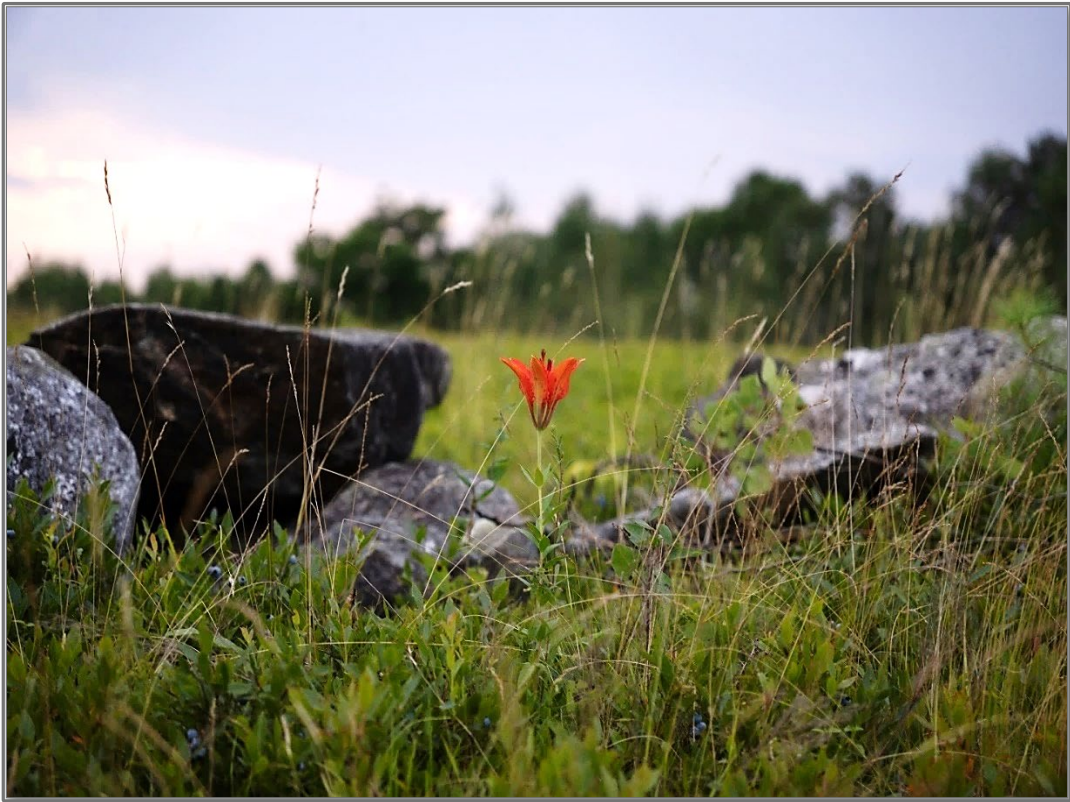


TOWN OF HOPE

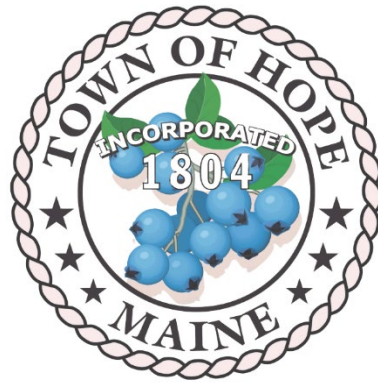


Annual Report 2025

Town of Hope

Knox County

Maine



2025 Annual Report

Financial Reports

2025 Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Annual Report Dedication 2025

Elizabeth “Beth” Gindel, Town Sexton

The 2024 Annual Report is dedicated to Beth Gindel, who has been the Town’s very active sexton since the 2018 – 2019 fiscal year.

Beth, a native of the mid-coast, descends from many of Hope’s original landowners. Her keen interest in preservation, genealogy, and giving a voice to “the Silent” is reflected in all she has accomplished since becoming Sexton. Beth is a realtor and owner of The Hennerly. She volunteers at P.A.W.S. Animal Adoption Center, is on the Walk MS Committee, and is a Support Group Facilitator for the National MS Society. Beth’s energy and ability to coordinate group effort have been seen in the accomplishments made in our cemeteries.

Upon appointment as town sexton, Beth began updating cemetery records and was tasked with preparing updated deeds to Hope Grove Extension. After completing and issuing the deeds, she continued updating data on the Town’s software, entering death certificate information and military records. Realizing that records were quite scarce for Morey Hill Cemetery, which was initially purchased in 1805, led to the discovery that there were numerous unmarked graves. Exhaustive genealogical sleuthing is ongoing. Beth and a couple of Cemetery Committee members worked with a volunteer dowser in 2022 and in 2023, with a University of Maine at Presque Isle professor when he conducted a ground penetrating radar survey. Metal gravestone markers have been inserted at the locations of unmarked graves - Beth is heading the effort to raise donations for the placement of above-ground cobblestone markers.



*Bartlett family with Town Sexton, Beth, 3rd from left,
at their family's gravestone relocation dedication*

The righting of gravestones, predominantly at Hope Grove, has consumed many hours by Beth and members of the Cemetery Committee. Beth has organized group and individual brush clearing, including raking & hauling at Morey Hill; she did the brush mowing at Morey Hill, so that now the contracted grass mowers can keep the cemetery well groomed. When the Town hired a tree limbing company to remove potentially damaging limbs from perimeter trees at Hope Grove Cemetery, Beth, alone, removed the brush along one of the stone walls to save the Town additional expense.

Annual cemetery activities consist of placing American flags at each veteran's gravesite before Memorial Day and their removal after Veterans Day in November; the cleaning and repair of broken and fallen gravestones; and the ordinary duties of the Town Sexton in identifying sellable lots, coordinating grave openings with families & funeral homes, and working with monument installers. The Town of Hope is fortunate in having a hands-on Sexton who is good at coordinating volunteers.

Thank you, Beth, for your commitment, care, and dedication to the Town of Hope and its residents; past, present and future.



Beth with Professor Wang finishing a long day of GPR surveying; Beth holding the marker flags

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MUNICIPAL OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

ADMINISTRATION

Select Board, Assessors & Overseers

Sarah Ann Smith, Chairterm expires 2026

Charles Weidman, Vice Chairterm expires 2025

Wayne Luce.....term expires 2026

Crystal L. Robinson.....term expires 2027

Joseph Tassi.....term expires 2025

Town Administrator, GA Administrator, Treasurer, Registrar of Voters..... Samantha Mank

Bookkeeper..... Shani Dennison

Town Clerk, Tax Collector, Deputy Treasurer, Election WardenPamela Jordan

Deputy Clerk, Deputy Tax Collector, Deputy Treasurer, Deputy Registrar.....Cynthia Belk

Assessors' AgentRJD Appraisal

Addressing OfficerClarence Keller

Election Clerks

Charlene Allen, Linda Black, Bradley Boyd, Richard Bresnahan, Richard Crabtree, Eugene DiLorenzo, Mary Jane Doubleday, Adrian Humphreys, Margaret Ludwig, Charlene Mazzeo, Harold Mosher, Holly Miller, Regina Rooney

FINANCE

Budget Committee:

William Pearse Jr, Chair.....term expires 2026

John Jensen, Vice-Chairterm expires 2027

Brian Powers Jr.....term expires 2027

Wendy Pelletier, Secretaryterm expires 2025

Knox County Budget Committee Member (District 5 Representative):

Bob Duke.....term expires 2024

EDUCATION

Superintendent – School Union 69 (K-8)Kathryn Clark

School Committee:

Jude Masseurterm expires 2026

Emily Burgessterm expires 2027

Timothy Lock, Chairterm expires 2027

EDUCATION (continued)

Nicholas O'Hara.....term expires 2025

Benjamin Odgrenterm expires 2026

Five Town CSD Representative:

Lori Perez.....term expires 2026

PUBLIC WORKS

Road Commissioner:

John Monroeterm expires 2026

Representatives to Mid-Coast Solid Waste Board of Directors

Crystal Robinson.....term expires 2027

PUBLIC SAFETY

Emergency Management Director.....Clarence Keller

Fire Chief, Fire Warden.....Clarence Keller

Volunteer Firefighters:

Leonard Ames, Assistant Chief

Alex Ludwig, Assistant Chief

Michael Eaton, Deputy Chief

Michael Mank, Safety Officer

Christopher Brown

Jeff Connon

Brad Dodge

Dana Winchenbach

Jacob Eichenlaub

Dan Ford

Noah Rousseau

Fred Holbrook

Ashley Mesurvey

Curtis Kozielec

Matthew Hunt

Charles Weidman

Brian Payson

David Peabody

Everett Perry

Scott Porter

Sarah Doudera

Taber Twitchell

Hope Volunteer Fire Department Life Members:

Wayne Berry

Mary Holmes

Sydney Mank

Scott Nelson

Chris Pearce

Ray Sisk

Ronald Wright

Ginny Ryan

Representatives to Ambulance Review Committee:

Wayne Luce

Charles Weidman

Health OfficerEdward Steele

Animal Control OfficerHeidi Blood

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Code Enforcement Officer/Local Plumbing Inspector Zach Herrick

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT (Continued)

Planning Board:

Molly Luce, Vice Chair term expires 2028
Robert Hall Jr, Secretary term expires 2029
Jason Simms term expires 2030
Juanita Hunt term expires 2026
Joseph Curll term expires 2027

Board of Appeals/Board of Assessment Review:

Brian Powers Sr, Chair term expires 2029
Vacant, Secretary term expires 2029
Bradley Boyd term expires 2025
John Jensen term expires 2025
VACANT term expires 2026
VACANT term expires 2027
Steven Bowman, Vice Chair term expires 2027

TOWN COMMITTEES

Cemetery Committee:

Beth Gindel Cemetery Sexton
Shawna Mitchell term expires 2027
Cynthia DellaPenna term expires 2025
Karen Orhon term expires 2025
Mary Berry term expires 2026
Raylene Hunt term expires 2026

Recreation Committee:

NO CURRENT MEMBERS

AD HOC COMMITTEES

Broadband Committee:

NO CURRENT MEMBERS

CHAIR
Sarah Ann Smith

SELECT BOARD

It has been yet another busy year. The office is fully staffed now with our Town Administrator, a Clerk, a Deputy Clerk, a Bookkeeper, A Code Enforcement Officer, and a new Town Assessor. When you come in, do say thank you for all the work they do to keep things running smoothly for all of us.

As always, there are changes: we welcome Joe Tassi to the Select Board; thank you for being willing to serve the town. There are also newcomers to the Budget Committee and other town functions. We appreciate the willingness of one and all to help support our town.

As many of you are aware, the town has undergone a legally required property revaluation over the past three years. In the coming weeks and months, there will be information available to explain the process and you will receive notifications about your individual property assessments.

You likely also know that costs have gone up significantly. Inflation in the Northeast is higher than the rest of the country. New regulations and mandates on the state and federal level have added to our costs. Both the Hope Elementary School and the Five-Town School district high school need significant capital improvements to their buildings. There is also the potential loss of federal subsidies to both schools. For example, the Five-Town school district receives \$800,000 in federal funds. They budgeted an extra \$100,000 this year to compensate for the funds they believe they are most likely to lose. Ambulance service costs have tripled in the last three years. The cost of hiring an independent contractor to plow our roads has tripled, and it has become less expensive to plow the roads ourselves. We regret as much as all of you that our taxes will go up, but be assured that the Select Board, Budget Committee and Town Staff have worked diligently to make the increases as low as we can while maintaining essential services.

Perhaps the biggest change this year, and one which looks like it will result in significant and much-needed savings over market prices, is the decision to create a Winter Road Works. The only bid for plowing was nearly triple the previous contract despite significant outreach by the town staff to seek bids. Our Road Commissioner and Town Administrator worked hard to crunch the numbers, and by purchasing trucks and equipment whose purchase was authorized at a special Town Meeting in February, we hope to not only be able to control skyrocketing plowing costs but also reduce other roadwork expenses throughout the year.

On behalf of the entire Select Board, I can repeat what we said last year: thank you for the opportunity to serve the Town of Hope and thank you to all the citizens of Hope who volunteer on behalf of the town, officially or in day-to-day life. We encourage you to participate, whether by volunteering or simply taking the time to become informed about our town and voting. Thank you!

From left to right, Wayne Luce, Crystal Robinson, Sarah Ann Smith, Charles Weidman, & Joseph Tassi





TOWN ADMINISTRATOR
Samantha Mank

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Every year of municipal government has something in common... change. Last year was no different. There have been several changes that have happened since my last report.

After two years of delayed town meetings, I am very pleased that the 2025 town meeting schedule for both the school and town will once again return to the May and June timeframe. The delays were primarily caused by not having a completed audit, which can be used to extrapolate some budgetary information. The FY23 audit work has been completed. However, the auditors are still working on compiling all the data to send to the Town.

After 37 years, Clarence Keller announced that he is retiring as Hope's Fire Chief effective June 30, 2025. A retirement party is being planned to honor Clarence for his many years of unwavering dedication and service to the Town on July 12th. This spotlights a change for the Town. The Town will vote on adopting amendments to the 30-year-old Fire Department Ordinance that was originally approved in 1995. The most notable proposed changes clearly define the Hope Fire Department as a municipal department and further delineate the town organization from the former nonprofit fire association. The selection process for the new fire chief consists of five separate phases that include a formal application process, a written exam, hands-on skills assessment, oral board, and final interview. Your next Fire Chief will be expected to assume duties on July 1st. Good luck to all the applicants. I'm looking forward to announcing who your next Fire Chief will be.

The Town of Hope has used private contractors for certain projects or jobs such as mowing of town owned properties, plowing and shoveling municipal building parking lots and sidewalks. But, more often for the work surrounding roads such as annual paving, roadside mowing, and snowplowing. The plowing contract ended this year and was advertised for the upcoming winter season. Only one bid was received, and it was much larger than anticipated. After bids have been opened, they become public. This means the competitive edge is lost after the first round of bidding. Contractors can get a sense of the "going rate" and submit new bids accordingly. The Road Commissioner did some research and began meeting with the Select Board to make them aware of all the options that could be available to the Town and the potential cost for each option. The Select Board and Budget Committee met to review numbers and make recommendations as well. In February 2025, during a Special Town Meeting, the residents voted to take over the snowplowing and winter maintenance of the roads. The Town took out a \$767,744 bond to purchase its own snowplowing vehicles and winter maintenance equipment. All the trucks are being outfitted with plows and sanders

and should be ready for the 2025-26 winter snow season. This is the inaugural year but, even so, I think the crew will do a great job.

The Town began the process of a town-wide revaluation in 2022 by having one third of all properties inspected by the revaluation team. The idea was to implement the new assessments for all of the properties at the same time but also hoping the housing market would stabilize. Property assessment values are determined by how much money a similar nearby property has recently sold for. The higher the selling price, the higher the surrounding property assessments. This year, the revaluation team will implement all of the information and determine what the new property assessments are for every parcel in the town. Every property owner will be sent a letter and given an opportunity to schedule an appointment to discuss their new assessment value with the revaluation team before the tax bills are sent out.

This is my ninth report to you, and it continues to be my honor to serve as your Town Administrator. While I have written about several changes, there are some things that have remained constant, the high quality of your Town Office staff. Pamela Jordan, the Town Clerk since 2021, continues to provide top-notch service to everyone whether in person, by phone or email. She has been training Cindy Belk, your Deputy Clerk, since January 2025. Cindy joined our team after Sarah left to take full-time employment in another town. Cindy is always cheerful and provides high-level excellence for each resident. Shani Dennison continues to ensure that the municipal finances are well maintained, up-to-date, and accurate. She is knowledgeable in her field and enjoys making sure everything is kept in proper order. Zach, your Code Enforcement Officer, is only in Hope once a week. He is typically very busy meeting with residents or in the field conducting site visit inspections. The best way to contact Zach is via email.



TOWN CLERK
Pamela Jordan

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

Vital Statistics

Number of Births	7
Number of Marriages	9
Number of Deaths	15

<u>Name</u>	<u>Death Date</u>	<u>Place of Death</u>	<u>Age</u>
Ronald M. Wright	07/19/2023	Portland	76
Charles E. Cooke	07/22/2023	Not listed	75
Toni G. Martz	09/02/2023	Hope	60
Jason D. Hall	09/09/2023	Hope	52
Douglas E. Peabody	09/27/2023	Rockport	87
Judith A. Hodder	12/07/2023	Hope	65
Peter P. Perry	12/09/2023	Rockport	71
Patricia J. Tetreault	02/16/2024	Rockport	84
Hazel M. Weidman	04/22/2024	Hope	100
Viola B. Richardson	05/05/2024	Hope	96
Judith A. Brackett	05/21/2024	Hope	67
Patricia M. Holbrook	06/02/2024	Rockport	85
Hazel E. Eaton	06/02/2024	Hope	82
Arlene A. Crabtree	06/05/2024	Belfast	80
Peter S. Thompson Sr.	06/30/2024	Camden	80



Rays of Hope
photo by Jameson Webb

Town Fees Collected	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024
Auto Excise Tax	\$397,221.74	\$390,863.82	\$389,547.94	\$398,957.42
Boat Excise Tax	3,867.30	3,573.70	4,031.40	4,188.50
Building Permits	10,501.74	15,296.88	14,903.02	14,365.60
Plumbing Permits	3,205.00	5,202.50	4,537.50	4,402.50
Motor Vehicle Agent Fees	9,675.00	9,243.00	9,341.00	9,481.00
Recreational Vehicle Agt. Fees	350.00	596.00	308.00	578.00
Photocopies	144.90	185.05	232.00	146.75
Copies of Vital Records	469.80	703.00	537.80	923.80
Planning Board	1,425.00	875.00	200.00	2,006.16
Sales of Maps and Publications	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Inland Fish/Wildlife Agt. Fees	211.75	153.75	131.50	119.50
Dog License Fees	1,616.00	2,749.00	1,681.00	2,018.00
Dog Ordinance Fines	50.00	0.00	100.00	0.00
Returned Check Charges	0.00	0.00	60.00	120.00
Sales of Cemetery Lots	0.00	0.00	450.00	0.00
Entrance Permit Fees	0.00	140.00	0.00	0.00
Certificate of Sole Proprietor	0.00	30.00	10.00	0.00
Total	\$428,738.23	\$429,612.70	\$426,071.16	\$437,337.23

Fees to Treasurer of State	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024
Bureau of Motor Vehicle	\$153,722.58	\$163,165.67	\$145,641.85	\$139,105.85
Inland Fisheries & Wildlife	31,068.02	21,381.24	28,631.17	23,638.72
Dog Licenses	1,102.00	1,170.00	1,105.00	1,298.00
Plumbing Permits	1,540.00	1,962.50	675.00	1,722.00
Vital Records	82.50	131.50	101.60	109.00
Total	\$187,515.10	\$187,810.91	\$176,154.62	\$165,873.57



REGISTRAR OF VOTERS
Samantha Mank

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

Hope residents who are eligible to vote may register at the Town Office during regular business hours or at the polls on Election Day. Proof of residency is required at the time of registration. If this is your first time registering to vote in Maine, you must also bring proof of identification, such as a driver's license or other photo ID. You may also register to vote when you register your automobile at a Branch Office of the Bureau of Motor Vehicles. You may register by mail with a card supplied by the Secretary of State, but you must enclose a copy of your driver's license. Seventeen-year-olds may register to vote if they are going to be eighteen before the next Election Day. Only registered voters may vote at Town Meetings and at the polls.

To vote in a primary election or participate in a caucus, you must be enrolled in a party. If you are unenrolled, you may enroll in a party at any time, including Election Day. However, if you are changing parties, you must do so at least 15 days before that party's caucus or primary. You may change or withdraw party enrollment only after three months of enrollment in one of the seven recognized political parties in Maine – Democratic, Green, Independent, Libertarian, No Label's, Republican, and Unenrolled. Please note that although some unenrolled candidates and voters choose to designate themselves as "Independent", there is no Independent Party in Maine.

In Maine, a registered voter may vote by absentee ballot for any reason. Absentee ballots are available 30 days before an election, and voters can request a ballot in person at the Town Office, by mail, by phone, or on the internet from the Secretary of State's website. There is a link to that site at www.hopemaine.org. Immediate family members may request a ballot on behalf of a family member in person or by mail.

1,394	Registered voters as of June 30, 2023
39	Names added
0	Names removed - inactive
(4)	Names removed - moved
(13)	Names removed – deceased
(3)	Names removed – duplicates
(2)	Names removed – voter requested cancellation
<u>1,413</u>	Registered voters as of June 30, 2023

Registered Voters as of June 30, 2024

513	Democratic
45	Green Independent
5	Libertarian
9	No Labels
411	Republican
430	Unenrolled
1,413	Total registered voters



Limitless Sky photo by Nate Wentworth

HOPE Fun Facts

Population in 1810	787
Population in 2025	1710
Approximate residents per square mile	60
Area in acres	15,232
Area of land in square miles	21.96
Area of water in square miles	1.92
Percent of Veterans	10.2
Percent of homeownership	89.4
Total occupied housing units	680
Average family size	2.87
American Indian population	4
Average commute time in minutes	22.2
Percent of households heating with wood	18
Largest Maine earthquake wave felt in Hope, 1904	5.9
Hope elevation in feet	469
Number of residents foreign born	23
Median resident age	43.2
First streetlight in Hope	1926
Christmas tree farming in Hope began	1909
Year that LP True & Company in Hope began canning	1883



Winter in Hope, photo by Paul Smith

2024 Assessors' Agent Report



This report is to introduce you, if you have not been already, to the new Assessing Agents for the Town of Hope. We are Ellery G. Bane and Kolbey Ouellette. We realize that coming in after a veteran with the qualifications of Verne Zeigler are big shoes to fill, but both of us are veterans of Assessing and will do our absolute best to serve the community of Hope proudly and with honor



and integrity. I know there is a lot of anxiousness about the unknown impact of the new reevaluation. That is absolutely a normal feeling, and when the time comes and the project is completed, we hold hearings to help explain our findings and the process of bringing Hope to current market value. We will be available every month in the Town of Hope to take appointments and answer all questions to the Assessing department. Below are some of the Tax relief programs that are available from the State of Maine.

There are several programs available to assist property tax owners in Maine. The Maine Homestead Exemption allows for a reduction in the assessed value and is probably the largest exemption program. To qualify, you must be a legal resident of the State of Maine, have owned a residential property in Maine for at least the past twelve months as of April 1, and the homestead must be your permanent place of residence. You can only claim the exemption for one property in Maine and cannot claim a similar exemption in any other state. Applications for this program are available at the Town Office and must be filed by April 1. Once your application has been approved, it is automatically renewed each year that you qualify for the exemption. When a property is sold, the exemption is removed, and the new homeowner must apply for the exemption.

Forms are also available at the Town office for a Veteran Exemption for all veterans who served during a recognized war period and is over 62 years or older; or is receiving 100% disability as a Veteran; or became 100% disabled while serving. The Veteran exemption is also available for the widow, widower, minor child, or widowed parent of a Veteran. An important change was made to the Veteran's Exemption Eligibility. The law eliminated the requirement that a veteran of the Vietnam War must have served on active duty for a period of more than 180 days. If you are a veteran of the Vietnam War who would otherwise qualify for the exemption in the past but did not because of the 180 days of service requirement, this change would allow you to apply for the Veteran Exemption. Like the Homestead Exemption, once this is approved it will automatically be renewed each year that you are eligible.

The State Property Tax Deferral Program is a lifeline loan program that can cover the annual property tax bills of Maine people who are ages 65 and older or are permanently disabled and who cannot afford to pay them on their own. The loan program allows Maine's most vulnerable community members to age in place and ensures that property taxes are still delivered to municipalities, requiring repayment of the loan once the property is sold or becomes part of an estate. A handout of frequently asked questions (FAQ) that explains the

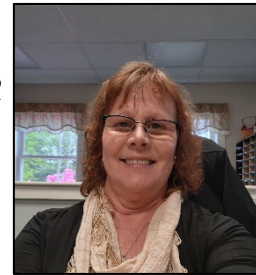
program in more detail and lists additional restrictions is available at the Town office. The FAO and an application can also be found at <https://www.maine.gov/revenue/taxes/tax-relief-credits-programs/property-tax-relief-programs/deferral-program>
Forms for all property tax exemptions and additional information can be found at <https://www.maine.gov/revenue/taxes/property-tax>

Regards,
Ellery G Bane & Kolby Ouellette



Alford Lake, photo by Lindsey Liebman

TAX COLLECTOR
Pamela Jordan



TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

Tax Liens Unpaid as of June 30, 2024

*Baker, Edith J	\$ 435.61
*Bosser, Geoffrey	\$ 1,003.81
*Hendrick, Rachel	\$2,560.02
*Hopkins, Allan	\$ 1,458.17
*Jetmax, LLC	\$3,528.53
*Jones, Alyssa	\$ 894.81
*Kimball, Renee	\$ 824.66
*Ludwig, Keith	\$ 601.66
*Neils, William	\$ 1,082.56
*Payson, Paul	\$6,336.82
*Payson, Paul	\$8,020.39
*Stockbridge, Kevin	\$2474.70

**Paid after June 30, 2024*

2024 Abatements Granted

Todd & Coragene Riggs	\$245.25
Robert & Donna Winslow	\$ 44.25
Jeffrey Cannon PR	\$ 706.23
Patrick Grodan & Heather Reed	\$70.45
Total	\$1066.18

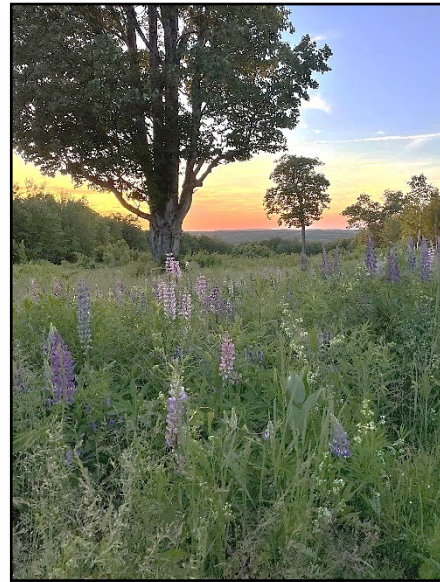


photo by Lauren Yaskoski

2024 Supplement

Alton Lawrence Pease Heirs	\$ 1099.71
James Joy	\$ 69.48
Grace Josselyn Et Al	\$9,770.82
Total	\$10,940.01

HOMESTEAD EXEMPTIONS

Every taxpayer who had a Homestead Exemption in fiscal year 2023-24 saved \$318.45 in property taxes. Most homeowners, who are residents of Hope, are eligible for this exemption. Check your tax bill to be sure you have this exemption or call the Town Office if you have any questions.

REAL ESTATE TAXES UNPAID AS OF JUNE 30, 2024

ANDERSON, JOHN	\$ 1,735.04*
ARONEAU, RICHARD	\$ 2,776.24*
BAKER, HEIDI	\$ 243.37*
BAKLEY, J.C.	\$ 1,104.92*
BARLEY, TRACY	\$ 7.46*
BASSETT, IRVING HEIRS	\$ 254.88*
BOSSER, GEOFFREY	\$ 1,981.68
BOWER, KELLY *	\$ 930.13*
BRACHER, KATHRYN A	\$ 2,313.83*
BRODIS, BENJAMIN	\$ 3,917.90*
CARPENTER, ROBERT	\$ 281.43*
CARPENTIER, ROBERT	\$ 745.17
COKINIS, CHRISTY	\$ 2,074.72*
COLLINS_LEAVITT, ELIZA	\$ 334.53*
DALTON, JANET	\$ 1,568.79*
DAVIS, ARLENE	\$ 2,429.32*
DODGE, BRUCE	\$ 1,732.83*
DOUGLAS, WAYNE KELLY JR & TRUSTEE	\$ 4,153.17*
DOWLING, JACOB	\$ 246.91*
DOWNIING, AUROLYN TRUSTEE	\$ 1,088.55*
DUNTON, LUCAS	\$ 1,449.63
FIELDS, DALLAS	\$ 8.83*
FOLSOM, KATHRYN	\$ 2,639.51*
FORD, DANIEL	\$ 2,151.44*
FORD, DANIEL	\$ 1,407.15*
FOX-GLOVER, ALLISON	\$ 1,371.31*
GARRISON, ALLEN	\$ 434.69*
GILBERT, DANIEL	\$ 974.39*
GRAY, TERANCE	\$ 32.74*
HARDY, ABIGAIL	\$ 385.86*
HART, ELIZABETH	\$ 584.10*
HARTER-IVES, HANNAH	\$ 11.04*
HENDRICK, RACHEL	\$ 2,607.21*
JETMAX, LLC	\$ 3,529.38*
JILLSON, DONNA	\$ 1,012.44*
JONES, ALYSSA	\$ 872.61*
JONES, ERIC	\$ 1,299.62
KIMBALL, RENEE	\$ 1,134.57
LACOMBE, ELEANOR, TRUSTEE	\$ 2,579.77*
LAURITA, CARRIE	\$ 709.64*
LAURITA, CARRIE	\$ 3,212.70*
LEAVITT, JOSHUA	\$ 562.86*
LORD, JEFFREY	\$ 401.59*
LUDWIG, KEITH	\$ 1,301.84*
MANSFIELD, SANDRA	\$ 153.10*

MISC. HOLDINGS LLC	\$ 539.85*
NEILS, WILLIAM	\$ 1,062.00
NEILS, WILLIAMS	\$ 846.06
PARENT, MICHAEL	\$ 1,141.72*
PAYSON, PAUL	\$ 6,164.57
PAYSON, PAUL	\$ 7,906.59
PEARSE, BENJAMIN	\$ 1,185.90*
PEARSE, ERIC	\$ 5,459.57*
PEARSE, JAMES	\$ 2,733.09*
PERKINS, OLIVER	\$ 1,467.77*
PERRY, PETER & DONNA	\$ 1,757.60
PHILBROOK, ALLISON	\$ 4,601.20*
PIKE, HARVARD JR	\$ 1,200.43
PIKE, HARVARD JR	\$ 658.96
POWERS, ERIC COLBURN	\$ 322.14*
POWERS, PATRICIA PR	\$ 1,716.90*
POWERS, PATRICIA PR	\$ 1,062.00*
PUSHAW, JOHN	\$ 67.26
RICHARDSON, SAMUEL	\$ 3,855.90*
RIEFE, RICHARD	\$ 1,180.22*
RIVERRHOUSE NORTH LLC	\$ 0.70*
SAASTAMOINEN, JODI	\$ 554.97*
SIMONTON, JEFFREY	\$ 1,373.37*
SPEAR, BRITTANY	\$ 3,170.07*
STINSON, JOHANNA LEE	\$ 3,542.76
STINSON, JOHANNA LEE	\$ 1,423.08*
STINSON, WALTER	\$ 1,472.17
STOCKBRIDGE, KEVIN	\$ 2,216.93
THOMAS, LYNN	\$ 1,122.43*
TIBBETTS, DONALD	\$ 507.11*
TROMASELLI, DAVID	\$ 891.32*
TRIPP, JOAN	\$ 477.90
TRIPP, WAYNE	\$ 1,980.09
WALKUP, CHRISTOPHER	\$ 1,075.71*
WHITLEY, STACY	\$ 4,702.92*
WILLAUER, P. LANGLEY	\$ 1,979.22*
WILLIS, MARK	\$ 876.15*

TOTAL	\$133,132.25
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**paid after June 30th, 2024*



TREASURERS REPORT

Shani Dennison

Amount
Budgeted
July 1, 2023 –
June 30, 2024

Amount Spent
July 1, 2023 –
June 30, 2024

ADMINISTRATION COST CENTER

Administration – Payroll Costs

Select Board	5,211	5,211
Town Administrator	79,598	77,900.28
Town Clerk/Tax Collector	52,248	46,024.85
Deputy Clerk/Tax Collector	34,586	39,022.10
Bookkeeper	61,289	56,787.20
CEO/LPI	9,708	9,708
Custodian	3,563	1,948.55
Town Meeting Moderator	375	600
Election Clerks	2,403	1,759.37
FICA/Medicare	20,435	18,523.50
Health Insurance	22,626	11,764.97
Workers' Compensation Insurance	4,449	3,587
Unemployment Insurance	1,897	1,168
Subtotal	\$298,388.00	\$273,7014.82

General Administration

Property/Liability Insurance	14,230	13,480
Repair and Maintenance	11,995	7,538.84
Telephone	1,920	1,918.88
Website	1,382	1,464.92
Training and Workshops	2,310	1020.60
Printing	3,200	1,215.67
Supplies	3,872	1,273.11
Software Licenses	17,432	14,166.32
Memberships	4,440	7,656.57
Postage	2,500	2,243.69
Travel and Mileage	500	605.17
Equipment	1,000	526.26
Copier Lease	1,224	1,229.10
Advertising	2,400	670.44
Investment Fees	3,750	2,730.18
Fees	2,350	1,169
ARPA Funds	79,257.99	17,108.88
Miscellaneous	500	509.84
Subtotal	\$154,262.99	\$76,527.47



Pussy willows
photo by Sara Anne Smith

	Amount Budgeted July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024	Amount Spent July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024
Municipal Building		
Mowing	2,675	2675
Shoveling & Plowing	4,912	4911.63
Security System	324	300
Repair and Maintenance	1,000	745.28
Electricity	3,708	4,764.98
Heat	615	502.30
Supplies	800	739.68
Equipment Purchases	500	501.59
Subtotal	\$14,534.00	\$15,140.46
Professional Services		
Legal	14,820	7,210.40
Assessing	27,085	24,984
Accounting	6,500	5,000
Audit	13,500	3,017.25
Subtotal	61,905	40,211.65
General Assistance	\$2,250	2,495.36
Provider Agencies	\$0	\$0
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION COST CENTER	\$531,339.99	\$408,079.76
 RESERVE ACCOUNTS COST CENTER		
Fire Truck Replacement Fund	15,000	15,000
Fire Truck Repair & Maintenance	5,000	5,000
Municipal Buildings Repairs	5,000	5,000
Fire Department Equipment	9,170	9,170
Office Equipment and Software	2,000	2,000
Solar Reserve	6,228	6,228
Emergency Road Repairs	20,000	20,000
Revaluation	17,417	17,417
TOTAL RESERVE ACCOUNTS COST CENTER	\$74,815.00	\$74,815.00



Barred Owl
photo by William Hirst

	Budgeted July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024	Amount Spent July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024
PUBLIC SAFETY COST CENTER		
Ambulance Services	\$53,800.00	\$62,902.70
Animal Control		
Salary	4,991	4,991.04
Shelter Agreement	3,000	3,000
Supplies	50	40.99
Postage	20	0
Mileage	225	70.35
Training/Workshops	50	0
Subtotal	\$8,336.00	\$8,102.38
Fire Department		
Fire Chief Stipend	6,000	6,000
Volunteer Firefighters' Stipends	16,000	16,000
Emergency Mgmt. Director Stipend	1,500	1,500
Workers' Comp. Supplemental Ins.	800	797
Mowing	4866	4,866
Plowing & Sanding	11,461	11,460.49
Repair and Maintenance	21,350	25,579.47
Security	588	564
Electricity	3,900	5,107.65
Heat	3,369	3,109.21
Telephone	1,260	1,235.59
Training/Workshops	1,500	80
Supplies	400	399.98
Memberships	650	630
Postage	63	0
Mileage	300	0
Fuel	4,000	2,499.66
Bond Payment	38,150	38,127.46
Subtotal	\$116,157.00	\$117,956.51
TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY COST CENTER	\$178,293.00	\$188,961.59

	Amount Budgeted July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024	Amount Spent July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024
PUBLIC		
Recreation		
Mowing	6,047	6,047
Repair and	6,000	2,177.30
Equipment	1,930	1,820
Subtotal	\$13,977.00	\$10,044.30
Streetlights	\$1,400.00	\$1,129.45
Roads		
Road	155	155
Plowing	195,300	195,300
Annual	141,128	141,128
Repair and	215,674	236,336.05
Electricity	650	1,203.60
Supplies –	91,800	70,026.48
Supplies –	71,571	72,826.88
Subtotal	\$716,278.00	\$716,976.01
Sanitation		
Mid-Coast	56,343	56,124
Septic	2,300	2,300
Subtotal	\$58,643.00	\$58,424.00
Cemeteries		
Sexton	750	750
Mowing	5290	5290
Repair &	800	575.17
Supplies	644	164.28
Software	245	515
Subtotal	\$7,729.00	\$7,294.45
TOTAL PUBLIC	\$798,027.00	\$793,868.21
TOTAL	\$1,582,474.99	\$1,465,724.56
Elementary	3,630,102	3,358,414.73
Secondary	773,188	773,187.87
Adult	17,417	17,416.92
County Tax	279,226	279,225
County	61,874	61,874
TOTAL	\$6,344,281.99	\$5,955,843.08

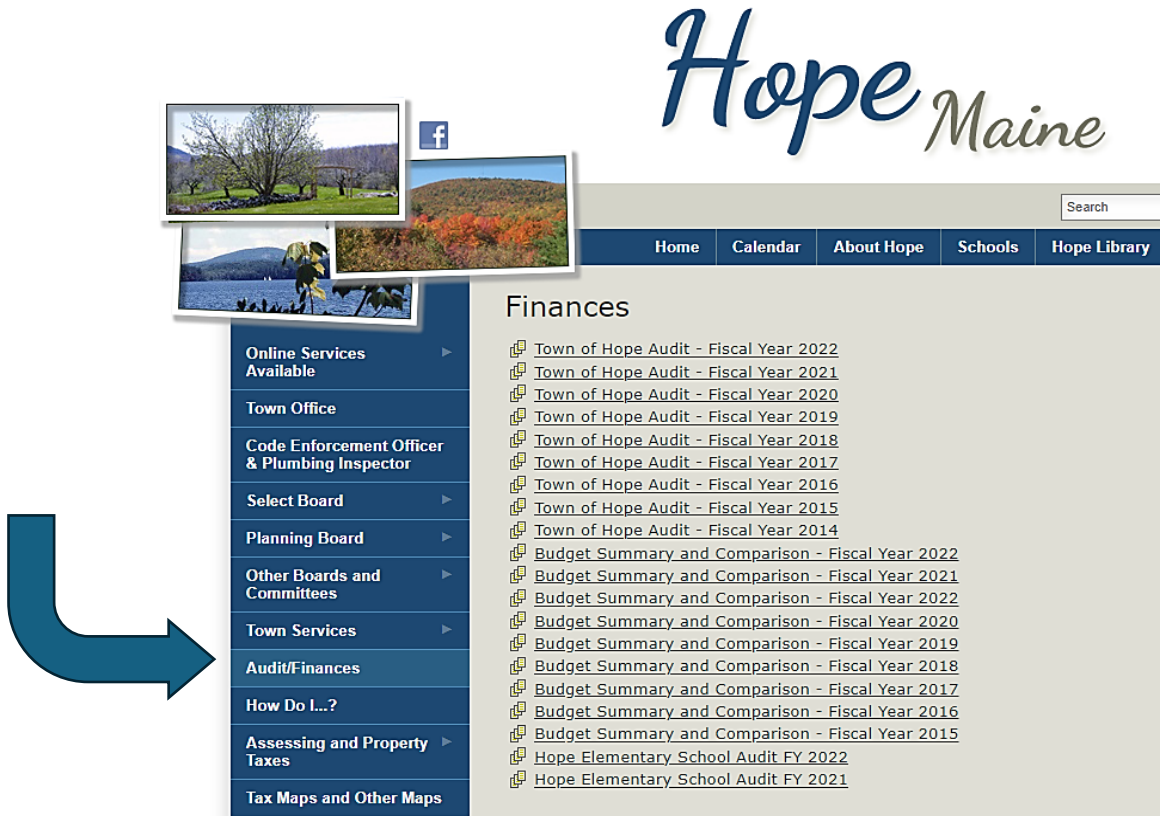
*Hope Elementary School had the following carryovers: FY24 - \$147,219. For more HES financial information, please see the Town website for the complete Hope Elementary School FY24 Audit once available.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

An independent audit of the town's financial statements is being performed for the year ending June 30, 2023, by the accounting firm of William H. Brewer, Certified Public Accountant, located at 858 Washington Street in Bath, Maine.

Unfortunately, the audit was not completed before this report was sent to the printer. Once the audit is completed, the report and comments thereon, will be available for inspection at the Town Office during regular business hours, and will be posted to the town's website: <https://hopemaine.org>

We apologize for this inconvenience.





PRINCIPAL
Danielle S. Fagonde

HOPE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL REPORT

We are very fortunate to welcome several new members to our Hope Elementary School team this year. Samantha Jacques joins us as the Pre-K teacher, Kristy Beverage as the middle school Language Arts teacher, Faith MacMillan as a Pre-K Ed Tech, Tim Hurlburt as a middle school Ed Tech, Brenna Sowder as a Spanish/Library Ed Tech, Cait Sonia as a SOAR Ed Tech, and Ruth Harwood as a middle school Ed Tech. Additionally, Mrs. Robinson has transitioned from an Ed Tech role to become a teacher in our SOAR program. We are also grateful for the dedication of our small group of substitutes who continue to support our efforts.

This year marks the third for the SOAR program, our special education initiative designed to help students build the skills necessary in their neighborhood school, rather than attending specialized out of district programs. The program has been a great success.

In response to a growing social and emotional needs of our younger community members, we have implemented restorative practices in our school. With the guidance of our music teacher, who serves as the restorative practice coach, we are focused on fostering resilient, healthy communities. As we enter the fourth year of this program, we are already seeing positive impacts across our school.

Our Pre-K program has expanded this year, now offering a five days per week program. We expect that this expansion will have a positive impact on families and attract more students into the program.

Hope Elementary School earned the #1 Best Public Elementary school in Knox County in the most recent *Niche.com* ranking. In addition to our academic focus, we continue to offer a wide range of enrichment programs. Our goal is to integrate the garden into both the school lunch program and the curriculum. Beyond that, students can participate in various extracurricular activities such as the Civil Rights Team, Student Council, Chess Club, Outdoor Club, Dungeons & Dragons Club, Drama Club, and STEM Lab. We aim to offer even more activities as we strive to keep our students engaged, especially in light of the rise in chronic absenteeism seen across the nation, including here at Hope Elementary School. Although our sports teams have not won any championships this year, our students have learned important lessons about teamwork and collaboration, which are just as valuable as any trophy.

We are also incredibly grateful to Partners for Enrichment, who have continued to provide outstanding programs and experiences for our students. These include educational trips and activities with organizations such as Chewonki, the Owls Head Transportation Museum, the Botanical Gardens, Herring Gut Coastal Science Center, The Challenger Center, the Midcoast Music Academy, and more. Local artists and authors, including Eric Darling, Tara Morin, Diane O'Brien, Alexandra S.D. Hinrichs, Licia Morelli and Mr. Drew with his animals, have also contributed to the rich cultural experiences our students enjoy.

Additionally, our HES Volunteer Group has been an invaluable part of our community. Their efforts in organizing family movie nights, providing teacher and staff appreciation swag, funding Teacher Appreciation Week, and hosting K-5 dances, and other fundraisers have strengthened our school spirit and helped support our students and educators in meaningful ways.

Despite the many social, emotional, educational, and fiscal challenges we face, we remain deeply committed to our work as educators. We are incredibly grateful for the ongoing support from our community, which allows us to continue providing high-quality education and enriching experiences for our students.





Five Town CSD
Maria Libby, Superintendent of Schools



Annual Report, 2025

Camden Hills Regional High School is a truly remarkable school that should make our community proud. We have seasoned and skilled teachers who are available to help students with whatever they need, and we have students who engage deeply in all aspects of our school, from AP courses to the Mid-Coast School of Technology to our athletics and arts programming. We have parents who are involved with their children's education and care deeply about its quality. We have a community that partners and supports us. Together, we work hard to raise good, decent people. We never stop trying to make students' educational experience, and the world at large, a better place. Our academic achievement continues to be strong, and, more importantly, our students are highly successful once they graduate. I see students who are excelling in every field, from music to technology to real estate to landscaping to medicine. We aspire to provide students with the foundation they need to excel in whatever path they choose. We also aspire to graduate students who are flexible, adaptable, resilient, and kind, and to prepare them for a world with an accelerating rate of change.

There is no doubt that the cost of public education is increasing. Much of that has to do with the rising costs of Special Education and Facilities, two cost centers that are increasing far faster than the rate of inflation. Between what is required by law and a population of young people with more needs than ever before, Special Education services account for 15% of our total expense budget. Our Facilities budget is also about 15% of our budget. (Regular education is 35% of the budget.) The cost of materials, labor, and contracted services has risen precipitously the past five years. This year also marks the 25th year we have been in the "new" high school. As you may know, the original geothermal system that heats and cools part of the building has failed. The siding and windows also need to be replaced with a quality solution.

We received a clear message from the January referendum that the community does not support a turf field. Therefore, we plan to make do with the fields we currently have, as there are no other options to expand our field capacity. That will likely mean that some "home" games will need to be played away, resulting in students missing more class time than would otherwise be necessary. We are very reluctant to consider reducing the number of teams we have, because athletics is a lifeline for so many students. Not only do sports build teamwork, discipline, and fitness, but they are the motivation for many students to stay focused on academics.

Finally, we will need a larger food service subsidy than ever this year, nearly doubling from last year. As you may know, Maine offers free meals for all students. We get reimbursed a lower amount than it costs to make the meals, however, and the more students who eat at school, the more money we lose. While we fully support every student being well-fed at school, it ends up costing our community a little more money.

The school district has a deep appreciation for the support the community has always shown us. We reflect that consideration back in the form of offering a top-notch education to area students while painstakingly going over expenses line by line to make sure we are spending every local tax dollar prudently and wisely. Unfortunately, our budget will come in higher than average this year, but it will be in line with what is happening around the state.





FIRE CHIEF
Clarence Keller

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

It is with great pleasure that I submit my annual report on the activities of the Hope Fire Department. In 2024 the department responded to 78 emergency calls. This year's calls included:

- 7 motor vehicle accidents
- 6 road hazards
- 5 EMS assist
- 26 mutual aid calls
- 5 downed powerlines
- 4 structure fires
- 8 misc.
- 13 alarm investigations
- 4 CO alarms

It has been another busy year. The work is never done, it never seems like there is enough time. Besides seeing a 27 percent increase in our call volume, we had our monthly truck and equipment inspections as well as our regular monthly meetings and trainings. We also continued providing fire prevention classes to all grades in Pre-K through 5th grade at Hope Elementary School as well as bring the Middle Schoolers to the Hope Corner Station for their enhanced classes, which include Fire Department Orientation for the 6th graders, Fire Extinguisher Training for the 7th graders and Hands Only CPR for the 8th graders.

We have also been working on an initiative to start first responding to EMS calls here in Hope. Four of our members have taken their basic EMT class and have recently all become certified EMT's. This will greatly help with quicker response times, having additional personnel on scene which is sometimes needed and while the local EMS response coverage seems to be ever changing, this may help in the future if there are any drastic changes.

The Town of Hope's most valuable resource is its volunteers. And I would like to say THANK YOU to them for their many hours of service to the Town of Hope. We once again ran our recruiting campaign and open house, unlike the bust we had last year, this year we recruited 4 new volunteers and we have had 1 leave and have had 3 retire from active duty, leaving us with 23 volunteers. Two of the new recruits are in class working on their Pro Board, Fire Fighter 1&2 Certification.

Recruitment is a never-ending necessity of keeping a healthy fire department and we are always looking for new interior firefighters, no experience necessary, equal opportunity. Please call if you would like to discuss details 207-542-2694 Chief Keller

HOPE for the best! PREPARE for the worst! If you need us, call us, we will be there!



DIRECTOR
Clarence Keller



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

It is with pleasure that I submit my annual report on the activities of your Emergency Management Agency program. After the last couple years of craziness this past year was much more low key as far as devastating storms. Besides having our regular monthly county meetings and other training and regular paperwork, we started working on updating the County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Severe weather can happen anytime, in any part of the state. Severe weather can include hazardous conditions produced by thunderstorms, including damaging winds, tornadoes, large hail, flooding and flash flooding, and winter storms associated with freezing rain, sleet, snow and strong winds.

REMEMBER – EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS IS EVERY ONES RESPONSIBILITY!





ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER
Heidi J. Blood

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER'S REPORT

Heidi J Blood here, I look forward to serving the town of Hope as Animal Control Officer again this upcoming year and encourage all to contact me with any questions, complaints or concerns regarding Animal Control. In 2024, I responded to more than 100 calls and traveled more than 300 miles while performing my ACO duties. I also received many phone calls, emails and social media posts from people regarding animal control. I also attended more than 40 hours of CE, as required by Maine Animal Welfare to maintain my certification as an Advanced ACO.

Just a few quick notes for you,

The Town of Hope is contracted with PAWS Animal Adoption Center in Camden to take in our lost/stray animals that I pick up. So, if your dog gets loose and I cannot identify it, it gets delivered to PAWS for safe keeping until its owner can claim it. A fee must be paid to the shelter to claim your pet once it enters their care. If your dog is licensed and wearing its tags, I will make every effort to contact you and reunite you with your pet, before taking it to PAWS. PAWS will also take in your unwanted pets, but Animal Control will not handle it. YOU must call PAWS and make arrangements to get the animal to them for relinquishing. This helps the shelter; by having you fill out a form giving your pets information, enabling them to ensure the pet gets adopted into an appropriate home.

Dog licenses expire each year on December 31, regardless of when it was first done.

You can renew your dog's license for next year any time after October 15. And before Jan 31st to avoid a late fee.

A state mandated Late fee of \$25.00 is applied starting February 1st. This is nonnegotiable as it is STATE mandated. You can renew your dog's license at the Town Office anytime or online before Jan 31.

Licensing your dog and keeping their tags on them is an invaluable tool to ensure its safe return to you and not a trip to doggie jail if he/she finds itself lost. We have over 300 dogs licensed in Hope.

It is Maine Law that every dog AND CAT be currently vaccinated against Rabies. If you are unsure of your pets vaccination status, please call the town office or your Veterinarian.

Most vaccines are good for 3 years after a pet's initial Rabies Vaccine which is only good for 1 year. Rabies is currently in every County of Maine, including Knox County.

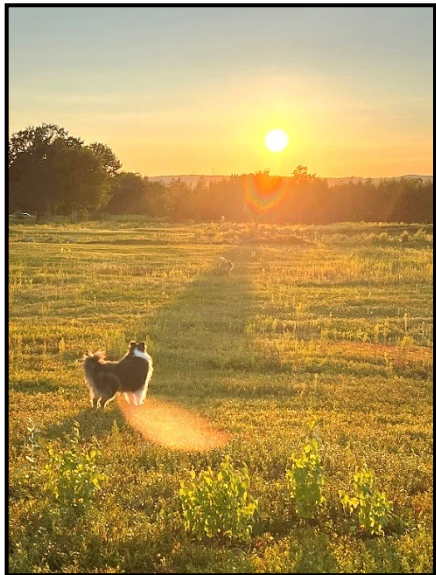
Animal Control does not handle wildlife complaints, unless a domestic animal is attacked or attacks a wild animal and rabies is a concern. If you have a wildlife concern, please contact Maines Inland Fisheries and Wildlife by calling the State Police dispatch Center in Augusta.

Stray cats are an issue in every town. **DO NOT FEED THEM!** If you care for or feed a stray cat for more than 10 days, the law states you are now the owner of that cat and are responsible for it. If you think a stray cat is homeless, call me immediately if it has been hanging around for a few days or appears to need veterinary care. I will gladly come pick it up or trap it and get it to the shelter. Cats are free roaming animals; therefore every cat you see is NOT a stray or homeless cat. Use your judgment.

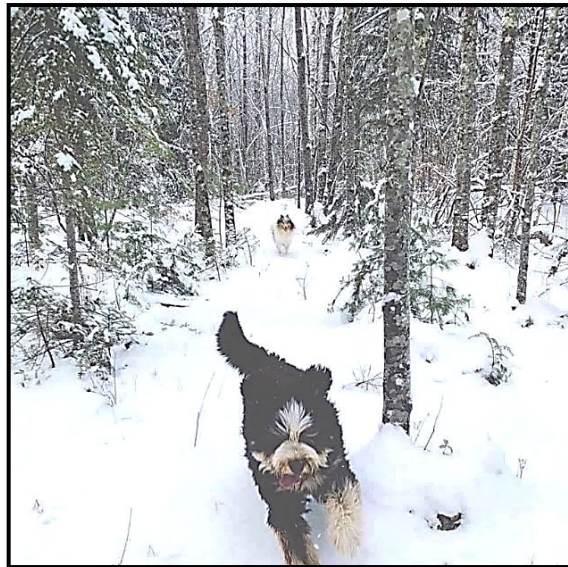
Again, please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions, complaints or concerns regarding animals in Hope.

Sincerely,

Heidi J Blood
Animal Control Officer
207-322-3237
hjb04915@yahoo.com



Sunset Play, photo by Lauren Yaskoski



Robbins Road Run, photo by Amy Froehlich



90 Union Street • P.O. Box 1016 • Rockport, ME 04856
Tel: 207-236-2467 Fax: 207-236-7968
www.midcoastsolidwaste.org David St. Laurent, Facility Manager

Mid-Coast Solid Waste is a solid waste facility, which is a fancy word for what most people know as "The Dump." Did you ever think about where that term comes from? When referring to a place where waste is discarded, the term is derived from the verb, dump, which means to drop or unload something in a hasty or careless manner. In the context of waste disposal, it implies that trash is thrown away or discarded quickly, and without much care. The word dump also carries a connotation of disorder or mess, which fits the way many people perceive waste disposal sites, especially older or more informal ones.

Over time, the term evolved to refer to the actual location where waste is thrown away — hence, "The Dump." So, calling MCSW "The Dump" reflects both the action of discarding and the often-unkept nature of such places.

So, what exactly is a solid waste facility? A solid waste facility is a place where various types of waste materials, such as trash, recycling and compostable items, are collected, processed, and disposed of. These facilities are designed to manage and dispose of solid waste in an environmentally responsible way. There are different types and/or parts of a solid waste facility, such as a landfill. This is where waste is deposited and stored, usually in a controlled area to minimize environmental impact. Another is a recycling center, which is a place where recyclable materials like paper, glass, plastic, and metal are sorted and processed for reuse. Transfer stations are locations where waste is temporarily stored before being transported to landfills or recycling centers. Finally, a composting facility takes in organic waste, like food scraps and yard waste, and breaks it down into compost to be used as fertilizer.



In addition, some solid waste facilities also handle hazardous waste and e-waste or provide services like hazardous waste collection days when community members can safely dispose of dangerous materials. These facilities help ensure that this kind of waste is managed in a way that minimizes harm to the environment and public health.

So, instead of the dump, a solid waste facility is the more accurate, respectful term to describe a place where waste is managed with an eye toward positive environmental impact. A solid waste facility reflects modern waste management practices, like those in use at Mid-Coast Solid Waste. And the towns of Camden, Hope, Lincolnville and Rockport are now the proud owners of a solid waste facility — that once was a dump.

For up-to-date information about Mid-Coast Solid Waste, including hours of operation, fees and how to use the facility, please visit www.midcoastsolidwaste.org or call 207-236-2467.

Waste, Recycling, Diversion and Treatment 2024-2025 Statistics

Items You Help Recycle (tons)		Diverted Disposed Waste (tons)	
#1 Plastic	26.6	Sheetrock	317.9
#2 Colored	14.68	Mattresses	120.93
#2 Natural	8.71		
Newsprint	72.93	Waste disposed of in Quarry Landfill (tons)	
Mixed Paper	204.1	Demo/Clean building debris	1,496.76
3-7 Plastic	13.66		
OCC (Cardboard)	377.78	Household Trash into MCSW hopper (tons)	
Steel Cans/Tin	24.19	Municipal Solid Waste	5,381
Metal	333		
Fluorescent Bulbs		Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day	
Bulbs Recycled (LF)	11,920	Units of Waste	351
CF Bulbs Recycled	1,131		
White Goods w/Refrigerant Evacuated		Universal Waste Recycled	
Freon (units)	833	TVs, Computers, Printers (lbs.)	38.67
		Miscellaneous Electronics (lbs.)	136
Swap Shop (est. tons)		Non-PCB Ballasts (lbs. of units)	0
Items reused	25	PCB Ballasts (lbs. of units)	14
		Mercury Devices (lbs.)	36
Food Waste Composted (tons)		Clothing Recycled (tons)	
Scrap Dogs	35	Apparel Impact	16.29
Refurbished/Repurposed Items		Tires Recycled (lbs.)	
Bikes	79	BDS Tire Recycling	1,001
Mowers and Trimmers	76		
Sales Income	\$6,295	Water/Leachate from Quarry to Camden WWT	
Batteries (rechargeable/single use)		Pumped for Treatment (gal.)	21,071,303
Call 2 Recycle	554	Chipped Brush (tons)	
		Maine Custom Woodlands	614.16



John Monroe
ROAD COMMISSIONER

ROAD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Greetings,

The 2024/2025 budget included replacing the bad culverts and repaving Robbins Road and Howe Hill Road. We also did a lot of repairs and maintenance around town, replacing culverts, fixing washouts, and trimming trees/brush.

In the summer of 2025, our plan is to start repairs on Ludwig Road,

I can be reached to report any concerns at (207) 542-9636

Did you know? Maine DOT has designed a three-year work plan addressing maintenance and planning all over the state. Go to

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/ad71c15c352442599f347e574ebc08f1> to see what is being addressed in Knox county.

Overview

Introduction

This Work Plan describes all work planned by MaineDOT and its transportation partners for calendar years 2025, 2026, and 2027. It includes 2,716 individual work items with a total value of \$4.8 billion.

This Work Plan includes all capital projects and programs, maintenance and operations activities, planning initiatives, and administrative functions for three calendar years. It consists principally of work to be delivered or coordinated through MaineDOT. It also includes funds to be expended by other transportation partners, including airports and transit agencies, that receive federal funds directly.

Every project in this Work Plan helps MaineDOT fulfill its mission: “to support economic opportunity and quality of life by responsibly providing our customers the safest and most reliable transportation system possible, given available resources.”

This story map provides a high-level overview of our work areas and goals. We invite you to check out what we have planned for your area and for the entire state in the years to come.

Zachary Herrick
CEO/LPI



Code Enforcement and Local Plumbing Inspection Report

Over the past year, I've stayed busy ensuring that all plumbing and building work meets safety standards and local codes. I issued **34 plumbing permits** and **54 building permits**, making sure projects are done right and up to code.

As a reminder, State Law requires a **Licensed Plumber** for all internal plumbing installations and inspections, unless it's a homeowner working on their own residence. In either case, **a plumbing permit** is required, and all plumbing must meet the Plumbing Code. I've worked to keep everyone informed about the importance of following these rules to avoid future issues.

If any **internal plumbing**, **subsurface wastewater**, or **building** work is done without a permit, there's a **double fee**. Sometimes, if plumbing or wastewater systems aren't properly permitted or inspected, I may need to require the work to be exposed, even if it's been covered up or behind sheetrock. This is to ensure everything is in line with safety regulations.

For anyone doing work in the **Shoreland Zone** (within **250 feet of a lake, pond, or river**), please get in touch with me before starting your project. I can help confirm whether the work can be permitted and assist with any **Department of Environmental Protection** or **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers** permits that might also be needed.

I'm in the office on **Tuesdays**, but I'm available by **email or phone** during the rest of the week for questions, permits, or to schedule inspections. My goal is to make the process as smooth as possible and to ensure that everything is safe and up to code.

Looking ahead, I'll keep working on providing good communication and support to make sure things stay compliant and safe for everyone involved. I'm also staying on top of any changes to codes or regulations that might affect our work.

Phone (207) 763-4199
Email ceo-lpi@hopemaine.org

CHAIR
Molly Luce

PLANNING BOARD

Last year the Hope Planning Board reviewed and revised as necessary the Accessory Dwelling Unit Ordinance to come into compliance with State Law.

We reviewed and approved Dan Fords updated Site Plan for his business and the Site Plan for the Sweetland expansion. We also reviewed and approved a change of use for Keith Ludwig.

The Planning Board reviewed and made changes to the Land Use Ordinance aligning it with Additional Dwelling Use changes. We reviewed and approved changes to the Monroe and Catalano Subdivisions.

We did a Site Walk, reviewed and approved the application for a Small Good, who moved their business from Rockport to Hope.

Lastly, we reviewed and approved with some conditions Verizon's application to add additional antennas to the cell tower on Hatchet Mountain.

Board Members

Juanita Hunt	term expires 2026
Joseph Curll	term expires 2027
Molly Luce	term expires 2028
Robert Hall Jr	term expires 2029
Jason Simms	term expires 2030

To receive Hope announcements, sign up for e-alerts on our website by simply submitting your email

Hope is a thriving community of 1,698, located seven miles from the shores of Penobscot Bay in Midcoast Maine. Welcome to our website! For website corrections, additions, or suggestions, e-mail us at clerk@hopemaine.org.

Announcements

[Hope Elementary School Budget Special Town Meeting 5.15.25](#)

[5-Town CSD Budget Approval Meeting 5.12.25](#)

Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	31	1 NO Planning Board Meeting	2 Budget Committee Meeting	3 Budget Committee Meeting	4	5
6	7	8 Select Board Meeting	9 Budget Committee Meeting	10 Budget Committee Meeting	11 Nomination Papers Due	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19

E-Alerts

Want to receive meeting agendas, news, and announcements? Sign up for [E-Alerts](#)

Town Office

441 Camden Road
Hope, ME 04847

Phone (207)763-4199
Fax (207)763-4195

Email

Hours

Monday: Closed
Tuesday: 8:30 - 4:30
Wednesday: 8:30 - 4:30
Thursday: 12:00 - 6:00
Friday: 8:30 - 4:30

Local Weather

Hope, ME 04847

Weather Wind Rain

60.7 °F Partly Cloudy
Rain Showers 11.4 mph
41 °F 68 °F

BOARD OF APPEALS
BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW

The Hope Board of Appeals and Assessment Review did not meet this year and has nothing to report.

Board Members

Steve Bowman, Vice Chair	term expires 2027
Bradley Boyd	term expires 2025
Nancy Ford	term expires 2027
Mary Ireland, Secretary	term expired 2024
John Jensen	term expires 2025
Brian Powers, Sr., Chair	term expires 2029
Vacancy	term expires 2026



Photo by Paul Smith



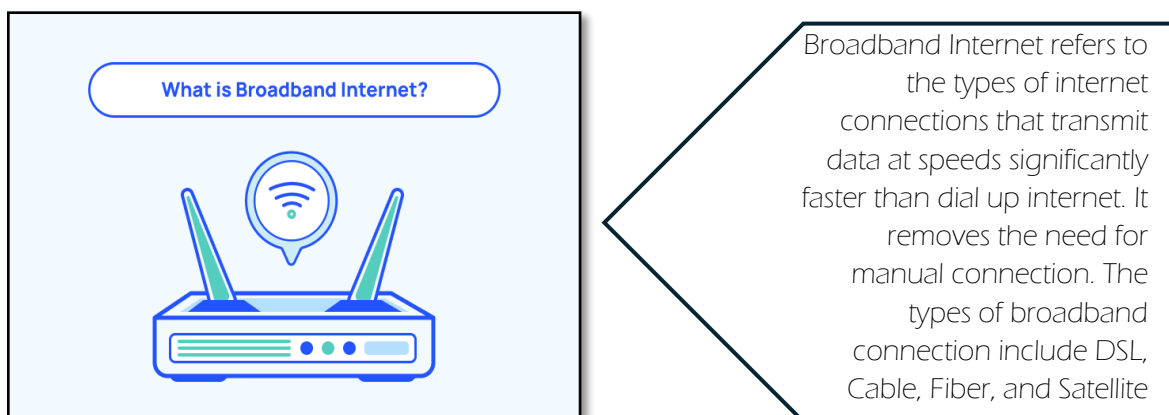
BROADBAND COMMITTEE REPORT

The Broadband Committee continued to improve internet connectivity throughout the town with the grant from LCI/Tidewater. That came to an end in 2023. In addition, the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) offered a 30\$ incentive for residents through June 2024. That assisted some residents in getting affordable access to the internet last year. Since then, the committee has tried to find ways to continue making broadband affordable for our town. Unfortunately, there are no grants currently available to us.

Fiber internet is available to Hope residents. The downside is that it can be expensive, and the connectivity is not as fast as some of the other broadband alternatives. Please contact Fidium Fiber for more information at (844) 434-3486 or visit them at www.fidiumfiber.com

Melissa Hall is no longer serving as CHAIR for the Broadband committee. She remains available to answer questions via email at hopeforbroadband@gmail.com. We thank her for serving the town of Hope with such dedication to the residents.

If you are interested in filling the position as CHAIR for the Broadband Committee, please send inquiries to Melissa Hall at the email listed above.



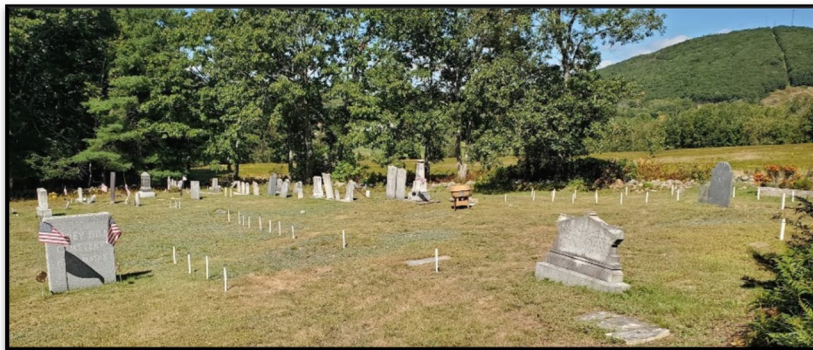
SEXTON
Beth Gindel



CEMETERY COMMITTEE

We have been slowly working on the Restoration Project for Morey Hill Cemetery this past year. To include marking the unmarked graves and old hearse house location with plot pins with identification codes. These codes correspond to GPS coordinates on a spreadsheet with all known and unknown graves in the cemetery. A special thank you with much gratitude goes to Cindy DellaPenna for all her hard work in compiling this spreadsheet,

The work still isn't done though, we are still seeking donations for our ongoing campaign for the



purchase of granite cobblestone blocks (roughly 355 are needed) to acknowledge the unmarked graves in this cemetery. These will replace the white wooden stakes that are currently marking the graves and be a permanent way of honoring them.

Once we have been able to place all the cobblestones, our

efforts will continue to replace the severely deteriorated headstones of known burials.

We also will be working in the old section of Hope Grove Cemetery as well; in our research we have found numerous names of people indicating that they should be buried in this cemetery, but the locations of their final resting have yet to be determined.

Another of our goals this coming season is to have the fallen headstones righted once again and set into proper foundation as well.

If you haven't already, please consider donating towards preserving our history and honoring those who lived here in our beautiful community and making the Town of Hope what it is today. Donations may be made at the Hope Town Office, or by mail to the same. Just be sure to mention it is for the Cobblestone Project. If you have any questions, please reach out to the sexton. We would like to thank all those who have already donated towards this, we greatly appreciate your generosity.

I also wish to extend my appreciation to the current Cemetery Committee members: Mary Berry, Cindy DellaPenna, Shawna Mitchell, Karen Orhon, and Raylene Hunt for their time and efforts in serving on the committee. Thank you for your help.

Beth Gindel
Sexton



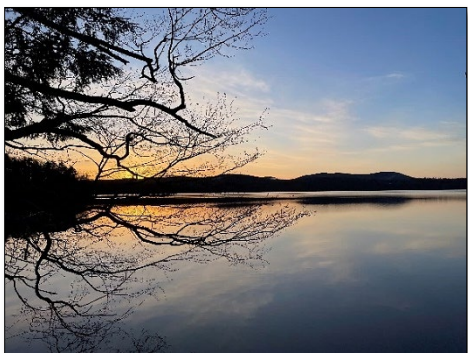
HOPE RECREATION COMMITTEE

The Hope Recreation committee continues to seek new volunteers to provide True Park and Recreation opportunities to the town of Hope. Current members have disbanded. If you are interested, please contact Rick Bresnahan at 207-446-2002 . Your contribution can make a difference in recreation participation and community development.

To quote Rick Bresnahan “Make it a great day and Always Expect the Amazing!”



Xander Mazzeo, Gone Fishin', photo by Charlene Mazzeo



PRESIDENT
Dan Smiley

ALFORD LAKE LERMOND POND ASSOCIATION

Shorefront property owners on Alford Lake and Lermond Pond, together with friends who share a common interest in protecting our watershed in and around Hope, have been working together since the 1970s to protect the environment and wildlife around our lakes. Our membership includes both year-round and seasonal residents and property owners. Everyone is welcome to join, not just lakefront owners. We partner with other lake associations, state agencies, and environmental non-profits to provide educational resources and opportunities, water and wildlife monitoring, and other services to promote a healthy and safe lake environment for present and future generations to experience and enjoy. We could use more volunteers to help with ongoing programs and events. We offer a welcome guide for owners, visitors, and renters that includes information such as boating safety, fishing, fireworks, loon protection, and septic systems.

Our volunteers monitor the water quality of Alford Lake and Lermond Pond regularly. One test monitors any unhealthy bacteria levels in the public water caused by seasonal storms, nuisance animals, or human causes, such as a failed septic system. We have collaborated with property owners to address a burgeoning beaver population that has impacted essential dam operation and boat passage and caused damage to the shorefront landscape. Volunteers have spent many hours keeping the dams and waterways safe and clear of beaver debris.

Each year our association applies for, and receives, a state grant to support our Courtesy Boat Inspection program at Beaver Lodge. The grant pays for a part-time boat inspector to inform boaters and check for any plant material lingering on boats and gear. Volunteers staff the inspection station when the part-time inspector is not present. This is one opportunity where we could use more volunteers for just a few hours a week. It is important that all boaters follow the law and inspect their boats and gear, especially when traveling between lakes, both before entering the water and when leaving. Many Maine lakes, and almost all out-of-state lakes to our south, are now infested, which can greatly impact water quality and recreational activities like swimming and boating. Our voluntary boat inspections are Maine's primary effort to combat invasive aquatic species spreading through Maine. Our association plans to partner again this summer with Lake Stewards of Maine to conduct a free plant paddle on Lermond Pond to provide training to identify invasive species for anyone interested. We have available a related pocket guide for those who would like to help monitor and identify suspicious aquatic plants in our lakes.

Our volunteers monitor water levels as we partner with the dam owner to maintain water levels desirable for summer recreation. Extreme weather caused significant flooding again in 2024. We supported dam improvements, completed last year, that will now allow greater controlled water flow to facilitate stable water levels and storm mitigation.

Keep an eye out for some new loon rafts coming to our lakes this year. Over the next few years, these loon rafts should help protect our loon population from both environmental hazards and predators.

For those who enjoy Alford Lake and Lermond Pond, please consider meeting your lake neighbors at our annual barbeque and brief business meeting at Beaver Lodge on Tuesday, July 22 at 5:00pm. Our association can be contacted via email at alford.lermond@gmail.com

**Alford Lake, previous page photo by Iris Eichenlaub*



Photo by Judy Mc Cormally



**COASTAL MOUNTAINS
LAND TRUST**

Protecting land for the community, *forever.*

Coastal Mountains Land Trust is a conservation organization that has worked in the western Penobscot Bay region, including the town of Hope, since 1986 to conserve wildlife habitat, scenic landscapes, public access to natural lands, water resources, and productive forest and farmland. Thanks to community and member support, we have protected over 13,000 acres throughout our service region, which extends from Rockport to Prospect. The Land Trust also continues its active and expanding public access program inviting the public, through its Trail Guide, social media, and partnership with other organizations, to use and enjoy over 50 miles of trail.

Our family events this year will include story hours at Beech Hill, a pollinators walking tour, a learn to rake blueberries farm tour, a full week of community Free Picks on our organic blueberry fields, the Arts on the Hill music series, and the annual Kites & Ice Cream festival. All of our events are free and open to the public.

The Land Trust has conserved a total of ten properties in Hope. We have protected 318 acres by conservation easements, a permanent agreement that keeps land in private ownership while protecting critical resources of the properties. We also own 185 acres of land with extraordinary conservation value.

On Ragged Mountain, 6.5 miles of the planned 8.5 mile Round the Mountain trail originating from the Camden Snow Bowl are now open. We will continue to improve existing trails in the Goose River trail network, partnering with the Midcoast NEMBA mountain bike club and Side Country Trails. This scenic woodland property, along the Goose River, is available for use by neighbors as well as the local mountain-biking community. The donation ensures the land will remain a place for kids and families to get outside.

Our office is located at 101 Mt. Battie Street in Camden. Please call us at (207) 236-7091, check out our website (coastalmountains.org) and sign up for our monthly eNews.

Respectfully submitted,

Ian Stewart
Executive Director



Georges River Land Trust Letter

Dear community members and friends:

We at Georges River Land Trust (GRLT) are grateful for the opportunity to conserve and care for the lands and waters that sustain us. For nearly forty years, we have worked with our community members in the 19 towns in our service area to protect 5,179 acres of ecologically important land across 20 preserves and 55 easements.

Across our preserves, we offer year-round public access, recreation opportunities, and nature-based education. With our network of 150+ volunteers, we steward the lands we hold and maintain our network of 73 miles of hiking trails to ensure community access to nature.

This year was a big year for us, thanks to our growing staff and volunteers. We are thrilled that Searsmont native, Natalie Curry, joined us as our Stewardship Manager. Natalie and her team of volunteers assessed and advanced plans to safeguard our 55 easements and addressed large swaths of invasives, such as multiflora rose, barberry, and Norway maples. We are also delighted that Linnea Patterson joined our team as Land Conservation Manager, working with landowners to protect ecologically important areas of our watershed and conserve land with significant public benefit. This year we also fully integrated GIS, a software tool for geospatial analysis, so that we can swiftly map critical habitats and incorporate ecological values, such as soil type, water resources, and wetlands into our analysis and conservation work. Please contact them if you would like to learn more!



The town of Hope and its community are vital partners in the work we do and we are grateful for our partnership. Georges River Land Trust has three easements in Hope that we have conserved in partnership with local landowners since 2004 to protect over 275 acres of important wildlife habitat, wetlands, and productive agricultural soils.

One of these easements, Hope's Edge Farm, was recently completed with funding from Maine Farmland Trust and the Land for Maine's Future program. This farm is now protected from development and will continue to produce local and interesting produce and flowers.

There are also recreation opportunities nearby - just northwest of Hope, residents can visit our Appleton Preserve with over 2 miles of trails within the preserve and another 1.6 miles of trail along the St. George River. If you're a paddler, there's also an ideal spot to launch or take out a boat from this preserve. South of Hope, hikers can embark on rewarding (read: uphill!) hikes across the Ragged Mountain trail system with access from our trailheads on Route 17 or Hope Street.

Many of our 1,000+ members and our 150+ volunteers are Hope residents. Please join us all in helping protect and care for our local nature and expand and enhance recreational access across our extraordinary watershed. Reach us at 594.5166 or www.georgesriver.org to get involved.

We hope to see you on the trails,

Georges River Land Trust Team



Alford Lake View, photo by Lindsey Liebman

SECRETARY

HATCHET MOUNTAIN SNO-RIDERS

FINALLY, after a few frustrating seasons, the 2024 – 2025 riding season provided some snow and the colder temps that allowed the lakes and ponds to freeze making for some ideal riding locally. We hope that all who snowmobile got to enjoy some local trail riding.

As always there is a lot of time and effort put into trail maintenance each year. Trails that need to be cleared of brush from fallen trees, to repairing bridges, to posting signage for safe riding. That being said, we need your help. We would love to have some additional younger folks get involved with the club to help carry the load.

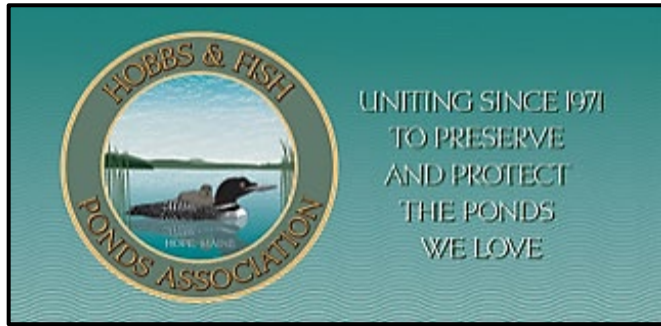
Our meetings are on the second Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. from October thru April. We have a potluck dinner prior to our meeting. We meet at the Hope Corner Fire Station. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Keller at 763-4118.

Once again, we gave out one scholarship to a high school student from Hope. We raise the money for the scholarship by providing cottage care for the summer residents by keeping an eye on their cottages during the winter months.

A reminder to all folks using the snowmobile trails in our great town and state.



THE HATCHET MOUNTAIN SNO-RIDERS WOULD LIKE
TO THANK ALL THE LANDOWNERS WHO PERMIT
SNOWMOBILERS TO USE THEIR LAND.



Hobbs and Fish Ponds Association

In 1971 The Hobbs and Fish Ponds Association (HFPA) was created. Since then, the mission of the Association has been to maintain clean, healthy pond water and a diversified natural environment for the enjoyment of all. Bacteria levels are measured on both ponds three times throughout the summer in the months of June, July and August. We are proud to announce that the bacteria count on both ponds has been excellent, well within the range of safety for recreational use. Please note, the water is not potable. We also test for water clarity by using a Secchi disk. Clarity is defined as the ability to see the pond bottom at a particular depth. A reading of clarity at twelve feet this and the past five years is excellent.

The Association belongs to the Volunteer Lakes Monitoring Program (VLMP) <https://www.lakestewardsofmaine.org>. Through this membership, we can access VLMP support and expertise as well as training programs to help us monitor invasive plants, e.g., milfoil. Hobbs and Fish Ponds Association (HFPA) members are welcome to attend these programs.

The weather the spring and summer of 2024 was a tremendous improvement over the torrential rains of 2023. As a result, activity on the ponds was robust. The annual 4th of July boat parade on Hobbs Pond included more boats last year than we had seen in a while. Perhaps the complete washout of the event in 2023 was the reason. Although not a HFPA sponsored event all are welcome to join in the fun this year. Bring boat, kayak, canoe, steamboat (Andy) whatever to the public landing at noon on July 4th for a cruise around Hobbs Pond.

Sadly, the loon families on Hobbs Pond did not fare well the past summer. Newly hatched chicks were initially spotted at both ends of Hobbs Pond but they did not survive. Hoping for better luck this summer. Loons were spotted nesting on Fish Pond but no chicks were seen. The bald eagle family that has been nesting off Hobbs Pond was not very active last year and no newborn eaglets were seen.

The annual membership meeting of HFPA was held August 14, 2024 on the North end of Hobbs Pond in front of Barbara Mason's camp. The event featured a cookout provided by the Association Board with much socializing, a corn hole game provided by Jim DellaPenna, burgers and dogs grilled to perfection by Meg and Dave Carroll, and an assortment of cold beverages. Dark clouds and a thunder storm threatened all evening but we hung in and had a great evening. A date for the 2025 annual membership meeting has not been set as of this report but notice will be announced via membership email and notices posted on strategic building locations.

We encourage and appreciate new members. Membership fees are \$35.00 for voting members, defined as shorefront property owners on Hobbs or Fish Pond and \$20.00 for non-voting supporting members, defined as non-ownership of shorefront property owners with an interest in supporting the mission of the Association. This latter group would include individuals with rights of way but no ownership of property on either pond.

Thank you for your continued interest and diligence in protecting this valuable natural resource. For more information contact David Miller mobile at 215-316-9270 or email to millerdam22@gmail.com.

David Miller
President



Summer on Hobbs Pond, photo by Amy Smith

Hope Historical Society Annual Report

Another year has so quickly sped by. Each year we are fortunate to have people donate items of historical value from around 1800 to the late 20th century. The society welcomes new members and friends to visit our historical house/museum every Friday from June through August.

The museum was given a new look this last summer. Thanks to donations from Robins Lumber and Vikens Lumber, it was insulated and boarded last fall by Jarvis Johnson & Juanita Hunt.

Nine new shelves were built and installed by Roger Hunt. A wide variety of donated period items have been arranged on them.



The very large bellows that are on the second floor now have a home on the back wall, along with the wooden water pipe, ox yoke, balance scales and many other items.

The three boxes of old license plates that were stored upstairs have been displayed on the overhead garage beams. They were donated by the True family, who once lived in Hope. The license plates range from 1917 to 1948.

Margaret Morse and Juanita Hunt arranged the many vintage kitchen utensils around the old Clarion cook stove that were donated a couple of years ago. Around the base of the stove are several old "sad" irons, along with a not so old but nice stuffed kitty.

In the floor space, in the middle of the museum, you will find a carriage built by South Hope Carriage Factory around 1890. Also on display are a unique butter churn, blueberry winnowing machine, platform scales, an egg incubator, a phone booth from the Hope Corner store, as well as many other items. We also have a bench that came from Hope Corner Store where men would sit and discuss all the latest events in Hope. Other donated items were an original Shirley Temple doll in a beautiful cabinet, a period camera, a military stencil set, a brass compass, and a beautiful tea set. Priceless documents and letters from the Keen family are archived in the house which is attached to the garage.



Different people have helped in preparing the garage to become a nice museum. Ron Smith and Ralph Richardson removed the old, VERY heavy (2280 pounds) safe. It was so heavy that a trailer tire was ruined transporting it to the salvage yard.

Marie, along with many volunteers, heads up several very successful fund-raising events during the year. Our town is very fortunate to have the wonderful participation of townspeople who are so generous with our fund-raising events throughout the season. Donated bottles and cans bring in more than \$ 1,000 a year. It is these fund-raising events that pay for the maintenance that keep the museum in good repair.

The septic system failed in July. Alex Ludwig dug out the old septic system and a new system was designed by Ed Green. Alex installed the new system, and it was inspected and back in business in less than a month. We are fortunate to have townspeople to do the prompt and reasonable work.

Margaret Morse, Bunny Gleason, and Juanita Hunt did a booth at the Union Fair that represented many items from the historical society and received first place. Tim Field built two very nice shadow cases to display the ribbons.

We are very sorry Cindy DellaPenna resigned as secretary after several years of doing a great job. We are fortunate to have the previous secretary, Linda Hillgrove, step right up and take over the task.

This past year we did not have a program director, but at our October meeting, Ron Howard and Donovan Bowley volunteered to take over as program co-directors. The programs they put together each month are such a nice and informational part of the society's meetings. Our April meetings guest speaker will be Richard Crabtree who will speak about "The Crabtree's of Hope: How and When we got here".

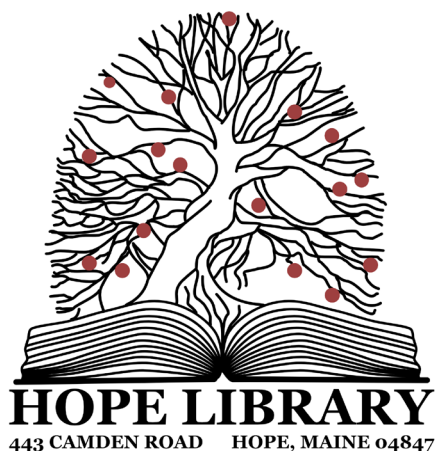
The Historical Society also maintains the veteran's cabinet in the town office. If there is anyone in town who is a veteran and is not in the cabinet, please let us know so we can place your photo there.

The Hope Historical Society could not succeed without the many people who volunteer throughout the year that truly make a BIG difference.

A huge thank you to all.

Juanita Hunt
President





Library Board Chair
Charlie Gluck

Hope Library Town Report 2025

Your Hope Library is an all-volunteer library powered by donations of time and resources from the community. Our report about 2024 demonstrates that the board and volunteers are committed to continuing to provide a welcoming space, an accessible website and collection, and free library programs for the community. We currently share news about the library programs and collection updates on our website, our Facebook page, the Hope

Happenings Facebook group, and local newspapers.

Our current ongoing programming in 2025 includes a weekly handiwork group on Tuesdays and a new program series, Hope Works and Friends, which invites creators and local business owners to talk about their work and inspirations. Last year, we had the opportunity to host talks with Brodis Blueberries, Blue Barren Distillery, Sewall Organic Orchard, and Firefly Restorations. This year, we've had the privilege to host a talk with Sparky's Apiaries and look forward to hosting future talks with Hope creatives and community members.

In addition to our ongoing programming, the library has hosted an author, musicians, art exhibits, and nature presentations. They included:

Music programs and art exhibits with

- Pixie Lauer and Dave Foley
- Rosey Gerry and Lisa Becu
- Sara Gagon (exhibited in July)
- Susan Dowley (exhibited August – October)
- Robin Harty (exhibited October – March, with accompanying story time)

Author visits and presentations with

- Eva Murray on her writing
- Jim DellaPenna on astronomy
- Tom Jamrog on traveling the Coast to Coast trail

We are able to offer free tickets for the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens again and have fundraised from used book sales during community events like Hope Day in July and the Fall Festival at Hope Orchards in October. This year, we plan to continue our handiworks group and Hope Works and Friends series and offer additional youth and family programming. During open hours, the library continues to offer free Wi-Fi and a quiet workspace for the community within our space in the town office building.

Hope Library is open during Town Office Hours with a volunteer on staff four days a week. This report would not be complete without offering our heartfelt thanks to our dedicated and supportive group of volunteers: Sydney Hall, Harold Mosher, Catherine Pease, Sue Heal, Bruce Linthicum, Sue Hubert, Charlene Allen, Thomas Keller, Linda Black, and Karen Rennich.

You can find us online at www.hopelibrary.me our Facebook page www.facebook.com/hopelibrary04847 , or email us at hopelibrary04847@gmail.com. You can find our library collection via a link on our website.

If you are interested in supporting your local library, we're always looking for"

- Volunteers who can donate a few hours of their time to staff the library space or help out with a library project or event.
- Donations we can use to build and maintain our collection, host community programs, and cover our operation costs.
- Recommendations for new books or programs you'd like to see offered in the library.
- Your presence and attendance at a community programs and your continued use of the library collection and space!

We wish you good health and hope to see you soon at the Hope Library!

Board members: Charlie Gluck, Elizabeth Tibbetts, Jula Sampson, Thomas Keller, Karen Rennich, Nancy Caplan, Linda Black, Georgia Frizzell, and Judith Jones.

GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES

State Representative – William Pluecker (I) House District #44 Hope/Union/Warren

State House Contact Information:

2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0002
207-287-1400
800-423-2900 (messages)
Bill.Pluecker@legislature.maine.gov
<https://legislature.maine.gov/representative-bill-pluecker>

Contact Information:

1133 Finntown Road
Warren, ME 04864
207-273-3044

State Senator – Anne (Pinny) Beebe-Center (D) Senate District #12_Knox County

State House Contact Information:

3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0003
207-287-1515
800-423-6900 (messages)
207-287-1583 (TTY)
anne.beebe-center@legislature.maine.gov
<https://www.mainesenate.org/senator/senator/pinny-beebe-center/>

2nd Congressional District

U.S. Senator – Susan Collins (R)
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-1904
202-224-2523 (Wash. D.C. office)
207-622-8414 (Augusta, ME office)
<https://www.collins.senate.gov/>

U.S. Senator – Angus King (I)
133 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-1905
202-224-5344 (Wash. D.C. office)
207-622-8292 (Augusta, ME office)
<https://www.king.senate.gov/>

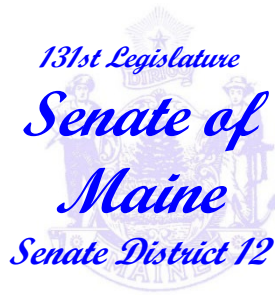
U.S. Representative Chellie Pingree (D) 1st District Southern Maine

2354 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-6116 (Wash. D.C. office)
207-774-5019 (Portland, ME. Office)
<https://pingree.house.gov/1st-district/>



Are you registered to vote? You can register online at <https://registertovote.sos.maine.gov/>

Maine Voter Registration



Senator Pinny Beebe-Center
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0003
Office (207) 287-1515

Dear Friends and Neighbors of Hope,

On December 4th, I was sworn in for another term as your State Senator to represent all of Knox County, except for the town of Washington and Isle au Haut. I will continue to collaborate with my colleagues to do the best work we can for all Mainers. For the next two years, I will serve as Senate Chair of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee, and I will serve on the State and Local Government Committee.

I have the privilege of serving as the Senate Chair of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee. This legislature, I look forward to continuing discussions about how we talk about criminal justice here in Maine, and looking at legislation to keep Maine a safe place to live, work and raise a family in. I previously worked on the State and Local government Committee back when I served as a Representative in the House. I look forward to working with my colleagues to improve the functions of state government and pass meaningful legislation that improves the lives of Mainers.

In the coming months, my colleagues and I will tackle a wide range of issues, including the cost-of-living, child care needs, and critical workforce initiatives. Throughout these discussions, I will keep in mind the needs of Knox county and work to make sure those needs are met.

Remember, if I can ever be a resource to you and your family, or if you need assistance getting in touch with a government agency, please don't hesitate to reach out to my legislative office at 207-287-1515 or email me at Anne.Beebe-Center@legislature.maine.gov.

Thank you, it remains a privilege to serve as your State Senator.

Sincerely,

Pinny Beebe-Center State Senator, District 12

Dear Hope I



William D. Pluecker

1133 Finntown Road

Warren, ME 04864

Phone: (207) 273-3044

Bill.Pluecker@legislature.maine.gov

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION

AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

(207) 287-1400

TTY: MAINE RELAY 711

It is an honor to serve you in the Maine House of Representatives. Over the next two years, I will be working hard as your advocate in Augusta to improve life for our families, seniors, and working people across our district and in our state.

As I write this, we are well into the beginning of the first session of the 132nd Legislature. We have a lot of work ahead of us, which will include doing more to lower costs for Maine families, build an economy that works for everyone, increase access to housing and health care, and much more. I'm looking forward to working with all of my colleagues to tackle these challenges head-on.

Our most significant priority will be crafting a two-year state budget, which will shape the future of our state. I will be fighting to ensure that the budget includes policies that will provide relief and make it easier for more Maine families to build their lives here and make ends meet. Kids getting out of high school and college cannot afford to live in our district and buy starter homes as we once did. We must build housing so that our kids can afford to live here and work in our local businesses that desperately need them. At the same time, we need to preserve our land and water from development and contamination, so that our local farmers, fishermen, and foresters can build their businesses here as they have for generations.

This session, I have been appointed to serve as the Chair of the Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee, where we will work to develop food policy, pesticide regulation, and much more.

Please feel free to contact me if you ever need my help. My home phone number is (207) 273-3044, and my email is Bill.Pluecker@legislature.maine.gov. I also send out monthly e-newsletters that provide updates on our work at the State House and offer helpful information and resources. Please let me know if you would like to receive them.

I am so grateful to be entrusted with this great responsibility, and I look forward to connecting with you over the next two years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Pluecker".

Bill Pluecker
State Representative



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

Dear Main Resident:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Janet T. Mills
Governor



PHONE: (207) 287-3531 (Voicemail)

TTY USERS CALL 711

FAX: (207) 287-1034



CHELLIE PINGREE
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
1ST DISTRICT MAINE

Dear Friends,

As we welcome the New Year, I want to extend my sincerest well wishes for 2025: to you, your loved ones, and your community. I'd also like to share an update on what my team and I have been working on—and how we intend to continue serving Maine's First District in the next Congress.

One year ago, our state was reeling from a series of unprecedented winter storms. Thanks to the efforts of local, state, and federal officials, we're starting to rebuild. The Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Small Business Administration approved more than \$10.7 million in federal assistance for Maine households, businesses, and homeowners in the months following the storms. In addition, Maine received a \$69 million grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to support the climate-resilience goals outlined in *Maine Won't Wait*. More help is needed, no doubt, and I will continue to advocate for the support our state deserves. For more information about available resources, go to pingree.house.gov/disaster resources.

In 2024, \$1.7 billion in federal grant funding came to Maine—encompassing everything from conservation efforts and home-heating assistance to resilient infrastructure and affordable housing. My team was able to secure \$1.4 million in refunds for Maine taxpayers, along with \$639,000 in Social Security benefits. We also helped thousands of constituents file for work permits, veterans benefits, and passports, and wrote countless letters of support on behalf of our constituents.

I'm so proud of what we achieved in 2024, and I'm fully committed to building on those accomplishments in the 119th Congress. As ever, my team and I are ready to assist however we can. Please don't hesitate to reach out to my Portland office at (207) 774-5019, or by visiting pingree.house.gov/contact. We're also happy to provide information related to Congress's annual Community Project Funding (CPF) process, which allows nonprofits and local governments to apply for federal funding for specific projects. For more info, go to pingree.house.gov/community project funding.

I'm deeply honored that voters have chosen me to represent them once again in the U.S. Congress. It is a responsibility I will never take lightly—and a privilege I will always cherish.

Sincerely,

Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Dear Friends:

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

As Vice Chair of the Appropriations Committee in 2024, I have secured nearly \$580 million for 230 projects across all of Maine's 16 counties to promote job creation, workforce training, and economic development; expand access to health care; support law enforcement; improve public education and infrastructure; and protect our environment. As the new Congress begins, I am honored to be taking the helm of the Committee, the first Mainer to do so in nearly a century, and I remain committed to ensuring that federal spending produces real results for our state and nation.

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

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

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

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

My highest priority as a Senator is to ensure that Maine's needs are met. If ever I can be of assistance to you, please contact one of my state offices or visit my website at collins.senate.gov.

Sincerely,



Susan M Collins
United States Senator

ANGUS S. KING, JR.
MAINE

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

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 1, 2025

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

Dear Friends,

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

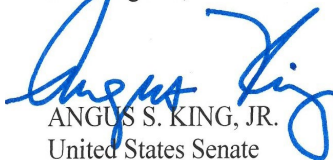
First, it was a true honor to be reelected to the United States Senate for another six-year term. Throughout my travels around the state, I heard many concerns about the cost of living and affordability of housing. Many of you also shared your concerns about access to medical and mental health services.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

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

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

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

Best Regards,



ANGUS S. KING, JR.
United States Senate

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

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

BIDDEFORD
227 Main Street
Biddeford, ME 04005
(207) 352-5218

PORTLAND
1 Pleasant Street, Unit 4W
Portland, ME 04101
(207) 245-1505

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

In Maine call toll-free 1-800-432-1599
Printed on Recycled Paper

TOWN INFORMATION

EMERGENCY CALLS

Fire 911
Ambulance 911
Police 911

Animal Control Officer.....322-3237
Assessors' Agent.....763-4199
Cemetery Sexton.....975-0156
Code Enforcement Officer/Local Plumbing Inspector763-4199
Fire Station, Hope Corner763-3411
Game Warden.....800-452-4664
Knox County Sheriff (non-emergency)594-5656
Superintendent's Office (SU 69).....763-3818
Town Administrator.....763-4199
Town Fax.....763-4195
Town Office.....763-4199

TOWN OF HOPE

441 Camden Road
Hope, Maine 04847

Office Hours:
Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday: 8:30 – 4:30
Thursday: Noon – 6:00
Closed Monday

Phone: 763-4199 Fax: 763-4195

www.hopemaine.org



Blueberry Fields photo by Lauren Yaskoski

Resident Photography



photo by Jessica Snyder



photo by Sarah Ann Smith



photo by Kendra Merrill



photo by Paul Smith



photo by Kathy Swift



photo by Kim Lincoln



photo by Nate Wentworth



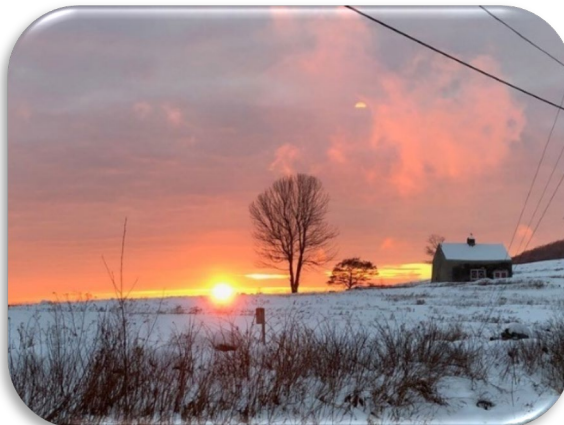
photo by Melissa Surh



photo by Ed Peltola

A big thank you to
Hope residents for capturing
the beauty of the town.

photo by Samantha Pushaw



RESULTS OF THE SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

January 23, 2024 – Tuesday, 6:30 P.M. at Hope Elementary School
There were approximately 70 people present.

ARTICLE 1. To elect a Moderator to preside at said meeting.

On a motion Melissa Reynolds was voted and chosen by secret written ballot to preside over this special town meeting.

ARTICLE 2. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Hope Land Use Ordinance section 4.6 – Schedule of Uses, section 5.3. General Standards, and section 11 – Definitions, regarding Cannabis Cultivation, Manufacturing, and Testing Facilities, and therefore the previously approved ordinance entitled, Ordinance Prohibiting Retail Marijuana Establishments and Retail Marijuana Social Clubs in The Town of Hope, Maine, is hereby repealed.

NOTE: The Land Use Ordinance amendments were the subject of a public hearing on January 9, 2024. The proposed ordinance amendments are available for inspection in the Town Office during regular business hours.

NOTE: Passage of Article 2 will automatically repeal the ordinance titled “Ordinance Prohibiting Retail Marijuana Establishments and Retail Marijuana Social Clubs In The Town Of Hope, Maine” which was adopted on June 15, 2017, and amended on June 8, 2020.

(On a motion article 2 passed almost unanimously as written. As this article passed it automatically repeals the original ordinance titled “Ordinance Prohibiting Retail Marijuana Establishments and Retail Marijuana Social Clubs in The Town of Hope, Maine” which was adopted on June 15, 2017, and amended on June 8, 2020.)

ARTICLE 3. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Hope Land Use Ordinance section 4.6 – Schedule of Uses, section 5.3. General Standards, and section 11 – Definitions regarding Medical Cannabis Dispensaries.

NOTE: The Land Use Ordinance amendments were the subject of a public hearing on January 9, 2024. The proposed ordinance amendments are available for inspection in the Town Office during regular business hours.

(On a motion article 3 passed unanimously as written.)

ARTICLE 4. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Hope Land Use Ordinance section 4.6 – Schedule of Uses, and section 11 – Definitions regarding Industrial Metallic Mineral Mining.

NOTE: The Land Use Ordinance amendments were the subject of a public hearing on January 9, 2024. The proposed ordinance amendments are available for inspection in the Town Office during regular business hours.

(On a motion article 4 passed as written almost unanimously.)

ARTICLE 5. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Hope Land Use Ordinance section 4.6 – Schedule of Uses, section 5.3. – General Standards, and section 11 – Definitions regarding Solar Energy Facilities.

NOTE: The Land Use Ordinance amendments were the subject of a public hearing on January 9, 2024. The proposed ordinance amendments are available for inspection in the Town Office during regular business hours.

(On a motion article 5 passed as written almost unanimously.)

ARTICLE 6. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Hope Shoreland Zone Ordinance section 13(D) – Principal Structures and Uses, and section 17 – Definitions regarding Industrial Metallic Mineral Mining.

NOTE: The Shoreland Zone Ordinance amendments were the subject of a public hearing on January 9, 2024. The proposed ordinance amendments are available for inspection in the Town Office during regular business hours.

(On a motion article 6 passed as written unanimously.)

ARTICLE 7. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to spend up to \$14,900.⁰⁰ from the unassigned fund balance to replace the furnace at the Hope Corner Fire Station.

NOTE: The furnace at the Hope Corner Fire Station quit working several times during the month of December. Unfortunately, the technician said it was no longer able to be restarted as the aluminum casing and internal pieces had corroded beyond repair and would have to be replaced.

(On a motion the Town voted to authorize the Select Board to spend up to \$14,900.00 from the unassigned fund balance to replace the furnace at the Hope Corner Fire Station.)

This meeting was adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

A true attest copy: Pamela Jordan, Town Clerk

TOWN OF HOPE
MINUTES OF SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT
March 27, 2024
6PM

Approximately 14 people were in attendance

ARTICLE 1. *A motion was made to nominate Daniel R. Mercuro as Moderator. The motion was seconded, and a vote was taken. Daniel Mercuro was elected by a vote of 3-0 as Moderator.*

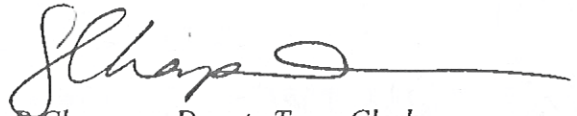
ARTICLE 2. *The vote passed unanimously (14 in favor and 0 opposed) to authorize the transfer of \$150,570 from the unassigned fund balance to the Roads budget for the purpose of repair and maintenance of roads that exceed 15% of the roads appropriations in accordance with 23 M.R.S. §2705.*

Recommendations:

Select Board:	\$150,570	4-0
Budget Committee:	\$150,570	4-0

Meeting adjourned at 6:25PM

True Attest:



Sarah B. Chapman, Deputy Town Clerk

JUNE 11, 2024
TOWN OF HOPE
MUNICIPAL ELECTION
WARDEN'S RETURN OF VOTES CAST

TOTAL # OF BALLOTS CAST 221

SELECT BOARD

146 Robinson, Crystal

19 Write-in

56 Blank

Q. 1 – FIVE TOWN CSD BUDGET

143 Yes

65 No

13 Blank

BUDGET COMMITTEE 1-YR

16 Write-in

203 Blank

Q. 2 – FIVE TOWN CSD CONSTRUCT.

147 Yes

60 No

14 Blank

BUDGET COMMITTEE 3-YR

165 Jensen, John

164 Powers, Brian

4 Write-in

109 Blank

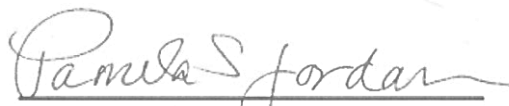
SCHOOL COMMITTEE 3-YR

171 Burgess, Emily

164 Lock, Timothy

4 Write-in

103 Blank



Pamela S. Jordan, Town Clerk

TOWN OF HOPE
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT MINUTES
FOR AUGUST 6, 2024.

Approximately 29 residents were in attendance.

ARTICLE 1: To elect a moderator.

(On a motion Daniel Mercuro was voted by secret ballot to preside over this Special Town Meeting.

Daniel was sworn to office. At this time non-residents were given permission to speak. A motion was made to take the Articles out of order. Article 14: was requested to be taken first.

ARTICLE 2: To see what sum the Town will be authorized to expend for Regular Instruction.

School Committee Recommends: \$1,528,138.00

Budget Committee Recommends: \$0.00

(\$1,528,138.00 was approved for Regular Instruction)

ARTICLE 3: To see what sum the Town will be authorized to expend for Special Education.

School Committee Recommends: \$760,613.00

Budget Committee Recommends: \$0.00

(\$760,613.00 was approved for Special Education)

ARTICLE 4: To see what sum the Town will be authorized to expend for Career and Technical

School Committee Recommends: \$0.00

Budget Committee Recommends: \$0.00

(\$0.00 was approved for Career and Technical Education.)

ARTICLE 5: To see what sum the Town will be authorized to expend for Other Instruction.

School Committee Recommends: \$32,912.00

Budget Committee Recommends: \$0.00

(\$32,912.00 was approved for Other Instruction)

ARTICLE 6: To see what sum the Town will be authorized to expend for Student and Staff Support.

School Committee Recommends: \$352,546.00

Budget Committee Recommends: \$0.00

(\$352,546.00 was approved for Student and Staff Support.)

ARTICLE 7: To see what sum the Town will be authorized to expend for System Administration.

School Committee Recommends: \$162,187.00

Budget Committee Recommends: \$0.00

(\$162,187.00 was approved for System Administration

There was a typo in the amount on the original warrant the total Budget amount for the school included the corrected amount of \$162,897.00 for System Administration.)

ARTICLE 8: To see what sum the Town will be authorized to expend for School Administration.

School Committee Recommends: \$237,928.00

Budget Committee Recommends: \$0.00

(\$237,928.00 was approved for School Administration)

ARTICLE 9: To see what sum the Town will be authorized to expend for Transportation and Buses.

School Committee Recommends: \$163,990.00

Budget Committee Recommends: \$0.00

(\$163,990.00 was approved for Transportation and Buses)

ARTICLE 10: To see what sum the Town will be authorized to expend for Facilities Maintenance.

School Committee Recommends: \$268,187.00

Budget Committee Recommends: \$0.00

(\$268,187.00 was approved for Facilities Maintenance)

ARTICLE 11: To see what sum the Town will be authorized to expend for Debt Service and Other Comments.

School Committee Recommends: \$0.00

Budget Committee Recommends: \$0.00

(\$0.00 was approved for Debt Service and Other Comments)

ARTICLE 12: To see what sum the Town will be authorized to expend for All Other Expenditures, including School Lunch.

School Committee Recommends: \$0.00

Budget Committee Recommends: \$0.00

(\$0.00 was approved for all other Expenditures, including School Lunch)

ARTICLE 13: To see what sum the Town will appropriate for the total cost of funding public education from PreK to grade 8 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and to see what sum the Town will raise as the Town's contribution to the total cost of funding public education for PreK to grade 8 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15688.

School Committee Recommends: \$1,089,997.00 to Be Raised and
\$2,192,042.00 to Be Appropriated.

Budget Committee Recommends: \$1,089,997.00 to Be Raised and
\$2,192,042.00 to Be Appropriated.

Explanation: The Town's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from PreK to grade 8 as described in the Essential Programs and Service Funding Act is the amount of money determined by state law to be the minimum amount that the Town must raise in order to receive the full amount of state dollars.

*The amount **raised** is the amount the state determines Hope must raise in order to receive state funding, known as the local contribution. The amount **appropriated** is the sum total of the local contribution, the state subsidy, tuition revenues as well as \$150,000.00 of the Unassigned Fund Balance available from FY '23.*

(\$1,089,997.00 was approved for the total cost of funding public education from PreK to grade 8 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and to raise \$2,192,042.00 as the Town's contribution to the total cost of funding public education for PreK to grade 8 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15688.)

ARTICLE 14: (Written ballot required) To see what sum the Town will raise and to appropriate the sum (Recommend \$1,315,168.00) in additional local funds, which exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services allocation model by \$1,315,168.00.

School Committee Recommends \$1,315,168.00 in Additional Local Funds, which exceeds the EPS by \$1,315,168.00.

Budget Committee Recommends \$1,250,128.00 in Additional Local Funds, which exceeds the EPS by \$1,250,128.00.

Explanation: The additional local funds are those locally raised funds over and above the Town's local contribution to the total cost of funding public education from PreK to grade 8 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Fund Act and local amount raised for the annual payment of non-state-funded debt service that will help achieve the Town's budget for educational programs. These additional local funds are funds the town must raise and appropriate over and above the amounts in Article 14 in order to meet the budget.

(On a motion the Town voted by secret ballot not to approve \$1,250,128.00 in Additional Local Funds, which exceeds the EPS by \$1,250,128.00. The votes were 10 in favor and 18 opposed. Another motion was voted by written secret ballot the town voted to approve \$1,315,168.00 in Additional Local Funds, which exceeds the EPS by \$1,315,168.00. The votes were 20 in favor and 8 opposed.)

ARTICLE 15: To see what sum the Town will authorize the school committee to expend for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025, from the Town's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from PreK to grade 8 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act, non-state-funded school construction projects, additional local funds for school purposes under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15690, unexpended balances, tuition receipts, state subsidy and other receipts for the support of schools.

School Committee Recommends: \$3,507,211.00

Budget Committee Recommends: \$3,442,211.00

Explanation: This is the sum total of the funds appropriated in Articles 14 and 15.

(\$3,507,211.00 was approved for the School Committee to expend for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025, from the Town's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from PreK to grade 8 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act, non-state-funded school construction projects, additional local funds for school purposes under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15690, unexpended balances, tuition receipts, state subsidy and other receipts for the support of schools.)

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to authorize, in addition to amounts approved in the preceding articles, the school committee to expend sums as may be received from federal or state grants or programs or other sources during the fiscal year for school purposes, provided that such grants, programs or other sources do not require the expenditure of other funds not previously appropriated.

School Committee Recommends: Approval

Budget Committee Recommends: Approval

(The Town voted to authorize, in addition to amounts approved in the preceding articles, the school committee to expend sums as may be received from federal or state grants or programs or other sources during the fiscal year for school purposes, provided that such grants, programs or other sources do not require the expenditure of other funds not previously appropriated.)

(On a motion the meeting was adjourned at 7:01 PM)

A True Copy,
ATTEST
Pamela S. Jordan
Town Clerk

TOWN OF HOPE ANNUAL SPECIAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES

August 13, 2024 – Tuesday 6:00 p.m.
Hope Corner Fire Station
Approximately 18 residents were present.

ARTICLE 1. To elect a Moderator to preside at said meeting.

(On a motion Richard Crabtree was voted by secret ballot as moderator to preside over this meeting. He was sworn as moderator. At this time nonresidents were given permission to Speak at this meeting.)

(On a motion the Town voted to move and second all articles (2-24) remaining to bring them to the floor.)

ARTICLE 2. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Hope Shoreland Zone Ordinance sections 12(C)(1)(e), 12(C)(1)(f), 12(C)(2), 12(C)(3), and 17 – changing minor language and adding two definitions as required by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection. *(Approved as written)*

The Shoreland Zone Ordinance amendments were the subject of a public hearing on June 10, 2024. The proposed ordinance amendments are available for inspection in the Town Office during regular business hours

ARTICLE 3. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Hope Land Use Ordinance section 4.6 – Schedule of Uses, section 5.3. General Standards, and section 11 – Definitions regarding Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU's) and Affordable Housing Developments.

(Approved as written)

The Maine Legislature passed LD2003 with the goal of alleviating the housing affordability issues in Maine by increased housing opportunities. The law, which took effect on July 1, 2024, requires municipalities to amend Land Use Ordinances to decrease density requirements and to allow for additional accessory dwelling units on a parcel. The proposed ordinance is available for inspection on the Town's website or at the Town Office during regular business hours.

ARTICLE 4. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate all of the money received from the State of Maine for snowmobile registrations to the Hatchet Mountain Sno-Riders Snowmobile Club for the maintenance of their network of trails, on the condition that those trails are open to the public for the purpose of snowmobiling at no charge. *(Approved as written)*

ARTICLE 5. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector to accept prepayment of taxes not yet committed pursuant to 36 M.R.S. § 506, with no interest to accrue on any excess prepaid over the amount finally committed. *(Approved as written)*

ARTICLE 6. To see if the Town will vote to set October 1, 2024 as the date when the first one-half of taxes shall be due and payable, with interest on the first installment to start after that date, and the date of April 30, 2025 as the date when the second one-half of taxes are due and payable, with interest on the second installment to start after that date; to set the interest rate at 8.50% for unpaid taxes pursuant to 36 M.R.S. §505(4); and to list taxpayers' names in the Town Report if taxes are not paid by June 30, 2025. *(Approved as written)*

ARTICLE 7. To see if the Town will vote to set the interest rate to be paid by the Town on abated taxes at a rate of 4.25% for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 pursuant to 36 M.R.S. §506-A and to authorize such interest paid or abatements granted to be appropriated from overlay funds or, if necessary, from the unassigned fund balance. *(Approved as written)*

ARTICLE 8. To see what sum the Town will vote to appropriate from non-property tax revenues to help fund the total Municipal Budget and reduce the property tax assessment for Fiscal Year 2024–2025 as detailed in Articles 9-12 below:

(On an amended motion the Town voted to appropriate \$1,156,276.00 from non-property tax revenues to help fund the total Municipal Budget and reduce the property tax assessment for Fiscal Year 2024–2025 as detailed in Articles 9-12) The votes cast were 11 in favor and 7 opposed.

Recommendations:

Select Board: **\$1,206,276**

Budget Committee: **\$1,156,276**

Revenue Source	Select Board Recommend	Select Board Vote	Budget Committee Vote	Budget Committee Recommend
Excise Taxes - Vehicles	\$390,000	4-0	4-0	\$390,000
Local Roads Assistance	\$41,276	4-0	4-0	\$41,276
Cemetery Maintenance	\$3,000	4-0	4-0	\$3,000
State Revenue Sharing	\$230,900	4-0	4-0	\$230,900
GA Reimbursement	\$2,100	4-0	4-0	\$2,100
Unassigned Fund Balance	\$463,000	4-0	0-4	\$413,000
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$76,000	4-0	4-0	\$76,000
Totals	\$1,206,276			\$1,156,276

ARTICLE 9. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 for the Administration Cost Center:

(On an amended motion \$449,937 was proposed but the amendment did not pass with the votes of 5 in favor and 13 opposed. On a motion the town voted to raise and appropriate \$452,737.00 for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 for the Administration Cost Center. The votes were 15 in favor and 3 opposed.)

Recommendations:

Select Board: \$452,737

Budget Committee: \$449,937

Department	Select Board Recommend	Select Board Vote	Budget Committee Vote	Budget Committee Recommend
Town Administration	\$313,573	4-0	0-4	\$310,773
General Administration	\$72,959	4-0	4-0	\$72,959
Municipal Buildings	\$15,006	4-0	4-0	\$15,006
Professional Services	\$48,199	4-0	4-0	\$48,199
General Assistance	\$3,000	4-0	4-0	\$3,000
Totals	\$452,737			\$449,937

ARTICLE 10. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for- Fiscal Year 2024-2025 for the Public Safety Cost Center:

(An amended motion of \$244,927.00 did not pass. The Town voted to raise and appropriate \$246,215 for- Fiscal Year 2024-2025 for the Public Safety Cost Center)

Recommendations:

Select Board: \$246,215

Budget Committee: \$244,927

Department	Select Board Recommend	Select Board Vote	Budget Committee Vote	Budget Committee Recommend
Animal Control	\$8,433	4-0	4-0	\$8,433
Fire Department	\$119,754	4-0	2-2	\$118,466
Ambulance	\$118,028	4-0	3-1	\$118,028
Totals	\$246,215			\$244,927

ARTICLE 11. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 for the Public Works Cost Center:

(On an amended motion the Town voted to raise and appropriate \$901,981.00 for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 for the Public Works Cost Center)

Recommendations:

Select Board: \$936,362

Budget Committee: \$901,981

Department	Select Board Recommend	Select Board Vote	Budget Committee Vote	Budget Committee Recommend
Recreation	\$13,250	4-0	4-0	\$13,250
Streetlights	\$1,400	4-0	4-0	\$1,400
Roads	\$853,506	4-0	0-4	\$819,100
Sanitation	\$59,839	4-0	4-0	\$59,839
Cemeteries	\$8,367	4-0	0-4	\$8,392
Totals	\$936,362			\$901,981

ARTICLE 12. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 for the Reserve Accounts Cost Center:

(On an amended motion the Town voted to raise and appropriate \$39,170.00 for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 for the Reserve Accounts Cost Center)

Recommendations:

Select Board: **\$29,170**

Budget Committee: **\$39,170**

Item	Select Board Recommend	Select Board Vote	Budget Committee Vote	Budget Committee Recommend
Emergency Road Repairs	\$20,000	4-0	4-0	\$20,000
Fire Department Equipment	\$9,170	4-0	4-0	\$9,170
Fire Truck Replacement	\$0	4-0	0-3-1	\$10,000
Municipal Buildings Repair	\$0	4-0	4-0	\$0
Office Equipment/Software	\$0	4-0	4-0	\$0
Solar Array Purchase	\$0	4-0	4-0	\$0
Revaluation	\$0	4-0	4-0	\$0
Fire Truck Repair/Maintenance	\$0	4-0	4-0	\$0
Totals	\$29,170			\$39,170

Total Municipal Expenditures (combine Articles 9-12)

\$1,664,484

Total Municipal Revenues (See Article 8)

(\$1,206,276)

Total to be raised and appropriated

\$ 458,208

ARTICLE 13. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate up to \$58,149 from Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (aka American Rescue Plan Act or ARPA funds) received by the Town from the federal government for the following purposes:

(On a motion the Town voted to appropriate up to \$58,149 from Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (aka American Rescue Plan Act or ARPA funds) received by the Town from the federal government for the following purposes.)

Recommendations:

Select Board: **\$58,149**

Budget Committee: **\$58,149**

Item	Select Board Recommend	Select Board Vote	Budget Committee Vote	Budget Committee Recommend
Town Website	\$4,000	4-0	4-0	\$4,000
Final Accounting Services	\$1,346	4-0	4-0	\$1,346
Start-up Hope First Responder's	\$3,500	4-0	4-0	\$3,500
Replacement Network Server	\$14,469	4-0	4-0	\$14,469
Final Costs of Revaluation	\$34,834	4-0	4-0	\$34,834
	\$58,149			\$58,149

(On a motion the Town voted to take articles 14 through 24 as a slate. All Articles were approved as written. The votes were 9 in favor and 6 opposed.)

ARTICLE 14. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to fix the salaries of the officials and employees appointed by it under provision of 30-A M.R.S. §2601(1) and (2), subject to funding under Article 9 above. *(Approved as written)*

ARTICLE 15. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to enter into multi-year contracts on behalf of the Town. *(Approved as written)*

ARTICLE 16. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board, at its discretion, to sell by sealed bid or public auction (with the Select Board reserving the right to reject any and all bids) and to convey by quitclaim deed any real estate acquired by the Town for nonpayment of taxes thereon, or to convey the property to the prior owner upon payment in full of all taxes, interest and charges incurred by the Town; provided that the Select Board shall use the special sale process required by 36 M.R.S. §943-A for qualifying homestead property, as applicable.

(Approved as written)

ARTICLE 17. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to sell or otherwise dispose of Town-owned personal property with a value of \$5,000 or less on such terms and conditions as it deems advisable. *(Approved as written)*

ARTICLE 18. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer to waive the foreclosure of tax lien mortgages and file such waivers at the Knox County Registry of Deeds pursuant to 36 M.R.S. §944 upon a finding by the Select Board that ownership of the property that is subject to the tax lien mortgage would be contrary to the Town's best interests. *(Approved as written)*

ARTICLE 19. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to accept or reject donations of personal property and/or to accept or reject donations and/or gifts of money to the various accounts of the Town for the ensuing year and to appropriate those moneys donated for specific purposes, provided that any donation and/or gift which obligates the Town to incur liabilities that total \$5,000 or more per year, as determined by the Select Board, shall be decided at a special town meeting. *(Approved as written)*

ARTICLE 20. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to accept conditional or unconditional gifts of real property, provided that any gift which obligates the Town to incur liabilities that total \$5,000 or more per year, as determined by the Select Board, shall be decided at a special town meeting. *(Approved as written)*

ARTICLE 21. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Board to accept or reject donations of personal property and/or to accept or reject donations and/or gifts of money to the various accounts of the school for the ensuing year and to appropriate those moneys donated for

specific purposes, provided that any donation and/or gift which obligates the Town to incur liabilities that total \$5,000 or more per year, as determined by the Select Board, shall be decided at a special town meeting. *(Approved as written)*

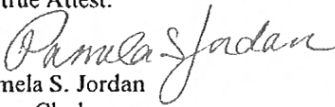
ARTICLE 22. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to apply for state, federal (including Community Development Block Grants) and other grants on the Town's behalf for purposes deemed by the Select Board to be in the best interests of the Town; to accept such grants, including, when necessary, the authority to sign contracts and related documents and to accept conditions of approval; and to appropriate such grant funds for any purpose for which the Town has appropriated funds in Fiscal Year 2024-2025. *(Approved as written)*

ARTICLE 23. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the proceeds of any payment on insurance claims for damage occurring to Town property, with such appropriation dedicated to the budget line item for the same type of property as the loss sustained. *(Approved as written)*

ARTICLE 24. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to carry unexpended funds forward to the next fiscal year within the existing cost centers. *(Approved as written)*

This meeting was adjourned at 6:55pm

A true Attest:


Pamela S. Jordan
Town Clerk

TOWN OF HOPE
SCHOOL REFERENDUM BUDGET VALIDATION VOTE
AUGUST 20, 2024

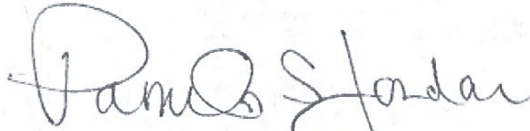
Do you favor approving the Hope School Department Budget for the 2024-2025 school year that was adopted at the August 6, 2024 Hope Elementary School Budget Special Town Meeting?

YES 93

NO 52

TOTAL OF BALLOTS CAST 145

Certification of votes cast:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Pamela S. Jordan".

Pamela S. Jordan, Town Clerk

NOTICE OF AMOUNTS ADOPTED AT TOWN MEETING FOR VOTERS AT SPECIAL SCHOOL BUDGET TOWN MEETING

TO: Sarah Chapman, Resident of the Town of Hope, State of Maine

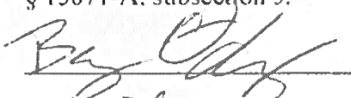
Pursuant to Sections 1486(2) and 2307 of Title 20-A of the Maine Revised Statutes, as amended, this Notice is to be displayed at all polling places for the school budget validation referendum to be held on August 20, 2024, to assist the voters in voting on Article 3 of the Ballot regarding whether to ratify the 2024-2025 school budget approved at the August 6, 2024, Special School Budget Town Meeting.

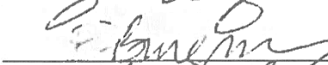
AMOUNTS FOR 2024-2025 SCHOOL BUDGET

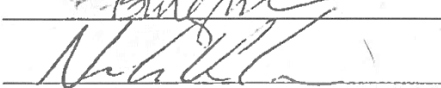
Cost Center Summary Budget Category	Amount Recommended by School Committee	Amount Approved at the School Budget Town Meeting on August 6, 2024*
Regular Instruction	\$1,528,138.00	\$ 1,528,138.00
Special Education	\$760,613.00	\$ 760,613.00
Career and Technical Education	\$0.00	\$ 0.00
Other instruction	\$32,912.00	\$ 32,912.00
Student and staff support	\$352,546.00	\$ 352,546.00
System administration	\$162,897.00	\$ 162,897.00
School administration	\$237,928.00	\$ 237,928.00
Transportation and Buses	\$163,990.00	\$ 163,990.00
Facilities Maintenance	\$268,187.00	\$ 268,187.00
Debt Service and Other Commitments	\$0.00	\$ 0.00
All Other Expenditures	\$0.00	\$ 0.00
Summary of Total Authorized General Fund Expenditures:	\$3,507,211.00	\$ 3,507,211.00

* Amounts to be completed by the Superintendent of Schools under authority of the School Committee

The amount approved for the 2024-2025 school budget at the special town meeting includes locally raised funds over and above the Town's maximum state and local spending target pursuant to 20-A M.R.S. § 15671-A, subsection 5.









A majority of the Town of Hope School Committee

Completed and countersigned by:



Kate Clark, Superintendent of Schools

Dated: August 6, 2024

**November 5, 2024 – Municipal Election
Town of Hope
Return of Votes Cast**

Municipality: Hope

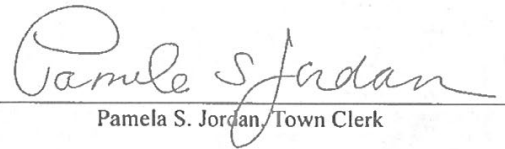
Total Ballots Cast: 1,120

Select Board, Assessors, Overseer of the Poor

903 Tassi, Joseph M.

32 Various Write-ins

185 Blank


Pamela S. Jordan, Town Clerk

**MINUTES OF
FEBRUARY 18, 2025
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING**

February 18, 2025 – Tuesday, 6:00 P.M. at Hope Town Office
There were approximately 70 people present.

ARTICLE 1. To elect a Moderator to preside at said meeting.

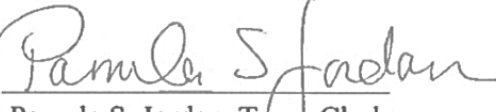
On a motion Daniel Mercuro was voted and elected by secret written ballot to preside over this special town meeting. He was sworn to the position by Pamela Jordan, The Hope Town Clerk. It was unanimously voted to grant the Town Administrator, Samantha Mank, a nonresident, permission to speak at this meeting.

John Monroe, the Road Commissioner, gave a presentation. Bill Pearse Jr., Chair of the Budget Committee, gave a presentation.

ARTICLE 2. Shall the Municipal Officers be authorized to issue general obligation bonds (including bonds that may be callable) in an amount not to exceed \$767,744 to purchase vehicles and equipment to provide winter maintenance and snowplowing for the roads in the Town of Hope?

On a motion the town voted to authorize the Municipal Officers to issue general obligation bonds (including bonds that may be callable) in an amount not to exceed \$767,744 to purchase vehicles and equipment to provide winter maintenance and snowplowing for the roads in the Town of Hope. The vote was 50 in favor and 7 opposed. The warrant article passed.

On a motion this meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM

A true Attest Copy: 
Pamela S. Jordan, Town Clerk

TOWN OF HOPE
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES

May 15, 2025, Thursday 6:00 p.m.
Hope Elementary School
Approximately 201 people were present.

ARTICLE 1: To elect a moderator.

(On a motion Amanda Mastrian and Wayne Luce were nominated as moderators. Amanda Mastrian was voted for and chosen by secret written ballot to preside over this meeting. Amanda was sworn in as moderator. At this time State Representative Bill Plucker was introduced and non-residents Kate Clark, Stephanie McBride, and Richard Catalano were given permission to speak at this meeting.)

(On an amended motion the Town of Hope voted to move article 13 out of order and take this article first. The votes for this amendment were 92 in favor and 47 opposed. The Town of Hope voted to approve Article 13 as written.)

(On a motion the Town of Hope voted to take Articles 2 through 9 and Article 11 as a slate and dispensed with the reading of each Article. On a motion the Town of Hope voted to approve Articles 2 through 9 and Article 11 as recommended by the School Board.)

ARTICLE 2: To see what sum the Town will be authorized to expend for Regular Instruction. School Committee Recommends: **\$1,631,057.00**
Budget Committee Recommends: **\$0.00**

(Approved as Recommended by the School Board)

ARTICLE 3: To see what sum the Town will be authorized to expend for Special Education. School Committee Recommends: **\$779,411.00**
Budget Committee Recommends: **\$0.00**

(Approved as Recommended by the School Board)

ARTICLE 4: To see what sum the Town will be authorized to expend for Career and Technical Education. School Committee Recommends: **\$0.00**
Budget Committee Recommends: **\$0.00**

(Approved as Recommended by the School Board)

ARTICLE 5: To see what sum the Town will be authorized to expend for Other Instruction.

School Committee Recommends: **\$33,866.00**

Budget Committee Recommends: **\$0.00**

(Approved as Recommended by the School Board)

ARTICLE 6: To see what sum the Town will be authorized to expend for Student and Staff Support.

School Committee Recommends: **\$484,500.00**

Budget Committee Recommends: **\$0.00**

(Approved as Recommended by the School Board)

ARTICLE 7: To see what sum the Town will be authorized to expend for System Administration.

School Committee Recommends: **\$154,872.00**

Budget Committee Recommends: **\$0.00**

(Approved as Recommended by the School Board)

ARTICLE 8: To see what sum the Town will be authorized to expend for School Administration.

School Committee Recommends: **\$250,798.00**

Budget Committee Recommends: **\$0.00**

(Approved as Recommended by the School Board)

ARTICLE 9: To see what sum the Town will be authorized to expend for Transportation and Buses.

School Committee Recommends: **\$182,626.00**

Budget Committee Recommends: **\$0.00**

(Approved as Recommended by the School Board)

ARTICLE 10: To see what sum the Town will be authorized to expend for Facilities Maintenance.

School Committee Recommends: **\$326,151.00**

Budget Committee Recommends: **\$5,000.00**

Explanation: Budget Committee requests the \$5,000 be transferred to the facilities maintenance reserve account.

(On a motion the Town of Hope voted to expend \$326,151.00 for Facilities Maintenance.)

ARTICLE 11: To see what sum the Town will be authorized to expend for All Other

Expenditures, including School Lunch.
School Committee Recommends: **\$0.00**
Budget Committee Recommends: **\$0.00**

(Approved as Recommended by the School Board)

ARTICLE 12: To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for the total cost of funding public education from PreK to grade 8 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and shall the Town of Hope appropriate **\$2,278,501.72** and raise **\$1,121,067.62** as the Town's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from PreK to grade 8 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15688?

*School Committee Recommends (4-0 in favor): Appropriating **\$2,278,501.72** and raising **\$1,121,067.62***

*Budget Committee Recommends: (5-0): Appropriating \$ **2,278,501.72** and raising **\$1,121,067.62***

Explanation: The Town's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from PreK to grade 8 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act is the amount of money determined by state law to be the minimum amount that a municipality must raise in order to receive the full amount of state dollars.

*The amount **raised** is the amount the state determines Hope must raise in order to receive state funding/ known as the local contribution. The amount **appropriated** is the sum total of the local contribution, the state subsidy, tuition revenues as well as \$100,000.00 of the Unassigned Fund Balance available from FY '23.*

(On a motion Town voted to raise \$1,121,067.62 and appropriate \$2,278,501.72 as the Town's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from PreK to grade 8 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15688.)

ARTICLE 13: (Written ballot required) To see what amount the Town of Hope will raise and appropriate in additional local funds, which exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services allocation model by **\$1,414,738.38**.

*School Committee Recommends: (4-0 in favor): Raising and appropriating **\$1,414,738.38** in*

*Additional Local Funds, which exceeds EPS by **\$1,414,738.38**. Budget Committee Recommends: (5-0) Raising and appropriating **\$1,319,779.38** in Additional Local Funds, which exceeds EPS by **\$1,319,79.38**.*

The School Committee gives the following reasons for exceeding the State's Essential Programs and Services funding model by **\$1,414,738.38**. The essential programs and services funding model does not recognize all educational costs, such as Special Education, extra-curricular and co-curricular costs.

Explanation: The additional local funds are those locally raised funds over and above the Town's local contribution to the total cost of funding public education from PreK to grade 8 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and local amounts raised for the annual payment on non-state funded debt service that will help achieve the Town budget for educational programs.

(On a motion the Town of Hope voted to raise and appropriate \$1,414,738.38 in additional local funds, which exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services allocation model by \$1,414,738.38. The votes were 104 in favor and 73 opposed.)

ARTICLE 14: To see what sum the Town will authorize the school committee to expend for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025, from the Town's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from PreK to grade 8 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act, non-state-funded school construction projects, additional local funds for school purposes under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15690, unexpended balances, tuition receipts, state subsidy and other receipts for the support of schools. *This is the sum total of the funds appropriated in Articles 14 and 15.*

School Committee Recommends: **\$3,843,281.00**

Budget Committee Recommends: **\$3,748,322.00**

(On an amended motion the Town of Hope voted to correct the dates in this article to July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026. The Town voted to approve this article as recommended by the School Board.)

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to authorize, in addition to amounts approved in the preceding articles, the school committee to expend sums as may be received from federal or state grants or programs or other sources during the fiscal year for school purposes, provided that such grants, programs or other sources do not require the expenditure of other funds not previously appropriated.

School Committee Recommends: Approval

Budget Committee Recommends: Approval

(On a motion the Town of Hope Voted to Approve this article)(On a motion the Town of Hope voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m.)

A True Attest:

Pamela S Jordan

Town Clerk

**TOWN OF HOPE
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT**

MUNICIPAL ELECTION

June 10, 2025 - Tuesday
7:45 AM to 8:00 PM
Hope Town Office

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

June 12, 2025 - Thursday
6:00 PM
Hope Corner Fire Station

TO: Adrian Humphrys, resident of the Town of Hope, in the County of Knox

GREETINGS: In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the Inhabitants of the Town of Hope, in said County, qualified by law to vote in Town affairs, to meet at the HOPE TOWN OFFICE, in said Town on TUESDAY, the TENTH day of JUNE 2025 at 7:45 AM then and there to act on Articles numbered 1 through 4;

And to notify and warn the voters to meet at the HOPE CORNER FIRE STATION, in said Town on THURSDAY, the TWELFTH day of JUNE 2025 at 6:00 PM, then and there to act on Articles numbered 5 through 26, all of said Articles being set out below, to wit:

ARTICLE 1. To elect a Moderator to preside at said meeting.

ARTICLE 2. To elect all necessary Town Officers/Officials by secret ballot.

ARTICLE 3. To vote on the Hope Elementary School Budget by secret ballot.

ARTICLE 4. To vote by secret ballot on continuing the Hope Elementary School budget validation referendum process for an additional three years.

For articles 2, 3, and 4, the polls shall be opened at 8:00 a.m. and closed at 8:00 p.m. Absentee ballots will be processed on Tuesday June 10, 2025 as listed on the Notice of Election.

ARTICLE 5. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Hope Fire Department Ordinance dated June 22, 1995.

Copies of the proposed ordinance amendments are physically posted with this warrant and are also available for public inspection at the Town Office and will also be available at the Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 6. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate all of the money received from the State of Maine for snowmobile registrations to the Hatchet Mountain Sno-Riders Snowmobile Club for the maintenance of their network of trails, on the condition that those trails are open to the public for the purpose of snowmobiling at no charge.

ARTICLE 7. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector to accept prepayment of taxes not yet committed pursuant to 36 M.R.S. § 506, with no interest to accrue on any excess prepaid over the amount finally committed.

ARTICLE 8. To see if the Town will vote to set October 1, 2025 as the date when the first one-half of taxes shall be due and payable, with interest on the first installment to start after that date, and the date of April 30, 2026 as the date when the second one-half of taxes are due and payable, with interest on the second installment to start after that date; to set the interest rate at 7.50% for unpaid taxes pursuant to 36 M.R.S. §505(4); and to list taxpayers' names in the Town Report if taxes are not paid by June 30, 2026.

ARTICLE 9. To see if the Town will vote to set the interest rate to be paid by the Town on abated taxes at a rate of 3.75% for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 pursuant to 36 M.R.S. §506-A and to authorize such interest paid or abatements granted to be appropriated from overlay funds or, if necessary, from the unassigned fund balance.

ARTICLE 10. To see what sum the Town will vote to appropriate from non-property tax revenues to help fund the total Municipal Budget and reduce the property tax assessment for Fiscal Year 2025–2026 as detailed in Articles 11-15 below:

Recommendations:

Select Board: **\$877,076**

Budget Committee: **\$927,076**

<i>Revenue Source</i>	<i>Select Board Recommend</i>	<i>Select Board Vote</i>	<i>Budget Committee Vote</i>	<i>Budget Committee Recommend</i>
<i>Excise Taxes - Vehicles</i>	<i>\$400,000</i>	<i>5-0</i>	<i>5-0</i>	<i>\$400,000</i>
<i>Local Roads Assistance</i>	<i>\$41,276</i>	<i>5-0</i>	<i>5-0</i>	<i>\$41,276</i>
<i>Cemetery Maintenance</i>	<i>\$3,300</i>	<i>5-0</i>	<i>5-0</i>	<i>\$3,300</i>
<i>State Revenue Sharing</i>	<i>\$224,400</i>	<i>5-0</i>	<i>5-0</i>	<i>\$224,400</i>
<i>GA Reimbursement</i>	<i>\$2,100</i>	<i>5-0</i>	<i>5-0</i>	<i>\$2,100</i>
<i>Unassigned Fund Balance</i>	<i>\$200,000</i>	<i>5-0</i>	<i>0-4-1</i>	<i>\$250,000</i>
<i>Miscellaneous Revenue</i>	<i>\$86,000</i>	<i>5-0</i>	<i>5-0</i>	<i>\$86,000</i>
<i>Totals</i>	<i>\$877,076</i>			<i>\$927,076</i>

ARTICLE 11. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 for the Administration Cost Center:

Recommendations:

Select Board: **\$509,897**

Budget Committee: **\$484,897**

<i>Department</i>	<i>Select Board Recommend</i>	<i>Select Board Vote</i>	<i>Budget Committee Vote</i>	<i>Budget Committee Recommend</i>
<i>Town Administration</i>	<i>\$356,966</i>	<i>5-0</i>	<i>0-5</i>	<i>\$331,966</i>
<i>General Administration</i>	<i>\$87,680</i>	<i>5-0</i>	<i>5-0</i>	<i>\$87,680</i>
<i>Municipal Buildings</i>	<i>\$12,751</i>	<i>5-0</i>	<i>5-0</i>	<i>\$12,751</i>
<i>Professional Services</i>	<i>\$49,500</i>	<i>5-0</i>	<i>5-0</i>	<i>\$49,500</i>
<i>General Assistance</i>	<i>\$3,000</i>	<i>5-0</i>	<i>5-0</i>	<i>\$3,000</i>
<i>Totals</i>	<i>\$509,897</i>			<i>\$484,897</i>

ARTICLE 12. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for- Fiscal Year 2025-2026 for the Public Safety Cost Center:

Recommendations:

Select Board: **\$320,250**

Budget Committee: **\$320,178**

<i>Department</i>	<i>Select Board Recommend</i>	<i>Select Board Vote</i>	<i>Budget Committee Vote</i>	<i>Budget Committee Recommend</i>
<i>Animal Control</i>	<i>\$8,521</i>	<i>5-0</i>	<i>0-5</i>	<i>\$8,449</i>
<i>Fire Department</i>	<i>\$164,130</i>	<i>5-0</i>	<i>4-1</i>	<i>\$164,130</i>
<i>Ambulance</i>	<i>\$147,599</i>	<i>5-0</i>	<i>5-0</i>	<i>\$147,599</i>
<i>Totals</i>	<i>\$320,250</i>			<i>\$320,178</i>

ARTICLE 13. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 for the Public Works Cost Center:

Recommendations:

Select Board: **\$1,008,569**

Budget Committee: **\$1,008,569**

<i>Department</i>	<i>Select Board Recommend</i>	<i>Select Board Vote</i>	<i>Budget Committee Vote</i>	<i>Budget Committee Recommend</i>
<i>Recreation</i>	<i>\$13,369</i>	<i>5-0</i>	<i>5-0</i>	<i>\$13,369</i>
<i>Streetlights</i>	<i>\$1,400</i>	<i>4-1</i>	<i>5-0</i>	<i>\$1,400</i>
<i>Roads</i>	<i>\$924,533</i>	<i>5-0</i>	<i>2-2-1</i>	<i>\$924,533</i>
<i>Sanitation</i>	<i>\$59,817</i>	<i>5-0</i>	<i>5-0</i>	<i>\$59,817</i>
<i>Cemeteries</i>	<i>\$9,450</i>	<i>5-0</i>	<i>5-0</i>	<i>\$9,450</i>
<i>Totals</i>	<i>\$1,008,569</i>			<i>\$1,008,569</i>

ARTICLE 14. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 for the Reserve Accounts Cost Center:

Recommendations:

Select Board: **\$73,523**

Budget Committee: **\$68,523**

<i>Item</i>	<i>Select Board Recommend</i>	<i>Select Board Vote</i>	<i>Budget Committee Vote</i>	<i>Budget Committee Recommend</i>
<i>Emergency Road Repairs</i>	<i>\$40,000</i>	<i>5-0</i>	<i>4-1</i>	<i>\$40,000</i>
<i>Fire Department Equipment</i>	<i>\$9,170</i>	<i>5-0</i>	<i>5-0</i>	<i>\$9,170</i>
<i>Fire Truck Replacement</i>	<i>\$10,000</i>	<i>5-0</i>	<i>4-1</i>	<i>\$10,000</i>
<i>Municipal Buildings Repair</i>	<i>\$5,000</i>	<i>5-0</i>	<i>2-3</i>	<i>\$0</i>
<i>Office Equipment/Software</i>	<i>\$2,000</i>	<i>5-0</i>	<i>5-0</i>	<i>\$2,000</i>
<i>Solar Array Purchase</i>	<i>\$2,353</i>	<i>5-0</i>	<i>5-0</i>	<i>\$2,353</i>
<i>Fire Truck Repair/Maintenance</i>	<i>\$5,000</i>	<i>5-0</i>	<i>5-0</i>	<i>\$5,000</i>
<i>Totals</i>	<i>\$73,523</i>			<i>\$68,523</i>

Total Municipal Expenditures (combine Articles 11-14)

\$1,912,239

Total Municipal Revenues (See Article 10)

(\$ 877,076)

Total to be raised and appropriated

\$1,035,163

ARTICLE 15. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to set the salaries of the officials and employees appointed by it under provision of 30-A M.R.S. §2601(1) and (2), subject to funding under Article 11 above.

ARTICLE 16. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to exercise and execute the “option to purchase” clause of the Solar Power Purchase Agreement and the Equipment Lease to Own Agreement between the Town of Hope and Hope Solar, LLC for the purchase of the solar array and the heat pumps and all associated equipment for a total of \$49,000.

The Town entered into a 25-year Solar Power Purchase Agreement with Hope Solar LLC on November 5, 2019. The Town has voted to set aside money each year in a reserve account in order to make the purchase in 2025. No additional tax revenue has to be raised in order to make the purchase of the solar array, heat pumps, or associated equipment.

ARTICLE 17. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to enter into multi-year contracts on behalf of the Town.

ARTICLE 18. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board, at its discretion, to sell by sealed bid or public auction (with the Select Board reserving the right to reject any and all bids) and to convey by quitclaim deed any real estate acquired by the Town for nonpayment of taxes thereon, or to convey the property to the prior owner upon payment in full of all taxes, interest and charges incurred by the Town; provided that the Select Board shall use the special sale process required by 36 M.R.S. §943-A for qualifying homestead property, as applicable.

ARTICLE 19. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to sell or otherwise dispose of Town-owned personal property with a value of \$8,000 or less on such terms and conditions as it deems advisable.

ARTICLE 20. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer to waive the foreclosure of tax lien mortgages and file such waivers at the Knox County Registry of Deeds pursuant to 36 M.R.S. §944 upon a finding by the Select Board that ownership of the property that is subject to the tax lien mortgage would be contrary to the Town’s best interests.

ARTICLE 21. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to accept or reject donations of personal property and/or to accept or reject donations and/or gifts of money to the various accounts of the Town for the ensuing year and to appropriate those moneys donated for specific purposes, provided that any donation and/or gift which obligates the Town to incur liabilities that total \$5,000 or more per year, as determined by the Select Board, shall be decided at a special town meeting.

ARTICLE 22. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to accept conditional or unconditional gifts of real property, provided that any gift which obligates the Town to incur

liabilities that total \$5,000 or more per year, as determined by the Select Board, shall be decided at a special town meeting.

ARTICLE 23. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Board to accept or reject donations of personal property and/or to accept or reject donations and/or gifts of money to the various accounts of the school for the ensuing year and to appropriate those moneys donated for specific purposes, provided that any donation and/or gift which obligates the Town to incur liabilities that total \$5,000 or more per year, as determined by the Select Board, shall be decided at a special town meeting.

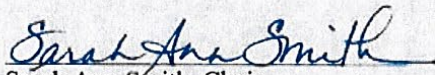
ARTICLE 24. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to apply for state, federal (including Community Development Block Grants) and other grants on the Town's behalf for purposes deemed by the Select Board to be in the best interests of the Town; to accept such grants, including, when necessary, the authority to sign contracts and related documents and to accept conditions of approval; and to appropriate such grant funds for any purpose for which the Town has appropriated funds in Fiscal Year 2025-2026.

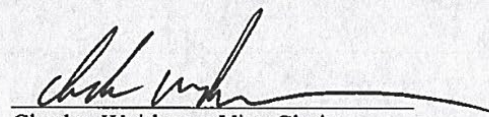
ARTICLE 25. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the proceeds of any payment on insurance claims for damage occurring to Town property, with such appropriation dedicated to the budget line item for the same type of property as the loss sustained.

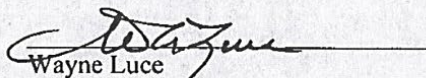
ARTICLE 26. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to carry unexpended funds forward to the next fiscal year within the existing cost centers.

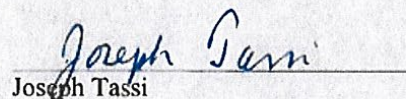
GIVEN UNDER OUR HANDS THIS SIXTEENTH DAY OF MAY 2025.

HOPE SELECT BOARD


Sarah Ann Smith, Chair


Charles Weidman, Vice Chair


Wayne Luce


Joseph Tassi

Crystal Robinson

In memoriam, with gratitude

Edgar Russell Crowley: August 5, 1942 – January 26, 2025

The Town of Hope would like to honor the life of Ed Crowley. Ed was a resident of Hope and a distinguished member of the community for 53 years. During his years in Hope, Ed worked as a code enforcement officer. Ed also served on the cemetery committee, the school board committee, and the town roads advisory committee. He was famously known as the school bus driver in town. To quote his great grandson, Colton Thomas, "He was the best bus driver ever and I love you Grampy".

In his younger years, Ed was an army soldier during the Vietnam conflict. He proudly became a member of the American Legion Post 43 in Belfast. We graciously thank him for his years of courageous service to our country.

In 1995, Ed established his own plumbing and heating company in Hope. He successfully served the surrounding communities as a one-man fix it all. He eventually retired and spent more time doing his favorite things; camping, dancing, and listening to country music.

Ed will be missed by all that loved him, including the townspeople of Hope, who benefited from his kindness and service. Ed will be buried in the Spring of 2025 in the Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Augusta,

It was an honor to know you, Ed!



Jason “Jay” Davis Hall: March 9, 1971 – September 9, 2023

Hope would also like to honor the life of Jason Hall, a resident of Hope with many dedicated years serving the town and the country.

After graduating from Norwich University, Jason served as a police officer for the town of Camden for 16 years. Jason simultaneously became a member of the Maine National Guard, unit Co A 133rd Eng Bn. In 2003 his unit served in Iraq for one and a half years.

Upon retiring as a police officer and member of the National Guard, Jason and his wife, Brooke, owned and operated Knowlton Moving and Storage in Warren. He successfully ran the business for the past ten years.

Jason was active in the community, contributing as a selectman in Hope. He was also a member of the Belfast and Rockport Masonic Lodges, the Rockland Scottish Rite, the Anah Shrine Temple, and the Rockland Elks Club.

Jason enjoyed boating with his girls on Hobbs Pond and visiting Moosehead Lake each year with his family. He was a thoughtful neighbor, often using his power broom to clear sand from the roads to make them safe for motorcyclists. He was the ultimate handman, fixing everything from an iPad to a chainsaw, without batting an eye. He is remembered fondly for his family dedication and his friendships, his love for all things automotive, and his humor. He will be greatly missed.



*To plant a memorial tree in honor of
Ed or Jason, please visit
Riposta Funeral Home at
<https://ripostafh.com/26/Home.html>*



Town of Hope General Information

website: <https://hopemaine.org/>

Town Office
441 Camden Road
Hope, Maine 04847

Telephone (207) 763-3528
Fax (207) 763-4195
facebook.com/HopeMaine/

Town Office Hours

Monday CLOSED
Tuesday 8:30 am – 4:30 pm
Wednesday 8:30 am – 4:30 pm
Thursday 12:00 pm – 6:00 pm
Friday 8:30 am – 4:30 pm
Saturday/Sunday CLOSED

Select Board

Sarah Ann Smith
Crystal Robinson
Wayne Luce
Charles Weidman
Joseph Tassi
selectmen@hopemaine.org

Hope Town Library Hours of Operation

Monday CLOSED
Tuesday 10:00 am – 1 pm and 4:00pm – 5:30pm
Wednesday 9:00 am – 11:00 am
Thursday 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm
Friday 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Library Contact

443 Camden Road
hopelibrary04847@gmail.com
(207) 763-3553
<https://hopelibrary.me/>
facebook.com/hopelibrary04847

Mid Coast Solid Waste

<https://www.midcoastsolidwaste.org/>
90 Union Street, Rockport, ME 04856
(207) 236-2467
Open Tuesday-Saturday 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

Town Assessor RJD Appraisal

(207) 743-4199
<https://rjdappraisal.com/>

Road Commisioner

John Monroe
(207) 942-9636

CEO/Local Plumbing Inspector

Zachary Herrick
ceo-lpi@hopemaine.org

Fire Chief/EMA Director

Clarence Keller
(207) 542-2694

Animal Control Officer

Heidi Blood
(207) 322-3237

School Unit 69 Pre K – 8th

Superintendent Kate Clark
7 Lions Lane
Camden, ME. 04843
(207) 605-7710

Hope Elementary School

Principal Danielle Fagonde
34 Highfield Road
Hope, ME 04847
(207) 785-4081

5 Town CSD

Superintendent Maria Libby
22 Knowlton Street
Camden, ME. 04843
(207) 236-3358

Camden Hills Reg High School

Principal Jen Curtis
25 Keelson Drive
Rockport, ME. 04856
(207) 236-7800

Raid Renewal Motor Vehicle Registration

<https://apps1.web.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/bmv/rapid-renewal/rr-0>

Boat Licensing <https://apps1.web.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/boat/step02.pl>

Hunting/Fishing/Trapp Licensing https://apps1.web.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/amos_v3/index