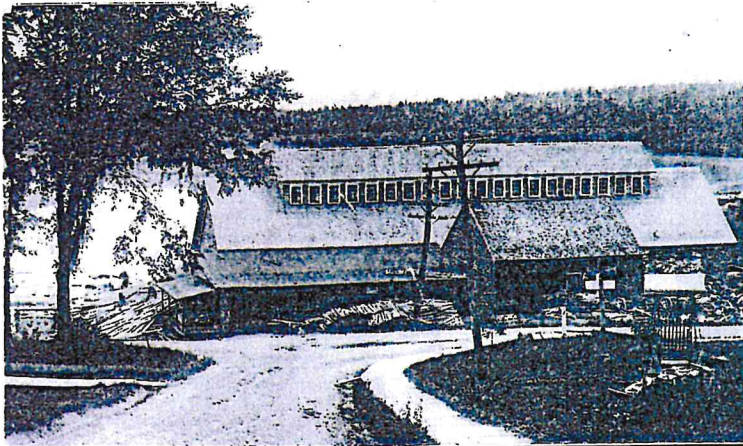


# The Town of Columbia Falls Annual Report 2023

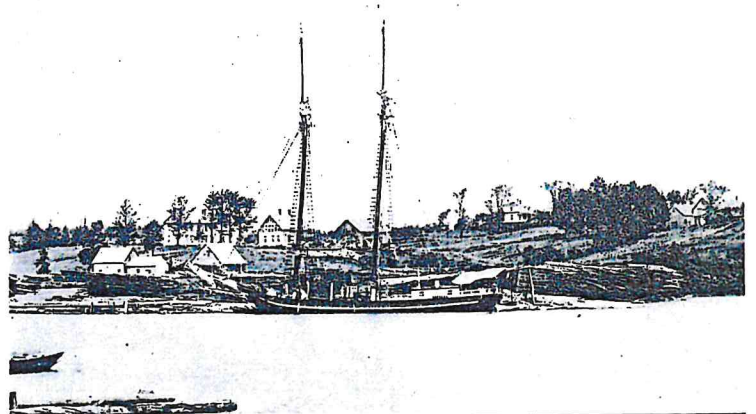
A look back.....



COLUMBIA FALLS, MAINE

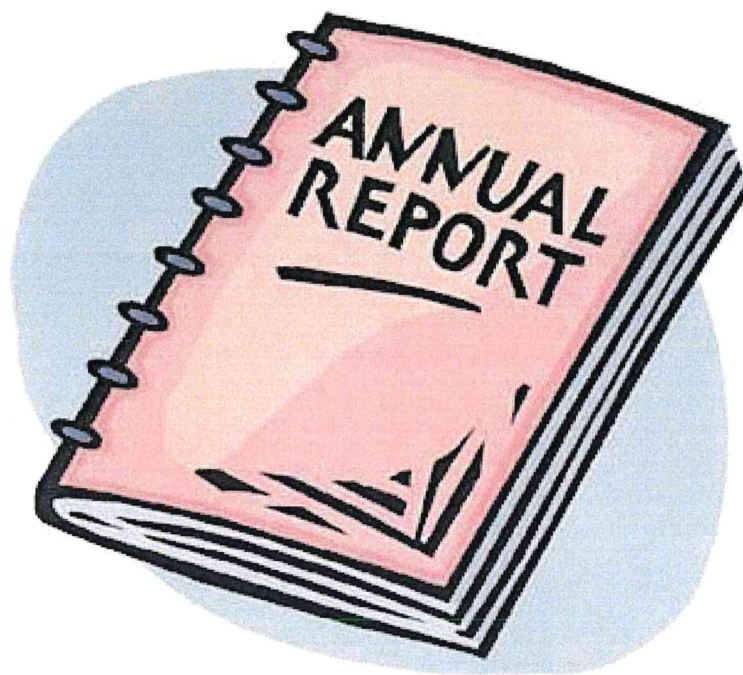


COLUMBIA FALLS, MAINE



COLUMBIA FALLS, MAINE

The Columbia Falls Select Board wish to inform you this will be the last year the Town Report will be delivered. In the future it will be available for pick up at the Town Office and available to view on the Town's website at [columbiafallsmaine.org](http://columbiafallsmaine.org).





**Town of Columbia Falls**  
**PO Box 100**  
**Columbia Falls, Maine 04623**  
**Phone 207-483-4067 Fax 207-483-3825**  
[townofcolumbiafalls@gmail.com](mailto:townofcolumbiafalls@gmail.com)  
[columbiafallsmaine.org](http://columbiafallsmaine.org)

Town Officers and Officials as of March 1, 2024

Board of Selectmen:	Nelson (Tony) Santiago, Chair (2026) Jessica (Jessie Bouchard) (2024) Jeffrey Greene (2025)
Administrative Assistant:	Melissa Allen-Ramsdell (Town Clerk, Tax Collector, Registrar of Voters)
Deputy Administrative Assistant:	Patricia Ford (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:	Charles Peterson
Road Commissioner:	Mike Bailey (2025)
Assessing Agent:	Downeast Assessing Service Marc Perry CMA
SAD #37 Directors:	David Perham (2025) Shelby Greene (2024)
Pleasant River Ambulance:	Courtney Hammond Nelson (Tony) Santiago
Planning Board:	Dave Perham, Chair (2026) Philip Worcester (2025) Kelly Hinkle (2024) Malinda Worcester, Alternate (2025) Rusty Schmelzer, Alternate, (2024)
Constables:	Elwin Wright Shane Emerson

## Columbia Falls Selectman's Report 2024

Over the last two years the Town has faced unprecedented development pressures, from large solar energy projects to one of the largest proposed developments in Maine history. At the last Town Meeting, Columbia Falls residents adopted a moratorium on large-scale development, which directed Town Officials to study the Town's ordinances and recommend land use regulations that are appropriate for large-scale development. The Town held community sessions, Town wide surveys, many combined Select Board & Planning Board open workshops, informational meetings and public hearings to gather as much town input as possible.

The Code of Ordinances is the result of these efforts, while this leaves most of the Town's regulations unchanged, the code puts decisions about large-scale developments into the hands of the voters. At this year's Town Meeting we are asking the voters to adopt the code.

We saw a lot of newly paved miles in Columbia Falls this past year, the Grantville Road, Centerville Road and a section of Epping Road totaling \$450,000. Road Commissioner Mike Bailey was busy with storm damage, installing culverts, ditching, and managing the ever-present duty of road maintenance.

We are reviewing the street lights in our Town more thoroughly. Versant is now working with us to ensure we are paying for the correct number of lights. We are also developing a Street Light Policy to consider at next year's town meeting, intended to be an official guide to the authorized locations of street lights. If you are a voting citizen, please stop by the office, or send us an email, your input is important.

We are pleased to have the fire truck purchase warrant article this year, and hope the community continues to see the necessity this asset would bring to our area. This one multipurpose truck would be replacing 3 aging fire trucks. Please see the Epping Volunteer Fire District report in the town book for more information.

We are working with our grant writer in applying for the Fish & Wildlife Grant for the Town Landing, Collins Grant for Union Hall, Rural Development Funds for a Town Office, Community Development Block Grant for Sand & Salt Shed as well as the Baseball Field.

Several years ago, the Town prevailed in a judicial enforcement action against a property owner on Centerville Rd. The Court found the lot to be non-conforming and is not grandfathered. The court ordered the owner to cease any residential or commercial use of the property and to pay a civil penalty and Attorneys fees in the amount of \$17,770 plus interest. The owner has not paid this penalty so the Town Attorney filed a judgment lien by requesting the Court to issue an order to turn over to the Town some of his property and assets in satisfaction of the judgment or will allow the Town to sell his property to recover the Town's costs. As of late February the owner failed to show up for the last scheduled hearing so the Town Attorney will be contacting the Court to establish a new hearing date.

Sincere gratitude to all board, committee, and community members who take their time to help manage our town, and to a wonderful Town Office staff for their dedication and professionalism through unprecedented times.

## Town Office Hours:

Monday through Thursday 8am-4pm.

We are closed for all  
Federal and State Holidays.

We follow the MSAD #37 cancellation and  
delay schedule.

Tax Assessor: Please call Marc Perry for an  
appointment at 207-460-9949 or email  
[downeastassessing@gmail.com](mailto:downeastassessing@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.

The Planning Board meetings are held the third  
Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm in the Town Office.

## Reminders:

Dog Licensing: Dog licenses are due and payable by January 31<sup>st</sup> of each year. October 15<sup>th</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup>.

Boat Registrations: expire December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year.

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

ATV & Snowmobile Registrations: expire on June 30<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Vital Statistics

January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023

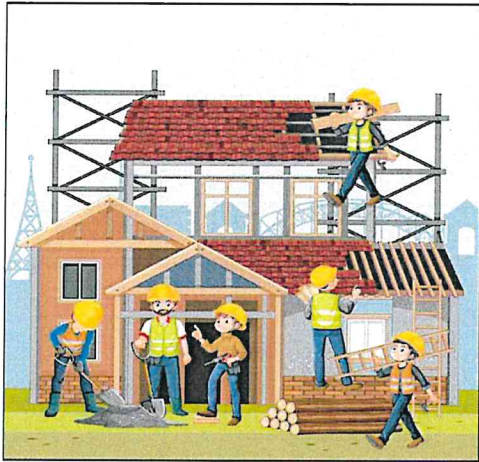
Births: 2

Marriages: 2

Deaths: 20

Bagley, Beverly B	07/13/2023
Bagley, Lita Mae	04/02/2023
Bentley, Donna Gale	01/19/2023
Colewell, Josie Strout	04/30/2023
Driscoll, Jean Healy	12/17/2023
Fairbrother, Daniel Howard Sr	05/06/2023
Fox, Raymond Francis Jr	11/01/2023
Higgins, Thomas Joseph Sr	08/14/2023
Kurtz, Robert Arthur	09/14/2023
Look, Dale Joseph	03/25/2023
Look, Nancy Ann	07/22/2023
Look, Robert Lester	03/19/2023
Loomis, Theresa Catherine	01/28/2023
Murphy, Romunda Louise	10/09/2023
Newcomer, Frederick M	01/16/2023
Pellegrini, Patricia Susan	04/12/2023
Rockwell, Wendell (Rocky) Eugene	06/25/2023
Snowdeal, Kenneth Fernald	01/27/2023
Vanier, Nancy Elaine	07/20/2023
Walsh, George Edward	11/28/2023





## Building Permits Issued in 2023

### Building Type

### Permits Issued

Garage

3

Out Buildings

4

Home

1

Addition(s)

3

R/V Park

1

Building Permits are reviewed on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM.



Janet T. Mills  
GOVERNOR

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

Spring 2024

Dear Maine Resident:

Since my first day in office, I have 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 invested in what people need to succeed — job training, child care, health care, education, broadband, and housing.

Those investments are working — 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 — all encouraging signs that are reflected in the strength of our economy. In fact, Maine has the best rate of economic growth in New England and one of the best rates in the nation.

At the same time, we have our challenges. In late October, a gunman took the lives of 18 innocent citizens and injured many more in an act of senseless and unconscionable violence. Then, in December and January, heavy rains and powerful winds brought massive flooding that destroyed homes and businesses, roads, and bridges, and changed the very landscape of our coast.

I have proposed legislation to address both issues — first, to rebuild from these storms and prepare for those to come; and, second, to expand mental health services and keep weapons out of the hands of dangerous people to better protect public safety.

We have made good progress over the past five years to ensure that every person can find a good-paying job in Maine; have affordable health insurance; have the peace of mind that their children are safe at home and at school; breathe clean air and drink clean water and enjoy the rolling hills, lush forests, mighty rivers, and bold coast of Maine.

There are still plenty of challenges, particularly when it comes to the affordability of housing, child care, energy, and other things, but thanks to the resilience and the resolve of Maine people, I am more confident than ever before in the future of our state.

It is my honor to serve as your governor.

Sincerely,



Janet T. Mills  
Governor



SUSAN M. COLLINS  
MAINE

113 DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1904  
(202) 224-2673  
(202) 224-2693 (FAX)

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1904

COMMITTEES  
APPROPRIATIONS  
HEALTH, EDUCATION,  
LABOR, AND PENSIONS  
SELECT COMMITTEE  
ON INTELLIGENCE  
SPECIAL COMMITTEE  
ON AGING

Dear Friends:

It is an honor to represent Maine in the U.S. Senate. I am grateful for the trust that Mainers have placed in me and welcome this opportunity to share some key accomplishments for our state.

Last year, I secured more than \$500 million for 285 projects from Aroostook County to York County that will promote job creation, workforce training, and economic development; expand access to health care; improve public safety, infrastructure, and community resources; and protect our environment. To address the crisis of soaring inflation and high energy prices, I led efforts to provide \$2 billion in supplemental funds to the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program. In the new Congress that begins in 2023, I expect to be the Vice Chairman of the Appropriations Committee and will continue to champion investments to support Maine's communities and families.

Strengthening our economy and supporting good jobs remain a top priority. Along with the Governor and the rest of the Maine Delegation and the associations representing the lobster industry, I worked to protect our hardworking lobstermen and women by pausing for six years the onerous federal regulations that jeopardize our lobster fishery's very existence. Another ongoing threat to Maine's small businesses is the shortage of workers. That's why I led an effort to push the Administration to nearly double the number of H-2B visas that are critical to our hospitality industry. Additionally, when the Administration proposed to cut the construction of a destroyer to be built by Bath Iron Works, I restored this funding to protect Maine jobs and our national security.

When Maine Veterans' Homes announced last year that it planned to close its facilities in Caribou and Machias, I opposed that decision which would have had such a devastating effect on rural veterans and their families. I am glad that the decision was reversed, and I have secured \$3 million to help with upgrades to these facilities. My *AUTO for Vets Act* also became law, which will help disabled veterans maintain their independence by supporting the purchase of a new adaptive vehicle once a decade.

This past year, Congress demonstrated how effective it can be on behalf of the American people when both parties work together. A few of the bipartisan achievements that I was involved in include the *Respect for Marriage Act*, which will provide certainty to millions of loving couples in same-sex marriages while protecting religious liberties, and the *Electoral Count Reform Act*, which establishes clear guidelines for our system of certifying and counting electoral votes for President and Vice President.

No one works harder than the people of Maine, and I have honored that work ethic by showing up for every vote. During my Senate service, I have cast more than 8,500 consecutive votes, never having missed one. I remain committed to doing all that I can to address your community's concerns in 2023. If I may be of assistance to you in any way, I encourage you to contact one of my six state offices.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator

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, 2024

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

Dear Friends,

Thank you for allowing me to add my congratulations and gratitude for the positive differences each town and city in Maine makes for its people and ultimately for Maine as a whole. When I travel around the state and visit the various regions in Maine, I see firsthand the differences you all make, the focus you put on excellence, and the helping hands you extend to neighbors. I have learned valuable lessons watching your collaborations with each other. They got the State motto right – *Dirigo* – because you all certainly do lead the way and exemplify the best of Maine.

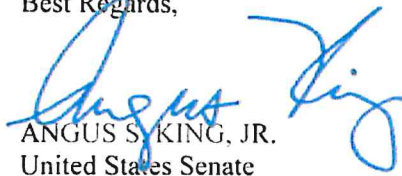
First, it was a true honor to be appointed to the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee this year to help address the challenges facing Maine veterans. We owe our way of life to these brave men and women and share a collective responsibility as a grateful nation to give back to our veterans. That means delivering veterans the benefits they have earned, addressing the veterans' suicide crisis, improving transition-to-civilian-status programs, and ensuring every veteran can access essential services, like affordable housing and behavioral healthcare.

Next, one of the most significant infrastructure projects in Maine history is underway: affordable and universal broadband availability throughout the state. Supported through funding in the bipartisan infrastructure bill, we are now within striking distance of broadband service even in our most rural communities. Additionally, infrastructure improvements in our roads and bridges, water and septic upgrades for our towns and support for our workforce and employers are also in the pipeline. Serious steps are being taken to address the toll from substance abuse and to provide our older neighbors with resources to help them continue to stand strong throughout their golden years. It is my goal here to make sure everyone has access to stable employment opportunities and quality healthcare which is of critical importance to keep our families healthy and happy.

I am thankful for each town in Maine for their commitment to their communities, to their citizens, and to this country. I will do my part to listen to your concerns and work to find useful solutions to the issues you face. My offices throughout Maine remain available to you if you face hurdles with the federal government, whether it be veteran issues, social security problems, student loans, immigration, tax assistance and more. I hope you will reach out of my offices in Presque Isle, Bangor, Augusta, Portland, or Biddeford and allow me the chance to be part of your solutions. Together, I know we can continue to build a stronger, brighter future for our great state.

Maine is known for our grit and resiliency and we are making great strides — something others across the country have noticed. 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 2024.

Best Regards,



ANGUS S. KING, JR.  
United States Senate

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

BANGOR  
292 Harlow Street, Suite 20350  
Bangor, ME 04401  
(207) 945-8090

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



**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

*131st 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:

I want to 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 tirelessly on behalf of the people of Senate District 6.

The First Regular and First Special Sessions of the 131<sup>st</sup> Maine State Legislature were notable as there were over 2,600 legislative bill requests and 2,019 of them were officially printed as Legislative Documents (LDs). No legislature this century has had as many LDs printed during its first year.

One area of success was in the Highway Fund. In the past, the Highway Fund has been supported through gasoline taxes, which have been declining for years due to more fuel-efficient and electric/hybrid vehicles, and bonding; however, we now have created a sustainable source of funding to maintain our transportation infrastructure. We will accomplish this by dedicating 40% of the vehicle sales tax along with the sales and use taxes collected by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles. This action is predicted to raise more than \$200 million for infrastructure each biennium.

The Second Regular Session began in January 2024. I am eager to discuss the issues important to all of you. I have heard from many of you regarding the biggest concerns you are facing, including increasing energy costs; access to health care and child care; education; housing; inflation; child welfare; mental health and substance abuse; workforce development; and crime, among others. As your State Senator, I will continue to do all I can to advocate for your priorities in Augusta.

Again, thank you for electing me to serve you in the State Senate. The 131<sup>st</sup> Legislature has a great deal more work to do; however, I believe, if we work collaboratively, there is nothing we can't accomplish. Please feel free to contact me by calling (207) 287-1505 or emailing me at [Marianne.Moore@legislature.maine.gov](mailto: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

### Tiffany Strout

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

January 2024

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As the Second Regular Session of the Maine State Legislature convenes, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to serve the citizens of District 11 in the Maine House of Representatives. Representing you is an honor and a privilege.

I am continuing to serve on the Joint Standing Committee of Marine Resources where we are looking at bills ranging from Aquaculture leasing, appeals for medical waivers for the menhaden fishery and seaweed harvesting. I presented LD 817 "An Act to Allow the Crew Member of a Holder of an Elver Fishing License to Empty an Elver Fyke Net", and it passed unanimously out of committee and should be in effect this Elver season. I had two bills related to hunting that did not pass out of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee, and one bill that did not pass out of the Taxation Committee, LD 1884 "An Act to Prohibit Offshore Wind Energy Development". This was a divided committee report, and I presented the bill on the house floor. It failed, but it did have bipartisan support. I am still very much opposed to offshore wind.

Unfortunately, with significant increases in tax revenues this past year the Legislature chose to grow state government rather than reform the income tax structure and help us all with the challenges we face due to inflation. The majority party passed bills like Family Medical Leave and voted to end the funding for the *Property Tax Stabilization Act* after reimbursement was already promised to towns.

I encourage you to participate in your state and local governments and school board. Phone calls and letters are always welcome; and due to the wider use of technology, meetings and hearings are even more accessible. Using the homepage of the Maine Legislature: **Legislature.Maine.Gov**, you will find access to Committee Hearings via Zoom, where you can observe or testify for or against a bill from the comfort of your home. I will be sending a weekly email newsletter with current state news. If you wish to receive these updates, please contact me at [Tiffany.Strout@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:Tiffany.Strout@legislature.maine.gov), and we will gladly add you to our list.

Again, thank you for giving me the honor of serving you at the State House and may you all have a safe and healthy 2024.

Sincerely,

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

Tiffany Strout  
State Representative

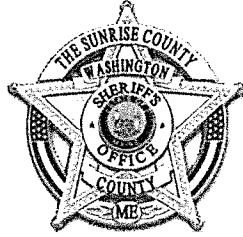
# Washington County Sheriff's Office

**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

January 31, 2024

TO THE CITIZENS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY:

As I write this annual report, I can't help but feel immense gratitude for the incredible support I've received throughout my tenure as your Sheriff. I want to express my deep appreciation for the unwavering confidence you've shown in me, allowing me to lead the Washington County Sheriff's Office for a third term.

Our agency has continuously evolved to meet the ever-changing needs of our community and beyond. When emergencies strike and calls come into our dispatch center, having access to accurate and comprehensive data becomes crucial in saving lives. To ensure swift emergency services, we've added two additional positions at the Regional Communications Center due to increased call volume.

I'm thrilled to share that we've secured a substantial grant of \$3.1 million, enabling us to make significant improvements to county-wide radio communications. These enhancements include upgrading to digital communications and improving coordination with ambulance and fire departments throughout the County.

Due to the restructuring of the Maine State Police in July of this year, they opted to end our call sharing agreement causing a shift of primary law enforcement duties to our agency. While State Troopers will continue to support us and offer their specialized units as needed, we are now the primary force in the area.

Our dedicated detectives have proven to be an invaluable asset in conducting criminal investigations. With their expertise, we've been able to thoroughly investigate complex crimes and successfully bring several significant felony cases to the District Attorney's Office for prosecution.

Lastly, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to all the dedicated employees of the Washington County Sheriff's Office, Washington County Jail, and the Regional Communications Center. Your unwavering commitment and devotion have played a vital role in making our County a safer place to live.

With utmost respect,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Barry Curtis'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping 'C' at the end.  
Sheriff Barry Curtis



---

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

February 9, 2024

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

Greetings,

2023 was a very busy year with 628 calls for service. We continue our recruitment efforts for paramedics and 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 to do all that is required to keep a service running and for responding to second calls for service such as motor vehicle accidents. Their selflessness increases our coverage abilities and reduces response times within our communities. Thanks to them, we were only out of service for a total of 24 hours during the entire year. We enjoyed participating in community events during the year such as handing out candy in parades, at town celebrations and trunk-or-treats, making some noise celebrating the homecoming of our veterans and victorious sports teams, joining the annual Wreaths Across America Convoy sendoff, participating in a Harrington Health Center Community Resource Fair, and engaging students at a Job Fair at Narraguagus Jr/Sr High School.

We would like to thank Petit Manan Ambulance for giving us an incredible deal on a Stryker power stretcher with charger and batteries, a LifePak 15 cardiac monitor/defibrillator, and a Stryker stair chair, when they unfortunately ceased operations last spring. This purchase provides us with identical equipment in both ambulances.

In early summer, we were contacted by Autotronics, the company we purchase our trucks and equipment from, with an outstanding offer on a brand new 2022 Braun ambulance which fits in the smaller bay in the base. Again, unfortunately, another ambulance service in the state was closing and unable to take delivery of the Braun. Autotronics gave us first refusal at a significantly discounted price. This purchase will replace the 2007 Wheeled Coach with 202,711 well-earned miles and is one of the reasons for the increase in the budget along with the state mandated minimum wage increase affecting payroll, related taxes, and insurance liabilities. Like most of us, the service has also felt the effects of inflation and rising energy and utility costs.

We continue to look forward to and plan 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 2023 & Proposed Budget 2024<sub>1/25/2024</sub>

Account	2023 Proposed	2023 Actual	2024 Proposed
<b>Income:</b>			
Donations	\$0	\$224.34	\$0
Training Sessions	\$0	\$	\$0
Fundraising	\$0	\$	\$0
Grants	\$0	\$	\$0
Interest Income/Dividends	\$0	\$5,355.62	\$0
Total Other Income	\$0	\$5,579.96	\$0
Reimbursements:			
ALS Backup Performed	\$0	\$0	\$0
Medicaid	\$60,000.00	\$42,006.07	\$48,000.00
Medicare	\$103,999.92	\$170,636.52	\$159,999.96
Private Insurance	\$36,000.00	\$19,353.21	\$24,000.00
Private Pay	\$1,200.00	\$954.72	\$1,200.00
Total Reimbursements:	\$205,999.92	\$232,950.52	\$233,199.96
Subsidy	\$287,701.08	\$278,708.37	\$348,914.16
<b>Total Income:</b>	\$481,901.00	\$517,238.85	\$582,114.12
ALS Requested	\$3600.00	\$3,675.00	\$3,600.00
Ambulance: Rental	\$0	\$4,050.00	\$4,050.00
Ambulance Capital Purchase	\$15,757.08	\$15,757.08	\$43,559.88
Diesel	\$14,400.00	\$12,525.63	\$14,400.00
Cell Phone	\$2,000.04	\$2,016.61	\$2,199.96
Repairs	\$4,800.00	\$5,618.18	\$5,600.04
Supplies	\$360.00	\$122.57	\$360.00
Total Ambulance:	\$21,560.04	\$43,765.07	\$73,769.88
Payroll taxes	\$35,199.96	\$26,063.96	\$32,000.04
Wages	\$378,754.56	\$333,577.35	\$392,010.96
Total Payroll:	\$413,954.52	\$359,641.31	\$424,011.00
Maintenance/Repairs/Supplies:			
Building	\$4,320.00	\$1,449.68	\$1,805.04
Medical (disposable/O2/ meds/equip)	\$18,350.16	\$13,104.78	\$16,400.16
Office	\$1,150.08	\$703.81	\$800.04
Utilities	\$9,876.12	\$10,130.36	\$11,540.04
Equip Purchase (Medical)	\$2,400.00	\$17,548.58	\$2,400.00
Insurance:			
Property/Casualty/Liability	\$16,800.00	\$23,714.50	\$24,000.00
Workers' Compensation	\$36,000.00	\$20,455.75	\$24,000.00
Total Insurance:	\$52,800.00	\$44,170.25	\$48,000.00
Prof. Fees-Accounting/Medical Billing/Medical Director/ Collections/Lab			
	\$15,780.00	\$16,442.63	\$16,550.04
Prof. Development/Supplies	\$2,000.16	\$1915.59	\$2,695.70
Dues/Subscriptions/Fees/ Licenses/Permits			
	\$1,120.08	\$1094.97	\$1,764.12
Bank Fees	\$0	\$0	\$0
Fines & Penalties	\$0	\$3.21	\$0
Postage/Printing/Shipping	\$120.00	\$31.35	\$120.00
Miscellaneous	\$300.00	\$484.41	\$500.04
Refund of Overpayment	\$650.04	\$1,459.00	\$0
<b>Total Expense:</b>	\$547,981.20	\$511,935.00	\$600,356.06

## ***Epping Volunteer Fire District Annual Report March 2023***

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 JoAnne Champney, Columbia Secretary/Treasurer, Phillip Worcester, Columbia Falls, Cathy Smith, Columbia

Epping currently has 12 active firefighters of which 5 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 to be interior attack qualified, as they are all vital to our missions. Our Junior Firefighter Program allows teenagers 16-18 to train and serve with us with some safety restrictions.

### **Rescue Truck Donation**

Worcester Holdings of Harrington donated to Epping VFD a 2001 International Rescue Truck that they had purchased from another Fire Department for use as a service vehicle. Found to be surplus to their needs, they offered the vehicle to Epping VFD at no charge. This valuable asset, in good working condition, will allow us to consolidate our rescue equipment into one vehicle and negate the need for the current use of a trailer loaned to us by Addison Fire Department.

The Rescue Truck will house, trail rescue, ice and water rescue equipment, extra air bottles and drinking water, rescue "K" saw, and other supplies and equipment used in responding to motor vehicle accidents. This rescue truck will also free up limited space in our two pumpers, and speed response times.

### **Fire Truck Purchase**

Epping is proposing to the two Towns the purchase of a new Pumper/Tanker apparatus to replace three existing vehicles. The price is \$ 493,435.00 to be split equally between the two Towns.

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 will be 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

**Epping Volunteer Fire District  
Annual Report March 2023**

**Epping Volunteer Fire District Calls  
January 1 - December 31, 2023**

<b>Epping Calls</b>	
Lift Assist/CPR	17
Brush/Grass Fire	0
Permitted Burn	0
Vehicle Fire	1
Structure Fire	2
Chimney Fire	0
Dumpster Fire	0
Motor Vehicle Accident	4
Lifeflight MEDEVAC Landing Zone	0
Traffic Control/Power Lines	2
Fire Alarm	6
Furnace/Heater Malfunction	0
Rescue	0
Ambulance Driver	0
Flooding/Pumping	0
Trees Down	3
<b>Epping Total</b>	<b>35</b>

<b>Mutual Aid Calls</b>	
Lift Assist/CPR	25
Brush/Grass Fire	2
Permitted Burn	0
Vehicle Fire	1
Structure Fire	1
Chimney Fire	4
Dumpster Fire	0
Motor Vehicle Accident	3
Lifeflight MEDEVAC Landing Zone	0
Traffic Control/Power Lines	2
Fire Alarm	2
Furnace/Heater Malfunction	4
Rescue	1
Stand-By at Station	0
Ambulance Driver	0
Flooding/Pumping	0
Trees Down	0
<b>Mutual Aid Total</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Total Calls</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>Total Man Hours</b>	<b>389</b>

Submitted:

Cecil Gray, Fire Chief

**EPPING VOLUNTEER FIRE DISTRICT**

392 US Rte. 1, PO Box 204

Columbia, ME 04623

(207)483-2036

**FY-2024 PROPOSED ANNUAL BUDGET**

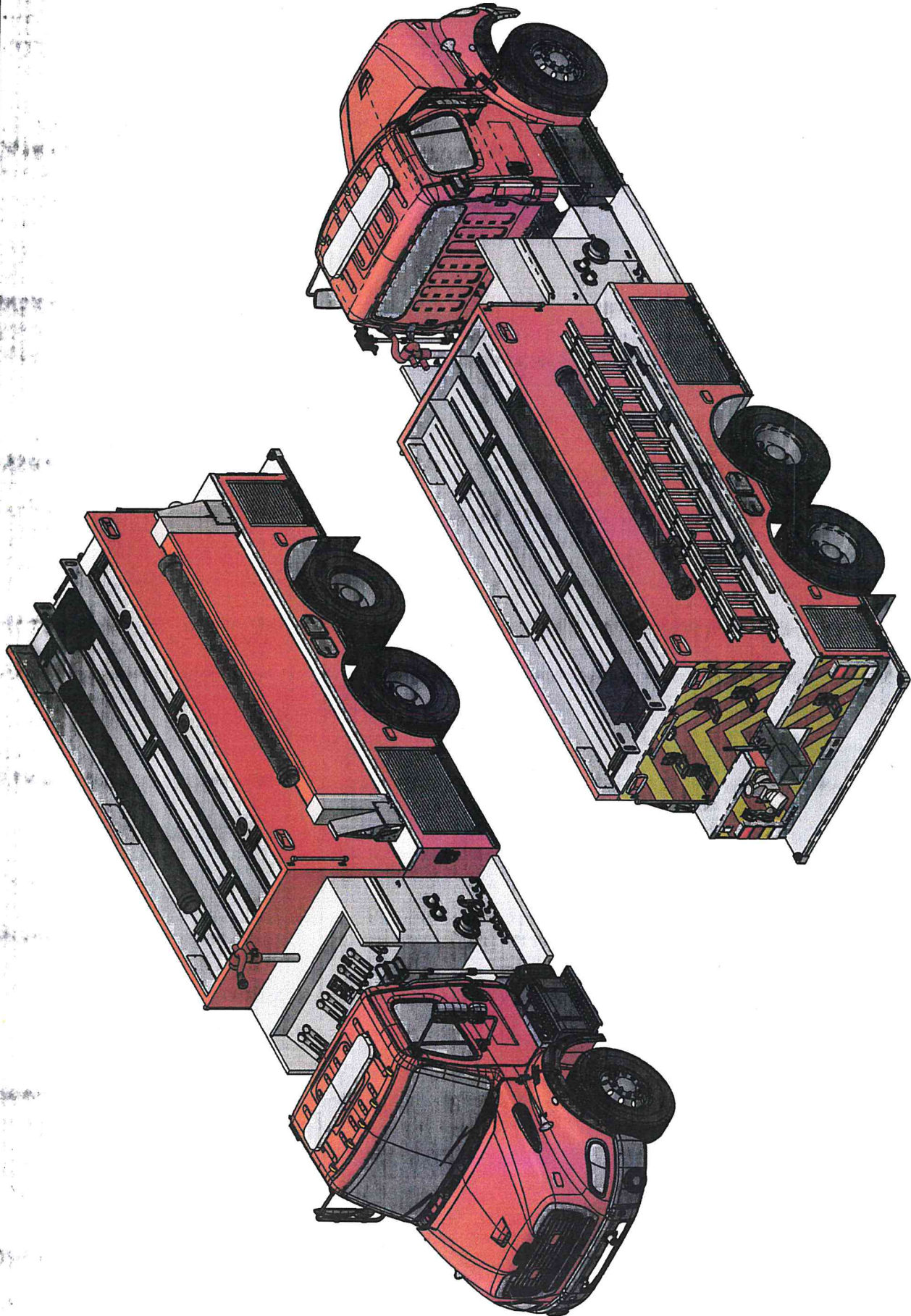
	FY-23	FY-24
<b>LABOR</b>		
Wages	\$3,750	\$3,750
Taxes	\$ 500	\$ 500
<b>LABOR SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,250</b>	<b>\$4,250</b>
<b>G&amp;A</b>		
Accounting Services (Audit, Taxes, Payroll)	\$ 500	\$ 500
Annual Incorporation Fee	\$ 35	\$ 35
Bank Service Fee(s)	\$ 500	\$ 500
Computer Supplies & Equipment	\$ 300	\$ 300
Legal Fees	\$ 100	\$ 100
Meals (Away)	\$ 350	\$ 350
Medical Exams	\$ 1,500	\$ 2,000 *
Membership Dues (Maine State FF Assoc.)	\$ 630	\$ 630
MMA Membership Fee	\$ 600	\$ 600
MMA Firefighter Supplemental Insurance	\$ 800	\$ 800
Office Supplies & Equipment	\$ 300	\$ 300
Property & Casualty Insurance	\$ 8,000	\$10,000 *
Reimbursement (FF Mileage)	\$ 3,200	\$ 3,200
Rentals	\$ 100	\$ 100
Shipping & Postage	\$ 100	\$ 100
Travel (Away)	\$ 200	\$ 200
Workers Compensation (MEMIC)	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,200
<b>G&amp;A SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$18,415</b>	<b>\$20,915</b>
<b>MAINTENANCE</b>		
Equipment Buildings & Grounds	\$ 3,600	\$ 3,600
Contract Services (Hose & Pump Tests, etc.)	\$ 2,500	\$ 3,000 *
Equipment Repair Mobile	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Maintenance Consumables	\$ 500	\$ 500
Maintenance Reserve Fund	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
Maintenance Rental	\$ 200	\$ 200
Tools	\$ 200	\$ 200
Vehicle Repair	\$15,000	\$15,000
Vehicle Supplies		
361 Pumper		
362 Tanker		
363 Brush Truck		
364 Brush Tanker		
371 Pumper		
373 Pumper/Tanker		
<b>MAINTENANCE SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>	<b>\$25,500</b>

<b>OPERATIONS</b>		
Operational Contract Services	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Operational Equipment	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
Electricity	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,500 *
Heating Fuel	\$ 4,500	\$ 5,000 *
Laundry Services	\$ 200	\$ 200
Operational Safety Equipment		
Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	\$ 5,500	\$ 5,500
Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
Operational Supplies (Consumables - Foam)	\$ 2,500	\$ 5,000 *
Radios & Pagers	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
Telephone (Station Telcom)	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Training	\$ 600	\$ 600
Vehicle & Mobile Equipment Fuel	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500
Waste Disposal	\$ 100	\$ 100
<b>OPERATIONS SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$26,400</b>	<b>\$29,900</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$74,065</b>	<b>\$80,565</b>

\* denotes increase

Difference between FY-2023 and FY-2024 is \$6,500.00

EVFD's 2023 Annual Budget request from each town is: **\$40,282.50**

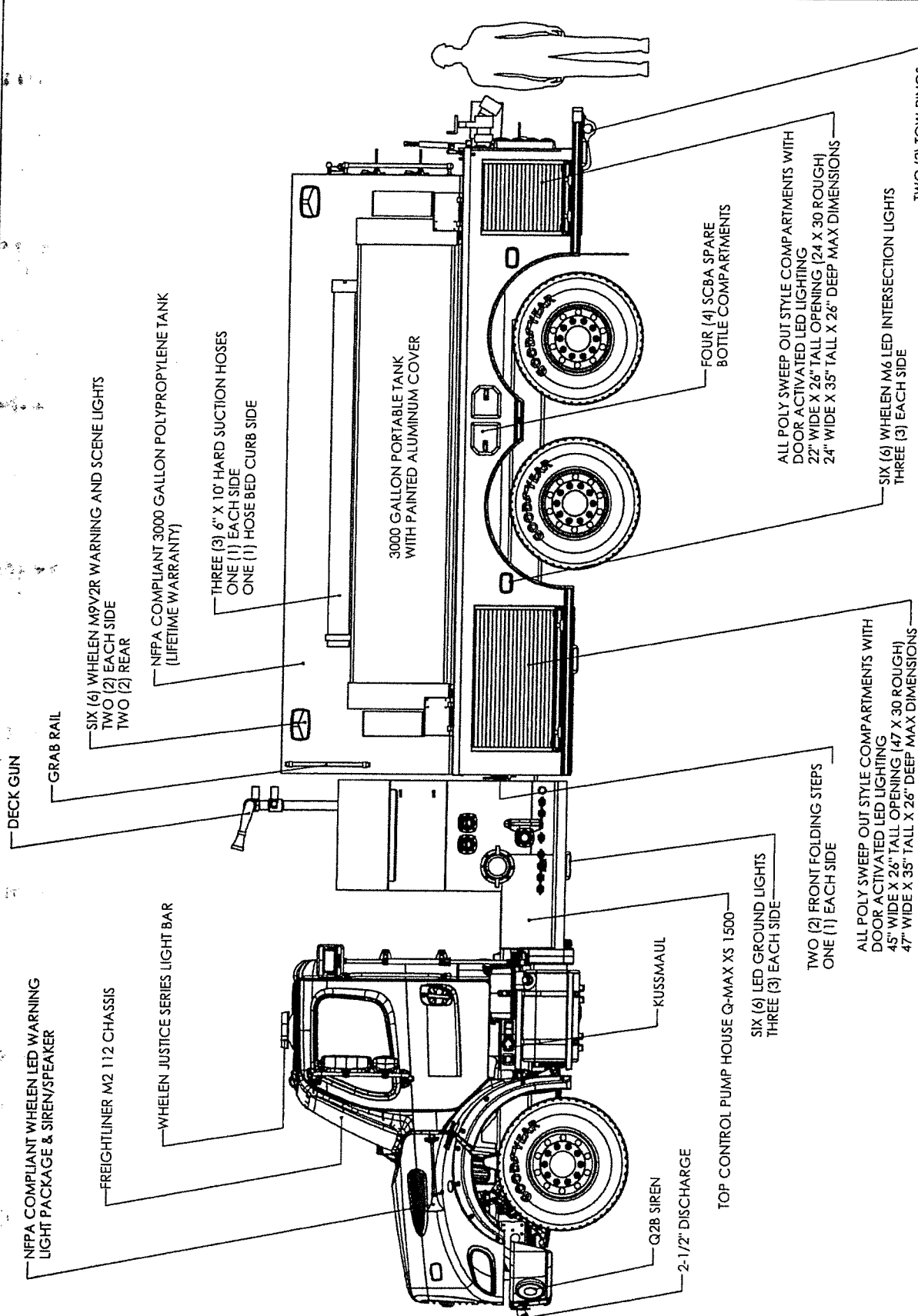


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PREPARED FOR: COLUMBIA, ME  
 BY: S. BOLL  
 DRAWING NUMBER: 23055  
 SHEET 4 OF 4



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PREPARED FOR  
COLUMBIA, ME  
DRAWING NUMBER  
23055

BY  
S. BOLL  
SHEET 1 OF 4

NFA COMPLIANT WHELEN LED WARNING LIGHT PACKAGE & SIREN/SPEAKER

FREIGHTLINER M2 112 CHASSIS

WHELEN JUSTICE SERIES LIGHT BAR

DECK GUN

GRAB RAIL

SIX (6) WHELEN M9V2R WARNING AND SCENE LIGHTS  
TWO (2) EACH SIDE  
TWO (2) REAR

NFA COMPLIANT 3000 GALLON POLYPROPYLENE TANK  
(LIFETIME WARRANTY)

THREE (3) 6" X 10' HARD SUCTION HOSES  
ONE (1) EACH SIDE  
ONE (1) HOSE BED CURB SIDE

3000 GALLON PORTABLE TANK  
WITH PAINTED ALUMINUM COVER

Q2B SIREN

2-1/2" DISCHARGE

TOP CONTROL PUMP HOUSE Q-MAX XS 1500

SIX (6) LED GROUND LIGHTS  
THREE (3) EACH SIDE

TWO (2) FRONT FOLDING STEPS  
ONE (1) EACH SIDE

ALL POLY SWEEP OUT STYLE COMPARTMENTS WITH  
DOOR ACTIVATED LED LIGHTING  
45" WIDE X 26" TALL OPENING (47 X 30 ROUGH)  
47" WIDE X 35" TALL X 26" DEEP MAX DIMENSIONS

ALL POLY SWEEP OUT STYLE COMPARTMENTS WITH  
DOOR ACTIVATED LED LIGHTING  
22" WIDE X 26" TALL OPENING (24 X 30 ROUGH)  
24" WIDE X 35" TALL X 26" DEEP MAX DIMENSIONS

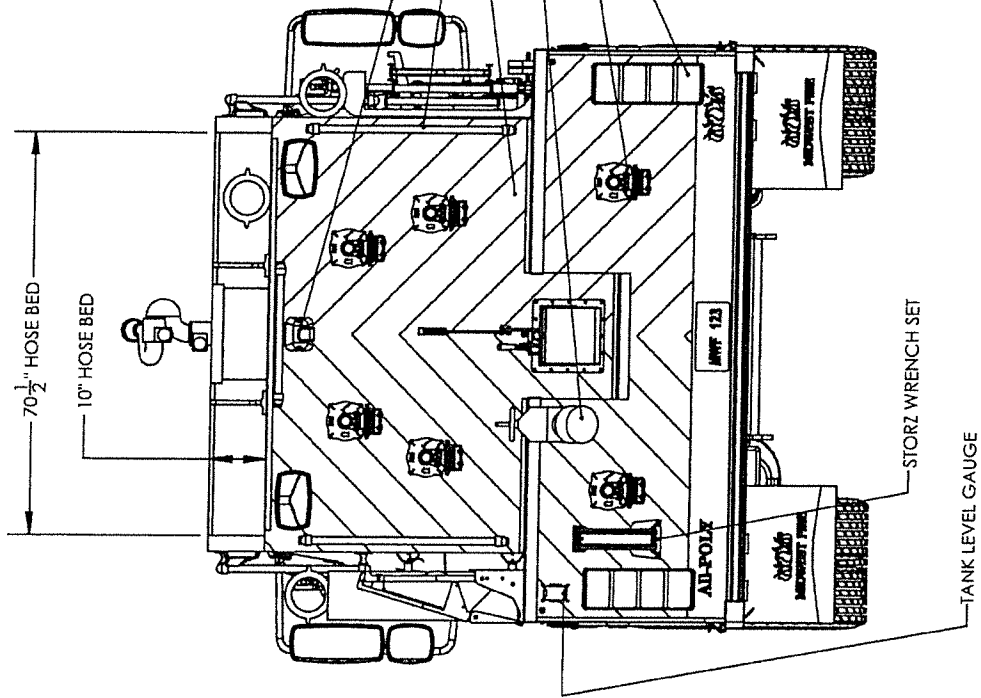
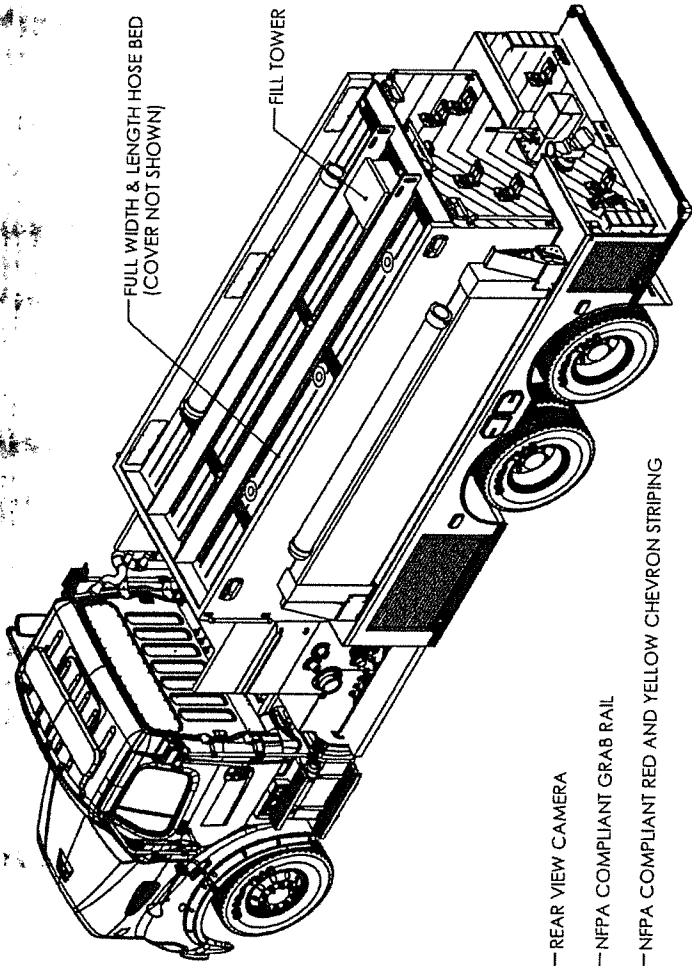
FOUR (4) SCBA SPARE  
BOTTLE COMPARTMENTS

SIX (6) WHELEN M6 LED INTERSECTION LIGHTS  
THREE (3) EACH SIDE

TWO (2) TOW RINGS



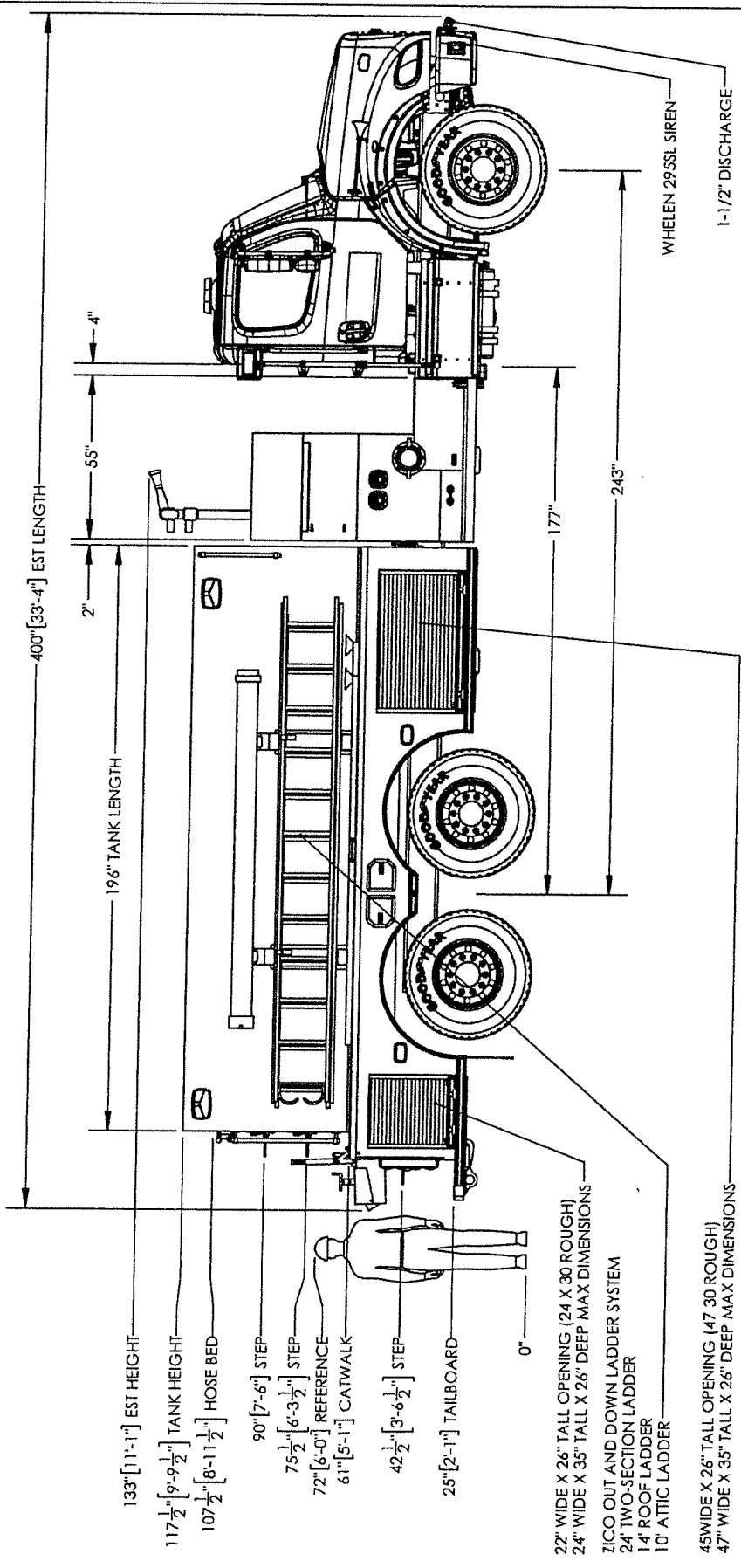




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<p>PREPARED FOR</p>	<p>COLUMBIA, ME</p>
<p>BY</p>	<p>S. BOLL</p>
<p>DRAWING NUMBER</p>	<p>23055</p>
<p>SHEET 2 OF 4</p>	





133" [11'-1"] EST HEIGHT

117 1/2" [9'-9 1/2"] TANK HEIGHT

107 1/2" [8'-11 1/2"] HOSE BED

90" [7'-6"] STEP

75 1/2" [6'-3 1/2"] STEP

72" [6'-0"] REFERENCE

61" [5'-1"] CATWALK

42 1/2" [3'-6 1/2"] STEP

25" [2'-1"] TAILBOARD

0"

22" WIDE X 26" TALL OPENING (24 X 30 ROUGH)

24" WIDE X 35" TALL X 26" DEEP MAX DIMENSIONS

ZICO OUT AND DOWN LADDER SYSTEM

24' TWO-SECTION LADDER

14' ROOF LADDER

10' ATTIC LADDER

45" WIDE X 26" TALL OPENING (47 30 ROUGH)

47" WIDE X 35" TALL X 26" DEEP MAX DIMENSIONS

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PREPARED FOR  
COLUMBIA, ME

BY  
S. BOLL

DRAWING NUMBER  
23055

SHEET 3 OF 4

Operations of the Town

Item	2023 Proposed	2023 Expensed	2024 Proposed Budget
Advertising	4,500.00	648.66	2,500.00
Audit	10,000.00	9,820.00	12,500.00
Computer Services	18,000.00	17,221.23	19,000.00
Deeds	1,500.00	988.00	1,500.00
Dues	2,500.00	1,801.00	2,000.00
<b>Elected Officials</b>			
Selectmen	9,100.00	9,100.00	9,100.00
Treasurer	4,400.00	4,400.00	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	2,200.00	2,100.00	2,200.00
Health Officer	125.00	125.00	25.00
Road Commissioner	1,100.00	1,100.00	1,200.00
Planning Board	3,840.00	1,455.00	3,000.00
Appeals Board			900.00
Election Wages & Expenses - 3 Elections in 2024	3,000.00	1,005.39	5,000.00
Equipment - Printer Lease & Supplies	5,500.00	2,644.20	3,500.00
Insurance	10,000.00	5,806.00	7,000.00
Office Supplies	5,500.00	3,750.16	5,500.00
Postage	3,000.00	1,833.03	2,500.00
Telephone & Internet	5,000.00	3,727.09	4,500.00
Training	750.00	1,816.34	1,000.00
Travel	400.00	530.46	500.00
	95,415.00	74,871.56	93,425.00
<b>Decrease over last year's proposed budget by 2%</b>			
Note: Prepared Prior to Audit/Figures may not be exact			

Town Buildings and Grounds

Item	2023 Proposed	2023 Expensed	2024 Proposed Budget
<b>Town Office</b>			
Janitorial-cleaning & supplies	5,500.00	4,311.69	3,000.00
Maintenance			-
Security/Fire Inspection	1,000.00	840.74	1,000.00
Trash	250.00	69.50	125.00
Subtotal	6,750.00	5,221.93	4,125.00
Budget			4,200.00
<b>Town Properties</b>			
Flags for Cemeteries	-	-	120.00
Maintenance	1,000.00		-
Mowing	3,000.00	3,000.00	
Ballfield, Memorial Park, Town Landing, 2 Triangles, Greenwood Cemetery, Town Cemetery			4,600.00
Centerville Lot - bush hog			
Trash	250.00	69.50	125.00
Subtotal	4,250.00	3,069.50	4,845.00
Budget			5,000.00
<b>Union Hall</b>			
Clock Winding \$20 x 52 wks	1,050.00	1,050.00	1,050.00
Electric \$100 x 12 mos.	1,000.00	955.55	1,200.00
Maintenance	3,000.00	2,248.98	1,500.00
Mowing			400.00
Painting - applied for grant			-
Plowing	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Roof Repair-Replace 1/2 of Roof	24,000.00	13,020.00	-
Steeple - Engineer Survey			
Subtotal	30,050.00	18,274.53	5,150.00
Budget			5,500.00
Note: Roof Repair balance of \$10,980 went back to Undesignated Funds			
Paid by Volunteer work through Fund Raising Account for Union Hall during 2023 - \$1,154.44			
Applied for a Susan Collins Grant to offset cost for Repairs to Union Hall			
<b>Total Estimated Cost for Town Properties</b>			<b>14,120.00</b>
<b>Total Budget for Town Properties</b>			<b>14,700.00</b>

2024 Proposed Budget

Items	Appropriations 2023	Expensed 2023	Selectmen Recommendations	Budget Committee Recommendations
Administrative Assistant	45,000	39,996	46,350	46,350
Deputy for Administrative Assistant	15,000	7,486	12,000	12,000
Operation of the Town (Administration Expenses)	95,415	74,872	94,050	93,425
Animal Control (Expenses, not pay)	150	-	100	100
Assessor Agent - w. Selectmen overseers	8,500	8,244	8,500	8,500
<b>Cemeteries</b>				
Columbia Falls Cemetery Association	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Greenwood Cemetery - mowing only	1,250	1,250	Moved to Town Properties	
Town Cemetery - mowing only	1,250	1,250		
Town Cemetery Maintenance Fund (Reserve)\$1,000	1,000	1,000	500	500
Contingency/Emergency Fund (Reserve) \$9,520.64 +/-	1,500	1,500	500	500
Epping Fire District - Operations	37,033	37,033	40,283	40,284
Fire Truck Fund - 155,377.54 +/- (Reserve)	10,000	10,000	246,718	246,718
General Assistance - \$2,154.62 +/-	1,600	1,123	500	345
Grant Writer	6,500	5,225	1,000	1,000
Legal Account - Carry Forward 25,968.58	120,000	94,031	40,000	40,000
Payroll Taxes	15,000	9,752	15,000	15,000
Pleasant River Ambulance	44,744	44,744	54,264	54,264
Sand Salt Shed - \$90,113.09 +/- Carry Forward; Grant Searching	10,000	10,000	-	-
Streetlights - 22% increase over last year	11,200	11,648	13,000	15,000
Town Building Fund (Reserve) - Grant Searching	15,000	15,000	5,000	5,000
<b>Town Properties-Ballfield, Centerville Road Lot, Memorial Park, Former FireHouse Lot, Great Hill Triangles</b>				
Town Office			4,200	4,200
Town Properties			5,000	5,000
Union Hall			5,500	5,500
Town Library - (take from Grant funds) Remaining Funds \$1,631.04	1,240	709	1,000	1,000
Columbia Falls Youth Recreation Fund	-	-	1,000	1,000
<b>Town Roads &amp; Bridges</b>				
Snow Removal, Salt & Sand (Not included in totals) from Excise	150,000	109,284	150,000	150,000
Maintenance - Carry forward \$55,829.95	60,000	49,000	75,000	75,000
<b>Additional Paving</b> - borrowed the funds 2023/Pmts. To come from Local Road Assistance Funds and Excise - \$44,854.39/4 yrs left.				
<b>Subtotal Appropriations/Expensed</b>	<b>653,382</b>	<b>580,001</b>	<b>866,319</b>	<b>867,540</b>

Items	Appropriations 2023	Expensed 2023	Selectmen Recommendations	Budget Committee Recommendations
<b>Donations</b>				
Eastern Agency on Aging	750	750	750	750
Downeast Community Partners (WHCA)	6,621	6,621	5,471	5,471
LifeFlight Foundation	560	560	560	560
Soil & Water Conservation District	200	200	-	-
The Red Cross	200		200	-
The Lamb House	500	500		
<b>Subtotal Donations</b>	<b>8,831</b>	<b>8,631</b>	<b>6,981</b>	<b>6,781</b>
<b>Total Appropriations/Expensed/Donations</b>	<b>662,213</b>	<b>588,632</b>	<b>873,300</b>	<b>874,321</b>
<b>Less funds to be taken from: Library Grant &amp; Excise Tax</b>	<b>151,240</b>	<b>154,847</b>	<b>195,854</b>	<b>195,854</b>
<b>Less Fire Truck Fund Acct and borrow additional \$100,000</b>			<b>246,718</b>	<b>246,718</b>
<b>Remaining amount to be raised from Taxation</b>	<b>510,973</b>	<b>433,784</b>	<b>430,728</b>	<b>431,749</b>
<b>Decrease over last year's appropriations \$79,224/18%</b>				
<b>Other Municipal Obligations to the Town</b>				
County Tax	68,818	68,818		per request
SAD #37 2023/2024	376,176	376,176		per request
<b>Total Other/Expensed (not included in total above)</b>	<b>444,994</b>	<b>444,994</b>		

Updated  
February 14, 2024

## Legal and Grant Writing Expenses 2023

<b>Legal Account</b>	<b>Expensed 2023</b>	<b>Totals</b>
Approved at Town Meeting		120,000.00
Less		
Centerville Road	4,664.02	
General Representation	14,588.18	
Grant Writing	1,033.50	
Land Use/Ordinance	73,745.72	
<b>Total Legal Expenses</b>		<b>94,031.42</b>
Remaining to carryforward		25,968.58
<b>Grant Writer</b>	<b>Expensed 2023</b>	<b>Totals</b>
Approved at Town Meeting		6,500.00
Less		
Bernstein Shur	2,200.00	
Methot Method:		
June 27 - 30, 2023	500.00	
July 1, 2023	675.00	
September 5, 2023	700.00	
October 10, 2023	1,025.00	
November 13, 2023	125.00	
Nov/Dec 2023	150.00	
<b>Total Grant Writer Expenses</b>		<b>5,375.00</b>
Remaining funds to go in Undesignated		1,125.00

## **Columbia Falls – Grant Funds Status**

The Town of Columbia Falls started exploring grant opportunities in order to get much needed Town projects funded and come to life faster than the general budget would allow. The Town decided to hire a grant writer to research and apply for grant funding that aligns with the Town's needs. The Town's grant efforts are summarized below.

### **2023 Congressional Earmark**

The Town applied for a congressional earmark with Susan Collins office. The funds would cover the Union Hall roof repair. The Town was awarded \$20,000 last year, but due to the federal government budget issues the funds were stalled until the budget was passed. The bill designating the funds is waiting to be signed. The Town should expect these funds by early summer.

### **Fish and Wildlife Coastal Program**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) Coastal Program is a voluntary, community-based program that provides technical and financial assistance primarily through cooperative agreements to coastal communities, conservation partners, and landowners to restore and protect fish and wildlife habitat on public and private lands. The Town applied for \$150,000 to make improvements to the Town Landing. These improvements would include widening the path to the launch and laying crushed stone for safer walking and launching, developing an ADA-accessible walking path along the river, and adding a concrete slab with picnic tables, trash receptacles, and a roof overhead. The Town is expected to receive notification about the award results in May of this year.

### **Maine Department of Economic and Community Development Community Enterprise Grant**

The State releases federal funds every winter to Maine municipalities. The Community Enterprise Grant funds the following activities: façade grants to for-profit or non-profit businesses for exterior improvements, including signage, painting, siding, awnings, lighting, display windows and other approved exterior improvements (interior improvements are not allowed) or streetscapes including pocket parks, benches, street lighting, tree plantings, signage, traffic calming improvements, sidewalks and other approved improvements; eligible planning activities necessary to complete the Project Development Phase. The Town submitted a letter of intent in February for \$100,000 to fund the baseball field improvements. The State is reviewing the letter of intent and has been in contact with the Town's grant writer concerning the project. The Town will be invited by the State to fully apply for funding by the end of March. If the Town is invited we will submit a full application in April and be awarded in June.



# ROAD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Last year the town did a lot of hot topping and overall the roads are in fairly good shape. We paved the Centerville Road, part of the Epping Road, the Grantville Road and the little road that connects the Tibbettstown Road to the Montagail Road. Total money spent on Hot Top is 460,000.00.

We did sweeping, mowing, a cross culvert on the Cross Road and a small project on the Tibbettstown Road plus other general maintenance issues.

This year we have approximately \$60,000.00 to spend on road and we will be doing the following:

Paving from Route 1 to the daycare on Main Street. Preliminary work on guardrail on Cross Road. Ditching and culvert work on the Tibbettstown Road. Mowing, sweeping and other general maintenance.

We are asking for the town to Raise \$75,000.00 for the year 2025. We are trying to have the money ahead of time so we can pay our bills as received.

We have had a mild winter with very little snow. We spent over \$35,000.00 on sand and salt for the year and have used very little of it so far. All of that leftover sand and salt will be a loss for the town. We need a Sand and Salt building in our town to help save money for future years.

Please contact me for any problems or suggestions.

Mike Bailey

207-598-0312

[mike.baileygmc@outlook.com](mailto:mike.baileygmc@outlook.com)

**Roads 2023**

Account #	Description	2023	Received	Expensed	Total
E40-10-55	Carryforward per auditor March 8, 2023				61,550.00
E40-10-55	Maintenance per Town Meeting				40,000.00
	Total Funds to work with				101,550.00
<b>Expenses</b>					
13-Feb	Payoff Road Loan			7,184.79	94,365.21
27-Feb	Northeast Paving -Patching			317.25	94,047.96
	Father's Farm LLC - Patching work/moved snow			605.00	93,442.96
25-Apr	Perry Trucking-Centerville Road/Epping Road Extention			3,575.00	89,867.96
4-May	The By Us Co. - Sweeping			3,725.00	86,142.96
8-May	Father's Farm LLC - Crossroads/Highlands Road			450.00	85,692.96
17-May	County Concrete				85,692.96
	- Cemetery Cross Road			9,000.00	76,692.96
	- Epping Extension			10,000.00	66,692.96
18-May	Father's Farm LLC-Church Circle Patching			150.00	66,542.96
24-Jul	Father's Farm LLC-Repairs/Sign Placement			300.00	66,242.96
7-Sep	Father's Farm LLC- Roadside Mowing/Water Drainage			3,150.00	63,092.96
22-Sep	Father's Farm LLC-Storm "LEE" cleanup			375.00	62,717.96
25-Oct	Hanscom's-Grading Road Shoulders			3,380.00	59,337.96
13-Nov	Father's Farm-Filled potholes/fixd driveway			150.00	59,187.96
13-Nov	Marcus Norton-Cross Roads/Tibbettstown Rd Project			6,188.00	52,999.96
27-Dec	Father's Farm-Tree removal from winter storm			450.00	52,549.96
				49,000.04	
<b>Centerville Paving Project</b>					
	Road Loan for Paving Centerville G1-600-00		200,000.00		200,000.00
17-May	County Concrete			200,000.00	-
11-Dec	Payment on current loan		44,854.39		
<b>Account # Description 2023 Budget Expensed Total</b>					
E40-40-40	<b>Local Road Assistance from the State</b>				
	2023 Transactions Balance Brought Forward -			G1-450-00	28,236.00
	Payment to Machias Savings for Loan due February 14, 2023				(28,000.00)
	Ending balance confirmed by auditor				236.00
11/30/2023	Received LRAP from State		21,272.00		
	Applied towards the Road Loan payment of \$44,854.39				
<b>Winter Road Maintenance - to be taken from Excise</b>					
	Salt, Sand and Plowing			150,000.00	
E40-20-68	Salt	17,522.52			
E40-20-69	Sand	18,450.00			
<b>Snow Plowing and Sanding</b>					
E40-20-67	Plow Pmt.	73,311.48		109,284.00	
	Remaining funds for Salt, Sand and Plowing				40,716.00
<b>Total Excise received 2023</b>			154,596.38	(109,284.00)	
Less - Salt		(17,522.52)			
Less - Sand		(18,450.00)	(18,450.00)	2022 Sand mix	
Less - Plowing		(73,311.48)			
Total for Road Contract				(127,734.00)	
Less - Loan Pmt.		(23,582.39)			
Remaining Excise to move to Road Maintenance			3,279.99	Add to Road Account	

## Annual Statement from the Local Health Officer

Greetings,

Another year has passed in our lives and the world around us.

I am glad to report that yet again there were no requests for property or home inspections due to filth, vermin, or unsanitary conditions.

The State has started online education programs for Local Health Officers and as time has permitted, I have attended a couple of them. Most of the subject matter is relevant to a small town such as ours and the discussions and questions brought forth are very helpful.

In the past I have used this report page to discuss Senior Healthcare and the huge challenges it faces. I am going to bring it up again here and now.

The days of Nursing Home beds, Assisted Living Facility beds and Rehab/ Skilled Care beds being available just down the road for your beck and call are gone.

The Senior Healthcare industry in this State has been financially neglected and pillaged for years and this has led to its near demise. It is a business. It faces all of the same challenges every other business faces with the added pressures of overwhelming Federal and State Regulations.....and underwhelming Federal and State (Medicare and Mainecare) reimbursement.

This leads to facilities closing from one end of the state to the other.

In my daily job at DECH I help our Case Manager find beds for our senior citizen patients. It is now common for us to find those beds in Bangor, Waterville or even Lewiston.

There are days that the DECH ER has 30-50 % of it's beds filled with seniors waiting days and weeks for placement. Dementia/Memory care beds bring on even further challenges as there are none available in Washington or Hancock Counties. Gone are the good ol' days.

As families, please have discussions with your elders. Please start planning ahead. It is a muddled, confusing, and bureaucratic process to enter the system of Senior care.

Take your medications. See your Doctor. Check on your neighbor. Be vigilant.

Joe Bragg, RN

Local Health Officer

Columbia Falls Town Library  
PO Box 100  
Columbia Falls, ME 04623  
207-483-1255

Dear Selectmen and Fellow Townspeople,

The Library Committee would like to thank you for last year's appropriation. The funds were used to purchase books, supplies and a new printer. There were 246 patrons in 2023 and several much-appreciated donations of used books. We also have two wonderful Library volunteers, Elizabeth Perham and Kayla Zagieboylo. LeAnn Dunham has held three classes in the library for big siblings about to have a new baby in the family.

Our goals for the 2024 fiscal year are:

- Spring and Fall Book sales
- More volunteers

This year's wish list for funding includes:

- New books
- Book processing and day to day supplies

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

- Internet access ( WiFi available)
- Obtaining information
- Make copies & send faxes
- Research; for regular schoolwork or homeschooling

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

Janie Kroeger – Town Librarian



# COLUMBIA FALLS UNION HALL 2023 REPORT

The Committee put on a “Trunk or Treat Event” which was well attended not only by Columbia Falls residents but also many folks from around neighboring towns. The costumes, decorated trunks, children’s games, crafts and a pinata were a big hit.

The Annual Christmas Tree Lighting and Santa visit was well attended. The Event raised about \$1,051.00 for our fundraising account. The Washington County businesses that donated items for the auction ranged from Whiting to Steuben. A big **Thank You** to all those businesses for their generosity!

Due to the efforts of our Grant Writer, we are anticipating receiving the S. Collins Grant to put towards the upkeep of the Hall and to put towards the goals we have.

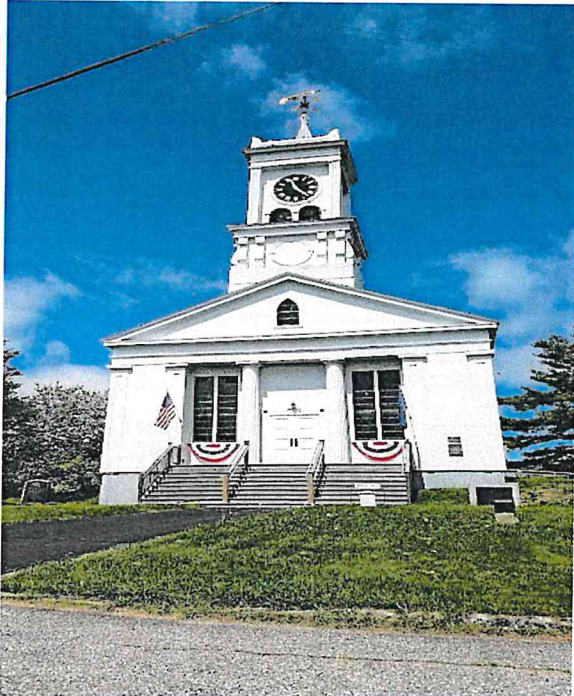
The east side of the roof has been re-shingled this year. The insurance company paid for the repair to the ceiling inside.

## FUTURE GOALS:

West & north side exterior painting, purchase kitchen equipment & video equipment. The Union Hall Committee expects to continue with fundraising activities and seeking grants to complete these projects.

As always, the Union Hall Committee is looking for individuals that would be interested in bringing new ideas for community-based activities and entertainment for all citizens in our area. For more information, suggestions, ideas or if you are just willing to help, please call the Town Office at 483-4067.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Union Hall Committee



SUSAN M. COLLINS  
MAINE

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

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1904

COMMITTEES:  
APPROPRIATIONS  
Vice Chair  
HEALTH, EDUCATION,  
LABOR, AND PENSIONS  
SELECT COMMITTEE  
ON INTELLIGENCE

March 8, 2024

Mr. Anthony Santiago  
Board Chairman  
Town of Columbia Falls  
8 Point Street  
Columbia Falls, ME 04623-5306

Dear Mr. Santiago,

I am writing to update you about the Town of Columbia Falls' request for federal funding to restore the historic Union Hall. At my request, \$17,000 has been included for this project in the fiscal year 2024 Agriculture Appropriations bill, which has passed the Senate and the House of Representatives. The bill now heads to the President's desk to be signed into law. As Vice Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I championed funding in this bill to support federal programs and investments in communities in Maine and throughout the country.

Thank you for taking the time to share your support for this important project with me.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator

# Pleasant River Historical Society

2023 Annual Report for the Towns of Addison, Columbia and Columbia Falls

## Activities

History Round Table. Richard Paul (Dick) presented "History of a House/History of a Town" with Deeds, Wills and Probates. Due to a pending storm, not many of us to attend so we are hoping to have Dick do this presentation again in the coming year.

The Baseline Lady, Nancy Willey, was able to join us for our Baseline Tour. It was a wonderful day ending with us to find on the western side, all four corners of that signal tower.

Thank you to Ronie Strout, Sonya Grant and Arthur Langley, Eastern monument stone and a mile marker stone recovered and are placed at the Columbia Town front of the Community Room.



were able

Epping  
being able  
held the

the original  
have been  
office in

## Current Projects

Members of the Society are working on a book that contains Post Cards from the past; sardine label posters; blueberry label posters. Anyone interested in participating or donating to the projects, please let us know.

A kiosk to be located near the bridge in the Town of Columbia Falls which shows the town as it was and as it is – this is very near completion by Chuck and Roberta Hammond.

## Planned Events

It is still the goal of the Society to participate in events such as:

The walking/carriage tour of the historic village in Columbia Falls in partnership with Wreaths Across America.

Continue to offer the Baseline tour in the fall. This event is several hours long so please be prepared with snacks, lunch and water.

## Future Projects/Goals

History Round Tables to continue.

Program locations at various times will be held in Columbia Falls at Union Hall and in Addison at the Church on the Hill and Addison Town Hall.

The Society is still actively looking for a more permanent home so that we may set up and present artifacts. Please let us know if anyone has an interest in helping with this project.

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

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

**Officers:** Grace Falzarano, President, Ronie Strout, Vice President, Tony Santiago, Secretary and Roberta Hammond, 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

## 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 give \$1500.00 in 2023 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 \$1500 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



Real Estate Taxes

Tax Year: 2021

As of 12/31/2023

	<b>Year</b>	<b>Property Tax Due</b>
FARREN-TIBBETTS, JANET	2021	300.37
HOWARD, JEFFREY	2021	1,626.56
THERRIEN, LORI	2021	19.11
TIBBETTS, STEPHEN M	2021	283.10
Worcester, Frances	2021	220.30
		<hr/>
		2,449.44

Real Estate Taxes

Tax Year: 2022

As of 12/31/2023

	<b>Year</b>	<b>Property Tax Due</b>
BAGLEY, HOWARD (HEIRS OF)	2022	244.50
BLACKBURN, JEROME R	2022	122.72
BURGESS, ENOCH	2022	762.01
CLEAVES, ELAINE	2022	344.79
DRISCOLL, JEAN Q	2022	566.75
FARREN-TIBBETTS, JANET	2022	288.53
FLETCHER, EUGENE	2022	382.70
FLETCHER, EUGENE	2022	569.84
FLETCHER, EUGENE	2022	1,990.99
HOWARD, JEFFREY	2022	1,334.22
LESBINES, TRAVIS	2022	807.10
LYONS, MELISSA	2022	119.75
MURPHY, ROMUNDA L	2022	19.83
MUTTY, DANIEL E	2022	133.21
SAWYER, THOMAS P	2022	476.01
SHAMBACH, BRANDON L	2022	612.63
TENNEY, MAURICE	2022	251.91
THERRIEN, LORI	2022	176.01
TIBBETTS, STEPHEN M	2022	275.08
WHITE, KRISTI	2022	602.85
Worcester, Frances	2022	226.16
		<hr/>
		10,307.59

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

	<b>Year</b>	<b>Property Tax Due</b>
ALLEN, GRACE & HAROLD (HEIRS OF)	2023	254.58
ALLEN, GRACE (HEIRS OF)	2023	130.45
Bagley (Heirs), Willard	2023	72.66
BAGLEY, HOWARD (HEIRS OF)	2023	237.79
Blackburn, Jerome R	2023	893.35
BLACKBURN, JEROME R	2023	468.97
BROWN, PATRICIA M	2023	303.84
BROWN, PATRICIA M	2023	287.60
BURGESS, ENOCH	2023	1,297.92
BUTLER, DELORES	2023	107.33
CLAY, JOHN F	2023	2,765.02
CLEAVES, ELAINE	2023	414.48
COTE, LAURA L	2023	308.43
CROWLEY, KRISTIN J	2023	1,121.32
DRISCOLL, JEAN Q	2023	1,149.30
DRISKO, COREY J	2023	11.56
DRISKO, MICHAEL	2023	1,468.00
FARNSWORTH, JOLENE	2023	781.06
FARNSWORTH, JOLENE	2023	79.26
FARNSWORTH, JOLENE	2023	457.41
FARNSWORTH, RICHARD JR	2023	1,020.50
FARNSWORTH, RICHARD JR	2023	2,505.02
FARREN-TIBBETTS, JANET	2023	297.23
FLETCHER, EUGENE	2023	424.38
FLETCHER, EUGENE	2023	677.03
FLETCHER, EUGENE	2023	2,647.03
FOSS, FAITH	2023	853.72
FREEMAN, CHARLOTTE	2023	3,352.13
Grant, Heirs of Robin	2023	271.69
GRANT, JOHN	2023	2,328.33
GRANT, JOHN	2023	31.37
GRANT, SYLVIA (HEIRS OF)	2023	85.87
GREENE, WILLIAM	2023	371.54
HAMMOND, CHADWICK	2023	934.63

Tax Year: 2023 Continued . . .  
As of 12/31/2023

HINKLE, KELLY J	2023	1,266.55
HOWARD, JEFFREY	2023	1,709.09
JACOBS, DONALD	2023	597.77
KERTESZ, ALAN	2023	752.99
Lechman Estate, Peter	2023	104.03
Lechman Estate, Peter	2023	1,379.40
Lechman Estate, Peter	2023	322.00
LECHMAN, SUE & CLAY & PETER	2023	186.60
LEIGHTON, MICHAEL	2023	247.69
LESBINES, TRAVIS	2023	1,038.67
LOOK, CINDY ET AL	2023	655.24
LOOK, JOHN	2023	1,447.91
LOOK, RANDOLPH W	2023	713.36
Luman, Joshua W	2023	2,154.94
LYONS, MELISSA	2023	576.30
MCMANUS, CHRISTOPHER	2023	231.18
MCMANUS, CHRISTOPHER L	2023	163.48
MORAISEY, MATTHEW	2023	483.83
MORSE, JESSICA	2023	75.96
MURPHY, ERIC R	2023	1,205.09
MURPHY, ROMUNDA L	2023	39.43
MUTTY, DANIEL E	2023	178.34
MUTTY, DANIEL E	2023	224.58
MUTTY, DANIEL E	2023	87.52
NASON, STEPHEN	2023	113.94
NELSON, CHRISTOPHER (JT)	2023	150.79
NEWCOMBER, FREDERIC M	2023	300.54
OLIVER, PATRICK	2023	644.01
OLIVER, PATRICK	2023	397.96
Oliver, Patrick	2023	209.71
PEABODY, DANA	2023	34.68
Pietarinen, Kenneth B	2023	163.48
PORTER, MATTHEW C	2023	27.07
PRINCE, FRED P	2023	830.60
RACKLIFF, CHRISTOPHER G	2023	4,344.56
ROBINSON, MICHAELA E	2023	726.57
ROBINSON, MICHAELA E	2023	1,529.10

Tax Year: 2023 Continued . . .  
As of 12/31/2023

SAWYER, THOMAS P	2023	551.53
SHAMBACH, BRANDON L	2023	776.11
SIMPSON, ROBERT	2023	97.43
SMITH, JASON L	2023	1,355.72
SMITH, MURIEL G (PERS REP)	2023	345.12
Snider Jr., Harold	2023	72.66
TENNEY, MAURICE	2023	340.17
TERRIEN, LORI	2023	186.60
Thompson, Earland	2023	1,215.36
TIBBETTS, KATHLEEN	2023	74.31
TIBBETTS, STEPHEN M	2023	279.07
TRACY, LINDA	2023	99.08
WALKER SETTLEMENT	2023	326.96
WHITE, KRISTI	2023	721.62
WILES, JEFFREY WAYNE	2023	406.22
Worcester, Frances	2023	254.30
WORCESTER, JESSICA	2023	914.82
		<hr/>
		61,742.84

# Mill Rate

## Columbia Falls

2023	16.40	2012	14.80
2022	11.60	2011	13.70
2021	14.40	2010	17.00
2020	17.80	2009	15.00
2019	17.00	2008	17.75
2018	17.00	2007	14.00
2017	15.50	2006	16.40
2016	17.80	2005	29.00
2015	18.80	2004	26.00
2014	17.40	2003	22.63
2013	15.20	2002	22.80

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!



**Town of Columbia Falls, Maine**  
**Balance Sheet**  
**Governmental Funds**  
**December 31, 2023**

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Reserve Funds</u>	<u>Permanent Fund</u>	<u>Total Governmental Funds</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 397,208	\$ 295,874	\$ 1,131	\$ 694,213
Investments	-	-	20,338	20,338
Taxes receivable	90,954	-	-	90,954
Due from other funds	-	15,332	-	15,332
Receivable from other governments	29,308	-	-	29,308
	<u>29,308</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>29,308</u>
Total assets	<u>\$ 518,120</u>	<u>\$ 311,206</u>	<u>\$ 21,469</u>	<u>\$ 850,795</u>
<b>LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES AND FUND BALANCES</b>				
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Accounts payable	\$ 10,225	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,225
Payable to other governments	1,351	-	-	1,351
Due to other funds	3,191	-	12,141	15,332
	<u>3,191</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,141</u>	<u>15,332</u>
Total liabilities	<u>14,767</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,141</u>	<u>26,908</u>
<b>Deferred inflows of resources</b>				
Prepaid taxes	406	-	-	406
Unavailable property taxes	87,012	-	-	87,012
	<u>87,012</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>87,012</u>
Total deferred inflows of resources	<u>87,418</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>87,418</u>
<b>Fund balances</b>				
<b>Nonspendable for:</b>				
Cemetery funds	-	-	7,100	7,100
Ministerial school funds	-	-	1,000	1,000
Scholarship funds	-	-	1,228	1,228
Restricted for other purposes	-	22,696	-	22,696
Restricted for ARPA grant	26,141	-	-	26,141
Committed for other purposes	90,458	288,510	-	378,968
Unassigned	299,336	-	-	299,336
	<u>299,336</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>299,336</u>
Total fund balances	<u>415,935</u>	<u>311,206</u>	<u>9,328</u>	<u>736,469</u>
Total liabilities, deferred inflows of resources and fund balances	<u>\$ 518,120</u>	<u>\$ 311,206</u>	<u>\$ 21,469</u>	<u>\$ 850,795</u>

See accompanying notes to basic financial statements.

**Town of Columbia Falls, Maine**  
**Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances**  
**Governmental Funds**  
**For the Year Ended December 31, 2023**

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Reserve Funds</u>	<u>Permanent Fund</u>	<u>Total Governmental Funds</u>
<b>REVENUES</b>				
Property taxes	\$ 738,576	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 738,576
Excise taxes	178,847	-	-	178,847
Liens and interest charges	9,061	-	-	9,061
Licenses and permits	6,831	-	-	6,831
Intergovernmental	200,209	-	-	200,209
Interest earnings (loss)	6,745	6,931	1,391	15,067
Donations	-	4,915	-	4,915
Miscellaneous	812	-	-	812
<b>Total revenues</b>	<u>1,141,081</u>	<u>11,846</u>	<u>1,391</u>	<u>1,154,318</u>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>				
Current				
General government	273,362	-	-	273,362
Public safety	93,425	-	-	93,425
Roads	610,549	-	-	610,549
Sanitation	56	-	-	56
Welfare and donations	10,924	-	-	10,924
Education	376,176	600	-	376,776
County tax	84,550	-	-	84,550
Cemetery	4,500	-	-	4,500
Debt service				
Principal	73,500	-	-	73,500
Interest and other charges	6,539	-	-	6,539
Capital and grant outlay	448	6,082	-	6,530
<b>Total expenditures</b>	<u>1,534,029</u>	<u>6,682</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,540,711</u>
<b>Excess of revenues over expenditures</b>	<u>(392,948)</u>	<u>5,164</u>	<u>1,391</u>	<u>(386,393)</u>
<b>OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)</b>				
Proceeds from long-term debt	200,000	-	-	200,000
Transfers in	2,927	37,891	-	40,818
Transfers out	(36,500)	(2,927)	(1,391)	(40,818)
<b>Total other financing sources (uses)</b>	<u>166,427</u>	<u>34,964</u>	<u>(1,391)</u>	<u>200,000</u>
<b>Net change in fund balances</b>	<u>(226,521)</u>	<u>40,128</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(186,393)</u>
<b>FUND BALANCES - BEGINNING</b>	<u>642,456</u>	<u>271,078</u>	<u>9,328</u>	<u>922,862</u>
<b>FUND BALANCES - ENDING</b>	<u>\$ 415,935</u>	<u>\$ 311,206</u>	<u>\$ 9,328</u>	<u>\$ 736,469</u>

See accompanying notes to basic financial statements.



**Town of Columbia Falls, Maine  
Budget and Actual (with Variances)  
General Fund  
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023**

	Budgeted Amounts			Actual Amounts	Variance with Final Budget - Positive (Negative)
	Original	Changes *	Final		
<b>REVENUES</b>					
Property taxes	\$ 751,833	\$ -	\$ 751,833	\$ 738,576	\$ (13,257)
Excise taxes	150,000	28,847	178,847	178,847	-
Liens and interest charges	-	-	-	9,061	9,061
Licenses and permits	-	935	935	6,831	5,896
Intergovernmental	137,907	21,272	159,179	200,209	41,030
Investment earnings	-	-	-	6,745	6,745
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	812	812
	<u>1,039,740</u>	<u>51,054</u>	<u>1,090,794</u>	<u>1,141,081</u>	<u>50,287</u>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>					
Current					
General government	348,415	1,627	350,042	273,362	76,680
Public safety	93,127	-	93,127	93,425	(298)
Roads	661,000	87,119	748,119	690,588	57,531
Health and sanitation	250	-	250	56	194
Welfare and donations	10,231	935	11,166	10,924	242
Education	376,176	-	376,176	376,176	-
County tax	84,550	-	84,550	84,550	-
Cemetery	5,500	-	5,500	4,500	1,000
Capital and grant outlay	-	448	448	448	-
	<u>1,579,249</u>	<u>90,129</u>	<u>1,669,378</u>	<u>1,534,029</u>	<u>135,349</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	<u>(539,509)</u>	<u>(39,075)</u>	<u>(578,584)</u>	<u>(392,948)</u>	<u>185,636</u>
<b>OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)</b>					
Use of carryover fund balances	250,000	187,448	437,448	-	(437,448)
Overlay	(23,991)	-	(23,991)	-	23,991
Proceeds from debt	200,000	-	200,000	200,000	-
Transfers in	-	1,627	1,627	1,627	-
Transfers out	(36,500)	-	(36,500)	(36,500)	-
	<u>389,509</u>	<u>189,075</u>	<u>578,584</u>	<u>165,127</u>	<u>(413,457)</u>
Net change in fund balances	<u>\$ (150,000)</u>	<u>\$ 150,000</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>(227,821)</u>	<u>\$ (227,821)</u>
<b>FUND BALANCES - BEGINNING</b>				<u>642,456</u>	
<b>FUND BALANCES - ENDING</b>				<u>\$ 414,635</u>	

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

Town of Columbia Falls, Maine  
Schedule of Departmental Operations  
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

	Balance 12/31/2022	Appropriations	Additional Revenue	Total Available	Expenditures	Balances Lapsed Carried	
<b>GENERAL GOVERNMENT</b>							
Administrative Assistant Salary	\$ -	\$ 45,000	\$ -	\$ 45,000	\$ 40,837	\$ 4,163	\$ -
Deputy Clerk	-	15,000	-	15,000	7,486	7,514	-
Treasurer	-	4,400	-	4,400	4,400	-	-
Selectmen	-	9,100	-	9,100	9,100	-	-
Assessor Agent	-	8,500	-	8,500	8,244	256	-
Code Enforcement Officer	-	2,100	-	2,100	2,100	-	-
Health officer	-	125	-	125	125	-	-
Planning Board	-	1,455	-	1,455	1,455	-	-
Animal control officer	-	4,500	-	4,500	4,500	-	-
Road Commissioner	-	1,100	-	1,100	1,100	-	-
ARPA payroll	-	5,972	-	5,972	5,972	-	-
Payroll Taxes	-	15,000	-	15,000	9,338	5,662	-
Legal	-	120,000	-	120,000	94,031	-	25,969
Municipal Duos	-	1,801	-	1,801	1,801	-	-
Municipal Audit	-	9,820	-	9,820	9,820	-	-
Registry of Deeds	-	931	-	931	931	-	-
Computer Services	-	17,421	-	17,421	17,421	-	-
Insurance	-	5,806	-	5,806	5,806	-	-
Election Expenses	-	1,150	-	1,150	1,150	-	-
Advertising	-	649	-	649	649	-	-
Office Equipment	-	2,644	-	2,644	2,644	-	-
Janitorial Expense - Muni Buildings	-	5,500	-	5,500	4,877	623	-
Town Properties Maintenance	-	12,000	-	12,000	6,120	5,880	-
Union Hall	-	7,000	-	7,000	1,318	5,682	-
Union Hall roof	-	24,000	-	24,000	13,020	10,980	-
Playground refund	-	-	1,627	1,627	-	1,627	-
Office Supplies	-	5,986	-	5,986	5,986	-	-
Other town expenses	-	7,049	-	7,049	-	7,049	-
Postage	-	1,833	-	1,833	1,833	-	-
Telephone	-	3,727	-	3,727	3,727	-	-
Grant writing	-	6,500	-	6,500	5,225	1,275	-
Training/Seminars	-	1,816	-	1,816	1,816	-	-
Travel	-	530	-	530	530	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>348,415</b>	<b>1,627</b>	<b>350,042</b>	<b>273,362</b>	<b>50,711</b>	<b>25,969</b>
<b>PUBLIC SAFETY</b>							
Animal control expenses	-	150	-	150	-	150	-
Epping Volunteer Fire District -Ops.	-	37,033	-	37,033	37,033	-	-
Pleasant River Ambulance Svc.	-	44,744	-	44,744	44,744	-	-
Street lights	-	11,200	-	11,200	11,648	(448)	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>93,127</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>93,127</b>	<b>93,425</b>	<b>(298)</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>HEALTH AND SANITATION</b>							
Pleasant River Solid Waste Disp. Dist.	-	250	-	250	56	194	-
<b>PUBLIC WORKS</b>							
Town Roads & Bridges Maint.	61,550	40,000	28,847	130,397	72,582	-	57,815
Local road assistance	28,236	-	21,272	49,508	49,272	-	236
Snow removal, salt & sand	-	150,000	-	150,000	127,734	22,266	-
Fire station lot	-	30,000	-	30,000	-	30,000	-
Paving projects	-	241,000	200,000	441,000	441,000	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>89,786</b>	<b>461,000</b>	<b>250,119</b>	<b>800,905</b>	<b>690,588</b>	<b>52,266</b>	<b>58,051</b>
<b>CULTURE AND RECREATION</b>							
Library	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>ASSESSMENTS</b>							
County Tax	-	84,550	-	84,550	84,550	-	-
Education - School Assessment	1,911	376,176	-	378,087	376,176	-	1,911
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,911</b>	<b>460,726</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>462,637</b>	<b>460,726</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,911</b>
<b>WELFARE</b>							
General Assistance	3,080	1,600	-	4,680	1,358	-	3,322
Downeast Comm Ptnrs. WHCA	-	6,621	-	6,621	6,621	-	-
Lamb House	-	500	-	500	500	-	-
Snowmobile association	-	-	935	935	935	-	-
Lifelight Foundation	-	560	-	560	560	-	-
Soil & Water Conservation District	-	200	-	200	200	-	-
Eastern Area on Aging	-	750	-	750	750	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,080</b>	<b>10,231</b>	<b>935</b>	<b>14,246</b>	<b>10,924</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,322</b>
<b>CEMETERY</b>							
Greenwood Cemetery repairs	-	2,500	-	2,500	2,500	-	-
Columbia Falls Cemetery Assoc.	-	2,000	-	2,000	2,000	-	-
Cemetery maintenance	-	1,000	-	1,000	-	-	1,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,500</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,500</b>	<b>4,500</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,000</b>
<b>RESERVES TRANSFERS</b>							
Contingency/emergency plan	-	1,500	-	1,500	1,500	-	-
Building fund	-	15,000	-	15,000	15,000	-	-
Sand/salt shed	-	10,000	-	10,000	10,000	-	-
Fire Truck Fund	-	10,000	-	10,000	10,000	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>36,500</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>36,500</b>	<b>36,500</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>CAPITAL AND GRANT OUTLAY</b>							
	-	-	448	448	448	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 94,777</b>	<b>\$ 1,415,749</b>	<b>\$ 253,129</b>	<b>\$ 1,763,655</b>	<b>\$ 1,570,529</b>	<b>\$ 102,873</b>	<b>\$ 90,253</b>



## 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 19, 2024**, 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 on the **Planning Board** for a **3-year term**.

#### ARTICLE 4

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

#### ARTICLE 5

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

#### ARTICLE 6

Shall an ordinance entitled, "Town of Columbia Falls Code of Ordinances," be enacted?

**Note:** A "yes" vote on this article will repeal the following ordinances and replace them with a proposed Code of Ordinances:

- (1) *Town of Columbia Falls Application Building Permit Ordinance,*
- (2) *Town of Columbia Falls Demolition of Property Ordinance,*
- (3) *Town of Columbia Falls Land Use Regulations,*
- (4) *Shoreland Zoning Ordinance for the Municipality of Columbia Falls,*
- (5) *An Ordinance for the Regulation and Control of Land Subdivisions in the Town of Columbia Falls, Maine,*
- (6) *Town of Columbia Falls Zoning Ordinance,*
- (7) *Town of Columbia Falls Street and Storm Water Management Design and Construction Standards,*



- (8) *Wireless Telecommunications and Wind Tower Facilities Siting Ordinance of the Town of Columbia Falls, and*
- (9) *Ordinance Establishing a Moratorium on Large-Scale Commercial and High-Density Residential Development. A copy of the proposed ordinance is attached to the posted warrant and copies are available at the Town Office.*

**Selectmen request written ballot**

**ARTICLE 7**

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

**Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: up to \$46,350**

**ARTICLE 8**

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

**Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: up to \$12,000**

**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 if the Town will vote to fix the **Compensations** for the **Municipal Officers and Officials** of the Town for the **2024** calendar year.

<b>SELECTMEN</b>		<b>TREASURER</b>	<b>\$ 5,000.00</b>
Chair	<b>\$3,700.00</b>	<b>ROAD COMMISSIONER</b>	<b>\$ 1,200.00</b>
Member	<b>\$2,700.00</b>	<b>CODE ENFORCEMENT</b>	<b>\$ 2,200.00</b>
Member	<b>\$2,700.00</b>	<b>HEALTH OFFICER</b>	<b>\$ 25.00</b>
<b>ANIMAL CONTROL</b>	<b>\$ 4,500.00</b>		
<b>GENERAL ASSISTANCE</b>	<b>\$ 500.00</b>		
<b>APPEALS Board</b>	<b>\$ 900.00</b>		
<b>PLANNING BOARD: CHAIR</b>		<b>\$ 40.00 per meeting</b>	
<b>EACH MEMBER</b>		<b>\$ 35.00 per meeting</b>	

**Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$26,425.00 TOTAL**



## **ARTICLE 11**

To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for the **Operations of the Town** for the **2024 fiscal year**.

**Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$93,425**

## **ARTICLE 12**

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

**Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$15,000**

## **ARTICLE 13**

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

**Selectmen RECOMMENDED: STATE WAGE**

## **ARTICLE 14**

To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for **General Assistance**. Note: Current balance is \$2,154.62

**Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$345.48**

## **ARTICLE 15**

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

**Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$40,000**

## **ARTICLE 16**

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

**Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$1,000**

## **ARTICLE 17**

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 18**

To see if the Town will vote to **ratify the additional expense for Street Lights** in the amount of \$448.15. Note: Due to the increase in electricity throughout the year. Approximate 4% increase

**Recommended by Selectboard**





**ARTICLE 19**

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

**Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$15,000**

**ARTICLE 20**

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

**Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$4,200**

**ARTICLE 21**

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

**Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$5,000**

**ARTICLE 22**

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

**Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$5,500**

**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 \$9,520.64

**Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$500**

**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 2025 year.

**Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$75,000**

**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: \$40,283.50**

**ARTICLE 29**

To see if the Town will authorize the Epping Volunteer Fire District to purchase a new fire truck in the principal amount of \$500,000 (with the Town responsible for 50% of the purchase cost), on such terms as the Epping Volunteer Fire District may approve.

**Budget Committee RECOMMENDED**

**ARTICLE 30**

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$50,000 to transfer to the Fire Truck Reserve Account for the purpose of making contributions to the Epping Volunteer Fire District to cover 50% of the purchase cost of a new fire truck.

**Selectmen RECOMMEND taking from Undesignated Funds**

**ARTICLE 31**

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

**Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$54,264**

**ARTICLE 32**

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate in support of the **Library**. Note: Current balance in the Grant - \$1,164

**Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$1,000.00**

Selectmen RECOMMEND taking funds from the Library Reserve Account



**ARTICLE 33**

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 34**

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 35**

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

**Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$2,000.00**

**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 \$1,000.

**Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$500**

**ARTICLE 37**

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

No increase over last year

**Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$750**

**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 \$1,150.

**Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$5,471**

**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 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 41**

To see if the Town will vote to increase the **property tax levy limit** established for Columbia Falls by state law in the event that 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 42**

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 **2024 Town Books on December 31, 2024** until the **annual Town Meeting on March 18, 2025**

**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 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, 2024 (8.5%)**

**STATE INTEREST RATE**

**ARTICLE 45**

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 46**

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

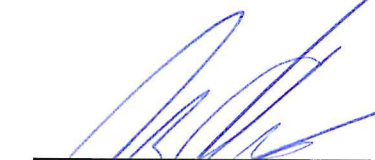




State Aid to Education (including Federal pass-through funds and property tax relief)  
Public State Aid per Capita  
Civil Emergency Fund-Emergency Management Assistance  
Snowmobile Registration                      Tree Growth Reimbursement  
General Assistance Reimbursement              Veteran Exemption Reimbursement  
Homestead Exemption Reimbursement  
State Grants and other funds to include funds not received from the State that are not  
included in times listed above.                      Any and all Grants received.

**Given under hands the 11th day of March 2024**


  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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 11, 2024