**Town of Bridgton, Maine**

**TOWN MEETING GAZETTE**

**2020**

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ridgton’s 2020 Annual Town Meeting will be held Tuesday, July 14. Residents may register to vote at the Town Office Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 4:00pm or on Election Day at the polls. *Remember to bring proof of identity and residency*. If you have any questions, please call Laurie Chadbourne, Town Clerk and Registrar of Voters at 647-8786. Town Meeting is your opportunity to have a voice in Bridgton’s future.

**BALLOT VOTING - Tuesday, July 14**

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 38** of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

For the July 14, 2020 State Primary and Special Referendum Election, the **deadline** to request an absentee ballot by telephone or online Absentee Ballot Request service is **5:00p.m.** on **Thursday, July 9, 2020**.

**A voter may request to vote in the presence of the Town Clerk or submit a written request to take an absentee ballot outside of the Clerk’s presence, up to and including election day.** A written request is a completed and signed absentee ballot application form or a free-form request that is signed by the voter or an immediate family member of the voter.

**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). There are seven candidates: James W. Kidder, Bernard N. King, Jr., Robert J. McHatton, Sr., Robert P. Murphy, George Frederick Packard, Paul A. Tworog and George Paul Waterhouse. Voters may also write in a candidate.
* One member of the Planning Board for a three-year term. There is one candidate: Charles Kenneth Gibbs. One member of the Planning Board for a one-year term. There is one candidate: Daniel J. Harden. Voters may also write in a candidate.
* One Planning Board Alternate Member seat for a one-year term is open. There are no candidates. Voters may write in a candidate.
* One member of the Water District Board of Trustees for a three-year term. There is one candidate: Barry N. Gilman. Voters may also write in a candidate.
* Two directors of the Maine School Administrative District #61 for a three- year term. There is one candidate: Pamela O. Brucker. Voters may write in a candidate.

**Articles 3 through 14** described below are proposed amendments and/or additions to the Bridgton Ordinances. The full texts of the amendments are available at the Town Office and on the Town website (www.bridgtonmaine.org).

* **Article 3/Question 1:** A **YES** vote enacts an ordinance to regulate medical marijuana large-scale caregiver operations. A **NO** vote means regulation of large-scale caregiver operations will not be enacted as proposed.
* **Article 4/Question 2:** A **YES** vote enacts an ordinance to allow and regulate medical marijuana retail stores in the Inner and Outer Corridor Districts. A **NO** vote means medical marijuana retail stores will continue to be prohibited in the Town of Bridgton.
* **Article 5/Question 3:** A **YES** vote enacts an ordinance to allow and regulate medical marijuana manufacturing facilities in the Inner and Outer Corridor Districts. A **NO** vote means medical marijuana manufacturing facilities will continue to be prohibited in the Town of Bridgton.
* **Article 6/Question 4:** A **YES** vote enacts an ordinance to allow and regulate medical marijuana testing facilities in the Inner and Outer Corridor Districts. A **NO** vote means medical marijuana testing facilities will continue to be prohibited in the Town of Bridgton.
* **Article 7/Question 5:** A **YES** vote enacts an ordinance to allow and regulate commercial facilities growing adult use marijuana in the Inner and Outer Corridor Districts. A **NO** vote means commercial facilities growing adult use marijuana will continue to be prohibited in the Town of Bridgton.
* **Article 8/Question 6:** A **YES** vote enacts an ordinance to allow and regulate adult use marijuana retail stores in the Inner and Outer Corridor Districts. A **NO** vote means adult use marijuana stores will continue to be prohibited in the Town of Bridgton.
* **Article 9/Question 7:** A **YES** vote enacts an ordinance to allow and regulate adult use marijuana product manufacturing facilities in the Inner and Outer Corridor Districts. A **NO** vote means marijuana product manufacturing facilities will continue to be prohibited in the Town of Bridgton.
* **Article 10/Question 8:** A **YES** vote enacts an ordinance to allow and regulate adult use marijuana testing facilities in the Inner and Outer Corridor Districts. A **NO** vote means adult use marijuana testing facilities will continue to be prohibited in the Town of Bridgton.
* **Article 11/Question 9:** A **YES** vote enacts an ordinance to accept and install the proposed amendments to the Article II, Land Use District and Uses. A **NO** vote means Article II, regarding Land Use Districts and Uses will remain unchanged.
* **Article 12/Question 10:** A **YES** vote enacts an ordinance to exempt subdivision applications from Land Use Ordinance requirements. A **NO** vote means subdivision applications will continue to be regulated by the Bridgton Land Use Ordinance.
* **Article 13/Question 11:** A **YES** vote enacts an ordinance to allow for additional land uses on the ground floor of single-story structures in the Downtown Village Business District 1. A **NO** vote means additional land uses of ground floor space in single-story structures in the Downtown Village Business District 1 will not be allowed.
* **Article 14/Question 12:** A **YES** vote enacts an ordinance to allow for the creation of assisted living facilities in the Downtown Village Neighborhood District. A **NO** vote means assisted living facility developments will not be allowed in the Downtown Village Neighborhood District

**Article 15/Question 13:** Is the ***revenue*** side of the proposed FY20–21 budget. It includes anticipated non-property tax revenue that offsets the proposed expenditures reducing the property tax commitment. Overall ***revenues*** are projected to increase by $666,529 (24.88%).

**Articles 16 through 22** present the ***appropriation*** (expenditure) side of the proposed FY20–21 Budget. Gross appropriations increased by $659,152. The net appropriation decrease is $7,377 (0.17%).

**Article 16/ Question 14, General Government:** The Article includes General Government ($2,520,624), Contingency ($30,000) and Long-Term Debt ($554,936) Please refer to the Town Budget for a detailed breakdown. The cost center increased by $392,835.

**Article 17/ Question 15, Public Safety:** Please refer to the Town Budget for a detailed breakdown. The cost center increased by $109,208.

**Article 18/ Question 16, Public Works:** The Article includes Public Works ($2,031,500) and Capital Expenditures ($632,500). Please refer to the Town Budget for a detailed breakdown. The cost center increased by $216,472.

**Article 19/ Question 17, Board of Selectmen/Planning Board:** The Board of Selectmen Chair receives $1,750 and the Selectmen $1,300 each for a total appropriation of $6,950. No change from last year. The Planning Board Chair receives $1,000 and the Board members, including the 2 alternates, $750 each for a total appropriation of $5,500. No change from last year.

**Article 20/ Question 18, Outside Agencies:** Please refer to the Town Budget for a detailed breakdown. The cost center decreased by $8,680.

**Article 21/ Question 19, Outside Services:** Please refer to the Town Budget for a detailed breakdown. The cost center increased by $953.

**Article 22/ Question 20, County Fees and Taxes:** Please refer to the Town Meeting Warrant for a detailed breakdown. The cost center increased by $13,364.

**Article 23/ Question 21, Community Development Block Grant Capital Reserve:** These funds are used towards the following projects: Oak Street Sidewalk. The following Social Services are funded: Navigator Program, Backpack Program, Summer Recreation and Bridgton Food Pantry. Funds also off-set the costs of the Administrative Assistant and Community Development Director. The cost center increased by $3,842.

**Article 24/ Question 22, Route 302 Development Program Funds:** This article authorizes the use of $330,000 from the Route 302 Tax Increment Development Program to off-set The Wastewater Bond payment ($65,000), the Streetscape Bond payment ($150,000) and the construction of the Main Hill Parking Lot ($115,000).

Articles 25 through 38 are annual housekeeping articles.

**Article 25/ Question 23:** Sets the tax due dates, the tax delinquency dates and establishes the interest rate for unpaid taxes.

**Article 26/ Question 24:** 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 27/ Question 25:** Establishes the interest rate for unpaid wastewater charges.

**Article 28/ Question 26:** Authorizes the Tax Collector to accept pre-payment of taxes.

**Article 29/ Question 27:** Authorizes the Select Board to enter into boundary line agreements.

**Article 30/ Question 28:** Waives foreclosure of tax lien mortgages when ownership would be contrary to the town’s best interest.

**Article 31/ Question 29:** Authorizes the Select Board to dispose of tax-acquired properties.

**Article 32/ Question 30:** Authorizes the Select Board to dispose of real estate acquired for non-payment of wastewater assessments.

**Article 33/ Question 31:** Authorizes the Select Board to dispose of Town-owned property deemed surplus and establishes the procedure.

**Article 34/ Question 32:** 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 35/ Question 33:** Authorizes the Select Board to dispose of Town-owned equipment deemed no longer of any use.

**Article 36/ Question 34:** Authorizes the Select Board and Treasurer to accept gifts, real estate, etc. on behalf of the town.

**Article 37/ Question 35:** Authorizes the Select Board to apply for and accept grants unless it requires the expenditure of other funds not appropriated by the Town.

**Article 38/ Question 36:** 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.