

# TOWN OF WINTER HARBOR, MAINE

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*Annual Report 2026*



*For July 1, 2025- June 30, 2026*

*Containing:*

**Auditor's Report for the Fiscal Year  
2024-2025**

**Municipal Officers' Annual Reports  
2025-2026**

**Warrant for 2026-2027**



*“Where the sea shapes our shores  
and community shapes our home.”*

# TOWN REPORT COVER

This Annual Report is dedicated to the local businesses of our community, whose hard work, resilience, and commitment help define the character of our Town. Their contributions support our local economy, provide essential services, and enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors alike.

We thank our business community for their continued investment in our Town and for the important role they play in keeping Winter Harbor strong and vibrant.



## FEATURED LOCAL BUSINESSES

*Celebrating the Businesses That Strengthen Our Community*



Winter Harbor 5 & 10 • Winter Harbor Provisions • S&S Enterprises  
DC Towing & Recovery • Schoodic In Bloom • Sea Schoodic Kayak & Bike  
DC Air & Seafood • Winter Harbor Co-op • Lobstore  
Littlefield Art Gallery • whopaints gallery & studio • Artisans & Antiques  
The Downeaster • JM Gerrish • Humble Grumble • Treehouse Seaside Grill  
Chase's Restaurant • Musquito Harbor Brewing Co. • The Hot Dog Cart • Sweet Pea Spa  
Realty of Maine • Grindstone Neck of Maine  
Hurd Builders • A.R. Whitten & Son • Go with the Flow Massage  
Grindstone Neck Golf Course



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# Board of Selectmen

To the Town of Winter Harbor,

It has been a pleasure to serve the town as Chairman of the Select Board. We spent many hours interviewing candidates for our new Town Manager, and it was with great pleasure that we hired Sara Liscomb to serve in this role. She has done a superb job stepping into the position and has been very busy updating many records and departments within the office.

I would also like to thank Misti Sargent for accepting the full-time position as Deputy Clerk and for her hard work and dedication in serving the public.

I would like to extend my appreciation to our Public Safety Department: Police Chief Danny Mitchell, Jr., Sergeant Phil Sargent, Fire Chief Roy Chandler, and all members of the Fire Department for their continued service to the town.

It has been a very busy year, including hiring a new Town Manager and Deputy Clerk, redoing and paving Summer Harbor Road, completing the town wharf and floats, and purchasing a new fire truck.

I would also like to thank my fellow Selectmen, Rob and Terry, for their dedication and hard work. Together, we have accomplished many projects and addressed numerous challenges to improve our town.

Finally,

I would like to wish the Winter Harbor team the best of luck in the coming year. I will be stepping down as a Selectman in June.

Thank you and Best Wishes,

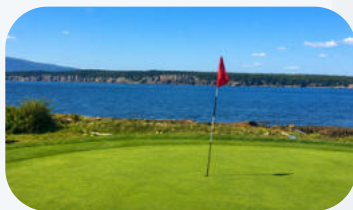
*Gordon Harrington*

## WINTER HARBOR BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

### Grindstone Neck Golf Course

*Coastal Golf with Scenic Views*

Grindstone Neck Golf Course offers a unique nine-hole experience set along the scenic shoreline of Winter Harbor. With its well-maintained greens and picturesque coastal views, the course provides an enjoyable setting for players of all skill levels.



*Offering a memorable golf experience shaped by the natural beauty of the Maine coast.*

# Town Manager

It is my honor to present the Annual Report for the Town of Winter Harbor. This past year brought both challenges and progress, as we continued to provide essential services while adapting to staffing transitions, economic pressures, and environmental conditions. Through it all, the Town has remained committed to serving residents, supporting local businesses, and maintaining the character and resilience that define our community.

The Town Office experienced a year of transition and growth. The team demonstrated flexibility, dedication, and a strong willingness to learn. Despite these challenges, the office continued to meet the daily needs of residents, including tax collection, elections, licensing, and general assistance. In January 2025 we contracted with a new assessing company, CMAC. They have started our property revaluation that has not been done since 2008. Before the 2027 tax bills go out there will be a chance for everyone to see their new valuations and meet with the assessor if needed.

Despite the challenges we faced, customer service remained a priority. We also made progress in improving organization and communication, including building a new website, which Misti built from the ground up basically on her own. We are now able to accept credit cards both in person and over the phone, making transactions smoother and more convenient for many of our customers. We are hopeful that the coming year will bring the ability to complete online car registrations.

As always, Winter Harbor has remained fiscally sound and financially stable—something we should all be proud of.

It took some time to recruit and appoint new members to the Budget Committee after several individuals nominated at the June Town Meeting resigned. Despite not yet having a full committee, the Budget Committee began meeting and working on the budget. Their meetings were initially held in the Town Office meeting room, then moved to the Masonic Hall, and later to the Chart Room at Misty Harbor Condos.

During this process, some committee members attended Selectmen's meetings to provide updates on their progress. It was during these updates that the Board of Selectmen became aware that the meeting locations were changing due to concerns about "listening ears" in the Town Office meeting room. In response, the Board of Selectmen determined it was necessary to establish a Meeting Room Policy to ensure all Town committees conduct business appropriately, transparently, and in compliance with public meeting requirements.

## Town Manager, cont'd.

A huge thank you to the Selectboard for their continued guidance, leadership, and support over the past year. Their commitment to thoughtful decision-making and responsible governance has been essential in navigating the challenges we have faced as a community.

The Board's willingness to collaborate, ask important questions, and remain focused on the best interests of the Town has made my role as Town Manager both productive and rewarding. Their dedication to maintaining the Town's fiscal stability, supporting staff, and serving our residents is greatly valued.

I am grateful for the professionalism and respect the Board brings to its work, and I look forward to continuing our partnership in the year ahead.

I would also like to recognize the dedication and growth of our team. Misti, who joined us last April as a temporary employee, was officially hired in June of 2025. Despite having no prior municipal office experience, she has proven to be a fast learner and a tremendous asset to both myself and the Town of Winter Harbor.

I would like to extend my gratitude to our Fire Chief, Roy Chandler, for his exceptional leadership and dedication in serving our community in multiple critical roles. In addition to leading the Fire Department, his job also includes, Road Commissioner, Facilities Maintenance Director, Health Officer and Fire Warden. With all of his job titles he demonstrates an extraordinary commitment to the Town and its residents.

As Fire Chief, he continues to ensure that our department remains prepared, responsive, and professional in protecting lives and property. His leadership has strengthened the department's capabilities while fostering teamwork, training, and a strong sense of service among our firefighters. In his role as Road Commissioner, he has worked diligently to maintain and improve our roads. His attention to detail and proactive approach have helped keep our infrastructure safe and accessible year-round. This past year, we were finally able to complete the Summer Harbor Road project. While the road has historically presented challenges due to the amount of ledge, and may never be perfect, significant improvements have been made. There are still a few areas that require attention, which will be addressed this spring. Grey Road also received a significant upgrade, and its residents were very appreciative. There are a few small areas that will also be addressed this spring. As Facilities Maintenance Director, he has overseen the care and upkeep of town buildings, ensuring they remain safe, functional, and well-maintained for both staff and the public. His hands-on approach and willingness to step in wherever needed have been invaluable.

## Town Manager, cont'd.

Balancing these three demanding roles is no small task, and his ability to do so effectively speaks volumes about his work ethic, dedication, and pride in serving the Town. His efforts, often behind the scenes, have a significant impact on the daily operations and overall quality of life in our community.

I would also like to extend a sincere appreciation to our Police Chief, Danny Mitchell Jr., and Police Sergeant, Philip Sargent, for their unwavering dedication, professionalism, and service over the past year. Under the leadership of the Chief, the department has continued to uphold the highest standards of public safety while fostering strong, positive relationships within our community. Their commitment to protecting our residents, visitors, and local businesses does not go unnoticed. Whether responding to emergencies, supporting community events, or working proactively to prevent crime, their presence provides a sense of security that is invaluable to our town. This year, they have once again demonstrated resilience, adaptability, and a deep sense of duty in the face of evolving challenges. Their ability to maintain public trust while carrying out their responsibilities with integrity and respect reflects greatly on both the department and the community they serve. I am especially grateful for the countless hours, often unseen, that our officers dedicate to ensuring the safety and well-being of others. Their willingness to serve, often in difficult and demanding circumstances, speaks to their character and commitment.

Our housekeeper, Charlie Arnett, keeps our municipal building and gym clean, safe, and welcoming for both staff and the public. His attention to detail and commitment to maintaining our facilities does not go unnoticed.

Without the support of our staff, and knowing they stood behind me 100% this past year, it would have been far more challenging. I cannot thank them enough for their dedication and support.

Winter Harbor continues to benefit from a strong sense of community and local pride. Events, small businesses, and community initiatives all contribute to the Town's vibrancy and appeal. Efforts to support local economic activity and promote community engagement remain an important focus moving forward.

It is a privilege to serve as Town Manager for Winter Harbor, and I look forward to continuing our work together in the year ahead.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Sara J. Liscomb*

Town Manager

# Elected & Appointed Officials

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN, ASSESSORS & OVERSEERES OF THE POOR

|                             |                   |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Terry D. Bickford           | Term Expires 2028 |
| Gordon W. Harrington, Chair | Term Expires 2026 |
| Robert Hemenway             | Term Expires 2027 |

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### BUDGET COMMITTEE

|                           |                    |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Billy Bickford            | Herman Faulkingham |
| Patrick Boeshans          | Sandy Fortin       |
| Michael Campbell          | Glen Moshier       |
| Kevin Conley              | Robert Schmidt     |
| Laura DeLucia-Faulkingham | Diana Young        |
| Peter Drinkwater          | VACANT             |

The following members resigned during the year, Kevin Conley, Diana Young, Michael Campbell, Robert Schmidt, Herman Faulkingham, Laura DeLucia-Faulkingham.

The Board of Selectmen Appointed the following members, Ruth Littlefield, Donald Littlefield, Barry Raymond, Polly Earl, Jackie Jacobs, Wayne Martin and Jean Robertson

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### CEMETERY TRUSTEES

|                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Andy Abbott        | Mary Kachoris   |
| Charles Arnett     | Debra Martin    |
| Rose Arnett        | Megan Moshier   |
| Cyrus Bragdon      | Roseanne Shafer |
| Christopher Byers  | Louise Shaw     |
| Herman Faulkingham | Diana Young     |
| Gordon Harrington  | Steve Young     |
| Timothy Joy        |                 |

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### RECREATION COMMITTEE

|                 |               |
|-----------------|---------------|
| Earl Blackney   | Sarah Joy     |
| Dolora Conley   | Megan Moshier |
| Kenneth Ingalls |               |

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*Unless otherwise noted, committee appointments are one-year terms.*

# Boards & Committees

## HARBOR COMMITTEE

### COMMERCIAL FISHERMAN

Robert Bragdon  
Herman Faulkingham  
Michael Kramp

### RECREATIONAL BOATERS

Andrew Abbott  
Alan Johnson

### AT-LARGE MEMBERS

Barbara Jean Bragdon  
Richard Wilson

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## LIBRARY TRUSTEES

|                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Rose Arnett       | Term Expires 2026 |
| Michael Campbell  | Term Expires 2026 |
| Sandy Drinkwater  | Term Expires 2030 |
| Ruth Littlefield  | Term Expires 2029 |
| Wendilee O'Brien  | Term Expires 2026 |
| Angel Shilling    | Term Expires 2030 |
| Timmothy Verville | Term Expires 2029 |

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## PLANNING BOARD

|                       |                   |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Vacant                | Term Expires 2027 |
| Chris Joy             | Term Expires 2028 |
| Mary Kachoris         | Term Expires 2027 |
| Dennis O'Brien, Chair | Term Expires 2029 |
| Steve Ribble          | Term Expires 2026 |

## PLANNING BOARD ALTERNATES

|                |                   |
|----------------|-------------------|
| Vacant         | Term Expires 2027 |
| Robert Schmidt | Term Expires 2026 |

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## COMPREHENSIVE PLAN COMMITTEE

Sandy Fortin  
Sarah Joy  
Wendilee O'Brien  
Steve Ribble

*Unless otherwise noted, committee appointments are one-year terms.*

# Boards & Committees

## UTILITIES DISTRICT TRUSTEES

|                           |                   |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Jeffrey Alley, Jr., Chair | Term Expires 2027 |
| Kevin Conley              | Term Expires 2026 |
| William Van Horn          | Term Expires 2028 |

## WATER DISTRICT TRUSTEES

|                |                   |
|----------------|-------------------|
| David Ackley   | Term Expires 2026 |
| Billy Bickford | Term Expires 2027 |
| Johanna Smith  | Term Expires 2028 |

## BOARD OF APPEALS

VACANT

## SCHOODIC BROADBAND COMMITTEE WINTER HARBOR MEMBERS

Sandy Fortin

## LOBSTER FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

|                   |                             |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Christopher Byers | Staff                       |
| Cathy Carruthers  | A member of law enforcement |
| Peter Drinkwater  | A member of the fire dept.  |

## ACADIA NATIONAL PARK COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE

Pearl Barto

*Unless otherwise noted, committee appointments are one-year terms.*

# Town Administration & Appointed Officials

Town Manager, Tax Collector, Town Clerk,  
Registrar, General Assistance Administrator,  
Motor Vehicle Agent, MOSES Agent    Sara Liscomb

Deputy Registrar, Deputy Clerk    Misti Sargent

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## OPERATIONS & INFRASTRUCTURE

Road Commissioner  
Facilities Maintenance Director    Roy Chandler

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## CODE & COMPLIANCE

Code Enforcement Officer  
Local Plumbing Inspector    Millard Billings

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## HARBOR

Harbor Master    Frederick Backman

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### WINTER HARBOR BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

#### Hurd Builders

*Quality Craftsmanship You Can Trust*  
Hurd Builders provides construction services focused on quality workmanship and attention to detail. Serving the local community, they bring experience and reliability to a variety of building and renovation projects.



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*Delivering dependable construction services with a focus on craftsmanship and quality.*

# Public Safety Officials

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief  
Sergeant & Animal  
Control Officer

Danny Mitchell, Jr.  
Philip Sargent

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## E911 ADDRESSING OFFICER

Danny Mitchell Jr.

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## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER

Roy Chandler

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## FIRE WARDEN

Roy Chandler

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## FIRE DEPARTMENT

Roy Chandler –Chief  
Gary Greenlaw –Asst. Chief  
Eric Bosley –Captain  
Matthew Correia –Lieutenant  
Wayne “Mallet” Campbell – Chief Engineer  
Cathy Carruthers – Treasurer  
Sara Liscomb –Secretary

Cameron Chandler  
Trina Chandler  
Rachel Hanna  
Jeff Horn  
Arik McCartney

Hannah McCartney  
Marc Miller  
Lewis Morse  
Taya Worcester

# Education Partners

## PENINSULA SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Christopher Beals

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## SUMNER MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Amy Watson

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## RSU #24 SUPERINTENDENT

Michael Eastman

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## RSU #24 DIRECTOR

Jeffrey Alley, Jr.

Term Expires 2027

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Residents interested in serving on a board or committee are encouraged to contact the Town Office.

## WINTER HARBOR BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

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### whopaints Gallery & Studio

*Creative Expression from a Local Perspective*

Whopaints Gallery and Studio highlights original paintings and artistic works inspired by the surrounding landscape. As both a gallery and working studio, it provides insight into the creative process while offering unique pieces that capture the spirit of the area.

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*Sharing original artwork shaped by the landscapes and creativity of the Schoodic Peninsula.*

# Town Clerk's Annual Activity Summary

*"A snapshot of the Town Clerk's Office activity for the year"*

## Licenses & Registrations

IF&W licenses issued: 58  
Boats Registered: 76  
Recreational vehicle registrations: 38  
Dog licenses sold: 107

## Elections & Voter Services

Registered voters: 436  
Votes cast June 10, 2025 (total) : 132  
Votes cast Nov. 4, 2025 (total) : 200

## Vital Records Summary

Birth's Recorded: 2  
Marriage licenses issued: 34  
Deaths Recorded: 11

## Notes

- Figures reflect activity recorded through the Town Clerk's Office
- Forms, ordinances, and updates: [winterharbormc.org](http://winterharbormc.org)

## In Memory of Winter Harbor Residents May 1, 2025–April 30, 2026

|                          |    |                   |
|--------------------------|----|-------------------|
| Gary F Howe              | 69 | June 3, 2025      |
| Mary Louise Riley        | 80 | July 20, 2025     |
| Skiles Howard            | 82 | August 3, 2025    |
| Martha Dean Blair        | 84 | August 6, 2025    |
| Todd Glista              | 65 | August 7, 2025    |
| James Wade Lilly         | 90 | August 30, 2025   |
| Frederick Hamilton Hauck | 84 | November 6, 2025  |
| William Clarence Holden  | 83 | December 21, 2025 |
| Marguerite Susan Holland | 96 | January 29, 2026  |
| Kenneth S Uhnak          | 77 | March 3, 2026     |
| Leslie Wilkes Wilson     | 46 | March 5, 2026     |

We would also like to say a farewell to the following people who  
were once long time residents of Winter Harbor  
Robert Webber, Miriam Gail Backman, Mabel L Rolfe

## TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

### Municipal Office Hours

8:00 am to 4:00 pm - Monday through Friday

Telephone: 207-963-2235 Fax: 207-963-2140

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### Office Closures

- |                                  |                             |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| - New Year's Day                 | - Independence Day          |
| - Martin Luther King, Jr.<br>Day | - Labor Day                 |
| - President's Day                | - Columbus Day              |
| - Patriot's Day                  | - Veterans Day              |
| - Memorial Day                   | - Thanksgiving Day          |
| - Juneteenth Day                 | - Day after<br>Thanksgiving |
|                                  | - Christmas Day             |
- 

### Scheduled Meetings

All are held in the Meeting Room, Municipal Public  
Safety Building

Board of Selectmen – Every other Monday at 6:00 pm

Fire Department – Second Tuesday each month at 6:00pm

Planning Board – Third Tuesday each month at 6:00 pm

# REGISTRAR OF VOTERS REPORT

*Annual Summary of Voter Registration & Election Activity*

## Elections Held & Voter Participation

Total Registered Voters (as of April 30, 2026): 436

Voter Registration by Party:

Democratic: 115      Republican: 156

Unenrolled: 93      Green: 9

Libertarian: 1

Municipal Election — June 10, 2025

Total Votes Cast: 132

Referendum Election — November 4, 2025

Total Votes Cast: 200

The Registrar of Voters office remains committed to maintaining accurate voter records and ensuring fair, accessible elections for all residents.

## WINTER HARBOR BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

### **Realty of Maine– Peter Drinkwater**

*Local Expertise in Coastal Real Estate*

Peter Drinkwater of Realty of Maine provides professional real estate services with a strong understanding of the local market. Assisting clients with buying and selling property, he offers knowledgeable guidance and personalized support throughout the process.



*Providing trusted local guidance in buying and selling property in the Winter Harbor area.*

# Tax Collector Report

FY 2025 Delinquent Taxes  
As of June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025

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| <u>Name</u>                      | <u>Balance Due</u> |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Armstrong, Martha                | \$ 954.46          |
| Bean, David & Diane              | \$ 109.64          |
| Blaney, Benjamin                 | \$ 1,126.23        |
| Bragdon, Cyrus                   | \$ 904.20          |
| Estate of Breslin, Peter         | \$ 5.49            |
| Buswell, Catherine               | \$ 3232.64         |
| Cirincione, Carole               | \$ 938.16          |
| Fenzel, John & Claire            | \$ 6.10            |
| Flubacher, Marcella              | \$ 1,455.04        |
| Greenwood, Douglas/Susan Pate    | \$ 7.00            |
| Hannan, William & Emily          | \$ 10.90           |
| Harris, Bobbi-Ann                | \$ 989.65          |
| Ingalls, Kenneth & Katelyn       | \$ 913.31          |
| Kremer, Joan                     | \$ 30.55           |
| Lins, Marjorie                   | \$ 1.54            |
| Monroe, Kenneth                  | \$ 665.22          |
| Mudge, Grant                     | \$ 572.61          |
| Rieber, Daniel & Deanna          | \$ 3.76            |
| Ross, Jr., Warren                | \$ 8.02            |
| Seaside Partners, LLC            | \$ 29.92           |
| Smith, Jr., Hollis/Tammy Worster | \$ 369.57          |
| Spearman, Verdis                 | \$ 196.46          |
| Wallace, Darlene                 | \$ 26.11           |
| Winter Harbor Co-Op              | \$ 21.38           |

## SERVICES AVAILABLE AT THE TOWN OFFICE

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*Winter Harbor Town Office*

*The Town Office serves as a central hub for essential services supporting Winter Harbor residents year-round.*

### PERMITS & LICENSING RECORDS & SERVICES

- |                                                      |                                                 |
|------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| ✓ Building & Plumbing Permit Applications            | ✓ Notary Services                               |
| ✓ Copy Services                                      | ✓ Real Estate / Personal Property Tax Payments  |
| ✓ Dog Licenses                                       | ✓ Vehicle, Boat, ATV & Snowmobile Registrations |
| ✓ Genealogical Research (vital statistics from 1895) | ✓ Sign Permits (on & off-premise)               |
| ✓ Fire Burn Permits (online help only)               | ✓ Trash Sticker Sales                           |
| ✓ Hunting & Fishing Licenses                         | ✓ Vital Records & Certified Copies              |
| ✓ Marriage Licenses                                  | ✓ Voter Registration                            |

## USEFUL & IMPORTANT TOWN INFORMATION

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### Agendas & Minutes

Meeting agendas and minutes are posted at the Town Office and on the Town website.

- Requests to add items to the Board of Selectmen agenda must be submitted to the Town Manager at least one week prior
  - All meetings are open to the public
  - Nomination papers and petitions require 25 valid signatures based on the most recent gubernatorial election
- 

### Assessing & Property Tax Information

Property values are set annually as of April 1 by CMAC Appraisal, under contract with the Town of Winter Harbor

- Exemption applications (Homestead, Veteran's, etc.) must be filed by April 1st
- Bills are mailed the first week of September
- Payments are due:
  - October 31
  - April 30

### “Additional Information”

- Assessment cards available for public review
- All property and tax records are public
- Fiscal year runs July 1 – June 30

## Boats, ATVs & Snowmobiles

Registrations for all recreational vehicles are handled at the Winter Harbor Town Office.

- Boat registrations expire December 31
- For documented boats, excise tax **must** be paid in the town of residence
- Snowmobile and ATV registrations expire June 30
- New registrations require:
  - Bill of sale
  - Sales tax payment (unless purchased from a Maine dealer)

### Additional Information

The Harbor Master oversees all moorings

Harbor Master - Fred Backman

#### WINTER HARBOR BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

##### Sweet Pea Spa

*Relaxation and Wellness Close to Home*

Sweet Pea Spa provides personalized services focused on relaxation and self-care. In a calm and comfortable setting, clients can enjoy treatments designed to promote well-being.



*Encouraging relaxation and wellness within the community.*

## Dog Licensing & Animal Control

Dogs must be licensed when they reach **six months of age**.

- Licenses expire December 31st each year
  - A mandatory **\$25 late fee** applies after January 31
  - Proof of rabies vaccination is required
  - Dogs must be leashed or under their keeper's voice control
  - Dogs may not run at large
- 

## Animal Control & Boarding

- Winter Harbor contracts with the **The Ark Pope Memorial Animal Shelter** in Cherryfield to board stray animals

## Animal Waste Ordinance

- Adopted February 27, 2013
- Owners must clean up after pets on:
- Sidewalks
- Streets
- Beaches
- Public or private property (unless permitted by property owner)

## Genealogical Research

Genealogical research is accommodated whenever possible. Appointments are requested if assistance from the Town Clerk or Deputy Clerk is needed.

### Copy services:

- \$0.25 per page for documents brought in
- \$1.00 per page for records maintained at the Town Office
- Archived materials may require pre-payment based on research time
- Some records are not open to public inspection unless a valid need is demonstrated.

## General Assistance

Winter Harbor's General Assistance Program is administered in accordance with State law.

- Applications are available at the Town Office during regular business hours.
- Eligibility is determined by Town ordinance
- The Board of Selectmen reviews and updates the ordinance **annually in October**

### WINTER HARBOR BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

#### Go With The Flow Massage

*Relaxation and Wellness Through Therapeutic Care*

Go With the Flow Massage offers massage services designed to promote relaxation and overall well-being. With a focus on personalized care, each session provides a calming and restorative experience tailored to individual needs.



*Supporting relaxation and wellness through thoughtful, personalized care.*

## Hunting & Fishing Licenses

Winter Harbor serves as an agent for the **Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife**.

- Licenses are sold through the **MOSES online system** at the Town Office
  - Saltwater fishing registration is required and included with freshwater fishing licenses
  - First-time hunters must provide proof of hunter safety course completion
  - Hunting and fishing licenses can be purchased in person at the Town Office
- 

## Motor Vehicle Registration Information

Winter Harbor is a **limited registration agent** for the Maine Bureau of Motor Vehicles.

- New vehicle registrations **must** begin at the Town Office for excise tax payment. Registration must then be completed at a full-service BMV office (Gouldsboro or Ellsworth)
- All **re-registrations** may be completed at the Winter Harbor Town Office
- Vehicles purchased from a Maine dealer may be initially registered at the Town Office

## Required Documentation

- Proof of insurance
- Current registration
- Current mileage

## Neighbor Helping Neighbor Heating Assistance Fund

Winter Harbor is fortunate to offer a community-funded heating assistance program.

- Funded entirely by donations
- No tax dollars are used
- Assistance available November - March
- Emergency support available if needed
- All personal information is kept confidential

If assistance is needed, please contact the **Town Manager**.  
Donations are always welcome and greatly appreciated.

### Online Services & Community Information

The Town of Winter Harbor website:

**[www.winterharborme.org](http://www.winterharborme.org)**

The website includes:

- Meeting information
- Committees & officers
- Department contacts
- Tax commitment book
- Tax Maps
- Town ordinances

Facebook page:

**Town of Winter Harbor, Maine**

Used for: Town Updates

## Permits & Ordinances

Building activity in Winter Harbor is regulated by local ordinances administered by the Planning Board and Code Enforcement Officer (CEO).

- All ordinances and building permit forms are available at the Town Office and on the Town website
- A \$10.00 fee is required when submitting a building permit application
- Failure to obtain a permit or violations of ordinances may result in penalties
- Residents are encouraged to consult with the CEO prior to starting any project
- Please contact the Town Office to schedule an appointment

### Code Enforcement Officer:

Millard Billings  
mbillings46@yahoo.com

*Apply online:* [winterharborme.org](http://winterharborme.org) —→ Permits & Forms  
*Ordinances can be found on our website*

### WINTER HARBOR BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

#### Winter Harbor Provisions

*Fresh Groceries for Everyday Living*

Winter Harbor Provisions supplies fresh foods, pantry staples, and essential goods in a convenient neighborhood setting. Serving both locals and visitors, the store plays an important role in supporting daily routines.



*Providing access to fresh food and essential items for the community.*

## Key Dates & Deadlines

### Town Deadlines & Renewals

|               |                                                        |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| August        | Property tax bills mailed ( <i>date varies</i> )       |
| October 15th  | Dog licenses go on sale                                |
| October 31st  | 1 <sup>st</sup> half of property tax due               |
| December 31st | Dog licenses due                                       |
| December 31st | Boat registrations expire                              |
| February 1st  | Late fee charged for unregistered dogs \$25.00 +       |
| February 28th | Trailer registrations expire ( <i>over 2,000 lbs</i> ) |
| March         | Motorcycle registrations due                           |
| April 30th    | 2 <sup>nd</sup> half of property tax due               |
| June 30th     | ATV & Snowmobile registrations expire                  |
| July 1st      | Mooring fees due                                       |

### WINTER HARBOR BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

#### S & S Enterprises

*Dependable Automotive Service You Can Trust*

S & S Enterprises delivers reliable vehicle repair and maintenance services to keep the community moving. Known for practical expertise and consistent service, they support the day-to-day transportation needs of local residents.



*Supporting Winter Harbor's community by providing trusted local automotive care.*

## NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS

(PURSUANT TO TITLE 36, M.R.S.A., SECTION 706)

Taxes are assessed as of April 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. New construction is assessed by the percent of completion as of April 1<sup>st</sup>.

### HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION

This program provides a measure of property tax relief for certain individuals that have owned homestead property in Maine for at least twelve months and make the property they occupy on April 1st their permanent residence. Property owners would receive an exemption of \$23,000. Anyone wishing to apply for a homestead exemption may obtain the application from the Town Office or on our website. If you applied last year, you need not apply again.

### NOTICE TO VETERANS

Veterans who served in the Armed Forces of the United States and have reached the age of 62 years or are receiving any form of pension or compensation for disability, service-connected or non-service-connected, MAY be eligible for a property tax exemption. Applicant must be a resident of Winter Harbor and must make written application and provide proof of entitlement by April 1st of the year in which exemption is first being claimed. If you applied last year, you need not apply again. Surviving spouses of eligible veterans must reapply in their own names in order to be eligible. Applications and further information may be obtained at the Town Office or on our website.

## Police, Fire & Ambulance Services

For all emergencies, dial **9-1-1**.

Calls are answered by the **Hancock County Regional Communications Center (RCC)** in Ellsworth and dispatched to the appropriate agency.

### Police Protection

Provided by the Winter Harbor Police Department

- Backup support from:
    - Hancock County Sheriff's Office
    - Maine State Police
- 

### Fire & Rescue Services

- Provided by the Winter Harbor Volunteer Fire Department
- Fire suppression and rescue coverage
- Mutual aid agreements with:
  - Gouldsboro Fire Department

### Burn Permits

- Required for all outdoor burning
  - Available online (when conditions allow):
    - **[maine.gov/burnpermits](http://maine.gov/burnpermits)**
- 

### Ambulance Services

- Provided by Schoodic EMS
- Operated by the Gouldsboro Fire Department
- The Town of Winter Harbor maintains a contract and pays an annual per capita rate
- Mutual aid agreements in place for emergency coverage

## IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

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### FOR EMERGENCIES CALL **9-1-1**

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|                              |              |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| Town Office:                 | 207-963-2235 |
| Fax:                         | 207-963-2140 |
| <b>Emergency:</b>            | <b>9-1-1</b> |
| Fire Dept (non-emergency):   | 207-963-5533 |
| Peninsula School:            | 207-963-2003 |
| Police Dept (non-emergency): | 207-963-2235 |
| RSU 24:                      | 207-422-2017 |
| Schoodic Institute:          | 207-288-1310 |
| Schoodic Woods CG:           | 207-288-3338 |
| C. Sumner Learning Ctr:      | 207-422-3510 |
| Utilities District:          | 207-963-5579 |
| Water District:              | 207-963-7703 |
| Public Library:              | 207-963-7556 |

---

### QUICK REFERENCE

|                    |                                         |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Town Office Hours: | Mon–Fri, 8am–4pm ( <i>closed 12–1</i> ) |
| Closures/Updates:  | winterharborme.org + Facebook           |
| Power Outages:     | Versant Power 1-855-363-7211            |
| Burn Permits:      | Maine.gov/burnpermits                   |
| Cable/Internet:    | Fidium: 1-888-306-0397                  |
|                    | Spectrum: 1-877-863-0788                |

“For full town information, forms, and updates: [winterharborme.org](http://winterharborme.org)”

## NON-EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

*(Please use 9-1-1 for emergencies)*

- Burn Permits – 207-963-2235
- Coast Guard – 206-815-6932
- Hancock County Sheriff – 207-667-7575
- Maine State Police – 866-2121
- Maine Warden Service – 207-941-4440
- Marine Patrol – 207-664-2392
- Winter Harbor Fire Station – 207-963-5533

## UTILITY SERVICES

Electricity is supplied by Versant Power  
Outages: **800-440-1111**

Cable TV provided by Spectrum  
Customer Service: **800-833-2253**

Landline telephone service by Consolidated  
**Communications**  
Repair line: **866-984-1611**

## VOLUNTEERS & APPOINTED OFFICIALS

There are many opportunities to volunteer and serve the town. Please contact the Town Office if interested.

## WASTE DISPOSAL

- Curbside trash pickup only
- Trash stickers required \$2.00 per sticker; available at:
- Town Office
- Winter Harbor Provisions & Winter Harbor 5 & 10

### Bulky Waste Days

- May & October (*Only on advertised days*)
- Drop-off: Salt/Sand Facility (Sandman Lane)

### Additional:

- Household hazardous waste collection (if available)
- No town recycling program

USAN M. COLLINS

MAINE

ENSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1904  
(202) 224-2523  
(202) 224-2693 (FAX)

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1904

COMMITTEES  
APPROPRIATIONS  
CHAIR  
HEATH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS  
SELECT COMMITTEE  
ON INTELLIGENCE

Dear Friends,

It is an honor to serve the people of Maine, and I welcome this opportunity to update you on the work that has taken place in the Senate over the past year. My staff and I have addressed numerous issues affecting our state, and I would like to share some of the progress that we have made.

Since my Social Security Fairness Act was signed into law in January 2025, the law has been fully implemented and restored earned retirement benefits to 2.8 million Americans. More than 25,000 Mainers have seen their monthly benefits increase and have been issued more than \$184.5 million in retroactive payments. I am proud that this legislation has improved the lives of many retired firefighters, teachers, police officers, and other public employees and their spouses.

I was honored to become the first Maine Senator in nearly a century to lead the Appropriations Committee. Since I took this role last January, Congress enacted full-year appropriations bills before December for the first time since 2018. These bipartisan bills included full-year funding for Military Construction and the Department of Veterans Affairs, the US Department of Agriculture, and the Food and Drug Administration. At my request, these bills included nearly \$35 million Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) for local projects across Maine that will improve fire stations and emergency services, update municipal buildings, and support upgraded facilities at the Maine National Guard and Portsmouth Naval Shipyard (PNSY) in Kittery. This funding builds on the nearly \$1.1 billion in CDS I have secured since 2021 for worthy projects that benefit local communities and nonprofits across 16 counties. As Chair, I remain committed to working to better ensure that federal spending and investment produce real results for the people of Maine.

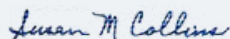
I have also led other important legislative efforts this year that address problems many Mainers face. This includes bills that expand federal efforts to combat Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses and improve access to early testing for Alzheimer's disease. Provisions I authored to strengthen prevention, treatment, and recovery services for those struggling with substance use disorders and mental illness were included in the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Reauthorization Act that was recently signed into law. An amendment I authored in this year's National Defense Authorization Act will increase apprenticeship opportunities at public shipyards like PNSY. That bill also includes more than \$400 million to support critical infrastructure improvements at PNSY and a well-deserved 3.8 percent pay raise for all our nation's service members.

In addition to advancing legislation, I worked to ensure that federal commitments to Maine were maintained and, when necessary, restored. I secured a seasonal employee exemption for Acadia National Park from the Administration's federal hiring freeze and from closure during the recent government shutdown. I protected local programs like Maine Sea Grant and global initiatives like the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) from harmful funding cuts. I led the effort to resume enrollment at Maine Job Corps centers and fought for full funding for Maine's public schools this school year. I preserved funding for the University of Maine System and secured the restoration of funding to the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Pleasant Point and the Penobscot Nation. I protected low-income Mainers' access to key programs like LIHEAP and SNAP. Although I voted against the One Big Beautiful Bill Act due to my opposition to Medicaid cuts, I helped secure \$50 billion to support rural health providers through the legislation's Rural Health Transformation Program. Maine has been awarded \$190 million in the first of this five-year grant program.

Throughout my Senate service, I have never missed a roll-call vote and have cast more than 9,850 consecutive votes reflecting the Maine work ethic I bring to Washington. My continued ranking as most bipartisan Senator from the Lugar Center and Georgetown University is a testament to Maine's tradition of working with cooperation and respect.

My highest priority as a Senator is to ensure that the State of Maine's needs are met. If ever I can be of assistance to you, please contact one of my state offices or visit my website at [collins.senate.com](http://collins.senate.com).

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins  
United States Senate

[www.collins.senate.gov](http://www.collins.senate.gov)

ANGUS S. KING, JR.  
SENATOR

100 HARRIS SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
602B-22B-1004  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES  
ARMED SERVICES  
BUDGETARY, CHIEF OF STAFF  
SUBCOMMITTEES  
ENERGY AND  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
BUDGETARY, NATIONAL PARKS  
SUBCOMMITTEE  
INTELLIGENCE  
VETERANS AFFAIRS

# GOVERNANCE & ADMINISTRATION

Dear Friends,

With each year we have a new opportunity to recognize our shared achievements and offer up our time and energy to support one another when challenges arise. I am grateful to the towns across Maine for their dedication to their communities, their residents, and our state. Working together has always been our strength, and the past year proved that once again we are stronger when we work together.

However, it is difficult to recall a year more challenging than the one we just experienced — a year that required a steady focus on our founding principles and shared values. For these reasons, I spent hours on the Senate Floor reminding my colleagues and many of you back home about the vision our founders demonstrated when they laid the blueprint for the American experiment. A cornerstone in their understanding was a duty to civic engagement and community. I often refer to Maine as a big town with long roads, and in my travels throughout our state, I am reassured by the grassroots participation in our civic process and the neighborly feel that makes Maine unique.

My legislative priorities remain largely the same: supporting Maine veterans, small businesses, and our heritage industries like agriculture, forest products and the marine economy. Additionally, I am grateful to have an exceptional team across Maine ready to assist you with issues involving the federal government. Whether you are facing challenges related to veterans' services, Social Security, the IRS, passports or other matters, I encourage you to reach out to our offices in Presque Isle, Bangor, Augusta, Portland, or Biddeford. We are here to help and welcome the opportunity to work on your behalf.

Together, I am confident we can continue building a stronger and more prosperous future for our state and nation. Thank you for being one of the many reasons Maine is such a special place. It is truly an honor to serve you and to know you. Mary and I wish you a happy, healthy, and safe 2026.

Best Regards,

  
ANGUS S. KING, JR.  
United States Senate

AUGUSTA  
65 William Avenue, Suite 412  
Augusta, ME 04330  
(207) 622-8252

BANGOR  
203 Mallon Street, Suite 2020  
Bangor, ME 04401  
(207) 949-8880

BIDDEFORD  
227 Main Street  
Biddeford, ME 04005  
(207) 332-5218

PORTLAND  
6 Market Street, Suite 400  
Portland, ME 04101  
(207) 245-1385

PRESQUE ISLE  
107 Academy Street, Suite 40  
Presque Isle, ME 04769  
(207) 554-5134

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Jared Golden  
Congress of the United States  
2nd District of Maine

Dear Friends,

I hope this letter finds you well.

As you likely know, my time in Congress will come to an end in January 2027, after which I'll return to my family and my life as a private citizen. In other words, this is my final town letter.

My time as your representative has included a fair share of ups and downs, but one thing that never changed was the pride I brought with me to represent your community and all the others across Maine's 2nd Congressional District.

Maine has been home for my entire life. And while serving in Congress has meant a lot of time in Washington, D.C., I've tried my best to stay connected to the people, places and values that made me who I am.

Growing up in Leeds, I learned the value of hard work and community. When I enlisted in the U.S. Marines, a decision driven by the commitment to service and patriotism instilled in me by the people and places that raised me, I learned a lot about sacrifice and leadership. After my time in the military, I settled in Lewiston and served my city in the Maine State House, where I got a crash course in what representation really meant: listening, understanding, and fighting to make life better for the people and families who'd placed their trust in me.

I brought these values and experiences with me to Congress, and tried to live up to them every day I have served.

I share all this not because my story is special or my values unique, but because I know that it is not.

It's fair to say that I've worked in one way or another with most every community in the District. Together, we've reduced pressure on property taxes by securing congressional funds for local projects. We've passed laws to support Maine's heritage industries and small businesses. And my staff and I have provided direct constituent services, helping thousands of Mainers across the state — including recovering millions of dollars in missing or delayed federal benefits. What I've learned through our work together is that there are leaders all over Maine everywhere you look — people committed to service, to their communities and their country: Municipal officials and workers.

Business owners and innovators. Servicemembers and law enforcement officers. Volunteer firefighters. And of course, the everyday workers, parents and students who are all doing their part to contribute how they can to their families and communities.

I am grateful to share this state with every single one of you, and despite all our challenges, I am optimistic about our future because of what I've seen and learned. I know that the things that divide us are no match for the things we have in common and our commitment to each other.

While this may be my final letter in this format, I am still working hard to represent you for the rest of this year. If your community, small business, or family has a need, reach out to my nearest district office and talk to us about it. My staff and I can help navigate government programs; find federal resources in Maine; and resolve issues with Medicare, Social Security, the VA, and other agencies. Here's the contact info for my offices:

- Caribou Office: 7 Hatch Drive, Suite 230, Caribou, ME 04736. Phone: (207) 492-6009
- Lewiston Office: 179 Lisbon Street, Lewiston, ME 04240. Phone: (207) 241-6767
- Bangor Office: 6 State Street, Suite 101, Bangor, ME 04401. Phone: (207) 249-7400

Thank you again for the great honor of representing you in Congress and the opportunity to serve you and your community. I will spend the rest of my time in Congress working just as hard as I always have to deliver what I can to Maine.

Respectfully,



Jared Golden  
Member of Congress



Janet T. Mills  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
1 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333-0001

## Winter and Spring 2026

Dear Friends:

It has been the greatest honor of my life to serve as your governor for the past seven years. We have faced many challenges together, from confronting a global pandemic, to healing from a horrific tragedy in Lewiston, to rebuilding from unprecedented storms that damaged homes and businesses across the state. But we have done so with the strength, courage, and kindness that is at the essence of Maine people, the same community spirit that will sustain us in the years to come.

Our towns and cities are the essence of community and the foundation of our democracy. In my last year as governor, I will push to continue fully funding revenue sharing and public schools so those costs are not added to the property tax bills. We will continue to make record investments in housing to bring down the cost of home ownership. We will continue to deliver tax relief to working people and lift the burden of student debt off the shoulders of younger people to encourage them to stay here, pay taxes here and invest in our state.

I fundamentally believe that our strongest asset is you - the people of Maine - which is why my Administration's approach has always been, and will always be, to make this state the best place in the nation to live, work, and raise a family.

With gratitude,

Janet T. Mills  
Governor



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

PHONE: (207) 287-3531 (Voice)

TTY USERS CALL 711  
[www.maine.gov](http://www.maine.gov)

FAX: (207) 287-1034

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as your State Senator. It has been an honor to work on your behalf to make our state an even better place to live, work and conduct business. I assure you, I will continue to work diligently on behalf of the people of Senate District 6.

I was officially sworn in for my fourth and final term on December 4, 2024. The 132nd Maine Legislature adjourned in July, concluding the First Regular and First Special Sessions. With 415 bills carried over to the next session—including more than 200 still pending in committees—we have a significant workload ahead when we return for the Second Regular Session in January.

I'm pleased to report the Legislature passed several critical bills aimed at expanding access to medical care, including measures to improve prescription access in Maine's most rural communities. We also secured key wins to protect our vital forest and logging industries, strengthen Maine's hospitality sector, and create new economic opportunities in agriculture by supporting food processing and manufacturing incentives.

On a personal note, I'm proud that legislation I sponsored was finally enacted to increase the number of children a family child care provider can care for without a license. With a statewide shortage of child care workers and the rising cost of care, this bill represents a meaningful step toward improving access to affordable child care, especially in rural areas.

Again, thank you for re-electing me to serve you in the State Senate. Despite many successes over the past year, lawmakers will have a lot of work to do next session. As your State Senator, I will continue to do all I can to advocate for your priorities in Augusta.

Please feel free to contact me by calling (207) 287-1505 or emailing me at Marianne.Moore@legislature.maine.gov if you have comments, questions or if you would like assistance in navigating our state's bureaucracy.

Sincerely,



Marianne Moore  
State Senator



## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION

AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

(207) 287-1440

TTY: (207) 287-4469

Billy Bob Faulkingham

P.O. Box 121

Winter Harbor, ME 04693

Cell phone: (207) 460-6967

William.Faulkingham@legislature.maine.gov

January 2026

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

It remains an honor to serve as your State Representative for District 12 in the Maine House of Representatives. As we begin the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature, I am grateful for the trust you have placed in me to represent your interests in Augusta. I am also humbled to continue serving my colleagues as House Republican Leader, a responsibility I take very seriously.

The Legislature convened on January 7, 2026, and we are preparing to consider a wide range of proposals in the months ahead. Lawmakers will address issues affecting our coastal economy, housing availability, workforce development, and support for working families, including Maine's high property and income tax burden and rising energy costs. These decisions have a direct impact on our region, and your input is essential. Hearing from the people of District 12 helps guide my work and ensures your voice is represented at the State House.

I encourage you to stay informed and engaged by visiting the legislative website at [Legislature.Maine.Gov](http://Legislature.Maine.Gov). There, you can review bill language and summaries, follow committee schedules, track roll call votes, and watch live streams of House and Senate sessions. Public hearings and committee meetings are also accessible via Zoom, making it easier than ever to observe proceedings or offer testimony.

Thank you again for the privilege of representing you. Please feel free to reach out to me at any time at 287-1440 or by email at [William.Faulkingham@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:William.Faulkingham@legislature.maine.gov) to share your thoughts or concerns. If you would like to receive my regular e-newsletter with updates throughout the year, simply send me your email address and I will be glad to add you to the distribution list.

Serving our community is the honor of a lifetime, and I look forward to continuing this work together in the year ahead.

Respectfully,

Rep. Billy Bob Faulkingham

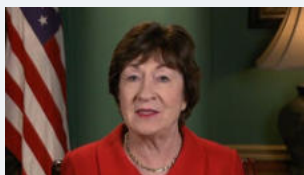
House Republican Leader

# CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

---

## Susan M. Collins

*United States Senate*



### **Maine Office**

PO Box 665  
Bangor ME 04402  
(207) 945-0417  
Fax: (207) 990-4604

### **Washington, DC Address**

461 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20510-1940  
(800) 962-3524  
Fax: (202) 224-2693

## Angus King

*United States Senate*



### **Maine Office**

4 Gabriel Drive, Suite 3  
Augusta, ME 04330  
(207) 622-8292

### **Washington, DC Address**

133 Hart Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
(202) 224-5344

# CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

---

## Jared Golden

*United States House  
of Representatives*



### **Maine Office**

6 State Street  
Bangor ME 04401  
(207) 249-7400

### **Washington, DC Address**

1223 Longworth House  
Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20515  
(202) 225-6306

## Janet T. Mills

*Governor*



### **Office of the Governor**

1 State House Station  
Augusta ME 04333  
(207) 287-3531  
Fax: (207) 287-1034

[www.maine.gov/governor](http://www.maine.gov/governor)

# CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

---

## Marianne Moore

*State Senate  
District #6*



**Senate Chamber**  
3 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333  
(207) 287-1505  
Fax: (207) 287-1527

**Website:**  
[www.legislature.maine.gov/senate](http://www.legislature.maine.gov/senate)

**Email:**  
[marianne.moore@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:marianne.moore@legislature.maine.gov)

## William R. Faulkingham

*State House of  
Representatives–District  
#136*



**Home Address**  
PO Box 121  
Winter Harbor, ME 04693  
(207) 460-6967

**State Address**  
House of Representatives  
2 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333  
(207) 287-1440

**Email:**  
[william.faulkingham@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:william.faulkingham@legislature.maine.gov)

## PUBLIC SAFETY

---

Public safety and municipal services protect residents, visitors, and property while supporting Winter Harbor's year-round community. This section highlights the work that keeps daily life running smoothly—from emergency response and enforcement to roads, facilities, and harbor operations.

### WINTER HARBOR BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

---

#### GRINDSTONE NECK SMOKEHOUSE

*Fresh Seafood from the Working Waterfront*

Grindstone Neck Smokehouse provides fresh, locally sourced seafood prepared with care and attention to quality. With strong ties to the fishing community, they bring the flavors of the coast directly to residents and visitors.



---

*Rooted in the working waterfront, delivering fresh seafood with local pride.*

# Winter Harbor Police Department

To the Residents of Winter Harbor:

I would like to begin the 2025 Annual Report of the Winter Harbor Police Department by expressing my sincere gratitude to the residents of Winter Harbor for allowing me the privilege to serve the Town in this capacity. It is an honor that I do not take lightly. Both Sgt. Phil Sargent and I share deep family roots in Winter Harbor, with generations of our families having lived and worked here. This community is not just where we serve—it is part of who we are. Thank you again for your continued support and for the trust you have placed in us.

Several years ago, Mike McFadden and I began working on a cellular tower project that had struggled to gain traction in the past. With tower construction completed just over a year ago, we saw significant progress throughout this past year with the build-out of the cellular network. This effort has greatly improved communications for public safety and for the community as a whole. AT&T Communications secured the highest elevation position on the tower, with Verizon Wireless occupying the second position, substantially expanding cellular coverage in our area. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Mike McFadden for his dedication and partnership in helping bring this important project to completion.

Throughout the year, the Winter Harbor Police Department remained committed to maintaining a positive and helpful presence within the Town of Winter Harbor. Our work included assisting residents, visitors, and contractors alike—whether that meant providing traffic control throughout town, responding to calls for service and complaints, answering legal questions, or simply taking the time to listen when someone needed it. Sometimes, offering that listening ear is one of the most important things we can do.

Acadia National Park reported that visitation in the Schoodic District increased by approximately 16 percent compared to the prior year. As expected, that increase brought additional demands on local resources, particularly in the areas of public safety response and traffic management.

Over the course of the year, the Winter Harbor Police Department responded to 219 calls for service, in addition to conducting more than 156 documented traffic enforcement and traffic control activities. These included both summonses and warnings, and the number does not necessarily reflect every traffic stop conducted throughout the calendar year.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Chief Danny Mitchell, Jr.*



# Winter Harbor PD

## Law Total Incident Report, by Nature of Incident

---

| <u>Nature of Incident</u>     | <u>Total Incidents</u> |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| (Not Defined)                 | 3                      |
| 911 Call                      | 14                     |
| Abandoned Vehicle             | 1                      |
| Assist Fire Department        | 1                      |
| Assist Law Enforcement        | 12                     |
| Assist Other                  | 3                      |
| Alarm                         | 19                     |
| Animal Problem                | 15                     |
| Assault                       | 1                      |
| Check well being              | 11                     |
| Citizen Requested Assistance  | 5                      |
| Civil Problem                 | 8                      |
| Crimes with Computers         | 1                      |
| Concealed Weapons Permit      | 4                      |
| Disorderly Conduct            | 4                      |
| Domestic Call                 | 2                      |
| Drug Intelligence Information | 1                      |
| DUI Alcohol or Drugs          | 1                      |
| Escort                        | 1                      |
| Fingerprint-Non Criminal      | 1                      |
| Fire                          | 2                      |
| Smoke smell investigation     | 1                      |
| Fireworks Violation           | 1                      |
| Found Property                | 1                      |
| Fraud                         | 2                      |
| Shots Fire, Shots Heard       | 1                      |
| In Person/phone/text/internet | 2                      |
| Information Report            | 10                     |
| Lost Property                 | 1                      |
| Incident Made in Error        | 1                      |
| Medical Emergency             | 2                      |
| Person with Mental Illness    | 2                      |
| Missing Person ALL            | 1                      |
| Motor Vehicle Complaint       | 4                      |
| All Court Paperwork           | 6                      |
| Parking Violation/Obstructing | 4                      |
| Traffic Accident w/Damage     | 6                      |



# Winter Harbor PD

## Law Total Incident Report, by Nature of Incident

| <u>Nature of Incident</u>      | <u>Total Incidents</u> |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| Traffic Accident, w/Injuries   | 4                      |
| Property Damage, Non Vandalism | 2                      |
| School Safety Check            | 1                      |
| Property/Business Check        | 9                      |
| Registration of Sex Offender   | 3                      |
| Any Special Detail             | 6                      |
| Suicide                        | 1                      |
| Suspicious Person/Veh/Incident | 4                      |
| Theft                          | 2                      |
| Threatening                    | 2                      |
| Traffic Violation              | 15                     |
| Trespassing                    | 2                      |
| Unattended Death               | 2                      |
| Criminal Mischief/Damage       | 1                      |
| VIN Inspection                 | 1                      |
| Bail Violation                 | 1                      |
| Violation of Protection Order  | 1                      |
| <hr/> Total reported: 212      |                        |

### Total Traffic Citation Report

| <u>Agency</u> | <u>Citation</u> | <u>Violation</u> |
|---------------|-----------------|------------------|
| WH PD         | 60              | 60               |

### Total Traffic Warning Report

| <u>Agency</u> | <u>Warnings</u> | <u>Violation</u> |
|---------------|-----------------|------------------|
| WH PD         | 95              | 96               |

# Animal Control

The Town of Winter Harbor's Animal Control Program promotes responsible pet ownership and community safety.

As Animal Control Officer, my responsibilities include enforcing animal welfare and safety regulations and ensuring all resident dogs are properly licensed.

In 2025, animal control complaints decreased to less than half of the 2024 total. Winter Harbor currently has approximately 120 registered resident dogs.

## Program Highlights

- **Leash Requirement:** Dogs must be kept on a leash or under their keeper's voice control at all times to ensure the safety of both pets and the community.
- **Stray Animals:** Following the Small Animal Clinic in Ellsworth discontinuing municipal stray contracts, Winter Harbor now partners with The ARK Pope Memorial Animal Shelter to board and care for stray animals.
- **Animal Waste Ordinance:** Pet owners are required to clean up after their animals on sidewalks, streets, beaches, public property, and private property (unless it is their own or permission has been granted).

## Dog Licensing

All dogs 6 months of age and older must be licensed annually in accordance with Maine State Statute.

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- Licenses for 2027 will be available beginning October 15, 2026.
- All dogs must be licensed by December 31st for the upcoming year.
- State-mandated late fees apply beginning February 1st.

# Animal Control

## Requirements:

Proof of current rabies vaccination is required. The certificate must describe the dog, list the vaccination date, and indicate the next due date.

## License Fees:

- Spayed/Neutered: \$6.00
- Non-Spayed/Non-Neutered: \$11.00
- Dangerous Dog: \$100.00
- Nuisance Dog: \$30.00

## Late Fees (after January 31st):

- Regular License: \$25.00
- Dangerous Dog: \$150.00
- Nuisance Dog: \$70.00

Responsible dog licensing helps ensure a safe, healthy, and respectful community for both residents and their pets.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Philip Sargent, ACO*

## WINTER HARBOR BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

### Winter Harbor 5 & 10

*Everyday Essentials in the Heart of Town*

The Winter Harbor 5 & 10 has long been a go-to destination for household goods, seasonal items, and practical necessities. Its convenient location and wide selection make it a dependable stop for everyday needs.



*A familiar and reliable part of daily life in Winter Harbor.*

# Winter Harbor Fire Department

In July of 2025, we said goodbye to our longtime Chief and devoted volunteer, Robert “Bob” Webber. Bob served the department with unwavering dedication for 52 years, including as Chief from 1986 to 2010.

Even after his retirement, Bob remained a constant presence. He faithfully attended monthly meetings, always arriving with a new tidbit to share—most often centered on traffic control safety, a topic he was deeply passionate about. He continued to attend Hancock County Chiefs meetings and Fire Association gatherings, and he never stopped asking the question, “What could have made the call easier?” His commitment to learning and improving the service stayed with him throughout his life, and he inspired others to do the same.

One of Bob’s favorite traditions was the Senior Citizen Thanksgiving Dinner, hosted each year by Barbara Jean Bragdon on behalf of the Winter Harbor Fire Department. He took great joy in greeting guests as they arrived, ensuring everyone received a raffle ticket, and later calling out the winning numbers with his familiar warmth and enthusiasm.

Bob was a tremendous asset to our department, and his legacy of service, curiosity, and care for others will not be forgotten. He is deeply missed by all.

Recruiting and retaining firefighters in this day and age is very difficult. If you are interested in volunteering for the Fire Department, please contact the Winter Harbor Town Office or email me at [rchandler@winterharborme.org](mailto:rchandler@winterharborme.org) for more information.

In September 2025, we received our new pumper/tanker, which was ordered to replace our 46-year-old truck (T-631).

I would like to thank the residents and the Board of Selectmen of Winter Harbor for their continued support. To all the officers and members of the Department, thank you for everything you do to protect and serve our community.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Roy Chandler*  
Fire Chief

# Winter Harbor Fire Department

## Call Summary

|                                       |    |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| Fire Alarms                           | 28 |
| Public Assists                        | 4  |
| Possible/Working Structure Fires      | 10 |
| Brush/Grass Fires                     | 22 |
| Odor Investigations (Gas/Smoke)       | 8  |
| Trees/Power Lines Down - 19           | 19 |
| Medical Emergencies - 28              | 28 |
| Motor Vehicle Accidents with Injuries | 17 |
| Boat/Vehicle Fires                    | 1  |
| Appliance Fires                       | 3  |
| Chimney Fires                         | 1  |
| Carbon Monoxide Incidents             | 5  |
| Search/Rescue                         | 4  |
| <hr/>                                 |    |
| Total: 150                            |    |

Winter Harbor Fire Department responded to other towns under a mutual aid agreement as follows:

**Gouldsboro - 86**

Call list provided by Hancock RCC 911 data collection system.

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Throughout 2025, due to a lack of volunteers, we joined forces with the Town of Gouldsboro to respond together to all types of emergencies and fires, with the exception of medical calls.

Winter Harbor Fire Department does not respond to medical calls as first responders. It was determined that we are not licensed by the State of Maine to do so. All EMS calls are handled by Schoodic EMS, and Winter Harbor Fire Department may be requested to assist with lifting and/or CPR.

# Emergency Management

We had a blizzard in February, but fortunately we did not lose power in town and did not have to open the shelter at the gym.

As Emergency Management Director, I stay in touch with the Hancock County Emergency Manager, Andy Sankey, regarding the severity of any storms so we can plan accordingly.

In the event of a storm and a prolonged power outage, please contact the Winter Harbor Town Office or email me at [rhandler@winterharborme.org](mailto:rhandler@winterharborme.org) if you need assistance.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Roy Chandler*

Emergency Management Director



## Online Resources

**[www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)** – Provides practical guidance on how to prepare for natural disasters and emergencies, including checklists, evacuation planning, and supply kit recommendations.

**[www.maine.gov/mema](http://www.maine.gov/mema)** – Offers statewide emergency updates, storm preparedness information, and safety resources specific to Maine residents.

**[www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov)** – Provides official weather forecasts, storm warnings, and real-time alerts for our area.

**[www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)** – Provides emergency preparedness information, disaster relief assistance, shelter support, and safety training, including CPR and first aid resources.

# Local Health Officer

As I continue to familiarize myself with the position, I'm happy to report that I have nothing significant to report at this time. I absolutely love this small town of ours, and we will continue to provide the best service we can.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., with any questions or concerns.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Roy Chandler*

Local Health Officer

## WINTER HARBOR BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

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### DC Towing

#### *Responsive Service When It Matters Most*

DC Towing & Recovery offers prompt assistance for vehicle breakdowns, recovery, and transport. Their dependable response helps ensure drivers receive the support they need on the road.



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*Providing timely roadside assistance and dependable towing services.*

# Schoodic EMS

This past year marked a period of meaningful transition for Schoodic EMS. Much like life in a working waterfront community, progress looked like steady work through changing conditions. Fortunately, Schoodic EMS has a reliable crew that kept an even keel and stayed the course despite the uncertain moments.

With new leadership in place we established clear areas of focus for the year, emphasizing growth both as individuals and as a team. Priority was placed on establishing clear internal systems, improving compliance with regulatory requirements, and building a culture of accountability and professionalism. Our current Schoodic EMS personnel invested more in themselves by furthering education and seeking higher licensure, while we also hired several new (to us) but experienced providers who already live in the area and have a strong connection to the community we serve.

Operationally, the service increased call volume by trialing inter-facility transfers to diversify revenue. Alongside this effort came a focus on billing and remittance- ensuring the service is properly reimbursed for the work it performs and remains financially sustainable without placing unnecessary burden on taxpayers.

We identified outdated equipment, systems, and habits, replacing them with updated resources better suited to current operations. Recognizing the expensive and ongoing need to replace ambulances and update equipment, an Ambulance Advisory Committee formed to support the service. This group brings varied perspectives and fundraising experience to help meet the needs of the service.

As Director, I am grateful for the dedication of our providers, the guidance from stakeholders, and the continued trust of the community we serve. The support from Winter Harbor helps to make this work possible and the community's needs give us purpose. With appreciation for the year behind us and the key people who helped shape Schoodic EMS into what it currently is, I look forward with optimism for what the next year will bring.

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Andi Both, BS, EP-C, EMT-P*  
Director, Schoodic EMS

# Harbor Master

## Annual Report – 2025

I am pleased to submit the 2025 Harbor Master's Annual Report for the Town of Winter Harbor. It has been a productive, occasionally entertaining, and ultimately successful year on the waterfront.

### **Harbor Infrastructure**

**New Floats (Take Two... and Done Right)** The highlight of the year was the long-awaited installation of our new dock floats. After years of planning and budgeting, the floats were delivered and installed. However, it quickly became apparent that while they were new, they were not quite buoyant enough to live up to their full floating potential. In what can best be described as an unintentional "submarine trial," the floats were found to be sitting lower than designed. Thankfully, with the capable assistance of DC Towing, the floats were hauled back out. Morris Young then ensured additional flotation was installed beneath them. I'm happy to report that the floats are now sturdy, steady, and floating exactly as intended. I extend special thanks to DC Towing and Morris Young for their prompt response and good humor throughout the process.

### **Moorings & Harbor Activity**

The harbor remained active throughout the 2025 season, with over 50 phone inquiries from visiting boaters seeking overnight moorings. While we were not always able to accommodate every request, Winter Harbor continues to be recognized as a desirable stop for travelers from away. Demand for moorings remains strong, and the harbor continues to serve both local and visiting vessels efficiently and safely.

### **Annual Boat Races**

The annual boat races were well attended and ran smoothly this year. We are pleased to report that there were no significant incidents, participants and spectators alike enjoyed excellent weather and a well-organized event.

My thanks go to all volunteers and participants who helped ensure a safe and enjoyable day on the water.

# Harbor Master

## Annual Report – 2025

### Harbor Conduct & Appreciation

I would like to extend sincere thanks to all mooring holders and dock users who:

- Paid their mooring fees promptly
- Removed their trash from the town dock
- Helped keep the waterfront clean and welcoming

Your cooperation makes a significant difference and helps reduce both costs and unnecessary seabird commentary. Overall, 2025 was a steady and successful year for Winter Harbor. Aside from our brief floatation learning experience, operations ran smoothly. Harbor activity was strong, infrastructure was improved, and community cooperation remains high. I look forward to another safe and productive season in 2026 — ideally with all objects intended to float doing so on the first attempt.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Frederick Backman*  
 Harbor Master

### WINTER HARBOR BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

#### DC Air & Seafood

*Careful Handling from Shore to Shipment*

DC Air & Seafood manages the packing and delivery of fresh Maine seafood with efficiency and attention to detail. Working alongside local fishermen, they help move products from the coast to markets beyond the region.



*Supporting the working waterfront through reliable seafood distribution.*

# Road Commissioner

I'd like to start by thanking Jason Tracey and his partner and son Brandon Tracey for doing a fantastic job keeping the Winter Harbor roads passable and safe, as always.

This past year, we updated several culvert pipes and repaved Summer Harbor Road. Unfortunately, during a mild thaw in January, a large dump truck caused some damage to a section of the road. That repair will be completed in early spring once mud season is behind us.

We also paved the ends of Hillcrest Drive and Bellevue Avenue. In addition, we replaced a culvert on Meadow Lane in front of the sewer plant that had caused the road to sink.

Sidewalk sweeping, road sweeping, and catch basin cleaning will be completed by the end of April. We'll also be taking care of the usual seasonal work, including taking down the Christmas lights and putting up new American flags along Main Street and Newman Street.

Thank you all for your patience while work is being done around town. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Town Office or email me at [rchandler@winterharborme.org](mailto:rchandler@winterharborme.org)

Respectfully Submitted,

*Roy Chandler*

Road Commissioner

## WINTER HARBOR BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

### Winter Harbor Lobster Co-Op

*From Local Fishermen to Your Table*

The Winter Harbor Lobster Co-op is made up of independent fishermen working together to bring fresh lobster directly to the public. By selling straight from the source, they support both product quality and the local fishing economy.



*Delivering fresh Maine lobster while supporting local fishermen and the working waterfront.*

# Facilities Maintenance Director

In 2025, we installed a new generator for the gym, which serves as the Town's emergency shelter when needed. We also had a contractor complete renovations to the scout cabin on Beach Street to bring the building up to code and make it safer if it is ever needed.

We updated the security system, which now includes coverage of the gym and playground areas.

If you notice a problem with any of the facilities, please call me at the Town Office or email me at [rhandler@winterharborme.org](mailto:rhandler@winterharborme.org). If it's something outside my scope, I will get a contractor to take care of it.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Roy Chandler*

Facilities Maintenance Director

## WINTER HARBOR BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

### Schoodic In Bloom

*Fresh Flowers & Thoughtful Arrangements*

Schoodic In Bloom offers fresh flowers and custom arrangements designed to suit a variety of occasions. With attention to detail and seasonal creativity, they bring color and beauty to everyday moments and special events.



*Creating thoughtful floral arrangements that add beauty to any occasion.*

# Code Enforcement Officer & Licensed Plumbing Inspector

(January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025)

No building, structure, or part thereof shall be erected, constructed, expanded, moved, or altered to change the use without first obtaining a permit. No lot shall be divided as to make a substandard lot. Three or more unregistered vehicles stored in a yard or field require a permit for an automobile graveyard.

28 Building Permits were issued between January 1, 2025, and December 31, 2025. The types of permits will not equal the number of permits issued because many permits are for more than one structure or use.

**Description:**

|                                                     |   |
|-----------------------------------------------------|---|
| New Residence/Cottages                              | 2 |
| Residential Additions                               | 6 |
| Garage/Shop                                         | 1 |
| Shed/Storage                                        | 7 |
| Decks/Porches/Patios                                | 8 |
| Driveway/Parking                                    | 1 |
| Roof Mounted Solar Arrays                           | 4 |
| Antenna on existing tower                           | 1 |
| Convert interior of existing Garage to Office Space | 1 |
| Enclosed Fire Escape                                | 1 |
| Demolition of an existing structure                 | 1 |
| Install a Foundation under an existing structure    | 1 |
| On Premise Sign                                     | 1 |

5 Plumbing Permits were issued between 1/1/2025, and 12/31/2025, as follows:

3 Subsurface Wastewater Permits were issued none of which were in the Shoreland Zone, and none that required a variance.

2 Internal Plumbing Permits were issued one for a hook up and one for three fixtures.

It has been a pleasure to serve the Town and Citizens this past year. I would like to thank the Office Staff for their support and assistance.

Sincerely,  
*Millard Billings, CEO/LPD*

# E-911 Addressing Officer

To: Residents of the Town of Winter Harbor

From: Danny Mitchell, Jr. – E-911 Addressing Officer

Date: 3/5/2026

Re: Annual Report of the E-911 Addressing Officer

The Town of Winter Harbor's E-911 Addressing Officer is responsible for assigning address numbers to all residences and public access roads within the town. These addresses are used by emergency dispatch when 911 is dialed from a landline or cellular phone.

When a call is made from a cellular phone, the caller's location may also be estimated through cellular triangulation or internet network data.

During the 2025 calendar year, the Town issued one new address on Newman Street in Winter Harbor.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Danny Mitchell, Jr.*

E-911 Addressing Officer

## Emergency Tip

Always ensure your home address is clearly visible from the road to help emergency responders locate your property quickly.

# Planning Board

The Planning Board had a productive year, which would not have possible without the dedicated participation of all our Board members, our CEO Millard Billings and the support of Sara and Misti in the Town Office. The Planning Board generally meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 6:00 pm at the Town Office meeting room. The public is always welcome to attend.

The major task facing the Board this year was the drafting of a Site Plan Review Ordinance to address larger scale development. The Board is currently working on an Ordinance Review Policy to ensure that Winter Harbor Ordinance are kept up to date.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Denny O'Brien*

Chair

## WINTER HARBOR BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

### The Lobstore

*Fresh Lobster, Ready to Enjoy*

The Lobstore offers locally sourced lobster and seafood for takeout or shipment. With a focus on freshness and convenience, they provide an easy way to enjoy Maine seafood directly from the coast.



*Providing fresh Maine lobster while supporting the local fishing community.*

## Winter Harbor Utilities District

2025 was a year of considerable change and improvement for the Winter Harbor Utilities District. To begin the year, we were faced with three significant challenges, and I'm pleased to report that thanks to the considerable efforts of WHUD employees and liaisons with the US department of agriculture we've successfully resolved all three challenges.

Our first challenge was to bring our finances back in order after two years of tumult, during which we found it difficult to effectively budget due to dramatic increases in operating costs and confusion surrounding bookkeeping practices during a period of transition. With the hiring of Melinda Beers in December of 2023, and her subsequent efforts to bring a sense of order to our budgets and finances, we were able to effectively determine the true cost to run the waste water treatment plant. Armed with this information we were able to determine a rate that would place us on sound financial footing. Its worth noting that even during the period prior to Melinda's hiring, and following her takeover our audits have remained sound. We were fortunate that the rate increase for 2025 was sufficient to create no need for an increase in 2026.

Our second challenge was the condition of our roof, which had numerous holes and was in dire need of replacement. Thanks to the advocacy of several people within USDA we were able to utilize the last remaining funds from the plant upgrade grant to remove the old roof, sheathe the roof trusses with OSB, sufficient to accommodate the weight of rooftop solar panels should the district pursue that project, and finally a new steel roof.

Our final challenge was to find a replacement for Terry Keller, our long-time plant operator, who announced his retirement effective December 31st. As I'm sure you can imagine finding someone to work along in a sewer plant is no small task. After some searching, and consultation with professionals in the field we determined that the cost to hire a new operator, employed by the district would be extremely cost-prohibitive. Our plant superintendent, Mike Harris, with whom we've contracted for over a decade, offered to negotiate a contract with his company for full plant operation. As a result, we agreed to a three-year contract with Harris Environmental to continue services as superintendent and provide full operational coverage.

## Utilities District, cont'd.

This contract constituted an increase in cost that was no more than anticipated combined salaries for 2026, with no increase in salaries in the succeeding years of the contract.

For the first time since before beginning the plant upgrade project I feel comfortable in reporting that we are on sound fiscal footing, that our physical plant is in excellent condition, and that our operation needs are secure for the foreseeable future. As always, our meetings are on the first Thursday of the month at 6:00pm at the treatment plant on Meadow Lane.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Jeffrey Alley, Jr.*

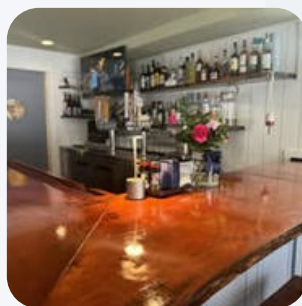
Chair, WHUD Board of Trustees

### WINTER HARBOR BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

#### **The Humble Grumble**

*Comfort Food in a Welcoming Setting*

The Humble Grumble offers a menu of satisfying, homestyle dishes served in a relaxed and inviting atmosphere. Known for its approachable meals and friendly environment, it provides a comfortable place for residents and visitors to gather and enjoy a casual dining experience.



*A welcoming spot to enjoy good food and easygoing company in Winter Harbor.*

## Winter Harbor Water District

The Winter Harbor Water District is committed to providing safe, reliable, and high-quality drinking water to the residents and businesses of Winter Harbor. This annual report outlines the district's operations, financial condition, infrastructure improvements, and ongoing commitment to public health and environmental stewardship.

The District continues to meet all state and federal drinking water standards as established by the Maine Drinking Water Program and the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). Routine testing is conducted throughout the year to ensure the safety and quality of the water supply.

The District remains financially stable; however, due to the current economic climate, continued rate increases will be necessary to meet rising operational costs and sustain planned capital improvements.

During the past year, the region has experienced ongoing dry conditions that have impacted water availability. Periods of below-average rainfall have placed increased demand on the District's water supply and highlighted the importance of responsible water use.

We will continue to closely monitor source levels and system performance to ensure a reliable supply of drinking water. While the system has remained stable, drought conditions can place additional strain on infrastructure and resources. Residents and businesses are encouraged to practice water conservation whenever possible. Simple measures such as limiting outdoor watering, fixing leaks promptly, and using water-efficient appliances can make a meaningful difference in preserving our shared resource. The District will continue to evaluate conditions and will notify customers if any voluntary or mandatory conservation measures become necessary.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Billy Bickford,*  
*Chair, Superintendent*

# Peninsula School Annual Report

Peninsula School is proud to celebrate a year of growth, hard work, and collaboration within our school community. Our school is a wonderful place to learn and grow thanks to our students, families, staff, and community partners. I am so proud to be a part of this community.

Our work this year has been guided by three primary goals

## 1. **Supporting All Students Through the Use of Data**

We focused on using multiple sources of data to better understand student needs, guide instruction, and monitor progress. Classroom assessments, attendance data, and behavioral information were used collaboratively by staff to inform decision-making and ensure timely support for students.

## 2. **Continuing PBIS Implementation**

Our ongoing implementation of Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) remained a cornerstone of our school culture. By teaching clear expectations and recognizing positive behaviors, we continued to build a safe, predictable, and supportive environment for all learners. These efforts contributed to a positive school climate where students know what is expected and are recognized for doing their best.

## 3. **Building and Maintaining Positive, Collaborative Relationships**

Strong relationships are at the heart of Peninsula School. We prioritized collaboration among staff, families, and community partners to create a welcoming school climate where students feel supported and valued.

Our continued work in these areas is making a difference. This year marked a significant milestone for Peninsula School. Based on improved student achievement and increased attendance rates, our school is no longer identified for support by the Maine Department of Education. This accomplishment reflects the collective efforts of students, staff, and families and underscores the positive impact of targeted instruction, consistent monitoring, and strong engagement strategies.

Thanks to the generous support from the Schoodic Community Fund, we proudly continued our weekend backpack program, ensuring that students have access to food outside of the school week. This program remains a vital support for students and families and reflects our commitment to addressing basic needs as part of student success

# Peninsula School Annual Report

Our Parent Teacher Club (PTC) continues to support our school by fundraising, sponsoring events and helping us recognize our staff members. This group has seen increased membership, a new organizational structure and a true sense of excitement.

As we move forward, Peninsula School remains committed to refining our use of data to support instruction and intervention, deepening PBIS practices to further strengthen school climate and expanding collaboration with families and community partners.

We are proud of the progress made this year and grateful for the dedication of our staff, the resilience of our students, and the ongoing support of our families and community. Thank you to everyone who contributes to making Peninsula School a caring, collaborative, and student-centered place to learn. Together, we will continue building on this success and supporting every student, every day.

Respectfully submitted,

*Chris Beals, Principal*



# Peninsula School Staff

| <u>Name</u>         | <u>Position</u>       |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Christopher Beals   | Principal             |
| Tonya Farmer        | Kindergarten          |
| Kristen Mowry       | 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade |
| Dhale Cunningham    | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade |
| Hilary Lisee        | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade |
| Donna Dalangauskas  | 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade |
| Linda Murray        | 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade |
| Nora Halloway       | Art                   |
| Sherry Blais        | Physical Education    |
| Pamela Campbell     | Music Teacher         |
| Mindy Sargent       | PBIS Teacher          |
| Rachel Reynolds     | ELL                   |
| Katie Parker        | Interventionist       |
| Nick Ulecka         | Librarian             |
| Sarah Hurlburt      | OT                    |
| Jordan Smith        | Nurse                 |
| Jessica Oakes       | Social Worker         |
| Geromy Oaks         | Social Worker         |
| Christine Simmons   | Admin. Assistant      |
| Jessica Richards    | Special Education     |
| Ashley Carter       | Special Education     |
| Rosalie Mitchell    | Ed Tech               |
| Shawn Dyer          | Ed Tech               |
| Robyn Walton        | Educational Ed Tech   |
| Carrie Richardson   | Educational Ed Tech   |
| Marina Magee        | Ed Tech               |
| Katelin Richards    | Ed Tech               |
| Kayla Balsom        | Ed Tech               |
| Aspin Inman         | Ed Tech               |
| Donna Haycock       | Food Service          |
| Katherine Beske     | Custodian             |
| Matt Mclain         | Custodian             |
| Danny Mitchell, Jr. | Bus Driver            |
| Randy Matthews      | Bus Driver            |
| Pieter Porsius      | Bus Driver            |

# Charles M. Sumner Learning Campus

Sumner Memorial High School began the 2025–2026 school year with the launch and expansion of several impactful programs designed to better meet the diverse needs and interests of our students. The Dirigo Alternative Education Program is in its pilot year, providing targeted support and flexible learning for students with varied academic needs. Students are also benefiting from new course offerings in our high-tech Maker Space, while the reopening of the metal shop has restored valuable hands-on learning opportunities through a range of metalworking courses. In addition, Speech and Debate has been added to our competitive team offerings, expanding opportunities for student leadership, communication, and critical thinking.

The school continues to serve as a hub for community engagement and service. In December, we hosted our first Tree Festival and Craft Fair, which drew a large and enthusiastic crowd from surrounding communities. Students and staff also organized and participated in meaningful events including a Veterans Day Assembly, a blood drive, a food drive, and other student-led community service initiatives. Later this year, students will engage with the local community through Career Aspirations Day, providing opportunities to explore regional careers and professions. In March, we look forward to hosting our second annual Student Fishermen's Forum, further strengthening connections between students, industry, and the broader community.

Our Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) initiative has strengthened student engagement and recognition through increased participation in the Go BLUE student leadership team and well-attended monthly Go BLUE assemblies. In addition, teachers and administrators have implemented clearer and more consistent expectations around cell phone use during instructional time, resulting in improved focus, engagement, and overall classroom learning environments.

Sumner Memorial High School Students continue to flourish thanks to our dedicated staff and strong community involvement. The growth and success of our students remains at the center of all that we do, and our Tiger Pride remains unstoppable!

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Ms. Amy A. Watson, SMHS principal*





Hello RSU 24 Community!!

It's been a busy and exciting start to the 2025–2026 school year. Our District Office continues working to support our students, staff, and schools.

### **Curriculum**

Our commitment to strong curriculum, positive school culture, and high expectations has been recognized in meaningful ways. We were honored to be named a Silver Level District of Distinction by the New England Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports Network (NEPBIS) for promoting positive behavior across all schools. Our high school PBIS team has also been invited to present at two conferences for their innovative use of student voice.

District-wide scores show that 62.3% of students met or exceeded state expectations in ELA and 42.2% met or exceeded expectations in Math. This year we updated our grades 6–12 math curriculum and plan to update kindergarten through grade 5 next year.

Family and staff feedback reflects continued progress:

- 92% of families agree teachers hold high expectations.
- 85% say their child feels successful at school.
- 95% feel school buildings are well maintained.
- 98% of staff agree teachers work hard to ensure students thrive.
- 86% of staff feel connected to colleagues.
- 80% of families report being actively involved in school activities.

The percentage of staff who feel students demonstrate behaviors that support effective learning increased from 49% in the fall to 55% in the spring.

### **Special Education**

Students in Mrs. Ames' classroom at the Charles M. Sumner Learning Campus operate a small business making and selling pet treats. What began after COVID has grown into a meaningful, student-run enterprise that builds real-world skills and confidence. Students measure, mix, roll, cut, bake, and package the treats, carefully following recipes and practicing math skills such as measuring and counting. They track orders using Google Forms, maintain monthly sales records, email customers to confirm orders and provide totals, and personally deliver the finished products. Some students compose their own emails, while others use templates—

## RSU #24 cont'd.

strengthening communication and workplace readiness skills. Some students compose their own emails, while others use templates—strengthening communication and workplace readiness skills. Beyond baking, this project fosters responsibility, teamwork, organization, and customer service. Students

take pride in their work and see firsthand how their efforts result in a finished product enjoyed by customers

(and their four-legged friends). It is a hands-on learning experience that promotes independence, job skills, and confidence while connecting students to their broader community.



### After School Programs

RSU 24 received two 21st Century Community Learning Center federal grants supporting after school and summer programs in all five schools. Approximately 197 students are currently enrolled,

supported by about 60 staff members. Programs focus



on STEM, Safety, Cooking and Nutrition, Visual and

Performing Arts, Physical Activity, and Cultural/Multicultural Enrichment. Clubs include cooking, speech and debate, crochet, sports, weightlifting, theatre, art, makerspace, karaoke, and gaming. Students also receive homework help, tutoring, snacks, and enrichment activities daily. Each day, students participate in homework help, tutoring, recess, health snacks, and a variety of enrichment activities designed to foster learning, creativity, and engagement.



### Adult Education Highlights

Our Adult Education program continues to expand access and opportunity. Two HiSET graduates completed their studies this fall. Offerings include HiSET and Diploma completion, College Transitions, and an onsite CNA course. In November, we launched a Certified Clinical Medical Assistant program, leading students to new career paths and employment this spring. CPR classes were offered monthly at no cost through a Strengthening Maine's Workforce grant. Enrichment classes include woodworking, cooking, felting, Bob Ross painting, Spanish, and Community Cribbage. Our Winter/Spring catalog will be mailed the first week of January.

## RSU #24 cont'd.

### School Nutrition Program

Breakfasts, lunches, and snacks remain complimentary to all students. Participation rates are 50% for Breakfast and 68% for Lunch.

### Transportation

In July, the district received two new 77-passenger Thomas Built buses.

### Facility Updates

Improvement projects across the district include:

**Cave Hill School** – Bell and intercom integration, playground door addition, roof and gutter repairs, entrance mats, and a new fire truck playground structure.

**Ella Lewis School** – Ramp and railing repairs, fuel tank painting, kitchen fire suppression update, LED hallway lighting, ceiling tile replacement, and portable PA system.

**Mountain View School** – Phase 3 paving (35 new parking spaces), separate bus and parent lanes, accessible walkway, asbestos abatement, rekeying, plumbing repairs, and playground equipment transfer.

**Peninsula School** – Rug cleaning, new phone system, floor burnisher replacement, stormwater clearing, sand shelter, and playground features.

**Charles M. Sumner Learning Campus** – New storage structure, courtyard speakers, outlets, security cameras, and cleaning equipment.

**District-Wide** – Installation of ALICE window coverings (Round 1) for enhanced safety.

### Budget

RSU 24 serves 714 students Pre-K-12 across nine communities in Hancock and Washington counties, including 28 students from Winter Harbor. The budget supports teaching and learning, special education, transportation, food services, technology, and administration.

### WINTER HARBOR BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

#### AR Whitten & Son

*Excavation and Site Work You Can Rely On*

A.R. Whitten & Son provides excavation and site work services for residential and commercial projects throughout the area. With a focus on quality workmanship and dependable service, they support a wide range of construction and land development needs.



*Delivering reliable excavation services that support local construction and development.*

## RSU #24 cont'd.

*The FY2027 Budget process is now underway, and we invite and encourage all community members to take part in this important process.*

### Budget Workshop Schedule

January 28th–March 11th

Bi-weekly Wednesdays, 5:30pm, DSF Offices

### Key Budget Dates

- May 5<sup>th</sup>–Budget presented to the RSUB, 6:30pm CMSLC,
- May 27th–District Budget Meeting, 6:30pm, CMSLC
- June 9th–RSU 24 Budget Referendum
- June 16th–RSUB Budget Validation, 6:30pm, CMSLC

For current dates and times, please visit [rsu24.org](http://rsu24.org)

### Friends of Sumner's Future Building

The Donor/Sponsorship Wall is now complete and on display at the Charles M. Sumner Learning Campus. Room Sponsorship Plaques and Area Sponsorship Signs have been installed. RSUB meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm at CMSLC.



### Winter Harbor Community Representative

Jeff Alley represents Winter Harbor on the RSU 24 Board and serves as Chairman. His current term runs through June 2027.

We are proud of our students, teachers, and staff and grateful for the community partnerships that support our schools.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Michael Eastman*

Superintendent, RSU #24

[meastman@rsu24.org](mailto:meastman@rsu24.org) | 207-422-2017

# Winter Harbor Public Library

This spring marks ten years as library director at Winter Harbor Public Library. A lot has changed in that time. What was once primarily a place for physical books has grown into a broader concept of reading and access. While many patrons still value holding a book in their hands, we also serve those who prefer reading on their phones or listening to audiobooks.

In 2025, we joined the Hancock County Consortium of Libraries, giving our patrons access to a larger shared catalog that includes the Blue Hill and Jesup Memorial libraries. We continue to offer digital downloads through CloudLibrary and Libby, expanding options for readers of all ages. One of our proudest accomplishments this year was securing a \$10,000 grant from the American Library Association to improve ADA compliance. The grant allowed us to install an automatic door and remodel the bathroom. We are deeply grateful to our late board member and treasurer, Sandy Smallidge, whose dedication and hard work helped us secure this competitive award. Sandy believed strongly in keeping our library accessible to everyone.

Community programming continues to grow. We host two book clubs, invite Maine authors to speak each summer, and have seen our Mahjong group flourish. Our annual book sale during the Lobster Festival keeps getting bigger and brings new visitors to the library and the festival alike. As director of both Winter Harbor and Dorcas Libraries this past year, I've seen increased cooperation between our communities. Readership and circulation continue to grow through interlibrary loans, strengthening our shared commitment to access and learning.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Ruth Mapleton*  
Library Director

## In Memory and Gratitude



Sandra Smallidge  
1950-2025

# Winter Harbor Public Library Treasurer’s Report

## Expenditures for Calendar Year 2025

|                            |                 |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Books                      | \$4,724         |
| Supplies                   | \$1,261         |
| Technology Services        | \$3,255         |
| Community Programs         | \$1,447         |
| Maintenance & Repairs      | \$2,893         |
| Utilities                  | \$6,766         |
| Cleaning Services          | \$1,832         |
| Annual Appeal/Newsletter   | \$1,992         |
| Volunteer Appreciation     | \$900           |
| Volunteer Remembrances     | \$3,000         |
| Miscellaneous              | \$600           |
| Salaries                   | \$23,633        |
| <b>Total Expenses 2025</b> | <b>\$52,303</b> |

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Sandy Drinkwater, Treasurer*

### WINTER HARBOR BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

#### Treehouse Seaside Grill

*Fresh Coastal Fare with a View*

Treehouse Seaside Grill offers a seasonal dining experience featuring fresh seafood and a variety of coastal-inspired dishes. With its open-air setting and scenic views, it provides a relaxed place for residents and visitors to gather and enjoy a meal by the water.



*A seasonal coastal destination for fresh food, scenic views, and shared experiences.*

# Winter Harbor Historical Society

The WHHS successfully raised, through private grants and donations, enough funds to build a new foundation for the Schoolhouse Museum. We would like to thank all of our donors and grant making organizations, including Bar Harbor Bank and Trust, the Town of Winter Harbor, the Davis Family Foundation, the Morton Kelly Charitable Trust, Maine Preservation/1776 Foundation, and the Schoodic Community Fund. The work was successful, with raising of the building, removal of the old foundation, construction of a new foundation, and finally the lowering of the building onto the new foundation. Prior to the work commencing, we were able to keep the Museum open until mid-summer for tours.

We had a full house at the presentation on the history of Winter Harbor at Hammond Hall by Larry Smith, and Pearl Barto continued her wonderful walking tours of Winter Harbor. In February of 2026, we learned that we had received a \$1,150,000 grant through Congressionally Directed Spending from Senator Susan Collins' office. This will require continued fundraising to meet a 15-20 % matching fund requirement.

We have an ambitious program of speakers lined up this year. Due to ongoing construction of the Museum building, we do not anticipate opening the Museum until next year. However, we will continue to provide interesting presentations in historic Hammond Hall on the rich history of Winter Harbor. We welcome donations of any amount to support the continued work needed on our beautiful Schoolhouse Museum. Contributions for our Building Fund can be sent to: Winter Harbor Historical Society, P.O. Box 93, Winter Harbor, ME 04693. Our historical society is a 501(c)3

non-profit organization so your donations are tax deductible. Thank you in advance for your support!

Respectfully submitted,  
*Polly Earl, Secretary*



## Winter Harbor Historical Society

President: William Putnam

Vice-President: Johanna McCay Smith

Secretary: Polly Jeannette Earl

Treasurer: Cathy Carruthers

### Board Members:

Charles Arnett, Rose Arnett,

Pearl Barto, Joanne Brown,

Richard Brown, Marj Clifford,

Polly Earl, Ruth Littlefield,

Deborah Martin, Larry Smith,

Megan Thomas, Jay Townsend,

Chris Wilson

# Acadian Community Woman's Club

In our 87th year, our grassroots club grew to over fifty amazing women, dedicated to continuing our traditional contributions as well as approaching community needs in new ways.

Our Community Aid Fund contributed more than \$3,900 for a wide range of needs for local residents. Heating fuel and local gift cards for gas, groceries and farmstands were purchased to assist community members. We have a much appreciated network of community members who help us learn when someone is in need. For the past three years we have donated snacks for Sumner students to stay refueled throughout the day. The Giving Tree located at The Pickled Wrinkle was generously supported by the community and the club, which brought holiday cheer to many peninsula families.

Members deeply value our community partners and voted to support a number of them in 2025. Donations included \$1,500 to the Schoodic Food Pantry, \$1,500 towards the newly completed roof at the Masonic Hall and \$500 to Hospice Volunteers of Hancock County. At our June meeting the club hosted Next Step Domestic Violence Project for a meaningful discussion about their work; members gathered many of the programs most-needed items such as cleaning supplies, self-care items, pillows and blankets

In 2025, we were thrilled to award six \$1,000 scholarships to residents seeking a variety of educational paths beyond high school, as well as summer camp scholarships to several young community members. Anyone from Winter Harbor or Gouldsboro is eligible to apply for the ACWC scholarship, and we encourage people of all ages to do so. Educational scholarship applications can be found in the guidance office at Sumner Memorial High School; the deadline is May 1st. Applications for summer camp support can be found on our Facebook page or at the Peninsula School office

Looking forward to 2026, fundraisers will include three always-popular summer pie sales outside Winter Harbor Provisions, where we offer whole cakes and delicious pies—as well as savory surprises such as yeast rolls, pot pies, pickles, and spaghetti sauce. The club will continue our bottle drives that gives a boost to our scholarship balance. In December we will continue the annual chili & chowder soup-er supper at the Masonic Hall; we all look forward to seeing our neighbors there and catching up over a warm cup of chili! Donations are welcomed any time by mailing a check payable to ACWC to our long-standing treasurer, Holly Kritter, at PO Box 95, Prospect Harbor, Maine 04669. We now accept donations via Venmo as well; our handle is @ACWCMaine. We deeply appreciate every contribution, no matter the amount, that helps us support our neighbors.

# Acadian Community Woman's Club

The club also knows the importance of community connections. Members assist in the organization of the annual Memorial Day observances in Winter Harbor and Gouldsboro, complete with treats and refreshments. Each February, club members personally deliver handmade valentines and locally made cookies to many members of the community to let them know they are valued and remembered—this has quickly become one of our favorite meetings of the year! Several members continue to support the Yellow Tulip Project, the wooden and real yellow tulips placed throughout the community serve as conversation starters to foster awareness around the importance of mental health. This is a nation-wide initiative, with additional information available at [theyellowtulipproject.org](http://theyellowtulipproject.org). Members continue to maintain the flower planters by the Winter Harbor post office, the Ann Joy Memorial Garden on Harbor Road in Winter Harbor, and the planter surrounding the sign at Peninsula School in Prospect Harbor.

We're grateful for the chance to give back to the community we love, and are thankful for everyone who helps make it happen. See you at the pie sales!

Respectfully Submitted,

*Tawney Jacobs Desjardins, ACWC President*

## WINTER HARBOR BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

### The Downeaster

*Coffee, Gifts, and Coastal Charm*

The Downeaster is a seasonal shop offering fresh coffee, baked goods, sandwiches, and a selection of unique gifts. Its relaxed atmosphere provides a welcoming place to pause and enjoy a bit of coastal life.



*A welcoming stop for coffee, conversation, and local charm.*

# Schoodic Arts for All

**Empowering the Next Generation**– Our youth programs continue to be the heartbeat of our organization, fostering creativity in local students from September through May. Our After-School Art Clubs now serve four area schools including a homeschool collective, bridging the gap between professional local artists and young learners in disciplines ranging from woodworking to pottery.

We are thrilled to host our signature camps again this summer, and we invite the community to join our finale celebrations to witness the incredible creativity of our students.

- Visual Arts Camp (June 22–26): A week of immersive, hands-on creation ending in a public gallery reception.
- Theater Camp (July 6–10): A high-energy week of dramatic skill-building that culminates in a live community performance.

**Breaking Barriers with "Arts for All"**– Following its successful launch in 2024, our Arts for All initiative has become a cornerstone of our mission. This move to a flexible, tiered tuition model has ensured that financial constraints never stand in the way of creativity. Last year, more than 150 participants utilized our flexible tuition tiers to join our workshops and camps. By offering a range of entry points, we ensure that every member of our community can access the same high-quality arts experiences. This commitment to accessibility continues for all our year-round and festival offerings.

**Festival 2026: A Summer Celebration**– Mark your calendars for the Schoodic Arts Festival, running July 19 – August 8! We kick things off with our Opening Celebration Ice Cream Social on July 19 and follow with over 70 workshops and 11 world-class performances throughout the next three weeks. A true highlight remains our Children's Art Tent at the Winter Harbor Lobster Festival on August 8. After welcoming over 350 visitors to the tent last year, we are preparing for an even larger turnout this summer.

**The Year-Round Connection**– Beyond the summer bustle, Schoodic Arts for All serves as a year-round hub for community connection. Our Meetinghouse Theatre Lab provides a creative outlet for local actors and playwrights, Open Mic Nights showcase our local musicians and our monthly community crafting events offer a warm space for neighbors to gather and share skills. We are committed to providing consistent, low-barrier opportunities for people of all ages to stay engaged and inspired, no matter the season.

## Schoodic Arts for All cont'd.

**Preserving Our Heritage: Hammond Hall**– As the long-term stewards and residents of Hammond Hall, we remain deeply committed to the ongoing care of this historic landmark. While the building is owned by our friends at the Winter Harbor Historical Society, Schoodic Arts for All continues to lead the efforts for its preservation and restoration. We are currently working with specialized architects to finalize a master plan for the building—a vital step that ensures Hammond Hall remains a safe, vibrant, and functional home for the arts and a gathering place for our entire community.



Photo: Spring Crafternoon March 2026

### WINTER HARBOR BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

#### J.M. Gerrish Restaurant

*Classic Meals with a Familiar Feel*

J.M. Gerrish Restaurant provides a menu of traditional favorites in a casual setting. With a focus on consistency and comfort, it remains a steady presence for those looking for a reliable meal.



*Showcasing creative expression inspired by Maine's coastal landscape.*

# Cemetery Association

I would like to thank the members of the Winter Harbor Cemetery Association for all that's been accomplished this year. We have spent time at both cemeteries cleaning up sticks and old decorations, cutting limbs and trees, putting out flags, and measuring lots for new owners and burials.

I would also like to thank the Town of Winter Harbor for their generous donations. This money has enabled us to continue work at Brookside and Greenwood cemeteries. We will hire Fred Weininger again this year with Monument Restoration Company to continue repairs at Brookside.

We continue to look for land and develop into new lots as our cemeteries are getting full. We are always looking for donations to help support our upkeep.

I would especially like to thank Sandra Guptill and her crew for the excellent job of mowing and trimming the cemeteries.

We, the elected volunteers remain committed to the care of our town cemeteries and are preparing for Memorial Day with the placement of flags for our veterans.

We would like to invite any town citizens who would like to volunteer for clean up or become an active member. Please contact any of the Trustees. The officers are:

President– Gordon Harrington  
V. President– Andrew Abbott

Secretary– Rose Arnett  
Treasurer– Diana Young

## Cemetery Association Trustees

Andrew Abbott  
Rose Arnett  
Christopher Byers  
Gordon Harrington  
Louise Shaw

Charles Arnett  
Hermon Faulkingham  
Roseanne Shafer  
Diana Young

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Gordon W. Harrington*

# Schoodic National Scenic Byway

## Annual Report 2025

The Byway celebrated a major milestone - its 25th anniversary as a **National Scenic Byway**. This event took place on June 14, 2025, at the Sorrento-Sullivan Recreation Center. We featured live music, food trucks, artisans, local craft vendors, children's activities, and nonprofit displays - bringing together residents, businesses, and visitors in recognition of the byway's role in the community.

The byway commitment to engage with the community is demonstrated by our **"Kids Quest"** educational program which connects visitors with the heritage and natural beauty of the region. The byway was nationally recognized for being 4th in USA Today's "10 Best Readers' Choice Awards" for America's most beautiful scenic drives.

Our visitor experience continues to showcase fishing villages, lobster wharfs, and access points to Acadia National Park's Schoodic Peninsula trails and viewpoints, offering a quieter alternative to Mount Desert Island. The Town of Gouldsboro and the Schoodic National Scenic Byway collaborated to improve the town park with landscaping, parking, placement of a large buoy bell, and the relocation of the Kids Quest lobster fishing exhibit.

We were delighted to receive grant funding from the Schoodic Community Fund to help with this project. The Byway is happy to announce Long Cove (Sinclair Property) was turned over to the Town of Sullivan. We worked jointly with Maine Coast Heritage Trust and Frenchmen Bay Conservancy to provide signage and waterfront access for local fishermen and the public.

This year the Byway's website had 42,181 visits compared to 12,758 visits last year--an increase of 230%.



# Schoodic National Scenic Byway Annual Report 2025 cont'd.

Much of this success came from our website manager Bonneville Consulting and a Maine Office Tourism grant that helped increase our search engines and content. We will continue to add more content, update listings, and improve our social media presence in 2026. We thank the towns of Sullivan, Gouldsboro, and Winter Harbor as well as historical societies, recreational committees, Schoodic Chamber of Commerce, Maine Office of Tourism, Maine Coast Heritage Trust, Frenchmen Bay Conservancy, Friends of Taunton Bay, Healthy Acadia, Hancock County Planning Commission, DownEast Acadia Regional Tourism, Sunrise County Economic Council, Maine Department of Transportation, and Acadia National Park for technical and financial support.

Sincerely,

*Barbara Shanahan*  
Chairperson

Schoodic National Scenic Byway Committee



## WINTER HARBOR BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

### Chase's Restaurant

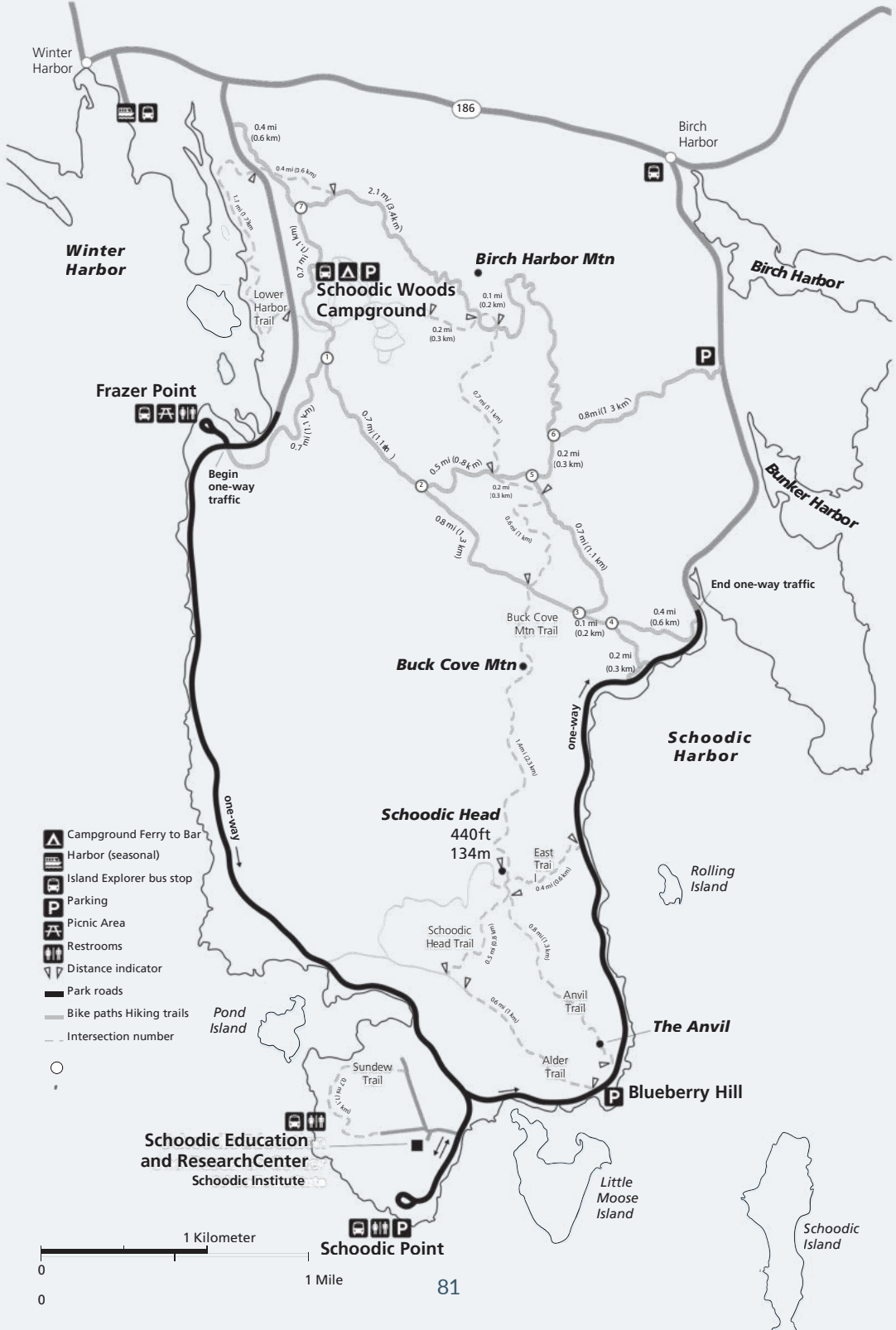
*Comfortable Dining in a Coastal Setting*

Chase's Restaurant serves a variety of familiar dishes in a relaxed and inviting environment. Known for consistency and friendly service, it offers a dependable dining option for the community.



*Serving fresh, locally inspired meals in a welcoming coastal setting.*

# Schoodic Trail System Map



# Schoodic Peninsula

## Getting Around

A six-mile (10 km) one-way loop road offers views of lighthouses, seabirds, and forested islands. Vehicle turnouts provide safe places to stop. Parking outside designated pull-offs is prohibited. Avery Cove Road leads to Schoodic Point, a windswept rocky promontory with views of Mount Desert Island.

Much of Schoodic Loop Road is one-way. RVs are permitted only on the section accessing Schoodic Woods Campground. Unless posted otherwise, the speed limit is 35 mph (56 km/hr).

During summer (late June–Columbus Day), free Island Explorer buses serve the peninsula. Drivers stop when waved down; buses include bicycle racks.

## Bicycling

Ride the Schoodic Loop Road and 8.3 miles (13.4 km) of bike paths. Cyclists must follow one-way traffic flow and are encouraged to use Island Explorer buses and designated paths. Steep and winding sections offer scenic views.

Safety Tips:

- Ride single file
- Yield to walkers and announce passing
- Watch for emergency vehicles
- Supervise children
- Reduce speed
- Note intersection numbers at junctions

## Camping

Tent, hike-in, group, and RV sites (with hookups) are available at Schoodic Woods Campground. Visit the Ranger Station for hours, availability, and pricing.

## Entrance Fees

Acadia National Park requires an entrance pass. Fees support park services. Passes are sold at the Ranger Station.

## Hiking

### Alder Trail – Easy, 0.6 mi (1 km)

Leads from Blueberry Hill parking to Schoodic Head Trail.

### Anvil Trail – Moderate, 1.1 mi (1.8 km)

Rocky, steep sections on the southeastern side of Schoodic Head.

### Buck Cove Mountain Trail – Moderate, 3.2 mi (5.1 km)

Forest and blueberry barrens to Buck Cove Mountain and the north face of Schoodic Head.

### East Trail – Moderate, 0.5 mi (0.8 km)

Steep ascent with short scrambling sections.

### Lower Harbor Trail – Easy, 1.5 mi (2.4 km)

Coastal pine forest with seabird viewing.

### Schoodic Head Trail – Moderate, 0.6 mi (1 km)

Rocky summit route from Alder Trail.

### Sundew Trail – Easy, 0.7 mi (1.1 km)

Nature trail near the Schoodic Education & Research Center.

## Programs

Seasonal ranger programs are available at Schoodic Woods Ranger Station.

## Explore Safely

Emergency response times may be longer and cell service is limited. Inform someone of your plans, keep your group within sight, carry water and a map, and stay clear of cliff edges.

## Pets

Leashes required (6 ft / 1.8 m maximum).

## Shoreline

Wet rocks are slippery. Maintain three points of contact and beware of waves.

## Protect Wildlife

Do not feed animals or leave food unsecured.

## Schoodic Institute

Supports science and education initiatives in the park and region. Exhibits at Rockefeller Hall Welcome Center.

[www.schoodicinstitute.org](http://www.schoodicinstitute.org)

# Schoodic Community Fund

The Schoodic Community Fund (SCF) continues to grow at a healthy and sustainable rate. Following a strong year of investment gains, combined with more than \$90,000 in donations from our community, the Fund's endowment remains well-positioned to support the needs of the Schoodic Peninsula for many years to come.

In 2025, SCF awarded \$44,000 in grants to the following local organizations:

- Winter Harbor Historical Society – \$3,500 for their building restoration project
- Schoodic Arts for All – \$4,000 for the After-School Art program
- Dorcas Library – \$3,500 to upgrade the children's reading room
- Schoodic Scenic Byway Commission – \$3,500 for the Gouldsboro Town Park beautification project
- Peninsula School – \$11,000 to fund the weekend food program
- Schoodic Food Pantry – \$10,000 to purchase food, groceries, and supplies
- Schoodic Institute – \$1,500 for a new water-bottle filling station
- Schoodic Food Pantry – \$5,000 to support a new addition to the facility
- The Towns of Winter Harbor and Gouldsboro – \$2,000 for emergency power and heating funds

The current SCF Advisory Committee consists of:

Susan Bruce, Dolora Conley, Mary Dyer, John Eck, Sara Faull, Roxanne Renwick, Mark Berry, Susan Towle, Marian Ide, Lenny Young, Roberta Parritt (Treasurer), and Tim Fisher (Chair).

The mission of the Schoodic Community Fund is to improve the quality of life for all residents of the Schoodic Peninsula by awarding grants to area non-profits, schools, and municipalities. SCF's endowment is managed by the Maine Community Foundation.

To learn more about SCF or to make a donation, visit [schoodiccommunityfund.org](https://schoodiccommunityfund.org) or contact Tim Fisher at [timliza@gmail.com](mailto:timliza@gmail.com).

## WINTER HARBOR BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

### Sea Schoodic Kayak & Bike

*Exploring the Peninsula by Land and Sea*

Sea Schoodic Kayak & Bike provides seasonal rentals that allow visitors and residents to experience the natural beauty of the Schoodic Peninsula. From ocean paddling to scenic cycling routes, they make outdoor exploration accessible and enjoyable.



*Encouraging exploration of the Schoodic region through outdoor recreation.*

# Schoodic Community Fund cont'd.

The SCF Advisory Committee would like to recognize the following individuals, businesses, and organizations for donating to the Fund in 2025:

|                                   |                                |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Anonymous                         | Alison and Eric Johnson        |
| Jeff and Cindy Alley              | Elizabeth and Andrew Comcowich |
| Artisans & Antiques               | Sandy Cron                     |
| Don Ashmall                       | Kerry and Deborah Tice Crowley |
| Becky Banes                       | Alexander and Susan David      |
| Ann Barton                        | Debra Ann Corp.                |
| Ken Bahm and David Brass          | Mary Dyer                      |
| Patty and Jon Bailey              | John Eck and Jennifer Stucker  |
| Linda Barron                      | Mike and Georgette Faulkingham |
| Pearl and Roger Barto             | Sara Faull and Genio Bertin    |
| Cathy Bell                        | Cindy and Dick Fisher          |
| John and Margaret Bennett         | Liza and Tim Fisher            |
| Lori Berkey                       | John and Rona Gandy            |
| Peter Berkey Foundation           | Kristine Geils and Bill Knuff* |
| Julia and Mark Berry              | Sandra Gerlock                 |
| Bottom Line Fisheries, Inc        | Dick Gilchrist                 |
| Barbara and Roger Bowen           | Catherine Gribbel-Beautyman    |
| William and Kay Boyd              | Douglas Greenwood              |
| Carl Brauer and Nancy Schieffelin | Grala Family                   |
| Dallas and Tim Briney             | Janis and Walter Guyette       |
| Emma and T. Wister Brown          | Susan and Boyd Haight          |
| Susan Bruce                       | Whitney Hauck-Wood             |
| Susan Burke                       | Neil Heidinger                 |
| Ann Butterworth and Warren Ross   | Eric Herlan                    |
| Patricia Cahill                   | Jennifer Holden                |
| Debbie and Dave Cerendolo         | Kimberly Holden                |
| Jillian Chingos                   | Walden and Janice Holl         |
| Merton and Peggy Chipman          | Jean and Paul Humez            |
| Jesse and Sarah Christensen       | Karen and Mazouz Hussein       |
| Peter and Julie Clay              | Marian and Andreas Ide         |
| Marjorie Clifford                 | Ide Family Charitable Fund     |
| Pat and Warren Close              | Gay Lyn and Mel Jackson        |
| J&D Rentals                       | Bonnie and Chubba Kane         |

# Schoodic Community Fund Cont'd.

Jane and Dan Keegan  
Thomas and Carol Kirchhoff  
Margo Klass  
Jana and David Kleiser  
Nancy and Steve Kosub  
David Kritter & Holly Hoeft-  
Kritter Ann LaCasce  
Garry and Rosemary Levin  
Lawrence Libby  
Lister Family  
Jane and Kelly Littlefield  
Littlefield Gallery  
Jennifer and Thomas Lloyd  
Allan and Linda Lockyer  
John Lord  
Rita and Herbie Lowell  
Mainstay Cottages & RV Park  
Deborah and Wayne Martin  
Mac and Margaret Marshall  
Janet and Arnold Mascaro  
Ann and Jack McCann  
Louise McShane  
Joseph and Donna Merkel  
Ellin and Bruce Miller  
Glenn and Megan Moshier  
Todd Moxham  
Ted and Suzanne Murphy  
Betsy and Stephen Myers  
Annette Nash  
Alan and Kathleen Nauss  
Jennifer Nauss & Mark Schwartz  
Elizabeth Nicholas  
Jim and Barbara Nichols  
Gretchen and Tom Tietenberg

Elizabeth Oistacher  
Fred and Anne Osborn  
Ethel and Ossie Ossolinski  
Robert Paarlberg & Marianne  
Perlak  
Roberta Parritt and George  
McLaughlin  
Amanda and Peter Pearman  
Julie Pearson  
Peninsula Builders, LLC  
The Pickled Wrinkle  
Greg and Marcia Politi  
Elin and David Poneman  
Peter and Carol Prince  
Bill Putnam and Angel Schilling  
Linda Rapciak  
Vicki Rea  
Dan and Dee Rieber  
Mary and Mike Riley  
Arthur Roberts and Sui Witherell  
Claire and Randall Shumaker  
Franz W. Sichel Foundation  
Kim Sichel  
Dave and Ann Sleeper  
Michael and Laura Sledge  
Tim and Shirlee Smith  
Hilary Spandorfer  
Barbara and Paul Stewart  
Ilene Stinson  
Linda and Andrew Straz  
Pat and Mike Summerer  
Lynell and Kent Syler  
Henry and Constance Tencati  
David Johnson & Charrisse  
Kaplan

# Schoodic Community Fund Cont'd.

Marie and Herbert Kunkle  
 Steven and Judith Kampmann  
 Philip Jordan  
 Michael Jennings  
 Thomasina Watson Kathy and Craig  
 Wayman\* Inez and Pat Weaver  
 Betty and Bill Weidner  
 Janet Notopoulos  
 Helen Chen and Keith Ohmart

Kasey and Brandon Tracey  
 Melissa and Paul Tracy  
 Charles Wiggins  
 Eve and Steve Wilkinson  
 Roberta Williams  
 The Winter Harbor Agency  
 Jean and Allen Workman  
 Joe and Karen Jo Young  
 Barbara Zucker

## WINTER HARBOR BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT



### Littlefield Gallery

*Fine Art Inspired by the Coast*

Littlefield Art Gallery features original artwork reflecting the natural beauty of the Schoodic Peninsula, showcasing a variety of styles in a welcoming setting.

*Presenting coastal-inspired artwork that reflects the character of the region.*

# Lobster Festival Report

*“A community tradition since 1964”*

For 61 years Winter Harbor has hosted the Winter Harbor Lobster Festival and Boat race. Starting in 2016 when the Schoodic Area Chamber of Commerce shifted its focus to the craft fair the town became responsible for the lobster dinner; parade and any other events hosted that weekend. Chris Byers is responsible for the boat races. No tax dollars are ever used to fund the Lobster Festival. The lobster dinner and donations pay for the next years event.

|                               |                    |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Beginning Balance             | \$8,888.54         |
| Lobster Dinner Expense        | \$11,892.25        |
| Shriner Units                 | \$6,250.00         |
| Misc. Expense                 | \$1,321.95         |
| Outhouses                     | \$1,170.00         |
| Insurance                     | \$741.60           |
| Advertisement                 | \$450.00           |
| Dumpster                      | \$174.00           |
| <b>Lobster Dinner Revenue</b> | <b>\$17,963.57</b> |
| <b>Ending Balance</b>         | <b>\$4,852.31</b>  |

Respectfully Submitted,

*Sara J. Liscomb*  
Town Manager

# Schoodic Peninsula Broadband Committee

The Schoodic Peninsula Broadband Committee would like to express our gratitude to the community members of our two towns for the opportunity to work toward bringing broadband internet service to the Schoodic Peninsula. While in the end, the heavy lifting was done for us with Consolidated Communications' deployment of its Fidium fiber network across nearly the entirety of Gouldsboro and Winter Harbor, we hope that other service providers will invest in our area to ensure competition, quality, and affordability for all of our residents.

Over the course of its work since 2022, the SPBC applied for and received grants, researched, met with stakeholders and representatives, hosted several informational evenings for the communities, and in doing so highlighted the need for broadband internet access to existing internet providers. With the work of the committee now complete, the committee will have dissolved by the printing of this report.

The committee members extend their thanks to the select board members and town managers that supported this work and indeed called for the creation of the initial broadband committees, one each for Gouldsboro and Winter Harbor; the employees of the town offices who assisted in the work of creating mailings and issuing reimbursement checks, the community organizations that allowed us to host our informational sessions with their facilities and resources, and the many residents who responded to our surveys and participated in the effort along the way.

Lastly, we hope that further work can be undertaken by members of the community in the realm of digital skill-building. We have access to broadband internet, but there are many in our communities who may not have the expertise to use the digital tools at their fingertips. We are fortunate to have remaining grant funding that can be put toward the development or recruitment of resources to help community members who would like to learn how to access the resources that are now available to them. If you would be interested in taking part in leading this work, please contact [schoodicpeninsulabroadband@gmail.com](mailto:schoodicpeninsulabroadband@gmail.com) or either Dorcas Library or the Winter Harbor Public Library.

Schoodic Peninsula Broadband Committee

Sandy Fortin, Winter Harbor

Roy Gott, Franklin (for Schoodic Institute)

Mark Perka, Gouldsboro

Mike Summerer, Gouldsboro

Tom Towle, Gouldsboro

## Acadia National Park Advisory Commission

The Commission was unable to meet in February due to another federal government closure. It was reported at the June meeting that local staffing has been impacted due to reassignments to cover regional positions and a hiring freeze that has left the park service short-staffed. Disaster Supplemental Appropriations were scheduled to repair damage to the Rockefeller Building from the January 2024 storms. The Great American Outdoors Act funded improved water and wastewater systems at Schoodic Institute and planning has begun to replace the Frazer's Point bridge.

Schoodic Institute celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Research and Learning Center in July 2025. Summer visitation on the Schoodic peninsula was at a record high, with peak days during the Lobster Festival and Hurricane Erin. Visitation to the peninsula was 17% higher than 2024.

The Acadia Gateway Center in Trenton opened September 3, 2025 for a few weeks. It is jointly staffed with the Maine Office of Tourism, which distributes information about the Schoodic section of Acadia National Park. The Schoodic Education Adventure program was scheduled to host 450 students from 18 schools at Schoodic Institute. They have partnered with the Maine Outdoor School for All initiative to raise funds to expand their outdoor education program. The staff continues to track the observation of animal species and changes to the environment. Senator Collins has announced the inclusion of \$3,190,000 in the Interior and Environment appropriations bill for lodging at Schoodic Institute.

Please continue to enjoy Acadia National Park and the opportunities available at Schoodic Institute.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Pearl F. Barto*

Acadia National Park Advisory Commission Member

### WINTER HARBOR BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

#### The Hot Dog Cart

*Quick Bites with Local Flavor*

The Hot Dog Cart offers simple, satisfying meals in a convenient outdoor setting. Serving up classic favorites with friendly service, it provides a casual stop for residents and visitors looking for a quick bite while enjoying time in Winter Harbor.



*A casual and convenient spot for a quick meal in the heart of town.*

# Boston Post Cane Honoree



**Weltha Sargent**

**Presented on November 25, 2019**



*TOWN OF WINTERHARBOR, MAINE*

*FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
WITH INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT*

*FOR THE FISCAL YEAR  
ENDED JUNE 30, 2025*

**TOWN OF WINTER HARBOR, MAINE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND  
SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULES  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025**

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## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

Members of the Board of Selectmen Town of Winter  
Harbor Winter Harbor, ME 04693

### ***Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements***

#### ***Opinions***

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities and each major fund of the Town of Winter Harbor, Maine (the Town) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2025, including the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Town of Winter Harbor, Maine's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities and each major fund of the Town of Winter Harbor, Maine as of June 30, 2025, and the respective changes in financial position thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America

#### ***Basis for Opinions***

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Town and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions

#### ***Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements***

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Town's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statements date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter

#### ***Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements***

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Town's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Town's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

### **Required Supplementary Information**

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis and budgetary comparison information on pages 3 through 6 and page 20 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

### **Supplementary Information**

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Town's basic financial statements. The accompanying supplementary information is presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the accompanying supplementary information is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

Respectfully Submitted,

*James W. Wadman, CPA*

James W. Wadman, CPA

December 3, 2025

**TOWN OF WINTER HARBOR MAINE**  
**Management's Discussion and Analysis**  
**For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30 2025**

The management of the Town of Winter Harbor, Maine (the Town) offers readers of the Town's financial statements this narrative overview and analysis of the financial activities of the Town for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025. We encourage readers to consider this information in conjunction with the financial statements and accompanying notes that follow.

**FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS - PRIMARY GOVERNMENT**

**Government-wide Highlights:**

Net Position – The assets of the Town exceeded its liabilities at the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025 by \$11,576,360 (presented as "net position"). Of this amount, \$4,591,566 was reported as "unrestricted net position". Unrestricted net position represents the amount available to be used to meet the Town's ongoing obligations to citizens and creditors.

Changes in Net Position The Town's total net position increased by \$202,256 (a 1.8% increase) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025.

**Fund Highlights:**

Governmental Funds - Fund Balances - As of the close of the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025, the Town's governmental funds reported a combined ending fund balance of \$4,845,668, an increase of \$86,334 in comparison with the prior year. Of this total fund balance, \$738,323 represents general unassigned fund balance. This unassigned fund balance represents approximately 25.4% of the total general fund expenditures for the fiscal year

**Long-term Debt:**

The Town's total long-term debt obligations decreased \$1,124 (25.5%) during the current fiscal year. There were no new debt obligations issued during the year. Existing debt obligations were retired according to schedule

**OVERVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

This discussion and analysis is intended to serve as an introduction to the Town's basic financial statements. The Town's basic financial statements include three components: 1) government-wide financial statements, 2) fund financial statements, and 3) notes to the financial statements. This report also contains additional required supplementary information (budgetary comparison) and other supplementary information. These components are described below

**Government-wide Financial Statements**

The government-wide financial statements present the financial picture of the Town from the economic resources measurement focus using the accrual basis of accounting and are designed to provide readers with a broad overview of the Town's finances, in a manner similar to a private-sector business. They distinguish functions of the Town that are principally supported by taxes and intergovernmental revenues (governmental activities) from other functions that are intended to recover all or a significant portion of their costs through user fees and charges (business-type activities). The statement of net position includes all assets of the Town (including infrastructure) as well as all liabilities (including long-term debt), with the difference between the two reported as net position. The statement of activities shows how the Town's net position changed during the year, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. The government-wide financial statements can be found on pages 7 - 8 of this report.

**Fund Financial Statements**

A fund is a grouping of related accounts that is used to maintain control over resources that have been segregated for specific activities or objectives. The fund financial statements include statements for one category of activity -governmental funds

The governmental activities are prepared using the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting and are used to account for essentially the same functions reported as governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. However, the governmental fund financial statements focus on near-term inflows and outflows of spendable resources, as well as on balances of spendable resources available at the end of the fiscal year. Both the governmental fund balance sheet and the governmental fund statement of revenues,

expenditures and changes in fund balance provide a reconciliation to explain the differences between the governmental funds and governmental activities. The basic governmental fund financial statements can be found on pages 9 - 10 of this report.

**Notes to the Financial Statements**

The notes provide additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the data provided in the government-wide and the fund financial statements. The notes to the financial statements can be found on pages 11 - 19 of this report

**Required Supplementary Information**

This section includes a budgetary comparison schedule, which includes a reconciliation between the statutory fund balance for budgetary purposes and the fund balance for the general fund as presented in the governmental fund financial statements (if necessary). Required supplementary information can be found on page 20 of this report

**GOVERNMENT-WIDE FINANCIAL ANALYSIS**

**Net Position**

The largest portion of the Town's net position (57.9%) reflects its investment in capital assets such as land, buildings, equipment and infrastructure (roads, parking lots and other immovable assets), less any related debt used to acquire those assets that is still outstanding.

The Town uses these capital assets to provide services to citizens; consequently, these assets are not available for future spending. Although, the Town's investment in its capital assets is reported net of related debt, it should be noted that the resources needed to repay this debt must be provided from other sources, since the capital assets themselves cannot be used to liquidate these liabilities

|                                    | Governmental<br>Activities | Business-type<br>Activities | Total 2025    | Total 2024    |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Current Assets                     | \$ 4,915,972               | \$ 0                        | \$ 4,915,972  | \$ 4,874,708  |
| Capital Assets                     | \$ 6,700,838               | \$ 0                        | \$ 6,700,838  | \$ 6,588,683  |
| Total Assets                       | \$ 11,616,810              | \$ 0                        | \$ 11,616,810 | \$ 11,463,391 |
|                                    |                            |                             |               |               |
| Current Liabilities                | \$ 36,866                  | \$ 0                        | \$ 36,866     | \$ 84,575     |
| Other Liabilities                  | \$ 2,105                   | \$ 0                        | \$ 2,105      | \$ 3,286      |
| Deferred Inflows                   | \$ 1,480                   | \$ 0                        | \$ 1,480      | \$ 1,426      |
| Net Position;                      |                            |                             |               |               |
| Invested in Capital Assets         | \$ 6,697,553               | \$ 0                        | \$ 6,697,553  | \$ 6,584,274  |
| Restricted                         | \$ 287,242                 | \$ 0                        | \$ 287,242    | \$ 401,572    |
| Unrestricted                       | \$ 4,591,566               | \$ 0                        | \$ 4,591,566  | \$ 4,388,259  |
| Total Liabilities and Net Position | \$ 11,616,810              | \$ 0                        | \$ 11,616,810 | \$ 11,463,391 |

An additional portion of the Town's net position (2.5%) represents resources that are subject to external restrictions on their use. The remaining balance of unrestricted net position (39.6%) may be used to meet the government's ongoing obligations to citizens and creditors

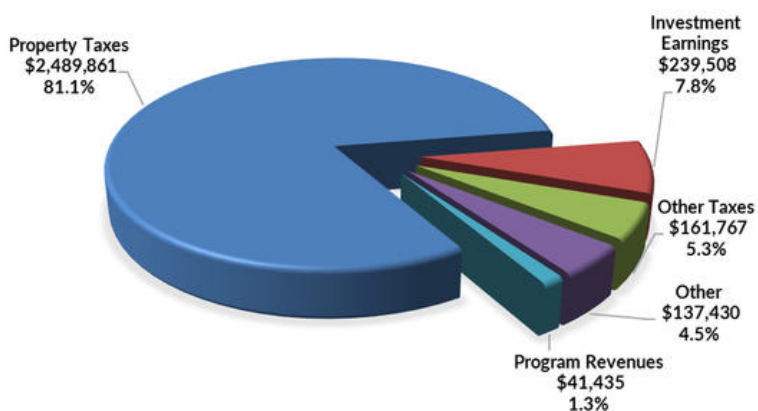
**Changes in Net Position**

Governmental activities increased the Town's net position by \$202,256. This increase was primarily due to depreciation on capital assets offset by conservative budgeting and controlled expenditures

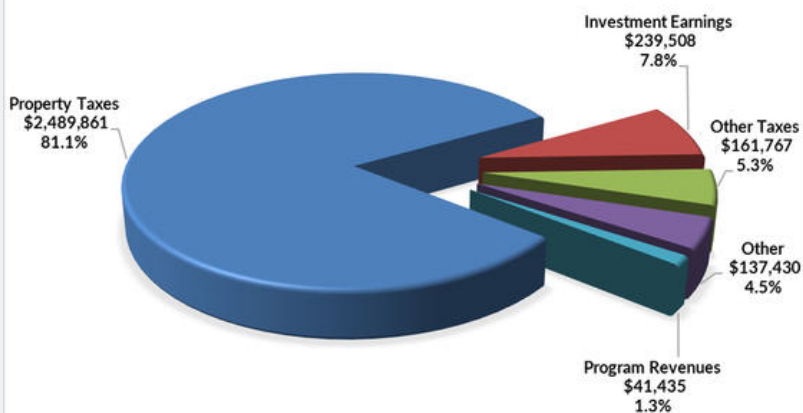
|                  | Governmental<br>Activities | Business-type<br>Activities | Total 2025   | Total 2024   |
|------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Revenues;        |                            |                             |              |              |
| Tax Revenues     | \$ 2,651,628               | \$ 0                        | \$ 2,651,628 | \$ 2,294,103 |
| Program Revenues | \$ 41,435                  | \$ 0                        | \$ 41,435    | \$ 45,132    |
| Investments      | \$ 239,508                 | \$ 0                        | \$ 239,508   | \$ 206,701   |
| Revenue Sharing  | \$ 50,693                  | \$ 0                        | \$ 50,693    | \$ 45,361    |
| Other            | \$ 86,737                  | \$ 0                        | \$ 86,737    | \$ 39,892    |
| Total Revenues   | \$ 3,070,001               | \$ 0                        | \$ 3,070,001 | \$ 2,631,189 |

|                         |              |      |              |              |
|-------------------------|--------------|------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>Expenses;</b>        |              |      |              |              |
| General Government      | \$ 365,060   | \$ 0 | \$ 365,060   | \$ 341,735   |
| Public Safety           | \$ 561,702   | \$ 0 | \$ 561,702   | \$ 515,060   |
| Health/Sanitation       | \$ 82,881    | \$ 0 | \$ 82,881    | \$ 93,309    |
| Transportation          | \$ 418,177   | \$ 0 | \$ 418,177   | \$ 454,569   |
| Education               | \$ 1,078,109 | \$ 0 | \$ 1,078,109 | \$ 990,846   |
| Unclassified            | \$ 158,491   | \$ 0 | \$ 158,491   | \$ 38,134    |
| Assessments             | \$ 203,326   | \$ 0 | \$ 203,326   | \$ 186,114   |
| <i>Total Expenses</i>   | \$ 2,867,745 | \$ 0 | \$ 2,867,745 | \$ 2,619,768 |
| Changes in Net Position | \$ 202,256   | \$ 0 | \$ 202,256   | \$ 11,421    |

**Revenues by Source - Governmental and Business - Type**



**Revenues by Source - Governmental and Business - Type**



## **FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE TOWN'S INDIVIDUAL FUNDS**

### **Governmental Funds**

The focus of the Town's governmental funds is to provide information on near-term inflows, outflows, and balances of spendable resources. Such information is useful in assessing the Town's financing requirements. In particular, unassigned fund balance may serve as a useful measure of a government's net resources available for spending at the end of the fiscal year. At the end of the fiscal year, the Town's governmental funds reported ending fund balances of \$4,845,668, an increase of \$86,334 in comparison with the prior fiscal year. Approximately 15.2 percent of this total amount constitutes unassigned fund balance. The remainder is reserved to indicate that it is not available for new spending because it has been committed to liquidate contracts and commitments of the prior fiscal year or for a variety of other purposes.

### **GENERAL FUND BUDGETARY HIGHLIGHT**

Variances between actual General Fund revenues and expenditures and the final amended budget included the following:

- 3,143 negative variance in real estate and personal property tax revenues. Actual collections were 96.8% of the levy as compared to 96.1% in the prior year. There was an increase in the unearned property tax revenue due to slower collections of prior year unpaid property taxes.
- \$322,975 positive variance in all other revenues. This is primarily due to conservative budgeting and significant increase in investment earnings.
- \$232,613 negative variance in transportation expenditures. This is primarily due current year capital projects being funded by the investment account per town meeting vote.
- \$94,225 positive variance in all other expenditures. This is due to controlled costs and conservative budgeting.

## **CAPITAL ASSET AND DEBT ADMINISTRATION**

### **Capital Assets**

Capital Assets The Town's investment in capital assets for its governmental activities amounts to \$16,304,167, net of accumulated depreciation of \$9,603,329, leaving a net book value of \$6,700,838. There were current year additions of \$129,038 of building improvements, \$84,854 of equipment purchases, \$13,684 of fire department equipment improvements and \$268,720 of town road improvements. There was a retirement of a photocopier with no net book value. There were no current year impairments. Additional information on the Town's capital assets can be found in Note 4 of the notes to the financial statements on pages 17 - 18 of this report.

### **Debt**

The Town has total bonded debt outstanding of \$0 and \$3,286 of total outstanding finance purchase obligations that is backed by the full faith and credit of the Town. The outstanding debt decreased \$1,124 during the current fiscal year. Additional information on the Town's long-term debt can be found in Note 6 of the notes to the financial statements on pages 18 - 19 of this report.

### **REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION**

This financial report is designed to provide a general overview of the Town's finances for all citizens, taxpayers, investors and creditors. This financial report seeks to demonstrate the Town's accountability for the money it receives. Questions concerning any of the information provided in this report or requests for additional information should be addressed to: Town of Winter Harbor, 23 Harbor Road, Winter Harbor, ME 04693.

TOWN OF WINTER HARBOR, MAINE  
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION  
JUNE 30, 2025

(Exhibit I)  
**Governmental  
Activities**

---

|                                                       |                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Cash on Hand and on Deposit                           | \$1,185,271         |
| Investments, at Fair Market Value                     | \$3,596,771         |
| Accounts Receivable                                   | \$29,474            |
| Prepaid Expenses                                      | \$2,934             |
| Taxes and Tax Liens Receivable                        | \$101,523           |
| <u>Capital Assets</u>                                 |                     |
| Land                                                  | \$126,259           |
| Other Capital Assets, net of Accumulated Depreciation | \$6,574,579         |
| Total Capital Assets                                  | \$6,700,838         |
| <u>Total Assets</u>                                   | <u>\$11,616,810</u> |

Liabilities

|                                    |                 |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <u>Current Liabilities</u>         | \$35,685        |
| Accounts Payable                   |                 |
| <u>Finance Purchase Obligation</u> | \$1,181         |
| Due within one year                | \$2,105         |
| Due in more than one year          |                 |
| <u>Total Liabilities</u>           | <u>\$38,970</u> |

Deferred Inflows of Resources

|                                            |                |
|--------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Property Taxes Paid in Advance             | \$1,480        |
| <u>Total Deferred Inflows of Resources</u> | <u>\$1,480</u> |

Net Position

|                                                             |                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Net Investment in Capital Assets                            | \$6,697,553         |
| Restricted                                                  | \$287,242           |
| Unrestricted                                                | \$4,591,566         |
| <u>Total Net Position</u>                                   | <u>\$11,576,360</u> |
| <u>Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows and Net Position</u> | <u>\$11,616,810</u> |

The Notes to the Financial Statements are an Integral Part of this Statement.

**TOWN OF WINTER HARBOR, MAINE**  
**STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES**  
**FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025**

(Exhibit II)

| <b><u>Functions/Programs</u></b><br><b><u>Primary Government</u></b> | <b><u>Expenses</u></b>    | <b><u>Program Revenues</u></b>     |                                | <b><u>Net (Expense)</u></b>                                                                |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                      |                           | <b><u>Charges for Services</u></b> | <b><u>Operating Grants</u></b> | <b><u>Revenue and Changes in Net Position</u></b><br><b><u>Governmental Activities</u></b> |
| <b><u>Governmental Activities</u></b>                                |                           |                                    |                                |                                                                                            |
| Administration                                                       | \$365,060                 | \$5,889                            |                                | (\$359,172)                                                                                |
| Protection                                                           | \$561,702                 |                                    |                                | (\$561,702)                                                                                |
| Health & Sanitation                                                  | \$82,881                  | \$21,215                           |                                | (\$61,666)                                                                                 |
| Highways & Bridges                                                   | \$418,177                 |                                    | \$14,332                       | (\$403,845)                                                                                |
| Education                                                            | \$1,078,109               |                                    |                                | (\$1,078,109)                                                                              |
| Unclassified                                                         | \$158,491                 |                                    |                                | (\$158,491)                                                                                |
| Assessments & Debt Service                                           | \$203,326                 |                                    |                                | (\$203,326)                                                                                |
| <b>Total Governmental Activities</b>                                 | <b>\$2,867,745</b>        | <b>\$27,103</b>                    | <b>\$14,332</b>                | <b>(\$2,826,310)</b>                                                                       |
| <b><u>Total Primary Government</u></b>                               | <b><u>\$2,867,745</u></b> | <b><u>\$27,103</u></b>             | <b><u>\$14,332</u></b>         | <b><u>(\$2,826,310)</u></b>                                                                |
| <b><u>General Revenues:</u></b>                                      |                           |                                    |                                |                                                                                            |
| Tax Revenues, Including Homestead Exemption                          |                           |                                    |                                | \$2,482,778                                                                                |
| Excise Taxes                                                         |                           |                                    |                                | \$161,767                                                                                  |
| State Reimbursements                                                 |                           |                                    |                                | \$58,741                                                                                   |
| State Revenue Sharing                                                |                           |                                    |                                | \$50,693                                                                                   |
| Interest on Delinquent Taxes                                         |                           |                                    |                                | \$7,083                                                                                    |
| Investment Earnings (Losses)                                         |                           |                                    |                                | \$239,508                                                                                  |
| Other Revenues                                                       |                           |                                    |                                | \$27,996                                                                                   |
| <b><u>Total Revenues</u></b>                                         |                           |                                    |                                | <b><u>\$3,028,566</u></b>                                                                  |
| <b><u>Changes in Net Position</u></b>                                |                           |                                    |                                | <b>\$202,256</b>                                                                           |
| <b><u>Net Position – Beginning</u></b>                               |                           |                                    |                                | <b><u>\$11,374,104</u></b>                                                                 |
| <b><u>Net Position – Ending</u></b>                                  |                           |                                    |                                | <b><u>\$11,576,360</u></b>                                                                 |

The Notes to the Financial Statements are an Integral Part of this Statement

**TOWN OF WINTER HARBOR, MAINE**  
**BALANCE SHEET – GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS**  
**JUNE 30, 2025**

(Exhibit III)

| <u>Assets</u>                     | <u>General Fund</u> | <u>Capital Projects Fund</u> | <u>Total Governmental Funds</u> |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Cash on Hand & on Deposit         | \$1,185,271         |                              | \$1,185,271                     |
| Investments, at Fair Market Value | \$3,596,771         |                              | \$3,596,771                     |
| Accounts Receivable               | \$29,474            |                              | \$29,474                        |
| Prepaid Expenses                  | \$2,934             |                              | \$2,934                         |
| Taxes & Tax Liens Receivable      | \$101,523           | \$88,189                     | \$101,523                       |
| Due from Other Funds              |                     |                              | \$88,189                        |
| <u>Total Assets</u>               | <u>\$4,915,972</u>  | <u>\$88,189</u>              | <u>\$5,004,161</u>              |

*Liabilities, Deferred Inflows & Fund Balances*

Liabilities:

|                           |                  |            |                  |
|---------------------------|------------------|------------|------------------|
| Accounts Payable          | \$35,685         |            | \$35,685         |
| Due to Other Funds        | \$88,189         |            | \$88,189         |
| <u>Total Liabilities:</u> | <u>\$123,873</u> | <u>\$0</u> | <u>\$123,873</u> |

Deferred Inflows of Resources

|                                  |          |  |          |
|----------------------------------|----------|--|----------|
| Property Taxes Paid in Advance   | \$1,480  |  | \$1,480  |
| Unavailable Property Tax Revenue | \$33,140 |  | \$33,140 |

|          |     |          |
|----------|-----|----------|
| \$34,620 | \$0 | \$34,620 |
|----------|-----|----------|

Total Deferred Inflows of Resources

Fund Balance:

|            |             |          |             |
|------------|-------------|----------|-------------|
| Restricted | \$199,053   | \$88,189 | \$199,053   |
| Committed  | \$3,440,123 |          | \$3,440,123 |
| Assigned   | \$379,981   |          | \$379,981   |
| Unassigned | \$738,323   |          | \$738,323   |

|                           |                    |                 |                    |
|---------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| <u>Total Fund Balance</u> | <u>\$4,757,479</u> | <u>\$88,189</u> | <u>\$4,845,668</u> |
|---------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|

|                                             |                    |                 |                    |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| <u>Total Liabilities &amp; Fund Balance</u> | <u>\$4,915,972</u> | <u>\$88,189</u> | <u>\$5,004,161</u> |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|

|                                                |             |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| <u>Total Fund Balance - Governmental Funds</u> | \$4,845,668 |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------|

*Net Position reported for governmental activities in the statement of net position is different because:*

Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and therefore, are not reported in the funds. \$6,700,838

Delinquent taxes are recognized as revenue in the period for which levied in the government-wide financial statements, but are reported as unavailable revenue (a deferred inflow) in governmental funds \$33,140

Some liabilities are not due and payable in the current period and therefore, are not reported in the funds, including:

|                                                |                     |
|------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Finance Purchase Obligation                    | (\$3286)            |
| <u>Net Position of Governmental Activities</u> | <u>\$11,576,360</u> |

*The Notes to the Financial Statements are an Integral Part of this Statement*

**TOWN OF WINTER HARBOR, MAINE**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES  
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE – ALL GOVERNMENTAL  
FUND TYPES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED**

(Exhibit IV)

**JUNE 30, 2025**

|                                                     | General<br>Fund    | Capital<br>Projects<br>Fund | Total<br>Governmental<br>Funds |
|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <u>Revenues:</u>                                    |                    |                             |                                |
| Tax Revenues, Including Homestead Exemption         | \$2,480,135        |                             | \$2,480,135                    |
| Excise Taxes                                        | \$161,767          |                             | \$161,767                      |
| State Revenue Sharing                               | \$50,693           |                             | \$50,693                       |
| Interest on Delinquent Taxes                        | \$7,083            |                             | \$7,083                        |
| Investment Earnings (Losses)                        | \$239,508          |                             | \$239,508                      |
| Trash Bag Sales                                     | \$21,215           |                             | \$21,215                       |
| Clerk Fees                                          | \$5,889            |                             | \$5,889                        |
| Federal and State Subsidies and Grants              | \$73,073           |                             | \$73,073                       |
| Other Revenues                                      | \$27,996           |                             | \$27,996                       |
| <u>Total Revenues</u>                               | <u>\$3,067,358</u> | <u>\$0</u>                  | <u>\$3,067,358</u>             |
| <u>Expenditures (Net of Departmental Revenues):</u> |                    |                             |                                |
| <u>Current</u>                                      |                    |                             |                                |
| Administration                                      | \$33,512           |                             | \$33,512                       |
| Protection                                          | \$502,223          |                             | \$502,223                      |
| Health & Sanitation                                 | \$82,677           |                             | \$82,677                       |
| Highways & Bridges                                  | \$140,354          |                             | \$140,354                      |
| Education                                           | \$1,070,304        |                             | \$1,070,304                    |
| Unclassified                                        | \$153,333          |                             | \$153,333                      |
| Assessments                                         | \$203,326          |                             | \$203,326                      |
| <u>Capital Outlay</u>                               | <u>\$421,184</u>   | <u>\$75,110</u>             | <u>\$496,294</u>               |
|                                                     | <u>\$2,905,914</u> | <u>\$75,110</u>             | <u>\$2,981,024</u>             |
| <u>Excess Revenues Over Expenditures</u>            | <u>\$161,444</u>   | <u>(\$75,110)</u>           | <u>\$86,334</u>                |
| <u>Beginning Fund Balances</u>                      | <u>\$4,596,035</u> | <u>\$163,299</u>            | <u>\$4,759,334</u>             |
| <u>Ending Fund Balance:</u>                         | <u>\$4,757,479</u> | <u>\$88,189</u>             | <u>\$4,845,668</u>             |

Reconciliation to Statement of Activities, change in Net Position

Net Change in Fund Balances – Above \$86,,334

Delinquent taxes are recognized as revenue in the period for which levied  
in the government-wide financial statements, but are reported as unavailable  
revenue (a deferred inflow) in governmental funds \$2,643

Bond proceeds provide current financial resources to Governmental funds  
but issuing debt increases long-term liabilities in the Government- Wide  
Statement of Net Position. Repayment of bond principal is an expenditure  
in Governmental Funds, but the repayment reduces long- term liabilities  
in the Government-Wide Statement of Net Position

This amount represents long-term debt payments \$1,124

Governmental funds report capital outlays as expenditures, while in the  
Statement of Activities the cost of those assets are allocated over the  
estimated useful lives as depreciation expense \$496,295

Depreciation expense on capital assets is reported in the Government-Wide  
Statement of Activities, but they do not requires the use of current financial  
resources. Therefore, depreciation expense is not reported as expenditures  
in Governmental Funds (\$384,139)

Changes in Net Position of Governmental Activities \$202,256

The Notes to the Financial Statements are an Integral Part of this Statement.

TOWN OF WINTER HARBOR, MAINE  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

Note 1 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The financial statements of the Town of Winter Harbor, Maine (the Town) have been prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, as applied to governmental units (hereinafter referred to as generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP)). The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard setting body for the governmental accounting and financial reporting principles. The more significant of the Town's accounting principles are described below

A. Financial Reporting Entity

The accompanying financial statements present the government of the Town of Winter Harbor, Maine which is identified based upon the criteria identified in Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement 14, The Financial Reporting Entity. The Town is governed under a Town Manager/Selectmen form of government. The Town engages in a comprehensive range of municipal services, including administrative services, police and fire protection, health and sanitation, highways and bridges and education. The financial statements include all operations of the Town. Control or dependence is determined on the basis of budget adoption, taxing authority, funding and appointment of the respective governing board

B. Government-wide and Fund Financial Statements

The government-wide financial statements (i.e. the statement of net position and the statement of activities) report information on LL of the activities of the Town. The material effect of interfund activity has been removed from these statements. Governmental activities are normally supported by taxes and intergovernmental revenues

The statement of activities demonstrates the degree to which the direct expenses of a given function or segment are offset by program revenues. Direct expenses are those that are clearly identifiable with a specific function or segment. Functional expenses may also include an element of indirect cost, designed to recover administrative (overhead) costs. Program revenues include 1) charges to customers or applicants who purchase, use or directly benefit from goods, services, or privileges provided by a given function or segment and 2) grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular function or segment. Taxes and other items not properly included among program revenues are reported instead as general revenues

Separate financial statements are provided for governmental funds. Major individual governmental funds are reported in separate columns in the fund financial statements.

C. Measurement Focus, Basis of Accounting and Financial Statement Presentation

The government-wide financial statements are reported using the total economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues and additions are recognized when transactions occur and expenses and deductions are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Property taxes are recognized as revenues in the year for which they are levied (i.e. intended to finance). Grants are recognized as revenue as soon as all eligibility requirements have been met.

In the Statement of Activities, amounts reported as program revenues include 1) charges to customers or applicants for goods, services, fines and forfeitures, or privileges provided, 2) operating grants and contributions, and 3) capital grants grants and contributions, including special assessments. Internally dedicated resources are reported as general revenues rather than as program revenues. Likewise, general revenues include all taxes.

The governmental fund financial statements are reported using the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized when they are both measurable and available. Revenues are considered to be available when they are collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period.

For this purpose, the Town considers revenues to be available if they are collected within 60 days of the end of the current fiscal period. Expenditures generally are recorded when a liability is incurred, as under accrual accounting. However, debt service expenditures, including interest on long-term debt, are recorded only when payment is due.

Property taxes, charges for services and interest associated with the current fiscal period are all considered to be susceptible to accrual and are recognized as revenues of the current fiscal period. All other revenue items are considered to be measurable and available only when cash is received by the Town.

The Town reports unavailable revenue on its governmental fund financial statements. Unavailable revenues arise when a potential revenue does not meet both the "measurable" and "available" criteria for recognition in the current period. Unavailable revenues also arise when resources are received by the Town before it has a legal claim to them, as when grant monies are received prior to the incurrence of qualifying expenditures. In subsequent periods, when both revenue recognition criteria are met, or when the Town has a legal claim to the resources, the liability for unavailable revenue is removed from the balance sheet and the revenue is recognized.

The Town reports the following major governmental funds:

The general fund is the Town's primary operating fund. It accounts for all financial resources of the general government, except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

The Capital Projects fund accounts for financial resources used for the acquisition, construction, or improvement of major capital facilities other than those financed by proprietary funds. These resources are derived from proceeds of Federal and State grant programs, as well as bond proceeds secured for construction of infrastructure or internal reserve funds for specific projects.

When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, it is the Town's policy to use restricted resources first, then unrestricted resources as they are needed.

D. Assets, Liabilities and Net Position or Fund Equity

Deposits and Investments

The Town's cash and cash equivalents are considered to be cash on hand, demand deposits, and short-term investments with original maturities of one year or less from the date of acquisition. These investments are not specifically identified with any one fund

Investments are carried at fair market value. Income from investments held by the individual funds are recorded in the respective funds as it is earned

Accounts Receivable and Payable

All material receivables are reported at their gross value and, where appropriate, are reduced by the estimated portion that is expected to be uncollectible.

Because of their spending measurement focus, expenditure recognition for governmental fund types excludes amounts represented by noncurrent liabilities. Since they do not affect current assets, such long-term amounts are not recognized as governmental fund type expenditures or fund liabilities

Prepaid Expenses

Certain payments to vendors reflect costs applicable to future accounting periods and are recorded as prepaid items in both government-wide and fund financial statements. The prepayments are charged to expenditures on the governmental fund financial statements over the period of their economic benefit. Amounts of governmental fund inventories are offset by a fund balance reserve account to indicate that they do not represent "available spending resources".

Capital Assets

Capital assets, which include property, plant, equipment and infrastructure (e.g. roads, bridges, sidewalks and similar items), are reported in the applicable governmental ntal or business-type activities columns in the government-wide financial statements. Capital assets are defined by the Town as assets with an initial, individual cost of more than \$5,000 and an estimated useful life in excess of one year. Such assets are recorded at historical cost or estimated historical cost if purchased or constructed. Donated capital assets are recorded at estimated fair value at the date of donation

The costs of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend asset lives are not capitalized. Major outlays for capital assets and improvements are capitalized as projects are constructed. Interest incurred during the construction phase of capital assets of business-type activities is included as part of the capitalized value of the asset constructed. Property, plant and equipment is depreciated using the straight line method over the following estimated useful lives

| <u>Assets</u>  | <u>Years</u> |
|----------------|--------------|
| Buildings      | 50           |
| Infrastructure | 50           |
| Equipment      | 4-10         |

Interfund Activity

Interfund receivables and payables arise from interfund activity and are recorded by all funds effected in the period in which transactions are executed

Deferred Inflows/Outflows of Resources

In addition to assets and liabilities, the statement of net position and the governmental fund balance sheet will report a separate section for deferred outflows and/or inflows of resources. Deferred outflows of resources represent consumption of net position that applies to a future period(s) and therefore will not be recognized as an expense/expenditure until then. Deferred inflows or resources represent and acquisition of net position that applies to future period(s) and therefore will not be recognized as revenue until that time. The Town has no items that qualify as deferred outflows of resources, and it has one item that qualifies as deferred inflows. The deferred inflow is related to prepaid property taxes. This amount is considered unavailable and will recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) in the period that the amounts become available.

Governmental Fund Balances

The Town has identified June 30, 2025 fund balances on the balance sheet as follows:

|                           | <u>General Fund</u> | <u>Capital Projects<br/>Fund</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|---------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|--------------|
| <u>Restricted</u>         |                     |                                  |              |
| CDBG Grant Funding        | \$17,669            |                                  | \$17,669     |
| Library Reserve           | \$153,025           |                                  | \$153,025    |
| Town Education Reserve    | \$246               |                                  | \$246        |
| State Revenue Sharing     | \$27,694            |                                  | \$27,694     |
| Fire Safety – Rescue      | \$135               |                                  | \$135        |
| Bickford Building Project | \$103               |                                  | \$103        |
| Furey Basketball Court    | \$181               |                                  | \$181        |
| Capital Projects          |                     | \$88,189                         | \$88,189     |
| <u>Committed</u>          |                     |                                  |              |
| Housing Proceeds Reserve  | \$3,390,242         |                                  | \$3,390,242  |
| Revaluation Reserve       | \$49,881            |                                  | \$49,881     |

Assigned

|                                   |                    |                 |                    |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Cruiser Replacement Reserve       | \$2750             |                 | \$2750             |
| Capital Improvement Reserve       | \$760              |                 | \$760              |
| Comprehensive Plan                | \$10,092           |                 | \$10,092           |
| Dump Monitoring                   | \$8,000            |                 | \$8,000            |
| Fire Safety – Training            | \$7,068            |                 | \$7,068            |
| Fire Safety                       | \$71,468           |                 | \$71,468           |
| Fire Safety – Medical Evaluations | \$6,078            |                 | \$6,078            |
| Police Department – Training      | \$1,659            |                 | \$1,659            |
| Police Protection                 | \$78,218           |                 | \$78,218           |
| Town Roads                        | \$131,681          |                 | \$131,681          |
| Solid Waste                       | \$11,538           |                 | \$11,538           |
| Town Buildings                    | \$6,728            |                 | \$6,728            |
| Assessing                         | \$10,510           |                 | \$10,510           |
| Recreation                        | \$11,176           |                 | \$11,176           |
| Town Wharf Maintenance            | (\$9,686)          |                 | (\$9,686)          |
| Administration Health Insurance   | \$774              |                 | \$774              |
| Facilities Maintenance            | \$5,220            |                 | \$5,220            |
| Scout Building Maintenance        | \$7,477            |                 | \$7,477            |
| Legal                             | \$4,270            |                 | \$4,270            |
| Records Conservation              | \$7,200            |                 | \$7,200            |
| Fire Department Vehicle           | \$7,000            |                 | \$7,000            |
| <u>Unassigned</u>                 | <u>\$738,323</u>   |                 | <u>\$738,323</u>   |
| <u>Total Fund Balances</u>        | <u>\$4,757,479</u> | <u>\$88,189</u> | <u>\$4,845,668</u> |

In accordance with Government Accounting Standards Board 54, fund balance reporting and governmental fund type definitions, the Town classifies governmental fund balance as follows:

*Non-spendable* - includes fund balance amount that cannot be spent either because it is not in spendable form or because of legal or contractual constraints.

*Restricted* - includes fund balance amount that are constrained for specific purposes which are externally imposed by providers, such as creditors, or amounts constrained due to constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

*Committed* - includes fund balance amounts that are constrained for specific purposes that are internally imposed by the government through town meeting voting and does not lapse at year-end.

*Assigned* - includes fund balance amounts that are intended to be used for specific purposes that are neither considered restricted or committed. Fund balances may be assigned by the Board of Selectmen.

*Unassigned* - includes positive fund balance within the general fund, which has not been classified within the above mentioned categories and negative fund balance in other governmental funds

The Town considers restricted, committed, assigned and unassigned amounts to be spent in that order when expenditures are incurred for which any of those amounts are available.

The Board of Selectmen are authorized to make assignments pursuant to their appointment. Committed fund balances determined based on the need of town meeting votes.

Net Position

Net position is required to be classified into three components - net investment in capital assets; restricted; and unrestricted. These classifications are defined as follows:

*Net investment in capital assets* - This component of net position consists of capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, reduced by the outstanding balances of any bonds, mortgages, notes, or other borrowings that are attributable to the acquisition, construction, or improvements of those assets.

*Restricted* - This component of net position consists of restrictions placed on net position use through external constraints imposed by creditors (such as debt covenants), grantors, contributors, or law or regulations of other governments, or constraints imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation. The government-wide statement of net position reports \$287,242 of restricted net position, of which enabling legislation restricts \$0.

*Unrestricted* - This component consists of net position that do not meet the definition of "restricted" or "net investment in capital assets".

#### *E. Budgetary Accounting*

Formal budgetary accounting is employed as a management control for the general fund only. Annual operating budgets are adopted each fiscal year by the registered voters of the Town at their annual Town meeting. Budgets are established in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Budgetary control is exercised at the selectman level, since individual department heads do not exist. All unencumbered budget appropriations lapse at the end of the year unless specifically designated by the Board of Selectmen or required by law.

#### *G. Estimates*

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

### ***Note 2- Deposits and Investments***

#### *Deposits*

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a bank failure, a government's deposits may not be returned to it. The Town's deposit policy for custodial credit risk requires compliance with the provisions authorized by Maine State Statutes. The Town requires that, at the time funds are deposited, there is collateral in place to cover the deposits in excess of the FDIC insurance limits.

State Statutes require banks either to give bond or to pledge government securities (types of which are specifically identified in the Statutes) to the Town in the amount of the Town's deposits. The Statutes allow pledged securities to be reduced by the amount of the deposits insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC).

The financial institution holding the Town's cash accounts is participating in the FDIC Transaction Account Guarantee Program. Under the program, all accounts, including non-interest bearing accounts, are aggregated and are insured up to \$250,000 in total by the FDIC. Any cash deposits, including certificates of deposit, in excess of \$250,000 FDIC limits are not covered by collateral and thus, custodial credit risk could exist. In order to avoid exceeding the \$250,000 FDIC limits, the Town has had the financial institution, where a majority of their deposits are, purchase collateral in the name of the Town through the Federal Reserve to cover those deposits in excess of the FDIC limits.

At year end, the carrying value of the Town's deposits was \$1,185,271 and the bank balance was \$1,224,430. The Town has \$194,133 of insured and \$1,030,297 of collateralized deposits as of June 30, 2025

#### *Investments*

Investments are separated into short-term and long-term categories. Within one of the investment accounts, the short-term investments are held in a brokerage account containing money market and bond funds. Long-term investments are held in a brokerage account that is invested in equity stocks and bond funds. All short-term and long-term investments are recorded based on level I inputs and measure on a recurring basis.

|                              |                           |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Short-term investments       |                           |
| Money Market Fund            | \$572,538                 |
| Bond Funds                   | <u>\$917,097</u>          |
| Total short-term investments | <u><u>\$1,489,635</u></u> |
| Long-term investments        |                           |
| Common stocks and bond funds | <u>\$2,033,346</u>        |
| Total long-term investments  | <u><u>\$2,033,346</u></u> |

The investments are managed by a broker to maximize long-term gain while minimizing volatility. These investments are maintained as a funding source for major capital projects within the Town.

|                                     |                         |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Investment returns were as follows: |                         |
| Investment income (loss)            | <u><u>\$196,941</u></u> |

Return Objectives

In support of the mission of the Town, the investment assets are to be invested to provide sufficient growth in the form of total return from dividends, income, earnings and price appreciation to meet the Town's requirements and to maintain a balance within the investment account for growth and earnings to fund future capital projects within the Town.

Risk Parameters

To meet the stated objectives, the entirety of the Town's portfolio is dedicated to an equity position in order to produce long-term appreciation of principal. The allocation of holdings should reasonably attempt to reduce overall portfolio volatility.

Fair Value

The Town categorizes the fair value measurements of its investments within the fair value hierarchy established by the accounting principles generally accepted in the United States. The fair value hierarchy categorizes the inputs to valuation techniques used for fair value measurement into three levels as follows (in order of priority):

- Level 1 – Inputs that reflect quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the Town has the ability to access at the measurement date.
- Level 2 - Inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for assets or liabilities either directly or indirectly, including inputs in markets that are not considered to be active
- Level 3 - Significant unobservable input

Fair values of assets at June 30, 2025 measured on a recurring basis are as follows:

| Investment Type    | Fair Value Measurements Using: |                   |                   | Total                     |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
|                    | Level 1                        | Level 2           | Level 3           |                           |
| Money Market Funds | \$572,538                      |                   |                   | \$572,538                 |
| Fixed Income Funds | <u>\$2,950,443</u>             |                   |                   | <u>\$2,950,443</u>        |
|                    | <u><u>\$3,522,981</u></u>      | <u><u>\$0</u></u> | <u><u>\$0</u></u> | <u><u>\$3,522,981</u></u> |

Interest Rate Risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that changes in market interest rates will adversely affect the fair value of an investment. Generally, the longer the maturity of an investment, the greater the sensitivity of its fair value to changes in market interest rates. The Town's investments to be made into highly liquid investment vehicles to minimize exposure to interest rate risk

The Town has not formally adopted an investment policy for managing interest rate risk.

Information about the sensitivity of the fair values of the Town's investments subject to market interest rate fluctuations is provided by the following table that shows the distribution of investments by maturity:

| Investment Type    | Fair Value         | Remaining Maturity (In Years) |                    |                  |
|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
|                    |                    | 0 - 1 Years                   | 1 - 5 Years        | > 5 Years        |
| Fixed Income Funds | \$2,950,443        | \$917,097                     | \$1,621,532        | \$411,814        |
|                    | <u>\$2,950,443</u> | <u>\$917,097</u>              | <u>\$1,621,532</u> | <u>\$411,814</u> |

Credit Risk

Generally, credit risk is the risk that an issuer of an investment will not fulfill its obligation to the holder of the investment. This is measured by the assignment of a rating by a nationally recognized statistical rating organization. The Town has not formally adopted an investment policy for managing credit risk.

The following are the actual ratings as of year-end for each investment type:

| Ratings as of Year End | Money            | Fixed              |                    |
|------------------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
|                        | Market Funds     | Income Funds       | Total              |
| Not Rated              | <u>\$572,538</u> | <u>\$2,950,443</u> | <u>\$3,522,981</u> |

Investment – Funds held by Community Foundation

The Town has transferred assets to the Maine Community Foundation (the Foundation), which is holding them as an invested fund for the benefit of the Town library. The Town has granted the Foundation variance power which give the Foundation's Board of Directors (the Board) the power to modify, consistent with State law, including seeking approval of the appropriate court or Attorney General, where applicable, any restriction or condition on the distribution of funds for any specified organization if, in the sole judgment of the Board, (without the necessity of the approval of any participating trustee, custodian or agent), such restriction or condition becomes, in effect, unnecessary, incapable of fulfillment, or inconsistent with the charitable needs of the community.

The Town reports the fair value of the fund as Investments, at Fair Market Value in the Balance Sheet - Governmental Funds and the Statement of Net Position. Changes in the fund for the year ended June 30, 2025 are as follows:

Balance at July 1:

|                                     |                 |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Additional amounts invested in fund | \$67,398        |
| Dividend and Interest Earned        | \$0             |
| Gain (Losses)                       | \$577           |
| Share of expenses of fund           | \$6,960         |
| Distributions received              | (\$1,145)       |
| <u>Balance at June 30:</u>          | <u>\$0</u>      |
|                                     | <u>\$73,790</u> |

Note 3 – Property Taxes

Property taxes were assessed on April 1, 2024 and committed on August 26, 2024. Interest of 8.5% per annum is charged on delinquent taxes. Tax liens are recorded on property taxes remaining unpaid twelve months after the commitment date. Tax liens unpaid for a period of eighteen months expire and the property becomes tax acquired by the Town. For governmental funds, only property taxes which are intended to finance the current fiscal year and collected within 60 days subsequent to year-end are recorded as revenue. Accordingly, \$33,140 of the property taxes receivable have been classified as unavailable property tax revenues on the general fund balance sheet.

Note 4 – Capital Assets

Capital asset activity for the year ended June 30, 2025 was as follows

|                                                         | <u>Beginning<br/>Balance</u> | <u>Increases</u>     | <u>Decreases</u> | <u>Ending<br/>Balance</u> |
|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| <u>Governmental Activities;</u>                         |                              |                      |                  |                           |
| <u>Capital assets not being depreciated</u>             | \$126,259                    |                      |                  |                           |
| Land                                                    |                              |                      |                  | \$126,259                 |
| <u>Capital assets being depreciated</u>                 |                              |                      |                  |                           |
| Buildings                                               | \$3,723,940                  | \$129,038            |                  | \$3,852,977               |
| Equipment                                               | \$598,601                    | \$98,537             |                  | \$697,138                 |
| Infrastructure                                          | \$11,359,073                 | \$268,720            | \$0              | \$11,627,793              |
| Total capital assets being depreciated                  | \$15,681,613                 | \$496,295            |                  | \$16,177,908              |
| <u>Less accumulated depreciation for</u>                |                              |                      |                  |                           |
| Buildings                                               | \$1,396,133                  | \$84,419             |                  | \$1,480,552               |
| Equipment                                               | \$433,648                    | \$36,635             |                  | \$470,282                 |
| Infrastructure                                          | \$7,389,409                  | \$263,086            |                  | \$7,652,495               |
| Total accumulated depreciation                          | \$9,219,190                  | \$384,139            | \$0              | \$9,603,329               |
| Net capital assets being depreciated                    | \$6,462,424                  | \$112,155            | \$0              | \$6,574,579               |
| <br><u>Governmental Activities, Capital Assets, net</u> | <br><u>\$6,588,683</u>       | <br><u>\$112,155</u> | <br><u>\$0</u>   | <br><u>\$6,700,838</u>    |

Depreciation expense was charged to functions/programs of the primary government as follows;

Governmental Activities:

|                                                                                |                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| General Government                                                             | \$33,672         |
| Protection                                                                     | \$59,478         |
| Health & Sanitation                                                            | \$204            |
| Education                                                                      | \$7,805          |
| Public Transportation, including depreciation of general infrastructure assets | \$277,823        |
| Unclassified                                                                   | \$5158           |
| Total Depreciation Expense - Governmental Activities                           | <u>\$384,139</u> |

Note 6 - Long-Term Debt

The following is a summary of long-term debt transactions of the Town for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025:

|                                               |                |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------------|
| <u>Long-Term Debt payable at July 1, 2024</u> | \$4,409        |
| Long-Term Debt Issued                         | \$0            |
| Long-Term Debt Retired                        | (\$1,124)      |
| <u>Long Term Debt payable June 30, 2025</u>   | <u>\$3,286</u> |

General obligation bonds and notes are direct obligations and pledge the full faith and credit of the Town of Winter Harbor. Outstanding long-term debt obligations at June 30, 2025 are as follows:

In November 2022, the Town entered into a finance purchase agreement with U.S. Bank for the purpose of upgrading the photocopier. The debt is for sixty three months with interest at 5.00%. The monthly payment totals \$110. The balance at June 30, 2025 was \$3,286.

Presented below is a summary of debt service requirements along with estimated interest:

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Principal</u> | <u>Interest</u> | <u>Total</u>   |
|-------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 2026        | \$1,181          | \$137           | \$1,319        |
| 2027        | \$1,242          | \$77            | \$1,319        |
| 2028        | \$863            | \$16            | \$879          |
|             | <u>\$3,286</u>   | <u>\$231</u>    | <u>\$3,516</u> |

Note 7-Other Post Employment Benefits

Qualifying personnel of the Town can participate in the Maine Municipal Employee Health Trust (MMEHT) postretirement benefit plan. The plan is a multi-employer, cost sharing OPEB plan. In review of the actuarial report on the plan, the Town has, based on the plan's allocation to all member Towns, a net OPEB liability of \$6,996, a deferred outflow of \$2,163 and deferred inflows of \$956. Based on these balances being immaterial to the financial statement balances, the Town has decided to not further disclose the information in relation to the plan's actuary report.

Note 8- Restricted Net Position

The Town reports restricted net position totaling \$287,242 on its statements of net position. This restricted net position represents the restricted fund balances detailed in the Governmental Fund Balances note above

Note 9- Risk Management

The Town participates in Public Entity Risk Pools for the purposes of Workers Compensation, Property and Liability Insurance and Unemployment Compensation. The Public Entity Risk Pool is administered by the Maine

Municipal Association. The Public Entity Risk Pools were established for the purposes of lowering costs for members and for developing specific programs to control losses. Members pay annual premiums to the Maine Municipal Association for participation in the respective programs.

The Town is exposed to various risk of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters for which it carries municipal and commercial insurance. The Town is not aware of any material actual or potential claim liabilities which should be recorded at June 30, 2025

Note 10- Pending Litigation

According to management, there are no matters that would result in material adverse losses, claims or assessments against the Town of Winter Harbor, Maine through the date of the audit report







TOWN OF WINTER HARBOR, MAINE  
SCHEDULE OF APPROPRIATIONS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE  
30, 2025

(Exhibit A-2 4-2)

Revenues:

|                               |             |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Tax Commitment                | \$2,454,896 |
| Homestead Exemption           | \$27,883    |
| Supplemental Taxes            | \$500       |
| In Lieu of Taxes              | \$28,000    |
| Motor Vehicle Excise          | \$120,000   |
| Undesignated Fund Balance     | \$20,000    |
| Boat Excise                   | \$3,000     |
| State Revenue Sharing         | \$46,000    |
| Investment Interest           | \$10,000    |
| Gymnasium Rental              | \$500       |
| Interest on Delinquent Taxes  | \$4,200     |
| State Grants and              | \$24,197    |
| Reimbursements                | \$5,750     |
| Clerk Fees and Other Revenues | \$2,600     |
| Miscellaneous Revenues        | \$20,000    |
| Sale of Trash Bags            |             |

Total Revenues

\$2,767,526

Expenditures

|                            |             |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| Administration             | \$386,102   |
| Protection                 | \$582,769   |
| Health & Sanitation        | \$93,000    |
| Public Transportation      | \$278,650   |
| Education                  | \$1,070,305 |
| Unclassified               | \$129,209   |
| Assessments & Debt Service | \$227,491   |

Total Expenditures

\$2,767,526

TOWN OF WINTER HARBOR, MAINE  
SCHEDULE OF VALUATION, COMMITMENT AND  
COLLECTIONS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

(Exhibit A-3)

|                                           |                    |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <u>Taxable Valuation:</u>                 | \$1,70,478,870     |
| Rate per \$1 Valuation                    | <u>\$0.01440</u>   |
| <u>Tax Commitment</u>                     | \$2,454,896        |
| <u>Collections and Adjustments:</u>       |                    |
| Cash Collections and Abatements Granted   | <u>\$2,375,172</u> |
| <u>Total Collections and Adjustments:</u> | <u>\$2,375,172</u> |
| <u>Uncollected Taxes June 30</u>          | <u>\$79,724</u>    |

TOWN OF WINTER HARBOR, MAINE  
SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN UNASSIGNED FUND BALANCE  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

(Exhibit A-4)

Beginning Unassigned Fund Balance \$652,051

Additions:

|                                                         |                 |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Lapsed Accounts                                         | \$23,013        |
| Excise Taxes (Net of Appropriation)                     | \$38,767        |
| Federal and State Reimbursements (Net of Appropriation) | \$18,812        |
| Tax Interest and Fees (Net of Appropriation)            | \$2,883         |
| Clerk Fees and Other Revenues (Net of Appropriation)    | \$139           |
| Other Revenues (Net of Appropriation)                   | \$4,998         |
| General Investment Interest (Net of Appropriation)      | <u>\$23,804</u> |

Total Additions \$109,415

Reductions

|                                              |              |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Appropriations from Unassigned Fund Balance  | \$20,000     |
| Increase in Unavailable Property Tax Revenue | \$2,643      |
| Supplemental Taxes (Net of Appropriation)    | <u>\$500</u> |

Total Reductions \$23,143

Total Ending Unassigned Fund Balance \$738,323



Town of Winter Harbor  
PO Box 98 – 25 Harbor Road  
Winter Harbor, Maine 04693  
(207) 963-2235

## Financial Policies

### **Town Bank Accounts:**

All bank accounts (to be established or closed) will be the result of a Board vote at a public meeting.

### Cash Receipts Management

#### **Counter Transactions:**

All transactions result in the information being entered into the town computer system. The purpose of this is to track the revenues and to provide a receipt to the person conducting the transaction.

The Town Manager is responsible to ensure that every counter employee is properly trained by the State of Maine before any money transactions can be completed as agents on behalf of the State of Maine.

#### **Employees acting as agents on behalf of the State of Maine:**

Employees for the Town of Winter Harbor who are receiving monies for the following transactions are serving as agents on behalf of the State of Maine.

- RV registrations: (includes lobster boats, snowmobiles, sailboats, power boats, pleasure boats, ATV's) according to the Maine State Statute Title 36
- Hunting and Fishing Licenses according to the Maine State Statute Title 36
- MV registrations according to the Maine State Statute Title 29A
- Dog Licenses according to the Maine State Statute Title 7
- Other Miscellaneous items

#### **Employees acting as agents on behalf of the Town of Winter Harbor:**

Employees receiving monies for the following items are serving as agents for the town of Winter Harbor following the State of Maine laws.

- Real Estate and Personal property taxes according to Maine State Statute Title 30-A M.R.S.A.

## Financial Policy (cont'd)

- Vital statistics forms and issues: (Marriage Licenses and Certificates; Birth Certificates; Death Certificates; Burial Permits) according to Maine State Statute Title 22
- Excise Tax on motor vehicles and agent's fee
- Gym Deposits
- Copies
- Recycling Charges for items that require fees for acceptance
- Other Miscellaneous items

### **Monies can be received in any of the following forms:**

- Cash
- Personal Checks
- Money Orders
- Direct Deposits (electronic transactions)
- All major credit cards with a fee set by the software company.

No postdated checks are accepted.

Debt and bills may be paid by cash, credit card or Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) at the Town Managers discretion.

- Deposits are prepared and reconciled to the General Ledger Accounts making sure all revenues have been credited to the correct sources and posted to the proper accounts.
- The cash drawer is cashed out twice a week (Tuesday and Friday) reconciling funds in drawer to deposits. Deposits are made more frequently when tax payments are being made
- Timely deposits are made, leaving a maximum of \$100 in cash drawer. The cash drawer is locked in the vault at the end of each business day.
- Bank statements are reconciled to the General Ledger Account monthly and submitted to the Town Manager and Board of Selectmen monthly.
- Investment accounts are to be reconciled on a monthly basis to the General Ledger and reported monthly to the Board of Selectmen.
- Payroll tax deposits are calculated and distributed to the Federal Government each pay period and State Taxes are calculated and distributed to the State of Maine each pay period or as determined by the reporting requirements for the State.
- Workers' compensation and unemployment compensation rates as calculated by the State for the Town are submitted on a quarterly basis to the State of Maine.

## **Financial Policy (cont'd)**

The approved warrant disbursements are processed and mailed. Two signatures are required on payments over a \$5,000.00 limit.

### **Reports**

Reports are prepared and submitted as required by the State agencies for these activities:

- Motor Vehicle reports, which include excise taxes, registration forms that are numbered and stickers are prepared and sent to the State every week.
- RV registrations, Hunting and Fishing Licenses, and Dog Licenses, reports are prepared and sent to the State on a monthly basis.
- Vital Statistics, reports are prepared and sent to the State semi-annually (June and December).
- Payroll reports prepared as required. 941s and Unemployment reports are prepared quarterly; W2s and 1099s are prepared annually (by January 31<sup>st</sup>).
- The Town is responsible to account on a regular basis for all funds, registrations

### **Financial Accounts Review**

All financial accounts and reports are reviewed on a quarterly basis by the Board of Selectmen and records formatted into a summary report to be presented at a subsequent meeting for review. Quarterly reports will include TRIO Budgetary Reports for Expenses; Revenues; and General Ledger detail reports opened to the second level.

### **Records Retention Policy**

All financial documents and records are maintained for a period of six years, and retained following the policy set forth by the State of Maine unless otherwise listed in the Rules for Disposition of Local Government Records, Secretary of State, Maine State Archives, Effective 5/1/2010.

### **Tax Collections, Liens, and Foreclosures Policy**

All tax collections, liens and foreclosures are processed following Maine State Law guidelines Title 36M.R.S.A. § 942 and § 943.



# Town of Winter Harbor, Maine

## 2025 Annual Town Meeting Minutes

Hancock, S.S.

STATE OF MAINE

TO: Danny Mitchell, Jr., Police Chief of Winter Harbor in the County of Hancock:

You are hereby required to notify and warn the residents of the Town of Winter Harbor, qualified to vote in town affairs, to meet at the Winter Harbor Municipal Building, 20 School Street in said Town, on Tuesday, the tenth of June 2025, at 8:00 am, then and there to act on Articles 1 and 2, (Polling hours: 8:00 am to 8:00 pm);

And to notify said residents to reconvene at Hammond Hall, 427 Main Street in said Town at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, the eighteenth day of June 2025 to act on Articles 3-33, as set out below, to wit:

### Article 1

To elect a Moderator to preside at said meeting. ***Steven Ribble was nominated to serve as Moderator and the election clerks cast three affirmative votes. William Van Horn was appointed Warden to oversee Elections. Voting took place at the Municipal Building from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm and the meeting was continued until June 18, 2025.***

### Article 2

To elect the following town officials by secret ballot: one member to the Board of Selectmen/Assessors/Overseers of the Poor to serve until the 2028 annual town meeting; one Member to the Planning Board to serve a partial term until the 2027 annual town meeting; one Member to the Planning Board to serve a partial term until the 2028 annual town meeting; one Utilities District Trustee to serve until the 2028 annual town meeting; one Water District Trustee to serve until the 2028 annual town meeting. ***Mr. Ribble reconvened the meeting on June 18, 2025 at 7:00 pm Hammond Hall, 427 Main Street, Winter Harbor, ME 04693. 44 registered voters were in attendance.***

***Mr. Ribble announced the results of the municipal elections as follows:***

***Selectman (3-year term) - Terry D. Bickford***  
***Planning Board Member (2-year partial term) - Christopher Joy***  
***Planning Board Member (3-year partial term) - Mary Kachoris***  
***Utilities District Trustee (3-year term) - William Van Horn***  
***Water District Trustee (3-year term) - Joanna Smith***

***Results of the RSU #24:***

***Article 1: Yes - 104; No - 25***

***Article 2: Yes - 100; No 25***

## ARTICLES PERTAINING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF OTHER TOWN OFFICIALS

### Article 3

To choose twelve (12) residents to serve on the Winter Harbor Budget Committee for the ensuing year. **Billy Bickford, Patrick Boeshans, Michael Campbell, Kevin Conley, Laura DeLucia-Faulkingham, Peter Drinkwater, Herman Faulkingham, Sandy Fortin, Glen Moshier, Bob Schmidt, and Diana Young, one vacant were nominated, seconded and elected.**

### Article 4

To choose fifteen (15) residents to serve as members of the Winter Harbor Cemetery Association Board of Trustees for the ensuing year. **Andrew Abbot, Charles Arnett, Rose Arnett, Cyrus Bragdon, Chris Byers, Herman Faulkingham, Gordon Harrington, Timmothy Joy, Mary Kachoris, Debra Martin, Megan Moshier, Roseanne Shafer, Louise Shaw, Diana Young, Steve Young, were nominated, seconded and elected.**

### Article 5

To choose one Trustee for a five-year term and one Trustee to complete a term expiring 2026, to serve as members of the Winter Harbor Public Library Board of Trustees. **Sandy Drinkwater was nominated, seconded and elected to the open five year term. Timmothy Verville was nominated, seconded and elected to fill the position expiring in 2026. Angel Shilling was nominated, seconded and elected to fill a new five year term expiring in 2030.**

### Article 6

To choose seven (7) residents to serve on the Harbor Committee for the ensuing year, the residents to be selected as follows: three (3) commercial fishermen, two (2) recreational boaters, and two (2) residents at large. **Michael Kramp, Robert Bragdon, Herman Faulkingham (Commercial), Andrew Abbott, Alan Johnson (Recreational), Barbara Jean Bragdon and Richard Wilson (At-Large) were nominated, seconded and elected.**

### Article 7

To choose five (5) residents to serve on the Recreation Committee Board of Directors for the ensuing year. **Earl Blackney, Dolora Conley, Kenneth Ingalls, Sarah Joy and Megan Moshier were nominated, seconded and elected.**

### Article 8

To choose six (6) residents to serve on the Lobster Festival Committee for the ensuing year. **Christopher Byers, Cathy Carruthers, Peter Drinkwater, a member from law enforcement and fire department were nominated, seconded and elected.**

### Article 9

To fix the salary for the ensuing year of the appointed Harbor Master in accordance with the Harbor Ordinance. (Currently \$2,500) **Motion made and seconded to amend the article to say \$1,000.00. Motion made and seconded to set the Harbor Master annual stipend at \$2,500.00. Approved.**

Article 10

To see if the Town will vote to have the Board of Selectmen appoint all other Town officials and members of Town boards and committees. **Accepted as read.**

SCHOOL BUDGET ARTICLES Notice

The Town's share of the Regional School Unit Budget has been set: **\$1,104,364** (FY 24-25 - \$1,070,305)

MUNICIPAL BUDGET ARTICLES - General Fund Expenditures

Article 11

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$297,238.00 for General Government Administration. (*The Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee recommends approval.*) **Accepted as read**

| <u>General Government</u> |                | <u>FY 24-25</u> | <u>FY 25-26</u> |
|---------------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Total:                    | Administration | \$270,003.00    | \$297,238.00    |

Article 12

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,017.00 for the Board of Assessors and Planning Board. (*The Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee recommends approval.*) **Accepted as read**

| <u>Board of Assessors/Planning Board</u> | <u>FY 24-25</u>    | <u>FY 25-26</u>    |
|------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Assessing                                | \$10,200.00        | \$10,700.00        |
| HCPC                                     | 800.00             | 715.00             |
| CEO                                      | 3,514.00           | 3,602.00           |
| <u>Total: Board of Assessors/PB</u>      | <u>\$14,514.00</u> | <u>\$15,017.00</u> |

Article 13

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$129,510 for operation, maintenance, and repair of town facilities. (The Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee recommends approval.) **Motion made and seconded to amend the article as written and to change the amount to \$107,807. New amount was accepted as read.**

| <u>Town Building Operations</u> | <u>FY 24-25</u>    | <u>FY 25-26</u>     |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Gym                             | \$20,050.00        | \$21,588.00         |
| Municipal Public Safety Bldg    | 28,535.00          | 28,744.00           |
| Wharf                           | 32,650.00          | 34,200.00           |
| Scout Cabin                     | 3,275.00           | 3,275.00            |
| Misc Buildings Expenses         | 45,000.00          | 20,000.00           |
| <u>Total: Town Bldg Ops</u>     | <u>\$83,145.00</u> | <u>\$104,532.00</u> |

Article 14

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$438,185.00 for Public Safety. (The Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee recommends approval.) ***Accepted as read***

| <u>Public Safety</u> | <u>FY 24-25</u>     | <u>FY 25-26</u>     |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Fire Department      | \$179,822.00        | \$195,124.00        |
| Police Department    | <u>\$226,637.00</u> | <u>\$243,061.00</u> |
| Total: Public Safety | \$406,459.00        | \$438,185.00        |

Article 15

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$118,814.00 for Ambulance Service. (The Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee recommends approval.) FY 2024-2025 - \$96,810.0 ***Accepted as read***

Article 16

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$588,296.00 for the following miscellaneous expenses or appropriations. (The Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee recommends approval.)***Motion made, seconded and accepted to amend the article to read \$634,620.00. Amendment accepted as read.***

Miscellaneous

|                                             |              |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Library                                     | \$ 20,000.00 |
| General Assistance                          | 1,000.00     |
| Cemeteries                                  | 7,000.00     |
| Third Party Requests:                       |              |
| American Red Cross                          | 350.00       |
| Community Health and Counseling Services    | 200.00       |
| Downeast Community Partners                 | 995.00       |
| Downeast Horizons                           | 1,500.00     |
| Downeast Trans-Island Explorer              | 600.00       |
| Eastern Area on Aging                       | 1,200.00     |
| Eleanor Widener Dixon Memorial Clinic       | 800.00       |
| Families First Community Center             | 1000.00      |
| Hospice Volunteers of Hancock County        | 800.00       |
| LifeFlight Foundation                       | 461.00       |
| Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry                 | 250.00       |
| Northern Light Home Care & Hospice          | 250.00       |
| Schoodic Arts for All                       | 750.00       |
| Schoodic National Scenic Byway              | 1,500.00     |
| Schoodic Food Pantry                        | 5,000.00     |
| Winter Harbor Building Association (Masons) | 5,000.00     |
| Winter Harbor Historical Society            | 5,000.00     |
| Women, Infants & Children Nutrition Program | 650.00       |
| Yesterday's Children, Inc.                  | 200.00       |

|                            |               |
|----------------------------|---------------|
| Total-Third Party Requests | \$21,506.00   |
| Hydrants                   | 62,200.00     |
| County Tax                 | 133,463.00    |
| Solid Waste                | 111,451.00    |
| Roads                      | 273,000.00    |
| Lawn & Grounds Maintenance | 5,000.00      |
| TOTAL: Miscellaneous       | \$ 634,620.00 |
| FY 23-24 = \$588,296.00    |               |

Notification to Taxpayers:

The taxpayers of the Town of Winter Harbor are hereby notified that the sum of \$133,463.00 will be required for payment of Winter Harbor’s share of the Hancock County taxes. (FY 24-25 = \$120,712.00) **Note: County Tax is increased by \$12,751.00**

Article 17

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$167,466.00 for the following Special Projects. (The Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee recommends approval.) **Motion made, seconded and accepted to amend the article to read \$176,966.00. Amendment accepted as read.**

| <u>Special Projects</u>   | <u>FY 24-25</u> | <u>FY 25-26</u> |
|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Comprehensive Plan        | \$19,000.00     | \$19,000.00     |
| Homestead Exemption       | 5,000.00        | 5,000.00        |
| Property Revaluation      | 3,000.00        | 3,000.00        |
| Downtown Revitalization   | 3,500.00        | 3,500.00        |
| Sewer Note                | 82,616.00       | 82,616.00       |
| Recreation Committee      | 4,250.00        | 4,250.00        |
| Investment Fund Repayment | 50,000.00       | 50,000.00       |
| Records Conservation      | 100.00          | 100.00          |
| Total: Special Projects   | \$167,466.00    | \$176,966.00    |

MUNICIPAL BUDGET ARTICLES - General Fund Revenues

Article 18

To see if the Town will vote to apply the following 2025/2026 receipts to the General Fund appropriations to offset taxes. (The Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee recommends approval.) **Accepted as read.**

| <u>Category</u>              | <u>Estimated Amount</u> |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Auto Excise Taxes            | \$ 140,000.00           |
| Boat Excise Taxes            | 3,000.00                |
| Gym Rental                   | 500.00                  |
| Clerk's Fees                 | 3,500.00                |
| Permit Fees                  | 1,500.00                |
| Sale, Trash Bags             | 20,000.00               |
| Interest: Tax & Bank Account | 25,000.00               |
| Payment in Lieu of Taxes     | 28,000.00               |
| Miscellaneous Revenues       | <u>2,925.00</u>         |
| Total                        | \$ 224,425.00           |

Article 19

To see if the Town will vote to accept and expend, to offset taxes, the categories of funds listed below as provided by the Maine State Legislature. *(The Board of Selectmen recommends approval.)* **Accepted as read.**

| <u>Category</u>                   | <u>Estimated Amount</u> |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| General Assistance Reimbursement  | \$ 500.00               |
| Homestead Exemption Reimbursement | 23,000.00               |
| State Revenue Sharing Funds       | 46,000.00               |
| Tree Growth Reimbursement         | 11,000.00               |
| Veterans' Exemption Reimbursement | <u>650.00</u>           |
| Total: Estimated Revenues         | \$81,150.00             |
| FY 25-26 - \$81,150.00            |                         |

Article 20

To see if the Town will vote to place unexpended balances from this fiscal year into a tax reduction reserve account to be used to reduce the tax commitment for the next fiscal year. *(The Board of Selectmen recommends approval.)* **Accepted as read.**

**SPECIAL FUND FINANCIAL ARTICLES**

Article 21

To see if the Town will appropriate all Local Roads Assistance Program funds (estimated \$12,268) to the Town Roads account for capital improvement. *(The Board of Selectmen recommends approval.)* **Accepted as read**

**GENERAL FINANCIAL ARTICLES**

Article 22

To see if the Town will vote to have the 2025/2026 fiscal year taxes due in two increments: one-half to be due on or before October 31, 2025, and one-half to be due on or before April 30, 2026; and to have interest charged at the annual rate of 7.5% on any taxes paid after the due dates. *(The Board of Selectmen recommends approval.)* **Accepted as read.**

Article 23

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector to accept prepayment (i.e., prior to the date of commitment) of taxes and vote to pay 0% interest on said payments. (*The Board of Selectmen recommends approval.*) **Accepted as read.**

Article 24

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector to pay interest to any taxpayer who makes an overpayment of taxes, pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. Section 506-A, at a rate of 6.00% per annum. (*The Board of Selectmen recommends approval.*) **Accepted as read.**

Article 25

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to sell and/or dispose of any property acquired by tax liens after first offering the property to the previous owners for payment of all back taxes, fees and interest, and if they decline, advertising for sealed bids on same, and stating the lowest bid acceptable, and to allow the Selectmen to authorize the Treasurer to waive automatic lien foreclosure when it is in the best interest of the Town. (*The Board of Selectmen recommends approval.*) **Accepted as read.**

Article 26

To see if the Town will vote to increase the property tax levy limit established for Winter Harbor by State law, in the event that the municipal budget approved, at this Town Meeting results in a tax commitment in excess of the maximum property tax levy otherwise applicable, such that increased maximum property tax levy hereby established will equal the amount committed. (*The Board of Selectmen recommends approval.*) **Accepted as read.**

**MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES**Article 27

To see if the Town will authorize the Board of Selectmen to use any monies left over from the road projects to purchase a new pumper tanker fire truck up to \$530,000.00 (*The Board of Selectmen recommends approval.*) **Motion made, seconded to amend the wording to say "The Town will authorize the Board of Selectmen to use money from the investment account to purchase a pumper tanker fire truck up to \$530,000.00" Accepted as read.**

Article 28

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept and expend, on behalf of the Town, any Federal or State funds received. (*The Board of Selectmen recommends approval.*) **Accepted as read.**

Article 29

To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to borrow or appropriate from "Unappropriated Surplus" as they deem advisable to meet unanticipated expenses and emergencies that occur during the 2025/2026 fiscal year. (\$20,000 customary amount) **Accepted as read.**

Article 30

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept, on behalf of the Town, unconditional gifts of property and/or donations that they feel are in the Town's best interest to accept. **Accepted as read.**

Article 31

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to dispose of Town-owned personal property, which they deem unusable, on such terms as they deem advisable. **Accepted as read.**

Article 32

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to make the final determinations regarding the closing or opening of roads to winter maintenance, pursuant to 29-A M.R.S.A., Section 2054 and the posting of roads to heavy traffic, when appropriate or necessary. **Accepted as read.**

Article 33

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to set the date of the next Annual Town Meeting. **Accepted as read.**

**Meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.**

*Respectfully Submitted,*  
**Sara J. Liscomb**  
*Interim Town Manager/Clerk*

## Artisans & Antiques

*Unique Finds with Local Character*

Artisans & Antiques offers a curated mix of handcrafted goods, vintage pieces, and coastal-inspired items, showcasing the creativity and charm of the Schoodic Peninsula.




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*Celebrating craftsmanship and local character through unique and timeless pieces.*

# Budget Committee Recommendations

## For FY 2026–2027 Budget

Meeting- Wednesday, April 15, 2026

### Members in attendance:

Sandy Fortin (Co-Chair), Glenn Moshier (Co-Chair), Patrick Boeshans, Jacque Jacobs, Barry Raymond, Polly Earl, Ruth Littlefield, Don Littlefield, Jean Robertson, Wayne Martin **Unable to attend:** Billy Bickford, Peter Drinkwater

The Budget Committee was formed by nominations at the 2025 Town Meeting. However, after many individuals declined participation or resigned, additional members were voted in later by the Selectboard to achieve a full 12 members.

This resulted after confusion regarding the current Budget Ordinance language that states the committee “may have 12 members” perform the duties. With only 6 members initially, the committee was not able to meet a 7 member quorum requirement by town officials.

The committee recruited additional members and recommended to the Select Board successfully. The committee nominated and approved Sandy Fortin and Glenn Moshier as Co-chairs and Polly Earl as Secretary.

The committee worked diligently to receive financial transparency from the Town officials including budget history over the past 3 years and recent years’ carryover funds. The committee worked to find a suitable meeting space for logistics, ergonomics and acoustic considerations to make it accessible to its members and community. As a result, the Town established a new Meeting Policy to require all committees to hold meetings at the town office, unless size does not comfortably accommodate.

The Town also drafted a new Budget Committee Ordinance to reduce the number of members to 5 with an alternate. The Budget Committee formed a Task Committee to review and make recommendations on behalf of the community. Recommendations were heard by the Selectboard on April 9th. To be considered at the special Town Meeting on April 22, 2026:

### Custom Budget Report

#### Expenses

#### Administration:

Budget Committee recommends approval. The salaries reflect a 5.8% raise (3% merit 2.8% COLA). The committee also would recommend overtime only be administered after 40 hours vs. the current 35 hours per the Federal Labor Standards Act (FLSA).

# Budget Committee Recommendations

## Cont'd

### **Board of Assessors/Planning Board:**

Budget Committee does not recommend approval. The committee recommends

eliminate \$2000 in 02-25 (Mapping expense) due to \$10,510 carryover and reduce 02-24 (Professional Services) by half to \$3750 for next year (2027) due

to \$10,510 carryover.

### **Gymnasium:**

Budget Committee recommends approval. Discussion was had to improve cleanliness of the facility; request volunteers spot clean before leaving.

### **Municipal Public Safety Building:**

Budget Committee recommends approval. The Committee discussed reviewing housekeeping expense to consider contracted position vs. paid staff to reduce 2.8% COLA increase each year.

The committee recommends appropriate portion of repayment of the Investment Fund be tracked in Municipal Building category.

### **Town Wharf:**

Budget Committee recommends approval with an understanding that a quote for repairs be available by the town meeting to justify the \$30,000 maintenance expense line. The Committee also requested verification that all mooring fees as the Revenues in Fees do not reflect all mooring fees were collected. The committee recommends reviewing the process for collecting mooring fees, raising mooring fees, and/or charging a late fee.

### **Scout Camp:**

Budget Committee recommends approval. The committee recognized the value of waterfront recreation property for community members and appreciates the work done to bring the property up to safety standards.

### **Fire Dept:**

Budget Committee does not recommend. The overall budget needs to be revisited especially considering three job positions have been incorporated into one. Related expenses should be posted to each of the three department budgets. The committee recommends our town officials see regional support from Schoodic Area League of Towns (SALT). The Fire Department decreased the new fire truck expense through fundraising, Auxiliary Fire donation, and sale of the old truck. The committee recommends an appropriate portion of repayment of the Investment Fund be tracked in the Fire Department category.

## Budget Committee Recommendations Cont'd.

### **Police Dept.:**

The Budget Committee recommends approval. The PD Carry-Over fund balance is \$78,218 for new cruisers. Years of our current vehicles are 2022 and 2023 and cruisers usually last 5-10 years. One will be sold in two years to generate revenue to reduce cost of future purchases. The committee approves adding \$12,000 annually to the sinking fund.

### **Town Roads:**

Budget Committee does not recommend approval.

The committee recommends reducing Road Commissioner expenses by half to \$7500.

### **Solid Waste:**

The Budget Committee does not recommend the Solid Waste Budget of \$111,375. Use carryover fund of \$11,175.77 to reduce expenses.

### **Misc:**

The Budget Committee does recommend.

### **Special Projects:**

The Budget Committee does recommend.

### **Comments and Concerns:**

- We are over budget and have a shortfall of over \$300,000
- Recommends the Town review the personnel policy to see if it is prudent to pay overtime at 40 hours vs 35 hours per the Federal Labor Standards Act (FLSA).
- Town Clean-Up Day contract is very high but there is only one contractor who is willing to do it. Some here wondered if it would save money to have this event held only one day each year; is one day is cheaper?

## **Custom Budget Report**

### **Revenue**

The Budget Committee, seeing a shortfall of over \$300,000, recommends several cuts in expenses. The committee also recommends reviewing all Permit Fees to increase them to the state average. Fees could also be applied specifically to their related program such as dog license fees help reduce expenses for Animal Control. Mooring Fees reduce the Wharf expenses. The town may consider promoting more rental of the Gymnasium to help offset maintenance and consider charging non-residents an annual fee for their use of the gym.

## Budget Committee Recommendations Cont'd.

Increasing passive income by replenishing the Investment Fund could help increase Revenue as well. Future withdrawals from the Investment Fund must come with clear repayment recommendation like any infrastructure or capital loan to avoid compromising the passive income potential for which the fund was intended.

The town's current investment account is approximately \$3,100,000 compared to the original value of \$5,000,000. Bar Harbor Wealth Management provided potential repayment scenarios. The total shortfall of 1,900,000 repayment at 0% interest is:

5 Year Term \$380,000 per year

10 Year Term \$190,000 "

15 Year Term \$126,000. "

Since a new Fire Truck and Town Road have a 10-year useful life, then a 10 year repayment should be considered, if the community supports it. The town borrowed funds from our investment fund to build the Municipal building. If a 30-year mortgage had been taken out, we would be in a 15-year repayment cycle. (as the building is approaching 15 years). Repaying the debt with at least 15-year term should be considered, if the community supports it.

The committee recommends an appropriate portion of repayment of the Investment Fund be tracked in the appropriate Town Roads, Municipal Building, and Fire Department budgets.

### WINTER HARBOR BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

#### Musquito Harbor Brewing Company

##### *Craft Beverages and Community Connection*

Musquito Harbor Brewing Company offers a selection of small-batch beers alongside a welcoming space for gathering and community events. More than a brewery, it serves as a local hub where residents and visitors come together to enjoy live music, social events, and time with friends.



*A gathering place where craft beverages and community come together.*

# Town of Winter Harbor, Maine

## 2026 Annual Town Meeting

### The Warrant

Hancock, S.S.

STATE OF MAINE

TO: Danny Mitchell, Jr., Police Chief of Winter Harbor in the County of Hancock:

You are hereby required to notify and warn the residents of the Town of Winter Harbor, qualified to vote in town affairs, to meet at the Winter Harbor Municipal Building, 20 School Street in said Town, on Tuesday, the ninth of June 2026, at 8:00 am, then and there to act on Articles 1 and 2, (Polling hours: 8:00 am to 8:00 pm);

And to notify said residents to reconvene at Hammond Hall, 427 Main Street in said Town at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, the sixteenth day of June 2025 to act on Articles 3-33, as set out below, to wit:

#### Article 1

To elect a Moderator to preside at said meeting.

#### Article 2

To elect the following town officials by secret ballot: one member to the Board of Selectmen/Assessors/Overseers of the Poor to serve until the 2029 annual town meeting; one Member to the Planning Board to serve a five year term until the 2031 annual town meeting; one Alternate Member to the Planning Board to serve a five year term until the 2031 annual town meeting; one Member to the Planning Board to serve a partial term until the 2027 annual town meeting; one Alternate Member to the Planning Board to serve a partial term until the 2027 annual town meeting; one Utilities District Trustee to serve until the 2029 annual town meeting; one Water District Trustee to serve until the 2029 annual town meeting.

### ARTICLES PERTAINING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF OTHER TOWN OFFICIALS

#### Article 3

To choose two (2) residents with a term ending June 30, 2027, two (2) residents with a term ending June 30, 2028, one (1) resident with a term ending June 30, 2029 and one (1) alternate resident with a term ending June 30, 2027 to serve on the Winter Harbor Budget Committee.

#### Article 4

To choose fifteen (15) residents to serve as members of the Winter Harbor Cemetery Association Board of Trustees for the ensuing year.

#### Article 5

To choose five (5) residents to serve on the Recreation Committee Board of Directors for the ensuing year.

#### Article 6

To choose seven (7) residents to serve on the Harbor Committee for the ensuing year, the residents to be selected as follows: three (3) commercial fishermen, two (2) recreational boaters, and two (2) residents at large.

Article 7

To choose three (3) Trustee for a five-year term to serve as members of the Winter Harbor Public Library Board of Trustees.

Article 8

To choose six (6) residents to serve on the Lobster Festival Committee for the ensuing year.

Article 9

To fix the salary for the ensuing year of the appointed Harbor Master in accordance with the Harbor Ordinance. (Currently \$2,500)

Article 10

To see if the Town will vote to have the Board of Selectmen appoint all other Town officials and members of Town boards and committees.

SCHOOL BUDGET ARTICLES

Notice

The Town's share of the Regional School Unit Budget has been set: **\$1,118,973**  
(FY 25-26 - \$1,104,364)

MUNICIPAL BUDGET ARTICLES - General Fund Expenditures

Article 11

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$338,456.00 for General Government Administration. *(The Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend approval.)*

| <u>General Government</u> |                | <u>FY 25-26</u> | <u>FY 26-27</u>     |
|---------------------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Total:                    | Administration | \$297,238.00    | <u>\$338,456.00</u> |

Article 12

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$11,020.00 for the Board of Assessors and Planning Board. *(The Board of Selectmen recommend approval. Budget Committee does not recommend approval.)*

| <u>Board of Assessors/Planning Board</u> |  | <u>FY 25-26</u> | <u>FY 26-27</u> |
|------------------------------------------|--|-----------------|-----------------|
| Assessing                                |  | \$10,700.00     | \$4,950.00      |
| HCPC                                     |  | 715.00          | 2,358.00        |
| CEO                                      |  | <u>3,602.00</u> | <u>3,712.00</u> |
| <u>Total: Board of Assessors/PB</u>      |  | \$15,017.00     | \$11,020.00     |

Article 13

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$141,756.00 for operation, maintenance, and repair of town facilities. (The Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend approval.)

| <u>Town Building Operations</u> |  | <u>FY 25-26</u> | <u>FY 26-27</u> |
|---------------------------------|--|-----------------|-----------------|
| Gym                             |  | \$21,588.00     | \$18,822.00     |
| Municipal Public Safety Bldg    |  | 28,744.00       | 29,483.00       |
| Wharf                           |  | 34,200.00       | 34,400.00       |
| Scout Cabin                     |  | <u>3,275.00</u> | <u>3,275.00</u> |

|                             |              |                  |
|-----------------------------|--------------|------------------|
| Misc Buildings Expenses     | 20,000.00    | 20,000.00        |
| Facilities Maint. Director  | <u>0.00</u>  | <u>35,776.00</u> |
| <u>Total: Town Bldg Ops</u> | \$107,807.00 | \$141,756.00     |

Article 14

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$415,092.00 for Public Safety. *(The Board of Selectmen recommends approval and Budget Committee does not recommend approval.)*

|                      |                     |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| <u>Public Safety</u> | <u>FY 25-26</u>     | <u>FY 26-27</u>     |
| Fire Department      | \$197,416.00        | \$135,324.00        |
| Police Department    | <u>\$243,061.00</u> | <u>\$279,768.00</u> |
| Total: Public Safety | \$440,477.00        | \$415,092.00        |

Article 15

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$129,400.00 for Ambulance Service. *(The Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend approval.)* FY 2025-2026 - \$118,814.00

Article 16

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$688,416.00 for the following miscellaneous expenses or appropriations. *(The Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend approval.)*

Miscellaneous

|                                             |              |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Library                                     | \$ 20,000.00 |
| General Assistance                          | 1,000.00     |
| Cemeteries                                  | 7,000.00     |
| Third Party Requests:                       |              |
| American Red Cross                          | 350.00       |
| Community Action (Formally DCP)             | 18500        |
| Downeast Community Partners                 | 995.00       |
| Downeast Horizons                           | 1,500.00     |
| Downeast Trans-Island Explorer              | 600.00       |
| Eastern Area on Aging                       | 1,400.00     |
| Eleanor Widener Dixon Memorial Clinic       | 1,000.00     |
| Families First Community Center             | 1,000.00     |
| H.O.M.E. Inc.                               | 461.00       |
| Hospice Volunteers of Hancock County        | 800.00       |
| LifeFlight Foundation                       | 461.00       |
| Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry                 | 250.00       |
| Schoodic Arts for All                       | 750.00       |
| Schoodic National Scenic Byway              | 1,500.00     |
| Schoodic Food Pantry                        | 5,000.00     |
| Sweetser                                    | 500.00       |
| Winter Harbor Historical Society            | 5,000.00     |
| Women, Infants & Children Nutrition Program | 450.00       |
| Yesterday's Children, Inc.                  | 200.00       |

|                            |               |
|----------------------------|---------------|
| Total-Third Party Requests | \$21,407.00   |
| Hydrants                   | 63,050.00     |
| County Tax                 | 156,983.00    |
| Solid Waste                | 100,200.00    |
| Roads                      | 313,776.00    |
| Lawn & Grounds Maintenance | 5,000.00      |
| TOTAL: Miscellaneous       | \$ 688,416.00 |
| FY 25-26 = \$634,620.00    |               |

**Notification to Taxpayers:**

The taxpayers of the Town of Winter Harbor are hereby notified that the sum of \$156,983.00 will be required for payment of Winter Harbor's share of the Hancock County taxes. (FY 25-26 = \$133,463.00) **Note: County Tax is increased by \$23,520.00**

Article 17

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$203,216.00 for the following Special Projects. (The Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend approval.)

| <u>Special Projects</u>   | <u>FY 25-26</u> | <u>FY 26-27</u> |
|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Comprehensive Plan        | \$18,500.00     | \$0.00          |
| Homestead Exemption       | 5,000.00        | 5,000.00        |
| Property Revaluation      | 3,000.00        | 3,000.00        |
| Downtown Revitalization   | 3,500.00        | 3,500.00        |
| Sewer Note                | 82,616.00       | 82,616.00       |
| Recreation Committee      | 4,250.00        | 9,000.00        |
| Investment Fund Repayment | 60,000.00       | 100,000.00      |
| Records Conservation      | 100.00          | 100.00          |
| Total: Special Projects   | \$176,966.00    | \$203,216.00    |

**MUNICIPAL BUDGET ARTICLES - General Fund Revenues**

**Article 18**

To see if the Town will vote to apply the following 2026/2027 receipts to the General Fund appropriations to offset taxes. (The Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend approval.)

| <u>Category</u>              | <u>Estimated Amount</u> |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Auto Excise Taxes            | \$ 110,000.00           |
| Boat Excise Taxes            | 2,000.00                |
| Gym Rental                   | 500.00                  |
| Clerk's Fees                 | 3,500.00                |
| Permit Fees                  | 1,500.00                |
| Sale, Trash Bags             | 20,000.00               |
| Interest: Tax & Bank Account | 20,000.00               |
| Payment in Lieu of Taxes     | 28,000.00               |
| Miscellaneous Revenues       | 1,350.00                |
| Total                        | \$ 186,850.00           |

Article 19

To see if the Town will vote to accept and expend, to offset taxes, the categories of funds listed below as provided by the Maine State Legislature. (The Board of Selectmen recommends approval.)

| <u>Category</u>                   | <u>Estimated Amount</u> |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| General Assistance Reimbursement  | \$ 500.00               |
| Homestead Exemption Reimbursement | 23,000.00               |
| State Revenue Sharing Funds       | 50,117.00               |
| Tree Growth Reimbursement         | 14,000.00               |
| Veterans' Exemption Reimbursement | 650.00                  |
| Total: Estimated Revenues         | \$88,267.00             |
| FY 25-26 - \$81,150.00            |                         |

Article 20

To see if the Town will vote to place unexpended balances from this fiscal year into a tax reduction reserve account to be used to reduce the tax commitment for the next fiscal year. *(The Board of Selectmen recommends approval.)*

SPECIAL FUND FINANCIAL ARTICLES

Article 21

To see if the Town will appropriate all Local Roads Assistance Program funds (estimated \$19,588.00) to the Town Roads account for capital improvement. *(The Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend approval.)*

GENERAL FINANCIAL ARTICLES

Article 22

To see if the Town will vote to have the 2026/2027 fiscal year taxes due in two increments: one-half to be due on or before October 31, 2026, and one-half to be due on or before April 30, 2027; and to have interest charged at the annual rate of 7% on any taxes paid after the due dates. *(The Board of Selectmen recommends approval.)*

Article 23

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector to accept prepayment (i.e., prior to the date of commitment) of taxes and vote to pay 0% interest on said payments. *(The Board of Selectmen recommends approval.)*

Article 24

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector to pay interest to any taxpayer who makes an overpayment of taxes, pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. Section 506-A, at a rate of 6.00% per annum. *(The Board of Selectmen recommends approval.)*

Article 25

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to offer to sell any property automatically acquired by tax liens to the previous owner(s) for payment of all back taxes, fees and interest; should the previous owner decline to redeem the property after 30 days' notice, to authorize the Selectmen to follow the special sale process required by 36 M.R.S.A. §943-C; and further to allow the Selectmen to authorize the Treasurer to waive automatic lien foreclosures when it is in the best interest of the Town *(The Board of Selectmen recommends approval.)*

Article 26

To see if the Town will vote to increase the property tax levy limit established for Winter Harbor by State law, in the event that the municipal budget approved, at this Town Meeting results in a tax commitment in excess of the maximum property tax levy otherwise applicable, such that the increased maximum property tax levy hereby established will equal the amount committed. (*The Board of Selectmen recommends approval.*)

**MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES**Article 27

To see if the Town will adopt an Ordinance entitled "Site Plan Review Ordinance", dated July 15, 2025.

Article 28

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept and expend, on behalf of the Town, any Federal or State funds received. (*The Board of Selectmen recommends approval.*)

Article 29

To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to borrow or appropriate from "Unappropriated Surplus" as they deem advisable to meet unanticipated expenses and emergencies that occur during the 2026/2027 fiscal year. (\$20,000 *customary amount*)

Article 30

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept, on behalf of the Town, unconditional gifts of property and/or donations that they feel are in the Town's best interest to accept.

Article 31

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to dispose of Town-owned personal property, which they deem unusable, on such terms as they deem advisable.

Article 32

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to make the final determinations regarding the closing or opening of roads to winter maintenance, pursuant to 29-A M.R.S.A., Section 2054 and the posting of roads to heavy traffic, when appropriate or necessary.

Article 33

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to set the date of the next Annual Town Meeting.



Design and Layout by Misti and Sara