

**TOWN OF NEWPORT
MAINE**

ANNUAL REPORT
for fiscal year 2023-2024

The town meeting is on June 15, 2024
at the Public Safety Building at 21 Water St. at 10:00 a.m.

Be sure to bring this book with you!

The New England Town Meeting is probably
the purest form of democracy in existence today.
Please help to preserve it by attending town meeting.

*The Auditor's Report is
completed by
Maine Municipal Audit Services
and is available upon request
at the Town Office and
online at www.newportme.org.*

MUNICIPAL SERVICES DIRECTORY

Fire	Chief Jeff Chretien	368-2533
Police	Chief David Wintle	368-3263
Town Manager	James A. Ricker	368-4410
Town Clerk	Kellie M. Mullis	368-4410
Treasurer	Deanna M. Thompson	368-4410
Tax Collector	Deanna M. Thompson	368-4410
Dep. Town Clerk	Kathleen F. Kemp	368-4410
Tax Assessor	Travis Gould	368-4410
Public Works Director	Steve Berry	355-5035
Animal Control Officer	Ryan Hewins	800-432-7911
Birth, Death or Marriage Licenses	Town Clerk	368-4410
Civil Emergency Preparedness	Jeff Chretien	368-2533
Code Enforcement Officer	James Ricker	368-4410
Plumbing Permits	James Ricker	368-4410
Dog Licenses	Town Clerk	368-4410
Excise Tax & Registration	Tax Collector	368-4410
Fishing & Hunting Licenses	Town Clerk	368-4410
Hospital	Northern Light Sebasticook Valley	487-5141
Librarian	Diane Briggs	368-5074
Registrar of Voters	Kellie M. Mullis	368-4410
Cemetery Sexton	Public Works	355-5035
Superintendent of Schools	Mike Hammer	368-5091
Sebasticook Valley Elem. School	Laura Donohue	368-4592
Nokomis Reg. Middle School	Angela Brown	355-3600
Nokomis Regional High	Mary Nadeau	368-4354
Sewer District	Jeff Wiers	368-5129
Water District	AJ Newhall	368-4314
Snow Removal	Steve Berry	355-5035
Street Maintenance	Steve Berry	355-5035
Town Highway Garage	Steve Berry	355-5035
Transfer Station	Leigh Walker	368-5077
General Assistance	Deanna M. Thompson	368-4410

2013 Personal Property Taxes Unpaid As of 6/30/2023

DEMS GILLEY INC	212.22
DIXON,RANDALL E & LINDA C	243.00
DROST INC	35.64
NEWPORT METALS INC	324.00
THIBODEAU,FELIX L	319.14
WARDWELL HARRIS CONTRACTING INC	162.00
Total:	\$ 1,296.00

2012 Personal Property Taxes Unpaid As of 6/30/2023

DEMS GILLEY INC	168.72
THIBODEAU,FELIX L	299.44
Total:	\$468.16

2011 Personal Property Taxes Unpaid As of 6/30/2023

DEMS GILLEY INC	132.30
Total:	\$ 132.30

2010 Personal Property Taxes Unpaid As of 6/30/2023

DEMS GILLEY INC	102.90
Total:	\$ 102.90

2009 Personal Property Taxes Unpaid As of 6/30/2023

DEMS GILLEY INC	70.00
HANSON,STEVEN P	43.40
RENT A CENTER	140.00
Total:	\$ 253.40

2008 Personal Property Taxes Unpaid As of 6/30/2023

DEMS GILLEY INC	59.52
RENT A CENTER	111.60
Total:	\$ 171.12

TOWN OF NEWPORT

2007 Personal Property Taxes Unpaid As of 6/30/2023

RENT-WAY INC	104.72
Total:	\$ 104.72

2016 Personal Property Taxes Unpaid As of 6/30/2023

DIXON,RANDALL E & LINDA C	291.00
DUNBAR, LUCAS	29.10
LANCASTER, MICHAEL	310.40
LEFAIVRE,NORMAN J & ELAINE T	147.44
LOVELY,JOSEPH	58.20
MRK CHASE INC	223.10
NEWPORT COUNTRY CLUB INC	744.96
NEWPORT METALS INC	388.00
PACKARD,STEPHEN C	116.40
PFIZER INC	3.88
SHOREY OIL INC	1,129.08
THIBODEAU,FELIX L	380.24
THIRTY-FOUR HERRICK INC	254.14
THISTLE,DALE F	151.32
WARDWELL HARRIS CONTRACTING INC	194.00

Total: \$ 4,421.26

2015 Personal Property Taxes Unpaid As of 6/30/2023

DIXON,RANDALL E & LINDA C	268.50
DUNBAR, LUCAS	26.85
LANCASTER, MICHAEL	286.40
LOVELY,JOSEPH	53.70
MRK CHASE INC	243.44
NEWPORT METALS INC	358.00
SHOREY OIL INC	1,043.57
THIBODEAU,FELIX L	350.84
THIRTY-FOUR HERRICK INC	234.49
THISTLE,DALE F	155.73
WARDWELL HARRIS CONTRACTING INC	179.00

Total: \$ 3,200.52

2014 Personal Property Taxes Unpaid As of 6/30/2023

DEMS GILLEY INC	225.32
DIXON,RANDALL E & LINDA C	258.00
DUNBAR, LUCAS	25.80
LOVELY,JOSEPH	51.60
NEWPORT METALS INC	344.00
THIBODEAU,FELIX L	337.12
THISTLE,DALE F	178.88
WARDWELL HARRIS CONTRACTING INC	172.00

Total: \$ 1,592.72

Dedication



Jack “Jack” Carson

The Selectboard unanimously voted to dedicate the 2023-2024 Town Report to Jack Carson. Jack was a former resident and Selectboard Member, who served the people of Newport for four years. Jack relocated to Newport from New Hampshire upon retiring from Verizon Telephone. He purchased and built his retirement home off Shady Lane where he remained until he relocated back to New Hampshire. Jack had many passions in his life and was very committed to every one of them. In life, Jack was a marathoner, not a sprinter. His love for his brother "Eddy" who Jack cared for over half of his life, was unsurpassed. His dedication and caring for Eddy was evident in the personal sacrifices Jack endured. His move back to New Hampshire was for Eddy to be closer to a doctor who still made house calls. Eddy passed away shortly after the move and Jack passed away in 2023. Other passions included bass fishing, where he fished all over the Eastern United States and knew every "hole" in Sebasticook Lake. As a Selectboard Member, Jack kept himself very informed on all topics and would interact with the employees in a professional and pleasant manner. He especially liked the Public Works Department where he would banter with the Crew at least once a week. Newport was his home and he was immensely proud of that fact. We were fortunate to have Jack in our lives and we are eternally thankful for his service in the Vietnam War, his service to this Community, his character, and love for family.

TOWN OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Thursday 7:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Friday Closed

(On the first business day of every month, the Town Office opens at 7:45)

NEWPORT CULTURAL CENTER HOURS:

Monday - Thursday 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Friday 9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

NEWPORT TRANSFER STATION HOURS:

Tuesday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

HOLIDAYS OBSERVED BY TOWN DEPARTMENTS:

- NEW YEARS DAY
- MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY
- PRESIDENT’S DAY
- MEMORIAL DAY
- JUNETEENTH
- INDEPENDENCE DAY
- LABOR DAY
- COLUMBUS/INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY
- VETERAN’S DAY
- THANKSGIVING
- DAY AFTER THANKSGIVING
- CHRISTMAS DAY

(Occasionally, training requirements may cause the Town Office to be closed on days not identified above.)

FREQUENTLY REQUESTED PHONE NUMBERS:

NEWPORT DISTRICT COURT 368-5778
NEWPORT POST OFFICE 368-4445

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

TAX DUE DATE: September 19, 2024
March 13, 2025

DOG LICENSES: Expire December 31st 2024.
Late fees start February 1st every year.

PACKARD, STEPHEN C	134.19
SHOREY OIL INC	1282.26
THIBODEAU, FELIX L	417.48
THIRTY-FOUR HERRICK INC	279.03
TIM DONUT US LIMITED INC	538.89
TREMBLEY, TINA	25.56
UNIFIED MERCHANT SERVICES	4.26
WARDWELL HARRIS CONTRACTING INC	213.00

Total: \$ 4,999.11

**TOWN OF NEWPORT
2018 Personal Property Taxes Unpaid As of 6/30/2023**

COX,CHARLES W	40.92
DUNBAR, LUCAS	13.95
LANCASTER,MICHAEL	146.01
LOVELY,JOSEPH	27.90
NEWPORT COUNTRY CLUB INC	357.12
NEWPORT METALS INC .	186.00
PACKARD,STEPHEN C	58.59
PFIZER INC	1.86
SHOREY OIL INC	559.86
THIBODEAU, FELIX L	182.28
THIRTY-FOUR HERRICK INC.	121.83
TREMBLEY, TINA	11.16
WARDWELL HARRIS CONTRACTING INC	93.00

Total: \$1,800.48

**TOWN OF NEWPORT
2017 Personal Property Taxes Unpaid As of 6/30/2023**

DIXON,RANDALL E & LINDA C	300.00
DUNBAR, LUCAS	30.00
LANCASTER, MICHAEL	314.00
LOVELY,JOSEPH	60.00
NEWPORT COUNTRY CLUB INC	768.00
NEWPORT METALS INC	400.00
PACKARD,STEPHEN C	126.00
PFIZER INC	4.00
SHOREY OIL INC	1,206.00
THIBODEAU, FELIX L	392.00
THIRTY-FOUR HERRICK INC	262.00
TREMBLEY, CHARLES P JR. & BETSY L	24.00
WARDWELL HARRIS CONTRACTING INC	200.00

Total: \$4,086.00

DYSON, MONICA	30.90
LANCASTER, MICHAEL	323.42
LOVELY, JOSEPH	61.80
NEWPORT METALS INC	412.00
NORTHERN LEASING SYSTEMS INC	24.72
OPNAD FUND INC	105.06
PACKARD, STEPHEN C	129.78
SMUCKER, FOODSERVICE INC	12.36
THE BARBIN LLC	208.06
THIBODEAU, FELIX	403.76
WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL LEASING INC	28.84
XEROX CORPORATION	469.68

Total: \$ 2,566.76

**TOWN OF NEWPORT
2020 Personal Property Taxes Unpaid As of 6/30/2023**

ACCENT HEALTH LLC OBA OUTCOME	25.56
ALBERI, MARC	34.08
CARUCCI, PHILIP	272.64
DOBLER INVESTMENTS	53.25
DUNBAR, LUCAS	31.95
DYSON, MONICA	38.34
LANCASTER, MICHAEL	334.41
LOVELY, JOSEPH	63.90
MERRIMAC SALES	426.00
NEWPORT COUNTRY CLUB INC	817.92
NEWPORT FAMILY PRACTICE PA	2619.90
NEWPORT METALS INC	426.00
PACKARD, STEPHEN C	134.19
RITE AID CORPORATION #3299	72.42
THE BARBIN LLC	215.13
THIBODEAU, FELIX L.	417.48

Total: \$ 5,983.17

**TOWN OF NEWPORT
2019 Personal Property Taxes Unpaid As of 6/30/2023**

CARUCCI, PHILIP	293.94
COX, CHARLES W.	93.72
DUNBAR, LUCAS	31.95
DYSON, MONICA	42.60
LANCASTER, MICHAEL	334.41
LOVELY, JOSEPH	63.90
NEWPORT COUNTRY CLUB INC	817.92
NEWPORT METALS INC	426.00

ELECTED OFFICIALS

SELECTBOARD (Three year term)

Kate Rush, Chair	'24
Donna Berry, V. Chair	'26
Bruce Clarke	'24
Adam Russell	'25
Andrew Colford	'25

RSU #19 DIRECTORS (Three year term)

Melony Fitts	'24
Rachel Nyce	'26
Vacant	
Vacant	

NEWPORT SANITARY DISTRICT (Three year term)

Vern Palmer	'24
Dennis Dow	'24
Larry Merrithew	'24
Victor Horton	'26
Dan Stevens	'26

NEWPORT WATER DISTRICT (Five year term)

Llewellyn Wilson	'28
George Phelps	'25
Andrew Peirce	'24
Rodney Webb	'27
Raquel Brockway	'26

APPOINTED OFFICIALS

Town Manager	James A. Ricker
Director of Economic Development	James A. Ricker
Director of Human Resources	James A. Ricker
Tax Collector	Deanna M. Thompson
Deputy Tax Collector	Kellie M. Mullis
Town Clerk	Kellie M. Mullis
Deputy Town Clerk	Kathleen F. Kemp
Treasurer	Deanna M. Thompson
Deputy Treasurer	Kellie M. Mullis
Registrar of Voters	Kellie M. Mullis
Tax Assessor	Travis Gould
Plumbing Inspector	James Ricker
Code Enforcement Officer	James Ricker
Electrical Inspector	State
Building Inspector	James Ricker
Road Commissioner	Steve Berry
Director of Civil Emergency Preparedness	Jeff Chretien
Director of Public Works	Steve Berry
Sealer of Weights and Measures	State
Health Officer	James Ricker
Chief of Police	David Wintle
Chief of Fire	Jeff Chretien

MAINE FIBER COMPANY, LLC	66.64
NEWPORT METALS INC	392.00
OPNAD FUNDINC.	54.88
RING, CHRISTOPHER K	78.40
ROUNDY, BENJAMIN G	301.84
SEBASTICOOK LAKE REALTY HOLDINGS LLC	41.16
MUCKER FOODSERVICE INC	11.76
THE BARBIN LLC	197.96
THIBODEAU, FELIX L	384.16
WELLS FARGO VENDOR FINANCAL SV LLC	34.16
Total:	2.826.25

TOWN OF NEWPORT 2022 Personal Property Taxes Unpaid As of 6/30/2023

ACCENT HEALTH LLC D/B/A OUTCOME H	20.10
CARUCCI, PHILIP	215.07
CONOPCO INC	48.24
CONTEXT MEDIA LLC	48.24
DOBLER INVESTMENTS	40.20
DYSON, MONICA	26.13
FREDETTE, KENNETH W	313.56
LANCASTER, MICHAEL	315.57
LOVELY, JOSEPH	60.30
MAINE FIBER COMPANY, LLC	68.34
NEWPORT METALS INC	402.00
OPNAD FUNDINC.	56.28
PRIMO WATER CORPORATION	56.28
RING, CHRISTOPHER	96.48
SEBASTICOOK LAKE REALTY HOLDINGS	42.21
SHOREY OILINC	24.12
SMUCKER FOODSERVICE INC	12.06
THE BARBIN LLC	203.01
THIBODEAU, FELIX L	393.96
Total:	\$2,442.15

TOWN OF NEWPORT 2021 Personal Property Taxes Unpaid As of 6/30/2023

ACCENT HEALTH LLC OBA OUTCOME	26.78
ALBER I-MARC	12.36
CARUCCI, PHILIP	241.02
CONTEXT MEDIA LLC	30.90
DOBLER INVESTMENTS	45.32

WARD, MICHAEL	1332.80
WILBUR, SILAS V	3735.76
WILLAIMS, DAVID J SR	1858.08
WITHEE PROPERTY MANAGEMENT LLC	5248.88
WOODARD, STANLEY A.	411.60
ZINCK, SALLIE A.	15.68

Total: \$ 60,411.66

**TOWN OF NEWPORT
2022 Unpaid Taxes As of 6/30/2023**

BARBIN, LUDOVIC DANIEL BERNARD	2158.74
BEMIS, TREVOR M.	190.95
BOGGS, LISA L DEVISEES	1475.34
DOW, PAUL R/SALLY JT	1336.65
ERB, RAYMOND ESTATE	164.54
HAINING, CHRYSTAL	10.02
SMITH, STANLEY R	317.58
THE BARBIN LLC	3370.77

Total: 9024.59

**TOWN OF NEWPORT
2021 Unpaid Taxes As of 6/30/2023**

BEMIS, TREVOR	191.58
BOGGS, LISA L. DEVISEES	1485.26

Total: 1676.84

**TOWN OF NEWPORT
2023 Personal Property Taxes Unpaid As of 6/30/2023**

ACCENT HEALTH LLC D/B/A OUTCOME	9.80
CARUCCI, PHILIP	188.16
CONOPCOINC	52.92
CONTEXT MEDIA LLC	29.40
DE LAGE FINANCIAL SERVICESINC	109.76
DOBLERINVESTMENTS	31.36
DYSON, MONICA	21.56
FREDEITE, KENNETH W	305.76
GETCHELL BROTHERS	33.32
JMS FOODSERVICE LLC	1.05
LANCASTER, MICHAEL	307.72
LOVELY, JOSEPH	58.80
LOVLEY,JASON & KIMBERLY	113.68

APPOINTMENTS, BOARDS & COMMITTEES

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Jeff Chretien
Deputy Chief Jared LeBarnes
Asst. Chief Jon Kosobud
Captain Amanda Chretien
Captain Jason Gaudet
Lieutenant Steve McCarron
Lieutenant Nick Hunter
Lieutenant Travis Turner

COMPANY 1

Tim Vashon
Lee Philbrook
Charlotte Duncan
Dan Morgan
Kyle Bailey
Brandon Thibeault
Kevin Norris
Brian Mullis

COMPANY 2

Taylor Haines
Scott Moulton
James Pavo
Ben Snowman
Josh King
Cody Chretien
Jess Duncan
Bayley Riquier

COMPANY 3

Alex Audette
Chris Richards
John Warren
Dan Winsor
Mike Halloran
Mikaela Pechar
Jeff Dorman

COMPANY 4

John Rush
Chuck Crump
Rick Turner
Eric Strout
Kevin Brown
Nolan Eldridge
Chris Giroux
Jessi Clark
Kim Lane
Amy Glidden

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief David Wintle
Sergeant Tim Roussin
Officer Gregory Sides
Officer Jeffrey Vanadestine
Officer Brittany Jesse
Officer Austin Cochran

POLICE DEPARTMENT P/T

Officer Roger Sedgwick
Officer John Houghton

ANIMAL CONTROL

Ryan Hewins

BOARD OF APPEALS

Tom Kus, Secretary
Ted Cianchette
John Burgess
Ginger Phelps

PLANNING BOARD

Kerry Carsley, Chair
Frank Harding
Maxine Pare
Richard Peck
George Phelps

**NEWPORT SANITARY
DISTRICT TRUSTEES**

Vern Palmer
Dennis Dow
Larry Merrithew
Victor Horton
Dan Stevens

**NEWPORT WATER
DISTRICT TRUSTEES**

George Phelps, Chair
Rodney Webb, Treasurer
Raquel Brockway
Llewellyn Wilson
Andrew Peirce

**APPOINTMENTS, BOARDS
& COMMITTEES**

**TOWN OF NEWPORT
2023 Unpaid Taxes As of 6/30/2023**

NEWPORT CULTURAL CENTER

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tonya Parker, President
Sylvia Kennedy, Secretary
Rosalind Gilman
James Ricker
Tatiana Carsley
Debra Ricker

**NEWPORT RECREATION
COMMITTEE**

Gene Crockett, Director
Adam Hawthorne
Sonja Frey

**SNOWMOBILE TRAIL
COMMITTEE**

Scott Jakins, Chair
Gary Braley
Tyler Jakins
Vern Palmer, Jr.
Silas Wilber

**RIVERWALK FESTIVAL
COMMITTEE**

Amanda Chretien
Debra Ricker
James Ricker
David Wintle
Sonja Frey
Teresa Bickford
Justine Meader
Chance Graves

BUDGET COMMITTEE

Phil Brown, Chair
Barbara Brown
George Phelps
Ginger Phelps
Richard Peck
Maxine Pare

**WATER REGULATION
COMMITTEE**

James Ricker
Steve Berry
Maxine Pare
Scott Emery
Emily Parker
Brian Wilson
Adam Vashon
Andre Cushing
Allen Whitaker
Jim Seavey
Donnie Gross

**NEWPORT DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION III**

Debra Ricker
James Ricker
Mindy Nyman
Kimberly Donaldson
Alan Campbell
Kellie Mullis
Breeanna Lovley
Lindsay Katz Verstandig
Justine Meader

AKERSON, ALAN M.	617.40
BARBIN, LUDOVIC DANIEL BERNARD	2224.60
BEMIS, TREVOR M.	196.00
BOGGS, LISA L. DEVISEES	1505.28
BRANN, MATIHEW N.	493.92
BROCKWAY, LAURA	1493.05
BUOTIE, DAVID M.	1562.12
BUZZELL, NINA	1019.20
CARSON, VANESSA B.	387.66
CHATTLEY, ROBERT L.	31.36
CROWE, CHARLENE J	458.47
CURTIS, GEORGE III	217.56
DAVENPORT, EDWIN M III	491.47
DOW, DONNA L.	1885.52
DOW, JENNIFER (TRUSTEE)	1546.88
DOW, PAUL R JT	1391.60
FROST, CHERYL C	312.30
GODSOE, TRAVIS J.	352.13
HAINING, CHRYSTAL	350.84
HART, CHARLES H	2357.88
HAWTHORNE, CRAIG M JT	436.21
HERSEY, PHILIP K	5258.68
LANCASTER, MICHAEL	109.76
LEIGHTON, ROBERT L.	70.56
MARTIN, JOSHUA K	2052.12
MARTIN, SHELLEY R.	1258.32
MOODY, THOMAS P	2710.68
NEWPORT METALS	701.68
NORRIS, CHRISTOPHER M	554.68
PEETE, MICHAEL R	362.60
PEETE, MICHAEL R	883.96
PENSCO TRUST COMPANY	1087.38
POST, JANICE L.	934.92
POST, JANICE L.	509.60
RAUSCHER, DANIELLE L	435.77
RICKER, BLANCHE C.	574.28
RING, CHRISTOPHER	1435.20
SHARPE, DOUGLAS E	457.52
SLATER, ROBERT D.	1660.12
SMITH, STANLEY R	301.84
SPEED, JAMES A.	2297.12
STACK, FRED H.	1054.48
THE BARBIN LLC	3439.80
THERLAULT, ANDY B	326.34

ABATEMENTS 2022-2023

REAL ESTATE NAME	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	
AMOROSO, JUSTIN	513.52					
AMOROSO, JUSTIN	513.52					
BRANAUGH, MATTHEW/ SARAH L.	490.00					
BREWER, WADE DE-DE POLLEY	490.00					
BURKE, DUSTIN	513.52					
CLARK, THOMAS	797.72					
CLAY, JOEL & INGERSON, KATHY	197.96					
CORNELL, GREG	5974.08					
FLETCHER, BARBARA	76.44	78.39	80.34			
FREY, SONJA	490.00					
GRAVES, ANDREW	196.00					
GRAY, FLORENCE	309.68	303.51	304.88	298.2		
HOPKINS, MICHAEL C.	109.76					
HOPKINS, MICHAEL C.	43.12					
HOWELL, AMANDA	272.44	267.33	267.8	261.99	262	
LESSOR FAMILY TRUST & JENNIFER BROWN	490.00					
LESSOR, JON	1183.84	1161.78	1170.08	570.84		
NEWPORT, TOWN OF	4380.60					
THIBAULT, CAROL	815.36					
FREY, SONJA	490.00					
RONDEAU, AMBER & SOTO, JONATHAN	152.88	148.74	150.38	146.97		
SCHALK, WILLIAM	233.24	229.14	230.72	223.65		
SHEPHERD, NANCY L	490.00					
UPTON, LISA/JAMES	490.00					
WELLS FARGO BANK NA	82.32	82.41	82.40	80.94	40.47	
TOTAL REAL ESTATE	19796.00	2271.30	2286.60	1582.59	302.5	26238.95

PERSONAL PROPERTY NAME	2023
EVERBANK COMMERCIAL FINANCE	35.28
GREATER AMERICA LEASING CORPORATION	37.24
HILL-ROM	9.8
SEAMANS, DARREN	889.84
TIME PAYMENT CORPORATION	6.01
UHAUL OF NEW HAMPSHIRE & MAINE	164.64
WAYPORT INC	60.76
TOTAL PERSONAL PROPERTY	1203.57
TOTAL REAL ESTATE AND PERSONAL PROPERTY	27442.52

2023 MUNICIPAL DISTRICT REPORT

Prepared by the Secretary of State Division of Elections

Municipality	Newport
Congressional District:	2
State Senate District:	3
State House District:	33
County Commissioner District:	2

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

**VALUATION AND ASSESSMENT REPORT OF
THE TOWN OF NEWPORT FOR 2023**

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

Land	\$128,984,100.00
Buildings	\$233,401,700.00
Personal Property	\$9,312,200.00
Total Taxable Real Estate & Personal Property	\$371,698,000.00
Commitment Requirements	
County Tax	\$534,805.00
Municipal Appropriations	\$4,604,713.00
TIF	\$174,406.00
Local Education	\$3,194,341.81
Overlay	\$67,922.12
Total Appropriations	\$8,576,187.93
State Revenue Sharing	\$676,820.00
Other Revenue	\$1,540,000.00
Homestead Reimbursement	\$248,096.95
Bete Reimbursement	\$52,577.28
Total	\$2,517,494.23

Respectfully Submitted
Travis Gould C.M.A.
Newport Assessor

ARTICLE 46

To see if the Town of Newport will vote to accept funds from the State of Maine, the United States, and from other identified sources and to appropriate any funds received to specified or appropriate accounts or funds.

Selectboard recommends:

Passage

ARTICLE 47

To see if the Town of Newport will vote to ratify the Selectboard's transfer of funds between operating accounts approved in this warrant, based upon changes and the anticipated needs of the Town, provided the total expenditure of all accounts does not exceed the projected need to balance all accounts within the approved budget. All such transfers shall be so identified at the next annual Town Meeting.

Selectboard recommends:

Passage

ARTICLE 48

To see if the Town of Newport will vote to expend funds from the Tax Acquired Property Revenue Account # 7994 for Professional Services related to the submission of the 2024 Town of Newport Comprehensive Plan.

Current account value: \$27,871.21

Note: Anticipated maximum expenditure: \$10,000.00

Selectboard recommends:

Passage

The Town of Newport Selectboard:

By Kate Rush, Chairperson

By Donna Berry, Vice Chairperson

By Bruce Clarke

By Adam Russell

By Andrew Colford

A True Copy of the Town Meeting Warrant 2024/2025

By Kellie Mullis, Town Clerk of Newport

**United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-1904**

Dear Friends:

It is an honor to serve the people of Maine in the U.S. Senate, and I welcome this opportunity to share an update on issues important to Maine and America.

One of my priorities for 2023 has been to improve the appropriations process in Congress -the way it decides how to spend taxpayer money. I took over as the Vice Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee last year. Along with Chair Patty Murray, we decided the best change we could make was not to do something new. Instead, it was to do something old -that is, go back to the regular and transparent committee process that we used to have.

Part of restoring this process included holding 50 public committee hearings, which allowed for input from senators on both sides of the aisle. As a result, for the first time in five years, the Senate Appropriations Committee passed all twelve of its funding bills on time. This was done with strong bipartisan support. In fact, seven of them passed unanimously.

Now, we need to work with the House of Representatives to pass these twelve bills and turn them into laws.

These bills contain funding for a wide range of Maine priorities, including support for the workforce at Bath Iron Works and Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, our lobster industry, infrastructure improvements, affordable housing, biomedical research, veterans, and heating assistance programs like LIHEAP. These bills also contain nearly \$590 million in Congressionally Directed Spending for 231 projects throughout the State of Maine. These projects would help promote job creation, expand access to health care, and improve public safety, infrastructure, and important resources in communities across all 16 counties of our state. I will continue to work to get these bills signed into law in the new year.

On October 25, the horrific mass shooting in Lewiston claimed the lives of 18 Mainers and injured 13 others. In response, I led Maine's Congressional Delegation in requesting an independent investigation by the U.S. Army Inspector General into the events leading up to the shooting. On December 15, the Under Secretary of the Army wrote to inform me that such an investigation will take place, and the Army Inspector General has instructed her team to immediately begin preparing to conduct this investigation. While nothing can undo the events of October 25, I will continue to work to understand what happened and what could have been done differently, and to find answers for the victims, survivors, and their families.

No one works harder than the people of Maine, and this year I honored that work ethic when I cast my 8,855th consecutive roll call vote.

As we look ahead to 2024, I remain committed to addressing the concerns of Maine families and communities. If you need assistance or wish to share your thoughts, please do not hesitate to reach out to one of my six state offices.

Sincerely,
Susan M. Collins
United States Senator

**United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510**

January 1, 2024

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

ARTICLE 39

To see if the Town of Newport will vote to appropriate for the Newport Snowmobile Trails Committee Account, all funds received from snowmobile registration fees from the State of Maine, for the purpose of maintaining snowmobile trails for public use, (2023/24 receipts (\$1,330.32)

Selectboard recommends: Passage
Budget Committee recommends: Passage

ARTICLE 40

To see if the Town of Newport will vote to appropriate for the Sebasticook Lake Association, \$1800 from boat excise tax, for the purpose of lake restoration and maintenance. (The remaining funds of transferred to the Sebasticook Lake Construction Revenue Account)

Selectboard recommends: Passage
Budget Committee recommends: Passage

ARTICLE 41

To see if the Town of Newport will vote to direct the Treasurer to place all remaining excise tax revenue from the registration of boats, after the Lake Association stipend, into the Sebasticook Lake and Dam Restoration Revenue Account.

Selectboard recommends: Passage
Budget Committee recommends: Passage

ARTICLE 42

To see if the Town of Newport will direct the Tax Collector to accept prepayment of Real Estate and Personal Property taxes and to pay no interest on said prepayments.

Selectboard recommends: Passage

ARTICLE 43

To see if the Town of Newport will vote to authorize the Selectboard to dispose of town-owned personal property as well as abandoned and unclaimed or surplus property acquired by the Town, on such terms as they deem advisable.

Selectboard recommends: Passage

ARTICLE 44

To see if the Town of Newport will vote to authorize the Selectboard, on behalf of the Town, to sell and dispose of, by sealed bid only, any real estate acquired by the Town for non-payment of taxes thereon, in accordance to all applicable State Statutes, and on such terms as they may deem advisable, and to execute a quit claim deed for such real estate. Before putting the real estate out to bid, the Selectboard shall direct the Treasurer to offer to sell the real estate back to the immediate prior owner of record, his/her estate, heirs or assigns on or before a date certain, for the total taxes, cost, and interest owed.

Selectboard recommends: Passage

ARTICLE 45

To see if the Town of Newport will vote to accept funds received from the sale of cemetery lots to be used for perpetual care and maintenance of all cemeteries within the Town of Newport.

Selectboard recommends: Passage

ARTICLE 36

To see if the voters of the Town of Newport will direct the Treasurer to deposit funds received from the sale of Transfer Station Permits into the Solid Waste Equipment Revenue Account.

Selectboard recommends:
Budget Committee recommends:

Passage
Passage

ARTICLE 37

To see if the Town of Newport will authorize the Selectboard to expend funds from the following Special Revenue Accounts for their intended funding purposes:

#3070	Police Academy Training	\$ 5,599.54
#3060	Unemployment Insurance	\$ 46,692.36
#3122	SBA Towers-PWD Capital Equipment	\$ 56,341.25
#3036	Cook Cemetery Trust	\$ 19,085.50
#3037	Floral Tribute	\$ 355.38
#5955	Annual Celebration Account	\$ 8,694.69
#6000	Fire Department Capital Equipment	\$ 51,364.22
#3090	Industrial Park	\$ 40,729.11
#5957	Cemetery Acquisition & Restoration	\$ 14,360.51
#6012	Solid Waste Equipment	\$ 620.26
#6013	Police Investigation & Education	\$ 1,411.54
#7910	Fire Department Activity	\$ 1,107.24
#7912	Sebasticook Lake Restoration	\$ 12,688.25
#7911	Digital Mapping	\$ 1,056.01
#7913	Newport Recreation Account	\$ 12,559.12
#3038	Recreational Trust	\$ 66,798.25
#7915	Police Department Capital Equipment	\$ 1,218.33
#7918	Veteran Memorial Park	\$ 15,794.08
#7919	Cemetery Maintenance	\$ 8,019.46
#7922	Fuel Revenue Account	\$ 46,992.81
#7923	Cemetery Investment	\$ 121,662.76
#7924	T.I.F Revenue	\$ 171,081.75
#3117	Traffic Light Maintenance	\$ 0.0
#7929	Health Insurance Spec Revenue	\$ 20,880.75
#7991	Riverwalk Performing Arts	\$ 851.25
#7994	Tax Acquired Property	\$27,899.68
#7995	Riverwalk Performance Fund	\$11.41

Selectboard recommends:
Budget Committee recommends:

Passage
Passage

ARTICLE 38

To see if the Town of Newport will vote to direct the Treasurer to deposit all funds received from recreational activities into the Newport Recreation Revenue Account.

Selectboard recommends:
Budget Committee recommends:

Passage
Passage

**Brad Farrin Senator, District 3
131st MAINE SENATE**

3 State House Station Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

I want to thank you for allowing me to serve you in the Maine Senate. 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 am grateful you have put your trust in me, and I will continue to work tirelessly on behalf of the people of Senate District 3.

The First Regular and First Special Sessions of the 131st 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. This is done by dedicating 40% of the vehicle sales tax and the sales and use taxes collected by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles. It is predicted to raise more than \$200 million for infrastructure each biennium.

The Second Regular Session began on January 3rd of this year. 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 the protection of Maine's natural resources, increased costs of everyday items, access to health care and child care, education, housing, inflation, child welfare, mental health and substance abuse, workforce development, and crime, among others. 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 131st Legislature has a great deal more work to do. However, I believe that 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 Brad.Farrin@Legislature.Maine.Gov. If you have comments, questions, or if you would like assistance in navigating our state's bureaucracy.

Sincerely,
Brad Farrin
State Senator

Dan Costain
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002
(207) 287-1440 • TTY: (207) 287-4469

February 2024

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Thank you for electing me to serve as your State Representative. It is a pleasure to serve the residents of District #33. Representing you is an honor and a privilege as I work diligently to be your voice in the Maine Legislature.

On a positive note, the Legislature did begin tackling some of the funding issues plaguing Maine's roads, bridges and transportation infrastructure by passing LD 259. The new law creates a sustainable source of funding for the Highway Fund by dedicating 40 percent of the 5.5 percent sales tax on vehicle purchases and 40 percent of sales and use taxes collected by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles. It is expected to generate more than \$200 million for infrastructure repairs per biennium.

However, the \$10.3 billion budget approved by the majority of the Legislature increased spending by roughly 20% from the Governor's proposed budget in 2021. My biggest disappointment is that with at least \$1.5 billion in excess tax revenues, the Legislature did not pass structural income tax reform to let taxpayers keep more of what they earn.

I encourage you to actively participate in your state government. Phone calls and letters are always welcome. With the wider use of technology, meetings and hearings are more accessible than ever. Using the homepage of the Maine Legislature: Legislature.Maine.Gov, you will find access to Zoom meetings and YouTube videos. I also send a weekly email with current state news. If you wish to receive these updates, please contact me at Dan.Costain@legislature.maine.gov and I will gladly add you to our list.

I look forward to all of the challenges that lay ahead in 2024 as I continue to serve as the ranking member of the Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to serve you. Please stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,
Dan Costain
State Representative

District 33 - Corinna, Dixmont, Etna (part), Newport and Plymouth

ARTICLE 31

To see what sum the Town of Newport will vote to raise and appropriate for the MEMORIAL DAY ACTIVITIES account. (2023/24 Budget \$500)

Selectboard recommends:	\$ 500.00
Budget Committee recommends:	\$ 500.00

ARTICLE 32

To see what sum the Town of Newport will vote to raise and appropriate for the DEBT SERVICE account. (2023/24 Budget \$300,000)

Selectboard recommends:	\$275,000.00
Budget Committee recommends:	\$275,000.00

ARTICLE 33

To see what sum the Town of Newport will vote to raise and appropriate for the CULTURAL CENTER account. (2023/24 Budget \$139,013)

Selectboard recommends:	\$137,067.00
Budget Committee recommends:	\$137,067.00

ARTICLE 34

To see what sum the Town of Newport will vote to appropriate from estimated Revenues, State Revenue Sharing, and Undesignated General Fund Balance (Surplus) to reduce the Municipal taxes to be raised. (2023/24 amount utilized: \$1,100,000)

Selectboard recommends:	\$1,100,000
(in estimated revenues including an amount not to exceed \$200,000 of the Undesignated Fund Balance.)	

Budget Committee recommends:	\$1,100,000
(in estimated revenues including an amount not to exceed \$200,000 of the Undesignated Fund Balance.)	

ARTICLE 35

To see if the Town of Newport will vote to determine when Real Estate and Personal Property taxes shall be due and payable, and to see if the Town will fix a rate of interest to be charged on taxes unpaid after a specified date. (2023/24 rate:5%, due Sept 21st 2023 and March 14th, 2024.

Selectboard recommends: That taxes for the year 2024/25 shall become due and payable upon receipt of the tax bill, 1st payment due September 19th, 2024, and the second payment due March 13th, 2025 and that an interest rate of (5%) per year be charged on all taxes unpaid by the close of business on September 20th at twelve (12:00) p.m.2024 and March 14th at twelve (12:00) p.m. 2025.

Budget Committee recommends: That taxes for the year 2024/25 shall become due and payable upon receipt of the tax bill, 1st payment due September 19th, 2024, and the second payment due March 13th, 2025 and that an interest rate of (5%) per year be charged on all taxes unpaid by the close of business on September 19th at twelve (12:00) p.m. 2024 and March 13th at twelve (12:00) p.m. 2025.

ARTICLE 23

To see what sum the Town of Newport will vote to raise and appropriate for the CEM-
ETERIES account. (2023/24 Budget \$55,999)

Selectboard recommends: \$ 68,795.00
Budget Committee recommends: \$ 68,795.00

ARTICLE 24

To see what sum the Town of Newport will vote to raise and appropriate for the TREES &
PARKS account. (2023/24 Budget \$15,000)

Selectboard recommends: \$ 15,000.00
Budget Committee recommends: \$ 15,000.00

ARTICLE 25

To see what sum the Town of Newport will vote to raise and appropriate for the ROAD
CONSTRUCTION account. (2023/24 Budget \$450,000)

Selectboard recommends: \$604,655.00
Budget Committee recommends: \$604,655.00

ARTICLE 26

To see what sum the Town of Newport will vote to raise and appropriate for the SOLID
WASTE & RECYCLING account. (2023/24 Budget \$440,393)

Selectboard recommends: \$496,265.00
Budget Committee recommends: \$496,265.00

ARTICLE 27

To see what sum the Town of Newport will vote to raise and appropriate for the MUNICI-
PAL BUILDINGS & GROUNDS account. (2023/24 Budget \$106,587)

Selectboard recommends: \$129,745.00
Budget Committee recommends: \$ 129,745.00

ARTICLE 28

To see what sum the Town of Newport will vote to raise and appropriate for the GENERAL
ASSISTANCE account. (2023/24 Budget \$12,128)

Selectboard recommends: \$ 11,734.00
Budget Committee recommends: \$ 11,734.00

ARTICLE 29

To see what sum the Town of Newport will vote to raise and appropriate for the SUPPORT
AGENCIES account. (2023/24 Budget \$6,150)

Selectboard recommends: \$6,150.00
Budget Committee recommends: \$ 6,150.00

ARTICLE 30

To see what sum the Town of Newport will vote to raise and appropriate for the RECRE-
ATION account. (2023/24 Budget \$65,773)

Selectboard recommends: \$65,633.00
Budget Committee recommends: \$ 65,633.00

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

Report of the Town Manager & Code Enforcement

This year my narrative will also include Code Enforcement. As many of you may be aware, Al Tempesta retired from the Town of Newport in March of this year. I have assumed the responsibilities of the CEO. Our Tax Assessor, Travis Gould, is our alternate CEO.

As another year draws to a close, the economy is at a plateau that I am sure none of us thought that was possible just a few years ago. Building costs, from groundwork to construction, are seeing prices not before imagined. All of this is great for some but creates new difficulties for others. Everyone, regardless of financial status, feels the tremendous increases in so many areas that decisions are being made based on need, not desire. Unfortunately, the Government is not immune to these increases.

The Town of Newport, like many Maine Communities, is constantly changing. Businesses leave and new ones are established. Residential properties, especially around our lake, are growing at an exponential rate. The Town Office handles daily phone calls from realtors and investors searching for any property in which to build. I would be remiss if I started this report without talking about our local economy as it pertains to our tax base. All towns in Maine have seen marketable increases in value since 2019. This year our initial Town assessments according to the State are 65% of value. What this translates to is the value of property is rising at a rate far greater than our tax assessments. The Selectboard, the Assessor and I are currently working on ways to address these property values.

Despite the many financial challenges, investment in housing continues to grow at a steady rate. We have issued 21 residential building permits and 18 garage and accessory structure permits. Plumbing and wastewater disposal systems are keeping pace with building permits. Homes five years ago that were being built at \$250,000, today cost between \$475,000 to \$520,000. This partially explains the tremendous increases in assessments as identified by the State of Maine.

From August of last year our own Ambulance Service responded to 919 calls for services with transport needed for 506 of these calls. We are staffed with one Provider and certified Fire Fighter on every call, 7 days per week, 24 hours per day. This valuable service for our Community, which was once covered by hospitals, is now becoming increasingly dependent on our local tax dollars. Although our service derives income from insurance carriers the need for Municipal funding is still necessary.

Travis Gould is our new Tax Assessor and assumed his duties in February of this year. Travis has twenty plus years in tax assessing and works for other communities as well. He is faced with numerous assessment challenges, and we are looking to him for guidance as we navigate current assessment challenges.

In closing I would again like to thank all our employees for their continued work ethic and dedication. Your Department Supervisors and Crews constantly work to make Newport a safe and efficient Community. I would also like to thank the Community at large for the continued support for your Employees and Fellow Citizens.

Respectfully submitted,
James Ricker
Town Manager,
CEO, Plumbing Inspector,
LHO, HR Director

ARTICLE 17

To see if the Town of Newport will vote to authorize the transfer from the Ambulance Revenue account in June of 2025 15% of the gross revenue collected into the Ambulance capital equipment account.

Selectboard recommends:	Passage
Budget Committee recommends:	Passage

Note: As of May 8, 2024 there exists \$479,075 in the Ambulance account. 15% of this total was transferred in accordance to Article 16-A of the 2023 Town Report into the Ambulance capital equipment account.

All calculations reflect account balances May 8, 2024

Ambulance Revenue Account:	\$479,075.00
Transfer into capital equipment: 16-A 23/24 TM:	\$71,861.00
Transfer as identified in Article 16-B 23/24 TM:	\$85,000.00
Transfer as identified in Article 16 24/25 TM:	\$200,000.00
Estimated balance after transfers:	\$122,214.00

ARTICLE 18

To see what sum the Town of Newport will vote to raise and appropriate for the ANIMAL CONTROL account. (2023/24 Budget \$14,455)

Selectboard recommends:	\$ 17,249.00
Budget Committee recommends:	\$ 17,249.00

ARTICLE 19

To see what sum the Town of Newport will vote to raise and appropriate for the STREET LIGHT account. (2023/24 Budget \$48,924)

Selectboard recommends:	\$ 26,320.00
Budget Committee recommends:	\$ 26,320.00

ARTICLE 20

To see what sum the Town of Newport will vote to raise and appropriate for the MUNICIPAL INSURANCE account. (2023/24 Budget \$214,672)

Selectboard recommends:	\$ 219,413.00
Budget Committee recommends:	\$ 219,413.00

ARTICLE 21

To see what sum the Town of Newport will vote to raise and appropriate for the PUBLIC FIRE SERVICE CHARGE account. (2023/24 Budget \$252,000)

Selectboard recommends:	\$252,000.00
Budget Committee recommends:	\$252,000.00

ARTICLE 22

To see what sum the Town of Newport will vote to raise and appropriate for the PUBLIC WORKS account. (2023/24 Budget \$562,994)

Selectboard recommends:	\$598,627.00
Budget Committee recommends:	\$598,627.00

ARTICLE 11

To see what sum the Town of Newport will vote to raise and appropriate for the CODE ENFORCEMENT account. (2023/24 Budget \$22,593)

Selectboard recommends: \$ 23,506.00
Budget Committee recommends: \$ 23,506.00

ARTICLE 12

To see what sum the Town of Newport will vote to raise and appropriate for the INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY account. (2023/24 Budget \$46,749)

Selectboard recommends: \$ 48,066.00
Budget Committee recommends: \$ 48,066.00

ARTICLE 13

To see what sum the Town of Newport will vote to raise and appropriate for the POLICE DEPARTMENT account. (2023/24 Budget \$619,598)

Selectboard recommends: \$796,408 00
Budget Committee recommends: \$796,408.00

ARTICLE 14

To see what sum the Town of Newport will vote to raise and appropriate for the FIRE DEPARTMENT account. (2023/24 Budget \$349,810)

Selectboard recommends: \$352,421.00
Budget Committee recommends: \$352,421.00

ARTICLE 15

To see what sum the Town of Newport will raise and appropriate for the AMBULANCE Account (2023/24 Budget \$582,033)

Selectboard recommends: \$426,253.00
Budget Committee recommends: \$426,253.00

Note: Total Ambulance budget identified as \$626,253.00, remaining funding request transfer identified below.

ARTICLE 16

To see if the Town of Newport will vote to authorize the transfer from the Ambulance Revenue Account \$200,000.00 to augment the Ambulance Account.

Note: 5/8/24 Ambulance Revenue account balance: \$479,075.00

Selectboard recommends: Passage
Budget Committee recommends: Passage

Report of the Newport Selectboard

Dear Newport Residents,

Over the last twelve months, we have worked with Town Leadership to invest in strategic ways and manage expenses in an inflationary environment. Here are some highlights:

- Supporting our Staff with competitive and fair wages ensuring we can recruit and retain employees who provide the services we have come to rely on.
- Continuing our Grant funded work on the watershed study and our recreation facility.
- Negotiating improvements in our broadband coverage, securing broadband access for several unserved roads in Newport.
- Opportunistic purchase of equipment at below market value.
- Our second year operating an ambulance service and doing so in keeping with our budget and priorities.

As I complete my service on the Selectboard, I want to extend a special thanks to my fellow Selectboard members, Town Employees, and countless Volunteers that I have had a chance to work with. I appreciate all that you do and it has been my pleasure to serve on the Selectboard.

With Gratitude,
Kate Rush, Chair

Report of the Newport Police Department

To the Residents of Newport,

The Newport Police Department continues to work hard for the Town; providing 24-hour coverage, 7 days a week and 365 days a year. Finding and keeping qualified Officers continues to plague most Departments throughout the State. Competition is fierce but Newport has maintained readiness and coverage throughout the last year. A shout out to our Officers for their hard work and dedication!

Violent crimes are on the rise and have been slowly seeping into our town. Being a service area, it brings traffic to and through our area. More traffic usually means more crime; the majority of which is committed by non-residents. We processed two cases involving the "Yellow Flag" Law and we expect more this year. For those not familiar with the "Yellow Flag" Law, this allows Law Enforcement to confiscate weapons from people deemed to be dangerous. After being notified of a gun owner who may be an imminent threat, it's up to Local Law Enforcement to take that person into protective custody and order a mental health evaluation from a medical expert. If the doctor and Police deem necessary, we will apply for a court order to get guns temporarily taken away. We continue to work hard to ensure the Citizens of the Town of Newport stay safe.

Our Officers have continued to complete our yearly mandatory training; some of which include Firearms training, New Law update, Case Law update and Mechanics of Arrest and Control. Our Officers also received over 20 hours of additional training in various topics throughout the year. This year we are planning on additional training in critical incident response, such as events at a school or other mass gathering locations.

As you saw with the "Eclipse traffic" on April 8th, the roads can get congested in our hometown. New businesses have been opening and we are anticipating an increase in traffic this year, please remain alert during the busy hours. The "Roundabout" is scheduled to begin construction in the spring of 2025; it will be hectic, but it will help with the traffic flow.

This year we expect to send one of our newest Officers to the 18-week Basic Law Enforcement Training Program where she will receive the required training to be fully certified. We are excited for her and to see her Law Enforcement career move forward.

The Newport Police Department strives to treat everyone with honesty, fairness and with compassion. We thank you for your trust and support, and we look forward to serving you for another year.

I am available to discuss any concerns or suggestions you may have. My office number is 368-3263 Ext 3960. My email is dwintle@newportme.org.

Respectfully submitted,
Chief David Wintle

ARTICLE 4

To see what sum the Town of Newport will vote to raise and appropriate for the SELECTBOARD account. (2023/24 Budget \$14,012)

Selectboard recommends:	\$ 14,427.00
Budget Committee recommends:	\$ 14,427.00

ARTICLE 5

To see what sum the Town of Newport will vote to raise and appropriate for the ADMINISTRATION account. (2023/24 Budget \$405,418)

Selectboard recommends:	\$410,813.00
Budget Committee recommends:	\$410,813.00

ARTICLE 6

To see what sum the Town of Newport will vote to raise and appropriate for the BAD DEBTS account. (2023/24 Budget \$200)

Selectboard recommends:	\$ 200.00
Budget Committee recommends:	\$ 200.00

ARTICLE 7

To see what sum the Town of Newport will vote to raise and appropriate for the PROFESSIONAL SERVICES account (2023/24 Budget \$65,742)

Selectboard recommends:	\$ 97,075.00
Budget Committee recommends:	\$ 97,075.00

ARTICLE 8

To see what sum the Town of Newport will vote to raise and appropriate for the PLANNING BOARD account. (2023/24 Budget \$3,489)

Selectboard recommends:	\$ 3,301.00
Budget Committee recommends:	\$ 3,301.00

ARTICLE 9

To see what sum the Town of Newport will vote to raise and appropriate for the ELECTIONS account. (2023/24 Budget \$4,057)

Selectboard recommends:	\$ 4,228.00
Budget Committee recommends:	\$ 4,288.00

ARTICLE 10

To see what sum the Town of Newport will vote to raise and appropriate for the BOARD OF APPEALS account. (2023/24 Budget \$1,042)

Selectboard recommends:	\$ 1,042.00
Budget Committee recommends:	\$ 1,042.00

2024 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT TOWN OF NEWPORT

GREETINGS: In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Newport, in said County of Penobscot qualified by law to vote in town affairs, to meet at the Newport Public Safety Building, located at 21 Water St. Newport, Maine, on Tuesday the 11th of June, 2024 at 08:00 o'clock in the forenoon then and there to act on Articles 1 and 2. You are also required to notify and warn the voters to meet at the Newport Public Safety Building, in said Town of Newport, located at 21 Water Street, at ten o'clock in the forenoon on Saturday the 15th of June 2024, then and there to act on Articles three (3) through (45), said articles being set out below:

The polls for voting on Articles 1 and 2 will be open at eight o'clock on Tuesday, June 11th, 2024 in the forenoon and will close at eight o'clock in the afternoon at the Newport Public Safety Building. The remaining business to be transacted under the Warrant will be taken up on Saturday, the 15th day of June at ten o'clock in the forenoon at the Newport Public Safety Building.

The Registrar of Voters hereby gives notice of being in session at the Newport Public Safety Building located at 21 Water St. at eight o'clock in the forenoon on June 11th for the purpose of registering voters and correcting the list of voters. The Registrar of Voters will also be available from ten o'clock on June 15th, 2024 until the polls close at the Newport Public Safety Building located at 21 Water Street for the purpose of registering voters and correcting the list of voters.

ARTICLE 1

To choose a Moderator to preside at said meeting.

ARTICLE 2

To choose by Australian Ballot, according to the provisions of 30-A MRSA, Section 2528:

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| Selectboard Member & Overseer of the Poor | (2) Three-year terms |
| Newport Water District Trustee | (1) Five-year term |
| Newport Sanitary District Trustee | (3) Three-year terms |
| Director of RSU #19 | (3) Three-year term |

ARTICLE 3

To see if the Town of Newport would vote to authorize an increase in the property tax levy limit, established for the Town of Newport by State law if the municipal budget approved under the following articles will result in a tax commitment that is greater than that property tax levy limit.

Selectboard recommends:	Passage
Budget Committee recommends:	Passage

Report of the Newport Fire Department

The Newport Fire Department responded to 1113 calls last year. Calls are broken down as follows:

Structure Fires	40	Vehicle fires	7
Brush/Grass	7	Spills/Leaks	10
Ambulance Calls	919	Trees/power Lines	30
Palmyra Fire Calls	24	False Alarm	28
CO Detector	5	Chimney Fires	2
Car Accidents	31	Other	10

Burn Permits are now available on the State of Maine website at no charge. We no longer use wardenreport.com for online permits. Please visit maine.gov to obtain an open burning permit.

As we wind down another fiscal year and plan for the next, we do so with high hopes for an incredible year to come. We have remained fully staffed during the EMS crisis that has devastated many areas of the state, including surrounding communities. We have been very blessed. We continue to plan for future staffing needs with ongoing training programs as well as introducing Fire Fighters into EMS classes.

We had a decrease in overall call volume due to some response changes with the Ambulance. We noticed we were being called out of Town regularly with the Ambulance and many times it was for nonemergent calls. We worked to establish a solution to keep the Ambulance in the Town of Newport as much as possible all while supplying back-up when necessary to surrounding Communities. The Fire Department worked with the Town Manager and Selectboard to create an appropriate solution. When someone calls 911, a priority code is given to Fire and EMS personnel when they are dispatched to the incident. After several meetings with the Town Manager and the Selectboard a decision was made to no longer respond to nonemergent medical calls outside of Newport or our contracted portion of Palmyra. This policy brought our call volume to a much more manageable number, reducing calls by almost 200. This policy also insured the availability of the Ambulance for emergency classified calls. We still respond to emergency classified medical calls, to our surrounding Communities as always.

We were able to add a second Ambulance to the fleet this year. The second Ambulance will serve as a back up to the first Ambulance. We made it a little over a year with one Ambulance and were lucky to have no breakdowns or major service work needed. We purchased the second Ambulance used from the City of Old Town. The Ambulance came with a stretcher and several pieces of medical equipment. We applied for the Stephen and Tabitha King Foundation Grant to outfit the second Ambulance and were awarded \$50,000 from that Grant. With the funds from the Grant, we were able to outfit the second Ambulance with everything needed to get it into service. Newport Fire Department is very grateful to the Stephen and Tabitha King Foundation for their generosity and recognizing how vulnerable our EMS systems have become. We also received a Forestry Grant this past year. That Grant supplied us with forestry gear, 4 portable radios and 4 pagers.

As always, I would like to end by thanking the Men and Women of the Newport Fire Department. We have an incredible crew of people spanning from locals to people traveling all over the State to work part time. It is the hardest working and most dedicated group of people there is. Thank you.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jeff Chretien
Fire Chief

Report of the Newport Public Works

Looking back on 2023 and early 2024, the Public Works Department accomplished a number of substantial projects.

In the summer months of 2023, we mowed and maintained our eight cemeteries, the River Walk, the ballfields, recreation center fields and all other Town properties. We continue to paint our own crosswalks and parking lot striping. We graveled and ditched sections of our dirt roads and have more to do this summer. We also completed the regular road maintenance as well as performed roadside cutting, grading, roadside mowing and culvert replacements.

We have purchased a 2024 Chevy 6500 plow truck to replace the Ford 550 plow truck in preparation for the 23-24 winter season. We paved a portion of Libby Hill Rd, Blaisdell Rd, North St and the Palmer Rd. We also continue to do as much in-house equipment maintenance as possible.

In September, we hauled our yearly sand allotment from the Dixmont pit to our sand shed and mixed it with salt for our winter plowing season. We had a fairly easy winter but we did battle a lot of road damage due to flooding and washouts with all of the rain that we received. The Crew went out 33 times to plow and sand the Town's roads and parking lots using 3,100 yards of sand and 518 tons of salt this year to maintain the safety for the Citizens of Newport.

Of course, all of this work wouldn't be possible without our dedicated Crew Jon Kosobud, Corey Peete, Clay Andrews, Vern White and Gene Trojano. I would also like to thank the people of the Town of Newport, the Selectboard and the Town Manager for their support.

Respectfully Submitted,
Steve Berry
Public Works Director

Report of the Newport Transfer Station

With another year ending, the Transfer Station remains busy. Year to date we have processed over 390 tons of brush and 1605 tons of household garbage. What this really identifies is how stable we have been about tonnage; however, the cost of disposal and transportation continues to rise. As of this writing we are on target for income estimates for the complete year at \$100,554. Moneys are deposited directly into our general fund and together with all other revenue the earnings are used to reduce overall property tax commitments.

The Town of Newport has a mandatory recycling ordinance that was established in 1995, and last updated in 2018. Our recycling program is still very viable, and we would like to thank everyone who recycles, and we encourage anyone who does not recycle to begin. Recycling really saves money and is simply better for the environment. Our recycled goods for shipment have seen extreme lows in the market since COVID but are now recovering. In August 2023, the baler was rebuilt in the amount of \$34,360. A new baler would have cost approximately \$75,000 and we believe the rebuild resulted in a better unit than when it was new.

I would like to thank all our Employees for their work this past year and to all the Citizens who continue their due diligence in our programs.

Respectfully submitted,
Leigh Walker
Transfer Station Supervisor

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

We realize that paying your taxes is often difficult. To make paying taxes easier, you can make monthly or weekly payments. Making payments more frequently will lower the amount of interest you will be paying in the future. Just a reminder eight to ten months after real estate taxes are committed, a lien is placed on your property for non-payment. Eighteen months after the lien is placed, the town will foreclose. Foreclosed properties are first offered back to the prior owners for taxes. If the prior owner does not buy back the property for taxes, the properties are put out to bid. If your business appears on the unpaid personal property tax list, the Town of Newport will be taking action to collect this debt. Please contact the Town Office for further details. There are programs or exemptions available to help lower your real estate taxes if you qualify. The Homestead Exemption Program reduces your valuation by \$25,000. The Veteran's exemption will reduce your valuation by \$6,000.00. Your income has nothing to do with these exemptions and is not even considered. Also available is the Property Tax Fairness Credit offered by the State of Maine, which is now entered on your Maine State Tax Return Form 1040 ME/ Schedule PTFC.

File Form 1040ME online at: www.maine.gov/revenue/netfile/gateway2.htm. It's free or call 624-7894 to have the forms sent to you. Please inquire at the Town Office for more information on any of these programs or exemptions. All the programs identified in this paragraph are state, locally administered, and subject to change. All interested parties are encouraged to contact the Tax Assessor or my office for further information.

Respectfully submitted,
Deanna M. Thompson
Certified Treasurer/Tax Collector

Report of the Town Clerk

Recorded in the Town Office from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023 the following statistics of Newport are hereby submitted:

VITAL STATISTICS

Marriages:	Resident	38
Births:	Resident	20
Deaths	Resident	39

Marriage Licenses	24
Certified copies of Birth, Death & Marriage records	265

ACO REPORT/DOG LICENSES

Dog Licenses for year 2023	369
Kennels licensed	1
ACO calls for service	149

INLAND FISHERIES & WILDLIFE

Total Licenses	150
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Resident Archery	3	Res Combo	37
Resident Hunting	21	Jr Hunting	9
Resident Fishing	44	Saltwater Registry	0
Resident Turkey Permits	5	Coyote Permits	3
Resident Bear Permits	1	Small Game Permit	0
Resident Crossbow	1	Resident Apprentice	0
Migratory Waterfowl	7	Muzzleloading Permit	3
Superpack License	1	NR Hunting	1
Over 70 Complimentary	7	NR Fishing	5
		NR Combo	2

REGISTRATIONS

Boats	224	Resident Snowmobiles	129
NR Milfoil sticker	11	NR Snowmobiles	10
		ATVs	164
Motor Vehicles	3310	NR ATVs	15

MISCELLANEOUS

Concealed Weapons Permits	14	Transfer Station Permits	977
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Respectfully Submitted,
Kellie M. Mullis
Town Clerk

Report of the Newport Planning Board

The Newport Planning Board has been very busy this past year. Items put before the Newport Planning Board include Public Hearings held on zoning ordinances and permits for:

1. ME CDG LLC Elm St Solar Project Public Hearing and permit application
2. Approved a building permit for a poultry processing business at 954 Moosehead Trail
3. Held a Public Hearing and granted a permit for Karma Cannabis at 66 Main St for Medical Cannabis
4. Held a Public Hearing and granted a permit for Recreational Cannabis Retail Store for Grams Place LLC Cannabis Shop at 36 Moosehead Trail
5. Renewal Permit Application for Medical Cannabis Store, Reefer Red's at 606c Moosehead Trail
6. Renewal Permit Application for Medical Cannabis Cultivation Facility, Green Medic Pharms at 592 Moosehead Trail
7. Renewal Permit Application for Medial Cannabis for Grams Place LLC Cannabis Shop at 36 Moosehead Trail
8. Renewal Permit Application for Brothers Newport LLC Cannabis Retail Store at 19 Moosehead Trail

I would like to thank the Planning Board members, Frank Harding, Jr., Debbie Ferrell, Richard Peck, Jr., George Phelps, Maxine Pare, and Al Tempesta, Code Enforcement Officer, for their time, effort and input this year.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kerry Carsley
Planning Board Chair

Report of the Newport Cultural Center

The Newport Cultural Center would like to thank all of our patrons for making it another successful year. We welcomed over a thousand new members to NCC this past year! We enjoy helping our Community fulfill all of their literary needs, as well as providing free Wi-Fi for your technology needs as well. This past year NCC started a Laptop Lending Program where patrons can sign out a laptop to use at home for up to a week. We also have a hotspot available for patrons that may need temporary internet access at home. We continue to offer free computer use at NCC as well if you prefer to work in our spacious, climate-controlled building.

Story Hour continues for preschool aged children each Friday at 10am with the help of facilitators from Penquis Cap. Children hear a story and create a craft each week while developing a love for books.

Senior game day is open to all seniors each Tuesday from 1-3pm. This is a time for fun and socialization for seniors in Newport and the surrounding towns. There are a variety of games, puzzles and cards provided and all are welcome.

We have two regularly scheduled Book Clubs at NCC currently. One is our NCC Historical Fiction Book Club which meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 3pm. This Book Club is hosted by our Historical Preservation Committee and explores various books of historical fiction. If you are a history buff you will want to check this out! The Historical Preservation Committee is always welcoming new members for those interested in preserving Newport's heritage. They meet weekly on Wednesdays from 3-5pm at NCC. Our other book club is the NCC Fiction Book Club that meets on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 3pm and discusses fiction books of all varieties. This Book Club is hosted by our NCC Curator, Larry Gray, and long-time patron and volunteer, Charlene Woodvine. They bring a vast literary knowledge and humor to each meeting. If you enjoy talking about books in a comfortable setting with open discussions this book club is for you!

With the help of the GFWC Newport Women's Club and NCC Friends of the Library, we also offer free passes to the Children's Discovery Museum, Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens and Maine State Parks.

Look for upcoming educational and entertaining programs for children and families coming once again this summer. Keep up to date with us on our Facebook page and at our website newportculturalcenter.org. NCC is open Monday through Thursday 9:30-5:30 and Fridays 9:30-2pm.

Contact us at 368-5074 or librariansofncc@gmail.com.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tonya Parker
President
Newport Cultural Center Board of Directors

Report of the Newport Trail Committee

As we come to the end of the 2023-2024 snowmobile season, we would like to take this opportunity to thank the landowners for allowing us to use their property for our trails. Without their generosity, there would be no trail system. Please be respectful and stay on the "marked trail".

What a crazy winter! With absolutely no help from "Mother Nature", we did manage to log 25 hours of grooming. This is nowhere near the amount of time we like to spend in the groomer's seat. We also Logged 275 hours of maintenance on the trail system here in Newport. It sure was a short season, but we'll keep our fingers crossed for next year. That being said, we are already making plans for the work that needs to be done for the upcoming 2024-2025 season.

The Seabasticook Valley Snowmobile Club has a Facebook page which is constantly being updated during the winter months. If you want to see the latest on our trail conditions or any events we may be having, "like" us on Facebook. If Facebook isn't for you, please feel free to contact any of our committee members with questions or concerns. If you are a snowmobiler, please become active in the sport and join a snowmobile club.

Respectfully Submitted
Scott T Jakins

Members:
Scott Jakins (Chair)
Gary Braley
Tyler Jakins
Vern Palmer Jr
Silas Wilbur

Report of Newport Recreation Department

This has been another exciting year for the Newport Recreation Department. We continue to try to implement new programs and improve our facilities to better serve the Community of Newport. Please check out our new walking path located at the Newport Recreation Center.

Please check our Facebook page or the Town website page for all of the Newport Recreation functions that we offer for kids and adults. If you have any new ideas that would be valuable to our Program, please send me an email and share your thoughts at gcrockett@rsu19.net.

Many thanks to all the Volunteers who coach and run our Programs, to the Staff at the Town Office, the Municipal Crew and my wife. All of you have done a great job and without you none of this would be possible.

It has been a pleasure working with you and your children this year and the Newport Recreation Department is looking forward to another successful year.

Respectfully submitted,
Gene Crockett
Newport Recreation Director

Report of the Newport Area Seniors

The Senior Group meets twelve months of the year; six months at the American Legion Hall during warm weather and six months at the Newport Cultural Center during the cold weather. This year we dined out at local restaurants, had entertainment events, bus trips and also held auctions to raise money towards these activities. The meetings start at 10:30 am the third Wednesday of the month followed by a potluck luncheon. The same Officers were elected again this year and are listed below. Our mission is to keep up the moral for Seniors by being active and socializing.

Officers:

Dee Terrio	President
Helen Haynes	Vice President
David Smith	Treasurer
Alice Peck	Secretary

Respectfully submitted,
Alice Peck
Secretary

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT 19

*Corinna Dixmont Etna Hartland
Newport Palmyra Plymouth St. Albans*
266 Williams Road Newport, ME 04953
Telephone (207) 368-5091 Fax (207) 355-3016
Mr. Michael Hammer, Superintendent of Schools
mhammer@rsu19.net

February 6, 2024

Dear Citizens:

We anticipate a very interesting budget cycle this year. We are coming off the last few years of programs supported by the American Recovery Act funds. These include after school programs, tutoring, summer programming, staffing to support social emotional learning needs, new clubs and extensive work in outdoor gardening. These have been wonderful additions to our schools, the question is how we make do to keep them?

Our expanded special education programming at the Somerset Elementary School and in the Etna-Dixmont School are going along fairly well, each is dependent on a certain quality and quantity of staffing. We may expand this further at Seabrook Valley Elementary School. We hope these programs will support students as they progress through their education.

Our new food storage and freezer building is up and running. We have a new food service director, Lorey Duprey, she has brought some new ideas and connections to local producers to our lunch program.

Our technical center is working to create a new welding program, this program has been an idea in the making for a few years. We hope that next year we can say that it has been established and that we are preparing another group of students for the workforce. We also have returned the music program at the high school to full staffing. Mr. Neal and Mr. Cloutier now staff the high school along with Mrs. Jordan and Ms. Dunlap at the middle school. Along with Mrs. Neal in charge of the drama students, we have quite a formidable performing arts team.

The District continues to grapple with our growing homeless population. Currently, we have over 90 students who meet the criteria for homelessness. We are providing families with food, clothing, housing fuel and utility payments, medical appointments and supply assistance, as well as funds to secure housing. Our number of homeless students has grown exponentially this year, and we continue to work with the community to attain resources to provide wrap-around services for these families.

Lastly, please follow the budget process as the Board Finance Committee starts meeting each Monday night. Please check in on the District Events section on our website www.rsu19.org to access these meetings. We are also now broadcasting our monthly board meetings on Youtube TV. We post the link to that site each month as well.

We continue to provide the best possible education for our students and appreciate the community support behind all of our programs.

Take Care,
Mike Hammer,
Superintendent of Schools

Report of the Newport Water District

The Newport Water District operates one filtration plant situated on the shore of Nokomis Pond. Nokomis Pond is the sole source of supply for the District. The pond is a small 200 acre body of water with an average depth of eight feet. The pond and plant supply water to the distribution system that delivers fire protection and clean drinking water to the downtown area and the adjacent outskirts of Elm Street and The Moosehead Trail. The District also supplies these same services to a small portion of Palmyra via contracts with the users. Our distribution system consists of fifteen miles of various sized mains. Approximately two thirds of these mains are from 1980 or newer. We operate three water storage tanks, two of which are pumped storage facilities. These assets have all been modernized in the last twenty years to meet numerous requirements.

Looking into the future ... our supply seems to be holding in good shape. We have good volumes of water to utilize and upon our first phase of "Forever Chemical" testing we found no issues regarding "PFAS". Our treatment plant was upgraded to handle organics in 2010 and the technology employed will also handle PFAS if it becomes an issue. Since the year 2000, we have upgraded many components of this system with emphasis on reliable fire protection and safe drinkable water.

In 2023, we undertook rebuilding our three sand filters at the plant. Over 300 tons of new sand was brought in to perform this task. Each filter was taken offline individually and emptied of sand, after which the filter chamber was washed down and prepped to receive new sand. As this project was being worked on it became evident that we needed to set up a rotation, so filter rebuilding was not to be such a daunting task. As we got to the end of the project, we had set up each filter to be rebuilt in a staggered interval which we will monitor. Filter three will be the first to be rebuilt in this new rotation and should not need be done until roughly 2030. This project was completed over the course of the summer months and was done so under budget and on time.

The Newport Water District has employed a Master Plan since 2014 and we've stuck to using it as a guide for future planning. In 2024 we will look to update that plan and continue to build up our "reliable system". We currently operate at approximately one third of our capacity, so we have room to grow with the community we serve.

Respectfully submitted by:
The Board of Trustees
and the Operations Crew of
"The Newport Water District"

Newport Sanitary District

P.O. BOX 157 NEWPORT, MAINE 04953

(207) 368-5129

ANNUAL REPORT

Presently the treatment plant is operating well and meeting all the parameters to the District's E.P.A and D.E.P. discharge permits. The treatment plant treated and processed 128 million gallons of wastewater at the treatment plant facility in 2023. We have been experiencing an alarming number of clogged sewer drains and clogged pumps at our sewer pump stations recently because of foreign material being flushed down the toilets or poured down the drains. The pumps in these stations are designed to handle water, human waste and tissue paper only.

Examples of what **should not** be flushed down toilets or poured down drains are as follows:

- Cloth rags or towels
- Baby wipes, Toilet wipes, Disinfecting wipes, or cloth wipes of any kind (even if the container indicates that they are "flushable")
- Paper (other than toilet paper/tissue)
- Medications (prescription, or other over-the-counter medication)
- Feminine hygiene products of any kind
- Beauty products, Q-tips, dental floss
- Plastics of any kind
- Grease of any kind-especially cooking grease
- Garden supplies (such as pesticides, fertilizers)
- Paint, varnish, paint remover
- Motor oil, gasoline, or any explosive material

In fact, any of the above listed items that should not go into the public sewer system should not be flushed into a septic tank (for those residents not tied into public sewer). Instead, all of the above items mentioned should be thrown out with the trash or disposed of properly. Remember only water, human waste and tissue paper should be flushed down toilets. Clogged pumps lead to sewer backups which can back up into homes and are expensive to clean and repair. This cost is borne by you-the sewer rate payer.

Respectfully Submitted,
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Vern Palmer, Chairman
Larry Merrithew, Vice Chairman
Dennis Dow, Treasurer
Victor Horton, Trustee
Dan Stevens, Clerk