

Annual Town Meeting April 10th 2021

TOWN OF MERCER

INCORPORATED 1804






ARTICLE 1:

To elect a moderator by written ballot to preside at this meeting.



ARTICLE 2:



To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to spend any amount not to exceed 3/12th of the current annual budget during the period from January 1st of the following year to the date of that year's annual town meeting.

ARTICLE 3:

To See if the town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$75,548.00 for the salaries, wages and payroll taxes of the Officers.**



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REQUESTED SALARIES

1 st Selectperson	\$4,000	Deputy Clk/Tax Collect	\$9,184
2 nd Selectperson	\$4,000	Deputy Treasurer	\$6,500
3 rd Selectperson	\$4,000	Transfer Station Attend	\$7,310
T Clerk, T Collector, Treas.	\$ 29, 314	Code Enforcement	\$1,500
Registrar of Voters	\$1,000		
Selectman's Secretary	\$3,040	Sub- Total	\$69,848
		Social Sec/ Medicare	\$5,700
Total Full- Time Fees	\$33,354	Total	\$75,548

Note: 2020 budget was \$69,192

Budget committee recommends no, 4-1-0

Overall increase of \$6,856





TOWN CLERK, TAX COLLECTOR, TREASURER,
REGISTRAR OF VOTERS WAGES

NANCY'S PROPOSED	\$33,354 (\$513.00
INCREASE OVER PRIOR TC, TC, TREAS.)	
YOLANDA	\$32,841 2020

Yes, in a small community we need someone with Nancy's education, experience, and background in municipal government

We've proven this fact in 2020!!!

UMFand extensive experience in municipal accounting

Chaired the Certification Committee of the Maine Town & Clerks Association for many years and is currently an active board member. (Lifetime Achievement Status)

Nancy had the knowledge to make recommended changes to the accounts and the adjusting entries identified by the auditor. **Nancy at \$25.00 an hour represents a savings compared to the auditing firm fees.**

Effective communicator with other agencies as well as the Select Board

Nancy's experience working as Executive Secretary for the Town Manager in Madison, Administrative Assistant for other municipal boards, combined with her years of hands-on experience and training make her a VERY valuable asset to our community.

She has kept the board fully informed extended her knowledge and experience willingly to educate the Board, Deputy Clerk, volunteers and citizens of the community- always with a pleasant attitude.

Accomplishments and active projects since being hired in July.

Because Nancy met the required level of training required for online vehicle registration, she **saved the town \$3,688.00** and was able to train the Deputy Clerk at no expense.

Nancy was instrumental in bringing to our attention the "Keep Maine Healthy" grant. Her work resulted in the Town receiving non- matching funds in the amount of **\$34,966.00** and an election grant **for \$5,000**

She is organizing files, working with the board to create policies, analyzing expenses, improving efficiency within the office. Our goal is to create a standardized system ensuring an easy transition with new staff.



WE'RE A SMALL
TOWN, WHY DO WE
NEED 3 PEOPLE IN
THE OFFICE?

REORGANIZING THE
OFFICE STRUCTURE
IS NOT A "LIKE TO"
IT'S A "NEEDS TO"

Cross-training ensures that if someone resigns or is sick, vacations we are never left in the vulnerable position of last year

Our intent is for seamless staff transitions and not an environment of chaos.

The Auditor recommended we implement a system of checks and balances by segregating the duties of staff. A trained 3rd employee is essential.

These recommendations can be found in all
Maine Municipal Manuals



Article 4: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Surplus **\$8,000 for the selectpersons' emergency contingencies**. All use of funds to be reported in the 2021 annual report. Note: 2020 budget was 10,000

Select board recommends \$8,000 Budget committee recommends yes, vote 4-1-0

Breakdown of Contingency Expenditures

\$1,132 (2021 annual maintenance fees)

\$2,760 MV Module to allow Rapid Renewal

\$675.00 Rapid Renewal

\$ 449.56 *Gemini System Pro-rated maintenance fees to 12/31/2020

\$175.00 Training fee \$4,060 total Trio

\$ 2,508 Rome Road Project

* The Town was running Windows 7 operating system, which is no longer supported, nor was it routinely backed up, ultimately putting the town at risk of losing valuable data combined with the possibility of a significant expense to restore

▪ \$ 7,700.96 spent in 2020

\$8,308.84 (Treasurer reports \$607.88 more)





ARTICLE 5:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$ 2,826 for Dues Maine Municipal Association membership KVCOG Membership

KVCOG is a municipal services corporation owned and operated by and for the benefit of its members. KVCOG helps its members to deliver cost effective and efficient municipal services

Note 2020 budget was \$ 1,786

\$1,786 MMA

\$ 726 KVCOG (-314)

\$2,512

Select Board recommends \$2,826(now \$2,512) from taxes

Budget Committee recommends \$1, 786



WHY ARE WE SPENDING MONEY ON MEMBERSHIPS?

Benefits

Benefits

- **Kennebec Valley Council of Governments (KVCOG)**

Serves 62 Maine municipalities

A Geographic Information System (GIS) integrates hardware, software, and data for capturing, managing, analyzing, and displaying all forms of geographically referenced information.

Digitized Tax Maps

Joint Purchase Discounts

Shoreline Maps

**Grant
Assistance**

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Days

- **Maine Municipal Association (MMA)**

MMA's services include advocacy, education and information, professional legal and personnel advisory services, and group insurance self-funded programs to municipalities. MMA is dedicated to assisting local governments, and the people who serve in local government, in meeting the needs of their citizens and serving as responsible partners in the intergovernmental system.



KYES

—INSURANCE—

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ARTICLE 6

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$16,794 for Insurance (General Liability & Property, Public Officials & Bonds, Workers Comp and Unemployment)**

Note: 2020 budget was \$16,920

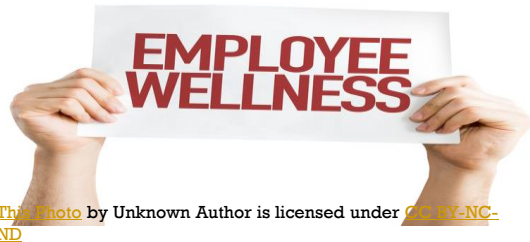
Select Board Recommends \$16,794 from taxes

Budget Committee recommends \$16,794, vote 5-5-0



ARTICLE 7: TO SEE IF THE TOWN WILL RAISE AND APPROPRIATE \$13,430 FOR HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS \$13,430 FROM TAXES
BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS NO, VOTE 2-0-3



- Previous Employee Coverage
Town portion \$ 1,244 month
 - Current Employee Coverage
Town Portion – \$1,118 month
- ↓
- \$ 1,508 annual savings

Here are key employee benefits of employer-sponsored health coverage – and why we should be offering it:

- It can reduce absenteeism. A healthy **employee** is present and more productive
- It can increase retention
- It can boost **employee** satisfaction
- It can save money



ARTICLE 8:

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$45,000 for the Town Office/Community Center and town expenses** plus expend any revenues and donations generated by/for the Community Center; any unexpended balance to be placed in the Town Office Capital Reserve Fund

Note: 2020 budget was \$40,000 plus revenues and donations (\$46,097 spent)

Select Board recommends \$45,000 from taxes plus any revenues (if any).

Budget Committee recommends \$45,000 5-0-0

P. 26 annual report 2020 rental income: \$1,565.00



Trio 2021

**Seamless
Accountability
with Every
Transaction**

Gemini- Provides security that the system is automatically backed up several times a day!

\$11.00 week

Networking- links the office computers

\$14.13 week

Payroll \$12.40 week

Cash Receipting- Ability to provide detailed revenue or expense reports. COMPLETE ACCOUNTABILITY of transactions.

\$16.54 week

Motor Vehicle- Register vehicle calculates excise (previously done manually)

\$23.88 Week

Budgetary- Tracks revenue and expenses in detail with balances to articles

\$33.07 Week

Tax Billing & Collections- Calculates all tax bills and payment, data to print annual bill

\$29.48 Week

Real Estate Assessing

Tax card maintenance, calculates the adjustments for taxation, info for MVR reports, tree growth, personal property, Farmland, Open space

\$30.66 Week

ARTICLE 9:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$9,000 for the annual maintenance of the TRIO accounting, assessing program, tax collection, motor vehicle (including Rapid Renewal online vehicle registration) and back-up system.**

Note: 2020 Budget was \$7,900

Select Board recommends \$9,000 from taxes

Budget committee recommends \$9,000 vote 5-0-0

350 Municipalities in Maine use Trio



'CHANGE IS INEVITABLE. GROWTH IS OPTIONAL'



44% of ransomware attacks in 2020 were aimed at local government.

TRIO is the backbone of our operating system



ARTICLE 10:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$5,000 for Assessing**; any remaining balance to be placed in the Assessing Revaluation Fund.

Note: 2020 budget was \$9,000

Select Board recommends \$5,000 from Taxes

Budget Committee recommends \$5,000
5-0-0



Transfer Station



ARTICLE 11: TO SEE IF THE TOWN WILL VOTE TO RAISE AND APPROPRIATE \$20,000 FOR SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL, RECYCLING, AND BLUE BAG PURCHASE PLUS EXPEND ALL TRANSFER STATION REVENUE GENERATED IN 2021. SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS \$20,000 FROM TAXES PLUS TRANSFER STATION REVENUE BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS \$20,000 VOTE 5-5-0

CONTRACT: 7/2019- 7/2024
5% FIXED INCREASE IN FEES ANNUALLY



It's The Law
Refrigerators and A/C units will not be accepted without freon gas properly removed from the unit.



2020 Note: 2020 budget was \$23,000 plus revenues (roughly \$13,000 in revenues)

Salary for attendant is in article 3

ARTICLE 12:



To see if the Town will vote
to appropriate from
Surplus **\$500.00** for the
Planning Board.



Note: 2020 budget was
\$500.00



Select Board recommends
\$500.00



Budget Committee
recommends \$500.00 vote
5-0-0



ARTICLE 13:

- To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$4,100 for the Animal Control and the Humane Society.**

Vote 2020 budget was \$4,100

Select Board recommends \$4,100 from taxes plus dog license revenue

Budget Committee recommends \$4,100 vote 5-0-0



ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER CALL LOG 2020 15 INQUIRIES IN 2020

- 2020 fees paid
- Wages: \$2,400
- Waterville Humane Society: \$1,115.52
- Revenue: \$325.00 late fees
- Note: No contract with ACO since 2016

Town of Mercer 2020

1/2/20	Mary lane stray cat pick up transport to animal shelter
1/7/20	Myana Williams- missing dog large St. Bernard/Bull mastiff F
2/12/20	Animal welfare complaint dogs left in abandoned home on Elm st. notice left dogs removed by owner
3/18/20	Jamie Tracy missing 2 dogs
4/4/20	Paula Davis missing small blk dog lab mix just got her 2 wks ago
5/4/20	Bren Thomas missing 2 Dobermans red male albino female
6/10/20	2 pigs running down elm st owner captured them
7/13/20	Gary Mosher shot and killed rabid skunk looking for guidance to dispose body- Confirmed skunk did not have contact with people or pets
8/12/20	4 stray kittens, pick up transport to animal shelter after hours made arrangements with Director for late night care
9/29/20	Horse loose in road on Mercer road unable to locate
9/30/20	State Police horses running down Mercer road, gone on arrival
10/13/20	2 large dogs at large on the Mercer road unable to locate
10/15/20	2 light colored dogs running down the road unable to locate
11/16/20	Report of dead dog on Bean Road gone on arrival
11/22/20	Dead deer on Mercer rd elevate the call to D.E.W for pick up



https://www.maine.gov/dacf/ahw/animal_welfare/documents/aco-bestpractices.pdf

STATE OF MAINE MUNICIPAL ANIMAL CONTROL BEST PRACTICES





**ARTICLE 14:
TO SEE IF THE TOWN WILL
VOTE TO APPROPRIATE
FROM SURPLUS \$5,500
FOR CEMETERY CARE**

NOTE: 2020 BUDGET WAS \$5,500
SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS \$5,500
BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS \$5,500 VOTE 5-0-0

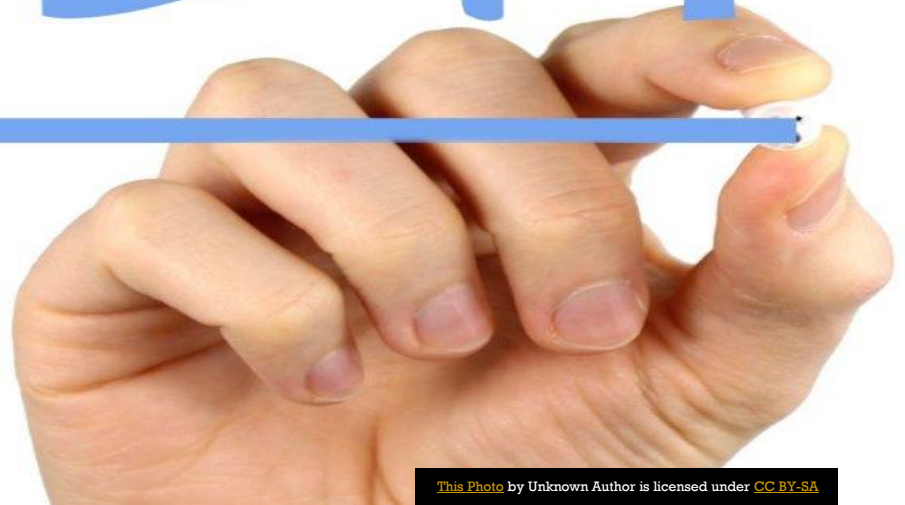
2020- \$3,420

Town maintains the following cemeteries

Village, Yeaton, Hampshire Hill

Town supplies flags for E. Mercer
Cemetery

AUDIT



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ARTICLE 15:

TO SEE IF THE TOWN WILL APPROPRIATE FROM SURPLUS \$5,250 FOR THE 2020 TOWN AUDIT PLUS EXPEND ANY DONATIONS RECEIVED.

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS \$5,250

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS \$5,000. VOTE 3-2-0- STRAW POLL

\$5,250 VOTE 2-3-0



WHY DID WE CHANGE AUDITORS?

Requests from citizens to change auditors

RHR Smith has 19 Auditors, which in the future will provide for rotation within their firm to assure it remains an independent audit. Specialists in areas like Special Assets, provides a resource to ensure we are accurately managing accounts.

There was minimal to no involvement in the audit process or oversight with finances from the previous board and **NO INTERNAL CONTROLS IN PLACE** for many years.

The governmental activities(governmental funds) net position was restated to include an asset and its depreciation that had been omitted in previous years. As a result, the general fund total fund balance was decreased by **\$90,617**

Net position increased by **\$255,000** from \$1,121,526 - \$1,377,394

Note: Monthly bank reconciliations are vital to protecting municipal assets. Balancing bank statements to a general ledger(GL) is the same as balancing a regular checkbook to a bank statement. Auditor Adjusting entries **\$102,534**

When choosing an auditor, the least expensive should not be the deciding factor.





ARTICLE 16:

- To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to enter into an agreement with the Town of Norridgewock to provide Mercer with fire protection services for a term of no more than three(3) years at an increase of no more than 17% of their budget annually, and on such terms as the Municipal Officers deem to be in the best interest of the Town.

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ARTICLE 17:

- To See if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$51,000 for Public Safety (fire, traffic, and street lights)**

	2017	\$19,635	
	2018	\$21,361	
	2019	\$27,246	
	2020	\$38,409	
	2021	\$51,000	
Note: Our Contract does not include EMS services			



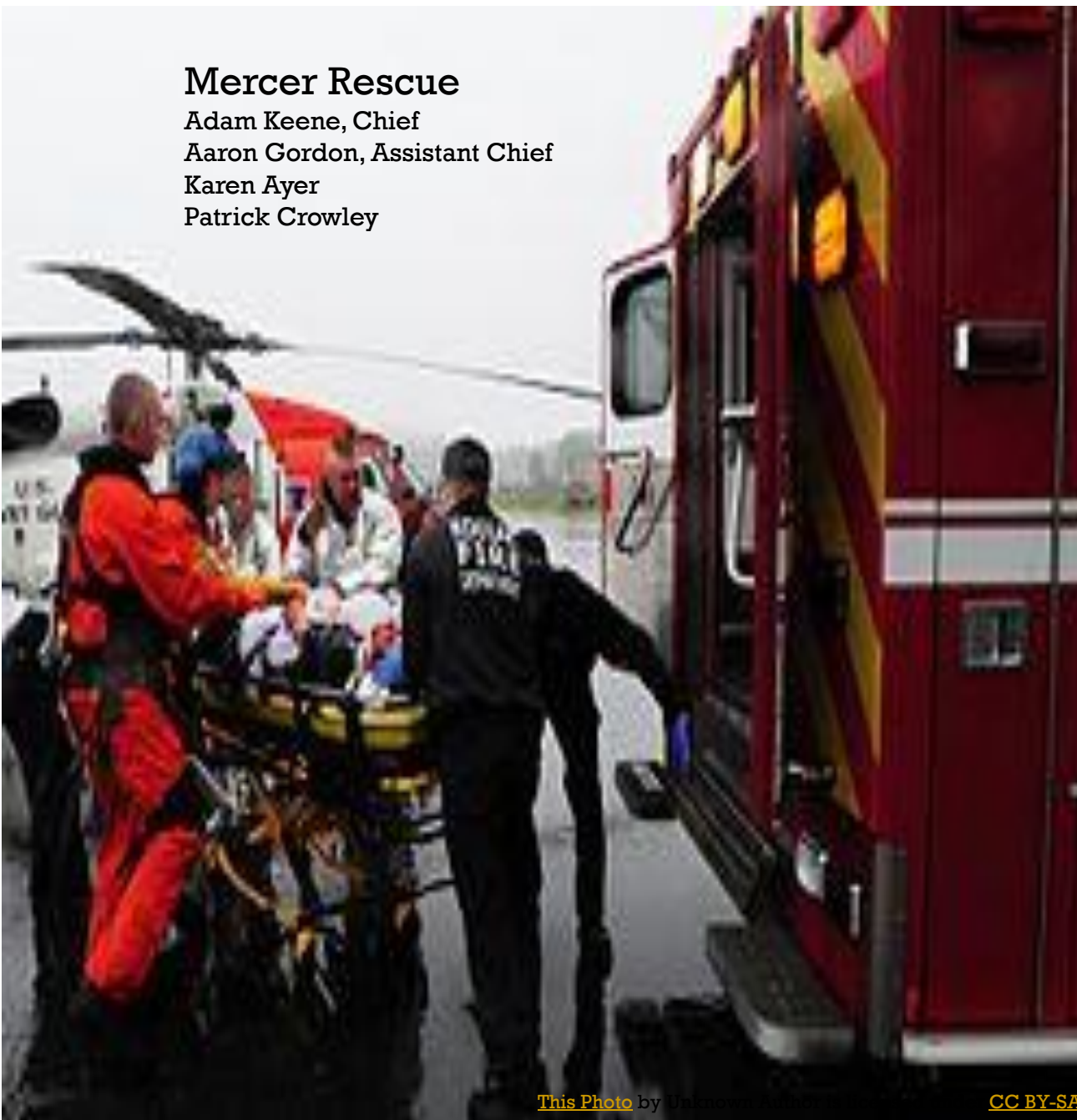
Mercer Rescue

Adam Keene, Chief

Aaron Gordon, Assistant Chief

Karen Ayer

Patrick Crowley



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ARTICLE 18:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$5,240 for the Town of Mercer Rescue** with any remaining balance to be placed in the Mercer Rescue Capital Reserve Fund.

Note budget was \$5,240

Select Board Recommends
\$5,240

Budget Committee
recommends \$5,240 vote 5-0-0



To See what percentage the Town will vote to deduct on all taxes assessed in 2021 that are paid in full on or before the 30th day after the date of the mailings of the tax bills. Funds to come from overlay.

Budget Committee recommends 4-1-0





ARTICLE 20:

- To see if the Town will vote to charge and collect interest on all taxes assessed in 2021 that are unpaid 60 days after the date of the mailings of the tax bills.
- Select Board recommends the maximum allowed by the state law 6%
- Budget Committee recommends 60 days vote 5-0-0





ARTICLE 21:

- To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$9,325 for the Shaw Library.**
- Note: 2020 Budget was \$9,325
- Select Board recommends \$9,325 from taxes
- Budget Committee recommends, vote 5-0-0



ARTICLE 22:

TO SEE IF THE TOWN WILL VOTE
TO RAISE AND APPROPRIATE
\$125,000 (\$80,000 FROM TAXES,
\$45,000 FROM THE SUMMER
ROADS IMPROVEMENT FUND) FOR
SUMMER ROAD MAINTENANCE.

NOTE: 2020 BUDGET WAS \$80,000
SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS
\$125,000

BUDGET COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDS \$125,000, VOTE 3-1-1

USING INFERIOR BASE
MATERIALS MAY REQUIRE
EXCESSIVE MAINTENANCE
DURING THE ROAD'S LIFE AND
PERHAPS COSTLY
REHABILITATION BEFORE
PAVING. THE ADAGE "PAY ME
NOW OR PAY ME LATER"
APPLIES TO ROAD BUILDING.

MAINE DOT LOCAL ROADS

2020 you were willing to
spend.....**\$192,848**

(all \$'s related to roads/
culverts, ditching
articles)

27,848 LRAP and 35k
from special town
meeting

2021 (all \$'s related to
roads/culverts, ditching
articles)

\$252,848 includes LRAP
(estimate to be the same)
and 45K from sale of old
town office

\$60,000 increase over 2020

Please consider this amount in 2021



BREAKDOWN 2020 & 2021

Town was willing to spend in 2020

\$192,848 includes 27,848 LRAP and 35k from special Town Meeting

22,884 of the original 35k appropriation was available, diminishing our intended funds for the Rome Road project by 12,115.68

$192,848 - 12,115.68 = \$180,732.32$

+2,506.80 (contingency due to the fact restricted from using all monies designated in the paving article)

-8,648 (unable to use and returned to surplus because specifically designated to paving)

\$174,591 was actual spent in 2020 unfortunately we had to use contingency funds and money went back to surplus due to how the articles were drafted

20k for Bog Brook and contract for paving is calculated in the \$192,848 figure.

Please consider this amount in 2021

\$252,848 includes 27,848 LRAP (anticipated the same as last year) 45k proceeds from old town office sale as well,
125,000 summer roads
30k paving article
10k ditching
20k Elm St culvert
40k match for 7 lakes

\$60,000 increase over 2020 roads

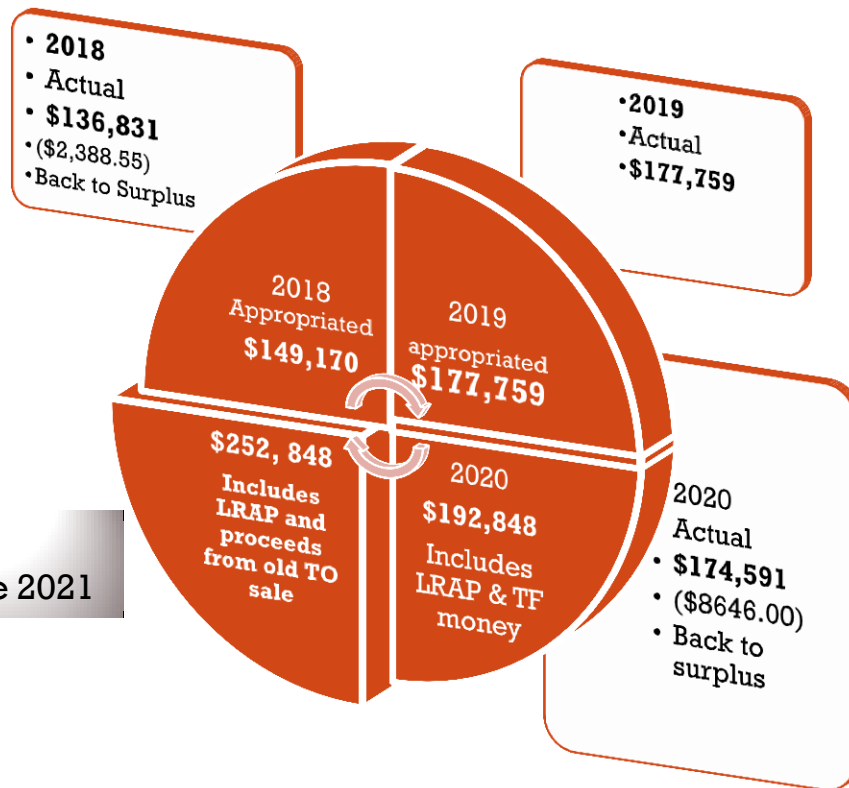


SUMMER ROADS

INCLUDES, DITCHING, PAVING ETC.

Propose that future budgeting be appropriated as a lump sum similar to the winter Road budget.

\$60,000
increase 2021







ROAD PLAN

2020-2025



Gravel Road Design and
Maintenance

2020 - 2025

Mercer

Board of Select Persons
The Board of Select Persons
license studies established 2020



ARTICLE 23:

TO SEE IF THE TOWN WILL VOTE TO RAISE AND APPROPRIATE \$30,000 (\$20,000 FROM TAXES, \$10,000 FROM SURPLUS) PLUS ANY LRAP FUNDS RECEIVED FOR PAVING.

NOTE: 2020 BUDGET WAS \$30,000 PLUS LRAP

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS \$30,000 PLUS 2021 LRAP FUNDS

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS \$30,000 PLUS LRAP, VOTE 5-0-0

As of mid February 2021, LRAP amounts for 2021, paid in November, cannot be set without budget approval from the Legislature. Annual forms will be sent shortly thereafter and will still be due by November 1 per statute. In the meantime, for municipal budgeting purposes, it's fair to assume that amounts will likely be similar to last year.

2018 LRAP \$29,044

2019 LRAP \$29,804

2020 LRAP \$27,848

- LRAP is Local Road Assistance program





ARTICLE 24:

TO SEE IF THE TOWN WILL VOTE TO RAISE
AND APPROPRIATE \$10,000 FOR
DITCHING.

NOTE: 2020 BUDGET WAS \$10,000
SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS \$10,000
FROM TAXES

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS
\$10,000, VOTE 4-1-0

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ARTICLE 25: TO SEE IF THE TOWN WILL VOTE TO APPROPRIATE
\$20,000 FROM SURPLUS FOR ELM STREET CULVERT REPLACEMENT.
SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS \$20,000 FROM SURPLUS
BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS \$20,000, VOTE 4-1-0





ARTICLE 26:

**TO SEE IF THE TOWN WILL
VOTE TO RAISE AND
APPROPRIATE \$40,000 TO
FINISH POND ROAD AND
IMPROVE BACON AND
BEECH HILL ROAD WITH
MATCHING FUNDS FROM 7
LAKES ALLIANCE GRANT.
NOTE: ALLOCATION: POND
ROAD - \$5,000; BACON \$20,000;
BEECH HILL \$15,000
SELECT BOARD
RECOMMENDS \$40,000 FROM
TAXES AND \$40,000 FROM 7
LAKES ALLIANCE.
BUDGET COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDS \$40,000, VOTE
4-1-0**





ARTICLE 27:

**TO SEE IF THE TOWN WILL VOTE TO
RAISE AND APPROPRIATE \$210,000
(\$60,000 FROM TAXES, \$150,000
FROM EXCISE TAXES) FOR WINTER
ROAD MAINTENANCE, INCLUDING
PLOWING, SANDING AND
STOCKPILING SAND AND SALT.**

NOTE: 2020 BUDGET WAS \$230,000

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS

\$210,000

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS

\$210,000, VOTE 5-0-0



ARTICLE 28:

TO SEE IF THE TOWN WILL VOTE TO APPROPRIATE \$5,000 FROM SURPLUS FOR GENERAL ASSISTANCE.

NOTE: 2020 BUDGET WAS \$17,500

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS \$5,000

BUDGET COMMITTEE DOES NOT RECOMMEND, VOTE 0-1-4

<https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ofi/programs-services/general-assistance/ga-administrators>



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ARTICLE 29:

TO SEE IF THE TOWN WILL VOTE TO APPROPRIATE \$1,000 FROM SURPLUS FOR CHARITY. A MINIMUM OF 50% OF THIS WILL BE SPENT IN THE TOWN OF MERCER.

NOTE: 2020 BUDGET WAS \$2,000
SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS \$1,000 FROM SURPLUS
BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS \$1,000, VOTE 5-0-0



ARTICLE 30:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$500 for the Mercer Meeting House Association and for use of Mercer Old Home Days festivities.**

Note: 2020 budget was \$500

Selectmen Recommend \$500 from Taxes

Budget Committee recommends \$500, vote 5-0-0



ARTICLE 31:



To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$500 for Mercer Historical Society.**

Note: 2020 budget was 500

Select Board recommends \$500 from Taxes

Budget Committee recommends \$500, vote 5-0-0





ARTICLE 32:

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate
\$750 from Surplus for various Youth Leagues.

Note: 2020 budget was \$750
Select Board recommends \$750 from surplus
Budget Committee recommends \$750, vote
5-0-0

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Charles A. Pressy

William & Helen True

Ethel Springer Trust Fund

ARTICLE 33:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$425 to supplement the three town scholarship awards.**

Note: 2020 budget was \$425

Select Board recommends \$425 from taxes (\$200 for each high school award and \$25 for elementary award)

Budget Committee recommends \$425,vote 5-0-0



ARTICLE 34:

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate **\$500 from Surplus for training costs of Code Enforcement Officer, Local Plumbing Inspector and Health Officer.**

Note: 2020 Budget was \$400 (We added training for Health Officer in 2021)

Select Board recommends \$500 from surplus

Budget Committee recommends \$500,
vote 5-0-0



ARTICLE 35:

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the **CEO (Codes Enforcement Officer) to keep all application fees.**

Note: 2020 budget was \$2,000 included wages

Select Board recommends yes (2020 fees were \$450)

Budget Committee recommends yes, vote 4-0-1



Regulates Training and Licensing

Note: Salary for the Codes Officer in the amount of \$1,500 is provided in Article #4.



ARTICLE 36:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$2,000 for North Pond Association.**

Note: 2020 budget was \$2,000

Select Board recommends \$2,000 from taxes

Budget Committee recommends \$2,000, vote 4-1-0



ARTICLE 37:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$2,000 for the Mercer Road Emergency Fund.**

Note: 2020 budget was \$2,000

Select Board recommends \$2,000 from taxes

Budget Committee recommends \$2,000, vote 5-0-0



ARTICLE 38:

To see if the Town will vote to elect by secret ballot at the annual Town Meeting, five individuals to serve as a Budget Committee and to increase the length of the term from a 1-year term to 3-year staggered terms, to be phased in beginning at the 2022 Town Meeting.



ARTICLE 39:

To see if the Town will vote to elect from the floor at this meeting, five individuals to serve as a Budget Committee. The Committee will meet with the Select Persons within 60 days for the purpose of electing a Chairperson.



ARTICLE 40:

**TO SEE IF THE TOWN
WILL VOTE TO
AUTHORIZE THE
SELECT BOARD TO
APPOINT THE
POSITIONS OF TOWN
CLERK, TAX COLLECTOR
AND TREASURER. THIS
ARTICLE TO TAKE
EFFECT AT THE 2022
ANNUAL TOWN
MEETING.**

Appointment is based on qualifications, not popularity.

Ability to set specific requirements – hours, training, duties.

In the past few years, because the position and duties of clerk have evolved to be more complex and technical in nature, many towns and cities have moved their clerks from elected to appointed positions.

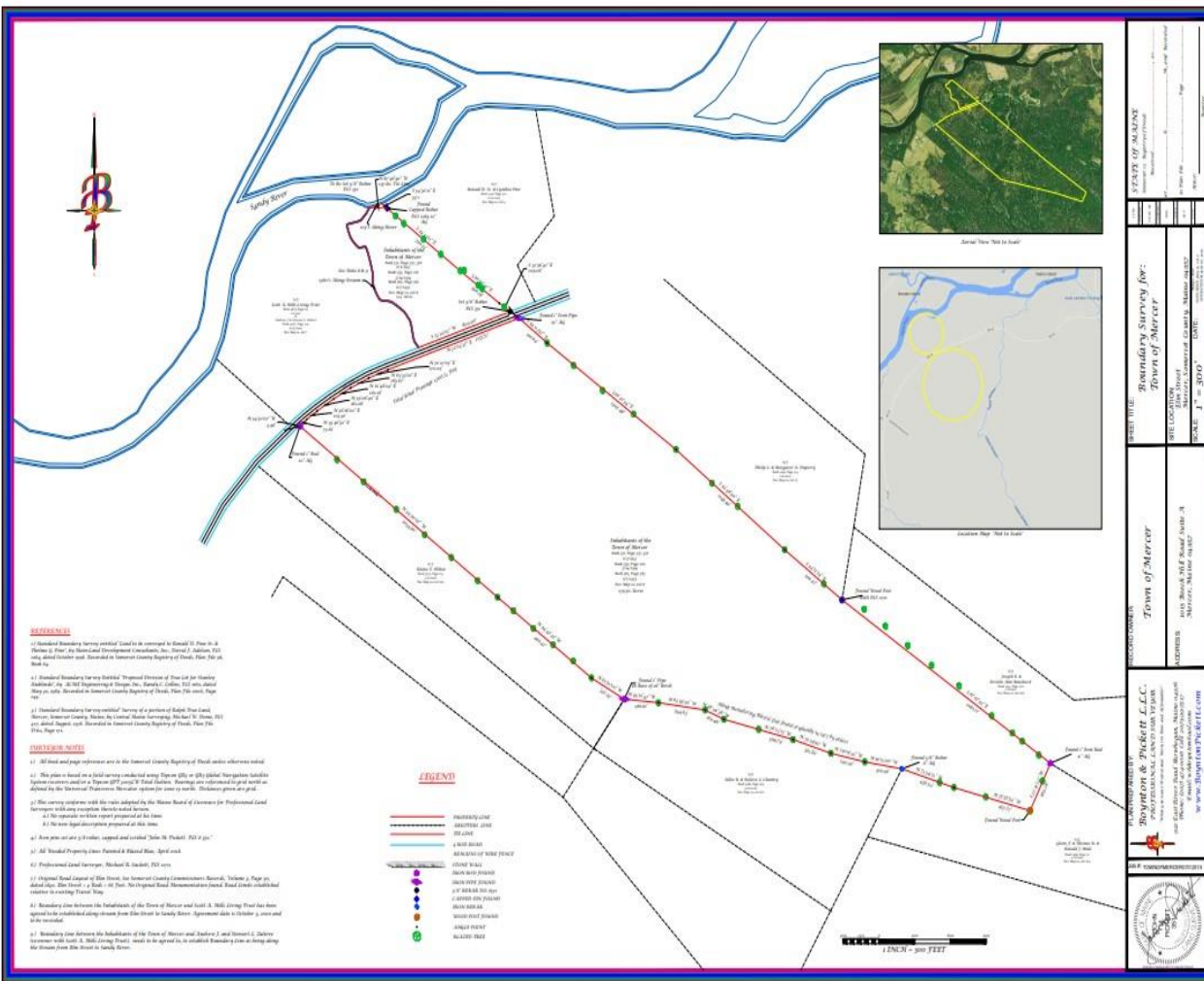
“An elected clerk cannot be removed from office by the municipal officers, although an appointed clerk can be removed “for cause” after notice and hearing.” Maine Municipal Association



ARTICLE 41:

To see if the Town will vote to increase the length of the terms of the Municipal Officers from a 1-year term to three-year staggered terms, to be phased in, beginning at the 2022 Town Meeting. The initial term of the three Municipal Officers elected in 2022 shall be 3 years- 1st Selectperson, 2 years- 2nd Selectperson and 1 year- 3rd Selectperson. Thereafter each position which is due to expire shall be filled by election for a 3-year term.

ONE BIG ADVANTAGE OF STAGGERED ELECTIONS IS THAT THEY LEND CONTINUITY TO THE ORGANIZATION AND PRESERVE STABILITY. REPLACING AN ENTIRE BOARD AT ONE TIME CAN BE DISRUPTIVE TO THE ORGANIZATION AND ITS OPERATIONS. ADDITIONALLY, INSTITUTIONAL MEMORY MAY BE LOST WHEN AN ENTIRE BOARD IS REPLACED AT ONE TIME.



To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to put up for sale according to terms and conditions determined to be in the best interest of the town a parcel of land on Elm Street with river frontage known as the "Town Forest" and further identified as tax map 10, lot 8 within the Town of Mercer, said parcel to contain 22.68 acres more or less. Proceeds of the sale to be placed in the Town Forest Account Fund.

ARTICLE 43:

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board, on behalf of the Town, to take whatever actions are necessary for the Town to become a member of the Maine Municipal Association Property and Casualty Pool Program, including but not limited to the execution of any contract required for such membership and the payment of any required fees or charges. The authority granted herein shall be continued until revoked.





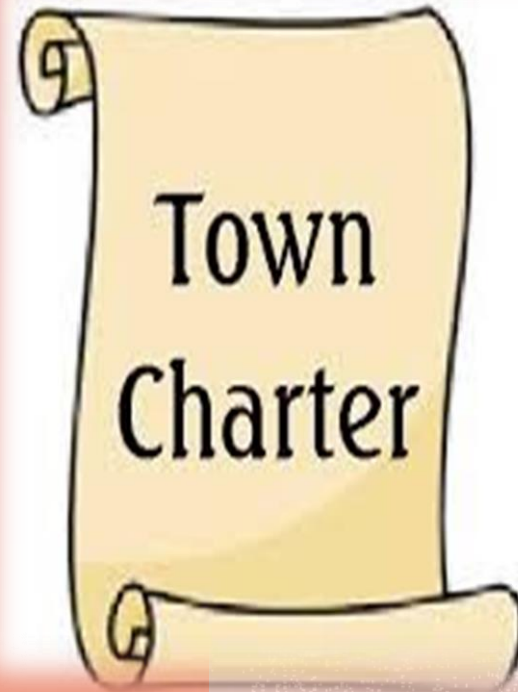
ARTICLE 44:

Shall the Town vote to authorize the Select Board, on behalf of the Town, to join with other participating municipal and quasi-municipal employers to group self-insure for the provision of workers' compensation benefits, as authorized by **39-A MRSA sec 403**, said group to be known as the "Maine Municipal Association Workers' Compensation Fund" (Fund); and for that purpose and in consideration of the mutual covenants and agreements among participating employers, to authorize the Select Board to enter into a Fund Indemnity Agreement on behalf of the Town and take whatever other actions may be necessary. The authority granted herein shall continue until revoked



ARTICLE 45:

To see if the Town will vote to extend the deadline for the five member Town Charter Research Committee appointed at the 2020 Annual Town Meeting to provide a report and recommendations to Town Meeting 2022



ARTICLE 46:

Article 46

To see what action the Town will take to implement a policy that any vendor, service provider, contractor or individual shall be accountable by an itemized invoice(s) or receipt of purchase prior to approval by the Municipal Officers and payment.

The authority granted herein shall continue until amended or revoked.

Note: Last year's article did not contain language for the article to continue



Article 47

§782. Agency directors

A director must be appointed for each municipal and county or regional emergency management agency. A director of an emergency management agency may not be at the same time an executive officer or member of the executive body of a municipality or interjurisdictional or county or regional agency of the State or a county commissioner. Notwithstanding this section or any other law, a town manager or administrative assistant may also be appointed to serve as the director of an emergency management agency. A director may be removed by the appointing authority for cause. [PL 2003, c. 510, Pt. A, §35 (RER).]

1. Municipal emergency management director. The municipal officers shall appoint the director of the municipality's emergency management agency. In each municipality that has not established an agency of its own, the municipal officers shall designate an emergency management director to facilitate cooperation in the work of disaster mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. The emergency management director shall serve as liaison to the appropriate county or regional agency.

[PL 2003, c. 510, Pt. A, §35 (RER).]

To see if the Town will vote to revoke 2008
Annual Town Meeting Continuing Article 27:
The Town voted to authorize the Municipal
Officers to annually appoint a Director of the
Mercer CERT Program, to report to the
Town's Emergency Management Director.



ARTICLE 48:



TO SEE IF THE TOWN WILL VOTE TO REVOKE 2008 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
CONTINUING ARTICLE 49: THE TOWN VOTED TO ACCEPT THE FOLLOWING
FUNDS...AGENCY FUNDS OR GRANTS NOT SPECIFICALLY LISTED ABOVE.

■ ARTICLE 49:

TO SEE IF THE TOWN WILL VOTE TO ACCEPT AND EXPEND ANY OR ALL DONATIONS RECEIVED FROM THE PUBLIC, ANY STATE, FEDERAL, OR OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY FUNDS NOT EXPLICITLY ALLOWABLE BY STATE LAW, AND ALL GRANTS RECEIVED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE INTENDED PURPOSE OF THE DONATION, GRANT OR OTHER FUNDS AS THEY ARE RECEIVED.

Gifts and Donations to the Town

Municipal revenue sometimes results from gifts. Gifts of money or property are governed by 30-A M.R.S.A. §§ 5652-5655. The municipal officers play a role in this process, but with one exception, do not have the authority to accept gifts without voter approval.

Authority of Municipal Officers to Accept Cash Gifts to the Municipality

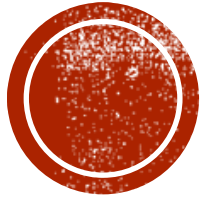
The exception is set out in § 5652. When a gift of money (but no other type of property) is made to supplement a specific appropriation already made, or to reduce the tax assessment or to endow a municipal education foundation or permanent debt, the municipal officers can accept this money without voter approval. A common example is where the municipality has appropriated \$10,000 for a new town playground or recreation complex and civic groups or individuals want to make further cash donations. The municipal officers can accept these gifts of cash without voter approval. Some municipal officers have had significant success in actively seeking private contributions for specific causes, such as school construction projects or park improvements. These cash gifts, regardless of the amount, must be voted on by the municipal officers and deposited with the treasurer before they can be spent, however; they cannot be given directly to the municipal committee which is overseeing the project and spent or put in a bank account maintained by the committee. See Chapter 5 for additional discussion of fund-raising by fire departments.

Gift of Money or Property in Trust (30-A M.R.S.A. § 5653)

When the municipal officers receive written notice of a proposed gift in trust, they must submit it to town vote for acceptance. If accepted, these gifts must be deposited and administered in accordance with the terms of the trust and 30-A M.R.S.A. § 5653.

Conditional Gifts

A gift with conditions attached must be submitted to the voters for acceptance or rejection. The article to be voted on should indicate the nature of the conditions, so the voters know exactly what the municipality's obligations may be (*30-A M.R.S.A. § 5654*). A written



TO SEE IF THE TOWN WILL VOTE TO REVOKE THE 2008 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING CONTINUING ARTICLE #46 TO AUTHORIZE THE MUNICIPAL OFFICERS TO SPEND UP TO 2/12 OF THE BUDGETED AMOUNT...OF THAT YEAR'S ANNUAL TOWN MEETING.

ARTICLE 50:

ARTICLE 51:

To see if the Town will vote to increase the property tax levy limit established for Mercer by state law (LD#1), in the event that the municipal budget approved under the preceding articles results in a tax commitment greater than that limit.

[2021 LD 1](#)
[Worksheet](#)
[Mercer.xls](#)
[x](#)



THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING!



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GOALS AND THOUGHTS FOR 2021

- Put in place clear financial goals, create policies & tools to implement a strategic plan.
- Property tax base stabilization.
- Complete the assessment of town roads, culverts, ditches, tree trimming.
- Assess Town buildings.
- Explore grant options and other revenue sources.
- Continue to look for deficiencies and efficiencies in all areas of the budget.

The Town needs to have a conversation about sources of revenue; not doing so will ultimately leave the town dependent solely on taxation.

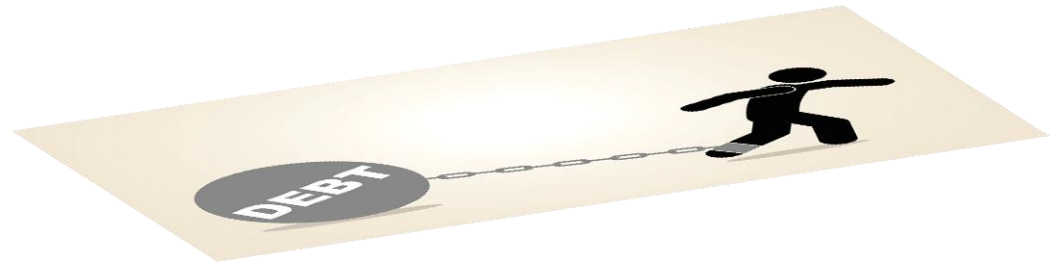
Reliability of these resources over the long term

specifically State Revenue Sharing and Local Road Assistance Program aka LRAP continue to dwindle. Healthy fund balances will relieve pressures to incur debt obligations



Debt we absorbed in 2020 budget that carried over from 2019

4,957.50 oil tank
2,550.0 chimney repair (minutes indicate there
should have been an article drafted to address
1,750 column repair
17,419.30 2018 article on the furnace
738.00 Trio expense
3,800 balance of culvert order placed in 2019
31,214.80



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