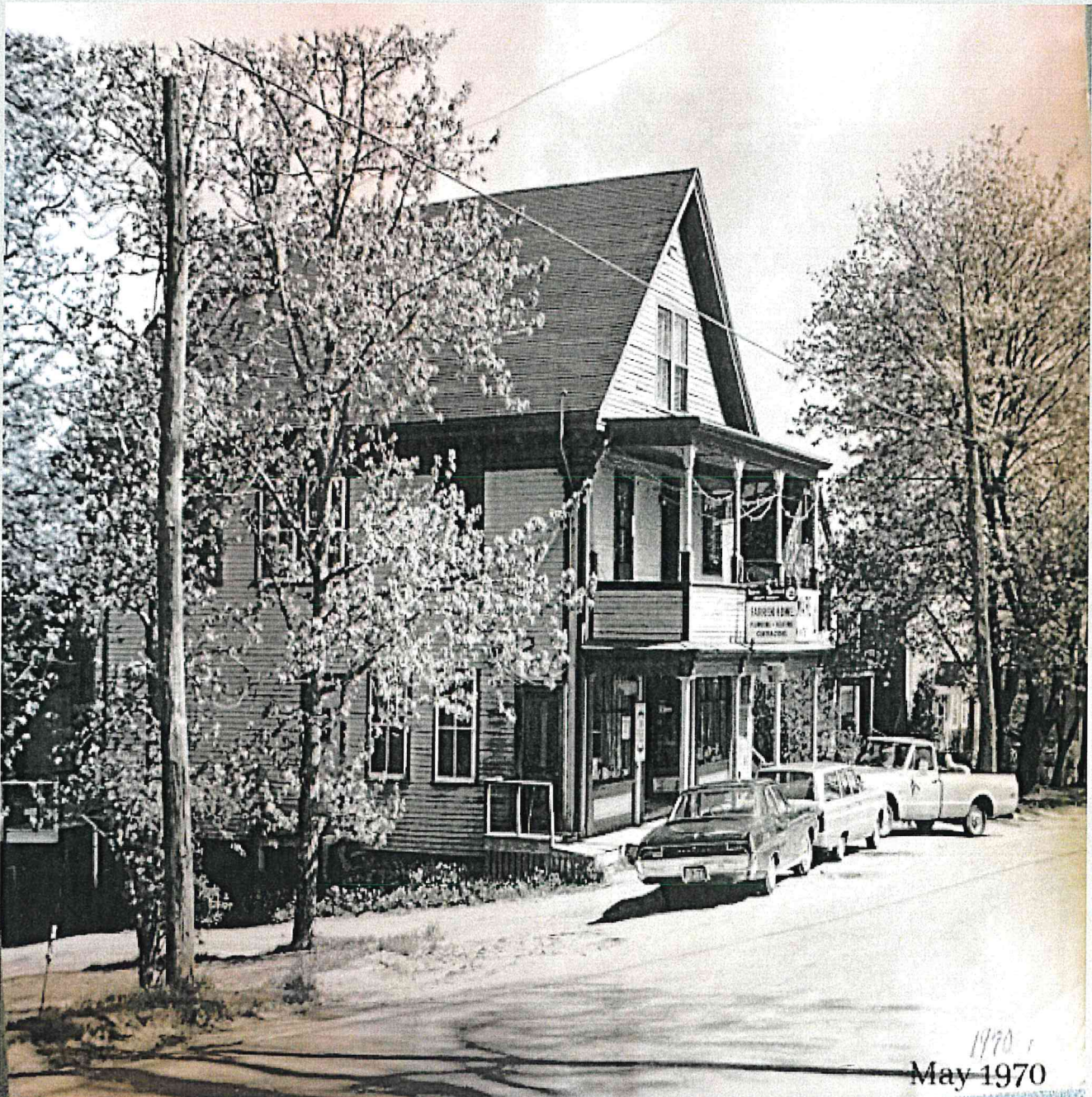



Town of Columbia Falls Annual Report 2024



A photograph of a dirt path winding through a forest. The trees are tall and thin, with green and yellow leaves. The path is covered in fallen yellow and orange leaves. The text is overlaid on the lower half of the image.

**The Selectboard, with
a suggestion from a
resident, chose to
acknowledge the
Youth Hunters
of the Town this year.
Congratulations to
all!**

Belle Bouchard

14 Years Old / 1st Harvested Deer.



Brielle Farren

12 Years Old



Sierra Farren

10 Years Old



John Greene

9 Years Old / 1st Harvested Deer.



Willow McManus

13 Years Old



Isla Perry

10 Years Old



Paulie Jacob Rainville

15 Years Old / 1st Harvested Deer.



Town of Columbia Falls
PO Box 100
Columbia Falls, Maine 04623
Phone 207-483-4067 Fax 207-483-3825
townofcolumbiafalls@gmail.com
columbiafallsmaine.org

Town Officers and Officials as of March 1, 2025

Board of Selectmen:	Nelson (Tony) Santiago, Chair (2026) Jessica (Jessie Bouchard) (2027) Jeffrey Greene (2025)
Administrative Assistant:	Melissa Allen-Ramsdell (Town Clerk, Tax Collector, Registrar of Voters)
Deputy Administrative Assistant:	Beth Miller (Deputy Town Clerk, Tax Collector, Registrar of Voters)
Treasurer:	Grace Falzarano
Animal Control Officer:	Elwin Wright
Code Enforcement Officer:	Stanley Mitchell
Fire Chief:	Cecil Gray, Jr.
General Assistant Officer:	Grace Falzarano
Health Officer:	Joseph Bragg
Local Plumbing Inspector:	Betsy Fitzgerald
Road Commissioner:	Mike Bailey (2025)
Assessing Agent:	Downeast Assessing Service Marc Perry CMA
SAD #37 Directors:	David Perham (2025) Dara Knapp (2027)
Pleasant River Ambulance:	Courtney Hammond Nelson (Tony) Santiago
Planning Board:	Dave Perham, Chair (2026) Philip Worcester (2025) Rusty Schmelzer (2027) Malinda Worcester, Alternate (2025) Vance Pineo, Jr., Alternate, (2027)
Constables:	Elwin Wright Shane Emerson

Vital Statistics

January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024

Births: 4

Marriages: 4

Deaths: 8

Thaxter, Patricia B	01/01/2024
Drisko, Lynn A	02/28/2024
Emerson, Donnee Jo	09/05/2024
Smith, Muriel G	09/15/2024
Farnsworth, Judith B	09/22/2024
Ortega, Mary E	10/28/2024
Capp, Harry F	10/29/2024
Worthen, Cindy Lou	11/07/2024

“Death leaves a heartache no one can heal,
Love leaves a memory no one can steal.”

Richard Puz



Dedication and Honor

Muriel G. Smith



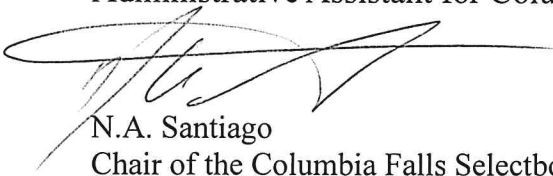
The Columbia Falls Board of Selectmen wish to Honor and Dedicate this year's 2024 Town Report to Muriel G. Smith.

Muriel served as the Town's Administrative Assistant for many years.

Muriel was born on November 17, 1945, to Wendell and Marilena Tucker. She spent most of her childhood in Columbia Falls until her family moved to Holden. Muriel graduated from Brewer High School in 1964. She would later move back to Columbia Falls where she lived with her husband Gordon and two sons, Dwayne and Dale.

Muriel's Deputy Assistant said Muriel loved her job with the Town and would often take the job home with her if someone needed assistance after hours. She said in 2007 Muriel received a Letter of Commendation from the Secretary of State for having the best BMV training facility and the best decorated office. She also remembers the time a young couple came in the office in urgent need of a Justice of the Peace. There wasn't a Justice of the Peace available, so Muriel, being a Notary Public, married the couple right then and there.

Muriel will be remembered for her love of family and friends, her great sense of humor, her love of the Columbia Falls Community and her many years of service as the Administrative Assistant for Columbia Falls.



N.A. Santiago
Chair of the Columbia Falls Selectboard

Town Office Hours:

Monday through Thursday 8am-4pm.

We are closed for all
Federal and State Holidays.

We also follow the MSAD #37 cancellation and delay policy for inclement weather.

Tax Assessor: Please call Marc Perry for an appointment at 207-460-9949 or email downtownassessing@gmail.com

Town Library Hours:

Tuesday	1pm-4pm
Saturday	10am-2pm

Scheduled Meetings:

Selectmen's meetings are held the second and fourth Mondays of the month at 6:30pm in the Town Office, unless posted on our Facebook page or in the Post Office.

The Planning Board meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm in the Town Office, unless posted on our Facebook page or in the Post Office.

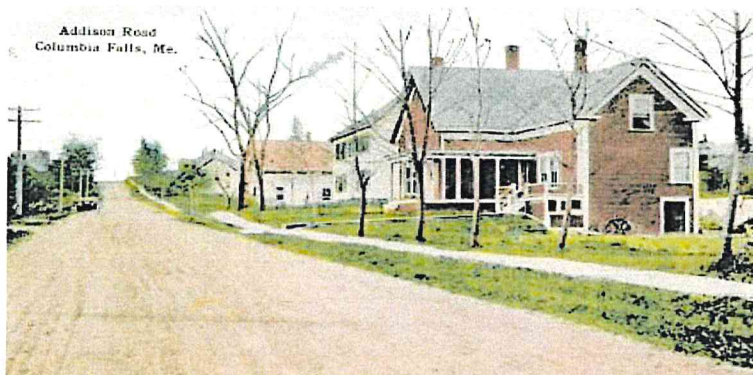
Please check out the Town's website at columbiafallsmaine.org for Town information and events.

Town of Columbia Falls Maine



You can also keep up to date with meetings and other Town news on our Facebook page.

Town of Columbia Falls, Maine



Columbia Falls Selectman's Report 2024

As a reminder the town has a Facebook page and town Web Site with Zoom broadcasting/interaction capabilities of our meetings, improving the timeliness and relevance of information available to our Town. Please reach out to the office for more information.

We have been working on a Street light Ordinance which will be presented to the town for vote on a warrant Article this year. Versant has been working with us to ensure we are paying for the lights accurately. The Street Light Ordinance will be an official guide to the authorized locations, removal and addition of Street lights in our Town.

Our Town's roads are one of our largest expenses. We are still looking into possibly combining a Sand & Salt Shed with the Town of Columbia a process that may take two to three years with help from a grant. This year we anticipate paving Rt. 1 to Great Hill. Tibbettstown Road ditching, culvert work and roadside mowing will be accomplished this year. Other work includes town road sweeping and road grading, and the guardrail repair/replace on Cross Road.

In 2022, the Town obtained a land use enforcement judgment on a (non-conformance lot). The Machias District Court awarded the Town \$17,700.32 in land use fines and attorneys' fees, as well as pre and post judgment interest on that debt. In 2023, the Town initiated a disclosure proceeding in the Machias District Court to secure payment of the judgment debt owed to the Town by the landowner. In August of 2024, representatives of the Town and the landowner agreed to continue these disclosure proceedings until 2025 to provide the parties with additional time to explore a resolution that would obviate the need for a disclosure hearing before the Court. Currently, a disclosure hearing to enforce the Town's judgment debt is scheduled for May 2025.

Maine Revenue sets a guideline for doing revaluations every 10 years, the Town has not done a revaluation in the last 20 or so years, maybe longer (no record exists). This year's Town Warrant has an article to start funding a town revaluation. Revaluation discussions are never easy, but it is a conversation worth having. It's the Select Board's responsibility to maintain all things in a fair manner along with maintaining a fiscally responsible Town Budget in order to keep the mil rate as low as feasibly possible every year so as to not burden taxpayers more than necessary to run the Town. At this year's town meeting we hope to have a good discussion about this, please bring your questions and concerns.

Great thanks go out to our wonderful Town Office staff, committee members, and many volunteers for their sacrifice of time and effort to breathe life into this town.

Nelson "Tony" Santiago

Jeffrey Greene

Jessica Bouchard

Jessica Bouchard

2025 Scheduled Selectmen's Meetings

Monday, January 13 th at 6:30pm	Monday, January 27 th at 6:30pm
Monday, February 10 th at 6:30pm	Monday, February 24 th at 6:30pm
Monday, March 10 th at 6:30pm	Monday, March 24 th at 6:30pm
Monday, April 14 th at 6:30pm	Monday, April 28 th at 6:30pm
Monday, May 12 th at 6:30pm	Tuesday, May 27 th at 6:30pm*
Monday, June 9 th at 6:30pm	Monday, June 23 rd at 6:30pm
Monday, July 14 th at 6:30pm	Monday, July 28 th at 6:30pm
Monday, August 11 th at 6:30pm	Monday, August 25 th at 6:30pm
Monday, September 8 th at 6:30pm	Monday, September 22 nd at 6:30pm
Tuesday, October 14 th at 6:30pm*	Monday, October 27 th at 6:30pm
Monday, November 10 th at 6:30pm	Monday, November 24 th at 6:30pm
Monday, December 8 th at 6:30pm	Monday, December 22 nd at 6:30pm
*Indicates change in schedule due to a holiday.	Any changes will be posted on the Town's Facebook page and at the Post Office.

2025 Scheduled Planning Board Meetings

Tuesday, January 21 st at 6:30pm	Tuesday, February 18 th at 6:30pm
Tuesday, March 18 th at 6:30pm	Tuesday, April 15 th at 6:30pm
Tuesday, May 20 th at 6:30pm	Tuesday, June 17 th at 6:30pm
Tuesday, July 15 th at 6:30pm	Tuesday, August 19 th at 6:30pm
Tuesday, September 16 th at 6:30pm	Tuesday, October 21 st at 6:30pm
Tuesday, November 18 th at 6:30pm	Tuesday, December 16 th at 6:30pm
	Any changes will be posted on the Town's Facebook page and at the Post Office.

Both the Selectmen's meetings and the Planning Board meetings are open to the public and attendance to both is encouraged.

Reminders:

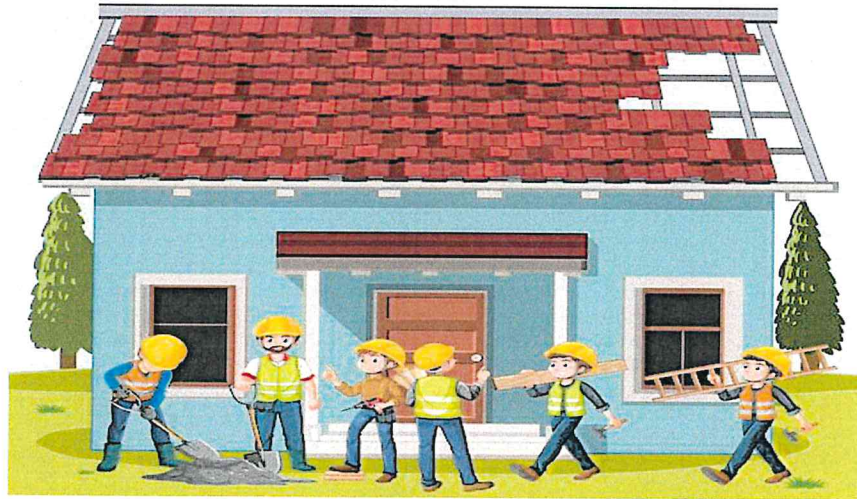
Dog Licensing: Dog licenses are due and payable by January 31st of each year. October 15th the new dog licenses are available to be sold for the coming year. There is a \$25 late fee for licensing your dog after January 31st.

Boat Registrations: expire December 31st of each year.

Real Estate Taxes: are due by December 31st of each year. Interest will begin on January 1st of each year.

ATV & Snowmobile Registrations: expire on June 30th of each year.

Automobile Registrations: Current insurance cards, mileage and prior registrations are needed to register a vehicle. The Town also offers Rapid Renewal online.



Building Permits Issued in 2024

<u>Building Type</u>	<u>Permits Issued</u>
Garage	1
Out Buildings	7
Home(s)	2
Addition(s)	2

Building Permits are reviewed on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM, unless otherwise noted.

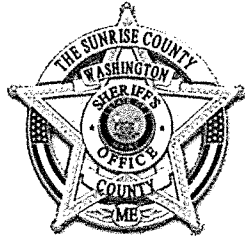
Washington County Sheriff's Office

Barry Curtis
Sheriff

Michael Crabtree
Chief Deputy

Richard Rolfe
Jail Administrator

Paula Johnson-Rolfe
Office Manager



83 Court Street
Machias, Maine 04654
Telephone: (207) 255-4422
Fax: (207) 255-3641

February 12, 2025

TO THE CITIZENS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY:

As I reflect on the past year, many thoughts come to mind, including pride, progress, challenges, and optimism. I am entering my 11th year as your Sheriff. I am expressing my sincere appreciation to the citizens of Washington County for their overwhelming support and steadfast confidence in myself and the Washington County Sheriff's Office employees.

The Washington County Sheriff's Office performs vital services in four separate divisions. In 2024, our patrol division responded to 9,643 calls. They also performed daily rural patrols, spent tireless hours on critical criminal investigations, and attended numerous community and public safety activities. Our civil division serves all civil-related documents within the county and processed 925 documents in 2024. The Regional Communications Center is the public safety answering and dispatching service for fire, ambulance, and law enforcement agencies in Washington County. They answered 22,320 calls in 2024. The Washington County Jail provides a safe and secure environment for incarcerated individuals. In 2024, the Washington County Jail booked 621 individuals into their facility.

As responsibilities and volume of work have continuously increased over the last several years, personnel increased as well. The administrative offices and our civil and patrol divisions are housed in the original Sheriff's office building, built in 1858 at 83 Court Street in Machias. Unfortunately, the growth and deteriorating condition of this building are no longer adequate for our needs. Fortunately, the Washington County Commissioners recognized our needs and unanimously voted to expend ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds to construct a new facility. In April 2024, groundwork commenced at 82 Court Street in Machias, where construction will conclude by late April or early May 2025.

In closing, I express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to all the Washington County Sheriff's Office employees who take pride in their work and are committed to protecting the lives and property of the people we serve. I am immensely proud of their dedication to carrying out our mission with honor, integrity, and the highest ethical standards.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barry Curtis".

Sheriff Barry Curtis



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

(207) 287-1440
TTY: (207) 287-4469

Tiffany Strout

12 Anderson Lane
Harrington, ME 04643
Home Phone: (207) 598-7043
Tiffany.Strout@legislature.maine.gov

January 2025

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

We are just beginning the first year of the 132nd Legislative session and I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you once more as your State Representative.

I am honored to share that I will be serving a second term on the Marine Resources Committee in the Maine State Legislature. This committee plays a vital role in protecting Maine's marine industries, particularly our lobstermen and women, who are the backbone of our coastal economy. As a proud advocate for the fishing community, I will continue to fight for policies that safeguard their rights, support sustainable practices, and ensure that government regulations do not undermine their livelihoods. I look forward to working on behalf of those who depend on Maine's waters to sustain their families and our economy.

In addition, this session I have bills working their way through the legislative process dealing with long term care, school funding, blueberry tax, halibut fishing, elver fishing, the hemp industry, bait fish and renaming a bridge in Roque Bluffs the Hope Bridge.

Please know that your voice is valuable to me. I encourage you to contact me with questions, comments, or concerns about state government. I can be reached at Tiffany.Strout@legislature.maine.gov or by phone at (207) 598-7043.

Again, thank you for giving me the honor of serving you at the State House and may you all have a safe and healthy 2025.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tiffany Strout".

Tiffany Strout
State Representative

132nd Legislature
Senate of
Maine
Senate District 6

Senator Marianne Moore
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0003
(207) 287-1505
Marianne.Moore@legislature.maine.gov

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 sworn in for my fourth term on December 4, 2024, the first day of the First Regular Session of the 132nd Maine State Legislature. It was a ceremonial day steeped in tradition and attended by families and friends of incoming members.

Many of you have reached out to me regarding concerns about the increasingly high costs of energy, childcare, housing, fears about education, mental health, substance abuse, workforce development, and community safety, among others. As your State Senator, I promise to advocate for common sense solutions to these problems.

The 132nd Maine Legislature has much work ahead of us regarding our anticipated budget gap and setting our spending priorities for the next biennium. However, I believe there is nothing we cannot accomplish if we work collaboratively. As your State Senator, I will continue to do all I can to advocate for your priorities in Augusta.

Again, thank you for re-electing me to serve you in the State Senate. Despite many successes over the past two years, lawmakers will have a lot of work to do next session. 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



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

Dear Friends,

I hope this letter finds you safe and well. It's an honor to continue serving as your representative in Congress, and I take the responsibility very seriously. I appreciate the opportunity to update you on what I've been working on behalf of the people of the Second Congressional District.

Maine's heritage industries are the backbone of our state's economy. That is why one of the first bills I introduced in this Congress was the *Northeast Fisheries Heritage Protection Act*, which would prohibit commercial offshore wind energy development in Lobster Management Area 1 (LMA 1) in the Gulf of Maine. LMA 1 was identified by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) as a potential commercial offshore wind site. LMA 1 is a critical and highly productive fishing ground for a variety of sea life, including lobster. Prohibiting offshore wind development in LMA 1 would help to avoid conflict with the New England commercial and recreational fishing industries. Additionally, the bill would initiate a federal study on the environmental review processes of any relevant Federal agencies for offshore wind projects in the Gulf of Maine.

I also continue to advocate on behalf of our veterans and those providing care to our former service members. The current pay for VA employees in the Kennebec and Penobscot counties does not reflect the critical services they are providing. As the oldest state in the nation, with the fifth highest veteran population, Mainers rely on the services offered at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) facilities. That's why recently, Senator Collins, Senator King, Representative Pingree, and I called on the Biden Administration to increase locality pay for VA employees in Kennebec and Penobscot counties. The level of care received is impacted by job vacancies, and the high turnover rate among its healthcare workforce is often the result of pay and compensation issues, which is further exacerbated by the increased cost of living.

Lastly, I'm excited that Mainers are continuing to reap the benefits of the *Bipartisan Infrastructure Law* (BIL). Recently, millions of dollars in grants have been awarded across the state, including \$35 million through the U.S. Department of Transportation's Culvert Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) program to conserve spawning and migratory habitats for native fish species in Maine, \$460,000 through the Airport Infrastructure Grant (AIG) program for the Princeton Municipal Airport, Stephen A. Bean Municipal Airport, and Dexter Regional Airport, and nearly \$8 million through the Buses and Bus Facilities Program for Bangor's bus system. These investments are critical to ensuring Maine's infrastructure and will help to ensure Mainers and businesses across Maine are connected.

Regardless of the year, one of my top priorities is ensuring I'm accessible to you. My staff and I can help answer questions about and navigate federal programs; find resources in Maine; and resolve issues with Medicare, Social Security, the VA, and other federal agencies and programs. We are here to help:

- **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

I look forward to building on momentum from recent legislative wins for Mainers and continuing to work on your behalf in 2024. Do not hesitate to reach out and voice an opinion on legislation, let us know about local events, or seek assistance navigating federal agencies or programs. It's an honor to represent you in Congress, and I wish you a healthy and prosperous year to come.

Respectfully,

Jared F. Golden
Member of Congress

ANGUS S. KING, JR.
MAINE

133 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
(202) 224-5344
Website: <https://www.King.Senate.gov>

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 1, 2025

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
CHAIRMAN, STRATEGIC FORCES
SUBCOMMITTEE
ENERGY AND
NATURAL RESOURCES
CHAIRMAN, NATIONAL PARKS
SUBCOMMITTEE
INTELLIGENCE
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Dear Friends,

Each year comes with renewed hope – to celebrate each other's successes and care for each other in times of need. I am thankful to each town in Maine for their commitment to their communities, to their citizens, and to this country. We always work together to get things done. This past year was no different.

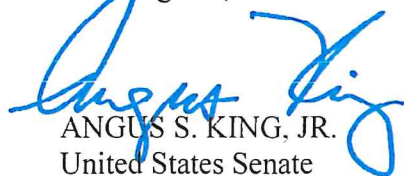
First, it was a true honor to be reelected to the United States Senate for another six-year term. Throughout my travels around the state, I heard many concerns about the cost of living and affordability of housing. Many of you also shared your concerns about access to medical and mental health services. The *Inflation Reduction Act* has been incredible for older people in Maine – Medicare is finally negotiating lower prices for prescription drugs, on top of the \$35 per month cap for insulin that took effect in 2023. We have an opportunity to build on what we have in common and do what Maine people do best; we will continue to help each other and lead through example.

I have also been consistently working to help our veterans. My team has repeatedly been successful in securing long-overdue recognition of military medals for many of Maine's combat veterans and working to resolve issues with claims, travel pay, and access to healthcare and benefits our veterans earned through their selfless service to our country. I have also worked with my Veterans Affairs and Defense partners in Washington to successfully pass a national defense bill that strengthens our national security, takes care of our service members, and supports Maine businesses from Aroostook to York County.

I am also thankful to have such an incredible team across Maine available to you for hurdles you may face with the federal government. Whether it be veteran issues, social security problems, student loans, immigration, IRS and more, please never hesitate to reach out to my offices in Presque Isle, Bangor, Augusta, Portland, or Biddeford and allow us the chance to be part of your solutions.

Together, over the next six years, I know we can continue to build a stronger, brighter future for our great state. Thank you for being one of the reasons Maine is so special; it is not only a pleasure to serve you — it is a pleasure to know you. Mary and I wish you a happy and safe 2025.

Best Regards,



ANGUS S. KING, JR.
United States Senate

AUGUSTA
40 Western Avenue, Suite 412
Augusta, ME 04330
(207) 622-8292

BANGOR
202 Harlow Street, Suite 20350
Bangor, ME 04401
(207) 945-8000

BIDDEFORD
227 Main Street
Biddeford, ME 04005
(207) 352-5216

PORTLAND
1 Pleasant Street, Unit 4W
Portland, ME 04101
(207) 245-1565

PRESQUE ISLE
167 Academy Street, Suite A
Presque Isle, ME 04769
(207) 764-5124

SUSAN M. COLLINS
MAINE

413 DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1904
(202) 224-2623
(202) 224-2693 (FAX)

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1904

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
VICE CHAIR
HEALTH, EDUCATION,
LABOR, AND PENSIONS
SELECT COMMITTEE
ON INTELLIGENCE

Dear Friends:

It is an honor to represent Maine in the United States Senate, and I welcome this opportunity to share several key accomplishments for our state from the previous year.

As Vice Chair of the Appropriations Committee, I have secured nearly \$580 million for 230 projects across all of Maine's 16 counties to promote job creation, workforce training, and economic development; expand access to health care; support law enforcement; improve public education and infrastructure; and protect our environment. As the new Congress begins, I am honored to be taking the helm of the Committee, the first Mainer to do so in nearly a century, and I remain committed to ensuring that federal spending produces real results for our state and nation.

Maine has the oldest average age in the country, which is why I have long prioritized health-focused legislative efforts. There were more than 1,860 health care bills introduced during the 118th Congress. Only 15 health care bills were signed into law, and I was a lead sponsor of five of them. These bills will enhance care for individuals with Alzheimer's, autism, and substance abuse issues through improved research funding, strengthened public health programs, and increased support for rural first responders.

Another important bill that I coauthored was the *Social Security Fairness Act*. Since 2003, when I led the first-ever Senate hearing on the Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset, I have sought to end these provisions of the *Social Security Act* that unfairly reduce the Social Security benefits that public employees or their spouses have earned. I am pleased to say that with the passage of my bill, the *Social Security Fairness Act*, in December, public sector retirees will now receive the full Social Security benefits they have earned.

When the Maine way of life was under threat, I was certain to defend the interests of our state. I worked to protect Maine's potato farmers when the Department of Agriculture tried to reclassify the potato from a vegetable to a grain. I thwarted efforts to consolidate USPS mail operations at the Hampden postal facility, which would have disrupted mail delivery throughout our state. I sounded the alarm with leaders at the FBI and Departments of State and Treasury on the spate of illicit marijuana growing operations that are destroying properties and providing refuge to foreign criminals in our state. Following damage to our working waterfronts after last winter's storms, I secured \$15 million to help fishing communities recover. I championed funding to support the Maine Air National Guard base, Bath Iron Works, and Portsmouth Naval Shipyard.

As of last December, I have cast more than 9,100 consecutive votes, continuing my record of never missing a roll-call vote since my Senate service began in 1997. My ranking as the most bipartisan Senator reflects Maine's tradition of working with a spirit of cooperation and respect.

My highest priority as a Senator is to ensure that 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.gov.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Janet T. Mills
GOVERNOR

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

Dear Maine Resident:

I have always been guided by the belief that to strengthen our state, we have to invest in our greatest asset: the people of Maine. With the support of the Legislature, my Administration has been investing in what people need to succeed, like job training, child care, health care, education, broadband, and housing.

We are seeing results — small businesses are expanding their operations; people are moving here to work and raise their families; and graduates are staying in Maine to pursue rewarding, life-long careers. These are all encouraging signs that are reflected in the strength of our economy. In fact, Maine has one of the best rates of economic growth in the nation.

That's good news, but I know that not everyone is feeling the benefits of our strong economy. The cost of living in Maine, as in much of America, is too high. The price of fuel, the cost of supplies, utilities and labor have driven up expenses for families across the country and impacted the budgets of towns, counties and nearly every state, including Maine.

I want everyone to benefit from the availability of good jobs, a good public education, and good health care in our state. That is why I have put forward a balanced budget proposal that proposes some savings and certain targeted revenue increases to maintain things we all support, like the state paying 55 percent of the cost of education and 5 percent municipal revenue sharing, to keep all these costs from being passed along to property taxpayers.

We have made good progress over the past six years to ensure that every person in Maine can find a good-paying job in a rewarding and stable career; go to the doctor when they feel sick because they have health insurance; and have the peace of mind that their children are safe at home and at school.

I look forward to working with communities and citizens across the state to solve problems, manage our finances, and keep our people healthy and safe.

Sincerely,

Janet T. Mills
Governor



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Pleasant River Ambulance Service

24/7 911

Dispatched

183 US Hwy 1, Columbia ME 04623 207-483-2700 A non-profit, 501(c)(3), quasi-municipal entity.

February 14, 2025

To the Residents of the Towns of Addison, Columbia, Columbia Falls, and Harrington,

Greetings,

2024 was another busy year with 557 calls for service. One of our past medics returned in September, increasing the level of service available a couple of days a week. We continue our recruitment efforts for all levels of providers to complement our skilled and dedicated staff. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and thank each of our crew members for going above and beyond by giving of their own time doing all things necessary to keep the service running and for responding to second calls for service such as motor vehicle accidents and interfacility transfers. Their selflessness increases our coverage abilities and reduces response times within our communities. Thanks to them, we were never out of service during the entire year. Roster: Alec Bisson, Heather Dostie, Max Ginn, Kendra Johnson, Chris Lake, Scott Lizotte, Brandon Merrill, Kevin Merritt, Melina Merritt, Donna Mitchell, Colby Ross, Austin Rusecky, Crystal Stanley and Gary Stanley. Special thanks also to our fellow community responders and agencies for your assistance: Addison Fire, Epping Fire, Harrington Fire, Washington County Sheriff's Department, Moosabec and Bold Coast Ambulance Services.

On August 20, 2024, we were a recipient of the EMS Stabilization Grant enacted by the Maine Legislature in the amount of \$98,640. Following the rules of the grant, to date, we have purchased a Power Load and compatible stretcher for the second truck, a smart tv allowing us to access training and meetings across the state in-house, a full-body training mannequin, portable radios assigned to each employee, a safety restraint device for securing infants to the stretcher and have sent EMTs out for trainings. Monies are set aside for paramedic school when an opening occurs and for uniforms. We are awaiting news of the second grant phase, Sustainability, to open. We do not know yet what the requirements for that will be.

In November we hosted a well-attended and very beneficial LifeFlight ground training at Narraguagus Jr/Sr High School with 48 attendees from Machias to Gouldsboro. Gary Stanley held an extrication training on February 2nd at the High School which was also well attended. We look forward to hosting more trainings throughout the year.

We continue to look forward, planning for the future of the service and the needs of our residents who are our family, friends, and neighbors. If you are interested in joining the service or are wondering how you can help in other ways, please reach out to me, or members of the board or the crew and we will be happy to speak with you. We thank you for your continued support of your ambulance service.

Very Sincerely,

Charlene Hammond, Chief

Directors: Addison: Cheryl Paul, Tracy Ramsay. Columbia: Brandi Graham, Kevin Lovejoy. Columbia Falls: Tony Santiago, Courtney Hammond. Harrington: Dea Peterson, Robert Hammond.

PLEASANT RIVER AMBULANCE SERVICE
BUDGET VS. ACTUAL 2024 & PROPOSED 2025 BUDGET

	2024 BUDGET	2024 ACTUAL	2025 PROPOSED
INCOME:			
REIMBURSEMENTS (INSURANCES / OTHER)	233,199.96	170,337.88	159,183.96
SUBSIDY	348,914.16	348,374.11	367,279.68
GRANTS (RESTRICTED FOR USE)	-	98,640.00	55,000.00
DONATIONS	-	2,372.19	1,000.00
MISCELLANEOUS	-	3,122.15	1,164.48
INTEREST INCOME	-	153.22	-
TOTAL INCOME	582,114.12	622,999.55	583,628.12
EXPENSES:			
PERSONNEL COSTS			
PAYROLL	392,010.96	385,385.44	410,000.04
PAYROLL TAXES	32,000.04	30,278.91	32,000.04
TOTAL PERSONNEL	424,011.00	415,664.35	442,000.08
AMBULANCE COSTS			
ALS REQUESTED	3,600.00	9,000.00	3,600.00
AMBULANCE RENTAL	4,050.00	1,350.00	-
AMBULANCE CAPITAL PURCHASE	43,559.88	45,940.00	-
DIESEL	14,400.00	11,259.67	12,000.00
CELL PHONE	2,199.96	2,079.30	2,220.00
REPAIRS	5,600.04	6,654.33	6,000.00
SUPPLIES	360.00	611.92	360.00
TOTAL AMBULANCE	73,769.88	76,895.22	24,180.00
INSURANCES			
WORKERS COMPENSATION	24,000.00	13,352.25	15,996.00
PROPERTY/CASUALTY/LIABILITY	24,000.00	16,467.00	18,000.00
TOTAL INSURANCES	48,000.00	29,819.25	33,996.00
PROFESSIONAL FEES	16,550.04	19,032.04	17,652.00
MAINTENANCE/REPAIRS/SUPPLIES			
MEDICAL (MEDS/EQUIP/02/ETC.	16,400.16	20,043.52	19,400.04
BUILDING	1,805.04	4,027.87	2,880.00
OFFICE	800.04	1,427.31	1,200.00
TOTAL MAINTENANCE/REPAIRS/SUPPLIES	19,005.24	25,498.70	23,480.04
INTEREST EXPENSE	-	16,052.59	17,000.00
UTILITIES	11,540.04	10,197.78	10,920.00
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT/TRAININGS	2,695.70	3,857.15	4,200.00
EQUIPMENT PURCHASES	2,400.00	1,565.72	6,000.00
DUES/SUBSCR/LICENSES/PERMITS	1,764.12	1,628.17	3,579.96
POSTAGE/PRINTING/SHIPPING	120.00	148.67	120.00
MISCELLANEOUS	500.04	620.01	500.04
TOTAL EXPENSES	600,356.06	600,979.65	583,628.12

NOTES :

Interest expense for 2025 is on the MSB loan to purchase the new ambulance (cost \$147,000 funded by loan)

Grant received during 2024 was for specific non-regular expenses that were approved; 2025 is carryover amount

Operations of the Town

Item	2024 Proposed	2024 Expensed	2025 Proposed Budget
Advertising	2,500.00	718.59	1,500.00
Audit	12,500.00	10,574.88	12,000.00
Computer Services/Software	19,000.00	15,764.44	26,000.00
Deeds	1,500.00	2,069.00	2,100.00
Dues	2,000.00	1,831.00	2,000.00
Elected Officials			
Selectmen	9,100.00	9,100.00	9,100.00
Treasurer	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
Animal Control Officer	4,500.00	4,500.00	4,500.00
General Assistance	500.00	500.00	500.00
Code Enforcement (CEO)	2,200.00	2,383.33	2,500.00
Health Officer	25.00	25.00	25.00
Road Commissioner	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00
Planning Board	3,000.00	1,320.00	3,000.00
Plumbing Inspector			500.00
Appeals Board	900.00	-	-
Election Wages & Expenses - 2 Elections in 2025	5,000.00	3,116.30	5,000.00
Equipment - Printer Lease & Supplies	2,500.00	2,585.51	3,000.00
Insurance	7,000.00	6,610.54	7,500.00
Office Supplies	5,500.00	2,365.88	5,500.00
Postage	2,500.00	2,021.70	2,500.00
Telephone & Internet	4,500.00	3,693.84	4,000.00
Training	1,000.00	199.34	500.00
Travel	500.00	100.50	200.00
	92,425.00	75,679.85	98,125.00
Note: Missy wrote and we received a grant that helped offset 2024 Expenses.			
Increase over last year's proposed budget by 6%			
Note: Prepared Prior to Audit/Figures may not be exact			

Legal and Grant Writing Expenses 2024

Legal Account	Expensed 2024	Totals
Total Legal		65,968.58
Less		
Centerville Road	4,819.03	
General Representation	12,937.46	
Land Use/Ordinance	3,086.80	
Large Scale/Ordinance	19,343.45	
Town Boundaries	10,216.12	
Total Legal Expenses		50,402.86
Remaining to carryforward		15,565.72
Grant Writer	Expensed 2024	Totals
Approved at Town Meeting		1,000.00
Reimbursement from ARPA		3,000.00
Subtotal		4,000.00
Less		
Methot Method:		
Total Grant Writer Expenses		7,000.00
Remaining funds - overspent		(3,000.00)
Funds transferred from Contingency to cover additional expense		
Note: Prepared Prior to Audit/Figures may not be exact		

Items	Appropriations 2024	Expensed 2024	Selectmen Recommendations	Budget Committee Recommendations
Administrative Assistant	46,350	43,741	52,500	52,500
Deputy for Administrative Assistant	12,000	6,885	14,000	14,000
Operation of the Town (Administration Expenses)	92,425	75,680	98,125	98,125
Animal Control (Expenses, not pay)	100		100	100
Assessor Agent - w. Selectmen overseers	8,500	7,900	8,500	8,500
Revaluation of the Town - set aside for the future (Reserve)			25,000	25,000
Update Tax Maps - prefer new maps/not just updated			11,000	11,000
Cemetery Maintenance Fund-Town (Reserve)\$1,527.25 +/-	500	500	500	500
Contingency/Emergency Fund (Reserve) \$6,494.78 +/-	500	500	4,000	4,000
Epping Fire District - Operations	40,284	40,284	41,015	41,015
Fire Truck Fund - 204,850.43 +/- (Reserve) To be taken from Undesignated Funds	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
Fund Balance Policy - \$10,292.41 +/- (4 mos. operating) - (Reserve)				
Town Approved purchase/\$200,000 +/- to be taken from Undesignated funds				
General Assistance - \$3,667 +/- (includes the 2024 \$345/none were used) We have already used funds this year. Trying to keep a starting balance of \$4,000	345		565	565
Grant Writer - ARPA & Contingency used 2024 (Reporting Administrator for ARPA Funds)	1,000	7,000	4,000	4,000
Legal Account - \$15,565.72 +/- (Reserve)	40,000	50,403	10,000	10,000
Payroll Taxes	15,000	8,038	11,750	11,750
Pleasant River Ambulance	54,264	54,264	57,120	57,120
Sand Salt Shed - \$92,768.88 +/- (Reserve); Grant Searching				
Streetlights	15,000	11,676	12,500	12,500
Town Building Fund - \$20,439.78 +/- (Reserve) - Grant Searching	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Town Properties -Ballfield, Centerville Road Lot, Memorial Park, Former FireHouse Lot, Great Hill Triangles, Town Landing				
Town Office, All Town Properties & Union Hall	14,700	11,499	30,750	30,750
Town Library - (take from Grant funds) Remaining Funds \$1,464.40 +/-	1,000	204	1,240	1,240
Subtotal Appropriations/Expensed	396,968	373,574	437,665	437,665

Items	Appropriations 2024	Expensed 2024	Selectmen Recommendations	Budget Committee Recommendations
Town Roads & Bridges				
Maintenance for 2026 - \$170,203.50 +/- carry forward	75,000	75,000	50,000	50,000
Snow Removal, Salt & Sand (Not included in totals) from Excise	150,000	115,845	150,000	150,000
Additional Paving - borrowed the funds 2023/Pmts. to come from Local Road Assistance and Excise - \$44,854.39/3 yrs left				
Donations				
Columbia Falls Cemetery Association	2,000	2,000	2,000	-
Columbia Falls Youth Recreation Fund	1,000	-	1,000	1,000
Eastern Agency on Aging	750	750	825	825
Downeast Community Partners (WHCA)	5,471	5,471	1,985	1,985
LifeFlight Foundation	560	560	560	560
Subtotal Donations	9,781	8,781	6,370	4,370
Total Appropriations/Expensed/Donations	631,749	573,201	644,035	642,035
Less funds to be taken from: Library Grant/Excise Tax/Undesignated Funds	201,000	166,049	201,240	201,240
Remaining amount to be raised from Taxation	430,749	407,151	442,795	440,795
Other Municipal Obligations to the Town				
County Tax - updated for 2024 expenses +/-	93,964	93,964	93,964	93,964
SAD #37 2023/2024 - updated for 2024 expenses +/-	417,805	417,805	417,805	417,805
Total Other/Expensed - estimated to calculate 3% Discount	511,769	511,769	511,769	511,769
Subtotal Proposed Budget	942,518	918,920	954,564	952,564
3% Discount on Real Estate Taxes with 30 days of commitment - New this year			28,637	28,577
Total Proposed Budget	942,518	918,920	983,201	981,141
Increase over last year's appropriations by 4%				

Town Buildings and Grounds

Item	2024 Proposed	2024 Expensed	2025 Proposed Budget
Town Office			
Janitorial-cleaning & supplies	3,000	2,558	3,000
Security/Fire Inspection	1,000	783	1,000
Trash	125		125
Subtotal	4,125	3,341	4,125
Budget			4,200
Town Properties			
Buildings & Grounds-Cemetery Flags, etc. This was flags and Poles/Tree lighting event - \$75	120	938	200
Maintenance	1,000		1,000
Maintenance-Baseball Field			2,000
Mowing	3,000	4,083	4,100
Ballfield, Memorial Park, Town Landing, 2 Triangles & Cemeteries			
Centerville Lot - bush hog			1,000
Old Dump Site-tree removal & mowing			2,000
Town Landing Road			5,000
Trash	125		125
Subtotal	4,245	5,021	15,425
Budget			15,500
Union Hall			
Maintenance & Clock Winding	2,550	1,610	2,000
Electric \$100 x 12 mos. (estimate)	1,000	956	1,200
Folding Tables - 6 count			1,200
Mowing	400	417	400
Plowing	1,000	325	1,000
Steeple Repair			5,000
Subtotal	4,950	3,307	10,800
Budget			11,050
Note: Applied for a Susan Collins Grant to offset cost for Repairs to Union Hall/Approved for this grant.			
Total Estimated Cost for Town Properties			30,350
Total Budget for Town Properties			30,750
Note: Citizens of the Town have been paying for trash disposal hence saving our Town these funds. This may not continue in the future so we need to be prepared.			

ROAD COMMISSIONER REPORT 2024

We didn't do a lot on town roads last year. WE did some roadside mowing, some sweeping, and a little ditching and culvert replacement on the Tibbettstown Road.

This year we are planning on paving the Great hill part of Main Street (from Point Street to Route 1). This will cost approximately \$100,000.00.

We will also be doing more ditching and culvert replacement on the town section of the Tibbettstown Road (from Pat Wards to the Columbia Town Line). This will cost approximately \$30,000.00 - 35,000.00.

I would also like to get started on the replacement of the guardrail section on the Cross Road. This will be a total cost of approximately \$50,000.00.

Also, we plan on doing our general maintenance like sweeping, mowing and any other maintenance issue that pops up.

I am asking for \$50,000.00 for the year 2026. That with the excise money should take care of the general maintenance needs.

As soon as the loan is paid off for the hot topping of the Centerville Road, I will be asking to borrow money to hot top the Tibbettstown Road. That will cost an estimated \$400,000.00.

If anyone has a complaint or problem about the Town Roads please give me a call.

Mike Bailey

Road Commissioner

207-598-0312

January 15, 2025

Roads 2024

Account #	Description	2024	Received	Expensed	Total
E40-10-55	Carryforward per auditor with interest March 11, 2024				57,531.00
E40-10-55	Remaining Excise carried forward from 2023 Audit				27,530.61
E40-10-55	Maintenance per Town Meeting for 2025				75,000.00
	Total Funds to work with				160,061.61
Expenses					
27-May	The By Us Company - sweeping			4,100.00	155,961.61
30-May	Hanscom's - Grading Highland's Road			1,410.00	154,551.61
23-Sep	Father's Farm-mowing, tree removal, washouts,grading			4,325.00	150,226.61
	Hammond Lumber-Culverts			4,112.86	146,113.75
15-Oct	Marcus Norton - Tibbettstown culvert/Centerville Washout			16,195.00	129,918.75
					129,918.75
				30,142.86	
Account #	Description	2024	Budget	Expensed	Total
2024 Loan Payment of \$44,854.39					
R40-10-010	LRAP from State			21,544.00	
R40-40-055	Excise used for Loan Payment			23,310.39	
	Total Loan Pmt.				44,854.39
Estimated Excise received 2024 (figure is prior to Audit)					184,705.53
Winter Road Maintenance - to be taken from Excise			150,000.00		
Less - Salt	E40-20-68			16,109.05	
Less - Sand	E40-20-69			16,650.00	
Less -Plowing	E40-20-67			83,086.34	
Subtotal Plowing, salt, sand					115,845.39
Less - excise used for Loan Pmt.					23,310.39
Remaining Excise to carry forward					45,549.75
Note:					
These figures are Pre-Audit and may change slightly after the audit. Numbers are for budgeting purposes only.					

Epping Volunteer Fire District Annual Report March 2024

The Epping Volunteer Fire District provides fire protection services to the towns of Columbia and Columbia Falls. We respond for automatic mutual aid to the towns of Addison and Harrington as part of the Pleasant River Fire District.

Epping Volunteer Fire District also provides automatic mutual aid to town of Jonesboro, and responds, under contract to the Washington County Unorganized Territories for structure and vehicle fires in the Centerville Township, and Townships 18, 19, 24 and 25.

Epping Volunteer Fire District has been responding to calls since November 1, 2014. We are located in the former Columbia Fire Station at 392 US Route 1 in Columbia.

Our Board of Directors consists of one select board member from each town and two citizens from each town. They are:
Selectman Jeff Greene, Columbia Falls President
Courtney Hammond, Columbia Falls Vice President
Susie Beal, Columbia Secretary
Amanda Butler, Columbia Treasurer
Selectman Sonya Grant
Phillip Worcester, Columbia Falls

Epping has fifteen active firefighters of which eight are interior attack qualified. We are always looking for additional volunteers. We meet twice a month (second and last Mondays at 6 PM) as a minimum, and conduct other training with area departments on some weekends. There are many tasks to perform and not all firefighters need be interior attack qualified. They are all important to our missions. Our Junior Firefighter Program allows teenagers 14-18 to train and serve with us with some safety restrictions.

Fire Truck Purchase

Last year, both Towns approved the purchase by Epping for a new Pumper/Tanker apparatus to replace three existing vehicles. It will replace:

- 1991 International Tanker with a 3000 gallon tank but no pump. It is a converted road tractor purchased by Columbia.
- 1990 GMC Pumper/ tanker 1800 gallon tank purchased by Columbia Falls
- 1994 Freightliner Pumper 750 gallon tank, purchased by Columbia Falls

The new pumper tanker is being built by Midwest Fire Apparatus of Luverne, Minnesota. Specifications:

- 3000 Gallon Poly tank
- 1500 gpm Hale pump, center mount console
- Freightliner chassis twin rear axle
- Two 1 ½ and one 2 ½ pre-connect hose lays
- 1000 feet 4 inch LDH supply hose
- 3000 gallon portable tank with drop down holder
- Ground, roof and attic ladder with drop down holder
- Foaming system
- Meets all NFPA apparatus standards

The Freightliner chassis has been delivered to Midwest and the apparatus is due to be delivered around Oct 2025.

Pumper/Tanker 373 was taken out of service in the Fall of 2024 due to problems with the tank, pump, and gas engine.

Epping Volunteer Fire District Calls January 1 - December 31, 2024

Epping Calls	
Lift Assist/CPR	22
Brush/Grass Fire	11
Permitted Burn	0
Vehicle Fire	3
Structure Fire	1
Chimney Fire	0
Dumpster Fire	0
Motor Vehicle Accident	5
Lifeflight MEDEVAC Landing Zone	2
Traffic Control/Power Lines	3
Fire Alarm	2
Furnace/Heater Malfunction	0
Rescue	1
Ambulance Driver	0
Flooding/Pumping	0
Trees Down	1
Epping Total	51
Mutual Aid Calls	
Lift Assist/CPR	24
Brush/Grass Fire	6
Permitted Burn	0
Vehicle Fire	2
Structure Fire	6
Chimney Fire	1
Dumpster Fire	0
Motor Vehicle Accident	5
Lifeflight MEDEVAC Landing Zone	0
Traffic Control/Power Lines	1
Fire Alarm	6
Furnace/Heater Malfunction	1
Rescue	1
Stand-By at Station	3
Ambulance Driver	0
Flooding/Pumping	0
Trees Down	1
Mutual Aid Total	57
Total Calls	108

Submitted: Cecil Gray, Fire Chief

EPPING VOLUNTEER FIRE DISTRICT

392 US Rte. 1, PO Box 204

Columbia, ME 04623

(207)483-2036

FY-2025 PROPOSED ANNUAL BUDGET

	FY-24	FY-25
LABOR		
Wages	\$3,750	\$3,750
Taxes	\$ 500	\$ 500
LABOR SUBTOTAL	\$4,250	\$4,250
G&A		
Accounting Services (Audit, Taxes, Payroll)	\$ 500	\$300
Annual Incorporation Fee	\$ 35	\$35
Bank Service Fee(s)	\$ 500	\$500
Computer Supplies & Equipment	\$ 300	\$1500*
Legal Fees	\$ 100	\$100
Meals (Away)	\$ 350	\$350
Medical Exams	\$ 2,000	\$1500
Membership Dues (Maine State FF Assoc.)	\$ 630	\$20
MMA Membership Fee	\$ 600	\$675*
MMA Firefighter Supplemental Insurance	\$ 800	\$600
Office Supplies & Equipment	\$ 300	\$300
Property & Casualty Insurance	\$10,000	\$10000
Reimbursement (FF Mileage)	\$ 3,200	\$4300*
Rentals	\$ 100	\$100
Shipping & Postage	\$ 100	\$150
Travel (Away)	\$ 200	\$200
Workers Compensation (MEMIC)	\$ 1,200	\$1200
G&A SUBTOTAL	\$20,915	\$21830
MAINTENANCE		
Equipment Buildings & Grounds	\$ 3,600	\$3600
Contract Services (Hose & Pump Tests, etc.)	\$ 3,000	\$3000
Equipment Repair Mobile	\$ 1,000	\$1000
Maintenance Consumables	\$ 500	\$300
Maintenance Reserve Fund	\$ 2,000	\$2000
Maintenance Rental	\$ 200	\$200
Tools	\$ 200	\$200
Vehicle Repair	\$15,000	\$17000*
Vehicle Supplies		
361 Pumper		
362 Tanker		
363 Brush Truck		
364 Brush Tanker		
371 Pumper		
373 Pumper/Tanker		
MAINTENANCE SUBTOTAL	\$25,500	\$27300

OPERATIONS		
Operational Contract Services	\$ 1,000	\$1500*
Operational Equipment	\$ 2,000	\$2000
Electricity	\$ 3,500	\$3500
Heating Fuel	\$ 5,000	\$4000
Laundry Services	\$ 200	\$200
Operational Safety Equipment		
Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	\$ 5,500	\$5500
Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)	\$ 2,000	\$2700*
Operational Supplies (Consumables - Foam)	\$ 5,000	\$3000
Radios & Pagers	\$ 1,500	\$1000
Telephone (Station Telcom)	\$ 1,000	\$1750*
Training	\$ 600	\$1400*
Vehicle & Mobile Equipment Fuel	\$ 2,500	\$2000
Waste Disposal	\$ 100	\$100
OPERATONS SUBTOTAL	\$29,900	\$28650
GRAND TOTAL	\$80,565	\$82,030

* denotes increase

Difference between FY-2024 and FY-2025 is \$1465

EVFD's 2025 Annual Budget request from each town is: **\$41,015**

Annual Statement from the Local Health Officer

The past year ended as quietly as it began regarding Town related Local Health Officer issues. Once again there were no requests for inspection of properties due to filth or vermin.

If anyone has a concern or complaint for such, please contact the Town Office.

Respiratory illnesses of various types have certainly shown themselves in the Winter months. We should all be well versed in prevention and treatment at this point. Let your Primary Care Provider lead the way.

Senior Healthcare in regard to Homecare, Nursing Homes, Assisted Living Facilities and Senior Group Homes, continues to be one of the most pressing issues in our state. The beds are few and far between and the monies to pay for those started downward years ago.

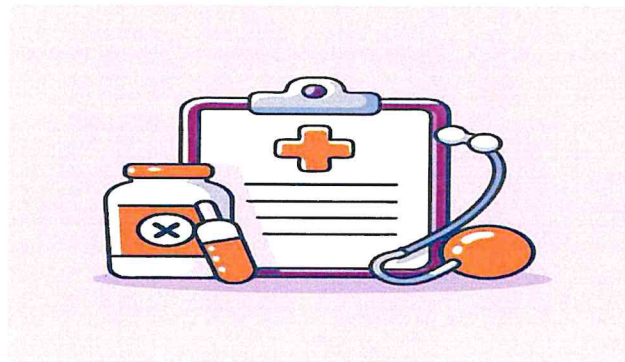
I encourage each of you to be aware and involved with Senior Care funding legislation, both State and Federal.

As always, see your Primary Care Provider. Know your medications and have an accurate list. Wash your hands. Check on those around you.

Regards,

Joe Bragg, RN

Local Health Officer



UNION HALL 1840

170 MAIN ST
COLUMBIA FALLS, ME
04623



PO BOX 100
COLUMBIA FALLS, ME
04623

Dear Citizens of Columbia Falls,

The Union Hall steeple needs repair and restoration. Through the diligence of the town Selectboard and the Union Hall Committee this project is well on its way to completion. With the help of the engineering firm Lincoln-Haney and Andrew Wilcox of Mid-Maine Restoration, the steeple was surveyed in September 2024 and plans are made to stabilize the steeple this Spring 2025.

The town's grant writer, Amanda Methot, has already procured \$17,000 through the Susan Collins grant towards steeple repairs and is working with the Maine Steeples Fund, and other grants, for the next phase of funding that will restore the entire steeple.

After the initial repairs are made, we have a busy summer schedule. We hope that you are able to attend an event at Union Hall or join the committee.

Sincerely,

Shelby Greene,
Union Hall Committee Chair

Union Hall 2025 Event Calendar

Spring Fling	May 3, 2025	2pm – 4pm
Yard Sale	July 26, 2025	9am – 2pm
Children's Theater	September 2025	

Craft Fair	October 4, 2024	9am – 2pm
Trunk or Treat	October 25, 2024	2pm – 4pm
Tree Lighting	November 22, 2025	6pm

Hosted by Pleasant River Historical Society –
Baseline Open House
September 26, 2025 6pm – 7pm
Baseline Tour
September 27, 2025 8am – 3pm

Columbia Falls Town Library

PO Box 100

Columbia Falls, Maine, 04623

207-483-1255

Dear Select Board and Townspeople,

The Town Library Committee thanks you for last year's appropriations. The funds were used to purchase new books and supplies for 2025. The Town Library had over 200 visitors and users in 2024. I want to thank Kayla Zagieboylo for her volunteering. We had many Homeschooling classes held in the Town Library this year and Book Club meetings. The United Methodist Women continue to hold their meetings in the Town Library. For the last few years the Town Budget Committee in mid February have held their meeting in the Town Library

Town Committees consisting of the Union Hall Committee and the Pleasant River Historic Society hold their Winter meetings in the Town Library.

Goals for 2025 fiscal year:

- Spring & Fall book sales
- More volunteers needed
- New books

The Library is a valuable community resource that can be utilized in a variety of other than reading and borrowing books/DVDs such as:

- Internet access (WIFI available)
- Obtaining information
- Making copies & sending faxes
- Research; for regular schoolwork and homeschooling

Your input is always welcomed. Please come and enjoy the Town Library!

Town Librarian,

Janie Kroeger

Columbia Falls Cemetery Association

To the Citizens of the Town of Columbia Falls:

First, we would like to take a moment to thank the members of the town for voting to honor our 2024 request to help pay for the annual maintenance of the Great Hill and Ruggles Cemeteries.

We will be doing our annual clean-up this spring along with cleaning of the steps and some of the headstones. If anyone is looking to help with these efforts, a flyer will be posted at the Post Office and local store with the date and time once it has been set.

We are asking for \$2000 from the town again this year to help pay for our annual mowing, so that dues from members can be used towards larger projects that need to be completed.

Sincerely,

Columbia Falls Cemetery Association

Pleasant River Historical Society

2024 Annual Report for the Towns of Addison, Columbia, and Columbia Falls

Monthly Meetings – monthly meetings will be the 3rd Thursday of every month. The location each month will be determined before the meeting date. Currently, meetings are being processed online using our Facebook page.

Activities

The Baseline Lady, Nancy Willey, was honored this past year for all her work spreading the history of the last remaining baseline in the United States. We, the Historical Society, were honored to have her join us for our Epping Baseline Tour. It was another beautiful day with some sprinkles mixed in.

Projects

This past year we created a website and are working on a logo.

Pleasant River Historical Society is creating an original Christmas ornament that will be available later this year. We still have buoy posters, postcards, books, and a few other sundry items to sell. Funds from all sales help us with community events. Please let any one of the members know if you are interested in these items.

2025 Planned Events

Chocolate Fest – Saturday, February 8, 2025 – Harrington Elementary School

This event was small this year, but we look forward to next year. Mark your calendars for Saturday, February 7, 2026. This is a great way for non-profits to share their information with the community.

Margaretta Days – June 2025 at West Branch Farms. Date to be announced.

Kids Event – Date to be determined (June 2025) – at low tide in Columbia Falls, explore the mud for pottery (there seems to be some there); have a specialist look at the “finds and give an idea of the period.

Epping Baseline – Information Meeting September 26, 2025, at Union Hall in Columbia Falls; Tour will be the following day on Saturday, September 27, 2025. This event is several hours long so please be prepared with snacks, lunch, and water.

We are still actively looking for a permanent home so that we can set up and present artifacts as well as hold our monthly meetings. Please let us know if anyone has any interest or suggestions.

Dues are due and can be mailed to Pleasant River Historical Society at P O Box 300, Addison, ME 04606. The amount to be sent is \$10.00.

Anyone interested in becoming a member may send in their dues with contact information including an email address. We will be happy to contact you concerning all meetings and activities.

Officers: Grace Falzarano, President, Ronie Strout, Vice President, Tony Santiago, Secretary and Beth Miller, Treasurer.

Please feel free to contact anyone of these folks with questions, suggestions, ideas, participation, and meeting dates.

As always, the goal of this Historical Society is to preserve and share our history. The public is always welcome to attend and/or join us. Please contact a member if you are interested.

Respectfully submitted: Grace Falzarano, President, and Ronie Strout, Vice President

Encompassing the Towns of Addison, Columbia, and Columbia Falls
Website: PleasantRiverHistoricalSociety.org

Real Estate Taxes
Tax Year: 2021
As of 12/31/2024

	Year	Property Tax Due
FARREN-TIBBETTS, JANET	2021	310.91
TIBBETTS, STEPHEN M	2021	293.00
		<hr/> 603.91

Real Estate Taxes
Tax Year: 2022
As of 12/31/2024

	Year	Property Tax Due
FARREN-TIBBETTS, JANET	2022	282.78
MUTTY, DANIEL E	2022	131.52
TENNEY, MAURICE	2022	55.91
TIBBETTS, STEPHEN M	2022	269.68
		<hr/> 739.89

Real Estate Taxes
Tax Year: 2023
As of 12/31/2024

	Year	Property Tax Due
ALLEN, GRACE & HAROLD (HEIRS OF)	2023	307.89
ALLEN, GRACE (HEIRS OF)	2023	211.31
BLACKBURN, JEROME R	2023	558.64
BURGESS, ENOCH	2023	1,409.18
DRISCOLL, JEAN Q	2023	1,256.69
FARREN-TIBBETTS, JANET	2023	382.43
LYONS, MELISSA	2023	668.77
MORAISEY, MATTHEW	2023	573.89
MUTTY, DANIEL E	2023	260.44
MUTTY, DANIEL E	2023	167.26
NASON, STEPHEN	2023	194.37
PIETARINEN, KENNETH B	2023	245.20
ROBINSON, MICHAELA E	2023	411.56
ROBINSON, MICHAELA E	2023	823.37

Real Estate Taxes
Tax Year: 2023
As of 12/31/2024 Continued.....

TENNEY, MAURICE	2023	426.49
THERRIEN, LORI	2023	216.59
TIBBETTS, KATHLEEN	2023	153.70
TIBBETTS, STEPHEN M	2023	363.80
TRACY, LINDA	2023	179.12
WALKER SETTLEMENT	2023	412.93
WHITE, KRISTI	2023	817.87
WORCESTER, FRANCES	2023	70.49
		<hr/> 10,112

Real Estate Taxes
Tax Year: 2024
As of 12/31/2024

	Year	Property Tax Due
ALLEN, GRACE & HAROLD (HEIRS OF)	2024	244.80
ALLEN, GRACE (HEIRS OF)	2024	142.20
Bagley (Heirs), Willard	2024	79.20
BLACKBURN, JEROME R	2024	511.20
BRADLEY, JOSEPH JR	2024	1,378.80
BROWN, DELMONT ORLAND	2024	1,179.00
BURGESS, ENOCH	2024	2,091.60
CLAY, JOHN F	2024	1,722.94
CLEAVES, ELAINE	2024	496.80
CLIFFORD, MARJORIE S	2024	3,654.00
COTTON, MARK	2024	228.60
COTTON, MARK	2024	289.80
COTTON, MARK	2024	4,248.00
COTTON, SHIRLEY	2024	2,116.80
COTTON, SHIRLEY	2024	126.00
COYNE, DONALD M	2024	1,168.20
COYNE, DONALD M	2024	3.60
DRISCOLL, JEAN Q	2024	1,308.60
DRISKO, MICHAEL	2024	1,645.20
EMERY, DAMIAN V	2024	1,195.20
ESTATE OF BION TIBBETTS JR	2024	1.80

Real Estate Taxes
Tax Year: 2024
As of 12/31/2024 Continued....













FARREN-TIBBETTS, JANET	2024	324.00
FLETCHER, EUGENE	2024	462.60
FLETCHER, EUGENE	2024	738.00
FLETCHER, EUGENE	2024	2,941.20
FOOTE, CAROLINE W	2024	1,897.20
Grant, Heirs of Robin	2024	251.00
GRANT, ROBERT L	2024	601.20
HAMMOND, CHADWICK	2024	475.20
HAMMOND, CHADWICK	2024	654.46
HINKLE, KELLY J	2024	1,171.16
HOWARD, RAYMOND	2024	950.40
LESBINES, TRAVIS	2024	1,177.20
LOOK, CINDY ET AL	2024	881.00
LOOK, DALE	2024	253.80
LYONS, MELISSA	2024	387.00
MCMANUS, CHRISTOPHER	2024	252.00
MCMANUS, CHRISTOPHER L	2024	178.20
MORAISEY, MATTHEW	2024	527.40
MORSE, JESSICA	2024	82.80
MURPHY, ERIC R	2024	1,366.01
MUTTY, DANIEL E	2024	239.40
MUTTY, DANIEL E	2024	95.40
NASON, STEPHEN	2024	124.20
OLIVER, PATRICK	2024	702.00
OLIVER, PATRICK	2024	1,834.20
Oliver, Patrick	2024	228.60
Pietarinen, Kenneth B	2024	178.20
PLEASANT RIVER CANNING CO	2024	2,453.40
RACKLIFF, CHRISTOPHER G	2024	4,780.80
RAINVILLE, PAUL J JR	2024	651.60
REZENDES, LORIE	2024	900.00
RINKLE, DAVID	2024	91.80
ROBBINS, DAWN	2024	190.80
ROBINSON, MICHAELA E	2024	792.00
ROBINSON, MICHAELA E	2024	1,666.80

Real Estate Taxes
Tax Year: 2024
As of 12/31/2024 Continued....

SCHMELZER, RUSSELL A	2024	2,743.20
SHAMBACH, BRANDON L	2024	891.00
SMITH, JASON L	2024	1,222.80
SMITH, MURIEL G (PERS REP)	2024	376.20
Snider Jr., Harold	2024	79.20
SUNSET POINT LTD	2024	2,845.80
TARDY, STEPHEN H	2024	697.00
Tenney, Devisees of Walter	2024	3.60
TENNEY, MAURICE	2024	370.80
TENNEY, PAUL	2024	1,593.00
THAXTER, MORTON JR	2024	1,056.60
THERRIEN, LORI	2024	248.40
TIBBETTS, BION III	2024	3.60
Tibbetts, Bion III	2024	1,450.80
TIBBETTS, KATHLEEN	2024	126.00
TIBBETTS, STEPHEN M	2024	304.20
TRACY, LINDA	2024	153.00
WAGNER, AIMEE	2024	766.80
WHITE, KRISTI	2024	513.00
WILES, JEFFREY WAYNE	2024	442.80
WORCESTER, FRANCES	2024	322.20
		<hr/>
		70,543.37

Mil Rate History

Columbia Falls

	2024	18.00
	2023	16.40
	2022	11.60
	2021	14.40
	2020	17.80
	2019	17.00
	2018	17.00
	2017	15.50
	2016	17.80
	2015	18.80
	2014	17.40
	2013	15.20

2012	14.80
2011	13.70
2010	17.00
2009	15.00
2008	17.75
2007	14.00
2006	16.40
2005 recommit	26.00
2005	29.00
2004	26.00
2003	22.63
2002	22.80
2001	21.00

 = UP from previous year

 = DOWN from previous year

If you would like to view the full audit or would like a complete copy, please contact the Town Office at 207-483-4067 or townofcolumbiafalls@gmail.com.

Thank you.



AUDITOR

Town of Columbia Falls, Maine
Balance Sheet
Governmental Funds
December 31, 2024

REPORT DRAFT

For discussion purposes only
Not to be reproduced without permission
of Brantner, Thibodeau & Associates

	General Fund	Reserve Funds	Permanent Fund	Total Governmental Funds
ASSETS				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 546,184	\$ 348,245	\$ 1,165	\$ 895,594
Investments	-	-	21,393	21,393
Taxes receivable	93,036	-	-	93,036
Due from other funds	58,541	66,729	-	125,270
Receivable from other governments	12,423	-	-	12,423
Total assets	<u>\$ 715,184</u>	<u>\$ 414,974</u>	<u>\$ 22,558</u>	<u>\$ 1,152,716</u>
LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES AND FUND BALANCES				
Liabilities				
Accounts payable	\$ 2,250	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,250
Payable to other governments	676	-	-	676
Due to other funds	66,729	45,311	13,230	125,270
Total liabilities	<u>69,482</u>	<u>45,311</u>	<u>13,230</u>	<u>128,023</u>
Deferred inflows of resources				
Prepaid taxes	1,055	-	-	1,055
Unavailable property taxes	87,012	-	-	87,012
Total deferred inflows of resources	<u>88,067</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>88,067</u>
Fund balances				
Nonspendable for:				
Cemetery funds	-	-	7,099	7,099
Ministerial school funds	-	-	1,001	1,001
Scholarship funds	-	-	1,228	1,228
Restricted for other purposes	-	24,379	-	24,379
Restricted for ARPA grant	10,694	-	-	10,694
Committed for other purposes	193,480	345,284	-	538,764
Unassigned	353,461	-	-	353,461
Total fund balances	<u>557,635</u>	<u>369,663</u>	<u>9,328</u>	<u>936,626</u>
Total liabilities, deferred inflows of resources and fund balances	<u>\$ 715,184</u>	<u>\$ 414,974</u>	<u>\$ 22,558</u>	<u>\$ 1,152,716</u>

Town of Columbia Falls, Maine
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances
Governmental Funds
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

REPORT DRAFT

For discussion purposes only
Not to be reproduced without permission
of
Braniner, Thibodeau & Associates

	General Fund	Reserve Funds	Permanent Fund	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES				
Property taxes	\$ 827,107	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 827,107
Excise taxes	183,041	-	-	183,041
Liens and interest charges	7,411	-	-	7,411
Licenses and permits	6,763	-	-	6,763
Intergovernmental	177,605	-	-	177,605
Interest earnings (loss)	5,941	8,595	1,689	16,225
Donations	-	3,527	-	3,527
Miscellaneous	290	-	-	290
Total revenues	1,208,158	12,122	1,689	1,221,969
EXPENDITURES				
Current				
General government	221,121	-	-	221,121
Public safety	109,407	-	-	109,407
Roads	122,406	-	-	122,406
Welfare and donations	7,281	-	-	7,281
Education	417,805	-	-	417,805
County tax	93,964	-	-	93,964
Cemetery	2,000	-	-	2,000
Debt service				
Principal	38,183	-	-	38,183
Interest and other charges	6,671	-	-	6,671
Capital and grant outlay	-	2,974	-	2,974
Total expenditures	1,018,838	2,974	-	1,021,812
Excess of revenues over expenditures	189,320	9,148	1,689	200,157
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
Transfers in	8,880	58,189	-	67,069
Transfers out	(56,500)	(8,880)	(1,689)	(67,069)
Total other financing sources (uses)	(47,620)	49,309	(1,689)	-
Net change in fund balances	141,700	58,457	-	200,157
FUND BALANCES - BEGINNING	415,935	311,206	9,328	736,469
FUND BALANCES - ENDING	\$ 557,635	\$ 369,663	\$ 9,328	\$ 936,626

Town of Columbia Falls, Maine
Budget and Actual (with Variances)
General Fund
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

	Budgeted Amounts			Actual Amounts	Variance with Final Budget - Positive (Negative)
	Original	Changes *	Final		
REVENUES					
Property taxes	\$ 829,442	\$ -	\$ 829,442	\$ 827,107	\$ (2,335)
Excise taxes	150,000	-	150,000	183,041	33,041
Liens and interest charges	-	-	-	7,411	7,411
Licenses and permits	-	-	-	6,763	6,763
Intergovernmental	134,057	700	134,757	177,605	42,848
Investment earnings	-	-	-	5,941	5,941
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	290	290
Total revenues	1,113,499	700	1,114,199	1,208,158	93,959
EXPENDITURES					
Current					
General government	230,975	13,588	244,563	221,121	23,442
Public safety	109,648	5,000	114,648	109,407	5,241
Roads	225,000	-	225,000	167,260	57,740
Welfare and donations	7,126	700	7,826	7,281	545
Education	417,805	-	417,805	417,805	-
County tax	93,964	-	93,964	93,964	-
Cemetery	3,000	-	3,000	2,000	1,000
Total expenditures	1,087,518	19,288	1,106,806	1,018,838	87,968
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	25,981	(18,588)	7,393	189,320	181,927
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)					
Use of carryover fund balances	50,000	11,088	61,088	-	(61,088)
Overlay	(19,981)	-	(19,981)	-	19,981
Transfers in	-	8,000	8,000	8,880	880
Transfers out	(56,000)	(500)	(56,500)	(56,500)	-
Total other financing sources (uses)	(25,981)	18,588	(7,393)	(47,620)	(40,227)
Net change in fund balances	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	141,700	\$ 141,700
FUND BALANCES - BEGINNING				415,935	
FUND BALANCES - ENDING				<u>\$ 557,635</u>	

* - Use of additional revenues, use of fund balance and special meeting approvals

March 3, 2025

Town of Columbia Falls
Street Light Ordinance

This street light Ordinance will be the rule when considering the addition or removal of a streetlight.

The town must vote at a Regular or Special Town Meeting for the removal or addition of streetlights. Before this vote, the following must take place to generate a streetlight warrant article.

- 1) A written request must be made by a resident or property owner to the Selectboard explaining the particular case.
- 2) If the request is valid as per these ordinances criteria, the Selectboard will notify any adjacent landowners of the request and provide fifteen (15) days for them to respond before holding a public hearing.
- 3) If the request is valid as per these ordinances criteria, The Selectboard must hold a public hearing held at a regular Select Board's meeting, advertised at least seven (7) days in advance.

Section 1: A streetlight must involve at least one of the following criteria:

- a) Sharp or blind curves
- b) Crests of hills, Steep Grades
- c) Increased traffic, either vehicle, foot or bike
- d) School bus or snowplow stops or turnarounds
- e) Intersections
- f) Other road areas where a streetlight would reasonably reduce a hazard

Section 2: Considerations for streetlight removal:

- a) Long term decreased traffic, either vehicle, foot or bike
- b) Change in status or use of road or turnaround area
- c) Elimination of road conditions that had deemed the location hazardous
- d) The streetlight no longer meets any of the criteria in section 1

Nelson "Tony" Santiago: _____

Jeffrey Greene: _____

Jessica Bouchard: _____

TOWN WARRANT

STATE OF MAINE

COUNTY OF WASHINGTON

GREETINGS:

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town of Columbia Falls qualified to vote in town affairs to meet at the **COLUMBIA FALLS MUNICIPAL BUILDING** at **seven o'clock** in the evening on **March 18, 2025**, and act on the following articles, to wit:

ARTICLE 1

To elect a **Moderator** to preside at said meeting.

ARTICLE 2

To elect a citizen to serve as **Selectman** for a **3-year term**.

ARTICLE 3

To elect a citizen to serve as **Road Commissioner** for a **3-year term**.

ARTICLE 4

To elect a citizen to serve on the **Planning Board** for a **3-year term**.

ARTICLE 5

To elect a citizen to serve on the **Planning Board Alternate** for a **3-year term**.

ARTICLE 6

To elect a citizen to serve on the **SAD #37 Board of Directors** for a **3-year term**.

ARTICLE 7

To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for the **Administrative Assistant Compensation**.

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: up to \$52,500

ARTICLE 8

To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for the **Deputy Administrative Assistant**.

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: up to \$14,000

ARTICLE 9

To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for the **Assessor Agent**.

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$8,500
ARTICLE 10

To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for the **Revaluation of the Town.**

Note: The total estimated amount of the revaluation is \$75,000. This article will allow the Town to set aside funds towards that eventual revaluation amount. The revaluation is a two-year project. Columbia Falls has not had a town-wide Revaluation for many years. The reason for this Article is that State of Maine law requires revaluations of properties to ensure fair property taxes and to reflect current market values. Revaluations are conducted by municipalities to equalize property values within a community.

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$25,000

ARTICLE 11

To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for the **Updated Tax Maps.**

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$11,000

ARTICLE 12

To see if the Town will vote to fix the **Compensations** for the **Municipal Officers** and **Officials** of the Town for the **2025** calendar year.

SELECTMEN		TREASURER	\$ 5,000.00
Chair	\$3,700.00	ROAD COMMISSIONER	\$ 1,200.00
Member	\$2,700.00	CODE ENFORCEMENT	\$ 2,500.00
Member	\$2,700.00	PLUMBING INSPECTOR	\$ 500.00
HEALTH OFFICER	\$ 25.00	ANIMAL CONTROL	\$ 4,500.00
General Assistance	\$ 500.00	APPEALS Board	\$ 0.00
PLANNING BOARD: CHAIR			\$ 40.00 per meeting
EACH MEMBER			\$ 35.00 per meeting

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$26,325.00 TOTAL

ARTICLE 13

To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for the **Operations of the Town** for the **2025** fiscal year.

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$98,125

ARTICLE 14

To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for **Payroll Taxes.**

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$11,750

ARTICLE 15

To see what wages the Town will set to be paid to laborers and equipment for the ensuing year.

Selectmen RECOMMENDED: STATE WAGE

ARTICLE 16

To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for **General Assistance**.

Note: Current balance is \$4,367 +/-

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$565

ARTICLE 17

To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for **Legal Account**.

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$10,000

ARTICLE 18

To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for **Grant Writer**.

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$4,000

ARTICLE 19

To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for reimbursement of mileage and veterinary expenses for **Animal Control Fund**.

Note: This is not AOC's pay; expenses only; Current amount in this account is \$460

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$100

ARTICLE 20

To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for **STREET LIGHTS**.

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$12,500

ARTICLE 21

Shall an Ordinance entitled "Town of Columbia Falls Street Light Ordinance" be enacted?

Selectmen RECOMMEND

ARTICLE 22

To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for the **Town Properties**.

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$30,750

ARTICLE 23

To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for the **Town Building Fund**.

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$5,000

ARTICLE 24

To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for **Contingency/Emergency Fund**.

Note: Article will authorize the Selectmen to meet unanticipated expenses as they deem necessary. Note: Current balance is \$6,494.78

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$4,000

ARTICLE 25

To see if the Town will vote to **appropriate from excise tax for the purpose of Snow Removal, Salt and Sand**.

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$150,000

ARTICLE 26

To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for the **Maintenance of Town Roads and Bridges** for the **2026** calendar year.

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$50,000

ARTICLE 27

To see if the Town will apply the excess **Excise monies** to the Road Maintenance account.

Note: These monies usually go into the General Fund.

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED

ARTICLE 28

To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for the operations of the **Epping Volunteer Fire District**.

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$41,015

ARTICLE 29

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate for **Epping Volunteer Fire District Fire Truck** to fulfill the Town's obligation. **Selectmen recommend taking from Undesignated Funds**

Budget Committee RECOMMEND: \$50,000

ARTICLE 30

To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for the **Pleasant River Ambulance Service**.

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$57,120

ARTICLE 31

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to appropriate in support of the **Library**.

Note: Selectmen recommend taking funds from the Library Reserve Account/Current balance in the Grant - \$1,464.40 +/-

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$1,240.00

ARTICLE 32

To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for **Columbia Falls Youth Recreation Fund**. Note: Selectmen to manage account.

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$1,000

ARTICLE 33

To see if the town will vote to authorize the Selectmen and Treasurer to **borrow** money in anticipation of taxes, the **sum not to exceed \$100,000**.

Selectmen RECOMMENDED

ARTICLE 34

To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for the **Columbia Falls Cemetery Association**.

Budget Committee NOT RECOMMENDED: \$2,000.00

ARTICLE 35

If **ARTICLE 34** is not approved, to see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for the **Great Hill and Ruggles Cemeteries Maintenance**.

Maine State Law 13 § 1101. Maintenance and repairs; In any ancient or public burying ground in which any Revolutionary soldiers or sailors or soldier or sailor who served in the United States Army, Navy or Marine Corps in any war is buried, the town in which said burying ground is located shall keep in good condition and repair, all graves, headstones, monuments or markers designating the burial place of said Revolutionary soldiers or sailors or soldier or sailor who served in the United States Army, Navy or Marine Corps in any war and shall keep the grass suitably cut and trimmed on such graves during the summer season. Towns may raise and appropriate money for such purposes. Each said town shall be liable to a penalty of not more than \$100 for neglect to keep in good condition and repair all such graves, headstones, monuments and markers or failing to keep the grass suitably cut and trimmed on said graves

Budget Committee RECOMMENDS up to: \$2,000

ARTICLE 36

To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for the **Cemetery Maintenance Fund**. Note: Current balance in this account is \$1,527.25.

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$500

ARTICLE 37

To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for the **Eastern Agency on Aging**.

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$825

ARTICLE 38

To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for the **Downeast Community Partners** (formerly Washington-Hancock Community).

Decreased from last year by \$3,486.

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$1,985

ARTICLE 39

To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for **Life Flight Foundation**.

No increase over last year

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$560

ARTICLE 40

To see if the Town will vote to allow and appropriate \$200,000 for the **Fund Balance Policy**.

Note: This Policy is established to promote and ensure financial well-being and fiscal stability of the Town. The Town will strive to maintain an amount equal to 4/12th (4) four months) of the Towns General Funds Budget. This Policy was implemented February 13, 2023.

Selectmen RECOMMEND taking from Undesignated Funds

ARTICLE 41

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the returns from the **snowmobile registrations** to the **Narraguagus Trail Riders** to use to establish and maintain existing trails for the use and recreation for our citizens.

Selectmen RECOMMENDED

ARTICLE 42

To see if the Town will vote to increase the **property tax levy limit** established for Columbia Falls by state law if the municipal budget approved under the preceding articles will result in the tax commitment that is greater than the property tax limit.

Selectmen RECOMMENDED

ARTICLE 43

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the General Fund to pay for tax abatements and any interest due thereon.

Selectmen RECOMMENDED

ARTICLE 44

To see if the Town will vote to allow a **discount of 3% on all Real Estate Taxes if paid in full on or before the 30th day of commitment.** Postmarked on the 30th day will be accepted. Based on an evaluation of \$952,564.

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$28,577

ARTICLE 45

To see if the Town will set a date for the Tax Collector to settle with the Town and set a rate of interest to be charged on all unpaid taxes after that date.

Selectmen RECOMMENDED: December 31, 2025 (7.5%)

STATE INTEREST RATE

ARTICLE 46

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to issue **Town Warrants to pay employees and State Reports**, from the closing of the **2025 Town Books on December 31, 2025** until the **annual Town Meeting on March 17, 2026**

Selectmen RECOMMENDED

ARTICLE 47

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the municipal officers, on behalf of the Town, to dispose of any real estate acquired by the Town for the non-payment of taxes thereon (1) in accordance with Title 36 M.R.S. § 943-C of the Maine Revised Statutes, as may be amended, or (2) should the municipal officers be unable to list or sell the property pursuant to Section 943-C, in any manner reasonably calculated by the municipal officers to establish the fair market value of the property. For sales to someone other than the former owner, excess sale proceeds, as calculated pursuant to Section 943-C, shall be returned to the former owner.

Selectmen RECOMMENDED

ARTICLE 48

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen and Treasurer to accept and expend on behalf of the Town all Federal and State Funds which may be received from the following:

Municipal Revenue Sharing

Local Road Assistance

State Aid to Education (including Federal pass-through funds and property tax relief)

Public State Aid per Capita

Civil Emergency Fund- Emergency Management Assistance

Snowmobile Registration

Tree Growth Reimbursement

General Assistance Reimbursement

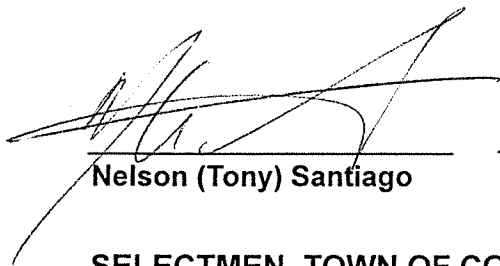
Veteran Exemption Reimbursement

Homestead Exemption Reimbursement

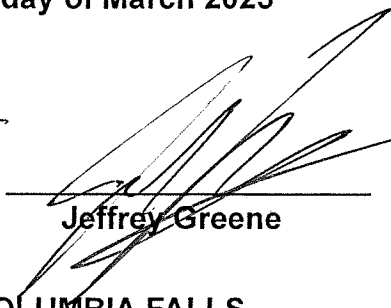
State Grants and other funds to include funds not received from the State that are not included in the times listed above.

Any and all Grants received.

Given under hands the 3rd day of March 2025



Nelson (Tony) Santiago



Jeffrey Greene



Jessie Bouchard

SELECTMEN, TOWN OF COLUMBIA FALLS

A True Copy, ATTEST:

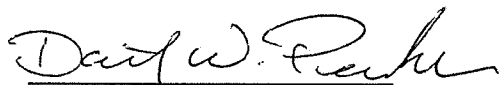
Municipal Clerk of Columbia Falls, Maine



Melissa Allen-Ramsdell
Municipal Clerk

RETURN

Pursuant of within warrant, I have notified and warned the Inhabitants of the Town of Columbia Falls, qualified as herein expressed to meet at the time and place for the purpose therein named by posting this day an attested copy of the within warrant at the Columbia Falls Post Office, Elmer's Country Store and the Columbia Falls Town Office the same being public and conspicuous in said Town.



David Perham
Town of Columbia Falls

March 3, 2025