

Town of Mercer

Annual Report 2023



Photo Credit: Ryan Storro

For Calendar Year ending
12/31/2023

Dedication

The 2023 Annual Report is dedicated to **Mychael "Myke" Bartholf**.

Myke and his wife Sue are long-time Mercer residents and business owners. Myke ended up in Maine during the 1970's after being convinced by a friend to visit the great north on a UMF exchange program. So, the Florida native got his first taste of Winter and ice fishing and was "hooked".

After working out of town, he finally decided to start his own business in the early 80's by purchasing a Wood Mizer portable sawmill and eventually "The Wood Mill" was set up on Route 2 which became his pride and joy. Wide pine boards and fishing are two of his favorite subjects to talk about.

Myke is a person who slides under the radar and looks for no recognition. For the last 3 years, Myke has partnered with the present owner of The Wood Mill to provide turkey pies to all residents over the age of 70. This year, he partnered with the Mercer Community Club to provide the pies. Myke is also the individual that empties the bottle bin at the town office weekly to help with our annual chicken BBQ. He is often out helping the Select Board with brush cutting or using his tractor to help clean up at Bog Brook. He provided a bench for people to sit down at Bog Brook. He donated the old cultivator that sits in the triangle at Pond Road and Beech Hill and the wood chips that we used initially for mulch.

Each spring, Myke will lend a helping hand with spring clean-up at the Mercer Community Center. A springtime hobby of his is tapping his maple trees and boiling the sap. Let me tell you first hand, his syrup is top notch!

Most recently during our last winter storm while out riding the roads to assess the damages and downed trees, Myke was out there on Bacon and Ladd roads with his tractor and saw ready to help with whatever could be done. Myke assured us he would get it taken care of and asked where else needed attention. "In my travels, I saw Dan Charles who also offered to help so I asked him to go help Myke. When I went back later, they had cleaned it all up" says Ricky Parlin. Just the kind of guy Myke is.

Myke attends most Selectboard meetings and keeps informed with Town issues and problems. If there's a problem, Myke will go out of his way to help out for the betterment of the town. He has been a huge support for the Selectboard and Town over the past 4 years. Without citizens like Myke, the Board is nothing. Many, many thanks Myke for all you do! It certainly doesn't go unnoticed!





The New England Town Meeting is probably the purest form of democracy in existence today. Please help to preserve it by attending Town Meeting. Read this report carefully and bring it with you.

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What To Bring...

WHEN REGISTERING A VEHICLE

Re-registration: Old registration, proof of current insurance and current mileage.

New registration (Dealer Sale): Title application form (or title in your name if already received), MSRP, bill of sale, proof of current insurance and current mileage.

New registration (Private Sale): Bill of sale, proof of current insurance, title (release of lien form if applicable), and current mileage.

New registration with transfer of plates: Bill of sale, proof of current insurance, current mileage, title (lien holder name and address or release of lien form if applicable), and the registration of the vehicle the plates are being transferred from.

New to town (1st time registering): Old registration, proof of residency in Mercer (driver's license, piece of mail, etc. that shows current address), proof of current insurance, and current mileage.

New to town, coming from out of state (1st time registering): Old registration, proof of residency in Mercer (driver's license, piece of mail, etc. that shows current address), proof of current insurance, title (lien holder name and address or release of lien form if applicable), and current mileage.

Title is NOT required for vehicles 1998 and older (vehicles year 1999 and newer still require a title).

WHEN REGISTERING SNOWMOBILE, ATV, OR BOAT

Re-registration: Old registration.

New registration: Bill of sale, ME assigned number (if previously registered), serial number. For boats, will also need the length of the boat and the horsepower of the motor.

New stickers available: ATV – May; Snowmobile – October; Boat – December

WHEN REGISTERING A DOG

New registration: Current rabies certificate, spay/neuter certificate (if applicable), date of birth, breed, color/markings, and veterinarian.

Re-registration: Current rabies certificate (if previous has expired) and spay/neuter certificate (if done after 1st registration).

Everyone must register their dog(s) over the age of 6 months or have been with the family for 10 days. Dog licenses expire on December 31st every year. A \$25 late fee will be added after January 31st. This fee is per dog and is non-negotiable (per Maine State Law).

WHEN REQUESTING VITALS (MARRIAGE, BIRTH, DEATH)

Marriage: Proof of identity, copy of divorce (if applicable)

Birth: Proof of identity or lineage.

Death: Proof of lineage

All re-registrations may be done online (initial registrations must be done in the office).

***** Mercer Town Office Hours *****

Monday 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Tuesday 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Phone #: 207-587-2911

Fax #: 207-587-2912

Email: mercerclerk@outlook.com

Website: www.mercermaine.com

Mailing/Physical Address

Town of Mercer
1015 Beech Hill Road, Suite A
Mercer, Maine 04957

Mercer Town Office 2024 Holiday Schedule

Holidays	Day/Date To Be Observed
New Year's Day	January 1, 2024
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	January 15, 2024
Presidents' Day	February 19, 2024
Patriots Day	April 15, 2024
Memorial Day	May 27, 2024
Independence Day	July 4, 2024
Labor Day	September 2, 2024
Columbus Day	October 14, 2024
Veterans' Day	November 11, 2024
Thanksgiving Day	November 28, 2024
Thanksgiving Friday	November 29, 2024
Christmas Day	December 25, 2024

Norridgewock Landfill Hours

Wednesday 9:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Thursday 9:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Friday 9:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Saturday 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
CLOSED: July 4th, Nov 28th & Dec 25th

Municipal Election Schedule 2024

Municipal Election will be held on **Friday, March 1, 2024**

10:00 a.m.

Election of Moderator
at Mercer Town Office/
Community Center

10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Polls Open for Election of
Municipal Officials at Mercer Town Office

* See Sample Ballot on Page 82
Registrar of Voters on Duty

Town Meeting Schedule 2024

Town Meeting will be held on **Saturday, March 2, 2024**

Sample Town Meeting Warrant begins on page 83.

5:30 p.m.

Business Meeting begins
at Mercer Community Center in
Gymnasium

**Remember to bring your Annual Report
with you to Town Meeting**

Officials of Town of Mercer 2023

Select Board, Assessors & Overseers of the Poor - Elected 1 yr. terms

1st Ricky J. Parlin
2nd Gary D. Mosher
3rd Mary E. Burr

Town Clerk, Tax Collector and Treasurer - Appointed

Nancy J. Gove

Deputy Clerk/Deputy Tax Collector - Appointed

Tammy H. Lamphere
Christine D. Parent

Deputy Treasurer - Appointed

Christine D. Parent

Planning Board - Elected 3 yr. terms

Joan Nunnally - Term Expires '26
Chris Dutil - Term Expires '24
Geoffrey Nosach - Term Expires '24
Jason Juskewitch - Term Expires '25
Hillel Weisel - Term Expires '25
Nathan VanSoest - Alternate
Vacant - Alternate (nominated from floor)
Nathan VanSoest - Secretary

Appeals Board - Appointed 3 yr. terms

Alan Gove - Term Expires '25
Joel Hooper - Term Expires '24
Jason Tibbetts - Term Expires '25
Dustin Veilleux - Term Expires '26
Bradford Hagar - Term Expires '26

Budget Committee - Elected 3 yr. terms

Alan Gove - Term Expires '24
Robert Burr - Term Expires '25
Joel Hooper - Term Expires '25
Muriel Armstrong - Term Expires '24
Brian Breton - Term Expires '26

Shaw Library

Mary Chouinard - Librarian
Emma Gierczak - Volunteer
Janice Nagel - Volunteer

Officials of Town of Mercer 2023 continued

Trustees of Shaw Library – Elected 5 yr. terms

Cherie Sadler – Term Expires '25
Wanda Fortin – Term Expires '26
Jane Wallace – Term Expires '27
Gaylene Williams – Term Expires '28
Chris “John” Beeuwkes – Term Expires '24
Robin Goodwin - Alternate

Animal Control Officer - Appointed

Tammy Lamphere – January-September
Dexter “Buzz” Bridges – October-December

Assessor’s Agent

Everett “Zeb” Pike

CEO - Code Enforcement Officer - Appointed

Geoffrey Nosach – January-September
Ryan Storro – October-December

LPI - Local Plumbing Inspector - Appointed

Andrew Marble

Addressing Officer - Appointed

Bruce Hurley

Transfer Station Attendant

Derek Tracy, Sr. – January-May

Mercer Rescue - Appointed

Brian Breton - Director
Danielle Beauchemin – EMT
Adam Greaney - EMT

Cemetery Sexton - Appointed

Brian Breton

Health Officer - Appointed

Heidi Dubois

Fire Warden - Appointed

David Savage – January-October
Todd Pineo – November-December

“What can I say”

We have had 3 major flooding issues: the first on December 23, 2022, Decker Road washed out, a good portion of Rome Road, West Sandy River Road, Hampshire Hill Road, Tibbetts Road and others resulting in approximately \$115,000 in damages. Some were fixed ASAP while others lingered on until Spring. Then on May 1, 2023 we got hit again with another major flooding: Decker Road washed out again, Elm Street washed out our new culvert a quarter of a mile down the brook leaving a gaping hole in the road. It took us approximately 3 weeks to get a new culvert and to get it installed. There were many washouts, most of the gravel roads were affected. This storm was estimated to be around \$230,000 to repair, not all repairs have been made yet. Now on Dec 18, 2023 we were hit yet again with another large storm washing out Decker Road, Rome Road, Elm Street at Chriss Millers’ and at Indian Stream, Pond Road at Patty Brook (lost all 3 culverts), plus like before most gravel roads sustained damage. This storm came with heavy wind and rain, knocking down many trees and massive power outages. This storm was the worst of the 3, total damages have still not been determined. Most of the major damage has been repaired except for Indian Stream which may not be repaired until Spring. The first two storms were declared a disaster so we applied for FEMA and MEMA funds, (#3 has not been declared yet but pretty sure it will be). This is a daunting task, piles of paperwork, phone calls, and many, many meetings. The office staff and Mary Burr have handled all of this extremely well. I don’t know where we would be if they had not put in the many hours that it took. As of now we have not received any money but we should be in the near future for the December 23, 2022 storm.

At this time, I would like to thank all the contractors that dropped everything they were doing and came out the next morning to start the repairs. The town owes you a great deal of gratitude. Thank you so much!

The May storm did major damage to the culvert on East Sandy River Road (the dump road), so much that DEP didn’t want any large trucks using the road. We contacted Waste Management and began talks to close the Transfer Station and have our residents go directly to the land fill in Norridgewock. Because of the situation they agreed and we began the process of closure.

On the lighter side we were able to get a new roof on the gym section of the Community Center. G&E Roofing did a great job, many thanks. We also had our annual clean up day with many residents showing up with rakes, brooms, shovels, wheel barrows and a tractor. A lot of hands make short work. Many, many thanks to all who helped.

We had our Annual Chicken BBQ for all Mercer Taxpayers. It was our biggest yet! Over 160 dinners were served along with live music, great weather, and a lot of socializing. A great day was had by all who attended. For all of you who donated and helped with this major undertaking, Thank You again.

These projects I have mentioned are only a handful of what actually goes on. The Town is growing and so are the needs.

I would like to reflect a little on my 4 years as a Selectperson. This has been an eye-opening experience. I have met many wonderful citizens that I may not have met otherwise. I am a person that has a hard time to delegate work or to ask others for help. I am a person of few words; I find that listening serves me better. I don't prejudge and I lead by action. I hope that over the past 4 years I was able to bring the Town a little closer together. I know there has been a lot of hard decisions made that went against my core beliefs but ultimately the decisions had to be made in the best interest of the Town. I know the volunteerism is up at least on the work side of things and I hope this will continue to grow. I would like to thank all the citizens in town that voted for me and supported my efforts as well as all the great people I have worked with over the past 4 years. I hope that support continues as we still have a long way to go. Thanks to each and every one of you.

Respectfully Submitted,

Left to Right:
Mary Burr, 3rd MO
Gary Mosher, 2nd MO
Ricky Parlin, 1st MO





Elm Street Culvert



Elm Street Culvert Repaired



Corson Road Culvert



Corson Road Culvert Repaired



Decker Road Culvert



Decker Road Culvert Fixed



West Sandy River Road Culvert



West Sandy River Road Culvert Fixed



East Sandy River Road Culvert



East Sandy River Road Culver Repair



Pattee Brook Culvert



Pattie Brook Culvert Fixed



Indian Stream Culvert



Decker Road Washout



Elm Street Culvert Downstream



Rome Road Culvert

2023 Selectboard's Financial Report

Wages & Benefits - ART 8	Appropriated	Expended	Balance
1st Selectperson	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	
2nd Selectperson	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	
3rd Selectperson	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	
Clerk, Tax Collector, Treasurer, ROV, Secy	\$39,600.00	\$39,598.56	
Deputy Clerk, TC, Treasurer, ROV	\$22,329.00	\$18,881.98	
Deputy Clerk, Tax Collector, ROV	\$7,548.00	\$5,653.76	
Temp position	\$0.00	\$4,397.25	
Addressing Officer	\$500.00	\$500.00	
Animal Control Officer	\$2,000.00	\$2,632.60	
Code Enforcement Officer	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	
Cemetery Sexton	\$500.00	\$500.00	
Transfer Station Attendent	\$8,054.00	\$2,900.48	
SS & Medicare	\$7,899.00	\$7,184.20	
Health Insurance	<u>\$14,308.00</u>	<u>\$14,307.12</u>	
Total	\$123,738.00	\$117,555.95	\$6,182.05
Administration-Town Office, MCC - ART 9	Appropriated	Expended	Balance
Audit (\$2,200=field work for 12/31/23 audit)	\$6,000.00	\$8,450.00	
Dues/Subscription	\$2,206.00	\$2,146.00	
Operating Costs	\$24,600.00	\$18,533.31	
Trio new modules	\$2,475.00	\$1,050.00	
Trio renewal	\$12,309.00	\$12,141.03	
Contract Services	\$4,500.00	\$3,781.52	
Insurance-Gen Liab,PC,PO,Bond,WC/Unempl	\$12,553.00	\$12,776.00	
Utilities	<u>\$24,700.00</u>	<u>\$20,127.30</u>	
Total	\$89,343.00	\$79,005.16	\$10,337.84 *
Balance to go into MCC Maintenance Fund with Revenues			
Contingency - ART 10	Appropriated	Expended	Balance
Appropriation - undesignated	\$8,000.00	\$0.00	\$8,000.00
Assessing - ART 11	Appropriated	Expended	Balance
RJD Appraisal Contract Services	\$9,170.00	\$9,170.00	\$0.00 *
Balance, if any, to be moved to Revaluation Fund			
Planning Board - ART 12	Appropriated	Expended	Balance
Planning Board	\$500.00	\$65.00	\$435.00
Animal Shelter and ACO expenses-ART 13	Appropriated	Expended	Balance
Animal Shelter	\$1,330.00	\$1,325.84	
Training - ACO	<u>\$500.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	
Total	\$1,830.00	\$1,325.84	\$504.16
Training for HO, CEO, LPI - ART 14	Appropriated	Expended	Balance
Training/Workshops	\$500.00	\$50.00	\$450.00
Cemetery Maintenance - ART 15	Appropriated	Expended	Balance
Town Cemeteries	\$3,600.00	\$2,768.98	\$831.02
Town Scholarships - ART 16	Appropriated	Expended	Balance
True Scholarship	\$200.00	\$200.00	
Pressey Schorarship	\$25.00	\$0.00	
Springer Scholarship	<u>\$200.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	
Total	\$425.00	\$200.00	\$225.00

Public Safety (Fire, Traffic & St Lights) - ART 17	Appropriated	Expended	Balance
Fire Coverage	\$69,600.00	\$68,142.29	
Street Lights	\$450.00	\$374.55	
Traffic Light	<u>\$600.00</u>	<u>\$619.50</u>	
Total	\$70,650.00	\$69,136.34	\$1,513.66
Mercer Rescue - ART 18	Appropriated	Expended	Balance
Rescue	\$4,500.00	\$2,363.59	\$2,136.41 *
Balance to go into Mercer Rescue Fund			
Public Works, Summer Roads - ART 19	Appropriated	Expended	Balance
Culverts	\$6,000.00	\$0.00	
Road Material	\$90,000.00	\$83,039.49	
Grading	\$20,000.00	\$21,385.00	
Mowing, Brushcutting	\$3,000.00	\$2,940.00	
Miscellaneous	<u>\$250.00</u>	<u>\$10,372.03</u>	
Total	\$119,250.00	\$117,736.52	\$1,513.48
Public Works- Winter Roads - ART 20	Appropriated	Expended	Balance
Sand/Salt Shed Electric	\$750.00	\$993.66	
Sand Purchase	\$24,000.00	\$29,450.00	
Salt Purchases	\$40,000.00	\$21,600.47	
Plowing Contract	<u>\$159,000.00</u>	<u>\$159,000.00</u>	
Total	\$223,750.00	\$211,044.13	\$12,705.87
Youth Leagues - ART 21	Appropriated	Expended	Balance
Recreation Participation	<u>\$750.00</u>	<u>\$700.00</u>	\$50.00
Sanitation & Recycling - ART 22	Appropriated	Expended	Balance
Recycling	\$8,025.00	\$10,826.27	
Transfer Station Licenses	\$500.00	\$184.00	
Supplies (decals)	\$3,000.00	\$728.38	
Portable Toilet	\$1,560.00	\$800.00	
Solid Waste Disposal	<u>\$26,750.00</u>	<u>\$17,832.00</u>	
Totals	\$39,835.00	\$30,370.65	\$9,464.35
Shaw Library - ART 26	Appropriated	Expended	Balance
Wages & Benefits	\$10,422.00	\$10,445.32	
Supplies	\$275.00	\$75.15	
Software, Equipment, Furniture	\$0.00	\$255.97	
Utilities	\$100.00	\$47.55	
Insurance	<u>\$200.00</u>	<u>\$154.00</u>	
Totals	\$10,997.00	\$10,977.99	\$19.01
Charity - ART 27	Appropriated	Expended	Balance
General Charity	\$700.00	\$0.00	
Hospice	<u>\$300.00</u>	<u>\$300.00</u>	
Total	\$1,000.00	\$300.00	\$700.00
General Assistance - ART 28	Appropriated	Expended	Balance
General Assistance	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
Mercer Historical Society - ART 29	Appropriated	Expended	Balance
Donation	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$0.00
Mercer Meeting House - ART 30	Appropriated	Expended	Balance
Donation	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$0.00

North Pond Association - ART 31	Appropriated	Expended	Balance
Donation	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$0.00
7 Lakes Youth Conservation Corp - ART 32	Appropriated	Expended	Balance
Donation	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00
Legal Expense Reserve Fund - ART 33	Appropriated	Expended	Balance
Legal Expenses	\$10,000.00	\$4,215.75	\$5,784.25
Revaluation - ART 34	Appropriated	Expended	Balance
2023-2024 Revaluation contract	<u>\$34,000.00</u>	<u>\$34,000.00</u>	
Total	\$34,000.00	\$34,000.00	\$0.00
Digitized Tax Maps - ART 35	Appropriated	Expended	Balance
Tax Maps	<u>\$6,000.00</u>	<u>\$6,000.00</u>	
Total	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$0.00
Capital: Road Maintenance Fund - ART 36	Appropriated	Expended	Balance
Road Capital Reserve	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00
Capital: Elm Street (Indian Stream) - ART 37	Appropriated	Expended	Balance
Road Improvement	\$20,000.00	\$10,455.55	\$9,544.45
Capital: Ditching - ART 38	Appropriated	Expended	Balance
Ditching	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$0.00
Capital: Beech Hill Road - ART 39	Appropriated	Expended	Balance
Beech Hill (LRAP project)	\$76,000.00	\$76,000.00	\$0.00
MCC Roof Repair - ART 40	Appropriated	Expended	Balance
ARPA Grant Allocation to MCC Roof	\$55,000.00	\$55,000.00	\$0.00
FEMA Winter Storm Elliott - DR4696	Appropriated	Expended	Balance
Emergency Road Repairs - COMPLETE		\$115,835.25	
FEMA 75% Reimbursement Receivable	\$86,876.44		
FEMA Cat Z Management costs @ 100% receivable	\$5,791.76		
MEMA 15% Reimbursement Receivable	\$17,375.29		
Town's contribution	<u>\$5,791.76</u>		
Total	\$115,835.25	\$115,835.25	
FEMA May Day Storm - DR4719	Appropriated	Expended	Balance
Emergency Road Repairs at 12/31/23		\$116,353.38	
FEMA to reimburse 75%	\$87,265.04		
MEMA to reimburse 15% / Town 10%	\$29,088.34		

IN LOVING MEMORY

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Date of Death</u>
Linda M Bachelder	76	12/27/2023
Christien A Beeuwkes	46	08/07/2023
Mark S Bennett	68	03/09/2023
Wayne M Bouchard	64	07/15/2023
John B Cahill	70	07/21/2023
Rae M Couturier	84	02/20/2023
Edward J Dellarma	64	03/20/2023
Jane A Doane	78	03/09/2023
Guinevere S Lambert	96	04/26/2023
Edward E Laverdiere	85	09/20/2023
Richard E Loadwick	70	04/20/2023
Diane R McNair	82	05/27/2023

(Background Photo – Sandy River courtesy of Muriel
Armstrong)



TOWN CLERK REPORT

To the Citizens of Mercer,

It seems as though 2023 was a year about weather and roads. We did manage to make progress in other areas too. Here's a recap.

The transfer station was closed after the May 1st storm damaged the two culverts on East Sandy River Road. Fortunately, we had been considering other options for handling our solid waste needs. Because of this pre-planning, Waste Management stepped up allowing Mercer residents entry into their Norridgewock facility. Landfill stickers were purchased and residents need only to show where they're coming from to dispose of trash. We decided NOT to charge residents for their bulky waste, tires, electronics etc. The town is picking up the tab. We'll continue to assess the costs for this service and make decisions as necessary.

The town-wide revaluation of all real estate properties is well underway. The team at RJD Appraisal visited all properties this fall. Over the course of this winter, they are busy doing the data entry, sketches and developing costs schedules for valuing our properties.

Tax maps haven't been updated since 2014. Aerial Survey of Norridgewock digitized them, converting them from the old mylars to electronic maps. This was completed this past spring and maps were ready for the appraisal team by early summer.

Maine Municipal Association provided the town with our insurance coverage. They did an inspection of the town's properties and improvements needed to be made. At the recommendation of MMA, we adopted two new policies: Cyber Security and Emergency Action Plan.

Shaw Library became a department of the town. The treasurer took over their financials and payroll services. We're figuring out the relationship as we go along i.e. staff, trustees and select board relationships and our new roles.

Speaking of staffing, Ryan Storro took over the Code Enforcement Officer position. Dexter "Buzz" Bridges took over the animal control position. Nancy Gove took over the selectboard minutes. Dari Hurley was hired to assist in the town office this fall. Adam Greaney became a member of the Mercer Rescue team. Nathan VanSoest was appointed as an alternate member of the Planning Board and was elected by the Planning Board to be the board's secretary, taking over for Fran Varney. Thank you, Fran, for your many, many years of service and volunteerism to the Planning Board. Robin Goodwin was appointed as an alternate member of the Shaw Library Trustees Board. Todd Pineo of Norridgewock was appointed as Mercer's Fire Chief.

A Solar Ordinance was developed and approved by voters at our annual town meeting this year. Our first solar application came in this fall and is currently under review.

Road damages took up the bulk of our time this year. With FEMA on board to assist with the ever-mounting costs to repair, we had to document, document and document some more. Oh, and we took pictures to capture it all, both the damages and the repairs, to prove our claim. Residents will be rewarded for all our hard work when you see the minimal costs to us taxpayers.

Repairs to the Mercer Community Center building were addressed again this year. We budgeted to finish putting a new roof over the gym and kitchen area. Now the entire building is good for another 30 years.

With regard to contracts, the Select Board negotiated a two-year extension to our current winter plow contract. Our fire protection contract was renewed for another 3 years. A new 5-year contract was entered into in May with Waste Management authorizing us to use their landfill. A contract for legal services was entered into with Ken Lexier of Mills, Shay, Lexier & Talbot, PA.

We took over Hampshire Hill Cemetery this year. Ernest Hilton, Esq negotiated a boundary line agreement with the abutting landowners. The association turned over all cemetery funds to the town. There was a huge pine tree that was leaning into the cemetery and was of great concern to the cemetery. We hired Damian Wagg to remove it and a few others. The funds came from the Hampshire Hill maintenance account.

Broadband is finally here in Mercer. Fiber has been run and residential installations are happening.

Vital records recorded in 2023 for Mercer were as follows: Births – 5; Marriages – 6; Deaths – 12.

Dog licenses issued in 2023 were as follows: 23 male/female; 108 spayed/neutered. Dog licenses expire December 31st annually. Bring proof of rabies. Fees remain the same: \$11/dog if capable of reproducing or \$6 if spayed or neutered. Late fee of \$25/dog goes into effect for any unlicensed dogs on February 1st.

Inland Fisheries & Wildlife sporting license and registration activity in 2023 was as follows: snowmobile registrations 65; ATV registrations 79; boat registrations 163, and sporting licenses 259.

Thanks for your continued support.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Gove
Town Clerk



Left to right:
Nancy Gove
Christine Parent
Tammy Lamphere

Report of the Registrar of Voters

To the Citizens of Mercer:

Registered and enrolled voters of Mercer for 2023 are as follows:

Democrats – 134

Green Independent – 24

Republican – 212

Unenrolled – 174

It appears that the same three qualifying parties have filed their intent to form a political party by Party Enrollment. They are Forward, No Labels and People's. Anyone wishing to enroll in one of these parties may do so by completing a new Maine Voter Registration Application and must check the box next to Other qualifying party and write in the name of the party in which they want to enroll.

Maine State Law requires a 15-day waiting period if you are changing parties before the new party enrollment becomes effective, i.e., before you are able to participate in that party's primary, caucus or convention. If you are unenrolled (no political party choice), you may enroll in a party effective immediately upon completing a voter registration application.

A Citizen Initiative Petition entitled "An Act to Limit Contributions to Political Action Committees That Make Independent Expenditures" was submitted to the Registrar for certification. A local petition was also submitted this year, "Petition for Establishment of Water Levels" at North Pond within the towns of Smithfield, Mercer and Rome.

Respectively submitted,

Nancy J. Gove
Registrar of Voters

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

To the Citizens of Mercer,

2023 Tax Commitment

2023 Real Estate and Personal Property Commitment	\$1,204,237.19
Plus Supplemental taxes	\$ 4,397.19
Less Abatements Granted	<u>\$ 3,082.22</u>
Total to be Collected	\$1,205,552.16

What makes up the commitment? We collect the following assessments:

Somerset County Appropriation - \$192,132.40

School Assessment - \$587,875.66

Municipal Appropriation - \$943,338.00.

From these assessments, we can deduct for municipal revenue sharing, state reimbursements and other revenues such as excise taxes collected. The net total to be collected from taxpayers is shown above. This commitment resulted in a mil rate increase to \$18.60 per 1,000 of value.

This year, those who were eligible for the Property Tax Stabilization for Senior Citizens were granted a tax bill equal to last years bill. The difference was submitted to Maine Revenue Services (\$12,704.22). To date, I am still waiting for reimbursement from the state. This program was repealed in 2023. In it's place is an updated version of the State Property Tax Deferral Program and the Property Tax and Rent Rebate Program.

The value of the homestead exemption benefit decreased again this year to \$21,500 and veteran exemptions decreased to \$5,160. With a town-wide revaluation wrapping up in 2024, our exemptions will increase to \$25,000 and \$6,000 respectively or 100% state reimbursement. Our property values will reflect the current market values.

Personal property tax collections have become an issue. Unfortunately, I will have to take court action in 2024 to collect these outstanding taxes.

Excise taxes collected in 2023 were \$167,836.94. Online vehicle registration renewal continues to grow in use. Visit the town's website: mercermaine.com and click on the online registration link.

Uncollected 2023 tax balances as of 12/31/2023 are reported on the following pages.

Thank you for your continued support this past year.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Gove
Tax Collector

Non Zero Balance on 2023 Real Estate Taxes as of 12/31/2023

Acct	Name ----	Original Tax	Payment / Adjustments	Amount Due
34	R Anderson, Lawrence B Jr	735.65	0.00	735.65
409	R Bennett, Craig S	1,240.90	0.00	1,240.90
535	R Berube, Ray	850.35	0.00	850.35
500	R Bilodeau, Michael H	1,120.82	0.00	1,120.82
663	R Bishop, Alan L	973.08	0.00	973.08
285	R Brann, Letha W	881.66	0.00	881.66
281	R Brann, Wesley & Brann, Joyce	2,315.12	0.00	2,315.12
46	R Bushnell, Charles R & Robert	445.36	0.00	445.36
154	R Bushnell, Charles R & Robert	271.56	0.00	271.56
48	R Bushnell, William	695.84	0.00	695.84
177	R Chamberlain, Eric	389.41	0.00	389.41
277	R Chamberlain-Merry, Bonny	1,506.43	0.00	1,506.43
435	R Corson, Charles W	1,913.55	458.31	1,455.24
**	52 R Cousineau Lumber, Inc	375.91	0.00	375.91
**	53 R Cousineau Lumber, Inc	101.11	0.00	101.11
*	701 R Crandall, Charles R	4,734.74	0.00	4,734.74
166	R Davis, Paula	1,329.03	400.00	929.03
151	R Doane, John E	678.01	0.00	678.01
272	R Doane, Kenneth L IV	1,140.74	172.88	967.86
273	R Doane, W Russell	456.33	0.00	456.33
58	R Dubay, Evelyn M, Trustee	660.78	0.00	660.78
764	R Dutil, Christopher P	2,201.61	2,107.44	94.17
575	R Everett, Ricky B	3,369.28	0.00	3,369.28
212	R Farley (Gordon), Deborah F	176.70	0.00	176.70
335	R Ferrara, Brian	680.91	0.00	680.91
*	352 R Ferrara, Courtney Lynn	840.27	0.00	840.27
*	666 R Foster, Chrystal J	1,281.74	0.00	1,281.74
455	R Herbert, Joshua L	1,578.06	0.00	1,578.06
457	R Herbert, Joshua L	357.72	0.00	357.72
104	R Huang, Sushan	1,585.95	0.00	1,585.95
**	171 R Kennedy, Lance	637.83	0.00	637.83
365	R Krajewski, Jerzy H	269.24	0.00	269.24
445	R Lamarre, Brenton F	2,441.79	0.00	2,441.79
**	265 R LaMarre, Edward	898.73	742.46	156.27
459	R Lambert, Dillon J	375.85	0.00	375.85
372	R Landry, Mary E, Est	1,855.93	0.00	1,855.93
638	R Leighton, Larry C , Couture, Lance, Hooper, Don	415.52	18.61	396.91
271	R Levesque, Maurice R	680.03	0.00	680.03
517	R Malo, Glenn F, Thomas R & Ronald J	637.52	0.00	637.52
286	R Manter, Lura Ann	1,027.76	0.00	1,027.76
287	R Manter, LuraAnn	334.80	0.00	334.80
9	R Marcue, Bryan C & Grant, Heidi J	1,382.07	0.00	1,382.07
221	R Martelli, Gina	723.91	0.00	723.91
207	R McDermott, Cynthia D	849.82	0.00	849.82
596	R McDermott, Cynthia D	3,582.23	0.00	3,582.23
728	R MCKECHNIE, AIME V	786.28	0.00	786.28
201	R Merry, Frederick W	2,122.76	0.00	2,122.76
677	R Merry, Frederick W	2,041.39	0.00	2,041.39
696	R Mumma, Jeffrey	264.16	0.00	264.16
**	755 R Northrup, Dean Jr	2,482.24	0.00	2,482.24
307	R Osgood, Christopher A	2,336.85	0.00	2,336.85
570	R Paradise Inc	2,456.02	0.00	2,456.02
774	R Parent, Doreen J	2,791.77	0.00	2,791.77
309	R Parlin, Kerry O PR, Estate of Richard K Parlin	1,619.41	0.00	1,619.41
699	R Price, Justin	388.01	0.00	388.01

448	R Ramsey, Edward A Jr	674.79	0.00	674.79
293	R Redlevske, Casaundra B	557.65	527.67	29.98
733	R Redlevske, Casaundra B	250.77	248.21	2.56
161	R Redlevske, William J	375.35	0.00	375.35
516	R Roach, Walter III	302.62	0.00	302.62
413	R Rosado, Ruthann	238.08	0.00	238.08
571	R Rosado, Ruthann	5,042.53	0.00	5,042.53
744	R SCHUYLER, WILLIAM C	202.42	0.00	202.42
751	R Short, Gerald L	256.66	0.00	256.66
600	R SIMPSON, MARGARET	2,875.89	0.00	2,875.89
362	R Smith, Sandra J W	331.08	0.00	331.08
**	210 R Stanford Family Trust	1,013.14	0.00	1,013.14
	146 R Steuber, Chad	370.62	0.00	370.62
	117 R Stevens, Roger E Jr	402.50	400.80	1.70
	396 R Storms, Pamela E	2,045.67	0.00	2,045.67
	86 R Storms, Pamela E, Trustee & , Storms, Mark L	2,536.58	0.00	2,536.58
	697 R Tardy (Cherkassky), Amy	311.55	0.00	311.55
	88 R Taylor, Paul H, Heirs of	265.78	0.00	265.78
	213 R Tibbetts-Krupa, Debra L	1,736.24	0.00	1,736.24
	214 R Tibbetts-Krupa, Debra L	1,607.78	0.00	1,607.78
	311 R Tracy, Derek C	631.27	0.00	631.27
	540 R Tracy, Derek Cecil Sr	722.37	0.00	722.37
*	284 R Varney (Hunt), Harriett	1,239.00	495.41	743.59
**	681 R Vasvary, Kenny	1,230.41	0.00	1,230.41
	145 R VEILLEUX, RICHARD P	743.96	0.00	743.96
	495 R Warren, Charles C Jr	829.63	0.00	829.63
	636 R Warren, Charles C Jr	1,557.82	0.00	1,557.82
	384 R Weisher, Kara M	399.53	12.33	387.20
	127 R Wellington, Patricia A	2,093.54	221.03	1,872.51
	477 R Whipple, Cara	1,892.75	152.91	1,739.84
	268 R WITHAM, LESLEY	465.74	0.00	465.74
	87 R Witham, Leslie L III	357.90	0.00	357.90
	522 R Wolf, Cody	1,775.07	0.00	1,775.07
Total for 89 Bills:	89 Accounts	103,942.82	6,509.27	97,433.55

* Partial payment received after 12/31/2023

**Taxes were paid in full after 12/31/2023

Non Zero Balance on Personal Property as of 12/31/2023 2023

Acct	Name ----	Original Tax	Payment / Adjustments	Amount Due
1773	P LAMPHERE & SONS EXCAVATION INC	1,395.00	0.00	1,395.00
1788	P Merry, Frederick W	111.60	0.00	111.60
1351	P The Wood Mill of Maine (Salt&Gun)	628.22	0.00	628.22
1790	P Zambelli, Stephen	<u>279.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>279.00</u>
Total for 4 Bills:	4 Accounts	2413.82	0.00	2,413.82

2022

1351	The Wood Mill of Maine (Salt&Gun)	594.44	0.00	594.44
1100	ViaSat Inc-Folashade Ajiboye	<u>32.17</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>32.17</u>
Total for 2 Bills:	2 Accounts	626.61	0.00	626.61

*Partial payment made after 12/31/2023

**Paid in full after 12/31/2023

Report of the Treasurer

To the Citizens of Mercer:

Our net financial position remains strong. Last year we had undesignated fund balance aka surplus of \$686,783. This allowed the town to pay for storm damages resulting from the December 2022 and May 2023 storm damages. We applied to FEMA for financial assistance and were successful in qualifying for disaster relief. Much time has been spent working with FEMA and MEMA to report damages and repairs in order to satisfy their requirements. Although cash flow has allowed us to pay these repair costs before reimbursement, a Line of Credit was established with Skowhegan Savings Bank in the amount of \$80,000.

The town updated our Returned Check Policy (to update fees assessed by the bank) and our Internal Control Policy (to allow the payment of credit cards over the phone).

We finally executed a Boundary Line Agreement for the Hampshire Hill Cemetery with the assistance of Ernie Hilton, Esquire. The Hampshire Hill Cemetery Association turned over to the town their funds for maintenance and perpetual care. Dangerous trees were cut along the back of the cemetery at a cost of \$4,840.

Shaw Library funds were turned over to the town and the library became a department of the town. You will see an article on the 2024 Town Meeting Warrant asking voters to establish a non-lapsing fund for their savings accounts.

One solar application has been submitted to the town. It is currently under review of the Planning Board. We are holding 50% of the application fee in the event they decide to withdraw or the application is denied. A portion of the balance of the application fee will be used to fund the legal expense reserve fund to bring it back to \$10,000.

We aggressively invested excess funds into Jumbo CD's at an average interest rate of 5% or higher. This was done in the general fund as well as several other idle funds.

The revaluation is underway. The remaining three payments will be made this year. The new values will be completed in time for our tax commitment. A preview of value will be sent out this spring and hearings will be scheduled for those who have questions on their new property values.

We foreclosed on one parcel of land on Rome Road this year. I'm currently trying to reach the former owner to sell it back to them.

The following pages report the financial status of the town. As always, feel free to reach out to me with any questions. I will do my best to answer them.

Thank you for your continued support.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Gove
Treasurer

Treasurer's Financial Report for FY2023

General Fund - Fund 10 General Ledger

Checking:	<u>Debits</u>	<u>Credits</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Beginning Balance			\$150,853.66
Deposits	\$1,843,648.87		
Inflows from Savings Acct	\$804,133.31		
Less Payroll/Accts Payable		\$1,995,747.57	
Outflows to Savings Acct		\$700,000.00	
Plus Transfers In:			
Due from Reval Fund - Art 34	\$10,000.00		
Due from MCC Maintenance Fund - Art 40	\$40,000.00		
Due from Hampshire Hill Cemetery	\$4,840.00		
Due from Shaw Library Book Donations	\$604.80		
Less Transfers Out:			
Due to Reval Fund from 2022		\$7,500.00	
Due to MCC Maintenance Fund 2022		\$739.14	
Due to Cemetery Lot Sales		\$500.00	
Due to Road Maintenance 2023 approp		<u>\$2,000.00</u>	
Checkbook Ending Balance	\$2,703,226.98	\$2,706,486.71	\$147,593.93
Savings:			
Beginning Balance			\$503,367.92
Interest Earned	\$16,949.56		
Inflows from checking	\$700,000.00		
Outflows to checking		<u>\$804,133.31</u>	
Savings Ending Balance	\$716,949.56	\$804,133.31	\$416,184.17
Petty Cash	\$300.00		
RE Taxes Receivable 2023	\$97,433.55		
RE Taxes Receivable 2024		\$3,466.59	
RE Tax Stabilized 2023	\$12,704.22		
PP Tax Receivable 2022	\$626.61		
PP Tax Receivable 2023	\$2,413.82		
RE Tax Liens 2021 (Tax Acquired)	\$108.80		
RE Tax Lien 2022	\$19,726.84		
Inventory	\$42,450.00 *		
Accounts Payable		\$8,722.17	
Deferred Revenue		\$117,630.17 *	
Deferred LRAP		\$14,964.00 *	
MCC Rental Security Deposits Held		\$200.00	
Solar Pre-Approval Fee Payable		\$8,386.07	
Due to Library Remote Workspace Fund		\$35,930.99	
Due to MCC Maintenance Fund		\$7,437.59	
Due to Rescue Fund		\$689.00	
Due to Heating Assistance Fund		\$516.87	
Due to Community Fund Raising		\$1,069.45	
Due to Legal Exp Reserve		\$6,222.25	
Due from FEMA WS Elliott (Dec 2022)	\$115,835.25		
Due from FEMA May Day (May 2023)	\$110,353.38		
Budgeted Expenses Not Spent		<u>\$100,008.56</u>	
Budgeted Revenues Not Collected	<u>\$18,246.75</u>		
Fund Balance (pre-audit)	\$420,199.22	\$305,243.71	\$678,733.61

Treasurer's Financial Report for FY2023

General Fund Continued, Revenues

Revenues:	Balances
Administration:	
RE Tax Commitment	\$1,202,621.13
PP Tax Commitment	\$6,013.29
Interest on taxes, Lien Costs	\$10,851.57
Excise Taxes (vehicle & boats)	\$169,560.34
Bank Interest Earned	\$16,949.56
Copies/Faxes	\$155.30
Election Reimbursement	\$807.20
Miscellaneous	\$12,057.38
Vital Records	\$576.00
Agent Fees (BMV, IFW, AW)	\$5,071.00
Municipal Revenue Sharing	\$117,481.59
MCC Room rentals	\$9,406.70
Cash Over/short	(\$6.00)
BETE Exemption	\$4,959.00
Homestead Reimbursement	\$57,794.00
Tree Growth Reimbursement	\$18,451.14
Veteran Reimbursement	\$927.00
Planning Board Fees	\$9,761.07
Adult Use Marijuana	\$1,500.00
Dog/ACO Fees	\$533.00
Transfers In (MCC, Reval, Hampshire Hill)	\$51,162.50
LRAP Grant - carryforward for 2024	\$34,324.00
Public Works Misc (Safety Grant, TDS)	\$5,987.50
Transfer Station Bags, Misc	\$4,702.00
Shaw Library	\$9,325.00
GA Reimbursement	<u>\$30.68</u>
Total Revenues	\$1,751,001.95

Treasurer's Financial Report for FY2023

General Fund Continued, Expenses

Expenses:	2023 ATM	Amt Approved		Expended Balance
<u>Salaries, Wages, Stipends and Benefits:</u>	Art 8	\$123,738		
1st Selectperson				\$6,000.00
2nd Selectperson				\$6,000.00
3rd Selectperson				\$6,000.00
Clerk, Tax Collector, Treasurer, ROV, MO Secy				\$39,598.56
Deputy Clerk, TC,Treasurer				\$18,881.98
Deputy Clerk, Tax Collector/Temp Position				\$10,051.01
Transfer Station Attendant				\$2,900.48
Animal Control Officer				\$2,632.60
Addressing Officer/Cemetery Sexton \$500 each				\$1,000.00
Code Enforcement Officer				\$3,000.00
FICA/Medicare				\$7,184.20
Health Insurance				<u>\$14,307.12</u>
Sub-total				\$117,555.95
<u>Administration:</u>	Art 9	\$89,343	\$10,427.36 to MCC Fund	
Advertising				\$64.21
Audit				\$8,450.00
Dues, MMA & Affiliate				\$2,146.00
Elections				\$1,940.32
Miscellaneous				\$1,521.08
Postage				\$2,440.74
Registry of deeds				\$1,533.50
Security Locks, Safe, Fire Ext				\$648.00
Town Report				\$1,499.00
Travel/Mileage Reimbursement				\$272.61
Training Workshops				\$200.00
Supplies				\$2,758.22
Trio, Software, Equipment, Furniture				\$15,079.03
Repairs & Maintenance				\$3,767.63
Utilities				\$20,127.30
Insurance				\$12,776.00
Janitor				\$2,131.52
Mowing				\$1,650.00
Sub-total				\$79,005.16
<u>Contingency</u>	Art 10	\$8,000	Back to Surplus	\$0.00
<u>Assessing</u>	Art 11	\$9,170		\$9,170.00
<u>Planning Board</u>	Art 12	\$500		\$65.00
<u>Animal Shelter & ACO Expenses:</u>	Art 13	\$1,830		\$1,325.84
<u>Training, HO, CEO, LPI</u>	Art 14	\$500		\$50.00
<u>Cemetery Maintenance:</u>	Art 15	\$3,600		\$2,768.98
<u>Transfers Out ***</u>	Art 33	\$10,000	To fund Legal Exp Reserve Fund	\$10,000.00
<u>Somerset County Assessment</u>				\$192,132.40
<u>Public Education:</u>			MSAD #54 Assessment	\$587,875.66
Scholarships - True	Art 16	\$425		\$200.00
<u>Overlay/Abatements</u>		\$46,996		
Write-offs/Abatements				\$3,599.68

Treasurer's Financial Report for FY2023

General Fund Continued, Expenses

Public Safety:	Art 17	\$70,650		
Fire Coverage				\$68,142.29
Traffic & Street Lights				\$994.05
Sub-total				\$69,136.34
Mercer Rescue	Art 18	\$4,500	\$2,136.41 to Rescue Fund	\$2,363.59
Public Works - Summer Roads:	Art 19	\$119,250		
Gravel, Road Material				\$83,039.49
Grading				\$21,385.00
Mowing/Brushcutting				\$2,940.00
Miscellaneous				\$10,372.03
Sub-total				\$117,736.52
Public Works - Winter Roads:	Art 20	\$223,750	\$165,000 from excise taxes	
Salt Shed Electric				\$993.66
Sand Purchase				\$29,450.00
Salt Purchase				\$21,600.47
Winter Plow Contract				<u>\$159,000.00</u>
Sub-total				\$211,044.13
Recreation	Art 21	\$750		\$700.00
Transfer Station:	Art 22	\$39,835	\$14,000 from TS revenue	
Recycling			TS closed in May, 2023	\$10,826.27
Licenses			Actual revenue was \$4,702	\$184.00
Landfill Stickers				\$728.38
Utilities				\$800.00
Solid Waste Disposal				<u>\$17,832.00</u>
Sub-total				\$30,370.65
Shaw Library:	Art 26	\$10,997	Used \$9,325 from Shaw Lib Funds	
Wages				\$9,703.04
Payroll Taxes				\$742.28
Supplies				\$75.15
Software, Equipment, Furniture				\$255.97
Utilities				\$47.55
Insurance				\$154.00
Sub-total				\$10,977.99
Charity	Art 27	\$1,000		\$300.00
General Assistance	Art 28	\$2,000		\$0.00
Community Programs:				
Historical Society	Art 29	\$2,500		\$2,500.00
Meeting House Association	Art 30	\$2,500		\$2,500.00
North Pond Association	Art 31	\$3,500		\$3,500.00
7 Lakes Youth Conservation Corp	Art 32	\$2,000		\$2,000.00
Capital Projects:				
Assessing Reval	Art 34	\$34,000	\$10,000 from Reval Fund	\$34,000.00
Digitizing Tax Maps	Art 35	\$6,000		\$6,000.00
Road Maintenance Fund	Art 30	\$2,000		\$2,000.00
Indian Streat Culvert Replacement	Art 37	\$20,000	**Purchased culvert only Contract extended thru 7/24	\$10,455.55
Ditching	Art 38	\$20,000		\$20,000.00
Paving & LRAP Projects-Beech Hill Rd	Art 39	\$76,000	\$29,764 from 2022 LRAP funds	\$76,000.00
MCC Roof	Art 40	\$55,000	\$40,000 from MCC Fund	\$55,000.00

Treasurer's Financial Report for FY2023

Special Revenue & Permanent Funds:	Begin Balance	Interest	Transfers In/(out)	Ending Balance
Shaw Library - Fund 15				
Savings Account (Cash)	\$21,399.16	\$20.69	(\$9,325.00)	\$12,094.85
Mug Up Savings	\$372.15	\$0.10		\$372.25
Book Donation	\$13,792.17	\$217.74	(\$604.80)	\$13,405.11
Total Fund 15				\$25,872.21
Shaw Library Remote Workspace Grant - Fund 16	\$36,199.00		(\$268.01)	\$35,930.99
Assessing Revaluation - Fund 20	\$49,079.26	\$2,088.74	(\$10,000.00)	\$41,168.00
Mercer Community Center - Fund 22	\$53,217.38	\$1,990.04	(\$39,260.86)	\$15,946.56
Transfers In from 2022 = \$739.14; Transfers out Art 40 = \$40,000				
Mercer Rescue - Fund 23	\$2,225.79	\$101.09	\$0.00	\$2,326.88
Due from General Fund: \$689 2023 fundraising; \$2,136.41 (Balance in Rescue budget)				
Road Maintenance - Fund 24	\$25,290.78	\$1,223.04	\$2,000.00	\$28,513.82
Summer Rd Improvement - Fund 25	\$410.31	\$6.52		\$416.83
Winter Contract Bond - Fund 26	\$25,128.44	\$399.55		\$25,527.99
Town Forest - Fund 27	\$6.29	\$0.10		\$6.39
Heating Assistance - Fund 31	\$1,162.42	\$1,354.45	(\$2,000.00)	\$516.87
Received \$1,000 grant from United Way; gave four \$500 heating oil donations to Mercer residents				
Community Fundraising - Fund 32	\$742.60	\$1,222.75	(\$895.90)	\$1,069.45
Legal Expense Reserve - Fund 33	\$438.00	\$10,000.00	(\$4,215.75)	\$6,222.25
Expensed for Solar Ordinance legal review				
FEMA Winter Storm Elliott - Fund 34	\$0.00		(\$115,835.25)	(\$115,835.25)
*Award letter rec'd, \$110,043.49 to be reimbursed; town 5% share is \$5,7791.76				
FEMA May Day Storm - Fund 35	\$0.00		(\$110,353.38)	(\$110,353.38)
Charles A Pressey Prize - Fund 80	\$1,978.60	\$31.46		\$2,010.06
Helen & William True - Fund 81	\$1,773.07	\$28.19		\$1,801.26
Ethel SpringerTrust - Fund 82	\$6,101.10	\$260.92		\$6,362.02
Village Cemetery - Fund 83	\$14,013.32	\$550.57	\$500.00	\$15,063.89
Hampshire Hill Cemetery - Fund 84	\$6,340.72	\$38.07	(\$4,840.00)	\$1,538.79
*Perpetual Care Blaisdell/Jones lot = \$467.51; maintenance = \$1071.28				
New Village Cemetery (SSB) - Fund 85	\$1,238.09	\$0.62	(\$8.00)	\$1,230.71
2022 Annual Town Meeting carry forward:				
Hampshire Hill Cemetery Legal - Fund 84	Art 13	\$3,000	(\$1,837.50)	\$1,162.50
*Returned balance back to General Fund				

2022 Lien Breakdown
Tax Year: 2022-1 To 2022-2
As Of: 12/31/2023

Account	Year	Name	Principal	Principal Due	Pre Lien Int	Costs	Interest	Total
34	2022-1	Anderson, Lawrence B Jr	697.66	399.54	0.00	0.00	5.46	405.00
535	2022-1	Berube, Ray	773.85	324.61	0.00	0.00	1.98	326.59
500	2022-1	Bilodeau, Michael H	1,038.56	622.31	0.00	0.00	12.52	634.83
**352	2022-1	Ferrara, Courtney Lynn	626.73	78.20	0.00	0.00	0.17	78.37
365	2022-1	Krajewski, Jerzy H	254.76	254.76	7.39	49.13	6.23	317.51
372	2022-1	Landry, Mary E, Est	1,734.15	1,734.15	50.29	49.13	42.39	1,875.96
286	2022-1	Manter, Lura Ann	950.51	950.51	27.56	49.13	23.23	1,050.43
287	2022-1	Manter, LuraAnn	316.80	316.80	9.19	49.13	7.74	382.86
9	2022-1	Marcue,Bryan C & Grant,Heidi J	993.90	836.14	0.00	0.00	1.67	837.81
221	2022-1	Martelli, Gina	658.09	127.18	0.00	0.00	2.94	130.12
201	2022-1	Merry, Frederick W	1,986.63	1,986.63	57.61	49.13	48.56	2,141.93
677	2022-1	Merry, Frederick W	1,931.64	1,931.64	56.02	49.13	47.22	2,084.01
**755	2022-1	Northrup, Dean Jr	2,348.79	2,348.79	68.11	57.26	0.00	2,474.16
*774	2022-1	Parent, Doreen J	2,074.29	825.22	0.00	0.00	5.59	830.81
309	2022-1	Parlin, Kerry O PR, Estate of Richard K Parlin	1,532.34	1,532.34	44.44	49.13	37.46	1,663.37
448	2022-1	Ramsey, Edward A Jr	638.51	41.27	0.00	0.00	0.96	42.23
744	2022-1	SCHUYLER, WILLIAM C	191.54	191.54	5.55	49.13	4.68	250.90
600	2022-1	Simpson, Maraqret	2,721.28	2,721.28	78.92	49.13	66.52	2,915.85
362	2022-1	Smith, Sandra J W	313.28	313.28	9.09	49.13	7.66	379.16
281	2022-1	WESLEY BRANN & JOYCE BRANN	2,190.65	2,190.65	33.70	49.13	52.09	2,325.57
Total for 20 Bills:			23,973.96	19,726.84	447.87	597.69	375.07	21,147.47
20 Accounts								
Lien Summary								
2022-1	20		23,973.96	19,726.84	447.87	597.69	375.07	21,147.47
Total:	20		23,973.96	19,726.84	447.87	597.69	375.07	21,147.47

2021 Tax Lien Maturity Breakdown
Tax Year: 2021-1 To 2021-2
As Of: 12/31/2023

Account	Year	Name	Principal	Principal Due	Pre Lien Int	Costs	Interest	Total
365	2021-1	Krajewski, Jerzy H	108.80	108.80	0.62	49.56	10.71	169.69
Total for 1 Bill:			108.80	108.80	0.62	49.56	10.71	169.69

Board of Assessors' Report

The goal of the tax assessment this coming year is to identify and assess property within the Town of Mercer and ensure the fairness and equity of all real and personal property values, thoughtfully interpret and comply with statutory laws as mandated by the State of Maine, update and maintain accurate maps used to provide geographic data analysis, process all recorded legal documents in a timely manner to reflect accurate records of property ownership and to efficiently provide the public with quality products and services. To accomplish this goal, the assessors have hired an assessor's agent to assist the Board.

Every year new construction and additions to existing structures are visited and assessed, as well as properties which are reported or known to have had structural damage or structure removal. A town-wide reval began in the fall of 2023. Photos and sketches of the structures were recorded (this did not involve entering the buildings, unless the homeowner was present at the time of the inspection). Some properties were found to have additional structures or notable improvement, some structures were found to have degraded, a few had deteriorated seriously. Hearings regarding issues with new assessments are expected to begin in Spring of 2024 after a letter stating new values is mailed to each property owner.

All property is assessed based on its condition on April 1st. If you purchase or sell property after April 1st, the owner of the property on April 1st will receive the tax bill per state law.

All non-exempt personal property located on your land (including travel trailers not registered (excised) on April 1st) are taxed to the landowner unless claimed by another Mercer resident. Everyone is required by state law to list their personal property with the assessors by April 1st of each year. Personal Property forms are available at the town office. If you have paid excise tax on a piece of equipment, please mark your list accordingly so it isn't taxed twice.

The Board of Assessors received an annual visit from the State. Their preliminary State Valuation for Mercer is as follows:

2023 State Valuation for Mercer: \$86,150,000
2024 State Valuation for Mercer: \$101,650,000

Respectfully submitted,

Board of Assessors, Ricky Parlin, Gary Mosher, Mary Burr and Agent Zeb Pike

Notices

Real Estate Tax: All property tax is assessed to the owner of the property on April 1st of that year. If you sell your property after April 1st, you will still receive the tax bill and it is up to you to make sure it is paid/forwarded to new owner.

Business Personal Property Tax: By law, a list of all business equipment and its value **must** be filed with the Assessors by April 1st **every** year. If you have started a new business, you need to notify the Assessors to obtain forms for filing a list of your business equipment. If this business equipment qualifies for the Business Equipment Tax Exemption (**BETE**), the business is not taxed for the personal property (the **BETTE** application **must** be filled out **every** year and is the responsibility of the owner to do so).

Homestead Exemption: To qualify for this exemption, the home must be your primary residence, you must have owned your home for a period of at least 1 year before April 1st of the current tax year. All notifications and applications for exemption **must** be made no later than April 1st of the current tax year. This is a one-time application.

Veterans Exemption: All Veterans who will be 62 years of age on or before April 1st, any totally disabled Veteran or any widow, widower or minor child(ren) of Veterans who would have been 62 years of age on or before April 1st, should contact the Assessors to see if they are eligible for a tax exemption. Applications for Veterans exemptions must be received in this office on or before April 1st. This is a one-time application.

Tree Growth Classification: All new owners of land that is in tree growth have **one** year from the date of purchase of the property to file a certified tree growth plan. All tree growth plans need to be recertified every **ten** years. Failure to have your certified plan submitted to the Assessors by the appropriate date will result in removal of the land from the tree growth classification and the assessment of a removal penalty.

Property Tax Deferral: An owner of a home that receives a homestead exemption may apply for deferral of taxes on that home if the owner has income of less than \$40,000 and liquid assets of less than \$50,000 (less than \$75,000 if more than one owner and both are applying) and the owner is either 65 and older or is unable to be employed by reason of disability.

Shoreland Zoning: Permit(s) **must** be obtained if making any changes to existing property/structures or adding new structures to property in the Shoreland Zone. Application can be obtained at the Town Office.

Notification to the Assessor: When adding a new structure to a piece of property the owner **must** fill out a Notification to the Assessor form. Forms available at the Town Office.

**From the Municipal Valuation Return for
Mercer Maine for 2023:**

Valuations:	Local taxable Real Estate Valuation	\$ 64,420,640	
	Local taxable Personal Property Valuation	\$ 323,295.00	
	½ of Homestead Valuation	\$ 5,041,920.00	
	Total Valuation base		\$ 69,785,855.00
Appropriation:	Somerset County	\$192,132.40	
	Town of Mercer	\$ 943,338.00	
	MSAD #54	\$ 587,875.66	
	Total Appropriations		\$ 1,723,346.06
Allowable deductions:	State Municipal Revenue Sharing	\$ 110,000.00	
	Other Revenues	\$ 380,175.00	
	Total deductions		\$ 490,175.00
Net to be raised by local property tax rate			\$ 1,233,171.06
Overlay			\$46,996.06*
Minus ½ Homestead			\$ 71,272.58*
Tax to be Collected			\$ 1,208,894.54

*Amount taken from 2023 tax commitment not MVR

2023 Tax Rate: \$18.60 per \$1,000 of valuation

2023 Real Estate Valuation Report

Name(s)	Map/Lot	Land	Building	Exemption	Total
392 Pond Road, LLC	15-15-0	128,226	58,341	0	186,567
396 Pond Road, LLC	15-17-0	181,307	153,720	0	335,027
410 Pond Road, LLC	15-20-0	120,442	114,228	0	234,670
Abbott, Sharon L & Lafontaine, Robert	06-03-01	27,100	56,956	21,500	62,556
Adams, Cody R	07-27-0	40,612	59,806	0	100,418
Ames, Casey L & Whalen, Peter D	05-29-03	23,800	209,480	0	233,280
Anderson, Lawrence B Jr	10-18-06	29,354	10,197	0	39,551
Angell, Frank S & Angell, Donna Marie	07-14-03	25,995	104,835	0	130,830
Angell, Frank S & Angell, Donna Marie	07-14-04	15,255	0	0	15,255
Angell, Frank S & Angell, Donna Marie	07-14-07	17,075	0	0	17,075
Anthos, James H	07-42-02	37,080	115,743	0	152,823
Armstrong, Muriel J & Whitney, Bruce L	10-09-0	37,674	86,155	21,500	102,329
Axelman, David S, Dorney, Ann E, Culley, Denis T & Betty D	01-02-0	77,726	0	0	77,726
Bacon, James F	02-01-10	42,800	31,253	21,500	52,553
Baker, Alexander K & Harding, Lacey	14-03-0	114,700	37,656	0	152,356
Baker, Barbara H (L.Estate), Baker, Dale & Dean, Merry, Rowena & Lenfest, Regina	14-20-0	70,524	0	0	70,524
Baker, Dean A & Baker, Deborah D	14-01-0	161,474	41,481	0	202,955
Barber, Dustin S	03-17-01	22,900	60,972	0	83,872
Bartholf, Mychael F & Bartholf, Susan Ann	04-03-0	52,471	209,887	21,500	240,858
Beaulier, Richard H & Beaulier, Frances G	07-25-0	21,468	80,320	26,660	75,128
Bedford, Raymond & Bedford, Stacy R	04-08-B	30,320	165,324	21,500	174,144
Bedford, Raymond & Bedford, Stacy R	04-12-01	22,950	96,046	0	118,996
Bedford, Raymond P & Bedford, Stacy R	04-07-03	23,100	0	0	23,100
Beeuwkes, Christiaan J & Beeuwkes, Dorothea M	11-31-0	30,394	120,671	21,500	129,565
Beeuwkes, Christiaan J & Beeuwkes, Dorothea M	07-28-04	14,800	0	0	14,800
Belanger, Cole A	04-04-B	60,760	77,264	21,500	116,524
Belanger, Cole A	03-30-01	22,825	5,684	0	28,509
Bender, Rick R	08-03-01-?	24,968	33,686	21,500	37,154
Bennett, Craig S	08-07-09	24,003	42,712	0	66,715
Benway, Christopher J & Benway, Carolyn J	03-02-01	18,924	51,253	0	70,177
Benway, Christopher J & Benway, Carolyn J	03-02-0	21,260	0	0	21,260
Berube, Ray & Berube (Andrews), Tara	11-11-0	20,857	46,361	21,500	45,718
Bessy Development Company	06-36-0	35,944	0	0	35,944
Bilodeau, Michael H & Bilodeau, Eleanor L	10-06-02	23,800	57,959	21,500	60,259
Bishop, Alan L & Bishop, Helmi J	09-32-0	20,901	31,415	0	52,316
Blair, Paul	08-23-0	32,820	0	0	32,820
Bliss, Norman I & Bliss, Melodie A	03-30-0	26,550	48,693	21,500	53,743
Blood Timberlands LLC	01-01-0	1,395	0	0	1,395
Bolduc, Cindy G & Bolduc, Daniel R	01-12-01	53,764	136,110	21,500	168,374
Bolduc, Robert & Jeannette & Gagne, Christopher S	01-12-02	19,000	67,188	21,500	64,688
Bolster, Brian L & Bolster, Lu Ann	01-17-0	29,572	38,201	21,500	46,273
Borman, Robert Glenn	15-16-0	110,399	0	0	110,399
Bottrill, Judith E & Bottrill, Adam J, Finelli, Beth K & Robin J	10-11-03	26,694	288,996	21,500	294,190
Bouchard, Joseph E & Bouchard, Kristin Ann	10-18-08	40,640	12,862	0	53,502
Bowker, Brian J	10-22-0	22,340	0	0	22,340
Boyker, Alan J & Boyker, Ashley	11-20-0	20,982	51,525	0	72,507
Brann, Letha W & Davis, Eudine & Cory	06-34-0	30,600	38,301	21,500	47,401
Brann, Wesley & Brann, Joyce & Davis, Cory	06-30-0	124,469	0	0	124,469
Brenner, Michael P & Benner, Pamela J	14-11-0	135,444	48,207	0	183,651
Breton, Brian D	03-16-01	31,200	55,622	21,500	65,322
Bronson, Ethan	07-42-02-A	23,800	82,904	0	106,704
Brown, Dana C	07-42-05	42,065	48,169	21,500	68,734
Brown, Michael R & Brown, Dawn L	01-03-0	3,018	0	0	3,018
Bunker, Eric R	09-06-B	22,180	0	0	22,180
Bunker-Geyer, Philip A	09-22-0	39,780	149,150	21,500	167,430
Burk, Claudia & Burk, Adam	01-16-04-01	16,940	6,683	0	23,623
Burr, Robert A & Burr, Mary E	06-23-0	30,483	0	0	30,483
Burr, Robert A & Burr, Mary E	06-16-0	53,292	492,615	21,500	524,407
Bushnell, Charles R & Robert	1-15-0	23,944	0	0	23,944
Bushnell, Charles R & Robert	02-09-0	14,600	0	0	14,600

Bushnell, David H, Trustee & S & B Living Trust	06-06-0	41,455	0	0	41,455
Bushnell, David H, Trustee & S & B Living Trust	06-25-A	0	9,649	0	9,649
Bushnell, David H, Trustee & S & B Living Trust	06-25-0	60,840	0	0	60,840
Bushnell, William	06-06-01	37,411	0	0	37,411
Cahill, John B	04-05-04	22,300	88,139	21,500	88,939
Cahill, John B	04-07-02	17,400	0	0	17,400
Cameron, Andrea D	03-02-02	18,020	0	0	18,020
Campbell, Jeffrey	06-13-0	25,800	106,348	21,500	110,648
Carroll, Chad R	06-30-01	22,664	110,134	0	132,798
Carroll, Douglas	05-11-0	3,978	0	0	3,978
Central Maine Power Company	01-999-0	1,503,800	0	0	1,503,800
Chamberlain, Eric	03-23-0	20,936	0	0	20,936
Chamberlain, Everett B II & Beverly & Chamberlain Trust & Chamberlain, Eric	03-24-0	34,846	0	0	34,846
Chamberlain, John R	03-25-0	31,221	0	0	31,221
Chamberlain, John R	03-21-0	12,486	0	0	12,486
Chamberlain, John R	06-26-01	82,918	135,785	21,500	197,203
Chamberlain-Merry, Bonny	06-26-02	22,300	58,691	0	80,991
Chantry, Allen B & Chantry, Dolores L	10-18-01	5,152	0	0	5,152
Charles, Raymond F & Charles, Maryellen	07-42-01	26,872	102,837	21,500	108,209
Chouinard, James & Chouinard, Mary	07-20-06	31,410	86,596	21,500	96,506
Churchill, Jody & Churchill, Jennifer	14-07-0	153,937	61,353	0	215,290
Civitella, Donna E & Civitella, Donald	10-11-0	52,760	362,865	21,500	394,125
Clark, Bruce W & Clark, Mary J	09-10-01	27,580	0	0	27,580
Clavet, Randy R & Clavet, Kay L	14-22-0	109,286	79,609	0	188,895
Clavet, Randy R & Clavet, Kay L	02-11-03	15,442	4,096	0	19,538
Clement, Laurie A	06-03-0	31,535	76,530	21,500	86,565
Colson, Alden & Colson, Laura	11-13-0	24,353	76,553	21,500	79,406
Colson, Hunter A & Spencer, Jessica Lee	10-27-0	59,100	31,605	0	90,705
Conant, Dwayne, John & Gregory	02-08-0	38,588	18,027	0	56,615
Cooke-Johnson, Elaine P & Johnson, William R	04-07-0	28,440	165,149	21,500	172,089
Cooper, Carly A	07-03-01	28,440	33,928	0	62,368
Copeland, Jean C. & Skinner, Brian J	05-01-01	23,300	23,096	0	46,396
Cormier (Bartlett), Lacey B	06-04-0	25,800	133,122	21,500	137,422
Corson, Charles W & Corson, Lori Ann	08-34-0	49,323	75,056	21,500	102,879
Corson, Kathleen A	08-34-03	20,952	23,553	21,500	23,005
Corson, Scott M	12-04-0	27,360	161,919	21,500	167,779
Coulstring, Matthew & Coulstring, Kimberly	02-08-04	27,223	61,073	0	88,296
Coulstring, Robert N Jr & Coulstring, Susan A	02-01-11	68,240	0	0	68,240
Coulstring, Robert N Jr & Coulstring, Susan A	02-01-08	29,840	26,783	0	56,623
Cousineau Lumber, Inc	06-28-0	20,210	0	0	20,210
Cousineau Lumber, Inc	06-41-0	5,436	0	0	5,436
Cowing, Wayne B	04-06-0	11,630	0	0	11,630
Cowing, Wayne B	04-06-05	11,449	0	0	11,449
Crandall, Charles R	08-01-01-A	37,500	217,056	0	254,556
Crandall, Jesse J & Crandall, Debra J	08-01-0	88,720	75,478	21,500	142,698
Crandall, Michael	12-03-0	25,957	65,496	0	91,453
Cromwell, Gary R	08-34-01	25,150	70,601	21,500	74,251
Crowley, Brian J	10-21-02	20,039	22,788	0	42,827
Crowley, Brian J	10-21-0	3,315	0	0	3,315
Crowley, Elizabeth	10-10-0	30,501	121,508	21,500	130,509
Crowley, Elizabeth	10-14-0	6,339	0	0	6,339
Culley, Denis T & Culley, Betty D	04-09-0	34,383	78,736	21,500	91,619
Cunningham, Debra E & Powell, Laurie A	13-04-0	45,141	18,438	0	63,579
Cunningham, Debra E & Powell, Laurie A	13-05-0	79,938	25,686	0	105,624
Cunningham, Nathan	04-13-05	15,346	0	0	15,346
Currier, Blynn & Oldfield, Irene M	08-20-0	6,801	0	0	6,801
Currier, Nathan W	02-08-06	17,134	0	0	17,134
Currier, Nathan W	02-08-10	25,531	25,032	21,500	29,063
Czarnecki, Brad & Smithers, William Ralph Jr	10-28-0	8,009	0	0	8,009
DaCosta, Albert	09-21-0	18,940	13,885	0	32,825
Davies, Phyllis C & Judkins, Jessie E	03-21-01	19,688	4,922	0	24,610
Davis, George S Jr	09-31-0	38,000	63,524	26,660	74,864

Davis, Morgan J	07-36-01	21,000	70,940	21,500	70,440
Davis, Paula	03-09-0	26,440	66,513	21,500	71,453
Davis, William G	07-12-0	39,154	161,972	21,500	179,626
DeGregory, Anthony Jr	08-34-02	23,600	27,741	21,500	29,841
Dellarma, Alexander E	07-21-0	39,840	0	0	39,840
Dellarma, Edward J Jr	09-35-01	23,977	47,790	0	71,767
Dellarma, Edward J Jr	09-35-0	29,369	0	0	29,369
Dellarma, Kimberly A & Dellarma, Thomas N	09-05-01-A	31,673	130,897	21,500	141,070
Dellarma, Sherry	11-17-0	30,326	24,230	21,500	33,056
Dellarma, Terry M & Dellarma, Kathy M	07-16-0	21,000	40,686	21,500	40,186
Demond, Christopher & VonKrebs-Cintorino, Danielle	05-16-C	24,778	88,097	21,500	91,375
Deveau, Miriah & Deveau Michael	13-36-0	37,986	0	0	37,986
Dewdney, Peter G & Dewdney, Betsy J A	02-05-0	65,372	89,510	21,500	133,382
Dickey, Dylan J & Dickey, Molly B	08-42-0	32,920	138,621	21,500	150,041
Doane, Deborah J	08-03-01	25,410	46,243	21,500	50,153
Doane, Jane A & Doane, Richard L	06-21-0	45,146	17,120	21,500	40,766
Doane, John E	02-08-07	29,085	7,367	0	36,452
Doane, Kenneth L IV	06-22-02	18,982	63,848	21,500	61,330
Doane, W Russell	06-22-03	18,982	5,552	0	24,534
Dodge, Randy A	02-01-05	20,300	21,612	0	41,912
Doore, Stephen C	02-08-03	20,574	0	0	20,574
Dorey, Duane	07-24-0	55,862	163,428	21,500	197,790
Doucette, Renee L	09-05-03	20,938	80,766	21,500	80,204
Dow, Deborah J & Whalen, Glenn R	14-23-0	145,548	79,822	21,500	203,870
Downing, Toby A & Downing, Amy C	15-22-0	109,442	0	0	109,442
Doyle, James A, Estate of & Doyle, James A Jr & Richard P, PR	10-04-0	21,600	39,907	21,500	40,007
Doyle, Michael & Doyle, Aileen V	04-13-0	160,934	0	0	160,934
Doyle, Michael M & Doyle, Aileen V	13-02-0	84,076	68,995	0	153,071
Dubay, Evelyn M, Trustee & Evelyn M Dubay Revocable Trust	05-26-0	35,526	0	0	35,526
Dubay, Wayne E	07-04-01	26,364	60,327	26,660	60,031
Dubois, Heidi	06-07-02-03	21,650	133,904	21,500	134,054
Duperry, Roland L & Duperry, Philip L & Margaret A	10-15-0	15,473	6,480	0	21,953
Duquette, Larry J & Duquette, Mary P	08-26-0	39,780	66,734	26,660	79,854
Dutil, Christopher P	01-06-01	26,281	113,585	21,500	118,366
Dutil, Paul & Dutil, Dale	01-06-0	22,729	68,966	21,500	70,195
Eliassen, Kent & Eliassen, Mary Lou	11-23-0	25,740	94,157	0	119,897
Ellis, David	11-27-0	20,675	16,989	0	37,664
Emery, Robbie & Emery, Sherry A	13-15-0	110,243	33,275	0	143,518
Emery, Sherry A	13-17-0	81,524	58,660	0	140,184
Enos, Steven & Enos, Sarah C	04-05-03	23,600	86,346	21,500	88,446
Erickson, Lucas D & Erickson, Sophie J	08-07-05	27,000	189,911	0	216,911
Everett, Eric C & Amy L & Lepage, Denise E & Timothy S	13-22-0	159,499	83,254	0	242,753
Everett, Eric C & Amy L & Lepage, Denise E & Timothy S	13-24-01	2,792	0	0	2,792
Everett, Ricky B & Everett, Nancy L	13-24-0	138,944	42,200	0	181,144
Facingeast LLC	14-14-0	146,600	93,699	0	240,299
Facingeast LLC	02-11-0	4,781	0	0	4,781
Farley (Gordon), Deborah F	05-03-01	9,500	0	0	9,500
Ferrara, Brian S	09-28-0	40,600	77,516	0	118,116
Ferrara, Brian S	07-30-03	21,000	15,608	0	36,608
Ferrara, Brian S	11-15-0	20,965	56,329	21,500	55,794
Ferrara, Courtney Lynn	07-39-01	28,400	16,776	0	45,176
Fisher, Frederick O	04-04-0	30,164	73,996	0	104,160
Fleming, Haley	08-38-02	23,800	138,331	0	162,131
Folsom, Sarah	10-19-0	37,249	160,880	21,500	176,629
Forber Living Trust, Rosalind A & Pratt Living Trust, Lawrence A	13-08-0	86,076	127,161	0	213,237
Forber, Living Trust Rosalind A. & Pratt Living Trust, Lawrence A	04-13-03	13,462	0	0	13,462
Fortin, Michael L & Fortin, Wanda L	05-17-0	28,870	139,886	21,500	147,256
Fortunato, Matthew J	07-48-01-B	16,243	87,783	0	104,026
Foster, Caleb & Lizotte, Katelynn	13-31-0	81,524	63,569	21,500	123,593
Foster, Chrystal J	07-02-0	27,300	63,111	21,500	68,911
Foster, Stephen A	05-07-01	21,640	16,001	0	37,641
Foster, Stephen A	05-01-0	43,416	0	0	43,416
Foster, Stephen A & Day, Robin L	03-04-0	26,660	0	0	26,660

Fox, Jason & Fox, Lauren B	03-18-0	56,350	70,081	0	126,431
French, Ronald E & French, Barbara D	09-03-0	51,920	214,928	21,500	245,348
French, Ronald E, Jr	09-27-01	25,506	0	0	25,506
Fulkerson, Alan S	01-10-0	19,000	94,969	21,500	92,469
Gagnon, Eric S & Gagnon, Suzanne M	05-29-01	5,120	0	0	5,120
Gagnon, Ronald A & Gagnon, Cynthia L	05-29-0	29,529	195,324	21,500	203,353
Gagnon, Ronald A & Gagnon, Cynthia L	05-29-04	20,209	28,524	0	48,733
Gardner, Robert E & Gardner, Deborah P	02-01-02	35,386	84,388	21,500	98,274
Gardner, Robert E & Gardner, Deborah P	03-28-0	20,544	22,154	0	42,698
Gardner, Tina M & Gardner, Robert J	06-07-02-01	24,500	162,573	21,500	165,573
Garland, Brittany J & McGraw, Joseph E	08-04-0	26,190	81,786	0	107,976
Geidel, Lance W & Geidel, Shelly	08-17-0	1,620	0	0	1,620
Geisser, Nathan A & Geisser, Molly	08-48-01	68,033	123,972	0	192,005
Genness, Fayelyne	10-18-01-02	21,858	6,640	26,660	1,838
Genness, Patrick J & Genness, Mary L	08-03-01-03	29,702	11,064	21,500	19,266
George, Carol et al	13-14-0	146,600	52,040	0	198,640
Gerrie, Steven A & Gerrie, Jean G	10-11-02	26,946	203,116	21,500	208,562
Gevecker, Karl, Trustee & Karl Gevecker Trust, The	15-23-0	119,485	68,226	0	187,711
Ghapco Inc	13-13-0	99,269	42,862	0	142,131
Ghaphery, Dr A.D. Maine Haven LLC	13-16-0	11,903	0	0	11,903
Ghaphery, Dr A.D. Maine Haven LLC	13-12-0	161,441	793,520	0	954,961
Gibson, James A & Gibson, Cynthia J	04-02-0	37,564	48,146	26,660	59,050
Gierczak, John M & Gierczak, Emma E	08-46-04	37,102	239,129	26,660	249,571
Gilbert Family Revocable Trust & Gilbert, A J & Carol A Trustees	09-20-0	48,658	87,325	0	135,983
Gilbert, A J & Carol A, Trustees & Gilbert Family Revocable Trust	09-07-0	27,726	156,675	0	184,401
Gilbert, Donald G & Gilbert, Lois L	13-21-0	103,216	25,479	0	128,695
Gilbert, Marc & Gilbert, Corina	09-19-05	48,257	23,525	0	71,782
Gilbert, Michele A & Gilbert, Steven C	08-29-01-01	29,000	171,691	21,500	179,191
Gilman, Gerald W	07-10-0	45,170	132,944	26,660	151,454
Gilmore, Michael J	07-40-01	36,540	22,987	21,500	38,027
Goff, Nathan L & Davis, Jill	15-03-0	107,182	39,236	0	146,418
Goff, Nathan L & Davis, Jill	15-04-0	5,626	0	0	5,626
Goff, Nathan L & Davis, Jill	15-05-0	69,248	0	0	69,248
Goff, Nathan L & Davis, Jill	15-06-0	5,556	0	0	5,556
Goff, Nathan L	2-11-02	19,195	120,285	0	139,480
Goodwin, Robert E & Goodwin, Roberta	07-03-A	42,859	182,802	21,500	204,161
Gould, Richard B Jr	10-18-05	10,447	0	0	10,447
Gould, Richard B Jr	10-18-07	5,235	0	0	5,235
Gove, Alan T & Gove, Nancy J	07-20-08	39,354	0	0	39,354
Gove, Jesse A, Trustee & Gove Family Irrevocable Trust	11-14-0	20,952	95,946	21,500	95,398
Grant, Janice L	07-32-03-01	25,930	130,421	21,500	134,851
Greaney, Scott R	09-01-0	57,200	135,960	21,500	171,660
Greenblatt & Lufkin Enterprises	15-26-0	162,550	31,974	0	194,524
Greer, Donald & Greer, Lillian	01-16-02	17,210	0	0	17,210
Gunnarsson, Bjarki	09-06-0	28,752	51,787	21,500	59,039
Hagar, Bradford H & Hagar, Patricia C	09-12-01	11,500	0	0	11,500
Hagar, Bradford H & Hagar, Patricia C	09-17-0	42,554	0	0	42,554
Hager, Bradford H & Hager, Patricia C	09-18-0	29,100	202,441	21,500	210,041
Hager, Bradford H & Hager, Patricia C	09-11-0	11,428	0	0	11,428
Hallee, Jean	06-05-0	14,800	0	0	14,800
Hampton, Jennifer L	08-30-01	24,500	78,567	21,500	81,567
Harris, Nina & Harris, Robert	07-44-01	22,300	83,515	26,660	79,155
Harvey, Charles & Harvey, Kathleen	06-17-05	16,000	0	0	16,000
Harvey, Charles G & Harvey, Kathleen F S	06-17-04	16,996	0	0	16,996
Harvey, Charles G & Harvey, Kathleen F S	06-19-0	39,240	118,191	21,500	135,931
Hasenkopf, Harald & Hasenkopf, Maren	13-35-0	78,334	56,440	0	134,774
Hasenkopf, Harald J & Hassenkopf, Maren	13-37-02	1,611	0	0	1,611
Hayden, Wanda M	01-09-01	32,920	104,805	21,500	116,225
Hayes, Elizabeth T & Nosach, Geoffrey M	07-20-01-A	16,900	0	0	16,900
Hayes, Elizabeth T	07-58-0	20,911	28,766	21,500	28,177
Haynes, Jerry D & Haynes, Barbara A	14-19-0	140,548	33,782	0	174,330
Headwaters LLC	06-35-0	3,123	0	0	3,123
Healy, Matthew J	08-03-03	37,890	522,850	0	560,740

Healy, Stephen L. & Healy, Laura A., Healy Family Revocable Trust	2-01-04	14,300	1,188	0	15,488
Hebert, Jennifer Zweig	05-04-0	233	0	0	233
Henderson, Bonita L	11-21-0	13,423	0	0	13,423
Hendrix, Ralph W & Hendrix, Melanie A	06-32-0	45,720	106,328	21,500	130,548
Herbert, Joshua L & Herbert, Michelle L	09-05-0	21,325	63,517	0	84,842
Herbert, Joshua L & Herbert, Michelle L	09-05-04	21,000	19,732	21,500	19,232
Heywood, William H., Jr.	06-03-02	23,600	18,484	0	42,084
Hilton, Alan & Hilton, Elaine	10-06-01	19,000	43,853	26,660	36,193
Hilton, Elaine T	10-18-02	5,113	0	0	5,113
Hilton, Kristy L & Hilton, Jason A	10-20-0	61,908	30,370	0	92,278
Hinkel, Gary B	03-08-0	14,181	2,786	0	16,967
Hinkley, Clyde L & Hinkley, Mary F	02-12-0	338,040	47,986	0	386,026
Hinkley, Nadine G & Hinkley, Adam L	02-13-01	231,144	24,165	0	255,309
Hobbs, Tracey & Hobbs, Alan	03-29-0	27,000	68,280	0	95,280
Holt, Christopher & Chapin, Sally L	06-01-0	41,736	154,796	21,500	175,032
Hooper, Joel R	02-04-0	768	0	0	768
Hooper, Joel R	03-27-0	42,850	189,048	21,500	210,398
Howard, Martha E & Howard, Scott D II	09-05-01	58,691	0	0	58,691
Howard, Martha E & Howard, Scott D II	09-26-0	97,844	0	0	97,844
Howard, Martha E & Howard, Scott D II	08-50-0	26,340	0	0	26,340
Howard, Martha E & Turk, Emily L	07-52-0	62,680	0	0	62,680
Howard, Martha E & Howard, Scott D II	08-35-0	17,400	0	0	17,400
Howard, Samuel J & Howard, Lorri L	05-18-0	27,000	44,757	0	71,757
Howard, Scott D & Howard, Martha E	07-31-0	22,430	79,964	0	102,394
Howard, Scott D II & Howard, Julia E	07-32-06	37,318	180,079	0	217,397
Howard, Scott D II & Howard, Julia E	07-48-02	29,714	75,752	0	105,466
Howard, Scott D II & Howard, Julia E	05-18-01	37,888	0	0	37,888
Howard, Scott D II & Howard, Julia E	03-17-0	52,900	85,389	0	138,289
Howard, Scott D III	05-18-02	38,860	29,946	21,500	47,306
Howard, Scott D III	07-14-10	17,544	0	0	17,544
Howard, Scott D Sr & Howard, Martha E	12-02-0	25,800	76,883	26,660	76,023
Howard, Scott D Sr & Howard, Martha E	07-32-01	37,510	29,844	0	67,354
Howard, Scott D Sr & Howard, Martha E	05-12-0	19,640	0	0	19,640
Howard, Scott D Sr & Martha E	03-06-0	31,844	0	0	31,844
Howard, Scott D Sr & Martha E	03-03-0	38,540	0	0	38,540
Huang, Sushan	01-05-0	25,920	59,346	0	85,266
Hubach, Frederick W & Hubach, Wilma	15-10-0	354,078	223,029	0	577,107
Hunter, Virginia C	04-05-0	52,887	0	0	52,887
Hurley, Bruce E & Hurley, Dari D	07-44-0	34,920	209,522	21,500	222,942
Hurley, Dari D	07-45-0	22,560	0	0	22,560
Hurley, Dari D & Hurley, Bruce E	07-46-0	23,730	0	0	23,730
Jackson, Jeffrey A	07-42-04-A	3,085	0	0	3,085
Jacobson, Deborah M & Mollica, Philip Gerard	09-30-0	28,400	88,749	0	117,149
Jalbert, Henry & Jalbert, Myrna	10-20-B-02	23,614	122,239	26,660	119,193
Jones, Caleb M	06-03-05-01	26,812	5,468	0	32,280
Jones, Fe B	06-03-04	29,239	87,338	26,660	89,917
Jones, Suzanne V & Jones, Russell K	10-11-03-A	22,493	114,982	21,500	115,975
Juskewitch, Jason	02-10-04	24,087	69,121	21,500	71,708
Juskewitch, Sherwood & Juskewitch, Dawn	15-12-0	145,556	69,482	21,500	193,538
Keay, Patricia A	01-21-0	18,170	20,971	21,500	17,641
Kennedy, Lance	03-16-0	25,882	29,910	21,500	34,292
Kevett, Harry F III, Trustee & Harry Kevett III Living Trust, The	13-28-0	133,530	34,460	0	167,990
Keyser, Dennis N & Myrick, Rosalie E	10-05-02	36,400	109,867	21,500	124,767
Kimball, Deane A, Trustee & Kimball Revocable Trust, The	01-16-01	27,880	0	0	27,880
King, Robin L & Gondela, John C	02-18-0	202,229	55,300	0	257,529
Kitchen, Stephen & Kitchen, Martha	10-09-01	31,372	151,934	21,500	161,806
Kitchen, Stephen & Kitchen, Martha	10-15-02	11,500	340	0	11,840
Knauf, Donald J, Juliette P/Donald J Knauf Revocable Living	13-30-0	139,910	80,286	0	220,196
Knight, Bradford S & Knight, Zachary L	04-05-03-A	15,346	0	0	15,346
Knoernschild, Nadine	08-16-0	19,800	0	0	19,800
Konoff, Abraham D & Konoff, Rhoda F	10-12-0	21,498	0	0	21,498
Krajewski, Jerzy H	07-42-05-A	14,475	0	0	14,475

Ladd, Bert D	09-36-0	21,000	0	0	21,000
Ladd, Blacke D	10-27-01	22,900	19,895	21,500	21,295
Ladd, Earle J	01-18-0	30,820	0	0	30,820
Lafaialii, Siuleo F & Lafaialii, Rebecca I	08-38-01	23,800	135,376	21,500	137,676
LaFrance, Denise A & Rancourt, Gerard Rancourt Family Living Trust	13-10-0	132,637	57,789	0	190,426
Lagasse, Irwin D	06-12-0	28,440	100,758	21,500	107,698
Lagasse, Linwood & Lagasse, Shirley	06-14-0	34,000	90,833	21,500	103,333
Lagasse, Linwood & Lagasse, Shirley	06-11-01	52,368	0	0	52,368
Lakeman, Dean F & Bouchard, Jennifer K	10-21-01	22,340	0	0	22,340
Lamarre, Brenton F	08-45-0	51,120	101,659	21,500	131,279
LaMarre, Edward & LaMarre, Sandra	06-17-03	23,932	45,887	21,500	48,319
Lambert, Dennis & Lambert Sharon	05-03-0	12,750	0	0	12,750
Lambert, Dennis & Lambert, Sharon	07-34-0	36,918	126,078	26,660	136,336
Lambert, Dillon J & Labbe, Ciera B	09-06-02	18,160	2,047	0	20,207
Lambert, Guinevere S & Corson, Janice D	11-26-0	29,898	99,334	26,660	102,572
Lambert, Sharon R & Farley, Deborah	07-05-0	56,520	46,686	0	103,206
Lambert, Sharon R & Farley, Deborah	07-19-0	41,460	0	0	41,460
Lamphere, Joel	09-10-0	40,429	102,426	21,500	121,355
Lamphere, Joel T	09-15-01	48,139	155,867	0	204,006
Lancaster (Poirier), Deborah Rae	05-13-0	20,300	84,057	21,500	82,857
Landry, Evan Michael	07-48-01B-01	15,580	0	0	15,580
Landry, Mary E, Est & Alexson, Shane & Doane, David A, PR	07-48-01	40,611	80,670	21,500	99,781
Langlais, Bernard T & Langlais, Beth E	02-07-0	15,800	2,822	0	18,622
Langlais, Dale H & Langlais, Kathleen L	02-10-03	2,893	0	0	2,893
Langlais, Dale H & Langlais, Kathleen L	04-05-01	34,019	130,300	21,500	142,819
Langlais, Paul & Langlais, Lynne M	15-14-0	183,885	124,583	0	308,468
LaPlante, Frederick & LaPlante, Beatrice	02-03-0	32,100	198,310	26,660	203,750
LaPointe, Daryl & LaPointe, Denise	07-03-05	17,020	0	0	17,020
Lapointe, Laura T	04-12-0	41,460	0	0	41,460
Lapointe, Ronald	04-08-01	30,620	90,911	21,500	100,031
Lapointe, Ronald	04-12-02	36,060	0	0	36,060
Lavoie, George A & Lavoie, Michelle	02-08-09	25,218	31,965	0	57,183
Lawrence, Richard & Lawrence, Sandra	02-19-0	197,048	76,218	0	273,266
LeBlanc, Scott	04-08-0	23,340	135,896	0	159,236
LeBlanc, Scott	04-08-C	49,830	0	0	49,830
LeClair, Leo R	08-01-01-B	0	35,946	21,500	14,446
LeClerc, Robert J	01-21-01	12,020	0	0	12,020
Leib, Donald T	15-01-0	105,458	7,909	0	113,367
Leib, Donald T	15-02-0	4,750	0	0	4,750
Leighton, Larry C, Couture, Lance, & Draper, Tina	02-08-01-02	22,340	0	0	22,340
Leo, Christopher & Leo, Heather M	01-08-0	42,740	97,571	21,500	118,811
Leo, Christopher & Leo, Heather M	01-13-01	29,235	0	0	29,235
Leo, Danielle J	07-14-B	25,852	104,184	0	130,036
Leonard, Jared & Pucillo, Eva	07-20-02	17,200	3,808	0	21,008
Levesque, Maurice R	06-22-01	29,140	28,921	21,500	36,561
Lindeman, Joshua M & Lindeman, Robin M	08-34-05	31,810	64,875	0	96,685
Little, Heidi J & Picard, Gary	05-16-C-1	22,601	58,343	0	80,944
Loabe, Richard L II	01-18-02	27,948	100,954	0	128,902
Loadwick, Richard E & Loadwick, Annie M	11-01-0	22,417	27,275	21,500	28,192
Lovejoy, Frank E & Rita G, Trustees Lovejoy Family Revocable Trust	13-39-0	77,514	10,800	0	88,314
Luke, Carter J, & Schiller, Darlene D, & Luke-Schiller Living Trust	15-08-0	557,107	138,369	0	695,476
Lynds (Beaugard), Julie J	07-17-01	40,109	105,694	0	145,803
Lynds, Julie B	07-18-0	70,280	34,972	0	105,252
Magnani, Gino, Heirs of	08-28-0	16,100	0	0	16,100
Mallette, Robert	02-01-07	30,490	9,956	21,500	18,946
Malo, Glenn F, Thomas R & Ronald J	10-18-09	33,275	1,000	0	34,275
Mannett, Andrew J	09-12-0	10,336	0	0	10,336
Mannett, Andrew J	09-17-01	12,800	0	0	12,800
Mannett, Thomas W Jr & Nancy A,	09-16-0	24,340	0	0	24,340
Manter, Lura Ann	06-38-0	26,700	50,056	21,500	55,256
Manter, LuraAnn	06-39-0	18,000	0	0	18,000
Marcue, Bryan C & Grant, Heidi J & Marcue, Louise	08-14-0	30,060	65,745	21,500	74,305

Marquis, Scott	02-13-0	261,790	44,139	0	305,929
Martelli, Gina	05-15-0	38,920	0	0	38,920
Martin, Janice	04-02-04	11,500	0	0	11,500
Martin, Karen & Martin, Todd	07-57-0	31,435	38,928	0	70,363
Martin, Sharon A	04-02-03	23,500	50,378	21,500	52,378
Maynard, Nathanael G	07-20-01-01	17,850	0	0	17,850
Mayo, Wayne M & Mayo, Pamela S	04-02-02	25,593	153,521	21,500	157,614
Mayou, Terry A	06-03-B-01	26,294	39,841	21,500	44,635
McBey, Kelly A	01-16-04	36,374	75,637	0	112,011
McCartney, Douglas F & McCartney, Kimberlee S, Trustees	15-21-0	120,442	209,550	0	329,992
McDermott, Cynthia D & Wass, Loren W	04-14-0	19,650	26,039	0	45,689
McDermott, Cynthia D & Wass, Loren W	14-08-0	130,340	62,253	0	192,593
McDermott, Robert & McDermott, Cynthia D	08-46-0	52,583	176,272	21,500	207,355
McGlashing, James & McGlashing, Theresa	09-33-0	21,000	51,957	21,500	51,457
McKechnie, Aime A & McKechnie, Suzan C	04-06-01	11,630	30,643	0	42,273
McKechnie, Suzan C & McKechnie, Aime V	13-20-0	148,735	78,517	21,500	205,752
McNair, Wesley & McNair, Diane	11-24-0	23,600	75,494	21,500	77,594
Medeiros, Victor & Medeiros, Vidalia	07-14-08	19,962	0	0	19,962
Medeiros, Victor & Medeiros, Vidalia	07-28-03	14,696	0	0	14,696
Medeiros, Victor & Medeiros, Vidalia	07-14-11	2,358	0	0	2,358
Mehrhoff, Nora L & Mehrhoff, Charles W	10-11-02-A	22,373	165,543	21,500	166,416
Mendoza, Andres D & Mendoza, Sandra J	07-32-07	20,040	76,964	0	97,004
Meola, Earl F & Meola, Nancy L	07-55-0	42,653	7,883	0	50,536
Meola, Earle F & Meola, Nancy L	05-08-0	11,695	0	0	11,695
Meola, Earle F & Meola, Nancy L	05-05-0	26,188	35,402	0	61,590
Meola, Earle F & Meola, Nancy L	01-09-0	54,740	795	0	55,535
Merrrow, R Loring, Liss, Joanna C, R Loring Merrrow Trust	01-16-0	41,510	605	0	42,115
Merry, Frederick W & Merry, Bonny	04-10-0	34,748	100,879	21,500	114,127
Merry, Frederick W & Merry, Bonny	04-11-0	108,420	1,332	0	109,752
Meunier, Adam W	07-29-B	21,000	84,606	21,500	84,106
Meunier, Linda & Meunier, Wayne D	10-05-01	22,500	71,863	0	94,363
Meunier, Wayne D & Meunier, Linda T	10-05-B	19,000	121,762	21,500	119,262
Meyer, Bruce & Meyer, Carol	04-01-B-01	36,540	123,420	21,500	138,460
Miller, Chriss L & Miller, Sarah	10-01-0	26,980	116,566	21,500	122,046
Miller, Chriss L & Miller, Sarah C	10-26-0	48,452	49,514	0	97,966
Miller, Eli J & Miller, Mattie M	09-37-0	53,440	169,931	0	223,371
Miller, John E & Miller, Frances M	09-27-0	47,848	42,047	0	89,895
Mills, Scott A & Lora E, Trustees Scott A Mills Living Trust	10-07-0	26,500	0	0	26,500
Moore, Steven W	07-20-03	31,100	91,779	21,500	101,379
Moore, Steven W	07-20-04	26,700	41,811	0	68,511
Morabito, Daniel G	01-09-02	21,640	0	0	21,640
Morey, Allen & Morey, Lenore	04-05-02	23,579	73,119	21,500	75,198
Morey, Allen R & Morey, Lenore M	13-37-01	1,611	0	0	1,611
Morin, Bradley J	10-14-01	30,048	173,594	0	203,642
Mosher, Chad E & Gagnon-Mosher, Elizabeth E	01-13-0	24,149	16,740	0	40,889
Mosher, Gary D & Mosher, Michele L	07-42-01-A	26,278	52,011	0	78,289
Mukai Revocable Living Trust, Kenneth	07-50-0	29,221	96,937	21,500	104,658
Mullens, Shawn & Mullens, Lee Ann	08-01-03-A	14,254	0	0	14,254
Mullens, Shawn & Mullens, Lee Ann	08-01-03	38,826	215,640	0	254,466
Mumma, Jeffrey & Mumma, Sarah	02-01-03-01	14,202	0	0	14,202
Murch, Richard C	10-18-01-01	2,560	0	0	2,560
Murray, Reginald T & Barbara A, & Murray Revocable Trust	13-25-0	109,286	62,831	21,500	150,617
Murray, Reginald T & Barbara A, & Murray Revocable Trust	13-39-01	11,452	0	0	11,452
Muse, Deborah	06-21-01	18,722	0	0	18,722
Nadeau, Gerald P Nadeau, Richard A	13-26-0	152,255	29,728	0	187,983
Neal, Dennis C	09-19-03	25,938	232,561	0	258,499
Neubauer, Jon C & Jay S & Neubauer, Jeffrey S	06-03-B	23,951	27,887	0	51,838
Nichols, Thomas & Nichols, Amanda	08-21-0	21,000	115,666	21,500	115,166
Nicolson, Tyler	09-13-0	28,060	54,219	0	82,279
Norberto, Mark & Norberto, Shelly	09-05-02	28,700	114,693	21,500	121,893
Northrup, Dean Jr	07-14-09	30,482	102,972	0	133,454
Northwoods Holding Company	07-20-07	42,682	551,323	0	594,005
Nunnally, Jesse & Joan & Hadley,	13-27-0	143,142	76,228	26,660	192,710

Oakes, Adam W	08-07-08	22,508	16,167	0	38,675
Obert, Dennis A & Obert, Joanne M	12-01-0	23,418	70,915	21,500	72,833
O'Brien, Linda & O'Brien, Walter	05-21-0	43,085	97,877	21,500	119,462
O'Brien, Onneke S & O'Brien, Michael T	06-28-01	421	0	0	421
O'Brien, Walter P & O'Brien, Linda	05-23-0	32,440	0	0	32,440
O'Brien, Walter P & O'Brien, Linda	05-24	20,092	139,259	21,500	137,851
Oliver, Holly & Foster, Chrystal J	07-02-A	0	10,920	10,920	0
Olson, Daniel A., Olson Family & Olson, Scott D	15-13-0	156,936	151,334	0	308,270
Osgood, Christopher A	07-09-0	40,579	106,558	21,500	125,637
Padham, Donald & Padham, Elizabeth	01-13-02-01	29,612	98,119	21,500	106,231
Page, Donald R & Page, Sharon J	14-04-0	114,700	51,758	0	166,458
Paradis, James & Paradis, Carla Olson	11-19-0	20,993	1,589	0	22,582
Paradis, James & Carla & Stratton	07-13-0	34,520	46,989	21,500	60,009
Paradise Inc	13-18-0	131,616	428	0	132,044
Parent, Doreen J & Parent, Randall Sr & Randall J II	02-01-09-02	39,305	132,290	21,500	150,095
Parent, Randall J. II	02-01-09	22,340	0	0	22,340
Parent, Randell J. II	02-01-09-01	13,400	0	0	13,400
Parker, Todd M & Parker, Laura A	08-40-01	23,800	222,666	21,500	224,966
Parlin, Kerry O PR, Estate of Richard K	07-11-0	62,730	24,335	0	87,065
Parlin, Ricky & Parlin, Donna	08-07-0	40,653	0	0	40,653
Parlin, Ricky & Parlin, Donna L	06-07-0	45,969	0	0	45,969
Parlin, Ricky J & Parlin, Donna	08-47-0	25,116	72,503	26,660	70,959
Parlin, Roger	07-47-0	13,353	0	0	13,353
Parlin, Roger J	06-17-01	33,574	102,307	0	135,881
Parlin, Terry G & Parlin, Linda	06-15-0	25,960	0	0	25,960
Parlin, Verna	07-08-0	50,580	76,418	26,660	100,338
Parlin, Verna	07-15-0	28,500	0	0	28,500
Partridge, Barry D & Partridge, Adina L	02-11-01	27,380	0	0	27,380
Partridge, Barry D & Partridge, Adina L	14-14-01	77,670	0	0	77,670
Patten, Jason A & Michelle B & Zeif,	07-14-01	31,238	221,294	21,500	231,032
Peace, Rebecca A & Charles, Daniel L	11-07-0	29,124	54,499	26,660	56,963
Perotti, Christopher	08-46-01	46,520	287,410	0	333,930
Perrault, Roxanne C & Perrault, James P	14-06-0	109,286	56,812	0	166,098
Perrault, Steven & Perrault, Janet	07-43-0	24,500	50,596	21,500	53,596
Perry, Jesse E & Cynthia J, Trustees & Perry Family Trust, The	07-06-0	34,980	0	0	34,980
Phelps, Zachary A	07-03-06	23,044	0	0	23,044
Pierce, Donald I & Margaret S, & Pierce Family Living Trust, The	06-42-0	28,440	105,878	21,500	112,818
Pierce, Donald I & Margaret S, & Pierce Family Living Trust, The	07-52-02	15,850	0	0	15,850
Pierce, Douglas	06-42-02	26,440	52,391	21,500	57,331
Pinkham, Katherine T	06-03-03-01	26,400	36,614	21,500	41,514
Pitcher, Cheryl D & Pitcher, Terry E	05-31-0	19,318	0	0	19,318
Pitcher, Cheryl D & Pitcher, Terry E	07-40-0	45,708	175,303	26,660	194,351
Poirier, Frank III	05-16-B	19,750	0	0	19,750
Poirier, Michael C & Worthen, Valerie J	05-30-0	16,600	6,260	0	22,860
Poirier, Michael Cecil & Lancaster (Poirier), Deborah Rae	05-16-0	31,084	4,373	0	35,457
Poole, JoAnn R, Trustee & JoAnn R Poole Revocable Trust, The	14-15-0	168,620	55,291	0	223,911
Potratz, Charles A	08-13-0	30,432	8,827	0	39,259
Poudrier, Albert D & Poudrier, Bethany A	04-02-01	31,840	42,102	26,660	47,282
Poulin, Dwayne H & Poulin, Sandra D	05-30-01	15,400	0	0	15,400
Powser, David A Jr & Powser, Gina N	09-25-0	19,000	113,748	21,500	111,248
Pratt, John B, Jane A, Trustees John & Jane Pratt Living Trust	08-37-0	70,240	0	0	70,240
Price, Justin	08-01-01-B-01	20,861	0	0	20,861
Proulx, David D & Laura Doughty & Lesley Snyder	04-13-04	13,491	0	0	13,491
Proulx, David D & Laura Doughty & Lesley Snyder	13-06-0	119,217	90,590	0	209,807
Provost, Tara	08-07-03	27,636	95,172	21,500	101,308
Puccio, Carmen & Puccio, Norma	04-01-0	32,380	87,218	21,500	98,098
Ramsey, Edward A Jr & Ramsey, Doris F	08-48-0	28,440	7,839	0	36,279
Rancourt, Gerard R, Lafrance, Denise Rancourt Family Living Trust	04-13-02	13,452	0	0	13,452
Ray, Nicole L	07-29-01	27,000	110,658	21,500	116,158
Ray, Nicole L	07-29-02	14,726	0	0	14,726
Redlevske, Casaundra B	07-01-02	13,482	0	0	13,482
Redlevske, Casaundra B	07-01-0	39,283	87,648	21,500	105,431
Redlevske, Casaundra B & Redlevske, Brent L	07-01-01	20,982	8,999	0	29,981

Redlevske, Duncan H	07-23-A	32,784	0	0	32,784
Redlevske, Norman G	07-23-0	25,200	132,594	21,500	136,294
Redlevske, William J & Redlevske, Monica E	03-01-0	20,180	0	0	20,180
Redlevske, Wilmer E & Redlevske, Marlene J	07-56-0	35,200	168,670	21,500	182,370
Reed, Stephen Alan Trustee & Stephen Reed Revocable Trust	02-02-0	52,040	0	0	52,040
Reed, Stephen Alan Trustee & Stephen Reed Revocable Trust	03-32-0	130,682	14,946	0	145,628
Reed, Stephen Alan Trustee & Stephen Reed Revocable Trust	02-01-12	33,518	0	0	33,518
Reed, Stephen Alan Trustee & Stephen Reed Revocable Trust	15-28-0	13,099	15,623	0	28,722
Reed, Stephen Alan Trustee & Stephen Reed Revocable Trust	15-24-0	182,731	82,316	0	265,047
Reed, Trustee, Stephen Alan & Stephen Reed Revocable Trust	02-10-0	50,453	0	0	50,453
Reynolds, Frederick C Jr	10-20-B-01	16,000	0	0	16,000
Reynolds, Renee E	11-04-02	27,750	117,319	0	145,069
Richard, Jordan M & Richard, Tracy L	09-19-02	27,264	43,624	21,500	49,388
Roach, Walter III & Roach, Pamela	10-18-04	16,270	0	0	16,270
Robinson, Jill A Lufkin & Robinsin, William J	15-25-0	187,156	299,983	26,660	460,479
Rogercol Properties LLC	07-20-01	38,215	154,526	0	192,741
Rollins, Sherrill M	11-30-0	20,853	74,514	21,500	73,867
Rosado, Ruthann	13-19-0	189,920	81,184	0	271,104
Rosado, Ruthann	04-06-04	12,800	0	0	12,800
Ross, Doreen	08-03-04	13,630	0	0	13,630
Ross, Nancy A	07-26-0	28,440	118,422	21,500	125,362
Roy, Arthur D	08-07-01	20,280	0	0	20,280
Ryder, Jeffrey L & Houllahan, Lisa	11-03-0	22,664	120,630	21,500	121,794
Sadler, Lyndon & Sadler, Cherie L	07-48-02-01	21,273	80,390	21,500	80,163
Saltmarsh & Gunnarsson LLC	08-49-0	43,962	297,906	0	341,868
Sanagorski, Thomas	08-43-0	28,114	59,382	0	87,496
Schilling, Brian & Schilling, Traci B	08-31-0	36,540	13,504	0	50,044
Schilling, Brian J & Schilling, Traci B	08-33-0	36,940	180,757	21,500	196,197
Schmidt, Eric A & Akerberg, Maile Bilke	14-17-0	146,600	49,636	0	196,236
Schutte, Peter & Schutte, Pamela T	08-46-03	6,964	2,370	0	9,334
Schuyler, William C	09-28-A	0	10,883	0	10,883
Shields, Merrill K & Shields, Violet L	11-18-0	24,591	49,812	26,660	47,743
Short, Gerald L & Macarthur, Ashley A	07-14-05	13,799	0	0	13,799
Shute, Cole D	08-07-02	26,266	22,521	0	48,787
Sigersmith, John J & Sigersmith, Lucy A	09-19-04	17,920	0	0	17,920
Sigersmith, John J & Sigersmith, Lucy A	09-09-0	31,701	119,162	26,660	124,203
Simpson, Margaret & Simpson, Jeffrey	14-13-0	111,984	42,634	0	154,618
Slongwhite, Glenn P & Luce, Eric P &	04-48-01-A	38,830	0	0	38,830
Smart, Andrew D & Smart (Smith), Holly A	10-15-01	20,020	0	0	20,020
Smith, Jean Marie	06-29-0	70,700	175,102	21,500	224,302
Smith, Roger	15-27-0	150,115	0	0	150,115
Smith, Roger P	10-13-0	64,840	0	0	64,840
Smith, Sandra J W	07-42-03	17,800	0	0	17,800
Smith, Vincent P	03-16-02	29,400	41,873	0	71,273
Somerset Telephone Property Tax	11-05-0	33,701	3,895	0	37,596
Spiller, Brian R Jr	05-20-0	20,200	4,844	0	25,044
Stanford Family Trust	05-02-0	54,470	0	0	54,470
Stanton, Scott R	06-11-0	26,307	83,674	0	109,981
Steuber, Chad & Steuber, Rebecca	02-08-02	19,926	0	0	19,926
Stevens, Roger E Jr	01-14-0	21,640	0	0	21,640
Stevens, Roger E Jr & Stevens, Stacy L	14-21-0	78,024	35,056	0	113,080
Steward, James A & Steward, Secha Eileen	06-17-02	25,300	150,626	21,500	154,426
Storms, Pamela E & Storms, Mark Lewis	08-03-02	31,994	77,988	0	109,982
Storms, Pamela E, Trustee & , Storms, M Carlton Storms Trust	06-18-0	32,888	124,987	21,500	136,375
Storro, Ryan R & Storro, Carole L, & November Revocable Trust	13-37-0	12,436	0	0	12,436
Storro, Ryan R & Storro, Carole L, & November Revocable Trust	13-38-0	11,500	0	0	11,500
Storro, Ryan R & Storro, Carole L, & November Revocable Trust	13-32-0	173,059	46,116	21,500	197,675
Strom Family Trust, The	04-13-01-01	87,374	0	0	87,374
Stroman, Jeffrey D & Stroman, Kathryn Pierce	07-52-02-01	25,568	118,855	21,500	122,923
Sullivan, Michael F & Ashton, Karen J	14-05-0	167,682	92,349	21,500	238,531
Surette, Ralph H & Surette, John H	09-19-07	19,496	0	0	19,496
Sweeney, Michael S Jr	11-12-0	21,000	47,793	0	68,793

Tagle, Betina Jae & Edwards, Steven W	07-03-02	32,901	165,439	0	198,340
Tardy (Cherkassky), Amy	08-01-01-B	28,348	77,258	0	105,606
Tardy (Cherkassky), Amy	08-01-02	16,750	0	0	16,750
Taylor, Paul H, Heirs of	02-10-02	14,289	0	0	14,289
Taylor, Richard L	05-10-0	15,200	0	0	15,200
Telecky, Barbara	08-07-06	27,414	37,590	21,500	43,504
Tetreault, Mary	08-03-01-01	23,520	65,031	21,500	67,051
Thacher, Laura A	08-22-0	35,000	93,752	0	128,752
Thomas, Arthur S & Mary A	08-29-0	36,594	60,177	21,500	75,271
Thomas, Lowell W & Thomas, M Patricia	08-29-01	50,786	197,781	21,500	227,067
Thomas, Maurice E	05-25-0	51,064	95,717	26,660	120,121
Thomas, Maurice E	05-27-0	3,850	0	0	3,850
Thompson, Zachary T & Thompson, Amanda J	07-42-04	28,170	152,296	21,500	158,966
Tibbetts, Charles E & Tibbetts, Earla F	03-12-0	26,440	100,948	21,500	105,888
Tibbetts, Heather M	08-34-04	13,446	0	0	13,446
Tibbetts, James A & Tibbetts, Sheila C	06-24-0	22,500	81,335	21,500	82,335
Tibbetts, Jason & Tibbetts, Danielle	06-07-02-02	23,500	201,010	21,500	203,010
Tibbetts, Jason	09-24-0	3,200	0	0	3,200
Tibbetts, Jason	09-34-0	20,940	0	0	20,940
Tibbetts, Robert B Jr & Tibbetts, Amy A	07-38-0	21,624	89,749	21,500	89,873
Tibbetts, Robert B Jr & Tibbetts, Amy A	07-39-0	35,088	0	0	35,088
Tibbetts-Krupa, Debra L	05-06-0	55,600	37,746	0	93,346
Tibbetts-Krupa, Debra L	05-07-0	86,440	0	0	86,440
Tobin, Gerald D & Tobin, Kristine F	09-08-0	24,340	0	0	24,340
Toth, Vance A & Toth, Heather A	06-02-0	34,348	39,849	0	74,197
Toupin, Paul R	01-22-0	50,960	0	0	50,960
Tracy, David w	11-02-01	29,198	96,260	21,500	103,958
Tracy, David W & Jamie L	07-30-01	28,440	34,811	0	63,251
Tracy, Deborah L	01-05-01	26,424	92,034	21,500	96,958
Tracy, Derek C	07-13-01	21,000	12,939	0	33,939
Tracy, Derek C	11-22-0	18,782	24,610	21,500	21,892
Tracy, Derek Cecil Sr	11-16-0	21,780	17,057	0	38,837
Tracy, Spencer R	13-03-0	136,876	14,474	0	151,350
Tremblay, Eugene & Tremblay, Sherri	02-10-01	24,011	26,741	0	50,752
Trepanier, Roland & Trepanier, Michael	13-07-0	80,576	16,402	0	96,978
True, Derek Michael & Shoemaker, Wm True Irrevocable Trust	10-05-0	30,000	165,552	21,500	174,052
True, Earl R & Hilton, Jason A	10-23-0	9,233	0	0	9,233
True, Earl R, Hilton, Elaine & Hilton,	14-16-0	111,200	8,528	0	119,728
True, Norris A & Brown, Margaret F T	06-33-0	8,748	0	0	8,748
Turk, Emily	07-53-0	20,300	56,588	0	76,888
Turk, Emily	07-30-04	34,650	59,832	0	94,482
Turk, Emily L	07-52-03	19,000	145,229	21,500	142,729
Turk, William & Turk, Nancy	10-11-01	17,380	0	0	17,380
Turner, Daren	08-18-0	44,553	25,536	0	70,089
Van Burgel, Barbara J	05-14-0	41,560	116,292	21,500	136,352
Van Burgel, David P & Scott, Kathy J	03-10-0	41,200	112,368	21,500	132,068
VanSoest, Nathan J & VanSoest, Stephanie	06-42-01	26,440	72,849	0	99,289
Varney (Hunt), Harriett	06-32-B	50,740	42,412	21,500	71,652
Vasvary, Kenny & Vasvary, Christy	06-10-0	24,900	62,751	21,500	66,151
Veilleux, Dustin & Veilleux (Gagne), Samantha	07-17-03	33,107	120,389	21,500	131,996
Veilleux, Jeffrey S	07-17-04	29,512	118,076	21,500	126,088
Veilleux, Richard P & Cathy A	02-08-01	39,998	0	0	39,998
Violette, John P & Violette, Yolanda C R	06-40-0	18,000	0	0	18,000
Violette, John P & Violette, Yolanda C R	06-08-0	20,326	25,807	0	46,133
Violette, John P & Violette, Yolanda C R	08-41-0	21,602	0	0	21,602
Violette, John P & Violette, Yolanda C R	08-07-04	28,170	125,572	21,500	132,242
Violette, John P & Violette, Yolanda C R	08-35-A	18,000	0	0	18,000
Voelkel, William	05-19-0	36,382	0	0	36,382
Vogt, Thomas E & Prescott, Ellen R	03-08-01	29,080	67,400	21,500	74,980
Waggoner, Robert	07-04-0	34,478	166,180	21,500	179,158
Wallace, Kenneth & Wallace, Iva Jane	14-18-0	114,700	102,190	21,500	195,390
Walter, Tina	08-03-0	57,329	253,939	0	311,268
Warren Brothers Construction	11-10-0	20,907	115,600	0	136,507

Warren, Charles C Jr	10-03-0	18,975	86,279	21,500	83,754
Warren, Charles C Jr	10-02-0	22,575	22,029	0	44,604
Warren, Charlie C & Warren, Jaunetta M	09-02-0	31,140	134,566	21,500	144,206
Warren, Terry W & Warren, Melody	01-07-0	37,728	148,039	21,500	164,267
Waterman, Alan H & Waterman, Maudine M	01-13-02	26,886	59,708	21,500	65,094
Watson, Russell W III	05-31-01	40,480	112,135	21,500	131,115
Watson, Russell W Jr & Watson, Joanne P	02-01-03	33,438	61,907	21,500	73,845
Waycome, Kaylee M & MacDonald, Lawrence W Jr	08-15-0	32,220	119,952	0	152,172
Weaver, Timothy J & Brunjes, Carol J & Weaver/Brunjes Revocable Living	14-10-0	146,600	96,819	0	243,419
Weisel, Hillel Y & Weisel, Audra L	13-11-0	97,857	122,883	0	220,740
Weisher, Kara M	07-54-0	21,480	0	0	21,480
Welch, David A & Welch, Debra P	07-49-0	21,000	70,384	21,500	69,884
Wellington, Patricia A	01-18-02-01	23,904	110,152	21,500	112,556
Wells, Cheryl L & Wells, Patrick V	14-09-0	142,772	84,525	21,500	205,797
Wenniger Revocable Trust of 2013 & Wenninger, Ray M	15-18-0	110,399	0	0	110,399
Wenninger Family Revocable Trust of 2014, Trustee of the West, Dolores	15-19-0	109,442	0	0	109,442
Whipple, Cara	02-08-05	24,710	26,732	0	51,442
Whitney, Bryan K, Pray, Sidne & Dunphy, Darcy Jo	09-19-01	27,192	74,569	0	101,761
White, Rachel E	04-03-01	25,334	138,228	21,500	142,062
White, Rachel E	09-28-02	22,300	86,860	21,500	87,660
Whitney, Mark & Whitney, Donice	09-23-0	41,560	142,506	26,660	157,406
Whitney, Stephen	03-31-0	31,718	91,768	26,660	96,826
Whittier, Scott M & Whittier, Matthew Scott	02-01-0	23,690	0	0	23,690
Wilde, Richard A	03-13-0	19,000	34,478	21,500	31,978
Williams, Gaylene M	07-56-01	13,500	59,826	0	73,326
Williamson, Jay Jr & Williamson, Kathryn E	07-36-0	22,290	0	0	22,290
Wilson, James A & Wilson, Diane A	06-09-0	22,900	22,732	26,660	18,972
Witham, Daniel M & Witham, Daniel M Jr	07-58-01	13,411	0	0	13,411
Witham, Lesley	06-20-0	25,040	0	0	25,040
Witham, Leslie L III	06-17-0	19,242	0	0	19,242
Wolf, Cody	10-25-0	34,540	60,894	0	95,434
Wood, Douglas & Wood, Kristina	13-34-0	70,834	80,874	0	151,708
Worthen, Valerie J	08-05-01	23,795	130,712	21,500	133,007
Worthen, Vernon E II & Worthen, Cindy A	08-05-0	73,098	85,637	0	158,735
Worthen, Vernon E II	08-07-07	15,380	0	0	15,380
Worthen, Vernon E II & Worthen, Cindy A	08-30-0	42,740	407,993	21,500	429,233
Worthen, Vernon E II & Worthen, Cindy A	08-38-0	98,860	0	0	98,860
Worthen-Redlevske (Worthen), Mellori	08-27-0	70,620	3,841	0	74,461
Worthen-Redlevske (Worthen), Mellori	08-24-0	51,720	12,852	0	64,572
Worthen-Redlevske (Worthen), Mellori	08-25-0	46,320	0	0	46,320
Worthen-Redlevske (Worthen), Mellori	08-08-0	21,000	86,348	21,500	85,848
Worthen-Redlevske (Worthen), Mellori	08-13-01	31,194	114,096	0	145,290
Worthen-Redlevske (Worthen), Mellori	08-11-0	64,080	41,278	0	105,358
Worthen-Redlevske (Worthen), Mellori	08-10-0	45,240	0	0	45,240
Wu, Yong Yuan	07-04-01-01	29,012	236,849	0	265,861
Yale, Henry I & Yale, Winifred M	13-09-0	80,576	47,893	0	128,469
Yates, Margaret A, Trustees	07-21-01	41,460	0	0	41,460
Yoder, Eli D & Yoder, Mattie M	10-06-0	36,216	95,534	0	131,750
Yoder, Eli D & Yoder, Mattie M	10-18-0	27,354	63,975	0	91,329
Young Kidd, Maureen E	07-40-02	26,446	0	0	26,446
Zajkowski, Jill & Zywica, Richard	07-07-0	25,500	124,684	21,500	128,684
Zambelli, Stephen	07-42-0	30,280	47,966	0	78,246
Zimmer Stout, Cynthia E, Zimmer,	06-29-B	33,300	124,097	0	157,397
		29,813,624	39,798,576	5,191,560	64,420,640

Annual Planning Board Letter to the Town for 2023

This year the Town of Mercer had a very busy year which included:

- #1 Everett - House addition - Planning Board
- #2 Dow - Elevating land, etc. - Planning Board
- #3 Storro - Cutting trees - CEO
- #4 Storro - Build garage - Planning Board
- #5 Foster/Lizotte - Garage - CEO
- #6 Wallace - Cut tree - CEO
- #7 Kate Borman Richardson – Rescinded – Planning Board
- #8 Whalen - Cut tree - CEO

The Planning Board is also in the middle of a solar project which was not finished this year but is running into the next year. We also have a new secretary, Nathan VanSoest, who replaced Harriet Varney. We would like to thank Fran for her many years of service she provided to this board. We look forward to working with Nathan as our new secretary. In addition, he has taken a dual position of a planning board alternate. Another change this year was Ryan Storro taking over the CEO position from Geoff Nosach. Ryan has been working with many of the applicants and doing site reviews. It is nice to have a CEO that has been proactive with the board. The Planning Board has also added audio recordings to our meetings making it easier for people to review the meetings and for the secretary to reference it for minutes once approved for the public.

This board would not run if not for the tireless efforts by all board members. I would like to give special thanks to Joan Nunnally and Hillel Weisel who helped me more than they needed, to get things done in my absence. Every board member has love for this town in their own way, and these are volunteered positions in which they didn't have to. It stills shows that the community involvement is strong here in Mercer which makes this town so special between neighbors helping neighbors and people working together to get the job done.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jason Juskewitch
Chairman of the Mercer Planning Board

Mercer Shaw Public Library - Annual Report 2023

The Mercer Shaw Library had a very exciting 2023! We received two substantial grants from the American Rescue Plan Act and the Stephen and Tabitha King Foundation. In partnership with the Maine State Library, these awards are specifically intended to facilitate “**Remote Work through Libraries**”; workspaces where residents can work remotely using high-speed Internet provided to public libraries by NetworkMaine. The Town Selectboard approved our expansion into the room adjacent to the library, and we have been working diligently with our staff and volunteers to renovate it. The space will offer semi-private digital workstations – using your devices or ours – upgraded printing capabilities, and a comfortable meeting room for up to twelve people for a variety of purposes. We have also partnered with the Somerset Economic Development Corporation and the National Digital Equity Center to host free digital classes in this space.

In addition to housing a dynamic book collection of over 8,000 books of all genres for all ages, the library provides residents of Mercer and surrounding communities with programs, services, and resources that meet a variety of the community’s needs. Programs include **Mug Up** - a monthly social gathering, **Pickleball**, weekly **Saturday Shaw Socials**, and **Virtual Storytime** for children.

Library visits and usage: Visits to the library totaled **1,765** with folks signing out books, playing pickleball, attending meetings and social gatherings, constructing jigsaw puzzles, playing the piano, crafting, researching information, services and shopping, using printing/fax services and so on. The circulation totaled **751 items**; mostly adult, young adult and children’s fiction and non-fiction books, but also periodicals and puzzles. Countless patrons and others accessed the high-speed WiFi free of charge using library or personal devices in the comfort of our **cozy sitting room**, their cars or other areas throughout the Community Center. Library computers and printer were used to file taxes or submit documents for work when home Internet connections failed or were unavailable.

Collections: Our dynamic **print collection**, ever expanding and updated with newly purchased and donated titles as **254** books were added to the collection this year. The genres (for all ages) include general fiction, classic literature, crime, romance, historical fiction, science fiction, fantasy, westerns, non-fiction, poetry, reference materials, and periodicals. Our **audiobook collection** numbers over 80 titles, and several jigsaw puzzles are available to borrow. The collection is replenished with monthly purchases and generous donations.

The Children’s Section: The Library welcomes Mercer’s families in a room with books in baskets, rugs and comfy chairs. Children can listen to a story read to them by a parent, librarian, or access our **Virtual Storytime** with Kim Dawes of the Belgrade Public Library. This collection also offers books for those able to read; organized by age, reading ability and grade level. A “maker’s table” offers a place for kids (of any age) to add a piece to an ongoing jigsaw puzzle, draw, or construct a simple craft.

Programs: **Mug Up Social Gatherings** occur the second Wednesday of each month from 1-3pm in the Solarium of the Community Center. Citizens share homemade appetizers and desserts, freshly brewed coffee, tea and other beverages, play pickleball and other games, construct puzzles, share interests, recipes, and activities with neighbors and friends. The library also hosts **Saturday Shaw Social** welcome to anyone; Saturdays, Noon to 1pm. Light refreshments are often shared and lively, light-hearted discussions ensue! Join us!!

Mercer Pickleball - 260 people played 48 games of pickleball this year in the MCC gym on a regulation size court. Advance booking and registration are required and must be done through the library. It is free for Mercer residents and a nominal fee for non-residents. Paddles, balls, and net are available and tutorials offered for newcomers when requested. Please inquire at the library if interested in learning about what, by some accounts, is the fastest growing sport in the country.

Ideas for new programs include Quilting Crew, Puzzle People, Bored Games and Music Jam Sessions. The library also displays work by local artists and artisans. If you have any interest in starting or joining a program or displaying your work, be sure to let us know!

The library is open Tuesday/Thursday 12:30-4:30pm, and Saturday 9:00am-1:00pm. Please visit our website <http://mercershawlibrary.weebly.com>, our Instagram and Facebook pages for details, updates and announcements, and/or pick up one of our quarterly newsletters at the library or Town Office.

The Trustees and Librarians truly appreciate the continuing support shown to Mercer’s Shaw Library.

Respectfully submitted,

Shaw Library Trustees

Mary Chouinard, Library Director

Emma Gierczak, Assistant Librarian Volunteer, Janice Nagel, Library Aide Volunteer

Plumbing Inspector Report

(I apologize in advance for the ridiculousness)

Of all the articles written for the annual Town Report, the Plumbing Inspectors report might just be the strangest. It's supposed to be a report summarizing the plumbing which was permitted in the Town over the past year, but who in their right mind would want to read about that?!! Seriously, how many folks are sitting around their breakfast table thinking "boy, I can't wait to learn about how many toilets were permitted in Town this year!?" The answer: No one!

Well, almost no one. There was that one weird sketch-ball who wanted to know how many bidets were installed in the Town.... Now, I think we can all agree that anyone who takes a special interest in bidet plumbing statistics is an odd duck who should be watched! Go find a less creepy hobby weird guy! Like snake skin collecting, or competitive mooing.

Speaking of plumbing inspector reports, where is the Electrical Inspectors report? Oh wait... electrical doesn't get inspected in this Town! That makes total sense though... I mean, who ever heard of electricity hurting someone? Harmless as a newborn kitten...

Anyway, I digress. For all you weird plumb-o-philes out there, a total of 8 plumbing permits were issued in 2023. That's right....8. This is only about half the permits issued in previous years, meaning there is either a bunch of illegal plumbing out there not getting permitted, or people aren't going to the bathroom as much. My money's on the former...

These 8 whopping permits break down as follows:

- 2 Internal plumbing permits
- 6 Subsurface wastewater permits
- 0 Bidets (sorry creepy guy)

Plumbing News!

There are some events that are so profound, so earth shattering, so absolutely galvanizing, that you can actually remember the exact location you were at when you first heard the news. The 9/11 attacks, the moon landing, the return of the Arby's Big Cheesy Bacon Burger....to name but a few.

Such a date occurred on September, 23, 2023.

I remember it like it was yesterday: The autumn leaves rustled in the crisp fall air while I sat on my porch watching clips about the moon landing and eating an Arby's big cheesy bacon burger. As a slightly audible chirp came from my phone, I casually looked down and saw it....in bold letters at the top of the email: "**Effective today, New State of Maine Subsurface Wastewater Regulations**".

My hands shook, my pulse quickened, my eyes locked. Sweat beaded from my forehead and ran down the sides of my lips, which were still mouthing the words over and over and over.... Then, like low rolling thunder moving over a hillside, a basal, earthy tone began to reverberate from my chest. The noise slowly gained in pitch and volume, pushing its way free of my body until my head tilted back and expelled the sound as a guttural wail of triumph. As blood poured back into my limbs, my arms shot towards the sky, raising my phone in victory, and screaming for the world to hear: “New Subsurface Wastewater Regulations Are HERE!!!!!”

Well, maybe it wasn't exactly like that, but we can pretend....

New septic regulations are only released once in a blue moon (they were last updated in 2015), so it's fairly exciting when it occurs. While the vast majority of the regulations remained the same, there are a few important changes which I'll go over briefly.

First, many of you are probably aware that back in 2020, the State passed a law which required all septic systems located within the shoreland zone (within 250' of a major waterbody) to be inspected when a property was transferred (either sold or gifted to another owner). While the idea behind this regulation is excellent (track down and replace malfunctioning septic systems when properties are sold), the implementation of the law was a major dud. The law's shortcoming was simply that it lacked clarity. While it listed what was supposed to be inspected, and when that inspection was supposed to take place, it was completely silent on who enforced the regulation, and what needed to happen with the inspection information.

Thankfully, these shortcomings have been addressed with the new changes. The new regs now clarify the above issues, and even go so far as to define who can perform the inspections (a licensed “third party inspector”), as well as who this inspection report must be shared with (the creepy bidet guy).

Given the advanced age of many of the septic systems around our ponds, and the impact poor systems can have on water quality, these clarifications to the inspection requirements are a huge win for the Town!

Another interesting change in the regulations is the addition of a definition for “detached bedroom”. While adding a simple definition may seem minor at first glance, it actually has some pretty major implications! To clarify, by “major”, I mean “major” for plumbing inspectors, which hovers somewhere between “don't care”, and “barely important” for everyone else. That being said, this is my report, so buckle up suckers, because I'm going to explain why it matters!

As many of you already know, septic systems need to be sized for the structures they serve, and are measured on a “gallons per day” basis. With a residential system, this typically means looking at the number of “bedrooms” located in the dwelling, with each bedroom requiring 90 gallons per day. For example, if you had a three-bedroom house, you would need a septic system that could handle a minimum of 270 gallons per day (3 bedrooms at 90 gallons per day each). Nothing says “riveting storyline” like a math problem! Stay with me though....

Counting bedrooms in a dwelling is simple enough, but what about when a sleeping area is outside the main house? Whether it's finishing off a detached garage to add some beds, or building a standalone "bunkhouse" for overflow guests, adding some additional sleeping area to get pesky kids out of the house is an increasingly popular request. And why not! Kids are gross, smelly, and noisy; I'd want them out of the house too!

Unfortunately, until now, the regulations have made this rather tricky to do.

The reason for this trickiness is due to the definition of "bunkhouse" within the plumbing code. A "bunkhouse" is defined as a "sleeping area for guests" (...shocker) with one notable and important addition; they must be devoid of all plumbing fixtures (meaning no bathrooms)!

Literally the first thing someone asks me when inquiring about a bunkhouse is "can we have a bathroom in it?". Obviously, no one in a bunkhouse wants to wake up in the middle of the night and stumble blindly to the main house just to take a leak! In fact, I'd almost guarantee that any late-night tinkles in this scenario would result in a lawn watering 100% of the time!

If the purpose of the subsurface wastewater regulations is to protect human health and preserve water quality, forcing folks into becoming porch pee-ers probably isn't what it had in mind!

Unfortunately, since bunkhouses were literally the only "defined" way to permit a sleeping area outside the main dwelling (and the definition required them to be devoid of all plumbing), LPI's and CEOs were forced to "look the other way" if they wanted to use common sense and allow a bathroom.

Luckily, the septic angels have finally heard our prayers, and added a "detached bedroom" definition. This definition does not limit the use of plumbing fixtures, which means bunkhouse bathrooms are officially back on the menu! As long as the septic is designed to handle the correct number of bedrooms (located both inside and outside the dwelling), then they're good to go!

Make sure you don't put a kitchen (or anything remotely close to it) in that detached bedroom though! Doing so might create a second "dwelling" (defined as any structure which contains a bedroom bathroom and kitchen). This could inadvertently open up a tear in the space-time continuum, as well as a whole gaggle of other regulations (which I will spare you from at this time to avoid killing you from boredom.)

Who wants to hear a fun poo geyser story?!!

As most of my "regular" readers know from last year's article, I am now a Maine licensed site evaluator, meaning I can design septic systems. In 2023, I designed well over 80 systems all across the state, with one in particular being share worthy.

This story starts back in the late 2000-teens, when a guy got permitted to build a brand-new camp about 150' from one of the Belgrade Lakes. As required by law, prior to permitting he hired a site evaluator and had a septic design completed. Since the camp

was located fairly close to the water, the designer placed the new septic field up-hill from the camp, meaning the effluent was going to need to be pumped to it.

Apparently, as the project neared its end, the man installed the septic tank and pump, but ran short on money before the septic field could be installed. Ever the problem solver though, the man came up with a brilliant solution that would not only save money, but finish the project on time. Rather than install the septic field, he thought “why not just run the black pump line from the septic tank into the woods, and let her blow!”

And that’s exactly what he did.... for years!! As renters stayed in the cabin (did I mention it was an Airbnb rental...) the tank would fill up and trigger the septic pump to turn on, creating a beautiful old faithful - like geyser of poo that would spray throughout the woods. How majestic!

This apparently went on for years! I was even told there were comments on the Airbnb page where guests complained of a “sewage smell” during their stay. Hmmmmm, I wonder where that came from! Don’t go play in that sprinkler kids!

Finally, in 2023 the local plumbing inspector caught wind of what was going on (I’m guessing that wind was pretty stinky), and put a stop to it. I was called in to design a new septic field, which was promptly installed, and all is now right in the world.

Hats off to the LPI for getting this fixed (I believe some hefty fines were also charged), but in all honesty, its pretty disheartening that it happened in the first place. People are gross.

Hasta la vista, baby!

Well, with that, it’s time to bring this report to an end. This will likely be my last LPI report, as I’m moving on from the LPI position this year to focus on designing septic systems (rather than inspecting them.)

Stepping down as the Towns LPI will be bittersweet. I’ve enjoyed getting to work with a number of residents and contractors over the years, and am always surprised at how friendly everyone in this Town is! Did they miss the memo that no-one likes inspectors? Seriously, I’ve never worked for a friendlier group of folks, so thank you!

Of course, there are other parts of the job (like crawling around under mobile homes that smell like a mixture of cat pee and cigarette butts), will be missed slightly less. Only slightly though...

Thanks for reading, and for allowing me to work for your Town. As always, keep those septic tanks pumped, and those bidets a secret.

Sincerely,

Andy Marble
Mercer LPI

Mercer ACO Report 2023

Hello Mercer Residents:

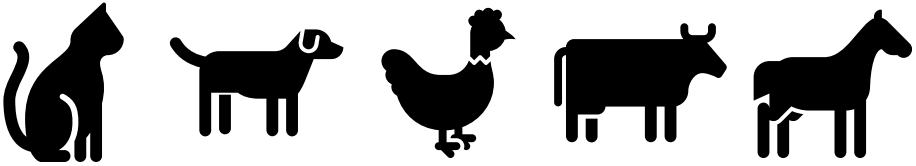
My time as Mercer's ACO came to an end in October of 2023. Buzz Bridges picked up where I left off. Life on the farm got pretty busy and I found that I was more helpful rehoming stray puppies and kittens. Even though Mercer is a small town the ACO position was very busy. With every stray dog/cat report came a resident or two who truly cared for the well being of the lost pet. I believe my soft spot for kittens became folklore because mystery boxes of kittens showed up at the barn on a few occasions! All 16 kittens were treated for upper respiratory illness, spayed/neutered, vaccinated and treated for fleas! All but 4 were placed in great homes! The remaining 4 are my resident barn cats! One litter of 12 hound mix puppies made life exciting. The mamma of those puppies was spayed and found the most awesome couple to love her right here in Mercer!!

Quality veterinary care is getting harder and harder to find in Maine. Many offices are not taking new clients and this, in turn, is causing an increase in litters. If you have a pet that needs to be spayed or neutered, please check with your local shelter for information and assistance. Just a little reminder to have your dog wear an ID tag with your phone number. It makes it much easier for the ACO to return your dog without having to take the dog to the shelter.

Thank you,

Tammy Lamphere

January – September 2023



Mercer Animal Control Officers Report 2023

I have been an Animal Control Officer for 9 years now and things have certainly changed in that short amount of time. The biggest issue is the cat population and what to do about it. I used to just bring them to the Animal Shelter. The amount of room that the shelters have had has steadily decreased until now. They are full to capacity. If you wanted to donate to build bigger shelters, that will just delay the issue. If you donate towards having them spayed or neutered, that would slow down the population immensely. I am asking folks to not feed any cat that isn't yours. There is no leash law with cats because they don't obey them. Leave them alone and they will generally go home. If you feel that you must feed it, then also make sure that you have it spayed or neutered. If you have a cat that is allowed outdoors, I highly recommend that you have it microchipped so that it can be either tracked or at least identifiable as your cat. Please keep your dogs in your own yard with a fence, radio fence, runner or something.

A chip for tracking or to make it identifiable, or at least a tag on its collar will save you the expense of finding your stray dog at the Animal Shelter. Dogs can be licensed for the following year starting mid-October. Late fee of \$25 after January. Please don't make me have to do it. Thank you for entrusting me with this responsibility. It's not always easy but it is rewarding with some challenges. Please help support me in the challenges. Believe me, I'm not doing it for the pay.

Dexter "Buzz" Bridges
October – December 2023

Mercer Rescue Annual Report 2023

Hello fellow residents,

Total number of dispatched calls in 2023 : 39

Number of calls responded to : 17

Number of Basic EMTs : 2

Number of Admins : 1

In 2023 we signed up a second local EMT. Our new EMT is trained to the Advanced EMT level but for now must practice as a Basic EMT due to our license restrictions. This is something I will address ASAP in 2024 as a service upgrade for Mercer Rescue to A-EMT level is needed for them to use the advanced skills. This would be a huge step up in cardiac care and is a very important step to take in our aging and growing community. This will be a one time charge for upgraded equipment and cardiac drugs. I hope you all will support the warrant article to expand Mercer Rescue at the 2024 Annual Meeting.

I also working with a local CPR/AED instructor to offer more free classes in 2024, along with some free fire safety classes throughout the year.

For 2024 we'd like to add 1 more EMT and can offer financial assistance for education to obtain the license. If anyone is interested in joining Mercer Rescue please contact the Town Clerk's Office or myself for more information.

Brian Breton
EMS Director - Town Of Mercer ME

Mercer Emergency Management 2023 Annual Report

In June of 2023 I was appointed the Emergency Management Director for the Town of Mercer. This is a position required by state and federal law. My role is to interact with Federal, State, and County Emergency Management Agencies and to do whatever I can to help keep our town, residents, and visitors safe in the event of an Emergency in our community.

This is not to be mistaken for EMS (Mercer Rescue) which provides medical assistance and is dispatched via the 911 system. EM (Emergency Management) is for things affecting the community. Things like bad storms, floods, bad accidents involving toxic materials, bad fires that might have to evacuate an area.

So far, it's been a quiet role with the exception of the December storm. We all worked together as a team and cleared roads, put up cones and signs, delivered food, checked in on some residents we knew were alone and prepared for the repairs. In the end we rode out the storm and are down to one road closure on Elm St.

I also worked with the county to see what we would need to turn our community center into a warming shelter. The big-ticket item is a generator which we will discuss in coming months. Once we have that electrical power, all shelter supplies would be provided to the Town to have on hand.

For 2024 we have no idea what's in sight. I'm ready and have made the contacts we'll need; Let's hope we have a smooth year!

Brian Breton
Emergency Management Director - Town of Mercer, ME.

Mercer Cemetery Sexton Annual Report 2023

We had another busy year in 2023. The town finished the acquisition of the Hampshire Hill Cemetery from the dissolving association. We met with the abutting landowners and agreed on the property lines, then worked out a way to allow the town to have a 20-foot buffer zone on all 3 wooded sides to maintain trees endangering the cemetery in the future. This was finalized with an attorney and the registry of deeds in mid-summer and we immediately got the needed tree work done just in time for the fall and winter storm season.

Plans for 2024 include minor maintenance, mapping and making a list from Hampshire Hill (all HH records were accidentally destroyed long before the transfer), professional tree trimming at the Village Cemetery, updating the rules of the cemeteries.

BURIALS: 1

CREMATIONS: 0

VETERANS: 0

SALES: Burial Lots 2, Cremation Section 0

Lots are 10 feet by 20 feet (6 grave spaces) for \$500 including perpetual care, or 10 feet by 10 feet (3 grave spaces) for \$250 including perpetual care.

Single 3 foot by 3-foot cremations lots are now available for \$100 including perpetual care.

Please contact the Town Clerk's Office for a full list of rules and requirements or pricing.

Brian Breton

Cemetery Sexton - Town of Mercer, ME

Mercer Budget Committee Report

The Budget Committee met on April 24, 2023, for our organizational meeting and to review with the Select Board and Treasurer the 2023 budget passed at the March Town Meeting. The Treasurer reviewed first quarter 2023 revenue and expenses vs budget and offered to provide quarterly results to the committee. These quarterly meetings provided an opportunity to discuss current topics such as the Transfer Station closure, cash flow considerations related to the December and May storm damage to town roads, as well as the outlook for 2024.

As the year comes to a close, the Budget committee will again meet with the Select Board to review year-end results and discuss articles for the annual Town Meeting.

The Town of Mercer continues to operate in a very conservative fiscal manner and our finances are in good shape. The Town has no debt and substantial assets thanks to the efforts of our Select Board, town officials, volunteer committee members, and an involved group of citizens.

Respectfully submitted

Bob Burr, Chair
Muriel Armstrong
Brian Breton
Alan Gove
Joel Hooper

Mercer Meeting House Association



To Our Supportive Community,

We'd like to humbly thank all of you for your continued support of our beloved Mercer Meeting House. Your support ensures that the Meeting House stands for generations to come and that it may remain a pillar of history for all those who visit Mercer.

2023 was a challenging year for our small committee. We appraised the exterior of the building and focused our repair efforts there this year. The rear exterior wall had suffered significant damage by the nesting Chickadees, clapboard siding was replaced and painted in the rear and along both side walls. The handicap ramp decking was repaired and the front peak was scraped and painted. During these repairs, it was noted that the bell tower and spires will need repair as well as the rear corner support beam due to water damage. These projects are on the top of our repair list for 2024.

Along with the repairs, we also updated the electrical to the Meeting House. The old two wire electrical was replaced throughout the building, new light fixtures featuring energy efficient LED bulbs and a donation of a bell ringing device installed. We are excited to see the Meeting House illuminated during these dark days of winter, and hope you find the ringing bell at noon as enjoyable as we do. This upgrade was funded by our generous sponsors, donations and fundraising efforts.

In an effort to maintain our mission of the Mercer Meeting House Association, we have taken a step back from organizing and executing the annual Mercer Old Home Days weekend activities. The town has been asked to continue this tradition as it has since 1936.

This year's projects are extensive in nature as we have sought quotes for the bell tower repairs and rear corner support beam repair. We recognize the building would benefit from a scrape and paint, but chipping paint is not structural. We have requested a substantial amount in this year's warrant. This, along with fundraising efforts, continued sponsorship and donations will ensure the repairs are completed and the structural integrity secured.

We THANK YOU! We appreciate the generous donations throughout the year and appreciate the growing support of our community. We welcome you to join us in our plight to save Mercer's history. We hold meetings throughout the year, we'd love to have you join us. We can be reached via facebook at facebook.com/mercermeeetinghouse, or by calling Linda at 207-634-2332 or Amy at 207-587-2225. Again, our continued gratitude and thanks for your support.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amy Tibbetts
Vice President | Mercer Meeting House Association

Greetings from the Mercer Historical Society:

This year has been another exciting one for our society, with members participating with great enthusiasm and new programs. An apple tree grafting workshop took place in the spring. We had an 1870s school master visit us to demonstrate old time school life. And the ladies were treated to a live Civil War era dress up demonstration. In December we had a terrific Christmas wreath making workshop and outdoor tree lighting. We planted a new crab apple tree to the east of the building. All this is through the tireless efforts of our fantastic volunteers. Special thanks also to Denis, Elaine, Gaylene, Marlene, Donna, Chris, Dorothy, Judy, and Peter. We appreciate all your hard work!

We have much planned for the coming year, such as guest speakers, and will try to set up small scale demonstrations of life in the olden days. One such event may include reenactors and another about Native Americans of our region. Hopefully, we will repeat some of this year's events and add more. Please inquire about our new memorial brick project. Our growing collection includes more memorabilia of local interest. Documenting, cataloging and display arrangements are ongoing projects. Please see dozens of binders and albums filled with photos and historical records.

Our society building needs a new coat of paint, more insulation, and window repairs. Contractors are hard to get, however, some have been committed for next spring. Funding from the town last year has been set aside for these projects, yet more is needed for the coming year. Donations are most welcome. This year we are very grateful for so many generous donors!

We have a new mailing address: Mercer Historical Society, PO Box 735, Norridgewock, ME 04957, and a new email address: mercerhs96@gmail.com.

Respectfully submitted,

Barry "Butch" Tracy
President of the Mercer Historical Society



Mercer Historical Schoolmaster



Tree Pruning and Grafting



Civil War Dress-up



North Pond Association Annual Report 2023

The North Pond Association (NPA) is a volunteer organization of over 200 members and 25 businesses. The NPA is run by 12 board members who reside or summer on North Pond and/or Little Pond. We thank the Town of Mercer for ongoing support and funding of the Courtesy Boat Inspector (CBI) program. Protecting the water quality in North and Little Ponds is key to our mission.

A 10-year **Watershed-Based Management Plan (WBMP)** was shared with the public at a meeting in July. This comprehensive plan managed by Ecological Instincts outlines the numerous steps and estimated costs necessary to improve the water quality in our lakes. The plan has been developed through partnerships with the Towns of Mercer, Rome, and Smithfield, Maine DEP, Colby College, 7 Lakes Alliance (7LA), the Kennebec County Soil & Water Conservation District (KCSWCD) and the NPA. Ecological Instincts has sent scientifically based recommendations for solutions to the ongoing algal blooms in North Pond to Maine DEP and US EPA for review.

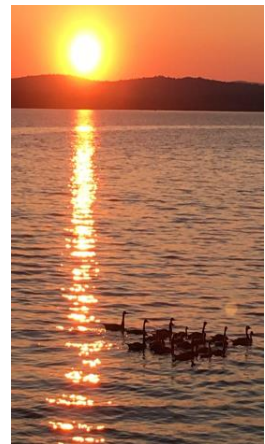
Phosphorus run-off from lawns and roads contributes significantly to the algal blooms. A free **LakeSmart** evaluation is one way that property owners can minimize their impact on the lake water quality. In 2023 our three LakeSmart evaluators surveyed 24 properties with 6 qualifying for a LakeSmart Award. The key to the program is finding ways to buffer one's property to capture phosphorus before it enters the lake even though most of us have property limitations that won't qualify for the "Award". Each year an educational LakeSmart workshop is held at the Fairview Grange in Smithfield in early July. Please contact the North Pond LakeSmart coordinator Ed Glasheen at eglashe@yahoo.com to schedule your 2024 site visit.

319 grants provide funding for erosion control projects which help to keep runoff out of the lakes. The program is administered by Maine DEP as part of the US EPA Clean Water Act. In 2022-2023 there were 15 road and driveway projects completed! 7 Lakes Alliance was awarded \$112,410 in 319 grant funding for North Pond projects in 2024-2025. This money is available to homeowners, road associations, businesses and towns for erosion control projects that aim to improve water quality. A 50% match contribution is required by the landowner. Our thanks to Charlie Baeder at 7LA for all of his work and to Lynn Geiger, Erosion Control Policy Mgr at 7LA for coordinating the 319 grant program moving forward. Please contact NPA or 7LA this winter to discuss your project.

The **Courtesy Boat Inspection (CBI)** program plays a vital role in keeping invasive plants out of North and Little Ponds. In 2023 a total of 854 boats were inspected over 954 hours of service at the public boat launch. Thankfully no invasives were found. This program is run by 7LA and paid for by NPA. Money from our bottle redemption at Tri Pond Variety as well as funding from the Towns of Smithfield, Rome and Mercer pays for the inspectors. The hourly wage for inspectors in 2023 was \$14/hr and is set to increase to \$15/hr in 2024. The financial support from the Town of Mercer is greatly appreciated.

North and Little Pond volunteers partnered with 7LA in several lake wide paddles to look for invasive plants. The Fairview Grange hosted regular workshops run by 7LA to educate the public on how to differentiate native plants from invasive species such as **Curly Leaf Pondweed (CPL)** and Variable Leaf Milfoil. 7LA divers working with the Maine DEP worked in 2023 to remove CLP plants and their turions (buds that can germinate) from the Serpentine in the early Spring and the Fall. No rooted CLP was found past Sunset Camps; however, a large floating fragment was found in July and upwards of 50 fragments were found in the Leech Brook Cove area at the northeastern corner of North Pond in September. The good news is that Maine DEP is still considering this infestation as a “rapid response plan” and will cover most of the cost of remediation for the CLP in 2024-2025. Please contact Sharon Mann, Invasive Aquatics Director, 7LA for questions.

Restoring and preserving the water quality in our lakes is a prime focus of the North Pond Association. Using tools such as Lake Sediment Sampling, Water Quality Analysis, a Septic Database, Watershed NPS Assessment, Watershed AG & Forestry Survey Bathymetric Mapping, Municipal Ordinance Review, and Secchi Disc Measurements have provided the scientific basis to help achieve our goal of a healthy lake. All of us in the North and Little Pond watershed have a role to play. Together we will make North and Little Pond clear for all.





January 7, 2023

7 Lakes Alliance Annual Report to the Town of Mercer

7 Lakes Alliance appreciates the Town of Mercer and citizens' support and partnerships for programs that protect the lakes and lands in our watershed and the economic, recreational and community values they provide to the citizens of the town and region.

7 Lakes Alliance's Youth Conservation Corps continued, with support from the Town of Mercer, to stem erosion of dirt and the algae-fueling phosphorus it carries into the waters of the Belgrade Lakes region, including North Pond. The YCC helps leverage other town, private, state and federal funds for erosion projects, including state-administered federal Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 319 funds. The YCC provides high school and college students with summer jobs working to protect water quality throughout the 180-square-mile Belgrade Lakes watershed. In 2023, the YCC:

- Installed 132 erosion-control Best Management Practices (BMPs) across the watershed on all seven lakes, prioritized by impact on overall watershed health.
- 19 of these BMPs directly addressed erosion issues on North Pond.
- Employed 21 high school and college-aged people in our communities who gained skills and learned about lake stewardship while provided benefits for our communities.

In addition, the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP) recently awarded to 7 Lakes, a new U.S. Environmental Protection Agency CWA Section 319 grant for North Pond (2024-2025). The \$112,410 grant to be matched by \$114,350 for a total of \$226,760 of projects to address erosion in the watershed. 7 Lakes looks forward to working with Mercer, with support from Section 319 and other funds, including town road projects such as Bacon Road, Beech Hill Road, and a project being planned for the Pond Road stream crossing at Pattee Brook in North Pond watershed.

7 Lakes worked with Colby College and volunteers to monitor water quality in all 7 Lakes of the region. 7 Lakes water quality science and erosion control staff also worked closely with North Pond Association, MDEP, Colby College and other partners on the development of the North Pond Watershed-based Plan (2023). We look forward to helping implement the plan in 2024.

7 Lakes also worked with many public and private partners including NPA to remediate and prevent the spread of invasive plants by removing them from boats entering and leaving the lakes to prevent negative economic, recreational and economic impacts of invasive infestations. Once established, invasive infestations are costly and extremely difficult to remediate. Combined with 7 Lakes' other prevention and remediation efforts, including invasive plant identification training and shoreline surveys, the CBI program is a cost-effective investment in valuable water resources. Highlights from this past summer's CBI activity include:

- Conducted 12,034 courtesy boat inspections at five public boat launches in the Belgrade Lakes area. Of those, 887 inspections occurred on North Pond.
- Removed 13 invasive plant fragments from boats at launches where we conduct inspections. Twelve (12 – variable milfoil) were leaving Messalonskee Lake and 1 (one – curly leaf

137 Main Street, P.O. Box 250, Belgrade Lakes, ME 04918 207-495-6039 info@7lakesalliance.org 7lakesalliance.org



pondweed (CLP) from out-of-state) was entering Great Pond.

- Employed 37 CBIs, a mix of high school and college students, and local community members had rewarding summer jobs learning about lake ecology, the value of Maine's lakes, and the risk of invasive plants. Eight volunteer inspectors also assisted.

Additionally, working with lake associations including NPA and East Pond Association, 7 Lakes conducted 18 Adopt-A-shoreline trainings at three sites, including Smithfield, to teach volunteers to identify and monitor invasive aquatic plants. No new infestations were found. Lastly, 7 Lakes divers removed curly- leaf pondweed (CLP) – relatively new to our watershed – from the Serpentine between East and North Ponds reducing CLP in the Serpentine by 78 percent. Staff and volunteers also removed CLP from Leech Cove Brook where plants had spread from the Serpentine.

By working together with Mercer, lake associations and citizens throughout the watershed, we will protect the health of the lakes that support our communities. 7 Lakes Alliance thanks the town and citizens of Mercer for their support and partnership on efforts to effectively protect the lakes and their economic, ecological, recreational and community benefits.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laura Rose Day".

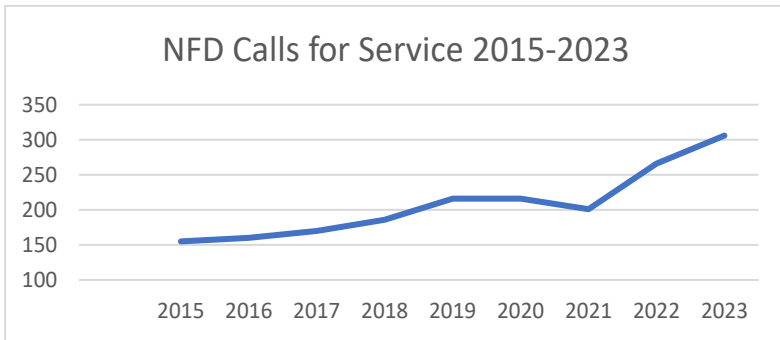
Laura Rose Day
Chief Conservation and Special Initiatives Officer

2023 REPORT OF THE NORRIDGEWOCK FIRE DEPARTMENT



We are proud to submit the 2023 annual report of the Norridgewock Fire Department.

2023 was another very active and successful year for the department. We responded to an all-time high of **306** calls for service. This represents an increase of 15% over 2022 and over 50% in just 2 years.



2023 included several personnel changes within the department.

- Call-force Firefighter Kyle Mullin was promoted into a full-time roll, filling an open position in our ranks. Further, we congratulate Kyle on completing his FF1 & FF2 certification in 2023.
- Longtime Firefighters Aaron Gordon & Tanisha Corson and Lieutenant Sophia Corson stepped away from the department. We wish them well and thank them for their many years of service.
- Longtime Captain / Safety Officer Steve Ireland retired from the department after 34 years of service! We wish Steve well and thank him for his 1/3 of a century of dedicated service to the Norridgewock Fire Department!
- Veteran Firefighter Randy Murray has rejoined the department after being away for several years. Thank you, Randy!
- Firefighters Nate Burns and Robert Anderson have joined our ranks. We are grateful for their dedication to the towns of Norridgewock and Mercer. In addition, we're proud that Nate earned his FF1 & FF2 certification in 2023. We anticipate additional members joining our department in 2024.
- Former Chief David Savage has stepped back into a call-force roll within the department. We appreciate the opportunity to continue working with David and thank him for his

impact and time as Chief. David was instrumental in the numerous grant awards referenced later in this report.

We are thankful to each of these firefighting professionals for their dedication, sacrifice, and service to protect the people and property of Norridgewock and Mercer.

2023 also included several major projects at the department. Most of these projects were funded, at least partially, with grants, donations, or other outside funding sources to minimize the impact to the taxpayers of Norridgewock and Mercer. They include:

- The annual Maine Forestry grant was received and used to support the purchase of additional forest fire suppression equipment, including a new floating pump.
- We received a grant from MMA, which was used to support the purchase of extreme weather clothing for the department.
- The department received a grant from Maine Highlands Federal Credit Union to support the purchase of airbags for Engine 21. Airbags are used to lift heavy or oversized objects in a safe and controlled manner, for example to extricate a person trapped beneath a vehicle or piece of equipment.
- The Norridgewock TIF Committee, with Board of Selectmen approval, supported the purchase of six (6) new portable radios for the department using TIF funds.
- The FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant was awarded to the department in the amount of \$195,137 to support the purchase of all new SCBA air packs, an air compressor and automated fill station. By federal regulation, most of the equipment in use prior to replacement was nearing the end of its 15-year lifespan. The local match for this grant was only 5%, which came from capital equipment reserves. The retired compressor, on permanent loan from Waste Management, was subsequently donated to the Town of Smithfield by W-M.
- A new battery operated, positive pressure, ventilation fan was purchased using donated funds. This fan uses the same rechargeable batteries as our Hurst Jaws-of-Life, making it more convenient to operate & less costly to maintain.
- An agreement was signed with Allegiance Fire & Rescue to replace Engine 22, which is a 1996 Pierce commercial pumper. This engine has served us well but will be 29 years old by the time its replacement arrives in 2025. Funding for this purchase will be allocated via capital equipment reserves, where appropriations are always subject to voter approval.
- Planning has begun to purchase a new Side-by-Side using funds donated by the late Alice E. Emery. Unfortunately, the ATV market hasn't been ideal for buyers in recent years. We expect this purchase to take place in 2024 and to have the unit properly adorned with lettering recognizing her generous gift to the department. This purchase will replace our 2002 4-wheeler, and support emergency incidents on the expanded Kennebec Valley Trail and other remote locations throughout Norridgewock and Mercer.

As always, we want to remind you of the importance of having multiple working smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in your home. If you do not have a detector, please consider purchasing one. If you have one that is more than ten years old, it is recommended for replacement. If you have any questions, or need assistance, please get in touch with the Fire Department at 22 Upper Main Street in Norridgewock or call 634-2208.

We continue to issue burn permits at the fire station free of charge. Permits may be issued five days a week, subject to weather conditions. Property owners can obtain [free permits online](http://www.maineburnpermit.com) from Maine Forest Service at www.maineburnpermit.com.

Finally, please be sure to dial 9-1-1 for your emergency. Our fire station is staffed only during non-holiday weekdays. Even during weekdays, there is no assurance that somebody will be there when you call as our team may already be working another incident.

Respectfully Submitted,

Todd D. Pineo
Fire Chief

Calls for Service - 2023

	Norridgewock	Mercer
Aircraft Incident	1	0
Assist EMS	65	7
Carbon Monoxide	5	2
Chimney Fire	3	2
Fire Alarm	9	3
Fuel-Oil Spill	3	2
Life-Flight	0	0
Miscellaneous	22	6
Motor Vehicle Accident	44	6
Car Fire	4	0
Powerline Down	11	0
Propane Leak	0	1
Rescue	7	1
Smoke-Odor Investigation	8	0
ATV Crash	1	0
Structure Fire	9	1
Tree in Roadway	21	2
Tree on Wires	19	4
Wildland Fire	7	1
Local Calls for Service	239	38
Mutual Aid Calls	29	
Grand Total	306	



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SOMERSET COUNTY

Maine

Somerset County serves 51,000 people spread over 4,000 square miles in various towns, plantations and unorganized territories filling the gaps between State and Local Services.

2023 brought in some significant changes to the people involved in County Government with three new Commissioners. Scott Seekins (District 3), John Alsop (District 4) and Joel Stetkis (District 5) joined Cyp Johnson (District 2) & Chairman Robert Sezak (District 1).

Leanne Dickey joined the Administrative Team as the Deputy Administrator/HR and Tim Curtis was hired in July as the new County Administrator replacing Dawn DiBlasi who had served in that capacity since 2013. Leanne served for several years in the Farmington Town Office and Tim had been the Madison Town Manager for nearly a decade.

In May the County Budget Committee finalized the fiscal year budget for 23/24, approving a 9.8% spending increase fueled by the increased costs of goods and services that impacted most municipal budgets. The overall County Budget is \$26.5M of which \$14.5M is paid from local property taxes. Nearly two thirds of County spending supports the Sheriff's Office and the Jail. The SO and Jail also make up two thirds of all County employees.

Like local police, fire and rescue departments, the County faces the same struggles in hiring and retaining employees in the public safety sector. Having open positions can result in some cost savings which will be rolled forward into the coming year's budget to help offset the impact on the taxpayer. The best case scenario however, is to be fully staffed in those important positions.

The Communication Center received 95,000 calls for service in 2023. Dispatching all those emergency calls throughout the County is a huge undertaking. Emergency Management has also seen a significant uptick in activity with Federal Emergency Declarations from storm damage in December 2022, May of 2023 and most recently the record flooding along the Kennebec in December 2023.

County services such as Probate Court, the Registry of Deeds and the District Attorney's office stay busy with a steady stream of work.

Coming in 2024 a new website will be available to guide residents to County services. Our intention is to make access as user friendly as possible. The address will be the same at www.somersetcounty-me.org

One of the goals of the Commissioners is to help fill funding gaps in local services by offering Matching Grants with Community Benefit Funds. These funds come from an agreement with Blue Sky West in conjunction with the windmill projects in central and northern Somerset. In November 2023, a pilot grant program was launched that funds projects from municipalities and non-profits throughout the County. Overall, 12 grants were awarded to projects ranging from ADA accessibility, to recreational trail signage to new rescue equipment. Keep an eye out for another funding announcement for this program in the spring of 2024.



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SOMERSET COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

2023 Sheriff's Office Annual Report



Dale P. Lancaster
Sheriff

January 1, 2024 begins my 9th year as your Sheriff. I want to personally thank everyone for your continued support for the Somerset County Sheriff's Office. It is a privilege to serve the citizens of Somerset County.

The Office of Sheriff oversees the operations of the County Jail, law enforcement, court security, and civil process. Somerset County is approximately 4,000 square miles. The County is comprised of 27 towns, 6 plantations, and 83 unorganized townships. This year, I completed my 2-year term as President of the Maine Sheriff's Association. I continue my appointment to the Board of Directors

for the New England State Police Information Network. I am also a board member for the Statewide County Corrections Professional Standards Council.

I would like to report that in May of 2023, the Somerset County Sheriff's Office was awarded accreditation through the Maine Law Enforcement Accreditation Program. The Sheriff's Office law enforcement policies and procedures are best practice for the State of Maine. I want to take this opportunity to thank staff and Deputies for their diligent efforts to obtain this accreditation.

In 2023, our Agency has aggressively participated in job fairs, advertising and increasing our pay scale to make us competitive with other Agencies in hiring and retaining men and women to work as Deputies and Corrections Officers.

Law Enforcement

The Patrol division is comprised of 15 Patrol Deputies and 3 Sergeants. Through funding from the State of Maine, we have 2 Deputies dedicated to patrolling the unorganized townships. The Patrol division is overseen by a Lieutenant. The Criminal division is comprised of 4 Detectives, 1 Domestic Violence Investigator assigned to the Somerset County District Attorney's Office, and is overseen by a Lieutenant. The Sheriff's Office continues to partner with MDEA (Maine Drug Enforcement Agency) to have an agent assigned to the Criminal Division. Presently, that position is not filled. The Patrol division has 2 trained accident re-constructionists. The Sheriff's Office has 2 canines, a canine assigned to each division.

The Sheriff's Office assigns 1 Deputy per shift to patrol the Town of Madison. We have a Secretary/Dispatcher assigned to Madison.

Currently, we have 1 Deputy attending the 46th Basic Law Enforcement Training Program (BLETP) at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy.

Throughout 2023, the Sheriff's Office Criminal Division investigated a large volume of illicit drug trafficking activities. The Sheriff's Office obtained and executed numerous drug search warrants, which subsequently led to the arrest and conviction of numerous people from Maine and out of State on various Federal and State level drug trafficking charges. Illegal drugs, in particular Fentanyl, and illegal marijuana grows, continue to be



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SOMERSET COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

a significant issue in Somerset County. The Criminal Division dedicates a large amount of time and resources to combat this problem. The Criminal Division investigated numerous serious felony level cases to include robberies, burglaries, thefts, scams, aggravated assaults, unattended deaths, and sexual abuse cases. In 2023, the Crimes Against Persons Detective investigated 23 sex offense complaints. 11 of those cases involved child sexual abuse where forensic interviewing was utilized. Detective Jeremy Leal is a Children's Advocacy Center forensic interviewer. As a result of these investigations, and working with the District Attorney's Office prosecuting these cases, we were able to get substantial sentences in a number of child abuse cases. The Sheriff's Office Criminal Division tracks individuals who are required by law to register as sex offenders. 2 individuals were charged with Sex Offender Registration Notification Act violations.

Jail

The Somerset County Jail, when operating at full capacity, operates with 36 budgeted Correctional Officers, 8 Shift Supervisors, 3 cooks, 12 program and support staff, and 9 administrative staff. In October, 2023 Major Michael Pike, was selected to be the Jail Administrator. The County Jail is now 16 years old. With the use of funds received through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, we anticipate that the Jail bond will be paid off within 1 year. The County Jail is nationally accredited through the American Correctional Association and is operating under nationally accepted best practice standards. The County Jail is also PREA (Prison Rape Elimination Act) certified. In 2023, the Somerset County Jail recorded 1,278 total bookings, a 21% increase from 2022. We are currently still working with the State of Maine in administering Sublocade to inmates who identify with an Opioid Use Disorder. The Programs department implemented many new initiatives in 2023, including the inmate garden project, the return of the inmate newsletter and Christmas card program. The Jail has partnered with the Family Violence Project and the Sexual Assault Crisis & Support Center to provide services to inmates who are survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.

The starting salary for a new, inexperienced Corrections Officer, increased to \$21.23 in 2023. The Jail also implemented a new initiative to allow us to hire experienced Corrections Officer at a higher rate of pay based on up to 8 years of experience. Recruitment and hiring initiatives continue to be ongoing.

Civil Process

In 2023, the Somerset County Sheriff's Office Civil Deputies received 1,723 papers to process and serve. That is a 10% decrease from 2022.

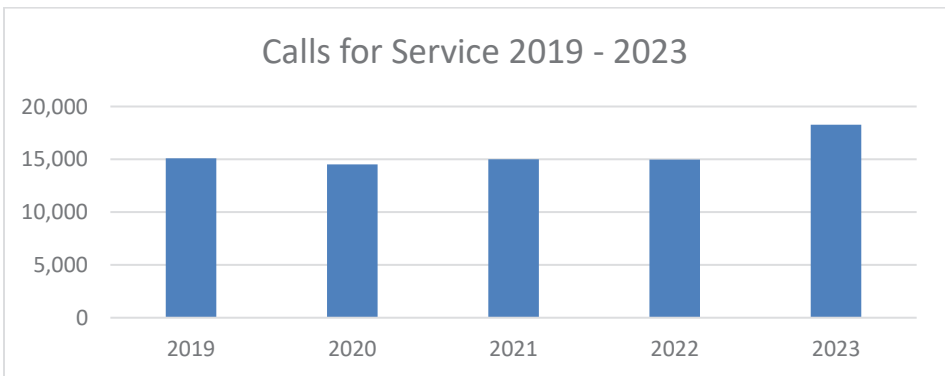


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SOMERSET COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Calls for Service

- In 2023, the Sheriff's Office received 18,277 total calls for service from our residents. This represents a 0.22% increase from 2022.
- During 2023, the Sheriff's Office responded to 263 calls for service from the Town of Mercer, which is a 13% increase from 2022. These calls included 32 motor vehicle accidents, 3 calls for domestic disturbances, 12 calls requesting citizen assistance, as well as calls for theft, criminal threatening, welfare checks and other requests for police services.

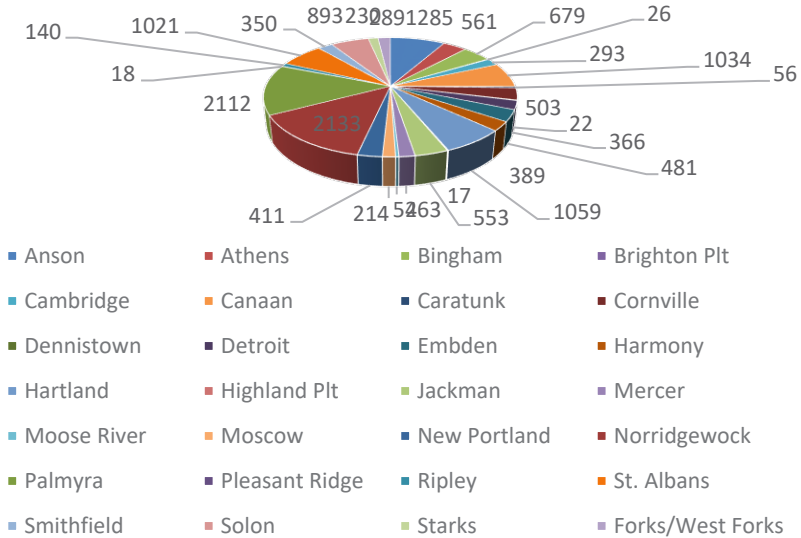
The Somerset County Sheriff Office remains committed to our core values:
INTEGRITY-RESPECT-FAIRNESS-DEDICATION.



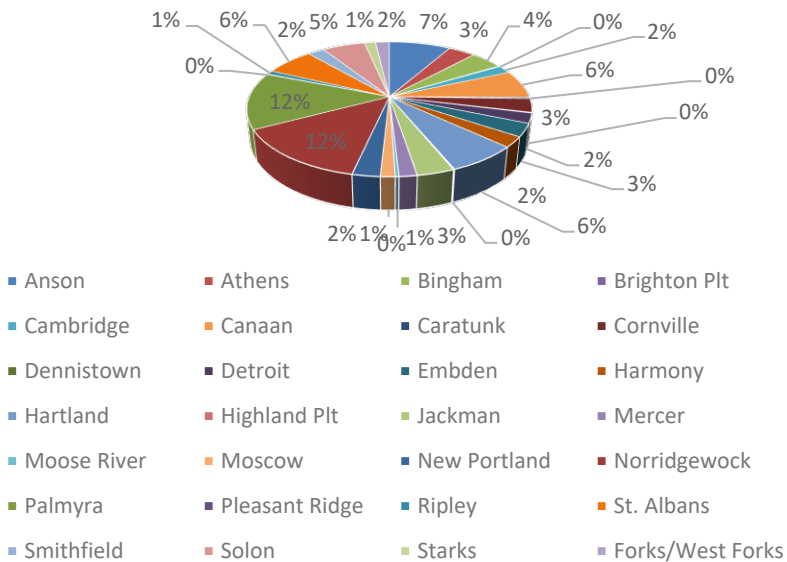


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SOMERSET COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

2023 Calls for Service by Town



2023 Percentage of Calls for Service by Town



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Washington, D.C. 20515
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Fax: (202) 225-2943
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

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VETERANS' AFFAIRS

January 1, 2024

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.

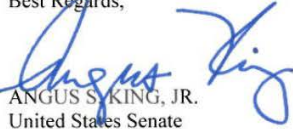
First, it was a true honor to be appointed to the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee this year to help address the challenges facing Maine veterans. We owe our way of life to these brave men and women and share a collective responsibility as a grateful nation to give back to our veterans. That means delivering 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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WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1904

COMMITTEES:
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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



Senator Russell Black
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0003
(207) 287-1505

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as your State Senator. I am humbled by the trust you have placed in me to be a voice for you, your family, and our community in Augusta. I can assure you I will continue to work tirelessly on your behalf.

The First Regular and First Special Sessions of the 131st Maine State Legislature were notable as there were over 2,600 legislative bill requests and 2,019 of them were officially printed as Legislative Documents (LDs). No legislature this century has had as many LDs printed during its first year.

One area of success was in the Highway Fund. In the past, the Highway Fund has been supported through gasoline taxes, which have been declining for years due to more fuel-efficient and electric/hybrid vehicles, and bonding. However, we now have created a sustainable source of funding to maintain our transportation infrastructure. This is done by dedicating 40% of the 5.5% vehicle sales tax and 40% of the sales and use taxes collected by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles. It is predicted to raise more than \$200 million for infrastructure each biennium.

The Second Regular Session will begin in January 2024. I am eager to discuss the issues important to all of you. I have heard from many of you regarding the biggest concerns you are facing, including increasing energy costs, child care, education, housing, inflation, child welfare, mental health and substance abuse, workforce development, and crime, among others. As your State Senator, I will continue to do all I can to advocate for your priorities in Augusta.

Again, thank you for electing me to serve you in the State Senate. The 131st Legislature has a great deal more work to do. However, I believe that if we come together, there is nothing we can't accomplish. Please feel free to contact me by calling (207) 287-1505 or emailing me at russell.black@legislature.maine.gov if you have comments, questions or if you would like assistance in navigating our state's bureaucracy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Russell Black".

Russell Black
State Senator

*Fax: (207) 287-1527 * TTY (207) 287-1583 * Message Service 1-800-423-6900 * Web Site: 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 wait 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,

Robert W. Nutting
State Representative

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



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

Dear Maine Resident:

In January, I was privileged to take the Oath of Office to begin my second term as your Governor. I am deeply humbled by the trust the people of Maine have placed in me, and I look forward to continuing to work hard over the next four years to improve the lives and livelihoods of Maine people.

Over the past four years, we have made real progress. We have expanded health care, leading to the largest decline in the uninsured rate of any state in the nation. We fully funded the State's share of public education. We delivered two-years of free community college. We fully restored municipal revenue sharing to five percent. We delivered substantial tax relief, nation-leading inflation relief, and emergency energy relief to help Maine people through difficult times.

Through the Maine Jobs & Recovery Plan, we are strengthening and diversifying our economy. In 2022, our state's gross domestic product – a key measure of economic growth – grew at the 9th fastest rate in the United States. People are moving to Maine at a rate higher than any other New England state, and at one of the highest rates in the nation. We have enacted balanced budgets, and we have built up Maine's "Rainy Day" fund to a record high, preparing our state to continue meeting its commitments in the event of an economic downturn.

While I am proud of the progress we have made, there is more to do, like addressing the housing crisis, the workforce shortage, and the opioid epidemic and strengthening health care, education, and the economy. I know that by working together to tackle these issues head-on, we can improve the lives and livelihoods of Maine people and make Maine the best place to live, work, and raise a family.

Thank you again for the honor to serve you as Governor.

Thank you,

A blue ink signature of Janet T. Mills.

Janet T. Mills
Governor

PHONE: (207) 287-3531 (Voice)

888-577-6690 (TTY)

FAX: (207) 287-1034

www.maine.gov



Proven Expertise & Integrity

February 7, 2024

Selectboard
Town of Mercer
1015 Beech Hill Road, Suite A
Mercer, Maine 04957

We were engaged by the Town of Mercer, Maine and have audited the financial statements of the Town of Mercer, Maine as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023. The following statements and schedules have been excerpted from the 2023 financial statements, a complete copy of which, including our opinion thereon, will be available for inspection at the Town Office.

Balance Sheet - Governmental Funds	Statement C
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances - Governmental Funds	Statement E
Budgetary Comparison Schedule - Budgetary Basis - Budget and Actual - General Fund	Schedule 1
Schedule of Departmental Operations - General Fund	Schedule A
Combining Balance Sheet - Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Schedule B
Combining Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances - Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Schedule C

RHR Smith & Company

Certified Public Accountants

3 Old Orchard Road, Buxton, Maine 04093
Tel: (800) 300-7708 (207) 929-4606 Fax: (207) 929-4609
www.rhrsmith.com

STATEMENT C

TOWN OF MERCER, MAINE

BALANCE SHEET - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
DECEMBER 31, 2023

	General Fund	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 564,078	\$ 153,923	\$ 718,001
Accounts receivable (net of allowance for uncollectibles):			
Taxes	113,178	-	113,178
Liens	19,836	-	19,836
Other	110,043	467	110,510
Inventory	42,450	13,405	55,855
Due from other funds	116,145	51,864	168,009
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 965,730</u>	<u>\$ 219,659</u>	<u>\$ 1,185,389</u>
LIABILITIES			
Accounts payable	\$ 6,114	\$ 20	\$ 6,134
Due to other governments	9,145	-	9,145
Due to other funds	51,864	116,145	168,009
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>67,123</u>	<u>116,165</u>	<u>183,288</u>
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES			
Prepaid taxes	3,467	-	3,467
Advance payment of LRAP funding	15,046	-	15,046
Deferred tax revenues	117,630	-	117,630
TOTAL DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES	<u>136,143</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>136,143</u>
FUND BALANCES			
Nonspendable	42,450	25,397	67,847
Restricted	34,324	51,954	86,278
Committed	120,325	141,218	261,543
Assigned	-	1,070	1,070
Unassigned (deficit)	565,365	(116,145)	449,220
TOTAL FUND BALANCES	<u>762,464</u>	<u>103,494</u>	<u>865,958</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES AND FUND BALANCES	<u>\$ 965,730</u>	<u>\$ 219,659</u>	<u>\$ 1,185,389</u>

See accompanying independent auditor's report and notes to financial statements.

STATEMENT E

TOWN OF MERCER, MAINE

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
 GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

	General Fund	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES			
Taxes:			
Property taxes	\$ 1,208,634	\$ -	\$ 1,208,634
Excise taxes	169,560	-	169,560
Intergovernmental revenues	233,886	146,242	380,128
Charges for services	21,151	-	21,151
Miscellaneous revenues	45,422	38,816	84,238
TOTAL REVENUES	<u>1,678,653</u>	<u>185,058</u>	<u>1,863,711</u>
EXPENDITURES			
Current:			
General government	209,941	-	209,941
Sanitation	30,370	-	30,370
Public works	328,781	-	328,781
Recreation	700	-	700
Community programs	10,500	-	10,500
Shaw library	10,978	-	10,978
Public safety	71,501	-	71,501
County tax	192,132	-	192,132
Overlay	3,600	-	3,600
Public education	588,076	-	588,076
Welfare/charity	300	-	300
Unclassified	-	241,372	241,372
Capital projects	201,456	-	201,456
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>1,648,335</u>	<u>241,372</u>	<u>1,889,707</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	<u>30,318</u>	<u>(56,314)</u>	<u>(25,996)</u>
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)			
Equity transfer	-	12,446	12,446
Transfers in	51,163	12,000	63,163
Transfers (out)	(12,000)	(51,163)	(63,163)
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)	<u>39,163</u>	<u>(26,717)</u>	<u>12,446</u>
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES	69,481	(83,031)	(13,550)
FUND BALANCES - JANUARY 1, RESTATED	<u>692,983</u>	<u>186,525</u>	<u>879,508</u>
FUND BALANCES - DECEMBER 31	<u>\$ 762,464</u>	<u>\$ 103,494</u>	<u>\$ 865,958</u>

See accompanying independent auditor's report and notes to financial statements.

SCHEDULE 1

TOWN OF MERCER, MAINE

BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE - BUDGETARY BASIS
 BUDGET AND ACTUAL - GENERAL FUND
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual Amounts	Variance Positive (Negative)
	Original	Final		
Budgetary Fund Balance, January 1, Restated	\$ 692,983	\$ 692,983	\$ 692,983	\$ -
Resources (Inflows):				
Taxes:				
Property taxes	1,312,942	1,312,942	1,208,634	(104,308)
Excise taxes	166,500	166,500	169,560	3,060
Intergovernmental revenues:				
State revenue sharing	110,000	110,000	117,482	7,482
Homestead exemption	75,000	75,000	57,794	(17,206)
Local road assistance	29,000	29,000	34,242	5,242
Other income	22,500	22,500	24,368	1,868
Charges for services	16,400	16,400	21,151	4,751
Interest income	-	-	16,950	16,950
Interest/fees on taxes	8,500	8,500	10,852	2,352
Miscellaneous revenues	19,500	19,500	17,620	(1,880)
Transfers from other funds	10,000	10,000	51,163	41,163
Amounts Available for Appropriation	<u>2,463,325</u>	<u>2,463,325</u>	<u>2,371,636</u>	<u>(40,526)</u>
Charges to Appropriations (Outflows):				
General government	236,681	236,681	209,941	26,740
Sanitation	39,835	39,835	30,370	9,465
Public works	343,000	343,000	328,781	14,219
Recreation	750	750	700	50
Community programs	10,500	10,500	10,500	-
Shaw library	10,997	10,997	10,978	19
Public safety	75,150	75,150	71,501	3,649
County tax	192,132	192,132	192,132	-
Overlay	46,996	46,996	3,600	43,396
Public education	588,301	588,301	588,076	225
Welfare/charity	3,000	3,000	300	2,700
Capital projects	211,000	211,000	201,456	9,544
Transfers to other funds	12,000	12,000	12,000	-
Total Charges to Appropriations	<u>1,770,342</u>	<u>1,770,342</u>	<u>1,660,335</u>	<u>110,007</u>
Budgetary Fund Balance, December 31	<u>\$ 692,983</u>	<u>\$ 692,983</u>	<u>\$ 711,301</u>	<u>\$ 69,481</u>

See accompanying independent auditor's report and notes to financial statements.

TOWN OF MERCER, MAINE

SCHEDULE A

SCHEDULE OF DEPARTMENTAL OPERATIONS - GENERAL FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

	Original Budget	Budget Adjustments	Final Budget	Actual	Variance Positive (Negative)
General Government -					
Town officers - wages, stipends and benefits	\$ 123,738	\$ -	\$ 123,738	\$ 117,556	\$ 6,182
Administration	89,343	-	89,343	79,005	10,338
Contingency	8,000	-	8,000	-	8,000
Assessing	9,170	-	9,170	9,170	-
Planning board	500	-	500	65	435
Special officers	2,330	-	2,330	1,376	954
Town cemeteries	3,600	-	3,600	2,769	831
	<u>236,681</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>236,681</u>	<u>209,941</u>	<u>26,740</u>
Sanitation -					
Recycling	8,025	-	8,025	10,826	(2,801)
Transfer station	5,060	-	5,060	1,712	3,348
Solid waste disposal	26,750	-	26,750	17,832	8,918
	<u>39,835</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>39,835</u>	<u>30,370</u>	<u>9,465</u>
Public Works -					
Summer roads	119,250	-	119,250	117,737	1,513
Sand/salt shed	750	-	750	994	(244)
Winter roads	223,000	-	223,000	210,050	12,950
	<u>343,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>343,000</u>	<u>328,781</u>	<u>14,219</u>
Recreation -					
Youth leagues	750	-	750	700	50
Community Programs -					
Historical society	2,500	-	2,500	2,500	-
Meeting house association	2,500	-	2,500	2,500	-
North pond association	3,500	-	3,500	3,500	-
7 Lakes alliance youth	2,000	-	2,000	2,000	-
	<u>10,500</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,500</u>	<u>10,500</u>	<u>-</u>
Shaw library -	10,997	-	10,997	10,978	19

TOWN OF MERCER, MAINE

SCHEDULE A (CONTINUED)

SCHEDULE OF DEPARTMENTAL OPERATIONS - GENERAL FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

	Original Budget	Budget Adjustments	Final Budget	Actual	Variance Positive (Negative)
Public Safety -					
Fire protection	69,600	-	69,600	68,142	1,458
Traffic light	600	-	600	620	(20)
Street light	450	-	450	375	75
Rescue	4,500	-	4,500	2,364	2,136
	<u>75,150</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>75,150</u>	<u>71,501</u>	<u>3,649</u>
County Tax	192,132	-	192,132	192,132	-
Overlay	46,996	-	46,996	3,600	43,396
Public Education -					
MSAD 54	587,876	-	587,876	587,876	-
Scholarships	425	-	425	200	225
	<u>588,301</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>588,301</u>	<u>588,076</u>	<u>225</u>
Welfare/Charity -					
Community projects	1,000	-	1,000	300	700
General assistance	2,000	-	2,000	-	2,000
	<u>3,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,000</u>	<u>300</u>	<u>2,700</u>
Capital Projects -					
Revaluation	34,000	-	34,000	34,000	-
Tax map updates	6,000	-	6,000	6,000	-
Ditching	20,000	-	20,000	20,000	-
Roads	20,000	-	20,000	10,456	9,544
Paving and LRAP projects	76,000	-	76,000	76,000	-
Buildings	55,000	-	55,000	55,000	-
	<u>211,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>211,000</u>	<u>201,456</u>	<u>9,544</u>
Transfers to Other Funds -					
Special revenue	12,000	-	12,000	12,000	-
	<u>12,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,000</u>	<u>12,000</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL DEPARTMENTAL OPERATIONS	<u>\$ 1,770,342</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 1,770,342</u>	<u>\$ 1,660,335</u>	<u>\$ 110,007</u>

See accompanying independent auditor's report and notes to financial statements.

TOWN OF MERCER, MAINE

COMBINING BALANCE SHEET - NONMAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
DECEMBER 31, 2023

	Special Revenue Funds	Permanent Funds	Total Nonmajor Governmental Funds
ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 126,375	\$ 27,548	\$ 153,923
Accounts receivable (net of allowance for uncollectibles)	-	467	467
Inventory	13,405	-	13,405
Due from other funds	51,864	-	51,864
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>\$ 191,644</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 28,015</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 219,659</u></u>
LIABILITIES			
Accounts payable	\$ 20	\$ -	\$ 20
Due to other funds	116,145	-	116,145
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u><u>116,165</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>116,165</u></u>
FUND BALANCES			
Nonspendable	13,405	11,992	25,397
Restricted	35,931	16,023	51,954
Committed	141,218	-	141,218
Assigned	1,070	-	1,070
Unassigned (deficit)	(116,145)	-	(116,145)
TOTAL FUND BALANCES	<u><u>75,479</u></u>	<u><u>28,015</u></u>	<u><u>103,494</u></u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES	<u><u>\$ 191,644</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 28,015</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 219,659</u></u>

See accompanying independent auditor's report and notes to financial statements.

SCHEDULE C

TOWN OF MERCER, MAINE

COMBINING SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND
BALANCES - NONMAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

	Special Revenue Funds	Permanent Funds	Total Nonmajor Governmental Funds
REVENUES			
Intergovernmental	\$ 146,242	\$ -	\$ 146,242
Investment income, net of unrealized gains/(losses)	-	910	910
Interest income	6,049	-	6,049
Other	25,016	6,841	31,857
TOTAL REVENUES	<u>177,307</u>	<u>7,751</u>	<u>185,058</u>
EXPENDITURES			
Other	234,694	6,678	241,372
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>234,694</u>	<u>6,678</u>	<u>241,372</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	<u>(57,387)</u>	<u>1,073</u>	<u>(56,314)</u>
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)			
Equity transfer	12,446	-	12,446
Transfers in	12,000	-	12,000
Transfers (out)	(50,000)	(1,163)	(51,163)
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)	<u>(25,554)</u>	<u>(1,163)</u>	<u>(26,717)</u>
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES	(82,941)	(90)	(83,031)
FUND BALANCES - JANUARY 1, RESTATED	<u>158,420</u>	<u>28,105</u>	<u>186,525</u>
FUND BALANCES - DECEMBER 31	<u>\$ 75,479</u>	<u>\$ 28,015</u>	<u>\$ 103,494</u>

See accompanying independent auditor's report and notes to financial statements.

State of Maine
Municipal Election for the Town of Mercer
March 1, 2024
Official Ballot
Nancy J. Gove, Town Clerk

To Vote for Candidate, Check the box to the left of the name.
For a Write In, write the Last name, First name
and **Check the box** to the left of the name.

**First Selectperson, Assessor
and Overseer of the Poor - 1 Year**
(Vote for one)

Hurley, Bruce E _____

**Second Selectperson, Assessor
and Overseer of the Poor - 1 Year**
(Vote for one)

Mosher, Gary D _____

**Third Selectperson, Assessor
and Overseer of the Poor - 1 Year**
(Vote for One)

Burr, Mary E _____

Director of SAD #54 - 3 Year
(Vote for One)

Bunker-Geyer, Sarah R _____

Trustee of Shaw Library - 5 Year
(Vote for one)

Goodwin, Roberta D _____

Planning Board - 3 Year
(Vote for Two)

Nosach, Geoffrey _____
 Veilleux, Jeffrey S _____

Budget Committee - 3 Year
(Vote for Two)

Chamberlain, Elizabeth "Robin" _____
 Gove, Alan T _____

Thank You ~~~~ You have now finished voting!

2024 Annual Town Meeting Warrant

To Karen Martin, a resident of the Town of Mercer, in the County of Somerset, 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 Mercer in said county and state, qualified to vote in town affairs, to meet at the **Mercer Community Center** in said Town on **Friday, the 1st day of March, 2024**, at ten o'clock in the forenoon then and there to act upon Article 1 and by secret ballot on Article 2 as set out below, the polling hours therefor to be from 10:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. and to reconvene on **Saturday, the 2nd day of March, 2024**, at five thirty o'clock in the afternoon (**5:30 p.m.**) then and there to act upon Articles 3 through 39, said articles being the following:

ARTICLE 1: To elect a moderator by written ballot to preside at said meeting.

ARTICLE 2: To elect three (3) Selectpersons, Assessors, and Overseers of the Poor all for one-year terms; one (1) Director of MSAD #54 for a three-year term; one (1) Trustee of Shaw Library for a five-year term; two (2) Planning Board members for a three-year term; and two (2) Budget Committee members for a three-year term.

ARTICLE 3: To nominate and elect from the floor one (1) Planning Board alternate member for a three (3) year term.

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote (by secret Australian ballot) to increase the property tax levy limit established for Mercer by state law, in the event that the municipal budget approved under the following articles results in a tax commitment greater than that limit.

ARTICLE 5: 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 6: To see if the Town will vote to charge and collect interest of 8% on all taxes assessed in 2024 that are unpaid 30 days after the date of commitment.
Select Board recommends 8% (maximum allowed by state law is 8.5%)
Budget Committee recommends 8% vote 4-0-1

ARTICLE 7: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$121,566 for wages and benefits for Administration.** (Note: wages for all officials incl Library have increased 3.8%)

1 st Selectperson	\$ 6,000	Deputy	<u>\$ 6,000</u>
2 nd Selectperson	\$ 6,000	Sub-total	<u>\$ 99,000</u>
3 rd Selectperson	\$ 6,000	SS & Medicare	\$ 7,650
Clerk, Tax Collector, Treasurer	\$ 48,000	Health Insurance	<u>\$ 14,916</u>
Deputy	\$ 27,000	Total	\$121,566

Select Board recommends \$121,566 from Taxes
Budget Committee recommends \$121,566, vote 3-0-2

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$97,148 for Administration (Town Office, Mercer Community Center)** plus expend any revenues and donations generated by the community center; any unexpended balances in the Administration budget and the Community Center revenue accounts to be placed in the Community Center Reserve Fund.

Audit	\$ 7,000	Dues/Subscriptions	\$ 2,304
Elections	\$ 3,000	Postage	\$ 2,400
Registry of Deeds	\$ 2,000	Security	\$ 2,000
Town Report	\$ 2,000	Training/Travel	\$ 1,700
Supplies	\$ 2,900	Software/Equip/Furn	\$ 4,000
Trio software Maint.	\$12,500	Trio Web upgrade	\$ 4,600
Repairs & Maint.	\$ 7,900	Utilities	\$24,944
Insurance	\$11,050	Miscellaneous	\$ 1,350
		<u>Contract Svcs</u>	<u>\$ 5,500</u>
		Total	\$97,148

Select Board recommends \$97,148 from Taxes
 Budget Committee recommends \$97,148, vote 4-0-1

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Surplus **\$8,000 for Contingency**. All use of funds to be reported in the 2024 annual report.

Note: No expenditures in 2023
 Select Board recommends \$8,000 from Surplus
 Budget Committee recommends \$8,000, vote 4-0-1

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$8,970 for Assessing**; any remaining balance to be placed in the Assessing Revaluation Fund.

Select Board recommends \$8,970 from Taxes
 Budget Committee recommends \$8,970, vote 4-0-1

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$500 for the Planning Board**.

Select Board recommends \$500 from Taxes
 Budget Committee recommends \$500, vote 4-0-1

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$10,107 for Special Officers**.

Addressing Officer	\$ 500	Travel/mileage	\$ 200
ACO	\$ 2,400	Training	\$ 1,000
CEO	\$ 3,500	Misc Exp:	
SS & Medicare	\$ 567	ACO,CEO,HO	\$ 500
WC/Unemployment	\$ 50	Animal Shelter	
		<u>Contract</u>	<u>\$ 1,390</u>
		Total	\$10,107

Select Board recommends \$10,107 from Taxes
 Budget Committee recommends \$10,107, vote 4-0-1

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$5,125 for Cemetery Maintenance** (\$4,625 from taxes; \$500 from Hampshire Hill Cemetery Maintenance fund).

Select Board recommends \$5,125 from Taxes
 Budget Committee recommends \$5,125, vote 3-0-2

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$1,025 to supplement the three town scholarship awards (two \$500 high school awards & a \$25 elementary award).**
Select Board recommends \$1,025 from Taxes
Budget Committee recommends \$425, vote 3-1-1

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$73,883 for Public Safety – Fire (year 1 of 3-year contract), Traffic and Street lights.**
Select Board recommends \$73,883 from Taxes
Budget Committee recommends \$73,883, vote 4-0-1

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$4,343 for Public Safety - Mercer Rescue;** any unexpended balance to be placed in the Mercer Rescue Fund.
Select Board recommends \$4,343 from Taxes
Budget Committee recommends \$4,343, vote 3-0-2

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Surplus **\$10,000 for Public Safety – Mercer Rescue for a 12 lead EKG Machine.**
Select Board recommends \$10,000 from Surplus
Budget Committee recommends \$10,000, vote 3-0-2

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$114,122 for Public Works - Summer Roads (\$113,705 from taxes, \$417 from Summer Rd Improvement Fund - closing out this fund); any unexpended balance to be placed in the Road Maintenance Fund.**
Select Board recommends \$101,922 from Taxes
Budget Committee recommends \$101,922, vote 4-0-1

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$235,130 for Public Works - Winter Road Maintenance (year 2 of 2-year contract extension) and Sand/Salt Shed (\$70,130 from Taxes, \$165,000 from Excise Taxes).**
Select Board recommends \$235,130 from Taxes
Budget Committee recommends \$235,130, vote 4-0-1

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town will authorize the Municipal Officers to enter into a contract for a period of not more than 5 years for the purpose of winter roads maintenance on such terms as they deem to be in the Town's best interest. This article to continue in effect from year to year until amended or revoked by Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Surplus **\$750 for various Youth Leagues.**
Select Board recommends \$750 from Surplus
Budget Committee recommends \$750, vote 4-0-1

ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$32,915 for Solid Waste Disposal and Recycling.**
Select Board recommends \$32,915 from Taxes
Budget Committee recommends \$32,915, vote 4-0-1

ARTICLE 23: To see if the Town will establish a non-lapsing Mercer Shaw Library Reserve Fund for the purpose of holding funds, including donations, for capital improvements and operating expenses, for the benefit of the Mercer Shaw Library and to appropriate to this fund all

monies previously within the library's Special Revenue Fund \$12,074.16 that were transferred to the Town upon re-establishment of the library as a Town department in 2023; and to provide the selectboard with continuing authority to spend from the account for the purposes stated above without further vote of the town meeting, this authority to remain in force from year to year until rescinded by the town meeting.

Select Board recommends yes

Budget Committee recommends yes, vote 4-0-1

ARTICLE 24: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$11,359 for Mercer Shaw Library (\$6,359 from Taxes, \$5,000 from Shaw Library Reserve Funds).**

Select Board recommends \$11,359 from Taxes and Reserves

Budget Committee recommends \$11,359, vote 4-0-1

ARTICLE 25: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Shaw Library Book Fund **\$780 for book purchases.**

Select Board recommends \$780 from Reserves

Budget Committee recommends \$780, vote 4-0-1

ARTICLE 26: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Surplus **\$500 for Charity.**

Select Board recommends \$500 from Surplus

Budget Committee recommends \$500, vote 4-0-1

ARTICLE 27: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Surplus **\$2,000 for General Assistance.**

Select Board recommends \$2,000 from Surplus

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

ARTICLE 28: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$2,500 for Mercer Historical Society.**

Select Board recommends \$2,500 from Taxes

Budget Committee recommends \$2,500, vote 3-1-1

ARTICLE 29: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$3,000 for Mercer Meeting House.**

Select Board recommends \$3,000 from Taxes

Budget Committee recommends \$3,000, vote 4-0-1

ARTICLE 30: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$3,500 for North Pond Association.**

Select Board recommends \$3,500 from Taxes

Budget Committee recommends \$3,500, vote 3-1-1

ARTICLE 31: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$2,000 for 7 Lakes Youth Conservation Corp.**

Select Board recommends \$2,000 from Taxes

Budget Committee recommends \$2,000, vote 3-1-1

ARTICLE 32: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Surplus **\$4,216 for Legal Expense Reserve Fund.** (Funds to come from solar application fees)

Select Board recommends \$4,216 from Surplus

Budget Committee recommends \$4,216, vote 4-0-1

ARTICLE 33: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$5,800 for Town's share of FEMA December 2022 (Disaster DR#4696) storm repairs.

Select Board recommends \$5,800 from Taxes
Budget Committee recommends \$5,800, vote 4-0-1

ARTICLE 34: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$51,000 to fund the 2023-2024 Revaluation contract with RJD Appraisal (\$11,000 from Surplus, \$40,000 from Revaluation Fund).

Select Board recommends \$51,000 from Surplus/Reserves
Budget Committee recommends \$51,000, vote 4-0-1

ARTICLE 35: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Shaw Library Reserve Fund \$2,910 for library improvements.

Select Board recommends \$2,910 from Reserves
Budget Committee recommends \$2,910, vote 4-0-1

ARTICLE 36: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$25,000 from Surplus for Capital Improvement Project at Pattee Brook on Pond Road.

Select Board recommends \$25,000 from Surplus
Budget Committee recommends \$25,000, vote 4-0-1

ARTICLE 37: To see if the town will vote to appropriate for Capital Improvement Projects \$55,329 to complete a section of Beech Hill Road from Corson Road to Sand Shed (\$21,005 from Surplus; \$34,324 from LRAP).

Select Board recommends \$55,329 from Surplus/LRAP
Budget Committee recommends \$55,329, vote 4-0-1

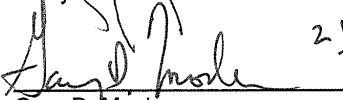
ARTICLE 38: To see if the town will vote to sell a piece of property on Brown Road, identified on the Town of Mercer tax maps as Map 10, Lot 18-03 consisting of 5.15 acres by warranty deed, proceeds to be deposited into the Mercer Community Center Fund.

ARTICLE 39: 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.

Given under our hands this 8th day of February, 2024.

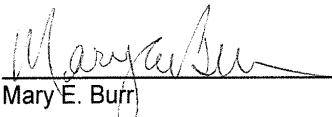


Ricky J. Farlin



Gary D. Mosher

2ND



Mary E. Burr

List of Continuing Articles

At past town meetings, voters have approved the following "continuing articles". [*printed for information purposes*]

1991 Annual Town Meeting

ARTICLE 22: Voted to authorize the Board of Selectmen, on behalf of the town, to sell and dispose of any real estate acquired by the Town for non-payment of taxes thereon by sealed bid following public notice of sale of such real estate, and to issue quit claim deeds for same. The Selectmen shall first offer to sell to the previous owner for full payment of all delinquent taxes, fees, plus interests and costs. This authorization to continue from year to year until amended or revoked by Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 39: Voted to authorize the Selectmen to accept gifts on behalf of the town. This authorization to continue in effect from year to year until amended or revoked by Town Meeting.

1992 Annual Town Meeting

ARTICLE 12: Voted to authorize the selectmen to fill vacancies on non-elected boards and committees by appointment. This authorization to continue in effect from year to year until amended or revoked by Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 36: Voted to allow the Selectmen to authorize cutting in the Town Forest in accordance with the Town Forest Management Plan. This authorization to continue in effect from year to year until amended or revoked by Town Meeting.

2008 Annual Town Meeting

ARTICLE 35: The town voted to authorize the Municipal Officers to close East Sandy River Road for the winter from the transfer Station entrance to the snow plow turn around. This authorization to continue in effect from year to year until amended or revoked by Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 44: The Town voted to authorize the Municipal Officers to temporarily borrow money as needed to cover the Town's expenses until this year's tax revenues are received. Any such loan to be repaid in full within the year. This authorization to continue in effect from year to year until amended or revoked by Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 45: The Town voted to appropriate \$1,000.00 from surplus to pay the interest on the tax anticipation loan, if needed. This authorization to continue in effect from year to year until amended or revoked by Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 48: The Town voted to apply for a Maine State Archives Grant to assist with the preservation of the town's historical records, and to accept and appropriate such funds if received. This authorization to continue in effect from year to year until amended or revoked by Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 50: The Town voted to authorize the Municipal Officers to accept donations to be added to the principal of the scholarship funds. This authorization to continue in effect from year to year until amended or revoked by Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 51: The Town voted to appropriate all State refunds of registrations fees for the Mercer Bog Riders. This authorization to continue in effect from year to year until amended or revoked by Town Meeting.

2011 Annual Town Meeting

ARTICLE 35: The Town voted to authorize the selectmen to appoint one individual from the Town of Mercer to represent the town on the Skowhegan Cal Ripken Baseball Board of Directors. This to be a continuing article unless amended at a future town meeting.

2020 Annual Town Meeting

ARTICLE 48: The Town voted to authorize the tax collector or treasurer to accept prepayments of taxes not yet committed, pursuant to 36 MRSA § 506, the amount collected not to exceed the previous year's taxes. Interest on any prepayment will be zero percent.

ARTICLE 49: The Town voted to allow the Town Treasurer, after Municipal Officers approval, to file a waiver of automatic foreclosure at the Registry of Deeds, pursuant to 36 MRSA section 944, on real estate that may be burdensome on the town.

ARTICLE 50: The Town voted to prohibit a Municipal Officer from being an employee or an independent contractor for the Town of Mercer.

ARTICLE 51: The Town voted to ensure that work conducted on behalf of the Town of Mercer in excess of five hundred dollars (\$500) must have a written contract.

2021 Annual Town Meeting

ARTICLE 43: The Town voted to authorize the Select Board, on behalf of the Town, to take whatever actions are necessary for the Town of 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: The Town voted 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 03, 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 46: The Town voted 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.

2022 Annual Town Meeting

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will establish a non-lapsing "Legal Expenses Reserve Fund" to be used to pay for legal expenses incurred by the town; to raise and appropriate \$3000 to be deposited into the fund; and to provide the selectboard with continuing authority to spend from the account for the purposes stated above without further vote to the town meeting, this authority to remain in force from year to year until rescinded by the town meeting.

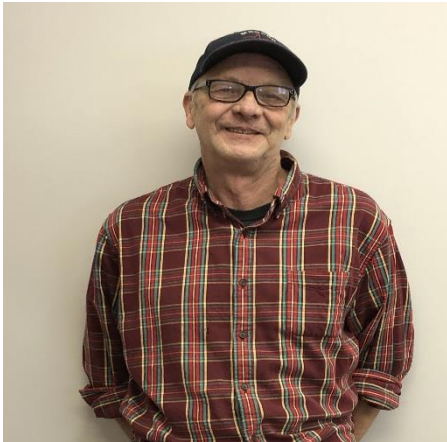
ARTICLE 40: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to carry forward funds that have been obligated by the contract into a new fiscal year. The authority granted herein shall continue until amended or revoked.

2024 Dates to Remember

January 1, 2024 –	Dog Licenses Due.
January 31, 2024 –	Last day to pay Dog License Fees without Late Fee.
February 1, 2024 –	Late Fees (\$25.00) for Dog Licenses goes into effect.
March 1, 2024 –	Town Election. Polls will be OPEN 10 am-8 pm.
March 2, 2024 -	Annual Town Meeting at 5:30 pm Mercer Community Center Gym.
March 5, 2024 -	Presidential Primary Election. Polls OPEN 8 am-8 pm.
April 1, 2024 –	Notification to Assessors forms, Homestead/Veterans Exemptions Applications & Personal/Business Property Declarations Due.
May 1, 2024 –	Date to start registering ATVs for 2024 year.
May/June 2024 –	Projected date for 30-day notice to be sent out (by certified mail) for 2023 Tax Lien process.
June 11, 2024 –	State Primary/RSU #54 School Budget Referendum Election.
July/August 2024 –	Projected time for 2024 Tax Bills to be sent out.
October 15, 2024 –	Date you may start licensing your Dogs for 2025 *Must bring Current Rabies Certificate.
November 1, 2024 –	Projected date you may start registering Snowmobiles for the 2025 Season.
November 5, 2024 –	Presidential Election. Polls OPEN 8 am-8 pm.
December 1, 2024 –	Date you may start purchasing Hunting/Fishing Licenses for 2025.
December 31, 2024 –	Any unpaid 2024 Real Estate and Personal Property taxes will be listed in the Annual Town Report.

2023 Spirit of America Recipient is Brian Breton

The Town of Mercer would like to recognize Brian Breton as the recipient of this year's Spirit of America Award. A Mercer resident, Brian has actively demonstrated his support for this small rural town and the running of our local government. A few years back our Mercer Rescue department all up and quit leaving us without a local first responder nor a director to manage it. Brian stepped up and volunteered to be our director and sought volunteer EMT's/first responders to go out on emergency calls, saving the department from closing down. He was successful in getting a volunteer first responder to work with him and they have been successful in getting the department up and functioning.



Brian also agreed to be the Cemetery Sexton for the Town. He oversees three cemeteries, assists with maintenance issues and recently helped the town take over another old cemetery from a cemetery association that had dwindled down to just a couple members who no longer wanted the responsibility. This spring the Town of Mercer suffered severe damage to our roads from a May Day rain storm which caused much flooding. Brian assisted us here too.

Even though he wasn't our local Emergency Management Director at the time, he was there to block off roads that had washed out by putting up caution tape and road closed signs, etc. to protect the public. He also contacted emergency services and the public schools to notify them of the situation. When our EMA director decided not to take reappointment this June, Brian agreed to serve as our EMA Director as EMA and Mercer Rescue went hand in hand he said. In addition to all of the above, Brian was recently elected to the Budget Committee for a three-year term. Most recently Brian was asked to help us organize a few concerts at our community center in an effort to fundraise as he has a passion for music and entertainment. He was willing to roll up his sleeves and give it a try. Our first concert is July 7th. Let's hope it's a huge success!

Brian is an exemplary citizen. He cares about the town and its citizens which is made clear by his actions and involvement. He's good natured, knowledgeable and caring. Because of these qualities and his actions thus far, the Town of Mercer would like to recognize Brian Breton for the Spirit of America Award.

Town of Mercer

1015 Beech Hill Road
Mercer, ME 04957

Phone: (207) 587-2911 Fax: (207) 587-2912

www.mercermaine.com

Town Office Hours:

Monday 8am-4pm; Tuesday 11am-6pm; Wednesday 8 am-6 pm

Animal Control Officer.....	446-0739 Dexter Bridges
Code Enforcement Officer.....	(603) 831-4390 Ryan Storro
Court, District	474-9518
Court, Superior	474-5161
District Attorney's Office.....	474-7404
Fire Warden.....	634-2208 or 474-6386
Burning Permits.....	www.maine.gov/burnpermit
Health Officer	314-8336 Heidi Dubois
Hospitals: Redington Fairview Gen Hosp.....	474-5121
Hospitals: ME Gen Medical Center-Wtvl.....	872-1000
Hospitals: ME Gen Med Center-Augusta.....	626-1000
Hospitals: Franklin Memorial Hospital.....	778-6031
Local Plumbing Inspector.....	779-4858 Andrew Marble
Maine CDC	287-8016
MSAD #54 Superintendent's Office.....	474-9508
MSAD #54 Mill Stream Elementary	634-3121
MSAD #54 Skowhegan Area Middle.....	474-3339
MSAD #54 Skowhegan Area High.....	474-5511
Norridgewock Fire.....	911 or 634-2208
Norridgewock Post Office	634-4201
Shaw Library.....	779-3977
Somerset County Commissioners Office.....	474-9861
Somerset Registry of Deeds.....	474-3421
Somerset Registry of Probate.....	474-3322
Somerset Sherriff Dept.....	911 or 474-9591
State Police.....	911 or 474-3350

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, DIAL 9-1-1