

The Selectboard solicited suggestions from residents in 2022, held public meetings, and deliberated throughout 2023 about the most effective use of the funds. We looked at what projects could have the greatest benefit to the town and whether alternative funding sources might be available for certain proposals. After considerable debate we decided on the following allocations:

- \$30,000 to 7 Lakes Alliance for erosion-control projects on town properties, including the Town Beach and Peninsula Park on Long Pond, Hayden Park on Messalonskee Stream, and the Center for All Seasons on Great Pond
- \$28,000 to fund the update of the town's Comprehensive Plan, with professional expertise from the Kennebec Valley Council of Governments (KVCOG) and guidance from town's Comprehensive Plan Committee
- \$10,000 for grub treatment at the cemeteries and the town office
- \$48,000 for repairs to the dam in Belgrade Lakes Village due to deterioration of the concrete over many years
- \$46,250 to CAI Technologies for digitizing the town's tax maps, a valuable service that will allow town employees, homeowners, prospective homebuyers and realtors easy access to information
- \$30,000 toward engineering costs for a new fire station that will replace the Depot fire station
- Up to \$7,500 for video-streaming equipment at the Center for All Seasons to increase access to meetings and events
- Up to \$35,000 for a dry hydrant in Belgrade Lakes Village, allowing firefighters to tap into Long Pond for water to fight fires because, like many rural communities, Belgrade does not have a pressurized fire hydrant system
- Up to \$27,000 to provide ADA access to Great Pond at the Center for All Seasons, specifically a safe and secure pathway for individuals using wheelchairs, walkers and other assistive devices to reach the shore of Great Pond
- \$19,200 for emergency dam repair in Belgrade Lakes Village due to the discovery of severe rusting of the gates during the scheduled repairs
- \$50,000 to support the Friends of Belgrade Lakes Village parking lot project adjacent to the Village Green, creating safer conditions for both pedestrians and motorists
- The balance (\$1,827), along with any funds that remain from the above projects, will be applied to the cost of new pickleball courts at the Center for All Seasons.