



Veazie Town Council

Regular Meeting

May 11, 2015

AGENDA

- ITEM 1:** Call to Order
- ITEM 2:** Secretary to do the Roll Call
- ITEM 3:** Pledge of Allegiance
- ITEM 4:** Consideration of the Agenda
- ITEM 5:** Approval of the April 27th, 2015 Regular Council Meeting Minutes.
- ITEM 6:** Comments from the Public

New Business:

- ITEM 7:** Public Hearing on FY15/16 Budget

Old Business:

- ITEM 8:** Manager's Report
- ITEM 9:** Comments from the Public
- ITEM 10:** Requests for information and Town Council Comments
- ITEM 11:** Review & Sign of AP Town Warrant #21 and Town Payroll #22 School Payroll Warrant #23 and AP School Warrant #23
- ITEM 12:** Adjournment

Tammy Perry
5 Prouty Dr
947-9624

Chris Bagley
16 Silver Ridge
cbagley@veazie.net

Robert Rice
1116 Buck Hill Dr
942-3064

Karen Walker
1002 Mutton Ln
941-0458

David King
1081 Main St
942-2376

Agenda Items

For May 11, 2015

Council Meeting

ITEM 7: The School Department and the Municipal Department will both present FY 15/16 Budgets for public discussion. The following is a breakdown of the requested budgets per department.

<u>ACCT NUMBER</u>	<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>REQUESTED AMOUNT</u>	<u>SUMMARY</u>
100	Executive Department	\$309,875.00	\$30,899.00
200	Police Department	\$329,971.00	\$0.00
300	Fire Department	\$212,029.00	\$13,539.00
400	Public Works Department	Eliminated	\$0.00
500	Recreation Department	\$15,000.00	\$447.00
550	Community Investment	\$30,600.00	\$6,800.00
600	Capital	\$165,000.00	\$0.00
700	Reserve	\$64,000.00	\$0.00
800	Fixed Cost	\$452,760.00	\$33,511.00
900	Mandatory	\$360,039.00	(-\$21,211.00)
	School	\$2,915,325.00*	\$201,061.00*

only represents the total local share

TOTAL: \$265,046.00 increase

Veazie Town Council Meeting
April 27th, 2015

Members Present: Chairman Tammy Perry, Councilor Robert Rice, Councilor Karen Walker, Councilor David King, Manager Mark Leonard, Secretary Julie Strout, Orono Parks & Recreation Director Mitch Stone, Orono Town Manager Sophie Wilson, Veazie School Supt. Rick Lyons, Budget Committee Chair Gavin Batchelder, Joe Lane, and various members of the public.

Members Absent:

Councilor Chris Bagley

ITEM 1: Call to order

Chairman Tammy Perry called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

ITEM 2: Secretary to do the roll call:

Councilor Chris Bagley was absent and excused.

ITEM 3: Pledge of Allegiance

ITEM 4: Consideration of the Agenda

Chairman Perry would like to keep Item 6 but add 9a Public Comment for the School and request that school comments be held once we have our discussion with Supt. Lyons and School Chair Batchelder, add Item 5A as Executive Session 1 MRSA 405 (6) (A) Personnel Matter and add to Item 5 the approval of the April 6th Special Workshop Minutes.

ITEM 5: Approval of the April 6th Special Council Workshop and April 13th, 2015 Council Meeting Minutes

Councilor Robert Rice made a motion, seconded by Councilor David King to accept the April 6th, 2015 Special Workshop Meeting Minutes as written. Voted 4-0-0. Motion carried.

Councilor Robert Rice made a motion, seconded by Councilor Dave King to accept the April 13th, 2015 Special Workshop Meeting Minutes as written. Voted 4-0-0. Motion carried.

ITEM 5A: Executive Session 1 MRSA 405 (6)(A) Personnel Matter

Councilor Karen Walker made a motion, seconded by Councilor Robert Rice to enter in to Executive Session 1 MRSA 405(6)(A) at 6:33pm. Voted 4-0-0. Motion carried

Councilor David King made a motion, seconded by Councilor Robert Rice to exit Executive Session 1 MRSA 405 (6)(A) at 7:02pm. Voted 4-0-0. Motion carried.

ITEM 6: Comments from the public

There was one comment made by a Veazie citizen.

New Business:

ITEM 7: Orono Parks & Recreation follow up

Mitch Stone updated the Council on the recreation programs. Councilor Robert Rice made a motion, seconded by Councilor David King to contribute \$10,000 to the Orono Parks and Recreation program with an update expected in six months. Voted 4-0-0. Motion carried.

ITEM 8: Crowe Property follow up

Councilor Karen Walker made a motion, seconded by Councilor Dave King to extend the agreement for another 60 days, if not done at that point there will be a penalty applied each day after the deadline. Manager Leonard will check to make sure the buildings are secure by May 1st. Voted 4-0-0. Motion carried.

ITEM 9: Discussion with Supt. Lyons & School Chair Batchelder on FY 15/16 School Budget

Supt. Lyons and School Chair Batchelder reviewed the figures again with the Council. There were multiple citizens that shared their concerns with the Council in regards to the school and the budget in general.

Councilor Robert Rice made a motion, seconded by Councilor Dave King to direct the budget committee to allocate \$2,714,263.60 for the school local allocation for FY16, further to have the Town Manager work with the Supt. to come up with an agreement listing specific actions, initiatives that will be undertaken as soon as possible so that we can move forward to a more balanced budget for next year. Voted 4-0-0. Motion carried.

ITEM 10: Storm drain maintenance update

Councilor Robert Rice made a motion that we go out for quotes on the entire project and the Town Manager evaluate those quotes and elect a contract as soon as possible for two years. Motion failed.

Councilor Robert Rice made a motion, seconded by Councilor Karen Walker to move forward with the April 27th quote for \$30,200 for emergency repairs essentially for the Davis Wedgewood outfall and move forward also under the same contract with the MS4 repairs as outlined in the April 23rd memo with costs not to exceed those estimated. The entire project to be completed over a two year span with TIF money. Voted 4-0-0. Motion carried.

Old Business:

ITEM 11: Manager's Report

Manager Leonard reviewed his report with the Councilor's.

Councilor David King has resigned from the Gateway Senior Advisory Board.

Councilor Karen Walker made a motion, seconded by Chairman Tammy Perry to except David King's resignation from the Gateway Senior Advisory Board. Voted 3-0-1. Motion carried.

Councilor David King abstained.

Councilor Walker shared that Sandra Patterson was willing to take the position on the Gateway Senior Board.

ITEM 12: Comments from the Public

Citizens shared their concerns.

ITEM 13: Requests for information and Town Council Comments

The Council would like Manager Leonard to work on a draft copy of a public works policy with Barney Silver. They would also like to invite the Sewer District Trustees to a future meeting.

ITEM 14: Review & sign of AP Town Warrant #20 and Town Payroll #21, School Payroll Warrant #21 & #22 and AP School Warrant #21 & #22.

The warrants were circulated and signed.

ITEM 15: Adjournment

Councilor Karen Walker motioned to adjourn

Councilor Dave King seconded. No discussion. Voted 4-0-0

Motion carried.

Adjourned at 9:04pm

A True Copy Attest
Julie Strout
Deputy Clerk

Veazie School Administrative Unit
1040 School Street
Veazie, Maine 04401
Telephone (207) 947-6573

ITEM # 7

Richard A. Lyons, Superintendent

P. Scott Nichols, Principal

TO: Mark Leonard, Town Manager
FROM: Richard A. Lyons, Superintendent of Schools
DATE: May 8, 2015
SUBJECT: Requested Data

The Veazie School Committee has worked diligently to construct and endorse a 2015-2016 school budget that supports educational programming and is fiscally responsible.

However, our educational programming has been significantly impacted by reducing costs by \$170,423. This reduction has been attained by eliminating one classroom teacher, two educational technicians, a slot for students out of district placement tuition, and eliminated financial support for curriculum development.

The School Committee internalized and deliberately discussed the recommendation as set forth by the Town Council to reduce the local assessment further by the amount of \$201,000. I presented possible options to the School Committee at their May 4th meeting. After significant discussion, and realizing the negative impact on the educational programming, the School Committee unanimously endorsed a gross 2015-2016 budget less than the current year in the amount of \$7,216 or -0.17%. Our proposed budget incorporates a loss of state subsidy in the amount of \$213,106. We increased our fund balance from \$310,000 to \$355,000. We made reductions totaling \$170,423 arriving at a local assessment increase of \$201,000 from \$2,714,263 to \$2,915,324. This FY16 local assessment is still less than that of FY13.

Fiscal Year	2012	2,903,007
	2013	2,990,023
	2014	2,778,082
	2015	2,714,263
	2016	2,915,324

The following points I also would like to accentuate:

* This is the second consecutive year the gross budget is decreased.

	2013-2014	4,268,547
	2014-2015	<u>4,255,505</u>
	Decrease	-13,042
(Proposed)	2014-2015	4,255,505
	2015-2016	<u>4,248,289</u>
	Difference	- 7,216

* State Subsidy Level

FY14	879,369
FY15	862,158
FY16	649,051

FY16 state subsidy is 230,318 less than FY14.

* High School Tuition Budget Figures

FY14	856,948
FY15	885,314
FY16	900,038

* The RSU #26 final audit established our fund balance from dissolution at \$866,859. In FY15 we dedicated \$310,000, and in FY16 we are dedicating another \$355,000, leaving undesignated fund balance of \$201,859.

866,859	
<u>-310,000</u>	FY15 Designated
556,859	
<u>-355,000</u>	FY16 Designated
201,859	

Therefore, for summary, the School Committee while absorbing loss of state subsidy has:

- * for two consecutive years reduced the gross budget
- * eliminated in two years two teaching positions, eliminated part-time food service employee, eliminated two positions of educational technicians, and deferred numerous maintenance projects
- * utilized \$665,000 of fund balance

On behalf of the School Committee, we are asking for Council endorsement of the \$4,248,289 2015-2016 school budget. Furthermore, we strongly embrace the Council's desire to set forth a strategic plan encompassing both governing boards that will define favorable outcomes for our town and school community. We are hopeful this process will commence this summer or early fall.

TOWN OF VEAZIE

FY 2015-2016

BUDGET PRESENTATION



Prepared by Manager Mark E Leonard

Town of Veazie

Budget Request FY 2015 - 2016

Account 100 Executive Department Summary

03-02-2015
Date

Past Fiscal Year And Anticipated Need For The Coming Year	Budget FY 2014-2015	Anticipated 2015-2016
	\$278,976.00	\$309,875.00

Proposed Budget Fiscal Year 15-16	Manager's Request	Council / Budget Approved \$	Increase (Decrease)
	\$309,875.00		\$30,899.00

The Executive Department is requesting a \$30,899.00 increase from the requested funds last year. Below is a breakdown of the increase and decreases for this account. They are as follows:

Decreases

\$193.00 Workers Comp	\$105.00 Registry Exp
\$2,000.00 Legal Fees	\$500.00 Custodial Supplies
\$4,000.00 Electricity	\$200.00 Bottled Gas
\$500.00 Water/Sewer	\$500.00 Dues/Subscriptions
\$250.00 Books/Forms	

Total: \$8,248.00

Increases

\$880.00 Deputy Treasurer	\$680.00 Deputy Clerk
\$11,406.00 Assessor * moved/combined form the 800 account*	
\$12,400.00 PT Salaries *return 1/2 time position to the Town Office (\$12.00/hr / 20 hours x 52weeks)*	
\$140.00 CEO	\$637.00 FICA/MEDICARE
\$1,684.00 Health Insurance	\$200.00 Retirement
\$300.00 Maine State Retirement	\$50.00 MMA Dues
\$100.00 Elections	\$200.00 TRIO License
\$350.00 Supplies	\$100.00 Printing
\$20.00 Advertising	
\$10,000.00 Consultant * new line item requested by the Council for exploring options with water district/sewer district*	

Total: \$39,147.00

Overall Difference = \$30,899.00 Increase

Committee Request Worksheet

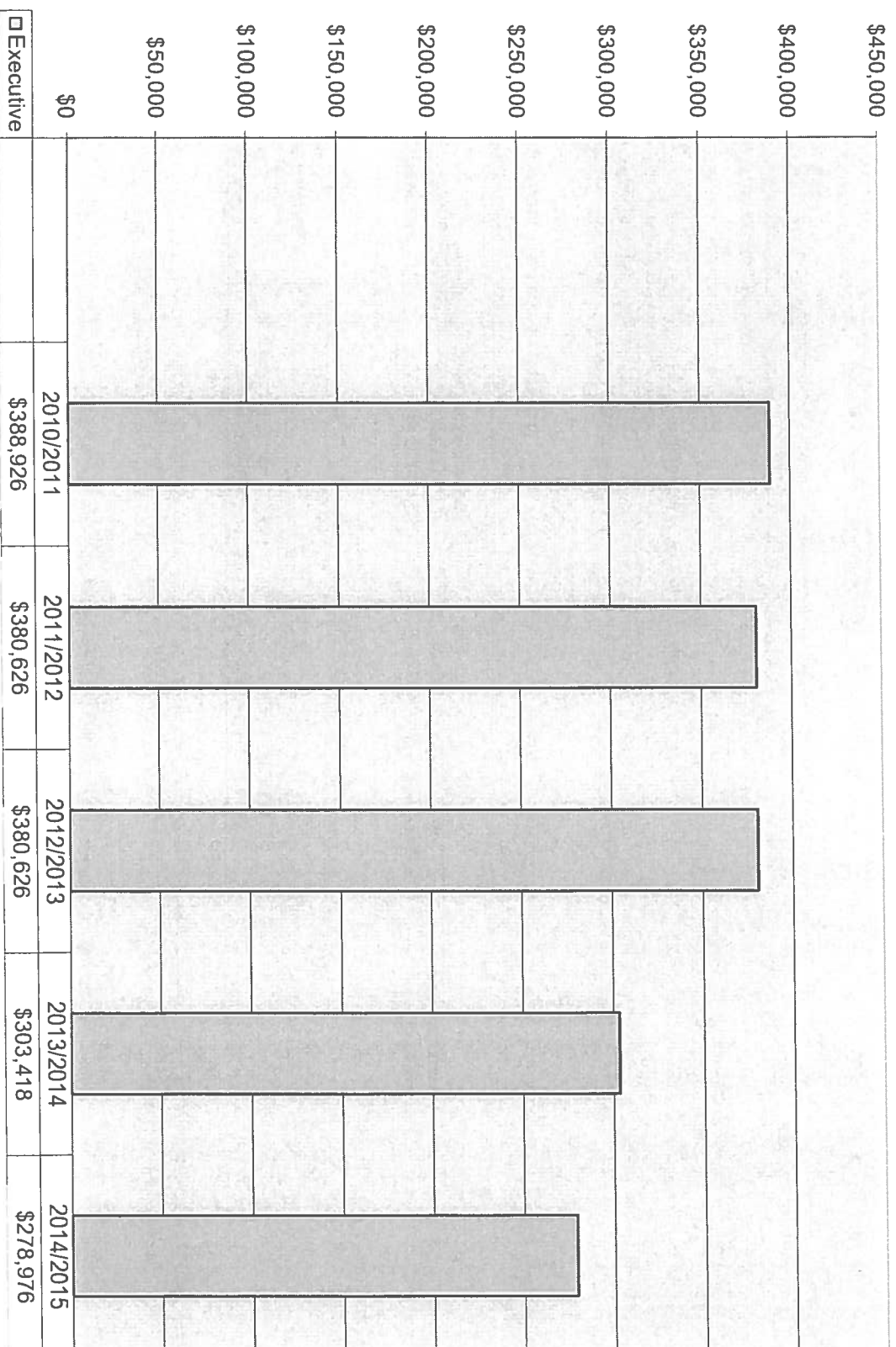
Expense

Account	2015 Budget	2016 Initial	2016 Manager	2016 Committee
Dept: 100 GENERAL GOVE				
PAYROLL				
10-100 TOWN MANAGER	40,000.00	40,000.00	40,000.00	40,000.00
10-110 DEPUTY TREAS	44,000.00	44,880.00	44,880.00	44,880.00
10-130 DEPUTY CLERK	34,000.00	34,680.00	34,680.00	34,680.00
10-150 ASSESSOR	9,594.00	21,000.00	21,000.00	21,000.00
10-155 CEO	15,360.00	15,500.00	15,500.00	15,500.00
10-160 TOWN COUNCIL	3,200.00	3,200.00	3,200.00	3,200.00
10-170 ELECTION WOR	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
10-400 PT SALARIES	2,600.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00
BENEFITS				
20-010 FICA/MED EXP	11,500.00	12,137.00	12,137.00	12,137.00
20-030 WORKERS COMP	1,587.00	1,394.00	1,394.00	1,394.00
RETIRE/INS				
30-010 HEALTH INSUR	26,000.00	27,684.00	27,684.00	27,684.00
30-020 RETIREMENT	6,300.00	6,500.00	6,500.00	6,500.00
30-025 ME ST RETIRE	4,200.00	4,500.00	4,500.00	4,500.00
OTHER COSTS				
40-020 MMA DUES	2,800.00	2,850.00	2,850.00	2,850.00
40-044 ANNUAL REPOR	1,450.00	1,450.00	1,450.00	1,450.00
40-050 REGISTRY EXP	1,105.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
40-060 ELECTIONS	900.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
40-070 ASSESSOR EXP	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
PROF FEES				
50-010 LEGAL FEES	12,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
50-020 AUDIT FEES	6,500.00	6,500.00	6,500.00	6,500.00
50-030 MAINT AGREE	4,800.00	4,800.00	4,800.00	4,800.00
50-040 PROCESS FEES	4,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00
50-050 TRIO LICENSE	6,800.00	7,000.00	7,000.00	7,000.00
50-060 CONSULTANT	0.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
REPAIRS				
60-010 CUSTOD. SUPP	1,500.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
UTILITIES				
70-010 ELECTRICITY	16,000.00	12,000.00	12,000.00	12,000.00
70-030 COMMUNICATIO	2,400.00	2,400.00	2,400.00	2,400.00
70-040 WATER / SEWE	2,500.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
70-050 BOTTLED GAS	300.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
EQUIPMENT				
80-010 EQUIP PARTS	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
80-030 EQUIP RENTL	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
MISC				

Committee Request Worksheet
Expense

Account	2015 Budget	2016 Initial	2016 Manager	2016 Committee
Dept: 100 GENERAL GOVE CONT'D				
95-010 TRAINING	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
95-011 MILEAG/TRAVL	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
95-020 DUES/SUBSCR	2,500.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
95-030 SUPPLIES	2,150.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
95-040 POSTAGE	4,500.00	4,500.00	4,500.00	4,500.00
95-041 PRINTING	1,400.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
95-070 BOOKS/FORMS	750.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
95-080 ADVERTISING	980.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
95-090 ALARM SYSTEM	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00
GENERAL GOVE	278,976.00	309,875.00	309,875.00	309,875.00

Executive



☐ Executive

Town of Veazie

Budget Request FY 2015-2016

03 02 2015

Date

200 Accounts Police Department Summary

Past Fiscal Year And Anticipated Need For The Coming Year	Budget FY 2014-2015	Anticipated 2015-2016
	\$329,971.00	\$329,971.00

Proposed Budget Fiscal Year 15-16	Manager's Request	Council / Budget Approved \$	Increase (Decrease)
	\$329,971.00	\$329,971.00	

At the direction of the Council the Police Department's funding request will remain the same as FY 14/15

Decreases:

\$1,120.00 FICA/ Med Exp
\$2,020.00 Workers Comp
\$3,242.00 Health Insurance

Total: \$6,382.00

Increases:

\$3,382.00 Patrol Salaries
\$1,500.00 Maine State Retirement
\$200.00 Animal Control
\$500.00 DAIRE
\$500.00 Cruiser Repair
\$300.00 Computer Repair

Total: \$6,382.00

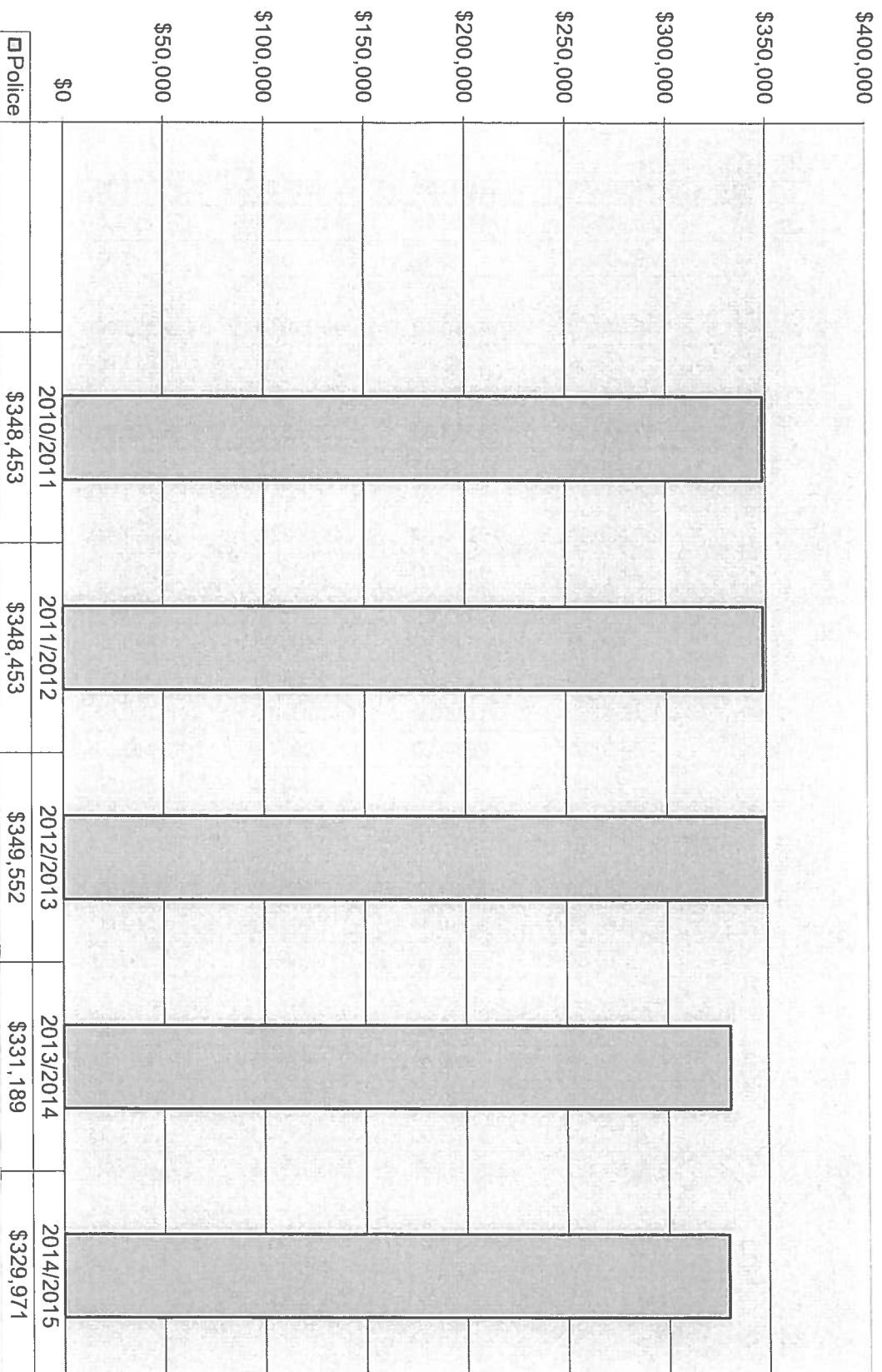
Overall Difference= \$0.00

Committee Request Worksheet

Expense

Account	2015 Budget	2016 Initial	2016 Manager	2016 Committee
Dept: 200 POLICE				
PAYROLL				
10-200 POLICE CHIEF	35,000.00	35,000.00	35,000.00	35,000.00
10-210 PATROL SAL	160,818.00	173,200.00	173,200.00	173,200.00
10-240 OVERTIME	9,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
BENEFITS				
20-010 FICA/MED EXP	15,670.00	14,550.00	14,550.00	14,550.00
20-030 WORKERS COMP	9,783.00	7,763.00	7,763.00	7,763.00
RETIRE/INS				
30-010 HEALTH INSUR	42,000.00	38,758.00	38,758.00	38,758.00
30-025 ME ST RETIRE	15,500.00	17,000.00	17,000.00	17,000.00
OTHER COSTS				
40-011 FUEL	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00
40-021 ANIMAL CTRL	2,800.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
40-025 DARE PROG	0.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
40-031 LAB FEES	400.00	400.00	400.00	400.00
40-041 COMMUNICATNS	3,200.00	3,200.00	3,200.00	3,200.00
40-051 AMMO - PD	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00
40-061 UNIFORMS	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
40-080 COMM POLICNG	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
40-091 PERS EVAL-PD	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
REPAIRS				
60-011 CRUISER REPR	5,000.00	5,500.00	5,500.00	5,500.00
60-040 ISSUED EQ-PD	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00
60-050 EQUIPMENT RE	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
MISC				
95-010 TRAINING	4,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00
95-020 DUES/SUBSCR	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
95-030 SUPPLIES	1,700.00	1,700.00	1,700.00	1,700.00
95-051 COMP/MAINT	1,200.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
POLICE	329,971.00	329,971.00	329,971.00	329,971.00

Police



Town of Veazie

Budget Request FY 2015-2016

300 Accounts Fire Department Summary

Date: 03.02.2015

Past Fiscal Year And Anticipated Need For The Coming Year	Budget FY 2014-2015	Anticipated 2015-2016		
	\$198,490.00	\$212,029.00		
Proposed Budget Fiscal Year 15-16	Manager's Request	Council / Budget Approved \$	Increase (Decrease)	
	\$212,029.00	\$	\$13,539.00	

The Fire Department is requesting a \$13,539.00 increase from the funds requested last year. One substantial increase is the addition of one full time fire fighters insurance and the second substantial increase is for the addition of stipends for off hour fire fighter coverage. Below is a breakdown of the increases and decreases for this account. They are as follows:

Decreases:

\$5,000.00 Call Fire Fighters
\$2,752.00 Workers Comp
\$200.00 Unit 198
\$250.00 Training Instructor

Total: \$8,202.00

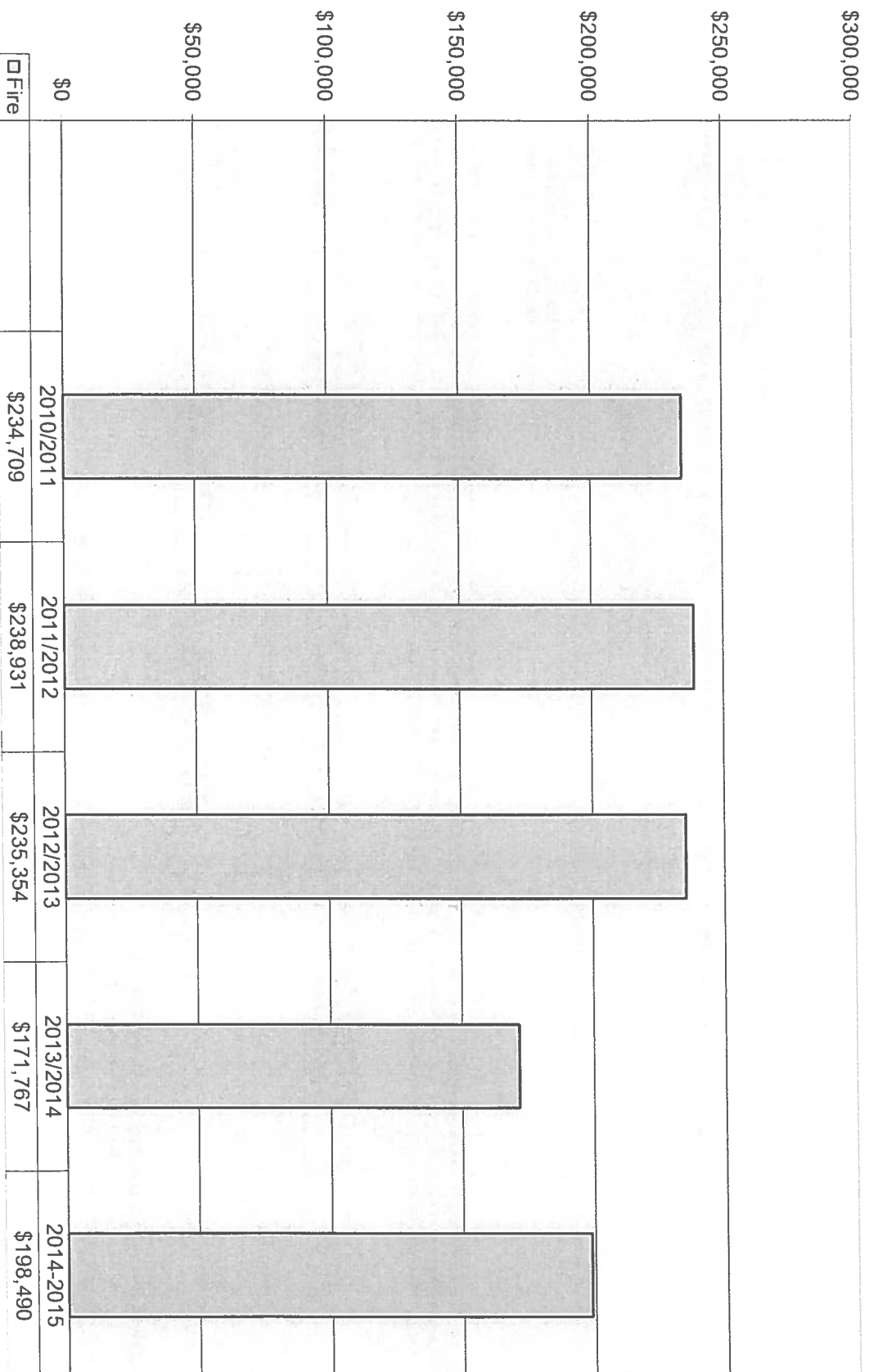
Increases:

\$983.00 FF Day Coverage
\$3,400.00 Stipend *\$25.00/ day x 136 days for guaranteed after hour coverage*
\$1,295.00 FICA/MEDI
\$11,148.00 Health Insurance
\$3,665.00 ME State Retirement
\$250.00 SM Mech Eq
\$500.00 Engine 192
\$500.00 Engine 195

Total: \$21,741.00

Overall Difference= \$13,539.00 Increase

Fire



☐ Fire

Committee Request Worksheet

Expense

Account	2015 Budget	2016 Initial	2016 Manager	2016 Committee
Dept: 300 FIRE				
PAYROLL				
10-320 FF DAY COVER	98,240.00	99,223.00	99,223.00	99,223.00
10-325 FIRE SCIENCE	1,600.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
10-330 CALL FIRE	25,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00
BENEFITS				
20-010 FICA/MED EXP	8,000.00	9,295.00	9,295.00	9,295.00
20-030 WORKERS COMP	13,500.00	10,748.00	10,748.00	10,748.00
RETIRE/INS				
30-010 HEALTH INSUR	11,000.00	22,148.00	22,148.00	22,148.00
30-025 ME ST RETIRE	7,250.00	10,915.00	10,915.00	10,915.00
OTHER COSTS				
40-011 FUEL	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
40-041 COMMUNICATNS	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
40-061 UNIFORMS	1,400.00	1,400.00	1,400.00	1,400.00
40-092 EMS RECER FD	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
40-101 ANNUAL PHYS	1,300.00	1,300.00	1,300.00	1,300.00
40-111 FIRE PREVENT	800.00	800.00	800.00	800.00
PROF FEES				
50-011 MAINT CONT	7,000.00	7,000.00	7,000.00	7,000.00
REPAIRS				
60-060 RADIO REPAIR	1,400.00	1,400.00	1,400.00	1,400.00
60-070 SCBA MAINTEN	1,600.00	1,600.00	1,600.00	1,600.00
60-071 FIREFIGHT EQ	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
60-072 ISSUED EQU	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
60-073 EMS EQUIP	450.00	450.00	450.00	450.00
60-074 SM MECH EQ	500.00	750.00	750.00	750.00
60-192 ENGINE 192	1,500.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
60-195 ENGINE 195	2,500.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
60-198 UNIT 198	1,200.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
MISC				
95-010 TRAINING	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
95-011 MILEAG/TRAVL	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00
95-015 TRNG INSTRCT	1,000.00	750.00	750.00	750.00
95-020 DUES/SUBSCR	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
95-030 SUPPLIES	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
95-042 TRN MATLS	450.00	450.00	450.00	450.00
FIRE	198,490.00	212,029.00	212,029.00	212,029.00

Town of Veazie

Budget Request FY 2015-2016

500 Accounts Recreation Department Summary

Date: 03.02.2015

Past Fiscal Year And Anticipated Need For The Coming Year	Budget FY 2014-2015	Anticipated 2015-2016
	\$14,533.00	\$15,000.00

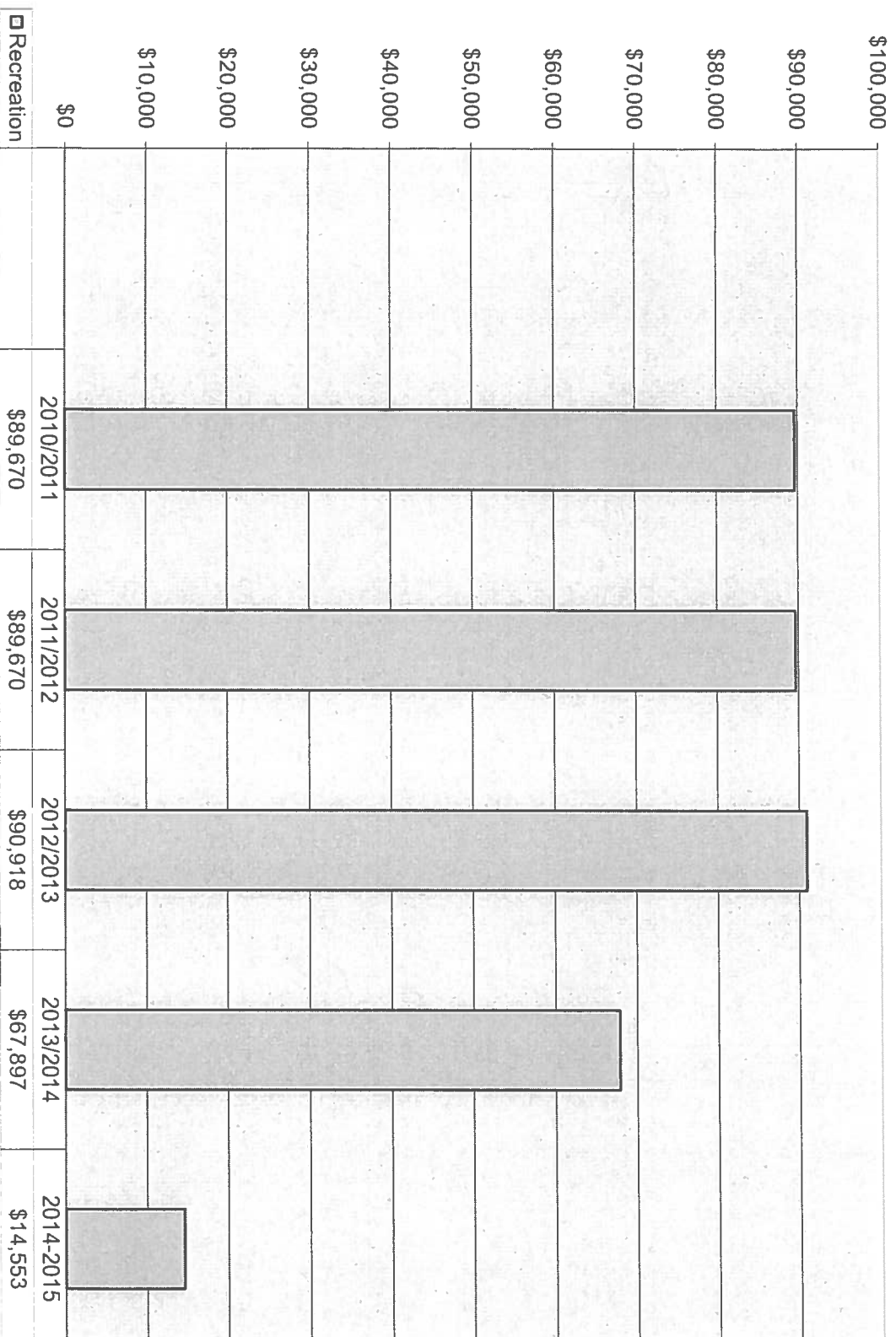
Proposed Budget Fiscal Year 15-16	Manager's Request	Council / Budget Approved \$	Increase (Decrease)
	\$15,000.00		\$447.00

At the direction of the Council the Recreation Department funding request will increase \$447.00 from the funding requested during FY 14/15

Committee Request Worksheet
Expense

Account	2015 Budget	2016 Initial	2016 Manager	2016 Committee
<hr/>				
Dept: 500 RECREATION				
OTHER COSTS				
40-093 REC COMM PGM	14,553.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00
RECREATION	14,553.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00

Recreation



☐ Recreation

Town of Veazie

Budget Request FY 2015-2016

550 Account Community Investment Summary

Date: 03 02 2015

Past Fiscal Year And Anticipated Need For The Coming Year	Budget FY 2014-2015	Anticipated 2015-2016
	\$23,800.00	\$30,600.00

Proposed Budget Fiscal Year 15-16	Manager's Request	Council / Budget Approved \$	Increase (Decrease)
	\$30,600.00		\$6,800.00

For Community Investment Account a \$1,800.00 increase is requested for FY 15-16. The request is to cover the actual cost associated with the Community Center.

Increases:

\$1,800.00 Community Center
\$5,000.00 Economic Development * this is for the newly reestablished economic development committee*

Overall Difference= \$6,800.00 Increase

Committee Request Worksheet
Expense

Account	2015 Budget	2016 Initial	2016 Manager	2016 Committee
Dept: 550 COMM INVES				
MISC				
95-102 COM PROG	2,300.00	2,300.00	2,300.00	2,300.00
95-104 MS-4	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
95-105 ECONOMIC DEV	5,300.00	10,300.00	10,300.00	10,300.00
95-106 COM CEN	6,200.00	8,000.00	8,000.00	8,000.00
COMM INVES	23,800.00	30,600.00	30,600.00	30,600.00

Town of Veazie

Budget Request FY 2015 - 2016

600 Accounts Capital Accounts

04/23/2012
Date

Past Fiscal Year And Anticipated Need For The Coming Year	Budget FY 2014-2015	Anticipated 2015-2016	% Increase (Decrease)
	\$165,000.00	\$165,000.00	
Proposed Budget Fiscal Year 15-16	Manager's Request	Council / Budget Approved \$	
	\$165,000.00	\$165,00.00	

The 600 Accounts will see no increase or decrease from FY 14/15. I'm requesting the same funding that was approved for FY 14/15. Of the \$165,000.00 requested it will be spent in the following manner:

Police Department= \$5,000.00 This money will be used to replace the overall phone system for the building which is nearly 20 years old and we are beginning to experience failure in the system. I have allocated a third of the cost to each of the departments.

Executive Department= \$5,000.00 This money will be used to replace the overall phone system for the building which is nearly 20 years old and we are beginning to experience failure in the system. I have allocated a third of the cost to each of the departments.

Fire Department= \$5,000.00 This money will be used to replace the overall phone system for the building which is nearly 20 years old and we are beginning to experience failure in the system. I have allocated a third of the cost to each of the departments.

Highway= \$150,000.00 The Council requested that an initial request be made for \$150,000.00 to go toward highway projects. Software has been purchased to help with deciding the areas that should be paved. Once this document is prepared it will be presented for discussion on what roads will be chosen for paving during FY 15/16.

Committee Request Worksheet
Expense

Account	2015 Budget	2016 Initial	2016 Manager	2016 Committee
Dept: 600 CAP FUNDS				
CAPITAL PROJ				
90-010 POLICE DEPAR	4,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
90-020 EXECUTIVE DE	3,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
90-090 VEMA	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
90-100 FIRE DEPT CA	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
90-130 CEM PROJ CAP	3,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
90-140 HIGHWAY CAP	150,000.00	150,000.00	150,000.00	150,000.00
CAP FUNDS	165,000.00	165,000.00	165,000.00	165,000.00

Town of Veazie

Budget Request FY 2015-2016

700 Accounts Reserve Account Summary

Date: 03/02/2015

Past Fiscal Year And Anticipated Need For The Coming Year	Budget FY 2014-2015	Anticipated 2015-2016
	\$64,000.00	\$64,000.00

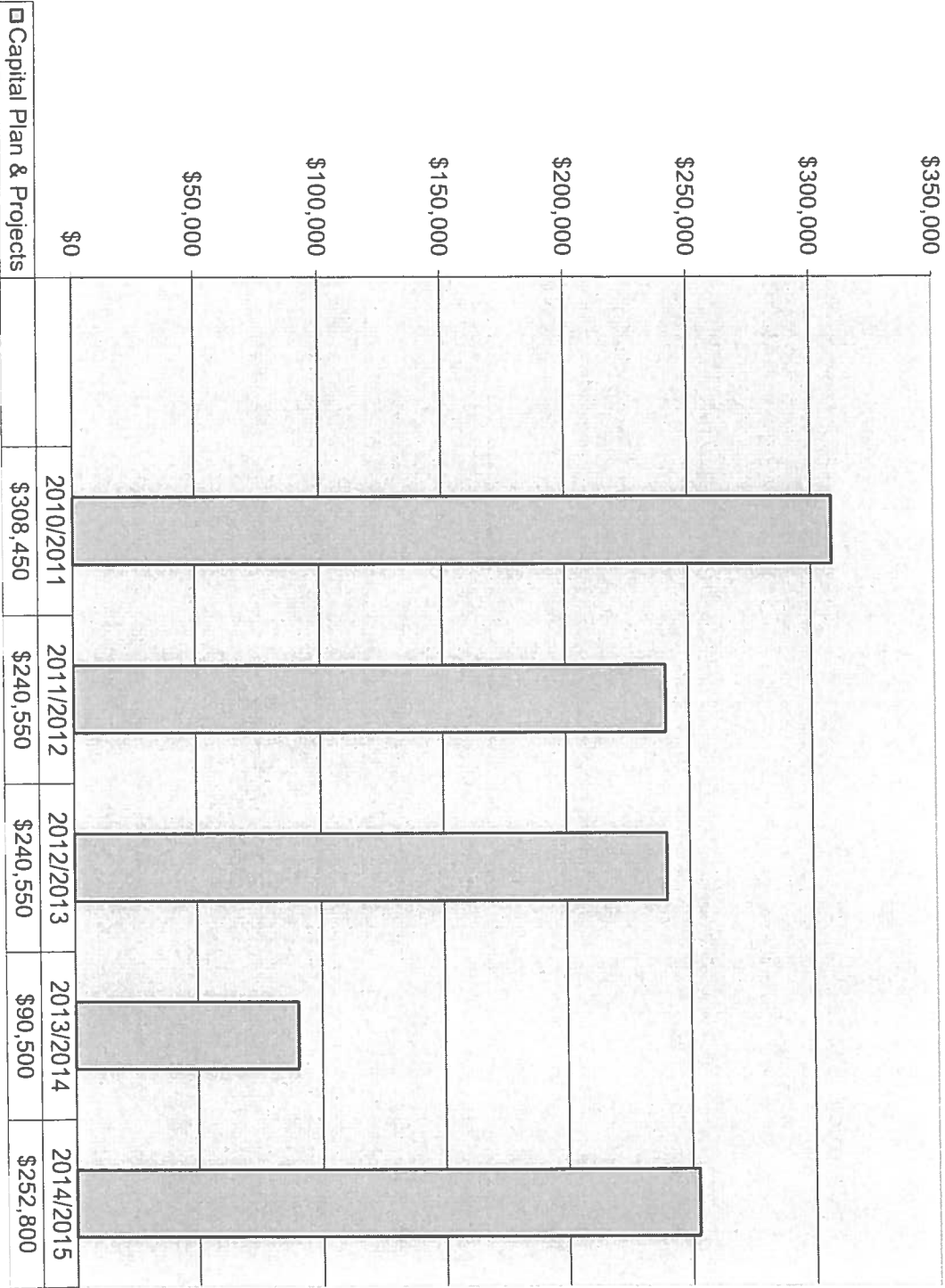
Proposed Budget Fiscal Year 15-16	Manager's Request	Council / Budget Approved \$	Increase (Decrease)
	\$64,000.00		\$0.00

The funding request for the Reserve Account for FY 15/16 will remain unchanged from the requested funding approved for FY 14/15

Committee Request Worksheet
Expense

Account	2015 Budget	2016 Initial	2016 Manager	2016 Committee
Dept: 700 RESERVE ACC				
OTHER COSTS				
40-005 POLICE CAR R	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00
40-012 SICK & VACAT	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00
40-026 TRAFFIC LIGH	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
40-032 MUNIC BLDG	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
40-043 UNEMPLOYMENT	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
40-045 INS RSK POOL	25,000.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	25,000.00
RESERVE ACC	64,000.00	64,000.00	64,000.00	64,000.00

Capital Plan & Projects



This category includes Community Investment, Reserves, Capital and Highway Projects to be consistent with prior years

Town of Veazie

Budget Request FY 2015-2016

800 Accounts Fixed/Variable Costs Summary

Date: 03/02/2015

Past Fiscal Year And Anticipated Need For The Coming Year	Budget FY 2014-2015	Anticipated 2015-2016
	\$419,249.00	\$452,760.00

Proposed Budget Fiscal Year 15-16	Manager's Request	Council / Budget Approved \$	Increase (Decrease)
	\$452,760.00	\$	\$33,511.00

The fixed/variable account is requesting a \$33,511.00 increase from the requested funds last year. Below is a breakdown of the increases and decreases for this account. They are as follows:

Decrease:

\$3,000.00 Heating Cost
\$3,000.00 General Asst.
\$11,040.00 Assessing Contract " Moved to 100 Account"

Total: \$17,040.00

Increase:

\$100.00 Cemetery Maint.
\$580.00 Lawn Care
\$37,500.00 Winter Maint.
\$371.00 Public Trans

Total: \$38,551.00

New Line Item:

\$12,000.00 Leaf Vacuuming

Total: \$12,000.00

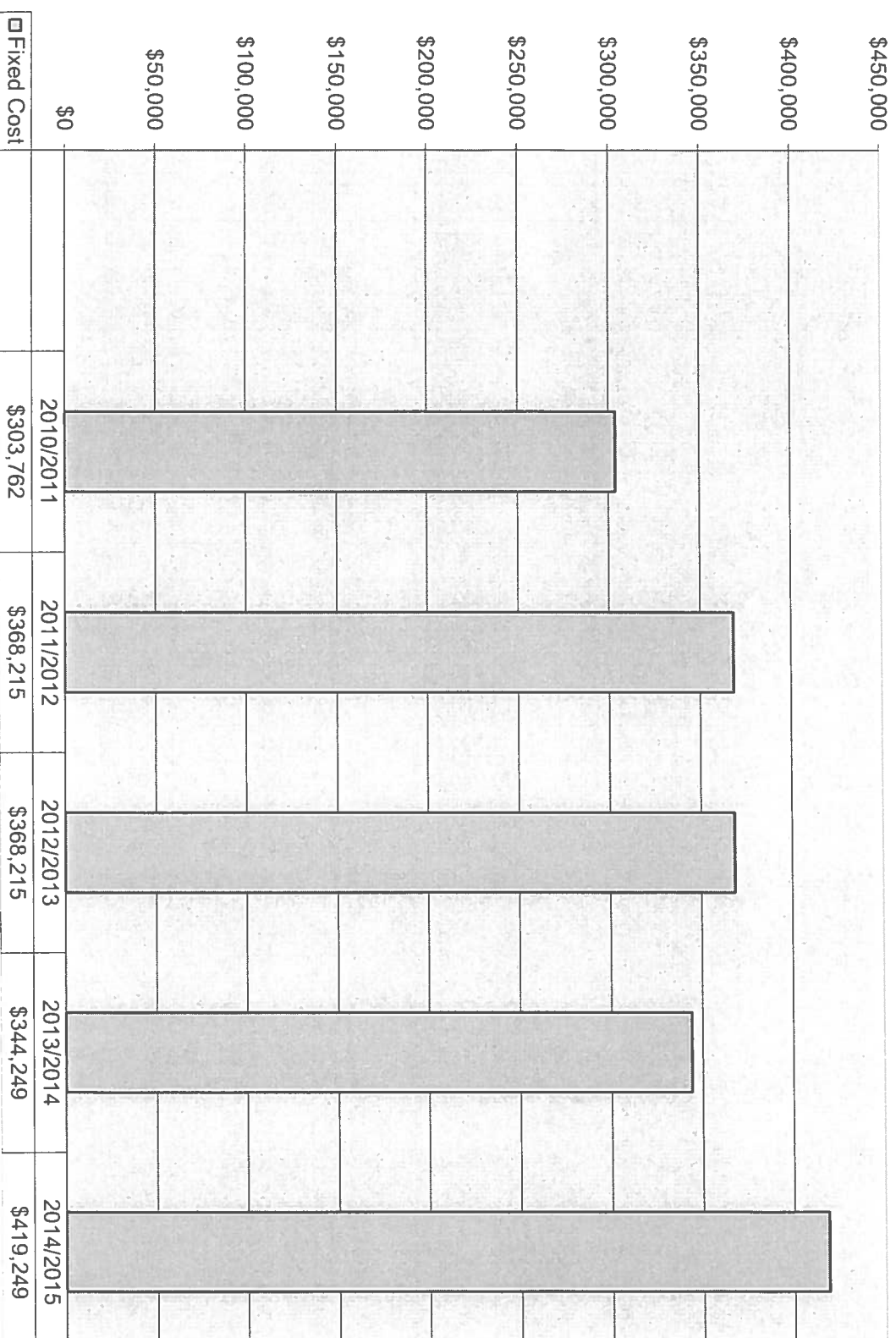
Overall Difference= \$33,511.00

Committee Request Worksheet

Expense

Account	2015 Budget	2016 Initial	2016 Manager	2016 Committee
Dept: 800 FIXED CST/VA				
OTHER COSTS				
40-110 BUILDING MAI	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
40-120 STREET SWEEP	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
40-130 DRAIN CLEAN	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
40-140 HIGHWAY MAINT	22,600.00	22,600.00	22,600.00	22,600.00
40-150 ROAD SALT	35,100.00	35,100.00	35,100.00	35,100.00
40-170 CEMETERY MNT	1,000.00	1,100.00	1,100.00	1,100.00
FIXED COSTS				
45-100 HYDRANT RENT	91,380.00	91,380.00	91,380.00	91,380.00
45-150 LAWN CARE	14,400.00	14,980.00	14,980.00	14,980.00
45-175 LEAF COLLECT	0.00	12,000.00	12,000.00	0.00
45-200 WNTR MNT CON	50,000.00	87,500.00	87,500.00	87,500.00
45-250 STREET LIGHT	29,100.00	29,100.00	29,100.00	29,100.00
45-350 SOLID WASTE	95,000.00	95,000.00	95,000.00	95,000.00
45-400 HEATING COST	18,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00
45-450 GENL ASSIST	15,000.00	12,000.00	12,000.00	12,000.00
45-500 PUBLIC TRANS	20,129.00	20,500.00	20,500.00	20,500.00
45-600 NETWORK MAIN	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
FIXED CST/VA	408,209.00	452,760.00	452,760.00	440,760.00

Fixed Cost



☐ Fixed Cost

Town of Vcazie

Budget Request FY 2015-2016

900 Accounts Mandatory Summary

Date: 05/06/2015

Past Fiscal Year And Anticipated Need For The Coming Year	Budget FY 2014-2015	Anticipated 2015-2016
	\$4,055,147.00	\$4,232,711.00

Proposed Budget Fiscal Year 15-16	Department Request	Manager's Request	Council / Budget Approved \$	Increase (Decrease)
	\$4,232,711.00	4,232,711.00		\$177,564.00

At the time of this presentation this account will see a \$177,564.00 increase.

Decreases:
\$ 22,500.00 Sewer Assessment

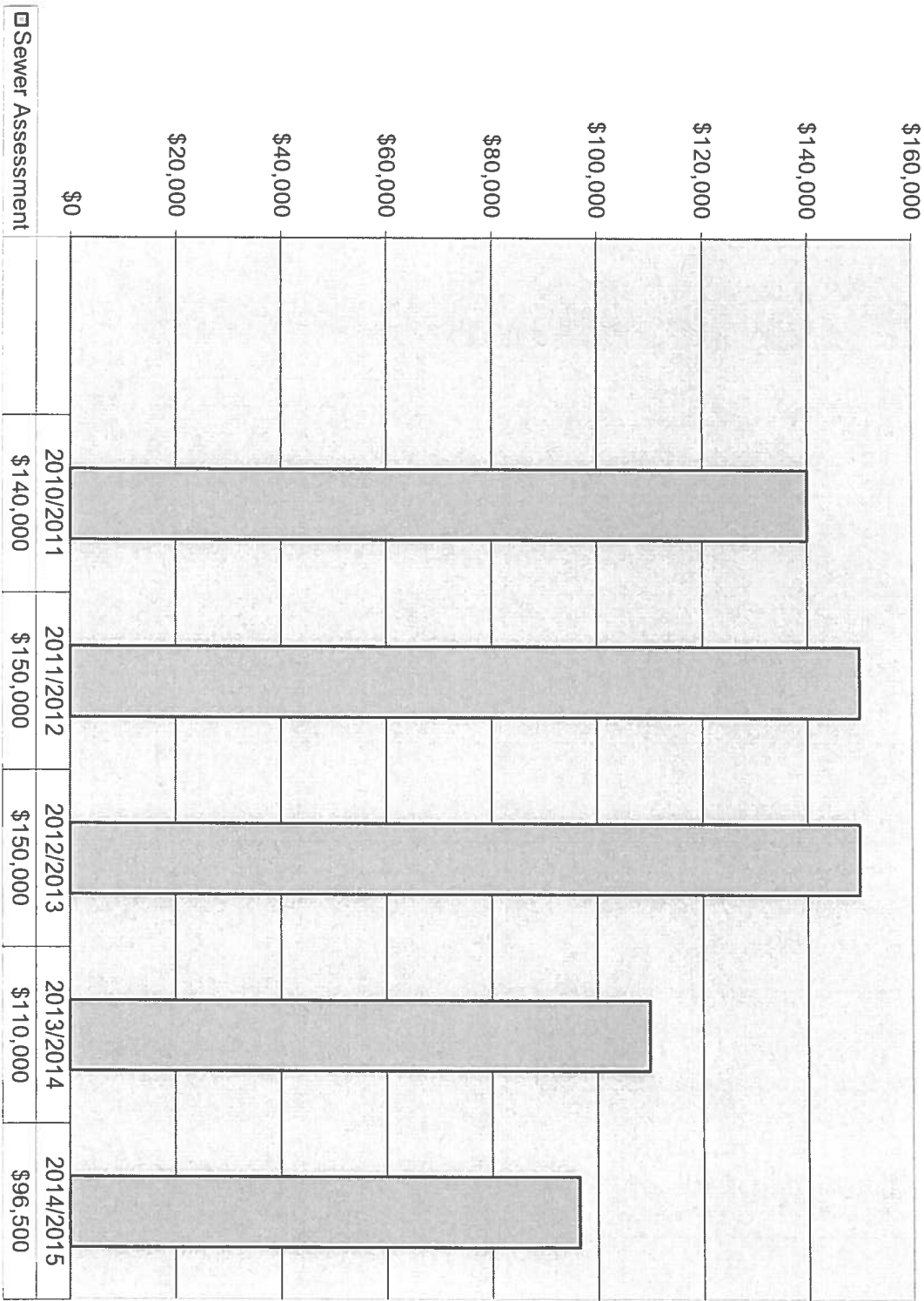
Increases:
\$1,289.00 County Tax
\$201,061.00 School Local Share

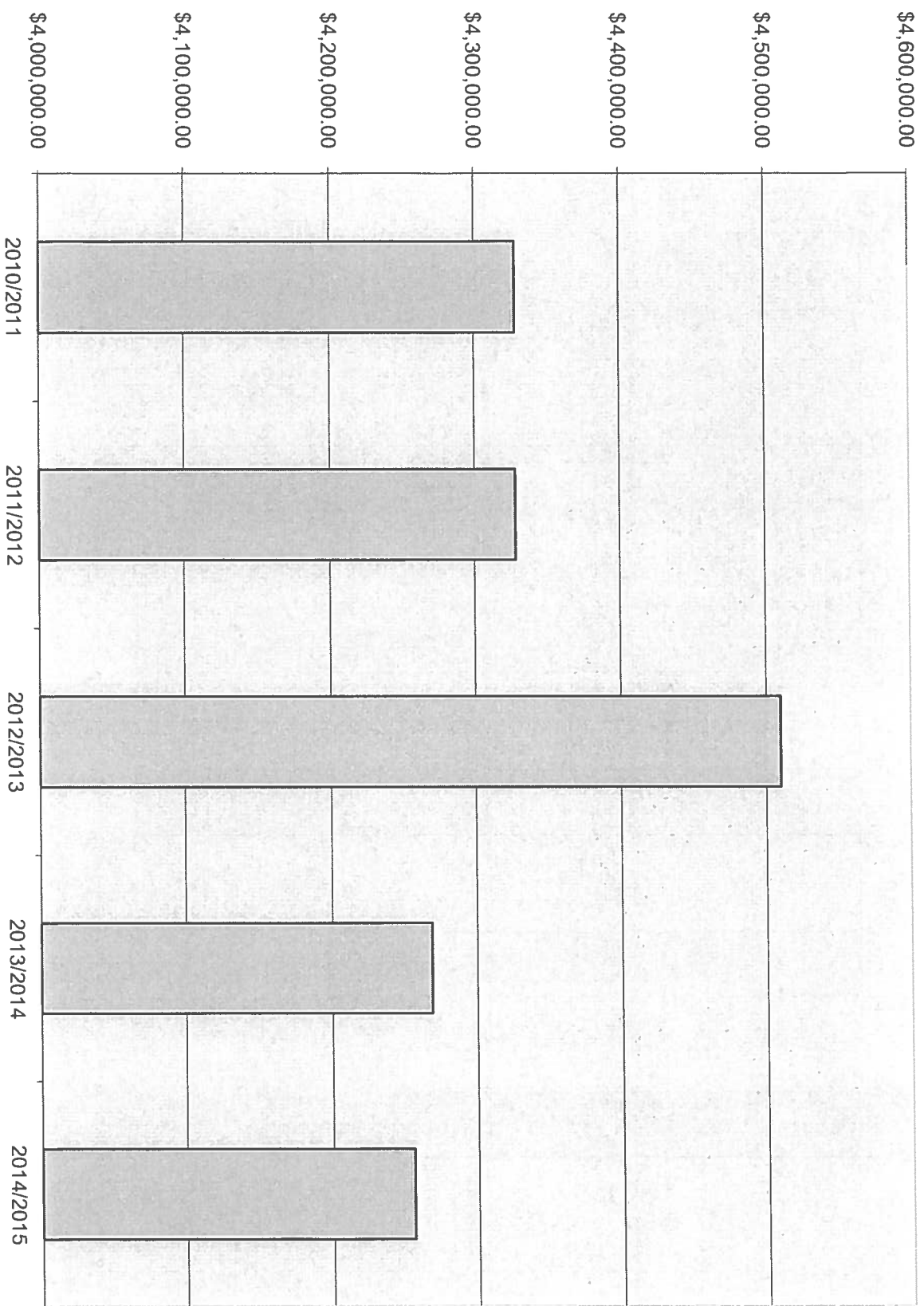
Overall Difference = \$177,564.00

Committee Request Worksheet
Expense

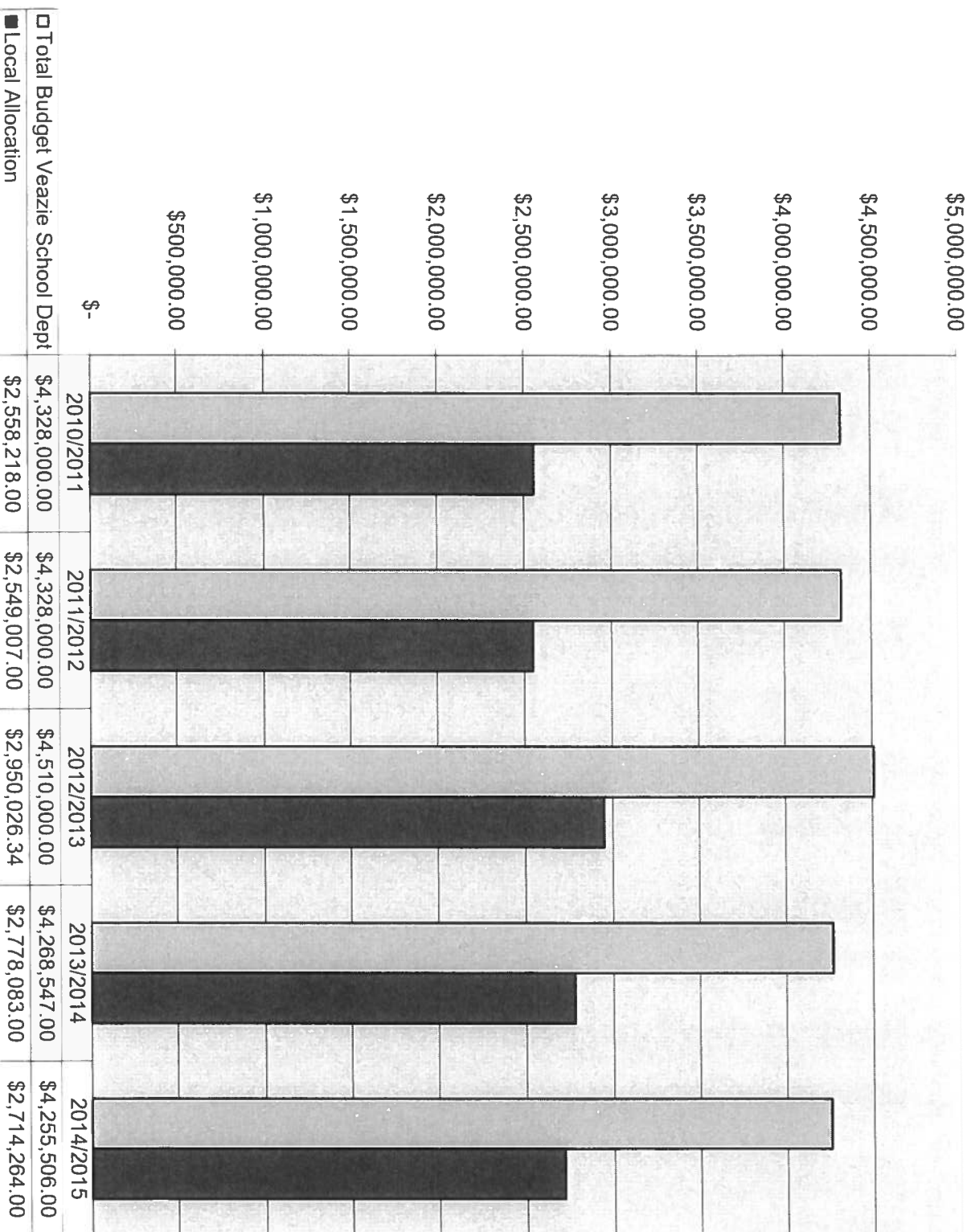
Account	2015 Budget	2016 Initial	2016 Manager	2016 Committee
Dept: 900 MANDATORY				
FIXED COSTS				
45-650 OVERLAY	18,065.23	0.00	0.00	0.00
45-700 COUNTY TAX	284,750.00	286,039.00	286,039.00	286,039.00
45-750 SEWER DIST	96,500.00	74,000.00	74,000.00	74,000.00
45-800 TIF FIN	941,568.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
MISC				
95-200 EDUCATION	2,714,264.00	2,915,325.00	2,714,264.00	0.00
MANDATORY	4,055,147.23	3,275,364.00	3,074,303.00	360,039.00
Expense Totals:	5,538,146.23	4,854,599.00	4,653,538.00	1,927,274.00

Sewer Assessment





FY 10-11, 11-12, 12-13 School was part of RSU 26



□ Total Budget
 Veazie School
 Dept
 ■ Local Allocation



SUMMARY FOR TOWN OF VEAZIE BUDGET

FY 2015-2016

as of 05/06/2015

<u>ACCT NUMBER</u>	<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>REQUESTED AMOUNT</u>	<u>SUMMARY</u>
100	Executive Department	\$309,875.00	\$30,899.00
200	Police Department	\$329,971.00	\$0.00
300	Fire Department	\$212,029.00	\$13,539.00
400	Public Works Department	Eliminated	\$0.00
500	Recreation Department	\$15,000.00	\$447.00
550	Community Investment	\$30,600.00	\$6,800.00
600	Capital	\$165,000.00	\$0.00
700	Reserve	\$64,000.00	\$0.00
800	Fixed Cost	\$452,760.00	\$33,511.00
900	Mandatory	\$360,039.00	(-\$21,211.00)
	School	\$2,915,325.00	\$201,061.00

TOTAL: \$265,046.00 increase

Manager's Report For May 11, 2015 Council Meeting

Since the last council meeting here are some things I've been working on and/or have been occurring around Town:

Following the Council meeting I met with Supt Lyons to discuss how both the Council and the School Board could move forward. From this meeting we determined the following would be a starting point.

1. Identify a neutral facilitator for our retreat, initially identified for August or September. Supt Lyons and I would meet with him/her to outline our intended outcome being the two entities working harmoniously to ensure educational excellence is achieved in a cost effective manner.
2. Supt. Lyons would look to have quantitative data associated with:
 - A. Per pupil costs
 - B. Enrollment projection
 - C. School Funding formula associated with the ED 279 and Essential Programs and Services
 - D. Assessment vs. Warrant (pros and cons)
3. Development of a common belief statement
4. Monthly presentations from me to Council
5. Quarterly meetings between the school boards and the Council

Supt Lyons and I will continue to work on these ideas and others with the hopes that each group will have a better understanding of each group's wants and needs.

I attended another meeting with the Penobscot County Communications Center Radio subcommittee so that we could continue to prepare an RFP for a new radio system for the Communication Center.

I attended a meeting at the Penobscot County Emergency Management Agency to discuss FY 15 Homeland Security Funding which they are anticipating receiving within the next few weeks to months. The meeting was to discuss ideas on what projects the money could be spent on. The funding is used to support all aspects of public safety.

I have met with Mark Homes from HCP Computer and Business Solutions. The purpose for the meeting was to discuss getting the Town's government channel back online. This channel has been off for numerous years now. As expected it is due to the age of the equipment that we currently have. Pricing has been received on updating the equipment. I have submitted the quote for review and approval by Time Warner.

Manager's Report For May 11, 2015 Council Meeting

I had the honor of presenting Sophia Bilodeau with an award that she won from Maine Municipal Association. Sophie is a 7th grade student in Mrs. Healy's class at the Veazie Community School and she was one of three 7th grade students that won the essay contest. The title of the essay was "If I led My Community". Present for the award presentation was Sophia's parents, her middle school peers, Mrs. Healy and Principal Nichols. Congratulations to Sophia. She was presented with a certificate and a \$250.00 gift card.

I attended the Retirement of Sgt. Jay Munson from the Brewer Police Department after 25 years of service

I attended the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training that was held at Dorothy Dix Hospital. Veazie Police Department had 2 Officers attend the training. This training is crucial for each officer to have as they deal more and more with individuals have mental crisis. This brings the Police Departments total trained to 4. Another CIT class is scheduled for some time in August or September where I will look to get additional Officers trained.

I attended the Public Safety open house which was very well attended. Several positive comments were received from the event. This is something that we hope to make a more regular event.

I have met with Town Attorney on several items concerning the Town. These items will be brought before the Council at a future meeting

I attended the May 4 School Board meeting where they discussed among other things the Councils request to flat fund the school's budget. The School Board ultimately chose to support the budget as it was presented. Following this discussion it was determined by Supt Lyons, Budget Committee Chair Wheelden and I that we would not have Supt Lyons present the School's budget to the Budget Committee.

I have scheduled a Cemetery Committee meeting for May 12 at 1PM. At the meeting we are going to discuss adding grave sites to the cemetery, review the new cemetery software and plan for flag placement and flower planting.

I attended the District 5 Police Chief's meeting which was held at Bangor Police Department. Several items were discussed with the funding for the jail taking up a large portion of the meeting. If funding isn't restored by the Governor, the jail only has funding enough for 5 more weeks of payroll. If the jail is forced to lay off staff this will cause problems in the intake portion of the jail which will result in problems bringing arrestees to the jail. I will continue to monitor this and provide additional information if appropriate.

Manager's Report For May 11, 2015 Council Meeting

I have met with a representative from Vermont Tennis Court Surfacing to receive pricing on repairing the Town's tennis courts. The courts are in very poor shape. Several options will be presented to the Council at a future meeting.

A large amount of time has been spent preparing the budget for presentation. A power point presentation will be used for the public hearing on the budget.

Dumpsters have been delivered for the spring cleanup that is set for this weekend and Electronics End will be here to take household electronics.

Reminder that I will be out of Town on vacation from May 13 to the 20th. In my absence Captain Metcalf will be in charge of the Fire Department, Sgt. Nichols will be in charge of the Police Department and Julie Reed will be in charge of the Town Office.

Attachments:

April 28, 2015 Legislative update from Peter Lyford

Bangor Daily News article on Stream Clean up

Award letter and Certificate from MMA to Sophia Bilodeau

Legislative update No. 16

Agenda from May 4th School Board Meeting

May 6, 2015 Legislative update from Peter Lyford

Notification of Cemetery Committee Meeting

Legislative update No. 17

School Board meeting minutes from June 2014- to April 22, 2015 (Chairman Perry's request)

April 28, 2015 Legislative Update from
State Representative Peter A. Lyford

[View this email in your browser](#)



State Representative **PETER A. LYFORD**

197 Jarvis Gore Drive
Eddington, ME 04428
(207) 848-3335

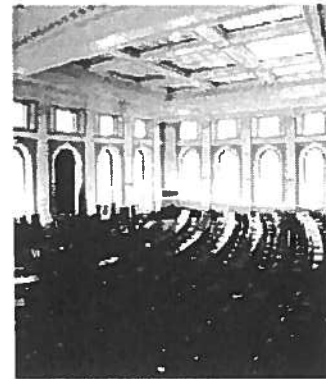
Proudly Serving the Citizens of District 129
*Clifton, Eddington, Holden, Veazie, and
a portion of Brewer*

Lyme Disease

Lyme disease is caused by a bacterium, which is transmitted to a person through the bite of an infected deer tick. Symptoms of Lyme disease include the formation of a characteristic expanding rash (erythema migrans, EM) three to 30 days after a tick bite. This rash occurs in approximately 70- 80% of patients nationally. In Maine, EM is reported in just over 50% of patients, and the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention feels that this number is lower than the actual occurrence. Fever, headache, joint and muscle pains, and fatigue are also common during the first several weeks. Later features of Lyme disease can include arthritis in one or more joints (often the knee), Bell's palsy and other cranial nerve palsies, meningitis, and carditis (AV block). Lyme disease is rarely, if ever, fatal.

For more information, such as the history of Lyme disease, resources for Maine residents, educators, and physicians; Lyme disease data, etc., please click [here](#)

To prevent Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses, the best protection is to avoid contact with ticks. If you are working, playing, or relaxing in areas that may have ticks, you should do the following.



Useful Links for Government News & Information

**Brewer
City Office**
80 North Street
Brewer, ME 04412
(207) 989-7500
[E-mail](#)
[Web Site](#)

**Clifton
Town Office**
135 Airline Rd
Clifton, ME 04428
(207) 843-0709
[E-mail](#)
[Web Site](#)

- Wear light colored clothing (which helps spot ticks easier) with long sleeve shirts and pants
- Create an extra "no tick" zone by tucking your pants into your socks and your shirt into your pants
- Use EPA approved repellent on your skin and apply permethrin (kills ticks on contact) to protect your clothes
[EPA repellent finder](#)
- Check your clothing and skin carefully after being outdoors in tick infested areas and remove ticks promptly
- Wash area of any possible tick bites thoroughly with soap and water; apply an antiseptic to area of the bite.
- Mark on a calendar the date that you were bitten, and then watch for signs of Lyme disease or any changes in your personal health every day for the next month
- Keep your lawn cut short, cut overgrown brush and clear away leaf litter from your home.
- Inspect any pets daily and remove any ticks found

Does the State Have Your Property?

People across Maine are taking back hundreds of thousands of dollars in cash and other assets as a result of the State's efforts to reconnect them with their lost or [unclaimed property](#)

To find out if the State Treasurer is in possession of something(s) belonging to you, click below.

[**\\$\\$\\$ --Search for Unclaimed Property--\\$\\$\\$**](#)

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife Announces Camp North Woods!

The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife is pleased to announce an exciting new opportunity for youth in the outdoors...Camp North Woods!

The Department has developed Camp North Woods to provide opportunities to youth and their families to learn lifelong outdoor skills, as well as the importance of sustaining Maine's natural resources. The Camp has also been established to build upon the

**Eddington
Town Office**
906 Main Rd
Eddington, ME 04428
(207) 843-5233
[Web Site](#)

**Holden
Town Office**
570 Main Rd
Holden, ME 04429
(207) 843-5151
[Web Site](#)

**Veazie
Town Office**
1084 Main St.
Veazie, ME 04401-7091
(207) 947-2781
[E-mail](#)
[Web Site](#)

[Legislature's
Web Site](#)

[Governor LePage's
Web Site](#)

[Secretary of State's
Web Site](#)

[Attorney General's
Web Site](#)

[Treasurer's
Web Site](#)

[Report DHHS Fraud](#)

[Maine Sex Offender
Registry](#)

overwhelming interest by youth who have grown to love our hit television series on Animal Planet -- North Woods Law!



Camp North Woods will be held at and hosted by the University of Maine 4-H Camp and Learning Center at Bryant Pond. Camp staff and instructors will include Maine Game Wardens from North Woods Law, Fisheries and Wildlife biologists, recreational safety coordinators, information and education staff, as well as staff from Bryant Pond. An all-boys camp will be held July 15-19, and an all-girls camp is planned for July 29-August 2. Each week will accommodate 48 campers and will provide hands-on learning opportunities in a number of outdoor related activities in a safe and comfortable environment. Campers will be joined by their parent(s) and/or guardian(s) for the last two days of camp for a family field day and overnight.

Because there are a limited number of spaces at Camp North Woods, a chance lottery will be held on June 8, 2015. Campers may enter the drawing for a chance to attend Camp North Woods if they will be at least eight years of age by July 15, 2015 and no older than 12 years of age on August 2, 2015. Each child may enter the drawing only once. The entry fee is \$5 and all proceeds will go to support Camp North Woods. Interested campers can apply for the online lottery by clicking [here](#). The deadline to apply for the lottery is June 1, 2015. If selected, campers will be responsible for the \$400 tuition fee to attend the camp.

For more information about Camp North Woods, please visit us [online](#) or e-mail Brittany Humphrey at brittany.humphrey@maine.gov.

House Republican Office Links

To connect with the House Republican Office on the Web, you can visit <http://mehousegop.org/>, find us on Facebook [here](#), or follow us on Twitter: @MaineHouseGOP.



Message

Thu, Apr 30, 2015 7:27 AM

From:  Mark Leonard <vzchief800@yahoo.com>

To:  Mark Leonard

Subject: Fwd: Thank you

Attachments:  Attach0.html / Uploaded File

3K

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Holly Vetelino <beauvet@yahoo.com>
Date: April 29, 2015 at 5:53:06 PM EDT
To: "mleonard@veaziepd.net" <mleonard@veaziepd.net>
Subject: Thank you

Hi,

I want to take this opportunity to thank you and your staff for protecting our town on a daily basis. I am sure you hear from people who have complaints on a regular basis so I have been meaning to send this for quite some time.

I feel very fortunate to live in a town that has a police force and I hope we don't lose it anytime soon.

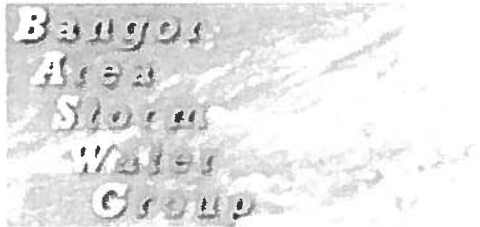
I am also appreciative of the police presence at the school. I really like seeing your officers at the school in the morning and afternoons. They are always very friendly to my kids and I think it is very important for my kids to know that you are there to help and they shouldn't be afraid to talk with you. I have also been thrilled that you have talked with my oldest son's 7th grade class occasionally. He really enjoys having you and the other officers speak to the class.

Thanks for all you do.

Holly Vetelino

www.bangordailynews.com

Bring the family and join us for our Annual Streamside Clean up events scheduled this spring!



LaMarr Clannon | BDN

By LaMarr Clannon

Posted April 27, 2015, at 9:25 a.m.

Bring the family and join us for our Annual Streamside Clean up events scheduled this spring! Spend a morning making a difference in your community. If we all work together we can protect the waters that make Maine great!

Town Location Date Time Contact

Brewer Meet at the Brewer Auditorium, Free T-shirts and BBQ after May 9th 8:00 AM Ken Locke 989-5417

Orono Town Council Chambers, BBQ to follow.

May 16th 9:00 AM Belle Ryder 889-6907

Hampden Municipal Building community room, 106 Western Avenue, BBQ to follow May 9th 9-noon Bob Osborne 862-6527

Old Town Pavilion at River Front Park- Free T Shirts! May 16th 8:00 AM John Rouleau 827-3974

Veazie Meet at the Town Hall May 16th 9:30-11:30 Mark Leonard 947-2781

Milford Meet at Town Office, BBQ to follow! May 16th 9:00 Mike Gladu 299-6480

This is an opportunity to help clean up litter in our local neighborhoods, parks and roadways. Help keep garbage out of local streams and rivers.

Volunteers of all ages are welcome. Come by yourself or bring a team. Gloves, bags, safety vests, and water will be provided. The event is rain or shine, so please dress accordingly.

Maps of the stream coverage area will be provided to designated team leaders the day of the event. These events are hosted by the Bangor Area Storm Water Group.

The Bangor Area Stormwater Group is also holding Streamside Cleanups in neighboring communities. For a complete listing of other cleanup dates or to sign up for an "anytime streamside cleanup" contact Phil Ruck, P.E. at 949-0074 or pruck@stillwaterenv.com.



Maine Municipal Association

60 COMMUNITY DRIVE
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04330-9486
(207) 623-8428
www.memun.org

April 29, 2015

Dear Mark,

Thank you for agreeing to present the awards for the Maine Municipal Association's Essay Contest.

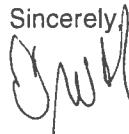
During the 2014-2015 school year, the Maine Municipal Association promoted a statewide essay contest for seventh-grade students. The essay contest was designed to help students learn more about the importance of municipalities and inspire them to become our next generation of local leaders. This essay contest is part of our Citizen Education Program which is designed to encourage citizens of all ages to consider getting involved in their local government.

Students were asked to submit essays with the theme: "If I Led My Community...." From there, students could write about what they would do in a local leadership capacity. Essays were judged on students demonstrating an understanding of municipal government, quality of writing and originality by a panel pulled from MMA Staff and the Executive Committee. Out of the many essays that were received from all over the state, three winners were chosen.

- Paige Ford of Houlton Middle School
- Brendan Roberge of Richmond Middle School
- And, Sophia Bilodeau of Veazie Community School.

MMA appreciates your participation in presenting your local winner with his or her prize and certificate.

Getting recognition in their own communities reinforces the importance of local government and the strong role it represents as the most accessible and efficient level of government.

Sincerely,


Eric Conrad
Director of Communication & Educational Services
Maine Municipal Association

Maine Municipal Association

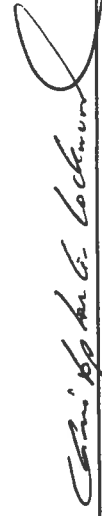
7th Grade Essay Contest 2015

Certificate of Achievement

SOPHIA BILODEAU

Veazie Community School

**"If I led
my
community..."**



Christopher G. Lockwood, Executive Director
Maine Municipal Association



Maine Municipal Association

LOCAL GOVERNMENT
begins with you.





Legislative BULLETIN

MAINE MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION

Vol. XXXVII No. 16 May 1, 2015



Repealing Road Abandonment Proposed Yet Again

The State and Local Government Committee held a hearing on Wednesday of this week on legislation that would change the nature of Maine's road discontinuation and abandonment processes, rewriting the former and terminating the latter. This legislation comes on the heels of what one proponent described as a "long and tortured" legislative history that culminated last session in the rise and eventual fall of a bill that was saturated with unfunded mandates. This year's proposal is not pretty, but it is a horse of a different mandate color.

LD 1325, *An Act To Ensure a Public Process When Discontinuing or Abandoning a Public Road*, was introduced by Rep. Catherine Nadeau (Winslow) to provide a more thorough public process, ensure recording of discontinuation and abandonment, eliminate the abandonment statute entirely in four years, allow property owners a private right of action against citizens who damage a public easement when that easement is the means of access to the property, and "encourage" municipalities to publish comprehensive road inventories going back 50 years according to certain prescribed procedures. In Rep. Nadeau's view, too much information and complication with last session's LD 1177 led to that bill's demise, so this version attempts to be more streamlined.

Roughly half a dozen people spoke in favor of LD 1325, including four members of the public, the Small Woodlot Owners Association of Maine (SWOAM) and the Maine Society of Land Surveyors. The Maine Registers of Deeds Association testified "neither for nor against" the bill, expressing their willingness to accept filings of discontinuation or abandonment in response to proponents' suggestion that registries be repositories of this information. (Discontinuation orders are already

filed in the registries.) The public citizens each provided a window into their own personal experiences to justify their request for a change in the law. Some provided clear examples of various instances when they were unable to reach their own home due to either vehicular or natural damage to the public easement on which they lived that is not a town way.

To the proponents, this is a statewide issue in need of a statutory solution. From the municipal perspective, these issues are rarely as controversial as those testifying make them out to be. In most parts of the state, when questions surrounding whether or not to maintain a town way arise, which is not that often, they are addressed in the typical municipal way – by rolling up

sleeves and working to find a solution.

In some cases, the party or parties seeking municipal maintenance are unwilling to accept "no" as an answer and they bring an action in court, eventually turning to the Legislature when the courts have determined the municipal decision was warranted. If the cases the supporters presented were entirely accurate, there might be a bit more municipal sympathy.

One case in point pertains to an allegation made against the Town of Liberty at the public hearing. The charge was that Liberty attempted to "abandon" a road with 14 people living on it against their objections. It turns out Liberty actually maintains the road on which these residents

Governor's Proposal to Clip Home Rule Over Minimum Wage

A bill recently submitted at the request of Governor LePage and sponsored by Senator Andre Cushing (Penobscot Cty.) would strip municipal government of any authority to adopt ordinances that establish a minimum wage that is higher than the state minimum wage – currently \$7.50 per hour – to be applied to employers within the municipal jurisdiction. LD 1361, *An Act To Promote Minimum Wage Consistency*, was given its public hearing before the Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development Committee on Tuesday this week. In addition to Sen. Cushing, the Governor's Chief Counsel, and the Maine Department of Labor, five business groups testified in support of the bill: the Maine Restaurant and Innkeepers Association, the Portland Community Chamber of Commerce, the Retail Association of Maine, the Maine

State Chamber of Commerce and the Maine Grocers' Association.

Through its Mayor, Mike Brennan, the City of Portland testified in opposition to LD 1361, as did the Maine Green Independent Party, the Maine Women's Lobby, the Maine AFL-CIO, several individual members of the Green Independent Party, a representative of the Maine Small Business Coalition, and MMA.

At the center of the debate is the possible decision of the Portland City Council to increase the minimum wage that applies within the City because the current state minimum wage does not provide enough income for many workers within the City to actually live there. The City Council's vote on that proposal is anticipated within a couple of months.

The word "consistency" was used by

Road Abandonment (cont'd)

live, all of whom are members of the same family. What is really at issue is that, with the exception of offering assistance during one emergency flood situation, the town has not maintained the road leading up a steep hill behind their homes for over 40 years. Moreover, even when originally constructed, that steeper non-maintained road was more fit for horses than vehicles, and the majority of other citizens who own land at the top of the hill (mostly summer residents) prefer that the road remain and easement not maintained by the town.

This story is offered in part to correct the record, and in other part to illustrate exactly why these situations are not always simple and deserve to be examined on a case-by-case basis at the local level. The other part of the record that seems to have been perpetually confused or at least comingled is the distinction between abandonment, which is merely the result that occurs after 30 or more years of inactivity, and discontinuation, which is a formal action of the town meeting accomplished according to a process.

LD 1325 first lays out a more detailed process for discontinuation. Many of the proposed requirements would be new to law, but are in line with MMA's existing road discontinuation recommendations. MMA can see little harm in codifying existing practices that are designed to ensure proper due process.

On the other hand, the bill's proposal to disallow any further abandonment after the year 2020 is not acceptable. Current law abandons a road to municipal maintenance after 30 years of non-maintenance. This is not a short period of time. Requiring all functionally abandoned roads to go

through the formal and extremely expensive road discontinuation process, which includes compensation for abutters, makes little sense. If a landowner discovers a sunken, centuries-forgotten road on their own property should the town really have to pay them for not maintaining it?

From the municipal perspective, the preservation of the abandonment law is just as essential now as it was when the state dumped hundreds of miles of abandoned roads on the towns and cities in the early 1980s. As enacted by the 110th Legislature, the definition of town ways that municipalities are mandated to maintain and repair includes "all town *or county ways* not discontinued or abandoned before July 29, 1976". As a result, municipalities became responsible for either: (1) maintaining these ancient county roads "gifted" to the towns by the Legislature; or (2) answering abutter challenges regarding the status of an abandoned or discontinued county road. One justification for shifting this responsibility to municipalities was the fact that many of the county roads had long been abandoned.

The final substantial component of LD 1325 is the inventory of town ways. The previous proposal contained an unwelcome and completely unfunded state mandate in the form of a requirement that communities research and publish inventories of "all town ways in that municipality with right of ways and town ways that have been active roads at any point since 1965" and to file those lists with the registry of deeds. The premise of the municipal opposition to that proposal was that communities deserve to decide for themselves whether conducting a road inventory is a necessary and effective use of extremely limited property taxpayer funds.

LD 1325 falls just shy of mandating these municipal road inventories, replacing the first of many "shalls" in the bill with "may." Although the bill is a clear mandate in other areas, it does not expressly mandate the production of these comprehensive inventories. A subsequent change of one word in statute, however, would require municipalities to conduct extensive historical research and potentially obtain legal advice to go back through history and record the status of any and all roads as well as any and all public easements.

The Committee seemed to have taken the proponents' testimony with a grain of sugar and MMA's testimony with a grain of salt. Either way, legislators on the Committee have asked the parties to work together to find compromise.

Home Rule (cont'd)

the proponents of LD 1361 in nearly every sentence of their testimony. Consistency is paramount. Consistency is everything. Beyond the consistency mantra, there were two primary complaints about having a minimum wage in Portland that is higher than the rest of the state.

The first complaint is that for consistency reasons it would be difficult for businesses in Portland that have other branches of their business in other Maine municipalities or in other states to properly adhere to the two minimum wage requirements in their payroll management systems.

The second complaint was a warning to Portland, or any other municipality that might contemplate adopting a higher minimum wage, that the municipal and not the state government would become immediately responsible for enforcing the higher minimum wage standard within city limits because that enforcement obligation falls to the government establishing the highest minimum wage. According to the Maine Department of Labor, that task of minimum wage enforcement should not be underestimated and could prove expensive.

The business lobbyists were also focused on the need for uniformity and consistency when it comes to the minimum wage, with an additional concern. Local decision-making comes with certain citizen initiative rights. It was suggested that exorbitant or even outrageous minimum wage proposals can potentially bubble out of the citizen initiative process.

As might be expected, the opponents of LD 1361 were not fixated on the need for ironclad consistency in minimum wage policy. To the contrary, the significant regional differences in the economic environments in Maine provide a justification in the opponents' view for recognizing the state's minimum wage

Legislative Bulletin

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Editorial Staff: Geoffrey Herman, Kate Dufour, Garrett Corbin and Laura Ellis of the State & Federal Relations staff.

Home Rule (cont'd)

as just that... a floor on the minimum wage that serves the state generally but not necessarily in all regions. Sufficient justification to allow the local voters at referendum or local legislative body to consider adjustments where warranted to address the community's needs that are not being adequately addressed by the consistent but inflexible state-established policy.

The one point of agreement between the proponents and opponents of LD 1361 was that the bill raised a very simple question about political and governmental control and how – or whether – to consolidate it in the State House. It has been the policy of the state for half a century that the registered voters in a town or city should be able to make decisions through their local governments about matters of direct and significant import. Whether to modify that policy on this particular matter of direct and significant local importance, to the disadvantage and exclusion of the local voters, is not a question that requires highly nuanced legal arguments to decide.

If the discussion was a room, the elephant located there would be “home rule.” Some of the proponents of LD 1361 said they were strong supporters of home rule, but just not in this case... that in this singular area of public policy the Maine State Legislature and no other governmental entity should have the sole authority to establish the minimum wage.

The opponents of LD 1361, including MMA's Legislative Policy Committee, described a different vision of what home rule means and a different understanding of the culture of the state which gave birth to the “home rule” provision in the state's Constitution 46 years ago.

Home rule was adopted into Maine's Constitution by the voters in 1969 during a time of deep distrust and dissatisfaction with the larger units of government. Home rule is grounded in a cultural predisposition in Maine favoring direct democracy. Home rule expresses an interest in buffering centralized governmental control by means of a multi-lateral approach where governmental authority is doled out among a number of somewhat independent sources including the State

Legislature, local legislative bodies, and the voters directly, at both the state and local levels, through the initiative process.

Over the last 46 years, the Legislature has expressly restricted home rule authority in very limited ways, primarily to ensure that municipal ordinances did not provide for land use regulatory standards that are weaker than state minimums.

For example, municipalities are authorized to enact land use regulations that are stricter than the shoreland zoning minimum guidelines, but cannot use their home rule authority to enact ordinances weaker than those minimum guidelines.

Municipalities must adopt the MUBEC building and energy code and no other, if they choose to adopt any building codes at all.

Municipalities cannot adopt a definition of “subdivision” that deviates from the statutory definition.

These are examples of the ways “home rule” has been limited in the past. It is hard to remember any bill submitted for consideration (much less enacted) that seeks to completely exclude municipal authority within a “regulatory field” as does LD 1361.

From the perspective of Maine's town and city leaders, the municipal legislative bodies and the municipal voters at referendum are as careful and competent and capable of making decisions appropriate for their communities as state government. If the Legislature decides to strip that authority from local governments over something as basic as the level of minimum wage that is appropriate for the community or region, what public policy area will be next on the chopping block for the Legislature to close off to local decision making? And what policy area will be pronounced off limits after that?

Tax Lien Discharge Bill Reconsidered

On Thursday of last week, April 23, the members of the Insurance and Financial Services Committee met to reconsider their 11 to 2 vote in support of an amended version of LD 337, *An Act To Require Lienholders To Remove Liens Once Satisfied*.

As originally amended by the Committee and fully described in the March 20, 2015 edition of the Legislative Bulletin, LD 337 would require all liens, including municipal tax liens, to be discharged within 60 days of being satisfied. The amended bill would also require a municipality, upon discharge of a tax lien, to formally notify by mail all parties who had been sent notice of the original lien filing. Failure to discharge in a timely fashion or formally notify all interested parties of the discharge would create a right of action for the taxpayer who paid off the property tax delinquencies to seek damages in court against the municipality and be provided attorneys' fees if successful.

In response to at least in part to the municipal concerns raised with the amended version of the bill, the Committee voted to take another look at the bill. At last week's work session, the Committee voted to support another amended version

of LD 337 by a margin of 7 to 6, largely along party lines.

As now amended by a majority of the Committee, municipalities would be required to discharge a satisfied tax lien within 60 days and provide notice, via regular mail, to all parties who had been sent notice of the original lien filing. However, a right of action for the taxpayer to seek damages in court against the municipality would not exist. Although the majority of the Committee believes that municipalities should be held responsible for discharging liens in a timely fashion, they had no interest in exposing all other taxpayers in the community to potential court costs and attorneys' fees.

Although the amended version LD 337 protects communities from litigation, the requirement that municipal tax collectors mail notice of the discharge to all interested parties will in all likelihood be identified as a mandate. As a result, the bill will need a 2/3 majority vote in both the House and Senate for final passage, unless the Legislature agrees to fund 90% of the new municipal costs.

The minority report on LD 337 is ought not to pass.

LD 337 will now be presented to the entire Legislature for a final vote.

Fewer Redeemable Bottles, More Solid Waste to Recycle: Who Benefits?

The April 17 Legislative Bulletin contained an article about a bill that would create a special fund to help municipalities improve and expand their solid waste recycling and composting programs. That bill was LD 947, *An Act To Fund State Efforts To Reduce the Landfilling of Solid Waste*, and the way to “fund the state efforts” proposed in that legislation would be to require municipalities to pay a fee to the Department of Environmental Protection of \$2/per ton of all solid waste they cause to be deposited in landfills. That money would be dedicated to providing recycling and composting grants to local governments, but at the expense of local governments.

LD 947 is still being considered by the Environment and Natural Resources Committee but another proposal was advanced last week that at least on the face of it was developed for the same purpose, to create a fund to assist municipalities in their recycling efforts.

Sponsored by Sen. Andre Cushing (Penobscot Cty.), LD 1204 (*An Act to Increase Recycling and Composting by Creating the Maine Recycling Fund*) would capitalize the “Maine Recycling Fund” by removing all beverage containers 32 ounces or greater in volume from the state’s bottle-bill redemption law. Instead of consumers having to pay an extra five cents for the larger-sized bottles when the beverages are purchased and then getting the nickel reimbursed to them when the bottles are returned, the 77 million containers in the 32 oz.-and-larger category would go back into the stream of municipal solid waste.

Removing the larger containers would benefit the beverage companies because it would reduce their container management obligations under Maine’s bottle redemption law, and would theoretically reduce the over-the-counter price of their products. The Maine Beverage Association, with Coca Cola and Pepsi Cola as members, are the primary supporters of the bill. In exchange for their benefits, they would accept a new tax obligation at the wholesale level of one-half-of-one-cent for each bottle

distributed, but that special tax would be applied for just the next 6-year period. In 2022, the per-bottle tax would go away. That new-found (but temporary) tax revenue would be dedicated under the terms of the bill to the newly created Maine Recycling Fund. The resources in the Fund would be disbursed in a variety of ways, as both grants and low-interest loans, to municipalities, businesses, and bottle redemption centers for the purpose of improving the efficiencies and rates of recycling at those locations and expanding municipal composting programs. At a half-cent per bottle, the annual capitalization of the Maine Recycling Fund would approximate \$370,000 a year.

The testimony on LD 1204 was lopsided in opposition. Over 20 owners and operators of bottle redemption centers from throughout the state testified in strong opposition to the bill, as did a larger “Returnable Services” company that services all the redemption centers to pick up containers on behalf of the beverage manufacturers. Also testifying in opposition at the hearing were the Maine Resource Recovery Association, the Natural Resources Council of Maine, the national Container Recycling Institute and MMA. Additional written testimony in opposition was submitted.

Four proponents testified in support of LD 1204, including The Maine Beverage Association, the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, USA Energy (the majority owner of the PERC waste-to-energy facility in Orrington) and a former legislator who now works as the consultant who assisted in drafting the bill.

LD 1204 has already moved in substance and impact since its public hearing on April 23, so a thorough summary of the arguments for and against the proposal is probably unnecessary. The proponents expressed their strong support for a recycling assistance program, the funding for which has been the elusive goal of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee for several biennia. This bill was offered as a way to achieve that goal. The proposed

changes to the state’s bottle redemption law were played down as incidental to that primary purpose. For the large containers, however, the bottle redemption process was described by LD 1204 proponents as inefficient for the curious reason that the redemption centers are prohibited by the beverage distributors from crushing the plastic containers after they are redeemed, resulting in large empty plastic containers being trucked around the state considerable distances filled to the brim, but only with air.

Right from the jump, the bill’s sponsor, Sen. Cushing, suggested that the size of the containers to be removed from the bottle bill be increased from 32 to 46 fluid ounces, reducing in some degree both the negative impacts of the bill as well as its potential benefits.

Almost any reduction in volume of bottles managed by the bottle redemption centers was seen as a very significant threat by the 20-plus owner/operators who testified to the Committee. Their operating margins are very narrow because state law and the requirements imposed by the distributors control all their variables, so if their volume is reduced, the only place to go is to lay off staff, reduce hours or close. The redemption centers also did a very credible job explaining the role they play funding local charitable and civic causes as well as their employment practices that provide opportunities to people who are extremely grateful to have jobs.

In line with the testimony of other opponents, MMA testified that the numbers just don’t add up. Deliberately putting millions of beverage containers into the municipal solid waste stream – containers that are currently effectively removed from that system – will drive up solid waste management costs beyond any reasonable expectations of benefits from a temporary recycling assistance fund. In that sense, LD 1204 is not that different from LD 947; it’s a fund created to assist with municipal recycling but provided at the expense of local governments.

Tax Committee Hears Revenue Sharing Bills

Nonprofits Decline to Participate

Proposals have already been advanced this session to:

- Fund the FY 2016 municipal revenue sharing program at current levels, which are being provided at just 40% of the statutory level, and to repeal the program altogether in FY 2017 and thereafter (Governor's proposal).
- Fund the municipal revenue sharing program at the 40% level (\$62.5 million) for both years of the FY 2016-2017 biennium, and decide after that what to do with the program (Taxation Committee).
- And, fund the municipal revenue sharing program at the somewhat enhanced level of 50% of what is called for by statute (\$77 million) for both years of the FY 2016-2017 biennium. (the "The Better Deal for Maine" plan being advanced by the Legislature's Democrats).

On Wednesday this week, the Taxation Committee held a public hearing on five bills seeking to restore, stabilize, fully fund or strengthen the revenue sharing program.

All bill sponsors, including Rep. Roberta Beavers of Eliot, Rep. Jeff Evangelos of Friendship, Rep. Adam Goode of Bangor, Rep. Christine Powers of Naples and Rep. Denise Tepler of Topsham are to be commended for their part in advancing this important municipal issue.

Out of that mix, the bill that received the most the attention at Wednesday's hearing was Rep. Tepler's LD 980, *An Act To Restore Revenue Sharing*.

As proposed, the state's dependence on municipal revenue sharing would be incrementally reduced until on July 1, 2018 (FY 2019) a full 5% of state sales and income tax revenue would once again be distributed to municipalities, as statutorily required. The current \$62.5 million distribution accounts for only 2% of state sales and income tax revenues. If LD 980 is enacted as proposed, it is estimated that in FY 2019 and in subsequent years, significantly greater resources would be distributed to municipalities for the purpose of reducing property taxpayer burden and allowing the state to pay for a greater

"partnership" share of the unfunded state mandates the Legislature imposes on local governments.

It should be no surprise that municipal officials strongly support the measure, as evidenced in the testimony offered by MMA, the Maine Service Center Coalition and the Mayor's Coalition. From the municipal perspective, LD 980 provides the means necessary for determining how the state will get back on track and advance a property tax relief package that delivers much needed assistance into the next biennium and beyond, as well as predictability to the local governments that are directly involved in the delivery of property tax relief programs.

In addition to the municipal advocates, testimony in favor of LD 980 was provided by Michael Whitney, chairman of the Topsham budget committee. Rep. James Gillway of Searsport, and Naples resident, Carly Dyer.

Mr. Whitney provided compelling testimony regarding the challenges being faced by the community of Topsham. The town is now being asked to simultaneously absorb a \$1 million increase in school expenditures and a \$300,000 decrease in revenue sharing distribution. As a result of these changes, Topsham property taxpayers can expect a 9% mill rate hike, resulting in \$162 increase on the taxes assessed against a \$100,000 home.

Rep. James Gillway, who concurrently serves in the Maine House of Representatives and as the town manager in Searsport, assured the members of the Taxation Committee that revenue sharing funds distributed to his community are being used to reduce property taxpayer burden. He expressed frustration with the sentiment that municipalities are not working together and informed the Committee that the municipalities within his region regularly collaborate to ensure residents receive quality services at the best price possible. In his opinion, decreases in revenue sharing serve only to shift tax burdens from the state to the municipalities and the property taxpayers. Rep. Gillway believes that LD 980 provides the appropriate vehicle for ensur-

ing that the state, over time, fully funds the municipal revenue sharing program.

The testimony of the day, however, may have been offered by ten year old Naples resident, Carly Dyer. Ms. Dyer, who had earlier in the day served as a legislative page in the chambers of the House stuck around to participate in the public hearing on LD 980. According to Ms. Dyer, the struggles adults are experiencing with paying property taxes would be alleviated if the revenue sharing program was fully funded.

Contrasting with Ms. Dyer's refreshing testimony, the Maine Association of Nonprofits, who represents a myriad of tax exempt entities (e.g., land trusts, YMCAs, summer camps and private colleges, etc.) was in the Committee room but did not participate in the revenue sharing discussion. Although earlier this year the nonprofit association had touted the importance of the municipal revenue sharing program as a means for relieving property taxpayer burdens, the nonprofits' interest in ensuring that municipalities receive the financial assistance necessary to fund important municipal services appears to have dissipated as the bills threatening their 100% tax exempt status have been killed off by the Legislature.

The work session on LD 980 is scheduled for Thursday, May 14 at 1:00 p.m.

Recycling (cont'd)

LD 1204 evolves. On Monday this week, the Committee held a work session on LD 1204 in order to discuss in general how to move forward with a clutch of bills that are or will be in the Committee's possession regarding improving the state's recycling rates and composting programs. It is the general view of the Committee that because the more rural areas of the state face a particular challenge in implementing cost-effective recycling programs, financial incentives are needed to stimulate investments. Discussed most often are grants to purchase and install balers at the transfer station to allow for "single sort" recycling, and grants as well as technical assistance to establish

Win One, Lose Some – Committee Works General Assistance Bills

In a marathon work session held on Wednesday of this week, the Health and Human Services Committee voted on 7 bills seeking to in one manner or another amend the way the state/municipal General Assistance program is administered.

The Win. Only one of the bills, LD 722, *An Act To Strengthen Penalties for Abuse of General Assistance*, received a unanimous “ought to pass as amended” recommendation from the Committee. LD 722 is sponsored by Sen. Eric Brakey of Androscoggin County. Under the printed bill, an individual who has been issued GA benefits as a result of falsifying an application would be ineligible to receive additional assistance for 120 days and until the municipality is reimbursed for the fraudulently provided assistance if that takes longer than the 120-day suspension. As amended by the Committee, GA administrators would be allowed to issue assistance after the 120 day sanction, provided that the applicant enters into and follows through on a plan to incrementally repay the community for the fraudulently received aid.

The Losses. Without discussion, the Committee unanimously voted “ought not to pass” on LD 632, *An Act To Require the State To Administer and Fund the General Assistance Program*. As sponsored by Sen. Tom Saviello of Franklin County on behalf of the Maine Municipal Association, the administration and all associated costs of the General Assistance program would be shifted to the state.

A second GA bill supported by the municipal community is LD 1036, *An Act To Prioritize Use of Available Resources in General Assistance Programs*. Also sponsored by Sen. Brakey, this bill would make an applicant for GA who voluntarily abandons or refuses to use available resources or forfeits an available resource due to fraud, misrepresentation or intentional violation or refusal to comply with rules without just cause ineligible to receive GA to replace that resource for a period of 120 days. The Committee voted “ought not to pass” on LD 1036, along party lines, by a margin of 7 to 6.

One other municipality supported GA

related bill, LD 368, *An Act To Integrate the State’s General Assistance and TANF Programs*, once again sponsored by Sen. Brakey, received a 7 to 6 “ought not to pass” vote from the Committee. LD 368 is designed to integrate the state-federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program (TANF) with the General Assistance program by making a person who has exhausted the 60-month lifetime limit for TANF ineligible to receive GA.

The Queue. Two of the GA bills opposed by municipal officials, LD 369 and

LD 1037, were tabled by the Committee pending further work. LD 369, *An Act To Align Municipal General Assistance Program with the Immigration Status Policy of the Department of Health and Human Services* would make non-citizens ineligible to receive GA. LD 1037, *An Act To Establish a 180-day Residency Requirement for Welfare Benefits*, would establish a 180-day (six month) residency requirement for applicants of several federal/state and state/municipal assistance programs, including GA.

Recycling (cont’d)

both community-scale compost systems and encourage home-based composting.

Drawing from testimony provided at the public hearing, the Committee identified several issues worthy of further review and consideration:

- *Unclaimed bottle deposits.* Apparently, \$1.8 million a year in unclaimed bottle deposits finds its way currently into the state’s General Fund. The Committee would like to learn about how those funds are identified, managed and moved into the state’s treasury, and whether some might be appropriately available to at least start-up a recycling assistance program.

- *Crushing redeemed plastic contain-*

ers. The Committee would like to learn more about the bottle redemption process, and what it would take to allow the plastic returnables to be crushed and baled after redemption and before transport.

- *Municipal suggestions.* Committee members would like to hear more in the way of suggestions and recommendations from municipal officials regarding what it would take to expand their recycling and composting programs.

To that end, MMA has issued a survey to its Legislative Policy Committee and responses from a wider group of municipal officials would be much appreciated as well. What follows are the survey questions:

Any municipal official who would like to respond is warmly encouraged to do so. Please send your responses to Geoff Herman at gberman@memun.org. If you could respond sometime within the next week, that would be most helpful:

1. What type of program, if any, should be provided by state government that would best assist the municipalities in the effort to improve recycling rates and develop or expand composting operations?

2. What kind of capital improvements would be most necessary and effective at the municipal level to expand or improve recycling/composting programs?

3. What other types of technical, educational, or advisory assistance from state government would be most helpful or effective?

4. If a state-funded recycling assistance program should be created, how should it be capitalized?

LEGISLATIVE HEARINGS

Note: You should check your newspapers for Legal Notices as there may be changes in the hearing schedule. For the Legislative Events Calendar, see the Legislature's web site at <http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/calendar/>. If you wish to look up schedules by Committee, go to <http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/phwkSched.html>.

Monday, May 1

Education & Cultural Affairs

Room 202, Cross State Office Building, 1:00 p.m.
Tel: 287-3125

LD 1042 – Resolve, To Create the Task Force on School Leadership.
LD 1173 – An Act To Improve School Administrative Efficiency and Expand Capacity for Professional Growth for Educators with Regional Collaborative Programs and Services.

Environment & Natural Resources

Room 216, Cross State Office Building, 9:00 a.m.
Tel: 287-4149

LD 1359 – An Act To Assist Municipalities with the Recycling of Solid Waste by Allowing Net Electrical Billing Credits.
LD 1366 – An Act To Promote Recycling Program Integration and Efficiencies.

Labor, Commerce, Research & Economic Development

Room 208, Cross State Office Building, 9:30 a.m.
Tel: 287-1331

LD 404 – An Act To Prohibit Public Employers from Acting as Collection Agents for Labor Unions.
LD 489 – An Act To Ensure the Right To Work without Payment of Dues or Fees to a Labor Union as a Condition of Employment.
LD 1010 – An Act To Afford Public Employers Flexibility To Achieve Efficiency and Quality in Management.
LD 1319 – An Act To Ensure That Wages and Benefits of Maine State Employees Serve a Public Purpose.
LD 1351 – An Act To Ensure that Membership of Public Employees in Unions is Voluntary.
LD 1353 – An Act To Prohibit Mandatory Membership in a Union or Payment of Agency Fees as a Condition of Employment.

State & Local Government

Room 214, Cross State Office Building, 1:00 p.m.
Tel: 287-1330

LD 857 – An Act To Prohibit Public Endorsement of Candidates for Office by County Employees and Elected Officials.
LD 1354 – An Act To Improve the Maine Administrative Procedure Act.

Veterans & Legal Affairs

Room 437, State House, 10:00 a.m.
Tel: 287-1310

LD 1189 – An Act To Make Certain Local Primaries Nonpartisan.

Tuesday, May 2

Energy, Utilities & Technology

Room 211, Cross State Office Building, 1:00 p.m.
Tel: 287-4143

LD 1362 – An Act Concerning Membership on the Board of Directors of the Lewiston-Auburn Water Pollution Control Authority.

Taxation

Room 127, State House, 1:00 p.m.
Tel: 287-1552

LD 1367 – RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Eliminate the Income Tax.

Wednesday, May 3

Education & Cultural Affairs

Room 202, Cross State Office Building, 1:00 p.m.
Tel: 287-3125

LD 1370 – An Act To Improve the Quality of Teachers.

Thursday, May 4

Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry

Room 214, Cross State Office Building, 1:00 p.m.
Tel: 287-1312

LD 1291 – An Act To Promote Food Self-sufficiency for the People of the State.
LD 1376 – An Act To Establish a Local Food Producers and Processors to Consumers Pilot Program.

Education & Cultural Affairs

Room 202, Cross State Office Building, 1:00 p.m.
Tel: 287-3125

LD 391 – Resolve, To Create a State-run Virtual Academy Providing Maine Students with Access to Online Learning through Their Existing School Districts.

Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

Room 206, Cross State Office Building, 1:00 p.m.
Tel: 287-1338

LD 1225 – An Act to Limit the Use of Ropes and Buoys in Swim Areas in Great Ponds.

Insurance & Financial Services

Room 220, State House, 1:00 p.m.
Tel: 287-1314

LD 1318 – An Act to Promote Individual Private Savings Accounts through a Public-private Partnership.

Veazie School Administrative Unit
1040 School Street
Veazie, Maine 04401
Telephone (207) 947-6573

TO: Veazie School Committee
FROM: Scott Nichols, Principal
Richard A. Lyons, Superintendent of Schools

DATE: May 4, 2015

SUBJECT: **School Committee Meeting - 7:00 p.m.**
Veazie Community School Cafeteria

AGENDA

- I. Call of the Roll
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of April 6, 2015, and Special Meeting of April 22, 2015
- IV. Adjustment to Agenda
- V. Persons Desiring to Address the Committee
- VI. Acknowledgements
- VII. A. Board Chair
B. Board Vice-Chair

- VIII. Personnel
 - A. Resignations
 - B. Nominations
- IX. Principal Report
- X. Superintendent Report
 - A. April Financial Statement (Exhibit)
 - B. Update on Principal Search
 - C. Legislative Update (Exhibit)
 - D. June 9th Town Meeting
- XI. New Business
- XII. Old Business
 - A. Discuss and act on second reading of 2015-2016 school calendar (Exhibit)
 - B. Discuss 2015-2016 school budget. (Exhibit)
- XIII. Board Policy
 - A. Discuss and act on second reading of Policy EFDA, Charging of Meals (Exhibit)
 - B. Discuss and act on second reading of Policy JJIF, Management of Concussions and Other Head Injuries (Exhibit)
- XIV. Request for Information
- XV. Executive Session
- XVI. Next Meeting - June 1, 2015
- XVII. Adjournment



State Representative **PETER A. LYFORD**

197 Jarvis Gore Drive
Eddington, ME 04428
(207) 848-3335

Proudly Serving the Citizens of District 129
*Clifton, Eddington, Holden, Veazie, and
a portion of Brewer*

Moose Lottery

Maine's Moose Lottery is just around the corner! The deadline to submit an application is 11:59 p.m. on May 14, 2015.

You can enter the lottery online by clicking [here](#)

To complete the online application you will need

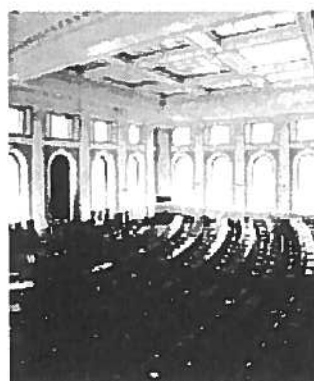
- a current hunting license if you are applying with a Superpack license,
- personal information (name, address, DOB, etc.),
- sub-permittee information (if applicable), and
- a credit or debit card (Discover, Visa, and MasterCard accepted).

This year, the annual Moose Lottery Drawing will be held in Bethel on June 13, 2015

For more information on the drawing and associated events, click [here](#)

Business Answers

Business Answers, a program of the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development, exists to assist new and



Useful Links for Government News & Information

Brewer City Office

80 North Street
Brewer, ME 04412
(207) 989-7500

[E-mail](#)
[Web Site](#)

Clifton Town Office

135 Airline Rd
Clifton, ME 04428
(207) 843-0709

[E-mail](#)
[Web Site](#)

prevailing businesses with start-up and expansion. In conjunction with the online service, there is also a toll-free 800-line which you can call and get answers to all of your questions, including:

- starting and operating a business;
- State licensing requirements;
- your business name;
- becoming an employer;
- being self-employed; and
- so much more!

If the answer to your business question is immediately unknown, you will be referred to someone who can better help. Through Business Answer's One-Stop Business Licensing Center, information is available with respect to all of the State licenses your business is required to have. [Governor's Account Executives](#) are available to help with problems and concerns that arise as you work with other State agencies.

Questions about this service? Please contact Business Answers toll-free telephone system at 1-800-872-3838 in Maine or 1-800-541-5872 outside Maine. You also have the option of communicating via e-mail at business.answers@maine.gov

Maine Burn Permit System

This online service allows people to purchase an open burning permit 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Permits are \$7 each, and \$2 from each permit goes to the organized municipality where it was purchased.

Although permits can be purchased 24 hours a day, the default setting for allowable burn times is **after 5:00 p.m. and before 9:00 a.m.** for unorganized towns, plantations, and most towns. The exception to the default "after 5 p.m." restriction is when there is a steady rain or the ground is completely covered in snow. Some communities, particularly those with full-time fire departments, have elected to override the allowable burn times and have authorized burning during the daytime. Please read your permit carefully and only burn during the times listed.

**Eddington
Town Office**
906 Main Rd.
Eddington, ME 04428
(207) 843-5233
[Web Site](#)

**Holden
Town Office**
570 Main Rd
Holden, ME 04429
(207) 843-5151
[Web Site](#)

**Veazie
Town Office**
1084 Main St.
Veazie, ME 04401-7091
(207) 947-2781
[E-mail](#)
[Web Site](#)

[Legislature's
Web Site](#)

[Governor LePage's
Web Site](#)

[Secretary of State's
Web Site](#)

[Attorney General's
Web Site](#)

[Treasurer's
Web Site](#)

[Report DHHS Fraud](#)

[Maine Sex Offender
Registry](#)

This system is for brush piles, wood debris, and agricultural burns only. Please contact the local fire department or the [Maine Forest Service](#) regional headquarters for campfire permits.

- Ashland Regional Office: 207-435-7963
- Old Town Regional Office: 207-827-1800
- Augusta Regional Office: 207-624-3700



For additional details about the Maine Burn Permit System, please click [here](#).

Farmers' Markets

Maine farmers' markets offer high-quality, delicious foods and agricultural products harvested fresh and sold directly to you by your neighbors -- the farmers. Markets are located throughout the State, and each offers a unique blend of personalities and products. Visit more than one to enjoy all the flavors of Maine!

To access a full directory of farmers' markets, please click [here](#). Other farmers' market related details can be found [here](#).

House Republican Office Links

To connect with the House Republican Office on the Web, you can visit <http://mehousegop.org/>, find us on Facebook [here](#), or follow us on Twitter: @MaineHouseGOP.

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To help maintain an open line of communication with those I serve, I am providing you with this publication that contains government news and other public service announcements. It is my hope that you find this material both beneficial and informative.

Our mailing address is:
State Representative Peter A. Lyford
197 Jarvis Gore Drive
Eddington, ME 04428

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Town of Veazie

To: Cemetery Committee Members

From: Mark Leonard; Town Manager



Date: 05-07-2015

Ref: Committee Meeting

A cemetery committee meeting is being scheduled for May 12, 2015 at 100 PM in the Council chambers located at the Town Office. The purpose of the meeting is to determine which roads will be closed to provide more grave space and to discuss a work detail to place the flags on the veteran's graves.

Any other items you wish to discuss about the cemetery can be added the day of the meeting. I would ask if you want to discuss something that is going to require research you contact me prior to the meeting so that I can have it available.

I look forward to seeing each of you on Tuesday, May 12, 2015.



Legislative BULLETIN

MAINE MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION

Vol. XXXVII No. 17 May 8, 2015



Can the Legislature Be Trusted with the Income Tax?

The bill is LD 1367, *RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Eliminate the Income Tax*. Proposed by Governor LePage and sponsored by Rep. Ken Fredette of Newport, the title of this bill is not misleading. If the measure gets out of the State House with at least 2/3 support in both the House and Senate, and if it is then ratified by the voters at referendum, the Maine Legislature would be prohibited by the Constitution from ever taxing the income of Maine residents, beginning in 2020.

The fundamental question is whether the Legislature should be entrusted to determine the role the income tax plays in the state's overall tax policy. The proponents of LD 1367 believe that the voters of Maine are well suited in the overall effort to manage state tax policy, at least enough to determine how they should not be taxed. The opponents, on the other hand, believe that the management of the tax code is appropriately entrusted to the Legislature, and lawmakers should have at their disposal a range of revenue-generating tools to ensure Maine residents and guests are taxed in a fair and balanced way for government services provided.

The repeal of the income tax has been a topic of discussion since late January when the Governor released his proposed FY 2016 – 2017 General Fund budget. So much so that the proponents and opponents of LD 1367 could have drafted each other's testimony with ease. As the three hour public hearing progressed, proponents warned the Committee against falling for the opponents' fear tactics that the loss in income tax revenue would naturally result in increased property tax burdens and sharply reduced government services. In turn, the opponents of LD

1367 challenged the proponents to provide the details necessary to guide the Maine Legislature of the near future through the process of implementing the repeal of the income tax in a manner that protects the state's most vulnerable residents.

The proponents of the bill included members of the Governor's staff, Representatives Kevin Battle of South Portland and Richard Pickett of Dixfield, Brian Dench, a Lewiston-area attorney, former state Sen., Carol Weston, representing the organization Americans for Prosperity, and residents and business owners from the communities of Center Lovell, Freeport, Hallowell, Mount Desert, Oxford and Old Orchard Beach.

In addition to the have-faith-in-the-voters argument, proponents believe that the repeal of the income tax is necessary to attract new businesses, promote economic growth, and convince young adults as well as retirees to make Maine their full

time residence. Furthermore, the proponents believe that a tax system based on consumption is a more equitable way for funding government services, rather than relying on an income tax system that from their perspective discourages growth and hard work.

The proponents of LD 1367 were correct in predicting that opponents of the bill would lament the outright repeal of the income tax as being overly burdensome on the state's most vulnerable residents. That said, with \$1.8 billion in annual income tax revenue on the line, it is difficult to fault opponents for raising those concerns.

The bill's opponents included the Maine Center for Economic Policy, Maine Peoples' Alliance, Maine Education Association, Maine Equal Justice Partners, Maine State Employees Association and residents from the communities of Poland and Winthrop. In several ways, the

State Agency Rules: Who's Minding the Store?

Last week's Legislative Bulletin described a public hearing on a bill recently submitted by Gov. LePage (LD 1361, *An Act To Promote Minimum Wage Consistency*) that would preempt municipal home rule authority with respect to any minimum wage regulation.

A public hearing was held this week on another bill recently submitted by the Governor, LD 1354, *An Act To Improve the Maine Administrative Procedure Act*. This bill repeals a requirement in the state's Administrative Procedures Act that proposed state agency rules be reviewed and approved for form and legality by the Attorney General's Office before the rule is made effective. The bill raises a question

from the municipal perspective. The rules that are promulgated by state agencies have the force of law. If the law office for state government is not going to perform a legal review of the rules proposed by the state agencies, who will?

The Attorney General's role within the Administrative Procedures Act is to review proposed state agency rules to make sure they are compliant with state and federal law and, as importantly, that the state agency is acting within and not beyond the scope of the authority delegated to it by the Legislature. According to both the bill's sponsor, Rep. Ken Fredette (Newport), as well as the Governor's Chief

Legislative Counsel, Bill

Income Tax (cont'd)

opponents tried to put the \$1.8 billion annual reduction in state revenue into context. According to the data provided, the Legislature could lay off every single state employee (saving \$370 million), eliminate state contributions to higher education (saving \$270 million), and shift 100% of the costs of funding K-12 educational services to the municipalities (saving approximately \$900 million), and the state would still face a funding shortfall of nearly a quarter of a billion dollars.

MMA also provided testimony in opposition to LD 1367 focusing on two municipal concerns.

First, municipal officials undoubtedly believe that the loss of \$1.8 billion in state revenue will have negative impacts on the property taxpayers. One only needs to review the Governor's proposed budget for evidence. As proposed in his FY 2016 – 2017 General Fund budget, the revenue sharing program would be repealed in the second year of the biennium (FY 2017) in order to cover approximately \$160 million in revenue lost under the Governor's income tax reduction plan. Excluding the income tax from the revenue mix will add additional burdens onto the property taxpayers through continued reductions in state aid and a greater demand on local government to provide the vital public services the state will no longer be able

to afford.

In addition, municipal officials believe that a well balanced tax code includes elements of stability, exportability and progressivity. Under the current tax mix policy, it is the property tax that provides stability, the sales tax that provides exportability and the income tax that provides progressivity. Municipal officials are concerned that repealing the progressive element of the tax code will serve only to

underscore and exacerbate the regressive nature of the property and sales taxes. As was the case on Nov. 2, 1971, when Maine voters overwhelmingly rejected an initiative to repeal the newly enacted income tax by a margin of 3:1, the state's tax code should include a component of progressivity.

The work session on LD 1367 is scheduled for the afternoon of Wednesday, May 13.

State Sales and Income Tax Increase, Yet Revenue Sharing Limp Into the Sunset

During the hearing on LD 1367, *RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Eliminate the Income Tax*, a representative of the Department of Administration and Financial Services (DAFS) suggested that the time was right for eliminating the state income tax because state "revenues were on the rise and the state budget was not in crisis."

While the state's budget may not be in "crisis," actions taken by the Legislature in the past decade (FY 2006 – FY 2015) to reduce revenue sharing distributions by \$322 million has placed serious burdens – in some communities to near crisis levels – on the delivery of municipal services and the property taxpayers who fund those services.

The accompanying chart details the income and sales tax growth data that was presented in the Revenue Forecasting Committee's December 2014 and May 2015 forecast report. Copies of those reports are posted on the Office of Fiscal and Program Review's website: <http://goo.gl/yj6dtb>

As shown in that chart, between FY 2009 and FY 2019 the sales tax is projected to raise an additional \$374 million, while the personal and corporate incomes taxes are expected to generate an additional \$450 million.

In contrast to this relatively robust growth in state government resources, actions of the Legislature and proposals of Gov. LePage over that same period of time have reduced and would continue to reduce the municipal revenue sharing distribution from the level required by state law, more or less, to zero.

Sales, Income Tax Revenue and Distribution of Revenue Sharing (FY 2009 - FY 2020)

	Sales*	Income*	Total	% Increase (Decrease)	Revenue Sharing		% Increase (Decrease)
					By Law	Distributed**	
FY 2009	\$ 974,636,315	\$ 1,508,523,695	\$ 2,483,160,010	-	\$ 123,748,797	\$ 102,160,745	-
FY 2010	\$ 954,025,264	\$ 1,473,328,488	\$ 2,427,353,752	-2%	\$ 122,873,014	\$ 97,425,079	-5%
FY 2011	\$ 976,359,279	\$ 1,624,280,132	\$ 2,600,639,411	7%	\$ 130,880,200	\$ 93,156,725	-5%
FY 2012	\$ 1,029,513,306	\$ 1,666,395,184	\$ 2,695,908,490	4%	\$ 137,225,178	\$ 96,876,954	4%
FY 2013	\$ 1,036,887,515	\$ 1,693,849,829	\$ 2,730,737,344	1%	\$ 138,109,890	\$ 95,974,153	-1%
FY 2014	\$ 1,156,331,624	\$ 1,589,045,886	\$ 2,745,377,510	1%	\$ 138,306,246	\$ 66,063,030	-45%
FY 2015	\$ 1,244,308,294	\$ 1,667,907,728	\$ 2,912,216,022	6%	\$ 145,949,391	\$ 63,806,792	-4%
FY 2016	\$ 1,178,768,854	\$ 1,698,861,198	\$ 2,877,630,052	-1%	\$ 156,424,711	\$ 62,500,000	-2%
FY 2017	\$ 1,232,956,053	\$ 1,806,045,313	\$ 3,039,001,366	5%	\$ 155,174,541	\$ -	-100%
FY 2018	\$ 1,290,204,000	\$ 1,880,808,617	\$ 3,171,012,617	4%	\$ 161,938,227	\$ -	-
FY 2019	\$ 1,348,646,000	\$ 1,958,700,378	\$ 3,307,346,378	4%	\$ 168,725,829	\$ -	-

* FY 2009 – FY 2014 Based on Actual Sales and Income Tax Revenue.

*FY 2015 –FY 2019 Based on Projected Sales and Income Tax Revenue published in the Revenue Forecasting May 2015 Report.

**Distributed revenue sharing in FY 2016 - FY 2019 based on Governor's budget proposal.

Where Are They Now?

Update on bills working through the process

We are often quick to write an article in the Legislative Bulletin about a public hearing on a bill of municipal interest but sometimes slower to provide information about what happened to the proposed legislation as it is subsequently “worked” by the legislative committee of jurisdiction. As the public hearings fade away and lawmakers begin to round the final bend of this legislative session toward the always exhausting home stretch, here’s an update on some municipally important legislation that commanded space in the Bulletin when originally introduced. These four bills were all assigned to the Legislature’s Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development Committee.

LD 1191, relaxing the MUBEC mandate. One of the more recent bills considered by the Committee is a proposal regarding the Municipal Building and Energy Code that was developed by MMA’s Legislative Policy Committee and submitted on behalf of MMA by Senate President Mike Thibodeau (Waldo Cty.). What the municipal community was trying to accomplish with LD 1191, *An Act To Remove the Municipal Mandate To Enforce the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code*, was to simply convert the “shall enforce” in current Maine law to a “may enforce”, instead. In that way, a municipality over 4,000 in population, currently mandated to enforce the MUBEC system, could choose instead that the code to be enforced entirely by the private sector “third party inspection” system. The impetus behind LD 1191 should be no mystery given the Legislature’s decision over the last six years to dramatically reduce the funds previously provided to the towns and cities to financially support the mandates imposed on them by state government.

LD 1191 was given its public hearing on April 22 along with a couple of other MUBEC bills, one of which would eliminate MUBEC altogether (LD 1120) and the other of which would change the population level triggering mandatory municipal enforcement from 4,000 to 5,000 (LD 1093).

Update. On Tuesday this week

the Committee voted “ought to pass as amended” on LD 1191 by a slender majority vote along party lines, with the Committee’s Independent legislator joining the panel’s Republicans in support of the bill. Presented by Senator Amy Volk (Cumberland Cty.), the amended version of LD 1191 would allow the legislative body of municipalities between 4,000 and 10,000 in resident population to opt-out of an obligation to enforce MUBEC. The amended bill, as far as it goes, puts into effect what MMA’s Legislative Policy Committee was trying to accomplish, which was to create an option at the municipal level to either appropriate property tax dollars to enforce the code or allow it to be enforced at the private-sector level. The state’s electrical code is an example of a code enforced at the private sector level throughout much of the state. The only difference is that MMA’s original bill provided the option to all 89 municipalities currently mandated to enforce MUBEC. The version supported by a majority of the Committee provides the option to a subset of that group of 89 towns and cities...the 70 municipalities in Maine that have populations between 4,000 and 10,000.

After voting 7-6 “ought to pass as amended” on LD 1191, a unanimous Committee voted “ought not to pass” on the bill to repeal MUBEC altogether (LD 1120).

LD 299, boiler inspections. In early March the Committee held a public hearing on LD 299, *An Act Protect Children in Municipal and School Facilities by Requiring Boiler Inspections*, sponsored by Sen. Dawn Hill (York Cty.). LD 299 would reinstate a mandate that the Legislature actually repealed in 2014 requiring the municipalities and the schools – and no one else on the face of the earth – to have their low pressure heating boilers inspected by the state for \$80 a boiler. The state’s “inspection,” as a general rule, relies on the inspections of those boilers that is accomplished already by the municipal and school insurance companies.

Update: The Committee reviewed the final language and the draft fiscal

note of an amended version of LD 299 on Tuesday this week. The amended bill reinstates mandatory state inspections for low pressure boilers located in schools only. The low pressure boilers located in (non-school) municipal buildings would remain exempt from state inspection, which is the general rule for all boilers of that size. The Committee’s vote on the amended version of LD 299, which was taken in early April, was unanimous.

The need for a fiscal note on LD 299 is created because the bill clearly meets the definition of a state mandate. The Committee was presented with three options as to how it might deal with the mandate issue, two of which are the options provided in law and the third of which end-runs the mandate law. The three options provided to the Committee by its legislative staff were: (1) amend the bill to fund the mandate; (2) place the required “mandate preamble” on the bill to give the Legislature the opportunity to override the mandate funding requirement with a 2/3 vote (or better) in both the House and Senate; or (3) do neither, and simply enact the requirement as though it was not a mandate. The Committee tentatively agreed to take the third option. Specifically, the Committee is proposing to explain to the Legislature in a summary statement that LD 299 is not really a mandate since the bill re-institutes a mandate that was repealed only a short time ago. This practice of enacting mandates without either funding them or formally overriding the funding obligation, which are the two options the Constitution would appear to require, is becoming a strategy increasingly employed by the Legislature.

LD 587, contract indemnification. In mid-March the Committee was presented with LD 587, *An Act Regarding Contract Indemnification*, sponsored by Sen. Andre Cushing (Penobscot Cty.). LD 587 would prohibit construction contracts from including any broad indemnification agreements. Negotiated into contracts, often in concert with a related “duty to defend” requirement, the purpose of indemnification is to consolidate the task of managing claims of injury or damage

State Agency (cont'd)

Legal Counsel, Linda Montgomery, the Attorney General's role infringes on the balance of power between the branches of government and amounts to an effective veto over the Executive and Legislative branches with respect to rule changes. The State and Local Government Committee, which held the public hearing on LD 1354, was reminded that only the Governor is afforded veto power under Maine's Constitution.

From the proponents perspective, the intention of the bill would be for state agencies to continue seeking and considering the Attorney General's input on proposed rules, but that input would be advisory only and the buck would stop with the Governor in terms of whether or not the rule takes effect. Some Committee members questioned whether this change amounts to a re-write of the Attorney General's job description. The Governor's Chief Counsel responded that the change merely recognizes how the Attorney General wears two hats, drawing a line between the Attorney General's functions as an advisory attorney to state government and the function of the Attorney General's Office as the law enforcement authority for the entire state.

Also testifying in support of LD 1354 were Patrica Aho, the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection, and Kevin Wells, the General Counsel to Maine's Department of Health and Human Services. Their testimony focused on technical aspects of the legislation. Outside of the Administration itself, the only advocate for LD 1354 was the Maine Realtors' Association. That Association's testimony focused on another element of LD 1354 that would prohibit the enactment of agency actions that result in the regulatory "taking" of private property.

The Secretary of State's Office testified in opposition to LD 1354, as did one current and one retired Assistant Attorney General, Maine Equal Justice Partners, Maine Audubon Society, the Natural Resources Council of Maine, the ACLU of Maine, Rep. Mark Bryant (Windham), and MMA.

Former Assistant Attorney General Jeff Pidot claimed the bill would do the opposite of its title. Assistant Attorney

General Gerry Reid pointed out the current requirement has been in effect for well over 50 years and rule reviews are not typically contentious, arguing that the rule determinations from the Attorney General's Office were never used to obstruct or "veto" the Governor. The law requires the Attorney General's review to be discrete, examining solely the "form and legality" of the proposed rule, which cannot be based on opinion. Deputy Secretary of State Julie Flynn asked how her Office will know whether the agency was within the scope of its rulemaking authority when handling the rules she has to work with.

Maine Equal Justice Attorney Jack Comart explained some instances where the state agency goes too far in its presumed rulemaking authority, suggesting that the agencies may become so invested in the rules they are developing that the process is not always legally followed. Comart referenced the current litigation over the 2014 DHHS General Assistance policy directives regarding the issuance of General Assistance benefits to asylum seekers as one example.

The question for the courts in that case is whether the directives DHHS adopted as a policy change constituted a "rule" that needed to go through the required notice and hearing rulemaking process. DHHS and the Governor believe the Executive has the authority to issue those directives, or rules, without going through the process required by the Administrative Procedures Act, while the Attorney General held otherwise. This disagreement likely provided some impetus for the introduction of LD 1354.

MMA's testimony acknowledged the litigation but focused on how the bill does not offer any alternative to the Attorney General's oversight, increasing the likelihood of state agencies exerting authority beyond their bounds, precipitating court challenges to rulemakings. Rep. Bryant testified by bringing an editorial from the Ellsworth American to the attention of the Committee on which he serves. The piece read, in part, "The last thing Maine needs, at this juncture, is to spend time and money on a bunch of unnecessary lawsuits because the legality of its own rules and regulations is at issue."

The work session on LD 1354 has not yet been scheduled.

Where Are They (cont'd)

occurring at the site of the construction project with the contractor that controls the site. Otherwise, the lawsuits alleging work site injury or damage, as well as the number of parties subject to those lawsuits, can redundantly expand into more litigation for everyone. A bill of this type has been submitted to the Legislature in every biennium over the last decade or more.

Update. A month ago the Committee voted "ought to pass" on LD 587 by a 7-6 party line vote with the Committee's Independent legislator joining the Republicans in support of the measure. A fiscal note indicating that the enactment of the bill could increase liability exposures and litigation costs for the Department of Transportation and Maine Turnpike Authority will be included in the bill's presentation to the full Legislature.

LD 530, selectpersons/councilors required to attend labor negotiations.

The Committee held a public hearing in late March for LD 530, *An Act To Improve Public Sector Collective Bargaining Laws*. Sponsored by Senator John Patrick (Oxford Cty.), LD 530 would apply to municipalities where the employees belong to labor unions. The bill would require that at least one member of a selectboard or town or city council attend every contract negotiation meeting with the labor union's bargaining agent.

Update: The Committee issued a divided recommendation on LD 530, with the Democrats and the Committee's Independent legislator voting "ought to pass" and the Committee's Republicans voting "ought not to pass". That same division was reflected in the votes taken on LD 530 in the House and Senate, with the Republican-controlled Senate voting to oppose the bill and the Democrat-controlled House voting to support the mandated attendance. Both the House and Senate "insisted" on their positions, and LD 530 died between the chambers.

Likely not the only bill to suffer that fate in 2015.

LEGISLATIVE HEARINGS

Note: You should check your newspapers for Legal Notices as there may be changes in the hearing schedule. For the Legislative Events Calendar, see the Legislature's web site at <http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/calendar/>. If you wish to look up schedules by Committee, go to <http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/phwkSched.html>.

Monday, May 11

Appropriations & Financial Affairs

Room 228, State House, 10:00 a.m.

Tel: 287-1316

LD 1019 – Governor's change package to proposed biennial budget: Change Package Items under the Jurisdiction of the Joint Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety.

1:00 p.m.

Change Package Items under the Jurisdiction of the Joint Committee on Health and Human Services.

2:00 p.m. (or upon completion of the 1:00 block)

All Change Package Items Not Previously Covered.

Labor, Commerce, Research & Economic Development

Room 208, Cross State Office Building, 9:30 a.m.

Tel: 287-1331

LD 1372 – An Act To Encourage the Redevelopment of Upper Floors of Buildings in Downtowns and on Main Streets.

State & Local Government

Room 214, Cross State Office Building, 1:00 p.m.

Tel: 287-1330

LD 1377 – Resolve, To Establish the Commission To Study the Reduction of Unfunded and Outdated Municipal Mandates.

LD 1378 – An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Issuance of Bonds and To Effectuate the Issuance of Bonds To Support Maine's Natural Resource-based Economy.

Taxation

Room 127, State House, 1:00 p.m.

Tel: 287-1552

LD 718 – An Act To Avoid Loss of Revenue to the State.

LD 1254 – An Act To Implement and Fund an Integrated Beach Management Program.

Tuesday, May 12

Health & Human Services

Room 209, Cross State Office Building, 1:00 p.m.

Tel: 287-1317

LD 101 – An Act To Strengthen and Reform Maine's Welfare System.

LD 133 – Resolve, To Establish the Task Force on Independence from Public Assistance.

LD 452 – An Act To Require a Work Search for Job-ready Applicants for Benefits under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program.

LD 816 – An Act To Reform Welfare and Eliminate the Welfare Cliff.

LD 885 – An Act To Promote Enhanced Eligibility Verification in Maine's Welfare System.

LD 1375 – An Act To Increase Accountability in Maine's Welfare Programs.

Judiciary

Room 438, State House, 1:00 p.m.

Tel: 287-1327

LD 1094 – An Act To Improve Tribal-state Relations.

Wednesday, May 13

Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

Room 206, Cross State Office Building, 1:00 p.m.

Tel: 287-1338

LD 1196 – An Act To Correct and Clarify Maine's Fish and Wildlife Laws.

Judiciary

Room 438, State House, 1:00 p.m.

Tel: 287-1327

LD 775 – An Act To Streamline Judicial Review of Certain Land Use Decisions.

LD 962 – An Act To Require the Attorney General To Investigate the Death of a Person in Police Custody or in a Correctional Facility.

Legislative Bulletin

A weekly publication of the Maine Municipal Association throughout sessions of the Maine State Legislature.

Subscriptions to the *Bulletin* are available at a rate of \$20 per calendar year. Inquiries regarding subscriptions or opinions expressed in this publication should be addressed to: *Legislative Bulletin*, Maine Municipal Association, 60 Community Drive, Augusta, ME 04330. Tel: 623-8428. Website: www.memun.org

Editorial Staff: Geoffrey Herman, Kate Dufour, Garrett Corbin and Laura Ellis of the State & Federal Relations staff.

Monday, June 2, 2014
Veazie School Committee Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
Veazie Community School Library

The Veazie School Administrative Unit Committee met at the Veazie Community School Library on Monday, June 2, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. School Committee Vice Chair Julia Hathaway called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. School Committee members present were: Julia Hathaway, Bill Reed and Valli Vel. Principal Scott Nichols and Superintendent Richard Lyons were also in attendance.

Excused: Gavin Batchelder

Kristen Bagley arrived at 7:07 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of May 5, 2014

Reed moved, Vel seconded, and the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of May 5, 2014.

III. Adjustment to Agenda

None.

IV. Persons Desiring to address the Committee

None.

V. Acknowledgements

Principal Nichols acknowledged:

Jan Healy and the grade eighth students for a great job on this year's grade eight play "Dead Man's Chest."

Chris Brady and the grades three through eight students for raising just under \$2,500 for the American Heart Association through the Jump Rope for Heart and Hoops for Heart activities.

Lauree Gott and the middle school softball team for winning the league sportsmanship award.

VI. Board Chair

A. Chair

No report.

B. Vice Chair

Board Vice Chair Julia Hathaway discussed executive session, negotiations, and evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools. What goes on in executive session stays in executive session. Topics may include personnel issues, grievances, labor contract disputes, student issues and legal counsel.

Executive session should be infrequent and approved by a three-fifths vote of the Committee. The nature of executive session discussions must be stated by identifying the Maine Revised Statute Annotated title, chapter and section. The committee enters back into public session for any vote.

VII. Personnel

A. Resignations

None.

B. Nominations

None.

VIII. Principal's Report

Principal Nichols presented the principal's report. He also shared a letter to parents of Grade 8 students regarding upcoming events for the class.

IX. Superintendent's Report

A. Resignation of Payroll Clerk

Superintendent Lyons announced payroll clerk Sue Bell's resignation. He will be exploring options to fulfill her responsibilities.

B. Budget Adjustment

An adjustment was made to the secondary tuition line in the amount of \$10,000.00.

C. Exclusive Secondary School Contract Language

A sample of exclusive secondary school contract language was distributed and will be discussed again at a future meeting.

D. July Retreat

The Committee has set the date of July 7, 2014 for the annual retreat.

E. Upcoming Town Meeting

The Veazie Town Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 10.

F. May Financial Statement

RSU #26 Business Manager Sharon Soucie discussed the May Financial Statement.

X. New Business

A. Discuss and act on probationary teachers

Upon recommendation of Superintendent Lyons, Vel moved, Reed seconded, and the Committee voted unanimously to approve the following probationary teachers:

From first year probationary to second year probationary status:

- **Garrett White, Art Teacher**
- **Rebecca Mallory, Music Teacher**

From second year probationary to third year probationary status:

- **Christopher Brady, Physical Education Teacher**

XI. Old Business

None.

XII. Board Policy

A. Discuss and act on second reading of Policy IHBAC, Child Find.

Upon recommendation of Superintendent Lyons, Hathaway moved, Bagley seconded, and the Committee voted unanimously to approve Policy IHBAC, Child Find.

B. Discuss and act on second reading of Policy IJNDC, Veazie Community School Website.

Upon recommendation of Superintendent Lyons, Reed moved, Hathaway seconded, and the Committee voted unanimously to approve Policy IJNDC, Veazie Community School Website.

C. Discuss and act on second reading of Regulation IJNDC-R, Website Guidelines.

Upon recommendation of Superintendent Lyons, Reed moved, Hathaway seconded, and the Committee voted unanimously to approve Regulation IJNDC-R, Website Guidelines.

Policy Committee member Valli Vel discussed the four policies for first reading:

- ADF, Commitment to Learning Results
- JCQC, Resignation of School Unit Employees
- IGA, Curriculum Development
- IMBB, Exemption from Required Curriculum

XIII. Request for Information

None.

XIV. Executive Session

None.

XV. Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, July 7, 2014 at 7:00 pm.

XVI. Adjourn

Reed moved, Vel seconded, and the Committee voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Julia Hathaway
Vice Chair

/s/

Richard A. Lyons
Superintendent of Schools

Monday, July 7, 2014
Veazie School Committee Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
Veazie Community School Library

Before the meeting the Veazie School Committee was treated to a most excellent orientation by Maine School Management Association, and a delightful supper catered by Betsy Brooks.

The Veazie School Administrative Unit Committee met at the Veazie Community School Library on Monday, July 7, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. School Committee members present were: Gavin Batchelder, Julia Hathaway and Valli Vel. Principal Scott Nichols and Superintendent Richard Lyons were also in attendance.

Excused: Kristen Bagley, Bill Reed

II. Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of June 2, 2014

Hathaway moved, Vel seconded, and the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of June 2, 2014.

III. Adjustment to Agenda

None.

IV. Persons Desiring to Address the Committee

None.

V. Acknowledgements

Principal Nichols acknowledged Superintendent Lyons and Gavin Batchelder for handing out the diplomas at the 8th grade graduation.

VI. Board Chair

A. Chair

No report.

B. Vice Chair

Board Vice Chair Julia Hathaway spoke of first steps toward beginning a community visioning committee in the fall. She also planted an idea for composting cafeteria scraps, to potentially lower lunch costs and lead to a future school orchard and garden.

VII. Personnel

A. Resignations

None.

B. Nominations

None.

VIII. Principal's Report

Principal Nichols presented the principal's report.

IX. Superintendent's Report

A. Website Update

Superintendent Lyons reported significant progress.

B. Budget Referendum Vote

Veazie will no longer be using Glenburn's business office. A transition to RSU 22's business office is being worked out.

C. Maine School Management Retreat Activities

Superintendent Lyons discussed a September leadership retreat.

X. Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, August 4, 2014 at 7:00 pm.

XI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Julia Hathaway
Vice Chair

Richard A. Lyons
Superintendent of Schools

Monday, August 4, 2014
Veazie School Committee Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
Veazie Community School Library

The Veazie School Administrative Unit Committee met at the Veazie Community School Library on Monday, July 7, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. School committee members present were Kristen Bagley, Gavin Batchelder, Julia Hathaway, Bill Reed, and Valli Vel. Principal Scott Nichols and Superintendent Richard Lyons were also in attendance.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of July 7, 2014

Reed moved, Vel seconded, and the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of July 7, 2014.

IV. Adjustment to Agenda

None.

V. Persons Desiring to Address the Committee

None.

VI. Acknowledgements

Principal Nichols acknowledged the custodial company hired by the school for the excellent work they are doing preparing the building for resumption of classes.

Hathaway acknowledged the family members (spouses, children) who allow and enable board members to come together regularly to work for our school.

VII. Board Chair

A. Chair

No report.

B. Vice Chair

Board Vice Chair Julia Hathaway proposed a back to school professional discussions subcommittee meeting and planning for a visioning team as items for next month's agenda. She also used a challenge a neighboring school board is facing as an illustration of the importance of school committee member discretion in enabling the following of both the letter and spirit of school law.

VIII. Personnel

A. Resignations

None.

B. Nominations

Upon recommendation of Superintendent Lyons, Hathaway moved, Bagley seconded, and the Committee voted unanimously to accept the following nominations:

Soccer Chris Brady

Soccer Brian Gonyar

Cross-country Lauree Gott

Lead Coach Brian Gonyar

Principal Sub Lauree Gott

Principal Nichols described the newly created position of Curriculum Leader and heartily endorsed Lauree Gott to fill it. Ms. Gott delivered a summary of what she and the rest of the faculty have achieved to date and what she wishes to accomplish. Hathaway moved, Vel seconded, and the Committee voted unanimously to accept her nomination.

IX. Principal's Report

Principal Nichols presented the principal's report.

X. Superintendent's Report

A. Web site update

Beric Deane delivered a comprehensive overview of progress to date.

B. Exclusive Secondary School Contract Language

The Committee expressed concerns that the current agreement with RSU 26 may leave, not only special education students, but other students with placement and transportation difficulties. Superintendent Lyons was instructed to speak with Joanne Harriman, Superintendent of RSU 26, and report back to the committee at the September meeting.

C. Business Options

Superintendent Lyons brought the Committee up to date on the changing of the office that handles business transactions for the school system. It is projected that January 1, 2015 the changeover from Glenburn to RSU 22 will take place.

D. Town Charter

In light of recent Town Council efforts to gain line item control over the school budget, the Committee has examined the Town Council Charter. It was agreed that currently we are in a good situation. Similar unsuccessful efforts by the Bangor Town Council to gain this control over their town's school budget were mentioned.

School Board Workshop

Superintendent Lyons described a workshop, "Proficiency Based Education," to be held September 23 at Eastern Maine Community College and urged Committee members to attend.

There was also discussion of placement of Pre-K students in the 2014-2015 calendar year and the need to explore future options. A possible partnership with Penquis CAP was mentioned.

XI. New Business

None.

XII. Old Business

None.

XIII. Board Policy

A. Upon recommendation of Superintendent Lyons, Hathaway moved, Batchelder seconded, and the Committee voted unanimously to approve Policy ADF, Commitment To Learning Results.

B. Upon Recommendation of Superintendent Lyons, Hathaway moved, Batchelder seconded, and the Committee voted unanimously to approve Policy GCQC, Resignation of School Unit Employees.

C. Upon recommendation of Superintendent Lyons, Hathaway moved, Batchelder seconded, and the Committee voted unanimously to approve Policy IGA, Curriculum Development.

D. Upon recommendation of Superintendent Lyons, Hathaway moved, Batchelder seconded, and the Committee voted unanimously to approve Policy IMBB, Exemption From Required Curriculum.

E. Discussion of Policy JICK - Bullying

After an extensive discussion, the policy subcommittee was instructed to examine policies on bullying and cyberbullying at their first meeting of the 2014-2015 school year.

XIV. Request For Information

None.

XV. Executive Session

None.

XVI. Next Meeting - September 8, 2014.

XVII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Julia Hathaway
Vice Chair

Richard A. Lyons
Superintendent of Schools

Monday, September 8, 2014
Veazie School Committee Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
Veazie Community School Library

The Veazie School Administrative Unit Committee met at the Veazie Community School Library on Monday, September 8, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. School committee members present were Kristen Bagley, Gavin Batchelder, Julia Hathaway, Bill Reed, and Valli Vel. Principal Scott Nichols and Superintendent Richard Lyons were also in attendance.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of August 4, 2014

Reed moved, Vel seconded, and the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of August 4, 2014.

IV. Adjustment to Agenda

None.

V. Persons Desiring to Address the Committee

None.

VI. Acknowledgements

Principal Nichols acknowledged:

Holly Humphrey, Jill Chandler, Michelle Walsh for providing a kindergarten orientation for kindergarten children and parents the day before school started; Laurie Kimball for providing a grade one drop-in opportunity the day before school started; Lauree Gott for providing an MLTI informational meeting at the conclusion of middle school parent night.

Julia Hathaway acknowledged the excellent and inspired work of Christine Schmidt, who has for years been Sharon Brady's most capable assistant, and conveyed the Committee's best wishes for success in her new job.

Superintendent Lyons acknowledged Sharon Soucie, Sharon Brady, and Principal Nichols for positive fiscal oversight resulting in a favorable fund balance.

Valli Vel acknowledged the progression and usefulness of the school website. Gavin Batchelder echoed her sentiment.

VII. Board Chair

A. Chair

No report.

B. Vice Chair

Board Vice Chair Julia Hathaway conducted a mini lesson on the ways (acceptance of resignation, contract nonrenewal, dismissal, reduction in force) school systems can sever ties with teachers, and the laws concerning them. She reminded the committee that these can be highly emotional events for parents and other concerned citizens and that school committee members need to remember to abide by the letter and spirit of the law and set an example of decorum, closing with a saying: "Conscience is worth a thousand witnesses."

She asked for and received a head nod consensus that the policy subcommittee may meet with teachers to discuss the beginning of the school year.

VIII. Personnel

A. Resignations

None.

B. Nominations

Upon recommendation of Superintendent Lyons, Reed moved, Bagley seconded, and the committee voted unanimously to accept the co-curricular nominations of:

Recertification:	Holly Humphrey
Mentor:	Kelly Fish
Mentor:	Melissa Hileman
Website:	Brian Gonyar
Technology Lead:	Lauree Gott

IX. Principal's Report

Principal Nichols presented the principal's report.

X. Superintendent's Report

A. Fiscal Year 2014 Unaudited Financial Overview

Sharon Soucie presented the most recent financial overview. Superintendent Lyons pronounced finances to be in a positive state.

B. Virtual Charter School Initiatives

None.

XII. Old Business

A. Discuss Goal Statements

The date for the PowerPoint meeting will be set next month.

B. Secondary Exclusive Contract

RSU 22 is the only school unit that has put in a bid. Pros and cons were discussed. Superintendent Lyons will get some cost figures and bring them to the January meeting.

C. Discuss Bus Camera Install

This matter and the importance of getting the word out were discussed.

D. Discuss Multi-year Contract for Services

Superintendent Lyons recommended a two year contract for special services, superintendent services and business services. This will be a January agenda item.

XIII. Board Policy

A. Discuss and act on second reading of Policy GBO, Family Care Leave

Upon recommendation of Superintendent Lyons, Reed moved, Hathaway seconded, and the Committee voted unanimously to approve Policy GBO, Family Care Leave.

B. Discuss and act on second reading of Policy IHBAL, Grievance Procedure for Persons with Disabilities

Upon recommendation of Superintendent Lyons, Hathaway moved, Batchelder seconded, and the Committee voted unanimously to approve Policy IHBAL, Grievance Procedure for Persons with Disabilities.

C. Discuss and act on second reading of Policy IKE, Promotion, Retention, and Acceleration of Students

Upon recommendation of Superintendent Lyons, Hathaway moved, Bagley seconded, and the Committee voted unanimously to approve Policy IKE, Promotion, Retention, and Acceleration of Students.

XIV. Request For Information

None.

XV. Executive Session

None.

XVI. Next Meeting - January 5, 2015.

XVII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Julia Hathaway
Vice Chair

Richard A. Lyons
Superintendent of Schools

Superintendent Lyons presented the latest virtual charter school news and discussed the implications, particularly the fiscal ones, for school districts.

C. PREP September 23 Workshop

Superintendent Lyons discussed an upcoming Penobscot River Educational Partnership workshop titled “Leadership in a Time of Change - Proficiency Based Education” and recommended that Committee members avail ourselves of this opportunity. Hathaway and Vel volunteered to do so.

D. MSMA Annual Conference, October 23-24

Superintendent Lyons discussed the MSMA Fall Conference and recommended that Committee members avail ourselves of this opportunity. Hathaway and Vel volunteered to do so.

XI. New Business

A. Discuss secondary contract language.

The current contract with RSU 26 was discussed in light of concerns (transportation difficulties for high school students accepted by other school districts; special education students lacking placements) with its current status. Superintendent Lyons was directed to formulate a “Request for Proposals” for an exclusive contract and send to regional school systems with high schools.

XII. Old Business

A. Discuss and act on business services.

Upon recommendation of Superintendent Lyons, Hathaway moved, Vel seconded, and the Committee voted unanimously to transfer business services from Glenburn to RSU 22 as of January 1, 2015.

XIII. Board Policy

There were no policies to review. The policy subcommittee will be meeting before the October meeting of the School Committee.

XIV. Request For Information

None.

XV. Executive Session

None.

XVI. Next Meeting - October 6, 2014.

XVII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Julia Hathaway
Vice Chair

Richard A. Lyons
Superintendent of Schools

Monday, October 6, 2014
Veazie School Committee Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
Veazie Community School Library

The Veazie School Administrative Unit Committee met at the Veazie Community School Library on Monday, October 6, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. School committee members present were Gavin Batchelder, Julia Hathaway, Bill Reed, and Valli Vel. Principal Scott Nichols and Superintendent Richard Lyons were also in attendance.

Kristen Bagley was excused.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of September 8, 2014

Reed moved, Vel seconded, and the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of September 8, 2014.

IV. Adjustment to Agenda

None.

V. Persons Desiring to Address the Committee

None.

VI. Acknowledgements

Principal Nichols acknowledged the following fall sports coaches:

- Chris Brady and Brian Gonyar, Soccer
- Lauree Gott, Cross Country

VII. Board Chair

A. Chair

Committee Chair Gavin Batchelder discussed his upcoming meeting with the RSU 26 Board of Directors in regard to revisiting the agreement on accepting Veazie students.

B. Vice Chair

Committee Vice Chair Julia Hathaway conducted a mini lesson on laws regarding the employment of principals. She reminded committee members that non-renewal can be

very emotional, citing the uproar that occurred when RSU 26 almost cut one principal position.

Ms. Hathaway also discussed the need for a visioning team. It will be on next month's agenda.

VIII. Personnel

A. Resignations

None.

B. Nominations

None.

IX. Principal's Report

Principal Nichols presented the principal's report. He said that Veazie will continue to work with RSU 26 on teacher recertification. Lauree Gott spoke about science programming.

X. Superintendent's Report

A. Request for Proposals for Educational Services

Superintendent Lyons brought the Committee up to date.

B. Maine School Management Conference

Vice Chair Julia Hathaway will be the voting delegate.

C. September Financials

The Committee was brought up to date.

XI. New Business

A. Discuss and act on school lunch prices for 2014-2015

Upon recommendation of Superintendent Lyons, Vel moved, Hathaway seconded, and the Committee voted unanimously to raise the cost of school lunches

- \$2.10 to \$2.35 (full price)
- \$1.10 to \$1.25 (partial price)

beginning Monday, November 3, 2014.

B. Discuss and act on voting delegate.

See Article XB.

XII. Old Business

None.

XIII. Board Policy

First readings were done of Policy JICK, Bullying, and Policy JIC, Student Code of Conduct.

XIV. Request For Information

None.

XV. Executive Session

None.

XVI. Next Meeting - November 3, 2014.

XVII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Julia Hathaway
Vice Chair

/s/

Richard A. Lyons
Superintendent of Schools

Monday, November 3, 2014
Veazie School Committee Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
Veazie Community School Art Room

The Veazie School Administrative Unit Committee met at the Veazie Community School Art Room on Monday, November 3, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. School committee members present were Gavin Batchelder, Kristen Bagley, Julia Hathaway, Bill Reed, and Valli Vel. Principal Scott Nichols and Superintendent Richard Lyons were also in attendance.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of October 6, 2014

Reed moved, Vel seconded, and the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 6, 2014.

IV. Adjustment to Agenda

Julia Hathaway requested that the discussion of goal setting be removed from this month's agenda.

V. Persons Desiring to Address the Committee

None.

VI. Acknowledgements

Principal Nichols acknowledged the following:

- Librarian Gail Harrison and literacy teacher Susan Logan for organizing a visit by author Lynn Plourde;
- The boys and girls soccer teams and coaches Chris Brady and Brian Gonyar for both finishing the season as Mid-Maine League runners-up. The boys also won the league sportsmanship award;
- The boys cross-country team and coach Lauree Gott for a second place finish in the Small Schools Championship and a third place in the Island Championship. Grade 8 runner Gavin MacDonald won the Small Schools.

Kristen Bagley acknowledged Susan Logan for a well run reading program.

VII. Board Chair

A. Chair

None.

B. Vice Chair

Committee Vice Chair Julia Hathaway gave a presentation on the 2014 Maine School Management Fall Conference which she attended as a delegate.

VIII. Personnel

A. Resignations

None.

B. Nominations

Reed moved, Bagley seconded, and the Committee voted unanimously to approve the nominations of Lauree Gott and Jill Chandler to advise middle school student council.

IX. Principal's Report

Principal Nichols presented the principal's report. When several Committee members expressed concerns about unruly student behavior on school buses he agreed to look into the purchase of cameras for the buses.

X. Superintendent's Report

A. Request for Proposals on Exclusive High School

They are due November 7 at 4:00.

B. Contracted Services.

Business office transition is on track to take place as scheduled. Mr. Lyons described his impending retirement and continuation of superintendent responsibilities for subsequent years.

C. October Financial Statement

The October Financial Statement was presented.

XI. New Business

None.

XII. Old Business

None.

XIII. Board Policy

A. Discuss second reading of Policy JICK, Bullying

Upon recommendation of Superintendent Lyons, Hathaway moved, Batchelder seconded, and the Committee voted unanimously to approve Policy JICK, Bullying.

B. Discuss second reading of Policy JIC, Student Code of Conduct

Upon recommendation of Superintendent Lyons, Reed moved, Bagley seconded, and the Committee voted unanimously to approve Policy JIC, Student Code of Conduct.

First readings were done of Policy GBO, Family Care Leave, Policy IHBAL, Grievance Procedure for Persons With Disabilities, and Policy IKE, Promotion, Retention, and Acceleration of Students.

XIV. Request For Information

Cameras for buses.

XV. Executive Session

None.

XVI. Next Meeting - December 1, 2014.

XVII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Julia Hathaway
Vice Chair

Richard A. Lyons
Superintendent of Schools

Monday, December 1, 2014
Veazie School Committee Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
Veazie Community School Library

The Veazie School Administrative Unit Committee met at the Veazie Community School Library on Monday, December 1, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. School committee members present were Gavin Batchelder, Kristen Bagley, Julia Hathaway, Bill Reed, and Valli Vel. Principal Scott Nichols and Superintendent Richard Lyons were also in attendance.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of November 3, 2014

Reed moved, Bagley seconded, and the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of November 3, 2014.

IV. Adjustment to Agenda

An Executive Session was deleted from the agenda.

An activity nomination was added to Article VIII-B.

V. Persons Desiring to Address the Committee

None.

VI. Acknowledgements

Principal Nichols acknowledged Lauree Gott for being selected as the State of Maine finalist in the Educate Maine 2014 Presidential Award science teacher of the year program. She will move on to the national competition.

Superintendent Lyons acknowledged Sharon Soucie for all the fine work she has done for us in finances. This is her last meeting with us.

VII. Board Chair

A. Chair

None.

B. Vice Chair

Committee Vice Chair Julia Hathaway requested a special meeting for Heather Wilmot, Assistant Superintendent of Schools in the Lisbon School Department, to present a

PowerPoint on Stockholder Support for Transformative Change in Education. The date will be decided at the January meeting.

VIII. Personnel

A. Resignations

None.

B. Nominations

Reed moved, Vel seconded, and the Committee voted unanimously to approve the nominations of Jill Chandler to coach girls' basketball and Brian Gonyar to coach boys' basketball.

Hathaway moved, Bagley seconded, and the Committee voted unanimously to approve the nomination of Wendy Pearson for the 0.4FTE Chapter 104 (Gifted/Talented) teaching position.

Hathaway moved, Vel seconded, and the Committee voted unanimously to approve an Outdoor Adventures Club for fourth and fifth graders.

IX. Principal's Report

Principal Nichols presented the principal's report. Lauree Gott discussed the curriculum areas the staff is working on.

X. Superintendent's Report

A. Unofficial FY 2014 Audit

Sharon Soucie discussed the audit. Superintendent Lyons said it shows a "very strong fiscal baseline."

B. Virtual School Approval

Superintendent Lyons discussed the current situation with charter schools and the implications for public schools.

C. Overview of Change in Town Charter

Superintendent Lyons discussed the changes to the Veazie charter approved by the voters in the November election.

XI. New Business

Monday, January 5, 2015
Veazie School Committee Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
Veazie Community School Library

The Veazie School Administrative Unit Committee met at the Veazie Community School Library on Monday, January 5, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. School committee members present were Gavin Batchelder, Julia Hathaway, and Bill Reed. Principal Scott Nichols, Superintendent Richard Lyons, and Assistant Superintendent for Business Emil Genest were also in attendance.

Excused: Kristen Bagley, Valli Vel

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of December 1, 2014

Reed moved, Hathaway seconded, and the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of December 1, 2014.

IV. Adjustment to Agenda

An activity nomination was added to Article VIII-B.

V. Persons Desiring to Address the Committee

None.

VI. Acknowledgements

Principal Nichols acknowledged Anne Deschesene, Lisa Swift, and Emil Genest from the RSU #22 business office, "for their excellent work during the business office transition from Glenburn. It is clear that Veazie will be in very good hands."

VII. Board Chair

A. Chair

None.

B. Vice Chair

Committee Vice Chair Julia Hathaway stated that she has been in contact with Kristine Knapp of Community Schools Initiative whom she believes will be a valuable contact. She plans to invite Kristine to the school for a tour and lunch.

Mrs. Hathaway also announced that if she becomes a full time graduate student in September the Committee may need to select a new vice chair.

VIII. Personnel

A. Resignations

None.

B. Nominations

Upon recommendation of Principal Nichols, Hathaway moved, Reed seconded, and the Committee voted unanimously to approve Gail Harrison and Gail Carter for yearbook advisors.

IX. Principal's Report

Principal Nichols presented the principal's report.

X. Superintendent's Report

A. December Financial Statement

Superintendent Lyons stated that Veazie is in great fiscal shape and welcomed Assistant Superintendent Genest who said that the business office transition is going very well.

B. Nominee for Commissioner of Education

Superintendent Lyons announced Governor LePage's appointment of Tom Desjardin to serve as Acting Commissioner of the Department of Education.

C. Regional School Board Workshop

Superintendent Lyons discussed a regional school board workshop that will be held at Bangor's William S. Cohen School on January 27, and encouraged Committee members to attend.

XI. New Business

None.

XII. Old Business

A. Discuss and act on contracts for services in superintendency, business, and special services.

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Lyons, Hathaway moved, Reed seconded, and the Committee voted unanimously to extend contracts for superintendent, business, and special services through fiscal year 2016 and 2017.

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016 & 2017</u>
Superintendent	\$25,000	\$25,000
Special Services	\$65,000	\$65,000
Business	\$46,000	\$59,141

B. Follow up and discuss theme of exclusive high school

Committee Chair Gavin Batchelder expressed concern that Hampden may be a hard sell due to distance. Superintendent Lyons agreed to contact Superintendent Betsy Webb to see if she is interested in an arrangement between Veazie and Bangor High School.

C. Discussion of goal statements

The Committee is still working in arranging a date for Heather Wilmot to deliver her PowerPoint presentation on community involvement.

XIII. Board Policy

None.

XIV. Request For Information

None.

XV. Executive Session

None.

XVI. Next Meeting - February 2, 2015

XVII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Julia Hathaway
Vice Chair

Richard A. Lyons
Superintendent of Schools

Monday, February 2, 2015
Veazie School Committee Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
Veazie Community School Library

The Veazie School Administrative Unit Committee met at the Veazie Community School Library on Monday, February 2, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. School committee members present were Gavin Batchelder, Kristen Bagley, Bill Reed, and Valli Vel. Principal Scott Nichols and Superintendent Richard Lyons were also in attendance.

Excused: Julia Hathaway

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of January 5, 2015

Reed moved, Bagley seconded, and the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 5, 2015.

IV. Adjustment to Agenda

None.

V. Persons Desiring to Address the Committee

None.

VI. Acknowledgements

Superintendent Lyons, for Board Vice-chair Julia Hathaway, acknowledged Orono High School C.O.R.E. Director Andrew Frace who passed away unexpectedly last week. Superintendent Lyons noted that Mr. Frace previously taught and coached at Hampden Academy.

Board Chair Gavin Batchelder acknowledged the recent spelling bee event.

Principal Scott Nichols acknowledged Veazie Gifted & Talented teacher, Wendy Pearson.

Superintendent Lyons acknowledged the Veazie Teachers' Association who worked with the School Committee to revise the health insurance language in collective bargaining agreements to comply with the Affordable Care Act, for school systems less than 50 employees.

VII. Board Chair

A. Chair

None.

B. Vice Chair

None.

VIII. Personnel

A. Resignations

None.

B. Nominations

Upon recommendation of Principal Nichols, Vel moved, Reed seconded, and the Committee voted 4-0 to approve Garret White as Chess Club Coach.

IX. Principal's Report

Principal Nichols presented the principal's report. There were no questions or comments.

X. Superintendent's Report

A. January Financial Statement

Superintendent Lyons briefly reviewed the January report.

B. Governors Proposed Budget

Superintendent Lyons briefly reviewed the Governor's proposed budget and highlighted the local mill rate increase from 8.1 to 8.4.

C. January 26th Town Council Meeting

Superintendent Lyons noted he met with the Veazie Town Council on January 26, 2015 pertaining to the final audit for RSU #26.

D. Legislative Update

Various current proposed bills were highlighted.

E. Principal - Teacher Evaluation System

The Maine model was rejected by the federal government as it pertains to student achievement and student growth. The model must be approved by the federal government, or the state risks the loss of federal subsidy.

XI. New Business

A. Discuss collective bargaining contract pertaining to health insurance and the Affordable Care Act.

The School Committee and the Teachers' Association agreed on changes in the contract language. This topic will be brought back to the Committee in March for endorsement.

B. Discuss and act on Botball (Robotics) competition.

Laurie Gott gave an overview of the Botball (Robotics) competition. Reed moved, Vel seconded, and the Committee voted 4-0 to approve.

C. Discuss and act on Grade 7 science camp.

Laurie Gott gave an overview of the Tangelwood Science Camp in Lincolnville. Reed moved, Bagley seconded, and the Committee voted 4-0 to approve.

XII. Old Business

A. Discuss information relating to busing for Bangor secondary students.

Superintendent Lyons gave an overview of the present bus run. He will be in contact with John Bapst Head of School, Mel MacKay, to see if Veazie students could take advantage of the existing bus run, and will report back at the next School Committee meeting.

XIII. Board Policy

None.

XIV. Request For Information

None.

XV. Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter, according to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(A)

At 7:25 p.m. Reed moved, Bagley seconded, and the Committee voted 4-0 to enter executive session to discuss a personnel matter, according to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(A).

The Committee entered back into regular session at 7:35 p.m.

XVI. Next Meeting - March 2, 2015

XVII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard A. Lyons
Superintendent of Schools

Monday, March 2, 2015
Veazie School Committee Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
Veazie Community School Library

The Veazie School Administrative Unit Committee met at the Veazie Community School Library on Monday, February 2, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. School committee members present were Gavin Batchelder, Kristen Bagley, Julia Hathaway, Bill Reed, and Valli Vel. Principal Scott Nichols and Superintendent Richard Lyons were also in attendance.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of February 2, 2015

Reed moved, Vel seconded, and the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 2, 2015.

Abstain: Hathaway

IV. Adjustment to Agenda

Vice Chair Julia Hathaway requested a discussion of parental opting-out of standardized testing. Chair Gavin Batchelder added that under Article XI-D.

V. Persons Desiring to Address the Committee

None.

VI. Acknowledgements

Principal Nichols acknowledged the following students for outstanding academic success:

- Katrina Schell and Caroline Reed represented the school at the Penobscot County Spelling Bee on February 28;
- Gavin McDonald made it to the state level in the geography bee;
- In Mathcounts, Katrina Schell finished 16th, Caroline Reed 29th, and grade 5 student Vetri Vel 32nd.

Principal Nichols also commended middle school teachers Lauree Gott and Brian for being selected to participate in the NASA Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared

Astronomy Airborne Astronomy Ambassador Program. Ms. Gott explained the program and how Veazie will benefit from it.

VII. Board Chair

A. Chair

Chair Batchelder gave an update on the Town Council meeting that he, Principal Nichols, and Superintendent Lyons attended.

B. Vice Chair

Vice Chair Hathaway apologized for her absence from the February meeting and for lack of progress on visioning team project. She also gave a school law presentation on special education law.

VIII. Personnel

A. Resignations

Hathaway moved, Bagley seconded, and the Committee voted unanimously to accept with regrets and best wishes the resignations of Jan Healy and Lauree Gott. It was agreed that in their combined 45 teaching years at the school they have provided exemplary service.

B. Nominations

None.

IX. Principal's Report

Principal Nichols presented the Principal's Report, clarifying the danger of snow damage and what is being done to prevent it.

X. Superintendent's Report

A. February Financial Statement

Superintendent Lyons presented the February Financial Statement. He said that the school department is in good shape and where it needs to be.

B. Regional School Board Professional Development

Superintendent Lyons spoke about this snow-postponed upcoming event and encouraged Committee members to attend on April 16, 2015.

C. Financial News for Fiscal Year 2016

Veazie is losing \$213,300 from the State of Maine.

D. Principal Search Update

The first meeting of the Principal Search Committee will be Wednesday, March 4 at 3:00 p.m., weather permitting.

E. Legislative Update

Superintendent Lyons drew the Committee's attention to a synopsis of the MSMA Legislative Committee's stands on bills coming before the 127th legislature, mentioning one in particular on options for making up snow days.

XI. New Business

A. Discuss and act on creation of Employer Identification Number.

Bagley moved, Hathaway seconded, and the Committee voted unanimously that the votes entitled, "Votes to Authorize Applying to the IRS for an Employer Identification Number and Filing Quarterly Employment Tax Returns," be approved in the form presented at this meeting and that the Secretary file an attested copy of said vote with the minutes of this meeting.

B. Discuss parameters for fiscal year 2016 Budget.

Superintendent Lyons gave an explanation. The Committee directed the superintendent to construct a draft budget recognizing relevant demographics (state funding, enrollment).

C. Discuss meeting date prior to Council Budget Committee meeting.

A meeting date was set for March 24, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

D. Discuss possibility of notifying parents of opt-out option.

Hathaway moved, Vel seconded a motion that parents be notified of the ability to opt out of standardized test participation on the part of their children. Only Hathaway voted in favor of the motion. The motion was defeated.

XII. Old Business

None.

XIII. Board Policy

None.

XIV. Request For Information

None.

XV. Executive Session

None.

**XVI. Next meeting - special meeting March 24, 2015
Next regular meeting - April 6, 2015**

XVII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julia Hathaway
Vice Chair

/s/
Richard A. Lyons
Superintendent of Schools

Monday, April 6, 2015
Veazie School Committee Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
Veazie Community School Library

The Veazie School Administrative Unit Committee met at the Veazie Community School Library on Monday, April 6, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. School committee members present were Gavin Batchelder, Julia Hathaway, Bill Reed, and Valli Vel. Principal Scott Nichols, Superintendent Richard Lyons and Assistant Superintendent Emil Genest were also in attendance.

Excused: Kristen Bagley

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of March 2, 2015 and Special Meeting of March 24, 2015

Reed moved, Vel seconded, and the Committee voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of March 2, 2015.

Reed moved, Vel seconded, and the Committee voted to accept the minutes of the special meeting of March 24, 2015, with Hathaway abstaining.

IV. Adjustment to Agenda

None.

V. Persons Desiring to Address the Committee

None.

VI. Acknowledgements

Principal Nichols acknowledged winners of the middle school public speaking contest: Bailey Gifford, Sydney Solomon, and Sydney Ellis.

VII. Board Chair

A. Chair

None.

B. Vice Chair

Vice Chair Julia Hathaway gave a report.

VIII. Personnel

A. Resignations

None.

B. Nominations

Hathaway moved, Reed seconded, and the Committee voted unanimously to approve the following positions:

Baseball: Brian Gonyar

Softball: Lauree Gott

Track and Field: Chris Brady, Melissa Hileman

IX. Principal's Report

Principal Nichols gave the Principal's Report.

X. Superintendent's Report

A. March Financial Statement

The March financial statement was presented.

B. Overview of Budget Committee Meeting

The budget committee meeting was discussed.

C. Update on Principal Search

Six candidates have been selected out of sixteen applicants.

XI. New Business

A. Discuss Custodial Contract for 2015-2016

Hathaway moved, Vel seconded, and the Committee voted unanimously to extend the one year current custodial contract.

B. Discuss and act on reading of 2015-2016 school calendar.

The school calendar draft was discussed.

XII. Old Business

A. Discuss draft of 2015-2016 Budget

Hathaway moved, Vel seconded, and the Committee voted unanimously to accept the 2015-2016 budget.

XIII. Board Policy

A. Discuss and act on first reading of Policy EFDA, Charging of Meals.

There was a first reading.

B. Discuss and act on first reading of Policy JJIF, Management of Concussions and Other Head Injuries

There was a first reading.

XIV. Request For Information

None.

XV. Executive Session

None.

XVI. Next meeting - May 4, 2015

XVII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julia Hathaway
Vice Chair

Richard A. Lyons
Superintendent of Schools

Wednesday, April 22, 2015
Veazie Special School Committee Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
Veazie Community School Cafeteria

The Veazie School Administrative Unit Committee met at the Veazie Community School Cafeteria on Wednesday, April 22, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. School Committee members present were Gavin Batchelder, Kristen Bagley, Julia Hathaway, Bill Reed, and Valli Vel. Principal Scott Nichols, Superintendent Richard Lyons and Assistant Superintendent Emil Genest were also in attendance.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Persons Desiring to Address the Committee

A number of audience members asked questions and expressed concerns regarding proposed budget cuts.

IV. Discuss Draft 2015-2016 School Budget

Superintendent Richard Lyons and Board Chair Gavin Batchelder discussed the budget and the dire consequences if changes requested by town council are made.

V. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned about 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julia Hathaway
Vice Chair

Richard A. Lyons
Superintendent of Schools

