

Report on the Selectboard Meeting of April 8, 2025

Prepared by Alison Freeman

Note: These are not official minutes -- -- just notes taken by me. Official minutes will be available from the Town Office and will be posted on the Town web site following Board approval at the next meeting.

Please email me at news@singingbridge.net with any questions, comments, or requests to subscribe to the list. To unsubscribe, simply follow the instructions at the bottom of this email.

These notes, and the full agenda for the meeting, are available at SingingBridge.net as a PDF.

Recordings of Selectboard meetings are available on the Town's YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/@GeorgetownME>

The Meeting: The meeting was conducted as a Zoom hybrid. Selectboard Members Jon Collins and Aria Ee, and Town Administrator Tyler Washburn, were together in the Town Office. Selectboard Member Bronwen Tudor was on Zoom. There were 16, members of the public in attendance in person or on Zoom.

The minutes of the meeting of March 25, 2025, were tabled.

Most Important/Interesting Items: In my judgment, the following items were the most important things covered during the meeting.

- There was a moment of silence in memory of former Fire Chief Paul Barabe, Boston Post Cane Holder John "Jack" Schneider, Jean Paul "JP" Schneider, and Nancy Barney
- The position of temporary, part-time Deputy Town Clerk/Treasurer has been filled
- Approved dates and times for the Ordinance Public Hearing and Budget Public Hearing (see below)
- Candidates' Night date will be confirmed 4/22
- The Certified Ratio Declaration Letter to the State was approved at 100%. This reflected the statistical valuation that occurred in 2024. Without this Georgetown would have been at 53% of local certified ratio which would reduce exemptions such as the homestead exemption to \$0. For more information go to: <https://www.maine.gov/revenue/faq/homestead-exemption-program>
- The FAC (Financial Advisory Committee) will present the DRAFT 2025-2026 budget to the Selectboard at the 4/22 meeting

Correspondence:

The Town Administrator reported on correspondence received. For a complete listing of this correspondence, see the Meeting Agenda on the Town website. Members of the public may come to the Town Office to read the correspondence items listed here. Some of the items are available in the meeting packet

https://www.georgetownme.com/?page_id=6611

The most interesting items were:

- State of Maine – EMA – Notice regarding BRICS funding
- State of Maine – DMR – Shellfish Transport Permit
- Sagadahoc County – Sheriff's Department – Monthly Incidents Report
- City of Bath – Signed MOU re: backup EMS Services
- Maine Municipal Association – Legislative Bulletin #10
- Maine Municipal Association – Action Alert re: Budget & Funding
- TRIO – Software Updates Letter

Upcoming Events/Dates:

Solid Waste Mgt Com	Thursday, April 10th	7:00pm ZOOM
Conservation Commission	Monday, April 14th	6:00pm ZOOM
Town Owned Property Mgt	Tuesday, April 15th	4:00pm IN PERSON
Planning Board	Wednesday, April 16th	7:00pm HYBRID
Financial Advisory Comm	Tuesday, April 22nd	1:00pm IN PERSON
Select Board	Tuesday, April 22nd	6:00pm HYBRID
Ordinance Public Hearing	Tuesday, May 6 th	6:00pm HYBRID Town Office
Budget Public Hearing	Wednesday, May 14th	6:00pm HYBRID GCS Gymnasium
Candidates' Night	TBD May 20 OR May 22	6:00pm HYBRID GCS Gymnasium

The next meeting of the Selectboard will be at 6pm on Tuesday, April 22nd. The public is welcome to attend in person or on ZOOM. E-mail gtwnme@hotmail.com for the ZOOM code to join the meeting no later than 2pm that day. The agenda and meeting packet are available, usually the Monday before a meeting, at:

https://www.georgetownme.com/?page_id=6611

Prepared and distributed by Alison Freeman

Do Evil Spirits Lurk in Your Home?

Come to our Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day on May 3, 2025

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED Registration begins on **April 14** and will continue until all spots are filled

What Do I Bring??

From the Workbench:

- ✓ Oil and Latex Paints
- ✓ Stains & Varnishes
- ✓ Wood Preservatives
- ✓ Paint Strippers/Thinners
- ✓ Solvent/Adhesives
- ✓ Lighter Fluid
- ✓ Fiberglass Resins
- ✓ Rubber Cement, Airplane Glue

From the Garage:

- ✓ Fuels/Gasoline/Kerosene
- ✓ Engine Degreaser
- ✓ Brake/Transmission Fluid
- ✓ Antifreeze
- ✓ Car Wax, Polishes
- ✓ Driveway Sealer
- ✓ Roofing Tar
- ✓ Swimming Pool Chemicals

From the Yard:

- ✓ Insecticides, Fungicides
- ✓ Chemical Fertilizers
- ✓ Weed Killers
- ✓ Moth Balls
- ✓ Flea Control Products

This Collection is Operated By:
EnviroServe

From the House:

- ✓ Photo Chemicals
- ✓ Chemistry Sets
- ✓ Furniture Polish
- ✓ Floor & Metal Polish
- ✓ Oven Cleaner
- ✓ Drain & Toilet Cleaner
- ✓ Spot Remover
- ✓ Rug & Upholstery Cleaner
- ✓ Lithium/Ni-Cad Batteries
- ✓ Mercury Thermometers

How Can I Safely Transport These Hazardous Materials???

- Leave materials in original containers.
- Tighten caps and lids.
- Sort and pack separately: oil paint, pesticides, and household cleaners.
- Pack containers in sturdy upright boxes and pad with newspaper.
- NEVER MIX CHEMICALS.
- Pack your car and drive directly to the site.
- NEVER SMOKE while handling hazardous material.

DATE: Saturday, May 3, 2025
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

PLACE: Bath Public Works
450 Oak Grove Ave
Bath, ME 04530

☞ **Proof of residency may be required**

What Not To Bring!!

- ✗ Motor Oil
- ✗ Empty Containers/Trash
- ✗ Commercial or Industrial Waste
- ✗ Radioactive Waste, Smoke Detectors
- ✗ Infectious & Biological Wastes
- ✗ Ammunition, Fireworks, Explosives
- ✗ Propane Tanks
- ✗ Prescription Medicines/Syringes
- ✗ Asbestos
- ✗ Flashlight/Alkaline Batteries
- ✗ Car Batteries
- ✗ Fluorescent bulbs
- ✗ 55 Gallon Drums of anything
- ✗ E-waste (computers, printers, etc.) or Televisions

FMI: Please call Bath Public Works at 443-8357 or go to www.cityofbath.com to register





Georgetown Working League **DONATIONS**

The GWL is seeking donations for our Thrifts and Gifts shop. We are looking for clean and gently used White Elephant items, Collectibles and unique items for our Silent Auction. As you are doing your spring cleaning, please keep the GWL in mind!

2 DROP OFF LOCATIONS

COMMUNITY CENTER

Mondays. April 14th - July 28th
(except for 4/21, 5/26 & 6/2)
from 10 - 11:30am

THRIFTS AND GIFTS SHOP

Saturday, May 3rd and 17th
from 9 - 11

When Shop is Open
Friday - Sunday from 10-4pm
May 23rd - July 27th

WWW.GEORGETOWNWORKINGLEAGUE.ORG



GEORGETOWN
WORKING
LEAGUE
Thrifts & Gifts
OPEN FRI-SAT-SUN 10-4

Please join the Rec Committee for the annual

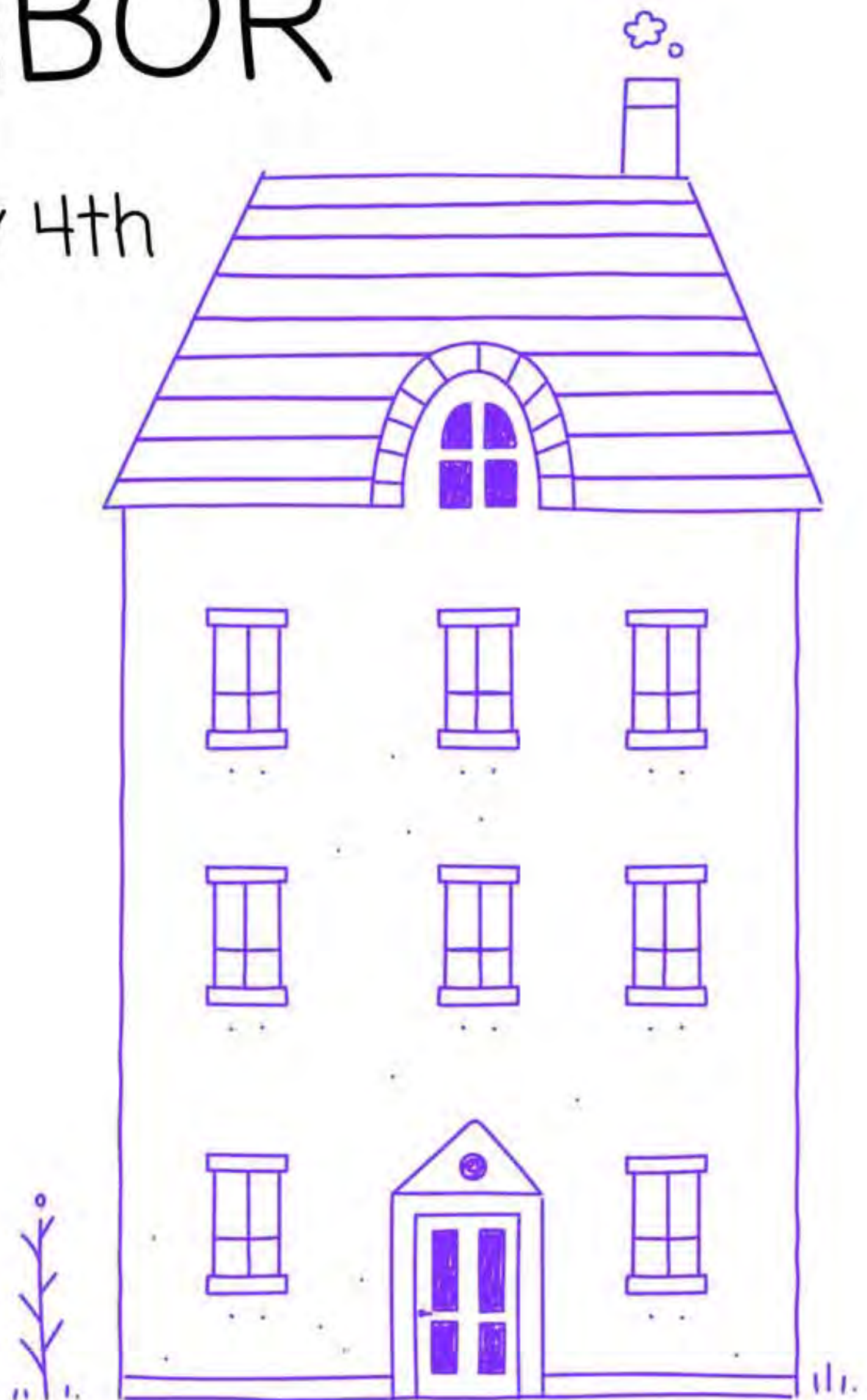


GET TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOR

Sunday May 4th

12 - 2pm
at the GCC

Includes lunch & the
citizen of the year
award ceremony





Grey Havens Inn

2d · 🌐



Reservations are live! Book your table at our locally famous Mother's Day brunch and welcome spring. It's the Inn's opening day! Menu info and reservations:

<https://greyhavens.com/mothers-day-brunch/>





The Osprey

1d · 🌐



👋 Oh hello! Just a quick reminder—our Gift Card Sale is LIVE! 🎉

Get 20% off when you use promo code GC20OFF at checkout. 💳 ✨

🛍️ Shop now: theospreyme.com/gift-cards

Don't wait until the end of the month—grab yours today and enjoy the savings!

[#TheOspreyMaine](#) [#georgetownmaine](#)
[#DineLocal](#) [#Hurry](#)





Town of Georgetown, Maine

22h · 🌐

Sometimes you can get surprised by what's hidden in the Town files - including correspondence with Walter Cronkite about our Town Wharf! He even praised the town for its foresight!

Dear Mr. Pert:

It does sound like a story with possibilities, and I'm looking into the possibility of doing something with it.

Meanwhile, congratulations to the town for its foresight.

Sincerely,

Walter Cronkite

Mr. Ed Pert, Chairman
Board of Selectmen
Town of Georgetown
Georgetown, Maine 04548

September 12, 1972

Editor
Boston Globe
Boston, Massachusetts 02101

Sir:

Last March, the conservative coastal fishing village of Georgetown, Maine (population 665) took a dramatic step—they voted at town meeting to take preliminary steps toward the purchase of a thousand or so feet of prime harbor frontage, the town's only store, a post office, a lobster pound, the town wharf, and nearly 50 acres of wooded open space land.

The Town took this action (after careful investigation and preliminary planning) to prevent commercial despoliation of the functional but picturesque "downtown" area of the town while guaranteeing that their children's children would have access to the sea—the most important part of Georgetown's heritage. The drive to raise the funds for the land purchase is headed toward unusual success.

As a former newsmen, I believe there's a story here that may be of interest to your readers. Should you have a stringer in this area who is interested, I'll be happy to cooperate in every way to help him get this story of unusual community involvement and foresight.

Let me know if I can help in any way; office telephone (207) 442-8109, home telephone (207) 443-6442.

Sincerely,

Ed Pert, Chairman
Board of Selectmen

Same letter to:

September 7, 1972

Editor
Boston Globe
Boston, Massachusetts 02101

Sir:

Last March, the conservative coastal fishing village of Georgetown, Maine (population 465) took a dramatic step--they voted at town meeting to take preliminary steps toward the purchase of a thousand or so feet of prime harbor frontage, the town's only store, a post office, a lobster pound, the town wharf, and nearly 50 acres of wooded open space land.

The Town took this action (after careful investigation and preliminary planning) to prevent commercial despoilation of the functional but picturesque "downtown" area of the town while guaranteeing that their children's children would have access to the sea--the most important part of Georgetown's heritage. The drive to raise the funds for the land purchase is headed toward unusual success.

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Sincerely,

Ed Pert, Chairman
Board of Selectmen

Same letter to:

Editor, Newsweek, Inc., 444 Madison Avenue, New York, New York 10022
Editor, Time Magazine, Rockefeller Plaze, New York, New York 10020
Editor, New York Times, New York, New York
John Chancellor, NBC-TV News, New York, New York
Walter Cronkite, CBS News, New York, New York
Harry Reasoner, ABC-TV, New York, New York - Anne Medina 581-2227

CBS NEWS

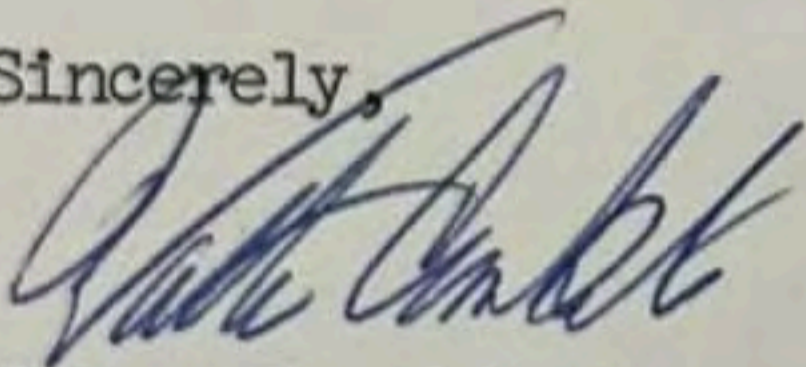
A Division of Columbia Broadcasting System, Inc.
524 West 57 Street
New York, New York 10019
(212) 765-4321

Dear Mr. Pert:

It does sound like a story with possibilities, and I'm looking into the possibility of doing something with it.

Meanwhile, congratulations to the town for its foresight.

Sincerely,



Walter Cronkite

Mr. Ed Pert, Chairman
Board of Selectmen
Town of Georgetown
Georgetown, Maine 04548

September 12, 1972



April 5th
at Patten Free Library



May 3rd
at Bath Habitat for
Humanity ReStore



June 21st
at the
Curtis Memorial Library

Why Replace when you can repair?

A Repair Cafe brings together a community of fixers willing to educate people so that they can repair their everyday items rather than throw them out

All events held on Saturday Mornings
10 A.M. till 12:30 P.M.

Our Repair Cafe will have experts able to repair:

- Electronics
- Computers
- Clothing
- Small appliances
- Wooden Furniture
- 3D Printed Repairs
- Leather Repairs
- Knife Sharpening

**We are always looking for
additional volunteers, if you
are interested call Curtis
Library!**

Questions? Please call the Curtis library at 725-5242 ext 4

SELECT BOARD, TOWN OF GEORGETOWN

Agenda for Tuesday, April 8, 2025 at 6:00 pm

Hybrid meeting held via ZOOM for public and at the Town Office for SB Members who wish.

Please email gtwnme@hotmail.com for the ZOOM login info.

*indicates copy provided to Select Board

***INDICATES THE NEED FOR A MOTION TO APPROVE**

Call to order:

Moment of Silence in memory of former Fire Chief Paul Barabe, Boston Post Cane Holder John "Jack" Schneider, Jean Paul "JP" Schneider, and Nancy Barney.

Public comment:

Items to be added to agenda (if approved by chair and board):

Scheduled appointments:

Minutes:

- Minutes of March 25th Meeting for review and approval**

Review:

Assessing items:

- Certified Ratio Declaration Letter**

Correspondence:

- State of Maine – EMA – Notice regarding BRICS funding*
- State of Maine – DMR – Shellfish Transport Permit*
- Sagadahoc County – Sheriff's Department – Monthly Incidents Report*
- City of Bath – Signed MOU re: backup EMS Services
- Maine Municipal Association – Legislative Bulletin #10*
- Maine Municipal Association – Action Alert re: Budget & Funding*
- TRIO – Software Updates Letter*

Continuing Items:

Receipts for pumping:

Maine Waste Discharge License *renewal* / transfer applications:

Maine Waste Discharge License *approvals*:

PBR / NRPA :

Committee Updates:

Minutes:

Membership:

Board Member / Committee Updates:

- Mr. Collins:
- Ms. Tudor:
- Ms. Eee

Town Administrator Update

Old Business:

- Draft Ordinance Changes
 - Shellfish Revisions *
- Upcoming Town Event Determinations
 - Ordinance Public Hearing – May 6th *
 - Time? 6:00pm
 - Location? Town Office
 - Hybrid? Yes
 - Budget Public Hearing – May 14th *
 - Time? 6:pm
 - Location? GCS Gymnasium
 - Hybrid? Yes
 - Candidates' Night
 - Date? – Either May 20th (Tuesday) or May 22nd (Thursday)
 - Time? – 6pm
 - Location? GCS Gymnasium
 - Hybrid? Yes
 - Moderator? Nancy Kinner

New Business:

- Ratification of Appointment of Deputy Treasurer / Deputy Clerk *
- Selection of winning bids
 - Snowplow Contract for Municipal Areas *
 - Snowplow Contract for Town Roads *

Items For Signature:

Public comment:

Executive Session: regarding a Personnel Matter, pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § (405)(6)(A)

Adjournment:

UPCOMING MEETINGS/ EVENTS:

Recreation Committee	Tuesday, April 1 st	6:00pm HYBRID
Planning Board	Wednesday, April 2 nd	7:00pm HYBRID
Shellfish Committee	Thursday, April 3 rd	4:30pm IN PERSON
Financial Advisory Committee	Tuesday, April 8 th	1:00pm IN PERSON
Select Board	Tuesday, April 8 th	6:00pm HYBRID
Solid Waste Management Com	Thursday, April 10 th	7:00pm ZOOM
Conservation Commission	Monday, April 14 th	6:00pm ZOOM
Town Owned Property Manag	Tuesday, April 15 th	4:00pm IN PERSON
Planning Board	Wednesday, April 16 th	7:00pm HYBRID
Financial Advisory Committee	Tuesday, April 22 nd	1:00pm IN PERSON
Select Board	Tuesday, April 22 nd	6:00pm HYBRID

BRIC Program Updates

From Fuchs, Anne P <Anne.P.Fuchs@maine.gov>

Date Mon 4/7/2025 2:35 PM

Cc HMA Grants <HMAGrants@maine.gov>

Good Afternoon All,

Maine Emergency Management Agency is reaching out to address what we know at this time regarding the [press release](#) disseminated by our federal partners on the Building Resilient Infrastructure & Communities (BRIC) grant program on Friday April 4th. FEMA has unfortunately announced that they will be "ending the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program and canceling all BRIC applications from Fiscal Years 2020-2023."

We very much understand that Maine's subapplicants and subrecipients are all anxious to understand what exactly this means for them within the confines of their own specific projects, and we're currently coordinating with our federal partners on securing further information. At this time, we can share that **effective immediately, FEMA has implemented the following actions:**

- Cancel the Fiscal Year 2024 BRIC funding opportunity and end BRIC Direct Technical Assistance to communities and tribes.
- Cancel all BRIC subapplications that were selected but not obligated, across all fiscal years (FY20-FY23). *MEMA has confirmed with the FEMA Deputy Regional Administrator that he understands "obligated" to mean "awarded."*
- No further period of performance extensions will be approved for any BRIC projects without prior approval from the FEMA Administrator.
 - Regional offices will work with grant recipients (MEMA) to review partially completed projects and collect key information, including the period of performance end date, amounts obligated and paid, and a description of remaining work. No progression to Phase 2 will be authorized.
 - For fully obligated projects, FEMA will collect similar data. Again, no extensions beyond the current period of performance will be granted without Administrator-level approval.
- Obligation of all BRIC-related management costs will cease, and FEMA will review the status of management cost requirements in conjunction with the above project reviews. Remaining funds may be de-obligated unless required for managing partially or fully obligated projects.
- Most construction projects are anticipated to proceed, but phased projects—where only Phase 1 has been awarded—will be most impacted. These projects will be permitted to progress to the next Phase 1 milestone and then conclude. No additional funding will be provided for construction or closeout.

Even after sharing the above, we recognize many questions remain. We'll do our best to communicate with you as our team learns more from our federal partners. Our goal is to reach out to each applicant and subrecipient directly to speak directly to each entity's specific circumstances once we have more definitive information on next steps. For now, we simply ask for your patience as we wait for more information.



Anne Fuchs, MS-SSEM, CEM®

Director of Mitigation & Recovery

Maine Emergency Management
Agency.

45 Commerce Dr. | Augusta, ME
04333

Cell: (207) 557-3669



JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES
MARINE RESOURCES LABORATORY
P.O. BOX 8, 194 MCKOWN POINT RD
W. BOOTHBAY HARBOR, MAINE
04575-0008

CARL J. WILSON
ACTING COMMISSIONER

March 31, 2025

Alexandra Kelley, Town Clerk
P O Box 436
Georgetown, ME 04548-0436

Re: Transplant Permit

Dear Ms. Kelley:

This is in response to your request to transplant seed clams as follows:

Start	Stop	Source (Flat or Hatchery Name)	Source Flat Water Quality Classification*	Species/size (seed** or >seed)	Destination	Supervisor
4/18/2025 12:00 PM	4/19/2025 4:00 PM	Down East Institute	Approved	Soft shell clams, 0.6" seed	Little River, Georgetown (Reid State Park)	Chad Campbell-Shellfish Chair

***Note: Areas seeded with shellfish taken from Restricted (Closed) areas must be closed for a period of at least 60 days. Areas seeded with shellfish taken from Prohibited (Closed) areas must be closed for a period of at least 6 months. Check source flat water quality classification above.**

****Note: Maximum seed sizes for shellfish are defined in DMR Regulation Chapter 2.95.**

This letter will serve as permission for the above activities as provided by Title 12 MRSA Section 6675, provided that the listed Supervisor contacts, 24 hours before the start of the activity, the Marine Patrol Officer responsible for this area and/or the Marine Patrol at the following location. This letter must be on-site during the activities.

Marine Patrol Division I – Boothbay (207) 633-9595

Sincerely,

Benjamin Wahle
Nearshore Marine Resource Program Supervisor

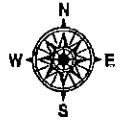
cc: Katie Tilton, Marine Resource Scientist I
Lt. Daniel White, Marine Patrol Division I



Maine Department of Marine Resources

Georgetown

Municipal Clam Reseeding or Transplant Projects



Refer to the text of the accompanying permit to determine dates when areas are closed to harvest.


Georgetown

Little River

Reid State Park

0 0.03 0.07 0.13 Miles

Disclaimer: There may be state public health closures in this map area. Please refer to Maine Bacterial Closures maps at <https://www.maine.gov/dmr/shellfish-sanitation-management/closures/index.html>

 Transplant wild or hatchery seed



Sagadahoc County Sheriff's Department

Law Total Incident Report, by Offense Codes

Agency: Sagadahoc County Sheriff Dept

<u>Offense Code</u>	<u>Total Incidents</u>
Animal Problem (ANPR)	1
Agency Assist (ASST)	1
Citizen Assist (CITA)	3
Concealed Weapon Permit Appl (CWPA)	1
Dead Body (DBOD)	1
Property Check (PCHK)	2
Public Service (PUBS)	2
Property Watch (PWAT)	1
Suspicion (SUSP)	3
Traffic Accident, Prop Damage (TAPD)	2
Theft, Property, Other (TPOT)	1
Traffic Detail (TRDE)	1
Vehicle Serial # Inspection (VIIN)	2
Total Incidents for This Agency	21

Report Includes:

All dates between `00:00:00 03/01/25` and `23:59:59 03/31/25`, All agencies matching `1200`, All natures, All locations matching `GO`, All responsible officers, All dispositions, All clearance codes, All observed offenses, All reported offenses, All offense codes, All circumstance codes

Action Alert on the FY 2026 – FY 2027 State General Fund Budget – What's at Stake

From Kate Dufour <kdufour@memun.org>

Date Thu 4/3/2025 12:17 PM

To gtwnme@hotmail.com <gtwnme@hotmail.com>



**MAINE MUNICIPAL
ASSOCIATION SINCE 1936**

60 Community Drive | Augusta, ME 04330-9486
1-800-452-8786 (in state) | (t) 207-623-8428
(f) 207-624-0129

To: Elected & Appointed Officials
Economic Development Directors
Finance Directors
Municipal Clerks
Tax Collectors & Treasurers

From: Kate Dufour, Advocacy & Communications Director

Date: April 3, 2025

Re: FY 2026 – FY 2027 State General Fund Budget – What's at Stake

As reported in the news, on March 25 a group of current and former Maine lawmakers submitted an application for a people's veto referendum, challenging the enactment of PL 2025, c. 2, printed as LD 609. This bill contains the baseline appropriations and expenditures necessary to close out FY 2025 and enable the state to continue its operations as of July 1 of this year. Among the FY 2026 and FY 2027 appropriations are \$1.5 billion for K-12 education, \$265 million in each year of the biennium for the revenue sharing program, and \$20.3 million in both FY 2026 and FY 2027 to help support county jail operations.

Due to the submission of the application, the implementation of the budget is on hold.

As the process of a citizen initiative veto provides, the Secretary of State (SOS) has until April 8 to draft the wording of the ballot question and to share it with the applicants before issuing the physical petitions on which signatures will be gathered and recorded. The petitioners will then have until 5 p.m. on June 18 to collect and return the required number of signatures to the SOS, which is based on the number of votes cast in the previous gubernatorial election and currently set at 67,682.

If petitioners submit collected signatures by the June deadline and the secretary certifies that a sufficient number of signatures are valid, then implementation of the budget will remain on hold until the results of the November 4 referendum election are certified.

If the referendum fails, then the revenue and expenditure initiatives found in the adopted budget will be implemented.

However, if the question is approved by the voters, then the budget is null and void and the delay in funding will be extended until the Legislature can reconvene to draft and adopt a replacement budget.

This means that without a budget, state funding for K-12 education and county jails, as well as revenue sharing for municipalities, will not be available on July 1, 2025. Furthermore, depending on the outcome of the citizen petition, local governments could be without state funding until late November or later.

The concern among municipal leaders is that absent a state budget, the property taxpayers will be on the hook for funding the state and local share of school, county and municipal services. This is a serious matter, and one that should rise above state level partisan politics.

While the citizen veto process plays out, the Maine State Legislature should be working on the development of a budget that can be supported by two-thirds of our state lawmakers to avoid a state shutdown.

While members of the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee continue to discuss budget matters, it does not guarantee that a state shutdown will be averted.

For this reason, it is important that municipal officials connect with their legislators and demand the adoption and implementation of a budget before

July 1, as well as discuss what is at risk with your residents, business community and property owners.

The legislature's inability to adopt a budget does not bode well for Maine and more importantly, related burdens should not be borne by the property taxpayers.

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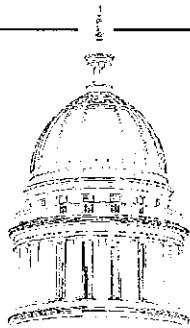
Maine Municipal Association
60 Community Dr
Augusta, ME 04330-8603

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LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN

A publication of the Maine Municipal Association • Vol. XLVII No. 10 • MARCH 28, 2025

A Lot at Stake...

The Budget Saga Continues

Just when you thought it was over, the enactment of the baseline FY 2026-2027 General Fund budget has once again diverged from its course.

On March 25, a group of current and former Maine lawmakers submitted an application for a people's veto referendum, challenging the enactment of PL 2025, c. 2, printed as LD 609. This bill, which was described in last week's *Legislative Bulletin*, contains the baseline appropriations and expenditures necessary to close out FY 2025 and enables the state to continue its operations as of July 1 of this year. Among the FY 2026 and FY 2027 appropriations are \$1.5 billion for K-12 education, \$265 million in each year of the biennium for the revenue sharing program, and \$20.3 million in both FY 2026 and FY 2027 to help support county jail operations.

Due to the submission of the application, the implementation of the budget is on hold.

According to Secretary of State Shenna Bellows, the receipt of the application is just the first of many steps in a process laden with deadlines.

The secretary has until April 8 to draft the wording of the ballot question and share it with the applicants before issuing the physical petitions on which signatures will be gathered and recorded. The petitioners will then have until 5 p.m. on June 18 to collect the required number of signatures, which is based on the number of votes cast in the previous gubernatorial election and currently set at 67,682.

If petitioners submit collected signatures by the June deadline and the secretary certifies that a required number of signatures are valid, then implementation of LD 609 will remain on hold until a referendum election is held.

Again... state funding for schools, municipalities and counties will not be distributed.

Until when you might ask?

At best until after the November 4 referendum election results are certified. However, if the referendum question is approved by voters, then the delay will be extended until the Legislature can reconvene to draft and adopt a replacement budget.

For Maine students, property owners and state, school, county and municipal service providers the news does not get better.

According to the attorneys who advise the Secretary of State's Office, there is nothing in Maine's constitution that permits the adoption of a continuing resolution or requires the previous year's budget to stand as a placeholder.

As provided in a June 2013 Attorney General's (AG) opinion, authored by then AG Janet T. Mills, "Contrary to what the Congress has

sometimes done, the Maine Constitution and statutes neither authorize nor envision a continuing resolution or any similar mechanism."

The AG also noted that "Maine law requires a biennial budget. Even if it did not do so, any short term emergency budget, passed with a two-thirds vote, would throw the state into financial uncertainty and would face significant opposition from bondholders, schools, hospitals and thousands of entities to whom the state has continuing and long-term obligations."

In the vein of placing a Captain Obvious inspired finer point on this needle, a lot is at stake.

Move Fast and Break Stuff?

Every public policy initiative encounters some level of resistance if it is disruptive enough. However, sometimes it is worth reflecting on the history of a public policy process before ripping it up. While moving fast and breaking stuff creates both a boom and a bust in the tech world, moving fast in public policy means ignoring the well-honed phrase "if it's predictable, it's preventable," and in ideal worlds, politicians ask "to what end?"

This week, several public hearings were held in the Housing and Economic Development Committee seeking to rip up all the hours residents spent on adopting local zoning districts statewide to prohibit "commercial only" districts under LD 997, *An Act to Allow Residential Use Development in Commercial Districts*, and demand the overriding of deliberate and sensible review to protect the natural environment and expediate housing projects that receive Maine Housing funding under LD 970, *An Act to Prioritize Affordable Housing by Expediting Reviews for Affordable Housing Projects Applying for Funding from the Maine State Housing Authority*. Both bills are sponsored by Rep. Malon (Biddeford).

Under LD 997, testimony from the Mills Administration supported the bill but suggested amending the language to clarify that municipalities be allowed to restrict residential use on the first floor of commercially zoned properties. Evidently, formerly contaminated sites perfectly fit for commercial use, and unfit for residential uses including those directly in flood plains in riverine communities, should still be allowed despite the local knowledge that eliminated them from the option. Additional proponents included the real estate and development industry, the Affordable Housing Coalition and the Sierra Club, all of whom favor the already allowable mixed-use development that can occur where it is sensible and desired in any community without state intervention.

So, what is the issue that can't be solved using the existing local

(continued on page 2)

tools that demand a statewide sledgehammer? MMA, the Maine Service Center Coalition, and Maine Association of Planners remain unclear on this point, and all testified in opposition. The public hearing did not illuminate a path that was not already possible but rather seemed to focus on disliking the democratically led and informed voices that designate some zones as unfit for residential uses. In many instances, those local decisions were shaped with the hope to retain the harmony with economic development that incompatible commercial districts provide on otherwise low value land.

The next bill, LD 970, would start a time clock on all site development applications triggering the need for a complex review of large scale development to occur within 30 days or automatically be approved. Projects under site development law require additional reviews from the Department of Environmental Protection, Maine Historic Preservation, and natural lands and habitat protection programs along with local planning board and sometimes federal stormwater permit conditions in overly developed communities.

To his credit, Rep. Malon recognized the deadline may not be appropriate and hoped that conversations around the proposal might help move an acceptable solution forward. The same real estate and development players who supported LD 997 also testified to the need for expedited timeframes by claiming long delays in these unnecessary (yet legislatively created and federally required in the case of stormwater) reviews were adding costs that were keeping affordable housing projects unaffordable.

Federal stormwater permit programs, commercial only districts, and thorough reviews of large scale projects that encompass more than 20 acres of soil disturbance are necessarily laborious for good reasons. Over developed cities are dealing with the sins of the past through the most expensive infrastructure possible because the natural environment that slowed stormwater flow and retained natural habitat for wildlife has been long since removed from Maine's largest cities. The rest of the state's towns and cities have no desire or need to follow suit.

Unlike LD 997, LD 970 did not have state

support from the Department of Environmental Protection. Staying until the bitter end of a long day, Director Wood of the Land Bureau testified that the 30-day deadlines proposed by the bill were not only unachievable in the department's under-resourced reality, but likely could never be achieved in a perfect world due to the involvement of multiple other state departments in the process. The Legislature of long ago valued the cultural, environmental and historic character that such projects often disrupt regardless of what type of development occupies the disturbed lands. Habitat paved will not return to its former state.

While officials are sympathetic to the housing need, they have already changed local rules that are building units across the state while the public hearings removing their tools continue. If it's predictable, it's preventable and ignoring environmental and planning reviews for the sake of saving developer dollars should be suspect to anyone who knows how we got "here" from "there."

Work sessions on these bills have not yet been scheduled.

IN THE HOPPER

(The bill summaries are written by MMA staff and are not necessarily the bill's summary statement or an excerpt from that summary statement. During the course of the legislative session, many more bills of municipal interest will be printed than there is space in the Legislative Bulletin to describe. Our attempt is to provide a description of what would appear to be the bills of most significance to local government, but we would advise municipal officials to also review the comprehensive list of LDs of municipal interest that can be found on MMA's website, www.mmaine.org.)

Criminal Justice & Public Safety

LD 993 *An Act to Require First Responder Training for Mental Health Crisis and Critical Incident Stress Recognition* (Sponsored by Sen. Nangle of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill directs the Department of Public Safety to develop and implement training to be presented every three years to first responders and other similar professions that teaches self-recognition and management of mental health crises and critical incident stress for the participants of the training and for the participants to recognize and manage mental health crises and critical incident stress in others.

Energy, Utilities & Technology

LD 1096 *An Act to Allow Municipalities That Have Financed Fiber-optic Broadband Infrastructure to Use Loans or Grants to Repay Associated Debt* (Sponsored by Rep. Mingo of Calais)

This bill authorizes the use of Municipal Gigabit Broadband Network Access Fund revenue to aid municipal entities in repaying debt that was incurred

for the construction of a municipally owned gigabit fiber-optic broadband network project. The bill also authorizes the Maine Connectivity Authority to provide loans or grants to municipal entities for the repayment of debt incurred and requires the authority to permit the use of funds for the repayment of debt unless prohibited by the source of the grant or award.

Environment & Natural Resources

LD 62 *An Act to Support Municipal and County Actions on Dam Ownership* (Sponsored by Rep. Milliken of Blue Hill)

This bill amends the Department of Environmental Protection's process regarding the release of dam ownership by requiring the owner to provide sufficient information to enable individuals and groups who own property abutting the dam site, commissioners from the Departments of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife and Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry, director of the MEMA, and representatives of tribal government, municipal officers and county commissioners in the area where the dam is located to determine whether to assume ownership of the dam. The bill also amends the laws governing the timing of a municipal public meeting regarding the release of ownership from no later than 60 days to 180 days after receiving notice of such an action.

State & Local Government

LD 1131 *An Act to Reform the Process by Which a Person May Petition an Agency to Adopt or Modify Rules Under the Maine Administrative Procedure Act* (Sponsored by Rep. Soboleski of Phillips)

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HEARING SCHEDULE

For the week of March 31, 2025

Note: You should check your newspapers for Legal Notices as there may be changes in the hearing schedule. Weekly schedules for hearings and work sessions can be found on the Legislature's website at: <http://legislature.maine.gov/calendar/#Weekly/>.

MONDAY, MARCH 31

Criminal Justice & Public Safety
Room 436, State House, 9:30 a.m.
Tel: 287-1122

LD 330 Resolve, to Create an Advisory Council to Oversee the Review and Technical Revision of the Maine Criminal Code and Other Statutes Establishing Criminal Offenses

LD 822 An Act to End the Collection of Certain Probation Fees

LD 1034 An Act to Decriminalize Personal Possession of Therapeutic Amounts of Psilocybin for Adults

1:00 p.m.

LD 962 An Act to Establish the Offense of Aggravated Operating Under the Influence Resulting in the Death of a Pet

LD 1024 An Act to Expand the List of Crimes That Do Not Qualify for Immunity Under Maine's Good Samaritan Laws Concerning Drug-related Medical Assistance

LD 1074 An Act to Remove the Limit on the Length of Probation That May Be Served for Aggravated Attempted Murder

Education & Cultural Affairs
Room 208, Cross Building, 10:00 a.m.
Tel: 287-3125

LD 211 An Act to Make School Safer for Students with Epilepsy and Other Seizure Disorders by Requiring Seizure Action Plans and Training in Schools

Environment & Natural Resources
Room 216, Cross Building, 10:00 a.m.
Tel: 287-4149

LD 62 An Act to Support Municipal and County Actions on Dam Ownership

LD 531 An Act Regarding Dam Ownership

LD 935 Resolve, Directing the Department of Environmental Protection to Report on Air and Soil

Chemical and Metal Levels and on Soil Testing on Solar Panel Farm Sites

LD 1083 Resolve, to Require the Department of Environmental Protection to Assess Existing Water Retention Structures and Water Levels

LD 1207 An Act to Require the Department of Environmental Protection to Monitor Air and Water Temperatures Around Commercial Solar Energy Developments

Health & Human Services
Room 209, Cross Building, 10:00 a.m.
Tel: 287-1317

LD 871 An Act to Exempt All Persons, Including Health Care and Emergency Services Personnel, from COVID-19 Vaccine Requirements

Judiciary
Room 438, State House, 10:00 a.m.
Tel: 287-1327

LD 1164 An Act to Create Economic Opportunity for the Wabanaki Nations Through Internet Gaming

1:00 p.m.

LD 1222 An Act to Limit Sovereign Immunity for Schools and School Superintendents

2:00 p.m.

LD 1335 An Act to Prohibit Life Sentences

State & Local Government
Room 214, Cross Building, 10:00 a.m.
Tel: 287-1330

LD 965 An Act to Require the Automatic Repealing of Agency Rules

1:00 p.m.

LD 1121 An Act to Ensure Equitable Access for All Caregivers to Diaper Changing Stations in State Buildings Open to the Public

LD 1131 An Act to Reform the Process by Which a Person May Petition an Agency to Adopt or Modify Rules Under the Maine Administrative Procedure Act

Veterans & Legal Affairs
Room 437, State House, 10:00 a.m.
Tel: 287-1310

LD 1148 An Act to Improve Access to Absentee Ballots for Municipal Elections

for Uniformed Service Voters and Overseas Voters

TUESDAY, APRIL 1

Education & Cultural Affairs
Room 208, Cross Building, 1:00 p.m.
Tel: 287-3125

LD 86 An Act to Update the Laws Regarding Education

Health Coverage, Insurance & Financial Services
Room 220, Cross Building, 1:00 p.m.
Tel: 287-1314

LD 1058 An Act to Prevent Dental Insurance Companies from Denying Coverage When Other Insurance Is Involved

LD 1195 An Act to Amend the Provisions of the Maine Workers' Compensation Act of 1992 Governing Requirements for Self-insurers

Housing & Economic Development
Room 206, Cross Building, 1:00 p.m.
Tel: 287-4880

LD 1067 An Act to Improve the Process for Mobile Home Owners to Purchase Their Mobile Home Park

LD 1145 An Act to Protect Residents Living in Mobile Home Parks

LD 1183 An Act to Ensure Rent-to-own Protections Apply to Mobile Home Park Tenants

LD 1190 An Act to Increase State Funding for Emergency Shelters

Labor
Room 202, Cross Building, 1:00 p.m.
Tel: 287-1331

LD 598 An Act to Require Minimum Pay for Reporting to Work

Transportation
Room 126, State House, 2:00 p.m.
Tel: 287-4148

LD 154 An Act to Amend the Transportation Laws

LD 1039 An Act Regarding Municipal Authority over Heavy Vehicle Operation

LD 1156 An Act to Allow Military Surplus Vehicles to be Collected and Used in Patriotic Exhibitions and Parades

(continued on page 5)

Municipal Reporting of Opioid Settlement Funds

Over the past two weeks, the Health and Human Services (HHS) Committee has heard several bills related to public health and recovery. All aim to provide support for Maine residents who are recovering from addiction and could benefit from increased state and local support.

It may seem like the administration of syringe service programs and opioid settlement funds would be outside of the municipal purview, but for a select few municipalities those tasks are a reality.

LD 110, *An Act to Require Reporting on the Expenditure of Opioid Settlement Funds by Certain Municipalities and County Governments*, sponsored by Rep. Brennan (Portland) and heard on March 13, would require direct share subdivisions that receive opioid settlement funds to submit an annual report outlining the expenditures of those funds to the Attorney General's (AG) office. Unlike the Maine Service Center Coalition and Maine County Commissioners Association, MMA's Legislative Policy Committee supported the measure, stating that reporting usage of those funds only makes sense and hoping that the state would follow suit and report its own expenditures in a similar manner.

The AG's webpage directs all inquiries specific to the local expenditure of opioid funds to the respective city or town office. Some proponents of the bill claimed that requests made to local municipal offices for documentation of already spent opioid funds were answered with website addresses where council minutes could be found or instructions on how to submit a FOIA request. The proponents advocated for transparency in the spending of "blood money" and further stated that ascertaining how municipalities are spending those funds should not be a burden that falls to the general public.

Both the 2022 and 2023 Maine Subdivision Memoranda of Understanding Regarding Opioid Settlement Funds (MOU) outlined specific "approved uses" of those funds in schedules describing remediation and abatement procedures to, "supplement and strengthen...opioid use disorder prevention, harm reduction, treatment and recovery." What the MOU does not prescribe is any sort of reporting method, relying solely on the notion that subdivisions in receipt of

funds will follow the letter of the law, or in this case the settlement agreement, in the administration of the disbursement of funds.

The AG's website provides not only the MOU documents and a listing of municipalities and counties that are receiving funds, but a variety of valuable resources for those entities determining if proposed activities qualify as approved uses. Tools include publications from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health covering public planning and use of abatement funds, as well as resources for evidence-based spending. In addition, the National Association of County and City Health Officials provides an Opioid Epidemic Toolkit. Several other resources are provided, including one from the National League of Cities, an MMA partner, titled *Aligning City, County and State Resources to Address the Opioid Epidemic*.

It is worth noting that while municipal officials are not currently required to report on the usage of funding, it is not due to a lack of desire to be transparent beyond their existing public notice obligations. Only one of the resources provided on the AG's website even touches upon a public process to determine how and where to spend those funds and makes no mention of an additional method for informing the public of expenditures resulting from the process. Likewise, there seems to be a lack of state transparency, which also places the burden of obtaining state opioid settlement fund expenditures on the general public.

However, for those who might not know where to look, reports from the AG are available for review which speak to the status of the Maine Recovery Fund, overseen by the Maine Recovery Council. The AG is required, through the MOU, to report to the Health and Human Services (HHS) Committee, "...at least annually on or before the 2nd Friday in December" of each year and, "...summarize the activity in any funds or accounts..."

The December 2024 letter indicates that as of October 31, 2024, the Recovery Fund balance was \$36.2 million. In the fall of 2024, through a grant application process, the Recovery Council reviewed nearly 350 letters of interest and applications looking for project funding. Forty-three projects were awarded grants totaling nearly \$14 million. It is important to note that these

funds equal only 50% of the settlement funds, with 20% going directly to the AG's office and the remaining 30% distributed to 39 counties and municipalities.

While the report to HHS includes a graphic of those awards, including the funding amounts and the project descriptions, this information is nowhere to be found on the AG's opioid resource webpage. In fact, none of the statutorily required reports to the HHS committee are available for review outside of the committee's webpage where they are hidden among every report submitted to the committee during the session.

The work session for LD 110 was held on Wednesday, March 26. Although MMA staff testimony suggested the wording of the bill may trigger the constitutional mandate provision, the Office of Fiscal Policy and Review did not flag the bill as a mandate.

A representative of the AG's office was on hand and offered a streamlined solution for municipalities to report their expenditures through a program conducted in partnership with the Catherine Cutler Institute's Substance Use Research and Evaluation (SURE) Resource Center at the Muskie School of Public Service at USM. A July 2, 2024, press release stated, "Municipalities and counties receiving settlement funds will be invited to opt-in to any of the services the Resource Center will offer..." While that statement doesn't mention any technical assistance for reporting, the AG representative described the Maine Opioid Settlement Support (MOSS) program through the institute as already being underway and working with 30 of the 39 subdivisions receiving funds. MOSS is creating a dashboard and survey for reporting, estimated to take 15-20 minutes to complete, annually in December, likely to coincide with the statutorily required report by the AG to HHS.

The bill was amended slightly to fix technical and legal language issues raised by the AG, none of which changed the intent of the bill. In addition, members asked that the AG compile the results of municipal annual reporting for submission to the committee. The AG representative agreed to that task but made no mention of the state utilizing the same service to provide more transparency in their reporting. The bill passed unanimously out of committee as amended.

HEARING SCHEDULE (cont'd)

For the week of March 31, 2025

LD 1209 Resolve, to Create a Working Group to Study the Safety and Use of Small Lightweight Vehicles on Maine's Roads and Highways, the Systems and Laws Governing Antique Vehicles and the General Improvement of Road Safety

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2

Criminal Justice & Public Safety
Room 436, State House, 9:30 a.m.
Tel: 287-1122

LD 841 Resolve, to Study the Delivery of Emergency Medical Services to and Ferry Service Effects on Island Communities in the State

LD 993 An Act to Require First Responder Training for Mental Health Crisis and Critical Incident Stress Recognition

Energy, Utilities & Technology
Room 211, Cross Building, 10:00 a.m.
Tel: 287-4143

LD 1080 An Act Prohibiting Public Utilities from Requiring Deposits Based Solely on a Residential Customer's Income

LD 1127 An Act to Establish Immunity for a Receiver Appointed by the Public Utilities Commission to Oversee the Operations of a Consumer-owned Water Utility

3:15 p.m.

LD 1096 An Act to Allow Municipalities That Have Financed Fiber-optic Broadband Infrastructure to Use Loans or Grants to Repay Associated Debt

LD 1130 An Act to Advance Long-duration Energy Storage Within the State

Taxation
Room 127, State House, 10:00 a.m.
Tel: 287-1552

LD 1112 RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine Requiring Not Less Than 90 Percent State Reimbursement for Residential Real Estate Property Tax Exemptions and to Establish a Minimum Homestead Exemption

LD 1144 An Act to Reinstate the Property Tax Stabilization Program

LD 1168 An Act to Amend the Law Regarding the Current Use Valuation of

Certain Working Waterfront Land with Respect to Commercial Boat Yards

LD 1206 An Act to Control Property Taxes by Increasing the Percentage of the Business Equipment Tax Exemption That Municipalities May Recover

1:00 p.m.

LD 1044 An Act to Clarify the Qualifying Use of Tax Increment Financing for Extension of a Development District

THURSDAY, APRIL 3

Education & Cultural Affairs
Room 208, Cross Building, 1:00 p.m.
Tel: 287-3125

LD 692 An Act to Increase Support for Statewide Emergency Broadcast Messaging

LD 783 An Act to Continue Support for the Maine Multicultural Center

LD 1123 An Act to Provide Funding for MaineCare-related Services for Public Schools

Health & Human Services
Room 209, Cross Building, 2:00 p.m.
Tel: 287-1317

LD 263 Resolve, to Provide Rural Nonmedical Transportation Services to the Elderly and Adults with Disabilities Receiving Home and Community Benefits Under MaineCare

LD 938 An Act to Implement Certain Local Spending and Sourcing Requirements Regarding the Statewide Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

LD 943 An Act to Require the ASPIRE-TANF Program to Be Administered by State Employees

LD 1235 An Act to Establish Transparency in Opioid Settlement Funds Allocated to Municipalities or Counties

Housing & Economic Development
Room 206, Cross Building, 1:00 p.m.
Tel: 287-4880

LD 1170 An Act to Make the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority Responsible for the Transfer and Development of State-owned Surplus Land

Taxation
Room 127, State House, 1:00 p.m.
Tel: 287-1552

LD 1082 An Act to Invest in Maine's Families and Workforce by Amending the Real Estate Transfer Tax

Transportation
Room 126, State House, 1:00 p.m.
Tel: 287-4148

LD 290 An Act to Remit 15 Percent of the Fine for a Violation of the Motor Vehicle Laws to the Municipality in Which the Violation Occurred

LD 611 An Act to Allow the Secretary of State to Collect Excise Taxes on Motor Vehicles Owned by Residents Who Are Unhoused

LD 807 An Act to Limit the Number of Free Motor Vehicle Registrations That May Be Provided to a Disabled Veteran and Reimburse Municipalities for the Loss of Excise Taxes

LD 1020 An Act to Repeal the Laws Providing for the Construction of a Connector to Garham and to Resell Land Taken Under Those Laws to Previous Property Owners

FRIDAY, APRIL 4

Judiciary
Room 438, State House, 9:30 a.m.
Tel: 287-1327

LD 1189 An Act to Prohibit Arrest and Detention for Civil Violations and Require an Attorney for the State to Determine Whether to Charge a Class E Offense as a Civil Violation

1:00 p.m.

LD 958 An Act to Prohibit Eminent Domain on Tribal Lands

Transportation
Room 126, State House, 10:00 a.m.
Tel: 287-4148

LD 676 An Act to Fund the Recommendations of the Mountain Division Rail Use Advisory Council

LD 956 Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation to Implement the Recommendation of the Calais Branch Rail Use Advisory Council to Create a Multi-use Trail

Utility Poles vs. A Can of Worms

Municipal authority over utility pole permits was a topic of discussion on Tuesday, March 18 for the Energy, Utility and Technology Committee as they heard testimony from interested parties for the aptly titled LD 873, *An Act to Expand Municipal Authority over Utility Pole Permits*, sponsored by Rep. Abdi (Lewiston), who brought this bill forward on behalf of a member of the Lewiston City Council.

The bill would simply reduce the population threshold by which a municipality could revoke the location of a utility pole when it is required for public welfare and safety reasons and is in response to a particular issue that occurred in Lewiston. When questioned about the specific discussions that occurred between the City of Lewiston and the pole owner, the bill sponsor promised to bring the conversation details back to the work session.

The Maine Municipal Association (MMA) was the only proponent for LD 873, based on a preliminary poll of its members with a promise to update testimony should the position change at their upcoming meeting. There was general support for the bill among Legislative Policy Committee (LPC) members, who noted the bill would only include two additional municipalities and questioned why there was a population limit tied to the statute at all. The LPC suggested the committee consider eliminating the threshold altogether since municipalities are best positioned to determine when poles within their borders need to be relocated.

Committee members were also befuddled as to the reasoning behind the original population limit in statute and further requested that MMA come back to the work session with the LPC's position on specific language

choices in statute, and concerns regarding the attachments, besides electricity, to the poles including E-911 infrastructure.

Opposition to the measure came from Consolidated Communications, Inc. (CCI) who testified that the logistics for the whole process for over 400 towns and cities would be overwhelming. Furthermore, the current statute has worked well for Portland and is not currently ever utilized, therefore they don't feel that meddling with the statute is necessary.

Fast forward to March 25 when the committee gathered around the horseshoe to conduct work sessions on several bills including LD 873. The analyst provided her summary that included the responses from MMA regarding their information requests, whose position of support did not change.

The committee asked the representative of CCI if it was their position that lowering the threshold would increase the usage of the statute and if there was harm in reducing the population limit. Although it would not necessarily be harmful, in their opinion, it

raises the question of what it looks like to lower the threshold—more out of a fear of the unknown in a sense.

The committee discussed the situation in Lewiston in depth and debated how long it is appropriate to wait for a response from the utility when a request for a pole relocation is made. Specifically, the committee asked the small business, Dirigo Electric Cooperative, if they had concerns with pole relocations. They reported that any requests for service have been responsive and have not experienced the issues described by others.

Rep. Kessler (South Portland) stated for the record that he supports the bill including the suggested changes by MMA to eliminate the threshold. Shortly after, committee members went behind closed doors to discuss.

Upon return, Rep. Webb (Durham) stated that he would only vote for the bill if it did not include MMA's suggested changes since he feels it opens a can of worms. With that, Rep. Kessler moved "ought to pass" on LD 873 and it left the committee with a divided report.

Local Control, Up In Smoke

On March 19, the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee met to hear testimony on proposed legislation, one of which was LD 948, *An Act to Reduce Administrative Burdens and Expand Access in the Laws Governing Cannabis*, sponsored by Rep. Pluecker (Warren). The bill aims to extend the registration and licensing periods, for both medical and adult use, from one year to two years, and increases the number of cannabis plants or canopy that a caregiver can cultivate.

According to the bill sponsor, LD 948 would help caregivers by expanding the allowable cultivation amount which aligns with recreation cultivation laws and would improve supply and choice available to patients. Further, expanding the registration and licensing periods would alleviate the administrative burdens placed on these small businesses.

These sentiments were supported by testimony from several industry representatives who shared their personal struggles around the registration renewal process particularly when dealing with the Office of Cannabis Policy (OCP), and how the increased cultivation amounts would allow them to compete with larger businesses.

What seems to be forgotten is that caregivers were intended to be small businesses that helped qualifying patients acquire their medicine at a time when retail dispensaries were not as abundant as they are today. Caregivers are not subject to municipal approval and municipalities are further limited in their ability to regulate such operations. As the industry has bloomed, it makes sense that under the current model caregivers would see a decline.

From the municipal perspective and provided in the Maine Municipal Association's (MMA) testimony in opposition to LD 948, if a caregiver would like to increase their cultivation amounts, there is currently a method in place—they can apply for the appropriate license, pay the applicable fees, and make the change.

However, depending on a municipality's ordinances, the expanded activity may not currently be allowed in their community, which is where the issue lies. For this reason, MMA suggested that the bill be amended to require municipal approval if a caregiver wants to increase the amount of cannabis cultivated over the current amount.

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LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN

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Layout: Sue Bourdon, Advocacy & Communications

Local Control, Up In Smoke.....cont'd

Information requests from the committee included a request that the Attorney General or a representative of the office attend the work session and provide more information on the licenses that allow an unlimited cultivation canopy, and violations of such.

Rolling up to the work session on Wednesday, March 26, the analyst provided a summary of the information shared at the public hearing. Following the summary, the committee asked OCP Director John Hudak to provide information around the differences between dispensaries and caregivers. His answer confirmed that caregivers are intended to be smaller operations that can transition into a larger business. However, the larger operation also comes with higher registration fees that reflect the larger scale of operation.

Rep. Malon (Biddeford) asked if there

was a threshold in place to determine at what point a caregiver is no longer a caregiver. A valid question, and one that has crossed the minds of municipal leaders, which pointed to the allowable cultivation limits. Registered dispensaries can grow an unlimited amount of cannabis and have local authorization requirements that do not pertain to caregivers.

Discussions moved on to the issues heard at the public hearing relating to online registration and renewal processes and lingered for some time. With so many questions that arose with registration, licensing and other reported regulation issues, multiple individuals from OCP were available to help clarify processes. A detailed description of the renewal process was given by an OCP representative along with an offer to provide a walk-through demonstration of how the online process works,

which was declined.

It was at this point that a member of the committee left the room chanting "blah, blah, blah."

Unfazed, Rep. Boyer (Poland) expressed his displeasure that OCP is taking money for registration fees when the approval has not been granted. In his view, the payment should change hands after the approval has taken place. Rep. Malon moved to table LD 948, which passed with all but Rep. Boyer in favor.

Time will tell if municipalities will be granted the authority to approve an increase to a caregiver's allowable cultivation amounts. Hopefully, committee members can see through the haze to keep local control alive and allow residents to decide the fate of increased production for caregivers.

IN THE HOPPER (cont'd)

This bill changes the number of voter signatures on a petition to require a state agency to adopt or modify an agency rule from 150 to 1% of the total number of votes cast for the governor at the last gubernatorial election.

Taxation

LD 1044 *An Act to Clarify the Qualifying Use of Tax Increment Financing for Extension of a Development District* (Sponsored by Rep. Kuhn of Falmouth)

This bill clarifies that to be eligible for a 20-year extension, a tax increment financing district may use TIF revenue for one or both of the permitted uses of affordable housing and transit-oriented development. The bill also amends the definition of "transit-oriented development" to provide that such a development does not have to be located in a transit-oriented development district, area or corridor or a transit-served node.

LD 1112 *RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine Requiring Not Less Than 90 Percent State Reimbursement for Residential Real Estate Property Tax Exemptions and to Establish a Minimum Homestead Exemption* (Sponsored by Rep. Matlack of St. George)

This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to require the Legislature to: (1) reimburse municipalities for not less than 90% of the lost property tax revenue associated with residential real estate exemptions extended to veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces, persons who are legally blind and for qualifying homesteads of residents; (2) establish the minimum homestead exemption at \$50,000, which must be adjusted annually by the percentage change in the consumer price index, or similar inflationary index; and (3) require that at a minimum, no less than 5% of state sales and income tax revenues be shared with municipalities and to protect future increases in the percentage of state sales and income tax revenues distributed to municipalities.

LD 1144 *An Act to Reinstate the Property Tax Stabilization Program* (Sponsored by Sen. Libby of Cumberland Cty.)

This bill reinstates the property tax stabilization program and as of April

1, 2026, allows residents who are 65 years of age or older and who have owned a home in Maine for at least 10 years to apply for the benefit. The bill amends the original program by: (1) limiting the stabilization to \$900,000 of the home's assessed value; (2) clarifying that the homeowner can only have the property tax stabilized on one homestead in a property tax year; and (3) allowing municipalities to file for state reimbursement for administrative expenses. The bill retains the provision requiring 100% state reimbursement for lost property tax revenue.

LD 1168 *An Act to Amend the Law Regarding the Current Use Valuation of Certain Working Waterfront Land with Respect to Commercial Boat Yards* (Sponsored by Rep. Faulkingham of Winter Harbor)

This bill amends the tax laws relating to the current use valuation of certain working waterfront land to clarify that working waterfront land includes commercial boat yards, which are defined as commercial facilities that lease storage, docking or mooring space to watercraft and are used primarily or predominantly by persons engaged in commercial fishing activities.

LD 1206 *An Act to Control Property Taxes by Increasing the Percentage of the Business Equipment Tax Exemption That Municipalities May Recover* (Sponsored by Sen. Tepler of Sagadahoc Cty.)

This bill amends provisions governing the business equipment tax exemption by increasing from 50% to 60% the amount of lost property tax revenues a municipality may recover from the state for the property tax year beginning on April 1, 2026. The bill also gradually increases the reimbursement rate until it is at 80% for property tax years beginning on or after April 1, 2030.

Transportation

LD 154 *An Act to Amend the Transportation Laws* (Sponsored by Rep. Crafts of Newcastle)

This bill allows revenues distributed to municipalities under the Local Road Assistance Program (LRAP) to be used not only for capital improvements, as the program currently provides, but also for the maintenance of roadway infrastructure, bridges and structures. The bill also amends the provision

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Snowman Group

IN THE HOPPER (cont'd)

of law governing the distribution of urban compact assistance funds to allow distribution of funds for all other public roads maintained by a municipality located inside an urban compact area. Funds are distributed at a rate of \$600 per year per lane mile except that funds for seasonal public roads are distributed at a rate of \$300 per year per lane mile.

LD 290 An Act to Remit 15 Percent of the Fine for a Violation of the Motor Vehicle Laws to the Municipality in Which the Violation Occurred (Sponsored by Rep. Blier of Buxton)

This bill requires that 15% of a fine collected for a violation of a motor vehicle law must be remitted to the municipality in which the violation occurred if the fine resulted from a summons issued by a municipal law enforcement agency.

LD 611 An Act to Allow the Secretary of State to Collect Excise Taxes on Motor Vehicles Owned by Residents Who Are Unhoused (Sponsored by Rep. Sayre of Kennebunk)

This bill allows an individual resident of the State who has no residing place to pay excise tax on a motor vehicle directly to the Secretary of State.

LD 1039 An Act Regarding Municipal Authority over Heavy Vehicle Operation (Emergency) (Sponsored by Rep. Walker of Naples)

This emergency bill creates a Class M license that may be issued to a local unit of government for the operation of a single motor vehicle or combination of vehicles that meet the definition of a Class A or Class B license for the purpose of removing snow or ice from a roadway by plowing or sanding within the boundaries of that local unit of government. A Class M license must be held by that local unit of government and must be

assigned to only one individual employed by that local unit of government.

LD 1156 An Act to Allow Military Surplus Vehicles to Be Collected and Used in Patriotic Exhibitions and Parades (Sponsored by Rep. Perkins of Dover-Foxcroft)

This bill allows military surplus vehicles that are lawfully purchased for civilian use to be registered and operated for participation in parades and other events, club activities and other activities; for transportation to and from these events and activities; and for maintenance, repair, sale and occasional pleasure driving.

Veterans & Legal Affairs

LD 1148 An Act to Improve Access to Absentee Ballots for Municipal Elections for Uniformed Service Voters and Overseas Voters (Sponsored by Rep. Shagoury of Hallowell)

This bill directs municipalities to provide a copy of their local ballots to the Secretary of State for all municipal elections held on the same date as a statewide election and provides that an application or request for an absentee ballot by a uniformed service or an overseas voter for any municipal election that is to be held on the same date as a statewide election for which the uniformed service voter or overseas voter is eligible, is valid for 18 months, as is currently provided for all federal and state elections. The bill also authorizes the Secretary of State to receive local ballots from municipalities holding such elections, to issue those ballots to uniformed service and overseas voters who are eligible to receive them, and to receive and deliver cast local ballots to municipalities by the close of the polls on election day.

Brian Hackett
Product Manager

TRIO Software
6 State Street, Suite 601
Bangor, ME 04401



March 20, 2025

1 - 1

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



*****SINGLE PIECE | 00000032

Town of Georgetown
Assessor Agent
PO Box 436
Georgetown, ME 04548-0436
Hello TRIO Customers,

Beginning in 2021 the TRIO Development and Quality Assurance teams began a large-scale project to upgrade ActiveReports, the tool used to generate reports in TRIO, to a new supported version. Through that process we identified that some calculations in the Real Estate were being done incorrectly causing several Real Estate reports to not work correctly with that new version of the reporting tool.

That finding led to another large project that started in 2022 to rewrite much of the logic for those calculations so that we could move forward with the ActiveReports upgrade. During this project we found some calculations that were found to not work as expected. In one example, Outbuildings with a Grade of 0 or 9 (indicating to use the same Grade as the primary building on that same Card) could still calculate a value when there was no primary building on the card. Throughout the project oddities such as this have been fixed.

Fixing items like this does mean that there can be differences in the calculated values using the "new" calculations compared with the "old" ones. In our testing, generally only a small number of properties had a change in their calculated value with most being the result of rounding differences. However, there are cases, such as the previously mentioned example, where larger differences can occur.

In total over 1000 hours of effort has been invested in making this rewrite as successful as possible. Testing has been done with data from more than 20 municipalities to identify as many scenarios as possible which may have caused erroneous results.

At this time, we are in the final stages of testing and plan to release a program update that will make these new calculations live for all customers before the end of March. As soon as we have determined a release date for the update, we will email all users to provide advance notice and will also provide a link to a knowledge base article detailing the scenarios in which the new calculations can lead to a difference in assessed values.

The release of this update will allow us to complete the ActiveReports upgrade, which will then enable us to work on fixing outstanding issues with some of the Real Estate reports.

Brian Hackett
Product Manager

TRIO Software
6 State Street, Suite 601
Bangor, ME 04401



We do understand that any updates that change assessed values by any amount can be concerning and frustrating, and that there is no time of year that can be considered a "good time" for such an update to take place. We are hopeful that deploying this update early in the year will allow for it to be done before tax commitments are taking place and so that there is time for any necessary adjustments to be made. Any issues or errors caused by the calculation changes will be handled with the highest priority to get them corrected as quickly as possible.

We truly appreciate and value each and every TRIO customer. Without you there would be no TRIO. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns you may have.

Thank you!

Brian Hackett
TRIO Product Manager, Research & Development

SNOWPLOW BIDS AS OPENED ON 4/1/2025



Municipal Areas

MaineMoss Inc. Bid -

2025-26 **24,000**

2026-27 **27,000**

2027-28 **30,000**

TOTAL = 81,000

Savie And Son Bid

2025-26 **39,900**

2026-27 **41,900**

2027-28 **42,900**

TOTAL = 124,700



Snowplow Contract Roads

MaineMoss Inc. Bid -

2025-26 **338,600**

2026-27 **358,600**

2027-28 **378,600**

TOTAL = 1,075,800



Savoie And Son

177 N End Rd
Georgetown, ME 04548-3815 USA
+12073712029
savoieandson@yahoo.com

Estimate

ADDRESS
town of georgetown
po box 436
georgetown, me 04548

ESTIMATE 1056
DATE 03/12/2025

DATE	SERVICE	DESCRIPTION	QTY	RATE	AMOUNT
03/12/2025	snow plow services	winter services plow /de ice 2025/2026 municipal areas	1	39,900.00	39,900.00
03/12/2025	snow plow services	winter services plow/de ice 2026/2027 municipal areas	1	41,900.00	41,900.00
03/12/2025	snow plow services	winter services plow/ de ice 2026/2027 municipal areas	1	42,900.00	42,900.00
TOTAL					\$124,700.00

Accepted By

Accepted Date

D. Le G. Savoie (March 12-2025)

Mainemoss, Inc

P.O. Box 319
Georgetown, ME 04548

Bid

Date
3/17/2025

Name / Address
Town of Georgetown P.O. Box 436 Georgetown, ME 04548

Description	Cost	Total
Snowplow Contract Bid		
Snowplow Contract 2025-2026	338,600.00	338,600.00
Snowplow Contract 2026-2027	358,600.00	358,600.00
Snowplow Contract 2027-2028	378,600.00	378,600.00
Snowplow Municipal 2025-2026	24,000.00	24,000.00
Snowplow Municipal 2026-2027	27,000.00	27,000.00
Snowplow Municipal 2027-2028	30,000.00	30,000.00

Total	\$1,156,800.00
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TOWN OF GEORGETOWN

CONTRACT FOR SNOW PLOWING OF MUNICIPAL AREAS

2025-2028

The Inhabitants of the Town of Georgetown, by their Selectmen, hereby enter into the following contract with _____ in the County of Sagadahoc and the State of Maine, for the removal of snow from the municipal areas hereinafter designated in the Town of Georgetown. Said Inhabitants of the Town of Georgetown and their Selectmen are hereinafter known as “the Town” and _____ is hereinafter known as “the Contractor.” When this contract refers to the Contractor, it includes the Contractor’s employees and agents.

As consideration for the within contract, it is hereby agreed between the parties hereto as follows, to wit:

Services: What and When

This contract is for the “snow seasons” of 2025-2026, 2026-2027, and 2027-2028, commencing in October 2025 and ending in June 2028, with the option of two annual extensions, 2028-2029 and 2029-2030, by mutual agreement of the parties.

Independence of Contractor

The Contractor and his or her employees and agents act in an independent capacity, not as officers, employees, or agents of the Town. The Contractor is responsible for employing the personnel needed to fulfill the obligations of this contract and is solely responsible for complying with applicable Federal and State laws and local ordinances, including but not limited to worker’s compensation law, employment security law, and minimum wage law. The Contractor is responsible for maintaining all his or her equipment in a safe, operable, and legal condition.

Maintenance Requirements

The Contractor agrees to remove the snow and ice from the Town municipal areas in accordance with the State of Maine snow removal law and that work on the Town municipal areas shall be done to the satisfaction of the Town, whose judgment thereon shall be final. The list of municipal areas to be plowed / sanded is included as an Appendix attached hereto and incorporated herein.

The Contractor agrees to furnish equipment for plowing and sanding these areas, adequate and satisfactory to the Town, at his or her expense. The Contractor agrees to maintain sufficient equipment to perform the duties under this contract and to provide an up-to-date list of equipment, which shall be in good operating condition, to the Town. The Contractor agrees to have a mobile telephone so that he or she can receive messages and shall respond to the Selectmen or their agents within one-half hour.

The Contractor agrees to start treatment/snow removal at the beginning of any storm when the

snow has accumulated to a depth greater than half an inch of wet snow or one inch of dry snow. The Contractor agrees to begin snow or ice removal when directed by the Selectmen for specific cause.

The Contractor shall operate continuously until the areas are properly cleared of snow and ice in the interest of public safety. At the conclusion of the storm, all Town municipal areas will be treated with salt and sand.

The Contractor shall operate snow-removal equipment without resorting to such practices as excessive speed and shall avoid damage to public property. The Contractor shall reimburse the Town for replacing guard-rails, guard-rail posts, signs, signposts, or guard posts damaged during snow-removal operations if the Town determines that such damage could have been avoided.

The Contractor shall not permit private work to interfere with the performance of required duties under this contract. The contractor shall perform duties for the Town before proceeding to other contracts.

Insurance

The Contractor agrees to provide general public liability, bodily injury liability and property damage insurance, including vehicle coverage, in the amount of not less than \$1,000,000.00 with terms satisfactory to the Town. The Town shall be named as an additional insured on the vehicle and general public liability policy. The Contractor shall provide the Town with proof of this insurance and evidence of insurance sufficient to satisfy the requirements of the Workers' Compensation Act. If the Contractor hires subcontractors for all or part of the work, the subcontractors shall provide to the Town proof of comparable insurance coverage. The Contractor and each subcontractor, if any, agrees to provide proof of registration and insurance for all vehicles used in executing this contract. Such registration shall be as required by the State of Maine for the vehicles actually used. The contractor must provide proof of required insurance annually before receiving his or her first payment under this contract.

Bills and Claims

The Contractor shall be responsible for all bills for labor, material, equipment, and fuel and other items incurred in the performance of this contract. The Town will not pay such bills. The Town will work with the Contractor to enable him or her to take advantage of Town purchases of salt and sand for use under this contract. The Contractor shall be responsible for all claims of injury or damage incurred during the process of snow removal and shall indemnify and save the Town harmless from any and all claims including reasonable attorney fees incurred in prosecuting its rights hereunder or defending against any claims by Contractor or third parties.

Breach of Contract

If the Contractor fails to perform according to the terms of this contract at the time and in the manner specified, that failure shall be a breach of contract. In the event of a breach, the Town (through its Selectmen) shall immediately give oral notice to the Contractor, who will then be

required to perform within a reasonable amount of time. "Reasonable time" may vary depending on the nature of the breach and weather conditions. In the event that the Contractor still does not perform the duties in the time stated to the sole satisfaction of the Town, the Town shall have the following options:

--Termination. The Town may terminate this contract by sending the Contractor written notice stating the reasons for termination. The Contractor will be paid for all work satisfactorily done at the time of termination, but the Town may use the remainder of the money due under this contract to hire another contractor to complete the work called for.

--Substitution. The Town may hire a substitute contractor to plow and sand the municipal areas for any period of time it considers necessary. It will pay the substitute contractor with money from this contract.

--Legal remedies. The Town may seek all available remedies of law to enforce this contract. Once this contract is in effect, the contractor shall complete the full term of this agreement unless this agreement is terminated as provided above. If the Contractor fails to fulfill its duties hereunder, the Town shall have the right to take legal action against the contractor for any amounts incurred by the Town (including reasonable attorney fees and expenses) to complete this agreement in excess of the original agreed upon amounts.

Supervision and Control

The Contractor has the right and duty to supervise and control his or her own employees, agents, and equipment. The Selectmen have the right to inspect snow and/or ice removal operations and notify the Contractor of any problems, errors, or non-performance. Prior to beginning the "snow season," the Contractor and the Selectmen shall meet and agree upon the priority of plowing, an agreement that shall not be unreasonably withheld by either party.

Notice and Contact

The following persons shall be available to accept written or oral notices, calls, and orders:

For the Contractor:	TBD	TBD
For the Town:	All Selectmen and the Town Administrator	
	Jonathan C. Collins, 50 Bay Point Road, Georgetown	841-8735
	Bronwen Tudor, 50 Bay Point Road, Georgetown	837-0648
	Aria Eee, 50 Bay Point Road, Georgetown,	514-5738
	Tyler Washburn, Admin., 50 Bay Point Road, Georgetown	371-2820

Payment

In consideration of the faithful performance of this work as set forth above, the Town agrees to pay the Contractor \$15,000 for the first season, \$15,000 the second, and \$15,000 the third. Each season the Contractor will receive eight payments, as follows: The first payment, representing 1/8th of the total value of the contract, on or after the fifteenth of September of that season; the remaining in seven equal payments on or after the fifteenth day of the months through April of that season.

Dispute Resolution

Any controversy or claim arising out of or related to this contract which cannot be resolved between the parties shall be submitted to the Superior Court for Sagadahoc County.

Subcontractors

The Contractor shall make no subcontracts without written authority of the Town. The Contractor shall be fully responsible to the Town for the acts and omissions of his or her subcontractors and of persons either directly or indirectly employed by them, and shall hold subcontractors to the same terms and conditions as he or she is held under this contract.

Indemnification

The Contractor will indemnify and hold harmless the Town and its agents and employees from and against all claims, damages, losses, and expenses, including attorney's fees, arising out of or resulting from the performance of the work. Neither the Contractor or any of his/her subcontractors shall file any liens for any claim hereunder against the Town or its property.

Entire Agreement

This contract represents and contains the entire agreement between the Contractor and the Town. Prior discussions or oral representations by the Contractor or the Town that are not contained in this contract are not part of this contract.

Amendment, Severability, Jurisdiction

This contract can be amended only by written consent of the Town and the Contractor. If any part of this contract is declared by a Court to be void or unenforceable, the rest of the contract continues to be valid and effective. This contract is governed by the laws of the State of Maine.

In witness whereof, the parties to this agreement have executed this contract in duplicate on the ___th day of April, 2025.

For the Contractor: by

its President

Witness

For the Town: by

Selectman

Selectman

Selectman

Appendix to Municipal Snowplowing Contract

Areas to be plowed and sanded

The areas to be plowed and sanded, pursuant to the responsibilities assumed by the Contractor under the terms of this contract are as follows:

Center Fire Station and all parking areas.

School driveway and parking lot as well as a path to the basketball court.

Church parking lot on corner of Bay Point Road and West Georgetown Rd.

Town Office parking area -- includes shoveling and sanding of walkway from parking lot to entrance on the north side of the building.

West Georgetown pumping station on West Georgetown Rd.

Transfer Station -- includes parking lots / drop off areas and compactor area as well as metals pile in the rear. Access to any and all containers needing to be hauled must be kept open. It also includes providing a container of salt/sand for the attendants to spread as needed.

Dry hydrant at Charles Pond on Five Islands Road.

Five Islands Fire Station and all parking areas.

The Town Wharf parking lots.

The Contractor further agrees that in addition to plowing the areas specified above, they will apply sand and/or salt at such times and in such quantities as are necessary and appropriate to the maintenance of the ways and area for traffic, subject however, to the approval and direction of the Selectmen, or their assistant.

TOWN OF GEORGETOWN

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2025-2028

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For the Contractor: by

For the Town: by

its President

Selectman

Selectman

Witness

Selectman

Appendix to Municipal Snowplowing Contract

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Five Islands Fire Station and all parking areas.

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