



Photo - Rebyn Deveney



Photo - Laura Nelson



Sally Stevens Photography



Photo - Rebyn Deveney



Sally Stevens Photography



Photo - David Sandmel



Photo - Cameron McKay

Town of Oakland, Maine 2023 Annual Report



COVER INFORMATION

This year's Town Report cover contains photos of the beautiful lakes that are in Oakland which include the following lakes, Messalonskee Lake, Salmon Lake/McGrath Pond and East Pond.

Special thanks to the following photographers:

Beth Arnold, David Sandmel, Kelly Michaud, Rob True, Sally Stevens Photography, Robyn Deveney, Laura Nelsen and Cameron McKay.

Taxes shall be payable in full or installments:

August 15, 2024

October 17, 2024

January 9, 2025

March 13, 2025

Payments can be made at the Oakland Town Office

Monday – Thursday

7:00am – 5:00pm

Or online at

www.oaklandmaine.us

2023 Oakland Town Report Dedication

The Farnham Brothers – Ralph & Vaughn

The Town of Oakland lost two beloved brothers who both served their community of Oakland in November 2023, Ralph Farnham Jr (86), passed away on 11/2/2023 and brother Vaughn Farnham (79) passed away 21 days later on 11/23/2023. The brothers had 94 years of combined service to the Town of Oakland.



Ralph served 36 years on the Oakland Town Council beginning in 1976 and ending his position on the council in 2012. He spent a lot of time researching to make sure the right decisions were made for the Town. He also was the pioneer for designing, researching and setting up the displays in the Oakland Historical Artifacts & Photo Museum located on Oak Street near Fire Station II. He was known to be a social butterfly and would spend time volunteering at the museum a few hours a week.

Ralph's brother Vaughn dedicated 58 official years to the Oakland Fire Department, although it started years before that at age 12 running to grass fires with his father. Through the years he served as a firefighter, Lieutenant, Captain, Assistant Chief, and Deputy Chief. As an officer on duty Vaughn gave up one weekend a month for 40 years, to be sure the town had coverage for fire calls. There simply are not many that can say they have given this much time to their community. Chief Farnham's legacy lives on through his contributions. He contributed countless hours toward the planning and designing of fire apparatus for the Town Oakland and fostering the generational gaps of new and senior members through the years. A significant void has been left in the Oakland Fire Department. "907" will be missed! Vaughn also was the manager at the Oakland Dump, before it became the Transfer Station.

Many thanks to the Farnham brothers for their countless hours of service to the Town of Oakland. May you both continue to keep the Town of Oakland safe from up above.

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TOWN GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL

TOWN COUNCIL

Robert Nutting	Term Expires December 2026
Michael Perkins, Chairman	Term Expires December 2025
David Groder	Term Expires December 2025
Dana Wrigley, Vice Chairman	Term Expires December 2024
Donald Borman	Term Expires December 2024

TOWN CLERK

Janice Porter	Term Expires December 2024
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ASSESSOR

Nichole Stenberg	Term Expires December 2025
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APPOINTED PERSONNEL

Town Manager/Treasurer/Tax Collector/ Finance Director & Road Commissioner	Kelly Pinney-Michaud
Dep. Town Manager/Town Clerk/Registrar of Voters/ General Assistance Director	Janice Porter
Dep. Town Clerk/ Registrar/ Tax Coll/ Treasurer & Dep. G.A. Director	Kathleen Paradis
Fire Chief	David Coughlin
Police Chief	Charles "Rick" Stubbert
Library Director	Sheila Thorne
Buildings & Grounds Supervisor	A.J. Cain
Municipal Agent	Christine Nutting
Code Enforcement/Plumbing Inspector	Nathan Smart
Health Officer(s)	David Coughlin & Anthony Thibodeau
Recreation Director	Eric Seekins
Public Works Director	Jeffrey Hall
Transfer Station Manager	Dylan Clark
Oakland Environmental Services	Boyd Snowden

PLANNING BOARD

Shawn Stevens, Chairman	Term Expires June 2026
Jamie Phair	Term Expires June 2026
Jon Cox	Term Expires June 2025
Richard MacKenzie	Term Expires June 2025
Robert Knowlton	Term Expires June 2025
David Roy, Alternate # 1	Term Expires June 2024
Vacancy, Alternate # 2	Term Expires June 2024

APPEALS BOARD

Edward Cornwall	Term Expires June 2026
Cameron McKay	Term Expires June 2026
Vacancy	Term Expires June 2026
Angela Jurdak	Term Expires June 2025
Patrick Linehan	Term Expires June 2025
Dabney Lewis, Alternate # 1	Term Expires June 2024
Vacancy, Alternate # 2	Term Expires June 2024

BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW

Julie Kern	Term Expires June 2026
Alan Breton, Alternate # 1	Term Expires June 2026
Tyler Backus, Alternate # 2	Term Expires June 2025
Sylvia Jadczyk	Term Expires June 2025
Jane Sturk, Chairperson	Term Expires June 2024

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT NO. 18 MEMBERS

*Chelsey Oliver	Term Expires June 2027
Michael Tracy	Term Expires June 2026
Laura Tracy	Term Expires June 2025

*Newly elected term commences on 07/01/2024 expiring 06/30/2027

BUDGET AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Glenn Adams	Term Expires December 2027
Donna Griffin	Term Expires December 2027
Susan Leigh	Term Expires December 2027
Donald Ponitz	Term Expires December 2026
Phyllis Capanna	Term Expires December 2026
Jeremy Lizzotte	Term Expires December 2026
Michael Rossignol, Chairperson	Term Expires December 2025
Angela Jurdak	Term Expires December 2025
Vacancy	Term Expires December 2025
Richard MacKenzie	Term Expires December 2024
Justin Richard, Vice Chairperson	Term Expires December 2024
Kelly Roderick	Term Expires December 2024

LIBRARY BOARD COMMITTEE

Jeanne Foster	Term Expires June 2026
Stephanie Cheevers	Term Expires June 2026
Peter Godfrey	Term Expires June 2026
Cortney Lilly	Term Expires June 2026
Patricia Stevens	Term Expires June 2025
Marilyn Stevens	Term Expires June 2024
Bert Brewster	Term Expires June 2024
Linda Holmsen	Term Expires June 2024

DOWNTOWN TIF ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Danielle Marquis, Chairperson
Phyllis Capanna, Vice Chairperson
Laura Tracy
Kerry Smart
Denise Rogers-Stevens
Hillel Weisel
Robert Nutting
Garvan Donegan
Kelly Pinney-Michaud

REFERENCE NUMBERS

Oakland Town Office

Telephone.....	465-7357
Fax.....	465-9118
Code Enforcement Office/Plumbing Inspector.....	465-2842
Assessor's Office.....	465-2750
Public Work's Garage.....	465-2408
Treatment Plant.....	465-7198
Public Library.....	465-7533
Fax.....	465-9954
Transfer Station.....	465-4732
Police Station (Non Emergency).....	465-2202
Animal Control Officer.....	465-2202
Sexton's Garage.....	465-9117
Fire Station.....	465-2631
Superintendent's Office.....	465-7384
Bus Garage.....	465-2102
Messalonskee High School.....	465-7381
Messalonskee Middle School.....	465-2167
Williams Elementary School.....	465-2965
Atwood Primary School.....	465-3411

Oakland's Web Page

www.oaklandmaine.us

Oakland's E-Mail Address

customerservice@oaklandmaine.us

Oakland's Facebook Page

Town of Oakland, Maine

The following websites provide an opportunity to purchase licenses, registrations and to request an absentee ballot for state elections:

<https://www10.informe.org/bmv/vanity/>

<https://www.informe.org/bmv/rapid-renewal/>

<https://www.maine.gov/online/trailerrenewal/>

<https://www5.informe.org/online/boat/>

<https://www10.informe.org/ifw/atv-snow/>

<https://www.doglicensing.com>

<https://www.informe.org/moses/>

<https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/voter-info/absent.html>

EMERGENCY NUMBER

Oakland Fire Department..... 911
Oakland Rescue..... 911
Oakland Police Department..... 911

OAKLAND POST OFFICE

Oakland Postmaster – Rollin Noyes 465-2404

TOWN OFFICE HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday thru Thursday - 7:00 am – 5:00 pm

TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

Second and Fourth Wednesday of each month 6:00 p.m.,
in the Atlantic Room at the Fire Station

PLANNING BOARD MEETINGS

As needed, the Third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m., in the
Atlantic Room at the Fire Station

**TRANSFER STATION & RECYCLING CENTER
HOURS OF OPERATION**

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday & Sunday
Open 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Closed Monday, Tuesday and Holidays
dclark@oaklandmaine.us

PUBLIC LIBRARY

E-Mail Address: stafflibrary@oaklandmaine.us
Website: oaklandpubliclibrarymaine.org

Tuesday 10:00 am – 7:00 pm and
Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 10:00 am – 6:00 pm

SPECTRUM

1-800-833-2253 Website: www.spectrum.com

TOWN COUNCIL REPORT

To my fellow Oakland residents:

Thank you for your continued support of the Town Council in 2024. We, in collaboration with the Town Manager, strive to make Oakland the best little town in Maine and America. This effort could not happen without your support, volunteerism, and pride in our town.

The Town Council members:

Michael Perkins, Chair
Dana Wrigley, Vice Chair
David Groder
Robert (Bob) Nutting
Donald Borman

These members would like to welcome Kelly Pinney-Michaud as Town Manager. Kelly brings a trove of municipal managerial knowledge and experience to the position.

Our town has an appropriately fiscal Town Council and Manager. They provide the diligence to reduce spending and grow revenue responsibly while providing the necessary equipment for our hard-working departments.

We look forward to the future as we support the ATV committee's effort to increase public recreation, the Police Department ability to protect our finest, and RSU 18's administration and faculty in educating our legacy. Thank you to all volunteers that serve on various committees to better our town.

Our town employees are dedicated to the success of our town and deserve our sincere gratitude. They are preemptive in keeping our infrastructure safe and well maintained, yet when the need arises, such as the recent 100-year storms, they go to work to get our town back on track.

Just a reminder, Town Council meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month, any items for the meeting's agenda please contact the Town Manager, all are welcome to attend. If your concerns or questions need immediate attention, please call me directly at (207)716-6968.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Perkins
Town Council Chairman

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

To the Oakland Town Council and the Citizens of Oakland,

As the newest Town Manager for the Town of Oakland, I couldn't be more honored to serve the community that I have been a part of for over 50 years. Having grown up in Oakland, raised my children in Oakland and now serving the citizens of Oakland, I am at home, where I need to be.

This document contains collective efforts of our fabulous town employees to deliver a fiscally responsible budget while addressing the aging needs of a fast-growing full-service town such as Oakland.

2023 Community Events

Oakfest

Last year's Oakfest was held the last weekend of July. We opened the festivities on Friday evening bringing back the annual parade along with our street dance featuring our DJ Richard Jandreau and the band Between the Lines, food vendors, and the Oakland American Legion beverage tent. This was the best attended Friday evening since we began this event, Main Street was filled with hundreds of people through the evening. The following day on Saturday, we moved over to Williams Elementary School where we held our Shine on Oakland Day, with live music, craft vendors, and food vendors. This year our classic car cruise drew over thirty cars and was said to be one of the best in the area. We were scheduled to have a concert on Saturday evening, but due to the inclement weather we had to cancel.

Oakfest drew record crowds this year on both days. Oakfest 2024 is going to be held on Friday, Saturday & Sunday July 26th - 28th.

Music Series

This past summer's Music Series was one of the best attended events that we've had so far. We had a great line up of bands despite the rainy summer we had weather wise. We're in the middle of planning another great lineup of musicians for next summer. Stay tuned.

Flower Committee

As in past years, last spring, summer and fall, the flowers around downtown were beautiful. We did receive more than enough rain to keep them watered in 2023! Every summer our downtown area, Church Street, and our intersections become a focal point for Oakland, special thanks to June Ponitz for the Oakland/Belgrade town line flower display on Rt. 11. The Flower Committee continues to push the envelope of creativity. I feel that the town needs to continue to support this inexpensive beautification and marketing program, we have requested \$3,288 in funding for FY25.

Budget Highlights

As with past years, our struggle continues with keeping up with market wages in the area. Municipal work is not glamorous work and has always had a reputation for low wages compared to public sector jobs. We are all experiencing the rising costs of everything that we purchase. Gas, oil, equipment, sand and salt, and people power have all skyrocketed in price since the pandemic. These higher costs have directly impacted the budget. The Northeast CPI came in at 3% this year.

The Council has agreed to pass a 3% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) onto our employees. This equates to an approximately \$62,500 increase. We have also requested additional small hourly increases to get our truck drivers and laborers up to \$23.00 per hour. We are seeing a 5.5 % increase in health insurance as well. Our library was approved last budget year to make the 2 part-time employees - fulltime. This has made such a positive impact on the library, our citizens and the service we provide to them.

Last year Delta Ambulance billed the town \$15 per capita for its services to the Town of Oakland. Which equaled \$95,715. This year their request is \$25 per capita which equals \$158,050 – which is an increase of \$62,365.

Due to Oakland having not completed a complete revaluation since 1996, our property values and inventory is way out of accuracy. Our values have fallen so far behind what properties are selling for, that it's causing the extra expense of rising property taxes and lower homestead exemptions. We went out to bid this year and received one bid back. We will have a complete full town revaluation which will be completed for April 1, 2026 tax year. A full revaluation will cost \$340,000 for Oakland's 4000 properties. \$100,000 was approved by voters last year. We began monthly payments in January 2024. We will need to budget the following the next 3 years -FY25 \$94,400, FY26 \$125,200, FY27 \$20,400. This is the payment schedule that the company is asking for. We will carryover \$28,000 to FY25 from FY24 to round out the difference for FY25. Once the revaluation is completed, the town's mil-rate will be considerably lower than it is now. The rule of thumb is that 33% of properties will experience a tax increase, 33% will not change at all, and 33% will go down in taxes. There are no options with this.

Capital Improvements are up from last year. We need to make the final payment of \$197,317 on Engine #5 for the Fire Department. \$15,000 for police hand-guns which will replace our 12+ year old guns and \$60,000 for a Lease to Purchase Agreement which will include a maintenance utility van, fire chief command vehicle, school resource officer/police equipment and 3 police cruisers which will replace 4. Property Maintenance is asking for a new mower and we would like to add \$10,000 to Memorial Hall Improvements fund for drainage work on the School Street side that will take place this summer.

Fire/Rescue Department

Due to the increase in costs, wearing apparel is up \$2,000. We also added a stipend line for special certifications and Career Staff positions. Overall, the Fire Department budget has a 1.9% increase. We are also asking for final payment for Engine #5 as stated above in Capital Improvements budget highlights.

Police Department

With the retirement of Chief Michael Tracy, the newly appointed Chief Stubbert is planning on restructuring the department a bit. Instead of a Deputy Chief, there will be two Lieutenant positions that are outside of the union and will also assign an officer detective duties. We will continue to provide RSU 18 two school resource officers at 75% reimbursement and one at 100%

reimbursable by the school. We will be negotiating in FY25 for another 3 year union contract starting next fall.

Transfer Station

The front-end loader at the transfer station has about 16,000 hours on it so it’s time for replacement. We are asking to place \$25,000 in our capital improvement account for this purpose. (We added \$75,000 last year). A new machine is about \$225,000. Tipping fees for our MSW has also increased from last year, adding \$5,000 to the budget.

Public Works Department

We are asking for 3% COLA and an additional .96 cents for our truck drivers to get their rate of pay to \$23.00/hour. These are CDL licensed drivers and we need to keep them here working for us. Salt and sand budget is increasing by \$4,625 we will continue to carryover any leftover monies in the salt and sand budget as we’ve done in the past.

Summary

Due to cost increases with about everything we purchase, payroll, continued and increased costs such as Delta, the revaluation, our municipal budget will increase by \$571,735 or 7.66% compared to last year’s budget.

We are asking to use \$975,000 from our fund balance reserve to reduce our budget as well as \$175,000 from our capital reserve budget. This will directly help lower the tax burden.

The Town of Oakland also generated approximately \$150,000 in new property taxes with 23 new homes in 2023.

Oakland continues to offer the lowest tax mil rate for any full-service town within our area and beyond. This is not only due to the important work by our Council and Budget Advisory Committee but is also due to our staff being fiscally responsible.

Respectfully yours, Kelly Pinney-Michaud
Town Manager/CFO



IMPORTANT GOVERNMENT CONTACTS

Governor Janet T. Mills	1 State House Station Augusta, ME 04333	207-287-3531
Senator Susan M. Collins	413 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg. Washington, DC 20510	202-224-2523
Senator Angus S. King, Jr.	133 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510	202-224-5344
Congressman Jared Golden	1710 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515	202-225-6306
State Senator David Lafountain	3 State House Station Augusta, ME 04330	207-287-1515
Senator Matthew Pouliot	3 State House Station Augusta, ME 04330	207-287-1515
Representative Robert Nutting	2 State House Station Augusta, ME 04330	207-287-1440
Sheriff Ken Mason	125 State Street # 1 Augusta, ME 04330	207-623-3614
Dist. Atty. Maeghan Maloney	95 State Street Augusta, ME 04330	207-623-1156



CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

To the Town Council and Citizens of Oakland:

2023 was again another active year for the Code Enforcement Office. This year the town has again seen average growth in development both residentially and commercially. The town ordinances and citizen staffed Planning, and Appeals Board have been critical in directing and assisting this development in the best manner possible with the goal of maintaining necessary regulatory compliance and character of the town, while keeping pace with the new housing and business demands that wish to expand or relocate in Oakland.

This year the following permits have been issued,

- 23 New Homes - 10 (Mobile / Modular)**
- 5 Additions**
- 13 New garages**
- 31 Other (camp, decks, renovations, tower upgrades etc.)**
- 39 Internal Plumbing or connection permits**
- 45 New or replacement Septic Systems**

Building and plumbing permits are required for most work. If you are unsure whether a permit is needed, call the Towns Code Office at (207)-465-2842 or (207)-649-4760. I will be happy to assist you with your projects.

Respectfully submitted,

Nathan Smart
Code Enforcement Officer



PLANNING BOARD REPORT

To the Town Council and Citizens of Oakland:

2023 was a busy year for the planning board. This group spent time reviewing subdivision plans and reviewing commercial site plans.

We continued to review and update ordinances and will continue to make sure they provide clear instruction, and direction for the public.

The Oakland Planning Board plays a critical role in directing and assisting the development in our community.

Meetings are scheduled the third Tuesday of each month at 7 P.M. as needed.

Respectfully submitted,

Shawn Stevens
Planning Board Chairman

Assessors Report

To the Oakland Town Council and the Citizens of Oakland:

The Assessor's Office serves to provide the taxpayers of Oakland with fair and equitable valuations of real and personal property for tax purposes through professionalism, innovative technology, and application of reliable, consistent procedures in accordance with Maine State Law.

Almost all records in the assessing office are available to the public, including the tax commitment book, tax maps, property record cards, and real estate transfer tax declarations.

Oakland's tax year is a fiscal year that runs from July 1st thru June 30th; assessments are fixed on April 1st per Title 36, M.R.S.A. §502.

2023 Tax Commitment statistics:

- The certified ratio was 95%.
- Total taxable valuation of \$702,510,000 for real and personal property
- The 2022- 2023 total tax levy was \$10,116,144.00
- Tax rate is \$14.40 per thousand dollars of value.

Exemption Statistics:

- 1,769 taxpayers qualified for the State of Maine Homestead Exemption, resulting in a property tax savings of \$342.00 per homestead.
- 154 Veterans and Widows of Veterans qualified for the Maine Veteran's Exemption resulting in a tax savings of \$82.08 per veteran.
- 47 businesses qualified for the Business Equipment Tax Exemption with a total value reduction of \$3,511,200

In order to qualify for these exemptions taxpayers must meet requirements noted on the applications and submit them to the Assessor's office by April 1st.

Senior Property Tax Stabilization Program Repeal:

This State program that allowed certain senior-citizen residents to stabilize, or freeze, the property taxes on their homestead was repealed for the 2024 tax year. For the 2023 tax year 459 residents qualified for this program and saved \$19,517.45.

Looking Forward:

The certified ratio, set by the state during the state valuation process and is a product of how real estate sales are performing against assessed values. Overall, Oakland's assessed values are currently at about 70% of sales prices, meaning people are paying more for properties than the properties are assessed for. The state permits us to certify at our actual ratio plus 10%, so we are only able to certify at 77% for the upcoming tax commitment without any adjustments. This affects us in a few ways, the most obvious to taxpayers is that exemptions, such as Homestead and Veteran's will be reduced for the upcoming tax year. To correct this, we have contracted for a townwide revaluation for the 2026 tax year. More information about the revaluation will be announced in the upcoming months.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nichole Stenberg, CMA
Assessor

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT~ VITAL RECORDS
2023 -BIRTHS (44) & MARRIAGES (62)
DEATHS (85) IN MEMORY OF

Assaf,Jennifer S	51	10/01/2023	Mathieu,Joseph Omer	85	01/14/2023
Au,Kim Linda	66	07/09/2023	McGowan,Laurie Ann	67	02/05/2023
Bedard,Thomas Christopher	46	12/28/2023	Meier,Joan Theresa	79	03/13/2023
Binette,Kathleen Theresa	85	02/05/2023	Mullen,Pauline Maryann	79	09/30/2023
Bouchard,Mary	81	09/12/2023	Mundy,Bradford Philip	85	12/30/2023
Bown,Gwyneth May	66	06/05/2023	Ouellette,Faye Marie	90	10/27/2023
Brown,Annette Marie	71	12/11/2023	Parent,Candice Berger	52	10/27/2023
Burton,Elaine W.	90	01/08/2023	Perkins,Raymond L	85	07/20/2023
Cammack,Corris W.	83	12/14/2023	Phillips,Doris L.	98	01/09/2023
Clukey,Mary	72	05/03/2023	Phillips,Tammy M.	55	11/12/2023
Collier,Dale R	88	10/12/2023	Pierce,Carolyn S.	92	11/28/2023
Corbett,Richard James Jr.	63	03/01/2023	Pinkham,Barbara W	90	12/19/2023
Corbett,Sylvia L	83	08/19/2023	Pulcifer,Selma	96	12/02/2023
Cote,Gerald R. Jr	81	09/08/2023	Quimby,Connie Marie	75	07/02/2023
Davidson,Howard H.	73	04/29/2023	Rockwell,Phillip E.	75	01/10/2023
Davidson,Ronald Eugene	79	08/29/2023	Roland,Rosemary	83	10/04/2023
Davis,Debbie	64	11/06/2023	Rossignol,Everett Joseph	79	07/05/2023
Derocher,Arlene A.	82	03/06/2023	Schassberger,Mary Alice	95	07/22/2023
Docimo,Nancy Julia	84	07/10/2023	Serencha,Michael John Jr.	74	08/10/2023
Dodge,Aaron David	62	09/01/2023	Shaw,Kenneth Lawrence	89	08/08/2023
Dutil,Marie T.	94	05/06/2023	Sholl,Thomas E	72	07/15/2023
Farnham,Vaughn Dana	79	11/23/2023	Shorty,Dylan T.	31	02/14/2023
Fessenden,Mary Margaret	62	08/15/2023	Smith,Myron Alton	94	08/23/2023
Fitts,Nancy	95	04/16/2023	Stedford,Frank Jr	66	06/08/2023
Fitzgerald,Lee E.	89	03/17/2023	Story,Carol A.	70	05/15/2023
Furbush,Laurence E	88	04/30/2023	Tardy,Clarence Leslie	78	11/24/2023
Gagne,Gregory Alan	68	09/15/2023	Thompson,Stephen F	69	10/26/2023
Gardner,Julia	81	12/22/2023	Tibbetts,David Lester	80	04/04/2023
Gauthier,Leo George	83	04/01/2023	Tracy,Lillian Mae	75	12/19/2023
Gerlaugh,Jeannette Kuroly	97	11/09/2023	Trask,Georgia M	76	07/29/2023
Gilbert,Allen Joseph	75	09/02/2023	Trask,Ronald H.	85	02/15/2023
Goldsmith,Angela M	68	03/29/2023	Tuttle-Carff,Regina	87	08/19/2023
Gombos,William Edward Jr	62	07/17/2023	Uecker,Jeffrey Hunter	73	10/27/2023
Hachey,Thomas Conrad	65	02/02/2023	Worthley,Kendall	94	03/25/2023
Hackett,Elizabeth Ellen	98	11/05/2023	Wright,Heather Lee	48	07/18/2023
Hall,Callum Joshua	<1	09/08/2023			
Harrison,Dana Mary	73	12/05/2023			
Harrison,Mark F	74	09/25/2023			
Hebda,Bruce John	74	06/04/2023			
Hight,Barbara E	76	08/16/2023			
Jenney,Lawrence Chase	88	07/31/2023			
Jose,Helen Alberta	98	03/13/2023			
Kessler,Joseph Henry	82	08/18/2023			
Knippling,Celina	52	03/16/2023			
LeMay,Thalia B	95	11/11/2023			
Lessard,John Morton Jr.	42	08/26/2023			
Liddell,Kendrah Marion	43	07/29/2023			
Lovejoy,Charlotte W.	98	06/09/2023			
Maillet,Diane J.	76	01/27/2023			
Marshall,Betty L.	100	01/17/2023			

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

To the Town Council and the Citizens of Oakland,

As your newly appointed Chief of Police, I am honored to lead the Oakland Police Department into the new year. In my first 30 days, I spent time evaluating our department's operations, hearing concerns from the community, and identifying key areas for improvement. My goal is to improve our policing approach through enhancing training, technology, and community engagement.

I believe that the foundation of any community is its citizens, civic organizations, and businesses. I feel that it is essential that the citizens and businesses in Oakland see their Chief of Police and officers as being both involved in the community and personally approachable.

It is crucial that the Oakland Police Department operates efficiently and prioritizes areas of greatest need for our community in 2024. Our key priorities and initiatives this year include:

Community Engagement

- Monthly "Coffee with a Cop" events
- Increase social media/online presence to boost transparency.
- Attend neighborhood watch programs.
- Meet with all business owners.

Operational Focus Areas

- Traffic Enforcement – Targeted enforcement on speeding and OUIs.
- Crime Prevention – Expand neighborhood watch, security surveys.
- School Security – We have a great relationship with RSU 18 and with our three SRO's, Safety Committee, and improved equipment, we are always trying to make our schools safer.
- Continued participation with statewide drug task force.

Our vision is to be a model police agency through professional service, community partnership, and best-practice proactive policing tailored to Oakland's needs. We are also in the process of becoming MLEAP certified (Maine Law Enforcement Accreditation Program) which moves us closer to that vision. Oakland Police Officers are on patrol 24 hours a day. Get to know them and you will find that they also love our community and share the same goals of keeping our town a safe place for our families and businesses. I want to express my gratitude for the brave and dedicated service each of our officers provides to our community every single day. The work we do is challenging and dangerous but is vital to maintaining public safety in Oakland.

Lastly, I want to recognize and thank Chief Michael Tracy who retired on February 8th of this year. Chief Tracy proudly served the Town of Oakland for 43 years and under his leadership he made the Oakland Police Department a professional and successful law enforcement agency. While you have earned a relaxing retirement, you will be missed.

I look forward to working with the town leaders, citizens, businesses, and my officers to make Oakland a safe place to live, work, and visit.

Chief Rick Stubbert

FIRE/RESCUE DEPARTMENT REPORT

To the Town Council and Citizens of Oakland:

This year was busy with 1290 calls for service. Severe weather continues to drive up call volume. During the December “grinch” storm the department responded to over 100 calls for service.

Emergency Management is part of the responsibility of the Fire Department, and we are continuously preparing and planning. During 2024, we will be updating the Town’s Emergency Operations Plan with the assistance of Kennebec County Emergency Management Agency. The development of this plan involves many of Oakland’s departments as well as contributions from non-governmental agencies.

It was with great sadness that we had to announce the passing to two long time members of the Oakland Fire Department. On November 23, 2023, Deputy Chief Vaughn Farnham passed leaving a void in the Department. Deputy Chief Farnham joined the Department in 1960 and served for 58 years. On February 5, 2024, Retired Deputy Chief Harland “Hardy” Taylor passed away. Retired Deputy Chief Taylor was the face of the Department serving for 60 years until his retirement in 2020. Both will not be forgotten and certainly missed by all.

The passing of Deputy Chief Farnham set into motion promotions within the Department:

David Groder and Jeremy Buzzell – Assistant Chiefs

Ryan Jonston and Tony Thibodeau – Captains

David Savage, Antonio Rivera, Adam Clement, and Emily Newell – Lieutenants

Along with other Town officials, we continue to monitor the state of the EMS in our community. The Town continues to rely on Delta Ambulance for emergency transport. We received a \$45,000 grant from the Gary Sinise Foundation for a Zoll cardiac monitor. We are in the process of permitting our license from the Basic EMT to Advanced EMT level. These improvements are enhancing the services that we can offer to our community.

With the gracious support of the Town Council, Budget Committee and Citizens the new Engine 5 was designed and ordered. This year’s capital improvements budget includes the final amount due for the new engine with an expected delivery date of May 2025.

The following is a three-year comparison of incidents as reported to the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS)

	Incident Type	2023	2022	2021
100	Fires	30	35	33
200	Explosions	3	0	1
300	Rescue/EMS	792	815	773
400	Hazardous Conditions	123	79	64
500	Service	160	111	133
600	Good intent	31	56	67
700	False Alarms	55	57	62
800	Severe Weather	16	13	10
900	Special Incidents	3	10	4
	Mutual Aid Calls	77	64	60
	Total Incidents	1290	1240	1207

As always, we want to remind you of the importance of having multiple working smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) detectors in your home. If you do not have a CO detector, please purchase one and if you have one in your home that is more than 6 years old, it should be replaced. We are also recommending a gas detector if you utilize any gas appliances in your home. If you have any questions or need a smoke detector, please contact the Fire Department.

When visiting the Fire Department please park in the municipal parking lot between the fire station and police station and use the Main Entrance on Fairfield Street. The Department of Transportation (DOT) does not allow any parking in front of the station other than municipal emergency vehicles.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the following for their support during the year: Town Manager, Town Office Staff, the Honorable Town Council, Department Heads and members of their departments, members of various town committees, Oakland Lions Club, Mutual Aid Departments, and the Citizens of Oakland. I especially thank my Department Members and their families for their continued dedication to the Department.

Respectfully submitted,

David P. Coughlin, Fire Chief

HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT

To the Town Council and Citizens of Oakland:

A “Local Health Officer (LHO) is a term established by the State Statute. Title 22 M.R.S.A. 451 et. Seq. authorizes every municipality in the State to employ a local health officer. Maine law also requires the LHO’s to obtain certification through training. It is the authority of the Town Health Officer to hear concerns and complaints about public health issues. Some examples of complaints that may be addressed include but are not limited to: dangerous buildings, public health threats, removal of filth on property, unlawful dumping, and malfunctioning septic systems.

I would like to briefly touch on a highly reported issue from 2023, mold in a house or rental. Due to the unnaturally wet and humid year, there has been a significant increase in the amount of mold present in residences and outside. To help reduce the potential for mold growth it is important to keep the moisture and humidity down. It is recommended that a household keep the relative humidity below 60%. Here are a few useful tips to keep your household mold chances down. Use exhaust vents in bathrooms when showering. Use a dehumidifier in damp rooms and basements. Use a kitchen exhaust fan when boiling liquids. Do not forget to ensure all exhaust fans and clothes dryer vents are properly installed and venting to the outside.

If you think that you might have mold in your house or you want to learn more about this topic, two great resources are www.maineindoorair.org and www.maine.gov. Both websites have a lot of information and resources for the homeowner, renter, and landlord. If you have additional questions or do not have access to the internet, please feel free to contact us.

I would like to thank the community for continuing the support of the Health Officer role. It has been a pleasure to serve the community and I look forward to the years to come. Questions can be directed to Captain Anthony Thibodeau or the Fire Chief, David Coughlin. We can be reached at the Oakland Fire station by phone at (207) 465-2631 or at athibodeau@oakland-me.gov.

Respectfully submitted,

Captain Anthony Thibodeau
Local Health Officer
Oakland Fire and Rescue

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT REPORT

To the Town Council and Citizens of Oakland:

The Highway Department’s main objective each year is to improve and maintain the roadways and sidewalks for the citizens and all others who travel on them. We do this by plowing and sanding, cleanup of winter sand, patching roads & sidewalks, installing or replacing culverts, maintaining ditches, hauling of gravel, winter sand, snow, and other materials, along with addressing concerns reported by citizens. We will also assist MDOT with maintaining and repairing state roads when requested.



We are thankful to have the equipment it takes to salt, sand, and plow 61 lane miles of roadways, 7 miles of sidewalks, 9 municipal buildings and parking lots, 2 public parking lots, and downtown parking to make it safe for the citizens and the public to travel, shop, work, and do business in the Town of Oakland.

All this is thanks to our crew: Adam Pelotte - Robert Mathieu - Mike Hachey - Stephen Labbe - Zack Jurdak - Owen Corrigan - and Nick Gage.

Completed Projects from (2022-2023)

Roads & Streets:

Grove St – Overlay
Maple St – Overlay
Oak St – Shim (from Oak Hill Dr to Ten Lots)
Town Farm Rd – Shimmed whole road
Sidewalks – Rebuilt and paved sidewalk on Rutter Ave and continued prepping others for paving.

Town Farm Road & Oak St Projects:

Replaced all cross culverts on Town Farm Rd. and the ones needed on Oak St. including ditching to improve water flow to the culverts.

Infrastructure Project:

Began creating databases & mapping out all culverts, storm drains, and street signs to bring records up to date.

Old Landfill Project:

Public Works helped the Municipal Engineer to complete replacement of the existing outlet structure and associated piping for the wet pond located on the Town parcel that is west of the closed landfill site and the Town Farm Road. The pond treats runoff draining from the closed landfill site and was necessary to minimize impacts of the wet pond site and old landfill site on McGrath Pond, keeping it in compliance with State regulations.

Upcoming proposed projects and paving plans for (2024-2025):

Roads & Streets:

Fox Ridge – Overlay
Denise Ave – Overlay
Rossignol Ave – Overlay
Hammond Dr – Overlay
Buildings & Grounds parking lot – base
Ten Lots – Shim

Transfer Station Loop – Base
Wedgewood Dr – Overlay
Gallager Rd – Overlay
Sidewalks – Continued preparation to be paved.

Infrastructure Project:

Working with Municipal Engineer to enter recorded information from databases onto the iamGIS software, which allows us to map out the entire town’s infrastructure, and make updates as needed. The system will help with all future projects and maintenance of our infrastructure.

Replacing Culverts and Ditching:

Many of our existing culverts will need to be replaced and work done on ditch lines for directing & creating better flow for storm water and melting snow.

Old Landfill Project:

Public Works is planning on more work during the upcoming construction season at the Landfill site which will include adding fill to the closed landfill at certain locations to resolve areas that have settled over time. We are coordinating this work with the Municipal Engineer and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection.

We were able to purchase a large quantity of culverts at a discounted rate this year and worked with a new supplier for winter sand. I appreciate the continued understanding & support from all the other departments, and thank the Town Council, Town Office, and citizens of Oakland for their assistance and patience throughout the many projects completed this year.

Respectfully submitted by the Highway Department Director - Jeffrey S. Hall



ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT REPORT

To the Town Council and the Citizens of Oakland:

I am pleased to provide this report from the Environmental Services Department. This Department is responsible for maintenance and operations of the sanitary sewer collection system, providing groundwater sampling and reporting of the municipal closed and CDD landfills, as well as providing a supportive role to other Departments such as the Town Office, Public Works, and Code Enforcement.

Regarding the sewer collection system, in 2023 the Town of Oakland pumped 127,533,881 gallons of sewerage to the Waterville Sewerage District (WSD) for treatment by the Kennebec Sanitary Treatment District (KSTD), which was a 24 percent increase from 2022. Historically, the annual volume of sewerage pumped is directly related to the total annual precipitation. In Oakland, the greatest impact on flow volume continues to be through groundwater infiltration into the sewer system, coming from Town owned sources such as old clay pipes and brick manholes, as well as from private landowner sources such as sewer service piping, sump pumps and perimeter drains. The following table provides annual data for the operations of the sewer system since 2021.

Year	Total Annual Volume Pumped (gallons)	Non-Revenue Percentage of Total Volume	Annual Precipitation (inches)
2023	127,533,881	67.9%	52.3
2022	102,825,556	61.8%	42.11
2021	102,249,245	63.6%	39.99

The largest budgeted expense for the sewer system comes from pumping and treating of the sewer flow. This represents approximately 42 % of the annual budget each year. Changes in the annual volume of non-revenue water can have significant budgetary impacts on the Town's ability to fund necessary system improvements. Reducing non-revenue water will continue to be a priority for the Department, as it has been since Oakland connected to the WSD system in 2012.

During FY 2022/23, and to date in the current FY 2023/24, work on the sewer system included the following:

- Manhole cover replacement and adjustments to prepare for the paving of Kennedy Memorial Drive.
- Cleaning & CCTV inspection of sewer piping on West Pleasant and Hill Streets
- Remote pump station maintenance/repairs
- Main Pump Station electrical component replacement/repairs

The Department began its major sewer system replacement project in November 2023. This phase of the project includes complete sewer system pipe replacement within the right of way for Lower Oak Street, Railroad Street, as well as replacement of 13 manholes on Oak Street and Sawtelle Road. In 2024, the Department plans to send out for bid a sewer system pipe replacement project (within the Town right of way) on South Alpine Street. These projects are funded from grants provided through ARPA (Federal and County grants, \$1.17 Million total) as well as \$100,000 in matching Town funds. All of this work includes

replacement of clay pipe and manholes that have been found to allow groundwater infiltration into the system. It is anticipated that these projects will help to reduce some of the volume of non-revenue water collected annually. Investment in the sewer collection system to eliminate these sources of non-revenue water will continue to be a priority for the Department, in order to maintain system capacity for growth and to keep customer rates as low as possible. The Town will continue to analyze the system and look for potential funding opportunities to aid in this endeavor.

The Department also continues its environmental monitoring (groundwater sampling) work for the Closed and CDD landfill sites. All groundwater data is submitted to the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP) annually, along with an annual report. Providing this service since 2017 has saved more than \$20,000 annually for the taxpayers of Oakland.

In addition to the environmental monitoring, the Department worked with the Public Works Department on maintenance repairs at the wet pond that is within the watershed of portions of the Municipal Closed Landfill, and which is located on the Town owned parcel west of Town Farm Road. The outlet structure and piping were replaced to eliminate erosive conditions downslope of the wet pond, which is within the watershed of McGrath Pond. The Department also continues with its work on design efforts and coordination with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection on a multi-year maintenance project for the closed landfill, which is to begin in the summer of 2024. This maintenance project will ensure that the closed landfill continues to operate effectively, and in the manner, it was originally designed and permitted.

I wish to thank the Town Manager and Town Council for their unending support. I would also like to thank Jeff Hall and the Public Works crew, Chief Tracy, Chief Stubbert and the Oakland Police Department staff, Chief Coughlin and the Oakland Fire Department staff, AJ Cain and his crew, as well as Jan Porter and the rest of the staff at the Town Office for their assistance throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,

Boyd Snowden, PE
Municipal Engineer

Oakland Transfer Station

To the Citizens of Oakland and the Oakland Town Council,

The Oakland Transfer Station had yet another busy year in 2023; we did see a slight increase in MSW. Unfortunately, we saw stagnation in recycled materials, however this does mean we are currently at a 20% recycling rate. This recycling rate is still one of the highest rates I have seen in my twelve years at the Oakland Transfer Station.

Many of you may still have concerns over the stability of the recycling markets, I can happily assure you that at this time the markets have seemed to stabilize. Per our vendors, we have seen the steadiest market since the market crash of 2017.

Oakland Public Works and Boyd Snowden will be working on the closed landfill this coming summer, after years of decomposition certain areas have sagged allowing water to pool. Weather permitting, these areas will be corrected and brought back to the appropriate slope needed to help water shed off the landfill.

	2022	2023
Tons of Electronics	12.23	9.73
Tons of Architectural Paint	10.91	9.54
Tons of Material Recycled	457.53	460.39
Savings Value of Recyclables*	\$39,834.66	\$39,593.54

**Cost reduced from Trash Disposal.*

I would like to thank my crew: Assistant Manager Jeff Campbell, Attendants John Dyer, Ryan Boyle and Wendy Drinkwater. I owe much of our success to their hard work and professional demeanor. I thank Public Works, Buildings & Grounds, and Boyd Snowden for their continued assistance with our facility.

Thank You, PLEASE RECYCLE, and PLEASE Promote Recycling
Help us build a Recycling Culture that Oakland can be proud of.

Respectfully submitted,
Dylan Clark
Transfer Station Manager

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS REPORT

To the Town Council and Citizens of Oakland:

In 2023 the Buildings and Grounds Department was quite busy with many projects throughout the year. In the spring we built seven raised garden beds and incorporated them into the Overlook Scenic Park located on Smithfield Road.

Throughout the summer, we worked on the new urn garden area at Lewis Cemetery. Unfortunately, with all the rain, we were still unable to complete it. We plan to do the finishing touches this coming spring. The layout for this new area will be incased with perennial flowers, four sitting benches and will include a water fountain as a focal point in the center.

In July, we assisted with the setup of the annual Oakfest, which was once again, was a huge success.

In September, we were awarded a Risk Reduction Grant through Maine Municipal Association, allowing us to purchase several security light fixtures and security camera systems that we've installed in our two shops on Old Belgrade Ave., at Public Works Garage on Municipal Drive and at the Oakland Transfer Station.

2023 brought on many powerful storms, causing a large amount of damage. Not only damaging several of our buildings but also a considerable number of trees throughout the town. Even with all the extra work these storms added to our everyday routine, we were still able to keep all of our cemeteries and town properties in tip top shape. With that said, I would like to thank the following people for all they give, day in and day out.

Buildings & Grounds Crew

Gary Bowman Nick Cain Nate Wright Eric Roberts

Janitorial Staff

Sue Hubert Leanne Clark Heather Wood

In closing, I would like to thank the following: Jeff Hall and the Public Works Crew for all the help they provide this department whenever the need may arise. Recreation Director, Eric Seekins for everything he does, especially all the hands-on work he gives keeping our parks and ball fields in amazing shape. Dan Casey and his crew from RSU 18 for all the team work that our departments continue share.

I would also like to thank Town Manager, Kelly Pinney-Michaud, Town Council, Town Office Staff, all department heads as well as their staffs and the citizens of Oakland for their continued support, year after year.

Respectfully submitted,
A.J. Cain
Buildings & Grounds Supervisor

PUBLIC LIBRARY REPORT

To the Town Council and Citizens of Oakland:

As Librarians and avid book readers, we are constantly surprised by the number of people stepping into the Library for the first time after living in Oakland or the neighboring areas for many years. Oakland has amazing resources and services for the citizens of Oakland and surrounding communities. Here stands a beautiful 110-year-old Carnegie library building with the world at your fingertips as you enter. Oakland residents receive a complimentary membership card, and non-residents can purchase an individual membership card for \$25.00 or a family membership card for \$30.00. The membership includes iCloud access for e-books and audio books. Stop in and take advantage of this opportunity!

The Oakland Public Library has been in transition since Sarah and Gene Roy retired in June of 2023. Sarah and Gene are irreplaceable, and we are grateful to see them as they visit the Library almost weekly. We made staffing changes as the Roy's retired, and we now have three full-time staff members. Sheila Thorne was hired as the Library Director. Lisa Stevens is the Assistant Library Director and Collections Librarian. She took on a full-time position from being part-time for almost 20 years! Penny Nava was hired full-time as the Children's Librarian. As we settle into our new positions, we are organizing and establishing our roles and responsibilities. We each bring something special to the table to make this Library unique and current but also keep it simple.

Our Library consists of so much more than lending out books, DVDs, magazines/periodicals, e-books, and audiobooks. We provide public computers with free internet access and free Wi-Fi. We offer color photocopying and scanning at the lowest prices in the county. Did you know you can print right from your Bluetooth device to our printer?! Also, this year, we started offering Notary Public services (\$2.00 fee) and Dedimus Justice (for free!).

The Library participates in the Maine State Library's Inter Loan Library (ILL) book program. Patrons looking for a book that we don't have can use this service. We require the paid postage back to the lending library (approximately \$4.50). We also offer home delivery for patrons who are unable to visit the Library. Children's Storytime for preschoolers is offered every Friday at 10:30 AM throughout the year. Penny chooses a story, song, and poem based on a theme or season to read, and then a project or craft follows Storytime. One of the programs Penny coordinated involved the Oakland Fire Rescue Department. They presented a Fire Safety and Prevention program during Storytime on October 13, 2023. A huge thank you to Emily Newell and Antonio Rivera for taking the time out of your very busy schedules to teach the children. Thank you, Chief Dave Coughlin, for allowing your crew to bring a truck and equipment to the Library.

Last summer, the Library sponsored the statewide Summer Reading Program, "*All Together Now*." We hosted four programs here in our building. We had the pleasure of having singer/songwriter **Judy Pancoast**; **Mad Science of Maine** conducted some phenomenal science experiments; our very own **Gene Roy** presented a "Food Chains and the Web" science program; and **Mr. Sean Presents** motivated the audience with his presentation of "*The Umbrella of Happiness*". This year's Summer Reading Program is "*Adventure Begins at Your Library*." We are currently planning and preparing for this upcoming summer reading program. We would like to give a huge shout out and thank the **Oakland Lion's Club** and individual sponsors for supporting the Summer Reading Program and the Library. The Oakland Lion's Club is comprised

of compassionate and benevolent community members. Without their support and funding, the Summer Reading Program would not be possible.

The Library thanks all those who donate time and money, whether they are individuals or organizations (Oakland Lion's Club, Waterville Area Women's Club, residents, citizens, local businesses). We also have very enthusiastic and qualified volunteers who are happy to help with any project we assign. Most of all, we want to thank and appreciate our faithful core of patrons who love this Library and visit us regularly. This Library wouldn't have a purpose without our patron friends and family. Thank you for stopping in!

We are excited to host several local authors who have offered book talks and sign events in 2024. We scheduled Ron Joseph (an Oakland native), author of Bald Eagles, Bear Cubs and Hermit Bill (in February) and Jody Rich, author of Simmering Savory and Deadly, A Soup Makers Mystery (in March). The Children's Library will be scheduling some children book authors as well. Maine certainly has some talented authors; we hope you can join us in supporting them.

Remember in the beginning of this report we mentioned the Library is 110 years old? It takes a lot of maintenance to keep it in good condition. We are extremely thankful for the Town of Oakland's Building and Grounds Department (AJ and his Crew). They save the taxpayers a lot of money by repairing and upkeeping the building. Thank you AJ AND CREW! With that being said, the Town of Oakland has a fantastic employee team. All the departments in this town work together to provide excellent service to the taxpayers and community.

The Library has an incredible Advisory Board. We have members who have been on the Board since its inception, and we have newer members who have joined within just a few years. All members are dedicated to keeping the Oakland Public Library healthy and current. Our current members are: Bert Brewster, Stephanie Cheevers, Jeanne Foster, Peter Godfrey, Linda Holmsen, Cortney Lilly, Marilyn Stevens, and Patricia Stevens. Thank you to all the members of the Advisory Board! The Library appreciates your support and guidance, and we can't wait to see what 2024 brings us.

If you're wondering why libraries still exist and what our function is in society, these are a few reasons: libraries are the foundation for early literacy and forming an enjoyment of reading/learning in the youth; mental escapism/travel for young adults and adults; education and entertainment; and a safe/quiet place for ALL people.

Step in the door and visit us here at 18 Church Street, Oakland, Maine! Lisa is the "book whisperer" and does an unbelievable job with keeping up with the new releases and organizing the current collection – she has been known to pick out excellent books if you're looking for a suggestion on what to read next. Penny is in the Children's Library and she has exquisite taste for the children's books hiding on the shelf that don't usually get to see the light of day – she's also been known to help with a little bit of math homework. She is always researching fun and easy crafts and projects to share with the littles.

A great resource worth mentioning for journal, magazine, and newspaper articles; research tools for students of all ages; language learning tools, auto repair, and computer skills; test preparation, skills building, and legal forms, plus so much more, visit: <https://library.digitalmaine.org> .

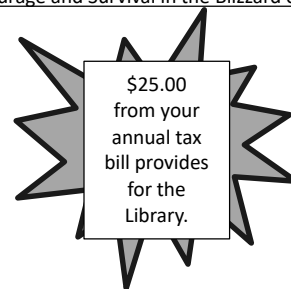
Top 4 Checked-Out Books from our Library in 2023:

- 1) Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus
- 2) Demon Copperhead: A Novel by Barbara Kingsolver
- 3) Just the Nicest Couple by Maria Kubica
- 4) Northeast: A story of Courage and Survival in the Blizzard of 1952 by Cathie Pelletier

Happy reading and we hope to see you soon!
Sheila Thorne, Library Director

Website: oaklandpubliclibrarymaine.org
Facebook: [Oakland Public Library – Maine](https://www.facebook.com/OaklandPublicLibrary-Maine)

Email: stafflibrary@oaklandmaine.us
Phone: 207-465-7533



RECREATION DEPARTMENT REPORT

To the Town Council and Citizens of Oakland:

It is with great pleasure that I can address the citizens of Oakland in this manner each year. 2023 was another year of continued growth and building for the future as we remain the “place to be” where people want to locate, recreate, and raise their families.

Some 2023 highlights I would like to touch upon:

Fun In the Sun Summer Program- never in my wildest imagination could I have envisioned the staying power of a program the way this one has over the last 35 years! As important as it was then, it may be more so now! Old -fashioned play, team building, exercise, activities for the mind and body, the list goes on and on. The positive comments I receive from parents and campers alike confirm the importance of this valuable summer program and our children in general.

Youth Sports Programs- like every other program, we continue to claw our way back from the impact that Covid had on the various youth sports and children’s activities in general. Much the same way children have had to play “catch up” in the classroom, sports are no different. Due to the resilience of children, I am encouraged by what I am seeing with program numbers and commitment to their chosen activity. With the support of parents, coaches, and organizations, I have no doubt that we are currently building the next generation of Messalonskee Eagles!

Summer Concert Series- FYI- there is no better place to be on a Thursday night in the summer than Oakland Waterfront Park! Great music, great concessions, 200-500 people enjoying one another’s company, tough to beat! Schedule for 2024 to come shortly, all made possible by our generous sponsors – Kennebec Savings Bank, Fabian Oil, Korner Store, Plourde Real Estate, Higgins and Bolduc Insurance, Leighton Sign Works, and Camp Manitou. Please support these local businesses whenever possible as they support us!

Messalonskee Boat Launch – we continue to work towards our ultimate goal of replacing our decaying 30 plus year old concrete ramp. We expect to be able to accomplish this utilizing the \$150,000 State grant we were awarded and existing Recreation reserve funds. Pending Town Meeting approval, we will begin the process of selecting a contractor who can perform the work in the fall when water levels are lowered, and boat traffic diminished.

ATV Committee- at the request of the Town Council, a committee has been formed of citizens and municipal employees to explore the potential of making Oakland an ATV access community. In doing so, we can then take full advantage of the economic and recreational opportunities created by the 32-mile rail trail that will now end / begin in Oakland known as the Madison branch. This is a huge project with many moving parts and will require everyone’s patience. Please stay tuned on this one as we work hard to make this possible for Oakland.

Get out and RECREATE! – we have so many opportunities to enjoy our community there is no need to go anywhere else! Have lunch at the Overlook, play at our parks, take a hike on the stream trail, and so much more. The benefits are endless!

Thank You's- it's impossible to know where to begin but let's start with my Town Employee family. I work with some of the best people in the world and the current group has each other's back 100%. It doesn't seem like work when everyone is pulling in the same direction, we are so fortunate. To the Town Council, the support you continue to show me, and the other employees, has not gone unnoticed or unappreciated, thank you. To Carl Gartley and your people – you are an amazingly supportive partner as we continue to work together for the good of our children. Finally, I'd like to specifically mention Aaron Parker, a young man who joined me in the Recreation Department in the fall of 2023. My impressions are he "gets it" in terms of what we are to trying to build and create here and is quickly endearing himself to this community. Please welcome him into your hearts and homes the way you did me all those years ago.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Seekins
Parks and Recreation Director



ANIMAL CONTROL REPORT

To the Town Council and Citizens of Oakland:

I'd like to thank all the residents for your time and patience dealing with animal issues. It would be helpful to me and you to purchase a tag for your pet with your name and telephone number to avoid unnecessary trips to the Waterville Humane Society.

We held our annual rabies clinic at the Oakland Fire Station. Many attended but there could have been more taking advantage of this amazing service the town offers. There are of course times when a dog can and will get loose to check out his or her surroundings and go on an adventure. This is considered "roaming at large," which will result in a court summons. In the event this happens, the first step is verbal warning, the second step is written warning, if it continues a summons to appear in court will be issued. I ask every person I meet to not let it come to this. A summons is far from my mind.

There is a feral cat issue in Maine not just in Oakland please spay/neuter your felines because most shelters are not set up for ferals. I would ask that you not feed them, as this does not help the situation. I cannot trap feral cats.

There were three (3) cases of rabies in 2023. In the event rabies is suspected, near or around your animals, do not handle the animal unless you are wearing gloves. Contact me immediately and I will deal with the issue. If for some reason I am not available contact the Maine Warden Service at 1-800-452-4664.

If I trap pet cats or dogs they are transported to Waterville Humane Society, you will be responsible for all costs and fees of the Humane Society in order to retrieve your pet from them.

2023 Animal Complaints: there were a total of twenty-seven (27) stray or feral cats. Fifteen (15) stray dogs transported to the animal shelter. Two (2) court summons, two (2) horse complaints, one (1) cattle complaint, and several barking dog complaints. Lastly, two (2) dog bites. One (1) Amazon Parrot (went to Siesta Sanctuary, Harmony, ME) and one (1) Bald Python (went to EDC Exotics, Embden, ME)

Nuisance animals: Five (5) Deer (deceased) skunks, groundhogs, racoons, opossums, beaver, porcupines, fox, and pigs – all trapped and released for a total of sixty (60).

I would like to thank the Oakland Police Department for their help with certain animal complaints.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald Decker 207-399-8135
Animal Control & Wildlife Agent

OAKLAND FOOD PANTRY REPORT

To the Town Council and Citizens of Oakland:

We are fortunate that we continue to live in a community where so many people care about others.

This past year we served 1,111 people and 518 families. The food pantry has a total of forty-three volunteers from the church and the community and NO paid employees.

Our Management Committee consists of forty-three (43) volunteers, one keeps track of the volunteers to be sure we have coverage when we are open. One keeps track of the decisions and minutes of our meetings. One receives and acknowledges donations, deposits the money, pays the bills, and prepares Treasurer's Reports.

The remainder of the volunteers set up for the two (2) days a month we are open, one (1) oversees keeping track of what is needed and two (2) shop for items we need, and also help stocking shelves. One prepares a listing of the items we have available that week, she gives them to the shoppers to fill out and they pass them on to the people who pack the items. Two (2) people unload the truck with the Good Shepherd food. Some of the people help to clean the pantry and the church space we use and do repairs when necessary. We do home delivery to people who are unable to come to the pantry.

We are supported locally by people and businesses plus the Town of Oakland.

Fundraising is one of our most rewarding events and many people participate. In 2021 Jean Ponitz visited many places in town and asked if anyone would like to participate in the Hunger Walk or sponsor someone who was walking. The Kingdom Life Church donated \$2,000 toward the walk. Since the money is distributed two (2) years later we received it this year. We were blessed to receive food from the Post Office Food Drive, and money from the Messalonskee High School Empty Bowls, Shaw's Food Drive, and Messalonskee Key Club.

In addition, we were asked if we would like to have some gift cards for the holidays. We received \$1,500 in Hannaford \$25.00 gift cards from Darling's Auto Group in Augusta.

Many thanks to the Oakland Sidney United Methodist Church, for their hospitality, and for the use of their buildings and grounds which includes insurance coverage.

Respectfully submitted,

Clara L. Watson, Treasurer
Oakland Food Pantry

OAKLAND SNO-GOERS REPORT

To the Town Council and Citizens of Oakland:

All members of the Oakland Sno-Goers Club would like to take this opportunity to thank the landowners for allowing us to use your land for our snowmobile trails. We thank you, without you it would have been impossible.

This past winter was an exceptionally low snow season. The volunteer members worked very hard on the trails especially after the two significant storms we had in December and January. The trails still need to be maintained every year or they will get in such disrepair we will lose them. I would also like to thank all the volunteers for their tremendous hard work to make it possible.

The Town of Oakland has over 403 registered snowmobiles and 289 sled owners in it so a huge thank you to all our members for their loyal support. **Thank You.**

The club now owns six drag sleds and a machine. We drag forty-one miles of trails (one way) in Oakland. We receive a portion of snowmobile registrations from the town and State because it is very costly to maintain six drag sleds and a track machine to keep forty-one miles of trail smooth and safe, membership monies also help the club out tremendously.

We would like to invite you to join the Oakland Sno-Goers Club and support.

Snowmobiling in Maine. We are doing our absolute best to keep the trails as smooth and safe as possible. It is all volunteer work. If you would like to get involved please feel free to call me at 465-6136.

Please remember to **“TREAD LIGHTLY”**

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Swett
President, Oakland Sno-Goers Club



Oakland Area Historical Society

We would like to thank the town for the past support of the Oakland Area Historical Society (OAHS). The money we receive from the town primarily helps to cover the oil for heating the McCartney House.

Projects we have done or are involved in:

- Memorial Hall Project: OAHS is proud to be working with the Town of Oakland on restoring Memorial Hall to its full glory as a community meeting place/event center.
 - We have held several fundraisers for this project. Tea and Tour, Breakfast with Santa, and a large item raffle. Our active committee members have been working very hard to find support for Memorial Hall.
 - We received a grant to create outreach materials such as bookmarks, brochures, and postcards to help with the fundraising efforts.
- Tours: We have given several historical tours in Oakland celebrating the rich history of the woolen mill, axe builders, original CMP and many other noteworthy historic sites within the town.
- Pine Tree Trail: We are part of the Pine Tree Trail system. This trail system is a road that goes from Fort Kent to Portland.
- Maine Philanthropy Center: We are members of the Maine Philanthropy Center which means we have better access to grant makers and foundations.
- Resource Room: We have had several people using the resource room to do research for books and genealogies.
- Fundraising: The Modern Woodmen have matched all funds raised up to \$2,500 from our bottle drive and free-will donations campaign.

Future historical projects we need to do:

- Displays: we would like to create displays for the woolen mill, the axe makers, the grist mill, and other industries which have contributed to the community of Oakland.
- Museum: The outside of the building needs to be repainted. We are also working on making the gardens historically accurate.
- Resource Room: The McCartney House resource room needs some major upgrades. We need internet connections for individuals to extend their research potential. We have town reports dating back to the 1800's that need protective sleeves. We have ledgers which need cleaning from water damage and protection before they can be used.

Website: www.oaklandareahistoricalsociety.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/585695249316645/>

Thank you all for your support,
The Oakland Area Historical Society

SNOW POND SENIORS REPORT

To the Town Council and Citizens of Oakland:

2023 was a year of growth for the Snow Pond Seniors organization. The number of visits grew the variety of activities we offered grew and we added a volunteer opportunity – Meals to Go. This growth supports our mission to aid in the health and happiness of residents ages 55 and older in our area. Our goal is to enhance social life, promote healthy lifestyles and provide educational and artistic opportunities for local seniors.

In 2022 we had 523 participants during our open days which were Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10:00am to 3:00pm. During 2023 we had 663 participants.

Some of our activities included having lunch at the Oakland Overlook, a day trip to the Coastal Botanical Gardens, Lavender Farm, Angler's Restaurant, the Maine Wildlife Park, Colby Art Museum and The Ice Cream Shoppe.

We added Cribbage Day, the first Wednesday of each month starting in October through June with our June Cribbage Championship. During the summer we play cornhole instead of cribbage so we can enjoy the outside. We also have a potluck luncheon once a month, and a variety of presentations. Presentations are educational and entertaining.

Last November we took over the Meals-to-Go program. This program provides free meals for pick up to anyone who wants one on Sundays. November and December we served 125 meals.

We invite you to drop in anytime on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10:00am to 3:00pm. We are a café style center. Which means participants come and go as they please, there are no membership requirements. Sit and chat, have a cup of coffee or tea, make a puzzle, meet old friends, and make some new ones at the Oakland Baptist Church at 45 Church Street Oakland.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Griffin
Snow Pond Seniors





To the Oakland Town Council and the Citizens of Oakland:

Hello from the deepest! The Oakland Flower group thanks and applauds YOU as a giving community member. Your support allows us all the *Show of Flowers* in downtown and surrounding spaces in Oakland.

I am thankful that I live in a place where community has the desire and purpose for engaging in best practices. It is clear that when time and energy is placed towards the good of something, good seems to follow. I sit with my new and old friends as a 100% volunteer for the Oakland Flower Group and feel this very thread of energy as we look back on the impacts of our volunteer team in the 2023 season and admire the year's growth....and to kickoff the 2024 season we have been awarded a grant up to \$100 titled "***Flowers, Flowers Everywhere***" from the Central Maine Garden Club. Now we are getting itchy about the springtime visions that kindle the gardener and growers mind as warmer days come out way.

The number of volunteers for the Oakland Flower Group is over 35! We are from your neighborhood and pride ourselves as stewards for the beautification of our town. We continue to work smart and buy local. Our budget is primarily plants with supporting funds for amendments, such as soil and fertilizer. All products and processes are connected with local resources so that your support stays mostly within a 25 mile radius.

Pierces Greenhouse is our mothership for growing the seeds that graduate into our local planters and boxes (Yay Laura!). The Town of Oakland is a strong supporter of the flower group, and we have a number of community businesses who share their space and water resources for us to manage the flower we all enjoy. Special thanks to those who give their time and energy to the spaces of this town.

We look forward to the fruits from the 2023 fall planting of tulips and are anxiously awaiting the springtime run for planting the town! If you are interested in joining the Oakland Flower Group, please reach out to the Town Office 465-7357 and they can help get you connected.

Have a great spring and let the growth begin again!

Oakland Flower Group



Regional School Unit No. 18

41 Heath Street Oakland, ME 04963

V: 207 – 465 – 7384

F: 207 – 465 – 9130

Carl Gartley
Superintendent

Keith Morin
Asst. Superintendent

To the residents of RSU 18,

Every year I look forward to the opportunity to share with you about the great goings-on in RSU 18, your school district. Our students and staff are incredible. I am so proud to be part of a school district that is so dedicated to student success.

Safety for students and staff remains a top priority. Our district safety committee is leading some impactful initiatives including safety walk-throughs and trainings for the emergency response teams at each school. We recognize there is always more work to be done to ensure our schools provide secure and supportive environments for teaching and learning; we will remain actively engaged on school safety issues.

In the world of academics our district continues to shine. Whether it be individual student performance at any grade level or district wide academic data, RSU 18 is a top performing district. To ensure students receive the most up-to-date and effective instruction, our district regularly reviews curriculum in all academic areas. Over the past couple years, our science, math, and physical education curriculums have all been updated. This year, teachers across the district are reviewing and revising the English Language Arts (ELA) curriculum. Kudos to our staff for their hard work on behalf of student academic success.

The RSU 18 Board of Directors continues to invest in and improve our facilities. This year we updated more of our HVAC systems, replaced older rooftop heating units, replaced many older doorways, installed a new propane fueling station for our transportation department, updated flooring, and gave three school a major upgrade with new siding. The district is looking amazing, we are so proud of the facilities we can offer to our students and our community.

In our classrooms, during club meetings, on our athletic fields, or just in hallways, I see PK – 12 staff taking advantage of every opportunity they can to build positive relationships with students. And I see students taking the opportunity to build relationships with staff. Great things come from this dedication. The student leaders I see developing in our schools today make me feel confident that our community will indeed have great leadership in the future.

Thank you to our students, staff, parents, and community partners. Together you make this district a special place.

Respectfully submitted,

Carl Gartley
Superintendent of Schools

March 25, 2024
Town of Oakland
6 Cascade Mill Road
Oakland, ME 04963



Dear Town of Oakland Citizens,

I am pleased to share with you Central Maine Growth Council's (CMGC) 2023-24 overview of work for the Town of Oakland's 2024 Annual Town Report. As a regional public-private economic development corporation, CMGC takes pride in its role as a forefront entity in economic development. Demonstrating a nuanced understanding of both large and small-scale economic development projects, community needs in terms of commercial and community revitalization, and the imperative role of the innovation and technology community, CMGC is currently actively engaged in guiding the town's development initiatives including:

1. Advising on the redevelopment of Oakland's "Bank Block" for historical redevelopment and associated commercial and residential use
2. Small business and startup services provided via CMGC's Dirigo Labs Business Accelerator Program for Oakland-based operations and entrepreneurs
3. Staffing and facilitation of town of Oakland TIF committee
4. Business recruitment, retention, and attraction services
5. Deployment of incentives and public-private grants & finance tools for businesses
6. Developing apprenticeship programs and workforce development initiatives
7. Focusing economic development efforts on seven (7) key industry clusters
8. Working strategically to position Oakland regionally and statewide as a premier place to do business and invest
9. Small business technical assistance and facilitation of Oakland-based businesses to access regional grants for small business and entrepreneurs via \$708,000 ERIH fund
10. Implementation of projects and initiatives related to Oakland downtown redevelopment plan

CMGC remains steadfast in its commitment as an advocate for fostering economic growth in Oakland. As we continue to work toward enhancing the economic landscape of Oakland, I am confident that our dedicated focus on supporting small and large-scale businesses, revitalizing the downtown area, promoting entrepreneurship, investing in neighborhood development, and championing economic inclusion will undoubtedly contribute to making Oakland an exception and attractive place to reside and invest in. Anticipating our continued collaboration, I look forward to our ongoing partnership in shaping the economic future of Oakland.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'GD', is placed above the typed name.

Garvan D. Donegan
Director of Planning, Innovation, and Economic Development
Central Maine Growth Council



Dear Oakland Town Council and Citizens,

7 Lakes Alliance thanks Oakland for its generous support for our work with public and private partners to protect the waters that support our communities. Our diverse programs help prevent and remediate invasive plant infestations, stem soil erosion that pollutes lakes with phosphorus that fuels harmful algal blooms and educate people of all ages about the nature of our lakes and lake-friendly practices. Collaborating with many partners including towns and local lake associations, we help ensure the lands and waters of the Belgrade Lakes region can continue to support a robust tax base, economy, jobs and recreation. Highlights of 7 Lakes' work in 2023 include:

- Employed 21 high school and college-aged youth through 7 Lakes' Youth Conservation Corps (YCC). They gained skills, learned lake stewardship, and supported programs to reduce erosion, such as the voluntary LakeSmart program. With lake association partnership, 16 Lake Smart evaluations were conducted with two awards.
- Installed through the YCC 132 erosion-control Best Management Practices (BMPs) in the Belgrade Lakes watershed, including 17 YCC projects in Oakland.



- Secured and deployed federal Clean Water Act Section 319 grant funds (2023-24), administered by Maine Department of Environmental Protection, conducting 15 erosion control projects including on Blake Lane, Cedar Village Place, East Side Trail, Go Down Trail, Hemlock Place, Nutting Trail, Pinewoods Trail, Rocky Shore Lane, Sparkling Lake Lane, Tilton Point Trail, Town Farm Road, and Tranquility Trail.
- Work on Oakland town roads included a grant to help replace 3 culverts on Town Farm Road in the McGrath Pond watershed and planned future projects with the town including culvert work uphill of Cedar Village on Messalonskee Lake, and projects on McGrath Pond Road.

- Conducted a buffer project at Lakeview Cemetery in collaboration with Friends of Messalonskee and with the town public works department.
- Conducted extensive water quality sampling, monitoring all seven lakes in partnership with Colby College. We also provided water quality science and erosion control expertise to the collaborative effort to develop a North Pond Watershed-based Plan, including to address recurring algal blooms.
- Employed 37 high school and college students and community members as Courtesy Boat Inspectors (CBIs) who learned about lake values and invasive plants. 8 volunteers also assisted.
- Conducted 12,034 courtesy boat inspections at five public boat launches in the Belgrade Lakes to prevent the spread of invasive plants. Support from lake associations, towns, and private partners made increased coverage possible. CBI coverage included: East Pond - 786 inspections, Salmon Lake- 1,134 inspections, Messalonskee Lake-3,125 inspections.
- Removed 13 invasive plant fragments: one (1) – curly leaf pondweed (CLP from out-of-state) from entering Great Pond and prevented 12 (variable milfoil) from leaving Messalonskee Lake.
- Conducted 18 Adopt-A-Shoreline trainings at three sites to teach volunteers to identify and monitor for invasive plants. Surveys found no new infestations in 2023.
- 7 Lakes divers removed invasive CLP from the Serpentine between East and North Ponds, reducing CLP there by 78 percent. These efforts continue in 2024.

Thank you again for your support. 7 Lakes looks forward to working with Oakland in 2024 to ensure healthy lakes for our communities.

Respectfully submitted,



Laura Rose Day
Chief Conservation Officer

"First to Serve ~ 1799"

**Office of the Sheriff
Kennebec County, Maine**



Ken Mason, Sheriff
Alfred G. Morin, Chief Deputy

Lieutenant J. Chris Read
Law Enforcement
125 State Street
Augusta, Maine 04330
Telephone (207) 623-3614
Fax (207) 623-6387

Captain Bryan M. Slaney
Corrections Administrator
115 State Street
Augusta, Maine 04330
Telephone (207) 623-2270
Fax (207) 623-8787

January 31, 2024

The Kennebec County Sheriff's Office is pleased to make the following report regarding the services we provided to the people of Kennebec County in 2023. These services include the Law Enforcement Division, Correctional Services, Civil Process, Administrative and Transport Division. We provided many regional assets to our communities including K-9 Teams, Dive Team, Sex Offender Registry, Veterans Advocacy, Accident Reconstruction and Drug and a School Resource Officer for MSAD 49 and RSU#38.

In 2023, Law Enforcement Deputies again logged thousands of calls for service. Our calls for service have increased since 2021. Our geographic patrol responsibilities within the County have increased, as the state police have opted to reduce their rural patrol coverage.

Overdoses of illicit substances continue to plague our county. My staff responded to 18 overdoses in 2023, we were able to save 11 of those lives. This number does not include the saves by jail staff in 2022. As the disorder continues to increase, I wish to make it clear that we at the Sheriff's Office will always support our citizens with substance dependency disorders by providing avenues that can assist with their recovery.

The patrol division welcomes Scott Dumas, Riley Boivin and Simon Yorks to our patrol team. This is the only law enforcement agency Deputy Boivin has ever worked for and is doing an excellent job. He will be attending the full-time academy in the spring of 2024. Deputies Dumas and Yorks came to us from other agencies and they both have many years of experience. Great additions to our team of professionals.

My agency continues to receive federal funds to conduct patrol details specifically related to motor vehicle violations throughout our county. Kennebec County Deputies continue to excel statistically for the number of interdictions for drug related criminal activities. In 2023 the deputies seized over 6 pounds of fentanyl in several different contacts with individuals distributing this poison. There we also seizures of methamphetamines as well as cocaine.

Our Civil Process Deputies serve legal documents on behalf of attorneys, the courts, citizens, local, and state government, landlords and other entities. In 2023, the three civil deputies received over 5,111 requests for service in Kennebec County. This is a decrease from 2022 of documents received. Some of the services include civil summons & complaints, foreclosures, evictions, small claims, child support notices from the State and enforcement of court orders and writs to name a few.

We welcome any questions regarding civil service to be made to the office. Kennebec is very lucky to have Chief Civil Deputy Harry McKenney, who just happens to be the go-to guy on civil service matters statewide.

During the past year, our Correctional Facility managed 2206 inmate intakes. This is an increase from 2022. The offenses committed by defendants included everything from Trespass to Homicide. Our staffing at the correctional facility is robust and we are doing well. I will add that the staff have enormous responsibilities and work hard every day.

Substance abuse and the proper treatment of citizens with mental illness continue to be two primary concerns at the Correctional Facility. We have improved our medical and mental health services at Kennebec to help manage the needs of those incarcerated. Medical Assisted Treatment for Opiate dependencies continues in our facility, as it is now required by law.

Inmates at the Kennebec County Correctional Facility are asked to work and earn time off their sentences if applicable. Inmates who are a risk to the community work inside the facility cleaning and cooking, while others are supervised on outside projects. During the winter months, the outside trustees shovel several driveways in the Augusta area for those who are aging and unable to do it themselves. One may think that this only benefits the county, or our local municipalities, but it does not. It also benefits the inmate population as well. It allows them to be productive in our communities.

We are committed to providing innovative programs to reduce crimes, assist victims, and to provide enhanced public safety. We acknowledge the ever-growing opiate addiction problem nationwide and have committed to partnerships at the Federal, State and Local levels to combat this problem. Our approach is aggressive enforcement, education, treatment, and recovery for those afflicted with this horrible addiction.

In May of 2023 we moved into our new office located at 73 Winthrop Street in Augusta. What a breath of fresh air for the staff. Please feel free to stop in and see our new Sheriff's Office.

As your Sheriff, and moving forward into 2024, I remain committed to serving the hard-working taxpayers of this county, their families, and our visitors, honorably, professionally, and by using good common sense and judgement.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Mason
Sheriff



FIRSTPARK REPORT

To the Town Council and Citizens of Oakland:

Following are highlights of the Kennebec Regional Development Authority (KRDA) for the calendar year ending December 31, 2023:

- The annual operating budget adopted by the KRDA General Assembly for FY2022-23 ending June 30 was \$395,000, which included such line items as maintenance, marketing, payroll/benefits, bookkeeping and utilities. The budget was unchanged from FY2021-22.
- RHR Smith & Company CPA's of Buxton, Maine, was contracted to perform KRDA's 2022-2023 Audit.
- Real estate broker Cameron Foster of Portland-based Boulos Company was retained to market FirstPark.
- FirstPark marketed its lots for sale with targeted advertising throughout the year in MaineBiz, in the New England Patriot's and Boston Celtic's yearbooks and on Maine Public TV as a sponsor of Greenlight Maine.
- FirstPark's 25th Anniversary was recognized June 16th at an event held at Colby College featuring Governor Janet Mills.
- Mike Roy of Waterville was elected 2023-2025 President of the KRDA, James Jurdak (Oakland) Treasurer, Ken Lust (Starks) Assistant Treasurer and Peter Mills (Cornville) Secretary. The position of President-elect is currently vacant.
- Visits to FirstPark by site selectors and business decision makers were conducted throughout the year.
- A quarterly e-newsletter was sent to over 300 subscribers.
- The Town of Oakland's representatives on the KRDA/FirstPark General Assembly are Kelly Pinney-Michaud and James Jurdak.

To volunteer to serve on a committee, subscribe to our newsletter, receive a copy of KRDA's Annual Audit or for other information, contact Executive Director Jim Dinkle at either (207) 859-9716, extension 2, or at exdirector@firstpark.com.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Dinkle
Executive Director

DELTA AMBULANCE

To the Town Council and the Citizens of Oakland:

Thank you for the opportunity to bring you information about our company and explain the significance of what we do in our local area. As the Company's new Director, this is my first time writing an annual report for Delta – a company that I've proudly served with since 2014. My career in Emergency Medical Services started in 2002 and has progressed through various agencies across three states. Delta promoted me to Field Supervisor, then Director of Operations, and appointed me as Executive Director in February 2023 following the retirement of Tim Beals. Delta has been a fantastic place to work, and I am very proud to be part of an organization that is so sincerely dedicated to its mission of providing excellent patient care to its patients and customers.

Delta provides 911 service to thirteen communities and interfacility transfer service primarily to two local hospital systems. These two services are distinct in their needs and commitments but intertwine in their benefits to our local communities. Medical emergencies do not stop at the 911 phase and often require definitive care and procedures unavailable locally. Transport to other facilities is crucial to ensuring good outcomes for our patients. Delta provides these necessary services, and more, with a high level of attention to quality.

Despite the realization of some major challenges at the end of the year, 2023 was a year of development and progress in many areas. We were able to formalize and expand our critical care transport program through a pilot project with Maine EMS and are currently the only ground-based ambulance service besides the Lifeflight of Maine's ground division that can transport critically ill patients on ventilators without accompanying hospital personnel. We received a grant from the Mildred H. McEvoy Foundation which is allowing us to purchase new, state-of-the-art transport ventilators and send field personnel to a Critical Care Transport program. We also explored different scheduling and fleet deployment models to increase efficiency across field operations with the goals of reducing response times and increasing ambulance availability both for 911 coverage and inter-facility transfers.

Concerning sustainability, in July 2023 we implemented service charges for the first time in over fifty years and obtained a term grant from MaineGeneral Health at the end of the year. Also at the year's conclusion, we began preparations to sell our southern station at 10 Cony Rd in Augusta and search for alternative sites that would be more cost-effective and more appropriately sized for our current operations. A company-wide internal assessment was also initiated to flush out inefficiencies and ensure that we were providing the best possible service while reducing unnecessary expenses.

As we move into 2024, we continue to make appropriate and decisive changes with sustainability and quality at the forefront. We are proud to serve the over forty-one thousand people in our coverage area and thank our communities for their continued support in that mission.

Sincerely,



Christopher Mitchell
Executive Director

SUSAN M. COLLINS
MAINE

413 DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1804
(202) 724-2573
(202) 224-2893 (FAX)

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1904

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
VICE CHAIR
HEALTH, EDUCATION,
LABOR, AND PENSIONS
SELECT COMMITTEE
ON INTELLIGENCE

Dear Friends:

It is an honor to serve the people of Maine in the U.S. Senate, and I welcome this opportunity to share an update on issues important to Maine and America.

One of my priorities for 2023 has been to improve the appropriations process in Congress – the way it decides how to spend taxpayer money. I took over as the Vice Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee last year. Along with Chair Patty Murray, we decided the best change we could make was not to do something new. Instead, it was to do something old – that is, go back to the regular and transparent committee process that we used to have.

Part of restoring this process included holding 50 public Committee hearings, which allowed for input from senators on both sides of the aisle. As a result, for the first time in five years, the Senate Appropriations Committee passed all twelve of its funding bills on time. This was done with strong bipartisan support. In fact, seven of them passed unanimously.

Now, we need to work with the House of Representatives to pass these twelve bills and turn them into laws.

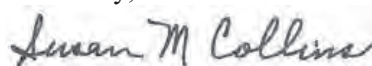
These bills contain funding for a wide range of Maine priorities, including support for the workforce at Bath Iron Works and Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, our lobster industry, infrastructure improvements, affordable housing, biomedical research, veterans, and heating assistance programs like LIHEAP. These bills also contain nearly \$590 million in Congressionally Directed Spending for 231 projects throughout the State of Maine. These projects would help promote job creation, expand access to health care, and improve public safety, infrastructure, and important resources in communities across all 16 counties of our state. I will continue to work to get these bills signed into law in the new year.

On October 25, the horrific mass shooting in Lewiston claimed the lives of 18 Mainers and injured 13 others. In response, I led Maine's Congressional Delegation in requesting an independent investigation by the U.S. Army Inspector General into the events leading up to the shooting. On December 15, the Under Secretary of the Army wrote to inform me that such an investigation will take place, and the Army Inspector General has instructed her team to immediately begin preparing to conduct this investigation. While nothing can undo the events of October 25, I will continue to work to understand what happened and what could have been done differently, and to find answers for the victims, survivors, and their families.

No one works harder than the people of Maine, and this year I honored that work ethic when I cast my 8,855th consecutive roll call vote.

As we look ahead to 2024, I remain committed to addressing the concerns of Maine families and communities. If you need assistance or wish to share your thoughts, please do not hesitate to reach out to one of my six state offices.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator

ANGUS S. KING, JR.
MAINE

133 HARRY SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
(202) 224-3344
Website: <https://www.king.senate.gov>

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 1, 2024

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

Dear Friends,

Thank you for allowing me to add my congratulations and gratitude for the positive differences each town and city in Maine makes for its people and ultimately for Maine as a whole. When I travel around the state and visit the various regions in Maine, I see firsthand the differences you all make, the focus you put on excellence, and the helping hands you extend to neighbors. I have learned valuable lessons watching your collaborations with each other. They got the State motto right – *Dirigo* – because you all certainly do lead the way and exemplify the best of Maine.

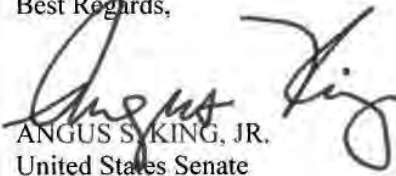
First, it was a true honor to be appointed to the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee this year to help address the challenges facing Maine veterans. We owe our way of life to these brave men and women and share a collective responsibility as a grateful nation to give back to our veterans. That means delivering veterans the benefits they have earned, addressing the veterans' suicide crisis, improving transition-to-civilian-status programs, and ensuring every veteran can access essential services, like affordable housing and behavioral healthcare.

Next, one of the most significant infrastructure projects in Maine history is underway: affordable and universal broadband availability throughout the state. Supported through funding in the bipartisan infrastructure bill, we are now within striking distance of broadband service even in our most rural communities. Additionally, infrastructure improvements in our roads and bridges, water and septic upgrades for our towns and support for our workforce and employers are also in the pipeline. Serious steps are being taken to address the toll from substance abuse and to provide our older neighbors with resources to help them continue to stand strong throughout their golden years. It is my goal here to make sure everyone has access to stable employment opportunities and quality healthcare which is of critical importance to keep our families healthy and happy.

I am thankful for each town in Maine for their commitment to their communities, to their citizens, and to this country. I will do my part to listen to your concerns and work to find useful solutions to the issues you face. My offices throughout Maine remain available to you if you face hurdles with the federal government, whether it be veteran issues, social security problems, student loans, immigration, tax assistance and more. I hope you will reach out of my offices in Presque Isle, Bangor, Augusta, Portland, or Biddeford and allow me the chance to be part of your solutions. Together, I know we can continue to build a stronger, brighter future for our great state.

Maine is known for our grit and resiliency and we are making great strides — something others across the country have noticed. Thank you for being one of the reasons Maine is so special; it is not only a pleasure to serve you — it is a pleasure to know you. Mary and I wish you a happy and safe 2024.

Best Regards,



ANGUS S. KING, JR.
United States Senate

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www.golden.house.gov



Committee on Armed Services
Committee on Small Business

Jared Golden
Congress of the United States
2nd District of Maine

Dear Friends,

I hope this letter finds you safe and well. It's an honor to continue serving as your representative in Congress, and I take the responsibility very seriously. I appreciate the opportunity to update you on what I've been working on behalf of the people of the Second Congressional District.

Maine's heritage industries are the backbone of our state's economy. That is why one of the first bills I introduced in this Congress was the *Northeast Fisheries Heritage Protection Act*, which would prohibit commercial offshore wind energy development in Lobster Management Area 1 (LMA 1) in the Gulf of Maine. LMA 1 was identified by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) as a potential commercial offshore wind site. LMA 1 is a critical and highly productive fishing ground for a variety of sea life, including lobster. Prohibiting offshore wind development in LMA 1 would help to avoid conflict with the New England commercial and recreational fishing industries. Additionally, the bill would initiate a federal study on the environmental review processes of any relevant Federal agencies for offshore wind projects in the Gulf of Maine.

I also continue to advocate on behalf of our veterans and those providing care to our former service members. The current pay for VA employees in the Kennebec and Penobscot counties does not reflect the critical services they are providing. As the oldest state in the nation, with the fifth highest veteran population, Mainers rely on the services offered at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) facilities. That's why recently, Senator Collins, Senator King, Representative Pingree, and I called on the Biden Administration to increase locality pay for VA employees in Kennebec and Penobscot counties. The level of care received is impacted by job vacancies, and the high turnover rate among its healthcare workforce is often the result of pay and compensation issues, which is further exacerbated by the increased cost of living.

Lastly, I'm excited that Mainers are continuing to reap the benefits of the *Bipartisan Infrastructure Law* (BIL). Recently, millions of dollars in grants have been awarded across the state, including \$35 million through the U.S. Department of Transportation's Culvert Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) program to conserve spawning and migratory habitats for native fish species in Maine, \$460,000 through the Airport Infrastructure Grant (AIG) program for the Princeton Municipal Airport, Stephen A. Bean Municipal Airport, and Dexter Regional Airport, and nearly \$8 million through the Buses and Bus Facilities Program for Bangor's bus system. These investments are critical to ensuring Maine's infrastructure and will help to ensure Mainers and businesses across Maine are connected.

Regardless of the year, one of my top priorities is ensuring I'm accessible to you. My staff and I can help answer questions about and navigate federal programs; find resources in Maine; and resolve issues with Medicare, Social Security, the VA, and other federal agencies and programs. We are here to help:

- **Caribou Office:** 7 Hatch Drive, Suite 230, Caribou, ME 04736. Phone: (207) 492-6009
- **Lewiston Office:** 179 Lisbon Street, Lewiston, ME 04240. Phone: (207) 241-6767
- **Bangor Office:** 6 State Street, Suite 101, Bangor, ME 04401. Phone: (207) 249-7400

I look forward to building on momentum from recent legislative wins for Mainers and continuing to work on your behalf in 2024. Do not hesitate to reach out and voice an opinion on legislation, let us know about local events, or seek assistance navigating federal agencies or programs. It's an honor to represent you in Congress, and I wish you a healthy and prosperous year to come.

Respectfully,

Jared F. Golden
Member of Congress

6 State Street, Suite 101
Bangor, ME 04101
Phone: (207) 249-7400

7 Hatch Drive, Suite 230
Caribou, ME 04736
Phone: (207) 492-6009

179 Lisbon Street
Lewiston, ME 04240
Phone: (207) 241-6767



Janet T. Mills
GOVERNOR

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

Spring 2024

Dear Maine Resident:

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

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

At the same time, we have our challenges. In late October, a gunman took the lives of 18 innocent citizens and injured many more in an act of senseless and unconscionable violence. Then, in December and January, heavy rains and powerful winds brought massive flooding that destroyed homes and businesses, roads, and bridges, and changed the very landscape of our coast.

I have proposed legislation to address both issues — first, to rebuild from these storms and prepare for those to come; and, second, to expand mental health services and keep weapons out of the hands of dangerous people to better protect public safety.

We have made good progress over the past five years to ensure that every person can find a good-paying job in Maine; have affordable health insurance; have the peace of mind that their children are safe at home and at school; breathe clean air and drink clean water and enjoy the rolling hills, lush forests, mighty rivers, and bold coast of Maine.

There are still plenty of challenges, particularly when it comes to the affordability of housing, child care, energy, and other things, but thanks to the resilience and the resolve of Maine people, I am more confident than ever before in the future of our state.

It is my honor to serve as your governor.

Sincerely,



Janet T. Mills
Governor



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

TTY USERS CALL 711
www.maine.gov

PHONE: (207) 287-3531 (Voice)

FAX: (207) 287-1034



David LaFountain
Senator, District 16

THE MAINE SENATE
131st Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

March 18, 2024

Dear Friends and Residents of Oakland,

In the First Regular Session of the 131st Legislature, my colleagues and I made transformative investments in the people of Maine. Seniors, students, families, and workers will all benefit from our work, including the bipartisan budget that we passed last July.

We strengthened our childcare industry by increasing access and affordability, bolstered two property tax relief programs so older Mainers can age at home, and ensured the uninterrupted continuation of vital emergency medical services.

With the second session of the 131st Legislature underway, we are already closely reading and considering bills proposed and working hard to continue delivering for our communities. I still serve as Senate Chair of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee, where we hear bill proposals on topics like hunting & fishing, wildlife research, watercraft, and boater safety, and oversees relevant agencies. As the Senate Chair, my priorities include protecting our cherished lands and natural resources and ensuring the smooth operation of state agencies.

I also still serve on the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee. I am particularly proud of the Legislature's acknowledgement that we need to support our vital, often life-saving Emergency Medical Services and its dedicated providers. I am committed to ensuring appropriated funds reach departments, ensuring the uninterrupted continuation of these services.

I know many in our community are still struggling, and I want to remind you that I am here as a resource for you and your family. If you need help finding resources, connecting with a state agency, or just want to talk something through, I'm here to help. You can call my Senate office at (207) 287-1515 or email me at David.LaFountain@legislature.maine.gov.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your state senator. Representing the northern Kennebec Valley region and serving as your voice in Augusta remains an honor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David LaFountain".

David LaFountain

State Senator, District 16

Proudly representing Albion, Fairfield, Oakland, Waterville and Winslow

*Chair, Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee * Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee
State House (207) 287-1515 * Fax (207) 287-1585 * Toll Free 1-800-423-6900 * TTY 711
David.LaFountain@legislature.maine.gov * legislature.maine.gov/senate*



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002
(207) 287-1440
TTY: (207) 287-4469

Robert W. Nutting

P.O. Box 100
Oakland, ME 04963
Phone: (207) 629-7035
Robert.Nutting@legislature.maine.gov

January 2024

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As the Second Regular Session of the Maine State Legislature convenes, I would like to thank you for granting me the opportunity to serve the citizens of District 66 in the Maine House of Representatives. Representing you is an honor and a privilege I take seriously. My focus has always been to keep constituents well informed of legislative matters and making myself available to address questions and concerns. This is a wonderful opportunity for me to make a difference in the community and I am looking forward to the new challenges that await in the 2024 legislative session.

The First Regular Session of the Legislature was a busy one, as lawmakers faced many difficult issues and decisions. I believe you will be pleased with some of the accomplishments of the 131st Legislature so far. My colleagues and I were able to pass multiple bi-partisan spending agreements that included supporting hospitals and long-term care facilities, working to stabilize highway and road funding, and improving the efficient delivery of government services. I continue to support legislation that would reduce high energy costs while shoring up supply resiliency and capacity, as well as procurement and generation priorities.

I will continue to serve on the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety and the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services as we tackle matters that are crucial to our community.

I encourage you to actively participate in your state government by monitoring all legislative proposals being worked on at the State House by visiting the Legislature's website at www.legislature.maine.gov. From here, you can browse bill summaries, view our legislative session and public hearing schedules, submit testimony, listen to committee hearings or watch live streaming video of the House and Senate.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to represent you. Hearing your thoughts on the issues that are important to you helps me to better serve you. Please, do not hesitate to call anytime if you feel you need my assistance. If you would like to be added to my email list, you can do so by emailing me directly with your request at Robert.Nutting@legislature.maine.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Nutting".

Robert W. Nutting
State Representative

District 66 Oakland, Mercer, Smithfield, Starks & Sidney (part)



674 Mt Hope Avenue • Suite 1 • Bangor, ME 04401-5662 • (207) 947-3325 • FAX (207) 945-3400
Email: bta@btacpa.com

Independent Auditor's Report

Town Council
Town of Oakland, Maine

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town of Oakland, Maine as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Town's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town of Oakland, Maine, as of June 30, 2023 and the respective changes in financial position and, where applicable, cash flows thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Town of Oakland, Maine, and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Town of Oakland, Maine's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, we

- exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Town of Oakland, Maine's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Town of Oakland, Maine's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis, budgetary comparison information, pension and OPEB information on pages 7 through 13 and pages 48 through 51 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the *Governmental Accounting Standards Board*, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Supplementary Information

The other supplementary information on Schedule 1 is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, Schedule 1 is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated November 30, 2023, on our consideration of the Town of Oakland, Maine's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Town of Oakland, Maine's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Town of Oakland, Maine's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Barbara Whibodeau & Associates

Bangor, Maine
November 30, 2023

TOWN OF OAKLAND TRUST FUNDS

Non-Trust

Cemetery Trust Fund

General	\$ 56,219.61
Lakeview Cemetery	22,149.12
George H. Bryant	5,337.72
Earnings (% of sales)	5,731.35
Total	\$ 89,437.80

Interest 137,352.42

Fund Balance **\$ 226,790**

Clarissa Greenough Library Trust Fund

Principal \$ 50,313.00

Interest 3,867.89

Fund Balance **\$ 54,181**

Distressed Persons Trust Fund

Stella Bartlett \$ 7,500.00

Interest 18,358.90

Fund Balance **\$ 25,859**

Library Trust Fund

Stella Bartlett \$ 1,000.00

Cecile Campbell 2,000.00

Don C. Stevens 2,000.00

Myra L. Wells 800.00

Total **\$ 5,800.00**

Interest 181.69

Fund Balance **\$ 5,982**

Library Improvement Fund

Beginning Balance 7/1/2023 \$ 28,675.30

Revenues

Deposits \$ 2,603.10

Expenses

Supplies \$ 7,527.13

Balance 3/21/2024 **\$ 23,751**

Proposed Expenditures 2024-2025

General Government	2022-2023 Appropriated	2023-24 Appropriated	2024-2025 Proposed	Change
Administration	\$ 602,956	\$ 662,319	\$ 710,411	7.3%
Assessor	169,266	190,992	197,896	3.6%
General Assistance	11,925	15,000	20,000	33.3%
Insurance	18,659	21,192	22,464	6.0%
Debt Service	209,846	208,420	207,010	-0.7%
Contingency	15,806	7,500	24,000	220.0%
Total	\$ 1,028,459	\$ 1,105,423	\$ 1,181,781	6.9%
<u>Protection</u>				
Fire Department	\$ 691,884	\$ 808,250	\$ 822,331	1.7%
Rescue	51,075	69,670	69,670	0.0%
Police Department	1,186,118	1,405,200	1,565,658	11.4%
Code Enforcement	107,215	125,663	129,495	3.0%
Public Safety Services	371,420	512,649	600,966	17.2%
Transfer Station	531,877	580,362	607,285	4.6%
Total	\$ 2,939,589	\$ 3,501,794	\$ 3,795,406	8.4%
<u>Public Works</u>				
Public Works Department	\$ 980,572	\$ 1,068,880	\$ 1,159,449	8.5%
Road Improvements	354,498	393,042	375,000	-4.6%
Property Maintenance	352,813	431,030	497,737	15.5%
Total	\$ 1,687,884	\$ 1,892,952	\$ 2,032,186	7.4%
<u>Recreational/Cultural Services</u>				
Public Library	\$ 158,065	\$ 256,251	\$ 246,444	-3.8%
Recreation	188,088	237,045	262,489	10.7%
Total	\$ 346,153	\$ 493,296	\$ 508,933	3.2%
<u>Miscellaneous</u>				
Optional Appropriations	\$ 46,859	\$ 46,907	\$ 49,562	5.7%
<u>Community Service Organizations</u>				
Agency Requests	\$ 7,500	\$ 9,000	\$ 6,181	100.0%
<u>Conservation Organizations</u>				
Agency Requests	\$ 22,899	\$ 40,930	\$ 37,270	-8.9%
<u>Capital Improvements</u>				
Proposed Projects	\$ 225,716	\$ 370,000	\$ 420,717	13.7%
Grand Total	\$ 6,305,059	\$ 7,460,302	\$ 8,032,037	7.7%

ESTIMATED REVENUES 2024-2025

	Collected 2022-23	Budgeted 2023-2024	Received 12/31/2023	Estimated 2024-2025
TAXES				
Excise Tax	\$ 1,435,951	\$ 1,350,000	\$ 776,320	\$ 1,390,000
Boat Excise	12,631	12,500	2,735	12,500
Interest Penalties	21,567	25,000	9,508	25,000
Subtotal	\$ 1,470,149	\$ 1,387,500	\$ 788,563	\$ 1,427,500

LICENSES & PERMITS				
Town Clerk	\$ 8,169	\$ 7,000	\$ 3,771	\$ 7,500
Dog Licenses	6,101	5,000	1,291	5,800
Transfer Station - Stickers	1,577	600	400	1,000
Plumbing Permits	7,226	7,500	6,401	7,300
Junkyard Fee		-	350	500
Letter of Intent	2,265	8,500	1,030	9,000
Subtotal	\$ 25,338	\$ 28,600	\$ 13,243	\$ 31,100

INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVENUE				
Police Special Details	\$ 7,402	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,131	\$ 7,000
School Resource Officer Reim.	142,166	141,414	-	280,008
State Revenue Sharing	1,182,375	1,100,000	510,360	814,435
Tree Growth	19,317	20,000	18,811	20,000
Solar Energy Reimbursement	24,095	23,000	25,704	75,000
Local Roads Assistance Program	43,332	43,000	49,816	45,000
General Assistance Reimbursement	10,512	10,500	3,057	14,000
Snowmobile Fees	2,734	2,500	-	2,500
FirstPark Admin Fees	50,309	45,000	-	45,000
Subtotal	\$ 1,482,243	\$ 1,390,414	\$ 612,879	\$ 1,302,943

CHARGES FOR SERVICES				
Cemeteries(Burials\Lot Sales)	11,750	10,000	9,700	10,000
Vehicle Registration Fees	33,520	25,000	15,201	25,000
Fines & Fees	130	200	-	150
Rentals	10,820	10,000	5,400	10,000
Lien Collections	2,693	6,000	2,137	6,000
Transfer Station Revenues	87,754	80,000	49,004	80,000
Subtotals	\$ 146,667	\$ 131,200	\$ 81,442	\$ 131,150

REVENUE				
Investment Income	\$ 219,579	\$ 65,000	\$ 140,000	\$ 165,000
Cemetery Trust Income	600	600	-	600
Clarissa Greenough Lib. Book Inc	300	300	-	300
Library Trust Fund Income	50	50	-	50
Subtotal	\$ 220,529	\$ 65,950	\$ 140,000	\$ 165,950

	<u>Collected</u> <u>2022-2023</u>	<u>Budgeted</u> <u>2023-2024</u>	<u>Received</u> <u>12/31/2023</u>	<u>Estimated</u> <u>2024-2025</u>
MISCELLANEOUS				
Miscellaneous	\$ 7,201	\$ 15,000	\$ 4,212	\$ 7,000
Cable TV	76,469	72,000		75,000
J.P. Morgan Rebate	6,432	7,000	-	7,000
Recreation Fees	16,664	10,000	3,237	17,000
SW Recycling Revenues	21,376	22,500	9,543	22,500
TIF-Summit	49,600	100,000	-	100,000
Commercial Tipping Fees	2,587	2,000	-	2,000
Subtotal	\$ 180,329	\$ 228,500	\$ 16,991	\$ 230,500
SUBTOTAL	\$ 3,525,256	\$ 3,232,164	\$ 1,653,117	\$ 3,289,143
OTHER REVENUE SOURCES				
Trans From Fund Equity	500,000	900,000	900,000	975,000
Trans from Cap. Imp. Res.	150,000	12,500	12,500	175,000
Subtotal	650,000	912,500	912,500	1,150,000
TOTAL	4,175,256	4,144,664	2,565,617	4,439,143

PERSONAL PROPERTY - PAST DUE

	YEAR DUE	
465 NUTRITION LLC	2022-1	43.00
465 NUTRITION LLC	2023-1	36.00
AMES, BRIAN JR	2023-1	79.20
ARCTIC GLACIER	2022-1	20.64
ARCTIC GLACIER	2023-1	15.84
BERNIER, CARLTON & KELLY	2023-1	79.20
BICKFORD, REGINALD E. & REGINALD G.	2023-1	86.40
CANNISTRA, MATTHEW	2023-1	41.76
CENTRAL MAINE CLINICAL ASSOCIATES	2023-1	318.24
DURAN, TERRY	2023-1	33.12
FABIAN BUILDERS, INC.	2023-1	127.08
FISHER, MERLE A.	2023-1	139.68
GATEWAY FINANCIAL PARTNERS	2023-1	178.56
GLOSS REFINISHING AND RESTORATION	2023-1	116.64
GREGOIRE, SELINA L	2023-1	41.76
GUN GALS BULLETS & BAKERY	2023-1	109.44
HAUSLER, JOSEPH R III	2023-1	69.12
HUBBARD, RANDY	2023-1	41.76
IVESON, SHEILA	2023-1	154.80
MAINE WATER COMPANY, THE	2023-1	10,046.52
MAINE WATER COMPANY, THE	2023-1	1,003.32
MAINELY PROCESSING, LLC	2021-1	6,860.12
MAINELY PROCESSING, LLC	2022-1	333.68
MAINELY PROCESSING, LLC	2023-1	3,153.60
MEDICINE BEND STABLES, LLC	2023-1	603.36
MILLER PROPERTIES, LLC	2023-1	63.36
MMM OAKLAND REALTY LLC.	2023-1	307.08
MWGW PROPERTY, LLC	2023-1	24.48
O'KEEFE HOLDINGS, LLC	2023-1	5,824.44
PROCTOR, MICHAEL .	2023-1	102.24
RING POWER CORPORATION	2023-1	16.93
SMITH, ALEXANDRIA .	2022-1	94.60
SMITH, ALEXANDRIA .	2023-1	79.20
STANLEY, LUSHIE LEVI III	2023-1	7.20
STARK, TORY M.	2023-1	24.48
STEVENS, JASON & LYDIA	2023-1	77.76
TERRIO, CHARLES E. DMD	2023-1	114.48
VIGUE, DERRIK	2023-1	41.76
WATERVILLE COUNTRY CLUB	2023-1	818.64
WHITNEY, TYLER .	2023-1	260.64

TOTAL OWED	\$	31,590.13
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2022-2023 REAL ESTATE TAX LIENS

AMES, SANDRA E.	\$ 43.94		
BAIKO, CHRISTINA	\$ 1,190.08		
BARD, JAMES R.	\$ 4,056.53	PELLETIER, WAYNE K	\$ 354.72
BELANGER, BENJAMIN	\$ 3,291.42	PHAIR, IAN	\$ 258.11
BELANGER, JONATHAN	\$ 146.77	ROCKWOOD ESTATES	\$ 100.60
BLANCHARD, JASON ALAN	\$ 1,834.68	ROY, DREW	\$ 895.68
BROOKS, BEVERLY JEAN	\$ 543.72	SPRAGUE, JAROD	\$ 180.84
BROWN, JAMES J.	\$ 5,740.94	THOMAS, ANDREA .	\$ 1,501.65
BROWN, JAMES JONATHAN	\$ 2,769.10	TRASK, PAUL	\$ 316.07
BUCKNAM, CYNTHIA	\$ 3,171.31	TURCOTTE, ERIC	\$ 2,804.90
CASCADE PROPERTIES LLC	\$ 1,582.40	UEBELHACK, RUSSELL	\$ 1,111.72
CASCADE PROPERTIES LLC	\$ 763.68	VIGUE, ARMAND L.	\$ 284.46
CLEAVER, MATTHEW R.	\$ 5,658.79	WHALEY, DONNA LOU	\$ 752.50
COLE, CHRISTOPHER C.	\$ 543.32	WHEELER, BRIAN	\$ 939.77
CRESS, TOBY L.	\$ 291.98	WILKIE, SHAWN E.	\$ 1,180.51
DANFORTH, BRIAN, HEIRS OF	\$ 1,707.14		
DESROSIERS, JOSHUA	\$ 907.98		
DESROSIERS, JOSHUA	\$ 215.96		
DESROSIERS, JOSHUA	\$ 2,660.88	TOTAL	\$ 79,617.80
DICKINSON, WILLIAM ROBERT	\$ 605.43		
DONAHUE, GERALD W.	\$ 359.99		
DONAHUE, GERALD W.	\$ 447.81		
DOUCETTE, ROSALIE F.	\$ 398.63		
ESTABROOK, DARRYL	\$ 755.17	** Tax Liens will be foreclosed on	
ESTES, CODIE PARKER	\$ 231.76	December 9, 2024**	
FOSTER, KIRK R.	\$ 2,044.38		
HAFFORD, DONALD	\$ 1,190.38		
HARDY, HOWARD C.	\$ 2,411.47		
HAWES, MADOLYN & PAUL D., HEIRS	\$ 421.46		
HENTSCHEL, MICHAEL C.	\$ 1,344.17		
LAFRENIERE, CYNTHIA J.	\$ 1,423.68		
LEWIS, SHEENA L.	\$ 4,599.28		
MAY, DANIEL J.	\$ 3,002.50		
MCEWEN, HEATHER M.	\$ 976.49		
MCEWEN, HEATHER M.	\$ 633.99		
MILLER, DAVID E.	\$ 704.24		
MILLER, SHAWNTYL R.	\$ 1,528.81		
MILLS, STEPHEN A.	\$ 2,623.30		
MILLS, STEPHEN A.	\$ 437.98		
MUZEROLLE, JASON R.	\$ 915.02		
NEEDHAM, HEATHER	\$ 168.54		
O'CLAIR, KEITH	\$ 1,550.83		
PARENT, MICHELLE L.	\$ 961.00		
PECKHAM, ROBERT E.	\$ 660.32		
PELLETIER, KATE L.	\$ 1,066.06		
PELLETIER, KATE L.	\$ 352.96		

SEWER LIENS

JANUARY - APRIL 2022 SEWER LIENS

HAUSLER, JOSEPH R. III	188.34
PARENT, MICHELLE L.	191.80
UEBELHACK, RUSSELL	631.98
WHEELER, BRIAN	387.64
Total Due	\$ 1,399.76

Will foreclose on May 17, 2024

JULY - OCTOBER 2022 SEWER LIENS

BONNELL, TYLER .	129.34
BROOKS, BEVERLY JEAN	322.64
BROOKS, BEVERLY JEAN	386.66
HAUSLER, JOSEPH R. III	236.52
HIGH STREET PARK ASSOCI	257.09
KLEINSCHMIDT, MARK F.	259.84
PARENT, MICHELLE L.	246.42
UEBELHACK, RUSSELL	538.34
WHEELER, BRIAN	397.59
Total Due	\$ 2,774.44

Will foreclose on October 26, 2024

JANUARY - APRIL 2023 SEWER LIENS

BONNELL, TYLER .	192.71		
BROOKS, BEVERLY JEAN	347.69	THOMAS, ANDREA .	223.52
BROOKS, BEVERLY JEAN	348.58	TRACY, JEREMY M.	194.60
DOUCETTE, TRAVIS A.	348.68	UEBELHACK, RUSSELL	490.57
GERRY, OSCAR	288.34	WHEELER, BRIAN	388.46
GIGUERE, MELANIE S.	90.30	Total Due	\$ 4,648.54
GOODWIN, KARLA S.	62.21		
HAUSLER, JOSEPH R. III	531.35		
HIGH STREET PARK ASSOCI	332.61		
HIGH STREET PARK ASSOCI	248.74		
HIGH STREET PARK ASSOCI	107.19		
HUDSON, MAXIMILLIAN M.	162.50		
KLEINSCHMIDT, MARK F.	450.80		
MCDANIEL, STARR	179.34		
MORTON, WILLIAM FRANK,	343.28		
PARENT, MICHELLE L.	232.53		
RATTENNI, WILLIAM .	265.08		
SIMPSON, ROBERT F.	116.61		

** Will foreclose on May 3, 2026**

JULY - OCTOBER 2023 -PAST DUE SEWER BILLS

(July 2023 & October 2023 Bill)

826 KMD, LLC	20.43	LIBERTY, ROBERT C.	150.94
ALDRICH, ANDREW J.	242.94	LONG, BRIAN EDWARD	129.94
ALLEN, TANYA ANN	98.44	LOUCKS, BRIAN	290.19
ANDERSON, SARAH B.	103.69	MASHHADI, AZADEH	119.44
BONNELL, TYLER .	137.94	MATHIEU, PAUL D.	58.02
BOUCHARD, ALISSA ANN	196.09	MCDANIEL, STARR	426.69
BRICKETT, RAYMOND A.	359.88	MICHAUD, JOSHUA P.	87.94
BROOKS, BEVERLY JEAN	774.63	MITCHELL, ANDREW S.	114.19
C37 CAPITAL LLC	1267.19	MOORE, AUBREY L.	170.63
CAMINOS, MICHELLE E.	248.19	MORSE, JENNIFER R.	200.94
CARASITI, KEITH T.	61.69	MORTON, WILLIAM FRANK, DE	253.44
CARLTON, BETHANY	311.19	MREM	1093.62
CHARLES, JULIUS A.	166.69	MULLEN, SCOTT	187.69
CHARRIER, ABBIE	111.95	MURRAY, BRANDEN J.	126.35
DEXTER, JAMES E.	180.81	NASON, MARGARET A.	208.69
DOUCETTE, TRAVIS A.	300.69	OUELLETTE, STEVEN J. SR	237.69
DOYON, MICHAEL R. II	255.94	PARENT, MICHELLE L.	200.94
EARLE, HAZEN	61.69	PATTEN, JENNIFER	269.19
GAULIN, KEVIN	288.68	PAWSON, ROBB A.	353.19
GEHRLING, FRANCIS C.	284.94	PERVIER, JASON D.	140.44
GERRY, OSCAR	505.69	PETERSON, MICHAEL D.	279.69
GIGUERE, MELANIE S.	174.69	PRESSEY, VERNE E. III	318.94
GLOVER, DAVID L.	443.88	RATTENNI, WILLIAM .	227.44
GOODWIN, KARLA S.	221.94	ROY, DREW	61.69
GRAMES, JONATHON	227.19	ROY, LIANA JG	93.19
HALL, CLAYTON R.	200.19	RUTKOVSKY, FELICITY M.	69.12
HAUSLER, JOSEPH R. III	195.69	SAINT STEPHEN THE MARTYR	125.53
HIGH STREET PARK ASSOCIATES	1340.09	SIMPSON, ROBERT F.	111.69
HUDSON, MAXIMILLIAN M.	185.19	SMITH, CAITLIN E.	39.72
HUI YUAN, INC.	526.94	STEPHENS, MELISSA S.	305.14
IRWIN, AMY J.	148.13	STEWART, VALERIE J.	206.19
JOHNSON, MARY ALICE	135.19	THIBODEAU, CODY J.	16.67
JOHNSTON, LURA P.	65.82	THOMAS, ANDREA .	326.94
JOYCE, ROBIN A.	50.58	THOMPSON, PATRICIA G.	169.44
KLEINSCHMIDT, MARK F.	384.69	TOWERS, WILLIAM O.	177.19
KNIGHT, DENNY L.	153.69	TRACY, JEREMY M.	263.94
KNIGHT, JODY L.	458.19	UEBELHACK, RUSSELL	500.19
KNOWLES, CHRISTOPHER N.	150.94	UNDERWOOD-MELLOWS, KATI	142.80
LADD, CATHERINE J.	82.69	VIGUE, GREGORY V	124.69
LAVERDIERE, BRUCE C.	129.94	VIOLETTE, JOSEPH J.	216.69
LEWIS, CALVIN	96.33	WARD, JAMES L.	279.69
		WEHRLE, DALE R.	19.62
		WHEELER, BRIAN	342.69
		WUNDERLICH, VALERIE	53.62
		YOUNG, NICOLE S	59.11

\$ 20,703.15

BALANCES ARE AS OF 3/28/2024

**TOWN OF OAKLAND
WARRANT FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024**

To: Rick Stubbert, a resident of the Town of Oakland in the County of Kennebec and State of Maine.

Greetings: In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Oakland, qualified by law to vote in Town affairs to assemble at the **MESSALONSKEE HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER, OAKLAND, MAINE** on Tuesday, May 7, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., to act on Articles 1 -24 all said articles set out below to wit:

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

ARTICLE 2. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Council to pay any and all overdrafts from the 2023-2024 fiscal year that exceed the \$10,001 limit authorized by Section 303 in the Oakland Town Charter.

Council Recommendation: 5-0

Budget and Advisory Committee Recommendation: 11-0

ARTICLE 3. To see if the Town will vote to fix dates upon which 2024-2025 taxes shall become payable and to charge interest on same.

Recommendation: Taxes shall be payable in full, or installments, due on August 15, 2024, October 17, 2024, January 09, 2025, and March 13, 2025. Taxes not paid in full on or before due dates shall be charged interest at a rate of 8% per annum. A tax bill of less than \$100.00 shall be payable in full on August 15, 2024 with interest to accrue at a rate of 8% per annum on those taxes unpaid after said date. Any tax refunds granted will have interest computed at the same rate as it originally accrued and was approved at the appropriate Annual Town Meeting.

Council Recommendation: 5-0

Budget and Advisory Committee Recommendation: 11-0

ARTICLE 4. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for General Government as follows:

	Last Year	This Year
Administration	\$ 662,319	\$ 710,411
General Assistance	15,000	20,000
Assessor	190,992	197,896
Insurance	21,192	22,464
Total	\$ 889,503	\$ 950,771
From Tree Growth Revenue	\$ (20,000)	\$ (20,000)
Tax Increment Financing Revenue	(36,790)	(36,790)
General Assistance Reim.	(10,500)	(14,000)
Transfer from Fund Equity	\$ (40,094)	\$ (75,000)
To be raised by Taxation	\$ 782,119	\$ 804,981

Council Recommendation: 5-0

Budget and Advisory Committee Recommendation: 11-0

ARTICLE 5. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Debt Service and Contingency as follows:

	Last Year		This Year
Debt Service	\$ 208,420		\$ 207,010
Contingency	<u>7,500</u>		<u>24,000</u>
	215,920		231,010
To be raised by Taxation	\$ 215,920		\$ 231,010

Council Recommendation: 5-0

Budget and Advisory Committee Recommendation: 11-0

ARTICLE 6. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Public Library as follows:

	Last Year		This Year
Public Library	\$ 256,251		\$ 246,444
From Library Trust Fund Income	\$ (50)		\$ (50)
From Clarissa Greenough Trust Fund Income	(300)		(300)
Transfer from Fund Equity	(102,729)		(67,746)
To be raised by Taxation	\$ 153,172		\$ 178,348

Council Recommendation: 5-0

Budget and Advisory Committee Recommendation: 11-0

ARTICLE 7. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Recreation as follows:

	Last Year		This Year
Recreation	\$ 237,045		\$ 262,489
Recreation Revenue	(17,000)		(17,000)
Transfer from Fund Equity	(13,029.00)		(38,473)
To be raised by Taxation	\$ 207,016		\$ 207,016

Council Recommendation: 5-0

Budget and Advisory Committee Recommendation: 11-0

ARTICLE 8. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Fire and Rescue as follows:

	Last Year		This Year
Fire Department	\$ 808,250		\$ 822,331
Rescue	69,670		69,670
Total	\$ 877,920		\$ 892,001
Transfer from Fund Equity	\$ (9,520)		\$ (23,601)
To be raised by Taxation	\$ 868,400		\$ 868,400

Council Recommendation: 4-0-1

Budget and Advisory Committee Recommendation: 11-0

ARTICLE 9. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Police Department as follows:

	Last Year		This Year
Police Department	\$ 1,104,386	\$	1,221,877
School Resource Officers	290,814		336,781
Special Details	10,000		7,000
Total	\$ 1,405,200	\$	1,565,658
School Resource Officer Reimbursement	\$ (243,675)	\$	(280,008)
Police Department Special Details	(5,000)		(7,000)
Transfer from Fund Equity	(250,000)		(318,432)
To be raised by Taxation	\$ 906,525	\$	960,218

Council Recommendation: 5-0

Budget and Advisory Committee Recommendation: 11-0

ARTICLE 10. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Protection Services as follows:

	Last Year		This Year
Public Safety Services	\$ 492,649	\$	585,966
Code Enforcement Services	125,663		129,495
Total	\$ 618,312	\$	715,461
Tax Increment Financing Revenue	\$ (8,149)	\$	(15,000)
Transfer from Fund Equity	(122,919)	\$	(100,000)
To be raised by Taxation	\$ 487,244	\$	600,461

Council Recommendation: 5-0

Budget and Advisory Committee Recommendation: 11-0

ARTICLE 11. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Animal Control as follows:

	Last Year		This Year
Animal Control	\$ 20,000	\$	15,000
From Dog License Fees	(5,000)		(5,800)
To be raised by Taxation	\$ 15,000	\$	9,200

Council Recommendation: 5-0

Budget and Advisory Committee Recommendation: 11-0

ARTICLE 12. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Transfer Station and Recycling Services as follows:

	Last Year		This Year
Transfer Station & Recycling Services	\$ 579,748	\$	607,285
Transfer from Fund Equity	(16,926)	\$	(44,463)
Commercial Tipping Fees	\$ (2,000)	\$	(2,000)
Transfer Station Revenue	(80,000)	\$	(80,000)
Recycling Revenues	(22,500)	\$	(22,500)
To be raised by Taxation	\$ 458,322	\$	458,322

Council Recommendation: 5-0

Budget and Advisory Committee Recommendation: 11-0

ARTICLE 13. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Public Works and Road Improvements as follows:

	Last Year		This Year
Public Works	\$ 1,068,880	\$	1,159,449
<u>Town Road Improvements</u>	<u>393,042</u>		<u>375,000</u>
Total	\$ 1,461,922	\$	1,534,449
Excise Tax	\$ (1,300,000)	\$	(1,390,000)
LRAP Funds	(43,000)		(45,000)
Transfer from Fund Equity	\$ (36,322)	\$	(26,568)
Tax Increment Financing Revenue	\$ (22,867)	\$	(13,148)
To be raised by Taxation	\$ 59,733	\$	59,733

Council Recommendation: 5-0

Budget and Advisory Committee Recommendation: 11-0

ARTICLE 14. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Property Maintenance as follows:

	Last Year		This Year
Town Property Maintenance	\$ 431,030	\$	497,737
Transfer from Fund Equity	\$ (108,461)		(175,168)
To be raised by Taxation	\$ 322,569	\$	322,569

Council Recommendation: 5-0

Budget and Advisory Committee Recommendation: 11-0

ARTICLE 15. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Capital Improvements as follows:

	Last Year		This Year
Fire Truck	\$ 100,000	\$	197,317
Assessing Revaluation	\$ 100,000	\$	94,400
Police HK VP9 9mm Cabilber	\$ -	\$	15,000
Lease Purchase (5 vehicles, 3 shields, 11 rifles)	\$ -	\$	60,000
Prop Maintenance Pick -up Truck	\$ 50,000	\$	-
Prop. Mainenance Z-turn Mower	\$ -	\$	9,000
Transfer Station Loader	\$ 75,000	\$	25,000
Transfer Station Scale	\$ 10,000	\$	10,000
Police Cruiser	\$ 35,000	\$	-
Memorial Hall	\$ -	\$	10,000
Total	\$ 370,000	\$	420,717
Transfer From Capital Improvement Resv.	\$ (12,500)	\$	(175,000)
Transfer From Fund Equity	(200,000)		(155,717)
Excise Tax	(50,000)		-
To be raised from Taxation	\$107,500	\$	90,000

Council Recommendation: 5-0

Budget and Advisory Committee Recommendation: 7-4

ARTICLE 16. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Community Service Organization requests as follows:

	Last Year		This Year
Hospice Volunteers of Waterville Area	500.00		500.00
Community Health & Counseling	500.00		500.00
Kennebec Behavioral Health	1,000.00		0.00
KVCAP Transportation	1,000.00		0.00
Mid Maine Homeless Shelter	1,500.00		3,000.00
Sexual Assault Crisis & Support	1,500.00		2,181.00
Spectrum Generations	1,500.00		0.00
Total	\$ 7,500	\$	6,181
To be raised from Taxation	\$ 7,500	\$	6,181

Council Recommendation: 4-1

Budget and Advisory Committee Recommendation: 6-5

ARTICLE 17. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the following Miscellaneous requests:

	Last Year	This Year
KVCOG	9,209	9,640
Oakland Historical Society	2,000	2,500
Snow Pond Senior Center	1,500	1,500
Memorial Day	500	500
Maine Municipal Association	7,300	7,500
Mid Me Chamber of Commerce	875	899
Snowmobile Club	2,500	2,500
Central Maine Growth Council	24,523	24,523
Total	\$ 48,407	\$ 49,562
Transfer From Snowmobile Registration Fees	\$ (2,500)	\$ (2,500)
Tax Increment Financing Revenue	(32,194)	(35,062)
To be raised from Taxation	\$ 13,713	\$ 12,000

Council Recommendation: 5-0

Budget and Advisory Committee Recommendation: 11-0

ARTICLE 18. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the following Conservation Organization requests as follows:

	Last Year Approved Amount	This Year Council Recommends
7 Lakes Alliance - Youth Con. Corps	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
East Pond Association	2,500	3,500
Messalonskee/Snow Pond Lake Assoc.	10,000	11,000
McGrath Pond/Salmon Lake Assoc.	2,600	3,300
Belgrade Dams Committee	\$ 20,830	\$ 14,470
Total	\$ 40,930	\$ 37,270
To be raised from Taxation	\$ 40,930	\$ 37,270

Council Recommendation: 5-0

Budget and Advisory Committee Recommendation: 10-1

ARTICLE 19. To see if the Town will vote to apply estimated General Fund Revenues in the amount of **\$1,252,817** towards appropriations to reduce taxation. (Last year - \$1,539,900)

Council Recommendation: 5-0

Budget and Advisory Committee Recommendation: 11-0

ARTICLE 20. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Council to sell or dispose of any real estate acquired by the Town for nonpayment of taxes. Except that the Municipal Officers shall use the special sale process required by 36 M.R.S. § 943-C for qualifying homestead property if they choose to sell it to anyone other than the former owner(s).

Council Recommendation: 5-0

Budget and Advisory Committee Recommendation: 11-0

ARTICLE 21. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Council to accept any and all donations, gifts, reserves or grants and to expend such monies for the purposes stated.

Council Recommendation: 5-0

Budget and Advisory Committee Recommendation: 11-0

ARTICLE 22. Shall the Town of Oakland vote to approve a Community Development program and a possible Community Development Block Grant application and to submit same to the Department of Economic and Community Development? If said program is approved, to authorize the municipal officers to accept said grant funds, to make such assurances, further assume such responsibilities, and exercise such authority as are necessary and reasonable to implement such program.

Council Recommendation: 5-0

Budget and Advisory Committee Recommendation: 11-0

ARTICLE 23. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector and Treasurer to accept prepayment of taxes not yet committed pursuant to 36 M.R.S. Sec 506, with no payment of interest by the town.

Council Recommendation: 5-0

Budget and Advisory Committee Recommendation: 11-0

ARTICLE 24. To authorize the use of reserve funds to cover the 25% needed for the the Messalonskee boat launch project (Not to exceed \$100,000). The State grant will pay 75% of the project.

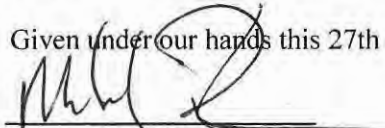
Council Recommendation: 5-0

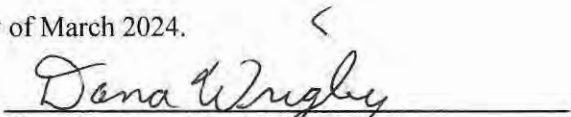
Budget and Advisory Committee Recommendation: 11-0

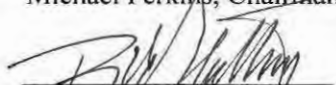
The Registrar will be available to accept names of new voters in person prior to the commencement of the meeting on Tuesday, May 7, 2024, from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm. The Warrant shall be posted in the following conspicuous places on Monday, April 29, 2024 which is at least seven (7) days prior to the Annual Town Meeting date: Oakland Post Office, Buddies Grocery & Pharmacy, Oakland Town Office, D & L Country Store and the Korner Store & Deli.


Hereof, fail not to make return of this Warrant with your doings thereon unto the Clerk of the Town of Oakland on or before said meeting.

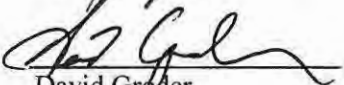
Given under our hands this 27th day of March 2024.


Michael Perkins, Chairman


Dana Wrigley, Vice Chairman

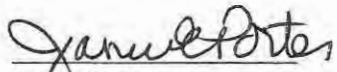

Robert Nutting


Donald Borman


David Groder

The Town of Oakland complies with Federal regulations in accommodating persons with special needs. Voters planning to attend this public meeting in need of special services should contact the Town Office at 465-7357 by Thursday, April 25, 2024

Attest:


Janice E. Porter
Town Clerk

NOTES

NOTES

NOTES

NEW LAW

As of October 25, 2023, Maine law defined recreational campfires. A recreational campfire means an outdoor fire that is used for cooking, personal warmth, light or ceremonial or aesthetic purpose that is not a part of debris disposal. As described by law, a recreational campfire would not need a permit in the Town of Oakland. The new law also makes it unlawful for burning outdoors during a red flag warning.

Burn permits are required for outdoor fires and can be obtained without cost at www.maineburnpermit.com or at the Oakland Fire Station. Permits in Oakland are issued when the Maine Forest Service predicts a low or moderate fire danger. Permits may not be issued or limited on certain days due to wind conditions, fire danger or staffing availability.

Sec 4 12 MRSA §9324. 7 Recreational campfires. A person who kindles or uses a recreational campfire, other than a licensed camping facility, may not allow the recreational campfire to exceed 3 feet in diameter on the ground at the base of the fire or 3 feet in height. [PL 2023, c. 56, §4 (NEW).]





Photo - Kelly Michaud



Photo - Beth Arnold



Photo - David Sandmel



Photo - Rob Trua



Sally Stevens Photography



Photo - Robyn Deveney



Photo - David Sandmel



Photo - Laura Nelson



Photo - Kelly Michaud

Cover Photo - Robyn Deveney

