

Poland Newsletter

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING REFERENDUM ELECTION

At the November 2022 election the inhabitants of the Town of Poland moved forward with amending the Town Charter to change how the Annual Town Meeting would be held moving forward.

This change moved Town Meeting from an in person vote to voting at the polls. Absentee ballots are available at the Town Office 30 days prior, just like any other referendum vote, or you may vote in person at the polls.

The Board of Selectpersons will be holding two public hearings to review the Municipal Articles on the warrant in case there are any questions from the public.

Public Hearings will be held:

Saturday, April 1st at 9:30 AM

Wed., April 12th at 6:30 PM

Town Office Conference Room & by Zoom

Copies of the warrant, budget summary, and CLUC warrant article explanations can all be found on our website or picked up at the Town Office.

The budget justifications can be found on our website under TOWN NEWS.

The Zoom link for both public hearings will be posted on our website. If you would like to request the zoom link please email Nikki Pratt at npratt@polandtownoffice.org



BUDGET MESSAGE

The FY 24 proposed budget has a net increase of \$279,700 or 5.01% over FY 23. The largest single line increases in the budget are the following:

- **County Tax increased by \$167K**
- **ASO Contract increased by \$85K**

In the revenue line we were able to get a better yield on our investment interest and that increased revenue by \$150K.

The Board of Selectpersons continues to put a high value on keeping the mil rate (tax rate) low for our residents in town. They authorized the Assessing Agent to do work that allows the certified ratio to be raised to 100%. What this does is it allows us to pick up 100% of the BETE/BETR reimbursements from the State and gains us approximately another \$250K in revenue to offset the mil rate. Although residents will see their property values rise due to this measure it will not have an effect on their taxes they pay. When you raise valuation the mil rate is dropped therefore balancing itself out.

The municipal raise in the mil rate this year will equate to approximately \$14 on a \$100K value in property.

RSU 16 PROPOSED BUDGET

The RSU 16 proposed budget will increase Poland taxpayers school taxes by approximately \$1.02M for FY 24. The school budget is voted on by a separate ballot at the June election and the budget is set by RSU 16 not the Town of Poland.

This increase would equate to an increase in the mil rate that equates to approximately \$127 on \$100K value in property.

RSU 16 is also bringing to the polls, on May 2, 2023, a bond for approval for \$5.07M. After interest this will equate to approximately \$7.86M, which Poland taxpayers will be responsible for paying 67% of the debt.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING REFERENDUM ELECTION

Tuesday, June 13, 2023

8 AM – 8 PM

Upstairs – Town Hall

ABSENTEE BALLOTS ARE AVAILABLE
30 DAYS PRIOR TO ELECTION
CALL 998-4601 OR STOP BY IN PERSON

Articles 1 & 2. relate specifically to choosing a moderator and to electing by secret ballot those running for offices.

Articles 3 – 11. relate to Comprehensive Land Use Code Amendments. Explanations of these articles can be found on our website at www.polandtownoffice.org, emailing Code Enforcement, or by picking up a copy in person at the Town Office.

Article 12. sets the taxes to be due in two equal installments, one in October and one in April. It also allows interest to be charged on back taxes owed. **Budget Committee recommends approval.**

Article 13. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$3,032,055 in revenue from non-property tax resources to reduce the total amount authorized to be raised by taxation, and further to see if the Town will authorize the Board of Selectpersons and Treasurer to accept any additional revenues or funds that may be used to reduce the amount required to be raised by taxation. **Budget Committee recommends approval.**

- State Municipal Revenue Sharing \$609,644
- Motor Vehicle Excise \$1,475,000
- MDOT LRAP \$77,920
- Ambulance Service Fees \$338,000
- Investment Interest \$210,000
- All Other Anticipated Revenues \$321,491

Article 14. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the use of funds from the Jane Ricker Trust, totaling \$71,765, and the AB Ricker Fund, totaling \$20,076, for the purpose of supplementing the Ricker Memorial Library operating budget for Fiscal Year 2024 in accordance with the Town's Investment Policy. **Budget Committee recommends approval.**

**** NOTE THAT THE BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS DOES NOT MAKE THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS UNTIL THEY SIGN THE WARRANT THEREFORE THOSE RECOMMENDATIONS ARE NOT LISTED AT THIS TIME**

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

If you have any questions 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

CLUC AMENDMENTS

Information regarding the Comprehensive Land Use Code Amendments that are proposed can be found on our website or at our Code Enforcement Office.

There is also a public hearing that will take place on Tuesday, March 28th at 6:30 PM before the Planning Board meeting.

If you have questions regarding any of the CLUC amendments please contact:

Code Enforcement Officer
Scott Neal at 998-4604
or by email at
sneal@polandtownoffice.org.

Article 15. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,844,498 for General Government. **Budget Committee recommends approval.**

- General Government \$2,757,106
 - County Tax \$1,186,227
 - Debt Service \$234,216
 - Legal, Audit & Assessing Agent \$64,250
 - All other \$1,272,413
- Buildings & Grounds \$72,739
- Cable TV \$14,653

Article 16. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$620,308 for Community Services. **Budget Committee recommends approval.**

- Planning & Development \$209,183
- Recreation Salaries & Benefits \$192,132
- Health Officer \$1,752
- Beach Maintenance \$6,655
- Conservation Services \$10,000
- General Assistance \$11,000
- Social Service Agencies \$9,777
- Town Portion for Library \$170,809
- Ball Field Maintenance \$9,000

Article 17. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$914,636 for Public Works and \$397,114 for Solid Waste. **Budget Committee recommends approval.**

Article 18. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,028,593 for Public Safety. **Budget Committee recommends approval.**

- Fire Rescue \$1,379,219
- Law Enforcement \$548,575
- Dispatching \$60,605
- Animal Control \$14,500
- Street Light & Beacon \$19,694
- Emergency Management \$6,000

Article 19. To see if the Town will appropriate for Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Districts an estimated total amount of \$1,032,124, dependent upon actual mil rate. **Budget Committee recommends approval.**

- TIF I \$471,367
- TIF II \$484,855
- DTV TIF \$75,902

Article 20. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,057,713 for the FY24 Capital Improvement Program for the Capital Reserve accounts. **Budget Committee recommends approval.**

- Municipal Facilities Reserve \$5,000
- Technology Reserve \$16,000
- Paving Town Roads Reserve \$610,713
- Public Works Vehicle Reserve \$150,000
- Fire Rescue Vehicle Reserve \$240,000
- Contingency (Unplanned) \$20,000
- Revaluation Reserve \$15,000
- Conservation \$1,000

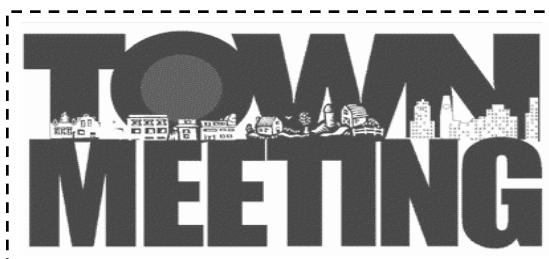
Article 21. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$20,000 for **Overlay** for the purposes of granting tax abatements and addressing any other tax errors. **Budget Committee recommends approval.**

Article 22. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectpersons to transfer from the Town's unassigned fund balance an amount of \$5,198 for the purpose of funding the Property Tax Assistance Ordinance, \$7,500 for library dedicated donations that fell through to the General Fund and an amount not to exceed \$550,000 for the purpose of reducing the total amount authorized to be raised by taxation for the fiscal year 2024. **Budget Committee recommends approval.**

Money in the unassigned fund balance is excess money we have received from either increased revenue or lower totals in expenses than anticipated over the years. Our financial policy dictates that we have no less than 30 days operating costs for a balance in this fund and our auditors like to see no less than 60 days operating costs in this fund. Last year we dropped into the fund \$550,000 and would like the taxpayers to allow us to take this money and use it to lower the mil rate for taxpayers. Using this amount would bring us to the 60 day mark.

Article 23. To see if the Town will vote to exceed the LD1 property tax levy limit. **Budget Committee recommends approval.**

LD1 looks at the income growth for the State and the municipal growth and only allows us to increase our tax rate by the same percentage or less than the growth equals. This year we are under the LD1 limit with the proposed budget. However, this question is asked every year in case there is an emergency expense such as a fire in one of our municipal buildings or another unplanned/emergency event in Town.



Article 24. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the issuance of general obligation securities of the Town to finance costs of design, construction and equipping of an expansion of the Town Library, in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$1,400,000, **an additional \$550,000 from what was authorized FY23**, hereby authorized and appropriated, with such dates, maturities, denominations, interest rate(s) and other details (including provisions that the bonds may be subject to call for redemption with or without premium) as the Municipal Officers shall determine. This would be funded from raised and appropriated taxation.

Total estimated debt service of this bond issue or contract is \$1,754,546 of which principal is \$1,400,000 and estimated interest rates ranging from 4.27 – 4.77%, depending on the year of maturity, over 10 years is \$354,546.

Budget Committee does not recommend approval.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The issuing of bonds by the Town is one of the ways in which the Town borrows money for certain purposes. The following is a summary of the bonded indebtedness of the Town as of the date of this election.

Bonds Now Outstanding and Unpaid	\$ 6,881,672
Interest to be Repaid on Outstanding Bonds	<u>\$ 678,933</u>
Total to be Repaid on Bonds Outstanding	\$ 7,560,605
Additional Principal Amount of Bonds Authorized But Not Yet Issued	\$ 850,000
Total Maximum Additional Bonds to Be Issued if Approved	\$ 550,000
Estimate of Potential New Interest on Such Additional Bonds	<u>\$ 354,546</u>
Total Additional Bonds to Be Issued and Estimated Interest if Approved by Voters	\$ 1,754,546

When money is borrowed by issuing bonds, the Town must repay not only the principal amount of the bonds but also interest on the bonds. The amount of interest to be paid will vary depending upon the rate of interest and the years to maturity at the time of issue. The validity of the bonds and of the voters' ratification of the bonds may not be affected by any errors in the estimates made of the costs involved, including varying interest rates, the estimated cost of interest on the bond amount to be issued and the total cost of principal and interest to be paid at maturity.

OTHER TOWN NEWS

- **Transfer Station.** Transfer Station hours remain Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday from 7 AM – 5 PM. You must have a current transfer station decal in order to use the transfer station. Decals are \$5 and are available at both the Town Office and the Transfer Station.
- **Upcoming Elections/Referendums.** Polls are open 8 AM – 8 PM upstairs in the Town Hall and you can request an absentee ballot beginning 30 days prior to the election/referendum.
 - May 2, 2023 - RSU 16 bond question.
 - June 13, 2023 – Municipal elections for offices, Municipal budget and CLUC amendments, and RSU 16 Budget

TOWN OFFICE HOURS

Monday 9 AM – 7 PM, Tuesday – Friday 9 AM – 4 PM

CODE ENFORCEMENT HOURS - (207) 998-4604

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday 8 AM – 4 PM

ADMINISTRATION/FINANCE/ASSESSING HOURS

Monday – Friday 8 AM – 4 PM

LIBRARY HOURS - (207) 998-4390

Monday & Tuesday 9 AM – 8 PM, Wednesday – Friday 9 AM – 5 PM, Saturday 10 AM – 2 PM

Town of Poland Phone (207) 998-4601 Fax (207) 998-2002

NOMINATION PAPERS

Nomination papers are available for the following positions:

1 Selectperson (3 year term)

2 Budget Committee Members (3 year terms)

2 RSU 16 Board of Directors (3 year terms)

WHAT ARE NOMINATION PAPERS?

Anyone who is a Poland resident and a registered voter in Poland can take out nomination papers to run for open seats. You would come to the Town Office and pick up your papers, which show your interest in being placed on the ballot for election, collect at least 25 signatures from registered Poland voters and then return them to the Town Office before **April 14, 2023 at 4 PM.**

Returning them with the required signatures allows your name to be placed on the ballot at the Annual Town Meeting Referendum Election so you have a chance of being elected into the seat you chose.

New faces are always welcome and this is your chance to become involved in some of the decisions the Town makes.

Regularly scheduled meeting requirements are as follows:

Board of Selectpersons

Meets every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7 PM.

Budget Committee

Meets every Thursday in March at 6:30 PM.

RSU 16 Director

Meets the 2nd Monday of each month at 6:30 PM.

Town of Poland
1231 Maine Street
Poland, ME 04274

PRSR STD
ECRWSS
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO 9

Local Postal Customer

The Town of Poland roads were posted on March 13, 2023 and will remain posted until no later than May 1, 2023, depending on weather and road conditions.

POSTED ROADS

Bailey Hill Road	Heath Road	Range Hill Road
Belanger Road	Herrick Valley Road	Range Road
Birch Drive	Hideaway Road	Ricker Road
Birchwood Lane	Jackson Road	Saunders Road
Bishop Road~	Johnson Hill Road	Sawyer Road
Brown Road	Jordan Shore Drive	Schellinger Road
Carpenter Road	Lane Road	Shaker Woods & Shaker Outlet Rd
Cassie Lane	Lewiston Junction Road	Strout Road
Cedar Mills Road	Maple Lane (to Mc Falls town line)	Tiger Hill Road
Cleve Tripp Road	McCann Road	Torrey Road
Cobb Road	No. 5 Road	Tripp Lake Camp Road
Colbath Road	North Raymond Road	Tripp Lake Road
Dunn Road	Old Plains Road	Verrill Road
Everett Road	Old Tiger Hill Road	Westview Drive
Garland Swamp Rd	Perkins Road	Hardscrabble Road
Hackett Mills Road	Plains Road	Pulsifer Road