

Camden's **2014 Annual Town Meeting** will be held June 10 and 11. The Town Meeting is an opportunity to participate in your local government and have a voice in Camden's future.

Residents may *register to vote* at the Town Office during the Town Clerk's regular business hours: Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Residents may also 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 noted above.

Ballot Voting: Tuesday June 10, 2014. The polls will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Camden Public Safety Building to vote for local , state and federal officials, and the school budget..

Business Meeting: June 11, 2014. The open floor meeting is at 7:00 p.m. at the Camden Opera House. The business includes consideration of the FY15 municipal budget.

2014 Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Business Meeting
June 11, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.
Camden Opera House
7:00 p.m.

Ballot Voting
Tuesday June 10, 2014.
Camden Public Safety Building
8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

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:

- **Select Board: 2 members for 3-year terms:**
James Heard and Donald White.
- **School - Directors of SAD 28 and Community School District (CSD) 19:**
2 Members for 3-year terms:
Matthew Dailey and Tanya Kristin Collins
- **School - Director of SAD 28 only:**
1 Member for a 1 year term:
Lynda Chilton
- **Personnel Board - 1 member for a 3-year term:** David Miramant

Articles 3 through 13 are "Floor Votes" and include the proposed FY15 Budget. Please refer to the 2014 Annual Town Report for specific information about these articles and the budget on pages 93 through 99.

Article 3 - Tax Due Date. This is an annual item which sets the dates taxes are due: November 1 and May 1. It also sets the interest rate for unpaid taxes at 7% as allowed by state law.

Article 4 - Grants. This Article authorizes the Select Board to apply for and accept grants, gifts, real estate, etc. on behalf of the Town.

Article 5 - Tax-acquired Property. This article authorizes the Select Board to dispose of tax-acquired property in a prudent manner that is in the best interests of the Town. The Article has specific requirements regarding the Apollo Tannery site. The Select Board may sell the site if the proposed uses of the property are consistent with the Guiding Principles recommended by the Tannery Redevelopment work group and approved by Camden voters.

Article 6 – Surplus Property. This Article allows the sale of equipment and personal property in accordance with the Town’s purchasing policy.

Article 7– Fund Transfers. This Article authorizes the Select Board to transfer funds between budget categories in accordance with guidelines.

Article 8– Budget Revenues. This Article pertains to the non-property tax revenues the Town is projected to receive in the proposed FY 15 Town Budget. The primary non-property tax revenues received by the Town are Motor vehicle excise taxes, harbor permits, Opera House rentals, building permit fees, and State revenues such as Revenue Sharing, local road assistance, and tree growth reimbursement. These revenues reduce the amount of property taxes that need to be collected. The projected revenues are approximately \$100,000 less than last year. The primary reason for this is due to the cut in State-Municipal Revenue Sharing program. This program has been cut by nearly 70% in the past 5 years. The estimated non-property tax revenue for FY15 is \$1,895,650. The Revenue budget is on pages 96-97 of the Town Report.

Article 9 – Budget Expenditures. This Article is the proposed FY15 expenditure Budget.

This Budget was developed with three goals in mind. Develop a budget that: funds the priority services citizens expect; allows Camden to continue to thrive and progress; is based on a tax bill citizens can afford.

The Budget Committee and the Select Board agreed on the recommended amount of \$6,7489,939. The expenditure budget is found on pages 98-99 of the Town Report.

The FY15 budget is \$318,344 more than the FY14 budget (4.9%). The primary reasons for the budget increase are: wages, insurance, workers compensation, fuel, and increased funding for capital projects such as roads, sidewalks, and equipment.

Regarding *fuel costs*, the Town has undertaken several energy conservation projects which are helping to reduce heating fuel consumption. Regarding *wages*, the budget includes a 3% salary

increase for union (Police) and non-union employees. The other budget driver is increased funding for capital improvements to reinvest in streets and sidewalks. With 38 miles of roads and 12 miles of sidewalks, we need to make a concerted effort to fund improvements to these important municipal assets.

General Government: This section of the budget covers the services provided primarily by the staff in the Town Office: the Town Clerk, Tax Collector, Treasurer, licensing and permits, planning and code enforcement, economic development, Finance, and Town administration, and the Opera House. In also includes funding for insurances and technology.

The notable changes in this budget are insurance and benefits. Retirement costs increased by 20%. Works Compensation insurance increased by 40%. Another notable change is the retirement Assessors Agent Wes Robinson. While Wes was in this position, it was not a full-time position. The budget provides funding for a full-time position.

Public Safety: The Public Safety budget includes the Police Department, Fire Department, the Public Safety Building, Knox County Dispatch, as well as the cost of fire hydrants and street lights. The proposed budget funds the current level of personnel in both the Police and Fire Department.

Highways, Streets, and Bridges. This portion of the budget covers the Public Works Department. Increases in this budget are due to the increased cost of materials and fuel, and the need to invest in infrastructure repair and improvements. Projects planned for this budget year include completion of the Thomas Street water and sewer line replacements and paving, and the Spruce Street drainage project. Due to concerns over the condition of streets, the Budget Committee voted to increase funding for roads by an additional \$50,000.

This budget also funds winter maintenance. As we have experienced this year, the weather can be unpredictable. The Town’s Winter Maintenance

Reserve Fund has allowed the Town to keep winter maintenance funding consistent.

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. One new organization was added for funding this year: Five Town Communities that Care.

Leisure Services: This budget includes funding for Camden Harbor, Parks & Recreation, Camden Public Library, and the Megunticook Dams.

For the first time in 3 years, funding to the **Camden Public Library** has an increase.

The **Camden Harbor** expenditures are funded totally from harbor and boat mooring fees.

The **Parks and Recreation** budget funds the cost of recreation programming such as summer camp, and maintaining the 700 acres of Town-owned parks and open spaces including Harbor Park, and the Oak Hill and Mountain View Cemeteries. Costs for full time staff who work for the Parks and the Recreation Department are charged to the Snow Bowl during the winter season. The cost of the Harbor Park mowing is paid for by the Library.

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 **Dam budget** covers Camden's share of repairs and maintenance of the Montgomery Dam and the East and West Megunticook Dams. The cost of repairs for the East and West Dams are shared by Camden (2/3) and Lincolntonville (1/3).

Debt and Capital. This portion of the budget covers funding for the Town's facilities, infrastructure, and equipment through bond issues, capital leases, or reserve funds that are specifically established to pay for capital projects. The Debt Service payments are reported as principal payments and interest owed.

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.

The FY15 capital equipment budget includes funding to replace Public Works equipment (a 1996 dump truck and a 2005 back hoe), purchase Parks and Recreation equipment to maintain parks and cemeteries (a tractor/mower). This budget also includes the first payment toward the \$2 million bond the voters approved in November 2013 to match the \$5 million in private funding raised by the Ragged Mountain Redevelopment Committee. As you will note, the cover of this year's Town Report is a pictorial to show the many change the Snow Bowl has experienced over the years. We thought it was fitting to do so as we embark upon the improvements planned for the Snow Bowl.

Article 10 - Tax Levy Limit. By State law each municipality must determine if the amount of property taxes that need to be raised will exceed a "growth index" formula. The formula is based on the State's average personal income growth (this year it is 1.09) and the growth in a town's assessed value (1%). The Town Meeting may vote by written ballot to approve a tax levy that exceeds the growth index formula.

Article 11 - Trustee of the W. H. Pascal Fund. This Article is to elect a Trustee to the Pascal Fund. Elaine Davis' term is expiring and she is willing to continue to serve. This is a 3-year term.

Articles 12 - Budget Committee Members. By Town Charter, the Budget Committee is comprised of not less than 21 members nor more than 25 members. Eight members' terms expired this year. The members are elected from the floor. The Budget Nominating Committee is charged with bringing forward nominees. These nominees are listed on the following page.

Budget Committee

3-year Terms (expire in 2017) - 8 vacancies.

The Budget Nominating Committee nominated the following people:

1. Kate Bates
2. Jean Freedman White
3. Richard Gross
4. Matthew Orne
5. Cynthia Ostrowski
6. Etienne Perret
7. Joe Russillo
- 8.

2-Year term (expiries in 2016) - 1 vacancy.

The Budget Nominating Committee put forward no nominations.

1-Year term (expiries in 2015) - 1 vacancy.

The Budget Nominating Committee put forward no nominations.

Many thanks to the Budget Committee for their work on this year's FY15 budget.

Susan Dorr, Chair
Karen Grove, Vice Chair
Thomas Ambrecht
Thomas (TC) Bland III
Edward Collins
Deborah Dodge
Anita Brosius-Scott
Patricia Eddy
Orman (Sonny) Goodwin
Tom Jackson
Rick Knowlton
Parker Laite, Sr.
Morgan Laidlaw
Brett Lerner
John Lewis
Kelly Macomber
Diane (Robin) McIntosh
Steven Melchiskey
Dave Nazaroff
Steve Neil
R. Graham Phaup
Frank Stearns
Richard Stetson

Having Trouble Paying Property Taxes?

We work to keep tax rate increases to a minimum, but we know paying taxes is not easy for everyone.

The State of Maine has a program for Maine Residents called the Property Tax Fairness program. It allows eligible people to claim a credit on the Maine Income Tax Form. Qualified residents can get as much as a \$300 credit, or \$400 if they are over 70. For more information, you can call the Maine Revenue Services office 626-8475, or go to the web site: www.maine.gov/revenue and look for "Tax Relief" at the top of the page.

There is also help from the Town for qualifying people. If you or someone you know is having difficulty paying property taxes, please contact the Town Manager's Office 236-3353.



www.camdenmaine.gov

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.

Stay informed throughout the year by signing up for the Town Newsletter. Go to the Town web-site and look for "Camden Newsletter" on the left of the page, and click on sign up here.

Hope to see you at the 2014 Town Meeting!