

#### Veazie Town Council

#### **Regular Meeting**

May 26, 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 May 11th, 2015 Regular Council Meeting Minutes.

**ITEM 6:** Comments from the Public

#### **New Business:**

**ITEM 7**: Signing of the Warrant

ITEM 8: Drew Property - Abatement

ITEM 9: Uncollectable taxes

**ITEM 10:** Town Attorney Resignation

ITEM 11: Donations

#### **Old Business:**

ITEM 12: Manager's Report

ITEM 13: Comments from the Public

**ITEM 14:** Requests for information and Town Council Comments

ITEM 15: Review & Sign of AP Town Warrant #22 and Town Payroll #23 School Payroll

Warrant #24 and AP School Warrant #24

**ITEM 16:** Adjournment

Tammy PerryChris BagleyRobert RiceKaren WalkerDavid King5 Prouty Dr16 Silver Ridge1116 Buck Hill Dr1002 Mutton Ln1081 Main St947-9624cbagley@veazie.net942-3064941-0458942-2376

# Agenda Items For May 26, 2015 Council Meeting

ITEM 7: The warrant for the Town meeting will be discussed. Two versions are included. One is with Council recommendation and the second has the Council recommendation and the School Board's recommendation. Town Attorney Russell will be present to discuss both with Council members. A decision will need to be made on what warrant to use and then ultimately will need to be signed for posting.

ITEM 8: At a previous Council meeting a piece of property was donated to the Town from Stan MacMillian. Upon further research it was determined that the property was in fact the State of Maines. (Memo from Town Attorney included for review) After discovering that it belongs to the State the Deputy Tax collector is requesting that the taxes be abated for 2013 and 2014. The amount that needs to be abated for 2013 is \$14.00 and for 2014 is \$14.20. It is Staff's recommendation that these taxes be abated.

ITEM 9: Deputy Tax Collector is requesting the Councils approval to write off the taxes on four personal property accounts that are uncollected. The reason for the request is outlined in a memo addressed to me from the Deputy Tax Collector. It is staff's recommendation that these accounts be written off. The total for the (4) is \$562.58.

ITEM 10: Town Attorney Russell has submitted a letter of notice reference his retirement. The notice is included in the packet for review. With this notice the Council will have to determine how they want to proceed with hiring legal staff. Attorney Russell has included a name for consideration.

ITEM 11: We have received numerous request for donation. As we near the end of the year the Council needs to determine which request will be honored and the amount we will provide. The budgeted amount for donations is \$2,300.00. The request are as follows:

MPBN: \$100.00

Eastern Area on Aging: \$300.00

Community Health and Counseling: \$766.00

Penquis: \$1,605.00

Hammond Street Senior Center: \$\$1,505.00 Gateway Seniors Without Walls: \$1,000.00



#### Veazie Town Council Meeting May 11th, 2015

Members Present: Chairman Tammy Perry, Councilor Robert Rice, Councilor Karen Walker, Councilor David King, Manager Mark Leonard, Secretary Julie Strout, Deputy Treasurer Julie Reed, Veazie School Supt. Rick Lyons, Asst. School Supt. Emil Genest, School Committee Member Valli Vel, Budget Committee Chair Jeff Wheelden, Brian Perkins, Bill Masters, Judy Horten & Norma Noble, Town Assessor Ben Birch, Town Attorney Thomas Russell and various members of the public.

#### **Members Absent:**

All present

#### ITEM 1: Call to order

Chairman Tammy Perry called the meeting to order at 6:31pm.

#### ITEM 2: Secretary to do the roll call:

All Present

ITEM 3: Pledge of Allegiance

#### ITEM 4: Consideration of the Agenda

Remove Item 6 to go right to the Public Hearing. Take comments at Item 9

#### ITEM 5: Approval of the April 27<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting Minutes

Councilor Karen Walker made a motion, seconded by Councilor Robert Rice to accept the April 27th, 2015 Council Meeting Minutes as written. Voted 4-0-1. Motion carried. Councilor Bagley abstained.

#### ITEM 6: Comments from the public

None

#### **New Business:**

#### ITEM 7: Public Hearing on FY 15/16 Budget

Councilor Robert Rice made a motion, seconded by Councilor David King to enter into the Public Hearing on FY 15/16 Budget at 6:33pm. Voted 5-0-0. Motion carried. Numerous comments were made by the public.

Councilor David King made a motion, seconded by Councilor Chris Bagley to close the Public Hearing at 7:35pm. Voted 5-0-0. Motion carried.

#### ITEM 7a: FY15/16 Budget discussion

Councilor Robert Rice made a motion, seconded by Councilor David King to approve the Executive Dept. at \$309,875.00. Voted 3-2-0. Motion carried. Councilor Bagley and Councilor Walker opposed.

Councilor Robert Rice made a motion, seconded by Councilor Karen Walker to approve the Police Dept. at \$329,971.00. Voted 5-0-0. Motion carried.

Councilor Chris Bagley made a motion, seconded by Councilor David King to approve the Fire Dept. at \$212,029.00. Voted 5-0-0. Motion carried.

Councilor Chris Bagley made a motion, seconded by Councilor Karen Walker to approve the Recreation Dept. at \$15,000.00. Voted 5-0-0. Motion carried.

Councilor Robert Rice made a motion, seconded by Councilor David King to approve the Community Investment at \$30,600.00. Voted 5-0-0. Motion carried.

Councilor David King made a motion, seconded by Councilor Robert Rice to approve the Capital Funds at \$165,000.00. Voted 5-0-0. Motion carried.

Councilor Chris Bagley made a motion, seconded by Councilor David King to approve the Reserve Accounts at \$64,000.00. Voted 5-0-0. Motion carried.

Councilor Robert Rice made a motion, seconded by Councilor Chris Bagley to approve the Fixed Cost/Variable Cost at \$440,760.00 (which removes the leaf vacuuming at a \$12,000 reduction) Voted 5-0-0. Motion carried.

Councilor Chris Bagley made a motion to approve the school budget at 2,915,324.00. No one seconded. Motion failed.

Councilor Robert Rice made a motion, seconded by Councilor David King to approve the School budget at \$2,714,264.00. Voted 3-2-0. Motion carried. Councilor Bagley and Councilor Walker opposed.

#### **Old Business:**

#### ITEM 8: Manager's Report

Manager Leonard reviewed his report with the Councilor's.

#### ITEM 9: Comments from the Public

Citizens shared their concerns about the school budget.

#### ITEM 10: Requests for information and Town Council Comments

To keep the public informed, the Council would like the detailed town and school budgets posted on the town website during the budget season.

## ITEM 11: Review & sign of AP Town Warrant #21 and Town Payroll #22, School Payroll Warrant #23 and AP School Warrant #23.

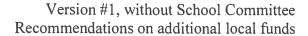
The warrants were circulated and signed.

ITEM 12: Adjournment

Councilor Robert Rice motioned to adjourn Councilor Dave King seconded. No discussion. Voted 5-0-0 Motion carried. Adjourned at 8:06pm

A True Copy Attest Julie Strout Deputy Clerk

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State of Maine

County of Penobscot, ss

To:

Mark Leonard, Chief of Police for the Town of

Veazie, in said County of Penobscot, State of Maine

#### **GREETINGS:**

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the voters of the Town of Veazie, in said County, qualified by law to vote in Town affairs, to meet at the Municipal Building, in said Town, on Tuesday, the 9th day of June, A.D., 2015 at 8:00 a.m., then and there to act on Article 1 and by secret ballot on Article 2 as set out below.

**Article 1:** To elect a Moderator by written ballot to preside at said meeting.

Article 2: To elect by secret ballot all town councilors, school committee members and sewer district trustees as are required to be elected.

It is hereby specified that the polls be open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. for the election of the aforementioned officials.

The Office of the Registrar of Voters will be open at the Municipal Building on Tuesday, June 9th, 2015 to add new registrations to the list of voters from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.

And, to notify and warn said inhabitants to meet at the Veazie Community School in said Town on Tuesday, the 9th day of June, A.D., 2015 at 8:00 p.m., then and there to act on Articles 3 through 30 as set out below.

#### TOWN BUDGET ARTICLES

Article 3: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for the Executive Department.

Recommended by the Town Council & Budget Committee: \$309,875.00

<u>Article 4:</u> To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for the Police Department.

Recommended by the Town Council & Budget Committee: \$329,971.00

<u>Article 5:</u> To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for the Fire Department.

Recommended by the Town Council & Budget Committee: \$212,029.00

**Article 6:** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for the Parks and Recreation Department.

Recommended by the Town Council & Budget Committee: \$15,000.00

Article 7: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Comm. Invest.

Recommended by the Town Council & Budget Committee: \$30,600.00

**Article 8:** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for the Capital Improvement Programs.

Recommended by the Town Council & Budget Committee: \$165,000.00

Article 9: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for the Reserve Accounts.

Recommended by the Town Council & Budget Committee: \$64,000.00

<u>Article 10:</u> To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Fixed/Variable Cost Items:

Recommended by the Town Council & Budget Committee: \$440,760.00

Article 11: To see if the Town will vote to fix a date when taxes are due and to set an interest rate, the amount not to be compounded, on all real estate and personal property taxes not paid on or prior to September 30th. Interest will commence on October 1st on all taxes not paid on or prior to September 30th.

Due Date suggested: Upon receipt of tax bill

Interest rate suggested: 7.0%

**Article 12:** To see if the Town will vote to finance the voted expenditures as follows:

#### TAX COLLECTOR'S REVENUE

Total Tax Collector's Revenue: .....\$321,120.00

#### TREASURER'S REVENUE

Total Treasurer's Revenue.....\$225,139.00

#### TOWN CLERK'S REVENUE

Total Town Clerk's Revenue ......\$2,150.00

Recommended non-property tax revenues by the Town Council & Budget Committee: \$548,409.00

Article 13: To see if the Town will vote to establish the interest rate to be paid to a taxpayer who is determined to have paid an amount of real estate taxes in excess of the amount finally assessed for 2014-2015 at 3.0% per year on the amount of overpayment.

# SCHOOL BUDGET ARTICLES Articles 14 Through 24 Authorize Expenditures in Cost Center Categories

**ARTICLE 14:** To see what sum the Veazie School Committee will be authorized to expend for Regular Instruction.

School Committee Recommends \$2,156,061.03

**ARTICLE 15:** To see what sum the Veazie School Committee will be authorized to expend for Special Education.

**School Committee Recommends \$831,795.71** 

**ARTICLE 16:** To see what sum the Veazie School Committee will be authorized to expend for Career and Technical Education.

School Committee Recommends \$24,817.59

**ARTICLE 17:** To see what sum the Veazie School Committee will be authorized to expend for Other Instruction.

School Committee Recommends \$42,496.76

**ARTICLE 18:** To see what sum the Veazie School Committee will be authorized to expend for Student and Staff Support.

School Committee Recommends \$200,143.67

**ARTICLE 19:** To see what sum the Veazie School Committee will be authorized to expend for System Administration.

School Committee Recommends \$100,517.54

**ARTICLE 20:** To see what sum the Veazie School Committee will be authorized to expend for School Administration.

**School Committee Recommends \$165,920.93** 

**ARTICLE 21:** To see what sum the Veazie School Committee will be authorized to expend for Transportation and Buses.

School Committee Recommends \$144,300.00

**ARTICLE 22:** To see what sum the Veazie School Committee will be authorized to expend for Facilities Maintenance.

School Committee Recommends \$263,026.00

**ARTICLE 23:** To see what sum the Veazie School Committee will be authorized to expend for Debt Service and Other Commitments. **School Committee Recommends \$287,644.91** 

ARTICLE 24: To see what sum the Veazie School Committee will be authorized to expend for All Other Expenditures, including School Lunch Transfers.

School Committee Recommends \$30,000.00

## ARTICLES 25 THROUGH 26 RAISE FUNDS FOR THE PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET

ARTICLE 25 (requires a recorded vote): To see what sum the Town will appropriate for the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act, and to see what sum the Town will raise as the Town's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15688.

School Committee Recommends \$2,867,950.82 be appropriated and \$1,932,168.00 be raised.

Explanation: The Town's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act is the amount of money determined by state law to be the minimum amount that a municipality must raise in order to receive the full amount of state dollars.

**ARTICLE 26 (Requires a Written Ballot):** To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate in additional local funds as required to fund the budget recommended by the Town Council.

Town Council Recommends \$780,530.05, which exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services funding model by \$721,369.54.

Town Council gives the following reasons for exceeding the State's Essential Programs and Services funding model by \$721,369.54: The essential programs and services funding model does not provide funding to fully cover the actual costs of special education programming, student transportation, system administration, and co-curricular and extra-curricular programming. If student enrollment remains static or declines, and/or property valuations continue to increase at a rate faster than the state average, the formula will calculate lower EPS total allocations and/or higher local contributions.

Explanation: The additional local funds are those locally raised funds over and above the Town's local contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and local amounts raised for the annual payment on non-state funded debt service that will help achieve the Town budget for educational programs.

#### **ARTICLE 27 Summarizes the Proposed School Budget**

**ARTICLE 27 (requires a recorded vote):** To see what sum the Town will authorize the school committee to expend for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015 and ending June 30, 2016 from the Town's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act, non-state-funded school construction projects, additional local funds for school purposes under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15690, unexpended balances, tuition receipts, state subsidy and other receipts for the support of schools.

Town Council Recommends \$4,045,663.37

## ARTICLE 28 AUTHORIZES EXPENDITURE OF GRANTS AND OTHER RECEIPTS

**ARTICLE 28:** In addition to amounts approved in the preceding articles, shall the school committee be authorized to expend such other sums as may be received from federal or state grants or programs or other sources during the fiscal year for school purposes, provided that such grants, programs or other sources do not require the expenditure of other funds not previously appropriated?

Explanation: This article has no relation to previously voted articles pertaining to the general operating budget's expenditures and revenues. The question authorizes the School Committee to expend any other receipts such as state and federal aid or grants to assist in the operation of the Veazie Community School. Examples would be Title I (federal reading intervention program), Special Education (local entitlement) and unanticipated state aid, including increases in municipal revenue sharing.

#### ARTICLE 29 AUTHORIZES THE REGIONAL VOCATIONAL BUDGET

**ARTICLE 29:** Shall the Regional Vocational Budget as approved by the Cooperative Board for the year beginning July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016 be approved in the amount of **\$2,687,777.00**?

## ARTICLE 30 AUTHORIZES THE ADULT EDUCATION BUDGET FOR THE VOCATIONAL REGION AND RAISES THE LOCAL SHARE

**ARTICLE 30:** Shall the Regional Vocational Budget as approved by the Cooperative Board for adult education for the year beginning July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016 be approved in the amount of \$207,586.60 with authorization to expend any additional, incidental, or miscellaneous receipts in the interest and well-being of its adult education

program, and shall the Town of Veazie raise \$1,565.55 as its share of the adult education budget for the career and technical education region?

Given under our hands this 26th day of May, A.D., 2015.

TAMMY PERRY, Chair	
DAVID KING	
KAREN WALKER	
ROBERT RICE	

Veazie Town Council

CHRIS BAGLEY\_\_\_\_\_

ATTES	ST:		
Mark	Leonard,	Chief of	Police



State of Maine

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To:

Mark Leonard, Chief of Police for the Town of

Veazie, in said County of Penobscot, State of Maine

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Town Council Recommends \$780,530.05, which exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services funding model by \$721,369.54.

School Committee recommends \$981,590.82, which exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services funding model by \$892,430.31.

Note: Pursuant to Section 00.09.02 of the Town Charter, the Town Meeting shall not increase or decrease the amount of any appropriation recommended by the Town Council by more than 1.5%. The amount of additional local funds recommended by the School Committee exceeds the increase legally permissible under the Town Charter.

Town Council/School Committee give the following reasons for exceeding the State's Essential Programs and Services funding model by: The essential programs and services funding model does not provide funding to fully cover the actual costs of special education programming, student transportation, system administration, and co-curricular

and extra-curricular programming. If student enrollment remains static or declines, and/or property valuations continue to increase at a rate faster than the state average, the formula will calculate lower EPS total allocations and/or higher local contributions.

Explanation: The additional local funds are those locally raised funds over and above the Town's local contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and local amounts raised for the annual payment on non-state funded debt service that will help achieve the Town budget for educational programs.

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School Committee Recommends \$4,246,724.14.

Note: Pursuant to Section 00.09.02 of the Town Charter, the Town Meeting shall not increase or decrease the amount of any appropriation recommended by the Town Council by more than 1.5%. The amount recommended by the School Committee for the total budget includes the increase in local additional funds that is legally impermissible under the Town Charter.

#### **ARTICLE 28 AUTHORIZES EXPENDITURE OF GRANTS** AND OTHER RECEIPTS

ARTICLE 28: In addition to amounts approved in the preceding articles, shall the school committee be authorized to expend such other sums as may be received from federal or state grants or programs or other sources during the fiscal year for school purposes, provided that such grants, programs or other sources do not require the expenditure of other funds not previously appropriated?

Explanation: This article has no relation to previously voted articles pertaining to the general operating budget's expenditures and revenues. The question authorizes the School Committee to expend any other receipts such as state and federal aid or grants to assist in the operation of the Veazie Community School. Examples would be Title I (federal reading intervention program), Special Education (local entitlement) and unanticipated state aid, including increases in municipal revenue sharing.

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**ARTICLE 30:** Shall the Regional Vocational Budget as approved by the Cooperative Board for adult education for the year beginning July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016 be approved in the amount of \$207,586.60 with authorization to expend any additional, incidental, or miscellaneous receipts in the interest and well-being of its adult education program, and shall the Town of Veazie raise \$1,565.55 as its share of the adult education budget for the career and technical education region?

Given under our hands this 26th day of May, A.D., 2015.

DAVID KING	
KAREN WALKE	ER
ROBERT RICE	
CHRIS BAGLEY	<i>!</i>
	Veazie Town Council
ATTEST: Mark Leonard, Chief of Police	

TAMMY PERRY, Chair

ITEM # 3

#### **FARRELL, ROSENBLATT & RUSSELL**

ATTORNEYS AT LAW
61 MAIN STREET
P.O. BOX 738
BANGOR, MAINE 04402-0738

ANGELA M. FARRELL NATHANIEL M. ROSENBLATT THOMAS A. RUSSELL JON A. HADDOW GREGORY P. DORR ROGER L. HUBER

TELEPHONE (207) 990-3314 TELECOPIER (207) 941-0239 e-mail: tar@frrlegal.com

#### MEMORANDUM

April 30, 2015

To:

Mark Leonard

From:

Tom Russell

Re:

Map 13, Lot 62

I have undertaken research in the Registry of Deeds and I have reviewed various deeds and maps, and it is my opinion that Drew Properties does not own Map 13, Lot 62. By Deed of Sale dated October 25, 1993, recorded in the Penobscot County Registry of Deeds in Book 5489, Page 311, Drew Properties acquired a parcel of land located on the northwesterly side of the "new State Highway". Since Lot 62 is located on the southeasterly side of the State Highway, Lot 62 was not included within the parcel conveyed to Drew Properties. In addition, although the description of the parcel conveyed to Drew Properties used the westerly side of the new State Highway as one of its boundaries, the deed also excepted from the conveyance a parcel previously conveyed by Irving R. Lancaster and Rita P. Lancaster to Carroll D. Colford and Cecile G. Colford by deed dated November 10, 1980, recorded in the Registry of Deeds in Book 3137, Page 168. The deed also conveyed the right to use the name "Lancaster's Market". The description of the .63 acre parcel conveyed to the Colfords corresponds to the dimensions for Lot 39 on Tax Map 13. Therefore, it is clear that Lot 62 was not included in the conveyance to Drew Properties. Furthermore, Drew Properties conveyed the exact same parcel it acquired by virtue of the Book 5489, Page 310 deed to The Ground Floor in Veazie by deed dated November 9, 1993, recorded in said Registry of Deeds in Book 5489, Page 313. According to the annotated copy of Tap Map 13 at the Town Office, The Ground Floor in Veazie still owns Lot 38.

I ran the Lancaster title back in time, and found that the description of the property as being located on the "northwesterly side of the new State Highway" first appeared in a deed from George S. Spencer to Mattie F. Lancaster dated May 26, 1947, recorded in the Registry of Deeds in Book 1256, Page 325. That deed refers to the new State Highway as being "recently completed". However, the deed also states that it replaces a 1937 deed involving the same parties, which deed was misplaced or lost. Therefore, I do not know from the language in the deed whether "recently completed" refers to 1937 or 1947. However, I did find a Notice of Taking by the State Highway Commission dated September 21, 1933, recorded in the Registry of

deeds in Book 1075, Pages 357-364. The SHC took a number of parcels by eminent domain to establish a new State Highway in Veazie. The Notice of Taking included a .45 acre parcel jointly owned by George S. Spencer and Mattie Lancaster. I also found a Plan of Proposed Relocation of State Highway "K" dated August 1933, recorded in the Registry of Deeds in Cab 1 26 H. The Plan clearly shows that SHC severed the parcel owned by George S. Spencer and Mattie Lancaster, and left them with a stranded parcel located southeasterly of the new proposed State Highway, which stranded parcel corresponds to Lot 62 as shown on Tax Map 13.

I also found a deed from Irving R. Lancaster, et al., to the State of Maine dated September 5, 1988, recorded in the Registry of Deeds in Book 4340, Page 254, which deed conveys Lot 62 to the State of Maine. A plan depicting the lot conveyed to the State is recorded in the Registry in Map File D261-90. I have attached copies of that deed and plan to this Memorandum.

Therefore, Lot 62 is actually owned by the State of Maine, and neither Drew Properties nor The Ground Floor in Veazie has any title interest in Lot 62, and neither party should be assessed for Lot 62. Therefore, I recommend that any outstanding taxes be abated pursuant to 36 M.R.S. §841(1). Since the time period for the assessor to abate the taxes has expired, it will need to be done by the Town Council. I'm sure Ben can help with the proper forms.

If you have any questions or comments, please let me know.

844340 PG254

## QUITCLAIN (031.75.7) KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS

That We, IRVING R. LANCASTER, AVON E. LANCASTER, DEBORAH ROY and PAUL MCHEZ, all of Veszie, County of Penobscot and State of Maine, NOLAND MCHEZ of Bemoor in seid County and State, WILLIAM MCPHEZ of Auborn, County of Androacoggin and State of Maine, MILDRED, H. (LANCASTER) JORDAN of Westbrook, RALPH I. LANCASTER of Portland, both of Cumberland County and State of Maine, BARBARA SPENCER SMITH and NORRIS E. SMITH, both of Searsport, County of Weldo and State of Maine and PAMELA BAKIE of Exeter, County of Rockingham and State of New Hampshire, in consideration of One Dollar (\$1.00) and other valuable considerations paid by the STATE OF MAINE, a body politic and corporate and having its government in Augusta, Kennebec County and whose mailing address is State House Station 16, Augusta, Maine 04333 the receipt whereof we do hereby acknowledge, do hereby give, grant, bargain, sell and convey unto the said STATE OF MAINE, its successors and assigns forever, a certain lot or parcel of land situated on the southerly side of U.S. Route 2 in Veszie, County of Penobscot and State of Maine.

Being a parcel of land as shown on a Maine Department of Transportation Right-of-Way Map for State Highway "1", Veszie, Penobacot County, dated June 1988 on file at its office in Augusta, File No. 10-320, and to be recorded in the Penobacot County Registry of Deeds bounded and described as follows, to wit:

Beginning on the southerly line of U.S. Route 2 (State Street) at the intersection of the northerly line of Maine Central Railroad and the westerly line of land of the Grantee;

Thence contherly along the southerly line of State Street about ten (10) feet to a point;

Thence N. 65° E. along the southerly line of State Street about two hundred six (206) feet to the easterly line of land of the Grantee;

Themce southerly along the easterly line of land of the Grantee about twenty-six (26) feet to the northerly line of Maine Central Railroad;

Thence westerly along the northerly line of Maine Central Railroad about two hundred seven (207) feet to the point of beginning.

Said lot or parcel of land contains about 3700 square feet and is a portion of the same premises described in two deeds recorded at the Penobscot County Registry of Deeds: Abbie F. Spencer to George S. Spencer dated January 30, 1933 recorded in Vol. 1040, Page 309 and Abbie F. Spencer to Mattie F. Lancaster dated October 6, 1904 recorded in Vol. 742, Page 272.

This conveyance is subject to an essement granted to Veszie Sewer District by document dated October 18, 1967 and recorded at the Penobscot County Registry of Deeds in Book 2126, Page 19 and document dated November 1, 1967 and recorded at said Registry in Book 2126, Page 16.

1988.

1988.

Septembar 5,

The Grantors herein being the only known Heirs At Law and next of kin of Mattie F. Lancaster and George S. Spencer.

Witness our hands and seals this Sth

State of New Hampshire ) County of Rockingham )

Signed, Sealed and Delivered in presence of

Acul Mithu.

Descript R. Day ecoster

Neving R. Lancaster

Avon E. Edgaster

Deborah Roy

Deborah Roy

Deborah Roy

Deborah Roy

Rossel B. Keng So

Rossel B. Keng So

Rolling McRee

Roll

-4-

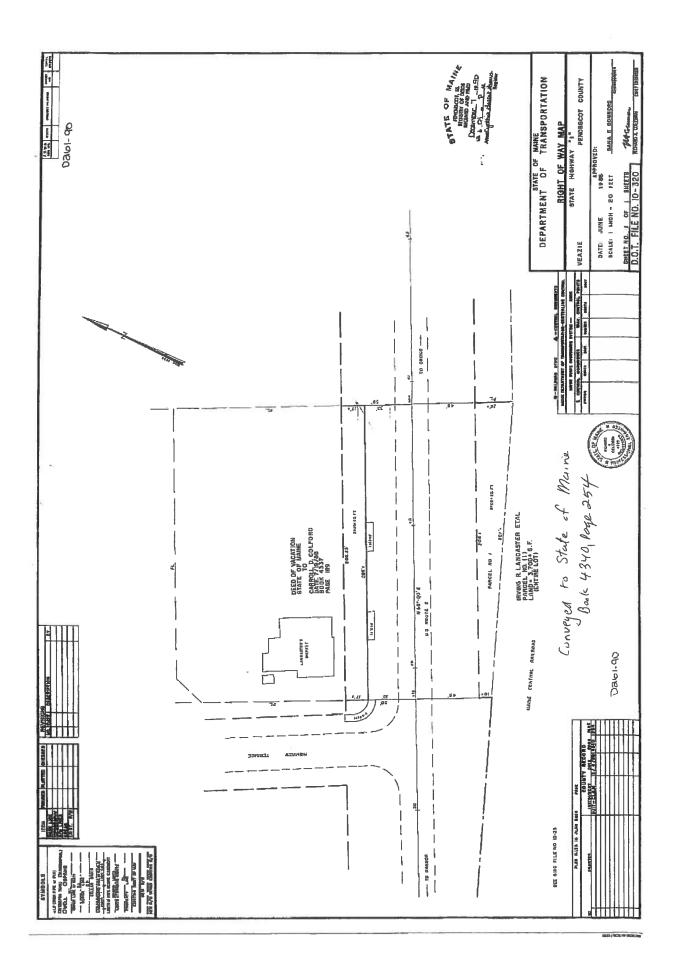
Personally appeared the above named Pamela Bakie and acknowledged the above instrument to be her free act and deed.

Before me, Lizabeth L. Greene
Station of the Peace
Notary Public

My commission expires:

6/91

PENOBSCOT. SS. REC'D NOV 4 1988 Q 1,554 A.M.



Previous meeting

Drew Properties P.O. Box 1539 Bangor, Maine 04402-1539

Tel: 207-942-2169 Fax: 207-945-3623

Fown of Veazie Fown Council 1084 Main Street Veazie, Maine 04401.7001

Re: Account #R751 Drew Properties Map\*Lot 13 62

Dear Veazie Town Council:

Reference is made to the above property in Veazie, Maine.

Drew Properties wishes to donate this land to the Town of Veazie.

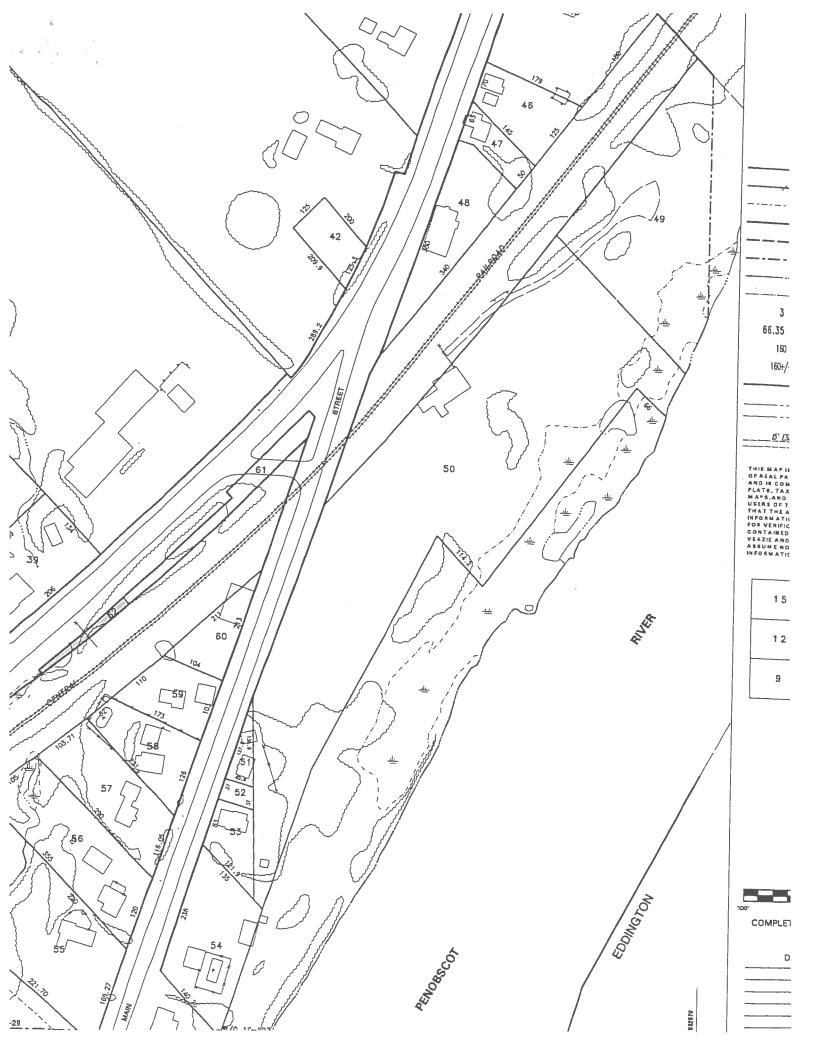
If you have any questions concerning this donation, please contact me at the above telephone number or on my cell #852-1852.

Your consideration in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours.

Stan MacMillan

SMichil



١,		_	: _
1/	-	7	10

Name: Drew Properties

#### **Valuation Report**

06/10/2014

Page 1

13 62

800

Account:

751

Accpt Land

Card: 1 of 1

Map/Lot:

0 Total

Account:	/51	Card:	1 of 1		L	ocation:			State St Area
Neighborho	ood 20	GagnePrecastAre	a			-		<ul> <li>Sale Data</li> </ul>	
Zoning/Use Topography Utilities Street		Commercial 1 Level All Public Paved					Sale Date Sale Price Sale Type Financing Verified Validity	10/25/1993 90,000 Land Only Unknown Public Record Arms Length S	Sale
Reference :		B5489P316							
Reference 2 Tran/Land/ X Coordinat Exemption(	Bldg te		ordinate	0					
Exchiption	3/		Land Sched						
Units 0.10 Total Acres	Acre	hod - Description es-Baselot (Fract)	7,910.00	Price/U 50,000. Per Acre	nit	Tota 15,811		Influence Size/Shape otal	Value 791 791

800 Accepted Bldg

veazie 8:35 AM

## RE Account 751 Detail as of 06/10/2014

06/10/2014 Page 1

Name: Drew Properties

Location: State St Area

Acreage: 0.1 Map/Lot: 13 62

Book Page: B5489P316

2013-1 Period Due:

1) 14.68

Land:800Building:0Exempt0Total:800

Ref1: B5489P316 Mailing P.O. BOX 1539

Address: Bangor ME 04402-1539

Year Date	Reference	PC	Principal	Interest	Costs	Total
2013-1 R			14.00	0.68	0.00	14.68
2012-1 R			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2011-1 R			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2010-1 R			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2009-1 L			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2008-1 R			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2007-1 R			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2006-1 R			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2005-1 R			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2004-1 R			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2003-1 S			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2002-1 R			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2001-1 R			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2000-1 R			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1999-1 R			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1998-1 R			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Account Totals as of 06/10/2	2014		14.00	0.68	0.00	14.68

P	er Diem
2013-1	0.0027
Total	0.0027

Note: Payments will be reflected as positive values and charges to the account will be represented as negative values.

#### WARRANTY DEED

DREW PROPERTIES, a corporation with a place of business in Bangor, Penobscot County, Maine, for consideration paid, grants to THE GROUND FLOOR IN VEAZIE, a corporation with a place of business in Bangor, Penobscot County, Maine, whose mailing address is P.O Box 1539, Bangor, Maine 04402-1539) with WARRANTY COVENANTS, the following described real estate:

A certain lot or parcel of land, together with any improvements thereon, situated in Veazie, Penobscot County, Maine, on the northwesterly side of new State highway, more particularly described as follows:

Being part of lot thirty-nine according to Park Holland's survey and bounded as follows, to wit: Beginning on the westerly side of said new State Highway, recently completed, leading from Bangor to Old Town in the line of land sold by George and Ashbal Spencer to Isaac Spencer; thence northwesterly in the line of said land to the headline of said lot; thence on said headline to the corner of land sold by George and Ashbal Spencer to Hosea Rich; thence by the line of said land to said new State Highway; thence by said new State Highway to the place of beginning.

TOGETHER WITH an easement as conveyed by Philip E. Parsons to Irving R. Lancaster by deed dated January \_\_, 1973 and recorded in Penobscot Registry of Deeds in Vol. 2629, Page 293, as follows: "A right of way for all purposes of a way, (including but not necessarily limited to all types of vehicles, gas, lights, water, telephone and sewer), twenty (20) feet in width extending in a generally northeasterly direction from a point where the generally southeasterly side line of said right of way intersects the generally northeasterly side line of the street known as Highview Terrace, said point being one hundred seventeen (117) feet in a generally northwesterly direction from the intesection of said northeasterly side line of said Highview Terrace with the generally northwesterly side line of the new State Highway leading from Bangor to Orono; said right of way extending over and across land of the grantor as set forth in deed of George S. Spencer to the said grantor dated September 14, 1937, recorded in Penobscot County Registry of Deeds in Volume 1123, Page 50, to land of said Irving R. Lancaster as set forth in deed of Mattie F. Lancaster, dated July 31, 1947, recorded in said Registry in Volume 1280, Page 310."

EXCEPTING from the above-described premises a certain lot or parcel of land conveyed by Irving R. Lancaster and Rita P. Lancaster to Carroll D. Colford and Cecile G. Colford by instrument dated November 10, 1980, recorded in Volume 3137, Page 168 of said Registry.

For grantor's source of title reference may be had to a deed from Johnne R. Magill, as personal representative, to the grantor herein, dated October 25, 1993, recorded or to be recorded in the Penobscot Registry of Deeds.

Any and all other rights, easements, privileges and appurtenances belonging to the granted estate are hereby conveyed.

This conveyance is made subject to the property taxes assessed against the premises which said taxes are to be prorated between the parties hereto as of the date of delivery of this deed in accordance with 36 M.R.S.A., sec.

558.

IN WITNESS WHREROF Drew Properties has caused this instrument to be executed as an instrument under seal in its corporate name by Andrew E. Sturgeon, its president, hereunto duly authorized this 9th day of November, 1993. WITNESS:

Malachinoss

STATE OF MAINE

PENOBSCOT, 83

Then personally appeared the above named Andrew E. Sturgeon and acknowledged the foregoing instrument to be his free act and deed in his said capacity and the free act and deed of said corporation,

Before me,

AA920-71/4133

THE PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN TWO IS NOT THE OWNER, THE PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN TWO IS NOT THE OWNER, THE PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN TWO IS NOT THE OWNER, THE OWN

Notary Public
(St Robert Menorgy, Ising er

Maine Real Estate Transfer Tex Paid\*

PENOBSCOT. SS REC'D 93 NOV 19 PH 3: 36 ATTEST:

Cyronia Hallat House REGISTER

		*

## TEM# 9

#### **Town of Veazie**

To: Mark Leonard, Town Manager

From: Julie Reed, Deputy Tax Collector

Date: May 22, 2015

**Ref: Uncollectable Personal Property Taxes** 

The attached Personal Property Report includes accounts that I would deem as uncollectable. Mark Mullen's owned Chelette Manor therefore accts 23 and 24 were assessed to the same entity. His properties changed hands several years ago and I have spoken with him a couple of times. He has informed me that he is not responsible for the personal property accounts 23 and 25 and has no intention of paying them.

Pine Tree R V Parts and Service and the Veazie Mini Mart "that housed coolers owned by Refrigerant Sourcing Inc." have gone out of business and therefore I believe we will be unable to collect the taxes.

I would recommend the council to vote for a personal property tax write off for these four accounts in order to clean up the outstanding taxes. All other accounts in Personal Property have been collected. We cannot lien these accounts as they are personal property and sums due are not worth going to small claims court. Veazie 12:09 PM

### Non Zero Balance on All Accounts

Complete List As of: 05/22/2015 05/22/2015 Page 1

Acct	Name	Year	Original Tax	Payment / Adjustments	Amount Due
25 P	Chelette Manor LLC.	2014	108.28	0.00	108.28
23 P	MULLEN'S MARK	2014	305.30	0.00	305.30
161 P	PINE TREE R V PARTS AND SERVICE	2013	87.50	0.00	87.50
140 P	REFRIGERANT SOURCING INC.	2012	61.50	0.00	61.50
	Total for 4 Accoun	ts:	562.58	0.00	562.58
	Paymer	nt Summar	γ		
Туре		Principal	Interest	Costs	Total
Total		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
No	on Lien Summary				
2012-1	61.50				
2013-1	87.50				
2014-1	413.58				
Total	562.58				
	No. 11				
	No Liened Account	ts	0.00	0.00	0.00
		nt Summai	γ		
Type	· ·	Principal Principal	Interest	Costs	Total
Total		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Lien Summary				
Total	0.00				

562.58

0.00

562.58

**Total for 4 Accounts:** 

FARRELL, ROSENBLATT & RUSSELL
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

61 MAIN STREET
P.O. BOX 738
BANGOR, MAINE 04402-0738

ANGELA M. FARRELL NATHANIEL M. ROSENBLATT THOMAS A. RUSSELL JON A. HADDOW GREGORY P. DORR ROGER L. HUBER

May 11, 2015

TELEPHONE (207) 990-3314 TELECOPIER (207) 911-0239 c-mail: info@frrlegal.com

VIA EMAIL/ORIGINAL BY MAIL

Mark Leonard, Town Manager Town of Veazie 1084 Main Street Veazie, Maine 04401

Re: Notice of Retirement

Dear Mark:

It is with mixed feelings of satisfaction and sadness that I write this letter to inform you that I will be retiring from the practice of law this summer. My plan is to work fulltime until July 10<sup>th</sup>, and to work part-time through the fall to attend to pending matters and to wind up my practice. I plan to continue to represent the Town until July 10<sup>th</sup>, and to continue to represent the Town to attend to any pending matters. I will be reviewing the firm's "Veazie" files, and will make recommendations on the proposed disposition of those files (destruction, retention by firm or delivery to the Town). I am also in the process of cataloging any outstanding matters that need attention before my retirement. I suggest that you do the same, so that nothing falls through the cracks.

As we discussed, Roger Huber also represents a number of municipalities, and has often worked with me to provide legal services to my municipal clients. Roger would like the opportunity to represent the Town upon my retirement, and we are willing to meet with you and the Town Council to explore that possibility.

I truly appreciate the opportunity to represent the Town of Veazie, and I wish its residents and officials the very best.

Very truly yours,

FARRELL, ROSENBLATT & RUSSELL

Thomas A. Russell

tar@frrlegal.com TAR/hs





63 Texas Avenue, Bangor, Maine 04401-4324 · 800-884-1717 · 207-941-1010 · Fax 207-942-2857

December 24, 2014

Mr. Mark Leonard Town of Veazie 1084 Main Street Veazie, ME 04401-7091

Dear Mr. Leonard,

I am writing today to request that your community support public broadcasting in Maine with an appropriation of \$100.00 for the Maine Public Broadcasting Network. MPBN is a valuable informational, cultural and educational resource for Maine communities and has provided statewide broadcasting services for 53 years.

With trusted partners including NPR and PBS, Maine Public Broadcasting provides content, programs and local news that help people digest events and develop informed decisions to become more active and engaged citizens. We continue to increase the depth of our Maine news coverage with the expansion of our afternoon call-in news show, *Maine Calling*, the growth of Weekend Edition with host Jennifer Mitchell, and reinventing our *Maine Things Considered* program to have a greater presence on weekday afternoons. Our web services have expanded this year to include more local news and events as well as a wide variety of music and television programs that are available for streaming. These improved web services are available to the residents of your community as well as a growing audience across the globe.

Here at home, more than 200,000 viewers tune in to MPBN television and 180,000 listen to our radio programs and yet, only 46,000 individuals actively support the station with their donations. Support from Veazie would help bridge that gap and manage fluctuations in state and federal funding.

To ensure that all Maine residents continue to have access to all that MPBN has to offer, we need your support this year. Thank you for considering this request.

tain

Pamela J. Smart

**Director of Membership** 



## Eastern Area Agency on Aging

450 Essex Street, Bangor, ME 04401 Tel: (TDD) (207) 941-2865 or (TDD) 1-800-432-7812 Fax:(207) 941-2869 www.eaaa.org

12/3/2014

Town of Veazie 1084 Main Street Veazie, ME 04401

Eastern Area Agency on Aging is committed to improving the lives of seniors, adults with disabilities and caregivers in eastern Maine. We've been doing it for 40 years.

From delivering nutritious meals to the homebound through Meals on Wheels to increasing the safety and stability of older homes through EZ Fix minor home repair, seniors and disabled can count on us to help them when they are in need, often when they have nowhere else to turn.

But we cannot do it alone. It is critical that we receive support from municipalities in order to continue the level of services we provide. For your convenience, we have broken down the specific services that we have benefitted your residents and the estimated market cost to the resident if the services had to be purchased elsewhere. (*Please see attached page.*)

Community financial support will be a key component in our plan for services in the upcoming year. Our federal and state funding has remained flat for years yet the demand for services continues to increase as people age.

As you prepare your budget, we ask that you think about your elderly and disabled residents and include Eastern Area Agency on Aging in the process for the amount of \$300.00.

We also hope you'll notify us whenever elderly and disabled citizens of your community need help. Town officials prove to be an important part of our efforts as we attempt to reach out to those individuals who need us but who may be unaware of our services.

In the meantime, if you have questions, please call Catherine Forker at 1-800-432-7812. Please visit <a href="www.eaaa.org">www.eaaa.org</a> to learn more about Eastern Area Agency on Aging's work.

Sincerely,

Noëlle Merrill
Executive Director

Voille muilo







## Statements of Financial Position As of June 30, 2014

	FY2014	Comparison FY2013
ASSETS	1,000	
Current Assets Cash and cash equivalents Cash and short-term investments for capital purposes	\$ 1,395,049 s 352,225	\$ 1,155,982 351,476
Accounts and grants receivable Pledges receivable within one year (net)	57,238 2,184,951	577.440 1,710,426
Prepaid expenses Total Current Assets	159,920 4,149,383	82,131 3,877,455
Property and Equipment Digital Conversion Equipment		
Broadcast equipment Accumulated depreciation	8,684,240 (6,466,729)	10,013,293 (7,347,971)
Total Digital Conversion Equipment	2,217,511	2,665,322
Other Property and Equipment  Land and improvements  Buildings and improvements	259,978	259.978
Broadcast equipment	4,624,939 10,742,915	4,779,389 11,415,570
Office equipment and furniture Automotive equipment	2,945,970 653,056	3,135,381 669,609
	19,226,858	20,259,927
Accumulated depreciation  Total Other Property and Equipment	(13,391,205) 5,835,653	(14,343,826) 5,916,101
Other Assets Unemployment compensation deposit	61,839	19,811
Investments - long-term Pledges receivable after one year	4,971,653 770,473	4,279,213 534,000
Total Other Assets	5,803,965	4,833,024
Total Assets	\$ 18,006,512	S 17,291,902
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current Liabilities	f 202.041	C = 504.271
Accounts payable Accrued expenses	\$ 203,041 695,729	S 586,371 714,209
Uncarned revenue Total Current Liabilities	000 770	99,912
Long-Term Liabilities	898,770	1,400,492
Accrued post-retirement benefits	94,064	101,664
Total Liabilities	992,834	1,502,156
Net Assets Unrestricted		
Operations  Board designated investment	6,474,524 4,589,200	6,255,877
Digital Television Conversion	4,389,200 872,084	3,962,567 1,018,853
	11,935,808	11.237.297
Temporarily restricted	4,808,722	4,336,511
Permanently restricted Total Net Assets	269,148 17,013,678	215,938 15,789,746
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 18,006,512	\$ 17,291,902







### Statements of Activities As of June 30, 2014

	FY2014	Comparison FY2013
Operating Revenues and Support		
Membership	\$ 4,667,365	S 4,618,885
State of Maine	1,690,905	1,673,997
Corporation for Public Broadcasting	1,554,378	1,473,775
Contributions	2,281,042	1,397,728
Underwriting	2,148,931	1,802,036
Government grants	380,991	1,193,892
Interest on short-term investments	2,269	1,979
Amount allocated under spending formula	150,000	140,000
Other	223,335	183,678
In-kind	71,404	94,773
Loss on disposal of assets	(112,616)	(150,418)
Total Operating Revenues and Support	13,058,004	12,430,325
Operating Expenses Program service		
Technical	2,129,379	2,194,796
Programming and production	4,726,704	5,060,467
Public information	406,878	342,292
	7,262,961	7,597,555
Development	2,593,030	2,468,572
Administration	1,501,278	1,551,774
Depreciation (excluding DTV conversion)	805,425	764,603
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	12,162,694	12,382,504
Changes in Net Assets from Operations	895,310	47,821
Non-Operating Activities		
Contributions	102,290	62,322
Investment income	736,001	387,318
Amount allocated under spending formula	(150,000)	(140.000)
Depreciation on DTV conversion	(359,669)	(431,674)
Change in Net Assets - Non-Operating	328,622	(122,034)
Change in Net Assets	1,223,932	(74,213)
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	15,789,746	15,863,959
Net Assets, End of Year	\$ 17,013,678	S 15,789,746

MPBN's Digital Conversion was a one-time project that ended in FY2005. The project was funded by individual donations, federal grants and the State of Maine bond offerings. Expenses for DTV listed above are solely for Depreciation.

The above schedule is a summary of MPBN's Revenues and Expenses for FY2014, with a comparison to FY2013. For a full presentation of MPBN's Audited Financial Statements, in accordance with GAAP, please refer to our Website (http://www.mpbn.net) or contact Chief Financial Officer Clare E. Hannan (channan@mpbn.net). The Maine Public Broadcasting Network is a non-profit, 501(e)3 charitable organization, registered in the State of Maine.



# Services provided to the <u>older and disabled citizens</u> of **Town of Veazie**by Eastern Area Agency on Aging

Service	Units of service	Value
COMMUNITY SERVICES		
Information and Assistance - office appointments, home visits and telephone calls linking individuals with available services.	152	\$5,320
State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) - helps people understand Medicare & other health insurances.	36	\$1,260
<u>Transportation</u> - limited transportation for medical appointments and personal errands for those who qualify (where available.)	0	\$0
NUTRITION SERVICES	5	
Community Cafes - delicious meals and socialization for seniors.	620	\$4,960
Meals on Wheels - home delivered meals	0	\$0
Pantry Partners – linking seniors with farmers who grow produce for them	0	\$0
Senior Food Bank - supplemental food program for eligible seniors.	12	\$240
Furry Friends Food Bank - provides low-income seniors and disabled with supplemental pet food to help feed their pets.	225	\$1,125
EZ FIX - is a minor home repair program for seniors	19	\$665
FAMILY CAREGIVER SERVICES - provides support education - to individuals caring for loved onesspecializing in Alzheimer's/dementia	10	\$350
LEGAL SERVICES for the ELDERLY – free legal assistance to seniors.	17	\$583

Total VALUE of services provided:

\$14,503

Total NUMBER of residents who have received one or more services from Eastern Area Agency on Aging:

Total AMOUNT of funding request: \$300.00



### **Community Health and Counseling Services**

Home Health, Hospice and Mental Health Services

PO Box 425 Bangor, Maine 04402-0425 Tel. 207-947-0366 TTY 207-990-4730 www.chcs-me.org

November 8, 2014

Mr. .Joseph Hayes, Town Manager Town of Veazie 1084 Main Street Veazie, ME 04401-7091

Dear Mr. Hayes:

Founded in 1883, Community Health and Counseling Services (CHCS) provides home health, hospice and mental health services to over 9,000 adults and children in communities throughout Maine. CHCS supports: adults with severe and persistent mental illness who need assistance in achieving and maintaining independence while living within their communities; children and their families who are in need of intensive help in dealing with emotional and behavioral problems; homebound individuals with serious or terminal illnesses or dealing with a disability who may need home health services and end-of-life-care (hospice).

Our mission, "to provide community health services which are needed and valued by the communities and individuals we serve" supports the belief that, whenever possible, care is best given in a familiar setting where family and friends can become a part of the support and recovery process.

As a private not-for-profit organization, CHCS understands the importance of delivering quality services in an efficient and cost effective manner. CHCS collaborates with many resources to provide quality care which benefits the individual and their community.

We recognize the economic challenges facing all Maine communities and municipalities. **Our request for your support in the amount of \$766**, is submitted with an understanding that you face many difficult decisions and constraints. Your appropriation will be directed to support the programs and services offered by CHCS. Any assistance you can provide will help us to address the unmet needs of those we serve in your community and to bridge the gap between reimbursement and the cost of service delivery.

I have included some information relevant to our services in Southern Penobscot County for your Board of Selectmen and Overseers. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions about the services CHCS provides to the citizens of Veazie.

Thank you for consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Dale Hamilton
Executive Director

# Community Health and Counseling Services Southern Penobscot - 2014



### Who We Are

Community Health and Counseling Services is a private nonprofit community mental health, home health and hospice agency that is Medicare/Medicaid certified. Our home health and hospice services are CHAP accredited. CHCS provides community-based treatment and rehabilitation services to children with emotional and behavioral problems, adults with chronic mental illness and home health services and end-oflife-care (hospice) to those with serious or terminal illnesses.

## Southern Penobscot County Residents Served in 2014

CHCS serves the needs of children, adults and families in Southern Penobscot County within 31 communities through its office located in Bangor.

177 residents of Southern Penobscot County are part of our caring staff.

CHCS provided support to more than **1,370 residents** in Southern Penobscot County through its services. CHCS community-based services allow residents to remain in their community.

Southern Penobscot received 41,278 health care visits from CHCS professionals.

Services Provide a Sense of Independence for Those Living in Southern Penobscot County

The community-based nature of the services provided by CHCS helps to prevent admission to more expensive forms of care. CHCS builds upon the natural resources of the individual to help them create a sustainable network of support that remains in place when CHCS is no longer needed.

### Services that Impact

This is done through services like home health, hospice, physical therapy, adult and child therapy, child treatment foster care, adult community integration services, adult and child medication management, and child residential programs.

### Measurable Benefits

CHCS aggressively measures outcomes for its programs and services. Our home health and hospice services department is required to participate in an outcome measurement process called OASIS. OASIS is a national outcome data tool that is required throughout the home health industry.

All of the outcome data collected by CHCS and other entities demonstrates that CHCS is successful in improving the overall quality of lives of individuals who are experiencing significant health needs.

CHCS's Home Health and Hospice program received the 2014 HomeCare Compare distinction that recognizes the Top 500 Home Health Care agencies in the nation.

## Providing Quality of Life to Individuals and Families in Southern Penobscot County

The mission of CHCS is to provide a comprehensive array of community health services that are needed and valued by the communities we serve. The very nature of the services provided by CHCS enables individuals to have improved lives. We all know the comfort that home and community brings during an illness. Our home health care services bring this care to an individual's home. Since our services are developed in partnership with the individual, treatment plans are developed which foster improvement for the individual.

### CHCS Practices Good Stewardship

CHCS establishes a request amount for each county in which we provide service. After determining this request amount, each town's specific request is determined by the amount of services provided to residents in that town in relation to the total population served in the county.

CHCS understands that communities receive many well deserving requests. We attempt to keep our requests to a reasonable level. As such, CHCS caps the total request of any town at \$5,000. This year we are requesting \$25,000 from Southern Penobscot County municipalities.

Organizational overhead is 11.96%. All other costs are service delivery related. Flexible dollars are used to bridge the gap between reimbursement and the cost of service delivery.



Mr. Mark Leonard Town of Veazie 1084 Main St Veazie, ME 04401

Dear Mr. Leonard:

Penquis is requesting that the Town of Veazie allocate \$1,605.00 at its 2015 meeting to support Penquis' work.

This amount is equal to 1.3% of the services received. Penquis is maintaining this percentage – half of the 2.6% requested historically – for a sixth year in recognition of the many demands on town and city budgets and the continued impact of the poor economy on our local communities.

During the year ending May 31, 2014, Penquis assisted residents of the Town of Veazie with services valued at \$123,484.00. A summary of services provided to residents and the value of those services is enclosed.

You can go to the Penquis website at www.penquis.org to view the Annual Service Report for the year ending May 2014. The report lists the services provided to each town and the value of those services. We would be happy to provide a hard copy of the report. Please contact me if you would like to receive a copy.

It is important that Penquis discuss its services with municipal officials to learn how we might better assist the least fortunate of our citizens. I would be pleased to have a member of our staff meet with you, review this request and identify how Penquis might be most responsive to the needs of the Town of Veazie.

In the meantime, if you have questions about our request or if Penquis can assist one of your citizens, please call me at 1–800–215–4942 or 973–3500.

Sincerely,

Kara Hay

Chief Executive Officer

TO: Citizens of Veazie Year End: 2014

Penquis provides social and other support services to low-income individuals and families throughout Knox, Penobscot and Piscataquis counties in order to alleviate and eliminate the causes and conditions of poverty.

For the year ending May 31, 2014, the following services were provided to residents:

SERVICE	NUMBER	SERVED	VALUE (includes fun	ids)
pove Ground Storage Tank Replaces above ground home heating oil storage tanks in p	<b>2</b> oor condition.	Households	\$3,209	
entral Heating Improvement Program Repairs or replaces faulty central heating systems.	7	Clients	\$2,367	
nild Care	2	Children	\$12,772	
Offers full-time and extended hours of care for children 0-5	years old.			
nergency Crisis Intervention Program	9	Households	\$3,525	
Provides home heating assistance to income-eligible house.	holds that are in a	an emergency or ener	gy crisis.	
iend & Family Miles	2,106	Miles	\$442	
Provides travel reimbursement for eligible medical and social	al service appoint	ments.		
ood Neighbor Heating Assistance	2	Households	\$761	
Provides 100 gallons of heating fuel to households whose in	ncome is 250% o	f the federal poverty le	evel or less.	
ead Start	3	Children	\$32,412	
Provides children 3 to 5 years of age and their famillies with support services.	early childhood	development experien	ces and family	
ome Repair	3	Clients	\$23,084	
Provides grants and deferred or forgivable loans to repair provides	rimary residences	s for eligible families.		
w Project-Consultations	1	Clients	\$338	
Attorneys meet one time with an individual to answer questi individual complete court forms. Priority to persons experier				
w Project-Representation	2	Clients	\$3,046	
Legal representation in family law cases. Priority to persons stalking.	experiencing do	mestic violence, sexu	al assault or	
w-Income Home Energy Assistance Program Assists income-eligible households with home heating costs	<b>43</b>	Households	\$28,620	
nall/Micro Business Development Services	1	Clients	\$220	
Provides training and technical assistance to help individual	ls start or expand	l their own businesses	5.	
an Miles	390	Miles	\$1,139	
Provides public and social service transportation in agency	vehicles.			
olunteer Miles	4,383	Miles	\$1,797	
Provides public and social service transportation in private	vehicles with volu	ınteer drivers.	-	
reatherization reaches a second reaches	4	Households	\$9,752	
Applies weatherization techniques to eligible households to	conserve energy	·		

This year we are requesting: \$1,605

Municipal support is greatly appreciated, as it provides flexible funds to meet important needs that specific, earmarked Federal and State funding does not allow.

Thank you for your continued interest and support!



# Hammond Street Senior Center

2 Hammond Street Bangor ME 04401 Tel. 207.262.5532 Fax 207.262.2475 www.hammondstreet.org

"Where the region's seniors come to learn, create, play, keep fit, make friends & stay young"

January 29, 2015

Mr. Mark Leonard, Manager Town of Veazie 1084 Main Street Veazie, Maine 04401

Dear Mr. Leonard:

On behalf of the 43 Veazie Residents who are members of the Hammond Street Senior Center, I respectfully request your approval of a \$1,505 allocation, the equivalent of \$35 per Veazie resident. The Hammond Street Senior Center is an independent 501 (C)(3) non-profit public charity. The Senior Center is a locally directed, member-driven organization that is financially on its own. We need your support to ensure your residents continue to enjoy access to the Senior Center.

The diversity and depth of programming offered at the Center addresses 8 out of 11 of the recommendations from national initiative's report "The Maturing of America: Getting Communities On Track for an Aging Population". An aging population that is unhealthy can place more demand on municipal services. Older adults who are physically active, demonstrate a higher level of engagement in community life, volunteer more, and live independently longer.

At the Center, **Veazie residents have access** to over 30 life-long learning courses offered year-round, an onsite fitness center, holistic health instruction including yoga, the state's only public clay pottery studio, advanced art instruction, free social activities, statewide day trips, nutrition and cooking presentations, the regions only communal rooftop garden, and so much more.

Please contact me if you have questions or if I may provide you with a tour of the Center. I welcome the opportunity to present this request to your council. Thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,

Kathy Bernier Executive Director

Kathy

Hammond Street Senior Center



9 Chestnut Court • Orono, Maine 04473 • 207-889-3031

April 7, 2015

Mark Leonard Town Manager, Veazie 1084 Main St. Veazie, ME 04468

Dear Mark,

I am writing to request that the town of Veazie help support Gateway Seniors Without Walls in 2015. As you know, Gateway Seniors Without Walls is a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization (since February 2013), a licensed Maine Charity, and an affiliate of the Center on Aging, University of Maine (since August 2014). We serve Veazie, Old Town, Orono, and surrounding towns, including Bangor and Brewer. Over the course of our 2 year history, 400 people have attended our activities, many repeatedly. Of the 400, roughly 40 of them live in Veazie, according to our recent count. We have close ties to Veazie through our Directors and Advisors: Three Directors on our Board of Directors come from Veazie currently; one Advisor, David King, on our Advisory Board comes from Veazie. Some of our restaurant activities are held at a Veazie restaurant, Stone Sparrow. We have also scheduled activities for seniors at the following: Riverside Park in Veazie, Veazie Congregational Church, Community Room at Veazie Senior Housing, Veazie Town Offices, Veazie Veterinary Hospital, Norma Noble's Main St. home, Ragamuffin Bakery, and elsewhere in Veazie.

As you know, Gateway Seniors Without Walls has two objectives: to provide daily, diverse, and meaningful activities (see our activity flyer) for seniors and to publicize services for seniors. As regards services, we commissioned a Center on Aging study of the transportation needs of the elderly in Veazie, Old Town, Orono, and surrounding areas (one page summary enclosed). We are working with the University of Maine and the Center on Aging on a comprehensive Resource Manual to describe local services for the elderly in Veazie and 15 other southeastern Penobscot County towns—many of these services open to Veazie residents. We currently have close to 80 pages of our "Elder Yellow Pages."

You also know that we have been an all-volunteer organization since we began; we have no full-time staff costs and no building-related costs since our activities are held at various free venues in the communities we serve. Our low upkeep has allowed us to dispense with membership fees and to charge only costs for those of our activities that have costs. We welcome all who wish to participate regardless of age or health or geography. When people need transportation, we try to provide it. Our accessibility, our multiple, daily programs, and our service work differentiate us from other local groups that serve seniors and also make us very cost-effective.

Though seniors infrequently pay for our activities, we need funding from municipalities, banks, and businesses for several purposes: most notably, to finance secretarial/clerical help, to provide website support, and to publicize our activities within the communities we serve. Our expenses total less than \$20,000 per year. We ask for \$1000 but would appreciate a donation of any size.

We would be happy to visit with the council to answer questions or to provide more information. We hope that Veazie can help us.

Best

Ann Davidoff

President of the Board of Directors, Gateway Seniors Without Walls



## Old Town, Orono, Veazie

### Transportation Needs Assessment

### Recommendations

Recommendations from this study to further support transportation access for older adults include:

- Increase awareness of the existing transportation resources serving these towns.
- Publicize the need for volunteer involvement in transportation and donations for mileage reimbursement.
- Explore strategies for orienting older adults to transit options to build comfort with using services.
- Examine the feasibility of implementing successful volunteer-driven transportation programs from across the state including At Home Downeast (Blue Hill) and Friends in Action (Ellsworth).

### Purpose

- 1. Better understand current gaps in transportation services for older adults in the Orono, Old Town, and Veazie areas.
- 2. Develop recommendations for further strengthening available transportation resources for older adults in these communities.
- 3. Done in partnership with Gateway Seniors Without Walls, which serves older adults in the communities studied.

### Methods

- 1. A review of previously completed transportation assessments.
- 2. In-depth interviews with community transportation providers, including:
- Bangor Area Comprehensive Transportation
- Eastern Area Agency on Aging
- Town of Veazie
- Town of Orono
- The Housing Foundation
- BAT Community Connector
- Church of Universal Fellowship
- · Penquis
- Eastern Maine Development Corporation

### Findings

- Individuals are highly reliant on private transportation. Private vehicle costs are barriers to getting out in the community.
- Some individuals lack an awareness of the full spectrum of available transportation services.
- Inconvenient schedules and limited routes are the main barriers to more older adults utilizing transit services.
- Lack of knowledge of *how* to use available transportation services and fear of trying these services for the first time are transportation access barriers among older adults.
- Transportation providers face capacity challenges in supporting transportation access including limited funding and, in the case of volunteer programs, a limited pool of volunteers.

Funding for this study provided by Gateway Seniors Without Walls with contributions from Cyr Bus Line and Dr. Stan Freeman.

Research conducted by the UMaine Center on Aging.

To read the full needs assessment report, please email info@mainecenteronaging.org

# Manager's Report For May 26, 2015 Council Meeting

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

We had a very successful spring cleanup. In previous years we have only filled approximately 3-4 dumpsters. On this cleanup we filled all (6) dumpsters and had to turn people away at approximately 2 o'clock. I have spoken to a Casella Representative and they will be bringing an additional container that will be left for a week to capture those that may have been turned away.

I have met with cemetery committee and discussed closing different roads in the cemetery to add additional lots along with helping to restore water in the cemetery. The 3 roads have been chosen. I will contact the previous contractor that I had spoken to so I can receive an updated quote. Flag placement and flower planting was also scheduled and has been completed. Additional discussion was had about the possibility of paving the roads in the cemetery in the future.

I met with the Town's Forester, David Wardrop and discussed numerous forestry related items. He's continuing to work toward the hazard tree assessment and is working on projects in the Town's forest along with planning the Town's Arbor Day event. The event has been scheduled for Saturday, May 23 at 9 AM behind Veazie's Fairview Cemetery. He and the members of the Conservation Commission will briefly discuss Arbor Day, Tree City USA, plant a few trees and show off new bridges on the Town's McPhetres Forest trail system. There will also be free spruce seedlings handed out courtesy of Maine Forest Service. All are invited to attend.

I've had numerous discussions with Barney Silver as he continues the repair of the storm drains and catch basins. We have also discussed the repair of winter storm damage.

I have worked with Town Attorney Russell on the wording for the Town warrant since the School Committee meeting. The warrant will be present at the Council meeting for discussion and ultimately approval.

The flags lining State and Main Street have been installed prior to Memorial Day.

#### Attachments:

Update from Peter Lyford dated May 12, 2015 Bangor Daily News Story dated May 15, 2015 Bangor Daily News Story dated May 18, 2015 Update from Peter Lyford dated May 18, 2015 Legislative Bulletin dated May 22, 2015 Memo from Economic Development Committee Subscribe

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Past Issues

**Trans** 

May 12, 2015 Legislative Update from State Representative Peter A. Lyford

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# 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

Annual Reports for Business and Nonprofit Entities are Due June 1, 2015

Annual reports are due on Monday, June 1, 2015 for all business and nonprofit entities on file with the Department of the Secretary of State as of December 31, 2014.

Maine's Secretary of State wishes to remind those who must file that they can do so quickly and easily using the Secretary of State's online filing system. To file online, click <a href="here">here</a>. Payment can be made by Visa, MasterCard, Discover, electronic check, or with a subscriber account.

The annual report fee is \$85 for domestic business entities, \$150 for foreign business entities, and \$35 for domestic or foreign nonprofit corporations. Entities that filed online in a previous year will be able to review the information provided at that time, and will simply need to update that information as necessary prior to filing this year's report. For account subscribers, the online filing service includes additional functionality to assist with managing multiple annual report filings.

Another online service allows noncommercial clerks or noncommercial registered agents to change their addresses.



Useful Links for Government News & Information

### Brewer City Office

80 North Street Brewer. ME 04412 (207) 989-7500 <u>E-mail</u> Web Site

### Clifton Town Office

135 Airline Rd. Clifton, ME 04428 (207) 843-0709 *E-mail*  Additionally, this service permits an authorized individual of a foreign entity (organized outside of the State of Maine) to change the principal or home office address. Anyone wishing to make these address changes separately from the online annual report filing service should click <a href="here">here</a>. For those who prefer to file a paper annual report, a preprinted form can be downloaded here.

A substantial late-filing penalty will be assessed, and may not be waived, on all reports received after the June 1, 2015 filing deadline. The Secretary of State's Corporations Division can assist with questions regarding annual report filing or changing an address. The Division can be reached at (207) 624-7752 or by e-mail at cec.corporations@maine.gov.

### May is Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month

#### Share the Road

All motorists are reminded to safely "share the road" with motorcycles and to be extra alert to help keep motorcyclists safe.

Motorcyclists are reminded to make themselves visible to other motorists

### Ride Sober or Get Pulled Over

Statistics show that the percentage of intoxicated motorcycle riders in fatal crashes is greater than the percentage of intoxicated drivers on our roads. This is why National Highway Traffic Safety Administration urges all motorcycle riders to always ride smart and sober.

#### Did you know?

- 4,957 motorcyclists were killed in 2012 a 7% increase from 2011.
- Use of DOT-compliant helmets remained at 60% in 2013, unchanged from 2012
- Motorcycle helmets do not interfere with the rider's vision or hearing

### Web Site

### 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

<u>E-mail</u>

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

### Nuisance Bear Calls on the Increase this Time of Year

The Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IF&W) wishes to remind homeowners to remove potential bear attractants from their yard.

Black bears emerge hungry from their dens after losing between 15 to 40 percent of their weight during winter. Consequently, they immediately start looking for food. Bears will often turn to suburban attractants such as bird feeders, pet food, and unsecured garbage bins when natural foods are not available.

In order to keep your home and community less attractive to bears between April 1 and November 1, when bears are most active, please

- take down bird feeders, rake up and dispose of bird seed on the ground, and store remaining bird seed indoors.
   Although bringing your feeders in at night and raking up and disposing of bird seed on the ground can make your yard less attractive to a bear, a bear may visit your bird feeder during the day. If you are experiencing problems with bears, the only way to discourage the bear from returning is to remove all food attractants;
- keep garbage cans inside until the morning of trash pickup;
- keep lids on dumpsters closed at all times, and schedule frequent pickups to avoid overflowing garbage. If possible, use dumpsters with metal lids, and keep the dumpster in a building or behind a fence;
- keep your barbecue grill clean by burning off any food residue, disposing of wrappers, and cleaning the grilling area after use. If possible, store grills inside when not in use; and
- store pet and livestock food inside, and clean up any uneaten food.

If you do encounter a bear, you should make loud noises, such as banging pots together, to try to scare it off. Always back away from the bear to give it an escape route. Without an escape route, a cornered bear may charge.

### Registry



By taking these precautions, homeowners are more likely to prevent conflicts that could pose a danger to human life or require corrective action, such as moving or killing a bear.

### 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.

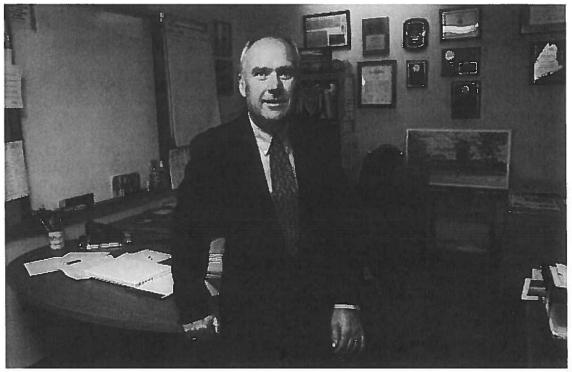
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DANGER DATES SINS

# Veazie school system grapples with council's order to cut budget



LINDA COAN O'KRESIK | BDN

Rick Lyons

By Nok-Noi Ricker, BDN Staff Posted May 15, 2015, at 6:59 p.m.

VEAZIE, Maine — The Town Council voted 3 to 2 on Monday to send the education budget back to the school committee to make \$200,000 in cuts, even after residents voiced opposition, Deputy Clerk Julie Strout said Friday.

"All their comments [fell] on deaf ears," she said.

Chairwoman Tammy Perry, David King and Robert Rice voted in favor of making the cuts, deemed "far too severe" by the school board, and councilors Karen Walker and Chris Bagley voted against the move.

More than 50 residents were in attendance, and most of those who took to the podium spoke against the school cuts, Strout said.

"The Town Council has established a budget that is \$201,000 less" than the draft budget approved by the school committee, Superintendent Rick Lyons said Thursday. "As a result of that, the school committee is going to meet Monday night" to discuss possible options.

Town councilors last month directed school officials to flat fund the local share of the budget, but the school board, last week, unanimously reaffirmed the initial \$4,248,289

budget they put forward. The school board felt that the reduced budget called for by the council was far too severe and really eroded the integrity of the school, Lyons said. While the proposed school budget is \$7,215 lower than this year's budget, it calls for about \$201,000 more in local funding compared with this year, largely because of Veazie's loss of \$213,106 in state funding, Lyons said.

The school has requested \$2,915,342 from residents, and the Town Council wants flat funding at \$2,714,264.

The town's original plan was to reduce what residents contribute to the \$4.2 million school budget by dropping the local allocation from \$2.7 million to \$2.2 million, and offsetting the school's revenue loss by using \$500,000 from the \$866,860 in "settlement" funds received this year from the separation from RSU 26. That idea was abandoned last month in favor of flat local funding.

Chairwoman Tammy Perry said Friday that she and the others who voted to reduce the school's budget are looking out for residents.

"We are concerned about the school," Perry said. "Our per-pupil cost is \$2,000 above the state average. We have to look at the whole picture."

She said she and the other councilors did not take the vote lightly.

Town Manager Mark Leonard left on vacation after the meeting.

Lyons said the school committee had already cut \$170,000 from the first draft of the budget by eliminating a teaching position, two full-time education technicians, reducing the curriculum development budget and cutting the out-of-district placement contingency account.

How the district will cut another \$200,000 is a question he cannot yet answer. "That is a pretty significant reduction," Lyons said. "I will advance recommendations on Monday to modify the budget with the least impact on the education environment." The special Veazie school committee meeting is 7 p.m. Monday in the school's library. BDN reporter Dawn Gagnon contributed to this story.

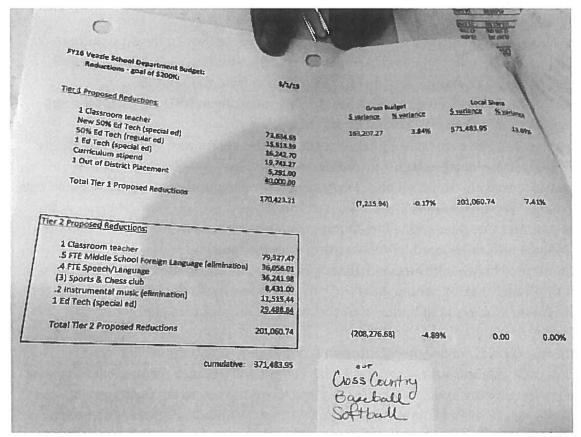
### **CORRECTION:**

An earlier version of this story incorrectly stated that Town Manager Mark Leonard was not at the meeting.

http://bangordailynews.com/2015/05/15/news/penobscot/veazie-school-system-grapples-with-councils-order-to-cut-budget/ printed on May 19, 2015

#### SANGER TOTAL STARS

# Veazie school board goes against town council, won't cut \$201,000



Nok-Noi Ricker | BDN

One classroom teacher, a half-time foreign language teacher, a part-time speech and language teacher, three sports clubs — possibly baseball, softball and cross country — and the chess team, a part-time music teachers and a special education educational technician would be on the chopping block in order to cut \$201,000 from the Veazie school budget, according to draft budget documents. *Buy Photo* 

By Nok-Noi Ricker, BDN Staff Posted May 18, 2015, at 9:47 p.m.

VEAZIE, Maine — The back and forth between the town council and the school board regarding the coming year's education budget was not resolved at Monday's special school board meeting.

Instead, the school board said they were going to "fight" for the budget they put forward and again unanimously reaffirmed their initial \$4,248,289 budget, which likely puts the decision in the hands of residents.

"I recommend that we reject the town council's budget," School Board Member Kristen Bagley said when it came time to vote. "I'm willing to fight for it," she said later to the 50 or so residents at the gathering, which included new Veazie Community School principal Matthew Cyr, who was hired at the beginning of the meeting. "I'm willing to stand up and fight for our school."

Residents applauded her statement, which was followed by statements of support by her fellow board members.

"These are essential programs that they are trying to cut," School Board Member Valli Vel said. "I want the best for my kids."

Town councilors last month directed school officials to flat fund the local share of the budget, but at their last meeting the school board stuck to their guns and reaffirmed their draft \$4.2 million budget.

Last Monday, the Town Council voted 3 to 2 to send the education budget back to the school committee to make \$201,000 in cuts, which is the increase in local funding requested by the school, largely because of Veazie's loss of \$213,106 in state funding, Superintendent Richard Lyons said.

"I don't understand why we're elected to serve if we're going to be directed," Chairman Gavin Batchelder said. "I don't stand behind the council's numbers. I don't feel comfortable."

The school has requested \$2,915,342 from residents, and the Town Council wants flat funding at \$2,714,264.

On the chopping block under the town council's requested budget is one classroom teacher, a half-time foreign language teacher, a part-time speech and language teacher, three sports clubs, the chess team, a part-time music teachers and a special education educational technician.

Baseball, softball and cross country were written on a yellow sticky note stuck to the financial packet of Emil Genest, the assistant superintendent for business under Lyons. Several town residents voiced their concerns at the meeting, including Dick Leonard, who lives on Silver Ridge.

"I think you need to stand your ground," he told the school board before they voted. Leonard said without investing in the school and other town services, "people will want to move" away from town.

Lyons said that now that the school board has approved their budget, the June 9 annual town meeting ballots can be printed.

"When we go to the town meeting ... [residents will] be voting on the school committee's recommended figure or the town council's figure," Lyons said.

Residents can also increase or decrease the proposed school budget by 1.5 percent, the superintendent said.

The thumbs up or thumbs down school budget validation vote is June 16 and is when residents will vote to support the budget they approved on June 9. If the budget is not approved, the process starts again, Lyons said.

http://bangordailynews.com/2015/05/18/news/bangor/veazie-school-board-goes-against-town-council-wont-cut-201000/ printed on May 19, 2015

May 18, 2015 Legislative Update from State Representative Peter A. Lyford

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# 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

### How to Freeze Your Credit

If you're concerned about identity theft, those reported mega-data breaches, or someone gaining access to your credit report without your permission, you might consider placing a credit freeze on your report.

#### What is a credit freeze?

Also known as a security freeze, this tool lets you restrict access to your credit report, which, in turn, makes it more difficult for <u>identity</u> <u>thieves</u> to open new accounts in your name. That's because most creditors need to see your credit report before they approve a new account. If they can't see your file, they may not extend the credit.

### Does a credit freeze affect my credit score?

No. A credit freeze does not affect your credit score.

#### How do I place a freeze on my credit reports?

Contact each of the nationwide credit reporting companies.

- Equifax 1-800-525-6285
- Experian —1-888-397-3742
- TransUnion 1-800-680-7289



Useful Links for Government News & Information

### Brewer City Office

80 North Street Brewer, ME 04412 (207) 989-7500 <u>E-mail</u> Web Site

### Clifton Town Office

135 Airline Rd. Clifton, ME 04428 (207) 843-0709 <u>E-mail</u> <u>Web Site</u> You'll need to supply your name, address, date of birth, Social Security number, and other personal information. Fees vary based on where you live, but commonly range from \$5 to \$10.

After receiving your freeze request, each credit reporting company will send you a confirmation letter containing a unique PIN (personal identification number) or password. Keep the PIN or password in a safe place. You will need it if you choose to lift the freeze.

#### How do I lift a freeze?

A freeze remains in place until you ask the credit reporting company to temporarily lift it or remove it altogether. A credit reporting company must lift a freeze no later than three business days after getting your request. The cost to lift a freeze varies by state.

If you opt for a temporary lift because you are applying for credit or a job, and you can find out which credit reporting company the business will contact for your file, you can save some money by lifting the freeze only at that particular company.

For additional information, please visit the Federal Trade Commission's Web site by clicking here.

### Maine Moves Up in Business Survey of CEOs

Governor Paul R. LePage issued the following statement regarding the release of Maine's improved ranking among states as a place in which to do business. Maine has moved up six points in Chief Executive magazine's 11<sup>th</sup> annual Best and Worst States for Business survey.

"This survey of more than 500 CEOs has now ranked Maine as the 30th best state, moving us up six points from 2014," said Governor LePage. "CEOs prefer states that 'foster growth through progressive business development programs, low taxes, and a quality living environment." My administration has focused on making Maine more competitive by lowering energy costs, lowering

### 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

<u>E-mail</u>
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 taxes, and streamlining our regulations. These efforts are paying off, and CEOs are taking notice."

### May is Foster Care Awareness Month

May is Foster Care Awareness Month nationwide, and in Maine,
Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Commissioner
Mary Mayhew is taking the opportunity to thank foster families while
encouraging others to learn more about fostering.

Maine DHHS in March put out a call for more homes to open their doors to foster children in need of placement and received an outpouring of interest in the program. Monthly foster care informational meetings held at DHHS offices throughout the State saw as much as a threefold increase in participation in the wake of intensified media coverage to increase awareness of the need for more foster families to provide homes for children in care.

Linda Brissette, Children's Services Program Manager for DHHS, reports calls received by her office regarding foster and adoptive parenting have increased from a monthly average of about five, to 65 in the past six weeks alone since the Department put out the call for more awareness and involvement.

Mayhew emphasized the following points in response to numerous recent questions the Department has received about foster parenting

- You do not have to have a spouse or a two-parent home in order to provide foster care to a child. Many single individuals throughout the State have opened their homes to foster children.
- Yes, the Department welcomes applications from individuals approaching or at retirement age who continue to experience good health and who have the energy and commitment to contribute in a meaningful way to ensuring children in care have opportunities to live safe and normal lives
- Foster families should be aware that the Department is mandated to work toward reunification of the foster child with his or her birth family. Foster parents who find it



- rewarding to support a birth family through the steps toward reunification with their child are highly valued for this service provision.
- Yes, you can be an individual who lives in a rental
  apartment or home. You do not have to own a home in
  order to be able to provide care to a child in foster care.
  You do need to have adequate space in your home to
  afford the child with a safe and comfortable sleeping area.
- Yes, you can be employed outside of the home and still qualify to become a foster parent.
- While you do not need previous parenting experience in order to become a foster parent, you do need to have a willingness to participate as a team member in meeting the parenting needs of children placed in your home.
- You will not be alone in your journey as a foster parent.
   Many experienced foster parents have volunteered as mentors to new foster families. Mentors are available, as are foster parent support groups, in every county of the State to provide support to new foster parents.
- The greatest need is for foster and adoptive homes to provide care to older, 11-18 year old children, especially those with behavioral challenges.
- Foster care can be provided on a short- or long-term basis and can result in eventual adoption.
- Even older children, such as 15-17 year olds, value and have much to gain from adoption. Young adults are more likely to succeed when they have a caring parental figure in their lives well into their 20s.

Families and individuals interested in foster care or adoption may contact Linda Brissette, Children's Services Program Manager at Maine DHHS, at 624-7964 or by e-mail at <a href="mailto:linda.brissette@maine.gov">linda.brissette@maine.gov</a>

Interested Mainers can learn more about the national Foster Care Awareness Month initiative by clicking <u>here</u>.

### Fish Stocking Information Now Available

The fish stocking report now features daily updates from hatchery staff. Instead of hearing when and where the hatcheries have

stocked well after the season has ended, anglers will now be able to easily locate waters freshly stocked with catchable trout.

Waters are grouped by county, listed by town, and include the date of stocking, as well as the species, quantity, and size of fish released.

You can access up-to-date and historical stocking information by clicking <u>here</u>.

### House Republican Office Links

To connect with the House Republican Office on the Web, you can visit <a href="http://mehousegop.org/">http://mehousegop.org/</a>, find us on Facebook <a href="here">here</a>, 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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MAINE MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION

Vol. XXXVII No. 19 May 22, 2015



## Bill To Address Abandoned Properties Advances

The Apr. 24 edition of the *Legislative Bulletin* detailed a bill submitted by Senator Nate Libby (Androscoggin Cty.), LD 1203, *An Act To Address the Detrimental Effects of Abandoned Property.* 

As initially proposed, LD 1203 would authorize municipalities to adopt an ordinance that according to certain guidelines would allow the municipality to ensure the maintenance of abandoned properties going through the mortgage foreclosure process to prevent their dilapidation. The guidelines in the municipal ordinance, along with the authorizing statute, would include:

- The municipality issuing a notice to owners of record and lending financial institutions, inviting them to a hearing whereby the subject property could be determined to be "abandoned" according to certain standards already established in law.
- Subsequently authorizing the municipality to formally identify all defects on the property needing to be corrected in order to prevent the deterioration of the property.
- Authorizing the municipality to levy a daily fine of \$2,000 to the owners and lenders for not addressing identified defects in abandoned property after being formally notified to do so.
- Allowing the municipality to levy a special tax to recover any costs the municipality expends in repairing the identified property defects when the owners or lenders fail to do so.
- Requiring any lender who initiates a foreclosure on a property to notify the municipality that it has done so.
- Requiring those foreclosing lenders to have an in-state contact for the municipality to correspond with regarding the property undergoing foreclosure.

Due to the concerns expressed primarily by the Maine Bankers Association and Maine Credit Union League, Sen. Libby amended his legislation to accomplish the policies detailed above, with two exceptions. Removed are the provisions that lenders be required to maintain properties the municipality determines to be abandoned, as well as the authority to levy a \$2.000 per day fine for failure to correct defined defects. Also removed is the requirement that municipalities adopt ordinances to evoke their abandoned property authorities—the amended version of LD 1203 now automatically grants all

municipalities the remaining authorities.

What the full amendment proposes, therefore, is an authority for municipalities, according to prescribed procedures, to determine certain properties to be abandoned, require their record owners to repair identified property defects, actually repair the property defects if the record owners fail to do so, and apply the supplemental property tax to recover the municipal costs. The requirement for the lenders to notify the municipality of all initiated foreclosures and provide contact information to the municipality identifying

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# Divided Recommendation on Cutting Municipal Excise Tax Revenues by \$20 Million

On Tuesday this week, the members of the Taxation Committee voted "ought not to pass" on LD 94, An Act To Base the Excise Tax Imposed on the Purchase of a Motor Vehicle on the Price Paid by a margin of 7 to 4.

Sponsored by Rep. Heather Sirocki of Scarborough, the printed version of LD 94 required the motor vehicle excise taxes collected and retained by municipalities to be assessed on the sale price of the vehicle rather than on the Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price (MSRP) as has been required since 1929. The bill would have also required the state to reimburse municipalities for 100% of any lost excise tax revenue.

As amended by a minority of the Taxation Committee, after January 1,2017 municipal excise tax collectors would be required to apply a 10% discount to the MSRP before assessing the tax. The existing excise tax rate structure, ranging

from 24 mills for first year model cars to 4 mills in the sixth and subsequent years, would be retained.

For example, under the proposed amendment a first year model car with an MSRP of \$30,000 would be assessed the 24 mill rate on the discounted value of \$27,000. A second year model car with an MSRP of \$20,000 would be assessed the 17.5 mill rate on a discounted MSRP of \$18,000. And so on, and so forth.

Although the printed version of LD 94 provided state funding to cover the municipal revenue losses, the amendment does not. As a result, Maine Revenue Services estimates that municipalities statewide would lose \$21 million in excise tax revenue each year if the amended version of the bill is enacted.

In the near future the merits of LD 94 will be debated in both the House and Senate.

## Waiting in the Wings: The Bond Package

If the Legislature sticks to its schedule, only four weeks remain in this legislative session. Although the primary focus at the moment is on the Appropriations Committee and its effort to develop bipartisan consensus on a two-year state budget, it will not be long before the focus shifts to the bond package that will be placed on the statewide ballot in November for voter approval.

Developing a successful bond package takes the skill of a master chef who can:

- Gauge the overall appetite of the customers in the restaurant without either overestimating or underestimating.
- Coordinate and prepare the various dishes that make up the meal in a way that pleases the diners' collective palate, and
- Make sure the price of each meal is matched by its value.

MMA's 70-member Legislative Policy Committee (LPC) took up the chef's role at its meeting last month and laid out a bond package the LPC would submit to the voters for consideration if given the authority to do so.

Appetite. After reviewing a 20-year history of state general obligation borrowing (see sidebar), and intending to stay firmly within the biennial historical parameters, the LPC set the value of the total borrowing package over the next two year period at \$185 million.

Meat and potatoes. The centerpiece of the municipally supported bond menu, as might be expected, is a meat-and-

### 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: <a href="https://www.memun.org">www.memun.org</a>

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

## MMA's Legislative Policy Committee's Recommended 2015-2016 Bond Package

Transportation	\$125 million
Broadband Expansion	\$10 million
Research and Economic Development	\$15 million
Water/Wastewater/Storm Water/Culverts	\$11 million
Public Facilities/Downtown Revitalization	\$ 8 million
Energy Conservation/Weatherization/Housing	\$ 7 million
Other (Higher Ed. Capital/Land for Maine's Future, etc.)	\$ 9 million
Total	\$185 million

potatoes offering. Bonding priorities from the municipal perspective are capital investments that provide long-term returns on the investments measured in terms of economic development and increased economic vitality. From that perspective, the two bond measures of highest municipal priority would be dedicated to transportation infrastructure and broadband infrastructure.

The LPC is so supportive of these two investments, it developed two bond proposals that are currently in the queue of 35-plus borrowing measures awaiting the Appropriations Committee's consideration.

Transportation. LD 628, An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Invest in Transportation Infrastructure, was developed by MMA's Policy Committee and Senator Bill Diamond (Cumberland Cty.) was kind enough to sponsor the bill at the municipal request. This bill would advance a \$125 million bond issue for transportation infrastructure purposes, dedicating \$81.25 million to repair and reconstruct state and municipal roads, highways and bridges, and almost \$45 million for other transportation in frastructure, including a healthy \$25 million to improve state-owned rail lines, \$10 million to upgrade public transportation systems, \$6.25 million to create and improve pedestrian trails and \$2.5 million for improvements to ports and harbors.

LD 628 is not the only significant transportation bond proposal in the deck. Nine of the 35 bond bills submitted to the Legislature are transportation related. Among the several comprehensive propos-

als in that bunch, Rep. Andrew McLean of Gorham is sponsoring an even beefier \$190 million transportation package that dedicates the lion's share —\$155 million — for highway and bridge repair and reconstruction purposes with \$35 million to be allocated among marine transportation, aviation, railroad, public transportation and bicycle/pedestrian projects.

Sen. Jim Hamper (Oxford Cty.) is the sponsor of Gov. LePage's transportation bond proposal (LD 1415) that would send two transportation bonds to the voters for approval, the first to be placed on the November 2015 statewide ballot in the amount of \$85 million and the second to be placed on the November 2016 state ballot in the amount of \$90 million. In the aggregate, the Governor's \$175 million package dedicates \$140 million for the highway and bridge component and \$35 million for other transportation-related purposes.

Broadband Infrastructure. An equally impressive slate of bills was introduced this legislative session to assist in the installation of the fiber optic infrastructure to support the high-speed internet capability upon which many types of business, large and small, now rely. All of those bills except one were referred to the Energy, Utilities and Technology (EUT) Committee and only one of the bills coming out of the EUT Committee is likely to offer any robust state funding to assist in broadband expansion, and only then if the bill does not die on the Appropriations Table. Only one of the broadband bills, the one referred to the Appropriations

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### The Bond Package (cont'd)

Committee, provides a path to capitalize those investments using bond funding, and that is the bill developed and advanced by the LPC. LD 68, An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue by Investing in High-speed Broadband Infrastructure, is sponsored on the municipalities' behalf by a broadband expansion enthusiast Rep. Jim Campbell of Newfield. LD 68 establishes the High-speed Municipal Broadband Infrastructure Fund to coordinate the opportunities for municipalities to develop and improve broadband infrastructure in their communities and proposes a \$10 million bond issue to capitalize that fund. (A full update on the various broadband bills falling under the jurisdiction of the EUT Committee will be provided in next week's edition of the Legislative Bulletin.)

Filling out the menu. It would be a mistake to equate the priority of a proposed bond issue with its dollar value. A

\$125 million comprehensive transportation bond is one of the highest municipal priorities, but that doesn't diminish the importance of a broadband investment proposing just a fraction of that investment cost. Similarly, the remainder of the bond package recommended by municipal officials consists in some cases of lower levels of borrowing in terms of dollars, but for the purpose of supporting initiatives that are considered just as vital at the municipal level.

Jobs bond/Economic Development. Within the \$185 million overall borrowing proposal recommended by the MMA's Policy Committee, \$15 million should be dedicated to measures that directly nurture the state's capacity for long-term and sustained economic vitality. So-called "jobs bonds," research and development bonds, and bonds that stimulate technologies naturally suited to Maine's natural resource assets all fill this bill. There are at least four bond proposals in the mix that

fall along these lines. The most directly on point, perhaps, is LD 1053, An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Stimulate Investment in Innovation by Maine Businesses To Produce Nationally and Globally Competitive Products and Services. Sponsored by Rep. Larry Luchini of Ellsworth, LD 1053 proposes a \$50 million bond, to be administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development. The resources made available by LD 1053 would be used for research, development and commercialization efforts supporting the state's seven targeted technology sectors, providing infrastructure, equipment and technology upgrades.

Water/Wastewater and Environmental investments. Our Policy Committee's bond package would seek an \$11 million issue for environmental enhancement purposes. For the last several years, a system to finance the state's leverage of

recommended parts in

<b>Total Genera</b>	al Obliga	ition Boi	nd Data	1995-2014
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	Bond Principal Issued & Outstanding		General Obligation Bonds		Value of Bonds	Maine Gross Domestic	Outstanding Obligation %	
an assertion fair from the	General Fund	Highway Fund	Total Bond Retired	Total Interest Paid	Total Debt Service	Sent to Voters	Product (GDP)	MEGDP
1995	377,055,000	136,950,000	74,317,610	30,465,440	104,783,050	91,900,000	\$28,153,000,000	1.8%
1996	369,458,000	144,440,000	76,807,345	26,944,639	103,751,984	45,405,316	\$29,256,000,000	1.8%
1997	339,621,000	129,060,000	87,917,345	27,619,969	115,537,314	73,850,000	\$30,372,000,000	1.5%
1998	337,575,000	139,180,000	76,425,600	25,812,652	102,238,252	74,985,000	\$32,104,000,000	1.5%
1999	334,725,000	133,700,000	79,615,000	25,512,957	105,127,957	154,362,031	\$34,161,000,000	1.4%
2000	341,205,000	111,230,000	82,280,000	24,543,458	106,823,458	_	\$36,438,000,000	1.2%
2001	297,405,000	108,635,000	87,670,000	23,814,726	111,484,726	146,700,000	\$38,160,000,000	1.1%
2002	260,790,000	85,335,000	87,525,000	20,973,370	108,498,370	112,570,000	\$39,989,000,000	0.9%
2003	293,990,000	64,120,000	85,095,000	18,381,501	103,476,501	149,400,000	\$41,510,000,000	0.9%
2004	355,025,000	61,105,000	72,255,000	16,886,408	89,141,408	_	\$44,352,000,000	0.9%
2005	439,110,000	47,825,000	66,720,000	17,982,112	84,702,112	83,000,000	\$45,520,000,000	1.1%
2006	433,585,000	33,875,000	71,865,000	18,341,570	90,206,570	-	\$47,594,000,000	1.0%
2007	398,280,000	50,460,000	79,695,000	20,852,772	100,547,772	228,575,000	\$49,065,000,000	0.9%
2008	378,575,000	97,260,000	76,980,000	20,694,707	97,674,707	33,125,000	\$49,500,000,000	1.0%
2009	408,925,000	121,065,000	79,190,000	21,102,152	100,292,152	71,250,000	\$50,160,000,000	1.1%
2010	365,775,000	134,325,000	86,725,000	20,495,526	107,220,526	123,050,000	\$50,674,000,000	1.0%
2011	378,880,000	141,350,000	88,005,000	20,091,904	108,096,904	-	\$51,585,000,000	1.0%
2012	347,090,000	124,965,000	97,440,000	19,787,081	117,227,081	75,725,000	\$53,235,000,000	0.9%
2013	261,495,000	108,230,000	102,330,000	18,076,400	120,406,400	149,500,000	\$54,755,000,000	0.7%
2014	306,995,000	92,195,000	83,480,000	14,814,886	98,294,886	50,000,000	-	-

Source: http://www.maine.gov/legis/lawlib/bondvote.htm, http://www.bea.gov, Office of Fiscal and Program Review

# Commission to Study Unfunded State Mandates Receives Party-Line Vote

Last week's Legislative Bulletin described the State and Local Government Committee's public hearing on LD 1377, Resolve, To Establish the Commission To Study the Reduction of Unfunded and Outdated Municipal Mandates. Sponsored by Senator Mike Thibodeau (Waldo Cty.), this resolve would have created a 10-member commission charged with meeting at least twice annually to review unfunded and outdated mandates placed on local government by the Legislature or state agency rules. At a work session on Monday of this week, the Committee's six Republicans voted to support LD 1377 while the six Democrats on the Committee voted "ought not to pass," along with the Independent legislator on the Committee. Rep. Jeff Evangelos of Friendship.

Despite the fact that no one testified in opposition to the resolve, the Democrats on the Committee voted against passage for two reasons. One reason was that the make-up of the commission would have been lopsided toward municipalities. "arming one side of like-minded people to bring forth grievances." In MMA's view, the municipal officials charged with carrying out state mandates are the appropriate parties to examine the relevance and continued propriety of unfunded state mandates, but if the Committee wanted to adjust the proposed membership in certain ways, that would have been perfectly acceptable.

The second reason given for opposing the bill is that MMA, as an organization representative of municipalities, could bring forth a list of mandates to be repealed or redesigned and that it seemed unnecessary to create a new government entity that would need to be funded to explore this issue. While it is true that MMA attempts to maintain an inventory of state mandates (see the most recently updated version on MMA's website at http://goo.gl/mO4Jli), the process of evaluating those mandates by municipal officials and other interested parties who work with those mandates "in the field" is invaluable. The Mandate Working Group established by the Legislature in 2013 advanced the mandate evaluation process appreciably, but legislative support for that effort has stalled and deserves to be rekindled.

A split vote on the Committee of this nature does not bode well for the bill, which is likely to suffer the fate of other bills this session that are voted out of

Committee along party lines. With support in one chamber of the Legislature and opposition in the other, the result is death by "non-concurrence" between the two bodies.

In addition to the updated mandate inventory, there is also available on MMA's website the responses from a survey on the subject Senate President Thibodeau conducted earlier this year. The link to the survey responses is <a href="http://goo.gl/MhbdvU">http://goo.gl/MhbdvU</a>. Appreciation was expressed for the municipal participation in the survey.

# Party Line Votes on Revenue Sharing & Income Tax Proposals

Two bills of municipal interest were reported out of the Taxation Committee last week with divided recommendations along party lines. One bill would set the municipal revenue sharing on a path to restoration. The other bill would amend the state's Constitution to eliminate the income tax. With Committee recommendations now attached to them that are sharply divided along party lines, it is likely that both bills will die between the House and Senate in "non-concurrence". While a majority of the members of the Senate are likely to support the initiative providing voters the opportunity to repeal the income tax, the members of the House are not. With respect to the measure providing the Legislature with a plan for fully funding revenue sharing by FY 2020, that proposal is more than likely to gain support in the House and be opposed in the Senate.

Although punting the development of a revenue sharing restoration plan to the 2018 Legislature does little for municipal officials seeking local budget development and funding predictability, the preservation of the income tax as an element of the overall tax policy is reassuring. What follows is a brief recap of the Taxation Committee's work on these two issues.

Eliminating the Income Tax. As sponsored by Rep. Ken Fredette of Newport, on behalf of Governor LePage, LD 1367, RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine

To Eliminate the Income Tax, would send out to Maine's voters the proposal to constitutionally prohibit the Legislature from taxing the incomes of Maine residents starting on January 1, 2020.

At its work session on May 13, the members of the Taxation Committee voted to oppose LD 1367 by a party line vote of 7 to 6. The Committee's Independent legislator, Rep. Gary Sukeforth of Union, sided with the majority report. The minority report is "ought to pass".

The Committee's discussion on LD 1367 was similar to the testimony provided at the public hearing. Proponents of the bill believe that the repeal of the income tax is necessary to improve and enhance business and economic development. The opponents of the bill are concerned that a plan to cut state revenue by \$1.5 billion will result in significant reductions to important governmental services and programs, including state financial support for K-12 education.

Restoring Revenue Sharing – FY 2016 & Beyond. As reported in the May I edition of the Legislative Bulletin, the Taxation Committee was provided three proposals, some more detailed than others, to get the state back on track to fully fund the revenue sharing program. Currently the Legislature is funding only 40% of its statutory obligation, causing \$62.5 million rather than \$158 million to be distributed to municipalities statewide. In order to focus the discussion, the Com-

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### The Bond Package (cont'd)

federal funds to capitalize revolving loan programs for drinking water and waste water facility upgrades has been established in a way that doesn't require borrowing. That system relies on tapping into surplus state revenues identified when the state's books are closed out at the conclusion of each fiscal year. To the extent that tapping into the "cascade" is meeting that need and fully leveraging available federal funds, so much the better. To any extent that system has failed to fully leverage the necessary federal support for Maine's water and wastewater infrastructure, the bond issue should pick up that slack. In addition, the Policy Committee's bond package could easily support LD 1069, An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Upgrade Municipal Culverts and Stream Crossings. Sponsored by Rep. Jeff McCabe (Skowhegan), LD 1069 proposes a \$10 million bond issue, administered by the Department of Environmental Protection, for culvert repair and replacement purposes to help control flooding, improve fish passage and provide ecological protection benefits.

Public Facilities, Downtown Revitalization. Municipal officials believe that investments in public facilities and downtown centers create attractive places for private sector investment, helps sustain and improve the state's "brand", and generally support a healthy economic environment. The \$185 million bond package recommended by MMA's Policy Committee would dedicate \$8 million to those initiatives. The bond proposals in the possession of the Appropriations Committee related to this "Brookings Report" approach to economic development include a bond proposal submitted by Rep. Robert Saucier of Presque Isle (LD 108) and a similar proposal submitted by Sen. Anne Haskell (Cumberland Cty.), LD 254, which would borrow \$25 million and \$10 million, respectively, for revitalization, environmental enhancement and community betterment projects along riverways and waterfronts.

Energy Conservation/Weatherization. When it comes to Maine's housing stock. nunicipal officials believe investments in

energy conservation, housing rehabilitation and weatherization guarantee valuable pay-backs. The LPC's bond package would include \$7 million in this category. The proposed bill to be considered by the Appropriations Committee that most squarely deals with those programs is LD 1341, An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Improve Maine's Housing Stock and Reduce Heating Costs and Oil Consumption. Sponsored by Sen. Dawn Hill (York Cty.), LD 1341 calls for a \$30 million bond issue, with \$23 million dedicated to the Efficiency Maine Trust to modernize multifamily housing and market rate single family housing stock through improvements in weatherization and energy efficiency and \$7 million to the Maine State Housing Authority to rehabilitate and modernize low-income housing stock with up to 4 housing units through similar improvements.

Maybe all of this is wishful thinking. The bond package to be presented to the voters in November is ultimately developed by legislative leadership of both political parties and both chambers and the Governor's Office. How the work of the Legislature in this area of public policy matches up with the recommendations of MMA's 70-member Legislative Policy Committee should become known within the next two or three weeks.

### Abandoned Properties (cont'd)

the bank's in-state representative is also retained in the amended version of the bill.

Although this amendment will not move the foreclosing members into any enforceable property maintenance role, it nevertheless represents a step forward by improving communication between foreclosing lenders and municipalities, and providing a municipal authority to correct property management issues on abandoned properties while recovering the costs incurred by municipal maintenance efforts through a specially applied property tax that would turn into a lien if unpaid.

The Judiciary Committee agreed with the refined approach, voting unanimously in support of LD 1203 as finally amended by Sen. Libby.

### Party Line Votes (cont'd)

mittee unanimously voted "ought not to pass" on two of the bills, reserving LD 980, An Act To Restore Revenue Sharing, sponsored by Rep. Denise Tepler of Topsham, as the vehicle for advancing a revenue sharing proposal.

At its work session on May 14, the members of the Taxation Committee voted to oppose LD 980 by a party line vote of 7 to 6. The Committee's Independent, Rep. Sukeforth, sided with the majority report.

The members voting in opposition to LD 980 believe that the Committee has already determined its position on the revenue sharing program. In response to the Governor's biennial budget, the Committee unanimously recommended that the revenue sharing program be funded at the \$62.5 million level in both FY 16 and FY 17.

Those voting to support the bill believe that the Committee's work on the budget easily dovetails into LD 980. The Committee work on the budget provides a foundation, from this perspective, and LD 980 builds off that foundation by implementing a plan to move the state toward fully funding the revenue sharing program over a four-year period.

The final outcome on both LD 980 and LD 1367 will be determined by the entire Legislature in the upcoming weeks.

Memo to: Veazie Town Council

From: Veazie Economic Development Committee

Date: May 15, 2015

Re: Community Center

As part of the Town Council's review of the Community Center, the Veazie Economic Development Committee (VEDC) has assessed the situation as it relates to economic development. Members of the Committee have toured the facility, met with the Community Center Development Committee, and have discussed the CC at the monthly VEDC meetings.

By way of background, the VEDC was originally formed in 1995 with the assistance of an outside consultant who established guidelines for the Committee which are summarized below:

- 1. Actively pursue commercial/industrial development for the remaining appropriate undeveloped land and underutilized buildings in Veazie.
- 2. Promote a positive environment for existing and new business
- 3. Constantly seek new suitable opportunities which will create employment in Veazie, which will continue to maintain community character.

With those goals in mind, we reviewed the history of the Community Center subsequent to the announcement that a new school would be built. The VEDC, starting in early 1996, reviewed options for the CC, and decided that an RFP would be sent to developers to solicit interest for the CC "reuse project". The January 1997 minutes of the VEDC referenced that the CC would be "liquidated", and that selling the building "could bring in tax monies, create local jobs, revitalize the town center, and provide services/goods to townspeople". The preamble for the RFP reads as follows: "The town of Veazie is soliciting proposals for the sale with rehabilitation of the CC..." It was noted that the property would be available in the fall of 1998, and that proposals were due May 1997. The RFP stated that the goal for reuse of the CC was to "create for the residents of Veazie opportunities for employment, housing, access to services and/or community facilities through the resuse of the building or site". There appears to have been very modest interest from developers. A new RFP was apparently issued in early 1998, which elicited interest from Bruce Winslow and Glen Kennedy, termed the Children's Cooperative. The committee gave the Cooperative until May 29, 1998 to submit a business plan, extended to June 24, 1998. Apparently no final disposition of the Cooperative's interest was made, since in July, 1998, the VEDC for the first time discussed "keeping the center as a meeting place", an option that arose due to the lack of qualified development proposals involving the sale of the CC.

In September 1998 the VEDC heard a presentation from CES concerning the reuse of the CC as office and meeting space, which included raising the ceiling and installation of an elevator. In January 1999, Kennedy and Winslow inquired about leasing space "permanently". It was noted that 3 RFPs had been sent out over a 4 year period. In May, 1999, the first reference about financing renovations for the CC could come from the TIF. Reference was made for a final decision on reuse by the end of 1999.

In June of 1999, it was determined by CES, that if the CC was to be used as commercial space, approximately \$450,000 would need to be expended. No mention was made as to the management of such a facility should the town maintain ownership. In February, 2000, the first reference of the CC as

an incubator was discussed, including the use of the TIF for financing the project. The last recorded minutes of the VEDC was in April, 2000, with no reference to the CC.

Fast forward to October 22, 2012, the date of the second amendment to the Casco Bay Energy TIF program, which added the parcel on which the CC sits. Page 3, section E, states as follows:

"This District is hereby amended to include Town owned property that includes the Veazie Community Center. The Community Center is used as a building to lease space to commercial companies that serve community needs. The Community Center is in need of repair and improvements and is currently home to two commercial enterprises. One goal of the Amendment is to make improvements to the Community Center that allow for additional commercial enterprise leases, thereby creating jobs and generating income in the community."

It is clear that the amendment to the TIF was in large part for the development of the CC to "allow for additional commercial enterprise leases". This certainly implies that the property would continue to be held by the Town of Veazie, and not sold. The stipulation is that TIF proceeds would "create jobs and generate income".

The position of the VEDC is that the Town Council request from the Community Center Development Committee:

- a plan that addresses the goals of the TIF, preferably supported by Letters of Interest from "commercial enterprises", which could then be presented to the Town Council,
- an updated estimate from a qualified engineering/architectural firm to determine the cost for the project, and
- a timeline for completion of the project.

The VEDC is concerned that funds being spent piecemeal for the ongoing maintenance of the property may not be the most appropriate for the final intended use, and therefore a comprehensive, detailed plan should be submitted as soon as possible by the Community Center Development Committee. It should also be clear that any major use of funds from the TIF for the renovation/reuse of the CC will use up resources which then will not be available for alternative projects (as outlined in Table 2, page 4 of the amended TIF agreement) that may have a more direct economic benefit to the Town of Veazie, It is clear that the reuse of the CC is a challenging undertaking, as witnessed by almost 20 years of effort.

If no acceptable plan can be presented to the Council within a reasonable time frame, as determined by the Council, the VEDC recommends that the CC be listed for sale by an acceptable commercial broker. Table 2, page 4 of the Amended TIF agreement outlines alternative uses of TIF proceeds that could then be reviewed by the VEDC and/or Town Council.

# TIF Amendment pp 1-5

### Part I. Development Program Narrative

This second Amendment to the Town of Veazie, Casco Bay Energy Company, LLC Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Development Program is made necessary and sought by the Town for a number of reasons

- A. The Company (Casco Bay Energy Company, LLC) has continued to meet the requirements of the TIF and associated Credit Enhancement Agreement (CEA).
- B. The Town wishes to revise and amend its Municipal Development Program to make use of allowable activities under statute and to extend the term of the TIF to its maximum allowable term of 30 years.
- C. The Town wishes to expand the TIF District to include properties that are eligible for TIF funding, under statute, to improve the economic conditions in the community.
- D. The Town and the Company are amending the accompanying CEA to encourage the continued investment by the Company and to stabilize the Company's net tax payment. The amendment also clarifies the existing CEA and extends the CEA to the full term of the TIF, as amended.

This second Amendment follows the headings and outline of the original TIF as passed March 16, 1998 (approved by DECD March 27, 1998) as well as those of the first Amendment of the TIF. The first Amendment to the TIF was passed on October 26, 1998 to remove 13.5 acres of land from the Original District. All sections herein update and amend previous sections and do not necessarily replace them, unless otherwise noted. For reference, the original TIF and First Amendment are included as Exhibits 1 and 2.

#### A. Introduction

The Company produces electricity from natural gas. Natural gas is expected to continue to play an important role in the energy future for Maine and the US. This Second amendment is sought for the purposes of furthering and improving the economic conditions of the Town and to stabilize and encourage the current and future investments by the Company within the TIF District.

#### B. General Description

The Company has completed all improvements and investments contemplated at the time of the execution of the TIF and CEA.

Shortly after enacting the TIF, the Town enacted an Amendment to the original TIF on October 26, 1998. That amendment was enacted as the Town chose to remove 13.5 acres of land from the District that it had considered for development.

This second Amendment is contemplated for the reasons summarized above and, more specifically:

- So the Town may take advantage of other allowable activities under its Municipal Development Program that have since been contemplated. Those specific municipal improvements are detailed in Section E, below.
- 2. Description of Town Improvements, see Table 3.

- To expand the TIF District to support and contribute to economic growth and the well-being of the community. The Town will expand the District to include the properties detailed in Table 1 but generally referred to as:
  - a. The Community Center. A municipally owned building currently leased to two private enterprises. Inclusion of the Center in the District will allow for improvements to the structure as outlined in Table 2 and generally improve the space available for leasing to those existing and future commercial enterprises.
  - b. Extension of Natural Gas Line. The District is amended to include the most likely route of extending natural gas lines to support commercial and home based business within the Community. The extension of the gas lines will make those adjacent properties more energy efficient and thereby make those properties (and others within the center of the community) more attractive as a place for business.
- 4. To encourage continued investment by the Company in the facility, including a potential future taxable investment of \$15MM. The Company may consider the investment in a "Black Start" generator that will make the operations much more commercially viable among all of those that support the New England power grid. To do so, the Town will amend the current CEA with the Company to reflect terms that stabilize the Company net tax commitment at its current most recent commitment of approximately \$1.8MM.

This second amendment to the Municipal Development Program is proposed for the purpose of administering the area outlined in Exhibits 3 and 4 (maps) as a Municipal Development and Tax Increment Financing District (the District) pursuant to Chapter 207 of Title 30-A of the Maine Revised Statutes, as amended. Upon vote of the Town's legislative body designating the District and adopting this Development Program, designation of the District and adoptions of the Development Program will immediately become final, subject only to approval by the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD).

This Amendment will allow the Town to use a portion of the taxes generated as part of the original and amended District to finance the Town Improvements, as described in Part I.E. below, and to continue participation with the Company under the agreed upon CEA, as amended.

## C. Employment

Since the construction and operation of the plant began, the Company has regularly employed between 19 and 22 persons. Hiring began soon after enactment of the TIF in 1999. Soon thereafter, in 2000, the plant began commercial operation. The Company currently has 22 employees.

# D. Statement of Means and Objectives

The Means and Objectives of this Amendment remain the same as stated in the original TIF. Additionally, this Amendment is intended to stabilize the Company tax liability and to encourage future investment in the facility and to provide additional economic development activities for the Town as eligible under the TIF statute.

#### E. Description of Town Improvements

The Town wishes to amend and update the activities it has undertaken or contemplates undertaking for Town Improvements. Table 2 outlines the Town Improvement Projects it has undertaken and may undertake as part of this Amended TIF Development Program.

The original TIF District, as defined in Original Exhibit 1, was defined as 54.8 acres. The First Amendment to the District removed 13.5 acres. In this Amendment, the District is enlarged by 16.8 acres and together with the Original, as amended, creates a District of 54.8 acres. This Amendment adds no new assessed value to the amended District. The original assessed value remains, as amended in Amendment 1. The assessed value of the original, as amended, and new acres added to the District is summarized and documented in Table 1.

Exhibit 3 of this Amendment (maps) outline the amended Original TIF District and proposed, newly amended TIF District.

The Town has used the TIF funds in its Municipal Development Fund to pay for costs to upgrade the Town's fire fighting apparatus to serve the needs of the District. Additionally, Municipal TIF funds were used for the (pro-rated) purchase of municipal equipment for improvements in the District, as well as public safety equipment used in the District and made necessary by activity in the District.

As part of this Amendment, the Town is adding parcels identified in Table 1 to the District for the purposes summarized below and outlined in Table 2.

Table 1. TIF District Parcels, Acreage and Original Assessed Values

Parcel Name	Map#	Lốt#	Acres	OAV*
Original, as Amended TIF District				
Casco Bay Energy Company, LLC	20	20, 20A (portion)	38	\$3,210,000
Amended (as per this Amendment) TIF District to incl	ude the a	bove and the followi	ng	
Community Center	10	99	(15.2)	\$0.00
Public Rights-of-way along proposed extension of natural gas line	**	**	16	\$0.00

<sup>\*</sup>Original Assessed Value (for those added as per this Amendment, value as of 03/31/2012)

Note: legal description of TIF District provided in  $\mathbf{1}^n$  Amendment

This District is hereby amended to include Town owned property that includes the Veazie Community Center. The Community Center is used as a building to lease space to commercial companies that serve community needs. The Community Center is in need of repair and improvements and is currently home to two commercial enterprises. One goal of this Amendment is to make improvements to the Community Center that allow for additional commercial enterprise leases, thereby creating jobs and generating income in the community.

The District is also hereby amended to include the local public rights-of-way along a portion of School, Oak Grove, Olive, and Main Streets for the purpose of extending natural gas from Route 2 into the village and in particular to the Community Center. Amending the District to include these rights-of-way does not compel the Town to extend the pipeline but rather provides the Town opportunity to consider such an extension. The contemplated extension may benefit the business opportunities at the Community Center and surrounding village area.

<sup>\*\*</sup>Gas line extends along ROW (see Maps, Exhibit 3)

The above mentioned properties and projects constitute the Municipal Development Plan as updated by this Amendment. The projects summarized above are outlined in Table 2, including an estimated budget for each project. It is understood that the budget for each project is an estimated project cost and that actual project costs will be identified as the TIF is administered and may likely vary from the budgeted amount in Table 2. The budgeted value in Table 2 is provided to demonstrate the need for the Municipal Development Plan funds, and it is understood that the Town may approve expenditures from its municipal sub-account annually for any amount for the below listed projects during the term of the TIF Development Program.

Table 2 - Municipal Development Plan

Project	Eligibility Under Title 30-A	Estimated Cost*
MUNICIPAL INVESTMENTS WITHIN THE PROPOSED TIP DISTRICT		
<ol> <li>Acquisition and replacement of fire station equipment, including but not limited to trucks, fire safety equipment (50% cost prorate for District use).</li> </ol>	§5225(1)(A)	\$200,000
<ol> <li>Purchase and replace public works equipment, Including but not limited to trucks, back hoe, plows, plowing equipment or other such necessary equipment (50% cost prorate for District use).</li> </ol>	§5225(1)(A)(1)(a-d)	\$200,000
<ol> <li>Professional service costs, including, but not limited to, licensing, architectural, planning, engineering, and legal expenses for the development of the projects in the District.</li> </ol>	§5225(1)(A)(4)	\$50,000
<ol> <li>Capital costs for the extension of natural gas lines to the District to provide for lower energy costs for commercial enterprises in the District.</li> </ol>	§5225(1)(A)	\$1,000,000
<ol> <li>Administrative costs, including, but not limited to, reasonable charges for the time spent by municipal employees in connection with the implementation of this development program</li> </ol>		\$25,000
<ol> <li>Capital costs, Including but not limited to the demolition, alteration, remodeling, repair or reconstruction of the Veazle Community Center, and other structures and fixtures on the same parcel.</li> </ol>		\$850,000
<ol><li>Organizational costs relating to the establishment and amendment of the district.</li></ol>	§5225(1)(A)(7)	\$25,000
MUNICIPAL INVESTMENTS OUTSIDE THE DISTRICT BUT DIRECTLY REL NECESSARY BY THE ESTABLISHMENT OR AMENDMENT OR OPERATIO	ATEDITO OR THAT A	REMADE
8. Portion of the costs reasonably related to the construction, alteration or expansion of any facilities not located within the district that are required due to improvement activities within the district including, but not limited to, sewage treatment plants, water treatment plants, or other environmental protection devices; storm or sanitary sewer lines; water lines; electrical lines; improvements to fire stations; and amenities on streets. Such improvements may be made necessary by potential expansion of the Casco Bay facility, by improvements to the Community Center, or during the installation of the natural gas line.	§5225(1)(B)(1)	\$200,000
9 Costs of public safety improvements made necessary by the establishment of the district including, but not limited to, acquisition and replacement of fire and emergency response equipment. Such equipment may be necessary by the future expansion of the Casco Bay facility or by improvements at the Community Center. Furthermore, the installation of natural gas may induce additional commercial enterprise, thereby requiring such improvements.	§5225(1)(B)(2)	\$100,000

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<u>Project</u>	Eligibility Under Title 30-A	Estimated Cost*	
COMMUNITY-WIDE MUNICIPAL INVESTMENTS		7 TY 1819	
10. Costs of funding economic development programs or events developed by the municipality or funding the marketing of the municipality as a business or arts location. Such events may include the Veazie Days or other such events that highlight the community and its location for arts.	§5225(1)(C)(1)	\$75,000	
11. Cost of services to provide skills development and training to residents of the municipality. These costs may not exceed 20% of the total project costs and must be for the provision of training to the resident.	§5225(1)(C)(4)	\$100,000	
12. Costs of funding economic development program including the planning and implementation of TIF projects herein.	§5225(1)(C)(1)	\$25,000	
13. Local match funds for State and federal economic development grants.	§5230	\$75,000	
14. Costs relating to planning, design, construction, maintenance, grooming, and improvements to new or existing recreational trails determined to have significant potential to promote economic development, including bridges that are part of the trail corridor, used all or in part for all-terrain vehicles, snowmobiles, hiking, bicycling, cross-country skiing or other related multiple uses. Such trails include but are not limited to the trails in the Buck Hill Forest and the McPhetres Forest.	§5225(1)(C)(6)	\$75,000	
TOTAL		\$3,000,000	

<sup>\*</sup> Total estimated cost over the term of the TIF, as amended herein.

The above Table 2 hereby replaces Table 2 within the original TIF Program.

# F. Operational Components

Sub-parts a. through d. of Part I. F, as passed in the original TIF, as amended, are not changed as part of this Amendment. As such reference for sections Part I.F.a-d, refer to Exhibit 1.

#### e. Duration of the Program

The Original TIF Development Program, as previously amended, was approved by DECD and took effect during tax year 1999-2000 and was established for 20 years, set to expire in year 2019-2020. As part of this Amendment, the Town wishes to extend the duration of the District, as amended, to the maximum duration allowed of 30 years from the inception of the Program. The duration of this TIF Program shall therefore be until the tax year 2029-2030.

### Part II. Financial Plan

The financial plan as documented in the original TIF Program, as previously amended, is hereby restated in this Section, in its entirety.

Printed by: Mark Leonard Thursday, May 21, 2015 8:21:34 A Title:

Message

Sat, May 16, 2015 7:22 AM

From:

<luv2teachk1@roadrunner.com>

To:

tperry@veazie.net

Cc:

Mark Leonard

🗾 brice@veazie.net 🧧 dking@veazie.net 📑 kwalker@veazie.net

Page 1 of

Subject:

Veazie Community School

#### Dear Town Council,

I am writing to you as a teacher, community member and a parent of children that attended the Veazie Community School. I am saddened, angry, embarrassed and disappointed in your attitude towards our school. I do NOT and will NEVER understand how educated people can think it is okay to cut programs from a child's education. I work with people who are dedicated to their profession and the children of Veazie. We put many hours during the day and outside of our regular school day to make sure our children get the best education. We spend hours upon hours during summer, school vacations and weekends making sure we are doing what we can to make learning our number one priority. We don't do this for a thank you or for recognition. We do this because we love what we do and we want to make sure our children learn and love to learn. Through your attitude towards education you have made us feel we don't do our job, that YOU don't care about children or their education. I find it hard to believe that you would not have wanted the BEST for your own children. It is my understanding that many of you had children that did benefit from the Veazie School and school choice. I have to believe that in reality you do care about education and want our children to have the best. I understand that people live on fixed incomes, because I have parents and grandparents that live on a fixed income. When talking to people that do live on a fixed income my feeling is that they still want children to have the best education and this is a place where you do NOT cut. We need to prepare our children for the future! I know it has been mentioned many times but when you cut from schools you are not going to lower taxes. Our children will be sent out of town and WE will pay for it at a very high cost. Your houses and mine will be worth nothing because no one is going to move here. Again, the school is what draws people to Veazie. How about if we all work together to come up with a solution that helps all. I fear that this is not about lowering taxes or keeping taxes the same but it appears to be a "we are out to get the school" attitude. I find this so very sad. Let's change our attitudes and work together as a community that cares about education...we can make a true community school and the hear to a great community. Let's have the news come to our meetings because we are doing great things not because we are trying to cut school programs.

Holly Humphrey



## **Bangor Area Storm Water Group Meeting**

May 21, 2015; 9:00 am – 11:30 am Location: University of Maine Augusta – Bangor Campus

## **AGENDA**

9:00 am	Welcome and Introductions
9:10 am	<ul> <li>BASWG Changes, Organizational Ground Rules and Moving Towards PY3</li> <li>Big Happenings: Changes in leadership, MS4 representation and roles</li> <li>Group compilation of BASWG meeting ground rules and discussion</li> </ul>
9:30 am	Audit Preparation Scenario Exercise  Volunteer MS4: City of Bangor  Scenario Focus: Combined Illicit Discharge and Post-Construction Issue  Review of scenario  Bangor report on preparation  Dialogue with DEP  Group discussion
9:50 am	Opportunity for BASWG MS4s to collaborate with MDOT dry weather inspections
10:00 am	Coffee Break and Networking on the Patio (weather permitting)
10:30 am	<ul> <li>Chloride Outreach Plans – Deadline Fast Approaching</li> <li>Circulate drafts to all MS4s</li> <li>Determine schedule to achieve compliance</li> </ul>
10:45 am	<ul> <li>Education and Outreach – Reports, RFP, and Upcoming Events</li> <li>Stream clean-up reports (what worked, didn't, support needed)</li> <li>Review of draft RFP – edits, discussion about timing/contract extension, presentation process, approval to circulate RFP</li> </ul>
11:15 am	<ul> <li>Voting on upcoming meeting topics</li> <li>Stormwater funding alternatives: Utilities, SRCs, P3s, etc.</li> <li>Planning regional trainings</li> <li>Sniffing dogs (FB Environmental)</li> <li>Marketing your stormwater events</li> <li>Green infrastructure</li> <li>Culvert sizing projects</li> </ul>

**Meeting Adjourns** 

11:30 am

#### More Than a School

Heavy tromping footsteps are accompanied by easily perceptible groans and chatter among sleep deficient children. The hallways the people roam are just narrow enough to cause complete chaos. The children are equipped with supplies which are suspended from their backs. Ages range from from five years old to fully grown adults. Where would such a place be? The answer... simple: the Veazie Community School.

School: the word itself holds numerous interpretations to different people.

Ultimately, school is a place where education is administered, right...? But to a kindergartener, school may be perceived as a place for crafts and extended recess. To a third grader: a place for chewed pencils and four-square and for middle schoolers... downright dreadful. As for the infamous high school years, a place for drifting asleep in class and plodding through crowded hallways to get to the next period, and lastly college, procrastination at its finest. Essentially, it depends on the person, and the school itself, but a school is so much more than an academic institution. Rather, it's a place for pedagogically inspiring, molding, and stimulating our brains far beyond a school subject.

Let's travel back in time. The Veazie School was previously known as the John R. Graham School and was located at 3 Flagg Street Veazie ME. A book reciting the history of Veazie reads, "In 1924, the town voted seventy eight yeas and fifty nays to build a fifty foot by thirty-eight foot school, which had four rooms, with thirty five pupils to a room." This building would soon become known as the John R. Graham school. They named it after John R. Graham, president of the Bangor Hydro Company, and its benefactor due to his donation to contribute to the construction of the school. In 1999, the new Veazie School was built at 1040 School street and it was officially known as The Veazie Community School, naming it after the community as its benefactor. Looking at it more intricately, the name of this school is completely accurate. In a small town, with a small school of only 165

students, K-8 might I emphasize. Having a tight knit community is something that is so integral to our school.

The Veazie Community School is a place above administering the nuts and bolts of our academic career. Because Veazie has both an elementary school and a middle school, there's always a grade that you can look up to, or one that can look up to you. Every day, we pass kindergarteners in the hallways, most of them with their hands out yearning for highfives. Veazie highlights one of the most important values to an individual: being a role model and leading by example.

The word school holds a certain stigma that portrays exaggerated revolt to some people...students in particular, but what if the place we've stepped foot into for years upon years has had one of the most substantial impacts on who we are not only as students, but everything in between? It's in this school where we have acquired a myriad puzzle pieces which we will contribute to one giant puzzle of knowledge and it's at this school where we have grown, not only physically, but mentally. We have cultivated, thrived, developed, and flourished. We have established friendships, goals, ambitions and great aspirations. Ultimately, we have become closer to untangling who we want to be as an individual and that is noteworthy within itself.

Teachers are primarily defined as educators: people who provide learning. However, the word itself doesn't even begin to characterize the intricate webbing of a teacher's role and guidance in a student's life. The teachers at the Veazie Community School one way or another have made an impression on us. They have guided us, influenced us, and pushed us. They taught us to want to succeed, to go far in life, and to make something of yourself. There's a difference between having the idea of succeeding as opposed to wanting it... having that undeniable desire for accomplishments. The teachers at Veazie taught us all to want it and strive for success.

School: the word itself holds numerous interpretations to different people.

Ultimately, school is a place where education is administered, right...? However, I emphasize that the Veazie Community School is exceedingly more than just providing an education. It's a landmark where people of all ages band together and become something of

a greater extent than what is expected. Veazie is a place where students can discover themselves all while inventing the person they want to become at the same time. It's a monument where our educators are our mentors who never fall short of pushing us towards triumph. The Veazie Community School is a landmark that gave me the undeniable desire to be great. It may not be the tallest building in the world or a monument that symbolizes America, but to 165 students, the Veazie Community School is home and that is the greatest landmark of all.

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