

## STOPROB.org

Dedicated to Revitalizing Orient

Dear Orient Taxpayers,

You are already aware that we are faced with serious financial inconsistencies in Orient with regard to accelerating property taxes, the closing of the Orient Town Office, and the near total absence of Town Officials capable of reconciling those problems. In the event you are not fully aware of the situation, I've provided a partial list of the unresolved financial shortcomings present today that will give you a glimpse into the scope of the problems.

The Orient Town Office has been closed for several months.

There have been no available financial audits since the year 2014...a violation of Maine State Law.

An accountant hired by the Town has not released an audit. She cannot resolve her figures with the Town's figures.

Taxes on property have risen over 230% in the last decade.

Taxes will be increased again this year. The exact increase cannot be computed because:

The Tax Commitment has yet to be released to the State of Maine.

Last May the Orient School Board voted to raise \$315,580.34 to cover twenty-one (21) students.

The cost-per-pupil is \$15,027.64, the highest of all schools in Southern Aroostook County.

That is a projected additional increase of \$66,768.47

All tax bills since 2000 reveal irrational tax increases, including a major 75% increase in 2008.

Town officials withdrew \$167,863.81 from surplus funds in a former year to meet town expenses.

Syphoning of those funds nearly depleted funds necessary to run the town, and resulted in a \$221,916 tax increase the following year.

This year, Orient taxpayers will have a Tax Commitment between \$580,000 to more than \$600,000

These deficiencies can be attributed to; nepotism, unwarranted spending, overdrafts, raising town funds without providing yearly audits to voters, lackadaisical and/or suspected criminal activities, and the lack of taxpayer interest.

For the reasons above, we urge our fellow resident and non-resident tax payers to consider the plan on the next page. It is a variation of a plan used to successfully solve problems similar to Orient's several years ago faced by a small town in southern Maine.