

TOWN MEETING NEWS

Camden, Maine May 2013

The Town Meeting is an opportunity to have a voice in Camden's future. Camden's **2013 Annual Town Meeting** will be held June 11 and 12. Residents may *register to vote* at the polling place on Election Day. Please bring identification and proof of residency. Absentee ballots are available at the Town office during regular business hours Mon-Fri. 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Ballot Voting: Tuesday June 11, 2013

The polls will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Camden Public Safety Building. Voters will be asked to vote on Articles 1 through 3 of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

Article 1: Election of the Moderator to preside at the Town Meeting. The polls will open as soon as the Moderator has been elected.

Article 2: Election of Select Board Members and School Directors by secret ballot:

- **One Select Board member for a 3-year term.** In addition to serving on the Select Board, Select Board members also act as the Assessors, Overseers of the Poor, and Wastewater Commissioners. There is 1 candidate running for this seat: Martin Cates.
- **Two Directors of the Maine School Administrative District (SAD) #28 / Community School District (CSD) #19 for 3-year terms.** There is 1 candidate running for these 2 seats: John Lewis.
- **One member for the Personnel Board for a 3-year term.** There are no nominees.

Article 3: Proposed amendment to the Camden Fire Prevention and Protection Ordinance to make it consistent with the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code (MUBEC).

In 2012 Camden citizens adopted the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code (MUBEC) as part of the Town's ordinances. The proposed amendment gives the Fire Chief, in addition to the Code Enforcement Officer, the authority to inspect premises related to compliance with fire prevention and protection codes adopted by the State Commissioner of Public Safety and/or

incorporated into the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code (MUBEC). This provides for greater efficiency by allowing the Fire Chief or the Code Enforcement Officer to conduct building inspections. The Fire Protection Ordinance is intended to enhance public safety by promoting the control of fire hazards, regulating the use of structures, premises, and open areas, providing for the abatement of fire hazards, and setting forth the standards for compliance.

This amendment is recommended by the Select Board and has been certified by the Select Board Chair. The full text of the amendment is available at the Town Office.

BUSINESS MEETING June 12, 2013 at 7:00 pm.

The Business Meeting takes place on Wednesday, June 12 at 7:00 p.m. at the Camden Opera House. Voters will be asked to consider Articles 4 through 14, including Article 10 which is the proposed FY14 Budget. Please refer to the 2013 Annual Town Report for specific information about these Articles and the budget on pages 85 through 91.

Article 4 through 9: These are Articles which need to be approved at each Annual Town Meeting.

Article 4: Sets the dates taxes are due: November 1, 2013 and May 1, 2014 and sets the interest rate for unpaid taxes at 7%.

Article 5: Authorizes the Select Board to apply for and accept grants, gifts, etc. on behalf of the Town. This past year, the Town has actively applied for grants and we have been very successful. A few examples including planning grants for the Downtown Master Plan and the concept design for the Public Landing, plus acquiring street trees through Project Canopy.

Article 6: Authorizes the Select Board to dispose of tax-acquired property. The Town rarely receives tax acquired property, but if it does, this Article authorizes the Select Board to dispose of it in the best interest of the Town. This Article contains specific language regarding the Apollo

Tannery site and makes it clear that disposition of that property may only be done in accordance with the approved guidelines adopted at the 2008 Town Meeting. Those guidelines include: the use must be acceptable, the buyer must have financial capacity and professional competency to develop the site, the proposed use must be for jobs development, and the buyer must meet as many of the "Guiding Principles" described in the report of the Apollo Tannery Redevelopment Work Group (2008).

Article 7: Authorizes the disposal of personal property in accordance with the Town's purchasing policy.

Article 8: Authorizes the Select Board to transfer funds between budget categories not to exceed 10% on the unexpended balances after a public hearing in accordance with guidelines.

Article 9: Voters are asked to approve the non-property tax revenues of the proposed FY 14 Budget (See p. 88-89 of the Town Report). The non-property tax revenues reduce the amount of property taxes that need to be raised through property taxes. These revenues include: local road funding from the State, Tree Growth reimbursement, vehicle excise taxes, and local fees such as building permits and plumbing fees. *Due to the uncertainty over State revenues, voters will be asked to make a motion "to appropriate up to \$1,991,990 in non-property tax revenues."*

Article 10: This Article contains the Budget expenditures proposed for FY14. In recognition of the economic times, this Budget was developed with three principles in mind: develop a budget that is as close to a zero increase as possible; maintain the services citizens expect within a tax bill citizens can afford; and develop a budget that allows Camden to continue to thrive and progress. The Budget Committee's Recommendation is \$235,716 more than FY13 (or 3.7%). The Select Board's Recommendation is \$161,716 more than FY 13 (or 2.5%). The only difference between the two is the amount of funding recommended for emergency medical services (EMS). The Budget Committee recommendation includes \$174,000 for EMS; the Select Board includes \$100,000 for EMS.

This is discussed further in the Public Safety budget.

The Budget has 7 funding categories. Voters are asked to vote on a total amount for each category and to vote for each one separately. The following highlights what is covered in each budget category.

A. General Government: This section covers services provided primarily by the staff in the Town Office and the Opera House: the Town Clerk, Tax Collector, Treasurer, licensing and permits, planning and code enforcement, economic development, Finance, and Town administration.

B. Public Safety: The Public Safety budget includes the Police Department, Fire Department, the Public Safety Building, Knox County Dispatch, Emergency Medical Services, fire hydrants and street lights. The proposed budget funds the current number of personnel in both the Police and Fire Departments

Emergency Medical Services. Until last year, Camden First Aid Association (CFAA) received a contribution from the Town as a non-profit organization. Last year, CFFA was designated as the Town's emergency medical services (EMS) provider and was funded at the requested amount of \$20,000. The prior year, the amount requested was \$10,000.

This year, CFAA requested a total of \$407,000 from the four communities it serves. The amount requested from Camden was \$174,000 (a \$154,000 increase over last year)

Camden directed the Town Manager to work with the other Towns served by CFAA and consider a range of options that could possibly help CFAA and make it become financially sustainable.

The four Towns worked together on a Request for Proposals (RFP) process. A 13-member team of elected and appointed officials and citizens was formed to become better educated about EMS in general and the financial problems facing CFAA, and to review the proposals and make a recommendation to the Select Boards.

The Budget Committee considered the requested amount from CFAA during its work on the budget in March. The Committee had to make a recommendation on the funding amount *before* the Request for Proposals from other EMS providers were received. The Budget Committee met with CFAA twice during their budget work. *The Budget Committee voted 15 to 2 to recommended full funding for CFAA in the amount of \$174,000.*

The Select Board also had to vote on funding for emergency medical services *before* the proposals were reviewed and the EMS Review Team had made its recommendations. *The Select Board unanimously approved EMS funding in the amount of \$100,000.*

The EMS Review Team has recommended that the four Towns contract with North East Mobile Health Services for EMS coverage at a total cost of \$28,000 for the four towns. Camden's share would be \$10,000. For more information on this, please go to the Town's web site.

roads, with an additional 20 miles of State roads that we plow and maintain in the winter.

D. Health & Welfare. This portion of the budget funds community organizations and non-profit agencies which provide healthcare and social services to Camden residents. The Provider Agencies and Community Services are funded mostly at prior year's levels. There is a reduction since one agency chose not to request funds.

E. Leisure Services: In recognition of the financial pressures facing the Town due to reductions in State funding for both the Town and public schools, the Trustees of the *Camden Public Library* requested the same funding amount they have received for the past two years.

The *Camden Harbor* expenditures are fully funded from harbor fees. The **Recreation and Parks** budget maintains current services. Costs for full time staff who work for the Parks and the Recreation Department are charged to the Snow Bowl during the winter season.

Budget Voting Process: The Budget has 7 funding categories. Voters are asked to vote on a total amount for each category and to vote for each one separately. Like every other budget category, voters will be asked to approve a total amount for the **Public Safety Budget**. A motion is in order to approve the Budget Committee's Recommendation (includes \$174,000 for EMS), the Select Board's Recommendation (includes \$100,000 for EMS), or offer an amendment for a different amount. *It is important to understand that voters are approving an amount; voters are not approving a specific emergency medical services provider.*

The voters at Town Meeting are the "legislative body" whose job is to vote for funds. The Select Board is the administrative body. They apply the funds that have been approved by the voters in a way that the Select Board thinks is appropriate administratively.

If a voter wants the Select Board to continue to fund CFAA, the voter may speak in favor of full funding for CFAA. If the amount approved contains full funding for CFAA (the Budget Committee's recommendation), people might assume that voters want the Select Board to continue to fund CFAA. But as the administrative body, the Select Board has the responsibility to spend the funds in the manner they think is appropriate for the community. This is especially true of EMS, since all four towns need to agree on the EMS provider in order to have an area with sufficient call volume and thus be financially sustainable.

C. Highways, Streets, and Bridges. This portion of the budget covers the Public Works Department. Increases in this budget are due to the cost of materials, fuel, and the need for infrastructure repair and improvements. The Public Works Department is responsible for maintaining 12 miles of sidewalks, 38 miles of

The Parks staff takes care of all Town cemeteries and **Harbor Park**. The cost of the Harbor Park mowing is paid for by the Library. The **Dam budget** covers Camden's share of repairs and maintenance to the Montgomery Dam and Seabright Dam. The cost of repairs to the East and West Megunticook dams are shared by Camden (2/3) and Lincolnville (1/3).

F. Cemeteries. The Trustees of the *Cemetery Association* oversee the Oak Hill and Mountain View Cemeteries. The maintenance budget is completely paid for with funds generated by the cemeteries and are shown as revenue to the General Fund. The cemeteries are funded at the same level as the prior year and are maintained by the Parks Department.

G. Debt, Capital, and Contingency. This portion of the budget covers funding for the Town's facilities, infrastructure, and equipment through leases, bond issues, or reserve funds that are specifically established to pay for capital projects. Several debt obligations were paid off in FY 12. This made it possible to purchase the *new fire truck* without adding significantly to the Town's overall indebtedness. Even with the new fire truck, total debt service (principal and interest) is less than last year.

The *Capital Reserve* accounts set aside funds for specific capital projects. This is a sound financial management practice which allows the Town to minimize the need to borrow, while allowing the Town to reinvest in existing infrastructure and equipment while stabilizing the impact on the budget.

Included in Capital Improvements is funding for new public works equipment which will allow us to do projects more efficiently and cost effectively.

Article 11: This Article relates to the State law known as *LD 1* which limits growth in the municipal portion of the tax commitment (excluding school and county costs). The limit is established according to the state formula based on the average real personal income growth (this year it is 1.05%) to the property growth factor (this is derived by comparing the municipality's new value to total value which is .98%). To calculate the limitations for this year these factors are applied to the FY14 tax commitment using the FY13 assessment information. Camden's LD 1 spending limitation growth has been calculated to be 2.03% or \$95,870. The budget recommended by the Budget Committee exceeds this amount by approximately \$36,000. The Budget recommended by the Select Board is within the LD 1 guidelines.

This limit can be exceeded if approved by the Town Meeting.

Articles 12 through 13 call for the election of officials to the **Pascal Fund Trust, the Budget Committee,** and the **Budget Nominating Committee.**

Article 12 - Board of Trustees of the W. H. Pascal Fund: Parker S. Laite, Jr.'s term is expiring. He does not wish to be renomintaed.

Article 13 - Budget Committee: There are openings for *eight members* to serve a 3-year term, and *1 member* to serve a 2-year term, and *1 member* to serve a 1-year term on the Budget Committee. No one has been nominated. Nominations may be made from the floor, or people may express their interest after the Town Meeting and the Select Board can fill the vacant positions.

Special thanks to the Budget Committee for all the work they did on this year's budget. It was an especially challenging year. Serving on the Budget Committee is a very rewarding form of community service. It allows you to understand first hand your local government, and have a direct input on funding decisions and priorities for the community. The Committee meets weekly in March.

Article 14 - Budget Committee Nominating Committee: There are openings for 3 regular members and 2 alternate members to serve on the Budget Nominating Committee. No nominations have been brought forward.

We hope this information is helpful as you prepare for the Town Meeting. If you have any questions, please contact Town Manager Pat Finnigan at pfinnigan@camdenmaine.gov or 236-3353.



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