**Town of Bridgton, Maine**

**TOWN MEETING GAZETTE**

**2018**

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ridgton’s 2018 Annual Town Meeting will be held Tuesday, June 12, and Wednesday, June 13. Residents may register to vote at the Town Office Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 4:00pm or on Election Day at the polls. *Remember to bring proof of identity and residency*. If you have any questions, please call Laurie Chadbourne, Town Clerk and Registrar of Voters at 647-8786. Town Meeting is your opportunity to have a voice in Bridgton’s future.

**BALLOT VOTING - Tuesday, June 12**

The polls will be open from 8:00am to 8:00pm at the Bridgton Town Hall, 26 North High Street, to act on **Articles 1 through 2** of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. The deadline to request an *absentee ballot* is Thursday, June 7, 2018. After this deadline, a voter may request an *absentee ballot* only if the voter completes a **Special Circumstances Application** and indicates one of the four allowable reasons to request an *absentee ballot* after this deadline.

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

**Article 2** is for the election of the following:

* Two Select Board members for three-year terms (Select Board members shall serve as Assessor, Overseers of the Poor and Wastewater Commissioners). There are four candidates: Robert McHatton, Sr., Carmen Lone, Liston Eastman and Jacqueline Frye. Voters may also write in candidates.
* Two directors of the Maine School Administrative District #61 for a three- year term. There is one candidate: Karla Swanson-Murphy. Voters may write in candidates.
* Two members of the Planning Board for a three-year term. There are two candidates: Deanna Miller and Catherine Pinkham. Voters may also write in candidates.
* One member of the Planning Board for a two-year term. There are two candidates: Charles Kenneth Gibbs and Diane Paul. Voters may also write in candidates.
* One Planning Board Alternate Member seat for a three-year term is open. There are no candidates. Voters may right in a candidate.
* One member of the Water District Board of Trustees for a three year term. There is one candidate: Todd Perreault. Voters may also write in candidates.

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**OPEN VOTING - Wednesday, June 13**

**Articles 3 through 34** will be voted on at the open portion of the Annual Town Meeting to be held at 7:00pm, June 13, at the Town Hall. Please refer to the Annual Town Meeting Warrant for the articles and budget details.

**Article 3:** Is the ***revenue*** side of the proposed FY18–19 budget less revenues from the Unassigned Fund Balance (Art. 16), Community Development Block Grant (Art. 17) and Trust Funds (Art. 18 and 19). It includes the anticipated non-property tax revenue that offsets the proposed expenditures reducing the property tax commitment. Overall ***revenues*** (inclusive of all the aforementioned Articles) are projected to increase by $367,788. Notable differences from last year include an increase in Excise Tax Revenues of $75,000, Wastewater Enterprise Fund $100,000 and a $75,000 increase from Unassigned Fund Balance.

**Articles 4 through 15** present the ***appropriation*** (expenditure) side of the proposed FY18–19 Budget. Gross appropriations increased by $386,424. The net appropriation decrease (including total Revenue increase of $434,249) is $47,825.

**Article 4, General Government:** Please refer to the Town Meeting Warrant for a detailed breakdown. The cost center increased by $216,218. Employee wages were adjusted by 3%, an Executive Assistant position was created, Insurance costs increased and Highland Lake Beach lifeguards are included.

**Article 5, Public Safety:** Please refer to the Town Meeting Warrant for a detailed breakdown. The cost center decreased by $1,580 which includes wage adjustments per the Union Contract for the Police Department (3%).

**Article 6, Public Works:** Please refer to the Town Meeting Warrant for a detailed breakdown. The cost center increased by $74,269. Significant changes includes wage adjustments per Union Contract (3%).

**Article 7, Board of Selectmen:** The Chair receives $1,750 and the Board $1,300 each for a total appropriation of $6,950. No change from last year.

**Article 8, Planning Board:** The Chair receives $1,000 and the Board, including the 2 alternates, $750 each for a total appropriation of $5,500. No change from last year.

**Article 9, Capital Expenditures:** Please refer to the Town Meeting Warrant for a detailed breakdown. The cost center increased by $35,850. Included this year is funding towards the Lower Main Street project.

**Article 10, Capital Expenditures Reserves:** Please refer to the Town Meeting Warrant for a detailed breakdown. Reserve Funds are established for financing the acquisition or reconstruction of a specific, or a type of, capital improvement; financing the acquisition of a specific item or type of capital equipment; or a sinking fund account for paying a funded debt. Decreased by $10,000 as the Recreation Reserve is funded at its maximum allowed amount.

**Article 11, Outside Agencies:** Please refer to the Town Meeting Warrant for a detailed breakdown. The cost center increased by $5,599.

**Article 12, Outside Services:** Please refer to the Town Meeting Warrant for a detailed breakdown. The cost center increased by $8,322.

**Article 13, Contingency Account:** The appropriation is used for unanticipated costs. No change from last year.

**Article 14, Long Term Debt:** Payment and interest for two Public Works trucks and the Town Hall. The cost center increased by $35,921 for the purchase of a new plow truck and a used truck.

**Article 15, County Fees and Taxes:** Please refer to the Town Meeting Warrant for a detailed breakdown. The cost center increased by $21,825.

**Article 16, Unassigned Fund Balance:** This is used to reduce taxes. The revenue was increased by $75,000.

**Article 17, Community Development Block Grant Capital Reserve:** These funds are used towards the following projects: Lower Main Street Project; Harmon Ballfield Snack Shack; and improvements to the Skating Rink. The following Social Services are funded: Navigator Program, Backpack Program and Family Crisis. Funds also off-set the costs of the Administrative Assistant and Community Development Director. The cost center decreased by $10,000 (estimated). *Received notice that the actual amount will be $196,228.*

**Article 18, Bridgton Trust Fund:** Please refer to the Town Meeting Warrant for a detailed breakdown. This article authorizes the use of the trust fund revenue for General Assistance, Cemeteries, Downtown Landscaping, School Fund and Willis Park. The cost center increased by $695.

**Article 19, Moose Pond Trust Fund:** Please refer to the Town Meeting Warrant for a detailed breakdown. This article authorizes the use of the trust fund revenue for Town Hall Debt Retirement ($50,000), Parks ($7,075) and Pondicherry Park ($5,000). The cost center increased by $766.

Articles 20 through 34 are annual housekeeping articles; excepting, Article 29 which is a Voter-Petitioned Article.

**Article 20:** Sets the tax due dates, the tax delinquency dates and establishes the interest rate for unpaid taxes.

**Article 21:** Authorizes the Select Board to fund property tax abatements from the tax overlay account and to pay interest to taxpayers who pay amounts in excess of amounts finally assessed.

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

**Article 23:** Authorizes the Tax Collector to accept pre-payment of taxes.

**Article 24:** Authorizes the Select Board to enter into boundary line agreements.

**Article 25:** Waives foreclosure of tax lien mortgages when ownership would be contrary to the town’s best interest.

**Article 26:** Authorizes the Select Board to dispose of tax-acquired properties.

**Article 27:** Authorizes the Select Board to dispose of real estate acquired for non-payment of wastewater fees acquired properties.

**Article 28:** Authorizes the Select Board to dispose of Town-owned property deemed surplus.

**Article 29: *Voter-Petitioned Article*:** Puts restrictions on how Town-owned properties are sold. Passage of this article would negatively impact the Selectboard’s authority to deed tax-acquired property back to the former owner. **The Board of Selectmen recommend a “No” vote.**

**Article 30:** Moves unexpended balances to the Unassigned Fund Balance and authorizes the Select Board to use monies from the Unassigned Fund Balance to pay for deficits in the upcoming fiscal year.

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

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

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

**Article 34:** Authorizes the Select Board to participate in the Cumberland County Housing and Community Development Programs of the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development and to execute an agreement with Cumberland County to formalize the agreement.