Fund and Willis Park. The cost center increased by \$1,602.

Article 20, Moose Pond Trust Fund: Please refer to the Town Meeting Warrant for a detailed breakdown. This article authorizes the use of the trust fund revenue for Town Hall Debt Retirement (\$50,000), Parks (\$6,309) and Pondicherry Park (\$5,000). The cost center increased by \$1,740.

Articles 21 through 34 are annual housekeeping articles.

Article 21: Sets the tax due dates, the tax delinquency dates and establishes the interest rate for unpaid taxes.

Article 22: 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 23: Establishes the interest rate for unpaid wastewater charges.

Article 24: Authorizes the Tax Collector to accept pre-payment of taxes.

Article 25: Authorizes the Select Board to enter into boundary line agreements.

Article 26: Waives foreclosure of tax lien mortgages when ownership would be contrary to the town's best interest.

Article 27: Authorizes the Select Board to dispose of tax-acquired properties.

Article 28: Authorizes the Select Board to dispose of real estate acquired for non-payment of wastewater fees acquired properties.

Article 29: Authorizes the Select Board to dispose of Town-owned property deemed surplus.

Article 30: 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 31: Authorizes the Select Board to dispose of Town owned equipment deemed no longer of any use.

Article 32: Authorizes the Select Board and Treasurer to accept gifts, real estate, etc. on behalf of the town.

Article 33: Authorizes the Select Board to apply for and accept grants unless it requires the expenditure of other funds not appropriated by the Town.

Article 34: 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.