

TOWN MEETING INFO

Elections for the following positions will occur on Friday, April 5th from 8 AM – 7 PM at the Town Hall.

- **Board of Selectpersons (2)**
 - Berry, Arthur
 - Robinson, Stephen
 - Tetenman, Stanley
 - Uldall, Bruce
- **Library Trustee (2)**
 - Dick, Claire
 - Walker, Claire
- **RSU 16 Director (1)**
 - Harve, Melanie

The Business Portion of Town Meeting will occur on Saturday, April 6th at 9 AM at the PRHS Auditorium. Items to be voted on include the following:

- **CLUC Amendments**
- **Marijuana Codes**
- **Annual Town Budget**
- **Tax Assistance Ordinance**

Before the business portion we will announce the 2019 Business of the Year, 2019 Spirit of America Award Recipient, 2019 Ballard Nash Award Recipient, and Employee Service Awards.

By our charter, we must have 100 registered Poland voters in attendance to open the Town Meeting on Saturday. We encourage you to come out and be a part of the process.



TAX ASSISTANCE ORDINANCE

Coming before the Town for vote this Annual Town Meeting will be the Property Tax Assistance Ordinance. This ordinance is to help those 70 years of age and older who reside in Poland and have filed and received a refund under the Maine Property tax Fairness Credit (MPTFC) to receive a Town tax credit rebate.

Qualifications in the proposed ordinance are:

- The applicant shall be **70** (seventy) years of age or more at the time of application.
- The applicant has had a homestead in the Town of Poland as their primary residence for at least 10 (ten) consecutive years immediately preceding the date of application for participation in the program.
- The applicant must have filed for the prior year MPTFC and received a refund from that program.

Proposed Credit Rebate amounts to those who complete an application and meet the qualifications would be 50% of the MPTFC received from the State the prior tax year, or a prorated portion of the funds available in the program fund.

This will be voted on Saturday, April 6th

TOWN MEETING SCHEDULE

ELECTIONS

Friday, April 5th
8 AM – 7 PM
Upstairs – Town Hall

BUSINESS PORTION

Saturday, April 6th
9 AM
PRHS Auditorium

CLUC AMENDMENTS

To be voted on Saturday, April 6th will be several Comprehensive Land Use Code Amendments. The following information helps explain those articles:

Article 4 – This article is drafted to limit the signs within the Street Right of Ways to be consistent with the State Statute that dictates the rules and regulations for such signs.

Article 5 – This article adds a clear definition of what “Agriculture” is defined as in our CLUC.

Article 6 – This article deals with an administrative change of dates for the Building Code Standard in the Town, updating them to the most current codes available.

Article 7 & 8 – These articles place the word “business” in front of the word “days” to give residents a clearer understanding of when items are due to the Code Enforcement Office.

Article 9 – This article defines “business day” as Monday – Friday excluding holidays.

Full language for the CLUC Amendments can be found on the home page of our website or copies are available at the Town Office:

www.polandtownoffice.org

If you have questions regarding any CLUC amendments please contact the CEO at 998-4604 or by email at sneal@polandtownoffice.org.

TOWN MEETING AWARDS

At the Annual Town Meeting we give out several awards.

The first award we will give out will be the **W. Ballard Nash, Sr. Community Service Award**. This award is chosen from nominations given to the Board of Selectpersons by residents of the community. This award is given to an individual community member who serves the community in many capacities, freely gives their time to make Poland better, and has a high level of commitment to the community. This year the Board had five nominees to choose from.

The second award given out is the **Spirit of America Award**. This award is given to a local non-profit group who has shown outstanding community service and volunteerism to our community.

The third award we will give out will be the **Business of the Year Award**. The CEDC awards a business of the quarter award and all four of those businesses are put forward to the Board of Selectpersons to choose a Business of the Year. This year's qualifying businesses of the quarters were:

- Mc Donald's
- Chipman Farms
- Northeast Bank
- Gathering Winds Farm

We then recognize employees of the Town, by reading the employees names, of those who have met certain year milestones in their employment with the Town.

Lastly we will recognize two Board members who will relinquish their posts with the Town Meeting being their last official act.

FY 2020 PROPOSED BUDGET

The proposed budget is a collaborative effort to outline a strategic and financial blueprint designed to meet the needs of our community. The FY20 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.

This year's proposed municipal expense budget is an increase of \$208,082 (3.57%) over last year's budget. Over half of this increase is within the Solid Waste and Public Safety departments. The increase within the Solid Waste department is mainly due to the cost to haul away the trash from the Transfer Station. The Public Safety increase is a result of the Fire Rescue personnel costs increasing due to call volume.

County Expenses (County Taxes) are increasing \$45,029 (5.46%) for FY20. This leaves Poland with a total expense increase of \$253,111 (3.80%). Non-tax revenues are budgeted at \$2,143,008 which is a 12.52% increase over FY19 budgeted revenue. Revenue is budgeted higher due mostly to three items. Motor Vehicle Excise tax, which the Town does not set the rate however there are more vehicles being registered here in Poland so adding to the revenue line. Ambulance fees revenue is expected to be higher due to, as said earlier, the call volume. The last item we will see an increase in revenue is for Solid Waste Revenues because there is more trash being brought to our transfer station meaning more permits are being issued and more revenue is being generated from the amount of bulky waste being accepted.

This proposed budget is a total increase of \$14,659 or 0.31% more than FY19. This means that your taxes would increase to a mil rate of 14.99 / \$1,000. Or in other words a home worth \$150,000 would increase \$1.50 for the FY20 tax year for the municipal and county increases.

* *WORD OF CAUTION* – This tax rate does not include the school budget which is anticipated to go up due to the renovations the townspeople approved last year. The school budget is not part of the municipal budget process and is voted on at an entirely different election. The election for RSU 16 budget is expected to be held in May.

A complete copy of the proposed budget can be found on our website. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Town Manager Matt Garside at 998-4601 or by email at mgarside@polandtownoffice.org.



WE MUST HAVE 100 REGISTERED VOTERS AT THE BUSINESS PORTION OF TOWN MEETING IN ORDER TO OPEN THE MEETING. WE MUST ALSO KEEP A QUORUM OF 100 REGISTERED VOTERS THROUGHOUT THE MEETING.

PLEASE PLAN ON ATTENDING IF YOU ARE AVAILABLE.

PROPOSED MARIJUANA LAND USE INFORMATION

This Town Meeting will see a vote on Marijuana Standards for the Town of Poland. There are a total of nine articles relating to Marijuana that will be reviewed and a vote to enact taken at the Town Meeting. If you vote to enact, a YES vote, that means you have agreed to “OPT IN” with the given recommendations for the land use code. If you vote not to enact, a NO vote, that means you wish to continue with the “OPT OUT” that we currently have in place. The Town can enact or not enact as many or as little as they wish, it is not a one vote and all are allowed or not allowed.

Article 10 – This article pertains to who would be responsible for enforcing the marijuana land use code in Poland and make medical caregivers, which are currently allowed by State Statutes and we can not change that, have to abide by security and ventilation language in CLUC section 1501 - 1504.

The next seven articles all have language associated with the approval or enactment of each category stating which zones the category would be allowed in and would make anyone in that category be licensed by the Town and abide by language in the proposed CLUC sections pertaining to that category.

Article 11 – This article asks if you would like to allow Medical Marijuana Manufacturing Facilities. This article, if enacted, would allow the manufacturing of products, authorized under state law, for medical use or to engage in marijuana extraction for medical use. Proposed CLUC section 1505.

Article 12 – This article asks if you would like to allow Medical Marijuana Testing Facilities. This article, if enacted, would allow a public or private laboratory, authorized under state law, to test medical marijuana for contamination, potency or cannabinoid profile. Proposed CLUC section 1506.

Article 13 – This article asks if you would like to allow Medical Marijuana Registered Caregiver Retail Stores in Poland. This article, if enacted, would allow a registered caregiver, authorized under state law, to cultivate medical marijuana for qualifying patients to operate a retail store to sell products to qualifying patients. Proposed CLUC section 1507.

Article 14 – This article asks if you would like to allow Adult Use Cultivation Facilities. This article, if enacted, would allow a facility, licensed under state law, to purchase marijuana plants and seeds from other cultivation facilities to cultivate, prepare, and package adult use marijuana and to sell to marijuana stores and other cultivation facilities. Proposed CLUC section 1510.

Article 15 – This article asks if you would like to allow Adult Use Marijuana Products Manufacturing Facilities. This article, if enacted, would allow a facility, licensed under state law, to purchase adult use marijuana from a cultivation facility to manufacture, label and package adult use marijuana products and to sell those products to marijuana stores or other manufacturing facilities. Proposed CLUC section 1511.

Article 16 – This article asks if you would like to allow Adult Use Testing Facilities. This article, if enacted, would allow a facility, licensed under state law, to develop, research, and test adult use marijuana, marijuana products, and other substances. Proposed CLUC section 1512.

Article 17 – This article asks if you would like to allow Adult Use Marijuana Stores. This article, if enacted, would allow a facility, licensed under state law, to purchase adult use marijuana, immature marijuana plants, and seedlings from cultivation facilities and adult use marijuana products from a manufacturing facility to sell to the public. Proposed CLUC section 1513.

Article 18 – This article asks if you would approve definitions be added to the CLUC relating to marijuana. Proposed CLUC section 1402.

If you would like more information or to see the proposed sections of the CLUC you can find them in their entirety on our website under Town Meeting Materials or you may stop by the Town Office to pick up a hard copy.

WHY AM I LISTED AS A DELINQUENT TAX PAYER IN THE ANNUAL TOWN REPORT, MY TAXES ARE CURRENT?

We frequently get asked this question and here is the answer. State law requires that each municipality include a list of all delinquent taxpayers and the amount due to be published in an Annual Town Report (MRSA §2801). This information is obtained as of June 30th each year, which is the end of the fiscal year that the Annual Town Report covers. Therefore, even if your taxes did not go to lien, if you paid the balance due after June 30th your name shall be listed in the Annual Town Report and published as a delinquent taxpayer per state statute.

CAN WE REMOVE YOUR NAME FROM THE ANNUAL TOWN REPORT?

Unfortunately the answer is no, we do not have the authority to remove a delinquent taxpayer's name from the Annual Town Report.

Purposely refusing or neglecting to list someone on the report would result in civil violations and fines to be issued.

Local
Postal Customer

PUBLIC WORKS CURRENT EVENTS

- Filling potholes. We make scheduled patching runs Mondays and Thursdays. If you see a pothole that needs to be filled call public works at 998-2570 and let us know . If there is no answer please leave a message with the location of the pothole and we will take care of it ASAP.
- Sign Damage. If you see any street or stop signs that were damaged or destroyed over the winter let us know and we will get them replaced.
- We will be removing some dead trees on Jordan Shore Rd and Tripp Lake Beach.
- In the next couple of weeks we will be grading all of the town maintained dirt roads as they thaw out.
- We will service and make ready the towns faithful 1985 Elgin Street sweeper for spring clean up which we will begin in mid to late April.
- We will be cleaning and painting and stowing away all of the plow gear.

PUBLIC WORKS CURRENT EVENTS CONTINUED

- Spring projects will consist of doing spring clean up on the 11 town maintained cemeteries and finishing the fencing project at the White Oak Hill Cemetery. Cleaning up of the grounds at the Public Works garage Town Office and Library. Fixing a drainage issue between the town hall and rec department buildings. insulating the septic system at the town office to prevent future freezing issues. Ditching Colbath Rd from No 5 Rd to the town line. Cleaning ditches and culverts on Girardin Lane. We will be doing additional ditching and culvert cleaning projects around town as needed.
- Summer road work and paving will begin around July 1st and go into September. The work will mostly likely include parts of Plains Rd, North Raymond Rd, and Johnson Hill Rd depending on the price of asphalt which has not yet been determined.

HAPPY SPRING EVERYONE