

Town of Bridgton
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING RESULTS

Tuesday, June 13, 2023 and Wednesday, June 14, 2023

State of Maine

County of Cumberland, ss

Article 1. To elect a Moderator to preside at said meeting and to vote by written ballot.

Marita Wisner was elected Moderator and sworn to the statue oath by Town Clerk Laurie Chadbourne.

Article 2. To elect the following Town Officers by secret ballot as required by 30-A MRS §2528:

(2) Select Board Member/Assessor/Overseer of the Poor; 3-year term

Carrye L. Castleman-Ross received 260 votes and was elected;

Daniel J. Harden received 211 votes;

James W. Kidder received 139 votes;

Paul A. Tworog received 231 votes and was elected;

Miscellaneous write in received 7 votes;

Blanks 124.

(1) Planning Board Regular Member; 3-year term

Angela L. Cook received 227 votes and was elected;

Charles Kenneth Gibbs received 209 votes;

Miscellaneous write in received 7 votes;

Blanks 43.

(1) Planning Board Alternate Member; 3-year term

Angela Cook received 18 votes via write in and was elected (declined position);

Charles Kenneth Gibbs received 11 votes via write in;

Miscellaneous write in received 45 votes;

Blanks 412.

MRS Title 30-A, Section 2602.1.A. provides that a vacancy in an office occurs when there is non-acceptance. If the winner declines to accept the position, the office is not awarded to the second highest vote getter. The Municipal Officers may appoint a qualified person to fill the vacancy.

(2) MSAD #61 Director; 3-year term

Richard Meek received 334 votes and was elected;

Lee Bearse received 99 votes via write in and was elected (accepted position);

Miscellaneous write in received 19 votes;

Blanks 520.

(1) Water District Trustee; 3-year term

Barry Gilman received 388 votes and was elected;

Miscellaneous write in received 4 votes;

Blanks 94.

Article 3. To vote by secret ballot on the following “Question 1. Shall an ordinance entitled “Amendments to Town of Bridgton Fire Protection and Life Safety Ordinance” be enacted? (Note: Copies of the text of the ordinance are available from the Town Clerk.) Select Board recommends a YES vote.

Yes received 394 votes and passed;

No received 69 votes;

Blanks 23.

Article 4. To vote by secret ballot on the following “Question 2. “Shall an ordinance entitled “Repeal of Ordinance for Adoption of the International Building Code for One and Two Family Dwellings” be enacted?” (Note: A “Yes” vote will enact the ordinance entitled, “Repeal of Ordinance for Adoption of the International Building Code for One and Two Family Dwellings.” The Town of Bridgton will enforce the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code (MUBEC).10 M.R.S. § 9724 thereafter. Copies of the text of the ordinance are available from the Town Clerk.) Select Board recommends a YES vote.

Yes received 351 votes and passed;

No received 108 votes;

Blanks 27.

Article 5. To vote by secret ballot on the following “Question 3. Shall an ordinance entitled “Repeal of Town of Bridgton Phosphate Detergent Ordinance” be enacted?” (Note: A “Yes” vote will enact the ordinance entitled, “Repeal of Town of Bridgton Phosphate Detergent Ordinance.” The Town of Bridgton will adhere to Maine State regulations on cleaning agents and lawn and turf fertilizer under 38 M.R.S. § 419 thereafter. Copies of the text of the ordinance are available from the Town Clerk.) Select Board recommends a YES vote.

Yes received 347 votes and passed;

No received 117 votes;

Blanks 22.

A total of 486 votes were cast (4,989 registered voters).

Moderator Wisner recessed the Town Meeting until June 14, 2023 at 7:00 P.M.

Wednesday, June 14, 2023

69 resident voters were in attendance; 8 non-resident voters were in attendance

Select Board Members: Chair Carmen E. Lone; Vice-Chair Robert J. McHatton, Sr., Paul A. Tworog; Kenneth J. Murphy and Carrye Castleman-Ross.

Town Manager and Department Heads: Town Manager Robert Peabody; Deputy Town Manager Georgiann Fleck; Finance Director Holly Heymann; Town Clerk Laurie Chadbourne; Recreation Director Gary Colello; Code Enforcement Officer Brenda Day; Public Services Director David Madsen; Police Chief Philip Jones; Emergency Management Director Todd Perreault; Fire Chief Glen Garland; Community Development Director Victoria Hill.

Moderator Wisner called the Town Meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. and recited the “Pledge of Allegiance.” Moderator Wisner read the results of Article 1 through Article 5 from the June 13, 2023 Election. There were no objections to Moderator Wisner conducting the meeting in accordance with Maine Moderators Manual. She requested that voters go to the microphone and identify themselves when speaking. Moderator Wisner thanked Lake Region Television for providing audio equipment and video coverage.

Motion was made by Mr. Peabody to recognize non-resident department heads Code Enforcement Officer Brenda Day, Community Development Director Victoria Hill, and Public Services Director David Madsen; second from Ms. Fleck. All in favor.

Chair Lone presented a plaque of appreciation to G. Frederick Packard, Paul Tworog, and Carrye Castleman-Ross for their term on the Select Board. Mike Tarantino was also recognized in appreciation for his contributions to the Town.

Town Manager Peabody thanked the citizens and staff for their support.

Article 6. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of up to \$0 from the Unassigned Fund balance to fund the Town of Bridgton Senior Property Tax/Rental Assistance Program.

Approved 2022/2023 \$100,000 **Select Board Recommends \$0**

Motion was made by Chair Lone to accept Article 6 in the amount of \$0.

Second from Vice-Chair McHatton. All in favor.

Article 6 was passed in the amount of \$0.

Article 7. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$4,277,761 from Anticipated Revenues, the Unassigned Fund Balance, Bridgton Trust Fund and Moose Pond Trust Fund to reduce property taxes for the 2023/2024 fiscal year.

	Approved 2022/2023	Select Board Recommends
General Government	\$3,789,222	\$3,634,037
Public Works	\$264,728	\$285,192
Recreation	\$139,500	\$193,950
Salmon Point Campground	\$80,120	\$82,334
Wastewater	<u>\$79,007</u>	<u>\$82,248</u>
	\$4,352,577	\$4,277,761
	<i>Approved 2022/2023 \$4,352,577</i>	Select Board Recommends \$4,277,761

Motion was made by Vice-Chair McHatton to accept Article 7 in the amount of \$4,277,761.

Second from Select Board Member Tworog. All in favor.

Article 7 was passed in the amount of \$4,277,761.

Article 8. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,633,593 for the cost of General Government to include Contingency, Long-Term Debt, and deposit to Reserve Account.

	Approved 2022/2023	Select Board Recommends
Administration	\$407,630	\$443,170
Assessing	\$58,000	\$58,000
BOS/PB (excluding stipends)	\$5,064	\$3,064
Code Enforcement	\$152,292	\$169,199
Community Development	\$194,775	\$188,190
Contingency	\$30,000	\$30,000
Deposit to Reserve Account	\$0	\$70,000
Employee Benefits	\$973,342	\$954,804
Finance	\$170,467	\$180,543
General Assistance	\$21,484	\$21,484
Insurance	\$189,603	\$257,649
Legal	\$15,000	\$15,000
Long Term Debt	\$1,095,774	\$1,120,312
Municipal Complex (3 Chase St)	\$115,838	\$128,023

Recreation	\$506,023	\$733,343
Town Clerk	<u>\$247,259</u>	<u>\$260,812</u>
	\$4,182,551	\$4,633,593
	<i>Approved 2022/2023 \$4,182,551</i>	Select Board Recommends \$4,633,593

Motion was made by Select Board Member Tworog to accept Article 8 in the amount of \$4,633,593.
 Second from Select Board Member Castleman-Ross. All in favor.
 Article 8 was passed in the amount of \$4,633,593.

Article 9. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,011,269 for the cost of Public Safety.

	Approved 2022/2023	Select Board Recommends
Ambulance	\$54,400	\$56,100
Animal Control	\$24,327	\$25,195
Civil Emergency	\$31,392	\$28,279
Fire Department	\$342,111	\$414,845
Health Officer	\$4,114	\$3,430
Hydrants	\$257,371	\$244,501
Police Department	\$981,583	\$1,195,596
Streetlights	<u>\$34,973</u>	<u>\$43,323</u>
	\$1,730,271	\$2,011,269
	<i>Approved 2022/2023 \$1,730,271</i>	Select Board Recommends \$2,011,269

Motion was made by Select Board Member Castleman-Ross to accept Article 9 in the amount of \$2,011,269. Second from Select Board Member Murphy. All in favor.
 Article 9 was passed in the amount of \$2,011,269.

Article 10. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,623,732 for Public Works and Capital Expenditures/Other Services.

	Approved 2022/2023	Select Board Recommends
Town Garage	\$30,562	\$27,104
Capital Expenditures	\$625,000	\$880,000
Cemeteries	\$58,192	\$114,174
HAM Complex	\$89,691	\$97,048
Parks Department	\$222,780	\$209,884
Pondicherry Park	\$5,400	\$5,800
Public Works Department	\$812,170	\$865,127
Septic Disposal	\$750	\$750
Town Hall (26 N. High St.)	\$28,475	\$29,876
Transfer Station	\$667,072	\$915,566
Vehicle Maintenance	<u>\$378,487</u>	<u>\$478,403</u>
	\$2,918,579	\$3,623,732
	<i>Approved 2022/2023 \$2,918,579</i>	Select Board Recommends \$3,623,732

Motion was made by Select Board Member Murphy to accept Article 10 in the amount of \$3,623,732.
 Second from Chair Lone. All in favor.
 Article 10 was passed in the amount of \$3,623,732.

Article 11. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$16,500 for the cost of annual stipends for the Select Board and Planning Board.

Approved 2022/2023 \$16,500 **Select Board Recommends \$16,500**

Motion was made by Chair Lone to accept Article 11 in the amount of 16,500.
 Second from Select Board Member Tworog. All in favor.
 Article 11 was passed in the amount of \$16,500.

Article 12. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$55,330 for Outside Agencies.

	Approved 2022/2023	Select Board Recommends
Bridgton Community Band	\$2,415	\$2,125
LEA Milfoil	\$1,500	\$1,500
LEA Boat Inspection	\$2,900	\$2,900
LR Chamber	\$4,800	\$4,800
LEA Subsidy	\$1,950	\$1,950
Lake Region Bus	\$8,500	\$10,000
Regional Transport	\$1,500	\$1,500
Opportunity Alliance	\$2,000	\$2,000
Tri-County Mental Health	\$1,000	\$1,000
Southern Maine Area on Aging	\$2,500	\$2,500
Through the Doors	\$2,000	\$4,000
Bridgton Historical Society	\$6,000	\$10,000
Lake Region Senior Service (HAP)	\$3,000	\$2,700
Sexual Assault Prevention	\$750	\$0
Lifeflight	\$1,303	\$1,355
Easy Riders	\$3,000	\$3,000
Rufus Porter Museum	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$4,000</u>
	\$45,118	\$55,330

Approved 2022/2023 \$45,118 **Select Board Recommends \$55,330**

Motion was made by Vice-Chair McHatton to accept Article 12 in the amount of \$55,330.
 Second from Select Board Member Tworog. All in favor.
 Article 12 was passed in the amount of 55,330.

Article 13. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$234,179 for Outside Services.

	Approved 2022/2023	Select Board Recommends
Bridgton Community Center	\$97,429	\$104,679
Bridgton Public Library	\$90,000	\$94,500
Lakes Region TV Franchise	<u>\$35,000</u>	<u>\$35,000</u>
	\$222,429	\$234,179

Approved 2022/2023 \$222,429 **Select Board Recommends \$234,179**

Motion was made by Select Board Member Tworog to accept Article 13 in the amount of \$234,179.
 Second from Select Board Member Castleman-Ross. All in favor.
 Article 13 was passed in the amount of \$234,179.

Article 14. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,068,799 for County Fees and Taxes.

Approved 2022/2023 \$938,775 **Select Board Recommends \$1,068,799**

Motion was made by Select Board Member Castleman-Ross to accept Article 14 in the amount of \$1,068,799. Second from Select Board Member Murphy. All in favor.
 Article 14 was passed in the amount of \$1,068,799.

Article 15. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$190,769 from the Community Development Block Grant for community development projects approved by the Select Board.

Approved 2022/2023 \$198,767 **Select Board Recommends \$190,769**

Motion was made by Select Board Member Murphy to accept Article 15 in the amount of \$190,769.

Second from Chair Lone. All in favor.

Article 15 was passed in the amount of \$190,769.

Article 16. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate, and authorize the Select Board to expend, up to \$328,671 from the Route 302 Tax Increment Development Program for the purposes of that program.

Approved 2022/2023 \$306,000 **Select Board Recommends \$328,671**

Motion was made by Chair Lone to accept Article 16 in the amount of \$328,671.

Second from Vice-Chair McHatton. All in favor.

Article 16 was passed in the amount of \$328,671.

Article 17. To see if the Town will vote to fix the date when property taxes become due and payable with the first quarter payment being due and payable on August 15, 2023; second payment being due and payable on November 15, 2023; third payment being due and payable on February 15, 2024; fourth payment being due and payable on May 15, 2024 and that an interest rate of 8% per annum be charged on all unpaid taxes after these dates until those taxes are paid in full (36 MRS § 505.4).

Motion was made by Vice-Chair McHatton to accept Article 17 as written.

Second from Select Board Member Tworog. All in favor.

Article 17 was passed as written.

Article 18. To see if the Town will vote to set an interest rate of 4% as the rate to be paid to taxpayers who pay amounts in excess of amounts finally assessed and authorize any such interest paid or abatements granted to be charged against the annual overlay (36 MRS § 506).

Motion was made by Select Board Member Tworog to accept Article 18 as written.

Second from Select Board Member Castleman-Ross. All in favor.

Article 18 was passed as written.

Article 19. To see if the Town will vote to fix the rate of interest on delinquent wastewater charges at 8% interest per annum.

Motion was made by Select Board Member Castleman-Ross to accept Article 19 as written.

Second from Select Board Member Murphy. All in favor.

Article 19 was passed as written.

Article 20. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector to accept pre-payment of taxes not yet due or assessed (36 MRS § 506).

Motion was made by Select Board Member Murphy to accept Article 20 as written.

Second from Chair Lone. All in favor.

Article 20 was passed as written.

Article 21. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to enter into boundary line agreements with abutting property owners to establish the boundary line of any property of the Town, including the boundary lines of the rights-of-way of roads.

Motion was made by Chair Lone to accept Article 21 as written.

Second from Vice-Chair McHatton. All in favor.

Article 21 was passed as written.

Motion was made by Ms. Brusini to pass Article 22 through Article 30 as a block; second from Vice-Chair McHatton. All in favor.

Article 22. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to waive the foreclosure of a tax lien mortgage pursuant to 36 MRS § 944 upon a finding by the Select Board that ownership of the property subject to the lien would be contrary to the Town's best interest.

Article 22 was passed as written.

Article 23. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board, on behalf of the Town, to sell and dispose of any real estate acquired by the Town for non-payment of taxes thereon, on such terms as they deem advisable, and to execute quitclaim deeds for the property; with property to be disposed of by written policy and on terms the Select Board deem advisable, except that the Select Board shall use the special sale process required by 36 MRS § 943-C for qualifying homestead property if they choose to sell it to anyone other than the former owner(s).

Article 23 was passed as written.

Article 24. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board, on behalf of the Town, to sell and dispose of any real estate acquired by the Town for non-payment of wastewater assessments thereon, on such terms as they deem advisable, and to execute quitclaim deeds for the property; property to be disposed of by written policy and on terms the Select Board deem advisable.

Article 24 was passed as written.

Article 25. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to sell Town-owned land that the Select Board has determined to be surplus, other than land acquired for non-payment of taxes or wastewater assessments, and to conduct the sale of such land by sealed bid, public auction or through an agent or multiple listing, whichever the Select Board deems to be in the best interest of the Town; and to deliver a quitclaim deed to the successful purchaser; provided that at least 30 days prior to selling, or obligating the Town to sell, such surplus land, the Town shall mail written notice to the abutters at their addresses on file with the Town, give notice on the Town's website, post at least one notice on a social media platform used by the Town, and publish at least one notice in a newspaper of general circulation in the Town. The net proceeds of any sale shall be deposited into the Town's general fund.

Article 25 was passed as written.

Article 26. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the transfer of all unexpended balances to fund balance, excepting those carried forward funds, and to authorize any overdrafts that may occur in the Town operations in the 2023/2024 fiscal year to be taken from fund balance.

Article 26 was passed as written.

Article 27. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to sell or dispose of equipment that is no longer of any use or is unusable.

Article 27 was passed as written.

Article 28. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board and Treasurer, on behalf of the Town, to accept gifts, real estate, and funds, including trust funds, which may be given or left to the Town.

Article 28 was passed as written.

Article 29. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to apply for and accept grants on behalf of the Town, and to expend the proceeds thereof for the purposes for which they are received, provided that the terms of the grants do not require the Town to expend other funds which have not been appropriated by the Town.

Article 29 was passed as written.

Article 30. To see if the Town will vote to participate in the Cumberland County Housing and Community Development Programs of the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development, including but not limited to the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) and the HOME Program; to designate its population to be included in the calculation of Cumberland County's funds by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and to authorize the Select Board to execute an agreement with Cumberland County to formalize the same.

Article 30 was passed as written.

All in favor to pass Article 22 through Article 30.

Moderator Wisner administered the oath of office to the following newly elected officials:

Select Board Member/Assessor/Overseer of the Poor Carrye L. Castleman-Ross;

Select Board Member/Assessor/Overseer of the Poor Paul A. Tworog;

Planning Board Regular Member Angela L. Cook;

MSAD #61 Director Richard Meek.

Moderator Wisner adjourned the meeting at 7:47 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie L. Chadbourne
Town Clerk