



# TOWN OF BELGRADE ANNUAL REPORT



For the year ending December 31, 2023



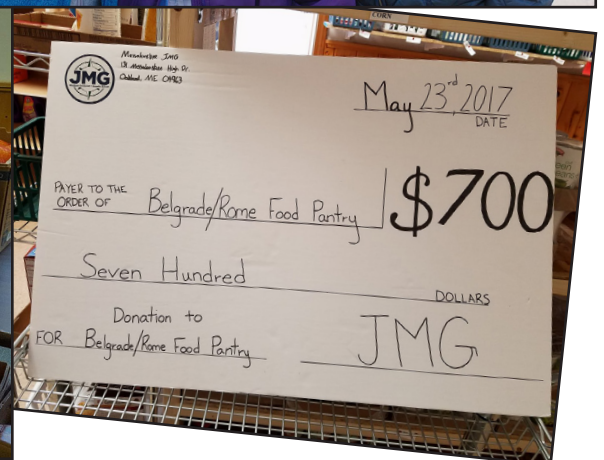
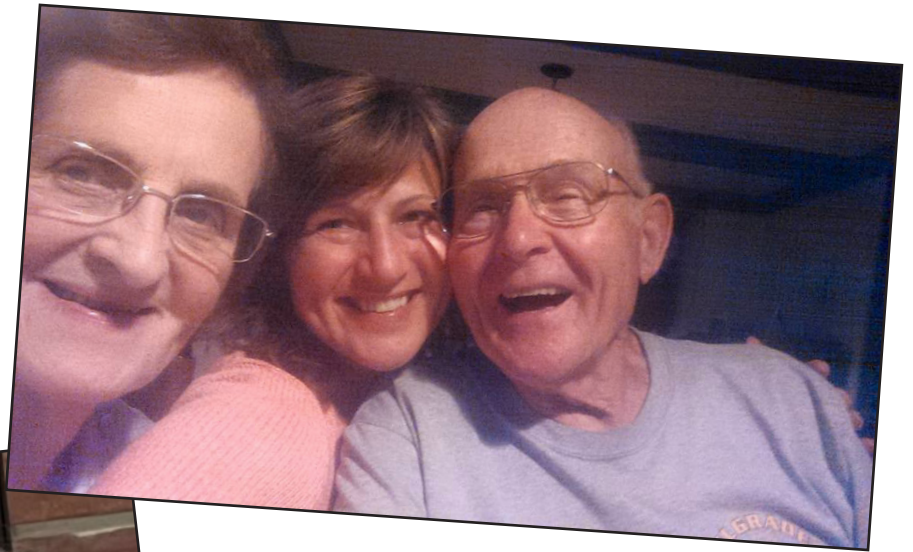
ANNUAL REPORT  
of the  
Town Officers  
Maine's 102<sup>nd</sup> Town  
For the Year 2023



Preceding Maine Statehood by 24 Years  
Incorporated February 3, 1796,  
From Washington Plantation  
Above the signature and by the authority of  
the Architect of the American Revolution and then  
Governor of Massachusetts  
SAMUEL ADAMS

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# The Town of Belgrade Dedicates the Town Report to Marie Ann Pulsifer

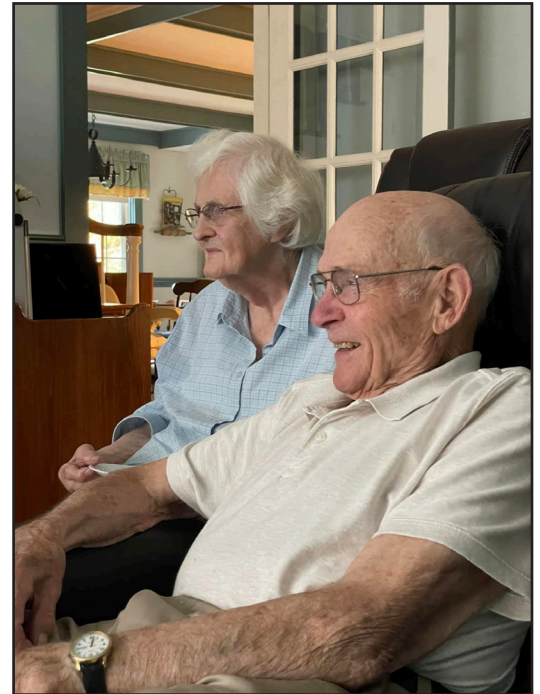
This year, the Town of Belgrade lost a wonderful public servant to our community, someone who recognized the needs of those less fortunate and looked for ways to assist the families of Belgrade and Rome. Marie was widely known for her service to the community of Belgrade. She was involved in launching the Belgrade Health Center and served as its interior designer when it opened. Her greatest accomplishment for the Towns of Belgrade and Rome was the establishment of the town's food pantry which is still strong and continues today!

## A History of the BELGRADE-ROME FOOD PANTRY

On January 30, 1992, concerned about the welfare of area families having difficulty meeting basic needs, Marie Pulsifer, together with Jan Bourne and more than thirty other interested citizens, met at the Belgrade Fire Station to organize a Belgrade-Rome Special Needs Food Pantry. The purpose of the new pantry was defined as follows:

*"To service with care and understanding the special needs of our neighbors, the Residents of Belgrade and Rome, who, in hard times, are experiencing difficulty providing food for their tables. Although we always want to respond to genuine need, the Food Pantry is a crisis organization, designed for emergency short-term help only, since our resources will not allow us to provide long term assistance."*

Following that first meeting, the new officers met with Belgrade Town Manager Scott Cole, who supported the plan and offered space in the pantry in the basement of the town office. With the generous support of local churches, civic organizations, businesses, and private individuals the pantry was opened in April of 1992 with adequate supplies and a budget of \$1,300. Volunteers staffed the pantry whose hours were set on Tuesdays from 9-11 a.m. (and still are) and over the next year, some fifteen families were served for varied lengths of time. The principal founder, Marie Pulsifer, led the organization for the first fifteen years, securing and scheduling volunteers, arranging for the acquisition of food and spearheading fundraising efforts.



In addition, Marie gave of her time selflessly in service to Belgrade and surrounding areas in so many other ways:

- 1965 ~ she volunteered and did door to door fundraising for both cancer and heart issues;
- 1970s ~ served as a Lead Clinic volunteer to help raise funds to provide services to test children for lead poisoning;
- served both the Belgrade Lakes Library and Belgrade Central Library for many years;
- participated in a parents group who started the library at the school;
- helped children at the Belgrade Central School make Christmas ornaments for their trees at home;
- took several bus rides to chaperone children to Boston and other educational sites and picnics;
- served on the board of the first Belgrade Health Center building committee chairing the first three fundraisers to raise money for the center; refurbished the inside and did minor landscaping;
- served on the board of St. Theresa Parish and was chairperson of the Christmas fair;
- founded Belgrade Rome Special Needs Food Pantry, chairperson for same for 15 years (with lots of help from her husband Bill);
- supported volunteers and employees at the Belgrade Town Office;
- planted flowers in the triangle as you enter the Belgrade Lakes Village for several years with help from husband Bill, along with flowers and perennials at St. Helena's Church.

We are indeed fortunate to have been able to know Marie and take great pleasure in recognizing her nearly 60 years of service to Belgrade.

## Verna L. Jenney

Verna L. Jenney, 96, passed away on September 10, 2023, with her loving family at her side. She was born in Gardiner on August 16, 1927, daughter to the late Frank L. and Pearl H. (Spear) Rich.



Verna attended Hallowell High School and was in the graduating class of 1944. She began working for the State of Maine as a temporary worker, eventually earning full time employment as a key punch operator programming computers until her retirement. Verna worked for the State of Maine for 30 years.

Verna was married to Douglas G. Jenney for 43 years until his passing in March 2011 and was a longtime Belgrade resident of more than fifty years. In her free time, she deeply enjoyed traveling around the United States and Europe with Doug. They traveled to every state in the union except for Utah. She also enjoyed knitting and crocheting, reading, and spending time with family. Verna was an avid sports fan and enjoyed watching her great-grandchildren's athletic events and watching football, golf, and major league soccer on television.

Verna was a very active member of the Order of the Eastern Star, a lifetime member of the American Legion Auxiliary, the Shriners Widows Club, and was the Secretary for the Maine branch of the National League of Postmasters.

## Joan E. Megill

Joan E. Megill, 91, passed away at her home surrounded by family on Monday, Oct. 23, 2023. Joan, the daughter of John Wadleigh and Nellie Webster was born July 27, 1932, she attended Belgrade schools and received her GED.

Joan held many different jobs including a patient attendant at AMHI mental health hospital and a waitress at the Village Inn. More recently, she worked at Sam's Club passing out free food samples to all the members. Joan loved selling AVON, which she did for close to 50 years, she never did it for the money but instead took great joy in meeting new people and making friends. She loved her five Yorkie dogs. Joan was known as a straight shooter and told it like it was whether you wanted to hear it or not. She was often found at church, where she attended services multiple times a week.

To most people she wasn't known as Joan but was "Nan". She helped everyone she felt was in need and always stood up for what she thought was right. Joan was predeceased by her husband, Robert Megill Sr. in 2004, a daughter, Nancy Megill in 1963, and sons John H. Megill in 1989 and Robert Megill Jr. in 2006. Joan's saying was "This world is not my home; I'm just passing through."



## Vera Stuart

Vera (Stevens) Stuart, age 84, passed away at her home in Belgrade Depot on the 11th of December. Vera was born in Smithfield on May 15th, 1939, the daughter of William "Bill" and Mary Stevens. She grew up on the family dairy farm off the East Pond Road and was comfortable around tractors, Belgian draft horses, and Holsteins at an early age.

She met her husband John at the Smithfield Roller Rink one summer night in 1955 and, after her graduation from Skowhegan Area High School in 1957, they were married on June 25th, 1960. The couple lived in numerous states as John attended Tri-State University in Indiana, where Vera was elected his fraternity's beauty queen, and they later moved to Hudson, Michigan where John worked as a mechanical engineer in the automotive industry.

During their early married days, Vera went to cosmetology school and picked up odd jobs to help put John through college while at the same time raising their young children. The couple moved back to the family home in Belgrade in 1973 where Vera was a teacher's aide at the Belgrade Central School and SAD #47 school district for several years.

She kept the books for the family's multiple businesses in Belgrade over the years and gave birth to her "bi-centennial surprise" son Chuck in 1976 at the age of 37. She was recognized as a loyal and steadfast family caregiver who provided full time elder homecare and companionship for grandmother Mina Yeaton and Uncle Arnold "Barney" Stuart for many years. She was a good cook who was especially well known for her homemade blueberry cake and Swedish meatballs. Vera was a proud grandmother who attended the births of most of her grandchildren, which often required traveling great distances, and was always willing to lend an encouraging hand to the kids. She enjoyed Maine life, especially the Fryeburg and Skowhegan Fairs, the Belgrade Fire Department's bean hole bean suppers and chicken barbecues, fresh cucumbers and tomatoes from her garden, and bird watching at the feeders just outside her kitchen window.



## Barbara Workman



Barbara Workman, 91, passed away peacefully on Feb. 7, 2023, in Waterville. She was born in Cambridge, Mass. on July 14, 1931. She attended school in Massachusetts, graduating from Cambridge High School in 1949 and eventually settling in Maine where she raised her family. Barbara loved the outdoors and spent many spring and summer days tending to her flower garden. She also enjoyed cooking and baking for her family, which included birthday cakes and holiday feasts. She loved to travel and would take day trips to the coast, to Boston and many other places throughout the year, often bringing along her family.

She is survived by her four children, Betsy Fontaine and husband, Dan of Arizona, David Workman of Belgrade, Daniel Workman of Waterville and Dale Workman and wife, Lisa of Oakland. She is also survived by her five grandchildren, Meagan Hensley and her husband, Jonathon of Oregon, Jinni Campbell and her husband, Matt of Lisbon, Jesse Workman of Waterville, Nicholas Workman and his wife, Hannah of Rome and Lindsey Pillsbury of Oakland. She is also survived by her great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.



## REFERENCE NUMBERS

Belgrade Town Office Telephone .....	495-2258	Animal Control Officers Jeff Worthing,	
Fax.....	495-2742	Tracy Malloy .....	441-9364
Town Manager Lorna Dee Nichols .....	495-2258	Transfer Station Dir. Ken Scheno .....	495-3326
Recreation Director Dan MacGlashing ..	495-3481	Belgrade Central School.....	495-2321
Library Director, Jared Bond.....	495-3508	RSU #18 .....	465-7384
Road Commissioner Jason Stevens .....	649-8070	Messalonskee High School .....	465-7381
Code Officer Hans Rasmussen .....	485-4615	Messalonskee Middle School.....	465-2167

### EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Belgrade Fire Department	911
Belgrade Rescue	911
Kennebec Sheriff's Dept.	1-800-498-1930
Maine State Police	1-800-452-4664
State Warden Service	1-800-292-7436

### More handy information

#### Town Office Hours of Operation:

Monday	7 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Tuesday	7 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Wednesday	CLOSED
Thursday	7 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Friday	7 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday – Open the last Saturday of the month	
April, May, June: 9 a.m. – Noon	

#### Selectperson Board Meetings

First and third Tuesdays of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Office or via zoom

#### Planning Board Meetings

First and third Thursdays of the month at 6 p.m. at the Town Office

#### Transfer Station & Recycling Center Hours of Operation

11 a.m. – 7 p.m. Wednesdays, 7 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturdays and  
Noon- 5 p.m. Thursdays (May 30, 2022 – October 10, 2022)

#### Code Enforcement Officer

Office hours Monday, Tuesday, Friday 8:30-1:00, Thursdays 9-12 and 4-7.  
All other hours by appt. or chance

## *Town Administration Staff*

### **Town Manager – Lorna Dee Nichols**

*Personnel Director, Finance Director, Budget Planner,  
Purchasing Agent, Communications Director,  
Records Manager, Community Development Director,  
General Assistance Administrator, Local Health Officer*

<b>Animal Control Officer:</b> Jeff Worthing/Tracy Malloy	1 yr.
<b>Civil Emergency Director:</b> Jeremy Damren	1 yr.
<b>Civil Emergency Mgmt. Asst. Dir:</b> Ed Ketch, Jr.	1 yr.
<b>Public Information Officer:</b> Jeremy Damren	1 yr.
<b>Local Health Officer:</b> Lorna Dee Nichols	3 yr.
<b>Historian:</b> Dianne Dowd	1 yr.
<b>Local Plumbing Inspector:</b> Hans Rasmussen	1 yr.
<b>Code Enforcement Officer:</b> Hans Rasmussen	1 yr.
<b>Town Clerk/Deputy Registrar:</b> Mary J. Vogel	Indef
<b>Deputy Clerk/Registrar:</b> Charlene G. Houle	Indef
<b>Deputy Clerk:</b> Deborah Nichols/Kelsey Libold	Indef
<b>Deputy Clerk:</b> Nicholas Poole	Indef
<b>GA Administrator:</b> Lorna Dee Nichols	Indef
<b>Assistant GA Administrator:</b> Mary J. Vogel	Indef
<b>Treasurer/Tax Collector:</b> Nicholas Poole	Indef
<b>Deputy Treasurer/Tax Collector:</b> Mary J. Vogel	Indef
<b>IF &amp; W Agent:</b> Mary J. Vogel	Indef
<b>Motor Vehicle Agent:</b> Nicholas Poole	Indef
<b>Town Meeting Moderator:</b> Paul Mills	1 yr.
<b>Town Meeting Moderator:</b> Deputy Howard Holinger, Deputy Christian Bishop	1 yr.



### **More About Belgrade**

27,917 acres of land  
9,638 acres of water  
1,158 acres of bog or swamp  
total of 38,713 acres

### **Schools**

Belgrade Central School  
Messalonskee Middle School,  
Oakland  
Messalonskee High School, Oakland

RSU #18 website - [rsu18.org](http://rsu18.org)

### **Churches**

Lakes Christian Fellowship – 744  
Augusta Road, Belgrade

Old South Church – 373 Manchester  
Road, Belgrade

St Helena’s Church – 43 Main Street  
Belgrade Lakes

Union Church of Belgrade Lakes – 62  
Main Street, Belgrade Lakes

### **Health Facilities**

Belgrade Regional Health Center,  
4 Clement Way (along Rt. 27)  
207-495-3323. Office hours M – F  
7:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Dockside Physical Therapy  
47 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes

### **Voting and Town Meetings**

**Center for All Seasons**

**1 Center Drive**

# Town of Belgrade

## APPOINTED BOARDS, COMMITTEES, POSITIONS & ELECTED OFFICIALS

### APPEALS BOARD

Five members with staggered  
3 yr. terms, 2 alternates

Nicholas Alexander	2025
Dick Bourne	2025
Mike Heino, Chair	2024
Valerie Hudspath	2026
Jordan Zoretic	2026

### ASSESSMENT REVIEW

Three members with staggered,  
3 yr. terms

Richard Bourne	2026
Debra Cooke	2026
M. Anthony Wilson	2026

### BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS

Barbara Allen, Chair	2024
Melanie Jewell	2025
Carol Johnson, V. Chair	2024
Daniel Newman	2026
Peter Rushton	2025

### BUDGET COMMITTEE

Six members with  
staggered 3 yr. terms

Scott Ferguson	2024
Bruce Galouch, Chair	2026
John Hall	2025
Sara Languet, V. Chair	2025
Gary Mahler	2026
Penelope Morrell	2026

### CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Five members, 3 yr. terms

Bruce Galouch	2026
Michael Heino	2025
Robert Lewis	2025
Philip Sprague, Chair	2024
Nicholas Zaccaro	2026

### COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Brian Beaupain	
Regina Coppens, Chair	
Melanie Jewell	
Maureen Milliken	
Lorna Dee Nichols, Town Manager	
Patty VonInderstine	

### COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Six members, 3 yr. terms

Barbara Allen, Selectboard Chair	
Dee Cooke	2025
Kimberly Dallas	2026
Patrick Donahue	2025
Carol Johnson, Selectboard Vice Chair	
Lorna Dee Nichols, Town Manager	
M. Anthony Wilson	2026
Vacancy	2024

### DAMS COMMITTEE

Four Belgrade members, 3 yr. terms

Craig Alexander	2026
Michael Belanger	2024
Tom Bennett	2024
Ted Fontaine	2024
Cameron McCafferty, Alt.	2025

### DON C. STEVENS COMMITTEE

Laura Dunbar, Chair	2025
Jill MacKenzie	2024
Alyssa Tibbetts	2024
Vacancy	

### FIRE/RESCUE DEPT

Rescue Chief Travis Burton	Lakes
Asst. Chief Scott Damren	No Belgrade
Capt. Kate Damren	No Belgrade
Capt. Mark Day	Lakes
Asst. Chief Bruce Galouch	Depot
Asst. Chief Ed Ketch Jr.	Lakes
Chief Dan MacKenzie	
Lt. Dan Newman	Depot
Deputy Chief Bill Pulsifer	Lakes
Lt. Doug Sawyer	Lakes
Rescue Capt.	
Conrad Shaw	No. Belgrade
Rescue Lt. Michaelyn Smith	Lakes
Training Lt. Steve Smith	Lakes

### LAKES & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Seven members, 3 yr. terms

Michael Barrett	2024
Christopher Bradley	2027
Kimberly Dallas	2026
Pat Donahue	2024
Paul Feinberg	2024
Lenny Reich	2024

### LIBRARY TRUSTEES

Seven members, 3 yr. terms

Leilani Carlson	2025
Dianne Dowd, V. Chair	2024
Kristen Evans	2026
Stuart McConnell	2025
Maureen Milliken, Chair	2024
Susan Reisert	2026
Anne Stocco, Youth Rep, No Expiration	
Stacy Whitcomb-Smith	2024

### PLANNING BOARD

5 Members, 3 yr. terms, 2 Alternates

Craig Alexander	2026
Richard Baker	Alt.
Sara Languet, Chair	2024
George Seel	2025
Peter Sargent	2025
Nicholas Zaccaro	2026

### PARKS & RECREATION

7 members, 3 yr. terms, 2 Alternates

Linda Bacon, Chair	2024
Susan Bolduc	2025
Jamie Dionne	2025
Jacob Farmer	2026
Jason Lindsay	2026
Kaitlyn Thibodeau	2024
Jessica White	2025

### ROAD COMMITTEE

Seven members, 3 yr. terms

Corey Alexander	2024
Valerie Hudspath	2026
Lorna Dee Nichols, Town Manager	
Rhaeto Pfister	
Ernest Rice	
Jason Stevens, Road Commissioner	

### TRANSFER STATION COMMITTEE

Six members, 3 yr. terms

Nicholas Alexander	2025
Michael Barrett	2023
Tom Daniels	2025
Bruce Galouch	2025
Rhaeto Pfister	2025
Christina Wilson	2023

### SENIOR RESOURCE COMMITTEE

Gail Barejka	2026
Loyce Hayslett	2024
Tasha Gradie, Co-Chair	2025
Kim Haggan	2024
Doris Mathias	2026
Karen McFadden	2026
Sue Perino	2026
Mary Vogel, Co-Chair	2025
Betty Weaver	2024

### RSU 18 BOARD

Sharon Frost	2025
Sara Languet	2026

### AD HOC PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Tom Streznewski Jr., Chair	
Craig Alexander, Keith Alexander	
Carle Cooke	
Michael Harrington	
Kevin Hawes, Sara Languet	
Gary Mahler	
Penelope Morrell	
John Skinner	
David Stevens	
Cory Alexander, Facilities Director	
Carol Johnson, Selectperson	
Ken Scheno, Transfer Station Director	
Jason Stevens, Road Commissioner	
Lorna Dee Nichols, Town Manager	

# Board of Selectpersons

During this past year, the Belgrade community came fully back together after the Covid-19 pandemic, starting in March 2023 with the first in-person Town Meeting since 2019. The year quickly filled with activity, including the popular concerts and craft fairs in the Village Green, author talks at the library, thriving summer day camps, after-school programs and pickle ball games at the Center for All Seasons. There were weekly programs for seniors at the North Belgrade Community Center and favorite annual events such as the Fire and Rescue Department's Bean Hole Supper, Friends of the Library Book Sale, and Belgrade PTO Basket Bingo. In other words, after a nearly three-year hiatus, 2023 was a normal, active year for the citizens of Belgrade.

The Board of Selectpersons welcomed new member Peter Rushton, former chair of the Planning Board, who was elected in March to a 2-year term filling the vacancy resulting from the untimely passing in October 2022 of long-time Selectperson Rick Damren. At the same time, Dan Newman was reelected to a 3-year term as Selectperson. On May 6, a large crowd of citizens and first responders gathered at the North Belgrade Fire Station to honor the memory of Rick Damren with a memorial ceremony and dedication of the North Belgrade fire station in his name. This was a fitting honor as Rick, a longtime member of the Belgrade Fire Department, school bus driver, and selectperson, spent most of his life dedicated to the citizens of Belgrade.

A ceremony was held at the town office on June 2 to dedicate the Belgrade First Responders Memorial. Please stop by to see this striking tribute to all those who provide essential services to our community: emergency medical services, firefighters, and law enforcement. The memorial was made possible with town funds matched by private donations. Thanks to all who contributed and special thanks to all who serve our community as First Responders.

## **ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Funding**

The Town of Belgrade received \$332,777 from the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF), a part of the American Rescue Plan designed to support recovery from the COVID-19 public health emergency. In general, any services traditionally provided by a government were eligible for funding. 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 allocations in such areas as water quality of our lakes (\$30,000 for erosion control on town-owned properties), infrastructure (\$67,200 for repairs to the Village dam), administration (\$46,250 for digitizing the town's tax maps), and access to town properties (\$50,000 toward a new parking lot in the Village and \$27,000 for ADA access to Great Pond at the Center for All Seasons). The complete list of projects can be found on the Selectboard page on the town's web site.

## **Ad Hoc Public Works Committee – Winter Road Maintenance**

At this time last year, we did not know who was going to clear the town's roads of ice and snow beginning in the fall of 2024 after the retirement of our long-time contractors, the Warren Brothers. Knowing the importance of the winter maintenance of Belgrade's 48 miles of town roads, the Selectboard authorized town manager Lorna Dee Nichols to form an ad hoc committee to explore three options: find a private contractor (or contractors), share services with a neighboring town, or establish a town public works department and secure the necessary facility, equipment, and personnel.

Eleven Belgrade residents came forward to serve on the ad hoc PW committee. They contacted plowing contractors and nearby towns, looked into possible sites and equipment that would be needed for a PW department, and explored personnel needs. The committee's persistence paid off: they identified a private contractor from Sidney who was awarded a three-year contract by the Selectboard in July. Cummings and Sons are working with the Warren Brothers this winter to familiarize themselves with the routes.

Thanks to the committee members for their efforts, to Jack Sutton for reminding the Selectboard to keep this matter active, and to Lorna for keeping the committee on task.

## **Comprehensive Plan Committee**

Every 10 years, the town updates its comprehensive plan as its road map for the future. That process began anew in September and will continue into 2025. You can read the current plan, the chapters which the committee is currently updating, and ways you can get involved on the Comprehensive Plan Committee's page on the town website.

## **Spirit of America Award**

The Selectboard was pleased to recognize Catharine Damren, Bruce Galouch, Michial Heino, and Maureen Milliken for outstanding community service with the Spirit of America Awards. Speaking for Belgrade citizens, we very much appreciate all that they have done to make our community a better place to live.

## **Fire Station and Water System**

In 2023 the Selectboard worked on two major projects that will greatly benefit the Town when completed. The first

is a site on which to construct a new fire station to replace the aging Depot station. The second is the construction by the Maine Department of Transportation of the community water system to serve the area loosely bounded by Routes 27, 8/11, and 135, which has experienced salt contamination in wells. Although progress may have seemed slow at times, residents can be assured that there is ongoing effort behind the scenes: the Fire and Rescue Dept. is pursuing a promising site and MaineDOT has completed preliminary engineering work and is now designing the water system.

### **Staff and Volunteers**

The Selectboard has set aside time to hear directly from Department committee chairs and department heads on a rotating basis about their recent efforts. We have been impressed with the dedication of our staff and volunteers who work together throughout the year to ensure that Belgrade remains a vibrant, safe and welcoming place for residents and visitors.

In closing, we would like to recognize Town Manager Lorna Dee Nichols for her commitment to the town throughout her cancer treatment in 2023. She showed incredible strength and determination even on some difficult days. Thank you, Lorna!

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Board of Selectpersons,  
Barbara Allen, Chair

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## **Town Manager**

2023 was another year of change: welcoming new Select board member, Peter Rushton, who has served the town for many years on the Planning Board; new team members Kelsey Libold as Deputy Clerk; Kevin Merrill as Assistant Sexton/Facilities Maintenance and Ed Call filling our new Custodial and Maintenance position. In addition, we added Tracy Malloy as Deputy Animal Control Officer, Victoria Alexander for the Assistant Recreation Director role and Chris Cogswell at the Transfer Station. We regrettably said goodbye to Local Health Officer Andrew Dallas who served a year in this position and Les Dimick who has retired from service at the Transfer Station. Deputy Clerk Charlene Houle also retired in 2023 but graciously agreed to fill in as needed. I would like to publicly thank them all for their service to our community!

I continue to be completely impressed with the knowledge, professionalism, and dedication not only of staff, but of the various committee volunteers. We are very fortunate to have so many community-minded folks willing to give endless hours of their time for the betterment of our town. We have open positions on several committees and would love to have you join one in service this year.

Having a year under my belt I feel the budget process has been smoother this year. I extend a huge thank you to our Treasurer Nick Poole for being so helpful in providing information and figures as we worked our way through. The process is always difficult especially as we continue to experience a tough financial climate. We are ever mindful that many residents, especially our older population, continue to find it difficult to buy food, pay for utilities and on top of that pay property taxes.

Another program passed by the legislature presents a new set of challenges that the Planning Board will be working on early this year. LD 2003 aims to increase housing opportunities in Maine. Kennebec Valley Council of Governments will be assisting our Planning Board in this endeavor which has an implementation date of July 1 as set by Maine government.

The Comprehensive Plan Committee has begun meeting as we work toward updating the current plan with assistance from KVCOG. We will be seeking input from you as we delve into the specifics which will guide us through the next ten years.

We were successful in applying for and receiving a grant for mitigation of Brown Tail Moths on town-owned properties. These mitigation efforts will take place in early spring this year.

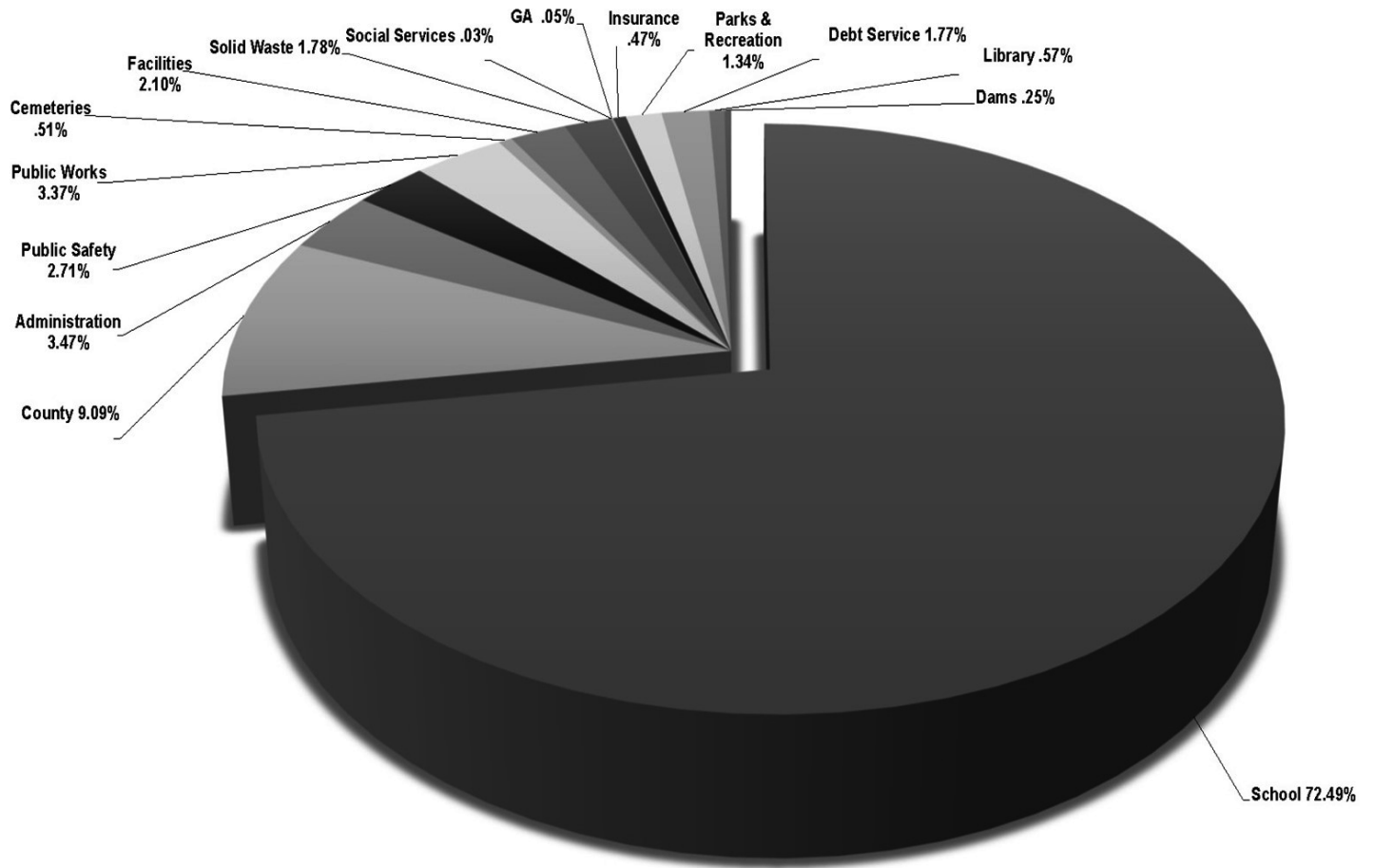
A significant accomplishment for us was to secure a contractor for plowing our roads. With the retirement of the Warren Brothers after this season, a public works ad hoc committee was set up and a capital reserve account established to explore options moving forward. After much work by the committee, Cummings & Sons of Sidney were awarded a three-year contract beginning in October 2024.

The Selectboard approved a trial run for a 4-day work week at the Town Office. Thank you! So many of you have shared that you love these new hours and the opportunity to get town business done before work!

As many of you are aware, I faced some significant health issues in 2023 with a cancer diagnosis. I did not let this interfere with my commitment to you and continued to work during treatment. I am feeling stronger every day and looking forward to another year. I would like to thank each of you for the kindness and support you have shown me – you make a difference in my life and the lives of others. We have an incredible staff working hard every day for all of you. I am excited to continue the great work we've begun for you and our community as a whole.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lorna Dee Nichols, Town Manager

# 2024 Budget



	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2024 Request	% Chang
01 GENERAL GOVERNMENT	506,587.93	551,949.13	706,000.00	656,783.08	700,765.00	-0.74%
05 PUBLIC SAFETY	321,535.06	368,804.73	479,555.00	471,453.31	547,539.00	14.18%
10 PUBLIC WORKS	502,507.60	544,188.00	638,275.00	593,677.12	680,175.00	6.56%
12 CEMETERY	16,592.91	21,147.77	72,165.00	63,556.44	103,855.00	43.91%
13 FACILITY MAINTENANCE	230,507.25	311,568.02	415,740.00	376,219.83	424,655.00	2.14%
15 SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT	266,575.10	302,803.77	365,800.00	346,905.43	359,193.00	-1.81%
20 SOCIAL SERVICES	760.00	3,636.09	6,280.00	4,080.43	5,800.00	-7.64%
21 GENERAL ASSISTANCE	3,937.57	1,477.70	25,000.00	5,135.36	10,100.00	-59.60%
23 INSURANCE	97,723.94	85,909.72	94,600.00	99,855.50	94,500.00	-0.11%
25 RECREATION	119,918.14	165,865.26	225,345.00	212,505.80	270,742.00	20.15%
29 DEBT SERVICE	485,612.88	53,432.14	361,955.00	349,802.72	356,954.00	-1.38%
30 LIBRARY	73,633.83	94,737.65	110,025.00	105,616.89	115,620.00	5.09%
34 DAMS	1,014.40	26,654.50	23,418.00	49,608.00	49,608.00	111.84%
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>3,524,158.00</b>		<b>3,719,506.00</b>	<b>5.54%</b>

# Town Clerk Report

Another year has come to an end, hard to believe! I have been blessed to work with some of the best deputy clerks in the state, two of whom we have said goodbye to, Charlene Houle (due to retirement) and Deborah Nichols, who took a position in her hometown, both will be missed.

We welcome a new deputy clerk, Kelsey Libold to our staff. I want to thank Nicholas Poole for all his assistance in sharing in front office duties, whenever we needed him.

The clerk's office is responsible for the recording of births, deaths, burial permits, and marriages for the town. Other duties include issuing dog licenses; fishing and hunting licenses; and recreational licensing of ATVs, snowmobiles, dirt bikes, boats, motor vehicles and trailers. The office is responsible for administering elections, oaths of office and providing notarial services.

- Births recorded – 24
- Deaths recorded - 32
- Marriages recorded – 31

**ELECTION NEWS:** This will be a busy election year for the Town of Belgrade. We have on March 5th, the Presidential Primary, March 15 & 16, the Annual Town Meeting, in June the State Primary and the School Election and in November on the 5th , the Presidential General Election! We shall be busy!

## **Voter Participation for 2023 is as follows:**

- Annual town meeting March 17, 2023 – 165 voters
- June School, and Municipal - 119 voters
- State Referendum – 1126 voters.

## **Belgrade's total number of Registered voters for the Town of Belgrade is 2918**

- Democrats – 779, Green Party - 127, Libertarian – 12, Unenrolled – 966, No Labels – 2 and Republicans -1030

## **Dog Registration News**

The “Dog Goodie Basket” for residents who register their dogs by December 31st was awarded to Trisha White this year. Congratulations on winning the dog basket Trisha! Thanks to all of you who registered your dogs by the 31st of the year, it cuts down on a lot of extra work for us clerks in the office. To be eligible to win the basket you must register your dog by the end of the year for the upcoming year. Your name will be entered into a drawing and awarded the first week in January.

I would like to thank all the staff at the Town Office for all the help and support I have received over this past year, there have been lots of changes we have had to adjust to.

Respectfully submitted.  
Mary Vogel, Town Clerk





## Death Annual Report

<b>Decedent Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Resident Town</b>	<b>Town of Death</b>	<b>Date of Death</b>
Beckwith, Corine Mabel	94	Belgrade	Waterville	07/27/2023
Bickford, Thomas Oscar	69	Belgrade	Portland	07/19/2023
Caverly, Cynthia	60	Belgrade	Belgrade	12/01/2023
Ciforelli, Joseph Peter	72	Belgrade	Belgrade	02/25/2023
Cunningham, Sandra Lee	85	Belgrade	Belgrade	11/02/2023
Doherty, William A.	80	Belgrade	Belgrade	07/23/2023
Donato, Carolyn P.	84	Belgrade	Augusta	04/06/2023
Doyon, Derek	45	Belgrade	Belgrade	05/11/2023
Dunn, Joseph Michael	45	Belgrade	Belgrade	05/11/2023
Ellsworth, Willis Gay	77	Belgrade	Togus USVA	06/01/2023
Feldmus, Aaron Stayton	51	Belgrade	Portland	12/04/2023
Fisher, Kelly M	59	Belgrade	Skowhegan	02/02/2023
Gagnon, Richard A.	87	Belgrade	Augusta	10/11/2023
Geness, Heather Lynn	41	Belgrade	Augusta	07/24/2023
Gould, Marion Frances	86	Belgrade	Belgrade	04/09/2023
Horowitz, Jesse David	84	New York, NY	Belgrade, ME	07/12/2023
Jenney, Verna Lucille	96	Belgrade	Belgrade	09/10/2023
Kane, Andrew Davidson	80	Belgrade	Augusta	05/26/2023
King, Lena Marie	88	Belgrade	Waterville	07/04/2023
Kuzmanich, Carol Ann	78	Belgrade	Belgrade	10/01/2023
Megill, Joan E.	91	Belgrade	Belgrade	10/23/2023
Morris, Edison Richard III	85	The Villages, FL	Belgrade, ME	08/11/2023
Pulsifer, Marie Anne Leona	86	Belgrade	Augusta	11/25/2023
Riddle, Katherine Beals	70	Belgrade	Waterville	03/04/2023
Soucy, Carol	83	Belgrade	Belgrade	04/09/2023
Steeves, Jeffrey Allen	62	Belgrade	Belgrade	10/08/2023
Stevens, Alan Roland	80	Belgrade	Augusta	04/30/2023
Stevens, Jean Barbara	95	Belgrade	Lewiston	03/02/2023
Stuart, Vera Marie	84	Belgrade	Belgrade	12/11/2023
Webster, John G.	66	Belgrade	Sandbar Township	02/02/2023
Wentworth, Justin W.	34	Belgrade	Belgrade	02/02/2023
Workman, Barbara J.	91	Belgrade	Waterville	02/07/2023

## Marriage Annual Report

<u>Party A</u>	<u>Party B</u>	<u>Date of</u>	<u>Party A</u>	<u>Party B</u>	<u>Date of</u>
<u>Current Name</u>	<u>Current Name</u>	<u>Marriage</u>	<u>Current Name</u>	<u>Current Name</u>	<u>Marriage</u>
Kociolek, Magdalena	Schwaiger, Patrick Thomas	07/22/2023	Gilbert, Abram Michael	Miller, Audrey Grace	11/11/202
Bailey, Abbey Anne	Stevens, Spencer Richard	06/03/2023	Gonzalez, David Alberto Jr	Clancy, Megan Victoria	09/02/2023
Clark, Alexceus Lyn	Swedberg, Roger Williams III	06/17/2023	Levesque, Nikia Marie	Meyer, Seamus Christopher	09/23/2023
Berry, Linda Marie	Mercier, Robert Arthur	07/01/2023	Steinberger, Abigail Rose	Herling, Colin Alan	10/25/2023
Stevens, Jerome Ricci	McBride, Amanda Dawn	08/17/2023	Dunton, Courtney Jean	Bowman, Nicholas James	09/30/2023
York, Alanna Ruth	Sawyer, Christopher Scott	08/19/2023	Cary, Devin Michael	Clewley, Kaytlynn Taylor	12/30/2023
Begin, Chelsea Ann	Grant, Jonathan Jeffrey	07/08/2023	Hayes, Emily Susan	Violette, Ben Michel	06/03/2023
Fletcher, Kenneth Herbert	Pierce, Amelia D.	10/28/2023	Morley, Michael Fowler	McFarland, Karen Lynn	06/24/2023
Fuller, Melissa Marie	Simpson, Robert Thomas Jr	12/24/2023	Welch, Griffin Brian	Hassinger, Samantha Renee	08/15/2023
Snow, Makayla Michelle	Lyons, Cody Allen	06/24/2023	Hamilton, Robert Gerald	Moody, Barbara Lynn	09/02/2023
Boyle, Charles McGowan	Gove, Hilary Bradford	04/15/2023	Languet, Albert Henry III	Coakley, Sara Elizabeth	06/16/2023
Noyes, Betsy Allison	Dyer, Aaron Frederick	05/06/2023	Thyng, Richard Robert	Thorne, Theresa Marie	08/29/2023
Ruiz, Cristian Alexander	Luce, Isabella Ann	09/23/2023	Carlisa, Emanuel Anthony	Leonardi, Darrian Joy	09/19/2023
James, Dakota Richard	Kochis, MacKenzie Elyse	09/23/2023	Voisine, Saydi Marie	Duchart, James Grant	09/13/2023
Thibodeau, Mindy Ann	Ashline, Kevin Colby	02/16/2023	Caret, Roseanna Maria	Hewett, Raymond George	09/23/2023
Howlett, Daniel Lawrence	LaFlamme, Monique Dorothy	08/20/2023			



# Planning Board Report

Planning Boards are a Maine statewide municipal board instituted and guided by state law. Our Belgrade Planning Board (BPB) meets twice a month -usually on the first and third Thursday of the month at 6pm at our Town Office. It consists of seven local volunteers: five that are active regular members and two alternates.

This past year the BPB processed about a total of 20 applications, with about 14 of them (70%) were Shoreland Zone applications, and 6 of them (30%) were CRDO applications. We conducted three different site visits. The Planning Board is currently working on revisions to Belgrade's Minimum Lot Size Ordinance with technical assistance from professional staff at the Kennebec Valley Council of Governments to implement mandates in the Maine Legislature's 2022 affordable housing law (LD 2003). We are racing against the clock with a July 1, 2024 statutory deadline. Once a first draft is completed, we hope to hold a public informational meeting to explain these proposed changes and to solicit public input.

There were some changes in the membership of our Belgrade Planning Board (BPB) this year. **Mr. Peter Rushton**, who served our BPB for 21 consecutive years (with 16 years as BPB Chair) was elected to join the Belgrade Select Board last March. During his tenure Mr. Rushton was instrumental in facilitating the formation and continuity of a very talented and cohesive Planning Board which strives to serve our town with excellence and integrity. His leadership carried us through the pandemic and cruised this town through updates of the Commercial Development Review, Shoreland Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances to be consistent with Belgrade's 2014 Comprehensive Plan, and the institution of a very robust brand-new Solar Ordinance. Under his guidance, the board proposed the adoption of new bylaws that update the local charter to modern statewide standards and expectations which were approved by the voters last Spring. Presently, Mr. Rushton has now become our BPB liaison member in the Belgrade Selectmen group. Please, join me in recognizing Mr. Rushton's leadership contributions as the 'kingpin' of "the gatekeepers" of the fair use of our Belgrade real estate. Congratulations, Mr. Rushton!

**Mr. Rushton: Please, receive our town's most sincere gratitude for your public service!**

***Certainly, Mr. Rushton left big shoes to fill.*** However, our community is very fortunate and blessed in having great volunteers with experience in government matters. As soon as Planning Board vacancies were posted last Spring, we had Mr. Nick Zaccaro (as a regular member) and Mrs. Penny Morrell (as an alternate member) joining in. We also showcase the first full year with our new CEO, Mr. Hans Rasmussen; who has set course to maintain very organized electronic up-to-date records of processed applications with a new computerized software application in a very high touch and high tech fashion. Mr. Rasmussen had been instrumental in keeping the board focused on compliance with the LD-2003 challenging requirements. Thank you!

Nevertheless, the core strength of our Planning Board comes with the old timers, who are:

- Peter Sargeant** (regular active member for 5 consecutive years), a long time Belgrade resident and a previous Belgrade selectman with a great deal of experience in the real estate business; and who enjoys lake life!
- Craig Alexander** (regular active member for 8 consecutive years), a lifetime Belgrade resident who volunteers in different committees in town (Dams Committee Chair) and a renown (for his fine detailed carpentry work) local contractor and a Subdivision developer; and who enjoys hunting! He instantly can reconfigure applicant's project's structural dimensions to assist them with alternatives options for resubmission to comply with ordinances requirements.
- George Seel** (regular active member for a conglomerate of about 13 years over two stints on the Board), a long time Belgrade resident with a significant tenure on the BPB and Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee, and a retiree from the Maine DEP; and who enjoys fishing! He has championed and lead our board's efforts with LD-2003 requirements just like he has done with the crafting of previous ordinances.
- Rich Baker** (presently an alternate member and previously a regular active for 12 consecutive years), a long time Belgrade resident with an extended tenure in the BPB and a retiree from the Maine DEP (and the main drafter of the Maine statewide Shoreland regulations) and who enjoys all that the Maine outdoors brings! He has an incredible memory bank and is always willing to calmly share the steering points towards fundamental decisions.

As for me, I am just the "baby" of the group... I do have significant manufacturing, project management and group dynamics experience which I had been able to successfully deploy within this volunteering position. It has been a great privilege to serve along this outstanding team of volunteers. Every other Thursday evening is definitively much like a "hobby session" and/or a FUN outing!

Respectfully submitted,  
Sara Languet (2023-24 Belgrade Planning Board Chair)  
George Seel (2023-24 Belgrade Planning Board Vice-Chair)

# Code Enforcement Officer

Having served Belgrade for more than a year now I cannot imagine a better place to work. Maine is Vacationland and Belgrade is one of the places Mainers go to get away. I have enjoyed getting to know the camp roads, diverse terrain and people that surround the Lakes Region.

2023 was a very wet year in comparison to the years of drought preceding it. In April we experienced a rain event that washed out several camp roads and a portion of the CSX railroad track bed which was deposited into Messalonskee Lake. The section of the railbed that was washed out was built prior to 1900. Emergency repairs were done to get the track stabilized and rail traffic moving. The repair process is ongoing as CSX is seeking contractors to complete the repairs with proper riprap and to clean debris from the CSX right of way. A tour of the site with DEP and railroad representatives was offered and accepted by Select Board members, Code Enforcement and Friends of Messalonskee.

Belgrade's growth has seen a 10% increase in plumbing permits and a 10% decrease in building permits. 102 building permits were issued as follows.

- 25 Barns / garages
- 17 additions / renovations
- 13 sheds / 2 Containers for storage
- 11 new residences
- 9 private solar arrays
- 8 decks
- 5 mobile home placements
- 5 demolish and rebuild.
- 4 commercial applications
- 2 pools
- 1 Yurt

Plumbing permits are required for septic system work and internal plumbing additions or replacement. The distribution of the 98 permits issued is as follows.

- 43 Internal Plumbing, new and renovations
- 32 for new septic systems
- 18 for septic repair or expansion
- 4 water softeners
- 1 composting toilet.

Citizen inquiries to this office primarily consisted of Shoreland Zone Ordinance questions or runoff water reports. This supports the consensus among residents that we are all concerned about healthy lakes and clean water. While assessing these situations it is important to note the difference between best practices and a violation of ordinance. Violations of ordinances can be enforced; best practices can be recommended. I look forward to an enjoyable 2024 and wish you all the same.

Respectfully submitted,  
Hans Rasmussen, CEO/LPI

## **Board of Appeals**

The Board of Appeals is responsible for acting on administrative and variance appeals from decisions made by the Planning Board or the Code Enforcement Officer in accordance with Town of Belgrade ordinances. The board conducts these appeals in accordance with Maine statutes, Town ordinances and board procedures, keeping in mind the community goals of the Belgrade Comprehensive Plan. Often the decisions made by the board seem harsh and even contrary to common sense, both to the board members as well as the public. The board is bound to follow the law in all cases.

During 2023, the board received no administrative appeals for review and there were no meetings held. The Board of Appeals ordinance was updated in early 2022 and can be found on the Town of Belgrade website.

Serving on a municipal Board of Appeals is one of the most challenging and rewarding jobs a citizen can volunteer to do. Thank you to fellow board members Nicholas Alexander, Dick Bourne, Valerie Hudspath, Jordan Zoretic, and alternate members Norma Blazer (Secretary) and Anne Wright for their dedication and service. This year both Ann Wright and Norma Blazer resigned due to personal reasons. I'd like to take this opportunity to extend a special thank you to Norma Blazer for her many years of dedicated service as a contributing member and especially for her detailed record keeping as the board secretary. The board currently has two vacancies for alternate positions.

If you're interested in learning more or applying for board vacancies, please contact the Town Office. Information is also available at [townofbelgrade.com/AppealsBoard](http://townofbelgrade.com/AppealsBoard).

Respectfully submitted,  
Michial Heino, Chair

## **Board of Assessment Review**

The Board of Assessment Review is responsible for hearing and deciding on appeals taken from the refusal of the Municipal Officers or Assessors to make property tax abatements as asked for by applicants for abatements. The board received no Assessment appeals and held no meetings in 2023.

Thank you to fellow board members Debra Cooke and Anthony Wilson for serving on this Board.

Respectfully submitted,  
Richard Bourne, Member

# Fire & Rescue Department

This year has been another busy year for Belgrade Fire & Rescue. Our department had 545 total calls for service. The calls have increased since 2022. We had 517 calls last year. Belgrade is pleased to announce that we have been awarded several grants this year. We received the federal assistance to firefighters grant 17 new S.C.B.A. air packs that were put into service in October 2023. This was an award of over \$100,000.00 that will not impact Belgrade taxpayers.

We would like to remind everybody that you must obtain a burn permit if burning brush or debris on your property. Allowable products to burn are brush, logs and clean unpainted non-pressure treated wood. No garbage is allowed to be burned. There is a new law this year that requires you to obtain a burn permit for any fire over 3' in diameter or 3' tall. Before you didn't need a permit for cooking or warming fire. This year the law has changed and even if it is for cooking or a warming fire and it's over 3' in diameter or 3' tall a burn permit will be required. Continue to obtain a permit at [wardensreport.com](http://wardensreport.com). You will not be able to get a permit until 9 a.m. We must wait for the State class fire danger before we can turn on the site and that happens around 9 a.m. there will be no burning even a campfire on a red flag day.

We would like to announce that the Town of Belgrade has selected a site for the new Depot Fire Station. The property is located about a ½ mile south of the railroad tracks and is being purchased from William and Diane Martin. Some of you might remember William's father Robert Martin who was the plumbing inspector for the town for many years. The building committee will now move forward with permitting, engineering and design with the hope of getting something to the voters this year for approval. With the lack of volunteer firefighting and EMS the town will have to hire more full-time personnel.

We would like to thank Sunset Grille for hosting our annual recognition dinner again. This year we recognized Randy Marshall as Firefighter of the Year and Jeremy Damren and Dan Mackenzie as Rescue Persons of the Year. We thank these members for their continued commitment and dedication to the department and the community.

We also want to thank the town of Belgrade for their continued support. Wishing Belgrade a safe and healthy 2024.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dan Mackenzie Fire Chief  
Bill Pulsifer Deputy Chief  
Travis Burton Rescue Assistant Chief  
Scott Damren Assistant Chief  
Bruce Galouch Assistant Chief  
Ed Ketch Assistant Chief

# Road Commissioner

This report outlines the critical road maintenance activities undertaken during the year. Our efforts focused on ensuring the safety and usability of our town's roadways following various weather challenges and routine wear.

## **Spring Clean-Up:**

- Comprehensive cleaning of winter sand from all roadways.
- Efforts were focused on restoring road conditions post-winter.

## **Storm Damage Repairs:**

- Responded to damages caused by wind and heavy rainstorms.

### ***This included:***

- Repairing washouts.
- Removing fallen trees obstructing roadways.
- Replacing damaged culverts.

## **Road Edge Maintenance:**

- Significant time was allocated to repairing and reinforcing the edges of roads.
- This was particularly necessary due to washouts caused by several storms.

## **Crack Sealing:**

- Undertook crack sealing on West and Point roads.
- This preventative maintenance is crucial for extending road life and improving safety.

## **Ditch Maintenance:**

- We cleaned and maintained ditches on several roads.
- This effort is vital for proper drainage and preventing future washouts.

## **Preparation for Future Paving:**

- Initiating preparation and prepping of several roads for paving in 2025.
- This forward-looking strategy is aimed at ensuring long-term road quality and sustainability.

Our team remained committed to promptly addressing issues caused by unforeseen weather events. All activities were conducted to emphasize safety and minimize disruption to the community.

I am available for further discussion or to address any concerns regarding the road maintenance activities. Please feel free to reach out to me.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jason Stevens Road Commissioner

## Facilities Maintenance

2023 was a busy year and 2024 is shaping up to be even busier. We started the year out by hiring two new full-time employees Kevin Merrill as Assistant Sexton/Maintenance and Ed Call as Custodial Maintenance. Both of which are doing a great job.

The town garage is mostly complete on the inside, other than repairs to the old section that we will be finishing up this year. We will also be adding a lean-to on the back side with a bathroom. This will add extra space so less equipment will be outside exposed to the weather.

At North Belgrade Community Center, we repaired the roof, chimney, and replaced the rear ramp with an aluminum one. Along with the ramp, we also replaced the rear door and repaired the sill and floor which was rotten. We have replaced all the interior lights with LED's. We also added a handicap picnic table to the playground, donated by the Union Church. We will be working on more repairs this year as well.

At the Center for All Seasons, we repaired three places on the roof and had both chimneys repointed and sealed. The caps on both were stabilized. The pool was repaired and is now in working order for an early opening this summer. We have plans to start a handicap accessible trail from the building to a spot down near the lake. We will also be starting to do several more repairs and improvements this year to the building. We also had several trees removed and trimmed from around the building and the play area for safety reasons.

Town office: a few security upgrades, cameras and motion sensors. We are checking into swipe cards for even more enhanced security.

North Belgrade Fire Department was painted, and door openers were replaced for more reliability.

The History House will have both security and fire monitoring added this year.

Transfer Station: A new roof has just been installed, and we will be starting to upgrade the lights on the inside, as well as finishing off the ceiling.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Cory Alexander, Facilities Maintenance

# Transfer Station

With 2023 behind us 2024 presents itself with the potential to be a much better year for us at the Transfer Station and Recycle facility. Our budget is down 1.8% despite increases in the cost of waste disposal. The cost of demo wood disposal has increased by 33.3% since 2022 along with a solid waste increase by 3% as of July 1, 2024, and additional State mandated fees.

Staffing has been another challenge for us and remains an issue for 2024. The need to increase wages to be competitive and retain staff continues.

In 2024 the Transfer Station and recycle committee along with the Transfer Station Director will be working on acquiring several grants to make improvements to our facility. We will also be exploring new recycling programs. In 2023 we developed a three, five and ten-year facility improvement/maintenance program. We will start improvements in 2024. We were also accepted in the DOL ( Department of Labor) SHAPE program (Safety and Health Award for Public Employers) in 2023.

## Donations

We have several donation options at the Transfer station which help to reduce our waste stream and benefit our community. Please take advantage of these options.

- Bottle redemption: Belgrade/Rome Food Pantry, Lakes Christian Fellowship Church and the Union Church
- Apparel Impact clothing and shoes
- Kennebec Valley Humane Society.
- “Too Good to Throw Away” building

## Reminders:

- » Display current Transfer Station sticker. They are available at the Town Office.
- » Separate and dispose of recyclable items properly. See attendant with questions
- » Keep loads covered and secure on the road and when entering the facility.
- » Practice strong safety values while at the facility.
- » Participate in the “punch card program”. It saves you money and streamlines our proces. The punch cards are available at the town office to all taxpaying residents at no charge.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ken Scheno  
Transfer Station and Recycle Center Director

# Belgrade Public Library

We've had a great 2023 at the Belgrade Public Library! Over the past year we've lent out thousands of books, graphic novels, movies, audiobooks, ebooks, and board games. Our diverse collection offers materials for all ages and interests, and almost anything that isn't in our catalog can be acquired through our inter-library loan services. With access to so much entertainment and education at hand, the library is a great place to visit.

Over the past year we've hosted a number of programs including numerous author visits, Mr Drew and His Animals Too, Mad Science of Maine, historical programs with the Belgrade Historical Society, and more. These programs attracted hundreds of people to come and learn about topics ranging from a mysterious woolly mammoth tusk, to fatal accidents on Mt. Katahdin.

We will be starting off 2024 with a Book Bingo program for the months of February and March, and a community read book to be announced soon. There is so much to find and enjoy at the library and our collection is always growing, stop in today to find out more!

The Library continues to offer:

- 3 YouTube story times and craft packets each month
- Two book groups for adults
- Interlibrary loans
- A summer reading program
- Special events for all ages
- Computers for public use
- Printer, scanner, laminating, and faxing services
- Free internet access and high-speed WiFi 24/7
- Ebooks and Audiobooks through CloudLibrary
- Graphic Novels and Comics through ComicsPlus
- A telescope that can be borrowed

Belgrade Public Library is open 30 hours a week, Tuesday through Saturday. Find us on YouTube or Facebook or our website [townofbelgrade.com/library](http://townofbelgrade.com/library).

<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>10:00 am – 7:00 pm</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>2:00 pm – 6:00 pm</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>10:00 am – 7:00 pm</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>2:00 pm – 6:00 pm</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>10:00 am – 1:00 pm</b>

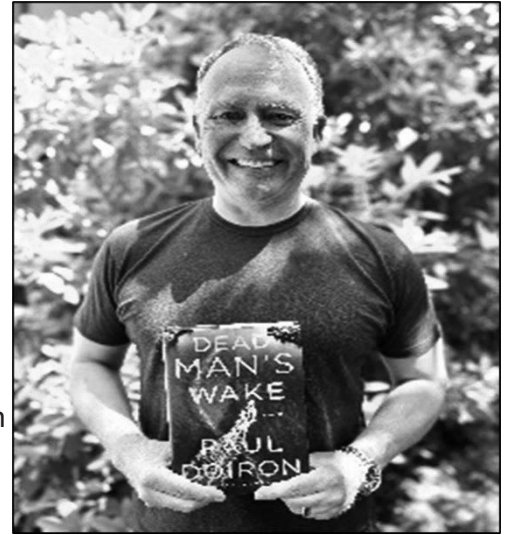
Respectfully submitted,  
Jared Bond, Library Director



## Belgrade Public Library Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees of the Belgrade Public Library was very active in 2023. The highlight of the year was the launch of Paul Doiron's book, "Dead Man's Wake" on June 29th. Paul Doiron's 14th Mike Bowditch mystery, "Dead Man's Wake", which is set in Belgrade was released to the public on June 27th.

The library along with the Parks and Recreation Department and Oliver and Friends Bookshop joined together to host the book launch at the Center for All Seasons. Doiron read from his book and then discussed the book in conversation with Maureen Milliken, Chair of the Library Trustees. He answered questions from the audience of over 250 people and ended the evening with book signing. The trustees had arranged for the event to be catered with a donation from Liz Fontaine of Lakehome Realty Group. The Barefoot Caterer, Laura Richter provided a tasty spread of finger foods. The Trustee Board assisted with set up and clean up for this outstanding event.



*Paul Doiron*

The Trustee Board was instrumental in the selection of the Library's ongoing Community Read, "This Wild Land: Two Decades of Adventure as a Park Ranger in the Shadow of Katahdin" by Andrew Vietze. The memoir recounts Vietze's 20 years as a ranger at Baxter State Park. Vietze read from his book and answered questions from an enthusiastic audience when he spoke at the Library on August 24th. The trustees helped to provide refreshments and support for programs associated with the Community Read.

The Belgrade Public Library Board of Trustees looks forward to continuing to provide valuable service to residents and visitors alike and to connect the community to one of its greatest resources. The Board is grateful for the support of the library from the community.

Respectively Submitted,  
Dianne Dowd, Chair, Belgrade Public Library Board of Trustees

# Friends of the Belgrade Public Library

The Friends of the Belgrade Public Library continues our work to maintain the library building and the property without use of taxpayer money. All of this is made possible by our fund raisers, membership drive, annual appeal and donations.

It does not seem possible that our doors opened eleven years ago. As with any property, there are always maintenance issues. This year the driveway on the north side of the building had to be repaved. New lines were painted on the south driveway, the septic tank needed to be pumped and the second of the 2 maple trees in the front needed to be removed due to some very zealous woodpeckers.

We are making a couple of changes as we start this new year. Our very popular 4th of July book sale will be our only public event this year. We welcome all those who would like to help set up and take down for this event when the time comes. Those wishing to donate books can drop them off at the library at any time when it is open. We ask that all books be gently used and ones that you would want to bring into your own home. Secondly, the Friends plan to hold just 4 meetings this year: March, June, September, & December. These meetings will continue to be held at the library on the third Wednesday of those months at 6:30. All are welcome to attend.

Donations to help with the operation and maintenance of the library are tax-deductible and always gratefully accepted. Checks may be made out to the Friends of the Belgrade Public Library or (FOBPL), PO Box 474, Belgrade, ME 04917

Respectfully submitted,  
Judy Johnson & Linda Sprague, Co-Presidents;  
Linda Bacon, Secretary;  
Joan Mackenzie, Treasurer & Corresponding Secretary

# Recreation Department

The residents of Belgrade will notice some changes in the budget for 2024. We have made changes to our staffing and would like to have an assistant full-time. You also will notice that our budget did not get totally spent in 2023, this is mostly due to not having a full staff for the entirety of the year. Most of 2023 we were without our part-time assistant. In November of 2023 we welcomed Victoria Alexander of North Belgrade onto our staff as our part-time assistant director. This has already brought consistency to the programs we currently have, especially our After School Program. With the addition of a full-time assistant director, we will be able to offer even more programs throughout the week.

You also may also notice that we brought in just over \$100,000 dollars in 2023, \$10,000 of which was from donations. This is over \$20,000 more than our anticipated revenue of \$69,000, not including donations. We have upped our 2024 revenue goal to \$98,000, a 42.75% increase.

We strive to offer quality programming, but we need to be able to have staff available to do so. In 2023 we were able to offer programs every day of the week. We have had pickleball, yoga, Balance and Strength, Boot camp, disc golf, coffee and conversation, ping pong, and our walking group. We have also been able to host our Halloween Party, two senior trips, seven craft fairs (which generated over \$7,500.), holiday stroll, the easter egg hunt, a family fun night, and our Village Green Concert Series. In addition, we were host to the Annual Bean Hole Supper Fundraiser for the fire department. We would like to be able to offer more programs throughout the week and more seasonal events for families.

When we have a full-time assistant, we will be able to offer and support programs at the North Belgrade Community Center, which we can simply not do without adequate staff. We have already started to work with the senior resource committee to achieve this goal.

We saw an incredibly busy summer with our concert series, craft fairs and summer camp, which had an average of over 65 children a day at the Center for All Seasons. Our events on the village green brought thousands of people into the village on Thursday nights and Sundays. We put a big effort into our pool and should have it open the entire summer. Part of the increase in the budget is to have enough lifeguards to have public swim time return to the center.

We hope that the people of Belgrade understand that our goal is to offer more programs for a larger audience and generate revenue from non-residents who attend these programs. All the programs at Belgrade Recreation have grown this year and we will continue to grow so long as we can be adequately staffed.

Please consider these changes in 2024,  
Daniel MacGlashing, Recreation Director

# Cemetery

First, I'd like to draw attention to the newly built Veteran Memorial site at the Woodside cemetery. If you haven't seen it yet, please feel free to stop and check it out. The storm damaged it this fall but it will be repaired and improved first thing in the spring.

2023 was another busy year for the Belgrade cemeteries. We began the limited opening of Plan 5, Pine Grove Cemetery's newest expansion project. As part of the opening, we have added signs at the end of Plans 1,2,3,4 and 5 with a QR code on them. If you scan the code with your phone it will bring up the cemetery, you can then do a search and find anyone listed in our computer (CIMS) system. This will be updated regularly as we enter more information into CIMS.

The cemetery crew mowed weekly and trimmed many overgrown bushes and trees in the cemeteries. We also removed several trees that had not been maintained and were severely overgrown. The crew will continue working to repair broken/damaged monuments. We also reset approx. 45 fallen or sunken markers. To help us continue moving forward with this project we have purchased a heavy-duty tripod to allow us to move even bigger headstones.

I'd also like to welcome Kevin Merrill as our new assistant sexton/maintenance. He has been busy with learning the computer system and working nonstop in the cemetery. One of his biggest projects was to clean up and reseed all the damage the grubs did in the cemetery. We will continue with repairing this damage in the spring as well. I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank Wesley Day, Isaac Worster, Ed Call and Dan Wilson of our 2023 cemetery crew for doing a great job keeping Belgrade's seven cemeteries clean and beautiful places. Also, thank you to the many volunteers who worked collectively planting geraniums on graves in preparation for Memorial Day.

Lastly, I greatly appreciate the involvement of the Cemetery Committee, which advises the sexton, Town Manager and Board of Selectpersons on the cemeteries' maintenance and operations. Thank you to Committee members chairman Phil Sprague, Michial Heino, Bruce Galouch, Robert Lewis and Nick Zaccaro

Respectfully submitted,  
Cory Alexander, Sexton

## Local Health Officer

To the Selectboard and the people of the Town of Belgrade,

*The role of the Local Health Officer ... there are five primary duties:*

- » Overall health resource to the community
- » Mediator and problem-solver in the resolution of complaints
- » Investigator and enforcer of complaints that cannot be resolved
- » Reports to the Maine CDC, DHHS on any perceived local health threat
- » Reports to and informs the Board of Selectpersons on the community's health threat

The Local Health Officer is required to keep a record of all proceedings and enforce public health safety laws. Also, the Local Health Officer shall receive and examine the nature of complaints made by the public concerning conditions posing a public health threat or potential threat.

The Local Health Officer works with the town's Code Enforcement Officer, Animal Control Officer, Local Plumbing Inspector and fire officials as needed.

We would like to thank Andrew Dallas for his service to the community of Belgrade as our Local Health Officer for the last year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lorna Dee Nichols, Town Manager

## Animal Control

One of the biggest issues the Town of Belgrade faces is the stray cat population and what can be done about it. Historically they were brought to the animal shelter, but because of limited space available they are often at capacity and not accepting intakes. Donations for increased room is less effective. We recommend making a donation toward a spay/neuter movement. This will help to slow population growth, especially in strays. Please don't feed any cat that isn't yours. This will encourage them to hang around.

Did you know? In a recent study on feral cats, it is said that in 7 years, two un-fixed feral cats can produce 420,000 kittens! There is no leash law for cats. In general, when left alone and not fed, they will move on or go home. If you feel that you must feed a stray, then consider trapping to have it spayed or neutered. If you have a cat that is allowed outdoors, we strongly encourage you to have it spayed or neutered and microchipped. There are several programs available to do both of these for free or as little as \$10! A chip for tracking will make your pet easy to identify. At the very least, a tag or label on its collar will save you the expense of finding your stray dog at the Animal Shelter.

If you own dogs they must be kept on your property. It is unlawful for any dog, licensed or unlicensed, to be at large, except when used for hunting. The owner or keeper of any dog found at large is subject to penalties under Maine law. There are lots of options to ensure limited roaming, including panel or chain link fencing, a radio fence, runner or something similar.

Dogs can be licensed for the following year starting in mid-October. A hefty late fee of \$25 is automatically applied after January 31st, except for new dogs.

# Budget Committee

The Town of Belgrade Budget Committee is an advisory committee of volunteers that weigh in and forward fiscal suggestions and guidance on budget priorities and relative monetary amounts for the town's financial needs. Proposed budget items are reviewed line by line with the Belgrade Select Board, the Town Manager, the Town Treasurer, and clerk staff during a monthly (and even bi-monthly) half day meetings starting in September and going thru January till town warrants are drafted and finalized for Spring Ballot. During this six-month budget process, the heads of the different town departments are invited to present their own departmental budget proposals and financial needs for consideration. Once the Spring Ballot is drafted, the Belgrade Budget committee forwards its final recommendations to the public (with a summary of the committee vote in favor or against the specific warrant article) to be considered at the time local taxpayers are casting their vote on the Warrant Articles (town expenditures). Definitely democracy does not get any better! Belgrade residents should feel very confident about the robust fiscal process that our town annually engages in to determine our local taxes.

In 2023, the town operational budget increased significantly by about 17%. The 2024 coming year budget will be much easier than in previous years. With the global economy zooming in a more even and stable transactional zone regardless of addition of the Israeli-Hamas conflict alongside the Ukraine-Russian war, the stock market seems to have recovered (at least temporarily) in an assumed/embraced post Covid era's challenges. Different than in previous years, in 2023 we got habituated to adapt on the run as we have a good idea of what the worst can be. Gas prices have evened out, but food prices are still somewhat high! However, since, as a town, we acted aggressively in the retention and attraction of employees, our staffing needs have been settled. Additionally, our town revenues went up. In consequence, our town ended up adding revenue that will offset expenses in our coming town's operational budget. Consequently, the 2024 operational budget of the Town of Belgrade is expected to slightly increase by about 5%.

Last year, we updated the town pay scales plus addressing needs in town buildings' infrastructure. Also, the town was able to retain a local reliable contractor to provide snow removal (winter maintenance) starting the winter of 2024-25 with a three-year contract. So, with that opportunity the town officials completely turned down the potential need for a Public Works Department which would turn out to be very costly for our town.

It should be notable that our 2023 town's Mill Rate was about half of what was in 2022. Certainly, such is a direct result of our residents' and town officials' due diligence with the prevention, the maintenance, and the mitigation efforts to sustain the environmental quality of the town's landscape. "No dirt, no waste in our lakes." So, in our town of Belgrade, our properties doubled in value during our latest factor appraisal. A great number of Belgrade properties doubled in price (specifically those closer to the lakes), and for such the Mill Rate was reduced to almost half of its 2022 value.

Our town of Belgrade will continue to move forward with a stern direction with better and brighter days in 2024. Our town is lucky to have very fiscally conscientious leaders who put duty above personal interest. Our personal thank you goes to all the town staff and volunteers that labors and gift their time looking after our local citizens providing straightforward unbiased governance in the duly compliance of their duties according to their oath and the pledge to follow the laws and orders under the US Constitution.

In a final note, there is an open invitation for residents to join the Budget Committee. Our meetings are open to the public.

Respectfully submitted,  
2023-24 Budget Committee Members  
Bruce Galouch, Chairperson  
Sara H. Languet, Vice-Chairperson  
Scott Ferguson, Gary Mahler, Penny Morrell and  
Rev. John Hall

## Communications Committee

This year the Communications Committee continued to produce three Belgrade Bulletin newsletters that were distributed by mail to all the residents of the town. The newsletters are also available online through the town's website.

The Committee also sponsored a candidate forum in February 2023 which featured candidates running for the select board. The candidate forum was held live at the town office and was also broadcast on Facebook Live. It continued to be available for viewing on the town's YouTube channel. This hybrid model has allowed many people to view the forums and get to know their candidates.

Unfortunately, the committee has been unable to attract new members. Most committee members have been on the committee since its inception over 7 years ago and are unable to continue with their commitment to the committee. We are very grateful for the time and effort the committee members have put in to produce the newsletters and forums. Special thanks to Maureen Milliken who carried a heavy load editing and laying out the newsletter.

Fortunately, the functions of the committee will continue. Town Manager Lorna Dee Nichols has agreed to produce the newsletter, and Regina Coppens, from the Communications Committee, will continue to host the candidate forums for the local and state elections.

Respectfully Submitted,

Regina Coppens, Chair of the Communications Committee

Brian Beaupain, Melanie Jewell, Maureen Milliken, and Patty Vonlnderstine, Communications Committee Members

# Comprehensive Plan Implementation Oversight Committee

The Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee happily reports that many of the recommendations contained in the Town of Belgrade's 2014 Comprehensive Plan have since been realized. Much of the credit for that rightfully belongs to the original committee members, who met diligently and met with Town officials to track progress on the plan's strategies, thus ensuring accountability. We all owe these folks our gratitude. Progress made since 2014 is the result of the efforts of a few key players, most notably:

- The Planning Board, whose work updating land-use ordinances ensured many of the plan's recommendations were realized. The rewrite of the Subdivision Ordinance, which had not been updated in decades, was a heavy lift. The ordinance now meets the state's modern standards for such developments.
- Code Enforcement Officer Hans Rasmussen, whose diligence, organizational skills and comfort with technology are moving the Town toward ensuring ordinances and the conditions within Planning Board permits are adhered to.
- The Belgrade Historical Society, whose capstone achievement was restoring the Old Town Meeting House – a key strategy for the town's historical resources. Ensuring steady use of the facility may be included in the forthcoming update.
- Recreation Director Dan MacGlashing, whose energy and drive infused the Recreation program with vitality ... and yielded strategic achievements that sets the stage for future goals.
- The Lakes and Natural Resources Committee, Belgrade's three lake associations and the 7 Lakes Alliance, all of whom have worked to preserve and conserve the town's most precious natural resource – its five lakes.

Comprehensive plans have a lifespan of 10 years, after which conditions warrant a new snapshot of the community (i.e. the plan's chapters) so a roadmap can be drafted on how a town hopes to progress in the coming decade (i.e. the plan's policies and strategies – its recommendations). To that end, the Town has contracted with the Kennebec Valley Council of Governments to assist in crafting an updated plan.

This committee meets monthly to review and discuss each updated chapter and table of strategies. That work will consume much of 2024. If you'd like to help with that work, we'd welcome your application to join the committee. We urge Belgrade's citizenry to participate in our discussions at 5:30 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month. The Comp Plan Committee, Town officials and KVCOG will be driving the bus that is the comprehensive plan update ... but we will go only where the community tells us.

Anthony Wilson, chair  
Dee Cooke, secretary  
Kimberly Dallas, member  
Patrick Donahue, member  
Joy Intriago, member  
Dan Ceglinski, member



# Senior Resources Committee

The Senior Resources Committee has had a busy year! The SRC has managed several successful programs this year. Senior programming has been offered at both the Center For All Seasons and the North Belgrade Community Center.

Programming has consisted of the following activities;

- Thursdays senior craft day
- Monday “Movie Day”
- Indoor pickleball at the CFAS and outdoor pickleball at the Belgrade Central School Tennis Courts
- Senior walks at the CFAS and around the Belgrade Regional Health Center
- General socialization with coffee, tea, and conversation at the CFAS.
- Day Trips to Maine places of interest

If you are interested in participating in programming, please visit the town website at <https://www.townofbelgrade.com/seniors>, to find dates, times and locations for programming. You may also call the town office or check the Town of Belgrade face book page. Calendars for monthly programs are also available in print at the town off

The SRC has ongoing items of interest for seniors.

- File of Life Folders are available at the Town Office.
- Sand Buckets for Seniors – delivered by volunteers. Call the Town Office at 207-495-2258 for details.
- A quarterly senior newsletter is available to seniors on the Town’s website at [townofbelgrade.com/seniors](http://townofbelgrade.com/seniors) and in print form at locations around town and at the Belgrade Town Office.



**Belgrade’s new “Senior Center Sign”**

It is important to our community to provide programs and resources to help our seniors live well by keeping them active both mentally and physically. Doing so helps support independent living, which is vital for those who want to age in place in their homes.

I want to thank all our volunteers for their continued support and dedication. We look forward to the 2024 year.

Respectfully submitted,

Tasha Gradie and Mary Vogel, co-chairs; Loyce Hayslett, Betty Weaver, Christine Peatfield, Kim Haggan, Sue Bradshaw, Gail Barejka, Karen McFadden, Doris Mathias, Sue Perrino and Hillary Tatem

Volunteers: Mary & Roger Derosier

# Belgrade Area Dams Committee Report



## Dams Committee 2024 Town of Belgrade Budget Request

To the Town of **Belgrade, Share of Cost 48%**  
Member of inter-local agreement for management of Belgrade area dams

Normal maintenance and repairs were successfully conducted on all three dams this past year in addition to successful completion of Belgrade's Village Dam extensive concrete remediation project, new seals, paint, etc.

For 2024, in addition to \$9,600 for the continuing preventive maintenance and repairs on all three dams, the Dams Committee is requesting an additional \$15,144 driveway work at the Wings Mills site, security fencing at the Village Dam, etc. and replenishment of the \$7,200 Capital Reserve Account to help offset future large project expenditures. It is requested that the Town apply for an ARPA Grant for reimbursement of the \$7,200 Capital Reserve Account funds.

### **Town of Belgrade - Total request of \$49,608,**

Dams Capital Reserve Account	\$ 7,200
Maintenance	\$ 9,600
Wings Mill driveway, steel, etc.	\$32,808

Members of the Dams Committee would like to thank the residents and officials of the five communities involved in this local governmental partnership for their continued assistance and support.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of all members of the Belgrade Area Dams Committee, Dick Greenan,  
Committee Chairman

# Lakes Committee Annual Report

One of the most prominent recommendations of Belgrade's 1998 and 2014 Comprehensive Plans was to form a Conservation Committee. Both plans recommended that a Conservation Committee should take the lead on resource protection strategies and open space protection. Beginning in Feb 2023 members of the Lakes Committee and the Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee worked together to research what other Towns similar in size and demographic to ours are currently doing. We found that expanding the Committee's scope would allow us to work with both lake and land constituencies, addressing broader environmental issues and concerns.

Over the previous months, members of both the Lakes Committee and Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee met together with the Select Board. At each meeting, we received essential feedback that guided us on how to proceed. An important recommendation was the name of the new Committee. It was decided that the Lakes and Natural Resources Committee would be the most fitting name. In October of 2023, the Lakes Committee became the Lakes and Natural Resources Committee with a new Mission Statement and Bylaws. We are eager to begin work and look forward to serving the Town of Belgrade.

Respectively Submitted,  
Patrick Donahue Chair  
Michael Barrett  
Christopher Bradley  
Kimberly Dallas  
Paul Feinberg  
Lenny Reich

# 7 Lakes Alliance



7 Lakes Alliance thanks the Town of Belgrade and its voters for generous funding support that helps protect the lakes and lands that support us all. Belgrade's support is critical to keeping algae-fueling phosphorus out of our waters, and to prevent and remediate expensive invasive plant infestations. Healthy lakes support the local economy and jobs, and the tax base to benefit all Belgrade citizens. 7 Lakes maximizes Belgrade's support by leveraging other public and private funds, with support from McGrath Pond-Salmon Lake Association, Friends of Messalonskee and Belgrade Lakes Association. Highlights of 7 Lakes' 2023 work include:

- 21 Youth Conservation Corps members completed 20 erosion control projects, 43 best management practices and 37 consultations in Belgrade with work totaling \$60,683. 7 LakeSmart evaluations were conducted in Belgrade by volunteers from BLA and FOM with numerous consultations expected to result in a significant increase in 2024.
- Completed erosion control projects including culverts at 8 different sites on Long Pond, deploying \$82,000 – grant funds matched 1:1 by landowners - in Year 1 of a 2023-24 US Environmental Protection Agency Clean Water Act (CWA) erosion control grant.
- Secured a new \$124,270 USEPA CWA erosion control grant for Great Pond (2024-25) to be matched at least 1:1; secured a USEPA CWA grant for \$112,000 for upstream North Pond.
- Developed with Belgrade recreation department erosion plans for Peninsula Park, Center for All Seasons, the town beach, and Hayden Park; record rainfall pushed work to 2024.
- 13 Adopt-a-Shoreline and Invasive Plant Identification workshops in three locations.
- 200 acres in North Bay surveyed for invasives; located and removed plants from 2 new areas in Great Pond; 1 invasive milfoil plant removed from Great Meadow Stream.
- 5 training courses for courtesy boat inspectors.
- 6,228 courtesy boat inspections with 0 invasive plant fragments introduced.
- 13 invasive plants removed from boats by CBI: 12 leaving Messalonskee Lake and 1 -- first-ever curly-leaf pondweed (from out-of-state) stopped from entering Great Pond.
- 78 percent fewer fragments curly-leaf pondweed Serpentine and Old Mill Stream, upstream of Great Pond, through lake association partners East and North Pond and DEP.
- More than 1,000 water samples were collected year-round and analyzed from all seven lakes.
- 12,034 7 Lakes' Courtesy Boat Inspections supported by lake associations: Long Pond-2,678; Great Pond-3,424; Messalonskee Lake-3,125; North Pond-887; East Pond-786.

7 Lakes thanks Belgrade citizens for supporting the health of local lakes and lands to support nature, recreation, economy and traditions for all well into the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laura Rose Day". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a dark ink on a white background.

Laura Rose Day, 7 Lakes Alliance, Chief Conservation Officer

# Belgrade Lakes Association

We are grateful for the continued support that we receive from the town of Belgrade in assisting us in protecting Great Pond and Long Pond. The two lakes are a vital contributor to our local economy and tax base. Our mission continues to be to protect our watershed through preservation, education, and action which we do with our partners the 7 Lakes Association and the other Lake Trust members. Our continued cooperation will allow us to keep our lakes healthy and a valuable resource for future generations.

Some of the projects we are involved with include:

- Our continued battle with milfoil which has been reduced due to the herbicide treatment. The herbicide treatment typically lasts only for a few years.
- Funding the CBI program (Courtesy Boat Inspector) which we expanded the season for this year. We had a great 'catch' on Great Pond where a CBI caught Curly Leaf Pond Weed and prevented it from entering Great Pond.
- Supporting the work of Lake smart and the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) to assist waterfront homeowners in improving their properties to reduce runoff.
- Coordinating with Colby and the 7 Lakes Association to continue water-quality research and monitoring activities.
- And the loon preservation project. This year we had two Colby interns working on the monitoring of loon nests and chicks.

Both Long Pond and Great Pond have completed watershed surveys and we have begun implementing plans in 2023 with our Lake Trust partners to fix identified properties to keep the dirt out of the lakes. There are significant funding sources available through 319 Grants from the state and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) available to the town that will assist with getting these projects done.

We look forward to your continued support and invite you to become a member. You don't have to live on the lake to be a member, anyone with a passion for Great and Long Ponds should join. We added a youth membership this past summer to bring the next generation along on the journey to preserve and protect.

Please visit our website at [www.belgradelakesassociation.org](http://www.belgradelakesassociation.org) or follow us on Facebook to learn more about how you can be involved.

Please visit our website at [www.belgradelakesassociation.org](http://www.belgradelakesassociation.org) to learn more about how you can be involved.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bert Languet, President  
Belgrade Lakes Association



*McGrath Pond (465 acres) and Salmon Lake (665 acres) are joined by a navigable narrows and lie between Great Pond and Messalonskee Lake. Their waters flow into Great Pond, so their water quality affects Great Pond, Long Pond, and Messalonskee Lake. The shorelines of both McGrath Pond and Salmon Lake are partially in Belgrade and partially in Oakland.*

Formed in 1989, the McGrath Pond – Salmon Lake Association has worked to improve water quality and build community, encourage participation in lake stewardship, and inform our members about threats to water quality. In 1998, we embarked on our first watershed survey to find out where nutrient-rich runoff entered the lakes. As a result of that survey, we were able to remediate problems on more than 100 shoreline properties, saving about 14 tons of nutrient-rich runoff from reaching the lakes during the next two decades. Our second watershed survey, conducted in the fall of 2017, revealed 105 properties needing improvement to prevent nutrient-laden runoff from reaching the lakes. We are currently working with 7 Lakes Alliance, the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC), the Maine DEP (under Federal Clean-Water Act grants) to work with property owners to fix these problems.

Our thanks to the citizens of Belgrade for the \$3750 the Town contributed toward this effort during the past year. The goal is to keep phosphorous and other nutrients from running into the lakes during rain storms because that feeds algae, diminishing enjoyment of the water and damaging fisheries, which lowers property values and ultimately affects the Town's tax base. Funds received also help support Courtesy Boat Inspections (CBI), other work by the YCC, and LakeSmart programs. CBIs take place throughout the summer at the public boat landing on Salmon Lake. Boat inspectors stop the introduction of milfoil and other invasive plants and educate boaters about prevention. The YCC installs storm-water runoff controls such as water-diversion bars, vegetative buffers, infiltration steps, and erosion-control mulch to deflect or slow the water so it settles before reaching the lakes. Our team that's part of the statewide Lake-Smart program evaluates shoreline properties to help owners make them both more lake-friendly and beautiful. To date, they have done 76 evaluations and awarded 33 certifications.

The summer of 2023 was a good one for water clarity on McGrath Pond, although Salmon Lake went through an intense algae bloom in early August even before the cold fall winds sent surface water diving down, bringing up phosphorus-laden water from sediments at the depths. Clearly, more work needs to be done to keep phosphorus out of the lake. While McGrath Pond remained quite clear, our monitors have discovered that PFAS chemicals are leaching into lake water from the site of the capped Oakland landfill on Town Farm Road. Maine DEP has become involved, and we are working toward a more complete understanding of the problem.

Board of Directors

Lenny Reich, President  
 David Sandmel, Vice Pres.  
 Robyn Deveney, Secretary  
 Don Clark, Treasurer  
 Becky Bedard  
 Amy Bernatchez

Pam Bessey  
 Neil Korostoff  
 Doug Mather  
 Cam McCafferty, Dam Keeper  
 Robert Morrill  
 Bob Ray, Webmaster

LakeSmart Evaluators

Dave Hallee  
 Kim Hallee  
 Doug Mather

## Friends of Messalonskee

The Friends of Messalonskee Watershed Association is grateful for the Town of Belgrade's \$19,650 allocation. As a volunteer organization, with low over-head, most of our money goes toward program operations such as salaries and operating costs. In 2023, FOM supported three milfoil programs – two manual removal programs and one that prevents the spread of milfoil.

Across the whole lake, a total of 66,150 pounds or 33 tons of milfoil were removed from Messalonskee Lake. Danielle Boutin, FOM's Milfoil Coordinator, and her crew removed 17,150 pounds of milfoil through hand-pulling in the shallower waters. They laid over 6,000 sq. ft of barriers, mainly black plastic but also burlap, to smother the milfoil in certain areas. New England Milfoil was contracted to remove milfoil through Diver-Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH) – in the deeper or harder to get to areas. There were 2 divers for 4 weeks in October. The crew suctioned almost 49,000 pounds of milfoil.

FOM also supported the Courtesy Boat Inspection (CBI) program at our two main boat launches, Oakland and Sidney, that aims to prevent harmful milfoil fragments from both entering and leaving the lake. For the 2023 season, we contracted with 7 Lakes Alliance. The CBI crew performed 1,569 inspections at Oakland, where they had 16 inspections with fragments; 8 were confirmed as Variable Leaf Milfoil (VLM). At the Sidney Boat Launch, 1,556 inspections were performed, with 8 inspections that found fragments; 5 confirmed as VLM. A total of 3,125 inspections were performed; 24 inspections found fragments with a total of 13 fragments confirmed as VLM. FOM would like to add new signage at the Rt 27 Launch about milfoil checking, as even kayaks and canoes can carry fragments.

Specifically in Belgrade, Danielle and the crew worked mostly in the two main hot spots, Loon Cove and the Rt. 27 launch area. In Loon Cove, they hand pulled 10 bags (500 pounds) of VLM and moved three plastic barriers. The burlap barriers that were laid last season did an excellent job of mitigating the re-growth of VLM there. At the Rt. 27 Launch, they hand pulled 142 bags (7,100 pounds) of VLM. In the beginning part of the channel, it was good to see a lot of re-growth of native plants, with a few milfoil plants sporadically growing in the channel. There was a section of the channel, however, that had dense milfoil growth. Next season, FOM plans to lay new burlap barriers along the entire channel from the Rt. 27 boat launch to the stream. The DASH divers spent a week at the south end and suctioned about 10,000 pounds. They worked along the channel to the stream and launch areas. A total of 17,600 pounds of milfoil was removed from the Belgrade end of the lake. The south end was surveyed several times.

Volunteers are important to FOM's work. For the past several years, we have offered 2 successful Plant Paddle classes per year at the Rt. 27 Launch taught by Mike Gaurino in partnership with RSU 18 Adult Education. Participants learn kayaking skills and identification of invasive plants. In 2024, we will have a volunteer "Milfoil Survey Team" to monitor the lake on a regular basis. Classes for volunteers to help hand-pull milfoil along the shore will also be offered. The financial support of the Town and the volunteer activities of Belgrade Lake residents both contribute substantially to the health and protection of the lake.

## **Belgrade Rome Special Needs Food Pantry**

Our pantry is located at the North Belgrade Community Center, 508 Smithfield Road. It is open every Tuesday from 9am-11am to all residents of Belgrade and Rome. We have food collection boxes located at both Belgrade post offices as well as the Rome and Belgrade town offices. Food items that we appreciate as donations include peanut butter, jelly, cookies, granola bars, canned pasta and box pasta.

We have continued to serve an average of 55-65 clients each month. This year was the second full year that clients were able to come to the pantry every other week. We have seen an increase of 33% in our numbers. We provide our clients with a week's worth of food twice a month.

We have also continued our community outreach program with Belgrade Central School, where we provide a healthy snack option to children who come to school without a snack. One of our services that we have been able to continue providing is our basket program. This December, we gave out 47 holiday baskets that provided a great Christmas dinner and a few extras!

This past November our treasurer, Anthony Mastromarino retired. He had been our Treasurer since 2008 and he was a valued member of our Board. We will miss him, but we wish him all the best in the next chapter of his life. Our new treasurer is Pamela Prescott, a long time Belgrade resident and retired schoolteacher. We are looking forward to working with her on our board.

We continue to offer all of these programs because of our generous donations that we often receive from our community members. However with the rising cost of food and our increased numbers, these donations are needed more than ever. If you would like to make a monetary donation to the pantry you can send it to our PO Box 236 Belgrade, ME 04917.

We continue to look for ways to connect with people in need. If you or anyone you know is in need of food assistance, please contact us. You can reach out to the Belgrade Town Office or through our Facebook page- Belgrade/Rome Special Needs Food Pantry. Our pantry continues to run smoothly because of our volunteers. We would like to thank everyone that volunteers to serve our communities. If you have an interest in volunteering, please reach out through our Facebook page.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Hazel Labbe



# Town Historian Report

## Old Town Meeting House

In July 2023, the Belgrade Historical Society finished their renovation of Belgrade's Old Town Meeting House on Cemetery Road, thus opening a new chapter for this historic building.

As background, not only is the Old Town Meeting House (OTMH) Belgrade's oldest public building, but it is also one of the oldest town houses in central Maine. The Town of Belgrade first recognized the need for a "Town House on Town Land" in 1806 but it was not until 1813 that a vote was passed to raise \$200, and a committee was appointed. The committee superintended the construction of a square (31.5x31.5) building on a site adjacent to the town's burying ground (now Woodside Cemetery) because it was roughly equidistant from the town's easternmost, southernmost, westernmost, and northernmost corners. The first Town Meeting was held at this site in 1815. Annual Town Meetings and votes were conducted at the OTMH from 1815 to 1873. The vote for statehood in 1819 (84 years and 8 days) was one such vote.\*



Following the move of town meetings to the Masonic Hall in Belgrade Depot, the OTMH continued to serve as a town facility. Occasionally it was used for lectures and special events, such as the Belgrade farmer's annual fair in 1883. During the 1890s, it was used to store the Belgrade hearse and became known as the "Hearse House." A major interior renovation occurred in 1905 when a wall was built dividing the space into 2 separate sections. One section became the sexton's office with the remaining portion used by the cemetery committee. A large water tank had been added to the storage area to provide water for the cemetery (removed in 2013). Being adjacent to the cemeteries made the OTMH an ideal site for Belgrade's Memorial Day Services. In 1938, the front porch was added to protect speakers from the rain and the Memorial Day parade and Service continue to be held at the OTMH to present day. In 1951, the Morning Sentinel newspaper reported that the Town House was put in use as Civil Defense Headquarters! In the following years, the OTMH was used to store equipment and items for the cemetery.

Over time, the Town House slipped into disrepair, and in 2017 pursuant to the wishes of Belgrade's citizens, the Town voted to allow the Belgrade Historical Society to renovate and repurpose the building. After the Town House appeared on Maine Preservation's Most Endangered Historic Places list in 2019, renovation work began in earnest. With major repairs to the sills and corner posts, a new floor and lighting fixtures, new doors and windows, new steps, new siding, and paint, the OTMH is ready to meet the challenges of its next chapter as a showcase of Belgrade's history.

Respectively Submitted,  
Dianne Dowd, Town Historian



## Belgrade Historical Society

The Belgrade Historical Society (BHS) had a very successful year. With the exterior work completed on the Belgrade Old Town Meeting House, our attention turned to renovating the interior of the building. Generators of Maine installed all new wiring and lights last winter and finished in time for the society to give a sneak preview of the interior at the Memorial Day service held at Woodside Cemetery. In addition to the lights, the BHS has had the walls insulated and finished with wainscoting and plaster. Once again, contractor Andrew Wilkie has done a fantastic job. The BHS thanks Zimba Company Inc. for a great job on the plaster work. The aim of the BHS is to have the building arranged as a showplace for displaying the many artifacts that depict Belgrade's history. It will also allow the BHS to use the space for programming, such as this summer's program "Building Wooden Boats," presented by Rod Johnson. It was exciting to be able to highlight Belgrade's boat building past with the classic boats on display made by Alfred Roy and Harold Webster. The BHS looks forward to hosting many more programs at the Old Town Meeting House in the future.



The BHS thanks Kate DiBerardino for allowing the society to host our annual meeting in June at the newly renovated Schoolhouse in Belgrade Lakes. Participants were delighted with the reminiscences of Rod Johnson and others who remember attending school in the building before it became the original Belgrade Regional Health Center. The BHS also sponsored the quilt program "250 Years of Comfort and Community," presented by Maine State Museum Curator Laurie Labar. A special thank-you to Dee Cooke for allowing us to display the quilt made by her mother, Naurine Lord. The quilt is made of squares signed by many of the women of the farm families of Belgrade in the 1870s and 1930s.

The BHS finished the 2022 season with a book talk, "Around the Kennebec Valley," presented by author Gay Grant, and a Maine Humanities program, "Telling Family Stories," presented by Jo Radner. Looking forward to 2023, the BHS is working on updating our family and old house files. The BHS has received many requests from all over the country in recent years for genealogical information of Belgrade ancestors. We are looking for volunteers to help with the files and programs. Please contact us on our website, [www.belgradehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.belgradehistoricalsociety.org) or find The Belgrade Historical Society on Facebook.

Respectively submitted,  
The Belgrade Historical Society

# Belgrade Draggin' Masters Snowmobile Club

The Belgrade Draggin' Masters Snowmobile Club had a challenging 2023. In early January, we had a major rain event that caused damage to trails, especially those that cross brooks or lowlands. Got those issues resolved. In late April flooding rain plus melting snow destroyed bridges and ramps (and flooded Town roads). The destruction was major, but our Club rebuilt bridges and ramps, and cleared major debris. This fall we had most trails ready, but we needed frozen ground to finish up as many sections were too soft and wet. Then came the December 18th storm, which took down trees and limbs and resulted in more flooding. We are making great progress, and hope that cold weather will set some solid frost so we can use some heavy equipment to finish cleanup. Clearing 43 miles of trail with only chain saws and strong backs is WORK. We would like to thank the landowners who have been clearing the snowmobile trails on their land – We certainly appreciate your efforts!!



I want to offer a special Thank You !! to Hammond Lumber for very generous pricing on the large order of materials we needed for bridge and ramp repairs. We have posted photos of some of the major repairs on our Facebook page.

The Club invites you to check out our website, <http://belgradedragginmasterssc.com>. It truly promotes the Belgrade area recreational activities and businesses. It is about more than snowmobiling as we try to provide information that promotes all winter activities. We provide up-to-date trail conditions and information on current activities. The Club welcomes any suggestions or information that would improve the website.

The Club thanks the voters for their continued support by providing us with access to snowmobile registration dollars shared from the State. These funds are used for material and equipment costs incurred to maintain the Belgrade trail system. Club members put in more than 700 hours of labor at no charge – it is totally a volunteer effort. Because of this group, the Belgrade snowmobile trail system is well maintained and is an important asset to the Town. The forty-three miles of snowmobile trails are also great for hiking/walking, cross country skiing and snowshoeing- nicely groomed trails and no user fees! Special notice: some trails used for anything other than snowmobiling may require landowner permission, which we cannot provide. We continue to have one of the best maintained local trail systems in the State. I personally wish to thank all the hard-working Club members.

We continue our donation to the Belgrade Rome Food Pantry. Local businesses continue to support our efforts through donations. At several intersections we have posted a sign advertising many of those businesses. We also list the businesses on our website. Thank you for your continued support!

On behalf of the Club, I would like to thank all the landowners. We appreciate your generosity in allowing us to cross your land and maintain the trails. A side benefit for landowners is cleared trails for good access to their land. Should you have any problems or concerns during the season, feel free to contact me at (207)495-3452. I or another club member will be sure to give immediate attention to your concerns.

Again, thanks to all townspeople for your continued support – happy trails/riding, skiing, snowshoeing, and hiking to all!

Sincerely,  
Ernest Rice, President

# **Don C. Stevens Trust Fund Advisory Committee Report**

The students of Belgrade Central School are very fortunate to benefit from the generosity of Don. C. Stevens, whose foresight provided this trust fund. The fund supports students by providing additional programs during school, after school enrichment activities, additional materials and resources, and new experiences above and beyond what our school district is able to provide. The Trust truly enriches the educational experience of all Belgrade students by allowing them to participate in artistic and cultural experiences without needing to increase the school budget.

We are happy to report that last year included many more regular opportunities for the students of Belgrade Central School. We hosted a puppetry residency with Nancy Tyndall from Milkweed Puppet Theater for our students in Pre-K through second grade. We helped fund a week-long visit from Missoula Children's Theater, and also hosted a presentation by Mr. Drew and His Animals Too for the entire school.

The Fund also provides many materials that reach every student, such as extra art, reading, math, and science supplies that are both much needed and well used. Classroom libraries continue to grow with our purchase of many books that support early readers and our curriculum. Finally, our school library has been able to arrange the annual visit of children's book authors and illustrators. Lynn Plourde came to our school and visited with our Pre-K through second grade students on March 29, 2022. We are planning to host a Pre-K through fifth grade favorite, Chris Van Dusen, this spring.

Our annual meeting is held every January. As always, this committee truly enjoys the work it does, helping to provide enriching experiences for the children of Belgrade Central School.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Dunbar (chair), Sharon Frost, Sara Lozefski, Jill Mackenzie, and Alyssa Tibbetts

# The Robert A. Guptill Historical Trust Fund

Robert Alonzo Guptill served as the Belgrade historian for many years. He was an advocate of education, believing that the knowledge of history is essential to the understanding the past and a key to the challenges of the present and the future. Following his death, his family decided to continue the work and interest that had given him enjoyment and fulfillment throughout his life by establishing the Robert A. Guptill Historical Trust Fund.

According to the terms and conditions of the trust fund, the Town of Belgrade will hold a certain sum of money in interest bearing accounts or certificates of deposit, whichever derives greater interest. The Interest income will be utilized by the Belgrade Central School for lectures, field trips, or other programs for the promotion and appreciation of history. A faculty committee appointed by the principal shall vote on the use of the funds. Faculty members include Linda Click & Administration. The principal serves as ex-officio voting member; and Phronie Hammond, a sister of Mr. Guptill, served as a voting member throughout her lifetime.

The committee will meet in the spring to review additional requests, field trips, and programs that meet the criteria established by the Guptill Historical Trust Fund.

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## INTEREST AND DISBURSEMENTS OF THE YEAR

Beginning January 2023 Balance	\$1,499.91
Interest 2/13/23 Check #023505 Town of Belgrade	<u>277.00</u>
Ending December 2023 Balance	\$1,776.91

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Funds were not utilized during the 2023 school year, we hope to gradually use funds as we resume field trips in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dillon Clark, Principal  
Belgrade Central School

# RSU #18 School Board (SB) - Belgrade Directors

Maine state School boards are basically instituted and generally governed with specific mandates by Maine MRS Title 20-A, §1001 State Law Statute. Our School Board has been working very hard for students and staff of the entire RSU#18 district. The School Board meets twice a month -usually on the first and third Wednesdays of the month. It consists of ten locally elected Directors/Reps (with weighted voting capacity corresponding to their town's resident population) from five different towns:

- (a) three Reps from Oakland (with 109 voting points each -vpe),
- (b) two Reps from each of the towns of China (with 117 vpe), Sidney (with 105 vpe) and Belgrade (with 85 vpe)
- (c) and one Rep (with 58 voting points) from Rome.

This year the RSU#18 School District directly served a total of about 2,500 students with 430 of them from Belgrade (but it is financially responsible for about 2,800 as our district sibling town of China mainly has Erskine Academy as high school choice). The Belgrade students attend one of these three school locations:

- (A) Belgrade Central Elementary School (BCS) which is located at 158 Depot Road in Belgrade educating with about 250 students mostly from Belgrade (about 180 children) and Rome (about 70 children).
- (B) Messalonskee Middle School (MMS) which is located at 33 School Bus Drive in Oakland with about 110 Belgrade students there.
- (C) Messalonskee High School (MHS) which is located at 131 Messalonskee High Drive in Oakland with about 140 Belgrade students there.

We graduated about 40 Belgrade Seniors last year and registered about 20 preschoolers last Fall. A huge highlight this year was the inauguration of the Tennis (4 of them)/Pickleball (6 of them) courts at the MHS campus taking a capital investment of over \$1 Million composed of Facilities Bond and ESSR (so called "COVID" money for 'outdoor learning') funding. These brand-new sport amenities are an addendum to our high school athletic complex, which thus far has facilitated free general community recreational support not only to our district towns, but to those of neighboring municipalities.

An RSU#18 administrative brief of the FY'24 Budget Revenues to the Belgrade Select Board was given on Tuesday, April 4th, 2023 and can be reviewed by watching the first 45 minutes of the following YouTube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=II9MQBZH1Is&t=1024s>

Additionally, last year the RSU#18 administration provided a significant financial infusion towards modernizing the school district infrastructure with most of the different completed summer projects depicted in the chart below:

Summer '23 Facilities Projects report of 9/20/23		TOTAL	Percentage of total
Total Summer '23 Facilities Projects Estimate Expenses reported as 9/20/23==		\$2,388,000	100%
Legend:			
(a) --- & <i>Italic</i> & <u>UNDEHLINED</u> are an original project announced on March 2023 & COMPLETED		\$1,957,750	82%
(b) in <u>FIELD</u> are NEWLY ADDED PROJECTS (since March 2023) reported as completed on 9/20/23=		\$430,250	18%
SCHOOL UNIT	PROJECT		
<b>CMS</b>	---new siding (\$370,000) ---replace windows (\$172,000) ---ONE NEW Basketball Court - which included removal of TWO OLD Basketball courts (lumped up with the new EDUB Pickleball courts and new parking lot = \$400,000)	\$847,000	35%
<b>CPS</b>	---paving (originally with WES paving = \$25000... so \$12,500 allocated) ---CPS-New Fencing (\$14,000)	\$26,500	1%
<b>MHS</b>	---renovate the library (\$275,000) ---Kitchen Renovation upgrade (\$172,000) ---Flooring in main hall (office to gym originally \$170,000 but allocated \$120,000) ---MHS New Boiler (\$32,250) ---MHS Paving (original total of \$145K but divided in FOUR schools... so \$36,250 allocated)	\$400,250	17%
<b>MMS</b>	---paving (original total of \$145K but divided in FOUR schools... so, \$36,250 allocated)	\$36,250	2%
<b>Atwood</b>	---Kitchen Renovation upgrade = (\$155,600) ---Paving (original total of \$145K but divided in FOUR schools... so, \$36,250 allocated)	\$71,250	3%
<b>WES</b>	---fence replacement (\$35,000) ---Paving (Double accounted? (originally with CPS paving = \$25000... so \$12,500 allocated) & (original total of \$145K but divided in FOUR schools... so \$36,250 allocated)	\$64,750	3%
<b>District</b>	---propane fueling station (Cost TBD) ---Quonset Hut repairs (\$86,000)	\$86,000	4%
<b>JHB</b>	---new siding (\$300,000) ---new roof top heating units (originally with BCS for a total of = \$209,000... so \$104,500 allocated) ---new siding (\$300,000)	\$404,500	17%
<b>BCS</b>	---new roof top heating units (originally with JHB for a total of = \$209,000... so \$104,500 allocated) ---replace windows on one wing (\$15,000) ---library flooring (\$35,000) ---BCS New message sign (\$17,000)	\$451,500	19%

COST per student	TOWN	# OF REPS	VOTING POINTS per REP	VOTING POINTS	% of TOTAL VOTING POINTS	Assessment to the towns	Student Population	Towns' % of Total Assessment
\$7,737	China	2	117	234	23%	\$ 5,114,442	661	20%
\$6,546	Oakland	3	109	327	33%	\$ 5,963,747	911	24%
\$7,376	Sidney	2	105	210	21%	\$ 4,713,279	639	19%
\$15,146	Belgrade	2	85	170	17%	\$ 6,679,412	441	27%
\$17,794	Rome	1	58	58	6%	\$ 2,508,996	141	10%
\$8,944	TOTAL	10		999		\$24,979,876	2793	

A nice newspaper article write-up about the 2023 RSU#18 summer improvement projects was published about it on: [www.centralmaine.com/2023/10/02/more-than-3-million-in-updates-made-to-rsu-18-schools](http://www.centralmaine.com/2023/10/02/more-than-3-million-in-updates-made-to-rsu-18-schools)

It has been a sincere pleasure to represent the town of Belgrade as your SB Directors.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sara Languet and Sharon Frost

# Regional School Unit No. 18



Phone 207-465-7384

Carl Gartley  
Superintendent

41 Heath Street, Oakland, ME 04963

Keith Morin  
Asst. Superintendent

To the residents of RSU 18,

Every year I look forward to the opportunity to share with you about the great goings-on in RSU 18, your school district. Our students and staff are incredible. I am so proud to be part of a school district that is so dedicated to student success.

Safety for students and staff remains a top priority. Our district safety committee is leading some impactful initiatives including safety walk-throughs and trainings for the emergency response teams at each school. We recognize there is always more work to be done to ensure our schools provide secure and supportive environments for teaching and learning; we will remain actively engaged on school safety issues.

In the world of academics our district continues to shine. Whether it be individual student performance at any grade level or district wide academic data, RSU 18 is a top performing district. To ensure students receive the most up-to-date and effective instruction, our district regularly reviews curriculum in all academic areas. Over the past couple years, our science, math, and physical education curriculums have all been updated. This year, teachers across the district are reviewing and revising the English Language Arts (ELA) curriculum. Kudos to our staff for their hard work on behalf of student academic success.

The RSU 18 Board of Directors continues to invest in and improve our facilities. This year we updated more of our HVAC systems, replaced older rooftop heating units, replaced many older doorways, installed a new propane fueling station for our transportation department, updated flooring, and gave three school a major upgrade with new siding. The district looks amazing, we are so proud of the facilities we can offer to our students and our community.

In our classrooms, during club meetings, on our athletic fields, or just in hallways, I see PK – 12 staff taking advantage of every opportunity they can to build positive relationships with students. And I see students taking the opportunity to build relationships with staff. Great things come from this dedication. The student leaders I see developing in our schools today make me feel confident that our community will indeed have great leadership in the future.

Thank you to our students, staff, parents, and community partners. Together you make this district a special place.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carl Gartley, Superintendent of Schools



STATE OF MAINE  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
1 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333-0001

Dear Maine Resident:

In January, I was privileged to take the Oath of Office to begin my second term as your Governor. I am deeply humbled by the trust the people of Maine have placed in me, and I look forward to continuing to work hard over the next four years to improve the lives and livelihoods of Maine people.

Over the past four years, we have made real progress. We have expanded health care, leading to the largest decline in the uninsured rate of any state in the nation. We fully funded the State's share of public education. We delivered two-years of free community college. We fully restored municipal revenue sharing to five percent. We delivered substantial tax relief, nation-leading inflation relief, and emergency energy relief to help Maine people through difficult times.

Through the Maine Jobs & Recovery Plan, we are strengthening and diversifying our economy. In 2022, our state's gross domestic product – a key measure of economic growth – grew at the 9th fastest rate in the United States. People are moving to Maine at a rate higher than any other New England state, and at one of the highest rates in the nation. We have enacted balanced budgets, and we have built up Maine's "Rainy Day" fund to a record high, preparing our state to continue meeting its commitments in the event of an economic downturn.

While I am proud of the progress we have made, there is more to do, like addressing the housing crisis, the workforce shortage, and the opioid epidemic and strengthening health care, education, and the economy. I know that by working together to tackle these issues head-on, we can improve the lives and livelihoods of Maine people and make Maine the best place to live, work, and raise a family.

Thank you again for the honor to serve you as Governor.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janet T. Mills".

Janet T. Mills  
Governor



SUSAN M. COLLINS  
MAINE

413 DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
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United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1904

COMMITTEES:  
APPROPRIATIONS  
Vice Chair  
HEALTH, EDUCATION,  
LABOR, AND PENSIONS  
SELECT COMMITTEE  
ON INTELLIGENCE

Dear Friends:

It is an honor to serve the people of Maine in the U.S. Senate, and I welcome this opportunity to share an update on issues important to Maine and America.

One of my priorities for 2023 has been to improve the appropriations process in Congress – the way it decides how to spend taxpayer money. I took over as the Vice Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee last year. Along with Chair Patty Murray, we decided the best change we could make was not to do something new. Instead, it was to do something old – that is, go back to the regular and transparent committee process that we used to have.

Part of restoring this process included holding 50 public Committee hearings, which allowed for input from senators on both sides of the aisle. As a result, for the first time in five years, the Senate Appropriations Committee passed all twelve of its funding bills on time. This was done with strong bipartisan support. In fact, seven of them passed unanimously.

Now, we need to work with the House of Representatives to pass these twelve bills and turn them into laws.

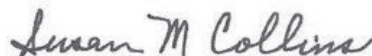
These bills contain funding for a wide range of Maine priorities, including support for the workforce at Bath Iron Works and Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, our lobster industry, infrastructure improvements, affordable housing, biomedical research, veterans, and heating assistance programs like LIHEAP. These bills also contain nearly \$590 million in Congressionally Directed Spending for 231 projects throughout the State of Maine. These projects would help promote job creation, expand access to health care, and improve public safety, infrastructure, and important resources in communities across all 16 counties of our state. I will continue to work to get these bills signed into law in the new year.

On October 25, the horrific mass shooting in Lewiston claimed the lives of 18 Mainers and injured 13 others. In response, I led Maine's Congressional Delegation in requesting an independent investigation by the U.S. Army Inspector General into the events leading up to the shooting. On December 15, the Under Secretary of the Army wrote to inform me that such an investigation will take place, and the Army Inspector General has instructed her team to immediately begin preparing to conduct this investigation. While nothing can undo the events of October 25, I will continue to work to understand what happened and what could have been done differently, and to find answers for the victims, survivors, and their families.

No one works harder than the people of Maine, and this year I honored that work ethic when I cast my 8,855th consecutive roll call vote.

As we look ahead to 2024, I remain committed to addressing the concerns of Maine families and communities. If you need assistance or wish to share your thoughts, please do not hesitate to reach out to one of my six state offices.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator

ANGUS S. KING, JR.  
MAINE

133 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
(202) 224-5344  
Website: <https://www.King.Senate.gov>

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 1, 2024

COMMITTEES:  
ARMED SERVICES  
CHAIRMAN, STRATEGIC FORCES  
SUBCOMMITTEE  
ENERGY AND  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
CHAIRMAN, NATIONAL PARKS  
SUBCOMMITTEE  
INTELLIGENCE  
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Dear Friends,

Thank you for allowing me to add my congratulations and gratitude for the positive differences each town and city in Maine makes for its people and ultimately for Maine as a whole. When I travel around the state and visit the various regions in Maine, I see firsthand the differences you all make, the focus you put on excellence, and the helping hands you extend to neighbors. I have learned valuable lessons watching your collaborations with each other. They got the State motto right – *Dirigo* – because you all certainly do lead the way and exemplify the best of Maine.

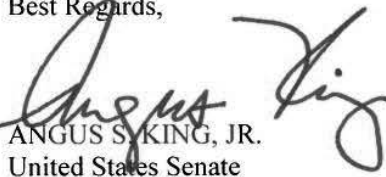
First, it was a true honor to be appointed to the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee this year to help address the challenges facing Maine veterans. We owe our way of life to these brave men and women and share a collective responsibility as a grateful nation to give back to our veterans. That means delivering veterans the benefits they have earned, addressing the veterans' suicide crisis, improving transition-to-civilian-status programs, and ensuring every veteran can access essential services, like affordable housing and behavioral healthcare.

Next, one of the most significant infrastructure projects in Maine history is underway: affordable and universal broadband availability throughout the state. Supported through funding in the bipartisan infrastructure bill, we are now within striking distance of broadband service even in our most rural communities. Additionally, infrastructure improvements in our roads and bridges, water and septic upgrades for our towns and support for our workforce and employers are also in the pipeline. Serious steps are being taken to address the toll from substance abuse and to provide our older neighbors with resources to help them continue to stand strong throughout their golden years. It is my goal here to make sure everyone has access to stable employment opportunities and quality healthcare which is of critical importance to keep our families healthy and happy.

I am thankful for each town in Maine for their commitment to their communities, to their citizens, and to this country. I will do my part to listen to your concerns and work to find useful solutions to the issues you face. My offices throughout Maine remain available to you if you face hurdles with the federal government, whether it be veteran issues, social security problems, student loans, immigration, tax assistance and more. I hope you will reach out of my offices in Presque Isle, Bangor, Augusta, Portland, or Biddeford and allow me the chance to be part of your solutions. Together, I know we can continue to build a stronger, brighter future for our great state.

Maine is known for our grit and resiliency and we are making great strides — something others across the country have noticed. Thank you for being one of the reasons Maine is so special; it is not only a pleasure to serve you — it is a pleasure to know you. Mary and I wish you a happy and safe 2024.

Best Regards,



ANGUS S. KING, JR.  
United States Senate

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**Jared Golden**  
Congress of the United States  
2nd District of Maine

Dear Friends,

I hope this letter finds you safe and well. It's an honor to continue serving as your representative in Congress, and I take the responsibility very seriously. I appreciate the opportunity to update you on what I've been working on behalf of the people of the Second Congressional District.

Maine's heritage industries are the backbone of our state's economy. That is why one of the first bills I introduced in this Congress was the *Northeast Fisheries Heritage Protection Act*, which would prohibit commercial offshore wind energy development in Lobster Management Area 1 (LMA 1) in the Gulf of Maine. LMA 1 was identified by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) as a potential commercial offshore wind site. LMA 1 is a critical and highly productive fishing ground for a variety of sea life, including lobster. Prohibiting offshore wind development in LMA 1 would help to avoid conflict with the New England commercial and recreational fishing industries. Additionally, the bill would initiate a federal study on the environmental review processes of any relevant Federal agencies for offshore wind projects in the Gulf of Maine.

I also continue to advocate on behalf of our veterans and those providing care to our former service members. The current pay for VA employees in the Kennebec and Penobscot counties does not reflect the critical services they are providing. As the oldest state in the nation, with the fifth highest veteran population, Mainers rely on the services offered at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) facilities. That's why recently, Senator Collins, Senator King, Representative Pingree, and I called on the Biden Administration to increase locality pay for VA employees in Kennebec and Penobscot counties. The level of care received is impacted by job vacancies, and the high turnover rate among its healthcare workforce is often the result of pay and compensation issues, which is further exacerbated by the increased cost of living.

Lastly, I'm excited that Mainers are continuing to reap the benefits of the *Bipartisan Infrastructure Law* (BIL). Recently, millions of dollars in grants have been awarded across the state, including \$35 million through the U.S. Department of Transportation's Culvert Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) program to conserve spawning and migratory habitats for native fish species in Maine, \$460,000 through the Airport Infrastructure Grant (AIG) program for the Princeton Municipal Airport, Stephen A. Bean Municipal Airport, and Dexter Regional Airport, and nearly \$8 million through the Buses and Bus Facilities Program for Bangor's bus system. These investments are critical to ensuring Maine's infrastructure and will help to ensure Mainers and businesses across Maine are connected.

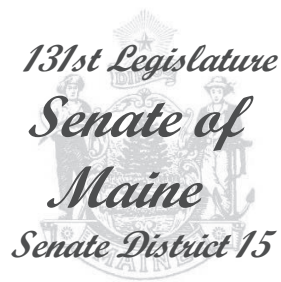
Regardless of the year, one of my top priorities is ensuring I'm accessible to you. My staff and I can help answer questions about and navigate federal programs; find resources in Maine; and resolve issues with Medicare, Social Security, the VA, and other federal agencies and programs. We are here to help:

- **Caribou Office:** 7 Hatch Drive, Suite 230, Caribou, ME 04736. Phone: (207) 492-6009
- **Lewiston Office:** 179 Lisbon Street, Lewiston, ME 04240. Phone: (207) 241-6767
- **Bangor Office:** 6 State Street, Suite 101, Bangor, ME 04401. Phone: (207) 249-7400

I look forward to building on momentum from recent legislative wins for Mainers and continuing to work on your behalf in 2024. Do not hesitate to reach out and voice an opinion on legislation, let us know about local events, or seek assistance navigating federal agencies or programs. It's an honor to represent you in Congress, and I wish you a healthy and prosperous year to come.

Respectfully,

Jared F. Golden  
Member of Congress



**Senator Matthew Pouliot**  
3 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0003  
(207) 287-1505

Dear friends and neighbors,

Thank you for the honor of serving and representing you, your family, and the communities of District 15, and for putting your trust in me to be your voice in Augusta.

The First Regular and Special Sessions of the 131<sup>st</sup> Maine State Legislature were particularly noteworthy as there were over 2,600 legislative bill requests and 2,019 of them were officially printed as Legislative Documents (LDs). This is a mark that surpassed every state legislature this century during their first session.

One area of unique success was the Highway Fund. Historically, the Highway Fund, which pays for improvements to our roads and bridges, has been supported through bonding and gasoline taxes, which have witnessed a steady decline for years now due to the increased presence of electric/hybrid vehicles. We have adapted to these shifts in the market by introducing a sustainable source of funding to maintain our transportation infrastructure. This will be achieved by allocating 40% of the 5.5% vehicle sales tax and 40% of the sales tax and use taxes collected by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles. It is projected to raise more than \$200 million for infrastructure each biennium, helping to move our state away from borrowing money to pay for our infrastructure needs.

The Second Regular Session began in January 2024. We are digging into the issues important to all of you. I routinely hear from many of you sharing your most pressing concerns - including energy costs, child care, education, housing, inflation, crime, mental health and substance abuse, among others. As your State Senator, I will continue to do everything in my power to advocate for your priorities here in Augusta.

The 131<sup>st</sup> Legislature has a great deal more work to do, and I believe that if we unite and fully commit ourselves, there is nothing we can't accomplish. In conclusion, I'd like to take a moment to share that I will not be seeking a fourth term in the Senate this fall. After 12 years of legislative service between both the House and Senate, I have decided to pass the baton and focus more deeply on family and business endeavors. It has been the honor of my lifetime to serve you, and you can count on me to be available to help you through the end of 2024. Please feel free to contact me by calling (207)-287-1505 or emailing me at [matt.pouliot@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:matt.pouliot@legislature.maine.gov) if you have comments, questions, or if you would like assistance in your interactions with state government.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew G. Pouliot". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Matthew Pouliot  
State Senator

*Fax: (207) 287-1527 \* TTY (207) 287-1583 \* Message Service 1-800-423-6900 \* Web Site: [legislature.maine.gov/senate](http://legislature.maine.gov/senate)*



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002  
(207) 287-1440  
TTY: (207) 287-4469

## **Daniel J. Newman**

33 Caribou Road  
Belgrade, ME 04917  
Phone: (207) 458-1837  
Daniel.Newman@legislature.maine.gov

January 2024

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As the Second Regular Session of the Maine State Legislature convenes, I would like to thank you for granting me the opportunity to serve the citizens of District 58 in the Maine House of Representatives. Representing you is an honor and a privilege I take seriously. This is a wonderful opportunity for me to make a difference in the community and I am looking forward to the new challenges that wait in the 2024 legislative session.

The First Regular Session of the Legislature was a busy one, as lawmakers faced many difficult issues and decisions. I believe you will be pleased with some of the accomplishments of the 131st Legislature so far. My colleagues and I were able to pass multiple bi-partisan spending agreements that included supporting hospitals and long-term care facilities, working to stabilize highway and road funding, and improving the efficient delivery of government services. I continue to support legislation that would reduce high energy costs while shoring up supply resiliency and capacity, as well as procurement and generation priorities.

I was pleased to introduce LD 296, "An Act to Ensure Municipalities Receive a Higher Percentage of All-terrain Vehicle Registration Fees to Cover Increased Expenses" allowing municipalities to keep a higher percentage of the registration fees for snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles; helping offset the increased cost to our municipalities for labor and printing.

I will continue to serve on the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety as we tackle matters that are crucial to our community. I encourage you to actively participate in your state government by monitoring all legislative proposals being worked on at the State House by visiting the Legislature's website at [www.legislature.maine.gov](http://www.legislature.maine.gov). From here, you can browse bill summaries, view our legislative session and public hearing schedules, submit testimony, listen to committee hearings or watch live streaming video of the House and Senate.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to represent you. Hearing your thoughts on the issues that are important to you helps me to better serve you. Please, do not hesitate to call anytime if you feel you need my assistance. If you would like to be added to my email list, you can do so by emailing me directly with your request at [Daniel.Newman@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:Daniel.Newman@legislature.maine.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daniel J. Newman".

Daniel J. Newman  
State Representative

## Real Estate Taxes Due as of December 31, 2023

2023 Tax Year	
176 AUGUSTA ROAD APARTMENTS LLC	1,857.82
176 AUGUSTA ROAD APARTMENTS LLC	2,858.08
2 G'S TRANSPORTATION INC	156.46
2 G's TRANSPORTATION INC	205.58
2 G'S TRANSPORTATION INC	211.95
8 CUBES CAPITAL LLC	29.94
ALEXANDER DIANE B TRUSTEE OF THE	2,708.69
ALEXANDER KEITH	1,265.70
ALEXANDER MELVIN	647.66
ALEXANDER MIKE	2,232.26
AMIK REALTY LLC	14,132.18
AMON JOAN S	47.60
ARDITO RALPH	1,669.19
AVERY, BRIAN	1,200.73
BALLARD GLEE C	1,187.99
BARCLAY BARRY & TRUDY	1,157.06
BARCLAY BARRY & TRUDY	3,017.27
BATES ROBERT S	4.47
BATES, ROBERT S	4.10
BEATIE POLLY PARKHILL	45.48
BEATIE POLLY PARKHILL	9,639.46
BELGRADE LAKES CAMPS CONDO ASSOC.	74.59
BELGRADE LAKES REALTY GROUP	201.79
BELGRADE LAKES SUMMER CAMPS LLC	94.60
BELGRADE LAKES SUMMER CAMPS LLC	2,263.19
BELGRADE LAKES SUMMER CAMPS LLC	17,704.33
BELSERENE MARK M & JOLENE A	4,125.23
BERUBE GERARD	971.50
BICKFORD THOMAS & PAULA	1,329.47
BISCHOFF GERALD H & CAROL A	50.87
BITSKO, FRANK T	2,801.69
BLUEBERRY HOLDING COMPANY	1,472.71
BLUEBERRY HOLDING COMPANY	10,634.61
BOLOBANIC JOSEPH	296.54
BONNEFACE, DARLENE	494.84
BORMAN, MEGAN P	297.25
BRETON, DERIK D	653.12
BURGESS CHRIS J	658.58
BURNHAM, LYLE	373.87
CHABOT, HILLARY	3,150.86
CHASE KAREN L	190.21
CLARK DOUGLAS & KATHERINE	47.63
CLARK DOUGLAS M & KATHERINE J	59.08
COLBY SUSAN M	614.01
COLBY SUSAN M	4,276.01
CONANT MELISSA ROSE	620.37

# Real Estate Taxes Due as of December 31, 2023

COOK, SCOTT	50.43
COTE HENRY R & CAROL A	530.96
COULOIR REAL ESTATE HOLDINGS LLC	7,711.03
COULOMBE AMANDA S	13,207.98
CROSBY, DONALD L	1,831.11
CROSBY, GORDON A	229.23
DAMON JEFFREY P	2,093.99
DAMREN CAITLYN J	1,697.39
DAVIS JEFFREY & REBECCA	957.86
DENNIS, PAUL G	427.53
DENNIS, PAUL G	4,102.48
DICKEY DENNIS R	1,487.35
DICKEY, MEGAN L	3,699.50
DINGUS LAURENCE	816.86
DOUCETTE DAVID	1,146.15
DULAC PAULA B & E.S.	6,694.96
DUNN, IAN E	88.24
DYER JONATHAN & SYLVIA	1,478.17
EDGECOMB PATRICIA	19.10
ELLIS BEVERLY & DIANA	13.65
ELLIS DIANA	117.35
ELLIS DIANA	272.89
ELLIS KIMBERLY J	1,315.34
EMMONS DEAN R.	302.00
ENGERT, BRUCE E	4,369.00
FAITH HILL HOLDINGS LLC	3,902.36
FAUCHER JEFFREY J	1,457.24
FELDMUS AARON	1,711.04
FINLEY, MARTIN S JR	737.71
FISHER TIMOTHY & KAREN	2,815.45
FITZ JAMES E & MARGARET E	20.98
FORTIER JOHN & LISA - TRUSTEES	5.35
FOSTER PATRICIA A	6,185.56
FOSTER, PATRICIA A	12,152.80
FRENCH FREDERICK E JR	157.36
FRENCH GREGORY	1,545.48
FROST WENDY Y	2,059.43
GENNESS SHERRIE & CLAY	2,601.35
GILBERT, HEATHER M	298.36
GRANT, SHAWN A	406.61
HARTLEY COLBY & JESSICA HARTLEY	376.59
HEATHENS HOLLOW LLC	1,068.83
HENDERSON, RICHARD A	1,031.53
HIEBERT, CARL P	2,542.10
HOU ENTERPRISES LLC	695.88
HU, YOU HUA	1,403.58
HUDSON THOMAS & LAURA J	3,654.02

## Real Estate Taxes Due as of December 31, 2023

HYNSON, KRYSTAL R	269.25
IBARRA, KATHY	1,947.55
J & J HOLDINGS LLC	1,732.87
JENNEY, DOUGLAS G	1,980.29
JENNEY, SPENCER	2,391.43
JENNEY, SPENCER D	182.84
KELLEY,BARBARA - LIFE ESTATE	8.23
KING, D WHITNEY	172.83
KOHLER FREDERICK H III	1,997.05
KRIKORIAN PATRICIA & STEPHEN J	3,266.52
LABUN-MICHAUD ANGELIQUE S	4,570.95
LAFLAMME MONIQUE	3,004.55
LAFRENIERE STEPHEN M	537.59
LANDRY LINDA L	1,112.50
LAVENSON JOEL S & CRISTA C	3,144.63
LEWIS, THOMAS	1,639.17
LOG CABIN LLC	6.41
LOVEJOY ADRIENNE	4.54
LOVEJOY EBEN	426.63
LOVEJOY, EBEN C	72.77
MAHEU TRICIA I	107.34
MAHEU TRICIA I	2,933.60
MAHI, KATHRYN G	2,333.22
MARKHAM TRACY L	1,188.90
MARKHAM'S PROPERTY MANAGEMENT, LLC	1,454.52
MARSHALL GILBERT	75.51
MCLAUGHLIN, BENJAMIN R	6.00
MCPHAIL SHARON	360.22
MEGILL, MARK	1,194.36
MERRITT WESLEY O	634.93
MERROW CHRISTOPHER	946.94
MERROW MICHAEL J & CARRIE	1,251.25
MERROW, MICHAEL J	26.38
MGE LLC	4,963.00
MINADEO VIKKI	3,440.26
MOORE BARBARA & STANLEY B JR	4,118.85
MORRISON, BENJAMIN JACOB	1,490.91
MORRISON, EUGENE W	504.86
MULLENAUX RONALD & JEAN TRUSTEES	5,550.63
MUSOLFF, CINDY J	1,926.68
NADEAU SHERRY	3,061.85
NASLUND RAYMOND JR	4,864.76
NICHOLSON PHILIP J & FAYE W	17.29
NUTTER MARION L	2,080.35
ORAL BURC & CRANDALL NANCY E	3,795.94
OSBORNE GARY M & AMY S	4,623.63
PALLEN, ANDREW	2,813.51



# Real Estate Taxes Due as of December 31, 2023

PALLESCHI ARRON & KERI	2,728.02
PARKER CONSTANCE T Trustee	94.85
PEARL, KRISTA EVA MAE	1,627.35
PECK JOSEPH & DARCIE	7,295.88
PELLERIN, FRANK A & RICHARD A III - TRUSTEES	29.48
PEPPER KENDAL P	73.68
PINETREE & ACORN INVESTMENTS LLC	3,215.58
POULIN EDWIN & JUNE	2,595.21
POULIN EDWIN J & JUNE M	368.41
PRINCE, ELIZABETH	2,747.11
RAYMOND, KAREN M	2,322.32
RICHARDS, PETER J JR	1,879.32
ROBBINS, RONALD	2,043.05
ROGUE ENTERPRISES LLC	1,620.89
ROGUE ENTERPRISES LLC	1,816.87
SANDERS, JAMES G	11.07
SCHRECK JOSEPH & KATHLEEN	4.77
SEGARS, SHANON L	180.15
SERIO FRANK	3,848.69
SEVEN LAKES INN, LLC	8,386.89
SMITH CHERYL A & JAMES M	2,256.82
SMITHFIELD ACRES, LLC	1,455.93
SOUCY, JEREMY	288.35
STARKE, JOHN R. - TRUSTEE	3,192.64
STEEVES, TINA	748.63
STEVENS ORMAND	20.01
STEVENS ORMAND	974.23
STONE RIDGE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION	33.66
STONE RIDGE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION	37.30
STRATTON EDITH A., WALLACE V	469.28
STRICKLAND JOSEPH III	596.72
THE SHT 2014 TRUST	5.53
TINER, JODI	269.92
TINKER JOSEPH W JR	1,326.46
TORCHIA JASON J	337.47
TUKEY COLLEEN	1,311.21
VITALIUS ROBERT E	11.17
WATSON JAMES S, TRUSTEE OF	3,120.07
WEBSTER, JAMISON	508.46
WEBSTER, JOHN G	3,203.75
WEIR RICHARD A & DELZA P	1,360.51
WENJIE, YANG	1,369.92
WHITE, TRISHA A	2,790.07
WILLEY JOHN H & BARBARA A	419.41
WILSON BETTY	1,731.05
WILSON ROBERT W & DONNA L	747.23
WITKIN, JOAN W LIVING TRUST	2,487.86

## Real Estate Taxes Due as of December 31, 2023

WITKIN, JOAN W LIVING TRUST	4,403.58
WOOD J DIXON	280.17
WOOD J DIXON	4,756.52
WOOD, J DIXON	27.29
WOOD, J DIXON	321.11
WOODLAND LODGE LLC.	4,187.07
WOYTOWICZ JOHN M	3,377.50
ZOZULA ROBERT B & MARYANN	6,850.99
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>381,628.55</b>
<b>2022 Tax Year</b>	
GREEN WAYNE	237.48
ADINOLFI, THOMAS M	1,175.26
ARDITO RALPH	2,087.31
BALLARD GLEE C	1,315.97
BEAN ROBERT L	4,196.18
BERUBE GERARD	991.85
BITSKO, FRANK T	2,679.75
BOLOBANIC JOSEPH	92.75
BONNEFACE, DARLENE	612.27
BURGESS CHRIS J	764.84
BURNHAM, LYLE	443.63
CAREY, JASON	3,947.84
COGSWELL, CHRISTOPHER A	565.80
CONANT MELISSA ROSE	741.73
CROSBY, DONALD L	1,766.02
DAMREN CAITLYN J	1,134.05
DINGUS LAURENCE	911.90
DYER JONATHAN & SYLVIA	1,640.14
ELLIS KIMBERLY J	772.01
FINLEY, MARTIN S JR	938.13
FRENCH FREDERICK E JR	226.43
GRANT, SHAWN A	563.62
HARTLEY COLBY & JESSICA HARTLEY	336.45
HENDERSON, RICHARD A	961.26
J & J HOLDINGS LLC	2,012.16
JENNEY, DOUGLAS G	664.55
LABUN-MICHAUD ANGELIQUE S	4,233.27
LAFRENIERE STEPHEN M	520.25
LANDRY LINDA L	1,076.81
LEWIS, THOMAS	1,148.11
MERROW CHRISTOPHER	888.16
MINADEO VIKKI	3,234.32
MORIN, ALEX	100.06
MORIN, ALEX	1,338.08
NABAROWSKY, DEREK J	2,510.61
PALLESCHI ARRON & KERI	2,581.30
PALLESCHI, AARON E	209.01

PALLESCHI, AARON E	114.61
RAYMOND, KAREN M	2,077.66
SKEEL, RICHARD D	3,204.80
STEEVES, JEFFREY	453.91
STEEVES, TINA	820.09
STEVENS ORMAND	87.11
STEVENS ORMAND	988.7
STRATTON, HAL M	616.74
STUART, CHARLES	2,397.81
WEBSTER, JOHN G	2,353.54
WILSON BETTY	1,651.10
WOOD J DIXON	4,901.33
WOOD J DIXON	444.89
WOOD, J DIXON	99.78
WOOD, J DIXON	476.55
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>70,307.98</b>

#### 2021 Tax Year

ARDITO RALPH	2,157.20
FINLEY, MARTIN S JR	972.23
BURNHAM, LYLE	465.19
WILSON BETTY	1,660.45
CROSBY, DONALD L	783.62
FRENCH FREDERICK E JR	234.82
LAFRENIERE STEPHEN M	713.71
BONNEFACE, DARLENE	596.17
BITSKO, FRANK T	2,772.69
J & J HOLDINGS LLC	1,578.10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11,934.18</b>

### 2023 Supplementals

MAPLEHURST FARM LLC	3,908.46
MAPLEHURST COMPANY INC	2,140.84
BICKFORD, MARISSA L	3,427.85
WARREN, JODY	1,735.41
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11,212.56</b>

### 2023 Refunded Abatements

ALLEGRO, RICHARD	533.42
BRADLEY CHRISTOPHER W	1,345.19
D & M REALTY TRUST	697.21
DORAN DANA A & KELLY E	790.29
HARWOOD, KAREN R & RODENHISER, ALAN LEONARD	288.19
HEWETT, RAYMOND G	477.93
LAGOMARSINO FRED J TRUSTEE LT	280.14
RODRIGUEZ, MICHAEL L	223.75
SCHRECK JOSEPH & KATHLEEN	499.41
TINER, JODI	264.95
VARNEY, DARREL G	64.44
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,464.92</b>

## 2023 Abatements

AMES, KATHIE J	3,269.44
BELGRADE LAKES REALTY GROUP	2,356.54
MAPLEHURST FARM LLC	5,971.44
SMITH CLIFFORD W II & JOANNE A	3,018.84
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14,616.26</b>

## Treasurer's Report

	2023 Budget	2023 YTD	2024 Requests
SELECTBOARD	14,855.00	7,070.24	14,855.00
BOARD OF APPEALS	1,350.00	15.00	1,850.00
ADMINISTRATION	504,875.00	473,531.73	498,290.00
TOWN MANAGER	106,220.00	104,066.08	110,870.00
CODE ENFORCEMENT	59,000.00	57,873.52	56,650.00
PLANNING BOARD	7,250.00	4,267.88	2,200.00
HEARINGS AND ELECTIONS	11,950.00	9,936.85	15,450.00
HISTORIAN	500.00	500.00	600.00
<b>GENERAL GOVERNMENT TOTAL</b>	<b>706,000.00</b>	<b>657,261.30</b>	<b>700,765.00</b>
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	500.00	500.00	500.00
FIRE AND RESCUE	409,405.00	403,799.60	454,075.00
DISPATCH	53,600.00	52,970.91	65,354.00
STREET LIGHTING	1,800.00	2,227.61	1,800.00
ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER(S)	13,700.00	11,405.19	24,560.00
HEALTH OFFICER	550.00	550.00	1,250.00
<b>PUBLIC SAFETY TOTAL</b>	<b>479,555.00</b>	<b>471,453.31</b>	<b>547,539.00</b>
ROAD GENERAL MAINTENANCE	172,275.00	141,373.84	191,175.00
ROADS PLOWING AND SANDING	466,000.00	452,303.28	489,000.00
<b>PUBLIC WORKS TOTAL</b>	<b>638,275.00</b>	<b>593,677.12</b>	<b>680,175.00</b>
CEMETERY	72,165.00	63,556.44	103,855.00
<b>CEMETERY TOTAL</b>	<b>72,165.00</b>	<b>63,556.44</b>	<b>103,855.00</b>
GENERAL	204,770.00	231,014.05	258,700.00
CENTER FOR ALL SEASONS	56,825.00	40,485.17	42,855.00
NORTH BELGRADE COMMUNITY CENTER	16,940.00	13,253.50	13,665.00
GARAGE	8,400.00	16,395.40	11,250.00
SALT AND SAND SHED	2,600.00	2,975.13	3,300.00
LAKES FIRE DEPARTMENT	22,045.00	16,501.64	10,830.00
DEPOT FIRE DEPARTMENT	8,705.00	4,645.87	6,105.00
NORTH BELGRADE FIRE DEPARTMENT	7,350.00	8,268.53	10,100.00
TRANSFER STATION	24,665.00	16,007.22	19,800.00
PARKS	11,000.00	3,826.52	4,750.00
DALTON PROPERTIES	27,550.00	7,462.04	24,450.00
DAMS	400.00	74.10	0.00

# Treasurer's Report

HISTORY HOUSE	3,200.00	2,975.00	1,000.00
TOWN OFFICE	20,290.00	21,893.54	16,850.00
LIBRARY	1,000.00	849.88	1,000.00
<b>FACILITY MAINTENANCE TOTAL</b>	<b>415,740.00</b>	<b>386,627.59</b>	<b>424,655.00</b>
HAZARDOUS WASTE	2,000.00	2,069.90	2,900.00
TRANSFER STATION	359,000.00	340,795.65	351,493.00
CHANDLER ROAD	700.00	500.00	700.00
DUNN ROAD	4,100.00	3,539.88	4,100.00
<b>SOLID WASTE TOTAL</b>	<b>365,800.00</b>	<b>346,905.43</b>	<b>359,193.00</b>
SOCIAL SERVICES	1,280.00	1,051.98	800.00
SENIOR RESOURCE	5,000.00	3,028.45	5,000.00
<b>SOCIAL SERVICES TOTAL</b>	<b>6,280.00</b>	<b>4,080.43</b>	<b>5,800.00</b>
GENERAL ASSISTANCE	5,000.00	4,385.46	5,100.00
EMERGENCY FUEL FUND	20,000.00	749.90	5,000.00
<b>GENERAL ASSISTANCE TOTAL</b>	<b>25,000.00</b>	<b>5,135.36</b>	<b>10,100.00</b>
SPECIAL REQUESTS	65,126.00	62,638.00	64,476.00
<b>SPECIAL REQUESTS TOTAL</b>	<b>65,126.00</b>	<b>62,638.00</b>	<b>64,476.00</b>
HRA ADMIN	1,500.00	1,018.00	1,200.00
HRA CLAIMS PAID	13,000.00	19,608.50	13,000.00
WORKERS COMP	37,000.00	42,722.25	40,000.00
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	5,000.00	1,713.75	2,300.00
LIABILITY INSURANCE	35,000.00	32,529.00	35,000.00
VOLUNTEER FF INSURANCE	1,600.00	1,224.00	1,500.00
REC ACTIVITIES INSURANCE	1,500.00	1,040.00	1,500.00
<b>INSURANCES TOTAL</b>	<b>94,600.00</b>	<b>99,855.50</b>	<b>94,500.00</b>
REC PROGRAMS	225,345.00	212,505.80	270,742.00
<b>RECREATION TOTAL</b>	<b>225,345.00</b>	<b>212,505.80</b>	<b>270,742.00</b>
DEBT SERVICES	361,955.00	349,802.72	356,954.00
<b>DEBT SERVICES TOTAL</b>	<b>361,955.00</b>	<b>349,802.72</b>	<b>356,954.00</b>
LIBRARY	110,025.00	105,616.89	115,620.00
<b>LIBRARY TOTAL</b>	<b>110,025.00</b>	<b>105,616.89</b>	<b>115,620.00</b>
RSU 18	6,753,234.00	6,753,233.57	
<b>SCHOOL TOTAL</b>	<b>6,753,234.00</b>	<b>6,753,233.57</b>	
COUNTY TAX	846,767.00	846,767.00	
<b>KENNEBEC COUNTY TAX TOTAL</b>	<b>846,767.00</b>	<b>846,767.00</b>	
OVERLAY	68,521.88	18,736.01	
<b>OVERLAY TOTAL</b>	<b>68,521.88</b>	<b>18,736.01</b>	

## Independent Auditor's Report

Selectboard  
Town of Belgrade, Maine

### **Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements**

#### ***Opinions***

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities and each major fund of the Town of Belgrade, Maine, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Town of Belgrade, Maine's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities and each major fund, of the Town of Belgrade, Maine, as of December 31, 2023, the respective changes in financial position, and the respective budgetary comparison for the General Fund for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

#### ***Basis for Opinions***

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Town of Belgrade, Maine and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

#### ***Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements***

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Town of Belgrade, Maine's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

### ***Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements***

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Town of Belgrade, Maine's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Town of Belgrade, Maine's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

### ***Required Supplementary Information***

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the schedules related to the OPEB and net pension liability, as listed in the table of contents, be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Management has omitted the management’s discussion and analysis that accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require to be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such missing information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. Our opinion on the basic financial statements is not affected by this missing information.

***Supplementary Information***

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Town of Belgrade, Maine’s basic financial statements. The combining and individual fund financial statements are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the combining and individual fund financial statements are fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

***Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards***

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated \_\_\_\_\_, 2024, on our consideration of the Town of Belgrade, Maine’s internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Town of Belgrade, Maine’s internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Town of Belgrade, Maine’s internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

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South Portland, Maine





January 1, 2022 - December 31, 2022  
 Sub-Accounting Report  
 Town of Belgrade  
 (Account #0876)

Fund Name	Beginning Fund Value <sup>1</sup>	Beginning % of Fund <sup>2</sup>	Additions <sup>3</sup>	Withdrawals <sup>4</sup>	Interest & Dividends <sup>5</sup>	Realized Gains/Losses <sup>6</sup>	Unrealized Gains/Losses <sup>7</sup>	Management Fee <sup>8</sup>	Ending Fund Value <sup>9</sup>	Ending % of Fund <sup>10</sup>
DON C. STEVENS FUND FOR THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF BELGRADE CEMETERY PORTFOLIO	\$887,154.96	57.62%	\$0.00	(\$13,814.75)	\$14,966.31	(\$31,154.40)	(\$93,407.90)	(\$6,253.00)	\$757,491.23	56.97%
G4-103-00 AND ICS PERP CARE	\$580,671.75	37.71%	\$15,250.00	(\$9,938.00)	\$9,873.62	(\$20,564.48)	(\$61,160.24)	(\$4,117.99)	\$510,014.65	38.36%
DON C. STEVENS FUND G4-104-00	\$20,687.42	1.34%	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$349.71	(\$728.49)	(\$2,178.79)	(\$146.09)	\$17,983.77	1.35%
GUY A. YEATON CEMETERY TRUST FUND G4-105-00	\$2,658.17	0.17%	\$0.00	(\$43.00)	\$44.36	(\$92.27)	(\$279.64)	(\$18.55)	\$2,269.06	0.17%
LACROIX CEMETERY CARE TRUST G4-106-00	\$5,248.05	0.34%	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$88.72	(\$184.81)	(\$552.72)	(\$37.06)	\$4,562.18	0.34%
ROBERT A. GUPTIL HISTORICAL TRUST FUND G4-107-00	\$18,890.24	1.23%	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$319.33	(\$665.20)	(\$1,989.51)	(\$133.40)	\$16,421.46	1.23%
THE WORTHY POOR TRUST	\$18,449.32	1.20%	\$0.00	(\$299.00)	\$307.86	(\$640.43)	(\$1,940.85)	(\$128.76)	\$15,748.14	1.18%
	\$5,992.43	0.39%	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$101.30	(\$211.02)	(\$631.12)	(\$42.32)	\$5,209.27	0.39%
G1-101-00 AND ICS	\$0.00	0.00%	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$1,539,752.34</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$15,250.00</b>	<b>(\$24,094.75)</b>	<b>\$26,051.21</b>	<b>(\$54,241.09)</b>	<b>(\$162,140.78)</b>	<b>(\$10,877.16)</b>	<b>\$1,329,699.77</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

**SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY:**

Beginning Market Value:	\$1,539,752.34
Additions:	\$15,250.00
Withdrawals:	(\$24,094.75)
Interest & Dividends:	\$26,051.21
Realized Gains/Losses:	(\$54,241.09)
Unrealized Gains/Losses:	(\$162,140.78)
Management Fee:	(\$10,877.16)
Ending Market Value:	\$1,329,699.77

Change in FMV<sup>11</sup>: (\$210,052.57)

**NOTES:**

- 1 This is the "Ending Market Value" carried forward from the previous month.
- 2 This is the percentage of the market value attributable to each sub-account carried forward from the previous month.
- 3 This reflects contributions or additions made to each sub-account, if any, during the current month.
- 4 This reflects withdrawals or distributions made from each sub-account, if any, during the current month.
- 5 This reflects net interest, dividends and accrued interest, if any, posted to each sub-account during the current month.
- 6 This reflects capital gains or losses, if any, actually realized in each sub-account during the current month.
- 7 This reflects capital gains or losses, if any, not yet realized in each sub-account during the current month.
- 8 This reflects the sum of management fees and brokerage commissions charged to each sub-account during the current month.
- 9 This reflects the value of each sub-account as of the end of the current month.
- 10 This is the percentage of the market value attributable to each sub-account as of the end of the current month.
- 11 This is the net change in fair market value after accounting for all activity.
- 12 The dollar values and percentages above are rounded to 2 decimal places. Discrepancies up to \$1.00 between this sub-accounting report and the monthly account statement are possible.

**TOWN OF BELGRADE, MAINE**  
**Statement of Net Position**  
**December 31, 2023**

	<b>Governmental Activities</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 6,133,639
Investments	1,492,464
Receivables:	
Taxes	428,432
Tax liens	64,255
Due from the State	90,598
Inventory	63,929
Prepaid expenses	4,563
Nondepreciable capital assets	880,257
Depreciable capital assets, net	7,440,465
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>16,598,602</b>
<b>DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>	
Deferred outflows of resources related to net pension liability	49,290
<b>Total deferred outflows of resources</b>	<b>49,290</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	
Accounts payable	169,043
Accrued wages and benefits	30,928
Taxes paid in advance	12,814
Unearned revenues	128,420
Accrued interest	7,974
Noncurrent liabilities:	
Due within one year	328,709
Due in more than one year	367,087
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>1,044,975</b>
<b>DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>	
Deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB	21,574
Deferred inflows of resources related to net pension liability	9,075
<b>Total deferred inflows of resources</b>	<b>30,649</b>
<b>NET POSITION</b>	
Net investment in capital assets	7,766,783
Restricted - donations and grants	478,664
Restricted - Nonexpendable permanent fund principal	277,715
Restricted - Expendable permanent fund earnings	1,193,802
Unrestricted	5,855,304
<b>Total net position</b>	<b>\$ 15,572,268</b>

*See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.*

**TOWN OF BELGRADE, MAINE**  
**Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance -**  
**Budget and Actual - Budgetary Basis - General Fund**  
**For the year ended December 31, 2022**

	Original Budget	Final Budget	Actual	Variance with final budget positive (negative)
<b>Revenues:</b>				
Taxes	\$ 10,395,648	10,395,648	10,448,658	53,010
Intergovernmental revenues	577,825	577,825	740,268	162,443
Charges for services	115,200	115,200	227,527	112,327
Other revenues	94,430	94,430	92,948	(1,482)
Interest	20,000	20,000	166,053	146,053
Total revenues	11,203,103	11,203,103	11,675,454	472,351
<b>Expenditures:</b>				
Current:				
General government	800,720	800,720	736,247	64,473
Public safety	479,555	479,555	472,758	6,797
Public works	1,150,098	1,150,098	984,767	165,331
Solid waste	365,800	365,800	341,887	23,913
Public services	95,406	95,406	72,355	23,051
Recreation and culture	336,070	336,070	317,237	18,833
Education	6,753,234	6,753,234	6,753,234	-
County tax	846,767	846,767	846,767	-
Unclassified	68,522	68,522	18,736	49,786
Capital outlay	-	-	-	-
Debt service	361,955	361,955	349,803	12,152
Total expenditures	11,258,127	11,258,127	10,893,791	364,336
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	(55,024)	(55,024)	781,663	836,687
<b>Other financing sources (uses):</b>				
Budgeted use of carryforward balance	1,012,500	1,012,500	-	(1,012,500)
Transfers from other funds	32,524	32,524	38,524	6,000
Transfers to other funds	(990,000)	(990,000)	(1,170,321)	(180,321)
Total other financing sources (uses)	55,024	55,024	(1,131,797)	(1,186,821)
Net change in fund balance	-	-	(350,134)	
Fund balance, beginning of year, restated			3,719,020	
<b>Fund balance, end of year</b>			<b>\$ 3,368,886</b>	

*See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.*

**TOWN OF BELGRADE, MAINE**  
**Capital Projects Fund**  
**Combining Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances**  
**For the Year Ended December 31, 2023**

	Fund balances beginning of year	Revenues			Expenditures			Transfers In	Transfers out	Fund balances end of year
		Charges for services	Other	Capital outlay	Other	Capital outlay	Other			
01 Maintenance garage	\$ 29,580	-	-	19,868	-	-	15,000	-	24,712	
02 Senior ordinance	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,455	-	1,455	
06 Tower fund	9,885	-	-	7,664	-	-	-	-	2,221	
07 Planning board reserve	10,799	-	-	-	10,767	-	-	-	32	
62 Village lights escrow	8,487	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,487	
85 Facilities truck	35,656	-	-	28,433	-	-	-	-	7,223	
86 Cemetery equipment	14,705	-	-	-	-	-	10,000	-	24,705	
87 Cemetery water line	28,423	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28,423	
88 Fire department equipment	330,749	-	104,905	112,555	-	-	81,846	-	404,945	
89 Library	23,429	-	-	-	1,209	-	5,472	(8,524)	19,168	
90 Fire department facility	330,000	-	-	-	1,331	-	100,000	-	428,669	
91 Road maintenance	273,339	-	4,000	-	-	-	608,189	-	885,528	
92 Recreation	125,113	-	-	6,223	10,000	-	12,920	-	121,810	
93 Sidewalks	75	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	75	
94 Water quality	24,215	6,987	-	-	-	-	11,189	-	42,391	
95 Facilities	4,108	-	-	-	34,019	-	111,195	-	81,284	
96 Dams	9,353	77,603	-	-	180,451	-	71,418	-	(22,077)	
97 Cemetery expansion (plan 5)	6,330	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,330	
98 Old town meeting house	1,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,000	
99 Solid waste	109,160	-	-	-	-	-	5,000	-	114,160	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,374,406</b>	<b>84,590</b>	<b>108,905</b>	<b>174,743</b>	<b>237,777</b>	<b>1,033,684</b>	<b>(8,524)</b>	<b>2,180,541</b>		

**TOWN OF BELGRADE, MAINE**  
**Special Revenue Funds**  
**Special Grants and Programs**  
**Combining Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances**  
**For the Year Ended December 31, 2023**

	Fund balances beginning of year	Revenues		Expenditures	Transfers	Fund balances end of year
		Other	Donations			
01 Sandra Fowler	\$ 424	-	-	16	-	408
42 Library donations	5,306	-	1,215	-	-	6,521
43 Library trustees	960	269	-	100	-	1,129
44 Maggie Schneider	4,653	-	-	240	-	4,413
45 Library carryforward	987	-	-	-	-	987
46 Library fees	8,136	651	-	-	-	8,787
47 Labun estate	8,223	-	-	810	-	7,413
49 FD grant	6,000	-	-	-	-	6,000
50 Bottle redemption	15,902	-	3,569	-	-	19,471
51 Dalton property	921	11,195	-	609	(11,195)	312
52 Emergency fuel	12,125	-	50	-	19,250	31,425
53 United way	32	-	-	-	-	32
54 Tree committee	5,009	-	-	-	-	5,009
55 CFAS donations	6,359	-	-	-	-	6,359
56 Animal control officer	16,779	3,934	-	910	-	19,803
58 Town office beautification	80	-	-	80	-	-
59 Audio books	2,421	-	-	-	-	2,421
60 Weinberg adult nonfiction	120	-	-	-	-	120
61 Well contamination remediation	209,627	-	-	1,665	200,000	407,962
63 ARPA	-	204,357	-	126,357	(78,000)	-
65 Pickleball	-	-	5,600	-	-	5,600
66 DILTS	-	-	6,365	-	-	6,365
67 Senior resources	-	-	491	-	-	491
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 304,064</b>	<b>220,406</b>	<b>17,290</b>	<b>130,787</b>	<b>130,055</b>	<b>541,028</b>

**TOWN OF BELGRADE, MAINE**  
**Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances**  
**Nonmajor Permanent Funds**  
**For the year ended December 31, 2023**

	Don C. Stevens Cemetery Portfolio	Don C. Stevens School Enrichment	Don C. Stevens School Scholarship	Guy A. Yeaton Cemetery	Lacroix Cemetery	Robert A. Guptil Historical	Alice Cram Perpetual	Fire Department Memorial	Total Permanent Funds
Revenues:									
Interest	62,759	94,129	282	561	2,021	1,938	2,213	691	165,241
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,950	5,000	11,950
Total revenues	\$ 62,759	94,129	282	561	2,021	1,938	9,163	5,691	177,191
Expenditures:									
Current:									
Public works	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,885	6,885
Education	-	13,074	1,000	-	-	277	-	-	14,351
Total expenditures	-	13,074	1,000	-	-	277	-	6,885	21,236
Net change in fund balances	62,759	81,055	(718)	561	2,021	1,661	9,163	(1,194)	155,955
Fund balance, beginning of year	476,731	752,155	426	4,562	16,421	16,514	39,005	2,249	1,313,265
<b>Fund balance, end of year</b>	<b>\$ 539,490</b>	<b>833,210</b>	<b>(292)</b>	<b>5,123</b>	<b>18,442</b>	<b>18,175</b>	<b>48,168</b>	<b>1,055</b>	<b>1,469,220</b>

**TOWN OF BELGRADE**  
**STATE OF MAINE Kennebec, S.S.**

To Jeremy Damren, of the Town of Belgrade, in the said County and State:

Greetings: In the name of the State, you are hereby required to notify and warn inhabitants of the Town of Belgrade, qualified to vote in Town affairs, to assemble at the Center For All Seasons, in said Town, Friday, March 15, 2024, at 7:45 a.m. to elect a Moderator to preside at said meeting, to elect Town Officers for the ensuing year(s) and to vote by secret ballot on Articles 2 to 8. Polls are to be open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The inhabitants of the Town of Belgrade, qualified to vote in the Town affairs, are hereby also warned to assemble at the Belgrade Community Center for All Seasons, on Saturday, March 16, 2024, at 1:00 p.m., to act on Article 9 to the end of the warrant.

**ARTICLE 1**

To elect a Moderator to preside at said meeting.

**ARTICLE 2**

To elect Town Officers for the ensuing years:  
 Two Selectpersons to three-year terms (Expire 2027)

**ARTICLE 3**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate from taxation \$1,138 for the Sexual Assault Crisis and Support Center?

	<b>2023</b>		<b>2024</b>			
	<b><u>Actual</u></b>		<b><u>request</u></b>			
	<b>\$1,138.00</b>		<b>\$1,138.00</b>			
<i>Selectboard recommendation:</i>	YES	3	NO	0	ABSENT	2
<i>Budget Committee recommendation:</i>	YES	3	NO	1	ABSENT	2

**ARTICLE 4**

Shall the town vote to raise and appropriate from taxation \$60,000 for Lake Protection, to be disbursed to the following lake associations in fiscal year 2024, as follows:

	<b>2023</b>		<b>2024</b>			
	<b><u>Actual</u></b>		<b><u>request</u></b>			
Belgrade Lakes Association <i>(Great Pond milfoil removal)</i>	\$24,000.00		\$24,000.00			
Friends of Messalonskee <i>(Belgrade Stream milfoil removal)</i>	\$19,650.00		\$19,650.00			
7 Lakes Alliance <i>(Courtesy boat inspection, Youth Conservation Corps)</i>	\$12,600.00		\$12,600.00			
McGrath-Salmon Lake Association <i>(Courtesy boat inspection, Youth Conservation Corps, Port-O-Let)</i>	<u>\$ 3,750.00</u>		<u>\$ 3,750.00</u>			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$60,000.00</b>		<b>\$60,000.00</b>			
<b>Funding from property taxes</b>	<b>\$60,000.00</b>		<b>\$60,000.00</b>			
<i>Selectboard recommendation:</i>	YES	3	NO	0	ABSENT	2
<i>Budget Committee recommendation:</i>	YES	3	NO	1	ABSENT	2

**ARTICLE 5**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate from taxation \$1,562.40 to help fund Spectrum Generations for Belgrade residents?

	<b>2023</b>		<b>2024</b>			
	<b><u>Actual</u></b>		<b><u>request</u></b>			
	<b>\$1,488.00</b>		<b>\$1,562.40</b>			
<i>Selectboard recommendation:</i>	YES	3	NO	0	ABSENT	2
<i>Budget Committee recommendation:</i>	YES	3	NO	1	ABSENT	2

**ARTICLE 6**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate from taxation \$1,500 to help fund Hospice Volunteers of Waterville Area, which provides services to the residents of Belgrade?

<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
<b>Actual</b>	<b>request</b>
<b>\$1,500.00</b>	<b>\$1,500.00</b>

<i>Selectboard recommendation:</i>	YES	3	NO	0	ABSENT	2
<i>Budget Committee recommendation:</i>	YES	4	NO	0	ABSENT	2

**ARTICLE 7**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate from taxation \$350 to help fund Kennebec Behavioral Health mental health services for the uninsured and underinsured residents of Belgrade?

<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
<b>Actual</b>	<b>request</b>
<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$350.00</b>

<i>Selectboard recommendation:</i>	YES	3	NO	0	ABSENT	2
<i>Budget Committee recommendation:</i>	YES	4	NO	0	ABSENT	2

**ARTICLE 8**

To see if the town will authorize the Board of Selectpersons to convey to Belgrade’s state legislators, Members of Congress, Governor, and President of the United States that the town hereby calls upon our Federal elected representatives to enact Cash Back Carbon pricing legislation to protect Maine from the costs and environmental risks of continued climate inaction. Cash-Back Carbon Pricing charges fossil fuel producers for their carbon pollution and rebates the money collected to all residents on an equal basis with monthly dividend checks. The record of the vote approving this resolution shall be transmitted by written notice to the above mentioned parties by the Board of Selectpersons within 30 days of this vote.

**\*\*\*GENERAL GOVERNMENT\*\*\***

**ARTICLE 9**

Shall the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectpersons or their designee to negotiate and the Board enter into multi-year contracts on behalf of the Town and to extend existing contracts found to be in the best interest of the Town of Belgrade?

<i>Selectboard recommendation:</i>	YES	3	NO	0	ABSENT	2
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**ARTICLE 10**

To see if the Town will authorize the Board of Selectpersons to act on the following:

- Spend an amount not to exceed one-fourth of the approved budget for 2024 between January 1, 2025, and the date of the regular 2025 Town Meeting.
- Vote to accept all overdrafts and balances that have lapsed and are not otherwise directed to the undesignated fund.
- Pursuant to 36 MRSA section 506 to authorize the tax collector to accept prepayment of property taxes prior to the delivery of the tax commitment to the tax collector by the assessors without payment of interest.

<i>Selectboard recommendation:</i>	YES	3	NO	0	ABSENT	2
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**ARTICLE 11**

To see if the town will set Friday, September 6, 2024, as the date 2024 property taxes are due. For taxes paid after September 6, 2024, interest will be charged at a rate equal to 1% above the per annum interest rate on the Town’s tax anticipation note. Interest will continue until the tax and tax lien are paid in full. Additionally, to see if the Town will set the interest rate to be paid by the Town on taxes paid and later abated at 2% per annum. Interest will accrue from the date of the tax payment to the date the abated amount is refunded to the taxpayer.

<i>Selectboard recommendation:</i>	YES	5	NO	0	ABSENT	0
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**ARTICLE 12**

To see if the town will appropriate estimated revenues in the amount of \$1,720,000 from the following sources to reduce the property tax commitment:

	<b>2023 Budget</b>	<b>2023 actual</b>	<b>2024 proposed</b>
Vehicle excise tax	\$1,000,000.00	\$1,139,405.95	\$1,000,000.00
Boat excise tax	\$ 9,996.00	\$ 11,152.00	\$ 10,000.00
Interest on Taxes	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 12,447.49	\$ 10,000.00
Agent Fees	\$ 0.00	\$ 25,761.55	\$ 25,000.00
Cable Franchise Fees	\$ 49,000.00	\$ 51,487.93	\$ 50,000.00
Homestead Exemption	\$ 216,000.00	\$ 232,867.00	\$ 225,000.00
Municipal Revenue Sharing	\$ 350,000.00	\$ 335,299.47	\$ 350,000.00
Bank Interest	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 99,502.42	\$ 50,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,654,996.00</b>	<b>\$1,907,923.81</b>	<b>\$1,720,000.00</b>

Selectboard recommendation: YES 3 NO 0 ABSENT 2  
 Budget Committee recommendation: YES 4 NO 0 ABSENT 2

**ARTICLE 13**

To see if the town will appropriate \$9,500 from plumbing fees, \$8,000 from building permits and will raise and appropriate from taxation \$777,765, for municipal operations and administrative activities as follows:

	<b>2023 Budget</b>	<b>2023 actual</b>	<b>2024 proposed</b>
Selectboard	\$ 14,855.00	\$ 7,070.24	\$ 14,855.00
Board of Appeals	\$ 1,350.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 1,850.00
Administration	\$504,875.00	\$473,053.51	\$498,290.00
Town Manager	\$106,220.00	\$104,066.08	\$110,870.00
Code Enforcement	\$ 59,000.00	\$ 57,873.52	\$ 56,650.00
Planning Board	\$ 7,250.00	\$ 4,267.88	\$ 2,200.00
Hearings and Elections	\$ 11,950.00	\$ 9,936.85	\$ 15,450.00
Historian	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 600.00
Insurance	\$ 94,600.00	\$ 99,855.50	\$ 94,500.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$800,600.00</b>	<b>\$756,638.58</b>	<b>\$795,265.00</b>

**Funding from non-property tax sources:**

Plumbing fees	\$ 8,700.00	\$11,808.75	\$ 9,500.00
Building permit fees	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 8,499.89	\$ 8,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$16,200.00</b>	<b>\$20,308.64</b>	<b>\$ 17,500.00</b>

**Funding from property taxes \$784,400.00 \$777,765.00**

Selectboard recommendation: YES 3 NO 0 ABSENT 2  
 Budget Committee recommendation: YES 4 NO 0 ABSENT 2

**\*\*\*PUBLIC SAFETY\*\*\***

**ARTICLE 14**

To see if the town will appropriate \$44,980 in non-tax revenue, and raise and appropriate from taxation \$502,559 for Public Safety, for a total of \$547,539 as follows, with any unexpended balance from the Fire & Rescue Department budget lapsing into its equipment capital reserve:

	<b>2023 Budget</b>	<b>2023 actual</b>	<b>2024 proposed</b>
Emergency Mgmt. Director	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Fire & Rescue Department	\$409,405.00	\$403,799.60	\$454,075.00
Municipal streetlights	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 2,227.61	\$ 1,800.00
Animal Control Officer	\$ 13,700.00	\$ 11,405.19	\$ 24,560.00
Health Officer	\$ 550.00	\$ 550.00	\$ 1,250.00
Dispatch	\$ 53,600.00	\$ 52,970.91	\$ 65,354.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$479,555.00</b>	<b>\$471,453.31</b>	<b>\$547,539.00</b>

**Funding from non-property tax sources:**

Town of Rome contribution	\$ 32,500.00	\$32,500.00	\$ 42,240.00
Fire Dept. cost recovery revenue	\$ 11,271.00	\$11,271.00	\$ 1,240.00
Dog fees	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,049.00	\$ 1,500.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 45,271.00</b>	<b>\$44,820.00</b>	<b>\$ 44,980.00</b>

**Funding from property taxes \$434,284.00 \$502,559.00**

Selectboard recommendation:	YES	3	NO	0	ABSENT	2
Budget Committee recommendation:	YES	4	NO	0	ABSENT	2

**\*\*\*PUBLIC WORKS\*\*\***

**ARTICLE 15**

To see if the town will appropriate \$53,920 from the Local Roads Assistance Program (LRAP) and raise and appropriate from taxation \$626,255 for Public Works, for a total of \$680,175 as follows, with any unexpended balance lapsing into the roads capital reserve:

	<b>2023 Budget</b>	<b>2023 actual</b>	<b>2024 proposed</b>
General road maintenance	\$172,275.00	\$141,373.84	\$191,175.00
Winter Maintenance contract	\$314,000.00	\$306,763.60	\$343,000.00
Fuel escalator (winter maint. Contract)	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 3,599.89	\$ 6,000.00
Sand and salt	\$140,000.00	\$145,539.68	\$140,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$638,275.00</b>	<b>\$593,677.12</b>	<b>\$680,175.00</b>

**Funding from non-property tax sources:**

Local Roads Assistance Program (LRAP)	\$ 45,756.00	\$ 45,756.00	\$ 53,920.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 45,756.00</b>	<b>\$ 45,756.00</b>	<b>\$ 53,920.00</b>

**Funding from property taxes \$592,519.00 \$626,255.00**

Selectboard recommendation:	YES	3	NO	0	ABSENT	2
Budget Committee recommendation:	YES	4	NO	0	ABSENT	2

**\*\*\*CEMETERIES\*\*\***

**ARTICLE 16**

To see if the Town will appropriate \$12,849.20 in income from the Cemetery portfolio, and raise and appropriate from taxation \$91,005.80, for the cost of operations and maintenance of the cemeteries as follows:

	<b>2023 Budget</b>	<b>2023 actual</b>	<b>2024 proposed</b>
Personnel	\$45,240.00	\$34,275.43	\$ 65,880.00
Education	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 500.00
Services	\$ 5,800.00	\$ 7,014.62	\$ 7,000.00
Supplies	\$ 4,875.00	\$ 5,339.98	\$ 9,375.00
Repairs/Maintenance	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 7,661.05	\$ 12,500.00
Capital Equipment	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,533.97	\$ 2,000.00
Licenses	\$ 2,250.00	\$ 4,400.00	\$ 2,250.00
Memorial Day	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,658.45	\$ 2,350.00
Flowers	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,672.94	\$ 2,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$72,165.00</b>	<b>\$63,556.44</b>	<b>\$103,855.00</b>

**Funding from non-property tax sources:**

Cemetery Portfolio	\$ 8,886.26	\$11,973.19
ICS Perpetual Care	\$ 314.74	\$ 420.89
Guy A. Yeaton Cemetery Trst.	\$ 79.85	\$ 106.78
Cemetery Trust	\$ 287.40	\$ 384.34
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 9,568.25</b>	<b>\$12,849.20</b>

**Funding from property taxes \$62,596.75 \$91,005.80**

Selectboard recommendation:	YES	3	NO	0	ABSENT	2
Budget Committee recommendation:	YES	4	NO	0	ABSENT	2

**\*\*\*FACILITIES and GROUNDS\*\*\***

**ARTICLE 17**

To see if the town will appropriate \$1,550 from the library mowing contract, and raise and appropriate from taxation \$423,105, for the maintenance of facilities and grounds as follows:

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b><u>Budget</u></b>	<b><u>actual</u></b>	<b><u>proposed</u></b>
Personnel	\$164,670.00	\$156,287.22	\$214,000.00
Professional Services	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 1,400.00
Services	\$ 4,400.00	\$ 5,804.21	\$ 5,900.00
Supplies	\$ 13,700.00	\$ 16,902.77	\$ 14,900.00
Repairs/Maintenance	\$ 20,500.00	\$ 23,014.88	\$ 20,500.00
Purchases/Equipment	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 23,304.97	\$ 2,000.00
Center for All Seasons	\$ 56,825.00	\$ 39,972.07	\$ 42,855.00
North Belgrade Comm. Ctr.	\$ 16,940.00	\$ 13,094.44	\$ 13,665.00
Maintenance garage	\$ 8,400.00	\$ 16,315.29	\$ 11,250.00
Salt and sand shed	\$ 2,600.00	\$ 2,815.54	\$ 3,300.00
Lakes fire station	\$ 22,045.00	\$ 16,336.13	\$ 10,830.00
Depot fire station	\$ 8,705.00	\$ 4,545.16	\$ 6,105.00
North Belgrade fire station	\$ 7,350.00	\$ 7,852.02	\$ 10,100.00
Transfer Station	\$ 24,665.00	\$ 15,188.75	\$ 19,800.00
Parks	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 3,758.94	\$ 4,750.00
Dalton Road properties	\$ 27,550.00	\$ 7,322.89	\$ 24,450.00
Dams (see Article 24)	\$ 400.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
History House	\$ 3,200.00	\$ 2,975.00	\$ 1,000.00
Town Office	\$ 20,290.00	\$ 21,479.67	\$ 16,850.00
Library	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 849.88	\$ 1,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$415,740.00</b>	<b>\$376,219.83</b>	<b>\$424,655.00</b>

**Funding from non-property tax sources:**

Library mowing/plowing contract	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,378.00	\$ 1,550.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 3,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,378.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,550.00</b>

**Funding from property taxes**

**\$412,740.00** **\$423,105.00**

Selectboard recommendation:	YES	3	NO	0	ABSENT	2
Budget Committee recommendation:	YES	4	NO	0	ABSENT	2

**\*\*\*SOLID WASTE/RECYCLING\*\*\***

**ARTICLE 18**

To see if the town will appropriate \$30,000 from anticipated revenue from Solid Waste operations, and raise and appropriate from taxation \$329,193 for a total request of \$359,193.

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b><u>Budget</u></b>	<b><u>actual</u></b>	<b><u>proposed</u></b>
Household Hazardous Waste	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,069.90	\$ 2,900.00
Transfer Station	\$359,000.00	\$340,795.65	\$351,493.00
Chandler Road	\$ 700.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 700.00
Dunn Road	\$ 4,100.00	\$ 3,539.88	\$ 4,100.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$365,800.00</b>	<b>\$346,905.43</b>	<b>\$359,193.00</b>

**Funding from non-property tax sources:**

From undesignated	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 0.00
Solid waste revenue	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 40,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 40,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 30,000.00</b>

**Funding from property taxes**

**\$325,800.00** **\$329,193.00**

Selectboard recommendation:	YES	3	NO	0	ABSENT	2
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Budget Committee recommendation: YES 4 NO 0 ABSENT 2

**\*\*\*LIBRARY\*\*\***

**ARTICLE 19**

To see if the town will appropriate \$8,524 from the library capital reserve, and raise and appropriate from taxation \$107,096 for library services as follows, with any unexpended balance lapsing into the library capital reserve:

	<b>2023 Budget</b>	<b>2023 actual</b>	<b>2024 proposed</b>
Personnel	\$ 98,000.00	\$ 95,705.33	\$103,100.00
Education	\$ 200.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 500.00
Membership/Dues	\$ 125.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 125.00
Services	\$ 1,150.00	\$ 1,952.40	\$ 2,550.00
Supplies	\$ 6,100.00	\$ 4,951.05	\$ 6,150.00
Special Projects	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,016.11	\$ 1,500.00
Equipment	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,497.00	\$ 1,200.00
Licenses	\$ 350.00	\$ 495.00	\$ 495.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$110,025.00</b>	<b>\$105,616.89</b>	<b>\$115,620.00</b>

**Funding from non-property tax sources:**

Library capital reserve	\$ 8,524.00	\$ 8,524.00	\$ 8,524.00
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**Funding from property taxes: \$101,501.00 \$107,096.00**

Selectboard recommendation: YES 3 NO 0 ABSENT 2

Budget Committee recommendation: YES 4 NO 0 ABSENT 2

**ARTICLE 20**

To see if the town will authorize the Board of Selectpersons to enter into a one-year contract with the Friends of the Belgrade Public Library for up to \$3,000 to be paid by the Friends to the Town for plowing and mowing services to be performed by the Town at the Library property on Depot Road.

Selectboard recommendation: YES 3 NO 0 ABSENT 2

**\*\*\*PARKS and RECREATION\*\*\***

**ARTICLE 21**

To see if the town will appropriate \$98,500 from anticipated recreation revenue, and raise and appropriate from taxation \$172,242 for recreation services, with any unexpended balance lapsing into the recreation capital reserve:

	<b>2023 Budget</b>	<b>2023 actual</b>	<b>2024 proposed</b>
Personnel	\$186,000.00	\$167,618.79	\$217,837.00
Education	\$ 750.00	\$ 125.00	\$ 1,000.00
Memberships	\$ 45.00	\$ 195.00	\$ 155.00
Services	\$ 17,000.00	\$ 21,858.39	\$ 23,800.00
Supplies	\$ 5,050.00	\$ 5,942.96	\$ 5,750.00
Special Projects	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 5,884.08	\$ 18,200.00
Repairs/Maintenance	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 8,294.53	\$ 2,000.00
Equipment	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 3,037.05	\$ 2,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$225,345.00</b>	<b>\$212,505.80</b>	<b>\$270,742.00</b>

**Funding from non-property tax sources:**

Rec Fees	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 8,965.00	\$ 9,000.00
Summer Camp	\$ 40,000.00	\$44,718.00	\$ 45,000.00
Rentals	\$ 5,000.00	\$10,514.00	\$ 10,000.00
Craft Show	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 6,800.00	\$ 6,500.00
After School Program	\$ 8,500.00	\$22,862.00	\$ 28,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 69,000.00</b>	<b>\$93,859.00</b>	<b>\$ 98,500.00</b>

**Funding from property taxes \$157,045.00 \$172,242.00**

Selectboard recommendation:	YES	3	NO	0	ABSENT	2
Budget Committee recommendation:	YES	2	NO	2	ABSENT	2

**\*\*\*SOCIAL SERVICES\*\*\***

**ARTICLE 22**

To see if the town will vote to appropriate \$5,000 from the emergency fuel fund and to raise and appropriate from taxation \$11,200 for a total of \$16,200 for social services as follows:

	<u>2023 Budget</u>	<u>2023 actual</u>	<u>2024 proposed</u>
General Assistance	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 4,385.46	\$ 5,100.00
Emergency Fuel Fund	\$20,000.00	\$ 749.90	\$ 5,000.00
Senior Resources Committee	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,028.45	\$ 5,000.00
Community event traffic control	\$ 780.00	\$ 340.00	\$ 300.00
Holiday wreaths	\$ 500.00	\$ 711.98	\$ 800.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$29,780.00</b>	<b>\$ 9,215.79</b>	<b>\$16,200.00</b>

**Funding from non-property tax sources:**

From undesignated fund	\$12,500.00	\$12,500.00	\$ 0.00
Emergency fuel fund	\$ 12,500.00	\$12,500.00	\$ 5,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$25,000.00</b>	<b>\$25,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 5,000.00</b>

**Funding from property taxes**                      **\$ 4,780.00**    **\$11,200.00**

Selectboard recommendation:	YES	3	NO	0	ABSENT	2
Budget Committee recommendation:	YES	3	NO	1	ABSENT	2

**ARTICLE 23**

To see if the town will appropriate \$1,500 to support the Belgrade Senior Volunteer Work Program, which allows seniors 60 and older to earn benefits up to \$750, with the benefits to be paid through a tax abatement from the overlay fund toward their property taxes, and to authorize unused funds to be placed into a special reserve account called the Senior Volunteer Work Ordinance Fund.

Selectboard recommendation:	YES	3	NO	0	ABSENT	2
Budget Committee recommendation:	YES	4	NO	0	ABSENT	2

**\*\*\*DAMS\*\*\***

**ARTICLE 24**

To see if the town will raise and appropriate from taxation \$49,608.00 for Belgrade's share of 2024 operations/maintenance costs of the Village Dam, Wings Mills and Salmon Lake dams.

	<u>2024 proposed</u>
Dams Capital Reserve	\$ 7,200.00
Maintenance	\$ 9,600.00
Village Dam concrete	
Remediation	\$ 0.00
Wings Mill driveway, steel, etc.	\$32,808.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$49,608.00</b>

**Funding from property taxes**    **\$49,608.00**

Selectboard recommendation:	YES	3	NO	0	ABSENT	2
Budget Committee recommendation:	YES	4	NO	0	ABSENT	2

**ARTICLE 25**

To see if the town will approve moving the balance of \$500,000 in the Public Works Capital Reserve Account back to the undesignated fund account, and dissolving the reserve account set up.

Selectboard recommendation:	YES	3	NO	0	ABSENT	2
Budget Committee recommendation:	YES	4	NO	0	ABSENT	2

**ARTICLE 26**

To see if the town will approve moving \$500,000 from undesignated funds to the Roads Capital Reserve Account to prepare for upcoming paving costs.

<i>Selectboard recommendation:</i>	YES	3	NO	0	ABSENT	2
<i>Budget Committee recommendation:</i>	YES	4	NO	0	ABSENT	2

**\*\*\*FUNDING RESERVE ACCOUNTS\*\*\***

**ARTICLE 27**

To see if the town will appropriate \$607,500 from the undesignated fund, in the following amounts to fund the following reserve accounts:

	<b><u>2023 Balance*</u></b>	<b><u>2024 proposed</u></b>
Fire/Rescue Equipment Reserve	\$398,098.34	\$200,000.00
Facilities/Cemetery Truck Reserve	\$ 7,223.00	\$ 40,000.00
Cemetery Equipment Reserve	\$ 29,705.00	\$ 20,000.00
Fire Station Building Reserve	\$428,669.50	\$200,000.00
Maintenance Garage Reserve	\$ 25,586.70	\$ 12,500.00
Facilities Reserve	\$ 70,090.83	\$100,000.00
Solid Waste Reserve	\$109,159.55	\$ 10,000.00
Legal Fund Reserve	\$ 31.62	\$ 25,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,068,564.54</b>	<b>\$607,500.00</b>

\*Unaudited balances

<b>Funding from property taxes</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>
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<i>Selectboard recommendation:</i>	YES	3	NO	0	ABSENT	2
<i>Budget Committee recommendation:</i>	YES	4	NO	0	ABSENT	2

**\*\*\*DEBT SERVICE\*\*\***

**ARTICLE 28**

To see if the town will raise and appropriate from taxation \$297,061 for the second payment on the remaining year of the Road Bond, \$49,893 for the ninth payment on the Town Office 13-year bond and \$15,000 for the Tax Anticipation Note interest and fees, for a total of \$356,954.

	<b><u>2023 Budget</u></b>	<b><u>2023 actual</u></b>	<b><u>2024 proposed</u></b>
Road Bond	\$297,060.00	\$297,060.30	\$297,061.00
Town Office	\$49,894.00	\$49,892.42	\$ 49,893.00
Interest Tax Anticipation Note	\$15,000.00	\$ 2,850.00	\$ 3,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$361,954.00</b>	<b>\$349,802.72</b>	<b>\$349,954.00</b>

<i>Selectboard recommendation:</i>	YES	3	NO	0	ABSENT	2
<i>Budget Committee recommendation:</i>	YES	4	NO	0	ABSENT	2

**\*\*\*TRUST ACTIVITIES\*\*\***

**ARTICLE 29**

To see if the town will raise and appropriate \$946.26 in property taxes, and appropriate \$53.74 from the Don C. Stevens Fund for a total of \$1,000 to support an academic award from the town to the highest-ranking Belgrade senior graduating in 2024.

<i>Selectboard recommendation:</i>	YES	3	NO	0	ABSENT	2
<i>Budget Committee recommendation:</i>	YES	4	NO	0	ABSENT	2

**ARTICLE 30**

To see if the town will appropriate, authorize, designate or release the collective sum of \$18,307.63 as dictated by the following trusts and funds:

\*To make available to the Principal of Belgrade Central School the interest, in the amount of \$368.55, from the Robert A. Guptill Historical Fund for the promotion and association of history.

\*Authorize use of the Don C. Stevens Fund for the Public Schools of Belgrade income in the amount of \$17,939.08 to benefit the public schools of Belgrade.

<i>Selectboard recommendation:</i>	YES	3	NO	0	ABSENT	2
<i>Budget Committee recommendation:</i>	YES	4	NO	0	ABSENT	2

**\*\*\*ADDITIONAL ARTICLES\*\*\***

**ARTICLE 31**

To see if the town will authorize the Selectboard to use money from the undesignated fund to maintain operations at 2023 levels should the voters reject a departmental budget under this warrant, until such time as the voters approve a revised budget for the department(s) at a special town meeting.

<i>Selectboard recommendation:</i>	YES	3	NO	0	ABSENT	2
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**ARTICLE 32**

Shall the Town vote to move \$150,000 from undesignated funds to the Recreation Reserve account for the purpose of a future purchase of waterfront and/or outdoor recreational options in North Belgrade?

<i>Selectboard recommendation:</i>	YES	3	NO	0	ABSENT	2
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**ARTICLE 33**

To see if the Town agrees to add coverage under Regular Plan AC for its full-time general government employees and appointed officials effective April 1, 2024. The Town will allow general government employees and appointed officials who join effective April 1, 2024 to purchase credit for past employment with the Town (prior service). The Town will share in the purchase of prior service credit for these employees based on the original cost provided to employees by MainePERS if the employee completes the purchase of their portion of the cost by March 31, 2026 or the date they terminate employment with the Town, whichever is sooner. If the original cost provided by MainePERS is not paid in full within 30 days from the date the Town and the employee are billed by MainePERS, the Town is responsible for any interest that accrues on the total unpaid balance up through day 59. Employees are responsible for any interest that accrues on the total unpaid balance from day 60 forward. The Town will not share in the purchase of prior service for any eligible employee who has not completed the purchase of their portion of the original cost for their prior service by March 31, 2026, or by the date they terminate employment with the Town, whichever is sooner. The Town authorizes and directs the Select Board to determine how much the Town will contribute toward the purchase of each eligible employee's prior service at its next meeting and directs the Select Board to provide that information to each eligible employee and to MainePERS by the end of the business day immediately following that meeting. The Town will continue to provide Special Plan 3C to its full-time firefighters and emergency medical services employees. The limited period open enrollment provision the Town adopted upon joining MainePERS will apply to all MainePERS-eligible employees. All other employees, including elected officials, are excluded from participation at this time. The Town of Belgrade authorizes the Board of Selectpersons to sign the amended agreement between the Town and Maine Public Employees Retirement System.

<i>Selectboard recommendation:</i>	YES	5	NO	0	ABSENT	0
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**ARTICLE 34**

Shall the Town create a special reserve fund for the purpose of funding the Town's share in the purchase of prior service credit for employees' past employment with the Town under MainePERS pursuant to Article 33, appropriate \$162,000 to be transferred to the fund from the undesignated account, authorize the Selectboard to expend funds for this purpose as it deems appropriate, and let the unexpended balance of this fund fall to the undesignated account after March 31, 2026?

<i>Selectboard recommendation:</i>	YES	5	NO	0	ABSENT	0
<i>Budget committee recommendation:</i>	YES	4	NO	0	ABSENT	2

**ARTICLE 35**

To see if the Town will vote to repeal the following perpetuity article as the Boy Scouts / Girl Scouts no longer exist in Belgrade and the article is no longer applicable:

2010, Article 52: To see if the Town will continue to allow Troop #453, Belgrade Boy Scouts of America and Belgrade Girl Scouts to promote recycling, by bundling used newsprint for shipment on Town property, and to authorize the payment from these revenues to Boy Scout Troop #453 and Belgrade Girl Scouts, in support of their programs and activities. To the extent that any such bundling and shipping is done in collaboration with other Town recycling efforts, Troop #453 and Belgrade Girl Scouts shall compensate the Town for its pro rata share of related expenses. This article will remain in effect, until changed by a vote of a future town meeting.

Selectboard recommendation: YES 3 NO 0 ABSENT 2

**ARTICLE 36**

To see if the Town will vote to repeal Article 52, adopted as a perpetuity article in 2020;

**2020, Article 52:** To see if the Town will vote to refund excess motor vehicle excise tax credits to the extent authorized by 36 MRSA 1482 (5)(D) and to authorize the Board of Selectpersons to pay those refunds from the undesignated fund. This authority shall remain in effect until repealed or replaced.

And vote to approve the following:

To see if the Town will vote to refund excess motor vehicle excise tax credits paid to the Town of Belgrade to the extent authorized by 36 MRSA 1482 (5)(D) and to authorize the Board of Selectpersons to pay those refunds from the undesignated fund. This authority shall remain in effect until repealed or replaced.

**ARTICLE 37**

Shall the Town vote to establish a non-lapsing Benefit Reserve Account for the purpose of paying accrued benefits when employment is terminated with the Town, appropriate \$31,000 to be transferred to the account from the undesignated account and authorize the Selectboard to expend funds for this purpose as it deems appropriate?

Selectboard recommendation: YES 5 NO 0 ABSENT 0  
Budget Committee recommendation: YES 4 NO 0 ABSENT 2

**ARTICLE 38**

Shall the Town approve amendments to the Town's Cemetery ordinance, which was last amended in 2023?

Selectboard recommendation: YES 5 NO 0 ABSENT 0

**ARTICLE 39**

Shall an ordinance entitled "Town of Belgrade Ordinance Prohibiting Loitering and Camping In and On Public Streets, Public Places, or Municipal Buildings" be enacted?

Selectboard recommendation: YES 5 NO 0 ABSENT 0



Given under our hands at Belgrade, Maine in the County of Kennebec, and the State of Maine, this 20<sup>th</sup> day of February in the year of our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Four.

Dated: 02|20|24

Municipal Officers:

Barbara Allen  
Barbara Allen, Chair Selectperson

Carol Johnson  
Carol Johnson, Chair Selectperson

Daniel Newman  
Daniel Newman, Selectperson

Melanie Jewell  
Melanie Jewell, Selectperson

Peter Rushton  
Peter Rushton, Selectperson

Attest: A True Copy

Mary J. Vogel  
Mary J. Vogel

#### Public Information Officer

Pursuant to the within warrant to me directed, I have notified and warned the inhabitants of the Town of Belgrade, county of Kennebec and State of Maine, qualified by law to vote in Town affairs, to assemble at the time and place and for the purpose within named by posting an attested copy off the within warrant in the Belgrade Town Office, Belgrade Town Library, Center For All Seasons, Belgrade Depot Post Office, Belgrade Lakes Post Office and Christy's Store, being public and conspicuous places in said Town, on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024 A.D., being at least seven days before the meeting.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeremy Damren, Public Information Officer for the Town of Belgrade, Maine 04917





**Town of Belgrade**  
990 Augusta Road  
Belgrade, Maine 04917

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