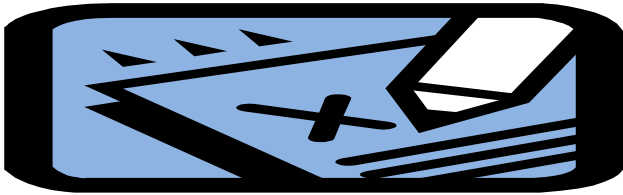


# TOWN OF BRIDGTON, MAINE TOWN MEETING GAZETTE

2021

**B**ridgton's 2021 Annual Town Meeting will be held Tuesday, June 8. 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 8**

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 June 8, 2021 State Primary and Special Referendum Election, the **deadline** to request an absentee ballot by telephone or online Absentee Ballot Request service is **8:00p.m.** on **Tuesday, June 8, 2021.**

**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 four candidates: James W. Kidder, Bernard N. King, Jr., Carmen E. Lone, and Robert J. McHatton, Sr. Voters may also write in a candidate.
- Two regular members of the Planning Board for three-year terms. There are three candidates: Daniel J. Harden, Rolf P. Madsen, and Deanna P. Miller. Voters may also write in a candidate.
- One Planning Board Alternate Member seat for a three-year term is open. There are no candidates. One Planning Board Alternate Member seat for a one-year term is open. There is one candidate: Catherine S. DiPietro. Voters may write in a candidate.
- Two directors of the Maine School Administrative District #61 for a three-year term. There are three candidates: Kimberly A. Bueler, Sharon Menegoni, and Karla J. Swanson Murphy. Voters may write in a candidate.
- One member of the Water District Board of Trustees for a three-year term. There is one candidate: Todd E. Perreault. Voters may also write in a candidate.

**Articles 3 through 7** 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](http://www.bridgtonmaine.org)).

- **Article 3/Question 1:** A **YES** vote enacts amendments to the ordinance to regulate disorderly houses. A **NO** vote means amendments to the regulation of disorderly houses will not be enacted as proposed.
- **Article 4/Question 2:** A **YES** vote enacts amendments to the ordinance to regulate nudity. A **NO** vote means amendments to the regulation of nudity will not be enacted as proposed.
- **Article 5/Question 3:** A **YES** vote enacts an amendment correcting significant errors/oversights in various districts' dimensional standards. A **NO** vote means corrective amendments will not be enacted.
- **Article 6/Question 4:** A **YES** vote enacts an amendment allowing the Planning Board greater flexibility to allow similar uses. A **NO** vote means the Planning Board will not have more flexibility.
- **Article 7/Question 5:** A **YES** vote enacts an amendment modifying some district's landscaping requirements that are currently seen as overly detailed and/or restrictive. A **NO** vote means the current requirements remain.

**Article 8/Question 6:** Is the *revenue* side of the proposed FY21–22 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 \$374,013 (11.18%).

**Articles 9 through 14** present the *appropriation* (expenditure) side of the proposed FY21–22 Budget. Gross appropriations increased by \$359,801. The net appropriation decrease is \$14,212 (-0.32%).

**Article 9/ Question 7, General Government:** The Article includes General Government

(\$2,685,251), Contingency (\$30,000) and Long-Term Debt (\$631,766) Please refer to the Town Budget for a detailed breakdown. The cost center increased by \$241,457.

**Article 10/ Question 8, Public Safety:** This Article includes Animal Control (\$24,327), Civil Emergency (\$20,884), Fire Department (\$348,606), Health Officer (\$3,828), Police Department (\$988,869), and Other Public Safety (Ambulance, Hydrants, Streetlights) (\$327,055). Please refer to the Town Budget for a detailed breakdown. The cost center increased by \$105,254.

**Article 11/ Question 9, Public Works:** The Article includes Town Garage (\$23,662), Cemeteries (\$56,550), Parks Department (\$205,066), Pondicherry Park (\$6,550), Public Works Department (\$758,098), Septic Disposal (\$750), Town Hall (\$33,960), Transfer Station (\$590,253), Vehicle Maintenance (\$376,516) and Capital Expenditures (\$620,000). Please refer to the Town Budget for a detailed breakdown. The cost center increased by \$32,905.

**Article 12/ Question 10, 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 \$1,750 and the Board members, including the 2 alternates, \$1,350 each for a total appropriation of \$9,550. The cost center increased by \$4,050.

**Article 13/ Question 11, Outside Agencies:** Please refer to the Town Budget for a detailed breakdown. The cost center decreased by \$1,458.

**Article 14/ Question 12, Outside Services:** Article includes Bridgton Community Center (\$76,937), Bridgton Public Library (\$84,000), and Lakes Region Television (\$33,000). Please refer to the Town Budget for a detailed breakdown. The cost center decreased by \$450.

**Article 15/ Question 13, County Fees and Taxes:** Article includes County Tax (\$772,951) and County Dispatch (\$120,455). Please refer to the Town Meeting Warrant for a detailed breakdown. The cost center increased by \$38,010.

**Article 16/ Question 14, Community Development Block Grant Capital Reserve:** These funds are used towards the following projects: Highland 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 decreased by \$1,303.

**Article 17/ Question 15, Route 302 Development Program Funds:** This article authorizes the use of \$259,096 from the Route 302 Tax Increment Development Program to off-set The Wastewater Bond payment (\$50,098), the Streetscape Bond payment (\$146,260) and State Revolving Fund (Wastewater) (\$62,738).

Articles 18 through 31 are annual housekeeping articles.

**Article 18/ Question 16:** Sets the tax due dates, the tax delinquency dates and establishes the interest rate for unpaid taxes.

**Article 19/ Question 17:** 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 20/ Question 18:** Establishes the interest rate for unpaid wastewater charges.

**Article 21/ Question 19:** Authorizes the Tax Collector to accept pre-payment of taxes.

**Article 22/ Question 20:** Authorizes the Select Board to enter into boundary line agreements.

**Article 23/ Question 21:** Waives foreclosure of tax lien mortgages when ownership would be contrary to the town's best interest.

**Article 24/ Question 22:** Authorizes the Select Board to dispose of tax-acquired properties.

**Article 25/ Question 23:** Authorizes the Select Board to dispose of real estate acquired for non-payment of wastewater assessments.

**Article 26/ Question 24:** Authorizes the Select Board to dispose of Town-owned property deemed surplus and establishes the procedure.

**Article 27/ Question 25:** 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 28/ Question 26:** Authorizes the Select Board to dispose of Town-owned equipment deemed no longer of any use.

**Article 29/ Question 27:** Authorizes the Select Board and Treasurer to accept gifts, real estate, etc. on behalf of the town.

**Article 30/ Question 28:** Authorizes the Select Board to apply for and accept grants unless it requires the expenditure of other funds not appropriated by the Town.

**Article 31/ Question 29:** 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.