

2023  
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](mailto:townofsolon@yahoo.com)

[townofsolon.clerk@yahoo.com](mailto:townofsolon.clerk@yahoo.com) [townofsolon.treasurer@yahoo.com](mailto:townofsolon.treasurer@yahoo.com)

Facebook: [fb.me/solonmaine](https://fb.me/solonmaine) &

[fb.me/groups/solon.area.community.happenings](https://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 9 am to 3 pm & Wednesday 8 am to 6 pm**

**Selectmen Meeting 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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
GARY BISHOP, ROAD COMMISSIONER	399-6440
TRANSFER STATION	643-2941
ANIMAL CONTROL, AMY HOULE	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 ROBERT LINDBLOM 431-8551 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

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

See the last page of this report for the details.

**2023**

**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

**For the Year Ending**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2023**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>TABLE OF CONTENTS</i> .....	2
<i>TOWN OFFICE HOURS</i> .....	4
<i>WEBSTIES &amp; SOCIAL MEDIA</i> .....	5
<i>2023 TOWN OFFICIALS</i> .....	8
<i>THE BILL OF RIGHTS</i> .....	11
<i>DEDICATION</i> .....	13
<i>SPECIAL RECOGNITION</i> .....	14
<i>IN MEMORY OF</i> .....	16
<i>BOSTON POST CANE HOLDER</i> .....	17
<i>SPIRIT OF AMERICA AWARD</i> .....	18
<i>COUNTY, STATE &amp; FEDERAL</i> .....	20
<i>1973 YEAR IN REVIEW</i> .....	32
<i>COMMUNITY GIVING</i> .....	33
<i>NOTICES</i> .....	34
<i>DOG OWNERS NOTICE</i> .....	42
<i>WHAT TO BRING WHEN</i> .....	43
<i>SELECTMEN'S REPORT</i> .....	44
<i>ASSESSORS' REPORT</i> .....	59
<i>OVERSEERS OF THE POOR REPORT</i> .....	63
<i>TREASURER'S REPORT</i> .....	64
<i>TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT</i> .....	71
<i>TOWN CLERK'S REPORT</i> .....	75
<i>ROAD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT</i> .....	77
<i>2023 STORM FLOODING DAMAGE</i> .....	82
<i>TRANSFER STATION REPORT</i> .....	86
<i>FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT</i> .....	90
<i>COOLIDGE LIBRARY</i> .....	94

***CEMETERIES & VETERAN GRAVES..... 98***

***PLANNING BOARD REPORT..... 101***

***YOUTH SPORTS RECREATION..... 103***

***ANNUAL 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY FIREWORKS ..... 107***

***SUMMER SWIM/CAMP PROGRAM ..... 108***

***AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM..... 110***

***TOWN SCHOLARSHIPS..... 111***

***SOLON COMMUNITY FOOD CUPBOARD & THRIFT STORE ..... 113***

***SOLON COMMUNITY GARDEN ..... 115***

***SOMERSET BROADBAND COALITION..... 118***

***HISTORICALLY SPEAKING..... 119***

***SOLON HISTORICAL SOCIETY..... 120***

***SOLON WATER DISTRICT ..... 122***

***OLD CANADA ROAD SCENIC BYWAY..... 124***

***BAKER MOUNTAIN SKI TOW CLUB ..... 126***

***2023 AUDITOR'S REPORT..... 128***

***RULES OF TOWN MEETING ..... 136***

***TOWN MEETING RELATED ORDINANCES ..... 138***

***RESULTS OF 2023 TOWN MEETING ..... 139***

***EXPLANATIONS OF ARTICLES..... 141***

***ANNUAL TOWN MEETING..... 144***

***DATES TO REMEMBER..... 152***



**Cover Picture:**

**Solon Water District Standpipe**  
*(photo courtesy of Elaine Aloes)*

*In 2023, the standpipe was renovated. This included repairs and sealant/ paint on both the interior and exterior of the tank. This should last another 40-50 years.*

# **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 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> WEDNESDAY 5 pm

## **CHAIR OF SELECTMEN**

MONDAY & TUESDAY 9:00 am to 3:00 pm  
WEDNESDAY 8:00 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 4:00 pm

## **TRANSFER STATION**

1483 River Road

SATURDAY & SUNDAY 8:00 am to 4:00 pm  
WEDNESDAY 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

119 South Main Street

Firefighters Meeting - 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month 7:00 pm

## **SOLON HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

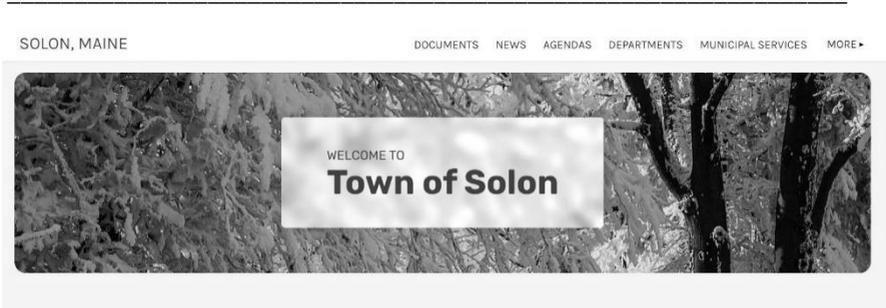
4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month at the Historical Society, 28 S. Main Street at 7 pm

# WEBSTIES & 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!



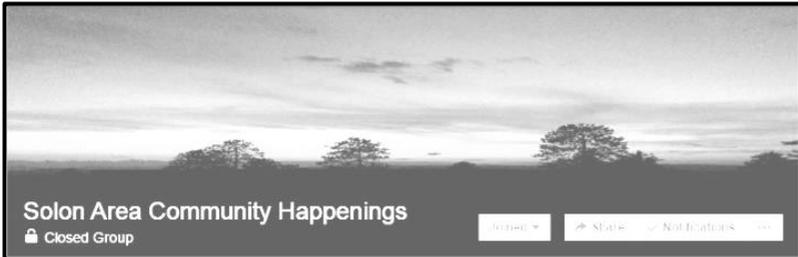
Official Town Website: [www.solon.maine.gov](http://www.solon.maine.gov)

The Town has a great NEW WEBSITE and can be found at the same old address! Go to **[solon.maine.gov](http://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. Your feedback is always appreciated.



Official Town Facebook page: [facebook.com/SolonMaine](https://facebook.com/SolonMaine)



Community Facebook: [facebook.com/SolonAreaCommunityHappenings](https://facebook.com/SolonAreaCommunityHappenings)



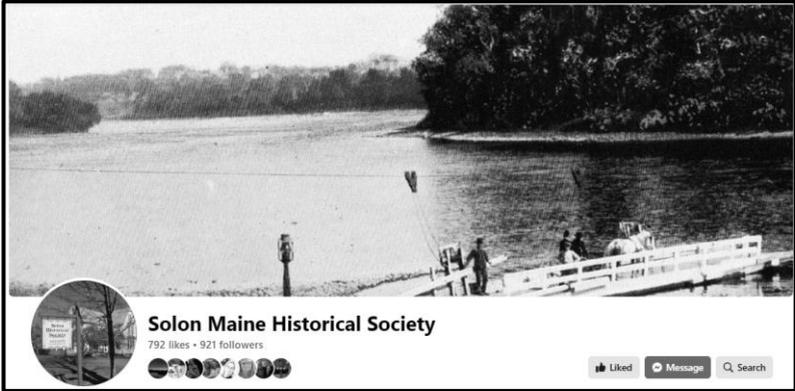
RSU/MSAD #74 Website: [www.carrabec.org](http://www.carrabec.org)



Solon Fire Department Facebook page: [facebook.com/Solon-Fire-Department](https://facebook.com/Solon-Fire-Department)



Coolidge Library Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/CoolidgePublicLibrary](http://www.facebook.com/CoolidgePublicLibrary)  
Coolidge Library Website: <https://19620.rmwebopac.com>



Solon Historical Society Facebook page:  
[www.facebook.com/SolonMaineHistoricalSociety](http://www.facebook.com/SolonMaineHistoricalSociety)



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

# **2023 TOWN OFFICIALS**

## **ELECTED OFFICIALS**

(Term expiration)

### **SELECTMEN, ASSESSORS & OVERSEERS OF THE POOR**

Elaine Aloes, Selectman, Chair (2025)

Wayne 'Chip' Johnson, Selectman, Vice Chair (2024)

John Dunay, Selectman, Selectman (2026)

### **ROAD COMMISSIONER**

Gary Bishop (2024)

### **RSU #74 DIRECTORS**

Laura Layman (2026)

Robert Lindblom (2024)

Tori MacDonald (2025)

---

## **OFFICIALS APPOINTED BY THE SELECTMEN**

### **TOWN CLERK/TAX COLLECTOR**

Leslie Giroux

### **TREASURER**

Kaylee Gilson

### **DEPUTY TOWN CLERK/TAX COLLECTOR**

Danika Riggs Kaylee Gilson

### **DEPUTY TOWN CLERK**

Jeffrey Sproul

### **DEPUTY TREASURER**

Danika Riggs Leslie Giroux

### **REGISTRAR OF VOTERS**

Leslie Giroux

### **ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER**

Amy Houle (2024)

David Houle, Deputy (2024)

**CODE ENFORCEMENT & HEALTH OFFICER**

David Savage (resigned) Jeff Drew (2024)

**PLUMBING INSPECTOR**

David Savage (resigned) Jeff Drew (2024)

**SEALER OF WEIGHTS & MEASURES**

State of Maine

**OLON WATER DISTRICT TRUSTEES**

Michael Foster, Chairman (2026)

Derek Dellarma (2025) Arthur Rogers (2024)

**COOLIDGE LIBRARY TRUSTEES**

Jane Ouderkirk, Chairman (2024)	Allyn Foss (2026) (res)
Leslie Giroux (2025)	Mary Lou Ridley (2025)
Richard Roberts (2026)	Stacy Robinson (2025)
Chris Shaw (2024)	Patricia Whipple (2024)
Ann Jackson (2024)	Andrew Davis (2026)

**BOARD OF APPEALS**

Lief Bull (2023) L. Bruce Hills (2025) Mary Lou Ridley (2024)

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Joseph Albuit (2026)	Jeffrey Pomelow (2026)
Allyn Foss (2024)	Beverly Gephart (2026)
Jeremy Gibson (2023)	Michael Golden (2025)
L. Bruce Hills (2024)	Barbara Johnstone (2025)
Eleanor Pooler (2025)	Franklin Ridley (2024)
Sherry Rogers (2024)	Carol White (2024)
George Williams (2026)	Kim Johnson, 1 <sup>st</sup> Alt. (2024)
Hether Forsten (2023)	Patricia Whipple, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Alt. (2024)

**PLANNING BOARD**

Michael Golden, Chairman (2026)	Kerri Evangelista (2024)
Frank Evangelista, Vice Chair (2026)	Richard Kelley (2024)
Dianna Rollins, Secretary (2025)	Craig Gerry (2025)

**AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM DIRECTOR**

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

**OLON COMMUNITY RECREATION COMMITTEE**

Leslie Giroux, Director (2024)  
Kayla Starr (2024) Amy Sidell (2026)

**OLON SUMMER RECREATION**

Laura Layman, Summer Swim/Camp Director (2024)

**ROUTE 201 SCENIC BYWAY COMMITTEE REP.**

Mary Lou Ridley (2024) Leslie Giroux (2024)

**FIRST PARK COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE**

Elaine Aloes (2025) Wayne Johnson (2025)

**KVCOG REPRESENTATIVE**

Elaine Aloes (2025) Wayne Johnson (2025) John Dunay (2026)

**HISTORICAL SOCIETY TRUSTEES**

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

**TOWN HISTORIAN**

Chris Shaw 643-2275

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR**

Richard Kelly (2024) Duayne Rollins, Assistant (2024)

**OLON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Duayne Rollins, Chief	Zane Brown
Todd Dixon, 1st Asst. Chief	Brian Coombs
Nick Rollins, 2nd Asst. Chief	Megan Corson
Richard Kelley, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Asst./EMA Dir.	Brandi Crocker
Jenney Rollins, Secretary/Treasurer	Derek Dellarma
Dianna Rollins, Base Radio Monitor	Kevin Lacroix
Thomas Courtney, Mechanic	Brian Livingstone
Cooper Dellarma, Junior FF	Frederick Mayo
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 the various 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.

# DEDICATION

The Selectmen dedicate this Town Report to  
**L. Bruce Hills**

Bruce and his wife, Teresa, started their adult lives by serving our country in the military. They retired from the military in 1991 after serving more than 20 years. They moved their family to their home in Solon that they bought in 1977. His parents, Jim and Ellen Hills, lived in Solon.

After moving to Solon, he followed in the footsteps of his parents in wanting to help the community he lived in. Ellen served as a Coolidge Library Trustee from 1976 through 1979. Jim was elected as Selectman in 1976 and served as Selectmen until 1990. Bruce's ancestors came to this country in 1638.



Bruce started serving our town as our Animal Control Officer from 1994 to 1998.

In 1995 he was appointed a Coolidge Library Trustee and served on the board until 2011. He also served as Chair of the Board for several years.

He was first appointed to the Budget Committee, now known as the Advisory Committee, in 1995 and served for 3 years. He was reappointed to the in 2005 and continues to serve on this committee.

He was elected Selectman in 1999 and served as Selectman 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, oversaw the contractors and reporting requirements. It opened on February 1, 2003.

He was our representative on the 1<sup>st</sup> Park Committee from 2000 through 2012. He served us well on that committee. And he has been on our Board of Appeals since 2007. His wife Teresa was on our School Board from 1994 to 1997.

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

# SPECIAL RECOGNITION

## Marilyn Rogers-Bull



We would like to give a special recognition to Marilyn Rogers-Bull, as she “retired her pen” as a local journalist in 2022.

She and her husband, Frank Rogers, lived in Flagstaff before the Dead River Dam was constructed and flooded the community of Flagstaff. In 1949 they, along with their 18-month-old son, moved to a farm they bought on the River Road in Solon. They lived there until they sold the farm and

moved to a house on Ferry Street in 1957. They raised their 4 children in Solon. Frank died in 1995. Marilyn sold that house in 2017 and moved in with her current husband Lief Bull on the South Solon Road.

Marilyn was a reporter for various small newspapers throughout her life. Some of them were the *Carney Brook Chronicle*, the *Somerset Gazette*, the *Somerset Reporter*, and the *Town Line* newspapers. She wrote about local happenings, people, and meetings in Solon and about historical events in our area. She was always looking for news and stories for her columns. She started many of articles with the phrase ‘Don’t worry, be happy’.

Her last article “*SOLON & BEYOND: So long to a long newspaper career; it’s time to call it a day*” was published in the *Town Line Newspaper* on February 24, 2022. In addition to her ‘farewell to journalism’, she wrote about the flooding of Flagstaff to create the Dead River Dam.

For many years she had Gram’s Place Craft Store. She was also an artist. Many of her pictures were on display in Griswold’s Store in Solon.

Marilyn loves Solon and has been a vital part of our community for over 70 years, reporting on the happenings in our small town for the last forty. She was a Coolidge Library Trustee from 1986 to 1988 and 1995 through 1997. She was also our Registrar of Voters from 1977 through 1989. She is now in a nursing home. We will miss reading her articles.



## Lois Miller

The Selectmen wish to thank Lois for serving as Selectman in 2022. During that time, she was also our representative for KVCOG. Prior to her term as Selectman, she also served on the Advisory Committee from 2017 to 2022.

Thank you for your service to our town.

## Carrabec High School Soccer 8-person team

On November 12, 2023 the Carrabec High School's 8-person soccer team won the state championship against Stearns/Schenck 1-0. Christopher Caruso scored the only goal. William Lawrence, from Solon, was the goalkeeper and stopped all of the opposing teams goal attempts. It was a well-played team achievement. CONGRATULATIONS!!!



We congratulate the entire team and their coaches for a great ending to their perfect season. They ended up with an 18-0 season. This is the second State Championship in program history. The other one was in 2004, Class C.

Carrabec's State Championship win gave the Upper Kennebec Valley area two eight-person state championships with the Madison girls winning their State Championship game earlier the same day.

Team Members are Logan Caldwell, Christopher Caruso, Zachary Crawford, Isaiah Haynes, Jacob Haynes, William Lawrence, Jackson Newton, Seth Price, Desmond Robinson, Michael Steuber, and Pete Vicneire. Coaches are Paul Vicneire and Greg Caruso, Assistant Coach.

## IN MEMORY OF



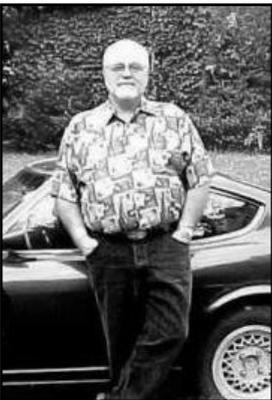
### **Keel Hood**

Keel Hood, our town's Auditor, passed away in August of this year. He had been our auditor since 1997. Prior to that he worked with our former auditor Ed McInnis. When Ed retired Keel took over his clients and started his own business. We will miss him and our yearly visits.



### **Chad Hebert**

Chad passed away in March of this year. He worked for the RSU 74 school system for sixteen years as a school bus driver and custodian. He enjoyed working at the Solon School and being surrounded by all the children who attended the schools in the district. He was always willing to go the extra mile to help out. We know he will be missed by staff and students alike.



### **Bruce Munroe**

Bruce passed away in December of this year. For many years, Bruce ran a successful real estate business and raised his family here. In retirement he enjoyed rebuilding mopeds and motorcycles. His mother, Patricia Munroe, is our current 'Boston Post Cane' recipient; honored for being the eldest citizen in Solon. We want to recognize his contribution to the town during the time spent volunteering on our Advisory Committee (1986-1990) and Planning Board (1984-1987).

# 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 it 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.

# SPIRIT OF AMERICA AWARD

## 2023 Solon, Maine Spirit of America Foundation Tribute



### *Mary Lou Ridley*

In December 1998 Mary Lou was elected as selectman and she served as Vice Chairman until March 2018

As a selectman she also organized the Solon Giving Tree for many years. She would coordinate the gift recipients and the gift donations, would purchase and wrap presents with the cash donations, and would distribute the presents.

During her time as a selectman Mary Lou became a Roads Scholar by attending Maine Local Roads training sessions

to improve her knowledge of road repair and maintenance.

Mary Lou served as a Coolidge Library Trustee from 1979 to 1982 and again starting in 2019. Since 2019 she has also served on the Library Building Committee. She is also one of the founders of the Friends of the Coolidge Library.

She has served on the Old Canada Scenic Byway Committee since 2002. She also served on the First Park Committee and Kennebec Valley Council of Government; and she was secretary and treasurer of the Somerset County Municipal Association for many years.

Mary Lou has been serving on our Board of Appeals since 2018.

**A BIG THANK YOU TO MARY LOU FOR ALL THE TIME AND EFFORT SHE HAS PUT IN TO SERVE OUR TOWN.**

# **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 canes were 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)	Marie Spearrin (2000-2004)
Beatrice Rogers (1985-1990)	Mary McDonough (2005)
Beatrice Hall (1991-1995)	Coburn Waugh (2006-2014)
Roland Tozier (1996)	Carolyn Waugh (2014-2019)
Ben Safford (1997-1998)	Howard Rogers (2019-2020)
Floyd French (1999)	Alice Heald (2020-2021)
	Patricia Munroe (2021-present)

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

# **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](http://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)

# 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](mailto: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**

P. O. Box 687

Norridgewock, Maine 04957

634-3074 or 614-4123

[russell.black@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:russell.black@legislature.maine.gov)

## **Maine State Rep. Dist 72**

**Larry Dunphy**

209 Kennebec River Road

Emden, Maine 04958

399-4963 cell 635-2831 home

[larry.dunphy@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:larry.dunphy@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](mailto: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](mailto: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@housemail.house.gov](mailto:congressman.jared.golden@housemail.house.gov)

## **U. S. GOVERNMENT**

<http://www.usa.gov>

## **STATE OF MAINE**

[www.maine.gov](http://www.maine.gov)

## **SOMERSET COUNTY**

[www.somersetcounty-me.org](http://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.**



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

Dear Maine Resident:

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janet T. Mills".

Janet T. Mills  
Governor

SUSAN M. COLLINS  
MAINE

413 DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1904  
(202) 224-2623  
(202) 224-2683 (FAX)

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1904

COMMITTEES:  
APPROPRIATIONS  
HEALTH, EDUCATION,  
LABOR, AND PENSIONS  
SELECT COMMITTEE  
ON INTELLIGENCE  
SPECIAL COMMITTEE  
ON AGING

January 1, 2024

Dear Friends:

It is an honor to serve the people of Maine in the U.S. Senate, and I welcome this opportunity to share an update on issues important to Maine and America.

One of my priorities for 2023 has been to improve the appropriations process in Congress – the way it decides how to spend taxpayer money. I took over as the Vice Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee last year. Along with Chair Patty Murray, we decided the best change we could make was not to do something new. Instead, it was to do something old – that is, go back to the regular and transparent committee process that we used to have.

Part of restoring this process included holding 50 public Committee hearings, which allowed for input from senators on both sides of the aisle. As a result, for the first time in five years, the Senate Appropriations Committee passed all twelve of its funding bills on time. This was done with strong bipartisan support. In fact, seven of them passed unanimously.

Now, we need to work with the House of Representatives to pass these twelve bills and turn them into laws.

These bills contain funding for a wide range of Maine priorities, including support for the workforce at Bath Iron Works and Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, our lobster industry, infrastructure improvements, affordable housing, biomedical research, veterans, and heating assistance programs like LIHEAP. These bills also contain nearly \$590 million in Congressionally Directed Spending for 231 projects Throughout the State of Maine. These projects would help promote job creation, expand access to health care, and improve public safety, infrastructure, and important resources in communities across all 16 counties of our state. I will continue to work to get these bills signed into law in the new year.

On October 25, the horrific mass shooting in Lewiston claimed the lives of 18 Mainers and injured 13 others. In response, I led Maine's Congressional Delegation in requesting an independent investigation by the U.S. Army Inspector General into the events leading up to the shooting. On December 15, the Under Secretary of the Army wrote to inform me that such an investigation will take place, and the Army Inspector General has instructed her team to immediately begin preparing to conduct this investigation. While nothing can undo the events of October 25, I will continue to work to understand what happened and what could have been done differently, and to find answers for the victims, survivors, and their families.

No one works harder than the people of Maine, and this year I honored that work ethic when I cast my 8,855th consecutive roll call vote.

As we look ahead to 2024, I remain committed to addressing the concerns of Maine families and communities. If you need assistance or wish to share your thoughts, please do not hesitate to reach out to one of my six state offices.

Sincerely,  
  
Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator

January 1, 2024

Dear Friends,

Thank you for allowing me to add my congratulations and gratitude for the positive differences each town and city in Maine makes for its people and ultimately for Maine as a whole. When I travel around the state and visit the various regions in Maine, I see firsthand the differences you all make, the focus you put on excellence, and the helping hands you extend to neighbors. I have learned valuable lessons watching your collaborations with each other. They got the State motto right – *Dirigo* – because you all certainly do lead the way and exemplify the best of Maine.

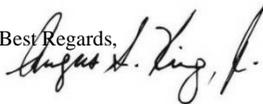
First, it was a true honor to be appointed to the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee this year to help address the challenges facing Maine veterans. We owe our way of life to these brave men and women and share a collective responsibility as a grateful nation to give back to our veterans. That means delivering veterans the benefits they have earned, addressing the veterans' suicide crisis, improving transition-to-civilian-status programs, and ensuring every veteran can access essential services, like affordable housing and behavioral healthcare.

Next, one of the most significant infrastructure projects in Maine history is underway: affordable and universal broadband availability throughout the state. Supported through funding in the bipartisan infrastructure bill, we are now within striking distance of broadband service even in our most rural communities. Additionally, infrastructure improvements in our roads and bridges, water and septic upgrades for our towns and support for our workforce and employers are also in the pipeline. Serious steps are being taken to address the toll from substance abuse and to provide our older neighbors with resources to help them continue to stand strong throughout their golden years. It is my goal here to make sure everyone has access to stable employment opportunities and quality healthcare which is of critical importance to keep our families healthy and happy.

I am thankful for each town in Maine for their commitment to their communities, to their citizens, and to this country. I will do my part to listen to your concerns and work to find useful solutions to the issues you face. My offices throughout Maine remain available to you if you face hurdles with the federal government, whether it be veteran issues, social security problems, student loans, immigration, tax assistance and more. I hope you will reach out of my offices in Presque Isle, Bangor, Augusta, Portland, or Biddeford and allow me the chance to be part of your solutions. Together, I know we can continue to build a stronger, brighter future for our great state.

Maine is known for its grit and resiliency, and we are making great strides — something others across the country have noticed. Thank you for being one of the reasons Maine is so special; it is not only a pleasure to serve you — it is a pleasure to know you. Mary and I wish you a happy and safe 2024.

Best Regards,



Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senate



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

Dear Friends,

January 1, 2024

I hope this letter finds you safe and well. It's an honor to continue serving as your representative in Congress, and I take the responsibility very seriously. I appreciate the opportunity to update you on what I've been working on behalf of the people of the Second Congressional District.

Maine's heritage industries are the backbone of our state's economy. That is why one of the first bills I introduced in this Congress was the *Northeast Fisheries Heritage Protection Act*, which would prohibit commercial offshore wind energy development in Lobster Management Area 1 (LMA 1) in the Gulf of Maine. LMA 1 was identified by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) as a potential commercial offshore wind site. LMA 1 is a critical and highly productive fishing ground for a variety of sea life, including lobster. Prohibiting offshore wind development in LMA 1 would help to avoid conflict with the New England commercial and recreational fishing industries. Additionally, the bill would initiate a federal study on the environmental review processes of any relevant Federal agencies for offshore wind projects in the Gulf of Maine.

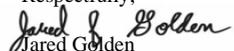
I also continue to advocate on behalf of our veterans and those providing care to our former service members. The current pay for VA employees in the Kennebec and Penobscot counties does not reflect the critical services they are providing. As the oldest state in the nation, with the fifth highest veteran population, Mainers rely on the services offered at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) facilities. That's why recently, Senator Collins, Senator King, Representative Pingree, and I called on the Biden Administration to increase locality pay for VA employees in Kennebec and Penobscot counties. The level of care received is impacted by job vacancies, and the high turnover rate among its healthcare workforce is often the result of pay and compensation issues, is further exacerbated by the increased cost of living.

Lastly, I'm excited that Mainers are continuing to reap the benefits of the *Bipartisan Infrastructure Law* (BIL). Recently, millions of dollars in grants have been awarded across the state, including \$35 million through the U.S. Department of Transportation's Culvert Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) program to conserve spawning and migratory habitats for native fish species in Maine, \$460,000 through the Airport Infrastructure Grant (AIG) program for the Princeton Municipal Airport, Stephen A. Bean Municipal Airport, and Dexter Regional Airport, and nearly \$8 million through the Buses and Bus Facilities Program for Bangor's bus system. These investments are critical to ensuring Maine's infrastructure and will help to ensure Mainers and businesses across Maine are connected.

Regardless of the year, one of my top priorities is ensuring I'm accessible to you. My staff and I can help answer questions about and navigate federal programs; find resources in Maine; and resolve issues with Medicare, Social Security, the VA, and other federal agencies and programs. We are here to help:

- **Caribou Office:** 7 Hatch Drive, Suite 230, Caribou, ME 04736. Phone: (207) 492-6009
- **Lewiston Office:** 179 Lisbon Street, Lewiston, ME 04240. Phone: (207) 241-6767
- **Bangor Office:** 6 State Street, Suite 101, Bangor, ME 04401. Phone: (207) 249-7400

I look forward to building on momentum from recent legislative wins for Mainers and continuing to work on your behalf in 2024. Do not hesitate to reach out and voice an opinion on legislation, let us know about local events, or seek assistance navigating federal agencies or programs. It's an honor to represent you in Congress, and I wish you a healthy and prosperous year to come.

Respectfully,  
  
Jared Golden



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

January 1, 2024

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Russell Black".

Russell Black  
State Senator



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
2 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

(207) 287-1440  
TTY: (207) 287-4469

January 1, 2024

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I am honored by the opportunity to serve as your state representative for District 72 in the Maine House of Representatives for the 131st Legislature. The Second Regular Session of the Legislature got underway on January 3. Legislative committees are expected to debate approximately 635 bills this session.

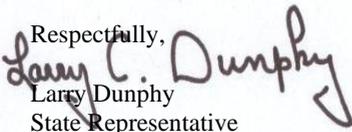
In order for me to represent you, I encourage you to provide me with your thoughts on all the issues that are important to you. Using the legislative homepage: [Legislature.Maine.gov](http://Legislature.Maine.gov) you can monitor all legislative proposals being worked on at the State House. From here you can browse bill summaries and roll call votes, view session and public hearing schedules, listen to committee hearings or watch live streaming video of the House and Senate. You can also access committee hearings via Zoom, where you can observe or testify on a bill.

During this Session, I continue to serve on the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology. As we all know, Maine's high energy costs are crushing household budgets and discouraging businesses from expanding or relocating to our state. I am committed to fighting for a state energy policy that works for all Mainers and will oppose all efforts to increase the price of energy.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve as your elected representative. If you have an interest in receiving my regular e-newsletter updates, please send along your email address to [skime2@tds.net](mailto:skime2@tds.net) to be added to my distribution list. Also, please never hesitate to call me at **399-4963** to keep me updated on your questions and concerns. It is through your input that I can best represent the interests of our region in the Maine Legislature.

Again, thank you for providing me with the honor of serving you in Augusta!

Respectfully,

  
Larry Dunphy  
State Representative

**Larry Dunphy**  
PO Box 331  
North Anson, ME 04958  
Cell: (207) 399-4963  
[skime2@tds.net](mailto:skime2@tds.net)

# SOMERSET COUNTY

## *Maine*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Integrity Respect Fairness Dedication  
SOMERSET COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

## 2023 Sheriff's Office Annual Report



Dale P.  
Lancaster  
Sheriff

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

The Office of Sheriff oversees the operations of the County Jail, law enforcement, court security, and civil process. Somerset County is approximately 4,000 square miles. The County is comprised of 27 towns, 6 plantations, and 83 unorganized townships. This year, I completed my 2-year term as President of the Maine Sheriff's Association. I continue my appointment to the Board of Directors for the New England State Police Information Network. I am also a board member for the Statewide County Corrections Professional Standards Council.

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

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

### Law Enforcement

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

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

Throughout 2023, the Sheriff's Office Criminal Division investigated a large volume of illicit drug trafficking activities. The Sheriff's Office obtained and executed numerous drug search warrants, which subsequently led to the arrest and conviction of numerous people from Maine and out of State on various Federal and State level drug trafficking charges. Illegal drugs, in particular Fentanyl, and illegal marijuana grows, continue to be a significant issue in Somerset County. The Criminal Division dedicates a large amount of time and resources to combat this problem. The Criminal Division investigated numerous serious felony level cases to include

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

### **Jail**

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

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

### **Civil Process**

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

### **Calls for Service**

- In 2023, the Sheriff’s Office received 18,277 total calls for service from our residents. This represents a 0.22% increase from 2022.
- During 2023, the Sheriff’s Office responded to 893 calls for service from the Town of Solon, which is a 47% increase from 2022. These calls included 49 motor vehicle accidents, 137 motor vehicle stops, 19 calls requesting citizen assistance, as well as calls for domestic violence, theft, harassment, burglary, criminal threatening, welfare checks, and other requests for police services.

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

## 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 27, 2024

Dear Residents of the Town of Solon,

I would like to take this opportunity to share some of the work happening in our district as well as to share some of the fun things happening in our district.

As our access to federal funds to support schools to overcome the effects of COVID on students and staff is coming to a close (September 30, 2024), your K-5 teachers with support from administration have implemented a strong intervention program based on reading and math results. Students whose scores were consistently lower than peers in the same grade locally and across the nation and were struggling with lessons provided by their classroom teachers were assigned to an interventionist teacher or Title I Ed-tech for support in Reading or math or both. Mid-year scores are currently being compiled but based on students self-reporting, scores are likely to show significant growth!

A meeting with grade level representatives for K-5 was held before the holidays to discuss my observations regarding math lessons for ENvision; our program for K-5 math instruction. As a result of this discussion, steps were taken to support students with their math facts fluency. Our goal is to provide additional opportunities for demonstrating fluency with addition and subtraction facts in the lower elementary grades and multiplication and division facts in the upper elementary grades. On the topic of mathematics, teachers in grades 6 through 12 were given the go ahead to look at a textbook series to replace the current online program adopted a few years ago, as concerns have been raised around the lack of foundational instruction to support student learning in the current program.

Our curriculum work for the year is in English Language Arts. When I came on board, the essential standards for each grade had been identified as well as the MLR performance indicators that support those standards. This year, teachers are documenting units of instruction to deliver lessons supporting mastery of the essential standards.

And the fun...well our students are having excellent years on the field, courts, and stage. All three of our soccer teams (CCS co-ed, and HS varsity teams) had very successful seasons with our varsity boys bringing home the State Championship. Our fall production performed by the high school drama team was *"Another High School Musical"* with high attendance by community members. A family favorite appears to be the K-6 holiday program as again this year the CCS gymnasium was packed. Congratulations to all performers and athletes on their successes.

Our 2024-2025 budget process has begun. The School Board will have some difficult decisions to make this year as COVID funds go away and as we look to address issues with our aged bus fleet. As we did last year, we will keep you informed on needs and decisions made in order to bring a budget forth for district voter approval. As always, your continued support of your schools, your students are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Mark L. Campbell, Superintendent of Schools

# 1973 YEAR IN REVIEW

US Population: 211,908,788 (340,562,824 in 2023)

US Life Expectancy: males 68.5 years and female 73.5 years

Average tuition at a four-year public college: \$358

Average Family Income: \$12,900

Minimum Wage: \$1.60 per hour

Average cost of a home: \$32,500

Average cost of a new car: \$4,052

A gallon of gas: 40 cents

First-class stamp: 8 cents.

A gallon of milk: \$1.40

Dozen eggs: 69 cents

\*The top five television shows were *All in the Family*, *The Waltons*, *Sanford and Son*, *M\*A\*S\*H*, and *Hawaii Five-O*. *Bonanza*, *Laugh-In*, and *Mission Impossible* all ended their TV runs. Bruce Lee's movie *Enter the Dragon* was released, which became a worldwide success and helped popularize martial arts. *The Sting* won an Oscar for Best Picture, *M\*A\*S\*H* won an Emmy for Outstanding Comedy Series, Bette Midler won a Grammy for Best New Artist.

\*Secretariat won the Kentucky Derby, the Preakness Stakes, and the Belmont Stakes to garner the illustrious Triple Crown of horseracing.

\*The Miami Dolphins won the Super Bowl, the Oakland Athletics won the World Series, and the Montreal Canadiens won the Stanley Cup.

\*Martin Cooper invented the first handheld mobile phone, Nathaniel Wyeth received a patent for shatter-resistant beverage bottles, and Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) was invented by a team led by John Mallard.

\*Stove Top Stuffing first appeared on grocery store shelves and sales of vodka surpassed whiskey sales in the U.S. for the first time.

\*President Nixon signed legislation that approved construction of the Alaska pipeline and the Endangered Species Act was passed.

\*The U.S. economy was plagued with high inflation, an oil crisis, rising unemployment, and the worst recession since the 1930s. Inflation tripled from 3.4% to 9.6% and put an end to post-World War II economic expansion. U.S. unemployment was 5.6%

\*The 110-story Sears Tower opened in Chicago

\*The Oldsmobile Toronado was the first car with a passenger airbag.

\*Roe v. Wade as a landmark Supreme Court decision establishing abortion rights. There were 616,000 abortions in 1973 and 620,000 in 2020. The highest year was 1990 with 1,429,000 abortions.

\*Battle of the Sexes as a tennis match between Billie Jean King & Bobby Riggs

\*The U.S. launched its first space station.

\*Syria and Egypt led a coalition of Arab states and launched a surprise attack against Israel on October 6 starting what is known as the Yom Kipper War or the Ramadan War. Israel won the war and a cease fire was declared on Oct 25.

\*Paris Peace Accords were signed to establish peace in Vietnam and end the Vietnam War. The last U.S. combat troops left Vietnam on March 29.

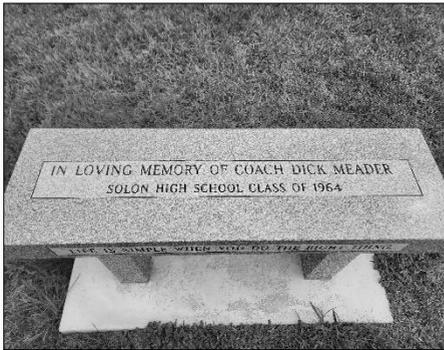
# COMMUNITY GIVING

## Masons - Keystone Lodge #80

VILLAGE	VILLAGE	S-SOLON	
<b>HENRY GOODRICH</b> DIED SEPT. 30, 1894 AGE 38 YRS 5 MOS.	<b>DAVID LOZELEY</b> DIED APR. 28, 1888	<b>REDDA</b> DAU OF SIMON AND MARY RICHARDSON DIED MARCH 18, 1884 AGE 70	S-SOLON JOHN WALDEN DIED 1884 AGE 37 YRS CLARA S. DIED SEPT. 17, 1888 AGE 2 YRS 1 MO. ELLA W. DIED SEPT. 18, 1888 AGE 8 MOS. 8 DYS CHILDREN OF JOHN & BELLY T. WALDEN
<b>AURELIA HUNNEWELL</b> WIFE OF AUSTIN HUNNEWELL DIED MAY 1, 1888 AGE 61 YRS 11 MOS	<b>MARRAN NOBANT</b> DAU. OF DANIEL & MARY NOBANT	<b>FREDRICK ROWELL</b> DIED FEB. 12, 1883 AGE 51	
S-SOLON	S-SOLON	VILLAGE	

We would like to thank the members of the Keystone Masonic Lodge #80, located in Solon, for their donation of up to \$3,000. These funds were used to replace damaged marker stone in the Village and South Solon Cemeteries. Their donation will allow us to replace more of them in the upcoming year.

## Richard ‘Dick’ Meader Memorial Bench



Richard ‘Dick’ Meader grew up on his family farm in Solon, on what we now know as Meader Farm Rd. He graduated from Solon High School in 1964. A talented and enthusiastic basketball player in his own right, he went on to become a head basketball coach for over 40 years for both high school and college teams.

Sadly, Dick passed away in 2022 after a battle with Parkinson’s disease. To memorialize his life in this community, his family commissioned this memorial bench. They had it placed here in town at the Robbin’s Hill Scenic Overlook on South Main St. A beautiful gesture of their love and his commitment to community, family, friends, and former students.

# 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 1<sup>st</sup>.

- **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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 to

# 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 may 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, designating a Parking Ban for the period from November 1<sup>st</sup> to April 30<sup>th</sup>. 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. Repeat 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 snow 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 to not 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

### CHECKS/INSUFFICIENT FUNDS



The Town charges a \$25.00 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 reregistering a vehicle, please remember to bring in proof of insurance, old registration, and mileage. New registrations require a bill of sale, **title (UPDATE FOR 2023: for vehicles 25 years old or newer)**, proof of insurance and mileage. If vehicle is purchased from a dealer also have proof of purchase, the blue title application and window sticker (for new vehicles).

### 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](http://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 31<sup>st</sup>. 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



SOLON FIRE DEPARTMENT PUMPER TRUCK

# 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 31<sup>st</sup>. A \$25 late fee per dog will be added after January 31<sup>st</sup>. 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](http://www.solon.maine.gov) (the State's online service is available from October 15<sup>th</sup> to January 31<sup>st</sup>).**

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 of 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 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 (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

John Dunay was elected as selectman at our 2023 Annual Town Meeting. We thank Lois Miller for her time serving as Selectman. In March we changed the selectmen's schedule to the selectmen holding their Selectmen Meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 5 pm. The Chair of Selectmen is in the town office on Monday and Tuesday from 9 am to 3 pm and on Wednesday from 8 am to 6 pm.

We had a 1 mil rate increase due to the 8.2% cost of living increase for 2023 and high fuel costs. This caused an increase in payroll costs and other costs across the board for our town, county, and schools. Our municipal budget by taxation went from 1,041,200 to \$1,158,675. The County Budget went from \$238,885 to \$258,147. The overall RSU 74 budget went from \$10,948,503 to \$11,650,189. And due to a large use of the school district's surplus in 2022 (\$825,000), there was little surplus left to reduce school taxes in 2023 (\$325,000). Our share of the RSU budget went from \$1,120,789 to \$1,284,448.

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 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of March. That is when you, the citizens, discuss and vote on our town's budget for the year and on other matters.

Maine Department of Transportation has started the work to replace the Route 201 bridge over Fall Brook. The temporary bridge will be set in place in the spring of 2024 and then they will remove the old bridge and build the new one. That process is supposed to be completed by December 2024. The new bridge will be higher than the current bridge. Please be patient during the construction period.

The Solon Water District water lines for the north side of town are attached to the bridge and they are responsible for all costs associated with the water lines. We were successful in getting an \$820,000 CDBG grant to help with the cost of the water main project and refurbishment of the water standpipe on French Hill. We also contacted Senator King and Senator Collins about the water main project, and we were awarded Congressionally Directed Spending funds. The water district also was awarded a \$175,000 ARPA grant to pay for the engineering costs for these projects. With these funds the water district will not have to borrow any money for the project. The water standpipe project was completed in September. It looks great and should not need refurbishing again for 40 or more years.

On May 1<sup>st</sup> we had heavy rain that damaged many of our roads. That storm caused heavy rain and flooding damage statewide and Somerset County was one of the counties that was declared a Federal Emergency Disaster area. The most severe damage was on the River Road. We are working with FEMA to get compensation for the cost of repairing the damage to our roads. We also had another heavy rainstorm on December 18<sup>th</sup> that caused more road damage. Luckily that damage was not as severe as the May storm damage was. However, it did cause widespread power outages in Solon. The town office was without power all that week due to a downed wire at the town office.

The Selectmen and the Advisory Committee work hard to keep our municipal costs down. We have kept our budgets as low as possible. The proposed 2023 municipal budget by taxation, as presented by the Selectmen and the Advisory Committee, is \$1,204,348 which is an increase of \$45,492 from 2023. But after deducting our available surplus and revenue sharing, the amount needed to be raised by taxation is \$613,312 which is an increase of \$144,941 from 2023. The large increase is due to a smaller available surplus than last year due to a larger amount of 2023 property tax funds still outstanding. It is still below the LD 1 spending cap. Municipalities can vote to exceed or increase the limitation on municipal spending. At our Annual Town Meeting you, the citizens of Solon, decide on our budget and on our complying with our spending cap or, if needed, increase it to meet the needs of the town. We will discuss this at the Annual Town Meeting.

Our town auditor, Keel Hood, passed away this past spring. He was our auditor for more than 25 years. We have hired another firm, Maine Municipal Audit Services, to conduct our 2023 town audit.

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.

The Selectmen meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month at 5 pm for the Selectmen's meeting. The Chair of Selectmen will be in the Town Office every Monday and Tuesday from 9 am to 3 pm and on Wednesday from 8 am to 6 pm to conduct town business and to meet with citizens. 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

# 2023 MUNICIPAL APPROPRIATIONS

## GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Payroll & Benefits	\$206,987.00	
Insurance	\$ 39,465.00	
Utilities	\$ 20,400.00	
Town Charges	\$ 28,350.00	
Maintenance	\$ 3,000.00	
Training, Books, & Dues	\$ 2,900.00	
Town Office Security System	\$ 360.00	
Trio Computer Programs	\$ 7,600.00	
GIS Mapping Reserve	\$ 2,500.00	
Town Records Preservation Res.	\$ 4,500.00	
Town Line Survey Reserve	\$ 2,500.00	
Town Flags Reserve	\$ 2,000.00	
Assessing, Revaluation Reserve	<u>\$ 15,000.00</u>	\$335,562.00

## PUBLIC WORKS

Winter Roads	\$141,000.00	
Summer Roads	<u>\$137,000.00</u>	\$278,000.00

## TRANSFER STATION

Transfer Station		\$ 99,000.00
------------------	--	--------------

## LIBRARY

Coolidge Library Reserve		\$ 23,000.00
--------------------------	--	--------------

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Department		\$ 45,000.00
-----------------	--	--------------

## PROTECTION

Public Utilities		\$ 33,400.00
------------------	--	--------------

## SOCIAL SERVICES

General Assistance	\$ 15,000.00	
Social Service Agencies	<u>\$ 7,350.00</u>	\$ 22,350.00

## CODE ENFORCEMENT

CEO & Health Officer	\$ 6,000.00	
911 Addressing Officer	<u>\$ 250.00</u>	\$ 6,250.00

## LEISURE SERVICES

Programs		\$ 15,050.00
----------	--	--------------

## **CEMETERIES**

Cemeteries	\$ 20,175.00	
Cemetery Maint. Res.	<u>\$ 4,500.00</u>	\$ 24,675.00

## **ANIMAL WELFARE**

Humane Society	\$ 3,150.00	
Animal Control Officer	<u>\$ 3,375.00</u>	\$ 6,525.00

## **AGENCIES**

Membership Fees		\$ 4,000.00
-----------------	--	-------------

## **DEBT SERVICE**

Fire Truck Loan		\$ 8,600.00
-----------------	--	-------------

## **CAPITAL RESERVE ACCOUNTS**

Road Paving Reserve	\$225,000.00	
Gravel Roads Reserve	\$ 10,000.00	
Highway Equipment Reserve	\$ 10,000.00	
Sidewalk Reserve	\$ 2,000.00	
Transfer Station Truck & Equip.	\$ 7,500.00	
Coolidge Library Building	\$ 3,000.00	
Municipal Buildings Maintenance	<u>\$ 3,500.00</u>	\$261,000.00

## **OTHER**

Crack Sealing	\$ 50,000.00	
Transfer Station Baler & Trailer	\$ 15,000.00	
Fire Station Heat Pump & Solar Panels	\$ 48,774.63	
Town Garage Project	<u>\$ 50,000.00</u>	<u>\$163,774.63</u>

GRAND TOTAL 2023 MUNICIPAL APPROPRIATIONS \$1,322,449.63

## **TOTAL RAISED AT ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

Taxation	\$1,158,675.00	
Road Paving Reserve	\$ 50,000.00	
ARPA Funds	<u>\$ 113,774.63</u>	\$1,322,449.63

## **2023 EXPENDITURES GENERAL GOVERNMENT**

### **PAYROLL & BENEFITS**

Appropriated:		\$206,987.00
Expended:		
Selectmen	\$40,412.00	
Clerk/Tax Collector	\$48,998.00	
Treasurer	\$15,790.00	

Deputy Clerk, Tax Collector, & Treasurer	\$29,095.36		
Office Cleaning	\$ 750.00		
Registrar of Voters	\$ 2,815.00		
Elections	\$ 1,968.64		
Social Security & Medicare	\$29,317.70		
Employee Benefits	<u>\$27,000.00</u>	<u>\$196,143.70</u>	\$10,843.30

#### INSURANCE

##### Income:

Appropriated	\$39,465.00		
Rebates	<u>\$ 1,690.00</u>	\$41,155.00	

##### Expended:

Worker's Compensation	\$10,571.00		
Unemployment	\$ 6,485.00		
Property	<u>\$20,434.00</u>	<u>\$37,470.00</u>	\$3,685.00

#### UTILITIES

##### Income:

Appropriated	\$20,400.00		
Heat Reserve Funds	\$ 1,071.20	\$21,471.20	

##### Expended:

Phones & Internet	\$ 4,684.65		
Electricity	\$ 2,937.82		
Water	\$ 378.28		
Municipal Buildings Heat Res.	<u>\$14,071.20</u>	<u>\$22,071.95</u>	(\$600.75)

#### TOWN CHARGES

##### Income:

Appropriated	\$28,350.00		
Reimbursements & Refunds	<u>\$ 1,231.52</u>	\$29,581.52	

##### Expended:

Supplies & Postage	\$ 3,459.99		
Solon Post Office	\$ 2,006.96		
Legal Fees	\$ 743.37		
Reg. of Deeds	\$ 1,867.00		
Town Reports	\$ 3,039.74		
Bad Check Fees	\$ 40.00		
Travel & Reimb.	\$ 2,280.27		
Tax Bills Print & Mail	\$ 1,615.98		
Payroll Services	\$ 2,139.30		
Auditor	\$ 5,250.00		
Paper Shredding	\$ 145.00		
Copier Maintenance. Fee	\$ 1,035.62		
Web Site Fee	\$ 2,811.30		

Post Office Box Fee	\$ 50.00		
Safe Deposit Box	\$ 30.00		
Computer Maintenance	\$ 910.95		
Computer Software Fees	<u>\$ 730.28</u>	<u>\$27,422.48</u>	\$2,159.04

#### TOWN OFFICE SECURITY SYSTEM

Appropriated:		\$ 360.00	
Expended:			
Security System		<u>\$ 331.95</u>	\$28.05

#### TRIO COMPUTER PROGRAMS

Appropriated & Paid Out:		\$7,600.00	\$0.00
--------------------------	--	------------	--------

#### MAINTENANCE

Appropriated:		\$3,000.00	
Expended:			
Town Office Maintenance	\$1,577.50		
Furnace Maintenance	\$ 215.00		
Grounds Maintenance Res.	<u>\$ 594.78</u>	<u>\$2,387.28</u>	\$612.72

#### TRAINING, BOOKS, & DUES

Income:			
Appropriated	\$2,900.00		
Refunds	<u>\$ 80.00</u>	\$2,980.00	
Expended:			
Books	\$ 20.00		
Training Fees	\$1,350.00		
Dues	<u>\$ 412.00</u>	<u>\$1,782.00</u>	\$1,198.00

#### GIS MAPPING RESERVE

Income:			
Balance 1/1/2023	\$2,200.00		
Appropriated	<u>\$2,500.00</u>	\$4,700.00	
Expended		<u>\$3,300.00</u>	\$1,400.00

#### ASSESSING, REVALUATION RESERVE

Income:			
Balance 1/1/2023	\$ 5,000.00		
Appropriated	\$15,000.00		
Refunded	<u>\$10,000.00</u>	\$30,000.00	
Expended		<u>\$ 0.00</u>	\$30,000.00

#### TOWN LINE SURVEY RESERVE

Income:			
Balance 1/1/2023	\$8,500.00		

Appropriated	<u>\$2,500.00</u>	\$11,000.00	
Expended		<u>\$ 0.00</u>	\$11,000.00

**TOWN FLAGS RESERVE**

Income:

Balance 1/1/2023	\$ 343.55		
Appropriated	<u>\$2,000.00</u>	\$2,343.55	
Expended		<u>\$ 301.10</u>	\$2,042.45

**TOWN RECORDS PRESERVATION RESERVE**

Income:

Balance 1/1/2023	\$1,620.00		
Appropriated	<u>\$4,500.00</u>	\$6,120.00	
Expended		<u>\$ 0.00</u>	\$6,120.00

**TREE PLANTING RESERVE**

Balance 1/1/23 & 12/31/24	\$1,000.00		
---------------------------	------------	--	--

**PUBLIC WORKS**

**ROADS**

Income

Appropriated	\$278,000.00		
Transferred in from LRAP	\$ 98,628.98		
Refunds & Reimbursements	<u>\$ 8,560.54</u>	\$385,189.52	
Expended			
Winter Roads	\$153,114.91		
Summer Roads	<u>\$239,918.48</u>	<u>\$393,033.39</u>	(\$7,843.87)

**TRANSFER STATION**

Income:

Appropriated	\$99,000.00		
Income & Fees	<u>\$ 7,689.15</u>	\$106,689.15	
Expended		<u>\$ 95,102.07</u>	
Trans to TS Truck & Tub Reserve		\$ 11,587.08	

**COOLIDGE LIBRARY**

**COOLIDGE LIBRARY RESERVE**

Income:

Balance 1/1/23	\$ 1,478.73		
Appropriated	\$23,000.00		
Fees & Donations	<u>\$ 1,529.00</u>	\$26,007.73	
Expended:		<u>\$25,801.86</u>	\$205.87

**FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**FIRE DEPARTMENT & FIRE CHIEF**

Income:

Appropriated	\$45,000.00		
MMA Safety Grant	\$ 819.60		
Reserve Funds Transfer	\$ 6,515.99	\$52,335.59	
Expended		<u>\$52,335.59</u>	\$0.00

**FIRE DEPARTMENT RESERVE ACCOUNT**

Income

Balance 1/1/23	\$16,543.13		
Donations	\$10,443.96		
Interest	<u>\$ 361.21</u>	\$26,987.09	

Expended

Transfer to Fire Department	\$ 6,515.99		
Transfer to Fire Works	<u>\$ 430.64</u>	<u>\$6,946.63</u>	\$20,040.46

**PUBLIC UTILITIES**

Appropriated		\$33,400.00	
Expended			
Hydrant Fee	\$24,856.00		
Street Lights	<u>\$ 7,656.91</u>	<u>\$32,512.91</u>	\$887.09

**SOCIAL SERVICES**

**GENERAL ASSISTANCE**

Income

Appropriated	\$15,000.00		
Reimbursement	<u>\$20,740.30</u>	\$35,740.30	
Expended		<u>\$28,589.95</u>	\$7,150.36

**SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS**

Appropriated		\$7,350.00	
Expended			
KVCAP	\$ 550.00		
Hospice	\$1,000.00		
Spectrum Generations	\$ 750.00		
Kennebec Behavioral Health	\$ 500.00		
Solon Food Cupboard	\$4,000.00		
American Red Cross	\$ 150.00		
Lifelight Foundation	\$ 200.00		
Community Health & Counseling	<u>\$ 200.00</u>	<u>\$7,350.00</u>	\$0.00

**CODE ENFORCEMENT**

Appropriated		\$6,250.00	
Expended			
Code Enforcement/Health Off.	\$6,000.00		
911 Addressing Officer	<u>\$ 250.00</u>	\$6,250.00	\$0.00

**LEISURE SERVICES**

Income			
Appropriated	\$8,250.00		
Recreation Reserve	\$1,872.31		
Rec. Facility Reserve	\$3,950.80		
Fireworks Donations	\$1,000.00	\$15,073.11	
Expended			
Recreation Reserve	\$3,372.31		
Rec. Facility & Maint. Res.	\$4,950.80		
Swim/Camp Reserve	\$1,478.38		
Special Events	\$ 0.00		
4 <sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks	\$3,000.00		
Baker Mountain Ski	<u>\$1,250.00</u>	<u>\$14,051.49</u>	\$1,021.62

**AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM RESERVE**

Income			
Appropriated	\$6,800.00		
Reserve Funds	<u>\$1,039.87</u>	\$7,839.87	
Expended		<u>\$7,839.87</u>	\$0.00

**CEMETERIES**

**CEMETERY MAINTENANCE**

Appropriated	\$19,000.00		
Expended	<u>\$18,827.31</u>	\$172.69	

**CEMETERY MAINTENANCE RESERVE**

Appropriated	\$4,500.00		
Expended	<u>\$2,100.00</u>	\$2,400.00	

**ANIMAL WELFARE**

Appropriated		\$6,525.00	
Expended			
Animal Control Officer	\$3,375.84		
Humane Society	<u>\$ 911.62</u>	<u>\$4,287.46</u>	\$2,237.54

**AGENCIES**

Appropriated		\$4,000.00	
Expended			
Kennebec Valley Council of			

Governments	\$1,562.00		
Somerset Economic Dev. Corp.	\$ 100.00		
Maine Municipal Association	<u>\$2,278.00</u>	<u>\$3,940.00</u>	\$60.00

### DEBT SERVICE

#### FIRE TRUCK LOAN (12/31/23 balance owed \$0.00)

Appropriated		\$8,600.00	
Expended			
Principal	\$8,363.10		
Interest	<u>\$ 192.10</u>	<u>\$8,555.20</u>	\$44.80

### CAPITAL RESERVE ACCOUNTS

#### ROAD PAVING RESERVE

Income			
Balance 1/1/23	\$ 13,145.57		
Appropriated	\$225,000.00		
Interest	<u>\$ 1,896.14</u>	\$240,041.71	
Expended		<u>\$ 50,000.00</u>	\$190,041.71

#### HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT RESERVE ACCOUNT

Income			
Balance 1/1/23	\$ 8,724.52		
Appropriated	\$10,000.00		
Interest	<u>\$ 248.10</u>	\$18,992.62	
Expended		<u>\$ 0.00</u>	\$18,992.62

#### GRAVEL ROADS RESERVE

Income			
Balance 1/1/23	\$28,708.00		
Appropriated	<u>\$10,000.00</u>	\$38,708.00	
Expended		<u>\$ 0.00</u>	\$38,708.00

#### SIDEWALK REPAIR RESERVE

Income			
Balance 1/1/23	\$15,734.29		
Appropriated	<u>\$ 2,000.00</u>	\$17,734.29	
Expended		<u>\$ 0.00</u>	\$17,734.29

#### TRANSFER STATION TRUCK & TUB RESERVE ACCOUNT

Income			
Balance 1/1/23	\$ 6,172.17		
Appropriated	\$ 7,500.00		
Trans- Transfer Station	\$11,587.08		
Interest	<u>\$ 179.33</u>	\$25,438.58	
Expended		<u>\$ 0.00</u>	\$25,438.58

## COOLIDGE LIBRARY BUILDING CAPITAL RESERVE

### Income

Balance 1/1/23	\$26,627.39		
Appropriated	\$ 3,000.00		
Interest	<u>\$ 493.83</u>	\$30,121.22	
Expended		<u>\$ 0.00</u>	\$30,121.22

## FIRE TRUCK RESERVE ACCOUNT

### Income

Balance 1/1/23	\$3,205.90		
Interest	<u>\$ 56.03</u>	\$3,261.93	
Expended		<u>\$ 0.00</u>	\$3,261.93

## FIRE DEPARTMENT CAPITAL RESERVE ACCOUNT

### Income

Balance 1/1/23	\$271.68		
Interest	<u>\$ 4.74</u>	\$276.42	
Expended		<u>\$ 0.00</u>	\$276.42

## MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS MAINTENANCE RESERVE

### Income

Balance 1/1/23	\$6,182.53		
Appropriated	<u>\$3,500.00</u>	\$9,682.53	
Expended		<u>\$1,000.00</u>	\$8,682.53

## LOCAL ROADS AID PROGRAM (LRAP)

### Income

Balance 1/1/23	\$193,045.02		
Interest	\$ 3,270.23		
State funds received	<u>\$ 48,964.00</u>	\$245,279.25	
Expended			
Transferred to Summer Roads		<u>\$ 98,628.98</u>	\$146,650.27

## AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA)

### Income

Balance 1/1/23	\$113,774.63		
Efficiency Maine Rebate	<u>\$ 36,733.38</u>	\$150,508.01	
Expended			
Fire Station Heat Pumps	\$ 48,788.07		
Fire Station Solar Panels	\$ 50,676.00		
Town Garage Engineering Fee	<u>\$ 5,081.33</u>	<u>\$104,545.40</u>	\$45,962.61

Anticipated Solar Panels rebate \$15,203.00

**OTHER EXPNDITURES**

**CEMETERY LOT PURCHASE RESERVE**

Income		\$1,200.00	
Expended		<u>\$1,200.00</u>	\$0.00

**SOLON SNOWHAWKS**

Income			
State Grant	\$23,100.00		
State Reimbursement	<u>\$ 980.66</u>	\$24,080.66	
Paid to Club		<u>\$24,080.00</u>	\$0.66

**COMMUNITY GARDEN RESERVE**

Income			
Balance 1/1/23	\$2,372.93		
Donations	<u>\$2,542.91</u>	\$4,915.84	
Expended		<u>\$1,961.76</u>	\$2,954.08

**PLANNING BOARD RESERVE ACCOUNT**

Income			
Balance 1/1/23	\$12,358.83		
Income	<u>\$ 2,392.74</u>	\$14,751.57	
Expended		<u>\$ 215.24</u>	\$14,536.33

**HISTORICAL SOCIETY RESERVE ACCOUNT**

Income			
Balance 1/1/23	\$ 1,725.79		
Income	<u>\$10,763.22</u>	\$12,489.01	
Expended		<u>\$ 5,431.38</u>	\$7,057.63

**JONES FUND SCHOLARSHIP RESERVE**

Income			
Balance 1/1/23	\$ 7,364.56		
Income	<u>\$18,003.64</u>	\$25,368.20	
Expended		<u>\$ 8,000.00</u>	\$17,368.20

**RUTH CROSS SCHOLARSHIP RESERVE**

Income			
Balance 1/1/23	\$ 0.00		
Income	<u>\$100.00</u>	\$100.00	
Expended		<u>\$100.00</u>	\$0.00

**FISH & WILDLIFE**

Received & Paid to State		\$26,599.40	\$0.00
--------------------------	--	-------------	--------

<b>MOTOR VEHICLE FEES</b>			
Received & Paid to State		\$96,890.35	\$0.00
 <b>STATE VITAL FEES</b>			
Received & Paid to State		\$136.40	\$0.00
 <b>GUN PERMITS</b>			
Received & Paid to State		\$195.00	\$0.00
 <b>NOTARY FEE</b>			
Received & Paid Out		\$18.00	\$0.00
 <b>PLUMBING PERMITS</b>			
Received		\$2,645.00	
Expended			
State Fees	\$ 627.50		
State Surcharge	\$ 135.00		
Plumbing Inspector	<u>\$1,882.50</u>	<u>\$2,645.00</u>	\$0.00
 <b>DOG LICENSES-STATE FEES</b>			
Received & Paid to State		\$1,189.00	\$0.00
 <b>DOG LICENSES-TOWN FEES RESERVE</b>			
Income			
Balance 1/1/23	\$1,443.48		
Received Town Fees	<u>\$1,081.00</u>	\$2,524.48	
Expended		<u>\$ 256.18</u>	\$2,268.30
 <b>ADDRESSING FEES</b>			
Income		\$80.00	
Expended		<u>\$80.00</u>	\$0.00
 <b>EXCISE TAX</b>			
Income		\$211,258.89	
Refunded		<u>\$ 404.10</u>	\$210,854.79
 <b>RAINY DAY FUND RESERVE</b>			
Balance 1/1/23 & 12/31/23			\$34,033.30
 <b>BANK ACCOUNT INTEREST</b>			
Skowhegan Savings Bank			\$23,814.44
Paid to Reserve Accounts:			
Fire Truck Reserve	\$ 56.03		
Fire Department Capital Reserve	\$ 4.74		
Fire Department Reserve	\$ 361.21		

Transfer Station Equipment Res	\$ 179.33	
Highway Equipment Reserve	\$ 248.10	
Highway Paving Reserve	\$1,896.14	
Highway LRAP Funds	\$3,270.23	
Library Building Capital Reserve	\$ 493.83	
Planning Board Reserve	\$ 232.68	
Historical Society Reserve	\$ 77.14	
Ruth Cross Scholarship Reserve	\$ .00	
Jones Fund Scholarship Reserve	<u>\$ 236.68</u>	<u>\$7,056.17</u>
		\$16,758.27

### SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS

#### RSU # 74 SCHOOL TAX

Appropriated & expended	\$1,202,614.00	
-------------------------	----------------	--

#### COUNTY TAX

Appropriated	\$258,147.00	
Expended	<u>\$258,146.56</u>	\$0.44

#### FIRST PARK

Tax Revenue received	\$6,992.00	
Assessment Paid Out	<u>\$5,213.00</u>	\$779.00

#### ACCOUNTS OVERAGE APPROVED FROM SURPLUS

Approved up to	\$5,000.00	
Overages	<u>\$ 0.00</u>	\$5,000.00

#### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)

Received CDBG Funds	\$310,981.00	
Expended	<u>\$311,240.00</u>	(\$259.00)

#### SOLON WATER DISTRICT

Received from Solon Water District	\$35,350.00	
Paid to Solon Water District	<u>\$35,350.00</u>	\$0.00

#### END OF YEAR TOTALS

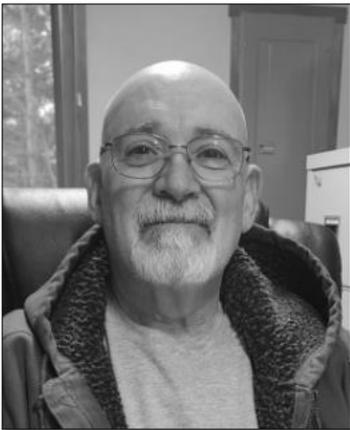
Skowhegan Savings Bank 1/1/23	\$1,378,913.18	
Income Received in 2023	<u>\$3,207,464.24</u>	
Total Income	\$4,586,377.22	
Less Expenditures	<u>\$3,127,032.46</u>	
Balance 12/31/22	\$1,459,344.96	
Less Total of Reserve Accounts	<u>\$ 994,639.05</u>	
Total Undedicated Funds (Surplus)		\$464,705.91

## 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	\$ 99,962,090.00
Local Taxable Personal Property Valuation	\$ <u>1,828,720.00</u>
2023 Taxable Town Valuation	\$101,790,810.00
Total of Homestead Exemption Valuation ((\$8,213,200.00 X 0.76)	\$ 6,242,032.00
Total of all BETE Valuation \$9,586,580.00	
Enhanced BETE Reimbursable Valuation	\$ <u>5,284,564.00</u>
Total Valuation Base	\$113,317,406.00

## APPROPRIATIONS

County Tax	\$ 258,146.56
Municipal Appropriation	\$1,322,449.63
RSU #74 Appropriation	
(1,120,789 (2022/2023) + \$1,284,448 (2023/2024) /2)	<u>\$1,202,614.00</u>
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS	\$2,783,210.19

## LESS ALLOWABLE MUNICIPAL DEDUCTIONS

State Revenue Sharing	\$ 207,823.75
ARPA Funds Reserve	\$ 113,774.63
Road Paving Reserve	\$ 50,000.00
Surplus Revenues	\$ 592,661.10
Less Reserve Funds	<u>(\$110,000.00)</u>
	<u>\$ 854,259.48</u>

APPROPRIATIONS BY TAXATION	\$1,928,950.71
Plus Overlay	<u>\$ 65,435.64</u>
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS BY TAXATION	\$1,994,386.35

## LESS EXEMPTION REIMBURSEMENT FROM STATE

BETE Reimbursement	\$ 93,008.33
Homestead Exemption Reimbursement	<u>\$109,859.76</u>
LESS TOTAL EXEMPTION REIMBURSEMENT	<u>\$ 202,868.09</u>
TOTAL TO BE RAISED BY TAXATION	\$1,791,518.26

2023 MILL RATE: \$17.60 PER \$1,000 OF VALUATION

### Supplements:

2023 Tree Growth Withdrawal Penalties	\$ 7,115.40	
2022 Tree Growth Withdrawal Penalties	<u>\$ 2,140.00</u>	\$9,255.40
 Abatements Given in 2023		 \$4,058.16

## COMPARISON OF APPROPRIATIONS BY TAXATION

RSU #74	10.61 mills	60.30%	(10.0 mills in 2022)
County Tax	2.28 mills	12.94%	(2.19 mills in 2022)
Municipal	4.13 mills	23.48%	(3.64 mills in 2022)
Overlay	<u>.58 mills</u>	<u>3.28%</u>	<u>(0.77 mills in 2022)</u>
Total Mills	16.60 mills	100.00%	(16.60 mills in 2022)

	2021	2022	2023
County Tax	\$ 229,514.28	\$ 238,885.00	\$ 258,146.56
Municipal Approp. by tax	\$ 491,565.72	\$ 396,125.00	\$ 468,190.15
RSU #74 Tax	\$1,105,513.00	\$1,090,996.00	\$1,202,614.00

The School Tax increased this year due to inflation and a smaller amount of available surplus. Solon’s budget is a calendar year budget and RSU 74 operates under a fiscal year budget so in 2023 we are paying the last half of our 2022/2023 RSU 74 appropriation and the first half of our 2023/2024 RSU 74 appropriation. The County Budget Tax increased due to inflation and the county’s need to increase pay rates to retain and attract new employees. Our Municipal Budget by taxation increased due to inflation caused higher costs. This all resulted in mill rate increase from 16.6 in 2022 to 17.6 in 2023.

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.

The Maine Revenue Services reviews our property sales and our tax records every year. Our 2023 State Valuation is based on the 2021 & 2022 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 we continued to see a large increase in the sale price of properties being sold. Our 2022 state valuation was \$106,450,000, our 2023 state valuation is \$115,750,000, and our 2024 state valuation will be \$127,550,000.

The town was in the process of having a professional full town revaluation done by Hamlin Associates. However, they informed us in December that they could not complete the revaluation due to staffing shortage and refunded us the money we had already paid them. We are in the process of trying to find another assessing appraisal company to do the revaluation. Our last full town professional re-valuation was done in 1978. Because the revaluation will not be

done for the 2024 tax year, we will need to do an across the board increase on valuations to get our town valuation close to the state valuation again.

The Business Equipment Tax Exemption (BETE Program) started April 1, 2008. Since that date, all new manufacturing personal property equipment 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. The 2023 state reimbursement is \$93,008 for a portion of our lost BETE tax revenue.

In 2023 the Homestead Exemption is \$25,000 with the state reimbursing 76% of the lost revenue. We gave 328 homestead exemptions. Exemption recipients received a reduction of \$440.00 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 2023, please check with the Assessors before April 1st to see if you qualify for 2023. If you received it in 2022, you do not need to reapply.

We had 55 Veteran Exemption recipients who received a reduction \$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 2023, you do not need to reapply. The widow or widower of a veteran may also qualify for an exemption.

In 2023 we had 16,995 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 assessing 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.

All property is assessed based on its condition on April 1st. If something changes on your property after April 1<sup>st</sup> it will not affect your valuation for that year. But please let the assessors know about it so they can adjust the valuation the next year if needed. If you purchase or sell property after April 1<sup>st</sup>, 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 1<sup>st</sup>. Everyone is required to list their personal property with the Assessors by April 1<sup>st</sup> 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.*



Solar panels being installed on the Fire Station November 2023



Our current Town Garage

# OVERSEERS OF THE POOR REPORT

Our hours for General Assistance are on Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

## INCOME

Appropriated	\$15,000.00	
State & SSI Reimbursement	<u>\$20,740.30</u>	\$35,740.30

## EXPENDITURES

Housing	\$21,347.00	
Heating Fuel	\$ 2,463.91	
Food & Personal Supplies	\$ 30.00	
Utilities	<u>\$ 400.00</u>	<u>\$28,589.95</u>

UNEXPENDED BALANCE \$ 7,160.35

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 2023 Solon’s General Assistance Program helped 6 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 1/1/23

\$1,378,913.18

**MONEY MARKET DEDICATED ACCOUNTS BALANCES 1/1/23**

2022 Revenue Sharing	\$207,823.75
LRAP Funds	\$193,045.02
2023 Prepaid R. E. Taxes	\$ 12,001.46
After School Program Reserve	\$ 6,308.64
American Recovery Program Act	\$113,774.63
Assessing Revaluation Reserve	\$ 5,000.00
Cemetery Maintenance Reserve	\$ 1,974.05
Community Garden Reserve	\$ 2,372.93
Coolidge Library Bldg. Capital Res.	\$ 26,627.39
Coolidge Library Reserve	\$ 1,478.73
Fire Department Reserve	\$ 16,543.13
Fire Department Capital Reserve	\$ 271.68
Fire Truck Reserve	\$ 3,205.90
Highway Equipment Reserve	\$ 8,744.52
Highway Gravel Roads Reserve	\$ 28,708.00
Highway Road Paving Reserve	\$ 13,145.57
Historical Society Reserve	\$ 670.00
Historical Society Maint. Reserve	\$ 1,055.79
Municipal Buildings Heat Reserve	\$ 16,667.14
Municipal Buildings Maint. Res.	\$ 6,182.53
Municipal Grounds Maint. Reserve	\$ 5,181.71
Office Equip & Maintenance Res.	\$ 11,274.58
Planning Board Reserve	\$ 12,358.83
Rainy Day Reserve	\$ 34,033.30
Recreation Department Reserve	\$ 7,167.59
Rec. Facility & Maintenance Res.	\$ 3,670.10
Scholarships - Jones Fund Reserve	\$ 7,364.56
Sidewalk Repair Reserve	\$ 15,734.29
Swim/Camp Reserve	\$ 2,587.06
Town Dogs Reserve	\$ 1,443.48
Town Flag Reserve	\$ 343.55
Town Line Survey Reserve	\$ 8,500.00
Town Records Preservation Res.	\$ 1,620.00
Transfer Station Truck & Tub Res.	\$ 6,172.17
Tree Planting Reserve	<u>\$ 1,000.00</u>

Total Dedicated Accounts	<u>\$786,252.08</u>
--------------------------	---------------------

Total of Non-Dedicated Funds	\$592,661.10
------------------------------	--------------

**INCOME:**

State Revenue Sharing	\$ 236,330.49
Local Roads Assistance Program	\$ 48,964.00
BETE Reimbursement 2023	\$ 93,017.00
BETE Administration Fee	\$ 8.00
Veterans Exemption Reimbursement	\$ 1,704.00
2023 Homestead Reimbursement	\$ 78,298.00
2022 Homestead Reimbursement	\$ 19,864.00
Tree Growth Reimbursement	\$ 69,110.94
Cannabis Ordinance Cost Reimbursement	\$ 3,469.50
Tax Stabilization Admin. Fee	\$ 645.00
CDBG Funds	\$ 310,981.00
2024 Prepaid Real Estate Tax	\$ 8,266.65
2024 Prepaid Personal Property Tax	\$ 0.01
2023 Real Estate Tax	\$1,601,590.91
2023 Personal Property Tax	\$ 30,699.16
2022 Real Estate Tax	\$ 52,894.05
2022 Personal Property Tax	\$ 330.07
2021 Personal Property Tax	\$ 1,349.60
2022 Liens	\$ 29,370.41
2021 Liens	\$ 23,309.00
2022 Taz Acquired Real Estate Tax	\$ 476.42
2021 Taz Acquired Real Estate Tax	\$ 477.04
2020 Taz Acquired Real Estate Tax	\$ 493.12
2018 Taz Acquired Real Estate Tax	\$ 454.17
2016 Taz Acquired Real Estate Tax	\$ 546.45
Property Tax Interest	\$ 5,989.44
Costs, Fees of Liens and Notices	\$ 2,589.15
Notary Fees	\$ 18.00
Motor Vehicle Monies	\$ 96,890.35
Inland Fish & Wildlife Monies	\$ 26,599.40
State Vitals	\$ 136.40
State Dogs	\$ 1,189.00
Town Dogs	\$ 1,081.00
Addressing Fees – Addressing Officer	\$ 80.00
Addressing Fees - Town	\$ 20.00
Vehicle Excise Tax	\$ 211,258.89
IF&W Excise Tax	\$ 1,636.80
Town Agent Fees - Dogs	\$ 283.00
Town Agent Fees - Vital	\$ 1,024.60
Town Agent Fees - BMV	\$ 6,691.00
Town Agent Fees – IF&W	\$ 573.75
Business Licenses	\$ 5,460.00
Gun Permit Fees - State	\$ 195.00
Gun Permit Fees -Town	\$ 84.00

Assessing Refund	\$	10,000.00	
Cemeteries Lot Purchase Reserve	\$	1,200.00	
Coolidge Library Reserve	\$	1,529.00	
Elections Reimbursement	\$	512.00	
Fire Department Reserve	\$	10,082.75	
Fire Department Safety Grant	\$	819.60	
Fireworks Donations	\$	569.36	
Fireworks Donations for 2024	\$	500.00	
First Park Tax Revenue	\$	5,992.00	
General Assistance, State reimbursement	\$	20,740.30	
Historical Society Reserve	\$	10,686.08	
Insurance –Workman Comp. Rebate	\$	497.00	
Insurance – Property Rebate	\$	1,193.00	
Community Garden Res	\$	2,542.91	
Office Equip. Res - Spectrum Franchise Fee	\$	4,210.56	
Planning Board Fees	\$	2,160.00	
Plumbing Permits, State Fee	\$	627.50	
Plumbing Permits, LPI Fee	\$	1,882.50	
Plumbing Permits State Surcharge	\$	135.00	
Public Works	\$	8,560.54	
Recreation Reserve	\$	1,255.50	
Recreation Facility & Maint. Reserve	\$	2,446.00	
Scholarship Reserve - Jones Fund	\$	17,766.96	
Scholarship Reserve – Ruth Cross	\$	100.00	
Schools Reimbursement	\$	80.00	
Solon Food Cupboard – donation	\$	1,300.00	
Solon Water District	\$	35,350.00	
Snowmobile Grant	\$	23,100.00	
Snowmobile Registration Reimb.	\$	980.66	
Transfer Station receipts	\$	7,689.15	
Town Charges – Income & Reimb.	\$	1,343.78	
Heat Pump Rebate	\$	36,733.38	
Bad Check Fees	\$	85.00	
Skowhegan Savings Bank interest	\$	<u>23,814.44</u>	\$3,207,464.24
BALANCE 1/1/23		\$1,378,913.18	
2023 INCOME		<u>\$3,207,464.24</u>	\$4,586,377.42
2023 WARRANTS TOTAL			<u>\$3,127,232.46</u>
BALANCE 12/31/23			\$1,459,144.96

Less Dedicated Accounts

:	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)		\$464,705.91

## RAYMOND JAMES INVESTMENT FUND

As of 12/31/23

### PRINCIPALS:

Historical Society Maint. Res.	\$110,000.00
Jones Fund Scholarship	\$ 29,323.29
Ruth Cross Scholarship	\$ 1,270.00
Town Cemeteries	\$166,920.00
Hilton Cemetery	\$ 3,000.00
Library	\$ 87,380.00

### AVAILABLE FUNDS:

Historical Society Maint. Res.	\$ 18,868.47
Historical Society Reserve	\$ 19,916.04
Library	\$ 5,326.02
Jones Fund Scholarship	\$ 24,856.02
Ruth Cross Scholarship	\$ 85.32
Town Cemeteries	\$ 44,054.53



**Kennebec River Boat Landing off Falls Road**

# 2022 TAX LIENS

OUTSTANDING AS OF 12/31/2023

DOES NOT INCLUDE INTEREST AND FEES

PROPERTY WILL BE FORECLOSED IF NOT PAID BY 10/23/2024

\*\*PAID AFTER 12/31/23 AND BEFORE 02/01/2024

## PERSONAL PROPERTY

POMELOW, JEFFREY	\$ 99.60
------------------	----------

## REAL ESTATE

BERBERIAN, ANDREA	\$ 2,099.47
BROOKS, VASSER	\$ 860.77
BROWN, ROBERT A	\$ 215.58
BROWN, ROBERT A	\$ 437.13
DICKEY, CRISTI A	\$ 2,136.46
GOODHUE ENTERPRISES	\$ 2,040.83
HAYDEN, DOUGLAS R	\$ 1,016.55
HEALD, DEBORAH L	\$ 2,227.35
LANGLEY, JAMES	\$ 866.22
MELILLO, LEO	\$ 1,196.75
MILLER, SHAWN A	\$ 1,249.53
OBERT, CHRISTOPER JAMES	\$ 414.21
OSBORNE, JASON	\$ 1,466.15
POMELOW, JEFFREY	\$ 1,669.20
RICHARDSON, GLENN A SR	\$ 514.95
RODERICK, JOEY M	\$ 1,703.58
ROGERS, DUNCAN M	\$ 1,611.07
SAVAGE, EDWARD	\$ 1,759.28
SOUSA, ROBERT A	\$ 2,385.51
WESTPHAL, WALTER - ESTATE	\$ 316.25

---

\$ 26,186.84

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kaylee Gilson, Treasurer



**Kaylee Gilson**

Treasurer  
Deputy Clerk/Tax Collector



**Danika Riggs**

Deputy Clerk/Tax Collector  
/Treasurer



**Leslie Giroux**

Clerk & Tax Collector,  
Voter Registrar,  
Deputy Treasurer

# TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

2023 RE TAX COMMITMENT	\$1,740,606.38	
2023 PP TAX COMMITMENT	<u>\$ 32,185.47</u>	\$1,772,791.85
2023 RE SUPPLEMENT		\$ 7,115.40
 LESS ABATEMENTS		 <u>\$ (4,058.16)</u>
FINAL COMMITMENT		\$1,768,733.69
 2023 RE COLLECTED IN 2023	 \$1,632,118.85	
2023 PP COLLECTED IN 2023	\$ 30,699.16	
2023 RE COLLECTED IN 2022	<u>\$ 12,001.46</u>	<u>\$1,674,819.47</u>
 TOTAL DUE AS OF 12/31/2023		 \$ 134,360.25

## 2023 UNPAID TAXES AS OF 12/31/2023

IF NOT PAID BY 4/24/2024 A LIEN WILL BE PLACED ON THE PROPERTY  
**PROPERTY WILL BE FORCLOSED ON IF NOT PAID BY 10/23/2024**

\*\*PAID AFTER 12/31/23 AND BEFORE 02/01/2024

### PERSONAL PROPERTY

GOGUEN, BRUCE	\$ 196.94	
GUSHEE, D. LLC	\$ 956.38	
GUSHEE, D. LLC	\$ 227.39	
POMELOW, JEFFREY	<u>\$ 105.60</u>	
	\$ 1,585.91	

### REAL ESTATE

ABELIN, ELIZABETH		\$ 863.64
ADAMS, JOSHUA		\$ 1,335.84
ANTON, SCOTT A	**	\$ 2,335.17
AUSTIN, GERARD		\$ 2,125.13
AVERY, JOSEPH C		\$ 1,812.04
BAGLEY, RANDY		\$ 2,992.98
BAUER, REG A		\$ 2,643.52
BAUER, REG A		\$ 377.34
BEATTIE, MARK		\$ 72.69
BEAULIEU, JOSEPH M II		\$ 586.61
BERBERIAN, ANDREA		\$ 2,171.14
BERGMAN, FREDERICK		\$ 1,450.85
BIGELOW, JESSICA		\$ 417.30
BLODGETT, DEVON		\$ 851.66

BOLAND, AMY GUGGINA		\$ 496.14
BOSTIC, ANTHONY		\$ 114.94
BROOKS, VASSER		\$ 848.67
BROWN, HAROLD C JR	**	\$ 7.92
BROWN, ROBERT A		\$ 152.72
BROWN, ROBERT A		\$ 400.40
BURRILL, TINA M		\$ 1,328.80
BURTON, MARY LYNN		\$ 414.46
BUTLER, BEN M		\$ 1,636.80
CAMERON, DOUGLAS		\$ 846.97
COLE, WILLIAM JR		\$ 2,504.13
DAVIS, DARILYN		\$ 725.29
DICKEY, CRISTI A		\$ 2,450.80
DOURANT, STEVEN A		\$ 681.84
DOVE, OMIE H		\$ 7.51
DUBE, MICHAEL	**	\$ 748.46
DUKE, CHARLES M		\$ 134.62
DUMOND, DAVID		\$ 1,091.20
DUNN, LOWELL W	**	\$ 1,129.92
DURFEY, LEROY H III	**	\$ 133.40
DURFEY, LEROY H III	**	\$ 774.04
EMERSON, JAMES A		\$ 1,105.13
ERICKSON, ERIC		\$ 410.61
EVERGREEN WILDERNESS CHAPEL		\$ 2,270.93
FELKER, MATTHEW L	**	\$ 6.16
FISKE, DAVID M	**	\$ 311.96
FRENCH, JAMES B II	**	\$ 275.80
FRENCH, LINDA R		\$ 17.78
FRENCH, LINDA R		\$ 1,495.66
FRENCH, LINDA R		\$ 1,637.68
GILMAN, KENNETH R		\$ 206.10
GIRESI, SALVATORE		\$ 1,554.06
GODFREY, ERIN HALL		\$ 968.35
GODFREY, ERIN HALL		\$ 48.40
GODFREY, ERIN HALL		\$ 2,032.45
GOGUEN, BRUCE		\$ 6,152.96
GOODHUE ENTERPRISES		\$ 3,086.69
GRANT, JONATHAN	**	\$ 573.43
GUSHEE, D LLC		\$ 1,531.73
GUSHEE, D LLC		\$ 4,716.80

HART, RICHARD W		\$ 124.43
HART, RICHARD W		\$ 1,116.72
HATFIELD, ELIZABETH	**	\$ 568.21
HAYDEN, DOUGLAS R		\$ 1,011.12
HAYDEN, WAYNE A	**	\$ 1,660.00
HEALD, DEBORAH L		\$ 2,349.60
HENDERSON, HEATHER M		\$ 1,226.72
HILTZ, GARY A		\$ 2,678.72
JOHNSON, JEREMIAH		\$ 755.22
JOHNSON, WAYNE C	**	\$ 1,704.16
KELLEY, RICHARD F JR		\$ 1,221.44
KILMER, KODY M		\$ 831.42
LABERGE, JOLINE		\$ 3,004.80
LAFRENIERE, EDWARD		\$ 415.01
LAWRENCE, JASON		\$ 386.85
LEPORE, FREDERICK JR		\$ 134.40
LINDSTEDT, JACQUELINE E		\$ 16.79
LINDSTEDT, JACQUELINE E		\$ 19.36
LOGAN, LISA M		\$ 2,386.56
MADEN, BARBARA A		\$ 1,126.40
MELILLO, LEO		\$ 1,112.20
MILLER, CORY		\$ 1,883.02
MILLER, SHAWN A		\$ 1,249.60
MORGAN, RYAN D	**	\$ 462.35
MURGITA, DEBRA M		\$ 914.16
MURPHY, KEVIN P		\$ 2,017.31
NILE, HEATHER E		\$ 1,478.40
NOYES, DONNA M		\$ 1,402.90
OBERT, CHRISTOPER JAMES		\$ 488.22
O'BRIEN, SCOTT	**	\$ 2,009.39
O'MEARA, THOMAS D		\$ 1,071.84
OSBORNE, JASON		\$ 1,470.30
PEABODY, ROBERT	**	\$ 32.47
POMELOW, JEFFREY		\$ 1,689.60
QUIMBY, TIMOTHY		\$ 1,672.00
R.W. & V.T. CHRISTENSEN TRUST	**	\$ 5.63
RAILO, JONATHAN		\$ 101.84
RICHARDSON, GLENN A SR		\$ 550.88
RODERICK, JOEY M		\$ 1,719.52
ROGERS, DUNCAN M		\$ 1,634.69

ROGERS, MEGAN	\$	14.68
ROY, CHRISTOPHER	\$	1,017.28
SAVAGE, EDWARD	\$	1,776.90
SCHRADER, MICHELLE	\$	453.89
SHANNON, ERIC L	\$	186.43
SMITH, DAVID	\$	285.20
SMITH, RONALD W	**	\$ 1,026.61
SOUSA, ROBERT A	\$	2,513.28
STARBIRD, DAVID A	\$	1,484.03
STEVENS, CLIFFORD S	\$	4,054.16
STICKNEY, MERVIL A.	\$	1,327.04
TAYLOR, ASHLEY G	\$	102.96
THIEFFRY, MATISSE	\$	1,024.32
TOLMAN, JOSEPH M	\$	50.51
TOLMAN, JOSEPH MARK	\$	820.34
TURCOTTE, ROSS	\$	2,202.64
WESTPHAL, WALTER - ESTATE	\$	374.18
WHEELER, ERICA L	\$	352.00
WHITE, BENJAMIN D	\$	690.59
WILLETTE, ROBBIE R	\$	930.16
WILLETTE, ROBBIE R	**	\$ 137.98
WYMAN, JOE	\$	2,173.60
YOST, ANDREW G	\$	<u>589.60</u>
		\$134,360.25

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



Kennebec River north of Williams Dam

# TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

## VITAL STATISTICS

January 1 - December 31, 2023

	MARRIAGES	BIRTHS	DEATHS
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
2016	5	3	12

## DEATHS

Decedent Name	Age	Date of Death
Bagley, Randy	66	12/21/2023
Callan, Adria	44	09/25/2023
Clark, Jeffrey A. Sr.	58	10/27/2023
Dube, George	77	06/01/2023
Hamlin, Jerry W. Sr.	80	12/15/2023
Hebert, Chad W.	68	03/28/2023
Houser, Alexander	29	04/05/2023
Laweryson, Steve A.	72	03/11/2023
Layman, Christopher	65	01/14/2023
Melillo, Leo	74	12/16/2023
Munroe, Bruce E.	76	12/07/2023
Papadopoulos, Judith A.	72	04/15/2023
Paskoski, Joanne C.	83	11/03/2023

## 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	\$141,000.00	
Reimbursements	\$ 511.04	
Culvert Reimbursement	\$ 1,760.00	
Town of Madison, Plowing	<u>\$ 2,000.00</u>	\$145,271.04

### EXPENDITURES:

#### LABOR

Gary Bishop	\$ 31,020.35	
Jeffrey Chase	\$ 23,303.70	
Jeffrey Cyr	\$ 20,368.26	
Glenn Richardson	\$ 313.58	
Part Time Labor	<u>\$ 864.50</u>	\$73,293.78

#### UTILITIES

Central Maine Power	\$ 1,305.19	
TDS Telecom & US Cellular	<u>\$ 622.34</u>	\$ 1,927.53

#### SUPPLIES

Supplies	\$ 2,814.21	
Tools	<u>\$ 128.46</u>	\$ 2,942.67

#### MILEAGE

Mileage Reimbursement		\$ 1,458.63
-----------------------	--	-------------

#### CONTRACTED SERVICES

Tree Work	\$ 269.00	
Towing	<u>\$ 2,155.00</u>	\$ 2,424.00

#### PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

Building Maintenance		\$ 29.96
----------------------	--	----------

#### ROAD MAINTENANCE

Gravel	\$ 456.00	
Winter Sand	\$ 8,304.00	
Winter Salt	\$ 17,835.68	
Road Signs	<u>\$ 322.47</u>	\$26,918.15

#### EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE

Equipment Repairs	\$ 3,424.87	
Diesel Fuel & Gas	\$ 23,830.21	
Tires	\$ 1,058.76	
Truck Repairs	<u>\$ 13,152.72</u>	\$41,466.56

#### TRAINING & DUES

Medical Testing	<u>\$ 77.00</u>	\$153,114.91 (\$ 7,843.87)
-----------------	-----------------	-------------------------------

## SUMMER ROADS

### INCOME:

Appropriated	\$137,000.00	
Calcium Reimbursement	\$ 4,008.00	
Road Sign Reimbursement	\$ 81.50	
Driveway Entrance Permits	<u>\$ 200.00</u>	\$141,289.50

### EXPENDITURES:

#### LABOR

Gary Bishop	\$ 26,144.30	
Jeffrey Chase	\$ 21,104.84	
Jeffrey Cyr	\$ 19,271.89	
Glenn Richardson	\$ 1,248.75	
Arthur Myers	\$ 3,972.00	
Eric Peterson	<u>\$ 1,552.00</u>	\$73,293.78

#### UTILITIES

Central Maine Power	\$ 666.91	
TDS Telecom & US Cellular	<u>\$ 821.79</u>	\$ 1,488.70

#### SUPPLIES

Supplies	\$ 2,504.13	
Safety Equipment	<u>\$ 31.48</u>	\$ 2,435.61

#### MILEAGE

Mileage Reimbursement		\$ 1,138.29
-----------------------	--	-------------

#### CONTRACTED SERVICES

Roadside Mowing	\$ 2,500.00	
Septic Tank Service	\$ 420.00	
Tree Work	\$ 151.00	
Road Equipment	\$ 100.00	
Equipment Rental	<u>\$16,650.25</u>	\$19,821.25

#### PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

Building Maintenance	\$ 358.00	
Furnace Maintenance	<u>\$ 245.50</u>	\$ 603.50

#### ROAD MAINTENANCE

Gravel	\$28,956.00	
Calcium	\$ 8,005.80	
Culverts	\$15,872.34	
Road Signs	\$ 3,145.03	
Paving	<u>\$64,636.48</u>	\$120,615.65

#### EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE

Equipment Repair	\$ 858.42	
Diesel Fuel & Gas	\$ 8,838.15	
Tires	\$ 1,915.75	
State Inspections	\$ 560.00	
Truck Repairs	<u>\$ 7,948.38</u>	\$20,120.70

#### TRAINING & DUES

Medical Testing	<u>\$ 301.00</u>	<u>\$239,918.48</u>
		(\$98,628.98)
Transferred in from LRAP		<u>\$ 98,628.98</u>
		\$ 0.00

## RESERVE ACCOUNTS

### HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT RESERVE ACCOUNT

Income:		
Balance 1/1/23	\$ 8,744.52	
Appropriated	\$10,000.00	
Interest	<u>\$ 248.10</u>	\$18,992.62
Expended		<u>\$ 0.00</u> \$18,992.62

### ROAD PAVING RESERVE ACCOUNT

Income:		
Balance 1/1/23	\$ 13,145.57	
Appropriated	\$225,000.00	
Interest	<u>\$ 1,896.14</u>	\$240,041.71
Expended		<u>\$ 50,000.00</u>
\$190,041.71		

### LOCAL ROADS AID PROGRAM (LRAP)

Income		
Balance 1/1/23	\$193,045.02	
Interest	\$ 3,270.23	
State funds received	<u>\$ 48,964.00</u>	\$245,279.25
Expended		
Transferred to Summer Roads		<u>\$ 98,628.98</u>
\$146,650.27		

### GRAVEL ROADS RESERVE

Income		
Balance 1/1/23	\$28,708.00	
Appropriated	<u>\$10,000.00</u>	\$38,708.00
Expended		<u>\$ 0.00</u> \$38,708.00

### SIDEWALK REPAIR RESERVE

Income		
Balance 1/1/23	\$15,734.29	
Appropriated	<u>\$ 2,000.00</u>	\$17,734.29
Expended		<u>\$ 0.00</u> \$17,734.29

## Road Commissioner Report

2023 was a year of snowstorms and freezing rain during the winter and a lot of rain the rest of the year. To cap the year off we had the federally declared disaster flooding events on May 1<sup>st</sup> and December 18<sup>th</sup>.

The May 1<sup>st</sup> rainstorm caused a lot of road washouts. The major damage was to two sections of River Road in the Padham Brook area that forced a temporary closure of the road until it could be made safe to travel on again. About a 200-foot paved section of the south side of the road was washed out west of the West Road and about a 150-foot section of the north side of the road was deeply undermined east of the West Road. And West Road was washed out at the River Road intersection. We had to remove the pavement on the 2 sections of the River Road and rebuild them. We also added additional culverts and replaced other culverts with larger culverts. The pavement replacement was done in November. Other serious damage areas were the culvert on Drury Road near Starbird Lane washed out and took that section of road with it, the culvert at the intersection of Boardman Road and Jackson Road washed out and washed out a large section of the Boardman Road, and the gravel over culverts on Lacasce Road washed out. The Hole in the Wall Road at Michael Stream was flooded and there is a hole in pavement on the shoulder on the south side of the road that we have filled in with rocks. In 2024 we will hire a company to extend, fill in, and stabilize the three culverts at this stream crossing. There were a lot of areas with less serious road and shoulder washouts. We spent most of the summer repairing the damaged roads.

Then we had the December 18<sup>th</sup> rainstorm that caused major river flooding in Maine. The overall damage to our roads was not as bad as the May 1 flooding. We had a large road and shoulder washout on Parkman Hill Road north of Michael Stream. It also caused a section of pavement along the shoulder on Grant Road to be undermined. Padham Brook washed out the new culvert we had installed on the West Road and undermined some of the River Road east of West Road. However, the overall damage to our roads was not as bad as the May 1 storm. We have repaired all the damaged areas.

We have had a lot of truck repairs this year. We have a 2017 and a 2015 Western Star truck that both needed a lot of repairs this year. Our back up dump/plow truck is a 1995 Ford. During the first snowstorm in November, both of our Western Star trucks were in repair shops, so we only had the 1995 Ford and our 2020 1-ton pickup truck to plow and sand the roads.

At the 2024 Annual Town Meeting is a request to purchase a new dump/plow truck. The 1995 Ford has served us well over the years, but it is time to replace it. When we purchase a new truck, we will also need to purchase a new dump/sander body and plow set up for the new truck.

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 cold temperatures, the salt does not work as well to melt the ice. Also remember that state law also prohibits the placement of snow on a public way that has not accumulated there naturally. That means don't plow or snow blow your snow into the road. And keep the right of way clear so the road crew can plow the roads without obstacles in the way.

Arthur Myers and Eric Peterson cut some roadside brush for us and we also rented an excavator and forestry mulcher to cut back the roadside brush. We also had roadside mowing done by Jeremy Gibson.

We are planning on doing gravel road repair work and ditching in 2024. Please remember to slow down and drive carefully in the roadwork areas to keep our road crew safe. Not all work areas have good sight distance so please slow down and drive with caution when you see our road work signs.

We have a problem with some people spinning their tires and 'doing donuts' on the gravel roads. Please be mindful that while you might 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 would like to thank all who have given me support this year. Thank you so much. I appreciate it!

Respectfully,  
Gary Bishop, Road Commissioner



Jeffrey Cyr, Road Crew



Jeffrey Chase, Road Crew

# 2023 STORM FLOODING DAMAGE

MAY 1, 2023



River Road west of West Road, 05-01-23, photos at 9 am & at 4 pm



River Road, east of the West Road, before and after



River Road the following day



West Road at River Road at 9 am & 4 pm



Drury Road near Starbird Lane



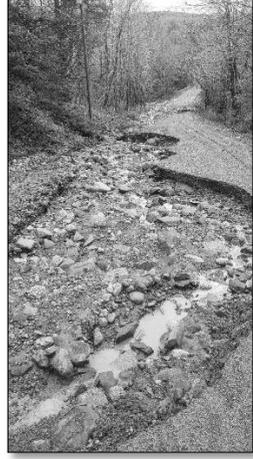
Lacasce Rd

Brown Farm Rd



Boardman Road at Jackson Road

**DECEMBER 18, 2023**



Parkman Hill Road



Grant Road



River Road



West Road

# TRANSFER STATION REPORT

## TRANSFER STATION

INCOME:

Appropriated	\$99,000.00		
Sticker Fees	\$ 1,760.00		
Disposal Fees	\$ 3,945.00		
Steel Recycling	<u>\$ 1,984.15</u>	\$106,689.15	

EXPENDITURES:

LABOR

Glenn Richardson	\$19,855.53		
Deborah Brackett	\$ 7,722.37		
David Houle	\$ 4,656.00		
Glenn Richardson, driving	<u>\$ 3,434.18</u>	\$35,668.08	

UTILITIES

Central Maine Power	\$ 1,217.73		
TDS Telecom	<u>\$ 586.10</u>	\$ 1,803.83	

SUPPLIES

Supplies	\$ 1,061.69		
Safety Equipment	<u>\$ 128.29</u>	\$ 1,189.98	

CONTRACTED SERVICES

Trash Disposal Fee	\$43,281.49		
Recycling Program	\$ 3,257.03		
Bush Hogging	\$ 500.00		
Porta Potty	<u>\$ 420.00</u>	\$47,458.52	

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

Property Maintenance			\$ 1,019.73
----------------------	--	--	-------------

EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE

Equipment Repair	\$ 1,143.00		
Diesel Fuel & Gas	\$ 2,987.09		
Truck Repairs	\$ 2,126.97		
State Inspections	<u>\$ 516.00</u>	\$ 7,961.93	

TRAINING/DUES

Licensing	\$ 184.00		
Medical Testing	<u>\$ 77.00</u>	<u>\$ 261.00</u>	<u>\$95,102.07</u>
			\$11,587.08

Transferred to TS Truck & Tub Reserve			<u>\$11,587.08</u>
			\$ 0.00

## TRANSFER STATION TRUCK & EQUIPMENT RESERVE ACCOUNT

### INCOME

Balance 1/1/23	\$ 6,172.17		
Appropriated	\$ 7,500.00		
Trans. in from Transfer Station	\$11,587.08		
Interest	<u>\$ 179.33</u>	\$25,438.58	
EXPENDED		<u>\$ 0.00</u>	\$25,438.58

## 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**

<b><u>Tires:</u></b>	passenger and pickup truck, up to 17", off rim	\$3.00
	passenger and pickup truck, up to 17", on rim	\$6.00
	large truck tires, off rim	\$10.00
	tractor tires	
	\$100.00	

**Household items:**

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

**Lights:** Mercury vapor bulbs \$1.50

**Other:** Mercury switches, thermostats and thermometers \$3.00

**Bulky Waste/Asphalt Shingles:** 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 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 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 499.19 tons to Waste Management with a total cost of \$43,281.49 in tipping fees during 2023, which is an increase of \$3,755.95 over last year. Our trash costs us a about \$110 per ton in transport and disposal fees. Tonnage breakdown is: 136.66 tons household waste, 362.53 tons demolition debris.

On the other hand, Solon paid just over \$3,257.03 to recycle cardboard, paper and plastic. We were paid \$1,984.15 for the tin cans, metal, and batteries. The more we recycle, the more we save.

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.

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, 2024 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.

Thanks to Deb and Glen for all of their hard work to make our Transfer Station run so smoothly. Glen is also our truck driver. Additional thanks go to Road Commissioner Gary Bishop for the Road Crew’s 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 <sup>st</sup> Assist. Chief	441-5171	Solon 102
Nick Rollins, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Assist. Chief	474-1663	Solon 103
Richard Kelley, 3 <sup>rd</sup> 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	Brian Coombs
Meagan Corson	Derek Dellarma
Kevin LaCroix	Brian Livingstone
Frederick Mayo	Thomas Courtney, Mechanic
Ken Tyrell	Cooper Dellarma, Junior FF
	Gerald Rollins, Junior FF

## FIRE WARDENS

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

Duayne Rollins, Fire Warden 399-9549

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

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

### INCOME

Appropriated	\$36,725.00	
Appropriated Fire Chief Salary	\$ 8,275.00	
Transfer in from F. D. Reserve	<u>\$ 6,515.59</u>	\$52,335.59

### EXPENDITURES

#### LABOR

Duayne Rollins, Fire Chief	\$ 8,275.00
Duayne Rollins	\$ 1,430.00
Brian Coombs	\$ 555.00
Jenney Rollins	\$ 1,000.00
Kevin Lacroix	\$ 315.00
Frederic Mayo	\$ 1,153.00
Richard Kelley	\$ 1,658.00
Brian Livingstone	\$ 196.00
Derek Dellarma	\$ 140.00
Zane Brown	\$ 769.00
Todd Dixon	\$ 1,077.00
Meagan Corson	\$ 460.00
Nick Rollins	\$ 953.00

Thomas Courtney	\$ 272.00		
Brandi Crocker	<u>\$ 78.00</u>	\$18,331.00	
<b>UTILITIES</b>			
Central Maine Power	\$ 2,219.43		
TDS-Phone & Internet	\$ 480.79		
Solon Water District	<u>\$ 796.96</u>	\$ 3,497.18	
<b>SUPPLIES</b>			
Supplies	\$ 6,721.15		
Safety Equipment	\$16,991.11		
Radio Communications	<u>\$ 1,576.95</u>	\$25,289.21	
<b>PROPERTY MAINTENANCE</b>			
Building Maintenance	\$ 2,193.00		
Furnace Maintenance	<u>\$ 225.00</u>	\$ 2,418.00	
<b>FEES &amp; MAINTENANCE FEES</b>			
Computer Software Fees		\$ 305.00	
<b>EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE</b>			
Equipment Repair	\$ 428.24		
Diesel Fuel & Gasoline	<u>\$ 821.21</u>	\$ 1,249.45	
<b>TRAINING &amp; DUES</b>			
Dues	\$ 30.00		
Certifications	<u>\$ 1,215.75</u>	<u>\$ 1,245.75</u>	<u>\$52,335.59</u>
			\$ 0.00

#### **FIRE TRUCK RESERVE ACCOUNT**

<b>Income</b>			
Balance 1/1/23	\$3,205.90		
Interest	<u>\$ 56.03</u>	\$3,261.93	
Expended		<u>\$ 0.00</u>	\$3,261.93

#### **FIRE DEPARTMENT CAPITAL RESERVE ACCOUNT**

<b>Income</b>			
Balance 1/1/23	\$271.68		
Interest	<u>\$ 4.74</u>	\$276.42	
Expended		<u>\$ 0.00</u>	\$276.42

#### **FIRE DEPARTMENT RESERVE ACCOUNT**

<b>INCOME:</b>			
Balance 1/1/23	\$16,543.13		
Sukeforth Donation	\$ 1,000.00		
New Hope Church Donation	\$ 922.75		
Donations	\$ 8,160.00		
Interest	<u>\$ 361.21</u>	\$26,987.09	
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
Transferred to Fireworks	\$ 430.64		
Transferred to Fire Dept.	<u>\$ 6,515.99</u>	<u>\$ 6,946.63</u>	\$20,040.46

## FIRE CALLS

	<u>Total Calls</u>	43		
Vehicle Accidents	13	Fire Alarms	2	
Structure Fires	4	Assist EMS	6	
Mutual Aid Given	6	Grass/Brush Fires	3	
Chimney Fire	2	Electrical Lines/Trees	7	

### ***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 \$10 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. 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

Time goes by so fast, but I always look forward to this report. It allows me time to be able to thank people and to let the town know what the Fire Department has been doing throughout the year.

I would like to say thank you to Heather Forsten, Doug Sukeforth, Cliff and Michelle Stevens, Jeremy Farmer, Jon and Denise Dunay, and Somerset Home Improvements. Also, thank you to Moose Alley Riders for the new stove in our kitchen. For donations whether it be funds, time, and/or shared talents we thank you for helping us complete tasks around the fire station throughout the year.

The Memorial Day Weekend toll booth once again was a great success. We were able to raise enough funds to purchase a much-needed gear dryer. We look forward to this every year. It allows us to get out and talk with townspeople and people passing through our great town.

The fireworks had a wonderful turnout. Thank you to the town and all others who donated and help keep this event a great time for everyone to enjoy.

The Chili Cook Off that the New Hope Church hosted was once again an amazing time. They put together the chili cook off, silent auction, and bake sale with all proceeds donated to the fire department. The departments that battled for the best tasting chili this year were Augusta, Bingham, Madison, and Solon. This year Augusta took first place and Solon was second. With these proceeds we ordered two new pagers and some tools.

In August Griswold's held a car show and the fire department was there to help with sign in. Another great function to bring our community together.

Fire prevention was in October at Solon Elementary School. Safety Officer Jenney Rollins and 2nd Assistant Chief Todd Dixon went into the school to educate the kids about fire safety.

We had another successful year with the trunk or treat at Griswold's.

We started a junior firefighter program this year as well. We took on two new juniors to start the program with and see how things go.

As a reminder as you read these the Solon Volunteer Department does all of this throughout the year as well as monthly meetings, monthly truck checks, monthly training and emergency calls.

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

Sincerely, Fire Chief Duayne Rollins

# COOLIDGE LIBRARY

## COOLIDGE LIBRARY TRUSTEES

Jane Ourderkirk, Chairman (2027)	Richard Roberts, Vice Chair (2026)
Leslie Giroux (2025)	Mary Lou Ridley (2025)
Stacy Robinson (2025)	Allyn Foss (2026) (resigned Nov.)
Patricia Whipple (2026)	Chris Shaw (2027)
Ann Jackson (2024)	Andrew Davis (2026) (Appt. Nov.)

Working in conjunction with the Library Expansion Committee\*, most of our work this year was devoted to developing a Request for Proposal (RFP) for Architectural Services to design an addition to the Coolidge Library,

Darylyne Provost coordinated the development of a Library Needs Survey that was mailed with property tax bills and was also available online. Leslie Giroux compiled the survey response data which was used by the Expansion Committee and the Trustees to develop an RFP that the Board of Selectmen issued to four firms with a September due date. Having received no responses, we submitted a revised RFP to five other firms with a March 2024 due date. One firm has sent notice that they are not able to participate. If we do not receive a satisfactory proposal, we need to look at alternative construction options.

As required by the State Library, we are beginning a periodic review of policies and procedures beginning with circulation policies. Policy revisions will be posted on the Library's Facebook page.

The Solon Community Garden's Deb Gerry has coordinated several programs and services with the library including a Library garden area to benefit the local food cupboard.

Regular Trustee Meetings are held at 6:00 PM at the library on the first Thursdays of September, November, January, March, and May.

Special thanks to Allyn Foss for his years of service as a Trustee, many of them as Chair and to Library Director Megan Myers for continued enhancements to Library services and programs.

We appreciate patron donations of materials and funds to the Friends of the Library which allow us to provide materials beyond what our budget can support.

\* Library Expansion Committee: Jane Ouderkirk (Chair); Elaine Aloes; Judy Belanger; Allyn Foss; Leslie Giroux; Megan Myers; Darylyne Provost; Mary Lou Ridley; Richard Roberts

# LIBRARIAN REPORT

The Coolidge Library had an exciting year! Among our achievements were record-high visitation and more books borrowed than ever before! Thanks to all of you who walked through our doors, as well as those who gave support in other ways. We have a generous community of readers, leaders, teachers, and learners who keep us going, and remind us daily of our Mission: The Coolidge Library will 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 persons of all ages.

We highly value our partnerships with other community organizations. Some of our long-standing collaborators are Solon's Summer Recreation Department, and Solon Elementary School. This summer, we welcomed the kids and helpers from the Summer Rec. Program for a concert on the back lawn. The kids danced and jammed along with the musicians using their homemade musical instruments. We again held our annual Bookmark Competition with Solon Elementary School, though this year, we opened the competition to local home-school students, as well. Stop by the library to see the students' beautiful designs! We teamed up with Somerset Economic Development Corporation to increase digital literacy, as well as affordable access to internet service and technology. Also, this year we worked with the Solon Community Garden, and The University of Maine Cooperative Extension. These organizations helped us offer free, informative and engaging programming based on identified community interests and needs. Through the Solon Community Garden, the library acquired two irrigated, raised garden beds for our front yard. These beds grew (and will continue to grow) fruits, vegetables, herbs and flowers that visitors to the library were welcome to enjoy. The classes we held this year were largely focused on seeds: swapping, sowing, growing and saving. We also learned some less conventional ways of using seed, such as a medium for artwork and for fun sensory activities. We received instructions on how to save money by making planters from recycled materials. We learned about soil and nutrients and how to adapt our gardens for the more extreme weather events our state has been experiencing. In all, we had more than 100 people attend our Garden programs.

Our collection here is small but mighty! We have sturdy board books for the littlest readers, as well as hot, new titles for adults and everything in between. For juveniles, we have a selection of beautifully illustrated picture books, and stacks of well-written chapter books. No collection is complete without current, informative non-fiction books. Ours covers subjects from science and technology to arts and entertainment, from history to current events, sports to

cooking. For adults and young adults, half of the library is dedicated to fiction titles. We have classics, as well as today's bestsellers. We strive to carry quality books of all genres so we're sure to have something you'll enjoy. Need help finding your next read, just ask! We're here to help. I look forward to the coming year and seeing you at the library!

Respectfully, Megan Myers, Library Director



Megan Myers  
Library Director

### COOLIDGE LIBRARY RESERVE

<b>INCOME:</b>			
Balance 1/1/22	\$ 1,478.73		
Appropriated	\$23,000.00		
Donations	<u>\$ 1,529.00</u>	\$26,007.73	
<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>			
Megan Myers, Librarian	\$14,592.20		
Vicki Myers, Asst. Librarian	\$ 4,924.56		
TDS-Phone & Internet	\$ 697.53		
Solon Water District	\$ 476.23		
Activities	\$ 348.36		
Office Supplies	\$ 906.85		
Books	\$ 1,476.48		
Shop Supplies	\$ 102.29		
Security System	\$ 221.88		
Furnace Maintenance	\$ 996.40		
PO Box Fee	<u>\$ 210.00</u>	<u>\$25,801.86</u>	\$205.87

### LIBRARY BUILDING CAPITAL RESERVE

Balance 1/1/23	\$26,627.39		
Appropriated	\$ 3,000.00		
Interest	<u>\$ 493.83</u>	\$30,121.22	
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
Building Repairs		<u>\$ 0.00</u>	\$30,121.22

# LIBRARY MEMORIAL & INVESTMENT FUNDS

## RAYMOND JAMES INVESTMENT FUND

Principal \$87,380.00

Investment Value 1/1/23	\$86,141.94		
Income	\$ 4,928.50		
Investment Change in Value	<u>\$ 2,505.62</u>	\$93,576.06	
Less			
Investment Advisor Fees		<u>\$ 870.04</u>	
Invest. Funds Balance 12/31/23			\$92,706.02

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 12/31/2023		<u>\$ 5,326.02</u>	\$92,706.02



New Solon Community Garden area at the Coolidge Public Library

# CEMETERIES & VETERAN GRAVES

## CEMETERIES

**INCOME:**

Appropriated	\$19,000.00
--------------	-------------

**EXPENDITURES:**

Robert Alton, Small Cemeteries	\$ 275.00	
W. Wooster, Evergreen Cem.	\$5,063.74	
W. Wooster, Pierce Cemetery	\$4,276.03	
W. Wooster, S. Solon Cem.	\$2,700.61	
J. Lawrence, Village Cemetery	\$4,276.03	
Hilton Cemetery	\$ 75.00	
Flags & Holders	\$1,365.40	
Grounds Maintenance	<u>\$ 800.00</u>	<u>\$18,827.31</u> \$172.69

## CEMETERY MAINTENANCE RESERVE

Balance 1/1/23	\$ 1,974.05	
Appropriated	<u>\$ 4,500.00</u>	\$6,474.05
<b>Paid Out:</b>		
Maintenance		<u>\$2,100.00</u> \$4,374.05

## CEMETERY LOT PURCHASE RESERVE

Income	\$1,200.00	
Refunded	\$300.00	
Transferred to Investment Fund	<u>\$900.00</u>	<u>\$1,200.00</u> \$0.00

## RAYMOND JAMES INVESTMENT FUND

Principal \$166,920.00		
Investment Value 1/1/23	\$192,378.74	
Principal Funds Added	\$ 3,750.00	
Income	\$ 11,202.77	
Investment Change in Value	<u>\$ 5,614.09</u>	\$212,945.80
<b>Less</b>		
Withdrawals	\$ 0.00	
Investment Advisor Fees	<u>\$ 1,971.07</u>	<u>\$ 1,971.07</u>
Invest. Funds Balance 12/31/23		\$210,974.53
Principal Balance 12/31/2023	\$166,920.00	
Available Funds 12/31/23	<u>\$ 44,054.53</u>	\$210,974.53

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 not 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 may be removed at the end of the season. Trees, bushes, and flowers will be removed at the discretion of the groundskeeper.



*Branches cut back to see the headstone.*

These photos are only two of the many examples of when trees and bushes are planted and not maintained. The families tend to them for a few years and then they get forgotten or the people responsible move away.



*Rose bushes engulf four old headstones.*



*With the plants removed, cemetery patrons have full view of the headstones.*

**New Cemetery Management** - After inheriting all 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. This fall, we began with Evergreen Cemetery by taking a photo record of every burial marker and monument and importing it into the database. The company we are working with is taking our old paper records and cross-referencing the information with the photos. We hope to have the website live and available to the public by summer of 2024.

A big THANK YOU to John Giroux for the hours he spent cutting down (a trailer full) of brush from around the headstones, those pictured above and many more, so we could take the photos needed for this project.

**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!!

# PLANNING BOARD REPORT

MICHAEL GOLDEN, CHAIRMAN (2023) 643-2219

Frank Evangelista, Vice Chair (2023)      Craig Gerry (2025)

Dianna Rollins, Secretary (2023)      Kerri Evangelista (2024)

Richard Kelley, 1st Alt. (2024)

## INCOME:

Balance 1/1/23		\$12,358.83
Interest	\$ 232.74	
Permits	<u>\$ 2,160.00</u>	\$14,751.57

## EXPENDITURES:

Supplies	<u>\$ 215.24</u>	\$14,536.33
----------	------------------	-------------

## PERMITS:

Residential Permits	12	Residential Accessory Permits	7
Commercial Permits	3	Shoreland Zone Permits	1

2023 was a fairly busy year for building. For the first time in recent memory, the number of residential construction permits exceeded the number of accessory building permits. There were more homes and camps built than garages and sheds.

In 2023 the town hired David Savage as our Code Enforcement Officer, Health Officer, and Plumbing Inspector. He served until October. In November the town hired Jeff Drew for these positions. Jeff also fills these positions for the towns of Madison and Anson. He can be reached at 696-4172. He has been doing an outstanding job for our town.

Currently we are working with Kennebec Valley Council of Governments to update our Building Permit ordinance to bring it into compliance with the state's new regulations regarding the construction of Accessory Dwelling Units and to make it more comprehensive. We hope to have it completed and ready for a special town meeting sometime in the late spring or early summer.

We have changed our meeting schedule. We are now meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday during those months if the need should arise. I will 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 during the last year and we look forward to serving you in 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Michael R. Golden, Chairman



Fall Brook Bridge, North Main St. (southern view)  
Prior to the start of the Maine DOT bridge replacement project



Beginning the preparation of temporary bridge.

# 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 COMMITTEE

Leslie Giroux, Recreation Director (2024)  
 Laura Layman, Summer Swim/Camp Director (2024)  
 Kayla Starr (2024)      Amy Sidell (2023)      Zane Brown (2025)

### RECREATION RESERVE

Balance 1/1/23	\$7,167.59		
Donations	\$1,255.50		
Appropriated	<u>\$1,500.00</u>	\$9,923.09	
Paid Out			
Supplies	\$2,877.31		
Foss Enterprises	<u>\$ 495.00</u>	<u>\$3,372.31</u>	\$6,550.78

### RECREATION FACILITIES & MAINTENANCE RESERVE

Income			
Balance 1/1/23	\$3,670.10		
Town of Embden	\$2,446.00		
Appropriated	<u>\$1,000.00</u>	\$7,116.10	
Expended			
Adjustable Basketball Hoops		<u>\$4,950.80</u>	\$2,165.30

### IN-KIND DONATIONS AND VOLUNTEERS

Two MAJOR projects that were completed this year include the construction of two dugouts and the rebuilding of our two bleachers at the baseball field. These projects are estimated to include over \$10,000 of labor and in-kind donations. Special THANKS to all of our incredible donors, coordinators and volunteers:

- |                          |                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Frost Cedar Mill         | Justin & Jess Frost     |
| The Works, George Yodice | Amy & Isaac Sidell      |
| Mattingly Concrete       | Witham Trucking         |
| Ware-Butler              | Sherwin Williams and... |

...any other DONORS & VOLUNTEERS who helped them make this possible!

\*\*\*\*\*

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.

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

# Solon Baseball Field with NEW DUGOUTS!



NEW home team baseball dugout with seasonal equipment storage.



NEW guest baseball dugout.



SOLO N COMMUNITY  
RECREATION DEPARTMENT

*ATTENTION COMMUNITY MEMBERS...*

*Do you like to work with children?  
Give back to our community?  
Enjoy sports and youth activities?*

*We are in need of volunteers:*

*Community Youth Recreation Director  
Soccer Coaches  
Basketball Coaches  
Baseball Coaches*

Community members can help through volunteering as coaches, assistants and in just transporting your children to our practices and games!

Please come and join us to continue to provide the Town of Solon's youth and families with recreation service all throughout the year! Anyone wishing to join our committee and/or help in another way contact Leslie Giroux at 643-2842 or by emailing [townofsolon.recreation@gmail.com](mailto:townofsolon.recreation@gmail.com). Don't forget to check us out (and other community/school groups) on Facebook!!

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](mailto:townofsolon.recreation@gmail.com)**

Respectfully submitted,  
Solon Recreation Committee

# ANNUAL 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY FIREWORKS

Held on July 4<sup>th</sup> at dusk at the Solon Elementary School



Appropriated	\$2,000.00		
Donations:			
Fire Department	\$ 430.64		
Griswold's	\$ 250.00		
Solon Corner Store	\$ 100.00		
Local Donation Cans	\$ 19.36		
Somerset Home Improvements	\$ 100.00		
Evergreen Campground	<u>\$ 100.00</u>	\$3,000.00	
Expended		<u>\$3,000.00</u>	\$0.00

Thank you so much to the Solon Hotel, Solon Corner Market, and Evergreen Campground for their generous donations. Also, a big thank you to Foss Enterprises for their portable toilet donation.

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 1/1/23	\$2,587.06		
Appropriated	<u>\$1,500.00</u>	\$4,087.06	
Paid Out			
Supplies	\$ 803.38		
Camp Aide	<u>\$ 675.00</u>	<u>\$1,478.38</u>	\$2,608.68

The 2023 Solon Summer Recreation program participants were enthusiastic, eager and full of energy. We had about 30 children participating in our 3 week program held at Solon Elementary School and Sandy Beach Campground. We enjoyed many activities that included planting, tie dye and making musical instruments. Making slime and the naked egg experiment were some favorites. We traveled daily to Sandy Beach Campground for the second two weeks for swimming lessons and water safety instruction. We enjoyed visits from the game warden and L.C. Bates Museum and traveled to the fish hatchery in Embden for a tour. Thank you, Mr. Kevin Sousa.

Thank you to our RSU 74 districts summer meals program that provides free breakfast and lunch to our children 18 and under. As always, thank you to Coolidge Library librarian, Megan Myers, for including us in her programs. Musician, Mr. Harley, was a big hit. Thank you RSU 74 for the use of school facilities as well as transportation with bus driver Anthony. Thank you, Sandy Beach Campground, for letting us use your facilities as well as being very accommodating.

A very special thank you to Ciarrah W. and Allyssa S. as well as my other student volunteer helpers, Olive, Allyssa H, Xavier, Grace and Dominique as well as parent volunteers. Finally, a special thank you to my daughter, Rachel Layman. Without dedicated volunteers this program would not be able to continue and offer these wonderful opportunities for our youth. If you would like to volunteer or have an activity that you would like to share, please feel free to get in touch with me or the town.

Respectfully,  
Laura Layman, Program Director



*The kids had wonderful guest speakers and participated in fun activities during the 2023 Summer Swim / Camp Recreation Program.*

# AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

Jennifer Mello, Program Director (2024)

Melissa Dube, Assistant (2024)

Jami McCoy, Assistant (2024)

## SOLON AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM RESERVE ACCOUNT

### INCOME:

Balance 1/1/23	\$ 6,308.64	
Appropriated	<u>\$ 6,000.00</u>	\$12,308.64

### EXPENSES:

Director	\$ 3,164.00		
Aides	\$ 4,429.60		
Supplies	<u>\$ 246.27</u>	<u>\$ 7,839.87</u>	\$4,468.77

In 2023, there were three 6-week sessions held three days a week. 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 the session.

Children from Grades K – 5 are welcome to attend these sessions. Notices about upcoming sessions are sent home with the students’ school notices.

We wish to thank Jen and her helpers for providing this opportunity 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 1/1/23	\$51,576.53		
Income	\$ 2,980.32		
Investment Change in Value	<u>\$ 1,498.78</u>	\$56,055.63	
Less			
Investment Advisor Fees		<u>\$ 521.00</u>	
Invest. Funds Balance 12/31/23			\$55,534.63
Principal:			
Jones Fund Principal	\$29,323.29		
Ruth Cross Principal	<u>\$ 1,270.00</u>	\$30,593.29	
Available:			
Jones Fund Available Funds	\$24,703.18		
Ruth Cross Available Funds	<u>\$ 238.16</u>	<u>\$24,941.13</u>	\$55,534.63

## JONES FUND SCHOLARSHIP RESERVE FUND

Income:			
Available Balance 1/1/23	\$ 7,364.56		
Interest Earned	\$ 236.68		
Investment Income**	\$10,000.00		
Investment Income	<u>\$ 7,766.96</u>	\$25,368.20	
2023 Scholarships Paid Out:			
Freshman Year Awards:			
Sean Olson	\$ 2,000.00		
Sophomore Year Awards:			
Jasmyne Coombs	\$ 1,000.00		
Chantelle Lacroix	\$ 1,000.00		
Adam Lawrence	\$ 1,000.00		
Sarah Olson	\$ 1,000.00		
Courtney Peabody	\$ 1,000.00		
Emily Riggs	<u>\$ 1,000.00</u>	<u>\$ 8,000.00</u>	\$17,368.20

\*\*the \$10,000 investment withdrawal from our Raymond James Investment account in 2022 was not received by the town until 2023.

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 1/1/23	\$ .00		
Transferred in from Investments	\$100.00		
Interest	<u>\$ .00</u>	\$100.00	
Paid Out:			
2023 Scholarship, Robert Lindblom, Jr.	<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

# SOLON COMMUNITY FOOD CUPBOARD & THRIFT STORE



SOLON  
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

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 a property!! We should close by the end of February 2024.

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 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](mailto: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.

**Scan to donate**



We will bring you more information soon!

Respectfully submitted,  
SCFCTS Board of Directors



~~~~~  
**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 is 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.*

# SOLON COMMUNITY GARDEN

## Friends of the Community Garden

Contact Person: Deb Gerry - 643-2203

|                                     |                   |                   |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Income:                             |                   |                   |
| Balance 1/1/2023                    | \$2,372.93        |                   |
| Donations                           | \$ 50.00          |                   |
| Move More Kids Found. Grant         | <u>\$2,492.91</u> | \$4,915.84        |
| Expenditures:                       |                   |                   |
| Irrigation & Library Garden Project | \$1949.78         |                   |
| Greenhouse & Garden Supplies        | \$ 11.98          | <u>\$1,961.76</u> |
|                                     |                   | \$2,954.08        |

### Donated Materials and Supplies (Estimated Value)

|                                     |                  |            |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|------------|
| Garden Supplies, Seeds, Plants, etc | \$1,678.01       |            |
| Garden Mulch & Delivery             | \$ 596.00        |            |
| Water spigot at Library             | \$ 325.00        |            |
| Trellises, Materials & Labor        | <u>\$ 204.97</u> | \$4,381.99 |

The continued support we have from our volunteers and supporters is what makes it possible for our garden to grow and it grew again in 2023.

This year we made additional improvements to the greenhouse, constructed more cattle panel arbors, enclosed our compost area, planted 2 peach trees in memory of a passed garden friend, implemented a free “Bucket Garden” program, began a multi-year project to mulch around all our raised beds and set up a rain barrel irrigation system for about ½ of our raised beds.

With the support and hard work of Megan, we also implemented a garden program at Coolidge Public Library. We held winter and fall classes, installed and planted garden beds, complete with automatic irrigation. for all library patrons to work in, enjoy and harvest from. Our garden themed events were all very well attended and enjoyed by many children and adults. The “fairy garden” event sponsored by Bingham Area Homeschoolers and Solon Hotel was in particular a great success. We plan to hold our Annual Seedling Days at the greenhouse as well as set up future events both at our garden and at Coolidge Public Library. Event dates will be announced on our Facebook page and posters will be put up around town.

Like most gardeners in our area, it was not a good gardening year. Our harvests started late, ended early and were not as abundant as in past years. Due to improvements to the greenhouse, we were able to harvest from May into December. Between the greenhouse and garden beds we delivered about 602 pounds of produce to the Solon Food Cupboard not counting what we shared

with our direct deliveries to local people, our garden team and supporters. Our partnerships with Kennebec Valley Farm, Northstar Orchards, Gibson Farm, Pine Acres Farm and many other local growers enabled us to deliver an additional 2,300 pounds of Apples, Winter Squash, Blueberries, Raspberries, Blackberries, Lettuce, Rhubarb and other produce to the cupboard.

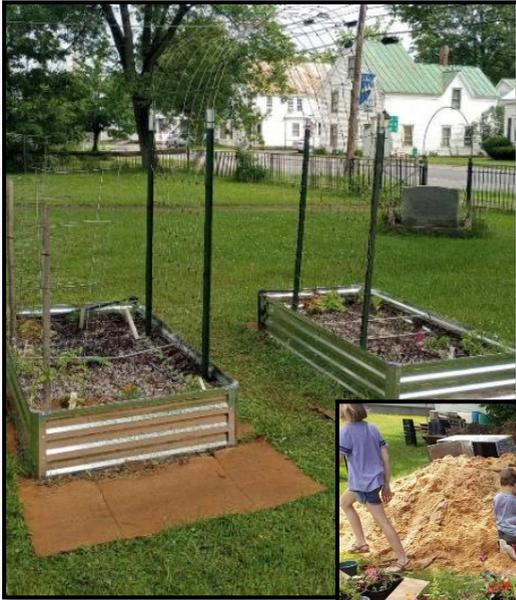
We completed our greenhouse and garden improvement projects under budget this year due to the growing support of our community. We estimate the value of time and material donations of our supporters exceeded \$2,000 this year. We can't thank each and every person by name but know that we appreciate each and every one, from those who provided food for our events, found and/or hauled "dump" finds to the garden for us to those who made personal donations of 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 continued support. Their assistance in harvesting, taking care of and distributing our sometimes very large 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, and Move More Kids, Master gardener Joe Bergeron, Kennebec Valley Farm, 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.

We invite you to come join us in a fun and healthy hobby! Raised bed garden plots in the Community Garden (located behind the Town Office and Fire Station) will be available again this year. Our garden team is here to provide seeds, plants, the use of hand tools and answer questions for those who garden with us or just visit. Grow some vegetables, herbs or flowers for yourself, or donate your harvest to Solon Food Cupboard. Please check out and "like" or "follow" our Facebook page; Solon Community Garden | Facebook or feel free to send a message or call with your questions, thoughts and ideas. We look forward to gardening with you next year!

(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.)



NEW BEDS AT  
LIBRARY

SUMMER FUN!!



PLANTING IN A BUCKET



RAIN BARREL  
IRRIGATION

# SOMERSET BROADBAND COALITION

Assisting Mainers with the online world. Bridging the digital divide with internet access, affordable devices and digital skills.

## Bridging the Digital Divide in Somerset County



- ✓ Every town in Somerset County is in planning, pre-construction, or construction for fiber or cable upgrade.
- ✓ The Maine Broadband Plan's first priority is UNSERVED (25MB/3MB) which qualifies most of Somerset.
- ✓ MooseneNet federal \$30M grant will bring fiber up the Rt. 201 Corridor (Middle Mile)

## EQUIP ~ TEACH ~ EMPOWER



[www.giveitgetit.org](http://www.giveitgetit.org)

### Affordable Devices & Public Access

- Individuals and non-profit organizations can apply for refurbished devices.
- giveITgetIT is based close-by in Waterville and will also ship devices.
- SEDC is purchasing laptops, desktops, and tablets to help Somerset libraries and organizations including Canaan, Mercer, Skowhegan, & New Portland libraries, Somerset Public Health, KVCAP residential homes, and El Rancho De La Vida Recovery Residence.

### Digital Skills Training

SEDC is partnering with the National Digital Equity Center to offer free digital skills training classes. Maine residents can take these classes online (at home) or in person at a partner location. SEDC is partnering with NDEC to facilitate these classes at partner locations.

[www.digitalequitycenter.org](http://www.digitalequitycenter.org)

- ✓ **Onsite Partner Locations** where classes will be held: Somerset County Libraries, Adult Eds, American Legions, Victor Grange (Fairfield), town offices, and others
- ✓ **SEDC Digital Navigator** will facilitate in-person classes and rotate through Somerset.
- ✓ **SEDC's Mobile Lab** (10 laptops, 10 tablets for class participants without devices)

### Personalized Help & Tech Support

- Call Skowhegan Adult Ed. at (207) 474-7553 to make an appointment for a one-on-one device help session in the Skowhegan or Bingham area.
- Call NDEC (207) 259-5010, and a Digital Navigator will contact you to set up a time to meet at one of our Somerset County partner locations.



Liz Caruso  
Christian Savage

For more information, visit [www.somersetbroadband.org](http://www.somersetbroadband.org) or contact:

Broadband Director  
Executive Director

(O) 207-474-0166

[somersetbroadband@gmail.com](mailto:somersetbroadband@gmail.com)  
[csavage@somersetcounty-me.org](mailto:csavage@somersetcounty-me.org)

# HISTORICALLY SPEAKING

## *SOLON WATER DISTRICT*

There was originally a small community water district that started around 1945 known as the Solon Consumers Cooperative. It had a 2" that ran along Pleasant Street to the hotel.

Planning for the Solon Water District started in 1965 and with an article on the 1966 Annual Town Meeting Warrant to authorize applying for federal monies for engineering work for the water system. The water mains and lines, the well, and the standpipe were started in 1967 & completed 1968. Solon Water District was chartered by the Maine Legislature in 1968. It is a quasi-municipal organization overseen by a 3-member Board of Trustees. When the district was formed the town did help with payments on the construction loan until 1980. The water district rate payers pay for the cost to run the district.

The district now has 6", 8", and 10" water main lines with 2 ¼" water mains on some of the side roads. The water district encompasses part of Brighton Road, French Hill Road from the water tower to Pleasant Street, Pleasant Street, York Street, South Main Street to the fire station & town office, North Main Street to the 204 North Main Street, Ferry Street, Brook Street (except for the town garage due to ledge), Cross Street, Davis Farm Road, and Falls Road. There are 18 fire hydrants within the water district.

The Solon Water Tank (also known as the Standpipe) was installed in 1968. It is 36' in diameter, 40' in height, and holds 320,000 gallons of water. It is located on French Hill. Water from our wells on Ferry Street is pumped up to the tank and the town water lines are fed by the tank. It was refurbished in the 1980s for a cost of \$10,000 and again in 2023 for a cost of \$320,000.

The well house is on Ferry Street. There are two wells at that location with a backup generator. The first artesian well was drilled in 1967. The second artesian well in was installed in 2010. It is about 100' from the first well and cost about \$95,000. They alternate the usage of the wells about once a month. The backup generator was installed in 2022 so the wells will keep operating during a power outage.

The water is untreated and has won the award for "Best Untreated Water" from the Maine Rural Water Association many times.

Michael Foster, the current Chairman of the district, has been a Trustee since 1979. And YES he does know where all the pipes are buried!

# **SOLON 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. 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 1/1/2023   | \$ 1,725.79     |             |
| Dues and Donations | \$ 580.00       |             |
| Investment Income  | \$10,106.08     |             |
| Interest           | \$ <u>77.14</u> | \$12,489.01 |
| Paid Out:          |                 |             |

|                     |                  |                   |            |
|---------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------|
| Post Office Box     | \$ 96.00         |                   |            |
| Supplies            | \$ 132.13        |                   |            |
| Phone & Internet    | \$ 1,222.94      |                   |            |
| Electric            | \$ 599.34        |                   |            |
| Water District      | \$ 509.16        |                   |            |
| Heat                | \$ 1,995.90      |                   |            |
| Security System     | \$ 313.89        |                   |            |
| Copier Maintenance  | \$ 162.00        |                   |            |
| Furnace Maintenance | \$ 200.00        |                   |            |
| Grounds Maintenance | <u>\$ 200.00</u> | <u>\$5,431.38</u> | \$7,057.63 |

**RAYMOND JAMES INVESTMENT FUND**

|                 |                    |                     |              |
|-----------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| Balance 1/1/23  | \$148,156.33       |                     |              |
| Income          | \$ 8,246.28        |                     |              |
| Change in Value | <u>\$ 3,852.40</u> | \$160,255.01        |              |
| Expended        |                    |                     |              |
| Withdrawal      | \$10,000.00        |                     |              |
| Fees            | <u>\$ 1,470.50</u> | <u>\$ 11,470.50</u> | \$148,784.51 |

**INVESTMENT ACCOUNT BALANCE**

|                   |                     |              |
|-------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| Reserve Principal | \$110,000.00        |              |
| Available Funds   | <u>\$ 38,784.51</u> | \$148,784.51 |



The Historical Society History House on South Main Street

# SOLO N 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 (2025)  
Derek Dellarma, Treasurer (2025)

Arthur Rogers, Secretary (2024)  
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     | \$ 42,592.23                    |
| Commercial Sales – Metered      | \$ 8,796.84                     |
| Public Authority – Metered      | \$ 2,289.52                     |
| Non-Profit - Sales Tax Exempt   | \$ 1,320.67                     |
| Public Fire Protection Charges  | \$ 24,856.00                    |
| Private Fire Protection Charges | \$ 746.24                       |
| Establishment/Reconnection Fees | \$ 605.36                       |
| Collection Trip & Late Fees     | \$ 702.00                       |
| Equipment Repair                | \$ 120.25                       |
| Other Revenue                   | <u>\$ 7,971.29</u> \$147,394.69 |

**EXPENSES:**

|                                   |                                 |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Salaries, labor, trustee stipends | \$ 26,936.50                    |
| Central Maine Power               | \$ 9,065.60                     |
| Supplies for Operations           | \$ 17,047.29                    |
| Supplies for Administration       | \$ 998.30                       |
| Contractual Engineering           | \$ 57,318.86                    |
| Contractual Accounting            | \$ 125.00                       |
| Contractual Testing               | \$ 565.00                       |
| Contractual Oher Field Work       | \$ 17,652.25                    |
| Transportation Expense            | \$ 629.12                       |
| Insurance - Liability             | \$ 3,305.50                     |
| Bad Debt Expense                  | \$ 12.00                        |
| Telephone/Cell Expense            | \$ 2,015.94                     |
| Trainings/Conferences             | \$ 1,653.72                     |
| Loan Administration Fees          | \$ 5,647.24                     |
| Bank Fees & Safe Deposit Box Fee  | \$ 45.00                        |
| Dues & Miscellaneous Fees         | \$ 1,574.15                     |
| Regulatory Assessment Fees        | \$ 422.00                       |
| Payroll Taxes                     | <u>\$ 1,359.69</u> \$146,072.75 |
| Net Ordinary Income               | \$ 1,321.94                     |

## Solon Water Tank – 2023

The Solon Water Tank was originally installed in 1968. Its size is:36’ in diameter, 40’ in height, and holds 320,000 gallons of water. The first paint job was in the 1980s.



The tank needed repainting, so the start date was August 1, 2023 and it was completed at the end of August. The paint job entailed sand blasting inside and outside, cleaning the tank; and then it received 2 coats inside and 4 coats outside, including filler for the pits in tank walls.

The first time it was repainted it cost \$10,000. This past year of 2023 the cost was \$320,000, with much of the cost paid for by grants. And we have been informed that the paint should last for the next 40 – 50 years. I will not be around to find out.

Respectfully,  
Michael Foster, Chairman



# OLD CANADA ROAD SCENIC BYWAY

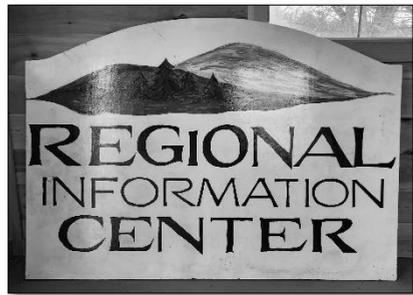


OLD CANADA ROAD  
National Scenic Byway

**Greetings** from the Board of Directors of the Old Canada Road National Scenic Byway. The corridor along Route 201 from Robbins Hill in Solon to the border of Canada was one of 45 corridors designated as national scenic byways in 2000 by the Federal Highway Administration. This 78-mile stretch of road offers visitors to our communities not only a scenic drive, but access to year-round recreational opportunities.

The **Old Canada Road National Scenic Byway** (OCR) receives funding from Maine DOT to maintain rest area sites along the byway. Beyond this seasonal maintenance, the Board must rely on grant funding and matching funds to realize the completion of other projects. The Board has a new corridor management plan and has prioritized projects that will enhance OCR. **Rest area priorities** this year included two new picnic tables, improved restroom maintenance monitoring, improved access to the *Halfway to the North Pole* signage (thank you Bingham select board), and the restoration and replacement (spring 2024) of some informational panels in Solon. **Trail enhancements** and maintenance are also high on our list for 2024.

During 2023, the Board refurbished the **Regional Information Center** sign that used to hang on the building on Main St. in Bingham. The sign will be put onto the building that was purchased from the Greater Skowhegan Chamber of Commerce and recently moved from Bingham to Solon. Watch for more on its development.



The sign will be installed on the building Spring 2024

(cont.)



**Regional Information Center,**  
121 South Main St. (will have trail access)

The Board has also collaborated with Maine DOT landscape architect, Lawrence Johannesman, to create a **foldable map/visitor guide** for Old Canada Road. Compiling and verifying text, gathering photos, along with the review of several iterations of design, was time-consuming. The map/visitor guide will be printed and distributed in early 2024.

**Robbins Hill Scenic Overlook** is a highlight of the Old Canada Road Scenic Byway. A shoutout is in order to the high school group from Madison and to Maine Grains for their help in enhancing the visitor experience at this scenic overlook. If the entrance to Robbins Hill is open, come by and do some **snowshoeing** on the Wes Baker trails. The Board is discussing how to ensure that the **solar eclipse** viewing on April 8, 2024, is a safe and great experience on Robbins Hill.

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 Chair

# 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.

|                     |                        |                    |                                |
|---------------------|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|
|                     | Balance 1/1/2023       |                    | \$14,149.45                    |
| <b>INCOME:</b>      |                        |                    |                                |
|                     | Town of Athens         | \$ 250.00          |                                |
|                     | Town of Bingham        | \$ 7,000.00        |                                |
|                     | Town of Caratunk       | \$ 750.00          |                                |
|                     | Town of Embden         | \$ 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             | \$ 3,078.25        |                                |
|                     | Day Tickets            | \$ 4,505.00        |                                |
|                     | K-12 Tickets           | \$ 1,000.00        |                                |
|                     | Night Tickets          | \$ 825.00          |                                |
|                     | Rentals                | \$ 1,211.00        |                                |
|                     | Seasonal               | \$ 2,645.00        |                                |
|                     | Donations              | \$ 4,297.00        |                                |
|                     | Miscellaneous          | \$ 1,824.00        |                                |
|                     | MSAD 13/RSU 83         | \$ 8,000.00        |                                |
|                     | Sponsor a Tower        | <u>\$ 2,250.00</u> | <u>\$51,135.25</u> \$65,284.70 |
| <b>EXPEDITURES:</b> |                        |                    |                                |
|                     | Telephone              | \$ 60.24           |                                |
|                     | Fuel                   | \$ 193.85          |                                |
|                     | Food                   | \$ 2,145.43        |                                |
|                     | Repairs                | \$ 2,278.94        |                                |
|                     | Central Maine Power    | \$ 8,115.29        |                                |
|                     | Heat                   | \$ 5,228.84        |                                |
|                     | Miscellaneous          | \$ 4,168.88        |                                |
|                     | Insurance              | \$ 7,958.58        |                                |
|                     | Inspections            | \$ 450.00          |                                |
|                     | Taxes                  | \$ 2,770.81        |                                |
|                     | Repair Fund            | <u>\$25,000.00</u> | <u>\$58,370.86</u>             |
|                     | Balance 12/31/2023     |                    | \$ 6,913.84                    |

**Baker Mountain Ski Tow Club**  
353 Canada Rd., Moscow, ME 04920  
PO Box 43, Bingham, ME 04920  
(207) 717-0404

**Board of Directors**

|                            |                                 |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Adam Farnhan, President    | Kelly Vicneire, Safety Director |
| Drew Foran, Vice President | Maria Cirelli, Director         |
| Cathy Foran, Secretary     | Vi Tibbetts, Director           |
| Corey Farnham, Treasurer   | Rachel Tremblay, Director       |

In the winter of 2023, members of the Ski Tow Club and volunteers opened Baker Mountain to skiing and snowboarding from the end of January, during February school vacation through the first weekend in March.

Baker Mountain Ski Tow Club is an educational 501(c)(3) organization. Donations are tax-deductible and allow us to apply for grants. In the past season volunteers gave free ski and snowboarding lessons, organized the Annual Race Day on February 19<sup>th</sup>, and put together a trip for students to Mt. Abram located in Greenwood, near Bethel, on March 18<sup>th</sup>.

Baker Mountain hosted Valley High Wellness Day on March 3<sup>rd</sup> and the Junior Class Hunters' Breakfast in November. Bingham Rec Department used the mountain for a sledding day, and the Ski Tow Club collaborated with Valley High School on its REV program for outdoor learning opportunities.

We thank the following people and organizations:

- Dan Melcher donated fuel for the groomer.
- Miranda Kessel donated proceeds from the sale of t-shirts and sweatshirts sold at Jimmy's Market.
- Yore Upscale Resale in North Anson donated ski and snowboard equipment.
- Andy Jacques for worked with us on designs for Baker Merchandise.
- Sugarloaf Ski Club supports us in funding \$5 K-12 lift tickets.
- Sugarloaf Mountain mowed the trails and donated lift tickets for Race Day prizes.
- The Kennedy and Blodgett families for donating to and working at the food booth at the Moscow School Fall Festival.
- The family of Betty Hunnewell, a long-time member of the Ski Tow Club, for donations in her memory.

Thank you to all the communities that support us and all our volunteers who not only work in the winter to open the mountain for snow sports but help out on all the maintenance on the lift, the buildings, the grounds, and the trails.

# 2023 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, 2023, 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, 2023, 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.

3

PO Box 313, Levant, Maine 04456

Phone: (207) 884-6408 Email: 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**

Management has omitted the management discussion and analysis that accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require to be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such missing 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. Our opinions on the basic financial statements are not affected by this missing information.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the budgetary comparison schedule, on page 22 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 21, 2024

Town of Solon, Maine  
Statement of Net Position  
December 31, 2023

|                                                                           |              | Total<br>Governmental<br>Activities |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>ASSETS:</b>                                                            |              |                                     |
| <i>Current assets:</i>                                                    |              |                                     |
| Cash and cash equivalents                                                 | \$ 1,438,595 |                                     |
| Accounts receivable                                                       | 185,129      |                                     |
| Taxes receivable                                                          | 136,147      |                                     |
| Tax liens receivable                                                      | 24,665       |                                     |
| <i>Total current assets</i>                                               |              | \$ 1,784,536                        |
| <i>Non-current assets:</i>                                                |              |                                     |
| Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation                           | 2,800,516    |                                     |
| <i>Total non-current assets</i>                                           |              | 2,800,516                           |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS AND DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>                    |              | <b>\$ 4,585,052</b>                 |
| <b>LIABILITIES:</b>                                                       |              |                                     |
| <i>Current liabilities:</i>                                               |              |                                     |
| Accounts payable                                                          | \$ 34,828    |                                     |
| <i>Total current liabilities</i>                                          |              | \$ 34,828                           |
| <b>DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES:</b>                                     |              |                                     |
| Taxes collected in advance                                                | 8,267        |                                     |
| <i>Total deferred inflows of resources</i>                                |              | 8,267                               |
| <b>NET POSITION:</b>                                                      |              |                                     |
| Net investment in capital assets                                          | 2,800,516    |                                     |
| Unrestricted                                                              | 1,741,442    |                                     |
| <b>TOTAL NET POSITION</b>                                                 |              | 4,541,958                           |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES, AND NET POSITION</b> |              | <b>\$ 4,585,052</b>                 |

Town of Solon, Maine  
Statement of Activities  
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

|                                      | Program Revenues |                      |                                    | Net (Expense) Revenue and Changes in Net Position |                    |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
|                                      | Expenses         | Charges for Services | Operating Grants and Contributions | Primary Government                                |                    |
|                                      |                  |                      |                                    | Governmental Activities                           | Total              |
| <i>Governmental activities:</i>      |                  |                      |                                    |                                                   |                    |
| General government                   | \$ 236,662       | \$ 8,779             | \$ -                               | \$ (227,884)                                      | \$ (227,884)       |
| Protection                           | 83,813           | -                    | -                                  | (83,813)                                          | (83,813)           |
| Public works                         | 342,112          | 2,000                | 167,234                            | (172,878)                                         | (172,878)          |
| Sanitation                           | 96,326           | 7,689                | -                                  | (88,636)                                          | (88,636)           |
| Education                            | 1,202,614        | -                    | -                                  | (1,202,614)                                       | (1,202,614)        |
| County tax                           | 258,147          | -                    | -                                  | (258,147)                                         | (258,147)          |
| Interest expense                     | 192              | -                    | -                                  | (192)                                             | (192)              |
| Health and welfare                   | 35,940           | -                    | 25,589                             | (10,351)                                          | (10,351)           |
| Unclassified                         | 123,111          | -                    | -                                  | (123,111)                                         | (123,111)          |
| Depreciation                         | 302,730          | -                    | -                                  | (302,730)                                         | (302,730)          |
| <b>Total governmental activities</b> | <b>2,681,647</b> | <b>18,468</b>        | <b>192,824</b>                     | <b>(2,470,355)</b>                                | <b>(2,470,355)</b> |
| <b>Total primary government</b>      | <b>2,681,647</b> | <b>18,468</b>        | <b>192,824</b>                     | <b>(2,470,355)</b>                                | <b>(2,470,355)</b> |

|                                                                      |                     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| <i>General revenues:</i>                                             |                     |
| Property taxes, levied for general purposes                          | 1,796,413           |
| Excise taxes                                                         | 212,492             |
| Licenses and permits                                                 | 6,825               |
| <i>Grants and contributions not restricted to specific programs:</i> |                     |
| State revenue sharing                                                | 236,330             |
| Other                                                                | 293,998             |
| Investment income                                                    | 16,758              |
| Miscellaneous revenues                                               | 105,787             |
| Transfers from Fiduciary Fund (net)                                  | 19,254              |
| <b>Total general revenues and transfers</b>                          | <b>2,687,857</b>    |
| <b>Changes in net position</b>                                       | <b>217,501</b>      |
| <b>NET POSITION - BEGINNING</b>                                      | <b>4,324,457</b>    |
| <b>NET POSITION - ENDING</b>                                         | <b>\$ 4,541,958</b> |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

Town of Solon, Maine  
Balance Sheet  
Governmental Funds  
December 31, 2023

|                                                                                                                        | General Fund        | Total<br>Governmental<br>Funds |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>                                                                                                          |                     |                                |
| Cash and cash equivalents                                                                                              | \$ 1,438,595        | \$ 1,438,595                   |
| Accounts receivable                                                                                                    | 185,129             | 185,129                        |
| Taxes receivable, net                                                                                                  | 136,147             | 136,147                        |
| Tax liens receivable                                                                                                   | 24,665              | 24,665                         |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>                                                                                                    | <b>\$ 1,784,536</b> | <b>\$ 1,784,536</b>            |
| <b>LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES, AND FUND BALANCES</b>                                                   |                     |                                |
| <i>Liabilities:</i>                                                                                                    |                     |                                |
| Accounts payable                                                                                                       | \$ 34,828           | \$ 34,828                      |
| <i>Total liabilities</i>                                                                                               | <i>34,828</i>       | <i>34,828</i>                  |
| <i>Deferred inflows of resources:</i>                                                                                  |                     |                                |
| Taxes collected in advance                                                                                             | 8,267               | 8,267                          |
| Uncollected property taxes                                                                                             | 128,649             | 128,649                        |
| <i>Total deferred inflows of resources</i>                                                                             | <i>136,916</i>      | <i>136,916</i>                 |
| <i>Fund balances:</i>                                                                                                  |                     |                                |
| Assigned - see footnotes                                                                                               | 986,631             | 986,631                        |
| Unassigned                                                                                                             | 626,161             | 626,161                        |
| <i>Total fund balances</i>                                                                                             | <i>1,612,793</i>    | <i>1,612,793</i>               |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES, AND FUND BALANCES</b>                                             | <b>\$ 1,784,536</b> |                                |
| <i>Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net position (Stmnt. 1) are different because:</i> |                     |                                |
| Depreciable and non-depreciable capital assets as reported in Stmnt. 1                                                 |                     | 2,800,516                      |
| Long-term liabilities, including capital leases payable, as reported on Stmnt. 1                                       |                     | -                              |
| Deferred property taxes not reported on Stmnt. 1                                                                       |                     | 128,649                        |
| <b>NET POSITION OF GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES</b>                                                                         |                     | <b>\$ 4,541,958</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, 2023**

|                                                                  | General Fund        | Total<br>Governmental<br>Funds |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>REVENUES:</b>                                                 |                     |                                |
| Property taxes                                                   | \$ 1,773,964        | \$ 1,773,964                   |
| Excise taxes                                                     | 212,492             | 212,492                        |
| Intergovernmental revenue                                        | 723,152             | 723,152                        |
| Charges for services                                             | 18,468              | 18,468                         |
| Licenses and permits                                             | 6,825               | 6,825                          |
| Investment income                                                | 16,758              | 16,758                         |
| Other revenue                                                    | 105,787             | 105,787                        |
| <i>Total revenues</i>                                            | <u>2,857,445</u>    | <u>2,857,445</u>               |
| <b>EXPENDITURES:</b>                                             |                     |                                |
| General government                                               | 287,338             | 287,338                        |
| Protection                                                       | 89,392              | 89,392                         |
| Public works                                                     | 484,598             | 484,598                        |
| Sanitation                                                       | 96,326              | 96,326                         |
| Education                                                        | 1,202,614           | 1,202,614                      |
| County tax                                                       | 258,147             | 258,147                        |
| Debt service                                                     | 8,555               | 8,555                          |
| Health and welfare                                               | 35,940              | 35,940                         |
| Unclassified                                                     | 171,326             | 171,326                        |
| <i>Total expenditures</i>                                        | <u>2,634,236</u>    | <u>2,634,236</u>               |
| <i>Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures</i> | <u>223,210</u>      | <u>223,210</u>                 |
| <b>OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)</b>                            |                     |                                |
| Transfers in                                                     | 23,004              | 23,004                         |
| Transfers out                                                    | (3,750)             | (3,750)                        |
| <i>Total other financing sources (uses)</i>                      | <u>19,254</u>       | <u>19,254</u>                  |
| <i>Net change in fund balances</i>                               | 242,463             | 242,463                        |
| <b>FUND BALANCES - BEGINNING</b>                                 | <u>1,370,330</u>    | <u>1,370,330</u>               |
| <b>FUND BALANCES - ENDING</b>                                    | <u>\$ 1,612,793</u> | <u>\$ 1,612,793</u>            |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

Town of Solon, Maine  
Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures,  
and Changes in Fund Balances of Governmental Funds  
to the Statement of Activities  
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |           |                |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|----------------|
| <b>Net change in fund balances - total governmental funds (Statement 4)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                      | \$        | 242,463        |
| Amounts reported for governmental activities in the Statement of Activities (Stmt. 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                                                                                                                                           |           | (302,730)      |
| Capital outlays expensed on the Governmental Funds Report (Stmt. 4), yet not considered an expense for the purposes of Statement of Activities (Stmt. 2)                                                                                                                         |           | 246,956        |
| Revenues in the Statement of Activities (Stmt 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.                          |           | 22,449         |
| Repayment of bond principal is an expenditure in the governmental funds, but the repayment reduces long-term liabilities in the Statement of Net Position. More specifically, this represents the net amount of principal reduction in debt service made during the fiscal year. |           | 8,363          |
| <hr/>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |           |                |
| <b>Changes in net position of governmental activities (see Stmt. 2)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>\$</b> | <b>217,501</b> |

Statement 5

Town of Solon, Maine  
Statement of Fiduciary Net Position  
Fiduciary Funds  
December 31, 2023

|                                             | <u>Private Purpose<br/>Trust Fund</u> |                   |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>                               |                                       |                   |
| Investments                                 | \$ 763,443                            |                   |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>                         |                                       | <b>\$ 763,443</b> |
| <b>NET POSITION</b>                         |                                       |                   |
| <i>Held for:</i>                            |                                       |                   |
| Library trust                               | \$ 92,706                             |                   |
| Historical society                          | 148,785                               |                   |
| Cemetery                                    | 210,975                               |                   |
| Scholarship                                 | 55,535                                |                   |
| Jones fund                                  | 255,443                               |                   |
| <i>Fiduciary net position</i>               |                                       | <u>\$ 763,443</u> |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET POSITION</b> |                                       | <b>\$ 763,443</b> |

Respectfully submitted,  
Mindy

**Town of Solon, Maine**  
**Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position**  
**Fiduciary Funds**  
**For the year ended December 31, 2023**

|                                         |           | <b>Private Purpose<br/>Trust Fund</b> |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Additions:</b>                       |           |                                       |
| Investment income                       | \$        | 40,362                                |
| Gain on investments - unrealized        |           | 30,686                                |
| Transfers in                            |           | 3,750                                 |
|                                         |           | 74,798                                |
| <b>Deductions:</b>                      |           |                                       |
| Investment fees                         |           | (4,833)                               |
| Transfers (out)                         |           | (23,004)                              |
|                                         |           | (27,836)                              |
| <b><i>Change in Net Position</i></b>    |           | <b>46,962</b>                         |
| <b>NET POSITION - BEGINNING OF YEAR</b> |           | <b>716,481</b>                        |
| <b>NET POSITION - END OF YEAR</b>       | <b>\$</b> | <b>763,443</b>                        |

Respectfully submitted,  
Mindy J. Cyr, CPA  
Maine Municipal Audit Services, PA  
Town 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 has met.

**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 the 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.

### **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. 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 the third Friday of March to redeem the property by paying all of the back taxes, interest, costs, fees and penalties assessed by the town. Should the owner fail to redeem the property, the Selectmen are authorized to sell and dispose of the property by public bid and execute a quit-claim deed for such property. If the property is sold by public bid a minimum bid of the total of the back taxes, interest, costs, fees and penalties assessed by the town or at least 33% of the assessed value is required, whichever is higher. All excess proceeds will be credited to the Rainy-Day Reserve Fund.
2. Or the Town shall retain the property acquired through non-payment of taxes.

# RESULTS OF 2023 TOWN MEETING

Article 1: Peter Mills was elected Moderator.

Article 2: The following were elected:

|                         |                           |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Selectman:              | John Dunay, 3-year term   |
| Road Commissioner:      | Gary Bishop, 1 year term  |
| School Board Directors: | Laura Layman, 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 Accounts Overage account.

Articles 5-20: Spending articles adopted as recommended.

Article 21: Approved providing Health Insurance and Retirement Benefits for all full-time employees.

Article 22: Approved using up to \$50,000 to crack seal our paved roads.

Article 23: Approved forming the Public Works Garage Building Committee.

Article 24: Approved using up to \$50,000 of ARPA funds for land purchase and planning and design purposes for a new garage.

Article 25: Approved using \$15,000 of ARPA funds to purchase a baler and trailer for the Transfer Station.

Article 26: Approved using \$48,774.83 of ARPA funds for solar panels for the Town Office and Fire Station.

Article 27: Approved the \$820,000 CDBG grant for the Solon Water District.

Article 28: Approved having half of the Code Enforcement & Building Permit Fees, not including Plumbing Permit Fees, going into the General Fund to help defray the costs of Code Enforcement.

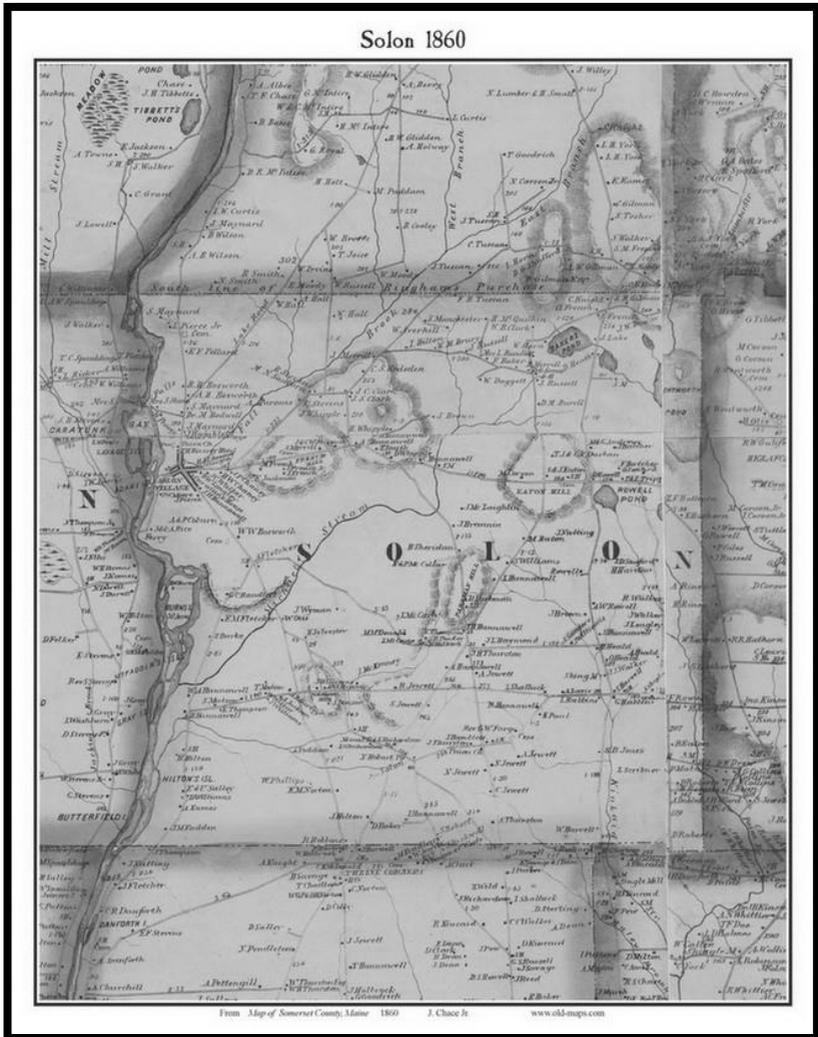
Article 29: Approved the formation of a Hiring Committee to be composed of 1 Selectmen and 4 members from the Advisory Committee when needed.

Article 30: The Town did not approve of having the Road Commissioner also serve as the Public Works Director.

Article 31: The Town did not approve having the Road Commissioner be an appointed position instead of an elected position.

Article 32: The disposal of tax acquired property was approved as recommended.

Articles 33 thru 39: 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.



# EXPLANATIONS OF ARTICLES

## 2024 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

In 2024 the Selectmen and Advisory Committee are again both recommending budgets that are under the state mandated cap. The Selectmen's and the Advisory Committee's recommended municipal budget needed to be raised by taxation is \$45,493 more than 2023. After reducing this budget by Reserve Funds, State Revenue Sharing, and available surplus the budget by taxation is \$144,941 more than last year.

**ARTICLE 2:** As there are no official candidates running for the seat of Selectmen, we would like to inform you that Wayne 'Chip' Johnson will be running as a write-in candidate.

**ARTICLE 3:** The amount that can be raised by taxation, after deducting available funds, is limited to a certain percentage increase based on new taxable property in the municipality and the TPI that is set by the state. A municipality can vote at town meeting by a written ballot to increase this limit. This article, if passed, will make the budget adopted at the town meeting legal even if it is more than the spending cap limitation. In 2024 this spending cap limit is \$757,776. The Selectmen's and the Advisory Committee's 2024 proposed budget by taxation is under this cap by \$144,464.

**ARTICLE 4:** The 2023 Winter Roads budget was over budget by \$7,843.87. We need town approval for that to be covered by surplus funds.

**ARTICLES 5 THRU 18:** These are the 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 \$13.80 to \$14.15 for 2024 and the 3.5% cost-of-living increase reported in December. Also, there are increases due to the rising prices for just about everything. Other items of note in that group are listed below.

**ARTICLE 5:** Most of the large increase is due to the full year funding for Retirement Benefits for our full-time employees. In 2023, the first year we started giving this benefit, it was only budgeted for 9 months. Also, our previous town auditor died in 2023 and there was a \$4,700 increase to hire a new auditor.

**ARTICLE 8:** The Library is now also open on Tuesday and Thursday hours of 10 am to 6 pm and Saturdays from 10 am to 4 pm.

**ARTICLE 12:** The Recreation Programs have been very active in 2023 and will continue to be active in 2024 so more funding is needed.

**ARTICLE 17:** We are asking to raise less money for the Road Paving Reserve and more money for the Highway Equipment Reserve this year so we can purchase a new truck for the Highway Department.

**ARTICLE 19:** We are asking to move the funds in the Tree Planting Reserve to the Municipal Grounds Maintenance Reserve. We have not added any funds since 2016 and have not expended any funds. We want to move the funds to the Municipal Grounds Maintenance Reserve Account. If we ever decide to plant trees in town, we can use the Municipal Grounds Maintenance Reserve Account to pay for it.

**ARTICLES 20 & 21:** These will create and raise funds for a reserve for our Town Web Site maintenance fee. If we renew it every 3 years, we get a discounted rate.

**ARTICLES 22 & 23:** New safety requirements are coming out every year for our firefighters. These require us to update and add new equipment and gear to keep our firefighters safe. This sets up a reserve account and raises reserve funds for this purpose.

**ARTICLES 24 & 25:** These articles are related to creating a reserve account for funds to replace or upgrade our town garage.

**ARTICLE 28:** It is time to purchase a new town truck to replace our 1994 truck. We currently have 2015 and 2017 Western Star trucks. We will also need to purchase a new dump/sander body and plow setup. We have about \$18,000 in the equipment reserve account. We are suggesting that instead of raising \$225,000 for the paving reserve to only raise \$15,000 for the paving reserve and raise the other \$210,000 for the equipment reserve account plus the usual \$10,000 we have been raising so we will have \$238,000 available for the truck, plow, and dump/sander body purchase.

**ARTICLE 29:** Due to the flooding on May 1, 2023, the 2023 summer roads budget is \$98,628.98 over budget. We took funds from the LRAP reserve account to cover the shortfall. We expect to receive at least \$115,000 from FEMA/MEMA for the Federally Declared Disaster and need to reimburse the LRAP reserve for the \$98,628.98 used to cover the summer roads budget.

**ARTICLE 30:** We have not yet found a used baler for the transfer station, so this is to allow us to continue looking for a baler and to purchase it and other associated equipment using ARPA funds.

**ARTICLE 31:** Old Canada Road Scenic Byway wants to enter into discussions with the town on taking over ownership of the Robbins Hill Scenic Byway Overlook property in Solon and to work with them to maintain and improve the overlook property. MDOT currently owns the property and might be willing to turn it over to the town. This will give us permission to enter into the discussions and to form a committee if necessary.

**ARTICLE 32:** This will change the Road Commissioner from an elected to an appointed position.

**ARTICLE 33:** Google maps shows 2 McCarty Roads in Solon on their maps. One is the one just north of the River Road going east to the Parkman Hill Road and the other is just north of the South Solon road going east to the Parkman Hill Road. We want to name the road just north of the South Solon Road going east to the Parkman Hill Road Woods Road. It is an unnamed road across from 447 S. Main Street. It is a road a Scott Paper Company (currently Weyerhaeuser) put in and maintains when they are logging their property along the road and on the McCarty Road. We just want to name it, not take ownership of it.

**ARTICLE 34:** The roadbed that covers the three culverts at Michael Stream on the Hole in the Wall Road was undermined during the May 1 flooding event that was declared a Federal Disaster. FEMA will pay for most of the repairs but not for extending the culverts so we can put more rip rap along the inlets and outlets of the culverts. So far, they are saying that we have to pay for the extensions ourselves.

**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.



Williams Dam

# ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

## WARRANT FOR MARCH 2, 2024 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 2nd day of March AD 2024 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 2, 2024. The transaction of other business as enumerated 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: write in candidate

Road Commissioner, 1-year term: Gary Bishop, Jeffrey Cy

RSU # 74 School Board Director, 3-year term: Keith Plourd

Article 3: Shall the Town increase the property tax levy limit of \$757,776, established for the Town of Solon by State law, in the event the municipal budget approved under the following articles will result in a tax commitment that is greater than that property tax levy limit.

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes

Article 4: To see if the town will vote to take \$7,843.87 from the 2023 Surplus for overage in the Winter Roads account.

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes

Article 5: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for GENERAL GOVERNMENT.

|                                                                |           |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Salaries & Benefits                                            | \$209,875 |
| Insurance                                                      | \$ 40,000 |
| Town Office Utilities                                          | \$ 8,000  |
| Town Charges                                                   | \$ 43,140 |
| Town Office Maintenance                                        | \$ 2,500  |
| Training, Books, & Dues                                        | \$ 2,385  |
| Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend \$305,900 plus fees |           |

Article 6: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for PUBLIC WORKS.

|                                                                                           |           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Winter Roads                                                                              | \$149,000 |
| Summer Roads                                                                              | \$143,000 |
| Transfer Station                                                                          | \$ 99,500 |
| Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend \$391,500 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 \$25,600 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.

|                                                                                     |          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Fire Department                                                                     | \$49,200 |
| Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend \$49,200 plus reimbursements & donations |          |

Article 9: To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for PUBLIC UTILITIES.

|                                                     |          |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Fire Hydrants                                       | \$24,900 |
| Street Lights                                       | \$ 8,000 |
| Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend \$32,900 |          |

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 Service | \$ 750 (request \$750)    |
| Hospice                      | \$1,000 (request \$1,000) |
| Spectrum Generations         | \$ 788 (request (787.50)  |

|                                                     |                           |
|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kennebec Behavioral Health                          | \$ 500 (request \$500)    |
| Sexual Support & Crisis Center                      | \$ 300 (request \$342)    |
| Solon Food Cupboard                                 | \$6,000 (request \$6,000) |
| Lifelight Foundation                                | \$ 200 (request \$978)    |
| American Red Cross                                  | \$ 150 (request \$150)    |
| Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend \$24,688 |                           |

Article 11: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for CODE ENFORCEMENT.

|                                                              |          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Code Enforcement Officer                                     | \$ 6,200 |
| 911 Addressing Officer                                       | \$ 260   |
| Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend \$6,460 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.                                                  | \$1,500 |
| Swim/Camp Program Reserve                                                                 | \$1,500 |
| Special Events                                                                            | \$1,000 |
| 4th of July Fireworks                                                                     | \$2,200 |
| Baker Mountain Ski Club                                                                   | \$1,250 |
| Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend \$10,950 plus fees, donations, & reserve funds |         |

Article 13: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM RESERVE.

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend \$6,800 plus fees, donations, & reserve funds

Article 14: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for CEMETERIES.

|                                                                                                     |          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Cemetery Maintenance Reserve                                                                        | \$24,700 |
| Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend \$24,700 plus reserve funds, 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                             | \$3,500 |
| Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend \$5,500 |         |

Article 16: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for ORGANIZATION DUES.

|                                            |                             |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Old Canada Road Byway                      | \$ 500 (requested \$500)    |
| Kennebec Council of Governments            | \$1,700 (requested \$1,700) |
| Maine Municipal Association                | \$2,350 (req. \$2,350)      |
| Somerset Economic Development              | \$ 100 (requested \$100)    |
| Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend | \$4,650                     |

Article 17: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for CAPITAL RESERVE ACCOUNTS.

|                                            |           |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Road Paving Reserve Account                | \$ 15,000 |
| Gravel Roads Reserve                       | \$ 10,000 |
| Highway Equipment Reserve                  | \$220,000 |
| Transfer Station Truck & Equipment Res.    | \$ 7,500  |
| 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 | \$268,000 |

Article 18: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for RESERVE ACCOUNTS.

|                                            |          |
|--------------------------------------------|----------|
| Municipal Buildings Heat Reserve           | \$12,000 |
| GIS Mapping Reserve                        | \$ 2,000 |
| Assessing Revaluation Reserve              | \$10,000 |
| Town Line Survey Reserve                   | \$ 2,500 |
| Municipal Grounds Maintenance Reserve      | \$ 2,500 |
| Town Flags Reserve                         | \$ 2,000 |
| Town Records Preservation Reserv           | \$ 4,500 |
| Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend | \$35,500 |

Article 19: Shall the Town approve closing the Tree Planting Reserve Account and moving the \$1,000 in that account to the Municipal Grounds Maintenance Reserve Account?

The Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes.

Article 20. Shall the Town create a Web Site Fee Reserve Account for the purpose of maintaining our town website.

The Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes and that the funds can only be expended by approval of the Selectmen.

Article 21. Shall the Town raise by taxation a sum of money for the Web Site Fee Reserve Account?

The Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend \$2,000

Article 22: Shall the Town create a Fire Department Safety Equipment Reserve Account for the purpose of purchasing safety equipment for our fire fighters.

The Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes and that the funds can only be expended by approval of the Selectmen and the Fire Chief.

Article 23: Shall the Town raise by taxation a sum of money for the Fire Department Equipment Reserve Account?

The Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend \$5,000

Article 24: Shall the Town create a Town Garage Reserve Account for the purpose of putting aside funds for the replacement or renovation of the town garage.

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes and that the funds can only be expended by approval of the Selectmen and the Road Commissioner.

Article 25: Shall the Town approve transferring funds from the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Reserve to the Town Garage Reserve Account?

The Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes and transferring \$45,000

Article 26: Shall the town authorize the Selectmen to apply for, accept, and expend grant money the purpose of building a new Public Works Garage Building to replace our existing town garage.

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes

Article 27: Shall the Town raise an amount by taxation for account overdrafts, unforeseen events, or emergencies. Any use of this contingency arrangement must be voted on at a Select Board meeting and any expenditures will be listed in the subsequent town report.

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes and an amount of \$5,000

Article 28: Shall the Town authorize the Select Board to use funds from the Highway Equipment Reserve to purchase a new truck, plow assembly, and dump body/sander.

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes and to expend up to \$238,000

Article 29: Shall the Town approve 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.

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes

Article 30: Shall the town appropriate from the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) an amount to purchase a baler and other associated equipment for the Transfer Station.

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes and using up to \$15,000 of the ARPA funds.

Article 31: Shall the Selectmen be authorized to enter into discussions with MDOT and the Old Canada Road Scenic Byway Committee regarding ownership, maintenance, and improvements of the Robbins Hill Scenic Overlook (Map R7 Lot 26, Map 8 Lot 10, and Map 8 Lot 15) and to create a committee as needed.

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes

Article 32: Shall the town change the office of Road Commissioner from an elected to an appointed office beginning with the 2025 Annual Town Meeting.

Selectmen make no recommendation and Advisory Committee recommends Yes

Article 33: Shall the Town name the road starting on S. Main Street (Route 201) at GPS location 44.927011 69.830953 and going in a northeasterly direction to McCarty Road at GPS location 44.937111 69.823875 the Woods Road. (this currently unnamed road is across the road from 447 S. Main St.)

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes

Article 34: Shall the Town approve the use of LRAP funds to extend the length of the 3 culverts at Michael Stream on the Hole in the Wall Road.

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes and using up to \$40,000

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 needed matching funds 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 person's 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 2024.

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%.)

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend 0%.

Article 40: Shall the town set September 20, 2024 as the date when all unpaid 2024 taxes become interest bearing at the rate to be set by the State. (Rate being 7%)

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 7th day of February A.D., 2024,

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 2nd day of March AD 2024 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 2024, which is at least seven days prior to the Annual Town Meeting.

Dianna Rollins, a resident of Solon.

# **DATES TO REMEMBER**

- March 2, 2024** 2024 Annual Town Meeting, Solon Elementary School  
Polls open 8 am to 12:15 p.m. Town Meeting at 1:30 p.m.
- April 1** - Declaration of personal property owned (this includes  
skidders & tractors) should be filed with the Assessors.  
Assessors will be in the office on April 1.  
- Any real property sold after April 1 will be billed to the  
owner of record on April 1.  
- New applications for Homestead and /or Veteran and  
Veteran's Widow Exemptions must be filed.  
- New Tree Growth Classification plans must be filed.  
- Motor vehicles and motorized mobile equipment not  
excised before this date will be taxed as personal property
- April 15** Patriots Day. Office closed.  
**May 27** Memorial Day. Office closed.  
**June 19** Juneteenth. Office Closed.  
**July 4** Fireworks at dusk at the Solon School.  
Office Closed for July 4<sup>th</sup> Holiday
- July/August** The end of July or beginning of August Property Taxes  
are committed and Property Tax bills will be mailed.  
**Sept. 2** Labor Day. Office closed.  
**Sept. 20** 2024 unpaid property taxes become interest bearing.  
**Oct. 14** Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples Day, Office closed.  
**Nov. 5** State Referendums. Polls open 8 am to 8 pm.  
**Nov. 11** Veterans Day, Office closed.  
**Nov. 28** Thanksgiving Day, Office closed.  
**Dec. 1** New Hunting, Fishing & Dog Licenses are available.  
**Dec. 25** Christmas Day. Office closed.  
**Dec. 231** Last business day the Town Office will be open in 2024.  
All taxes not paid by Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> will be listed in the 2024  
Town Report.
- Dec. 31** Boat registrations, hunting, fishing and dog licenses  
expire. - New dog licenses required by Jan. 1.
- Jan. 1, 2025** New Year's Day. Office Closed.  
**Jan. 18** Town Advisory Committee meeting, 8:00 am at Town  
Office (always on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of January).  
All article and budget requests for Annual Town Meeting  
must be submitted to the Selectmen prior to this meeting.
- Jan. 20** Martin Luther King Day. Office closed.  
**Jan. 31** \$25.00 late fee on unpaid dog licenses after this date.  
**Feb. 17** Presidents Day. Office closed.  
**Mar. 1, 2025** 2025 Annual Town Meeting.

# NOTICE

**2024 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 2023  
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**