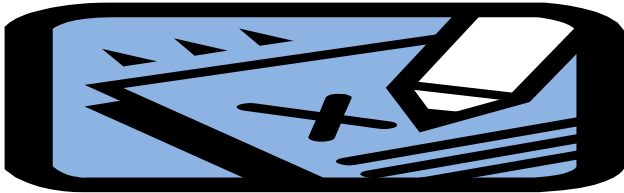


TOWN OF BRIDGTON, MAINE TOWN MEETING GAZETTE

2022

Bridgton's 2022 Annual Town Meeting will be held Tuesday, June 14, and Wednesday, June 15. 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 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 6** of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

For the June 14, 2022, Town Meeting, the **deadline** to request an absentee ballot in person, by telephone or online Absentee Ballot Request service is **Thursday, June 9, 2022, unless special circumstances exist.** The Town Clerk's Office will be open on Thursday, June 9th from 4PM until 7PM for the purpose of accepting voter registration and other election related issues. No other town business will be conducted during this time.

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:

- One Select Board member for a three-year term (Select Board members shall serve as Assessor, Overseers of the Poor). There are three candidates: Alfred A. Bottone IV, Seth J. Dresser, and Kenneth J. Murphy. Voters may also write in a candidate.
- Two regular members of the Planning Board for three-year terms. There are two candidates: Deborah A. Brusini and Rolf P. Madsen. Voters may also write in a candidate.
- One Planning Board Alternate Member seat for a three-year term. There is one candidate: Catherine S. DiPietro. Voters may also write in a candidate.
- One director of the Maine School Administrative District #61 for a three-year term. There is one candidate: Debra C. Albert. Voters may also write in a candidate.
- One member of the Water District Board of Trustees for a three-year term. There are two candidates: Catherine S. DiPietro and Wesley F. Gorman. Voters may also write in a candidate.

Articles 3 through 5 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 the ordinance establishing a Bridgton Senior Tax Assistance program. A **NO** vote means not establishing the program.

- **Article 4/Question 2:** A **YES** vote imposes a six-month moratorium on Commercial Solar Energy Facilities. A **NO** vote means the moratorium will not be imposed.
- **Article 5/Question 3:** A **YES** vote enacts amendments correcting significant errors/oversights in and add a Limited Commercial (LC) shoreland zoning district. A **NO** vote means corrective amendments and the Limited Commercial (LC) shoreland zoning district will not be enacted.
- **Article 6/Question 4:** A **YES** vote supports voting on all annual town meeting business by secret ballot. A **NO** vote means continuing the current procedure. The question is non-binding as the Board of Selectmen are the deciding body.



OPEN VOTING - Wednesday, June 15

Articles 7 through 31 will be voted on at the open portion of the Annual Town Meeting to be held at 7:00pm, June 15, at the Town Hall, North High Street. Please refer to the Annual Town Meeting Warrant for the articles and budget details.

Article 7/Question 5: Should Article 3 pass, voting **YES** approves an appropriation of up to \$100,000 from the Unassigned Fund balance to fund the rebates.

Article 8: Is the *revenue* side of the proposed FY22–23 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 \$633,448 (17%).

Articles 9 through 14 present the *appropriation* (expenditure) side of the proposed FY22–23 Budget. Gross appropriations increased by \$1,119,072. The net appropriation increase is \$179,624 (3.92%).

Article 9/General Government: The Article includes General Government, Employee Benefits, Insurance, Legal, Contingency and Long-Term Debt. Please refer to the Town Meeting Warrant for a detailed breakdown. The cost center increased by \$835,534 (24.9%).

Article 10/Public Safety: This Article includes Animal Control, Civil Emergency, Fire Department, Health Officer, Police Department, and Other Public Safety (Ambulance, Hydrants, Streetlights). Please refer to the Town Meeting Warrant for a detailed breakdown. The cost center increased by \$16,702 (<1%).

Article 11/Public Works: The Article includes Town Garage, Cemeteries, Parks Department, HAM Complex, Pondicherry Park, Public Works Department, Septic Disposal, Town Hall, Transfer Station, Vehicle Maintenance, and Capital Expenditures. Please refer to the Town Meeting Warrant for a detailed breakdown. The cost center increased by \$247,174 (9.2%).

Article 12/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, \$1,300 each for a total appropriation of \$9,550. The cost center did not increase.

Article 13/Outside Agencies: Please refer to the Town Meeting Warrant for a detailed breakdown. The cost center decreased by \$17,432.

Article 14/Outside Services: Article includes Bridgton Community Center, Bridgton Public Library, and Lakes Region Television. Please refer to the Town Meeting Warrant for a detailed breakdown. The cost center increased by \$28,492 (14.6%).

Article 15/County Fees and Taxes: Article includes County Tax and County Dispatch. Please refer to the Town Meeting Warrant for a detailed breakdown. The cost center increased by \$45,369 (5.0%).

Article 16/Community Development Block Grant Capital Reserve: These funds are used towards the following projects: Elm Street Sidewalk. The following Social Services are funded: Navigator Program, Winter Giveaway Program, Summer Recreation, and Bridgton Food Pantry. Funds also off-set the salary of the Deputy Community Development Director and County Administration.

Article 17/Route 302 Development Program Funds: This article authorizes the use of \$306,000 from the Route 302 Tax Increment Development Program to off-set the Wastewater Bond payment (\$394,830).

Articles 18 through 31 are annual housekeeping articles.

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

Article 19: 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: Establishes the interest rate for unpaid wastewater charges.

Article 21: Authorizes the Tax Collector to accept pre-payment of taxes.

Article 22: Authorizes the Select Board to enter into boundary line agreements.

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

Article 24: Authorizes the Select Board to dispose of tax-acquired properties.

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

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

Article 27: 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: Authorizes the Select Board to dispose of Town-owned equipment deemed no longer of any use.

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

Article 30: 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: 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.