

2024

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE TOWN OF

SOLON

INCORPORATED 1809



TOWN OFFICE MUNICIPAL BUILDING

121 SOUTH MAIN STREET (Rte. 201)

P. O. BOX 214, SOLON, MAINE 04979

643-2541 or 643-2812 FAX 207-643-2864

website: <http://www.solon.maine.gov> e-mail: townofsolon@yahoo.com

townofsolon.clerk@yahoo.com townofsolon.treasurer@yahoo.com

Facebook: fb.me/solonmaine &

fb.me/groups/solon.area.community.happenings

OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday 8 am to 4 pm

Wednesday 8 am to 6 pm

(The Town Office will be closed on all State recognized holidays)

Chair of Selectmen/Assessors is in the office on

Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday 9 am to 3 pm & Wednesday 9 am to 6 pm

Selectmen Meeting 1st & 3rd Wednesday 6 pm

General Assistance is on Wednesday from 9 am to 11 am

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

ELAINE ALOES, CHAIR OF SELECTMEN	643-2319
WAYNE JOHNSON, VICE CHAIR OF SELECTMEN	654-3343
JOHN DUNAY, SELECTMAN	612-6690
TOWN GARAGE	643-2349
ROAD COMMISSIONER	399-6440
TRANSFER STATION	643-2941
ANIMAL CONTROL, DISPATCH	474-6465
HISTORICAL SOCIETY	643-2275
PLANNING BOARD CHAIR, MIKE GOLDEN	643-2219
CODE ENFORCEMENT, PLUMBING INSPECTOR & HEALTH OFFICER, JEFF DREW	313-9455
FIRE CHIEF & FIRE WARDEN, DUAYNE ROLLINS	399-9549
DEPUTY FIRE WARDENS: JEN ROLLINS 399-1655 BRIAN COOMBS 592-5607 TODD DIXON 441-5171	
COOLIDGE LIBRARY	643-2562
SOLON WATER DISTRICT	643-2473
RSU # 74 DIRECTORS: LAURA LAYMAN 643-2593 KEITH PLOURDE TORI MACDONALD 399-9175	
RSU #74 SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE	635-2727
SOLON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	643-2491
CARRABEC COMMUNITY SCHOOL	635-2209
CARRABEC HIGH SCHOOL	635-2296
COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT	474-9591
MAINE STATE POLICE	474-3359
EMERGENCIES	DIAL 911

2025 Annual Town Meeting will be held on March 1, 2025

See the last page of this report for the details.

2024

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

MUNICIPAL OFFICERS

OF THE TOWN OF

S O L O N

MAINE

INCORPORATED 1809
POPULATION 978

STATE VALUATIONS

1980	\$ 10,850,000	1990	\$ 26,450,000
2000	\$ 38,950,000	2010	\$ 84,750,000
2020	\$100,800,000	2022	\$106,450,000
2023	\$115,750,000	2024	\$127,550,000
2025	\$153,400,000		

For the Year Ending
DECEMBER 31, 2024

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Cover Picture:

Fall Brook Bridge Renovation

Opening day, November 21, 2024

In 2023, the Maine Department of Transportation designated Fall Brook Bridge over Route 201 as one in need of replacement. The almost 100-year-old bridge was removed and rebuilt throughout 2024. The new bridge opened to traffic in November 2024 and will be completed in 2025.

DEDICATION

The Selectmen dedicate this Town Report to
MICHAEL G. FOSTER



Mike grew up in Bingham and has lived in Solon since the 1970s. He married Sally (Tuscan) and they raised their 3 boys here. He has served our town in a wide variety of ways over the years.

In 1979, Fire Chief Olon Brown asked him to join the fire department and then he was promptly made chief when Olon retired from the fire department. Olon had been in the fire department since 1958 and as chief from 1970 to 1979. Mike was chief until 1985 and then stayed on as a fire fighter until 1992.

In 1979 he became a Solon Water District Trustee. He served as trustee until 1993. In 1996 he was reappointed as a trustee and is still serving as a trustee and working for the water district. His knowledge of the town's water system is invaluable. Especially with the replacement of the Rt. 201 bridge over Fall Brook and the water line issues associated with it this year and the standpipe refurbishment in 2023.

He was our Road Commissioner from March 2012 to March 2018 and worked on the road crew at different times under several different road commissioners. He did a great job maintaining our roads.

Other ways he has served our town over the years:

1980 - 2003 Budget Committee (now called the Advisory Committee)

1980 - 1982 Town Constable

1991 - 1992 Recreation Committee.

1990 - 1991 Fire Station Building Committee

1994 Town Garage CDBG Building Committee

1998 - 2004 Road Committee

2023 to present Town Garage Building Committee

We truly appreciate all Mike has done, and continues to do, to make our town a better place to live. THANK YOU, MIKE!!!

TOWN OFFICE HOURS

The Town Office will be closed on all State recognized holidays. Other “important dates to remember” are also listed on the last page of this report.

TOWN OFFICE

121 South Main Street

MONDAY, TUESDAY, & THURSDAY 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

WEDNESDAY 8:00 am to 6:00 pm

(Closed Friday)

SELECTMEN, ASSESSORS & OVERSEERS OF THE POOR

SELECTMENS MEETING 1st & 3rd WEDNESDAY 5 pm

CHAIR OF SELECTMEN

MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

WEDNESDAY 9:00 am to 6:00 pm

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

WEDNESDAY 9:00 am to 11:00 am

PLANNING BOARD

March to November – 1st & 3rd TUESDAY

December to February – 1st TUESDAY

at 7:00 pm in the Town Office Conference Room

COOLDIGE PUBLIC LIBRARY

17 South Main Street

TUESDAY & THURSDAY 10:00 am to 6:00 pm

SATURDAY 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

TRANSFER STATION

1483 River Road

SATURDAY & SUNDAY 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

WEDNESDAY 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

(Closed Easter Sunday)

FIRE DEPARTMENT

119 South Main Street

Firefighters Meeting - 2nd Wednesday of the month 7:00 pm

SOLON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

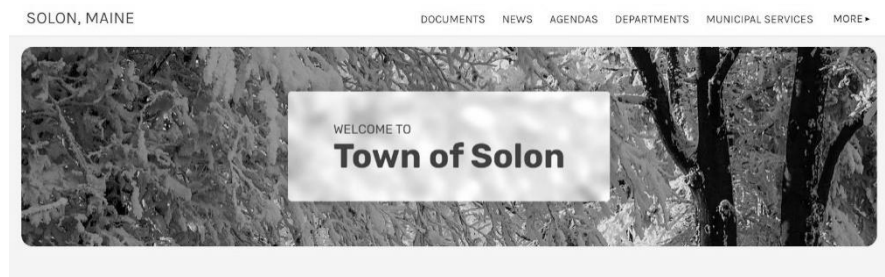
4th Monday of the month at the Historical Society, 28 S. Main Street at 7 pm

WEBSITES & SOCIAL MEDIA

Connect with Your Community ONLINE!!!

With the busy schedules of today, a great way to stay connected with your community is to interact with them using the channels they frequent the most. Nearly 75% of adults access the internet and/or social media sites at least once a week – 55% at least once a day. Social media gives you the opportunity to share information about where your citizens are, instead of making them come to you.

Want to know what is going on around the area? Here are some of the websites and Facebook pages that are used in our community!



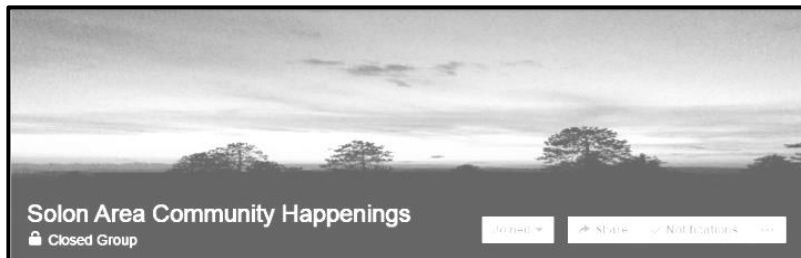
Official Town Website: www.solon.maine.gov

Go to **solon.maine.gov** to find ‘almost’ everything you need to know about many State and Municipal services as well as other community information.

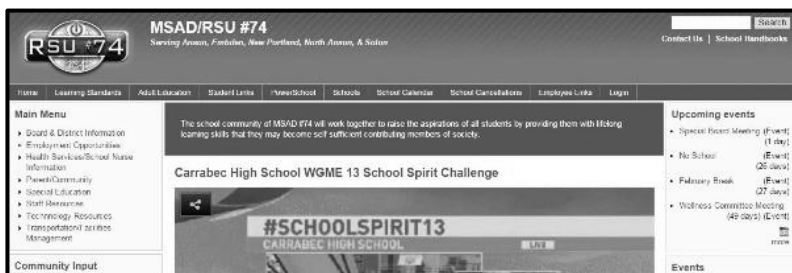
Please be aware that the website went live in early February 2023 and is still a work in progress. If you have questions or find there is information not available on our website, please contact the Clerk’s Office or email us at townofsolon.clerk@yahoo.com. Your feedback is always appreciated.



Official Town Facebook page: facebook.com/SolonMaine



Community Facebook: facebook.com/SolonAreaCommunityHappenings



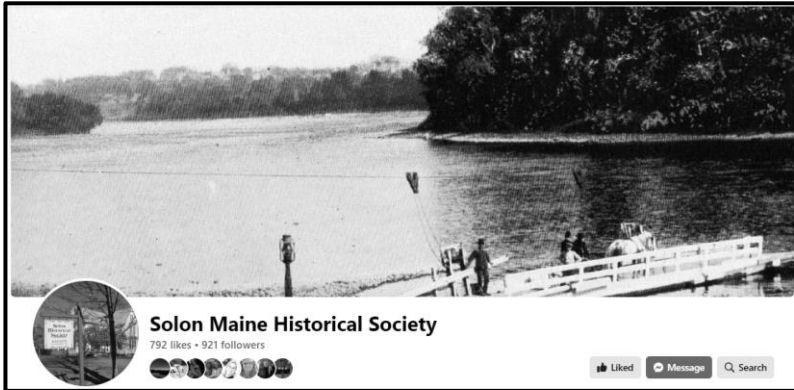
RSU/MSAD #74 Website: www.carrabec.org



Solon Fire Department Facebook page: facebook.com/Solon-Fire-Department



Coolidge Library Facebook page: www.facebook.com/CoolidgePublicLibrary
 Coolidge Library Website: <https://19620.rmwebopac.com>



Solon Historical Society Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/SolonMaineHistoricalSociety



Solon Community Garden
<https://www.facebook.com/SCG.Maine>

2024 TOWN OFFICIALS

ELECTED OFFICIALS

(Term expiration)

SELECTMEN, ASSESSORS & OVERSEERS OF THE POOR

Elaine Aloes, Selectman, Chair (2025)

Wayne ‘Chip’ Johnson, Selectman, Vice Chair (2027)

John Dunay, Selectman, Selectman (2026)

ROAD COMMISSIONER

Gary Bishop (2025)

RSU #74 DIRECTORS

Tori MacDonald (2025)

Laura Layman (2026)

Keith Plourde (2027)

OFFICIALS APPOINTED BY THE SELECTMEN

TOWN CLERK/TAX COLLECTOR

Leslie Giroux

TREASURER

Kaylee Gilson (resigned in April), Danika Riggs (appointed in April)

DEPUTY TOWN CLERK/TAX COLLECTOR

Danika Riggs, Kaylee Gilson (resigned in April)

SUBREGISTRAR (Vital Records Only)

Jeffrey Sproul

DEPUTY TREASURER

Leslie Giroux

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

Leslie Giroux

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

Amy Houle (2024), David Houle, Deputy (2024) resigned in October
Jessica Schiaffino (2025), Nicholas Poirier (2025) appointed in October

CODE ENFORCEMENT & HEALTH OFFICER

Jeff Drew

PLUMBING INSPECTOR

Jeff Drew

SEALER OF WEIGHTS & MEASURES

State of Maine

OLON WATER DISTRICT TRUSTEES

Michael Foster, Chairman (2026)

Derek Dellarma (2025) Arthur Rogers (2027)

COOLIDGE LIBRARY TRUSTEES

Jane Ouderkirk, Chairman (2027) Allyn Foss (2026)(resigned)

Leslie Giroux (2025)

Mary Lou Ridley (2025)

Richard Roberts (2026)

Stacy Robinson (2025)

Chris Shaw (2027)

Patricia Whipple (2027)

Ann Jackson (2027)

Andrew Davis (2026)

BOARD OF APPEALS

Sarah Davis (2026)

L. Bruce Hills (2025)(deceased)

Mary Lou Ridley (2027)

Denice Dunay (2025)

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Sarah Davis (2026)

Michael Golden (2025)

Kim Johnson (2025)

Barbara Johnstone (2025)

Eleanor Pooler (2025)

Joseph Albuit (2026)

Hether Forsten (2026)

Beverly Gephart (2026)

Jeffrey Pomelow (2026)

George Williams (2026)

Allyn Foss (2027)

L. Bruce Hills (deceased)

Franklin Ridley (2027)

Sherry Rogers (2027)

Carol White (2027)

Patricia Whipple (2025)

Randal Rancourt (2027)

Robert Lindblom, 1st Alt. (2027)

Empty, 2nd Alt (2025)

PLANNING BOARD

Michael Golden, Chairman (2026)

Kerri Evangelista (2027)

Frank Evangelista, Vice Chair (2026)

Craig Gerry (2025)

Richard Kelley (2024) (resigned)

Randy Rancourt, Secretary (2025)

Dianna Rollins, Secretary (2025) (resigned)

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Jennifer Mello, Program Director (2024)

Melissa Dube, Assistant (2024)

Jami McCoy, Assistant (2024)

OLON COMMUNITY RECREATION COMMITTEE

Leslie Giroux (2027) Kayla Starr (2025) Amy Sidell (2026)

OLON SUMMER RECREATION

Laura Layman, Summer Swim/Camp Director (2027)

OLD CANADA ROAD SCENIC BYWAY, LOCAL REP.

Mary Lou Ridley (2027)

FIRST PARK COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE

Elaine Aloes (2025) Wayne Johnson (2025)

KVCOG REPRESENTATIVE

Elaine Aloes (2026) John Dunay (2026)

HISTORICAL SOCIETY TRUSTEES

Bud Boynton (2027) Juanita McAllister (2026) Ann Padham (2025)

TOWN HISTORIAN

Chris Shaw 643-2275

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR

Richard Kelly (2027) Duayne Rollins, Assistant (2027)

OLON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Duayne Rollins, Chief	Zane Brown
Todd Dixon, 1st Asst. Chief	Megan Corson
Nicholas Rollins, 2nd Asst. Chief	Derek Dellarma
Richard Kelley, 3 rd Asst./EMA Dir.	Kevin Lacroix
Jenney Rollins, Secretary/Treasurer	Brian Livingstone
Thomas Courtney, Mechanic	Frederick Mayo
Cooper Dellarma, Junior FF	Kenneth Tyrrell
Gerald Rollins, Junior FF	

WE THANK ALL THE VOLUNTEERS WHO SERVE OUR TOWN. THEIR SERVICE IS TRULY APPRECIATED.

Volunteering for boards or committees is a great way to serve your community. New members are always needed. If you would like to serve on one of these committees, please contact the Selectmen.

The Recreation Committee is looking for coaches for various youth sports. We can't have teams for our kids without coaches.

If you would like to join the Fire Department, please contact the Fire Chief.

THE BILL OF RIGHTS

The Preamble to The Bill of Rights

Congress of the United States begun and held at the City of New-York, on Wednesday the fourth of March, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-nine.

The Conventions of a number of the States, having at the time of their adopting the Constitution, expressed a desire, in order to prevent misconstruction or abuse of its powers, that further declaratory and restrictive clauses should be added: And as extending the ground of public confidence in the Government, will best ensure the beneficent ends of its institution.

RESOLVED by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, two thirds of both Houses concurring, that the following Articles be proposed to the Legislatures of the several States, as amendments to the Constitution of the United States, all, or any of which Articles, when ratified by three fourths of the said Legislatures, to be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of the said Constitution: viz.

ARTICLES in addition to, and Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America, proposed by Congress, and ratified by the Legislatures of the several States, pursuant to the fifth Article of the original Constitution.

These amendments were ratified December 15, 1791 form what is known as:

The Bill of Rights

There are 17 additional Amendments that have been ratified by the States since the original 10 were ratified. These 10 are the basic rights given to all citizens.

Amendment I

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Amendment II

A well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

Amendment III

No Soldier shall, in time of peace, be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

Amendment IV

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

Amendment V

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

Amendment VI

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defense.

Amendment VII

In Suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise re-examined in any Court of the United States, then according to the rules of the common law.

Amendment VIII

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

Amendment IX

The enumeration in the Constitution of certain rights shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

Amendment X

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

GARY BISHOP



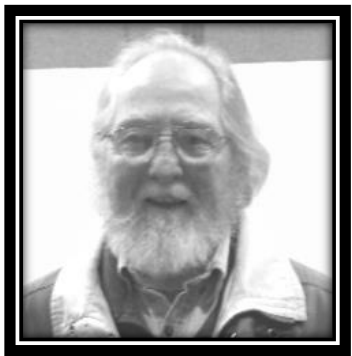
Gary has served as our Road Commissioner from 2018 to 2024. He has decided not to run for reelection in 2025. Prior to being elected road commissioner he served on the road crew for several years. He had previously worked for a paving company which was a great help during our road paving projects. His knowledge of road maintenance has been a benefit to the town. The job requires many long nights of plowing and sanding our roads. Also working in snow, sleet, rain, hot days, cold days, and high wind days. And all the other work that is needed to keep our roads safe

and passable.

He was also our Scaler of Wood from 1994 until 2014 when the state said we no longer needed to have one.

We thank him for his years of service to our town.

FRANKLIN RIDLEY



Frank has decided to resign from the Advisory Committee (former Budget Committee) after serving on it since 1974. We thank him for his years of service on this committee. His knowledge and experience has been a great benefit to the committee and our town.

Over the years he has also served as a Water District Trustee from 1976 through 1978, on the MSAD #74 School Board from 1978 to 1982 as both a member and as a Chairman, and served on the Fire Department from 1974 to 1983.

We thank him for his years of service to our town.

IN MEMORY OF



L. BRUCE HILLS

8/27/1948 – 9/9/2024

Bruce passed away in September.

He was an active member of our community. He served as Selectman from 1999 until 2005. During his time as Selectman, he managed the Transfer Station and oversaw the Community Development Block

Grant we received to build the Municipal Recycling Center. He designed the building and oversaw the contractors and reporting requirements. It opened on February 1, 2003.

He also served the town in many other capacities. He was our Animal Control Officer from 1994 to 1998. He was a Coolidge Library Trustee from 1995 until 2011. He also served as Chair of the Board for several years. He was on the Budget Committee, now known as the Advisory Committee, from 1995 to 1999 and again since 2005. He was our representative on the 1st Park Committee from 2000 through 2012. And he had been on our Board of Appeals since 2007. Prior to all this he served our country in the U.S. Military from 1969 to 1991.

We will miss him, and we honor him for his years of service to our town and our country.



PETER PLUNTKE

6/4/1946 - 1/9/2024

Pete passed away at his home in January. He was our Transfer Station attendant from 2004 to 2017 and our transfer station truck driver from 2006 to 2014. He did a great job assisting people and keeping the transfer station clean.

Pete was born in Berlin Germany and moved to America with his mom in 1959. They lived in New York, and he became a naturalized citizen. Peter served in the U. S. military from 1967 to 1970.

He moved to Solon in 1988. For the last 30+ years he also worked locally for New Communities as a Direct Support Professional for people with disabilities.

We will miss him, and we honor him for his years of service to our town and our country.

BOSTON POST CANE HOLDER

PATRICIA MUNROE

February 17, 1925



Patricia was awarded the Boston Post Cane on February 10, 2021.

Pat was born February 17, 1925, in Beverly, Massachusetts. Also spending her youth attending school there.

She graduated from the Beverly Hospital Nursing School. She was licensed as a Registered Nurse in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine, and Connecticut. She turned down supervisory positions so she could maintain contact with her patients. She enjoyed that personal contact with her patients.

Pat married George Munroe and they had three children: Bruce, Brian, and Kitty

Pat and George moved to Solon Maine in 1968. In the early seventies

they started in the real estate business. They were successful in this business for many years.

Pat is also a wonderful artist and a crafts person. Her large painting of a town meeting scene is on display in the conference room at the Town Office. You can see the painting in our picture of Pat along with her companion.

Pat is currently in a nursing home. Two of her three children still live in the area along with many of her grandchildren. Her son Bruce recently passed away.

THE BOSTON POST CANE HISTORY

In 1909 Edward Grozier, editor, and publisher of the Boston Post newspaper, sent letters to the Boards of Selectmen of 700 towns in Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island asking them to be trustees of the 700 ebony gold topped canes he had made up by the J. F. Fradley & Company of New York. The cane was to be given to the oldest citizen in each town. At the holder's death the cane was to be returned to the town and given to the next oldest citizen. Solon received one of these canes and we still have our original cane. The cane is on display in our town office. To make sure the cane is not lost, when we present the cane to each recipient, we now also give them a certificate of the presentation to keep, and we return the cane to the town office.

SOLON HOLDERS OF THE BOSTON POST CANE

John Waugh (1984)

Beatrice Hall (1991-1995)

Ben Safford (1997-1998)

Marie Spearrin (2000-2004)

Coburn Waugh (2006-2014)

Howard Rogers (2019-2020)

Patricia Munroe (2021-present)

Beatrice Rogers (1985-1990)

Roland Tozier (1996)

Floyd French (1999)

Mary McDonough (2005)

Carolyn Waugh (2014-2019)

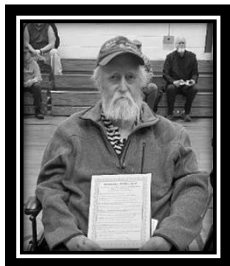
Alice Heald (2020-2021)

This is all we can find records in the Town Reports. If you know of any others, please let the Selectmen know.



Upstream view of Fall Brook, taken from temporary bridge, Summer 2024

SPIRIT OF AMERICA AWARD



**The 2024 Solon, Maine Spirit of America Foundation
Tribute Honors L. BRUCE HILLS
for commendable community service.**

A RESOLUTION providing for: Recognition of L.
Bruce Hills.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Selectmen of the Town of
Solon as follows:

WHEREAS, Bruce served our country in our U.S. military from 1969 to 1991;

WHEREAS, he served as our Animal Control Officer from 1994 to 1995;

WHEREAS, Bruce was a Coolidge Library Trustee from 1995 to 2011 and was
Chair of the Board of Trustees for several years;

WHEREAS, he has served on our town's Budget/Advisory Committee from
1995 to 1998 and from 2005 to the present time;

WHEREAS, in 1999 Bruce was elected as a Selectman and served until 2005.
During that time, he managed the Solon Transfer Station;

WHEREAS, as a selectman he applied for and managed the CDBG grant for
the construction of our Transfer Station Recycling Building; it opened in 2003;

WHEREAS, Bruce served as our 911 Addressing Officer since 2000;

WHEREAS, Bruce served on the First Park Committee from 2000 to 2012;

WHEREAS, he has served on our Board of Appeals since 2007;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Selectmen of the Town of Solon that Bruce Hills is
hereby recognized for his great achievements and honors that he has brought
and is continuing to bring upon this community with the 2024 Solon Spirit of
America Foundation Tribute; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be appropriately
framed and presented to Bruce Hills for appropriate display.

AWARDED MARCH 2, 2024

**A BIG THANK YOU TO BRUCE FOR ALL THE TIME AND
EFFORT HE PUT IN TO SERVE OUR TOWN.**

MAINE MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION 2024 SPIRIT OF AMERICA PROCLAMATION MUNICIPAL CLERKS AND BALLOT CLERKS

WHEREAS, Spirit of America Foundation cherishes Municipal Officials’ help with its program and created October as ‘Municipal Officials Appreciation Month’, and in 2024 dedicated it nationally to Municipal Clerks and Ballot Clerks, to express gratitude;

WHEREAS, Municipal Officials make personal sacrifices to serve constituents and deserve more public recognition and respect than they generally receive;

WHEREAS, Municipal Clerks are some of the most dedicated and generous members in our communities, who are almost always involved in a community event or civic organization within a town and most of the time are doing that work on their own personal time;

WHEREAS, Ballot Clerks serve at each polling place throughout Election Day, to ensure the voting process goes smoothly and are vital to democracy;

WHEREAS, the Maine Municipal Association greatly appreciates the services provided by its Municipal Clerks, Ballot Clerks and other Municipal Officials;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the MAINE MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION designates October 2024 as “MAINE MUNICIPAL CLERKS AND BALLOT CLERKS APPRECIATION MONTH” and urges citizens to show gratitude to their Municipal Officials, and especially to Municipal Clerks and Ballot Clerks, for all they do to make our communities better.

We honor and thank our Solon Town Clerk Leslie Giroux, Deputy Town Clerk Danika Riggs, and all those who have served as ballot clerks over the years. Your dedication to your jobs is appreciated and honored.

SPIRIT OF AMERICA HISTORY

In 1990, Bruce Flaherty met with Fred Hayward, Roger Pomerleau, and Don Taverner to create the Spirit of America Foundation to promote volunteerism in Maine. The first Spirit of America Foundation tribute was presented in 1991 in Augusta to Alma Jones for her community volunteer services.

Every year since then the Spirit of America Foundation Tribute is presented in Maine municipalities to a local person, group or project for commendable community service. In many, Boards of Selectmen and Councilmen choose their

town's tribute recipient and honor them at their annual town meeting. In 2023 over 200 municipalities participated.

In 2012 we were contacted by Spirit of America Foundation and were asked to participate in their annual tribute to volunteers, organizations, and projects. We have been doing it every year since then.

In 2024, Bruce Flaherty decided to expand the program by creating September as County Officials Appreciation Month and October as Municipal Officials Appreciation Month. In 2024 we are honoring our Clerks and Ballot Clerks and the counties are honoring their law enforcement employees. Governor Mills wrote letters of support for both. Secretary of State Shenna Bellows wrote a letter of support for our clerks and ballot clerks.

Our town clerks are the ones who have the most interaction with our citizens. In many towns they are the "information gurus" and help our citizens find the information they need even if it is not related to a clerk's job.

For more information about the Spirit of America Foundation, visit their website at www.spiritofamerica.website

THE SPIRIT OF AMERICA FOUNDATION TRIBUTE HISTORY

In 2012 we were contacted by Spirit of America Foundation and were asked to participate in their annual tribute to volunteers, organizations, and projects. The Spirit of America Foundation Tribute is presented in the name of Maine municipalities to local individuals, organizations, and projects for commendable community service. For more information about the Spirit of America Foundation, visit their website at www.spiritofamerica.website

SOLON SPIRIT OF AMERICA FOUNDATION TRIBUTES

Albert and Lois Starbird (2012)	Eleanor Pooler (2013)
Michael Golden (2014)	Frank Ridley (2015)
Fire Department Auxiliary (2016)	Michael Sackett (2017)
Fire Department Firefighters (2018)	Linda French (2019)
Richard Roberts (2020)	Laura Layman (2021)
Deborah Gerry (2022)	Mary Lou Ridley (2023)
L. Bruce Hills (2024)	

COUNTY, STATE & FEDERAL

Somerset County Commissioner

Joel Stetkis

PO Box 336

Canaan, Maine 04985

399-7801

Governor Janet Mills

1 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333-0001

287-3531 Fax 287-1034

e-mail: governor@maine.gov

State Senate

3 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333-0003

287-1540 or 800-423-6900

State House of Representatives

2 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333-0002

287-1400 or 800-423-2900

Maine State Senator Dist 5

Russell Black

123 Black Rd.

Wilton, Maine 04297

(207) 491-4667

russell.black@legislature.maine.gov

legislature.maine.gov/senate

Maine State Rep. Dist 72

Elizabeth M Caruso

PO Box 81

Caratunk, Maine 04925

399-9992 cell

[elizabeth.caruso](mailto:elizabeth.caruso@legislature.maine.gov)

@legislature.maine.gov

U. S. Senator Angus King

133 Hart Senate Office Bldg.

Washington, D.C. 20510

202-224-5344

fax 202-224-1946

e-mail: king@king.senate.gov

web: <http://king.senate.gov>

or: 4 Gabriel Drive Ste. F1

Augusta, ME 04330

207-622-8292 fax 622-7295

U. S. Senator Susan Collins

413 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.

Washington, D.C. 20510

202-224-2523

fax 202-225-2693

e-mail: senator@collins.senate.gov

web: <http://collins.senate.gov>

or: 68 Sewall Street Room 507

Augusta, ME 04330

207-622-8414

U. S. Representative Dist. 2 Representative Jared Golden

1223 Longworth House Office Bldg.

Washington, D.C. 20515

202-225-6306 fax 202-225-2943

web: <http://golden.house.gov>

or: 179 Lisbon Street

Lewiston, Maine 04240

Ph: 207-241-6767

Email: congressman.jared.golden@houseemail.house.gov

U. S. GOVERNMENT

<http://www.usa.gov>

STATE OF MAINE

www.maine.gov

SOMERSET COUNTY

www.somersetcounty-me.org

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS

Our **State Representative District is District 72** includes the towns of Athens/ Harmony / Anson / Bingham / Caratunk / Embden / Moscow / Northeast Somerset / Pleasant Ridge Plantation / Ripley / Seboomook Lake / Solon / Big Six Township / Dole Brook Township / Elm Stream Township / Indian Stream Township / Long Pond Township / Moxie Gore Township / Parlin Pond Township / Pittston Academy Grant Township / Sandbar Tract Township / Sandy Bay Township / Sapling Township / Taunton & Raynham Academy Grant Township / Tomhegan / Concord Township / Lexington Township / Rockwood Strip / Rockwood Strip T1 / Rockwood Strip T2 / Seboomook Township / Central Somerset

Our **State Senate District is District 5** and is made up of the following municipalities in Franklin County: Carrabassett Valley; Chesterville; East Central Franklin UT; Farmington; Industry; Kingfield; New Sharon; New Vineyard; Strong; Wilton; and Wyman Township. In Kennebec County: Rome; and Vienna. In Somerset County: Anson; Athens; Bingham; Brighton Plantation; Cambridge; Caratunk; Central Somerset UT; Cornville; Dennistown Plantation; Embden; Harmony; Hartland; Highland Plantation; Jackman; Mercer; Moose River; Moscow; New Portland; Northeast Somerset UT; Northwest Somerset UT; Pleasant Ridge Plantation; Ripley; Saint Albans; Seboomook Lake UT; Smithfield; Solon; Starks; The Forks Plantation; and West Forks Plantation.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT

Our **County Commissioner District is District 5** consists of the towns of Athens, Bingham, Brighton Plantation, Canaan, Caratunk, Dennistown Plantation, Embden, Hartland, Jackman, Moose River, Moscow, Pleasant Ridge Plantation, Solon, The Forks, UT Central Somerset, UT Northeast Somerset, UT Seboomook Lake Twp, and West Forks Plantation

U.S. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Congressional District for our United States Representative is Dist. 2.



Janet T. Mills
GOVERNOR

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

Dear Maine Resident:

I have always been guided by the belief that to strengthen our state, we have to invest in our greatest asset: the people of Maine. With the support of the Legislature, my Administration has been investing in what people need to succeed, like job training, child care, health care, education, broadband, and housing.

We are seeing results — small businesses are expanding their operations; people are moving here to work and raise their families; and graduates are staying in Maine to pursue rewarding, life-long careers. These are all encouraging signs that are reflected in the strength of our economy. In fact, Maine has one of the best rates of economic growth in the nation.

That's good news, but I know that not everyone is feeling the benefits of our strong economy. The cost of living in Maine, as in much of America, is too high. The price of fuel, the cost of supplies, utilities and labor have driven up expenses for families across the country and impacted the budgets of towns, counties and nearly every state, including Maine.

I want everyone to benefit from the availability of good jobs, a good public education, and good health care in our state. That is why I have put forward a balanced budget proposal that proposes some savings and certain targeted revenue increases to maintain things we all support, like the state paying 55 percent of the cost of education and 5 percent municipal revenue sharing, to keep all these costs from being passed along to property taxpayers.

We have made good progress over the past six years to ensure that every person in Maine can find a good-paying job in a rewarding and stable career; go to the doctor when they feel sick because they have health insurance; and have the peace of mind that their children are safe at home and at school.

I look forward to working with communities and citizens across the state to solve problems, manage our finances, and keep our people healthy and safe.

Sincerely,

Janet T. Mills
Governor



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

TTY USERS CALL 711

PHONE: (207) 287-3531 (Voice)

FAX: (207) 287-1034

January 2025

Dear Friends:

It is an honor to represent Maine in the United States Senate, and I welcome this opportunity to share several key accomplishments for our state from the previous year.

As Vice Chair of the Appropriations Committee in 2024, I have secured nearly \$580 million for 230 projects across all of Maine's 16 counties to promote job creation, workforce training, and economic development; expand access to health care; support law enforcement; improve public education and infrastructure; and protect our environment. As the new Congress begins, I am honored to be taking the helm of the Committee, the first Mainer to do so in nearly a century, and I remain committed to ensuring that federal spending produces real results for our state and nation.

Maine has the oldest average age in the country, which is why I have long prioritized health-focused legislative efforts. There were more than 1,860 health care bills introduced during the 118th Congress. Only 15 health care bills were signed into law, and I was a lead sponsor of five of them. These bills will enhance care for individuals with Alzheimer's, autism, and substance abuse issues through improved research funding, strengthened public health programs, and increased support for rural first responders.


Another important bill that I coauthored was the Social Security Fairness Act. Since 2003, when I led the first-ever Senate hearing on the Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset, I have sought to end these provisions of the Social Security Act that unfairly reduce the Social Security benefits that public employees or their spouses have earned. I am pleased to say that with the passage of my bill, the Social Security Fairness Act, in December, public sector retirees will now receive the full Social Security benefits they have earned.

When the Maine way of life was under threat, I was certain to defend the interests of our state. I worked to protect Maine's potato farmers when the Department of Agriculture tried to reclassify the potato from a vegetable to a grain. I thwarted efforts to consolidate USPS mail operations at the Hampden postal facility, which would have disrupted mail delivery throughout our state. I sounded the alarm with leaders at the FBI and Departments of State and Treasury on the spate of illicit marijuana growing operations that are destroying properties and providing refuge to foreign criminals in our state. Following damage to our working waterfronts after last winter's storms, I secured \$15 million to help fishing communities recover. I championed funding to support the Maine Air National Guard base, Bath Iron Works, and Portsmouth Naval Shipyard.

As of last December, I have cast more than 9,100 consecutive votes, continuing my record of never missing a roll-call vote since my Senate service began in 1997. My ranking as the most bipartisan Senator reflects Maine's tradition of working with a spirit of cooperation and respect.

My highest priority as a Senator is to ensure that Maine's needs are met. If ever I can be of assistance to you, please contact one of my state offices or visit my website at collins.senate.gov.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator

January 2025

Dear Friends,

Each year comes with renewed hope – to celebrate each other’s successes and care for each other in times of need. I am thankful to each town in Maine for their commitment to their communities, to their citizens, and to this country. We always work together to get things done. This past year was no different.

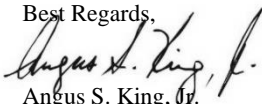
First, it was a true honor to be reelected to the United States Senate for another six-year term. Throughout my travels around the state, I heard many concerns about the cost of living and affordability of housing. Many of you also shared your concerns about access to medical and mental health services. The *Inflation Reduction Act* has been incredible for older people in Maine – Medicare is finally negotiating lower prices for prescription drugs, on top of the \$35 per month cap for insulin that took effect in 2023. We have an opportunity to build on what we have in common and do what Maine people do best; we will continue to help each other and lead through example.

I have also been consistently working to help our veterans. My team has repeatedly been successful in securing long-overdue recognition of military medals for many of Maine’s combat veterans and working to resolve issues with claims, travel pay, and access to healthcare and benefits our veterans earned through their selfless service to our country. I have also worked with my Veterans Affairs and Defense partners in Washington to successfully pass a national defense bill that strengthens our national security, takes care of our service members, and supports Maine businesses from Arostook to York County.

I am also thankful to have such an incredible team across Maine available to you for hurdles you may face with the federal government. Whether it be veteran issues, social security problems, student loans, immigration, IRS and more, please never hesitate to reach out to my offices in Presque Isle, Bangor, Augusta, Portland, or Biddeford and allow us the chance to be part of your solutions.

Together, over the next six years, I know we can continue to build a stronger, brighter future for our great state. 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 2025.

Best Regards,


Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senate



Jared Golden
Congress of the United States
2nd District of Maine

Dear Friends,

January 2025

I hope this letter finds you well. It's an honor to continue serving as your representative in Congress, and I take the responsibility very seriously. Thank you for the opportunity to share an update on the work I've been doing for the people of the Second Congressional District.

Fisheries: This spring, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) announced a gauge increase for lobsters caught in the Gulf of Maine beginning in January 2025. Maine fishermen warned that this decision is founded on incomplete and inaccurate data. Additionally, this gauge increase could put Mainers at a competitive disadvantage to Canadian fishermen with looser regulations. That's why I sent a letter to the ASMFC urging them to delay their decision until they can evaluate data with fishermen, whose proactive stewardship provides invaluable insight. I have also submitted an amendment to this year's funding bill that would block federal funding from being used to implement and enforce a gauge increase. Because of these efforts, the ASFMC made the decision to delay the implementation of this new requirement. I'll always stand with Maine lobstermen against unfair, unnecessary regulations that threaten their livelihoods and industry.

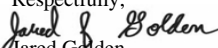
Veterans: The first meeting I attended as an elected official was with a large group of veterans and the former Director of the Maine Bureau of Veterans Services. We discussed a lot, but one issue rose above the rest: how little was being done for Maine veterans who needed treatment for mental health issues or substance use. At the time, there were no in-patient treatment beds in Maine, so veterans had to wait for a bed to open at an out-of-state facility. Fast forward 10 years, through unending red tape, and I'm delighted to report we just broke ground on a treatment facility at the Togus VA Medical Center in Augusta. This was the direct result of the tireless advocacy of veterans from across our state — this win is theirs.

Postal Service: This spring, the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) announced plans to consolidate and move some processing operations from the Eastern Maine Processing & Distribution Center in Hampden to Scarborough. This would have caused significant mail delivery delays that disproportionately harm rural communities. That's why I introduced the Timely Mail Delivery and Postal Services Protection Act, which would have halted this planned consolidation across the country. Following these efforts, the USPS announced they have scrapped their plan entirely. While this is a win for Maine, it is also evidence that we cannot become complacent. That's why I recently introduced the bipartisan Postmaster General Reform Act, which would establish term limits for the United States Postal Service's (USPS) postmaster general and require nominations to be confirmed by the Senate.

Regardless of the year, one of my top priorities is ensuring I'm accessible to you. My staff and I can help 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 wish you a healthy and prosperous year to come.

Respectfully,

Jared Golden
Member of Congress

January 2025

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

I am honored and humbled to continue serving as your State Senator for a fourth term. The trust you have placed in me is something I do not take lightly, and I remain committed to being a strong voice for you, your family, and our community in Augusta.

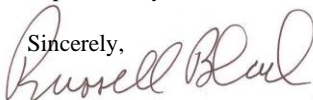
I am happy to continue my work on the Agriculture Conservation and Forestry Committee, I will continue to focus on ensuring accountability in key state programs, with a particular emphasis on the Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS).

The First Regular Session of the 132nd Maine State Legislature began on December 4, 2024, with our swearing-in ceremony led by Governor Janet Mills. It was a day filled with tradition, attended by family and friends of incoming members, as we set the stage for the work ahead.

Many of you have reached out to me about the challenges you are facing—rising costs of energy, housing, childcare, and concerns about education, mental health, substance abuse, workforce development, and community safety. As your State Senator, I am committed to working with my colleagues to find common-sense solutions to these pressing issues.

In addition, addressing Maine's anticipated budget gap and setting priorities for the next biennium will be a significant focus this session. I am confident that through collaboration, we can work to balance fiscal responsibility with investments in the well-being of all Mainers.

Once again, I want to thank you for re-electing me to represent you in the State Senate. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me with any questions, comments, or concerns. I am here to help, whether it's navigating state programs or working to address issues important to you and our community.

Sincerely,


Russell Black
State Senator



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002
(207) 287-1440
TTY: (207) 287-4469

Elizabeth M. Caruso

P.O. Box 81
Caratunk, ME 04925
Residence: (207) 399-9992
Elizabeth.Caruso@legislature.maine.gov

January 2025

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I am deeply honored and humbled by the trust you have placed in me to represent you in the 132nd Legislature. As your state representative, I am committed to serving you with transparent and responsive representation that adheres to the Constitution. I will always do my best to address the challenges we face in our communities, and I will seize opportunities that can make a meaningful difference.

Our shared values and struggles inspire me to work hard for you to meet the needs of our communities. Whether it is advocating for our families and small businesses, or being your voice on the Judiciary Committee, I believe we will make an impact.

As George Washington said, “the power under the Constitution belongs to the people.” As your Representative, I encourage you to stay connected and engaged with the work happening at the State House and to monitor legislative proposals being worked on by visiting the Legislature’s website at www.legislature.maine.gov. Decisions made in Augusta affect our lives in countless ways, and your input is vital in shaping the future of our district and our state.

I encourage you to make your voice heard. You can email, call, and leave messages, but more importantly testify (in person, online, or in writing) when public hearings are scheduled for bills important to you. Whether you need assistance navigating state services or want to share your thoughts on upcoming legislation, I am here to help and listen.

To be added to my email list and receive updates or important information on Maine programs and services, please email me directly with your request at Elizabeth.Caruso@legislature.maine.gov.

Thank you for your confidence in me and for the opportunity to serve. Together, we can build a brighter future for our families and communities

Sincerely,

Elizabeth M. Caruso
State Representative

SOMERSET COUNTY

Maine

Somerset County Government provides every day public safety services to the residents and visitors throughout our 4,095 square miles. Nearly 80% of our employees are directly involved in taking calls for service, responding to those calls, prosecuting violations of the law and providing incarceration and corrections. Furthermore, County Government secures property rights through the Registry of Deeds and protects family rights in Probate Court.

In a partnership with each of our towns, plantations and townships, Somerset County seeks to strike a balance of services and costs to the taxpayer. The budget put into effect July 1, 2024 was a modest 3.1% increase over the past year thanks to the diligent work of Department Heads, County Commissioners and the Budget Committee.

Throughout the State there was significant turnover in County Commissioners in 2024. In Somerset however, we were fortunate to return Robert Sezak in District One and Cyp Johnson in District Two through re-election. Sitting Commissioners Scott Seekins of District Three, Joel Stetkis in District Four and John Alsop in District Five compose a board of experienced leadership for the County.

A priority for these Commissioners has been providing funding to Towns and agencies that are on the front lines of community service. Early in 2024, the Commissioners provided \$108,500 in Community Benefit Funds to Towns impacted by the significant flooding in the December 2023 storms. Since the fall of 2023, over 35 entities have received \$330,000 in Community Benefit Grants impacting 20 different Somerset Communities. These matching grants have spurred over \$700,000 in local development.

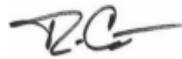
More information on the Community Benefit Matching Grant Program, and many other programs and services offered can be found at www.somersetcounty-me.org

In 2024, the County formed an official partnership with Somerset Public Health to provide a Care Coordinator within the Sheriff's Office and County Jail to assist with recovery of substance abuse issues. This trained professional processes referrals from Sheriff's Deputies for individuals and families in need of resources, and coordinates with Jail Administration to connect inmates to services within the facility and refer and make appointments to community resources upon release.

This past year the County also embarked on a study of Animal Control resources in Somerset. Pulling together a committee that included ACO's for various towns, law enforcement, Commissioners, Town Managers and Select Board members, the study has compiled pay rates for Animal Control Officers and is assessing the capacity of the Somerset Humane Society's shelter in Skowhegan. This ongoing study seeks to make necessary improvements to the area's Animal Control infrastructure.

While staffing remains a challenge in the current economy, Somerset headed in to 2025 with a workforce near full capacity for the first time in over a decade. On behalf of all County employees, it is our pleasure to serve our communities.

Tim Curtis
Somerset County Administrator





Integrity Respect Fairness Dedication
SOMERSET COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

2024 Sheriff's Office Annual Report



Sheriff Dale
Lancaster

January 1, 2025 begins my 10th 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, and our visitors.

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 began my 2-year term as immediate past President of the Maine Sheriff's Association. I continue my appointment to the Board of Directors for (NESPIN) 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 the Somerset County Sheriff's Office continues to be an accredited law enforcement agency 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 the staff and Deputies for their diligent efforts to obtain this accreditation.

In 2024 the Somerset County Sheriff's Office added two School Resource Officers (SRO). We provide an SRO to SAD 59, Madison and to SAD 54, Canaan and Norridgewock.

The Sheriff's Office collaborates with Somerset Public Health to provide a Care Coordinator for Substance Use Disorder. When Deputies respond to incidents that have addiction related components, they now have an imbedded caseworker that can process referrals for treatment.

The Sheriff's Office procured a drone, through grant funding, to assist Deputies with the investigation of crime scenes and motor vehicle crashes.

Law Enforcement

The Patrol division is comprised of 14 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 Patrol Division conducted 1,275 traffic stops and covered 987 reportable accidents. The patrol division arrested/summonsed 835 individuals in Somerset County. The Sheriff's Office assigns 1 Deputy per shift to patrol the Town of Madison. We have a 32-hour Secretary/Dispatcher assigned to Madison. We had a total of 4 Deputies graduate from the 45th and 46th Basic Law Enforcement Program (BLETP) at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy this year.

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 Sheriff's Office has 1 trained accident re-constructionist along with 1 forensic mapper. The Sheriff's Office has 2 canines, one assigned to each division.

Throughout 2024, the Sheriff's Office Criminal Division investigated a large volume of illicit drug trafficking activities. This year the Criminal Division obtained 63 search warrants and charged 68 people with illicit drug charges. The Criminal Division charged 60 people with crimes such as, burglary, theft, sexual assault, fraud etc. Between January and December, the Criminal Division executed 22 illegal marijuana cultivation drug search warrants. These warrants have been executed in the Towns of Cornville, Norridgewock, Madison, Anson, Solon, Ripley, St. Albans, Skowhegan, and Canaan. In 2024 the Criminal Division seized approximately 28,000 marijuana plants, approximately 250 pounds of processed marijuana, approximately \$50,000 in cash, and 5 motor vehicles.

In 2024, the Crimes Against Persons Detective investigated 27 sex offense complaints. 19 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. 3 individuals were charged/arrested 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. The Somerset County Jail is now 17 years old. The County Jail is nationally accredited through the American Correctional Association and is operating under nationally best practice standards. The County Jail is also PREA (Prison Rape Elimination Act) certified.

In 2024 the Somerset County Jail recorded 1,319 total bookings, a 3.2% increase since 2023. We are currently still working with the State of Maine in administering Sublocade to inmates who identify with an Opioid Use Disorder. The Somerset County Jail has a robust programs division. Services provided include parenting classes, alcohol treatment, education and mental health counselling. In 2024 we collaborated with Somerset Public Health, funded by New Balance, inmates work growing a variety of vegetables that get processed on site by our kitchen workers and distributed to local schools.

Civil Process

In 2024, the Somerset County Sheriff's Office Civil Deputies received 1,325 papers to process and serve. That is a 23% decrease from 2023.

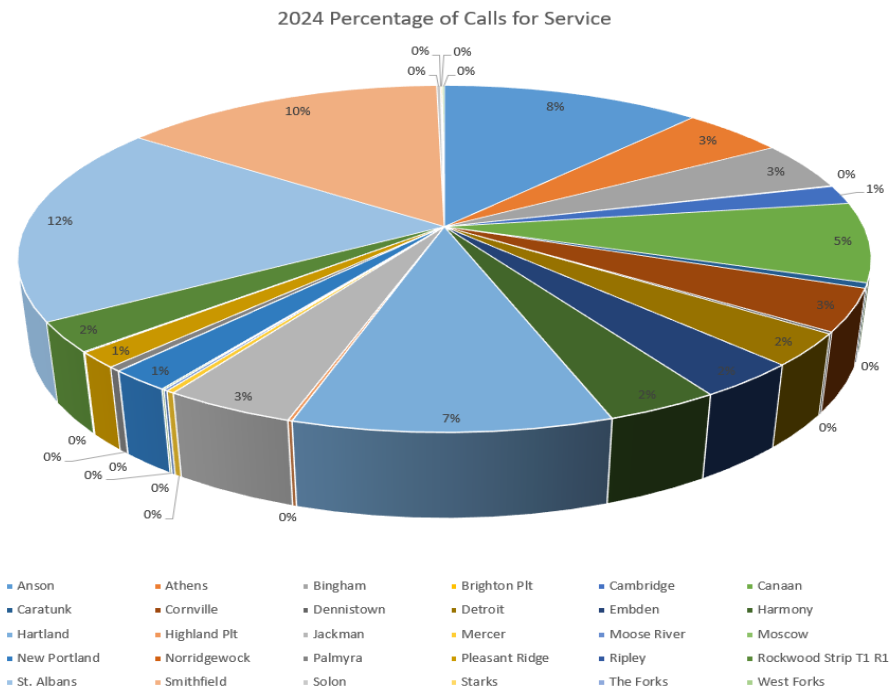
Calls for Service

In 2024, the Sheriff's Office received 17,479 calls for service from our residents. This represents a 4.3% decrease from 2023.

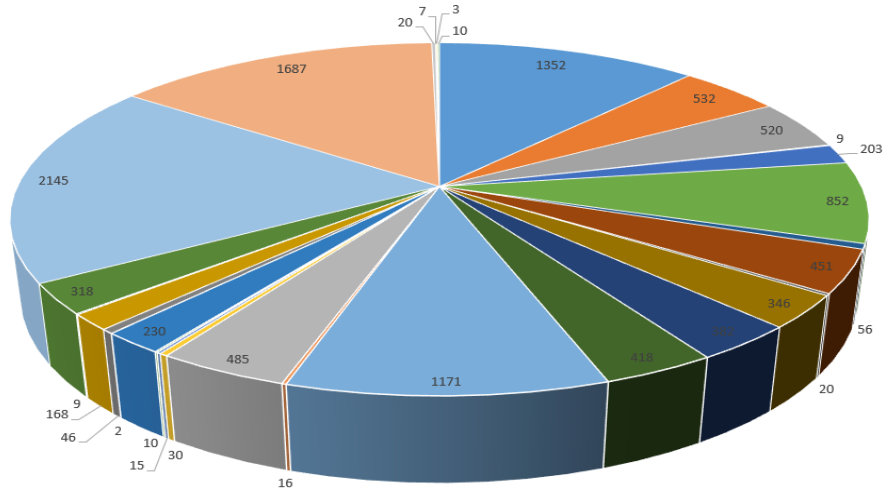
During 2024, the Sheriff's Office responded to 663 calls for service from the Town of Solon, which is a 25% decrease from 2023. These calls included

- 92 motor vehicle stops,
- 57 motor vehicle accidents,
- 17 calls requesting citizen assistance,
- 7 domestic disturbances,
- as well as calls for burglary, theft, criminal threatening, assault, harassment, welfare checks, and requests for other police services.

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

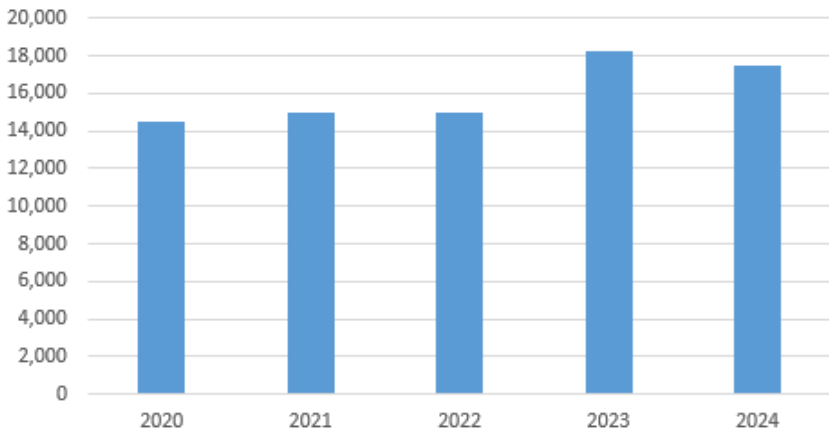


2024 Calls for Service by Town



- Anson
- Athens
- Bingham
- Brighton Plt
- Cambridge
- Canaan
- Caratunk
- Cornville
- Dennistown
- Detroit
- Embsden
- Harmony
- Hartland
- Highland Plt
- Jackman
- Mercer
- Moose River
- Moscow
- New Portland
- Norridgewock
- Palmyra
- Pleasant Ridge
- Ripley
- Rockwood Strip T1 R1
- St. Albans
- Smithfield
- Solon
- Starks
- The Forks
- West Forks

Calls for Service 2020 - 2024



RSU 74
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
Physical Address: 56 North Main Street, North Anson, Maine 04958
Mailing Address: P.O. BOX 219, North Anson, Maine 04958-0219
Phone: (207) 635-2727 - Fax: (207) 635-3599

Carrabec High School ~ Carrabec Community School ~ Garret Schenck School ~ Solon Elementary School

January 23, 2025

Dear RSU 74 Residents,

I am happy to report the state of your schools continues to move in a positive direction. The RSU #74 Board of Directors have supported multiple initiatives in the last calendar year to ensure the work necessary to make improvements in the academics we offer and in our infrastructure that is being done.

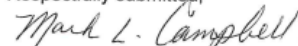
Schools are about academics. In the past 2 plus years we have seen recovery from the pandemic years. Although we are not where we want to be with attendance, the percentage of students who are truant and who meet the definition of chronically absent has dropped significantly. For the school year 2021-2022, our percentage of students who missed more than 10% of the school year was at 45%. Our data for the 2023-2024 school year showed 28% as chronically absent. Truancy for this same time period has dropped from 26% to 12.5%. We still have work to be done, but as a former high school Social Studies teacher once shared with me as his principal, "you get them in my classroom, I will teach them." His words resonate with the work the district is doing with improving attendance as our student's State assessments scores are also showing positive growth. Each school saw an increase in the percentage of students who met or exceeded their growth goals as identified by NWEA, the State assessment. More importantly, we saw an increase in the percentage of students who are at or above grade level with their achievement in ELA and Mathematics as measured by NWEA. Staff in K-8 settings have worked hard to review the fall scores of students and placed each in the appropriate level of intervention. During intervention sessions, students needing additional work on prior concepts in ELA and math are provided this in small groups and at times in individual settings.

One of our district objectives was to develop and implement 5 to 10-year improvement plans for buildings, grounds and busing. We have a bus fleet that was in the process of delivering a second generation of students as some of the fleet was approaching 20 years old. Our 10-year plan was designed to replace the buses that were costing us in the maintenance line as well as those that were approaching 20 years of age. Besides replacing 3 buses in the fleet since May of 2022, the district hired a full time mechanic to do preventive maintenance as well as a majority of the minor repairs in house versus sending buses out. These two steps, newer buses and proper and timely preventive maintenance has allowed us to reduce the contracted repair line. As well, the first time in a significant amount of time, a plan was enacted to begin maintenance of our buildings. Three of the four buildings saw at least one project completed that addressed issues causing concerns around safety of students and staff. Solon Elementary had a new driveway. Carrabec Community School has new floor tile in the K-5 section and there is new exterior lighting at the high school. Our maintenance department noted the rotted framework holding the large windows in the Solon Elementary tower and replaced the wood structure and windows this fall.

We are currently building a budget for the 2025-2026 school year with our focus in the same areas for attendance, academics and maintaining buildings, grounds, and reliable transportation.

Thank you for your continued support of our schools. Together we are creating responsible adults for our communities in the future.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark L. Campbell, Superintendent of Schools

MISSION STATEMENT

The school community of RSU #74 will work together to raise the aspirations of all students by providing them with lifelong skills that they may become self-sufficient contributing members of society.

1934 YEAR IN REVIEW

Solon

(1934-35 Annual Report and 'History of Solon, Maine' by Issac F Davis Jr)

- Population: 852 (1930 census, 200 less than 10 years earlier)
- Municipal Expenditures: \$46,257.71
- Births: 14
- Deaths: 8 (Three of which were under 1-year-old)
- Marriages: 16
- School Enrollment: 197 (6 school districts in town)
 - Solon High School *Site of current school, all grades*
 - Primary 26
 - Intermediate 40
 - Grammar 33
 - High School 39
 - Maple Grove School 20 *Intersection of Rowell Pond Rd*
 - Washington School 12 *South Solon – Rice's Corner*
 - Longfellow School 14 *South Solon*
 - Franklin School 9 *Athens Rd (Hole in the Wall Rd)*
 - Roosevelt School 4 *location unknown*
- Books loaned from Coolidge Public Library: 5,305

United States

- US population: 126,373,773
- US life expectancy: males 59.3 years & females 63.3 years.
- Federal spending: \$6.54 billion
- Average annual income: About \$1,600
- Unemployment rate: 21.7 percent
- 15,000,000 Americans unemployed
- Average cost of a home, \$6,790; monthly rent, \$18.00; new car, \$640: a gallon of gas, 19 cents; 1st-class postage stamp, 3 cents; bacon, 20 cents a pound; white bread, 9 cents 1 lb. loaf; quart ice cream, 39 cents; eggs, 27 cents a dozen; potatoes, 5 pounds for 17 cents; coffee, 29 cents for a one-pound can
- The words 18-wheeler, burrito, chef's salad, cocktail lounge, egg roll, ESP, hair stylist, mobile home, newscast, red carpet, shopping cart, uptight, and urban sprawl all appeared in print for the first time.
- The United States was still in the midst of the Great Depression (1929-39).

- The Gold Reserve Act of 1934, the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Jones-Connally Act (to help struggling U.S. farmers), the Taylor Grazing Act (to regulate grazing on public lands), the Migratory Bird Conservation Act, the Federal Credit Union Act (establishing Credit Unions), the Home Owners Loan Act, the Hays Office censorship code for motion pictures, and US Highway planning surveys nationwide went into effect.
- In July there were record setting temperatures in Iowa & Idaho of 118 degrees and in Ohio of 113 degrees Fahrenheit.
- A massive two-day dust storm removed millions of tons of topsoil from the parched Great Plains. The dust clouds blew all the way to Chicago and deposited over 10 million pounds of dust throughout the Chicago metro area.
- The Dionne Quintuplets were born in Ontario, Canada. They were the first known quintuplets to survive past infancy.
- Babe Ruth hit his 700th career home run in July and in September played his final baseball game with the New York Yankees.
- The Everglades National Park was established in Florida, the Great Smoky Mountains National Park was created in North Carolina and Tennessee, and the Boulder Dam (Hoover Dam) was dedicated.
- America's first laundromat was opened in Fort Worth, Texas, the first US ski tow rope operation began in Woodstock, Vermont, the first high school auto driving course began in State College, Pennsylvania, the first x-ray photo of entire body, Rochester, New York, and the 1st federal prisoners arrive at Alcatraz in SF Bay.

Worldwide

- Nazi Germany passed the "Law for the Prevention of Genetically Diseased Offspring".
- Nazi Germany and Poland sign non-attack treaty for 10 years
- Heinrich Himmler becomes inspector of Prussian secret state police.
- Hitler and Mussolini meet in Vienna
- In Germany, Night of Long Knives, Hitler stages bloody purge of Nazi party
- Adolph Hitler becomes commander-in-chief of Germany
- Adolph Hitler expands German army and navy and creates an air force, violating Treaty of Versailles
- The Soviet Republic of China collapses when Chiang Kai-shek's National Revolutionary Army successfully encircles Ruijin, forcing the fleeing Mao Tse-tung & 25,000 Communist troops to begin the 6,000 mile Long March.
- Japan renounces the Washington Naval Treaty of 1922 and the London Naval Treaty of 1930.

NOTICES

TAXPAYER'S NOTICES

In accordance with Title 36, M.R.S.A. Sec. 706, as amended, the Municipality of Solon hereby gives notice to all persons liable to taxation in Solon that the Assessors will be in session at the Town Office on the first Wednesday in April during normal office hours for the purpose of revising the lists of polls and estates taxable in Solon. All persons liable to taxation in Solon and all Personal Representatives, Trustees, etc. of all estates taxable in Solon of such persons are hereby notified to furnish to the Assessors true and perfect lists of all their estates, real and personal, not by law exempt from taxation, of which they are possessed on the *first day of April* and be prepared to make an oath to the truth of the same and to answer all proper inquiries in writing as to the nature, situation and value of their property liable to be taxed. When estates of persons deceased have been distributed during the past year or have changed hands from any cause, the Personal Representative, and/or other persons interested are hereby warned to give notice of such change, and in default of such notice, will be held liable under law to pay taxes assessed, although such estate has been wholly distributed and paid for. Any person who neglects to comply with this notice is hereby barred from his rights to make application to the Assessors or any appeal there from, for any abatement of his taxes, unless he offers such list with his application and satisfies them that he was unable to offer it at the time appointed.

In accordance with Title 36, M.R.S.A. Sec. 841, abatements for overvaluation of property may be granted only within one year from commitment and taxpayers must apply within 185 days from commitment.

- **UPDATE ON TAX STABILIZATION PROGRAM**

Please note that the State of Maine repealed the Tax Stabilization Act after only one year of enactment. Property Tax Stabilization for Senior Citizens, also known as the Property Tax Stabilization Program (the "Program"), was a State program that allowed certain senior-citizen residents to stabilize, or freeze, the property taxes on their homestead. As a result of recent changes in the law, the Tax Stabilization Program only applies to the property tax year beginning April 1, 2023. However, this same legislation has expanded the eligibility thresholds for participation in the Property Tax Deferral Program and increased the maximum benefit available under the Property Tax Fairness Credit for those age 65 and older.

- **REAL ESTATE:**

All property tax is assessed to the owner of the property on April 1. If you sell your property after April 1, you will still receive the tax bill. You are responsible

for that year's property taxes. If you have constructed, altered or moved any buildings since the previous April 1 and on or before April 1 of the current tax year, notify the Assessors by April 1st.

- **BUSINESS PERSONAL PROPERTY:**

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. In accordance with Title 36, Section 706 of the Maine Revised Statutes, failure to furnish lists of taxable property or any of the aforementioned changes on or before the dates requested will bar one's right to an abatement of taxes. If this business equipment qualifies for the Business Equipment Tax Exemption, the business is not taxed for the property and the town is reimbursed by the State for 50% of the lost tax revenue.

- **PERSONAL PROPERTY**

Certain motorized vehicles, on which excise tax has not been paid by April 1, will be assessed as personal property.

- **EXEMPTIONS:**

Taxation is the rule and exemption is the exception. If you think your property should have an exemption, and you are not already receiving it, you have an obligation to make the Assessors aware of the legal category of the exemption that the property may qualify for. All notifications and applications for exemption must be made no later than April 1, of the current tax year.

- **VETERANS EXEMPTION:**

All Veterans who will be 62 years of age on or before April 1, 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 1 should contact the Assessors to see if they are eligible for a tax exemption. Applications for Veteran's exemptions must be received in this office on or before April 1. You do not need to reapply every year.

- **BLIND EXEMPTION:**

Any person who is declared blind by the Department of Human Services should notify the Assessors' office on or before April 1 to see if he or she is eligible for the exemption. You do not need to reapply every year.

- **HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION:**

This exemption is for resident homeowners on their primary residence. You must apply for it on or before April 1 at the Assessor's Office. You do not need to reapply every year.

- **TREE GROWTH CLASSIFICATION:**

All new owners of land that is classified as ‘tree growth’ have one year from 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 the removal of the land from the tree growth classification and the assessment of a removal penalty.

- **FARMLAND AND OPEN SPACE:**

Certain parcels of land might qualify for these two programs. See the Assessors regarding the qualifications.

- **PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENTS**

Property taxpayers have 185 days from the Date of Commitment to apply for a tax abatement. Contact the Assessors if you have an abatement request.

TOWN MEETING AND ELECTION NOTICES

Nomination Papers for the various elected positions in town are available at the Town Office starting the last week of November and are due back in the beginning of January.

Contact the Town Clerk for more information about running for an elected position and for the nomination paper dates for the current year.

The Selectmen prepare the Town Budget and Warrant Articles for the upcoming Town Meeting and present them to the Advisory Committee for their review at their Annual Budget Meeting on the third Saturday in January at the Town Office.

If you want to have an article considered at the Annual Town Meeting it must be presented to the Selectmen, no later than the Wednesday before the Annual Advisory Committee Budget Meeting in January.

See the ‘Dates to Remember’ page at the end of this report for the date of the Annual Budget Meeting.

The Annual Town Meeting is always held on the 1st Saturday in March. The voting of Town Officials is from 8 am to 12:15 pm by secret ballot and the Annual Town Meeting starts at 1:30 pm, run as an open forum.

If your non-profit group or organization would like to set up a table in the morning for promotion or fundraising, please contact the Town Office.

PLANNING BOARD NOTICES

BUILDING PERMITS ARE REQUIRED!



In 1977 the Town of Solon enacted a building ordinance. This ordinance also provided for a fine, not to exceed \$100.00 per day that a violation of the ordinance continued.

In 1989 & 2003 the voters amended the ordinance, requiring that a building permit be issued by the Solon Planning Board *PRIOR* to the construction or placement of any structure that exceeds 200 square feet of floor space and for an addition that exceeds 100 square feet. Building permit applications are available at the Town Office or from any member of the Planning Board. Planning Board members will offer any assistance to anyone needing help in completing an application. The Board meets each 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7 PM at the Town Office.

ATTENTION LANDOWNERS AND WOODCUTTERS HARVESTING TREES IN SHORELAND ZONE AREAS



A town issued Permit is required prior to removing dead or hazardous trees in the Shoreland Zone. Contact the Code Enforcement Officer or Planning Board for a permit. In March 2019 the Town of Solon enacted its revised Shoreland Zoning Ordinance. Timber harvesting is now managed and administered by the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry. They can be reached at 207-287-3200.

NEW DRIVEWAY PLACEMENT AND INSTALLATION

No new driveways can be installed without a permit from the Road Commissioner. The permit fee is \$20. Certain site distances and culvert size requirements must be met. The town will install the culvert, if one is needed, with the landowner paying for the culvert and the gravel needed to cover the culvert. The town will maintain the culvert after the initial installation. The driveway installation application is available at the town office or from the Planning Board.

TRANSFER STATION NOTICES

***SOLON TRANSFER STATION USE STICKERS
ARE REQUIRED ON ALL VEHICLES BRINGING TRASH
TO OUR TRANSFER STATION***

Solon Transfer Station stickers are required to be displayed on the windshield of all vehicles bringing trash to the Transfer Station. New stickers are required annually at a cost of \$5. There will be a grace period until January 31st. Proof of residency or landownership is required to obtain a Use Sticker each year. The stickers will be available both at the Transfer Station and the Town Office and the next year's new color stickers will be available starting in October.



RECYCLING HELPS KEEP COSTS DOWN!

The Transfer Station is open on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please check with the attendant on the proper bins to place your trash in. Upcycle! If you have an item that you no longer want but it is still useable, check with the attendant on where to place it. These items are then available to other residents.

We recycle paper, glass, cans and other items. We also accept eyeglasses and cell phones, which will be recycled or donated to charity. For a complete list of recyclable items and their proper disposal method, please see the Transfer Station Report or contact the transfer station attendant. Recycling is mandatory so do not discard recyclables in your household trash. We do not pay the tipping fees for residents who have their trash picked up by private haulers.

Certain items cannot go into the general trash bins and certain hazardous waste items we do not take. Please check with the attendant before disposing of any questionable item. If we do take the item, he will tell you where to place it.

Demolition Debris Disposal Policy: The Town will not pay for the tipping fee for demolition debris resulting from a building, demolition, or renovation project. We will not pay for container leases, for transportation costs or for tipping fees.

PUBLIC WAYS NOTICES

WINTER PARKING ON ROAD BAN:

We have an ordinance, passed in 1977, to design a Parking Ban for the period from November 1st to April 30th. It is unlawful for a motor vehicle or any other vehicle to be parked within the right of way of any public way within Solon during this time in such a manner as to hinder the removal of snow or other road maintenance. Any vehicle parked in violation of this ordinance is subject to

towing at the owner's expense.

YEAR-ROUND PARKING BAN IN TRAVEL WAY:

It is also unlawful to habitually park a vehicle with any portion of said vehicle in the traveled portion of any public way. If the vehicle hinders the normal passage of two-way traffic, the said vehicle will be subject to towing at the owner's expense. Repeating violators will be subject to a fine.

DRIVEWAY PLOWING AND SNOW BLOWING:

It is also illegal to plow snow across a public way. Plow your driveways inwards and not outwards into and/or across the road. It is also illegal to blow or shovel snow onto the public way. Violators are subject to a fine.

MAILBOXES:

The town is not responsible for damage done to mailboxes while the roads are being plowed. Make sure your mailbox is high enough and far enough away from the road not to be damaged. It is not the Town's responsibility to keep access to your mailbox clear of snow.

ATVS ON TOWN ROADS

The Drury Road, Brighton Road, French Hill Road from the Grant Road to Pleasant Street, Falls Road, and Pleasant Street is open for ATV use. We do not allow ATV use on any of the other roads in Solon or on school property. Do not cross the school ball fields on ATVs. It damages our ball fields. We don't want to have to put up a fence but will have to if ATVs continue to drive on the field.

OTHER NOTICES

PHOTOCOPIES



Photocopies are available at a rate of \$.25/page for black & white and \$.75/page for color. Please have documents organized prior to your request. Please note that all other business will take precedence before our staff can make copies.

FAX / SCAN / EMAIL



We no longer have the ability to send faxes but can receive them as an email at (207) 643-2864. We are happy to then print them (fee above) or forward via email at no charge. We can also scan and email documents. Again, please have them organized in advance and note that all other business will take precedence.

NOTARY SERVICES



Notarization - If a member of staff is commissioned by the State of Maine as a Notary, it is their discretion to provide notarial services. There is a fee of \$5/signature (ie. notarial act) and is subject to change. There is no charge for documents requiring notarization when conducting regular municipal business.

Marriage Officiant – If a staff member is commissioned by the State of Maine to perform/officiate marriages, scheduling and fees are at the discretion of the Notary. You can also find other notaries and officiants online through the [Maine Notary Public and Dedimus Justice Search](#).

CHECKS/INSUFFICIENT FUNDS



The Town charges a \$35.00 fee for each dishonored check written to the Town of Solon, which is drawn on a bank account with insufficient funds. The Selectmen will require that any further payments from said individual must be per money order, bank check or cash. Also, any checks issued by the Town of Solon and not cashed within 90 days will not be honored.

CREDIT CARDS



We now accept credit card payments for monetary transactions conducted at the town office. There is a fee of 2.5% added to all transactions (min. of \$1) by the credit card processor.

VEHICLE REGISTRATION



When re-registering a vehicle, please remember to bring in **proof of insurance, old registration, and mileage**. New registrations require a bill of sale, title (**25 years old or newer**), proof of insurance and mileage. If a vehicle is purchased from a dealer you must also have proof of purchase, a title application (and/or window sticker for new vehicles). **ANTIQUE AUTOS: NEW LAW CHANGE** - As of 01/01/2025 only vehicles **over 35-years-old** may be registered as antique.

HUNTING & FISHING LICENSES:



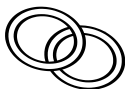
When you come in to purchase a resident or non-resident hunting/archery license, please bring in your previous year's license whenever possible. If it is your first license, we must see your hunter's safety course card. The Clerk can issue 70-and-over lifetime hunting and fishing licenses, but other lifetime licenses are issued only by the state.

BOAT STICKERS:



ALL boats that have motors on them **MUST** have a valid “Lake and River Protection Sticker” on them before they are put in the water. The sticker and more information are available at the town office.

MARRIAGE LICENSES:



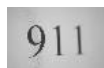
There is no waiting period to file marriage intentions with the Town Clerk before picking up your license. If you were previously married, you must bring in current divorce papers with the raised seal on it or a death certificate.

VITAL RECORDS



Certified copies of BIRTH, DEATH and MARRIAGE records are available from the Municipal Clerk. Each town has access to only those records to which the Registrant was a resident of at the time of the record. An applicant for a vital record must have *direct and legitimate interest* in the record. For more information, and to see if you qualify to obtain a record, contact the Clerk or go to www.maine.gov.

NEW ADDRESSES:



The E911 addressing system is in effect. Your house number should be clearly posted on your property so that it can be easily seen from the road. This will make it easier for emergency vehicles to locate you in case of an emergency. There is a \$10 fee for any change in a property that requires a new, different, or additional physical address.

TRANSFER STATION USE PERMIT:



Use of the Solon Transfer Station is limited to those who are *residents* or *landowners* only. Use permit stickers are required and expire annually by December 31st. They are at an annual cost of \$5 per sticker. They can be obtained from the Clerk's Office as well as from the Transfer Station Attendants with proof of residency or land ownership in Solon.

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT:



The Town of Solon has in its possession a number of medical assistance items, which are available to be loaned out to citizens of Solon. If you have need of any of these items, contact the Town Office at 643-2812 for arrangements of pick-up or for delivery.

BURN PERMITS:



Burn permits are required before you can burn brush and debris outside at any time during the year. For burn permits go online to <https://www.maine.gov/burnpermit> or call: Duayne Rollins - 399-9549, Jen Rollins - 399-1655, Todd Dixon - 441-5171

DOG OWNERS NOTICE

Dog License - Everyone must license their dog!!

The State of Maine requires all dogs over the age of 6 months or have been with the family for 10 days, to be registered in the town of residence of the owner. Fees for spayed or neutered dogs are \$6 and \$11 if they remain unaltered.

All licenses expire on December 31st. A \$25 late fee per dog will be added after January 31st. This fee is required by State law and is non-negotiable.

Please bring with you the most recent Rabies Certificate and, if applicable, a Spay/Neuter Certificate **or license your dog Online by visiting www.solon.maine.gov (the State's online service is available from October 15th to January 31st).**

If you are licensing a wolf hybrid, service/search or rescue dog or obtaining a kennel license please contact the town office for more information.

Kennel License - Kennel owners need to have their property inspected annually by Solon's Animal Control Officer. At her discretion, she will be accompanied by a State of Maine Animal Welfare Agent for all inspections to assist her in upholding the highest standards.

Dog Ordinances - Please do not allow your dogs to bark freely while outside. Please keep your dogs on a leash while walking, hooked to a run (3 x its length) or in a spacious fenced area. State Law forbids dogs from roaming at large and is subject to being picked up by the ACO and transported to the shelter for care.

Lost Pet? - If your pet is lost, please call Somerset Dispatch. The ACO may have already found them. If not, a Lost Pet announcement will go out on the Town of Solon Maine Facebook Page. We have had an incredibly good turnaround time with very few animals brought to the shelter by this new process being put into place.

To report a missing or found domestic animal or to contact
Solon's Animal Control Officer please call,
Somerset Dispatch at 207-474-6465



Stray animals are brought to the
Waterville Area Humane Society - 207-873-2430
100 Webb Road, Waterville



WHAT TO BRING WHEN

WHEN REGISTERING A VEHICLE

- *Re-registration: old registration, current insurance, & mileage
- *New registration (Dealer Sale): bill of sale/purchase agreement, copy of title application form, window sticker, current insurance card, and mileage
- *New registration (Private Sale): bill of sale, current insurance card, title, release of lien form if applicable, and mileage
- *New registration & transfer plates: same as above plus registration of the vehicle the plates are being transferred from.

WHEN REGISTERING A SNOWMOBILE, ATV, OR BOAT

- *Re-registration: old registration
- *New registration: bill of sale, serial number (boats: length and horsepower)
- *New registration & transfer plates: same as above plus registration of the vehicle registration being transferred from.

WHEN REGISTERING A DOG

Current rabies certificate, spay or neutering certificate (it may be noted on rabies certificate). We may also have their current rabies information on file.

WHEN PAYING PROPERTY TAXES

A copy of the tax bill or account number for reference.

WHEN PURCHASING HUNTING LICENSES

You must have proof of a prior hunting license or having completed a hunter safety program. For those over 16 purchasing their first adult license they must also bring proof that they passed a hunter safety course.

WHEN RENEWING TREE GROWTH PLAN

Please bring the Tree Growth application to the Assessors, signed by a licensed professional forester with his/her contact information, the property owner and a map showing the location of the different forest types for the land being classified (softwood, hardwood, and mixed wood) as well as a description and location of land not classified in the parcel (to at least the nearest whole acre). Tree growth plans must be renewed every 10 years. Also, when purchasing land that is in tree growth, the new owner has one (1) year to file with the Assessors a statement from a licensed professional forester. Either the land is being managed in accordance with the previous plan or a new application with all the required information with a new 10-year renewal date.

BUILDING AND/OR PLUMBING PERMITS

Completed building and/or plumbing application forms, sketches of proposed and existing buildings and landmarks (roads, property lines, well, septic) on lot, and for septic systems a septic system design by a licensed professional.

SELECTMEN'S REPORT

The Selectmen hold their Selectmen Meetings on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 5 pm. Prior to that they meet with the Road Commissioner and road crew at 4 pm. The Chair of Selectmen is in the town office on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 9 am to 3 pm and on Wednesday from 8 am to 6 pm.

The Maine Department of Transportation work to replace the Route 201 bridge over Fall Brook started in April. The temporary bridge with the 6 separate traffic lights at S Main St., N Main St., Ferry St., Pleasant St., Cross Street, and Brook Street created a lot of traffic delays and long lines. So glad the new bridge is now open and we are back to just the 1 blinker light!!! MDOT will complete the rest of the project in the spring.

The Solon Water District water mains for the north side of town were attached to the old bridge and they were responsible for all costs associated with replacing and attaching the water lines to the new bridge. MDOT also redesigned the Cross Street and Brook Street intersections and replaced the water mains on those two roads. The Water District was also responsible for the cost of those water mains. We were successful in getting a CDBG grant to help with the cost of the water main portion of the MDOT project. We thank Mike Foster for the great job he did overseeing the water main project for the Solon Water District.

This year we purchased a lot of equipment. The Transfer Station purchased a new trash tub, a baler for plastics, carboard, and paper, and a container trailer to store the baled products. The Fire Department purchased new air tanks and turnout gear to meet updated safety requirements. The Public Works Department purchased a 2016 2-ton truck, a 2025 Western Star truck, a new dump body for the 2015 Western Star truck, a Hyundai Excavator, and a new gravel compactor. We also had major equipment repairs on the skid steer, a fire truck, grader, and on the 2015 and 2017 Western Star trucks.

Our road crew worked hard repairing the road damage from the May 2023 and the December 2023 storms. There is still a lot more to do. We have so far received \$88,114 from FEMA/MEMA. We are still waiting on about \$915,000 more from them. Those funds will be used to reimburse the LRAP account for the \$153,706.84 in the overages in 2023 and 2024 Summer Roads, 2024 Winter Roads, and the other approved LRAP expenditures approved to be reimbursed from FEMA/MEMA funds. Elaine, with help from the road commissioner, road crew, and Leslie, has spent a lot of time working on the FEMA projects and gathering and submitting all the information FEMA requested.

Due to the continued high selling price of property in Maine and Solon, the state has again increased our state valuation. It went from \$115,750,000 in 2023 to

\$127,550,000 in 2024 and now it has increased to \$153,400,000 for 2025. In 2024 we raised land valuations across the board for everyone and also increased building valuations on all buildings to meet the state valuation requirements. If we fall less than 93%, we must reduce the homestead, veteran, and blind exemptions that many receive. So again in 2025 we will have to increase land and building valuations across the board to stay above the 93% state valuation threshold.

The assessing company we had hired to do our town's revaluation withdrew from their contract with us due to staffing shortages. They gave us the paperwork and photos they had taken so far. We have not been able to hire another assessing firm to do our town's revaluation so the Selectmen/Assessors will do the remaining property information gathering on our own over the next few years. So, if you see us taking photos and measuring your buildings, that is what we are doing. We will also be sending a form to fill out to update our information on the buildings on your property. Please be sure to fill it out and return it to us.

Our actual 2024 municipal budget by taxation increased by \$54,673 which was only a 4% increase over 2023 but because of having a smaller amount of available surplus funds to reduce taxes we needed to raise an additional \$174,871 in tax revenue for the town's budget. Also, our 2024 RSU 74 tax assessment increased by \$90,135. We also needed to increase everyone's property valuations to reach our town's state valuation level. The state also repealed the Tax Stabilization Credit for those who were 65 and older in 2024. This credit froze their property valuation at their 2022 valuation. This all resulted in higher tax bills for everyone.

The Selectmen and the Advisory Committee work hard to keep our municipal costs down. We have kept our budgets as low as possible. However, the continuing high increase in the cost of living is affecting our town budgets as well as our home budgets. The 2025 municipal budget by taxation, as presented by the Selectmen is \$1,276,483 which is an increase of \$58,320 from 2024. After deducting our available surplus, KRDA revenue, and revenue sharing the amount needed to be raised by taxation for municipal expenditures is \$595,651 which is a decrease of \$47,410 from 2024. You, the citizens of Solon, decide on our municipal budget at our Annual Town Meeting.

We urge everyone to attend the School District Budget Adoption meeting in May and to vote on the school referendum questions in June. Also please attend Solon's Annual Town Meeting on the 1st Saturday of March. That is when you, the citizens, discuss and vote on our town's budget for the year and on other matters.

You can see the Town Meeting Warrant Articles and an explanation of the articles at the end of this town report. Please attend the Annual Town Meeting.

This is your chance to participate in deciding on what and how much we spend our property tax dollars and what other actions the town will take on a variety of matters. We look forward to seeing you at the town meeting.

Remember that the Selectmen meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month at 5 pm for their Selectmen’s meeting. Come see us with any questions, concerns, or issues you have regarding town business and issues either at our Selectmen meetings or when the Chair is in the office.

Respectfully Submitted,
Elaine Aloes, Wayne Johnson, and John Dunay

2024 MUNICIPAL APPROPRIATIONS

APPROPRITATIONS BY TAXATION

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Payroll & Benefits	\$209,875.00	
Insurance	\$ 40,000.00	
Utilities	\$ 8,000.00	
Town Charges	\$ 43,140.00	
Maintenance	\$ 2,500.00	
Training, Books, & Dues	\$ 2,385.00	
Accounts Overages	<u>\$ 5,000.00</u>	\$310,900.00

PUBLIC WORKS

Winter Roads	\$149,000.00	
Summer Roads	\$143,000.00	
Transfer Station	<u>\$ 99,000.00</u>	\$391,500.00

LIBRARY

Coolidge Library Reserve		\$ 25,600.00
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FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Department		\$ 49,200.00
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PUBLIC UTILITIES

Fire Hydrants	\$24,900.00	
Street Lights	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 32,900.00

SOCIAL SERVICES

General Assistance	\$ 15,000.00	
Social Service Agencies	<u>\$ 18,688.00</u>	\$ 33,688.00

CODE ENFORCEMENT

CEO & Health Officer	\$ 6,200.00	
911 Addressing Officer	<u>\$ 260.00</u>	\$ 6,460.00

LEISURE SERVICES

Programs		\$ 10,950.00
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CEMETERIES

Cemetery Maintenance Reserve		\$ 24,700.00
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ANIMAL WELFARE

Humane Society	\$ 2,000.00	
Animal Control Officer	<u>\$ 3,500.00</u>	\$ 5,500.00

ORGANIZATION DUES

Membership Fees		\$ 4,650.00
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CAPITAL RESERVE ACCOUNTS

Road Paving Reserve	\$ 15,000.00	
Gravel Roads Reserve	\$ 10,000.00	
Highway Equipment Reserve	\$220,000.00	
Transfer Station Truck & Equip.	\$ 7,500.00	
Coolidge Library Building	\$ 3,000.00	
Municipal Buildings Maintenance	\$ 3,500.00	
Fire Truck Reserve	\$ 8,000.00	
Fire Department Capital Reserve	<u>\$ 1,000.00</u>	\$268,000.00

RESERVE ACCOUNTS

Municipal Buildings Heat Reserve	\$ 12,000.00	
Fire Dept. Safety Equipment Res.	\$ 5,000.00	
GIS Mapping Reserve	\$ 2,000.00	
Assessing Revaluation Reserve	\$ 10,000.00	
Town Line Survey Reserve	\$ 2,500.00	
Municipal Grounds Maint. Res.	\$ 2,500.00	
Web Site Reserve	\$ 2,000.00	
Town Flags Reserve	\$ 2,000.00	
Town Records Preservation Res.	<u>\$ 4,500.00</u>	\$ 42,500.00

**MUNICIPAL APPROPRIATIONS BY TAXATION
AT ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

\$1,213,348.00

**MUNICIPAL APPROPRIATIONS FROM RESERVE ACCOUNTS AT
ANNUAL AND SPECIAL TOWN MEETINGS**

LRAP Funds	\$ 75,000.00
Highway Equipment Reserve	\$266,635.00

Road Paving Reserve	\$136,500.00	
ARPA Funds	\$ 60,000.00	
Transfer Station Equip. Reserve	<u>\$ 5,000.00</u>	<u>\$ 543,135.00</u>

TOTAL RAISED AT ANNUAL & SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Taxation	\$1,213,423.00	
Reserve Accounts	\$ 543,135.00	
KRDA/First Park	<u>\$ 4,815.00</u>	<u>\$1,761,373.00</u>

2024 EXPENDITURES GENERAL GOVERNMENT

PAYROLL & BENEFITS

Income:

Appropriated	\$310,900.00	
Liens Fees	\$ 2,914.74	
Reimbursements	\$ 322.70	
Property & Casualty Ins. Rebate	\$ 986.00	
Workman Comp. Ins. Rebate	\$ 405.00	
Employee Benefits bal. 12/31/23	<u>\$ 20,436.47</u>	<u>\$335,964.91</u>

Expended:

PAYROLL

Selectmen	\$35,090.06	
Clerk/Tax Collector	\$50,720.00	
Treasurer	\$10,456.04	
Deputy Clerk, Tax Collector, & Treasurer	\$26,705.27	
Registrar of Voters	\$ 2,915.00	
Elections	\$ 1,968.64	
Social Security & Medicare	\$30,926.92	
Employee Benefits	<u>\$56,436.47</u>	<u>\$217,059.76</u>

INSURANCE

Worker's Compensation	\$10,734.00	
Unemployment	\$ 4,463.00	
Property	<u>\$21,442.50</u>	<u>\$ 36,636.50</u>

UTILITIES

Phones & Internet	\$ 4,962.01	
Electricity	\$ 1,619.48	
Water	<u>\$ 378.28</u>	<u>\$ 6,959.77</u>

TOWN CHARGES

Supplies	\$ 4,283.09	
Postage	\$ 3,088.57	
Legal Fees	\$ 300.00	
Reg. of Deeds	\$ 1,654.50	

Town Reports	\$ 3,041.85	
Bad Check Fees	\$ 20.00	
Travel & Reimb.	\$ 2,492.51	
Tax Bills Print & Mail	\$ 1,146.82	
Payroll Services	\$ 2,301.95	
Auditor	\$10,000.00	
Paper Shredding	\$ 0.00	
Copier Maintenance. Fee	\$ 1,571.72	
Web Site Fee	\$ 840.00	
Post Office Box Fee	\$ 102.00	
Safe Deposit Box	\$ 30.00	
Security System	\$ 331.95	
Trio Computer Programs	\$ 8,989.19	
Computer Maintenance	\$ 849.00	
Computer Software Fees	<u>\$ 449.98</u>	\$41,490.07
MAINTENANCE		
Town Office Maintenance	\$ 1,755.00	
Furnace Maintenance	\$ 648.50	
Supplies	<u>\$ 410.00</u>	\$2,813.50
TRAINING, BOOKS, & DUES		
Books	\$ 50.00	
Training Fees	\$ 785.00	
Meals	\$ 272.25	
Dues	<u>\$ 365.00</u>	\$1,472.25
OTHER		
Accounts Overage		
Fire Department	\$ 5,125.20	
RSU 74	\$ 3.00	
Street Lights	<u>\$ 2,416.15</u>	\$ 7,544.35
Elections-Payroll		\$ 2,498.30
Elections-Meals		<u>\$ 186.20</u>
		<u>\$316,663.70</u>
		\$ 19,301.21

PUBLIC WORKS

ROADS		
Income		
Appropriated	\$292,000.00	
Refunds & Reimbursements	<u>\$ 8,125.01</u>	\$300,125.01
Expended		
Winter Roads	\$204,953.21	
Summer Roads	<u>\$253,726.72</u>	<u>\$458,679.93</u>
		(\$158,554.92)
Funds used to cover overage		
FEMA funds	\$ 88,113.85	
LRAP funds	\$ 35,441.07	

Gravel Roads funds	<u>\$ 35,000.00</u>	<u>\$158,554.92</u>	\$0.00
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TRANSFER STATION

Income:			
Appropriated	\$99,500.00		
Income & Fees	<u>\$ 9,849.30</u>	\$109,349.30	
Expended		<u>\$116,354.10</u>	
		(\$7,004.80)	
Trans from TS Truck & Tub Reserve		<u>\$7,004.80</u>	\$0.00

COOLIDGE LIBRARY

COOLIDGE LIBRARY RESERVE

Income:			
Balance 1/1/24	\$ 205.87		
Appropriated	\$25,600.00		
Investment Funds	\$ 2,000.00		
Fees & Donations	<u>\$ 2.25</u>	\$27,808.12	
Expended:		<u>\$26,017.74</u>	\$1,790.38

FIRE DEPARTMENT

FIRE DEPARTMENT & FIRE CHIEF

Income:			
Appropriated	\$49,200.00		
Expended	<u>\$83,975.20</u>	(\$34,775.20)	
Transfers			
Safety Reserve Funds	\$ 5,000.00		
FD Reserve Funds Transfer	\$24,650.00		
Accounts Overage	\$ 2,580.85		
Surplus	<u>\$ 2,544.35</u>	<u>\$34,775.20</u>	\$0.00

PUBLIC UTILITIES

Appropriated		\$32,900.00	
Expended			
Hydrant Fee	\$24,856.00		
Street Lights	<u>\$10,460.15</u>	<u>\$35,316.15</u>	(\$2,416.15)
Transfer from Accounts Overage		<u>\$2,416.15</u>	
		\$	0.00

SOCIAL SERVICES

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

Income:			
Appropriated	\$15,000.00		
SSI Reimbursement	\$ 180.00		
Reimbursement	<u>\$12,612.78</u>	\$27,792.78	
Expended		<u>\$10,114.92</u>	\$17,677.86

SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

Appropriated		\$18,688.00	
Expended			
KVCAP	\$ 750.00		
Hospice	\$ 1,000.00		
Spectrum Generations	\$ 788.00		
Kennebec Behavioral Health	\$ 500.00		
Sexual Support & Crisis Ctr	\$ 300.00		
Solon Food Cupboard	\$15,000.00		
American Red Cross	\$ 150.00		
LifeFlight Foundation	<u>\$ 200.00</u>	<u>\$18,688.00</u>	\$0.00

CODE ENFORCEMENT

Appropriated	\$ 6,460.00		
Expended	<u>\$ 6,460.00</u>		\$0.00

LEISURE SERVICES

Income			
Appropriated	\$10,950.00		
Incomes & Reserves	<u>\$23,754.35</u>	\$34,704.35	
Expended			
Recreation Reserve	\$10,058.66		
Rec. Facility & Maint. Res.	\$ 1,028.41		
Swim/Camp Reserve	\$ 1,448.52		
Special Events	\$ 156.46		
4 th of July Fireworks	\$ 4,843.54		
Baker Mountain Ski	<u>\$ 1,250.00</u>	<u>\$18,785.59</u>	\$15,918.76

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM RESERVE

Income			
Appropriated	\$6,800.00		
Reserve Funds	<u>\$4,468.77</u>	\$11,268.77	
Expended		<u>\$ 5,443.78</u>	\$5,824.99

CEMETERIES**CEMETERY MAINTENANCE RESERVE**

Income			
Appropriated	\$24,700.00		
Balance 12/31/24 & Income	<u>\$ 7,174.05</u>	\$31,874.05	
Expended		<u>\$30,973.63</u>	\$900.42

ANIMAL WELFARE

Income			
Appropriated		\$5,500.00	
Expended			

Animal Control Officer	\$3,500.00		
Humane Society	<u>\$1,867.12</u>	<u>\$5,500.00</u>	\$132.88

TOWN DOG RESERVE

Income

Balance 12/31/24	\$2,268.30		
Town Dog Fees	<u>\$ 999.00</u>	\$3,267.30	

Expended

Animal Control Officer	\$ 874.98		
Supplies	\$ 192.69		
Mileage	<u>\$ 546.36</u>	<u>\$1,614.03</u>	\$1,653.27

AGENCIES

Appropriated		\$4,650.00	
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Expended

Kennebec Valley Council of Governments	\$1,593.00		
Somerset Economic Dev. Corp.	\$ 100.00		
Maine Municipal Association	<u>\$2,310.00</u>	<u>\$4,503.00</u>	\$147.00

CAPITAL RESERVE ACCOUNTS

ROAD PAVING RESERVE

Income

Balance 1/1/24	\$190,041.71		
Appropriated	\$ 15,000.00		
Interest	<u>\$ 3,394.46</u>	\$208,436.17	

Expended		<u>\$135,277.50</u>	\$73,158.67
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HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT RESERVE ACCOUNT

Income

Balance 1/1/24	\$ 18,992.62		
Appropriated	\$220,000.00		
Income & Interest	<u>\$ 6,074.79</u>	\$245,067.41	

Expended		<u>\$244,916.46</u>	\$150.95
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GRAVEL ROADS RESERVE

Income

Balance 1/1/24	\$38,708.00		
Appropriated	<u>\$10,000.00</u>	\$48,708.00	

Expended		<u>\$35,000.00</u>	\$13,708.00
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SIDEWALK REPAIR RESERVE

Income

Balance 1/1/24	\$17,734.29		
Appropriated	<u>\$ 0.00</u>	\$17,734.29	

Expended		\$ <u>0.00</u>	\$17,734.29
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TRANSFER STATION TRUCK & TUB RESERVE ACCOUNT

Income

Balance 1/1/24	\$25,438.58	
Appropriated	\$ 7,500.00	
Interest	<u>\$ 573.32</u>	\$33,511.90

Expended		<u>\$19,954.80</u>	\$13,557.10
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COOLIDGE LIBRARY BUILDING CAPITAL RESERVE

Income

Balance 1/1/24	\$30,121.22	
Appropriated	\$ 3,000.00	
Interest	<u>\$ 715.41</u>	\$33,836.33

Expended		<u>\$ 0.00</u>	\$33,836.63
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FIRE TRUCK RESERVE ACCOUNT

Income

Balance 1/1/24	\$3,261.93	
Appropriated	\$8,000.00	
Interest	<u>\$ 136.84</u>	\$11,398.77

Expended		<u>\$ 0.00</u>	\$11,398.77
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FIRE DEPARTMENT CAPITAL RESERVE ACCOUNT

Income

Balance 1/1/24	\$ 276.42	
Appropriated	\$1,000.00	
Interest	<u>\$ 14.01</u>	\$1,290.43

Expended		<u>\$ 0.00</u>	\$1,290.43
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MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS MAINTENANCE RESERVE

Income

Balance 1/1/24	\$8,682.53	
Efficiency Maine Rebate	\$2,800.00	
Appropriated	<u>\$3,500.00</u>	\$11,982.53

Expended		<u>\$ 3,137.76</u>	\$11,844.77
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LOCAL ROADS AID PROGRAM (LRAP)

Income

Balance 1/1/24	\$146,650.27	
Interest	\$ 3,034.05	
State funds received	<u>\$ 49,592.00</u>	\$199,276.32

Expended		<u>\$122,842.66</u>	\$76,433.66
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PUBLIC WORKS GARAGE RESERVE

Income		
ARPA Funds	\$30,962.61	
Expended	<u>\$ 0.00</u>	\$30,962.61

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA)

Income		
Balance 1/1/24		\$45,962.61
Expended		
Transfer Station Baler	\$15,000.00	
Public Works Garage Reserve	<u>\$30,962.61</u>	<u>\$45,962.61</u> \$0.00

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)

Received CDBG Funds	\$211,020.00	
Expended	<u>\$155,128.42</u>	\$55,891.58

RESERVE ACCOUNTS

MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS HEAT RESERVE

Income		
Balance 1/1/24	\$15,595.94	
Appropriated	<u>\$12,000.00</u>	\$27,595.94
Expended		
Town Office	\$1,428.80	
Fire Station	\$4,276.51	
Town Garage	\$4,331.13	
Library	\$2,105.48	
		<u>\$12,141.92</u> \$15,454.02

FIRE DEPARTMENT SAFETY RESERVE

Appropriated	\$5,000.00	
Transferred to Fire Department	<u>\$5,000.00</u>	\$0.00

GIS MAPPING RESERVE

Income		
Balance 1/1/2024	\$1,400.00	
Appropriated	<u>\$2,000.00</u>	\$3,400.00
Expended	<u>\$ 0.00</u>	\$3,400.00

ASSESSING, REVALUATION RESERVE

Income		
Balance 1/1/2024	\$30,000.00	
Appropriated	<u>\$10,000.00</u>	\$40,000.00
Expended	<u>\$ 8,000.00</u>	\$32,000.00

TOWN LINE SURVEY RESERVE

Income:

Balance 1/1/2024	\$11,000.00		
Appropriated	<u>\$ 2,500.00</u>	\$13,500.00	
Expended		<u>\$ 0.00</u>	\$13,500.00

MUNICIPAL GROUNDS MAINTENANCE RESERVE

Income			
Balance 1/1/24	\$7,586.93		
Appropriated	<u>\$2,500.00</u>	\$8,086.93	
Expended		<u>\$3,018.00</u>	\$7,068.93

WEB SITE FEE RESERVE

Appropriated	\$2,000.00
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TOWN FLAGS RESERVE

Income:			
Balance 1/1/2024	\$2,042.45		
Appropriated	<u>\$2,000.00</u>	\$4,042.45	
Expended		<u>\$1,355.85</u>	\$2,686.60

FIRE DEPARTMENT RESERVE

Income			
Balance 1/1/24	\$20,040.46		
Donations	<u>\$12,247.14</u>	\$32,287.60	
Expended		<u>\$24,650.00</u>	\$7,637.60

PLANNING BOARD RESERVE ACCOUNT

Income			
Balance 1/1/24	\$14,536.33		
Income	<u>\$ 1,410.10</u>	\$15,946.43	
Expended		<u>\$ 2,420.66</u>	\$13,525.77

OFFICE EQUIPMENT RESERVE

Income			
Balance 1/1/24	\$11,117.18		
Cable Franchise Fee	<u>\$ 4,054.60</u>	\$15,171.78	
Expenditures			
Copier	\$3,600.00		
Office Refrigerator	\$ 599.95		
Computer Programs**	<u>\$8,985.00</u>	\$13,184.95	\$1,986.83
**\$8,985 to be refunded from 2025 Computer Programs Appropriation			

CEMETERY LOT PURCHASE RESERVE

Income		\$2,800.00	
Transferred to Investment Funds		<u>\$2,800.00</u>	\$0.00

FEMA/MEMA RESERVE

Income		\$88,113.85	
Expended			
Winter Roads	\$18,880.06		
Summer Roads	<u>\$69,233.79</u>	\$88,113.85	\$0.00

EMERGENCY HEAT RESERVE FUND

Income			
United Way	\$1,000.00		
Somerset County	<u>\$2,500.00</u>	\$3,500.00	
Expended		<u>\$1,850.00</u>	\$1,650.00

TOWN RECORDS PRESERVATION RESERVE

Income:			
Balance 1/1/2024	\$6,120.00		
Appropriated	<u>\$4,500.00</u>	\$10,620.00	
Expended		<u>\$ 0.00</u>	\$10,620.00

RAINY DAY FUND RESERVE

Balance 1/1/24 & 12/31/24	\$34,033.30
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GIVING TREE RESERVE

Donation	\$500.00
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COMMUNITY GARDEN RESERVE

Balance 1/1/24 & 12/31/24	\$2,954.08
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HISTORICAL SOCIETY RESERVE ACCOUNT

Income			
Balance 1/1/24	\$7,057.63		
Income	<u>\$1,205.00</u>	\$8,262.63	
Expended		<u>\$4,775.24</u>	\$3,487.39

JONES FUND SCHOLARSHIP RESERVE

Income			
Balance 1/1/24	\$17,368.20		
Income	<u>\$ 8,873.04</u>	\$26,241.24	
Expended		<u>\$ 5,100.00</u>	\$21,141.24

RUTH CROSS SCHOLARSHIP RESERVE

Income			
Balance 1/1/24	\$ 0.00		
Income	<u>\$100.00</u>	\$100.00	
Expended		<u>\$100.00</u>	\$0.00

OTHER EXPENDITURES

SOLON SNOWHAWKS

Income

State Grant	\$15,736.47		
State Reimbursement	<u>\$ 940.04</u>	\$16,676.51	
Paid to Club		<u>\$16,676.51</u>	\$0.00

FISH & WILDLIFE

Received & Paid to State		\$28,750.09	\$0.00
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MOTOR VEHICLE FEES

Received & Paid to State		\$120,510.16	\$0.00
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STATE VITAL FEES

Received & Paid to State		\$133.60	\$0.00
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GUN PERMITS

Received & Paid to State		\$295.00	\$0.00
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NOTARY FEE

Received & Paid Out		\$25.00	\$0.00
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PLUMBING PERMITS

Received		\$2,645.00	
Expended			
State Fees	\$ 530.00		
State Surcharge	\$ 75.00		
Plumbing Inspector	<u>\$1,590.00</u>	<u>\$2,195.00</u>	\$0.00

DOG LICENSES-STATE FEES

Received & Paid to State		\$1,437.00	\$0.00
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DOG LICENSES-TOWN FEES RESERVE

Income

Balance 1/1/24	\$2,268.30		
Received Town Fees	<u>\$ 999.00</u>	\$3,267.30	
Expended		<u>\$1,614.03</u>	\$1,653.27

ADDRESSING FEES

Income		\$40.00	
Expended		<u>\$40.00</u>	\$0.00

OUT OF TOWN EXCISE TAX

Income		\$4,938.44	
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Paid to other towns	<u>\$4,938.44</u>	\$0.00
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BANK ACCOUNT INTEREST

Skowhegan Savings Bank		\$24,428.57	
Paid to Reserve Accounts:			
Fire Truck Reserve	\$ 136.84		
Fire Department Capital Reserve	\$ 14.01		
Fire Department Reserve	\$ 545.14		
Transfer Station Equipment Res	\$ 573.32		
Highway Equipment Reserve	\$ 609.79		
Highway Paving Reserve	\$3,394.46		
Highway LRAP Funds	\$3,034.05		
Library Building Capital Reserve	\$ 715.41		
Planning Board Reserve	\$ 318.85		
Ruth Cross Scholarship Reserve	\$.00		
Jones Fund Scholarship Reserve	<u>\$ 372.49</u>	<u>\$ 9,714.36</u>	
			\$14,714.21

SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS

RSU # 74 SCHOOL TAX

Income			
Appropriated	\$1,292,749.00		
From Accounts Overage	<u>\$ 3.00</u>	\$1,292,752.00	
Expended		<u>\$1,292,752.00</u>	\$0.00

COUNTY TAX

Appropriated & expended	\$249,321.10
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FIRST PARK

Tax Revenue received	\$5,466.00	
Assessment Paid Out	<u>\$4,815.00</u>	\$641.00

ACCOUNTS OVERAGE

Appropriated	\$5,000.00	
Overages		
RSU # 74	\$ 3.00	
Fire Department	\$5,125.20	
Public Utilities	<u>\$2,416.15</u>	<u>\$7,544.35</u> (\$2,544.35)

END OF YEAR TOTALS

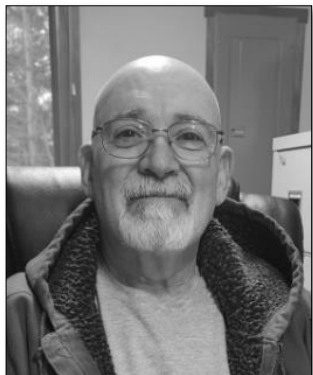
Skowhegan Savings Bank 1/1/24	\$1,438,595.27	
Income Received in 2024	<u>\$3,715,433.32</u>	
Total Income	\$5,154,028.59	
Less Expenditures	<u>\$3,823,551.25</u>	
Balance 12/31/2024	\$1,330,477.34	
Less Total of Reserve Accounts	<u>\$ 764,331.57</u>	
Total Undedicated Funds (Surplus)		\$ 566,145.77

Board of Selectmen, Assessors & Overseers of the Poor



Elaine Aloes
Chair of Selectmen,
Assessors and
Overseers of the Poor

Wayne (Chip) Johnson
Vice Chair of Selectmen,
Assessors and
Overseers of the Poor



John Dunay
Selectman, Assessor and
Overseer of the Poor

ASSESSORS' REPORT

VALUATION

Local Taxable Real Estate Valuation	\$117,226,940.00
Local Taxable Personal Property Valuation	<u>\$ 1,825,410.00</u>
2024 Taxable Town Valuation	\$119,052,350.00
Total of Homestead Exemption Valuation ((\$9,000,000.00 X 0.76)	\$ 6,840,000.00
Total of all BETE Valuation \$8,401,290.00	
Enhanced BETE Reimbursable Valuation	<u>\$ 4,537,637.00</u>
Total Valuation Base	\$130,429,887.00

APPROPRIATIONS

County Tax	\$ 249,321.10
Municipal Appropriation	\$1,761,298.00
RSU #74 Appropriation	
(\$1,301,050 (2024/2025) + \$1,284,448 (2023/2024) /2)	<u>\$1,292,749.00</u>
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS	\$3,303,368.10

LESS ALLOWABLE MUNICIPAL DEDUCTIONS \$1,118,236.71

APPROPRIATIONS BY TAXATION	\$2,185,131.39
Plus Overlay	<u>\$ 58,262.67</u>
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS BY TAXATION	\$2,243,394.06

LESS EXEMPTION REIMBURSEMENT FROM STATE

BETE Reimbursement	\$ 78,045.64
Homestead Exemption Reimbursement	<u>\$117,648.00</u>
LESS TOTAL EXEMPTION REIMBURSEMENT	<u>\$ 195,693.64</u>
TOTAL TO BE RAISED BY TAXATION	\$2,047,700.42

2024 MILL RATE: \$17.20 PER \$1,000 OF VALUATION

Supplements given in 2024:

2023 Tree Growth Withdrawal Penalties	\$ 504.00	
2023 Tree Growth Non-Filing Penalties	<u>\$ 1,500.00</u>	\$2,004.00
2024 Supplements	\$ 602.00	
2024 Tree Growth Withdrawal Penalties	\$ 9,400.00	
2024 Tree Growth Non-Filing Penalties	<u>\$ 1,500.00</u>	<u>\$11,502.00</u>
		\$13,506.00

Abatements given in 2024:

2024 Abatements	\$1,674.25	
2023 Abatements	<u>\$ 352.52</u>	\$2,016.77

COMPARISON OF APPROPRIATIONS BY TAXATION

RSU #74	57.62%	9.91 mills	(10.61 mills in 2023)
County Tax	11.11%	1.91 mills	(2.28 mills in 2023)
Municipal	28.66%	4.93 mills	(4.13 mills in 2023)
Overlay	2.60%	.45 mills	(0.58 mills in 2023)
Total Mills	17.20 mills	100.00%	(17.60 mills in 2023)

	2024	2023	2022
County Tax	\$ 249,321.10	\$ 258,146.56	\$ 238,885.00
Municipal Approp. by tax	\$ 643,061.29	\$ 468,190.15	\$ 396,125.00
RSU #74 Tax	\$1,292,749.00	\$1,202,614.00	\$1,090,996.00

Total 2024 Municipal Budget \$1,761,298.00

Less Approved Reserve Funds and Other Funds to Reduce Taxes

State Revenue Sharing	\$ 236,330.49	
Highway Equip. Reserve (new truck)	\$ 238,000.00	
Highway Equip. Reserve (2-ton truck)	\$ 28,635.00	
Road Paving Reserve (dump body/sander)	\$ 50,000.00	
Road Paving Reserve (excavator)	\$ 86,500.00	
LRAP funds (Michael Stream culvert)	\$ 75,000.00	
KRDA – First Park revenue	\$ 4,815.00	
ARPA Funds (garage reserve)	\$ 45,000.00	
ARPA Funds (baler & container)	\$ 15,000.00	
Transfer Station Equip Reserve (baler)	\$ 5,000.00	
Surplus Revenues	\$443,956.22	
Less Retained Surplus	<u>(\$110,000.00)</u>	
		<u>\$1,118,236.71</u>
		\$ 643,061.29

The Maine Revenue Services reviews our property sales and our tax records every year. Our 2024 State Valuation is based on the 2022 & 2023 property sales. We need to keep our town valuation close to the state valuation because our reimbursement from the State for the Tree Growth Exemption, Veteran Exemption and Homestead Exemption is reduced if we are not close to the State valuation. In 2023 & 2024 we continued to see properties being sold for well over our town assessment value. Our 2022 state valuation was \$106,450,000, our 2023 state valuation was \$115,750,000, and our 2024 state valuation is \$127,550,000. Because the professional revaluation was not completed for the 2024 tax year, we did an across the board increase on land and building valuations to get our town valuation close to the state valuation again. In 2025 our state valuation has increased again to \$153,400,000 so we will again need to increase land and building values across for everyone in 2025.

Our actual 2024 municipal budget by taxation increased by \$54,673 which was only a 4% increase over 2023 but because of having a smaller amount of

available surplus funds to reduce taxes we needed to raise an additional \$174,871 in tax revenue for the town's budget.

In 2024 everyone saw an increase in their property valuations to reach our town's state valuation level and a higher tax bill because of the lower amount of surplus revenue that we had available to reduce taxes and the \$90,135 increase in our school tax.

The Tax Stabilization Credit for those who were 65 and older in 2023 was repealed by the State Legislature for 2024. This credit froze their property valuation at their 2022 valuation. This resulted in those who received the credit in 2023 to not only have their land and building value increase in 2024 but also the land value increase in 2023 affects their valuation in 2024.

The largest portion of your property tax bill continues to be the RSU 74 Budget. The RSU holds a budget adoption meeting in May where the budget is approved and then goes out to a referendum vote in June. Our Municipal Budget is approved at our Annual Town Meeting in March. The County Budget is approved by the County Budget Committee.

We have not been able to hire another assessing appraisal company to do the revaluation. We received one bid for \$120,000 but that is way out of our budget. We were able to purchase copies of Hamlin Associates property inspection reports and photos of the properties they saw. We will be sending data information sheets to the property owners that were not yet seen by Hamlin Associates. We will be going out over the next couple of years to get updated pictures of all the properties with buildings and will complete the data information sheets on all properties.

The Business Equipment Tax Exemption (BETE Program) started April 1, 2008. Since that date, most business personal property (except for retail businesses) is no longer taxable. However, a complete listing of all equipment, including any new equipment, and its cost must be presented to the Assessors on or before April 1 of each year. Also, if you qualify for the BETE exemption, a signed BETE form must be submitted with your list. The 2024 state reimbursement is \$78,046 for 54% of our lost BETE tax revenue. Retail businesses qualify for the BETR reimbursement, but they must file with the state to receive this reimbursement. More information about these programs are available at the town office or online at <https://www.maine.gov/revenue/>

In 2024 the Homestead Exemption is \$25,000 with the state reimbursing 76% of the lost revenue. We gave 360 homestead exemptions. Exemption recipients received a reduction of \$430.00 on their primary residence tax bill. If you are a new resident homeowner in Solon or if you did not apply for or receive the Homestead Exemption in 2024, please check with the Assessors before April 1st

to see if you qualify for 2025. If you received it in 2024, you do not need to reapply.

We had 51 Veteran Exemption recipients who received a reduction of \$105.60 on their tax bill. Any new veteran exemption requests must be given to the Assessors by April 1st. If you received it in 2024, you do not need to reapply. The widow or widower of a veteran may also qualify for an exemption.

In 2024 we had 16,642.7 acres, including farmland tree growth, receiving reduced assessments for tree growth out of 32,406 acres in our town. If you wish to place your land in tree growth, the minimum is 10 acres and a tree growth plan prepared by a licensed forester must be given to the Assessors by April 1st. Tree growth plans must be updated every ten years. If you purchased land that is in tree growth, you have one year from the date of purchase to adopt the prior owner's plan or to have a new plan done. Failure to comply with the tree growth laws will result in the removal of the land from the tree growth program and the assessment of a penalty for that removal. Failure to reapply on time can result in late filing penalties up to \$1,000 plus removal of the property from the tree growth program with a withdrawal penalty. Please respond to your filing notice letters promptly to avoid penalties. We thank you for your efforts in complying with this law. For more information on the tree growth program or the farm and open space programs, contact the Assessors.

There is also a Solar and Wind Energy Equipment Exemption form that must be completed and returned to us by April 1. Solar and Wind Energy Equipment is taxable unless you file for the exemption. If you haven't received one in the mail, call or stop in at the town office to get one. We will start assessing them in 2025.

All property is assessed based on its condition on April 1st. If something changes on your property after April 1st it will not affect your valuation for that year. But please let the assessors know about it so they can adjust the valuation next year if needed. If you purchase or sell property after April 1st, the owner listed on April 1st will be sent the tax bill and is responsible for the taxes.

If you own a camper, tractor, bulldozer, skidder or other piece of equipment, you must either pay excise tax or personal property tax on it. The excise tax is usually less so check with our tax collector prior to April 1st. Everyone is required to list their personal property with the Assessors by April 1st of each year.

If you have questions about your valuation, see the Assessors who are in the office on Wednesdays. *If you feel you have been over assessed, you must request an abatement within 185 days of the tax commitment date.*

OVERSEERS OF THE POOR REPORT

INCOME

Appropriated	\$15,000.00	
State & SSI Reimbursement	<u>\$12,792.78</u>	\$27,792.78

EXPENDITURES

Housing	\$ 6,580.00	
Heating Fuel	\$ 1,589.70	
Food & Personal Supplies	\$ 879.72	
Utilities	<u>\$ 1,065.50</u>	<u>\$10,114.92</u>

UNEXPENDED BALANCE		\$17,677.86
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General Assistance (GA) is a service administered by a municipality for the immediate aid of persons who are unable to provide the basic necessities essential to maintain themselves or their families. The key terms in this definition are *immediate, unable, and basic necessities*. GA is intended to provide immediate aid, thus assistance must be granted or denied within 24 hours of an application. It is for people who are unable—not unwilling—to maintain themselves or their families. Finally, GA is intended to help people with basic necessities: food, shelter, utilities, fuel, clothing, and certain other items, when they are essential.

GA provides a specific amount and type of aid for defined needs during a limited period and is not intended to be a continuing grant-in-aid or categorical welfare program. Despite the stated intent that GA is not used as an ongoing source of income to an applicant, there is no limitation on the number of times a person may apply for and receive GA. Finally, because GA is not a categorical welfare program, it is not limited to aiding with only specific groups or categories of people as is TANF for families with dependent children or SSI for disabled people. Theoretically GA is available to anyone in the state at any time that meets the eligibility criteria. GA is the program of last resort—it is the safety net intended to help those people who have no other resources. GA is the only comprehensive program to help people who are not eligible for any other assistance program.

In 2024 Solon’s General Assistance Program helped 5 families.

If you are a repeat GA client, you must bring in receipts showing how you spent all your money in the prior 30 days.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Bank Balances 1/1/24

\$1,438,595.27

MONEY MARKET DEDICATED ACCOUNTS BALANCES 1/1/24

2023 Revenue Sharing	\$236,330.49
LRAP Funds	\$146,650.27
CDBG	(\$ 259.00)
2024 Prepaid R. E. Taxes	\$ 8,266.65
2024 Prepaid P. P. Taxes	\$ 0.01
After School Program Reserve	\$ 4,468.77
American Recovery Program Act	\$ 45,962.61
Assessing Revaluation Reserve	\$ 30,000.00
Cemetery Maintenance Reserve	\$ 4,374.05
Community Garden Reserve	\$ 2,954.08
Coolidge Library Bldg.Capital Res.	\$ 30,121.22
Coolidge Library Reserve	\$ 205.87
Fire Department Reserve	\$ 20,040.46
Fire Department Capital Reserve	\$ 276.42
Fire Truck Reserve	\$ 3,261.93
GIS Mapping Reserve	\$ 1,400.00
Highway Equipment Reserve	\$ 18,992.62
Highway Gravel Roads Reserve	\$ 38,708.00
Highway Road Paving Reserve	\$190,041.71
Historical Society Reserve	\$ 7,057.63
Municipal Buildings Heat Reserve	\$ 15,595.94
Municipal Buildings Maint. Res.	\$ 8,682.53
Municipal Grounds Maint. Reserve	\$ 6,586.93
Office Equip & Maintenance Res.	\$ 11,117.18
Planning Board Reserve	\$ 14,536.33
Rainy Day Reserve	\$ 34,033.30
Recreation Department Reserve	\$ 6,550.78
Rec. Facility & Maintenance Res.	\$ 2,165.30
Retirement Fund Balance	\$ 20,436.47
Scholarships - Jones Fund Reserve	\$ 17,368.20
Sidewalk Repair Reserve	\$ 17,734.29
Swim/Camp Reserve	\$ 2,608.68
Town Dogs Reserve	\$ 2,268.30
Town Flag Reserve	\$ 2,042.45
Town Line Survey Reserve	\$ 11,000.00
Town Records Preservation Res.	\$ 6,120.00
Transfer Station Truck & Tub Res.	\$ 25,438.58
Tree Planting Reserve	<u>\$ 1,000.00</u>
Total Dedicated Accounts	<u>\$994,639.05</u>

Total Undedicated Funds (Surplus)

\$443,956.22

INCOME, INTEREST, & ACCOUNT TRANSFERS:

State Revenue Sharing	\$ 219,870.86
Local Roads Assistance Program	\$ 52,626.05
FEMA/MEMA	\$ 88,113.85
BETE Reimbursement 2023	\$ 78,046.00
BETE Administration Fee	\$ 8.00
Veterans Exemption Reimbursement	\$ 1,737.00
Homestead Administration Fee	\$ 5.00
2024 Homestead Reimbursement	\$ 90,288.00
2023 Homestead Reimbursement	\$ 31,561.76
Tree Growth Reimbursement	\$ 84,293.38
Tax Stabilization Reimbursement	\$ 18,256.47
CDBG Funds	\$ 211,279.00
2025 Prepaid Real Estate Tax	\$ 2,959.67
2024 Real Estate Tax	\$1,840,387.95
2024 Personal Property Tax	\$ 29,895.33
2023 Real Estate Tax	\$ 77,762.83
2023 Personal Property Tax	\$ 1,183.77
2023 Liens	\$ 26,670.92
2022 Liens	\$ 24,413.86
Tax Abatements	(\$ 2,026.77)
Property Tax Interest	\$ 7,154.85
Costs, Fees of Liens and Notices	\$ 2,914.74
Notary Fees	\$ 25.00
Motor Vehicle Monies	\$ 120,510.16
Inland Fish & Wildlife Monies	\$ 28,750.09
Out of Town Excise	\$ 4938.44
State Vitals	\$ 133.60
State Dogs	\$ 1,437.00
Town Dogs	\$ 999.00
Addressing Fees – Addressing Officer	\$ 40.00
Addressing Fees - Town	\$ 40.00
Vehicle Excise Tax	\$ 237,052.79
IF&W Excise Tax	\$ 1,634.20
Town Agent Fees - Dogs	\$ 349.00
Town Agent Fees - Vital	\$ 905.40
Town Agent Fees - BM	\$ 7,072.00
Town Agent Fees – IF&W	\$ 1,333.75
Business Licenses	\$ 6,520.00
Gun Permit Fees - State	\$ 295.00
Gun Permit Fees -Town	\$ 102.00
Animal Control Dues Reimbursement	\$ 20.00
Cemeteries Lot Purchase Reserve	\$ 2,800.00
Cemetery Maintenance Reserve	\$ 2,800.00
Coolidge Library Reserve	\$ 2,002.25

Coolidge Library Building Capital Reserve	\$ 715.41
Emergency Assistance Fund	\$ 3,500.00
Fire Department Reserve	\$ 12,247.14
Fire Department Capital Reserve	\$ 14.01
Fire Truck Reserve	\$ 136.84
Fireworks Donations	\$ 2,143.54
First Park Tax Revenue	\$ 5,466.00
Giving Tree Reserve	\$ 500.00
Highway Equipment Reserve	\$ 6,074.79
Road Paving Reserve	\$ 3,394.46
Public Works Garage Reserve	\$ 30,962.61
Efficiency Maine Rebate	\$ 2,800.00
General Assistance, State reimbursement	\$ 12,612.78
General Assistance, SSI reimbursement	\$ 180.00
Historical Society Reserve	\$ 1,205.00
Insurance – Workman Comp. Rebate	\$ 405.00
Insurance – Property Rebate	\$ 986.00
Office Equip. Res-Spectrum Franchise Fee	\$ 4,054.60
Planning Board Fees	\$ 1,410.10
Planning Board Fees - Town share	\$ 1,091.25
Plumbing Permits, State Fee	\$ 530.00
Plumbing Permits, LPI Fee	\$ 1,590.00
Plumbing Permits State Surcharge	\$ 75.00
Public Works-Winter Roads	\$ 55,953.21
Public Works-Summer Roads	\$ 110,726.72
Recreation Reserve	\$ 12,429.59
Scholarship Reserve - Jones Fund	\$ 8,873.01
Scholarship Reserve – Ruth Cross	\$ 100.00
Schools Reimbursement	\$ 55.00
Transfer Station Tub Reserve	\$ 573.32
Fire Department	\$ 34,775.20
PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes)	\$ 4,000.00
Town Charges Reimbursements	\$ 322.70
Snowmobile Grant	\$ 15,736.47
Snowmobile Registration & PP Tax Reimb.	\$ 940.04
Transfer Station receipts	\$ 16,854.10
Town Charges – Income & Reimb.	\$ 1,343.78
Street Lights	\$ 2,416.15
Code Enforcement Officer	\$ 721.20
Animal Control Officer	\$ 874.98
Bad Check Fees	\$ 35.00
Skowhegan Savings Bank CD interest	\$ 7,012.38
Skowhegan Savings Bank interest	<u>\$ 14,714.21</u>
	\$3,697,433.98

BALANCE 1/1/24	\$1,438,595.27	
2024 INCOME	<u>\$3,715,433.32</u>	\$5,154,028.59
2024 WARRANTS TOTAL		<u>\$3,823,551.25</u>
BALANCE 12/31/24		\$1,330,477.34
Less Dedicated Accounts		
2024 Revenue Sharing	\$219,870.86	
LRAP Funds	\$ 76,433.66	
CDBG	\$ 55,891.58	
2025 Prepaid R. E. Taxes	\$ 2,959.67	
After School Program Reserve	\$ 5,824.99	
Assessing Revaluation Reserve	\$ 32,000.00	
Cemetery Maintenance Reserve	\$ 900.42	
Community Garden Reserve	\$ 2,954.08	
Coolidge Library Bldg.Capital Res.	\$ 33,836.63	
Coolidge Library Reserve	\$ 1,790.38	
Emergency Assistance Fund	\$ 1,650.00	
Fire Department Reserve	\$ 7,637.60	
Fire Department Capital Reserve	\$ 1,290.43	
Fire Truck Reserve	\$ 11,398.77	
GIS Mapping Reserve	\$ 3,400.00	
Highway Equipment Reserve	\$ 150.95	
Highway Gravel Roads Reserve	\$ 13,708.00	
Highway Road Paving Reserve	\$ 73,158.67	
Public Works Garage Reserve	\$ 30,962.61	
Historical Society Reserve	\$ 3,487.39	
Municipal Buildings Heat Reserve	\$ 15,454.02	
Municipal Buildings Maint. Res.	\$ 11,844.77	
Municipal Grounds Maint. Reserve	\$ 7,068.93	
Office Equip & Maintenance Res.	\$ 1,986.83	
Giving Tree	\$ 500.00	
Web Site Reserve	\$ 2,000.00	
Planning Board Reserve	\$ 13,525.77	
Rainy Day Reserve	\$ 34,033.30	
Recreation Department Reserve	\$ 11,921.71	
Rec. Facility & Maintenance Res.	\$ 3,136.89	
Scholarships - Jones Fund Reserve	\$ 21,141.24	
Sidewalk Repair Reserve	\$ 17,734.29	
Swim/Camp Reserve	\$ 2,660.16	
Town Dogs Reserve	\$ 1,653.27	
Town Flag Reserve	\$ 2,686.60	
Town Line Survey Reserve	\$ 13,500.00	
Town Records Preservation Res.	\$ 10,620.00	
Transfer Station Truck & Tub Res.	<u>\$ 13,557.10</u>	
Total Dedicated Accounts		<u>\$764,331.57</u>
Total Undedicated Funds (Surplus)		\$566,145.77

RAYMOND JAMES INVESTMENT FUND

As of 12/31/24

PRINCIPALS:

Historical Society Maint. Res.	\$110,000.00
Jones Fund Scholarship	\$ 29,323.29
Ruth Cross Scholarship	\$ 1,270.00
Town Cemeteries	\$169,720.00
Hilton Cemetery	\$ 3,000.00
Library	\$ 87,380.00

AVAILABLE FUNDS:

Historical Society Reserve	\$ 48,397.63
Library	\$ 9,159.66
Jones Fund Scholarship	\$ 28,294.59
Ruth Cross Scholarship	\$ 229.00
Town Cemeteries	\$ 55,862.63



Leslie Giroux

Clerk & Tax Collector,
Voter Registrar,
Deputy Treasurer



Danika Riggs

Treasurer
Deputy Clerk & Tax Collector

2023 TAX LIENS

OUTSTANDING AS OF 12/31/2024

DOES NOT INCLUDE INTEREST AND FEES

PROPERTY WILL BE FORECLOSED IF NOT PAID BY 10/23/2025

**PAID AFTER 12/31/24 AND BEFORE 02/01/2025

PERSONAL PROPERTY

GOGUEN, BRUCE	\$ 196.94
POMELOW, JEFFREY	\$ 105.60

REAL ESTATE

BAUER, REG A	\$ 453.28	
BAUER, REG & ADELA	\$ 2,816.81	
BERBERIAN, ANDREA	\$ 2,324.14	
BROOKS, VASSER	\$ 944.85	
BROWN, ROBERT A	\$ 219.01	
BROWN, ROBERT A	\$ 486.06	
COLE, WILLIAM & COLE, MEGAN	\$ 1,622.99	
DICKEY, CRISTI A	\$ 2,413.47	
FRENCH, LINDA	\$ 1,179.38	
GOODHUE ENTERPRISES	\$ 1,432.60	**
HAYDEN, DOUGLAS R	\$ 1,114.29	
HEALD, DEBORAH L	\$ 2,583.36	
LINDSTEDT, JAQUELINE	\$ 77.25	
LOGAN, LISA M	\$ 2,557.55	**
MILLER, SHAWN A	\$ 1,363.01	
MURPHY, KEVIN P	\$ 2,163.70	
NILE, HEATHER & NICHOLS, D	\$ 1,601.64	
OBERT, CHRISTOPHER JAMES	\$ 263.55	
POMELOW, JEFFREY	\$ 1,799.50	
RICHARDSON, GLENN A SR	\$ 650.69	
SAVAGE, EDWARD	\$ 1,921.69	
RODERICK, JOEY M	\$ 1,703.58	
ROGERS, DUNCAN M	\$ 1,611.07	
SAVAGE, EDWARD	\$ 1,759.28	
SOUSA, ROBERT A	\$ 2,680.98	
STICKNEY, MERVILL &	\$ 1,443.78	
WESTPHAL, WALTER - ESTATE	\$ 449.99	

PERSONAL PROPERTY (pre2023)

POMELOW, JEFFREY (2022)	\$ 99.60
POMELOW, JEFFREY (2021)	\$ 106.80
POMELOW, JEFFREY (2020)	\$ 110.40

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

2024 RE TAX COMMITMENT	\$2,016,303.44	
2024 PP TAX COMMITMENT	<u>\$ 31,397.06</u>	\$2,047,700.50
2024 RE SUPPLEMENT		\$ 11,502.00
LESS ABATEMENTS		<u>\$ (1,674.25)</u>
FINAL COMMITMENT		\$2,057,528.25
2024 RE COLLECTED IN 2024	\$1,840,387.95	
2024 PP COLLECTED IN 2024	\$ 29,895.33	
2024 RE COLLECTED IN 2023	\$ 8,266.64	
2024 PP COLLECTED IN 2023	<u>\$.01</u>	<u>\$1,878,549.93</u>
TOTAL DUE AS OF 12/31/2024		\$ 178,978.32

2024 UNPAID TAXES AS OF 12/31/2024

IF NOT PAID BY 4/23/2025 A LIEN WILL BE PLACED ON THE PROPERTY
PROPERTY WILL BE FORCLOSED ON IF NOT PAID BY 10/22/2026

**PAID AFTER 12/31/24 AND BEFORE 02/01/2025

PERSONAL PROPERTY

GOGUEN, BRUCE	\$ 196.94	
GOODHUE ENTERPRISES	\$ 25.80	**
GUSHEE, D. LLC	\$ 934.65	
GUSHEE, D. LLC	\$ 222.22	
PITNEY BOWES INC	\$ 23.39	**
POMELOW, JEFFREY	<u>\$ 103.20</u>	
	\$ 1,501.73	

REAL ESTATE

ALBUIT, PAUL R	\$84.62	
ALBUIT, PAUL R	\$491.23	
ALSOP, AUGUSTA & HOY, MICHAEL D	\$3,268.35	
ALSOP, AUGUSTA & HOY, MICHAEL D	\$62.09	
ALSOP, AUGUSTA M & HOY, MICHAEL D	\$65.02	
ANTON, SCOTT A & HUDGELL, GEMMA J	\$2,722.07	**
AVERY, JOSEPH C & AVERY, HOLLIE	\$2,152.76	
BAUER, REG A	\$497.42	
BAUER, REG A & BAUER, ADELA C	\$3,044.40	
BEATTIE, MARK	\$101.48	
BEAULIEU, JOSEPH M II	\$745.45	
BERBERIAN, ANDREA	\$2,573.12	

BERGMAN, FREDERICK & JACLYN	\$1,724.97	
BIGELOW, JESSICA	\$539.91	
BLACK, JEFFREY	\$959.76	
BLODGETT, DEVON	\$1,478.00	
BOLAND, AMY GUGGINA & aka FRIEL, AMY	\$652.11	
BOSTIC, ANTHONY	\$756.80	
BOWDEN, RANDY & RUSSELL, WILLIAM D	\$32.16	
BROOKS, VASSER	\$1,065.71	
BROUILLETTE, DENNIS & LISA	\$1,517.04	
BROWN, AARON W & BROWN, KELLEY S	\$1,346.76	
BROWN, ROBERT A & JAMES, DEBORAH	\$326.80	
BROWN, ROBERT A & JAMES, DEBORAH	\$511.70	
BURRILL, TINA M & DAOUST, STEVEN	\$1,581.88	
BURTON, MARY LYNN & BURTON, TINA L	\$571.73	
BUTLER, BEN M	\$20.45	
CAMERON, DOUGLAS	\$1,052.66	**
CLARK, JEFFREY	\$2,031.66	
COLE, WILLIAM JR & COLE, MEGAN	\$2,850.21	
CORSON, MICHELLE & MARR, KIMBERLY;	\$1,806.00	
D GUSHEE LLC	\$1,822.72	
DAVIS, DARILYN	\$1,142.08	**
DICKESS, JESSICA A & DICKESS, CARL H	\$1,521.17	
DICKEY, CRISTI A	\$2,838.00	
DOUCETTE, STEVEN & DOUCETTE, SHERRI	\$702.76	**
DOURANT, STEVEN A & DOURANT, VERONIC	\$1,479.20	
DUKE, CHARLES M & CHAMPNEY, AMANDA	\$579.34	
DUMOND, DAVID	\$1,272.80	
DUNN, LOWELL W	\$1,383.29	
DURFEY, LEROY H III	\$102.73	
DURFEY, LEROY H III	\$936.09	
EMERSON, JAMES A & EMERSON, BRENDA	\$1,336.61	
ERICKSON, ERIC	\$540.77	
ERSKINE, BRAD R & ERSKINE, CARRIE A	\$3,938.80	
FARLEY, JAMES E	\$2,082.58	
FISH, STEVE	\$1,479.20	
FISKE, DAVID M & FISKE, KELLEY J	\$1,501.38	**
FRENCH, JAMES B II	\$317.64	
FRENCH, LINDA R	\$22.70	
FRENCH, LINDA R	\$1,892.00	
GAUDETTE, FRANCIS J. & DUFFY, WAYNE J	\$1,705.21	
GIBSON, CHARLES & GIBSON, JEAN	\$7,518.46	**
GIBSON, CHARLES S	\$1,052.12	**
GIBSON, CHARLES S	\$588.93	**
GIBSON, CHARLES S & GIBSON, JEAN	\$114.55	**
GIBSON, CHARLES S JR & GIBSON, JEAN L	\$78.60	**

GIBSON, CHARLES S JR	\$57.96	**
GILMAN, KENNETH R	\$261.90	
GIRESI, SALVATORE	\$1,904.90	
GODFREY, ERIN HALL & GODFREY, DAVID	\$1,110.35	
GODFREY, ERIN HALL & GODFREY, DAVID	\$38.83	
GODFREY, ERIN HALL & GODFREY, DAVID	\$2,759.31	
GOGUEN, BRUCE & GOGUEN, FAITH	\$6,641.88	
GOODHUE ENTERPRISES	\$3,189.74	**
GOSS, EUGENE & GOSS, MAUREEN	\$326.46	
GUSHEE, D LLC	\$5,160.00	
HAYDEN, WAYNE A & HAYDEN, GRETA D	\$898.40	
HEALD, DEBORAH L & HEALD, KIRK A	\$2,820.80	
HENDERSON, HEATHER M	\$1,479.20	
HERNANDEZ, PEDRO JR	\$136.74	
HERNANDEZ, PEDRO JR & TERRI J	\$1,478.34	
HOY, MICHAEL D & ALSOP, AUGUSTA M	\$320.78	
JOHNSON, JEREMIAH	\$468.40	
KELLEY, RICHARD F JR	\$549.49	
KILMER, KODY M	\$541.19	**
LABERGE, JOLINE & LABERGE, SCOTT	\$3,563.84	
LABONTE, ROBERT J & LABONTE, LORI L	\$1,895.44	
LACASCE, RICHARD L	\$1,569.67	
LAVASSEUR, ANNMARIE & TAYLOR, A	\$134.16	
LINDSTEDT, JACQUELINE E & DALTON, L	\$24.94	
LOGAN, LISA M	\$2,769.20	
LUMBERT, ERNOLD C	\$101.14	**
LUMBERT, ERNOLD C	\$2,240.82	**
LUMBERT, ERNOLD C	\$2,906.80	**
LUMBERT, ERNOLD C	\$1,616.80	**
MARSELLA, JENNIFER	\$1,693.86	
MILLER, CORY	\$2,251.82	
MILLER, SHAWN A & FENDONE, LISA A	\$956.32	
MURPHY, KEVIN P	\$2,381.34	
MYERS, ARTHUR L II	\$0.25	
MYERS, MEGAN	\$1,599.60	
NILE, HEATHER E & NICHOLS, DUSTIN	\$1,737.20	
OBERT, CHRISTOPHER JAMES	\$641.90	
OLIVER, RANDOLPH & OLIVER, DANNY E	\$27.35	
OSBORNE, JASON & KAMBERALIS, JOSEPH	\$1,726.54	
POMELOW, JEFFREY	\$1,892.00	
PRENDERGAST, MARK F & PRENDERGAST	\$3,587.92	
PROVOST, DARYLYNE	\$3.63	**
RAILO, JONATHAN	\$108.06	**
RICHARDSON, GLENN A SR	\$873.76	
RODERICK, THOMAS & ROBINSON, TAYLOR	\$2,442.40	

ROGERS, DUNCAN M	\$962.24	
ROGERS, MEGAN	\$652.05	
ROLLINS, NICHOLAS W	\$1,374.80	
ROSSIGNOL, STUART	\$1,068.12	
ROY, CHRISTOPHER	\$4.09	**
RUMAN, FORREST & RYAN FAMILY TRUST	\$12.01	
SAVAGE, EDWARD	\$2,074.32	
SCHRADER, MICHELLE	\$687.83	
SIDELL, MYLES	\$1,487.80	**
SKURAT, DONNA M	\$1,745.46	
SMITH, DAVID	\$342.24	
SMITH, RONALD W & SMITH, LESSIE D	\$1,294.13	
SOUSA, ROBERT A & SOUSA, MARGARET	\$2,872.40	
STARBIRD, DAVID A & CATHERINE	\$1,297.92	
STEVENS, CLIFFORD & MICHELLE	\$4,726.56	
STEVENS, CLIFFORD & MICHELLE	\$2,786.40	
THIEFFRY, MATISSE & ALEXANDRE	\$822.16	**
TURCOTTE, ROSS	\$2,308.24	
TYLER, ASHLEY A	\$1,449.97	
WELCH, GALE J (DIGGS)	\$1,286.56	
WESTPHAL, HARRIET	\$493.30	
WHEELER, DEBORAH & WHEELER, GEARY	\$500.00	
WHEELER, DEBORAH & WHEELER, GEARY	\$500.00	
WILLETTE, ROBBIE R	\$1,166.16	
WILLETTE, ROBBIE R	\$174.41	
WITHAM, MICHAEL	\$454.00	**
YORK, RICHARD J. II & YORK, JENNIFER L	\$601.83	
ZAWALIK, CARRIE A (ERSKINE)	\$367.22	
ZAWALIK, CARRIE A (ERSKINE)	\$1,829.99	

Respectfully Submitted,
Leslie A. Giroux, Municipal Clerk & Tax Collector



Our current Public Works Garage on Brook Street (approx.75 years old)

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

VITAL STATISTICS

January 1 - December 31, 2024

	MARRIAGES	BIRTHS	DEATHS
2024	15*	11	13
2023	15	7	13
2022	10	8	18
2021	19	8	16
2020	16	6	10
2019	9	8	18
2018	9	10	11
2017	10	13	12

* Only three (3) of the 2024 marriages were for Solon residents.

DEATHS

Decedent Name	Age	Date of Death
Dube, Fernande	78	09/18/2024
Foss, Nicholas Ryan	38	08/07/2024
Garland, Chester Roy	83	11/21/2024
Golden, Holly L	72	03/01/2024
Harmon, Christopher	25	03/05/2024
Hills, Leland Bruce	76	09/09/2024
Hinkley, Gail G	68	06/13/2024
Koziupa, Raymond	69	03/09/2024
Pluntke, Peter Alfred	77	01/09/2024
Smith, Rosalie Jean	83	09/17/2024
Viekman, Carlene Waugh	94	11/15/2024
Ward, Rosemary D.	73	09/18/2024
Whitmore, Christy Ann	61	06/14/2024

VITAL RECORDS

Please remember that if you have a loved one in a nursing home, they are considered a resident of the town in which the home is located UNLESS you specify that they are a resident of Solon. Should that person pass away, Solon would not be notified, and we would have no record of the death in our files.

You are now required, by State Law, to have a *direct and legitimate interest* to gain access to a vital record. An application is required if you want a birth, death or marriage certificate and must present your driver's license or two other forms of identification. Certified copies are \$15.00 and \$6.00 for each additional one bought at the same time.

The Clerk also serves as custodian of official municipal records and public documents. This includes retention, disposition, and preservation of both historical and current documents.

VOTING & ELECTIONS

Register and vote! It is your right and privilege as an American to vote for your choice of candidates and /or issues. If you are not registered, please stop in at the Town Office. It is a very simple process.

Our Municipal election is always held on the first Saturday of March each year. This is held at Solon Elementary School. Voting for elected officials is from 8 am – 12:15 pm. The open forum business meeting (budget, ordinances, etc.) begins at 1:30 pm.

State elections are held in the conference room of the Town Office from 8 am – 8 pm. Absentee voting is available 30 days prior to any election. Absentee ballots can be completed in the presence of the Clerk or be requested in writing (online, mail or in person) or by phone with verification.

Respectfully submitted,
Leslie A. Giroux,
Municipal Clerk/Tax Collector

ROAD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

WINTER ROADS

INCOME

Appropriated	\$149,000.00	
Reimbursements	\$ 200.00	
Town of Madison, Plowing	<u>\$ 2,000.00</u>	\$151,200.00

EXPENDITURES

LABOR

Gary Bishop	\$ 23,849.95	
Jeffrey Chase	\$ 18,044.25	
Jeffrey Cyr	\$ 19,340.86	
Part Time Labor	<u>\$ 1,038.00</u>	\$62,273.05

UTILITIES

Central Maine Power	\$ 858.12	
TDS Telecom & US Cellular	<u>\$ 858.72</u>	\$ 1,716.84

SUPPLIES

Supplies	\$ 2,797.01	
Safety Equipment & Signs	\$ 787.64	
Radios	\$ 1,535.68	
Tools	<u>\$ 217.26</u>	\$ 5,337.59

MILEAGE

Mileage Reimbursement		\$ 1,264.02
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CONTRACTED SERVICES

Septic Cleaning	\$ 900.00	
Road Equipment	\$ 5,407.00	
Equipment Rental	<u>\$ 2,906.16</u>	\$ 9,213.16

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

Building Maintenance	\$ 2,903.25	
Furnace Maintenance	<u>\$ 294.74</u>	\$ 3,197.99

ROAD MAINTENANCE

Gravel	\$ 10,128.00	
Winter Sand	\$ 9,336.00	
Winter Salt	\$ 13,268.67	
Culverts	\$ 20,459.38	
Paving	\$ 5,535.00	
Road Signs	<u>\$ 107.35</u>	\$58,834.40

EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE

Equipment Repairs	\$ 16,501.90	
Diesel Fuel & Gas	\$ 15,462.57	
Tires	\$ 5,987.00	
Truck Repairs	<u>\$ 24,839.69</u>	\$62,791.16

TRAINING & DUES

Medical Testing	\$ <u>325.00</u>	\$ <u>204,953.21</u> (\$53,753.21)
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Funds used to cover coverage

FEMA DR4754 Funds \$ 18,880.06

LRAP Funds	\$ <u>34,873.15</u>	\$ <u>53,753.21</u> \$ 0.00
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SUMMER ROADS**INCOME**

Appropriated	\$143,000.00	
Metal Recycling	\$ 1,012.00	
Supplies Reimbursement	\$ 766.17	
Insurance Claim Reimbursement	\$ 4,036.84	
Driveway Entrance Permits	\$ <u>110.00</u>	\$148,925.01

EXPENDITURES**LABOR**

Gary Bishop	\$ 30,073.25	
Jeffrey Chase	\$ 24,668.84	
Jeffrey Cyr	\$ 25,286.60	
Glenn Richardson	\$ 535.64	
Arthur Myers	\$ 3,892.90	
Eric Peterson	\$ 1,830.50	
Part Time Help	\$ <u>4,698.00</u>	\$90,995.73

UTILITIES

Central Maine Power	\$ 505.66	
TDS Telecom & US Cellular	\$ <u>669.09</u>	\$ 1,174.75

SUPPLIES

Supplies	\$ 4,348.28	
Tools	\$ 1,383.44	
Safety Equipment	\$ 143.68	
Radios	\$ <u>1,335.16</u>	\$ 7,210.56

MILEAGE

Mileage Reimbursement		\$ 489.98
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CONTRACTED SERVICES

Roadside Mowing	\$ 2,500.00	
Equipment Rental	\$ <u>15,322.91</u>	\$17,822.91

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

Building Maintenance	\$ 9,601.55	
Furnace Maintenance	\$ <u>310.00</u>	\$ 9,911.55

ROAD MAINTENANCE

Gravel	\$ 21,144.00	
Sand	\$ 264.00	
Culverts	\$ 10,783.20	

Road Signs	\$ 1,203.79		
Paving	<u>\$ 40,386.80</u>	\$ 73,781.79	
EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE			
Equipment Maintenance	\$ 4,155.85		
Diesel Fuel & Gas	\$ 15,982.09		
Tires	\$ 3,553.65		
Truck Maintenance	\$ 17,340.86		
State Inspections	\$ 400.00		
Equipment Purchase	<u>\$ 10,676.00</u>	\$ 52,108.45	
TRAINING & DUES			
Medical Testing		<u>\$ 231.00</u>	<u>253,726.72</u>
			(\$104,801.71)
Funds used to cover coverage			
Gravel Roads Transfer	\$ 35,000.00		
FEMA DR 4719 Funds	\$ 69,233.79		
LRAP Funds	<u>\$ 567.92</u>		<u>\$104,801.71</u>
			\$ 0.00

RESERVE ACCOUNTS

HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT RESERVE ACCOUNT INCOME

Balance 1/1/24	\$ 18,992.62		
Appropriated	\$220,000.00		
Sale of 1999 GMC 1 ton truck	\$ 1,820.00		
Sale of 1981 Champion Grader	\$ 1,645.00		
Sale of 1995 Ford Truck	\$ 2,000.00		
Interest	<u>\$ 609.79</u>	\$245,067.41	

EXPENDITURES

2016 International Truck	\$ 28,635.00		
O'Connor GMC, 2025 WS Truck	\$138,333.00		
HP Fairfield, 2025 body & plow	\$ 77,948.46	<u>\$244,916.46</u>	\$150.95

ROAD PAVING RESERVE ACCOUNT

INCOME

Balance 1/1/24	\$190,041.71		
Appropriated	\$ 15,000.00		
Interest	<u>\$ 3,394.46</u>	\$208,436.17	

EXPENDITURES

2024 Hyundai Excavator	\$86,500.00		
2015 WS truck body	<u>\$48,777.50</u>	<u>\$135,277.50</u>	\$73,158.67

LOCAL ROADS AID PROGRAM (LRAP)

INCOME

Balance 1/1/24	\$146,650.27		
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Interest	\$ 3,034.05		
State funds received	<u>\$ 49,592.00</u>	\$199,276.32	
EXPENDITURES			
Michael Stream Culverts	\$ 67,214.80		
2025 WS Truck body balance	\$ 19,636.79		
River Road, Engineer fee	\$ 550.00		
Transferred to Winter Roads	\$ 34,873.15		
Transferred to Summer Roads	<u>\$ 567.92</u>	<u>\$122,842.66</u>	\$76,433.66
GRAVEL ROADS RESERVE			
INCOME			
Balance 1/1/24	\$38,708.00		
Appropriated	<u>\$10,000.00</u>	\$48,708.00	
EXPENDITURES		<u>\$ 0.00</u>	\$48,708.00
Transferred to Summer Roads			<u>\$35,000.00</u>
			\$13,708.00
SIDEWALK REPAIR RESERVE			
INCOME			
Balance 1/1/24	\$17,734.29		
Appropriated	<u>\$ 0.00</u>	\$17,734.29	
EXPENDITURES		<u>\$ 0.00</u>	\$17,734.29

Road Commissioner Report

At the 2024 Annual Town Meeting the voters approved the purchase of a new dump/plow truck. We got the 2025 Western Star truck in November. We also purchased a 2016 International 2-ton truck with plow and sander at an auction. This purchase was approved at the Special Town Meeting in July along with the purchase of a 2024 Hyundai Excavator and replacing the body on the 2015 Western Star truck. We sold our 1995 Ford Truck, 1999 GMC 1 ton truck, and 1981 Champion Grader in 2024.

The three culverts at Michael Stream on the Hole in the Wall Road were undermined during the May and December 2023 flooding. We hired EJ Prescott, Inc. to extend the culverts on both sides, build bulkheads around the culvert ends, and pump grout into the road to fill in the voids caused by the flooding.

In 2024 we spent most of the year working on the damage from the federally declared disaster flooding events on May 1st and December 18th in 2023. The overages in Winter and Summer Roads are due to the extra repair work that was needed. We also started doing major repair work on the Hole in the Wall Road from the Athens town line to Rowell Pond Road. We also built a turnaround for town equipment on Padham Road. Thank you to Michael Padham for agreeing to the turnaround on his property.

In 2025 we will continue to work on our gravel roads to repair the 2023 storms damage and to improve the roads. By owning our own excavator, we have been able to do more ditching. We plan on ditching and building up the road base and surface on all our gravel roads. There is still a lot of work to be done.

Arthur Myers and Eric Peterson cut some roadside brush for us again. We also had roadside mowing done.

We are planning on doing a lot of road repair work and ditching in 2025. Please remember to slow down and drive carefully in the roadwork areas to keep our road crew safe. Not all work areas have good sightline so please slow down and drive with caution when you see our road work signs.

Freezing rain is a challenge for us all because the sand/salt washes off the road just about as fast as we put it on. And when we have real cold temperatures, the salt does not work as well to melt the ice. Also remember that state law also prohibits the placement of snow in a public way that has not accumulated there naturally. That means don't plow or snow blow your snow into the road. Also don't push the snow over your driveway or road culvert ends. It prevents drainage and can cause road and driveway wash outs. And keep the right of ways clear of all obstacles so the road crew can plow the roads without obstacles in the way.

We continue to have a problem with some people spinning their tires on our paved roads and doing donuts on the gravel roads. Please be mindful that while you may enjoy doing it, it is a cost to the taxpayers to repair the damage you are causing.



Road sign theft continues to be a problem. If you want a specific road name sign, we can have one made for you for \$55. Stealing or pulling down the stop signs can cause a serious, if not fatal, accident.

I have decided not to run for Road Commissioner again and I would like to thank all who have given me their support over the years. Thank you so much. I appreciate it!

Respectfully,
Gary Bishop
Road Commissioner

Road Crew



Jeffrey Cyr



Jeffrey Chase



2025 Wester Star



2024 Hyundai Excavator

TRANSFER STATION REPORT

TRANSFER STATION

INCOME

Appropriated	\$99,500.00	
Sticker Fees	\$ 1,370.00	
Disposal Fees	\$ 3,643.70	
Steel Recycling	<u>\$ 4,835.60</u>	\$109,349.30

EXPENDITURES

LABOR

Glenn Richardson	\$20,929.21	
David Houle	\$20,327.06	
Glenn Richardson, driving	<u>\$ 4,673.59</u>	\$45,929.86

UTILITIES

Central Maine Power	\$ 1,263.99	
TDS Telecom	<u>\$ 589.63</u>	\$ 1,853.62

SUPPLIES

Supplies	\$ 349.79	
Safety Equipment	<u>\$ 137.33</u>	\$ 487.12

CONTRACTED SERVICES

Trash Disposal Fee	\$44,735.75	
Recycling Program	\$ 2 791.73	
Towing	\$ 480.00	
Porta Potty	<u>\$ 440.00</u>	\$48,447.48

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

Property Maintenance		\$ 290.75
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EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE

Equipment Repair	\$ 8,666.25	
Equipment Purchase	\$ 4,910.28	
Diesel Fuel & Gas	\$ 937.81	
Tires	\$ 727.70	
Truck Repairs	\$ 3,827.23	
State Inspections	<u>\$ 80.00</u>	\$19,149.27

TRAINING/DUES

Fees	<u>\$ 196.00</u>	<u>\$116,354.10</u>
		(\$7,004.80)
Transferred from TS Truck & Tub Reserve		<u>\$ 7,004.80</u>
		\$ 0.00

TRANSFER STATION TRUCK & EQUIPMENT RESERVE ACCOUNT

INCOME

Balance 1/1/24	\$25,438.58	
Appropriated	\$ 7,500.00	
Interest	<u>\$ 573.32</u>	\$33,511.90

EXPENDED

Trash Tub	\$ 7,950.00	
Baler Electric balance	\$ 5,000.00	
Transfer to Transfer Station	<u>\$ 7,004.80</u>	<u>\$19,954.80</u> \$13,557.10

ARPA FUNDS

Appropriated for Transfer Station		\$15,000.00	
Expended			
Baler, Maguire Equipment	\$9,850.00		
Short Circuit Electric	<u>\$5,150.00</u>	<u>\$15,000.00</u>	\$0.00

SOLON TRANSFER STATION FEES SCHEDULE

Transfer Station Use Sticker Fee: \$5 per vehicle, annually.

RECYCLABLES, NO FEE CHARGED

Glass: Bottles and jars, clear or colored, rinsed

Aluminum: Tin cans, aluminum foil, pie plates & other aluminum, rinsed

Plastic: all plastic #1-#7, including jugs, food or rigid containers. Please tie jugs together. No plastic bags (these can be returned to the retailer).

Fluorescents: Bulbs and tubes

Electronics: Computer components, TV's, microwaves, keyboards, etc.

Cardboard: Corrugated or thin (cereal boxes, tissue rolls, milk & juice boxes, etc.), flattened

Paper: office paper, newspapers, magazines, junk mail, scrap paper, window envelopes, Post-Its, etc.

Metal

Paint: in sealed cans

Other: Waste oil; batteries (rechargeable or automobile); (Please see attendant)

Leaves & Grass Clippings: Take to Skowhegan Transfer Station for no charge

Limbs, Brush & Stumps: Remove soil & rocks; take to Carrier Trucking in Skowhegan for no charge

OTHER ITEMS WITH FEES CHARGED

<u>Tires:</u>	passenger and pickup truck, up to 17", off rim	\$4.00
	passenger and pickup truck, up to 17", on rim	\$7.00
	large truck tires, off rim	\$12.00
	tractor tires	\$100.00
<u>Household items:</u>		
	Easy chair, mattress or box spring	\$5.00
	Sofa and other large furniture	\$10.00
	Washer, dryer, stove, water heater, pumps	\$10.00
	Refrigerator or freezer, door must be removed	\$12.00
	Air conditioner	\$12.00
<u>Lights:</u>	Mercury vapor bulbs	\$1.50
<u>Other:</u>	Mercury switches, thermostats and thermometers	\$3.00
<u>Bulky Waste/Asphalt Shingles:</u>	Fee charged will be determined by the attendant based on the following:	
	Pickup truck load, short bed	\$18.00
	Pickup truck load, long bed	\$24.00
	Small dump truck or single axle trailer	\$30.00

Fees for other sized vehicles and undersized and oversized loads to be determined by the attendant.

TRANSFER STATION USE STICKER POLICY

A transfer station sticker is required to dispose of waste. Stickers are available at the Town Office or the Transfer Station for \$5 per vehicle. Sticker colors change each year and the new year's color is available starting in October and are required by January 1. You need to either be a taxpayer in Solon or show proof of residency. You can only bring household trash generated in Solon to the Transfer Station.

DEMOLITION DEBRIS DISPOSAL POLICY

The Town will not pay for container leases, transportation costs or tipping fees for demolition debris resulting from a building demolition or renovation project.

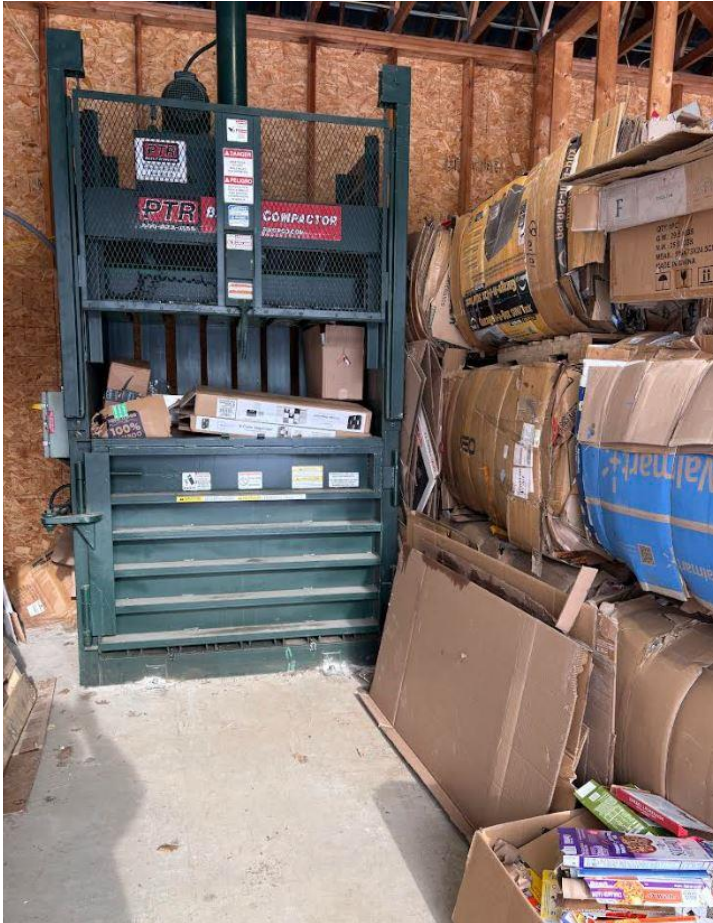
SOLON TRANSFER STATION REPORT

The Solon Transfer Station offers residents many opportunities for recycling. Recycling keeps the cost of trash disposal down and reduces your property taxes.

We hauled 476.21 tons to Waste Management with a total cost of \$44,735.75 in trash tipping fees during 2024, which is an increase of \$1,454.26 over last year. Our trash costs us about \$110 per ton in transport and disposal fees. Tonnage breakdown is: 277.59 tons household waste, 198.62 tons demolition debris. We paid \$2,791.73 to recycle cardboard, paper, plastic, tires, and for freon removal

from appliances. We received \$4,835.60 for tin cans, metal, and batteries. The more we recycle, the more we save.

We purchased a baler for cardboard, paper and plastic. The installation cost us a little more than anticipated due to the need to have a three-phase adapter installed to satisfy the power requirements of the baler. We also purchased a shipping container to store the baled items prior to being transported to the recycling center. We also purchased a new trash tub to replace an old worn out one. We also plan to purchase a glass crusher in 2025 to better recycle our glass waste.



Even though most recyclable items are accepted at the Transfer Station for no cost, we do charge a small fee for some. Those fees help cover the extra costs the Town is charged for disposing of those items. Please pay the attendant if you drop off any of the items on the list located on the previous page.

We collect waste oil if anyone needs it. Returnable bottles are collected to benefit the Solon Recreation Department. We no longer have the “FREE” table at the Transfer Station. Please try recycling your still useable items at local thrift stores or by other methods.

We had to have our skid steer repaired this year for an oil leak and starting issues. It cost more than expected but was needed and cheaper than buying another machine. Also, our truck needed some repair work. These two items and the extra cost for the baler electrical work is what put us over budget.

On the first Saturday in October Solon can join with neighboring communities to collect hazardous waste and unused medications. If you have hazardous waste or unused medications, please let the Selectmen know before July 1, 2025 and we can pay the fee to join in.



Glenn Richardson
Attendant & Roll-off Truck Driver



David Houle
Attendant

REMINDERS

The Transfer Station hours are Wednesdays 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Transfer Station will be closed on all legal holidays unless otherwise posted.

Only waste generated within the Town of Solon can be disposed of at the Transfer Station. Please do not bring garbage from other towns.

Special thanks to Glenn and Dave for all their hard work to make our Transfer Station run smoothly. Glenn is also our roll-off truck driver. Additional thanks go to Road Commissioner Gary Bishop and the Road Crew for their frequent help.

***REMEMBER TO
REDUCE, REUSE AND RECYCLE!***

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Emergencies: 911

Radio: 100

OFFICERS:

Duayne Rollins, Chief	399-9549	Solon 101
Todd Dixon, 1 st Assist. Chief	441-5171	Solon 102
Nick Rollins, 2 nd Assist. Chief	474-1663	Solon 103
Richard Kelley, 3 rd Assist. Chief	614-4354	Solon 104
Richard Kelley, EMA Director	614-4354	Solon 104
Jenney Rollins, Safety Off./Sec./Treas.	399-1655	Solon 105

FIREFIGHTERS:

Zane Brown	Frederick Mayo
Meagan Corson	Derek Dellarma
Kevin LaCroix	Brian Livingstone
Frederick Mayo	Thomas Courtney, Mechanic
Kenneth Tyrell	Cooper Dellarma, Junior FF
	Gerald Rollins, Junior FF

FIRE WARDENS

for fire permits, or online at <https://www.maine.gov/burnpermit>

Fire Warden: Duayne Rollins 399-9549

Deputies: Todd Dixon 441-5171 Jen Rollins 399-1655

FIRE DEPARTMENT

INCOME

Appropriated	\$40,700.00	
Appropriated Fire Chief Salary	\$ 8,500.00	
Transfer in from FD Safety Res	\$ 5,000.00	
Transfer in from FD Reserve	<u>\$24,650.00</u>	\$78,850.00

EXPENDITURES

LABOR

Duayne Rollins, Fire Chief	\$ 8,275.00
Duayne Rollins	\$ 2,596.00
Jenney Rollins	\$ 1,954.00
Kevin Lacroix	\$ 1,056.00
Frederic Mayo	\$ 1,894.00
Richard Kelley	\$ 1,236.00
Brian Livingstone	\$ 735.00
Derek Dellarma	\$ 625.00
Zane Brown	\$ 613.00
Gerald Rollins	\$2,226.00
Cooper Dellarma	\$1,315.00
Todd Dixon	\$1,348.00

Meagan Corson	\$1,066.00		
Nick Rollins	\$1,719.00		
Kenneth Tyrell	<u>\$ 936.00</u>	\$28,215.00	
UTILITIES			
Central Maine Power	\$1,680.35		
TDS-Phone & Internet	\$1,055.63		
Solon Water District	<u>\$ 796.96</u>	\$ 3,532.94	
SUPPLIES			
Supplies	\$ 4,155.53		
Safety Equipment	\$28,633.15		
Radio Communications	<u>\$ 1,618.78</u>	\$34,407.46	
PROPERTY MAINTENANCE			
Building Maintenance		\$ 1,514.11	
FEES & MAINTENANCE FEES			
Computer Software Fees		\$ 305.00	
EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE			
Equipment Maintenance	\$ 2,044.43		
Equipment Purchase	\$ 3,500.00		
Truck Maintenance	\$ 7,920.55		
State Inspections	\$ 160.00		
Diesel Fuel & Gasoline	<u>\$ 201.14</u>	\$ 13,826.12	
TRAINING & DUES			
Fees	\$ 665.00		
Meals	\$ 499.57		
Certifications	<u>\$ 1,010.00</u>	<u>\$ 2,174.57</u>	<u>\$83,975.20</u>
			(\$5,125.20)
Transfer from Accounts Overage		<u>\$ 5,125.20</u>	
		\$ 0.00	

FIRE TRUCK RESERVE ACCOUNT

Income			
Balance 1/1/24	\$3,261.93		
Appropriated	\$8,000.00		
Interest	<u>\$ 136.84</u>	\$11,398.77	
Expended		<u>\$ 0.00</u>	\$11,398.77

FIRE DEPARTMENT CAPITAL RESERVE ACCOUNT

Income			
Balance 1/1/24	\$ 276.42		
Appropriated	\$1,000.00		
Interest	<u>\$ 14.01</u>	\$1,290.43	
Expended		<u>\$ 0.00</u>	\$1,290.43

FIRE DEPARTMENT SAFETY EQUIPMENT RESERVE ACCOUNT

Income		
Appropriated	\$5,000.00	
Transferred to Fire Department	<u>\$5,000.00</u>	\$0.00

FIRE DEPARTMENT RESERVE ACCOUNT

INCOME:

Balance 1/1/24	\$20,040.46	
Sukeforth Donation	\$ 2,000.00	
SAPPI Donation	\$ 3,000.00	
Donation	\$ 1,000.00	
Toll Road Donations	\$ 5,502.00	
Interest	<u>\$ 545.14</u>	\$32,287.00

EXPENDITURES

Transferred to Fire Dept. for Safety Equipment	<u>\$24,650.00</u>	\$7,637.60
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FIRE CALLS

	<u>Total Calls</u>	<u>75</u>		
Vehicle Accidents	20	Fire Alarms	8	
Structure Fires	2	Assist EMS/Medical	13	
Mutual Aid Given	13	Grass/Brush Fires	2	
Chimney Fire	1	Electrical Lines/Trees	16	

BURN PERMITS:

You are required to have a burn permit before you can burn brush and debris outside at any time during the year.

For burn permits call the Fire Warden or Deputies listed on the previous page.

If you have a wood stove or fireplace, remember to have your chimney cleaned every fall and spring. If you do have a chimney fire, call 911 immediately—even if you think you can handle it yourself. Better safe than sorry.

The Fire Department is willing to inspect your chimney for fire safety. Chimney fires are dangerous, and a safe chimney is a necessity when burning firewood. Contact the Fire Chief to set up an appointment. They will inform you of any defects they find. However, the town accepts no liability and does not certify safety of the chimney. To have your chimney checked by a professional, contact the State Fire Marshall's office at 626-3870 for a list of approved chimney inspectors.

It is a crime to call 911 with a false fire or emergency report. When the fire department responds to false alarms, it could delay their response to a real emergency. The fire department will bill anyone calling in a false alarm for time

and expensed incurred in the response to the call. However, do not hesitate to call 911 for an emergency. An early response could save lives and property.

The volunteer firefighters spend a lot of time attending training sessions. Training sessions are important for their safety and for learning proper and/or improved firefighting and rescue techniques. We pay our firefighters for each training session they attend.

We need volunteers willing to put in the time for the training and meetings and, of course, to respond to emergency calls. We also have for those age 16 to 18 a junior firefighter program. Anyone interested in joining the Fire Department or learning more about being a firefighter should contact the Fire Chief.

The Selectmen would like to thank all our Volunteer Firefighters for all the time and effort they give to serve and protect our town. They put their lives at risk to protect our property and us. THANK YOU!

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Well, another year has come to an end and what a year it was!

We had a few unusual calls this year. The one that stands out the most was the one for the 'microburst'. This was a call that showed what a special little town we have. As we were called out to manage the crisis, the additional assistance provided by other townspeople was amazing. Whether it was chainsaws in hand to cut down trees and branches, pulling and moving them out of the way, we had several people out in the wind and rain to help get the town back up and running. Roderick Trucking brought a crew and equipment to move bigger trees and get roads open faster. We, as a department, want to be sure that everyone knows how much we appreciate you all and reiterate what a great town we have! Thank you so very much!

I would also like to thank Hether Forsten, Doug Sukforth, Michael & Gail Foster, John & Denise Dunay, DJ Laroche Plumbing & Heating, Sappi Fine Paper, Skowhegan Fire Department, Manter Construction and Somerset Home Improvements for the donation of their funds, time and shared talents. We thank you for helping us complete tasks around the fire station throughout the year.

Once again, the toll booth was a great success. We look forward to it every year. We were able to purchase new equipment and fire gear using these funds. It also allows us to get out and talk with the public, both townspeople and those just passing through. Thank you all for your support. Every dollar makes a difference.

The annual fireworks display was yet again, a fantastic event. It looks like we've found our 'sweet spot' with the number of fireworks we need to purchase for a great show. We received feedback from spectators stating the show lasted the 'perfect amount of time'.

We celebrated 'Fire Prevention Week' in October by visiting the Solon Elementary School. Safety Officer Jenney Rollins and 1st Assistant Chief, Todd Dixon educated the students and staff about fire safety.

We also had another successful year participating in the 'Trunk-or-Treat' hosted by Griswold's County Store.

The Solon Fire Department is made up solely of volunteers from throughout the community. In addition to the events previously noted, we also attend monthly meetings and truck checks, trainings and let's not forget all the emergency calls, both in town and as mutual aid to neighboring communities.

I want to thank my firefighters, town officials and the community for helping make our town and fire department what it is... a place to be proud of!

Sincerely,
Duayne Rollins
Solon Fire Chief



Fire Departments new (used) water rescue equipment & trailer

COOLIDGE LIBRARY

COOLIDGE LIBRARY TRUSTEES 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

(Current list of Trustees on page 13)

Having received no response to the Library Expansion Committee 2022 Requests for Proposal for a building addition, we submitted a revised RFP to five additional firms with a March 2024 due date. Again, no bids were submitted. The RFP document remains useful for identifying space needs for programs and services. However, The Board of Trustees disagrees with the building configuration recommended by the Expansion Committee.

The Trustees have consistently affirmed that the architectural integrity of the Coolidge Building must be retained as it appears from the street. Building an addition at the south end of the building will not satisfy that objective. The Trustees recommend a previously proposed plan to build an addition behind the Library with a bridge behind the current circulation desk to connect the two buildings.

The Trustees also recommend that a full basement be included in the plan. When Richard Roberts interviewed staff at recently built or renovated public libraries, they unanimously responded that they underestimated the need for storage.

Our recommended next step is to investigate the feasibility of a manufactured building.

Special thanks and appreciation to:

- Richard Roberts for repairing the fence, putting the sign back up, and replacing the light pole at the walkway entrance following the windstorm that felled a large tree in the front yard.
- Christopher Shaw for moving 20 library chairs and a snow blower from the mold infested garage to the barn at the Historical Society.
- Elaine Aloes, Chair of the Board of Selectmen, for rapid response to Library issues.
- Library Director Megan Myers for her continued pursuit of excellence in library services and programs.
- Board of Trustees participants for their ongoing support of library programs and services.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Ouderkirk

LIBRARIAN REPORT

The Mission of The Coolidge Library is to provide library services to residents of the town, nearby communities, and visitors, for the enrichment of their lives by providing reliable information, meeting individual needs, aiding personal development and literacy, encouraging the enjoyment of reading for its own sake and promoting library use by people of all ages.

Our library is currently home to 4,984 books. Nearly 3,000 of those are adult fiction and non-fiction titles, while the remaining comprise our juvenile and young adult collections. Our digital collection at <https://yourcloudlibrary.com> gives users access to an additional 20,000+ books. In 2024, borrowers checked out 1,744 physical books, 90 e-books and 218 audio books. The most borrowed title for adults was *The Berry Pickers: A Novel* by Amanda Peters, followed by *Frozen River: A Novel*, by Ariel Lawhon. The youth book that was most checked out was *Graveyard Shakes*, a graphic novel by Laura Terry. It was closely followed by another graphic novel, *Guts*, written by Raina Telgemeier. In addition to our print collection, we have 468 films (DVD and Blu-ray), as well as 25 audio books for lending. We also have 3 electricity monitors to help you understand (and reduce) your energy consumption.

In 2024, we had an increase in library visits from the previous year, with a total of 1,032. More than 100 people used our computers and Wi-Fi. 176 people attended our various programs and classes. We saw a huge demand for information and resources for April's Total Solar Eclipse. We were thrilled to win approval for a program from the National Science Foundation that allowed us to help 500 people view the eclipse safely with FREE ISO-approved glasses. We also had a great time teaching folks how to make their own solar eclipse viewers.

For in-house patron use, we offer 3 touchscreen desktop computers, 2 laptop computers, and 2 tablets. We also have board games, puzzles, a children's writing center, and coloring books and pencils for youth as well as adults.

The Coolidge Library endorses the Library Bill of Rights and the Freedom to Read Statement, as adopted by the American Library Association. The Coolidge Library will challenge censorship or attempted censorship. The library's philosophy is that a person can reject for oneself materials found to be distasteful but cannot exercise the right of censorship to restrict another citizen's choices in reading matters. Responsibility for what children read rests with their parents or legal guardians, not the library. Freedom of expression is protected by the Constitution of the United States, therefore, any attempt, be it legal or extra-legal, to regulate or suppress materials in libraries must be closely scrutinized to the end that protection is not abridged.

Thanks for your patronage and support in 2024. We hope to see YOU at the library in 2025.

Respectfully,
Megan Myers
Library Director



COOLIDGE LIBRARY RESERVE

INCOME

Balance 1/1/24	\$ 205.87	
Appropriated	\$25,600.00	
Investment Funds	\$ 2,000.00	
Donations	<u>\$ 2.25</u>	\$27,808.12

EXPENDITURES:

Megan Myers, Librarian	\$15,901.82	
Vicki Myers, Asst. Librarian	\$ 4,424.93	
CMP/Nexamp	\$ 681.28	
TDS-Phone & Internet	\$ 759.86	
Solon Water District	\$ 238.60	
Office Supplies	\$ 761.40	
Books	\$ 1,704.96	
Shop Supplies	\$ 17.01	
Security System	\$ 223.89	
Building Maintenance	\$ 176.40	
Grounds Maintenance	\$ 601.59	
Computer Program Fees	\$ 362.00	
Training Fees	\$ 20.00	
PO Box Fee	<u>\$ 144.00</u>	<u>\$26,017.74</u> \$1,790.38

LIBRARY BUILDING CAPITAL RESERVE

Balance 1/1/24	\$30,121.22	
Appropriated	\$ 3,000.00	
Interest	<u>\$ 715.41</u>	\$33,836.63
EXPENDITURES		<u>\$ 0.00</u> \$33,836.63

LIBRARY MEMORIAL & INVESTMENT FUNDS

RAYMOND JAMES INVESTMENT FUND

Principal \$87,380.00

Investment Value 1/1/24	\$92,706.02	
Income	\$ 5,358.81	
Investment Change in Value	<u>\$ 1,414.68</u>	\$99,479.51
Less		
Withdrawal	\$ 2,000.00	
Investment Advisor Fees	<u>\$ 939.85</u>	\$ 2,939.85
Invest. Funds Balance 12/31/23		\$96,539.66

Library & Memorial Fund Principals:

Library	\$70,000.00	
Harriet French	\$ 725.00	
L&M McDonough	\$ 6,000.00	
Charlotte Russel	\$ 2,400.00	
Glennis Rogers	\$ 510.00	
Bertha Whitney	\$ 245.00	
R&H Tozier	\$ 5,000.00	
Malcolm & Mary Hall	<u>\$ 2,500.00</u>	\$87,380.00
Available Funds 12/31/2024		<u>\$ 9,159.66</u> \$96,539.66



Family activities at the Coolidge Public Library

CEMETERIES & VETERAN GRAVES

CEMETERY MAINTENANCE RESERVE

INCOME:

Balance 1/1/24	\$ 4,374.05	
Appropriated	\$24,700.00	
Investment Funds	<u>\$ 2,800.00</u>	\$31,874.05

EXPENDITURES:

Robert Alton, Small Cemeteries	\$ 600.00	
W. Wooster, Evergreen Cem.	\$5,500.00	
W. Wooster, Pierce Cemetery	\$4,500.00	
W. Wooster, S. Solon Cem.	\$3,000.00	
J. Lawrence, Village Cemetery	\$4,500.00	
Hilton Cemetery	\$ 75.00	
Flags & Holders	\$ 504.00	
Cemetery Records	\$6,195.00	
Stone Cleaning supplies	\$ 484.63	
Stone Cleaning	\$3,250.00	
Grounds Maintenance	\$ 500.00	
Grounds Maintenance, Signs	<u>\$1,865.00</u>	<u>\$30,973.63</u> \$900.42

CEMETERY LOT PURCHASE RESERVE

Income	\$2,800.00	
Transferred to Investment Fund	<u>\$2,800.00</u>	\$0.00

RAYMOND JAMES INVESTMENT FUND

	Principal \$169,720.00	
Investment Value 1/1/24	\$210,974.53	
Income	\$ 12,502.35	
Investment Change in Value	<u>\$ 3,387.90</u>	\$212,945.80
Less		
Investment Advisor Fees	<u>\$ 2,182.15</u>	
Invest. Funds Balance 12/31/23		\$225,582.63
Principal Balance 1/1/2024	\$166,920.00	
Principal Funds Added (lot sales)	<u>\$ 2,800.00</u>	\$169,720.00
Available Funds 12/31/2024	<u>\$ 55,862.63</u>	<u>\$225,582.63</u>

The town owns 4 cemeteries:

- Evergreen Cemetery, River Road
- Pierce Cemetery, North Main Street
- South Solon Cemetery, South Solon Road
- Village Cemetery, North Main Street

There are cemetery lots available in single, partial, or a full lot at the Pierce Cemetery, South Solon Cemetery, and Evergreen Cemetery. Village Cemetery has no lots available. Contact the Selectmen to purchase a lot.

All burials and stone placements must be arranged through the groundskeeper for the cemetery. Contact the Town Office for contact information.

No pets are allowed to be buried in the cemeteries. The cemeteries are closed to vehicular traffic from November to April depending on the ground conditions. Village Cemetery is closed to vehicles due to the layout of the cemetery.

Trees and bushes are not allowed to be planted in any of the cemeteries. Either real or artificial flowers are allowed but must be removed at the end of the season. Existing trees, bushes, flowers, and other items will be removed at the discretion of the groundskeeper.

Cemetery Management - After inheriting 4 of the cemeteries in town over the last few decades, we are on a long journey to audit and log burial plots in a digital cemetery management system. In 2023, we began with Evergreen Cemetery by taking a photo record of every burial marker and monument and importing it into the database. We are now in the process of compiling a list and location of all the graves in the cemetery. The company we are working with is taking our paper records and cross-referencing the information with the photos. We hope to have the website live and available to the public by the summer of 2025. Once we are done with Evergreen Cemetery we will do another cemetery.

Stone Cleaning – Danika Riggs, with help from Wally Wooster, started cleaning the gravestones in the Evergreen Cemetery this year. When she has finished this cemetery she will move on to another cemetery. It will be an ongoing project as stones in all our cemeteries need continuous cleaning. (See photos)

New Cemetery Signs – We will be putting up new cemetery signs at the Pierce, South Solon, and Village Cemeteries.

New Fence at Evergreen Cemetery - We are planning on replacing the fence at the Evergreen Cemetery on the River Road in the near future. It is in poor condition. We will put up a four-foot-tall black chain link fence across the front of the cemetery. If you wish to donate for the fence replacement, please contact the Selectmen for more information. Donations will be greatly appreciated!!

CLEANED HEADSTONES BEFORE AND AFTER



PLANNING BOARD REPORT

MICHAEL GOLDEN, CHAIRMAN 643-2219

Craig Gerry, Vice Chair
Randy Rancourt, Secretary
Richard Kelley, resigned

Frank Evangelista
Kerri Evangelista
Dianna Rollins, resigned

CODE ENFORCEMENT

Income			
Appropriated		\$6,460.00	
Expended			
Code Enforcement/Health Off.	\$ 6,200.00		
911 Addressing Officer	<u>\$ 260.00</u>	<u>\$6,460.00</u>	\$0.00

PLANNING BOARD RESERVE

Permits	\$ 1,091.25		
Interest	\$ 318.85		
Reserve Funds balance 12/31/24	<u>\$14,536.33</u>	\$15,946.43	
Expended			
Code Enforcement/Health Off.	\$ 721.20		
Secretary	\$ 320.00		
KVCOG, ordinance update	\$ 1,306.80		
Supplies	<u>\$ 72.66</u>	<u>\$ 2,420.66</u>	\$13,525.77

PERMITS:

Residential Permits	8	Residential Accessory Permits	17
Commercial Permits	1	Shoreland Zone Permits	5

Building activity in 2024 was consistent with the last 2 years. Perhaps reflecting the improved economy.

During 2024 Richard Kelley resigned his position on the planning board, citing conflict of interest issues. Also, member and secretary Dianna Rollins resigned due to health concerns. They both have been a great asset to the board. I would like to thank them for their commitment and service and wish them well.

Mr. Randy Rancourt has joined the board and assumed the position of secretary and is doing a great job.

During 2024, with the assistance of the Kennebec Valley Council of Governments, we completed the update of the Building Permit Ordinance. That brought it in compliance with the new state regulations. It was voted on and

approved at the special town meeting held on July 20, 2024.

We were all very pleased to see the new bridge completed and opened to traffic in November. I think we should all thank the Solon Water District for their work during the bridge construction. There were many hurdles to overcome, and I think Mike Foster and crew did a great job.

Our meeting schedule remains the same as last year. We meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7 pm in the Town Office Conference Room. Our winter schedule is the 1st Tuesdays for the months of December, January, and February. However, we will meet on the 3rd Tuesday during those months if the need should arise. If you have any business with the planning board we suggest you have your application or paperwork submitted by the Monday preceding the meeting so we can put it on the agenda. We will still try to take applications the night of the meeting but, due to the complexity of the new applications, sometimes it is not possible.

I will still continue to be in the office from 5 pm to 6 pm on Wednesdays.

As a reminder, the Planning Board meetings are public meetings, and you are encouraged to attend if you have any concerns. Also feel free to contact me or any board member if we can assist you in any way.

We would like to thank the town's people for their support and cooperation, and we look forward to serving you in the upcoming year.

Respectfully Submitted, Michael R. Golden, Chairman



Donny LaCasce's Garage, corner of North Main St & Ferry St (1980's)



TOWN OF SOLON

Office of the Code Enforcement Officer

121 South Main St., P.O. Box 214, Solon, ME 04979 Direct (207) 313-9455 Fax: (207) 643-2864

Jeffery Drew, CEO, LPI, LHO

www.solon.maine.gov

code@madisonmaine.com

January 2025

Residents of Solon,

It has been a busy year here in Solon as your Code Enforcement Officer. I work full-time as the CEO in Madison and wear as many hats in my part time role here in Solon, as well as in Anson.

As the Code Enforcement Officer, I am certified as the Building Inspector, Licensed Plumbing Inspector, and Health & Safety Officer.

In addition to the permits issued and inspections conducted, fielding neighborhood complaints seem to be a large portion of what I do for you.

Our Municipal Codes, Ordinances, and Permits can be located at the Town Office.

The following is a summary of the permits and actions taken in Solon in 2024:

- Interior Plumbing & SSWD Plumbing Permits issued 13
- Building Permits 30
- Cannabis Licensing 1
- Illicit Cannabis Raids 2
- Complaints 8

Respectfully,

Jeffery P. Drew

Code Enforcement Officer,

Licensed Plumbing Inspector,

Local Health Officer, & Notary Public

YOUTH SPORTS RECREATION

“The mission of the Solon Recreation Department is to provide quality programs, parks, facilities, and a variety of enrichment opportunities with a professional standard of excellence that enhances the quality of life for all citizens and visitors in our community for present and future generations.”



SOLON COMMUNITY RECREATION DEPARTMENT

SOLON COMMUNITY RECREATION COMMITTEE

Leslie Giroux (2026) Kayla Starr (2025) Amy Sidell (2027)
Laura Layman, Summer Swim/Camp Director (2024)

RECREATION RESERVE

Income			
Balance 1/1/24	\$ 6,550.78		
Donations	\$12,429.59		
Appropriated	<u>\$ 3,000.00</u>	\$21,980.37	
Expenditures			
Paid Out		<u>\$10,058.66</u>	\$11,921.71

RECREATION FACILITIES & MAINTENANCE RESERVE

Income			
Balance 1/1/24	\$2,165.30		
Appropriated	<u>\$2,000.00</u>	\$4,165.30	
Expended			
Ball Field Grounds		<u>\$1,028.41</u>	\$3,136.89

IN-KIND DONATIONS AND VOLUNTEERS

Special THANKS to all of our incredible donors, coordinators and volunteers:

Town of Embden	Town of Anson
Skowhegan Savings Bank	Franklin Savings Bank
Central Maine Power	Weyerhaeuser
Daren Meader	Nitram Excavation
Sherwin Williams	Anonymous Donors
Bottle Donations (at the Transfer Station & Solon Redemption Ctr)	
Patrons of our 4 th of July Fireworks Concession Stand...	

and the MANY other DONORS & VOLUNTEERS who helped them make this year possible!

OLON COMMUNITY RECREATION COMMITTEE

This report will highlight the crucial impact our youth sports program has on the development and well-being of the children in our community. The support of our community is vital in ensuring the continued success and growth of this program. Here's why:

1. **Holistic Development:** Our program goes beyond the field, fostering empowerment, personal responsibility, and self-control among participants. Through sports, children develop essential life skills such as goal setting, time management, and leadership. Moreover, facing challenges like losses or poor performance teaches invaluable lessons in resilience and perseverance.

2. **High Demand:** The overwhelming response speaks volumes about the need for organized sports activities in our community. With over 20 enthusiastic participants in EACH sport, soccer, basketball, baseball, and softball, the demand for structured sports programs is evident and growing.

3. **Community Support:** In 2023, we received generous in-kind donations totaling over \$10,000 from parents, local businesses and community members. While these contributions are immensely appreciated, we cannot annually rely on families and local businesses' financial support to meet the increasing demands of our program.

4. **Critical Infrastructure Needs:** To sustain and enhance our program, we urgently need to invest in necessary infrastructure. This includes purchasing uniforms for soccer, softball, and basketball, as well as addressing significant maintenance issues at the softball and baseball fields. Ongoing maintenance for soccer fields and nets is also imperative. Looking ahead, our long-term vision is to expand the youth sports program to include activities such as golf, ice-skating, cross-country trial building, concession stand and off-season sports opportunities in collaboration with neighboring communities.

Investing in our youth sports program is an investment in the future of our community. The benefits extend far beyond the playing field, contributing to the growth and well-rounded development of our young members. Our budget request to continue and grow our local high-quality youth sports programming. Contributions ensures a lasting impact as these funds are to roll over each year, perpetuating positive change and sustaining our mission for the long term. I kindly request your thoughtful consideration and support in securing the necessary budget to meet these needs. Your commitment to the enrichment of our community's youth will undoubtedly leave a lasting and positive impact.

2024 UPDATES

This year, we have seen extraordinary growth. Over 60 children participated in our t-ball, baseball, and softball programs. The same number of children participated in PreK-5th grade soccer earlier this year, while basketball is now kicking off its season and looking ahead to continued growth.

For the first time, we've had to create multiple teams for the same age groups in many sports—a testament to the interest and enthusiasm of our youth. We had over 134 youth participate in our sports programming in 2024! This growth has been phenomenal and inspiring.

With this expansion came the need for critical investments. In 2024, with funds received from a grant from Weyerhaeuser and matched by Solon Rec, we purchased a baseball/softball field grader to improve the quality of our facilities, new soccer goals to support our growing teams, and completed the red dugouts—projects made possible by the hard work of volunteers and support from local businesses.

We are actively organizing and brainstorming ways to revitalize the softball field, ensuring it is restored and ready for future play. Additionally, we are exploring opportunities to rebuild the outdoor basketball and tennis courts, with the goal of making these facilities fully functional and welcoming for the community in 2025. We've met with the Maine State Director of Tourism and are scheduled to meet with the Maine State Director of Outdoor Recreation in January in hopes of securing funding to make these goals come to life.

As we enter 2025 Amy Sidell has worked tirelessly to create an exceptional basketball program for Solon and the district youth as a whole. Thanks to her efforts, Solon School now serves as the home base for practices and games for all youth in our district between Pre K - 4th grade. Her work in 2024 of purchasing and installing new adjustable hoops has made the Solon facility the only basketball gym in the district accessible for these age groups.

This year marks a significant milestone for our PreK-4th grade basketball program, as we now have separate boys' and girls' teams for 3rd and 4th grades. These teams will play weekend games at Solon School, which is expected to bring more visitors into town and provide a boost to local businesses.

In addition, Amy Sidell has been instrumental in organizing two boys' 5th and 6th grade rec teams and one girls' 5th and 6th grade rec team in collaboration with Anson. Under Amy's leadership, Solon Rec has also introduced an exciting new initiative: "Spirit Night" at Carrabec High School. This event invites all rec basketball players to come together to make signs, have their faces painted, and

be introduced before the high school games, fostering a sense of community and encouraging support for the Carrabec girls' and boys' basketball teams.

These efforts not only strengthen our programs but also build pride and connection within our community.

As we look to 2025, our goals remain ambitious and rooted in growth and sustainability. We aim to:

- Continue building our programs to offer annual clinics and trainings, collaborating with local high school students and colleges.
- Make further headway on restoring and improving our community sports facilities, including the softball field, outdoor basketball court, and tennis courts.

These initiatives are only possible because of the unwavering financial and volunteer support from Solon. Your investment has allowed us to grow and thrive, while the community's spirit has made Solon the backbone of our program. This town's commitment to our youth is unmatched, and it shows in the 'pride and joy' on the faces of our children as they play, learn, and grow.

As we move forward, we humbly request continued financial support from the Town of Solon in the amount of \$5,000 for 2025. This funding is critical to maintain the momentum we've built together and ensuring that every child in our community knows that their town stands behind them.

Thank you for your steadfast support, your belief in our vision, and for showing up time and time again for the youth of our community. Together, we are creating something extraordinary - something that will impact the lives of our children for years to come.

With deepest gratitude,
Kayla Starr and Amy Sidell

Donations can be sent directly to the Town of Solon, c/o Recreation Department, P.O. Box 214, Solon, ME 04979. Also, donating your returnable cans and bottles when you go to the transfer station, or the redemption center helps incredibly. Email: townofsolon.recreation@gmail.com

**We couldn't do it without our donors and volunteers.
From committee members to coaches, donors and
side-line supporters, 'Thank you!'**

ANNUAL 4TH OF JULY FIREWORKS

Held on July 4th at dusk at the Solon Elementary School



Appropriated	\$2,200.00
Balance 1/1/2024	\$ 500.00
Funds transfer from Special Events	\$ 156.46

Donations:

Foster's Collision (Collision Plus 2)	\$1,000.00
Griswold's	\$ 250.00
Solon Corner Store	\$ 100.00
Local Donation Cans	\$ 43.54
Ken's Family Restaurant	\$ 50.00
Solon Fire Department	\$ 500.00
Anonymous	\$ 100.00
Snack Shack	<u>\$ 100.00</u>

Expended



\$5,000.00

\$5,000.00

\$0.00

Thank you so much to all the above for their generous donations. Also, thank you to Foss Enterprises for their portable toilet donation. Volunteers from our Recreation Department set up their food tent. They sold out of just about everything! Thank you to all who volunteered to help out, it is a great addition to our event. It was another great show with a big turnout to view them.

And, of course, a great big THANK YOU to the firefighters who ordered, picked up, set up and who put on the great fireworks display. Without our great firefighters this would not have happened. The fireworks were great!

SUMMER SWIM/CAMP PROGRAM

SWIM/CAMP PROGRAM RESERVE

Balance 1/1/24	\$2,608.68		
Appropriated	<u>\$1,500.00</u>	\$4,108.68	
Paid Out			
Supplies	\$ 585.02		
LC Bates Museum	\$ 163.50		
Sandy Beach Campground	\$ 400.00		
Camp Aide	<u>\$ 300.00</u>	<u>\$1,448.52</u>	\$2,660.16

2024 was a great year for the Solon Summer Recreation Program. Approximately 25 children participated in our 3-week program of fun, swimming and other activities. The program was held at the Solon Elementary School and Sandy Beach Campground, Madison. We traveled to Sandy Beach for swimming lessons and water safety instruction. At Solon Elementary we enjoyed many arts and crafts including science experiments, growing plants and making musical instruments. We walked to the Coolidge library where we learned how to make paper! Jen Lund, Maine State Bee Biologist, came and taught the kids the importance of pollination and the L.C. Bates Museum shared a program about various kinds of rocks as well as dinosaurs.

Thank you to our RSU 74 district summer meals program that provides free breakfast and lunch to our children 18 and under. Thank you to Megan Myers at the Coolidge Library for teaching us how to make paper. Thank you to RSU 74 for the use of school facilities as well as providing us with transportation on our various field trips. Thank you to Sandy Beach for allowing the use of their facilities as well-being very accommodating.

A special thank you to all of our helpers, new and veteran. Everyone really stepped up to help make the program a success. We could not do this without them. If you would like to become a part of making this summer program available to so many kids, please reach me or to the town.

Respectfully,
 Laura Layman, Program Director



Summer Recreation Program

- Swimming Lessons
- Educational Learning
- Field Trip & Activities

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

Jennifer Mello, Program Director (2024)
Assistants: Melissa Dube (2024), Jami McCoy (2024)

SOLON AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM RESERVE ACCOUNT

INCOME:

Balance 1/1/24	\$ 4,468.77	
Appropriated	<u>\$ 6,800.00</u>	\$11,268.77

EXPENSES:

Director	\$ 2,202.00		
Aides	\$ 3,081.46		
Supplies	<u>\$ 160.32</u>	<u>\$ 5,443.78</u>	\$5,824.99

In 2024, there were winter and spring sessions of 6-weeks each and running three days a week. There was no fall session. This program is available to children in grades K – 5. The After School Program has a program that is a mixture of homework, reading, crafts, and educational and fun activities. There were about 30 children who participated in each of the sessions. Jen and her helpers have decided not to continue providing this program.

Three teachers from the Solon Elementary School have offered and will be continuing this program in 2025. Children from Grades K – 5 are welcome to attend these sessions. Notices about upcoming sessions are sent home with the students' school notices.

A BIG THANK YOU TO JEN, MELISSA, AND JAMI FOR ALL THE TIME YOU PUT IN TO PROVIDE THIS IMPORTANT PROGRAM FOR OUR CHILDREN!!



TOWN SCHOLARSHIPS

The Town manages two scholarship funds, the Carroll C. Jones Scholarship and the Ruth Cross Scholarship. These scholarships are available to Solon residents who graduate from Carrabec High School and go on to higher education. Contact the Selectmen or one of our School Board Directors for more information about these scholarships.

RAYMOND JAMES INVESTMENT FUND

Principal \$30,593.29

Investment Value 1/1/24	\$55,534.63		
Income	\$ 3,280.65		
Investment Change in Value	<u>\$ 873.98</u>	\$59,689.26	
Less			
Investment Advisor Fees		<u>\$ 572.38</u>	
Invest. Funds Balance 12/31/24			\$59,116.88

Principal:

Jones Fund Principal	\$29,323.29		
Ruth Cross Principal	<u>\$ 1,270.00</u>	\$30,593.29	

Available:

Jones Fund Available Funds	\$28,294.59		
Ruth Cross Available Funds	<u>\$ 229.00</u>	<u>\$28,523.59</u>	\$59,116.88

JONES FUND SCHOLARSHIP RESERVE FUND

Income:

Available Balance 1/1/2	\$17,368.20		
Interest Earned	\$ 300.60		
Investment Income	<u>\$ 8,572.44</u>	\$26,241.24	

2024 Scholarships Paid Out:

Transferred to Ruth			
Cross Scholarship	\$ 100.00		
Sophomore Year Awards:			
Sean Olson	\$ 1,000.00		
Freshman Year Awards:			
Robert Lindbloom Jr.	\$ 2,000.00		
Connor Peabody	<u>\$ 2,000.00</u>	<u>\$ 5,100.00</u>	\$21,141.24

To receive the Jones Fund Scholarship Solon graduates, submit an itemized list of all their higher educational expenses, scholarships, and grants for their first semester to the high school principal by the middle of December. He

reviews and verifies the information for each applicant. He then gives a list of the applicants and their unmet need to the Solon School Board members. Our school board members then decide on the scholarship amounts.

In 2021 the School Board Directors from Solon voted to award students that are in their second year of college to receive funds also. This is because of the large amount of available funds and the dwindling number of students applying for the scholarship money. In 2022 we had 1 Freshmen application with the awards made in January 2023. We also awarded 6 Sophomore year scholarships.

RUTH CROSS SCHOLARSHIP RESERVE FUND

Balance 1/1/24	\$.00	
Transferred in from Jones Fund	\$100.00	
Interest	<u>\$.00</u>	\$100.00
Paid Out:		
2024 Scholarship, Summer Lindblom	<u>\$100.00</u>	\$0.00

The Selectmen choose one recipient for the Ruth Cross Scholarship each year prior to graduation. The High School Guidance Department submits the names of students planning on going on to higher education. The selectmen then choose one and the scholarship is awarded at the High School graduation ceremony. The scholarship is paid after the selectmen receive proof of the student attending a school of higher learning and receiving passing grades.



Art by
Evan Holzworth,
CHS Class of 2018

OLON COMMUNITY FOOD CUPBOARD & THRIFT STORE



The food cupboard, solely through the work of dedicated volunteers, has continued to run out of a private residence since the closure of the former location over 4 years ago. It is currently open to the public on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month

from 9 AM to 3 PM at its current location of 25 York St. Emergency assistance is available by appointment.

We would like to thank the Town of Solon and the local Mason's for their continued annual financial support through grants and fundraising.

But there's more... so much has happened in a short period of time!!

The **Solon Community Food Cupboard & Thrift Store** is now a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, allowing us to accept tax deductible donations and apply for grants. A Board of Directors has been established to oversee the management of and fundraising for the organization. The long-term goal has been to raise enough money to find a permanent location to run the *food cupboard* and revitalize the long-awaited *thrift store*.

With the incredible support with grants from both the Good Shepherd Food Bank and Somerset County, we have received enough funding to purchase the property of the former Solon Superette!! Due to some legal issues, we were unable to close until the end of 2024. Thankfully, everything is final, and we have begun with repairs and renovations. The hope is to have the food cupboard moved and running in 2025.

We are beyond grateful and excited. But we still need your help! The property will need a variety of repairs and renovations to have it better suit our needs. Such minor repairs as painting, demo, tiles and flooring to more major renovations such as building and removing walls, upgrade electrical and other such things.

The Board members are working diligently to finalize our purchase and create a plan for the repairs and renovations of the property. Once up and running, additional financial and in-kind support are also needed.

Questions or comments related to donations, our project, or other related items, can be directed to scfcts@gmail.com or you can reach out to Linda French at the current food cupboard or Leslie Giroux at the Solon Town Office for more information.

We are also conducting a **GoFundMe** campaign using the QR code or web link <https://gofund.me/6aee4c57>. ally by reaching out to lease share this fundraising campaign to your friends and family (email, social networks). Thank you, in advance, for any and all support.

We will bring you more information soon!

Respectfully submitted,
SCFCTS Board of Directors

~~~~~

**Scan to donate**



### **History of the Solon Food Cupboard & Thrift Store...**

In the early 1990's, the Methodist Church on Pleasant St. opened the original food cupboard, and the thrift store was used to help support it. Due to increased costs related to the aging building, the United Methodist Economic Ministry closed the doors in 2018.

Linda French has been a dedicated volunteer/manager with the organization since 1995. She, along with her small group of dedicated volunteers, took it upon themselves to continue providing this service to those who remained food insecure in our small town. Having been housed at Linda's private residence for over five years, the organization was long overdue to find a property for the revitalized Solon Community Food Cupboard & Thrift Store. Having provided services in the community for more than 30 years, we want a stable, long-term solution for the Solon Community Food Cupboard & Thrift Store to serve the community for another 30 years and beyond.

Thank you to all who supported us through the years. It couldn't be done without the dedication and support of our donors, volunteers and community members.

*The Town would also like to give special thanks to Linda French for the use of her home and years of commitment to the Solon Food Cupboard.*

# **OLON COMMUNITY GARDEN**

## **Friends of the Community Garden**

Contact Person: Deb Gerry - 643-2203

Community Garden Reserve Fund

Balance 1/1/2024 & 12/31/2024

\$2,954.08

Petty Cash

Income

Private Donations \$629.68

Expended

Garden Supplies \$541.90 \$ 87.78

Donated Materials and Supplies (estimated value)

Seeds, Plants, & Garden supplies \$1,345.00

Garden Soils & delivery \$ 556.00

Custom Garden Sign \$ 325.00

Gardening classes value of

Presenters and materials \$ 550.00 \$2,776.00

Volunteers and supporters are what makes it possible for our garden to grow and it continued to grow and improve in 2024. We were very fortunate to have a new gardener knowledgeable in mushroom cultivation join our team enabling us to offer a 3-part class series on home cultivation of mushrooms. Our “growing your own” themed events were all well attended and enjoyed by both children and adults. Our bucket garden event did well again this year with many gardeners of all ages going home with buckets of vegetables, plants, and flowers to grow at home. We continue to plan future events at our garden and at Coolidge Public Library that are of interest to our followers. Event dates will be announced on our Facebook page and posters will be put up around town.

Our garden participated in the first annual Bingpendous Family Fun Night. We had a table promoting and inviting gardeners to come garden with us and we offered free seeds to all who wanted them. Our team also held classes for children to make their own stocking planters. All had a great time!

We had a beautiful new sign installed on our greenhouse this year. A very special thank you to our garden benefactor!! We Love The sign!!

Our Annual Seedling Days Exchange at the greenhouse not only brings in new gardeners, our primary goal, but also provides a means for our garden to be self-sustainable through the generous donations we receive.

We welcomed a new local girl scout troop to our garden this year. By planting, caring for and harvesting their dedicated garden bed the girls learned about growing their own healthy food and flowers. We look forward to them returning



to garden with us this year.

We are also looking forward to working with Solon Elementary School on their plans to establish an outdoor learning space and garden at the school.

Our gardens this year did well despite the Japanese beetles and tomato blight. Our greenhouse tomatoes did well and a new gardener successfully grew winter squashes and more in the greenhouse. The herb gardens are doing great making it possible for us to share herb plants. We were very excited to harvest our first peaches, the blackberries were very abundant and the blueberries produced well for such young plants. Our garden beds dedicated to Solon Food Cupboard produced over 1,000 pounds of produce. Those who had personal garden beds with us also experienced good harvests. Through our partnerships with local growers, we also delivered an additional 1,500 pounds of Apples, Blueberries, Peaches, Pears, Blackberries and Rhubarb to the cupboard.

We estimate the value of the time and material donations of our supporters exceeded \$2,700 this year. We can't thank each and every person by name but know that we appreciate each and every one, from those who found and/or hauled "dump" finds to the garden, helped clean up our compost piles for us and those who made personal donations of cash or materials they knew we could use.

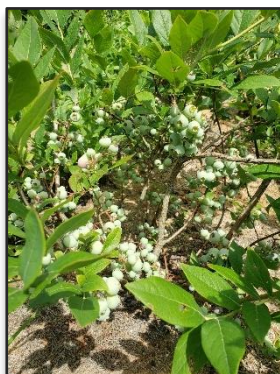
We would like to thank Linda French, Paula Rogers and all volunteers of the Solon Food Cupboard for their invaluable support. Their assistance in harvesting, taking care of and distributing our harvests quickly is key to assuring our produce is enjoyed by as many people as possible while still fresh and wonderful.

The support of Maureen Shaw, Cheryl Curtis and their teams from Somerset Public Health, Maine Snap-Ed, the Town of Solon Selectmen and support staff as well as the Solon Fire Department are instrumental in helping our garden grow and prosper. Please know we sincerely thank every one of our volunteers and supporters. This garden wouldn't be what it is without the support of our community.

Our garden team is here to help all gardeners and visitors alike. We supply the seeds, plants, and the use of hand tools for those who garden with us. We welcome gardeners of all ages and experience. We have a few raised bed garden plots in our Community Garden (located behind the Town Office and Fire Station) available this year on a first come first served basis.

Our Facebook page is; Solon Community Garden | Facebook Feel free to message us with any questions, thoughts and ideas you have. We look forward to gardening with you!

(Countertop Composting bins are available at the town office for \$15. If you do not need compost, we will take all clean organic compost for our Community Garden.)



Community Garden; Girl Scouts planting day; Bingham Days; Mushroom Class; Peach tree; Blueberry bushes; Cucumber plants

# **HISTORICALLY SPEAKING**

## **THE BRIDGE OVER FALL BROOK**

Based on information of Solon's transportation history as recorded by "A History of Solon" by Isaac 'Bunky' Franklin Davis, Jr. and "Sketches from Solon's History" by the History Committee of the Solon Sesquicentennial.

In the early 1800s three stages traveled to and through Solon. One stage traveled from Waterville to Skowhegan to Solon to Bingham to The Forks and on to Quebec. The stage fare from Skowhegan to Solon was 40 cents in the 1840s. The stage ride from Solon to The Forks was a little more than 10 hours at 3 miles an hour. This stage would have traveled over the Fall Brook bridge. Another stage came through Norridgewock, Madison, and Anson to Solon. A third stage went from Solon to Athens to Kingsbury to Moosehead Lake.

The first automobile in town was purchased by William Soper in 1905. It was a one-cylinder Cadillac. The first motor truck was purchased by the Solon Creamery company. It was a Reo Speed Wagon.

In 1872 William Hilton settled in Solon. At that time there were only Indian foot trails to travel on by foot or horseback. As more settlers came to Solon, these foot trails were widened so oxcarts could travel from house to house or to a sawmill.



*1891 Iron Bridge over Fall Brook (photo from early 1900's)*



*Iron Bridge over Fall Brook during the town fire in 1925*

In 1809, the town built the road beginning near the Buswell house, which was on the hill just north of the center of town and heading south to the Michael Stream bridge at the foot of Sand Hill about 1 mile south of town. This was an improvement on the trail that previously existed there. The Buswell house was located on the west side of Fall Brook and on what is now known as North Main Street. There is no record of the type of bridge that crossed Fall Brook prior to 1891 when the first iron bridge over Fall Brook was built. In 1932 a cement bridge replaced that bridge. When the Solon Water District was formed in 1965 the water lines going to the north side of Solon were placed on the western side of the bridge.



*1932 Cement Bridge Construction; Buswell House in background*



*During and after the Construction of the cement bridge built in 1932.*





# ROUTE 201 BRIDGE PROJECT

In 2024 the cement bridge was torn down and rebuilt by the Maine Department of Transportation. They raised the new bridge about 6 feet and reconfigured the Cross Street and Brook Street intersections. New water lines were installed under the bridge and on Cross Street and Brook Street. The water district was fortunate to get a Community Development Block Grant to pay for the water line replacement.



**BEFORE** - 2023 Bridge over Fall Brook prior to MDOT replacement  
(Buswell House in the upper left corner – 4-sided roof, dropped to one story)



**AFTER** - November 21, 2024 Opening of new bridge over Fall Brook  
The new bridge is about 5 feet higher than the old bridge



Temporary Bridge



Demolition of old concrete bridge



Groundwork in preparation to build new bridge



South side bridge supports



North side bridge supports



Installation of girders/deck





Framing and prep for concrete slab base



Concrete slab installation and finish



West side of new bridge



Northbound view of new bridge – November 2024



Northbound view of new bridge – November 2024

# **OLON HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

The Historical Society continues its mission of recording and keeping Solon's past. We are always looking for photos, documents, and stories. Please let us know if you have something from "the old days". It does not have to be donated if you want to keep it. We can scan it and return the original to you. We can do that while you wait if you do not want to leave it with us.

The History House is open on Tuesday's from 10 am to 2 pm, except for December, January, and February when we are open by appointment only. (Call Chris Shaw at 557-5818). Visitors are always welcome to see all our displays and information that has been collected over many years.

We also have a monthly meeting at 6:30 pm on the fourth Monday of each month. New members are always welcome and needed.

We can be found on Facebook at "Solon Maine Historical Society". Our email is [solonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:solonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com). The History House phone number is 207-643-2275. Please leave a message and we will return your call.

Donations to the Historical Society are tax deductible. Solon's history needs to be preserved for future generations. We get many Facebook messages and emails of people looking for information about their ancestors. The more information we have the more we can help people to put together their family story.

Memorial donations are appreciated and can either be to pay for the costs to run the Historical Society or to add to the Investment Funds principal.

## **TRUSTEES**

Ann Padham (2025)  
Bud Boynton (2024)  
Juanita McAllister (2026)

## **OFFICERS**

|                                    |                                 |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| President: Chris Shaw              | Vice President: Jeff McAllister |
| Treasurer: Maureen Shaw            | Secretary: Maureen Shaw         |
| Membership Secretary: Marie Poulin |                                 |

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY RESERVE

|                            |                  |                   |            |
|----------------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------|
| Balance 1/1/2024           | \$ 7,057.63      |                   |            |
| Dues, Sales, and Donations | \$ 1,125.00      |                   |            |
| Investment Income          | \$ 80.00         | \$8,262.63        |            |
| Paid Out:                  |                  |                   |            |
| Post Office Box            | \$ 102.00        |                   |            |
| Supplies                   | \$ 451.70        |                   |            |
| Phone & Internet           | \$ 1,296.46      |                   |            |
| Electric                   | \$ 730.22        |                   |            |
| Water District             | \$ 238.60        |                   |            |
| Heat                       | \$ 1,468.06      |                   |            |
| Postage                    | \$ 4.31          |                   |            |
| Security System            | \$ 333.89        |                   |            |
| Grounds Maintenance        | <u>\$ 150.00</u> | <u>\$4,775.24</u> | \$3,487.39 |

## RAYMOND JAMES INVESTMENT FUND

|                 |                    |              |  |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------|--|
| Balance 1/1/24  | \$148,784.51       |              |  |
| Income          | \$ 8,793.81        |              |  |
| Change in Value | <u>\$ 2,353.08</u> | \$159,931.40 |  |
| Expended        |                    |              |  |
| Fees            | <u>\$ 1,533.77</u> | \$158,397.63 |  |

## INVESTMENT ACCOUNT BALANCE

|                   |                     |              |  |
|-------------------|---------------------|--------------|--|
| Reserve Principal | \$110,000.00        |              |  |
| Available Funds   | <u>\$ 48,397.63</u> | \$158,397.63 |  |



The Historical Society History House on South Main Street

# **SOLON WATER DISTRICT**

PO BOX 131, SOLON ME 04979-0131      207-643-2473

PAYMENT DROP BOX: SOLON TOWN OFFICE, 121 S. MAIN STREET

## TRUSTEES:

Michael Foster, Chairman (2026)  
Derek Dellarma, Treasurer (2025)

Arthur Rogers, Secretary (2027)  
Shawna Albert, Office Clerk

Payments can be mailed to the above address or can be placed in the Water District drop box in the lobby of the Town Office. If cash payments are put in the box, please make sure to put it in a sealed envelope with your name on it so we can credit the correct account with the payment.

## INCOME:

|                                 |                    |             |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| Residential Sales - Metered     | \$ 42,146.15       |             |
| Commercial Sales – Metered      | \$ 8,303.72        |             |
| Public Authority – Metered      | \$ 2,488.76        |             |
| Non-Profit - Sales Tax Exempt   | \$ 1,303.60        |             |
| Public Fire Protection Charges  | \$ 24,856.00       |             |
| Private Fire Protection Charges | \$ 746.24          |             |
| Establishment/Reconnection Fees | \$ 286.35          |             |
| Collection Trip & Late Fees     | \$ 648.00          |             |
| Grant Funds                     | \$ 7,917.03        |             |
| Other Revenue                   | <u>\$ 1,073.95</u> | \$89,769.80 |

## EXPENSES:

|                                   |                  |                    |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Salaries, labor, trustee stipends | \$ 34,607.75     |                    |
| Central Maine Power               | \$ 6,763.73      |                    |
| Supplies for Operations           | \$ 6,237.10      |                    |
| Supplies for Administration       | \$ 1,020.17      |                    |
| Contractual Engineering           | \$ 4,488.60      |                    |
| Contractual Accounting            | \$ 125.00        |                    |
| Contractual Testing               | \$ 2,095.00      |                    |
| Contractual Oher Field Work       | \$ 9,260.00      |                    |
| Transportation Expense            | \$ 655.26        |                    |
| Insurance - Liability             | \$ 1,261.26      |                    |
| Bad Debt Expense                  | \$ 0.00          |                    |
| Telephone/Cell Expense            | \$ 1,815.39      |                    |
| Trainings/Conferences             | \$ 0.00          |                    |
| Loan Administration Fees          | \$ 5,647.24      |                    |
| Bank Fees & Safe Deposit Box Fee  | \$ 32.00         |                    |
| Dues & Miscellaneous Fees         | \$ 1,619.50      |                    |
| Regulatory Assessment Fees        | \$ 374.00        |                    |
| Payroll Taxes                     | <u>\$ 735.00</u> | <u>\$76,800.00</u> |
| Net Ordinary Income               |                  | \$12,969.80        |

## **WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT AS PART OF THE MAINE DOT BRIDGE REPLACEMENT**

In 2024, with the Maine DOT Route 201 bridge over Fall Brook replacement, new water mains were installed under the bridge and on Cross Street and Brook Street. Also, a fire hydrant was placed at the end of Cross Street. We thank those who were affected by having temporary water lines to their homes throughout the summer and fall while the work was being done.



*Water Main pipe reinstallation for under new bridge.*

The Solon Water District Trustees also want to recognize Chester Garland for his years of service as a trustee from 1989 to 2005. He was a great help to the district over the years. Chester passed away this year.



*New water main positioned under the west side of the new bridge*

Selectmen's Note:

Mike Foster oversaw the project for the Solon Water District and his knowledge of the town's water system and storm water drainage system was invaluable. He



was at the bridge work site just about every day making sure all the work was



*New water main positioned under the west side of the new bridge*

being done in the best interest of the water district and the town. There has been an issue with the storm drainage system from Pleasant Street to the bridge for many years. Mike pointed it out to MDOT several years ago when they started discussing the bridge replacement project with us. When Mike the contractor told him that MDOT was not going to repair the storm drainage system in that area he brought his concerns to the Selectmen. We then contacted the MDOT project manager and got the drainage system replaced in that area. Without Mike being there and seeing that it was not being replaced, we would have continued to have problems with the drainage system.

THANK YOU, MIKE!!!



*Mike Foster, overseeing the installation of the new water main.*

# OLD CANADA ROAD SCENIC BYWAY

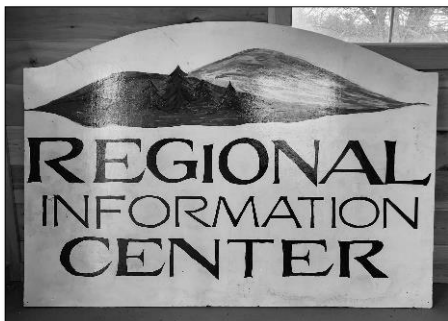


OLD CANADA ROAD  
National Scenic Byway

Old Canada Road Scenic Byway, Inc PO Box 301, Solon, ME 04979

Greetings from the Board of Directors of the Old Canada Road National Scenic Byway,

We have had a busy 2024. We held a successful community outreach event in April, 2024. We have several new directors, and we've worked diligently on grant applications. In 2024, we finalized and printed and an updated map/visitor guide. Businesses across the state have received and distributed copies.



121 South Main St., Solon

The Old Canada Road National Scenic Byway (OCR) receives funding from MaineDOT to maintain 10 sites along the Byway. In 2024, the Byway was entrusted to manage funding that is limited, with strict guidelines, to projects in Caratunk, The Forks, West Forks, and Moxie Gore. None of the funding can be used for our operations; the Byway relies on grants and donations for its operations and other projects.

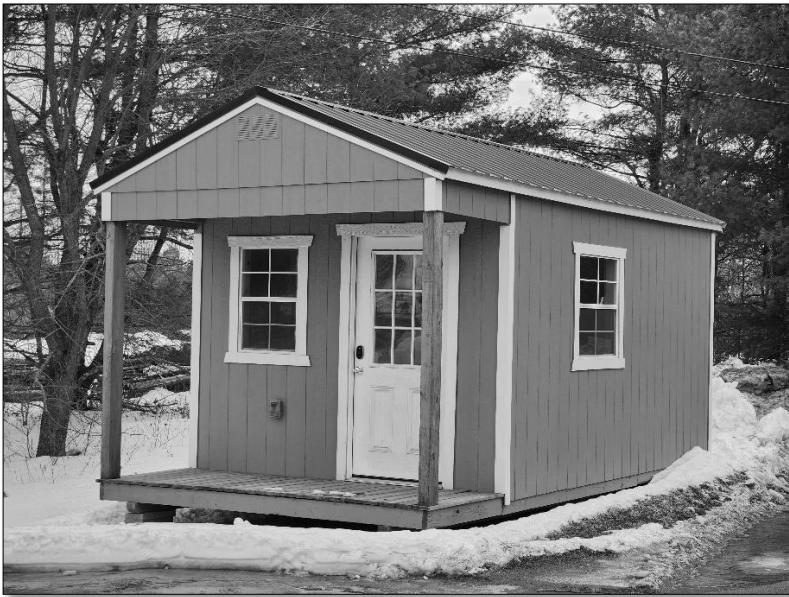
During 2024, with the help of grant money and donations, the Board was able to establish a visitors' information building in Solon, situated near the Solon Fire Department and Town Hall. The Board is interested in having a volunteer ambassador on site next summer to welcome visitors and share information.

The MaineDOT replaced the interpretive panels and wooden railings at the Solon Turnout that overlooks Williams Dam and the multimodal trail. Much pruning needs to be done to restore the viewshed of the dam. Pruning also needs to be done at Jim Mac Falls in Sandy Bay, north of Jackman and at the Parlin Pond Turnout.



Also, during 2024, OCR applied for funding to the Community Outdoor Recovery Assistance program. If awarded funding, we can pursue design work for interpretive panels, improved river access near Williams Dam in Solon, a trail to overlook Wyman Dam in Bingham, and improvements to the Owl Head

Trail at Attean Overlook, south of Jackman. Such work will strengthen future applications for project funding in these communities. Our mission is to work with civic and business partners in ways to ensure our vision to create *...a destination where people can participate in and enjoy intriguing cultural and historical interpretation and diverse recreational opportunities and hospitality amid spectacular Maine scenery.*



### **Regional Information Center**

121 South Main St. (will have trail access)

Our mission is to work with civic and business partners in ways to ensure **our vision** to create *...a destination where people can participate in and enjoy intriguing cultural and historical interpretation and diverse recreational opportunities and hospitality amid spectacular Maine scenery.*

Respectfully submitted,  
Ed Buzzell, OCR Board President

# **SOMERSET WOODS TRUSTEES**

Somerset Woods Trustees at Parkman Hill Farm  
380 Parkman Hill Road, Solon, ME 04979  
207.612.1606  
[www.SomersetWoodsTrustees.org](http://www.SomersetWoodsTrustees.org)

Somerset Woods Trustees appreciate the warm welcome from the Solon community following the 2024 gift of Parkman Hill Farm. The long-time landowner, who wishes to remain anonymous, gifted the property to Somerset Woods to assure her tradition of stewardship continues for the benefit of nature and the Solon community. Featuring 650 acres of field and forest on Parkman Hill Road, the farm for decades has been managed for its wildlife, birds, and pollinators.

Somerset Woods Trustees is a land trust founded in 1927 with a mission to protect and conserve lands in Somerset County and manage them for public good. Working in partnership with willing landowners, we are responsible for more than 3,000 acres permanently conserved for wildlife and fisheries habitat, recreation and water access, and resiliency in a changing climate. Many of you have enjoyed our lands, including Kennebec Banks Rest Area and Coburn Woods in Skowhegan, and Jacobs' Pines and Weston Woods in Madison.

Our vision for Parkman Hill Farm is to develop it as a venue for advancing Somerset Woods' commitment to building community and advancing conservation in a changing climate. The land and buildings provide an opportunity to develop demonstration sites and host educational programs. The farmhouse, at 380 Parkman Hill Road, will house Somerset Woods' offices, provide staff housing for Somerset Woods and our partners, and support year-round programs and events presented by the land trust and community groups. As a nonprofit landowner, we continue to pay property taxes on the rental properties at Parkman Hill and make a voluntary Payment in Lieu of Taxes on the farmhouse and land.

We have started work on a trail system that will be open for public use – including hiking, skiing, and biking. In 2024, we established a picnic area and mowed trail around the field at the overlook and a loop trail off McCarty Road. We also cleared the old College Avenue trail of downed trees and debris and are working with the snowmobile club for future grooming for skiing and snowshoeing. Come out and explore!

The majority of the property is open for hunting. Hunters should visit our Web site ([www.SomersetWoodsTrustees.org/hunting](http://www.SomersetWoodsTrustees.org/hunting)) to review our property guidelines and complete the Hunter Registration form annually.

So many of you joined us in October for our night sky tour with Northern Stars Planetarium, and we look forward to welcoming you back in 2025. We have an ambitious program calendar this year thanks to the leadership of a volunteer program committee. We look forward to working with the Solon community to develop Parkman Hill Farm as a center of community programs and activities and encourage you to join us in this effort.

Be sure to visit our Web site and follow Somerset Woods Trustees on Facebook and Instagram for news, events, and program opportunities. If you would like to volunteer, suggest programs, or ask questions, please contact our executive director, Jennifer Brockway, at [Jennifer@SomersetWoodsTrustees.org](mailto:Jennifer@SomersetWoodsTrustees.org).



Note from the Selectmen:

Somerset Woods is a tax-exempt organization, but they offered us and we accepted a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) of \$4,000 a year. We are grateful this 646-acre property with its gorgeous views and extensive woods is being cared for, preserved, and open to public use for recreational activities. The value to the community to have this land preserved and taken care of is immeasurable.

# BAKER MOUNTAIN SKI TOW CLUB

Baker Mountain Ski Area was established in 1937 and is one of the oldest ski areas in the state and is one of only 14 community ski areas left in Maine. Baker Mountain Ski Tow Club members and volunteers have run the ski area since 1959. Many surrounding towns donate towards the operating budget so ticket prices can be kept reasonable. There is a 2,140 foot T-bar, one large open slope, and 4 side trails and a 'bunny slope' that can also be used for free sledding. There are ski and snowboard rentals and free lessons are sometimes available. It is open weekends and school vacations and has night skiing. There is also a snack bar. For more information or to volunteer, call 717-0404.

## INCOME:

|                        |                    |             |
|------------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| Balance 1/1/2024       | \$ 6,913.84        |             |
| Town of Athens         | \$ 250.00          |             |
| Town of Bingham        | \$ 7,000.00        |             |
| Town of Caratunk       | \$ 750.00          |             |
| Town of Embden         | \$ 1,000.00        |             |
| Town of The Forks      | \$ 1,000.00        |             |
| Town of Moscow         | \$ 7,000.00        |             |
| Town of Pleasant Ridge | \$ 3,500.00        |             |
| Town of Solon          | \$ 1,250.00        |             |
| Town of West Forks     | \$ 750.00          |             |
| Food Sales             | \$ 2,127.50        |             |
| Day Tickets            | \$ 1,185.00        |             |
| K-12 Tickets           | \$ 625.00          |             |
| Night Tickets          | \$ 285.00          |             |
| Rentals                | \$ 843.00          |             |
| Seasonal               | \$ 2,410.00        |             |
| Miscellaneous          | \$ 1,643.00        |             |
| MSAD 13/RSU 83         | \$ 2,000.00        |             |
| Sponsor a Tower        | <u>\$ 2,250.00</u> | \$42,782.34 |

## EXPEDITURES:

|                     |                    |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Telephone           | \$ 260.61          |                    |
| Fuel                | \$ 256.89          |                    |
| Food                | \$ 1,736.50        |                    |
| Repairs             | \$ 4,340.68        |                    |
| Central Maine Power | \$ 8,563.25        |                    |
| Heat                | \$ 4,563.89        |                    |
| Miscellaneous       | \$ 3,528.05        |                    |
| Insurance           | \$ 9,485.87        |                    |
| Inspections         | <u>\$ 4,149.94</u> | <u>\$36,885.68</u> |
| Balance 12/31/2024  |                    | \$ 5,896.66        |

# 2024 AUDITOR'S REPORT

## Maine Municipal Audit Services, PA

Mindy J. Cyr, CPA

### Independent Auditors' Report

To the Select Board  
Town of Solon  
Solon, Maine

#### OPINIONS

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Town of Solon, Maine, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Town of Solon, Maine's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town of Solon, Maine, as of December 31, 2024, and the respective changes in financial position for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

#### BASIS FOR OPINIONS

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Town of Solon, Maine, and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

#### RESPONSIBILITIES OF MANAGEMENT FOR THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control relevant to preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Town of Solon, Maine's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

#### AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.

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PO Box 313, Levant, Maine 04456

Phone: (207) 884-6408 Email: [maineaudits@gmail.com](mailto:maineaudits@gmail.com)

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Town of Solon, Maine's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Town of Solon, Maine's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

#### **REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis and budgetary comparison schedule, on pages 5-9, and 27 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

*Maine Municipal Audit Services, PA*

Levant, Maine

January 18, 2025



# Town of Solon, Maine

## Management's Discussion and Analysis

### Fiscal Year ending December 31, 2024

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The total unassigned fund balance for the general fund was \$628,896, which represents 21% of the total general fund expenditures.

#### **Government Wide Financial Analysis:**

Approximately 54% of the Town's net position is its investment in capital assets such as land, buildings, equipment and infrastructure (roads, bridges, etc), less any related outstanding debt used to acquire those assets. The Town uses these assets to provide services to the community; these capital assets are not available for future spending. While the Town's investment in the capital assets is reported net of the related debt, it is important to note that the resources required to repay this debt must be provided from other sources, since the capital assets themselves are not liquid assets.

|                                                                           | Governmental Activities |                     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
|                                                                           | 12/31/2024              | 12/31/2023          |
| Current Assets *                                                          | \$ 2,607,005            | \$ 1,784,536        |
| Capital Assets                                                            | 2,920,270               | 2,800,516           |
| <b>Total Assets</b>                                                       | <b>5,527,275</b>        | <b>4,585,052</b>    |
| <b>Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>                                     | <b>-</b>                | <b>-</b>            |
| <b>Total Assets &amp; Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>                  | <b>\$ 5,527,275</b>     | <b>\$ 4,585,052</b> |
| Current Liabilities                                                       | \$ 127,544              | \$ 34,828           |
| <b>Total Liabilities</b>                                                  | <b>127,544</b>          | <b>34,828</b>       |
| Property Taxes Collected in Advance                                       | 2,960                   | 8,267               |
| <b>Total Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>                                | <b>2,960</b>            | <b>8,267</b>        |
| <b>NET POSITION:</b>                                                      |                         |                     |
| Net Investment in Capital Assets                                          | 2,920,270               | 2,800,516           |
| Unrestricted                                                              | 2,476,501               | 1,741,442           |
| <b>Total Net Position</b>                                                 | <b>5,396,771</b>        | <b>4,541,958</b>    |
| <b>Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources, and Net Position</b> | <b>\$ 5,527,275</b>     | <b>\$ 4,585,052</b> |

\* These numbers included funds expected to be received from FEMA/MEMA in 2025 of \$915,483.

# Town of Solon, Maine

## Management's Discussion and Analysis

### Fiscal Year ending December 31, 2024

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Approximately 58% of the Town's total revenue was made up by taxes – property and excise, approximately 38% was from State revenues and grants, and approximately 4% was made up of interest, charges for services, and other miscellaneous revenues.

|                                      | Governmental Activities |                  |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
|                                      | 12/31/2024              | 12/31/2023       |
| <b>Revenues:</b>                     |                         |                  |
| <i>Program Revenues:</i>             |                         |                  |
| Charges for Services                 | \$ 22,748               | 18,468           |
| Operating Grants and Contributions * | 1,534,963               | 723,152          |
| <i>General Revenues:</i>             |                         |                  |
| Taxes                                | 2,297,867               | 2,008,905        |
| Other revenues                       | 102,883                 | 129,369          |
| Transfer from Fiduciary fund         | 9,601                   | 19,254           |
| <b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>                | <b>3,968,062</b>        | <b>2,899,148</b> |
| <b>Expenses:</b>                     |                         |                  |
| General government                   | 356,159                 | 236,662          |
| Protection                           | 129,422                 | 83,813           |
| Public works                         | 487,330                 | 342,112          |
| Sanitation                           | 145,338                 | 96,326           |
| Education                            | 1,292,752               | 1,202,614        |
| County tax                           | 249,321                 | 258,147          |
| Interest on long-term debt           | -                       | 192              |
| Health and welfare                   | 28,803                  | 35,940           |
| Unclassified                         | 64,937                  | 123,111          |
| Depreciation                         | 359,186                 | 302,730          |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>                | <b>3,113,249</b>        | <b>2,681,647</b> |
| <b>Changes in Net Position</b>       | <b>854,813</b>          | <b>217,501</b>   |
| <b>Beginning Net Position</b>        | <b>4,541,958</b>        | <b>4,324,457</b> |
| <b>Ending Net Position</b>           | <b>\$ 5,396,771</b>     | <b>4,541,958</b> |

\* These numbers included funds expected to be received from FEMA/MEMA in 2025 of \$915,483.

### Financial Analysis of the Fund Financial Statements:

The focus of the Town's governmental funds is to provide information on near-term inflows, outflows and balances of resources available for spending. This information is useful in assessing the Town's financing requirements. In particular, the unassigned fund balance may serve as a benchmark of a government's net resources for spending at the end of the year.



# **Town of Solon, Maine**

## **Management's Discussion and Analysis**

### **Fiscal Year ending December 31, 2024**

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At the end of the year, the Town's governmental funds reported a combined ending fund balance of \$2,305,751, an increase of \$692,958 from the prior year. Approximately 27% of the total is the Town's unassigned fund balance. The remainder is reserved to indicate that it is not available for spending due to being committed to liquidate contracts and commitments of the prior year, or for a variety of other purposes. These numbers included funds expected to be received from FEMA/MEMA in 2025 of \$915,483.

Differences between the original budget and the final amended budget include budget appropriations carried over from the prior year and other revenues collected during the fiscal year.

For further detail, a budget to actual comparison for the General Fund can be found on Schedule A, page 26 of the financial statements.

#### **Capital Assets:**

The Town's investment in capital assets for the governmental activities is \$13,099,515, net of accumulated depreciation of \$10,179,245, giving a net book value of \$2,920,270. Additions to capital assets for the year include; the purchase of two town trucks, public works equipment, baler and container for the transfer station, and some paving.

The Town's capital asset activity for the year can be found in the footnotes on page 23 of this report.

#### **Long-Term Debt:**

The Town had no outstanding long-term debt as of December 31, 2024.

#### **Contacting the Town's Management:**

This financial report is designed to provide a general overview of the Town's finances for all interested parties. If you have any questions about this report or need additional financial information, contact the Town Office at 121 S. Main Street, Solon, Maine 04979.

Town of Solon, Maine  
Statement of Net Position  
December 31, 2024

|                                                                           | Total<br>Governmental<br>Activities |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <hr/>                                                                     |                                     |
| <b>ASSETS:</b>                                                            |                                     |
| <i>Current assets:</i>                                                    |                                     |
| Cash and cash equivalents                                                 | \$ 1,450,491                        |
| Accounts receivable                                                       | 943,077                             |
| Taxes receivable                                                          | 180,939                             |
| Tax liens receivable                                                      | <u>32,498</u>                       |
| <i>Total current assets</i>                                               | \$ 2,607,005                        |
| <i>Non-current assets:</i>                                                |                                     |
| Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation                           | <u>2,920,270</u>                    |
| <i>Total non-current assets</i>                                           | <u>2,920,270</u>                    |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS AND DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>                    | <b><u>\$ 5,527,275</u></b>          |
| <hr/>                                                                     |                                     |
| <b>LIABILITIES:</b>                                                       |                                     |
| <i>Current liabilities:</i>                                               |                                     |
| Accounts payable                                                          | <u>\$ 127,544</u>                   |
| <i>Total current liabilities</i>                                          | \$ 127,544                          |
| <b>DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES:</b>                                     |                                     |
| Taxes collected in advance                                                | <u>2,960</u>                        |
| <i>Total deferred inflows of resources</i>                                | 2,960                               |
| <b>NET POSITION:</b>                                                      |                                     |
| Net investment in capital assets                                          | 2,920,270                           |
| Unrestricted                                                              | <u>2,476,501</u>                    |
| <b>TOTAL NET POSITION</b>                                                 | <b><u>5,396,771</u></b>             |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES, AND NET POSITION</b> | <b><u>\$ 5,527,275</u></b>          |

Town of Solon, Maine  
Statement of Activities  
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

|                                                                      | Net (Expense) Revenue and Changes<br>in Net Position |                                          |                            |                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
|                                                                      | Program Revenues                                     |                                          | Primary Government         |                    |
|                                                                      | Charges for<br>Services                              | Operating<br>Grants and<br>Contributions | Governmental<br>Activities | Total              |
| Expenses                                                             |                                                      |                                          |                            |                    |
| <i>Governmental activities:</i>                                      |                                                      |                                          |                            |                    |
| General government                                                   | \$ 356,159                                           | \$ 9,886                                 | \$ -                       | \$ (346,273)       |
| Protection                                                           | 129,422                                              | -                                        | -                          | (129,422)          |
| Public works                                                         | 487,330                                              | 2,000                                    | 965,075                    | 479,745            |
| Sanitation                                                           | 145,338                                              | 10,861                                   | -                          | (134,476)          |
| Education                                                            | 1,292,752                                            | -                                        | -                          | (1,292,752)        |
| County tax                                                           | 249,321                                              | -                                        | -                          | (249,321)          |
| Health and welfare                                                   | 28,803                                               | -                                        | 7,944                      | (20,859)           |
| Unclassified                                                         | 64,937                                               | -                                        | -                          | (64,937)           |
| Depreciation                                                         | 359,186                                              | -                                        | -                          | (359,186)          |
| <i>Total governmental activities</i>                                 | <i>3,113,249</i>                                     | <i>22,748</i>                            | <i>973,019</i>             | <i>(2,117,482)</i> |
| <i>Total primary government</i>                                      | <i>3,113,249</i>                                     | <i>22,748</i>                            | <i>973,019</i>             | <i>(2,117,482)</i> |
| <i>General revenues:</i>                                             |                                                      |                                          |                            |                    |
| Property taxes, levied for general purposes                          |                                                      |                                          |                            | 2,059,180          |
| Excise taxes                                                         |                                                      |                                          |                            | 238,687            |
| Licenses and permits                                                 |                                                      |                                          |                            | 7,731              |
| <i>Grants and contributions not restricted to specific programs:</i> |                                                      |                                          |                            |                    |
| State revenue sharing                                                |                                                      |                                          |                            | 219,871            |
| Other                                                                |                                                      |                                          |                            | 342,074            |
| Investment income                                                    |                                                      |                                          |                            | 31,318             |
| Miscellaneous revenues                                               |                                                      |                                          |                            | 63,835             |
| Transfers from Fiduciary Fund (net)                                  |                                                      |                                          |                            | 9,601              |
| <i>Total general revenues and transfers</i>                          |                                                      |                                          |                            | <i>2,972,295</i>   |
| <i>Changes in net position</i>                                       |                                                      |                                          |                            | <i>854,813</i>     |
| <b>NET POSITION - BEGINNING</b>                                      |                                                      |                                          |                            | <b>4,541,958</b>   |
| <b>NET POSITION - ENDING</b>                                         |                                                      |                                          | <b>\$</b>                  | <b>5,396,771</b>   |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

Town of Solon, Maine  
Balance Sheet  
Governmental Funds  
December 31, 2024

|                                                                                                                       | General Fund        | Total<br>Governmental<br>Funds |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>                                                                                                         |                     |                                |
| Cash and cash equivalents                                                                                             | \$ 1,450,491        | \$ 1,450,491                   |
| Accounts receivable                                                                                                   | 943,077             | 943,077                        |
| Taxes receivable, net                                                                                                 | 180,939             | 180,939                        |
| Tax liens receivable                                                                                                  | 32,498              | 32,498                         |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>                                                                                                   | <b>\$ 2,607,005</b> | <b>\$ 2,607,005</b>            |
| <b>LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES, AND FUND BALANCES</b>                                                  |                     |                                |
| <i>Liabilities:</i>                                                                                                   |                     |                                |
| Accounts payable                                                                                                      | \$ 127,544          | \$ 127,544                     |
| <i>Total liabilities</i>                                                                                              | <i>127,544</i>      | <i>127,544</i>                 |
| <i>Deferred inflows of resources:</i>                                                                                 |                     |                                |
| Taxes collected in advance                                                                                            | 2,960               | 2,960                          |
| Uncollected property taxes                                                                                            | 170,750             | 170,750                        |
| <i>Total deferred inflows of resources</i>                                                                            | <i>173,710</i>      | <i>173,710</i>                 |
| <i>Fund balances:</i>                                                                                                 |                     |                                |
| Assigned - see footnotes                                                                                              | 1,676,855           | 1,676,855                      |
| Unassigned                                                                                                            | 628,896             | 628,896                        |
| <i>Total fund balances</i>                                                                                            | <i>2,305,751</i>    | <i>2,305,751</i>               |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES, AND FUND BALANCES</b>                                            | <b>\$ 2,607,005</b> |                                |
| <i>Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net position (Stmt. 1) are different because:</i> |                     |                                |
| Depreciable and non-depreciable capital assets as reported in Stmt. 1                                                 |                     | 2,920,270                      |
| Deferred property taxes not reported on Stmt. 1                                                                       |                     | 170,750                        |
| <b>NET POSITION OF GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES</b>                                                                        |                     | <b>\$ 5,396,771</b>            |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

Town of Solon, Maine  
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances  
Governmental Funds  
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

|                                                                  | General Fund        | Total<br>Governmental<br>Funds |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>REVENUES:</b>                                                 |                     |                                |
| Property taxes                                                   | \$ 2,017,079        | \$ 2,017,079                   |
| Excise taxes                                                     | 238,687             | 238,687                        |
| Intergovernmental revenue                                        | 1,534,963           | 1,534,963                      |
| Charges for services                                             | 22,748              | 22,748                         |
| Licenses and permits                                             | 7,731               | 7,731                          |
| Investment income                                                | 31,318              | 31,318                         |
| Other revenue                                                    | 63,835              | 63,835                         |
| <i>Total revenues</i>                                            | <i>3,916,360</i>    | <i>3,916,360</i>               |
| <b>EXPENDITURES:</b>                                             |                     |                                |
| General government                                               | 356,159             | 356,159                        |
| Protection                                                       | 129,422             | 129,422                        |
| Public works                                                     | 966,270             | 966,270                        |
| Sanitation                                                       | 145,338             | 145,338                        |
| Education                                                        | 1,292,752           | 1,292,752                      |
| County tax                                                       | 249,321             | 249,321                        |
| Health and welfare                                               | 28,803              | 28,803                         |
| Unclassified                                                     | 64,937              | 64,937                         |
| <i>Total expenditures</i>                                        | <i>3,233,003</i>    | <i>3,233,003</i>               |
| <i>Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures</i> | <i>683,358</i>      | <i>683,358</i>                 |
| <b>OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)</b>                            |                     |                                |
| Transfers in                                                     | 10,501              | 10,501                         |
| Transfers out                                                    | (900)               | (900)                          |
| <i>Total other financing sources (uses)</i>                      | <i>9,601</i>        | <i>9,601</i>                   |
| <i>Net change in fund balances</i>                               | <i>692,958</i>      | <i>692,958</i>                 |
| <b>FUND BALANCES - BEGINNING</b>                                 | <b>1,612,793</b>    | <b>1,612,793</b>               |
| <b>FUND BALANCES - ENDING</b>                                    | <b>\$ 2,305,751</b> | <b>\$ 2,305,751</b>            |

Net change in fund balances - total governmental funds (Statement 4) \$ 692,958

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the Statement of Activities (Stmnt. 2) are different due to the following items:

Depreciation expense recorded on Statement of Activities, yet not required to be recorded as expenditures on Governmental Funds Report (359,186)

Capital outlays expensed on the Governmental Funds Report (Stmnt. 4), yet not considered an expense for the purposes of Statement of Activities (Stmnt. 2) 478,940

Revenues in the Statement of Activities (Stmnt 2) that do not provide current financial resources are not reported as revenues in the funds. More specifically, this amount represents the change in deferred property taxes and other deferred revenue. 42,101

**Changes in net position of governmental activities (see Stmnt. 2) \$ 854,813**

Town of Solon, Maine  
Statement of Fiduciary Net Position  
Fiduciary Funds  
December 31, 2024

|                                             | Private Purpose<br>Trust Fund |                   |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>                               |                               |                   |
| Investments                                 | \$ 883,561                    |                   |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>                         |                               | <b>\$ 883,561</b> |
| <b>NET POSITION</b>                         |                               |                   |
| Held for:                                   |                               |                   |
| Library trust                               | \$ 96,540                     |                   |
| Historical society                          | 158,398                       |                   |
| Cemetery                                    | 225,583                       |                   |
| Scholarship                                 | 59,117                        |                   |
| Jones fund                                  | 343,924                       |                   |
| Fiduciary net position                      |                               | <b>\$ 883,561</b> |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET POSITION</b> |                               | <b>\$ 883,561</b> |

Respectfully submitted,

Mindy J. Cyr, CPA  
Maine Municipal Audit Services, PA  
Municipal Auditor

# **RULES OF TOWN MEETING**

- All comments or questions will be directed to the Moderator. No one may speak until recognized by the moderator.
- The article will be read in full, and the recommendations of the Selectmen and Budget Committee will be stated.
- An affirmative motion will be made by an identified voter and seconded by an identified voter. No negatives motions will be accepted.
- The Moderator will ask for a show of hands in favor and in opposition of the motion.
- A written ballot vote can be requested and will be done if the voters choose to do so.
- The vote will be announced. The vote may be challenged by at least 7 voters.
- Any decision by the moderator may be challenged. He may be overruled by a majority vote of the voters.
- No smoking is allowed in the building.
- General provisions for town meetings are contained in MSRA Title 30.

## **GENERAL TOWN MEETING PROVISIONS**

### *THE FOLLOWING PROVISIONS APPLY TO ALL TOWN MEETINGS:*

1. **QUALIFIED VOTER:** Every registered voter in the town may vote in the election of all town officials and in all town affairs.
2. **MODERATOR ELECTED AND SWORN:** The Clerk, or in the Clerk's absence a Selectman or Constable, shall open the meeting by:
  - a. Calling for the election of a moderator by written ballot
  - b. Receiving and counting votes for moderator
  - c. Swearing in the moderator
3. **MODERATOR PRESIDES:** As soon as he/she has been elected and sworn in, the moderator shall preside over and supervise the voting at the meeting and may appoint a deputy moderator to assist. If the moderator is absent or unable to carry out the duties, the Clerk, or in the clerk's absence a selectman or constable, may call for the election of a deputy moderator to act in the absence of the moderator.
  - a. All persons shall be silent at the moderator's command. A person may not speak before the moderator recognizes that person. A person who is not a voter in the town may speak at the meeting only with the consent of 2/3 of the voters present.

- b. If any person, after a command for order by the moderator, continues to act in a disorderly manner, the moderator may direct that person to leave the meeting. If the person refuses to leave, the moderator may have that person removed by a constable and confined until the meeting is adjourned.
  - c. When a vote declared by the moderator is immediately questioned by at least 7 voters, the moderator shall make certain by polling the voters or by a method directed by the municipal legislative body.
  - d. The moderator shall serve until the meeting is adjourned. The moderator is subject to the same penalties for neglect of official duty as other town officials.
- 4.

**VOTES RECORDED BY THE CLERK:** The clerk shall accurately record the votes of the meeting. If the clerk is absent, the moderator shall appoint and swear in a temporary clerk.

5. **WRITTEN BALLOTS:** The clerk shall prepare the ballots. Ballots shall be of uniform size and color and must be blank except that 2 squares with “yes” on one and “no” by the other may be printed on them. The moderator shall ensure that each voter receives only one ballot for each vote taken.
6. **LOCATION OF MEETINGS:** Town meetings may be held outside the corporate limits of the municipality if the municipal officers determine that there is not adequate facility for the meeting within the municipality.

The proposed location must be:

- a. Within an adjoining or nearby municipality
- b. Not more than 25 miles from the corporate limits of the municipality holding the meeting.
- c. Reasonably accessible to all voters of the town.

**The Inhabitants of the Town of Solon are requested to register to vote and assemble to vote on town affairs, at the Solon Elementary School on the first Saturday of March at 1:30 pm to attend the Annual Town Meeting.**

**The election of municipal officials (Board of Selectmen, Road Commissioner, RSU 75 Board of Directors) is held in the forenoon from 8:00 am to 12:15 pm. Absentee ballots are available from the Clerk’s Office 30 days prior.**



# **TOWN MEETING RELATED ORDINANCES**

## **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ORDINANCE**

All warrant articles shall be reviewed by the Advisory Committee prior to any Annual or Special Town Meeting. No articles will be accepted after the Advisory Committee meets.

## **ANTICIPATED BUDGET EXPENSE ORDINANCE**

The Town will authorize the Municipal Officers to spend an amount not to exceed 3/12 of the budgeted amount in each budget category of the previous annual budget during the period from January 1<sup>st</sup> of next year to the Annual Town Meeting.

## **LONGFELLOW CABLE FRANCHISE FEES ORDINANCE**

All franchise fees received from Longfellow Cable Company Inc. shall be placed in an Office Equipment and Maintenance Account. (*Longfellow Cable is now Spectrum Charter Cable*)

## **APPOINTED OFFICIALS' ORDINANCE**

All appointed officials of the Town shall continue in their appointments until reappointments are made.

## **VACATION ORDINANCE**

All full-time employees of the Town of Solon shall have two weeks' paid vacation at their normal weekly rate, whether they are appointed, elected or hired at an hourly rate, after one year's employment.

## **SNOWMOBILE REIMBURSEMENT ORDINANCE**

The Town shall give to the Solon Snowhawks Snowmobile Club all monies returned to the Town by the State Treasurer for snowmobile registrations. All monies are to be used on trails and bridges open to public use within the Town of Solon.

# RESULTS OF 2024 TOWN MEETING

Article 1: Peter Mills was elected Moderator.

Article 2: The following were elected:

|                         |                            |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Selectman:              | Wayne Johnson, 3-year term |
| Road Commissioner:      | Gary Bishop, 1 year term   |
| School Board Directors: | Keith Plourd, 3-year term  |

Article 3: Approved exceeding the property tax levy limit if the budget approved at Town Meeting exceeds the limit.

Article 4: Approved covering the overage in the Winter Roads account.

Articles 5-9: Spending articles adopted as recommended.

Article 10: Amended to increase Solon Food Cupboard appropriation from \$6,000 to \$15,000. Article passed as amended.

Articles 11-18: Spending articles adopted as recommended with correcting Article 12 for the Recreation Facilities & Maintenance Reserve to \$2,000.

Article 19: Approved closing the Tree Planting Reserve Account and moving the funds to the Municipal Grounds Maintenance Reserve Account.

Articles 20 & 21: Approved creating a Web Site Fee Reserve Account and raising \$2,000 for the account.

Articles 22 & 23: Approved creating a Fire Department Equipment Reserve Account and raising \$5,000 for the account.

Articles 24 & 25: Approved creating a Town Garage Reserve Account and transferring \$45,000 from ARPA Reserve to the account.

Articles 26 & 27: Approved as recommended.

Article 28: Approved using \$238,000 from the Highway Equipment Reserve Fund to purchase a new truck, plow, and dump/sander body.

Article 29: Approved using \$98,628.98 from FEMA's Federal Emergency Declaration reimbursement for the May 1, 2023, rain flooding event to reimburse the LRAP funds used to cover the Summer Roads budget overage.

Article 30: Approved using \$15,000 of ARPA funds to purchase a baler and trailer for the Transfer Station. Article amended to also use \$5,000 from the Transfer Station Equipment Reserve.

Article 31: Authorized the Selectmen to discuss with MDOT and the Old Canada Road Scenic Byway Committee regarding ownership, maintenance, and improvements of the Robbins Hill Scenic Overlook and to create a committee as needed

Article 32: The Town did not approve having the Road Commissioner be an appointed position instead of an elected position.

Article 33: Approved the naming of Woods Road.

Article 34: Approved using \$40,000 of LRAP funds to extend the length of the 3 culverts at Michael Stream on the Hole in the Wall Road.

Articles 35 thru 41: These articles are either required by Maine law every year or are articles included every year for the reasons stated in the articles. All were approved as recommended.

## **WARRANT FOR SPECIAL TOWN MEETING**

To Dianna Rollins, a resident of the Town of Solon in the County of Somerset: In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required by law to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Solon, qualified to vote in town affairs, to assemble at the Solon Fire Station on the 20th day of July AD 2024 at ten o'clock in the morning, then and there, in accordance with the Revised Statutes of the State of Maine 1964, Title 30, Paragraph 2051 and seq. or as amended, to elect a moderator, and to transact all other business as enumerated in this Warrant.

Article 1: To choose a Moderator to preside at said meeting.  
*Motion to elect Peter Mills as Moderator of said meeting: Elaine Aloes.*  
*Seconded by Wayne Johnson. With no other nominations, motion carried.*

Article 2: To see if the Town will adopt the 2024 revised version of Solon's Building Permit Ordinance.  
Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes  
*Motion to approve Article 2 as written by Sherry Rogers. Seconded by Sarah Davis. Motion carries.*

Article 3: To see if the Town will approve the installation of a streetlight at the eastern corner of the intersection of S. Solon Road and Meeting House Road.

Selectmen make no recommendation and Advisory Committee recommends No

*Motion to approve Article 3 as written: Jeffrey Chase. Seconded by Andrew Davis. Motion fails.*

*\*\*Suggested by Sarah Davis to install a '4-way' or 'stop ahead' sign for additional safety.*

*\*\*Explanation allowed in advance of motions on Article 4 and Article 5 as they directly relate.*

Article 4: To see if the Town will approve a turnaround easement in the driveway of 117 Padham Road.

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend No with the following wording:

*"The driveway of 117 Padham Road, Map R8 Lot 19, with the turn around area marked on the attached google map of the property and the agreement that this area will be kept clear of vehicles and any other obstructions from November 15th to April 15th (hereinafter referred to as the "Easement Premises")*

With the right to enter said Easement Premises with people and machines, and to plow, construct, repair, and/or maintain a road turnaround for winter road maintenance purposes and for a turnaround for summer maintenance equipment of the Padham Road on said Easement Premises."

*Motion to approve Article 4 a written by Kyle Bishop. Seconded by Eric Layman. Article fails 12-16.*

Article 5: To see if the Town will approve a turnaround easement on the Padham Road on the land owned by Michael Padham, Map R8 Lot 17.

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend Yes with the following wording:

*A turn around easement on Map R8 Lot 17 starting 100' north of the northeast corner of Map R8 Lot 17-02 (approximate GPS 44.915776, 69.794499) then proceeding northerly 125' to approximate GPS 44.916149, 69.794244 and extending the town's right of way on the west side of the road from 24.75 feet to 33 feet from the center line of Padham Road with the turn around area marked on the attached google map of the property (hereinafter referred to as the "Easement Premises"). With the right to enter said Easement Premises with people and machines, and to plow, construct, repair, and/or maintain a road turnaround for winter and summer road maintenance purposes of the Padham Road on said Easement Premises."*

*Motion to approve Article 5 as written by Sarah Davis. Seconded by Sherry Rogers. Motion carries 20 to 7.*

Article 6: To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen to use funds from the Road Paving Reserve Account to purchase a dump body and sander for the 2015 Western Star truck.

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes and using up to \$50,000  
*Motion to approve Article 6 as recommended by Andy Davis. Seconded by Michael Golden. Motion carries.*

Article 7: To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen to use funds from the Local Roads Assistance Program (LRAP) Account to repair the stream crossing culverts at Michael Stream on Hole in the Wall Road.

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes and using up to \$75,000 with any funds received from FEMA/MEMA for this project being put back in the LRAP account.

*Motion to approve Article 7 as recommended by Andy Davis. Seconded by Michael Golden. Motion carries.*

Article 8: To see if the Town will approve the purchase of a 2016 International Terrastar 2-ton truck with plow and dump/sander body for \$28,635 from Highway Equipment Reserve Funds.

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes and to sell the 2020 Ford 1-ton pickup truck with plow, dump body, and sander with the proceeds to go into the Highway Equipment Reserve Fund.

*Motion to Approve Article 8 as written by Kim Johnson. Seconded by Sherry Rogers. Motion carries.*

Article 9: To see if the Town will approve the purchase of an Excavator for \$96,500.

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes and to pay a down payment of \$10,000 from the Summer Roads budget and \$15,000 from the Highway Equipment Reserve Fund and to borrow the balance of \$71,500 over a 5-year period.

#### FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Town of Solon

Total Indebtedness:

|                                                                                        |       |              |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|--------------|
| a. Bonds outstanding and unpaid                                                        | \$    | 0.00         |
| b. Bonds Authorized and unissued                                                       | \$    | 0.00         |
| c. Bonds to be issued if this question is approved with the Selectmen's recommendation |       |              |
|                                                                                        | TOTAL | \$ 71,500.00 |

Costs:

At an estimate maximum interest rate of 7.55%, the estimated cost of this bond issue over 5 years will be:

|                        |                    |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Principal              | \$71,500.00        |
| Interest               | <u>\$14,564.77</u> |
| TOTAL NEW DEBT SERVICE | \$86,064.77        |

Validity:

The validity of the bonds and of the voters' certification of the bonds may not be affected by any errors in the above estimates. If the actual amount of the total debt service for the bond issues varies from the estimate, the ratification by the electors is nevertheless conclusive and the validity of the bond issue is not affected by the reason of the variance. /s/ Danika Riggs, Treasurer, Town of Solon

*Motion to approve Article 9 as recommended by Michael Golden. Seconded by Craig Gerry. First motion withdrawn.*

*Motion to approve Article 9 without taking out a loan and pay for the purchase with funding of \$10,000 from Summer Roads and \$86,500 from the Road Paving Reserve by Sarah Davis. Seconded by Sherry Rogers. Second motion carries.*

## EXPLANATIONS OF ARTICLES

### 2025 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

The Selectmen's recommended municipal budget needed to be raised by taxation is \$1,276,483 which is \$58,320 more than in 2024 (4.8% increase). \$30,500 of that increase is for additional Capital Reserve funds for the town garage, sidewalks, and transfer station equipment reserves. After reducing this budget by State Revenue Sharing, KRDA funds, and available surplus the budget by taxation is \$595,651 which is \$47,410 less than last year. The Advisory Committee's recommendation is \$350 more than the Selectmen's.

**ARTICLE 3:** The Accounts Overage is over \$2,544.35. \$5,000 was approved at the 2024 Annual Town Meeting to cover overage in town accounts. The following accounts were overdrawn and covered by this Accounts Overage: RSU 74 \$3.00; Street Lights \$2,416.15; and Fire Department \$5,125.20 for a total of \$7,544.35. We need town approval for the additional \$2,544.35 to be covered by surplus funds.

**ARTICLES 4 THRU 18:** Articles to raise money for various purposes. Our Budget Worksheet will be available at the Town Office and at the Town Meeting. Salaries have been increased due to the State Minimum Wage increase from \$14.15 to \$14.65 for 2025 and the 3.5% cost-of-living increase reported in December. Other items of note in that group are listed below.

**ARTICLE 4: GENERAL GOVERNMENT:** This year's budget request is the same as in 2024. The Treasurer and Deputy Clerk/Tax Collector positions are now being done by one person so there is a salary saving there. The Chair of Selectmen hours have been increased from 24 to 28 hours a week. We also had to add mandatory funding for the Paid Family & Medical Leave insurance for town employees. We moved electrical costs to Public Utilities.

**ARTICLES 5 & 6: PUBLIC WORKS & SANITATION:** Small increase to salaries & cost of supplies. We moved their electrical costs to Public Utilities.

**ARTICLE 7: LIBRARY:** Increase due to less reliance on investment funds. We moved their electrical costs to Public Utilities.

**ARTICLE 8: FIRE DEPARTMENT:** Increase due to the increased number of emergency calls the firefighters are responding to because of our mutual aid agreements. Safety equipment upgrade costs are rising. Certification costs for our fire fighters and our equipment are rising. We moved their electrical costs to Public Utilities.

**ARTICLE 9: PUBLIC UTILITIES:** Increase because we moved all municipal electrical costs to Public Utilities.

**ARTICLE 10: SOCIAL SERVICES:** The Selectmen and the Advisory Committee have different recommendations regarding Sweetser Mental Health. Selectmen \$0 and Advisory Committee \$250

**ARTICLE 16: ORGANIZATION FEES:** The Selectmen and the Advisory Committee have different recommendations regarding Maine Public Radio. Selectmen \$0 and Advisory Committee \$100

**ARTICLE 19:** 2026 will be 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the United States. We want to form a committee and raise funds for a town celebration on July 4, 2026. Please contact the Selectmen if you want to be on the committee.

**ARTICLE 20:** Ironbound Pond Association has requested a donation of \$3,000 to help with the maintenance of Ironbound Pond Road. It is a private road, but it has the Ironbound Pond public boat landing on it. It gets a lot of non-camp owner traffic because of this.

**ARTICLE 21:** This is a request to replace the town's electronic LED message sign with an upgraded LED electronic sign. The new sign will be easier to program and have more room for messages.

**ARTICLE 22:** We have been unable to hire an assessment firm to do the town's revaluation. The Selectmen/Assessors will take on this project and it will require a lot more work than is customary for the Assessors. We need to visit every property with buildings and measure and document the information of each building. Also, all the information will have to be inputted into our real estate assessment program. We want to use the revaluation reserve funds to cover the cost of the additional time involved in doing this.

**ARTICLE 23:** We want to purchase a glass crusher using Transfer Station

Truck & Equipment Reserve funds. Removing glass from our waste stream will save money on our trash disposal fees.

**ARTICLE 24:** This will approve using FEMA funds to reimburse LRAP funds for the public work overages due to the 2023 rain flooding events.

**ARTICLES 25 & 26:** These are requests to use FEMA funds to purchase a mulcher attachment for our excavator to cut back our roadside brush and to buy a 20-ton equipment trailer to replace our 10-ton trailer.

**ARTICLE 27:** This will approve keeping the 2020 Ford 1-ton pick up truck. We had planned on selling it when we got the 2016 2-ton truck. However, it has proved to be very useful, and it will benefit the town to keep it.

**ARTICLES 28 & 29:** #28 will move the funds from the Rainy Day Fund to the Public Works Garage Reserve and close the Rainy Day Fund. #29 will move some of the FEMA funds to the Public Works Garage Reserve.

**ARTICLES 30 & 31:** We are considering renovating the current garage by removing the 2 cold bays on the brook side of the building. We will then rebuild the 2 bays longer and taller and remove the wall between the 2 cold garage bays and the 3 heated garage bays. Depending on what the estimated cost ends up being, we might decide not to do this and just go with replacement of the garage if we can get a grant. We will continue to apply for grants to renovate or replace the garage.

**ARTICLE 32:** This will approve giving grant funds and the snow groomer personal property tax reimbursement the town receives from the state to the Solon Snow Hawks.

**ARTICLE 33:** Due to a recent US Supreme Court case finding, the State of Maine passed new laws in 2024 regarding the municipal handling of foreclosed property. Towns can no longer keep excess funds when the property owner fails to pay the owed amount, and the town has to sell the foreclosed property. We now need to attempt to sell the property through a realtor at fair market value and return the excess funds to the former property owner. We need to update our ordinance because of the state law change.

**ARTICLE 34:** We currently have 2 licensed marijuana cultivation facilities in town which is the maximum allowed under our current ordinance. A third party has requested a cultivation facility license. The change will increase the number of cultivation facilities allowed to 3.

**ARTICLES 35 through 41:** These articles are either required by Maine law every year or are articles included every year for the reasons stated in the articles.



# ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

## WARRANT FOR MARCH 1, 2025 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

To Dianna Rollins, a resident of the Town of Solon in the County of Somerset:

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required by law to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Solon, qualified to vote in town affairs, to assemble at the Solon Elementary School on the 1st day of March AD 2025 at eight o'clock in the forenoon, then and there, in accordance with the Revised Statutes of the State of Maine 1964, Title 30, Paragraph 2051 and seq. or as amended, to elect a moderator, and to transact all other business as enumerated in this Warrant.

For the election of officials, the polls will open immediately after the election of a Moderator and will remain open until 12:15 PM. The Clerk will open absentee ballots at 10:00 AM on March 1, 2025. The transaction of other business as enumerated in Articles 3 to 41 will begin at 1:30 PM.

Article 1: To choose a Moderator by written ballot to preside at said meeting.

Article 2: To elect by secret ballot all municipal officials and school committee members required to be elected.

Nominated Candidates:

|                                              |                 |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Selectman, 3-year term:                      | Elaine Aloes    |
| Road Commissioner, 1-year term:              | Jeffrey Cyr     |
| RSU # 74 School Board Director, 3-year term: | Robert Lindblom |

Article 3: Shall the Town approve appropriating \$2,544.35 from the 2024 surplus to cover the shortfall in the Accounts Overage Account.

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend Yes

Article 4: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for GENERAL GOVERNMENT.

|                       |           |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| Salaries & Benefits   | \$211,760 |
| Insurance             | \$ 39,720 |
| Town Office Utilities | \$ 5,400  |

|                         |           |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| Town Charges            | \$ 41,660 |
| Town Office Maintenance | \$ 2,800  |
| Training, Books, & Dues | \$ 2,360  |
| Elections               | \$ 2,200  |
| Accounts Overage        | \$ 5,000  |

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend \$310,900 plus fees

Article 5: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for PUBLIC WORKS.

|              |           |
|--------------|-----------|
| Winter Roads | \$149,000 |
| Summer Roads | \$146,000 |

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend \$295,000 plus fees, income, & reimbursements.

Article 6: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for SANITATION.

|                  |           |
|------------------|-----------|
| Transfer Station | \$101,450 |
|------------------|-----------|

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend \$101,450 plus fees, income, & reimbursements.

Article 7: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for COOLIDGE LIBRARY RESERVE

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend \$27,600 plus reserve funds, fees, and investment income

Article 8: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for the FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend \$58,500 plus reimbursements & donations

Article 9: To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for PUBLIC UTILITIES.

|                              |          |
|------------------------------|----------|
| Fire Hydrants                | \$24,900 |
| Municipal Buildings Electric | \$ 7,000 |
| Street Lights                | \$10,000 |

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend \$41,900

Article 10: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for SOCIAL SERVICES.

|                           |                            |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| General Assistance        | \$15,000                   |
| KVCAP Transportation Ser. | \$ 750 (request \$750)     |
| Hospice                   | \$ 1,000 (request \$1,000) |

|                                  |                            |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Spectrum Generations             | \$ 788 (request \$787.50)  |
| Kennebec Behavioral Health       | \$ 500 (request \$500)     |
| Sexual Support & Crisis Ctr      | \$ 342 (request \$342)     |
| Solon Food Cupboard              | \$ 8,000 (request \$8,000) |
| Lifeflight Foundation            | \$ 200 (request \$978)     |
| American Red Cross               | \$ 150 (request \$150)     |
| Winslow Community Cupboard       | \$ 0 (req no specific amt) |
| Pine Tree Society                | \$ 100 (request \$100)     |
| Lake Stewards of Maine           | \$ 500 (request \$500)     |
| Nat'l Alliance of Mental Illness | \$ 500 (request \$500)     |
| Sweetser Mental Health           | \$ 0 (request \$250)       |

Selectmen recommend \$27,830 and Advisory Committee recommends \$28,080 by adding \$250 for Sweetser Mental Health

Article 11: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for CODE ENFORCEMENT.

|                          |          |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Code Enforcement Officer | \$ 7,200 |
| 911 Addressing Officer   | \$ 270   |

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend \$7,470 plus fees

Article 12: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for LEISURE SERVICES.

|                                          |         |
|------------------------------------------|---------|
| Recreation Program Reserve               | \$3,000 |
| Recreation Facilities & Maintenance Res. | \$2,000 |
| Swim/Camp Program Reserve                | \$3,000 |
| Special Events                           | \$1,000 |
| 4th of July Fireworks                    | \$2,200 |
| Baker Mountain Ski Club                  | \$1,250 |

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend \$12,450 plus fees, donations, & reserve funds

Article 13: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for the AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM RESERVE.

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend \$6,500 plus fees, donations, & reserve funds

Article 14: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for the CEMETERY MAINTENANCE RESERVE.

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend \$25,800 plus donations, fees, and investment income

Article 15: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for ANIMAL WELFARE.

|                                            |         |
|--------------------------------------------|---------|
| Animal Shelter                             | \$2,000 |
| Animal Control Officer                     | \$3,650 |
| Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend | \$5,650 |

Article 16: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for ORGANIZATION FEES.

|                                                                                                              |                       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Old Canada Road Byway                                                                                        | \$ 500 (req \$500)    |
| Kennebec Valley Council of Governments                                                                       | \$1,625 (req \$1,625) |
| Maine Municipal Association                                                                                  | \$2,393 (req \$2,393) |
| Somerset Economic Development                                                                                | \$ 100 (req \$100)    |
| KRDA/First Park                                                                                              | \$4,815 (req \$4,815) |
| Maine Public Radio                                                                                           | \$ 0 (req \$100)      |
| Selectmen recommend \$9,390 and Advisory Committee recommends \$9,490 by adding \$100 for Maine Public Radio |                       |

Article 17: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for the CAPITAL RESERVE ACCOUNTS.

|                                            |           |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Road Paving Reserve Account                | \$210,000 |
| Gravel Roads Reserve                       | \$ 10,000 |
| Highway Equipment Reserve                  | \$ 25,000 |
| Public Works Garage Reserve                | \$ 20,000 |
| Sidewalk Repair Reserve                    | \$ 10,000 |
| Transfer Station Truck & Equipment Res.    | \$ 10,000 |
| Coolidge Library Capital Reserve           | \$ 3,000  |
| Municipal Buildings Maintenance Reserve    | \$ 3,500  |
| Fire Truck Reserve                         | \$ 8,000  |
| Fire Department Capital Reserve            | \$ 1,000  |
| Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend | \$300,500 |

Article 18: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for the RESERVE ACCOUNTS.

|                                            |          |
|--------------------------------------------|----------|
| Municipal Buildings Heat Reserve           | \$ 8,000 |
| FD Safety Equipment Reserve                | \$ 5,000 |
| GIS Mapping Reserve                        | \$ 2,000 |
| Town Line Survey Reserve                   | \$ 2,500 |
| Municipal Grounds Maintenance Reserve      | \$ 2,500 |
| Web Site Fee Reserve                       | \$ 2,000 |
| Town Flags Reserve                         | \$ 2,000 |
| Town Records Preservation Reserve          | \$ 4,500 |
| Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend | \$28,500 |

Article 19: Shall the Town create a committee to plan events for the 250<sup>th</sup> birthday of the United States in 2026 and create a reserve fund for it and raise funds by taxation for the celebration?

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend Yes and an amount of \$4,000

Article 20: Shall the Town raise an amount by taxation for the Ironbound Pond Association.

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend Yes and an amount of \$3,000

Article 21: Shall the Town raise funds for a new electronic outside sign?

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend Yes and raising \$10,000 by taxation and taking the balance of the cost from the Office Equipment Reserve Account

Article 22: Shall the Town pay the Selectmen, Clerk, and Deputy Clerk for field work and data entry related to the real estate revaluation from the Assessing Revaluation Reserve Fund.

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend Yes

Article 23: Shall the Town use funds from the Transfer Station Truck & Equipment Reserve Fund to purchase a glass crusher for the Transfer Station.

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend Yes and using up to \$3,000

Article 24: Shall the Town approve taking the following budget overage amounts from FEMA's Federal Emergency Declaration reimbursement for the 2023 rain flooding events to reimburse the LRAP funds for covering those overages.

|                   |                           |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| 2023 Summer Roads | \$98,628.98               |
| 2024 Summer Roads | \$ 567.92                 |
| 2024 Winter Roads | <u>\$34,873.15</u>        |
|                   | total amount \$134,070.05 |

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend Yes

Article 25: Shall the Town authorize the Selectmen to use FEMA's Federal Emergency Declaration reimbursement of the 2023 rain flooding events to purchase a mulcher for Public Works.

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend Yes and spending up to \$27,000

Article 26: Shall the town authorize the Selectmen to use FEMA's Federal Emergency Declaration reimbursement of the 2023 rain flooding events to purchase a 20-ton equipment trailer for Public Works.

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend Yes and spending up to \$25,000

Article 27: Shall the town authorize the Selectmen to keep the 2020 Ford 1 ton pickup.

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend Yes

Article 28: Shall the Town close the Rainy Day Reserve fund and transfer the \$34,033.30 in the reserve to the Public Works Garage Reserve?

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend Yes

Article 29: Shall the Town transfer \$175,000 from FEMA's Federal Emergency Declaration reimbursement of the 2023 rain flooding events to the Public Works Garage Reserve?

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend Yes

Article 30: Shall the Town approve renovating the current Public Works garage?

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend Yes and using the funds in the Public Works Garage Reserve to renovate the Public Works garage.

Article 31: Shall the town authorize the Selectmen to apply for, accept, and expend grant money for the purpose of renovating or replacing our Public Works Garage Building.

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend Yes

Article 32: Shall the town authorize the municipal officers to accept grant money available from the State government, Federal government, or other organizations for the Solon Snow Hawks Snowmobile Club and give those funds to the club along with the snow groomer personal property tax reimbursement the town receives from the state.

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend Yes

Article 33: To see if the Town will adopt the revised Foreclosed Property Ordinance:

#### Foreclosed Property Ordinance

The disposition of foreclosed property in the Town of Solon shall be determined at the Annual Town Meeting by the vote of the people.

The disposition options are:

1. For the Selectmen, on behalf of the Town, to give the owner of foreclosed property from the date of the town meeting until 4 pm on the 3rd Thursday of March, or later if another date is approved at the Annual Town Meeting, to redeem the property by paying all the back property taxes, supplemental assessments, interest, costs, fees, and penalties assessed by the town.
2. Should the owner fail to redeem the property by the date approved at the Annual Town Meeting, the Selectmen are authorized to sell and dispose of the property according to the sale procedures required by the most current state law in effect at the time of foreclosure.

Upon sale of the property back to the former owner or to a new owner the town will execute a quit-claim deed for such property.

This repeals all prior Foreclosed Property Ordinances.

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend Yes

Article 34: To see if the Town will adopt the following amendment to the Adult Use Marijuana Cultivation Ordinance:

Section VII.

C. Pursuant to 28-B M.R.S. §402, a total of ~~two (2)~~ **three (3)** Cultivation Facilities (Tier 1, Tier 2, or Tier 3) and one (1) Nursery Cultivation Facility shall be allowed to operate at one time in Solon. No Tier 4 Cultivation Facilities are allowed in Solon. Whenever a license expires and is not renewed, or the Town declines to renew a license, other license applications may be reviewed, but the cap of licenses shall be maintained.

Selectmen recommend Yes and Budget Committee recommend No

Article 35: Shall the Town authorize the municipal officers to make final determinations regarding the closing and opening of roads to winter maintenance pursuant to 23 M.R.S.A Section 2953.

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes

Article 36: Shall the town authorize the municipal officers to apply for, accept and expend grant money available from the State or Federal government or other organization for any public purpose when they deem it to be in the town's best interest and any matching funds needed are available within the current budget and/or reserve funds.

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes

Article 37: Shall the town give the Selectmen and/or the Fire Chief permission to apply for, accept and expend any grants to purchase

equipment, firefighting equipment and safety equipment for the Fire Department.

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes.

Article 38: Shall the town accept the following tax-related articles:

1. Shall the town authorize the Tax Collector and Treasurer to apply any property tax overpayment of less than \$100 to that persons next year's property taxes.

2. Shall the town authorize the Tax Collector or Treasurer to accept prepayments of taxes not yet committed pursuant to 36 M.R.S A Section 506.

3. Shall the town raise and appropriate from the overlay to pay for tax abatements and applicable interest granted during the fiscal year 2025.

4. Shall the town use any surplus funds in excess of \$110,000.00 to reduce taxes.

5. Shall the town authorize the Selectmen to procure a Tax Anticipation Note (TAN) for the purpose of paying municipal indebtedness; such note to be repaid during the current fiscal year from taxes paid during the municipal year.

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes.

Article 39: If the Town accepts Article 38-2, what, if any, interest shall the Town pay on these prepaid taxes? (If the Town votes to pay interest, it cannot be more than 7.5%.)

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend 0%.

Article 40: Shall the town set September 19, 2025 as the date when all unpaid 2025 taxes become interest bearing at the rate to be set by the State. (Rate being 7.5%)

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes.

Article 41: Shall the town set the interest rate to be paid by the town on abated taxes pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. Section 506-A

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes and at a rate of 0%.



Given under my hand this 5th day of February A.D., 2025,

Elaine Aloes, Chair of Selectmen

Wayne Johnson, Vice Chair of Selectmen

John Dunay, Selectman

Attest true copy: Leslie Giroux, Town Clerk

Pursuant to within warrant, I have hereby notified and warned the inhabitants of the Town of Solon, qualified by law to vote in town affairs, to assemble at the Solon Elementary School on the 1st day of March AD 2025 at eight o'clock in the morning then and there in accordance with the Revised Statutes of the State of Maine, 1964, Title 30, Paragraph 2051 and seq. or as amended to act on all articles herein enumerated in this warrant posted at the Solon Town Office, Solon Post Office, Solon Corner Store, and Griswold's Store, conspicuous and public places within Solon, on the 12th day of February AD 2025, which is at least seven days prior to the Annual Town Meeting.

Dianna Rollins, a resident of Solon.



# DATES TO REMEMBER

|                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>March 1, 2025</b> | <b>2025 Annual Town Meeting, Solon Elementary School<br/>Polls open 8 am to 12:15 p.m. Town Meeting at 1:30 p.m.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>April 1</b>       | <b>All property is assessed based on their status and ownership on this date. Any real property sold after April 1 will be billed to the owner of record on April 1. All new applications for all Exemptions must be filed by this date. Declarations of personal property owned (this includes skidders &amp; tractors) should be filed with the Assessors. Motor vehicles and motorized mobile equipment not excised before this date will be taxed as personal property</b> |
| <b>April 21</b>      | <b>Patriots Day. Office closed.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>May 26</b>        | <b>Memorial Day. Office closed.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>June 19</b>       | <b>Juneteenth. Office Closed.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>July 3</b>        | <b>Office closes at noon.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>July 4</b>        | <b>Fireworks at dusk at the Solon School.<br/>Office Closed for July 4<sup>th</sup> Holiday</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>July/August</b>   | <b>The end of July or beginning of August Property Taxes are committed and Property Tax bills will be mailed.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Sept. 1</b>       | <b>Labor Day. Office closed.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Sept. 19</b>      | <b>2025 unpaid property taxes become interest bearing.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Oct. 13</b>       | <b>Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples Day, Office closed.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Nov. 4</b>        | <b>State Referendums. Polls open 8 am to 8 pm.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Nov. 11</b>       | <b>Veterans Day, Office closed.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Nov. 26</b>       | <b>Office closes at noon.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Nov. 27</b>       | <b>Thanksgiving Day, Office closed.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Dec. 1</b>        | <b>New Hunting, Fishing &amp; Dog Licenses are available.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Dec. 24</b>       | <b>Office closed.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Dec. 25</b>       | <b>Christmas Day. Office closed.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Dec. 31</b>       | <b>Office closes at noon. Last business day the Town Office will be open in 2025. All taxes not paid by Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> will be listed in the 2025 Town Report. Boat registrations, hunting, fishing and dog licenses expire. - New dog licenses required by Jan. 1.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Jan. 1, 2026</b>  | <b>New Year's Day. Office Closed.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Jan. 17</b>       | <b>Town Advisory Committee meeting, 8:00 am at Town Office (always on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of January).<br/>All article and budget requests for Annual Town Meeting must be submitted to the Selectmen prior to this meeting.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Jan. 19</b>       | <b>Martin Luther King Day. Office closed.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Jan. 31</b>       | <b>\$25.00 late fee on unpaid dog licenses after this date.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Feb. 16</b>       | <b>Presidents Day. Office closed.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Mar. 7, 2026</b>  | <b>2025 Annual Town Meeting.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

# **NOTICE**

**2025 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
SATURDAY, MARCH 1, 2025  
SOLON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**ELECTION OF TOWN OFFICIALS  
8 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.**

**TOWN MEETING  
1:30 p.m.**

The Town Meeting is the purest form of democracy in existence today. Without citizen participation it cannot work. Please attend the meeting.

**Please read this report carefully and  
bring it with you to the Annual Town Meeting.**

*The Solon Pine Tree 4-H Club will have a donation jar and all  
proceeds will be donated to the Solon Food Cupboard.*

**THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN WHO ARE  
PROTECTING OUR COUNTRY AND OUR FREEDOM AND TO ALL  
OUR VETERANS WHO HAVE SERVED US IN THE PAST.**

**Town of Solon  
121 South Main Street  
PO Box 214  
Solon, ME 04979**