

# Poland Newsletter

## TOWN MEETING INFO

This year the Town will be asking residents to vote at the Annual Town Meeting business portion on Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9 AM at the Poland Regional High School Auditorium.

The business portion has 33 articles that will be voted on.

Article 3 is to adopt the Maine Moderator's Manual as prepared as the parliamentary procedure at Town Meeting for the ensuing year.

Articles 4 – 8 are Comprehensive Land Use Code (CLUC) amendments.

Articles 9 – 23 are the articles pertaining to the FY 23 Town Budget.

Articles 24 & 25 ask the voters to authorize reducing the Unassigned fund for Senior Tax Assistance and Tax Relief.

The remaining articles are about various topics that will have more explanation in the newsletter.

**Annual Town Meeting  
Business Portion  
Saturday, April 2, 2022  
9 AM at PRHS Auditorium**

**WE NEED 100 REGISTERED  
POLAND VOTERS TO ATTEND**



### ARTICLE 1 & 2

Article 1 & 2 is voting to choose a moderator to oversee the election and business portion of Town Meeting and the Election of candidates for open positions in Town. These will be voted on at the polls on Friday, April 1, 2022 from 8 AM – 7 PM at the Town Hall.

### ARTICLE 4

Article 4 adds the word *complete* into the CLUC Section 303.2. This article makes it so the Code Enforcement Officer has 14 days after a *complete* building or use permit application is submitted to render a decision.

### ARTICLE 5

Adds language in the CLUC Section 504.3 stating that preconstruction photographs and post construction photographs of the shoreline vegetation and development site must be submitted per Maine State Law Chapter 3 Subsection 439-A. 10.

### ARTICLE 6

Updates the International Energy Conservation Code that must be followed from 2009 to 2015.

### ARTICLE 7

Updates the NFPA and National Electric Code that must be followed from 2017 to 2020.

### ARTICLE 8

Adds a new chapter to the CLUC that specifically deals with Solar Energy Systems.

**COPIES OF THESE CHANGES ARE AVAILABLE  
ON OUR WEBSITE AND AT OUR TOWN  
OFFICE**

## ANNUAL TOWN MEETING REFERENDUM ELECTION

**Friday, April 1, 2022**

**8 AM – 7 PM**

**Upstairs – Town Hall**

ABSENTEE BALLOTS ARE AVAILABLE  
CALL 998-4601 OR STOP BY IN PERSON

### ARTICLES 9 - 23

These articles are about the FY 23 Municipal Budget. The Budget was prepared with the goal of preserving the highest possible services being provided to the residents, visitors and businesses of the Town while keeping taxation and other charges for services at a minimum.

The proposed budget has an expense increase of \$165,143 or 2.48%. Revenues are projected to increase \$359,318 or 15.19%. ***The amount raised by taxation for the municipal portion of taxes is a decrease of \$194,175 or 4.53%.***

Approving this budget would result in a reduction of the mil rate from 15.10 to 15.03. **Both the Board of Selectpersons and Budget Committee recommend approval.**

County taxes are increasing \$115,161 or 12.74% over last fiscal year.

The School taxes are not included in the above figures as they are not part of the municipalities control and go to vote separately from the municipal budget. This year the RSU 16 Budget election will take place on June 14, 2022.

### ARTICLES 24 & 25

These two articles ask if \$25,000 to fund the property tax assistance program and \$675,000 to be used as tax relief be allowed to be used from the Unassigned Fund Balance. This would still leave a healthy fund balance in case of emergency but would allow the mil rate to be reduced to 14.35. **Both the Board of Selectpersons and Budget Committee recommend approval.**

QUESTIONS ABOUT ANY  
THING THAT WILL BE  
VOTED ON AT THE  
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

If you have any questions at all about any thing you see please contact any of the following:

**BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS**

Stephen Robinson, Chairperson  
srobinson@polandtownoffice.org

Jane Pentheny, Vice-Chair  
jpentheny@polandtownoffice.org

Nate McNally  
nmcnally@polandtownoffice.org

Mary-Beth Taylor  
mtaylor@polandtownoffice.org

Stanley Tetenman  
stetenman@polandtownoffice.org

**ADMINISTRATION**

Matt Garside, Town Manager  
mgarside@polandtownoffice.org  
(207) 998-4601

Nikki Pratt, Deputy Town Manager  
npratt@polandtownoffice.org  
(207) 998-4601

Those who have turned in nomination papers, therefore appearing on the ballot will be:

**Board of Selectpersons**

Robinson, Stephen  
Tetenman, Stanley

**Library Trustee**

Dick, Claire Ledoux  
Walker, Claire

RSU 16 Director & Budget Committee did not have any nomination papers returned.

Write in candidates will be allowed for these two positions.

**ARTICLE 26**

Article 26 asks if the Townspeople will approve the Board to negotiate and execute any and all agreements, including up to a 25 year site license for solar energy panels. Using solar energy the Town would be able to offset about \$19,000 a year in electrical costs. The Town would not have any cost associated with this at this time, but do have the option to come back to the voters in year 6 to ask for a buyout. This gives the Board time to see what the actual savings per year would be before asking voters to approve spending money. **Both the Board of Selectpersons and Budget Committee recommend approval.**

**ARTICLE 27**

This article asks the Townspeople to approve reallocating funds in the Law Enforcement Capital Improvement Plan to the Solid Waste Reserve and Town Road Reserve. This can be done due to the Townspeople approving 24/7 Androskoggin Sheriff Office (ASO) coverage last year. The contract with ASO makes it their responsibility to replace cruisers and no longer the Town's. **Both the Board of Selectpersons and Budget Committee recommend approval.**

**ARTICLE 28 & 35**

Articles 28 and 35 ask the Townspeople for approval to use American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. The first is up to \$65,000 for two power lift stretchers and the second is for up to \$200,000 to replace or enhance the HVAC system at the Town Office. This money is money received from the Federal Government that has spending limitations on what it can be used for. Taxation relief is not an allowable option. Approving this article will not affect the municipal taxes. **Both the Board of Selectpersons and Budget Committee recommend approval.**

**ARTICLE 32**

Article 32 asks the Townspeople to authorize an amendment to the "Heart of Poland" conservation easement.

The additional acreage being asked to be approved is from purchasing the "Laliberte" lot as approved at the August 25, 2020 Annual Town Meeting Referendum Election.

This article formerly allows the "Laliberte" property to be placed in the already existing "Heart of Poland" conservation easement.

The portion of Map 15 Lot 1 Sublot 5 is additional acreage within the "Heart of Poland" area that the Conservation Commission would like to see added to the easement. **Board of Selectpersons recommends approval.**

**Don't forget that we need 100 registered Poland voters to attend the Annual Town Meeting on Saturday, April 2, 2022 at 9 AM at the PRHS Auditorium. The meeting can not start without a 100 person quorum, by the TOWN OF POLAND CHARTER.**

A logo consisting of a large, stylized checkmark symbol followed by the word "vote" in a bold, lowercase, sans-serif font.

## ARTICLE 29 & 30

The Ricker Memorial Library and Community room was built in 1963 with monies donated by Jane Ricker. Since that time, it has served the Poland community well. It is an inviting building; the staff is knowledgeable and friendly. It has and continues to be a great resource for our community.

We, the Trustees and library staff, have felt for a number of years that the facility could be improved, particularly the children's area. Better site lines are needed to monitor activities in that area as well as the computer tables. Additionally, low tables and chairs would increase the functionality and encourage child participation in study, coloring, puzzles, or other pastimes. This play/work area would keep children busy in a positive atmosphere while parents browse the bookshelves. Adult chairs would encourage family co-reading.

In 2019 we conducted a survey to determine if residents would be in favor of an expansion, renovation, or nothing at all. 70% of the polled people were in favor of an expansion. We had some concept drawings drawn up at that time of potential expansion designs, which are on display at the library. Some ideas that we have focused on in the expansion concept are to add square footage, improve the children's area, and replace tall bookshelves with shorter ones to facilitate browsing.

Adding square footage to the basement would allow for a dedicated area for our Children's Story Time, Teens and Tweens and other various clubs. The basement also plays host to many other functions so we would incorporate a better functioning kitchen with more space and a restroom in the basement.

We bring to the Town two articles to move forward with an expansion to the library. Article 29 asks voters to approve using money from the Stone Trust to continue with engineering of the expansion or to be used in a way consistent with how it was dedicated.

Article 30 allows for the Town to take out a bond, up to \$850,000, to build the expansion once engineering designs are done and approved by the Planning Board. The short-term repayment option of 10 years allows this debt payment to have minimal interest accrual. **Both the Board of Selectpersons and Budget Committee recommend approval.**

## ARTICLE 33

Article 33 asks for the townspeople to authorize updates made the Poland Comprehensive Plan. A complete copy of this plan is located on our website, at the Town Office, or at our Library. **Board of Selectpersons recommend approval.**

## ARTICLE 34

Article 34 asks the Townspeople for authorization to allow the Town Manager to apply on behalf of the Town for a grant to fund the Town Park that is to be located behind the Library and Recreation Department. This funding will make it so no tax payer dollars would need to be used to fund this project. **Board of Selectpersons recommend approval.**

**Please visit our website at [polandtownoffice.org](http://polandtownoffice.org) and navigate to the TOWN MEETING news article for a copy of the warrant and the Annual Town Meeting handout packet.**

## WILL THERE STILL BE SOCIAL DISTANCING PRACTICES AT THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING?

We will continue to ask people of different families to socially distance from one another at the "in person" Annual Town Meeting.

There will be two check in lines. We will also have individually wrapped N95 masks available for those wishing to wear one. Hand sanitizer stations in the lobby are also available. Handouts will be handed to each individual who checks in for the meeting.

We ask when choosing your seat that you are respectful of those around you and spread out in the auditorium as best as possible.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS ABOUT THE "IN PERSON" ANNUAL TOWN MEETING PLEASE REACH OUT TO ANYONE LISTED ON PAGE 2 OF THE NEWSLETTER

Town of Poland  
1231 Maine Street  
Poland, ME 04274

PRSR STD  
ECRWSS  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT NO 9

Local  
Postal Customer



# Your Opinion Counts

- Please make your opinion count by voting on Friday, April 1st at the Annual Town Meeting Referendum Election. Polls will be open from 8 AM – 7 PM, upstairs at the Town Hall. This will be to elect person to hold the positions of Selectboard, Budget Committee, Library Trustee, and RSU 16 Director.
- Come to the Annual Town Meeting business portion and help decide important items like your Town's budget and other Legislative questions on Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9 AM at the Poland Regional High School Auditorium. We need 100 registered voters!