

TOWN OF BETHEL
ANNUAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2023



Nurturing Minds and Healing Souls

During the 19th century, Bethel acquired a reputation as a place where education thrived and new ideas could take hold. The spirit of innovation was especially nurtured during the tenure of Dr. Nathaniel T. True as headmaster of Gould Academy from 1848-1861. During that time, True also founded the Bethel Farmer's Club, a predecessor to the Grange that was the first such organization in the state; organized a series of "Antiquarian Suppers;" edited Bethel's first newspaper, *The Bethel Courier*; and wrote a history of the town.

Bethel's reputation was sufficiently established by 1874 that one speaker at the Centennial Celebration held that year called the town, "the center of learning and literature, the very Athens of Oxford County."

The year 2023 provides us with an opportunity to recall two forward-thinking citizens of the town, Agnes Hastings Straw and Dr. John George Gehring, whose actions one hundred years prior contributed to Bethel's proud intellectual heritage.

Agnes Hastings Straw and the Bethel Library Association

The Bethel Library Association was founded in 1879 by a group of local women who had grown tired of the inconvenience of borrowing from the Mercantile Library in Portland. The initial funds were raised by a series of "parlor lectures" given by Dr. True, and for several years the library was sustained through small membership fees and occasional support from the town. In 1912, the town began providing regular annual support and the library became free to all Bethel residents.

One of one of the major milestones in the history of the Bethel Library Association came in 1923, when Agnes Hastings Straw, a longtime supporter of the Association who had served as its first treasurer, left the Library Association a bequest of \$10,000, as well as the library building and the land on which it stood. \$10,000 was a substantial sum of money for the time, but perhaps even more importantly, the library now had a permanent home in the former Enoch Foster law office. The library had been located at this space since 1899, when it had begun renting the building from Judge Foster.

Agnes and her husband William O. Straw had acquired the property when they purchased the home next door (now the Robinson House of the Museums of the Bethel Historical Society) from Enoch and Sarah Foster in 1903.

Front cover: This circa 1874 photograph shows Enoch Foster's law office (second building from right) when it was still located on Main Street. In 1881, Foster had the building moved to Broad Street. It was first occupied by the Bethel Library Association in 1899. In 1937, the original structure was moved back and the present front portion was constructed according to designs by celebrated Maine architect John Calvin Stevens.

ANNUAL REPORTS
OF THE
TOWN OF
BETHEL, MAINE
FOR
FISCAL YEAR 2023
JULY 1, 2022 – JUNE 30, 2023

Office Hours

Monday – Friday

8:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

Telephone 207-824-2669 Fax 207-824-3355

Email: info@bethelmaine.org

May 1st, 2024

Dear Residents of Bethel,

First and foremost, we want to express our gratitude for your continued support and engagement in shaping the future of our town. Your involvement in local affairs is crucial to our success, and we encourage you to remain active participants in the decision-making processes that impact our community.

Over the past year, the Select Board, with the support and guidance of our new Town Manager Sharon Jackson, has been hard at work addressing various issues aimed at increasing efficiencies in municipal processes and strengthening the foundations of our base functions. From addressing infrastructure improvements at the Wastewater Treatment Plant to renegotiating contracts with utilities and services to deep dives into the makeup of the municipal budget, each decision is made with careful consideration of its potential impact on our community. We believe a focus on getting the basics right will position our community best for the growth and changes that have already begun and will face us all in the future.

We invite you to join one of our many boards and committees and continue to engage in municipal decision making by attending meetings or reaching out to your elected representatives. You can stay informed about upcoming meetings, projects, and events by visiting the Town of Bethel's website. Your input and feedback are invaluable as we strive to serve the needs and interests of all residents.

In closing, we want to reaffirm our dedication to transparency, accountability, and collaboration in all that we do. Together, we can continue to build a vibrant and resilient community that we can all be proud to call home.

Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership.

Sincerely,

The Bethel Select Board

Meryl Kelly, Michelle Varuolo-Cole, Pat McCartney, Frank Del Duca & Sarah Southam

Town Manager Report

After being retired for four years I am back working in a profession I truly enjoy. In September 2023 when I was asked to consider working for an interim period, I soon realized I wanted to continue working in Bethel to help with the work that needed to be done. Bethel has many dedicated citizens who volunteer to serve on boards and committees because they care about their community. The employees are committed to doing the best job they can do to assist the citizens.

Preparing the annual budget is one of the most important tasks for the Town Manager. After working with the department heads preparing their budgets for review with the Budget Committee and Select Board for several weeks, we believe we have a responsible Fiscal Year 2025 Budget to present to the voters at the June 12th town meeting. The municipal budget will increase by \$119,023 or 2.05% if all money articles are passed. The budgets for MSAD #44 and Oxford County Taxes increased by \$573,947 and \$221,910 making the total budget increase \$914,880 or 9.03%.

The Oxford County Sheriff Department provided two options for patrol services. The first proposal will provide the same 24-7 coverage with four (4) deputies for an annual cost of \$573,450. The second proposal will eliminate the 12:00 AM – 6:00 AM shift with three (3) deputies for an annual cost of \$428,349.

The Capital Expenditures include \$320,000 for road improvements, \$219,000 for equipment and Town property maintenance, and \$336,500 for reserve accounts to purchase vehicles, equipment and Town building maintenance in future years.

Some of the changes in the coming year include hiring a full-time Rescue Chief to meet the increasing demands of the job. Currently the Chief is paid an annual stipend that doesn't meet the minimum requirements of pay and the hours needed to perform the duties. The Recreation Director will move from a stipend position to a part-time position to meet the needs of Bethel's growing all season Recreation Department. The classification of the Airport will change from an Enterprise Account to a Town Department with your approval of an ordinance change on the warrant. This will allow the Town to manage the financial and operational needs of the Airport under the same guidance it manages other departments.

In April 2023, the Town approved a capital project for the Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrades to the plant, Mill Hill Pump Station and the Route 2 Sewer Main. The bids for the Mill Hill Pump Station and Route 2 Sewer Main were awarded to Douglas W Jones, Inc. d/b/a Cross Excavation in April 2024 and are scheduled to begin early June 2024. Substantial completion is expected to be completed 265 days from the date the project begins. The final bid documents for the plant upgrades will be due in June. The Town approved funding this project by obtaining general obligation bonds and a grant from USDA (Rural Development). Due to increased costs, the warrant includes an article to approve additional funding from USDA to complete all the work needed to be done on this project.

The Town contracted with Maine Rural Water for sewer billing services almost two years ago. Beginning with the third quarter billing, the Town of Bethel will begin processing sewer billing in-house. We believe we can provide a more efficient service to the users. Beginning with the third quarter billing, you will receive your sewer bill from the Town of Bethel and your water bill will be provided by Maine Rural Water.

The Town contracted with RHR Smith & Company, Certified Public Accounts to audit the Fiscal Year 2023 financials. A Short Audit Report will be included in the town report and the complete audit is expected to be completed before town meeting. Working with an auditing firm the first year requires more time to do a comprehensive audit. The audit will show a more detailed reporting for designated and undesignated account balances and overall reporting.

The 2025 taxes will be due in two installments this year. The first half will be due October 28, 2024, and the second half will be due April 28, 2025. Interest will begin on October 29, 2024, and April 29, 2025, at a rate of 8.5% annually. The Town Code gives the Select Board the authority to set the tax due dates and the interest rate.

The Homestead Exemption is a state program that offers an exemption on the assessed value of your property if you have owned your homestead in Maine at least the past 12 months (other restrictions apply) Title 36 M.R.S.A. §§681-689. If you do not have this exemption, please contact the town office, and ask for an application to find out if you qualify.

The Town Meeting Warrant has been prepared this year by using the "Capped Money Articles" instead of the "Open-Ended Articles". The Capped Articles prevent money being appropriated that would impact a higher tax rate. The Capped Articles can be decreased but not increased.

Household Hazardous Waste Day is scheduled for Saturday, August 24, 2024, from 9:00 AM to Noon at the Bethel Transfer Station. More information is on the Town Web Site.

Please visit the Town Web Site to obtain information on meetings, events, news and more.
www.bethelmaine.org

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Jackson

Town Manager

**TOWN OF BETHEL, MAINE
CURRENT MUNICIPAL OFFICERS**

SELECT BOARD:

Meryl Kelly, Chair	Term Expires 2025
Michele Varuolo Cole, Vice-Chair	Term Expires 2026
Patricia McCartney	Term Expires 2024
Sarah Southam	Term Expires 2026
Frank Del Duca	Term Expires 2025

ASSESSORS:

Robert Everett, Chair	Term Expires 2024
George Angevine	Term Expires 2024
Michele Varuolo Cole	Term Expires 2026
Robert Blake	Term Expires 2026
Ronald Savage	Term Expires 2025

TOWN MANAGER:

Duties include Treasurer, Tax Collector, Airport Manager, General Assistance Administrator, and Road Commissioner

Sharon Jackson

FINANCE OFFICER AND DEPUTY TREASURER:

TOWN CLERK, REGISTRAR OF VOTERS, AND DEPUTY TAX COLLECTOR:

Jessicca G. Grover

DEPUTY TOWN CLERK AND DEPUTY REGISTRAR OF VOTERS:

Susan Mills

DEPUTY FINANCE OFFICER AND DEPUTY GENERAL ASSISTANCE ADMINISTRATOR:

Kristy Aguilar

CLERK TO THE BOARD OF ASSESSORS, PLANNING ASSISTANT:

Courtney McPherson

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER, PLUMBING INSPECTOR:

Courtney McPherson
Kingston Brown, Alternate

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER:

Courtney McPherson

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT SUPERINTENDENT:

Toby Walker Sr.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT ASSISTANTS:

Luke Angevine

Christian Brown

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR:

Scott Sumner

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT:

Toby Walker Jr.

Randall Grondin

Kevin Wight

Ryan Bennett

Fred Pierce

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER:

Eric Giroux

TRUSTEES OF THE BETHEL WATER DISTRICT:

Randy Autry

Reginald Brown

Scott Fraser

Term Expires 2024

Term Expires 2025

Term Expires 2025

FIRE DEPARTMENT OFFICERS:

Fire Chief

Assistant Chief

Captain

1st Lieutenant/Safety Officer

2nd Lieutenant

Secretary, Treasurer

Mike Jodrey

Mike Fleet

Levi Hill

Ray Crockett

Cody Dux

Tom Gibbs

BETHEL AMBULANCE SERVICE:

Chief

Assistant Chief

Assistant Deputy Chief

Treasurer

Secretary

Training Officer

Vehicle Maintenance

David Hanscom

Randall Grondin

Amy L. Hanscom

Mary Buckman

Kimberly Wentworth

Haley Tripp

William Allen

TRANSFER STATION & RECYCLING ATTENDANTS:

Matthew Cummings
Jon Swan
Brian Goodrich
Buster Roy

MSAD #44 BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

David Jones	Term Expires 2024
Koral Fraser	Term Expires 2024
Mark Hutchins	Term Expires 2025
Scott Cole	Term Expires 2025
Stephanie Cayer	Term Expires 2026
Stepanie Herbeck	Term Expires 2026

BOARD OF APPEALS:

Bill Allen	Term Expires 2026
Jeff Martin	Term Expires 2025
Lennie Shaw	Term Expires 2024
Reggie Brown	Term Expires 2026
Wende Gray	Term Expires 2025

BUDGET COMMITTEE:

Levi Brown – Chair	Term Expires 2025
Ted Davis – Vice Chair	Term Expires 2026
Cheryl Thurston	Term Expires 2026
Clarke Reiner	Term Expires 2024
Jim Bennett	Term Expires 2025
Jodi Everett	Term Expires 2025
Lori Swain	Term Expires 2024
Michael Jodrey	Term Expires 2024
Mitchell Benedict	Term Expires 2025
Robert Everett	Term Expires 2024
Tonya Lewis	Term Expires 2026
Vacany	

CONSERVATION COMMISSION:

Ann Speth – Chair	Term Expires 2025
Jeff Sloan	Term Expires 2026
Julie Reiff	Term Expires 2026
Sarah Southam	Term Expires 2024
Vacancy	

PLANNING BOARD:

Carolyn Dunn	Term Expires 2026
Cheryl Thurston -Chair	Term Expires 2024
Jim Bennett	Term Expires 2026
Jodi Everett	Term Expires 2024
Laurie Winsor	Term Expires 2026
Mitchell Benedict (Leave of Absence)	Term Expires 2025
Peter Southam (Interim Member)	Term Expires 2025
Robert Everett	Term Expires 2024

RECREATION BOARD:

Christopher Spanks	Term Expires 2025
Hali Andrews – Greenwood	Term Expires 2025
Joshua Fortier	Term Expires 2026
Lindsay Gardner	Term Expires 2024
Melissa Sheridan	Term Expires 2026
Suzanne Newson Pierce	Term Expires 2025
Travis Brooks	Term Expires 2024

AIRPORT AUTHORITY COMMITTEE:

Bill Allen	Term Expires 2024
Edwin Lovejoy	Term Expires 2025
John Mason	Term Expires 2024
Randy Autrey – Chair	Term Expires 2025
Ross Bragg	Term Expires 2026

ORDINANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE:

Aaron Osterhage	Term Expires 2025
Benjamin “Birch” Allen	Term Expires 2024
Carina Walter	Term Expires 2026
Jim Bennett – Chair/Planning Board Rep	Term Expires 2024
Pat McCartney – Vice Chair/ Select Board Rep	Term Expires 2024

BINGHAM FOREST ADVISORY:

Carina Walter	Term Expires 2026
Neil Scanlon	Term Expires 2025
Peter Southam	Term Expires 2024
Reggie Brown – Water District Rep	
Tom Shepard	Term Expires 2026

Town Clerk and Elections

July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

The Town Clerk's office saw a new clerk, Jessica Grover, sworn in June 20, 2023. The Clerk's Office assisted the Town Manager and Select Board with meetings and agendas. We worked on behalf of the residents of Bethel, Mason Township and Albany Township to provide Bureau of Motor Vehicle services, Inland Fishery and Wildlife MOSES licenses, and Vital Records assistance. The Town Office issued 57 marriage licenses.

The Town Clerk continues to serve as the Registrar of Voters for Bethel and Mason Township, along with the Deputy Registrar Susan Mills. We continued to keep the Central Voter Registration information updated with voter history, new voter information, deletions, voter participation history and made address and party changes. The Gubernatorial Election was successfully held on November 8, 2022. Town Elections for Select Board, Assessors, and School Board were held on June 13, 2023, and Annual Town Meeting on June 14, 2023.

The Town Clerk worked with the Town Manager and Select Board to begin the process of updating the Town Code to ensure its compliance with Maine State Statute.

The Town of Bethel also welcomed 25 new births and bid farewell to 40 citizens.

We look forward to continuing to serve the Bethel community. Keep updated on town meetings and information on our website www.bethelmaine.org.

Report of the Highway Department

July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023

While trying to keep up with our regular duties and/or unexpected problems that may have come up, we were trying to cover numerous shifts at the transfer station, due to short staffing issues. From July through November, we worked on replacing culverts and/or ditching that was needed along Grover Hill Rd, Flat Rd, Intervale Rd, Winslow Rd, Eypper Rd, Gibson Rd and Terrace Rd.

Paving this year consisted of shim and overlay work on 1.08 miles of the Grover Hill Rd, 1.10 miles of the Flat Rd, the Smith Farm Rd, 0.99 miles of the Intervale Rd, and the Stevens Rd.

The winter season started off on November 16th this year. With a total snowfall of 97" and plenty of rain, we were out a total of 44 times for the season. The December 16-17 storm dropped 24" which had us out for 37 hours straight and then less than a week later, on the 23rd, a rainstorm hit resulting in numerous washouts to repair. When the plow season ended on April 1, 2023, we had used a total of 2650+ yards of sand and 492 tons of salt this year.

We were able to start in on spring cleanup items on April 3rd but then we ended up with another heavy rainstorm with flooding again on May 1st, so we went back to repairing washouts again for a while. The weather really messed up our schedule this spring, and it took us into June before we could finish up with all the spring cleanup that's required.

The equipment purchases this year were, replacing the 1981 loader-mounted snowblower that we bought used in 2013, and a new F550 ton truck with plow gear.

After the plow gear was cleaned, we were able to get caught up on the potholes and shoulder patching while trying to get some of the dirt roads graded up. The painting will have to wait for better weather, so that we can get started in on the ditching projects for the next year.

Lastly, I would just like to say thank you to Tony and Mitch for all their hard work and dedication over the years. I wish you the best with your future endeavors. I would also like to welcome Toby and Randall to the crew, I look forward to working with you both. Least but not last, a big thank you to Colby and Mike for helping us get through the winter season.

Respectfully,

Scott Sumner

Bethel Wastewater Treatment Plant

Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Report

Total wastewater treated: 37,599,000 gallons. Increase of 5,092,000 gallons over 2022.

Total sludge dewatered 603,676 gallons.

Total sludge disposal of 96.41 wet tons, 15.39 tons was able to be composted at Hawk Ridge Facility and 81.02 had to go to Juniper Ridge Landfill because of legislation passed regarding PFAS chemicals.

Monthly, biochemical oxygen demand removal testing results: permit limits must be at least 85%.

Results high 99.78% low 96%.

Our first disinfection season using peroxyacetic acid went by without a hiccup. We had great E-coli kill results with far less product used when compared to the sodium hypochlorite that we were using and for about half the cost.

We would like to thank Randy Autry for his years of service. He retired in March 2023. We would also like to thank Jeff Warden for his years of service here at the plant. He accepted a new job at Maine Rural Water Association in February. Our thanks go to prior Superintendent Rick Davis for stepping in part-time to fulfill Department of Environmental Protection requirements of having a Grade 3 Operator in charge of the plant for February and March.

We then hired Water Quality and Control Services, Inc. to be the operator responsible through June. (Chuck Applebee and Nick Archer were great to work with and were a wealth of information and experience). Thank you.

Within this fiscal year we hired two new employees, Luke Angevine in March 2023 and Christian Brown in May 2023.

In June of 2023 Toby Walker Sr. passed the Grade 3 exam and obtained his Grade 3 certification.

Feel free to contact us with any questions or comments by phone at 824-2669 or email wwtp@bethelmaine.org

Sincerely,
The Town of Bethel Wastewater Team
Toby Walker Sr., Superintendent

BETHEL AMBULANCE SERVICE

July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023 the Bethel Ambulance Service responded to 507 calls. Bethel Ambulance Service had 30 active members and 12-Per-Diem paramedics throughout the year. The following is a categorical list of calls made from July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023.

Medical	176	Mental Health issues	25
Trauma	123	DOA	1
Code	3	Standby	12
Cancelled	40	No Injury/Illness	57
Assist	28	No pt found/contact	42

Responses were made to the following towns:

Bethel **369**, Gilead **14**, Greenwood **5**, Albany **37**, Newry **31**, Rumford **14**, Grafton Notch **3**, Mexico **6**, Woodstock **5**, Mason **3**, Upton **8**, Errol **1**, Hanover **5**, Milton **1**, Batchelders Grant **2**, Westbrook **1**, Andover **2**.

Active Members for 2022-2023

Allen, William	Angevine, Jeff	Aylward, Crystal	Begin, Laura
Black, Emily	Bryant, Amanda	Buck, Allen	Buckman, Mary
Corriveau, Fabian	Drew, Kimberly	Dux, Cody	Giroux, Eric
Grondin, Randall	Gurschick, Katie	Hadley, Alan	Hanscom, Amy
Hanscom, David	Hanscom, Sophie	Hazen, Eliza	Hodgkins, Derek
Howe, Violet	O'Leary, Ken	Parent, Bryce	Reiner, Clarke
Rivas, Adrian	Solmitz, Samuel	Thorpe, Donovan	Tripp, Haley
Whitney, Andrew	Yates, William		

Per-Diem Paramedics for 2021-2022

Adams, Melissa	Bradley, Dalton	Broomhall, Alberta	Chessnut, Jonathan
Fillebrown, Taylor	Fox, Robert	Grant, Justin	Higley, Samantha
Nile, Scott	Rajaniemi, Jonathan	Ross, Jason	Wakefield, Jennifer

Respectfully Submitted:

David Hanscom, Chief/Director

Report of the Bethel Fire Department

Fiscal Year 2021 - July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

During the last fiscal year the Bethel Fire Department responded to 197 calls

29 CMP/Downed Wires	45 Vehicle Accidents	34 Misc. Alarms
2 Misc. Calls for Service	16 Structure Fires	8 Carbon Monoxide
4 Grass/Woods Fires	6 Chimney Fires	14 Asst. Bethel Rescue
3 Investigations	12 Road Hazard	3 Odor Investigations
1 Suspicious Package	7 Wilderness Carry Outs	4 Gas Leaks
5 Vehicle Fires	1 ATV Accident	1 HAZ MAT
1 Welfare Check	1 Furnace Malfunction	

The Bethel Fire Dept. has 22 members on the roster at this time, 17 state certified FF1 or FF2.

16 Are certified in HAZ MAT Operations

2 EMT's

Vehicle accidents remain at the top of the list with distracted driving and increased traffic being a huge factor.

Monitored home fire alarm systems are becoming more common, increasing our alarm calls.

The Fire Department would like to thank the citizens for their continued support again this year.

A huge thank you goes out to all our mutual aid partners, Gilead, Greenwood, Newry and Woodstock Fire Departments. Bethel Rescue, Pace Ambulance, Med Care Ambulance, Life Flight of Maine, the Oxford County Sheriff's Office and the Maine State Police.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mike Jodrey

Chief, Bethel Fire

Bethel Regional Airport

2023 Year End Town Report

The Bethel Regional Airport is a lifesaving hub with services from LifeFlight of Maine, Angel Flight, and PALS (Patient Airlift Services). LifeFlight helicopters transport critical patients to area hospitals in the quickest manner. Since 1998, LifeFlight has safely cared for and transported more than 38,000 patients, one life at a time, from every community in Maine, including 80 residents of Bethel. In the past five years, LifeFlight has picked up 13 patients from Bethel Regional Airport and ten additional patients from other points within the Town of Bethel. Angel Flight and PALS routinely take cancer and burn patients for free in private aircraft to the bigger Boston area hospitals.

Just like the highways that provide transportation to and from the Bethel area, the Bethel Regional Airport also serves as a major source of infrastructure to the Bethel area. More and more pilots are choosing to bring their businesses and families to the Bethel area. It is not uncommon to see one plane unloading skiers while another arrives with a couple ready to buy a house in the area.

There is an aircraft mechanic based at Bethel Regional Airport that services local pilots and provides aircraft repair, 24 stationed fixed base aircraft at the Airport, and in 2023, there were over 2,000 recorded take offs and landings and almost \$200,000 in fuel sales.

The Airport is guided by a five-member Airport Authority. The Airport Authority has been working with an engineering firm on an airport expansion in 2023 that will hopefully begin in 2024 or 2025 to add hangar spaces for pilots wanting to base their aircraft at the Bethel airport.

Improvements will include an updated AWOS 3 weather reporting service. Bethel will be one of the two airports in Maine receiving an upgrade in the near future.

2023 saw two aircraft incidents where police, fire, and ambulance were called to the airport. One aircraft had the main wheels locked up and skidded off the runway. The second aircraft had a propeller strike, and that aircraft is still at the airport waiting for repair. No injuries were reported in either incident.

The Bethel Regional Airport is available around the clock to pilots and passengers. The conference room is available for reservation by any non-profit group when not being used for aviation-related activities.

The Airport Authority hosted a fly-in in the fall of 2023 open to the public and they are working on more public events in the future.

A special thank you goes to the Airport Manager, Deputy Airport Manager, Airport technician and the Airport Authority for all the hard work and dedication it takes to keep the Airport running.

On behalf of the Airport Authority, it is a pleasure to serve the Town of Bethel.

Randy Autrey

Airport Authority Chairman

ASSESSOR'S AGENT REPORT

The Assessing Agent makes recommendations to the Board of Assessors for property valuations, tax abatements, supplemental tax bills, and matters regarding property tax cards/maps and the computerized assessing program. I am available at the Town Office at least two days per month. Please call the office to schedule an appointment.

PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS AND PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION: Most homeowners whose principal residence is in Maine are entitled up to a \$25,000 reduction in valuation (adjusted by the community's ratio of valuation to actual market sales). To qualify, homeowners must fill out a simple form declaring property as their principal residence by April 1 in the tax year claimed. Once the application is filed, the exemption remains until the owner sells or changes their place of residence. Forms are available in the Assessor's Office.

VETERANS EXEMPTION: Any person who was in active service in the armed forces of the United States during a federally recognized war campaign period and, if discharged or retired under honorable conditions, may be eligible for a partial exemption from taxes on their primary residence. The Veteran must have reached age 62 or must be receiving a pension or compensation from the United States Government for total disability, either service or non-service connected. Applications forms can be obtained in the Assessor's Office and must be filed with military discharge documentation on or before April 1st of the year it will go into effect.

BLIND EXEMPTION: Residents of Bethel who are certified to be legally blind by their eye care professional are eligible for a partial exemption from taxes on their primary residence in the town.

PROPERTY TAX STABILIZATION: The LD 290 "Property Tax Stabilization for Senior Citizens" program, enacted in August 2022, was repealed by the Maine Legislature on July 6, 2023, with an effective date of Oct. 11, 2023. To help lower-income seniors avoid higher property taxes and remain in their homes, two existing State programs are being expanded: The Property Tax Fairness Credit, which currently allows eligible Mainers to take a \$1,500 credit, has increased to \$2,000. The State Property Tax Deferral Program, a lifeline loan program that covers the annual property tax bills of Maine seniors age 65 and older who cannot afford to pay them on their own, has been expanded. It doubles the income limit on that program to \$80,000 and also raises asset limits. Taxes must be paid back when the home is sold or becomes part of an estate.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Duplisea CMA
Assessor's Agent

**Fiscal Year 2023
July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023
CEO Report**

In the fiscal year of 2023 the CEO issued 109 building permits and 137 plumbing permits.

Any interior or exterior work with a fair market value including materials and labor of less than \$2,500 does not require a permit. However, all work performed must conform with the provisions of Chapter 96 building Construction whether a permit is required or not.

Applications can be obtained at the Town Office or on the Town's website bethelmaine.org.

I look forward to serving the Town of Bethel as Code Enforcement Officer and

our office always welcomes visitors with questions or concerns and can be reached at (207)824-2669 or via email at ceo@bethelmaine.org.

Respectfully,

Courtney McPherson

Town of Bethel

Code Enforcement Officer

**Bethel Board of Appeals
Fiscal Year 2023
July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023**

The five-member Board of Appeals is appointed by the Select Board. The Board can hear the appeal of decisions made by the Planning Board and Code Enforcement Officer, as well as grant variances to setbacks and other dimensional requirements of land use code.

The Board of Appeals met twice during the fiscal year.

**Bethel Planning Board
Fiscal Year 2023
July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023**

The Planning Board is comprised of seven members, all of whom are appointed by the Select Board. The Board is charged with administering the Town's site plan, subdivision, and other land use ordinances.

The Board meets nominally on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month; or as needed.

The Board considered subdivision and subdivision amendment applications, site plan and site plan amendment applications, determinations of site plan applicability and building permits in the Historic District.

During Fiscal Year 2023 Cheri Thurston served ably as the Board Chair. Laurie Winsor served as Vice Chair.

Recreation Board Report
Fiscal year 2023
July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

The 2023 year brought a welcome consistency and expansion to the recreational offerings for our region.

In the summer we had our second year of track and field and see this program as one to stay for the longer term. Our other summer offering was a casual pick-up soccer night at the Crescent Park school, which saw many players join for fun, multi-generational games.

In the fall, we continued our local soccer league and re-entered the Oxford Hills Athletic Boosters (OHAB) league for our grade 5-6 players after not being with that league for a couple of seasons. The return to OHAB was a success, as this age group enjoys the chance to challenge themselves against other town teams and the chance to participate in a playoff weekend. Our local league for students up to grades 4 saw high participation and a great atmosphere overall at the Dunham fields in Greenwood. The soccer season was continued with an indoor soccer offering at the Crescent Park school during the month of November for grades 3-8.

Winter brought Saturday morning basketball at the Telstar gym with players from kindergarten to 8th grade participating. Thankfully the schedule for this program was not heavily impacted by community health concerns as it had been in prior years.

Additional winter offerings included the second year of the ice rink, once again located at the site of the closed Ethel Bisbee school. The rink was expanded in size which created great skating opportunities but also increased maintenance work. A new snowblower was purchased thanks to a donation from the River Fund and additional financial support continued to be received from Norway Savings Bank. Many volunteers contribute to making the rink possible.

The Telstar after school ski bus continued to take students to Mt. Abram two days a week. Mt. Abram's generous support of this program, with the free passes they offer all SAD44 students and free rentals for kids in this program, is much appreciated. This program saw increased transportation challenges and required the use of charter buses this year. Given the cost of these buses, the number of days we could make the trip would need to be reduced without the generous private donation support that came in.

Spring programming was highlighted by our baseball, softball and T-ball programs. These are our largest programs in terms of community participation, and we had more teams participating than prior years – we expanded to 3 minors level baseball teams and 3 rookie level softball teams, where we had 2 of each in the prior year. The increased softball numbers are likely a reflection of the hopefully temporary suspension of the girl's lacrosse program, which did not run due to a lack of volunteers. With additional teams playing, our ability to use the Greenwood and Woodstock town fields, along with the SAD44 fields and the private Lone Pine field in Newry is critical being able to get so many kids playing ball.

A theme within this report is the many community contributions made to our programs, including all of our volunteer coaches and program coordinators. Our town relies heavily on volunteer efforts and partnerships with other towns, the school district and organizations in the area to make our recreation programs possible and we are grateful for the support.

Nate Crooker

Recreation Director

The Bethel Library Association Annual Report

July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

The Bethel Library Association serves patrons in the towns of Bethel, Newry, Gilead, Greenwood, Albany and Mason Townships, and students throughout the SAD 44 school district. Temporary cards can be issued to non-residents of these areas for an annual fee of \$20. The library is open 27 hours a week, Monday through Saturday.

In January of the reporting year Michelle Conroy, longtime library director, retired after serving the library for 27 years. After her retirement the search for a new library director began.

The Bethel Library participated in a Christmas event for children with the Bethel Historical Society and Moses Mason House, running a children's story program for the event. The library also co-sponsored a summer event held at the Museums of the Historical Society called Mornings at the Museum. This event had crafts for children and a story read by library volunteers. About 200 community members participated in these events.

Over the year our patrons borrowed more than 4,300 physical items from the library including books, audiobooks on CDs, and DVDs. More than 1,300 electronic files were accessed on CloudLibrary.

Town Support:

Bethel: \$19,500

Newry: \$6,000

Gilead: \$300

Greenwood: \$500

Fundraising:

Annual Fund: \$19,160

Book Sale: \$1,836

Plant Sale: \$2,026

Quilt Raffle: \$1693

Book Binding Quilt: \$1,395

Respectfully submitted,
Kelcy Boles Arciga
Library Director
Bethel Library Association

REPORT OF TAX COLLECTOR
FY 2021 UNPAID TAXES LIENS
(As of June 30, 2023)

GROVER, DAWN R. & JAMES K.*	\$219.25
HELMS, ALEX *	\$159.73

FY 2022 UNPAID TAX LIENS
(As of June 30, 2023)

BLAKE, HARLAN*	\$2023.48
BLAKE, HARLAN*	\$969.06
BLAKE, HARLAN*	\$495.41
BREMSE, JENNIFER & PAULINE*	\$69.74
BROWN, RONALD	\$125.40
CHARETTE, ANTHONY P SR *	\$1027.14
COMEAU, GLENN E.*	\$1533.31
COOLIDGE, JOHN*	\$1207.47
COOLIDGE, JOHN*	\$533.94
COOLIDGE, JOHN*	\$292.50
CORDWELL, STANLEY ESTATE OF*	\$1502.80
COX, SPURGEON M. JR., PAULA J. COX, BRIAN COX	\$3017.17
COX, SPURGEON M. JR., PAULA J. COX, BRIAN COX	\$824.61
GROCKI, MEGAN E. & MATTHEW P. *	\$498.64
GROVER, DAWN R. & JAMES K.*	\$1909.41
HATSTAT, REBECCA*	\$129.15
HELMS, ALEX *	\$148.16
JONES, DOUGLAS G *	\$502.36
JONES, DOUGLAS GRANT *	\$1372.33
KNUDSEN, JAY MORGAN*	\$146.77
LAVALIERE, ROGER *	\$69.58
MCMAMARA, BLAKE T*	\$154.44
NORTHEAST WIRELESS NETWORKS, LLC*	\$1314.92
PALMER, RUSSELL*	\$823.21
PIAWLOCK, BRIAN*	\$667.64
SAITO, OSAMU*	\$4445.72
SCRIBNER, JEFF*	\$869.90
SHAPIRO, ANNE D*	\$3287.30
SNOW, JENNIFER A*	\$1700.53
STEARNS, JOYCE*	\$1753.79
SULTAN CORP.*	\$400.73

U.S. BANK N.A.*	\$977.46
WALKER, JEFF*	\$1400.32
WALKER, JEFFREY G*	\$527.37
WOLFE, CYNTHIA	\$4478.55
YOUNG JONES, DIANE L*	\$420.41

*INDICATES EITHER PAYMET IN FULL OR ABATEMENT WAS MADE AFTER JUNE 30, 2023

FY 2023 UNPAID TAXES LIENS
(As of June 30, 2023)

2749 WHITE MOUNTAIN REALTY TRUST*	\$18.12
46 BALSAM ROAD, LLC*	\$1761.34
9 SONGO POND ROAD, LLC*	\$557.88
A&B FORESTRY INC.*	\$0.08
A&B FORESTRY INC.*	\$0.06
BARKER, JUDITH*	\$455.33
BAYLIN, SARAH K. & ORI D.*	\$330.48
BEAN, ELMER H JR*	\$1569.17
BEAN, HOLDEN J*	\$145.65
BEAN, HOLDEN J*	\$212.37
BEATSON, DOUGLAS*	\$1556.31
BELLISIMO, DARIN P*	\$5.39
BENNETT, GREGORY*	\$898.42
BENSON, ANDREW B*	\$2.45
BERLINER, SHARON*	\$1827.23
BETHEL STATION RESIDENCE DEVELOPMENT LLC*	\$1050.80
BLAKE, HARLAN	\$2391.70
BLAKE, HARLAN R	\$796.82
BLAKE, HARLAN R	\$379.44
BLANTON, NICHOLAS W*	\$2696.47
BLISTER, LLC*	\$.069
BLOND, CARL J*	\$7414.99
BOHR, KATHERINE ALDEN*	\$5054.82
BREMNER, TISHA K. & KENDALL C.*	\$164.01
BREMSE, JENNIFER & PAULINE*	\$1034.28
BROWN, RONALD B	\$198.29
BULLOCK, DAMON*	\$6.03
BURKE, EDWARD P*	\$801.72
BURNHAM, DAVID*	\$2072.23
CARLETON, WESTON G*	\$2221.19
CARTER, JOHN R*	\$42.23

CARTER, JOHN R*	\$2701.37
CARTER, JOHN R*	\$102.20
CHARETTE, ANTHONY P SR*	\$1893.53
CHEEVER, MARK R*	\$419.83
CHRISTENSEN, NATALIE & BRANDON*	\$175.48
CHRISTENSEN, NATALIE & BRANDON*	\$0.87
COLLINS, JAY W.*	\$28.71
COMEAU, GLENN E.*	\$3521.45
COOLIDGE, JASON*	\$93.02
COLLIDGE, JOHN	\$1166.47
COOLIDGE, JOHN	\$636.48
COOLIDGE, JOHN	\$468.79
CORDWELL, STANLEY ESTATE OF	\$1397.81
CORKERY, TIMOTHY*	\$411.26
CORKERY, TIMOTHY*	\$6826.86
CORKERY, TIMOTHY*	\$687.27
COX, SPURGEON M. JR., PAULA J. COX, BRIAN COX	\$2758.90
COX, SPURGEON M. JR., PAULA J. COX, BRIAN COX	\$2758.90
CRISPIN, SANDRA*	\$802.25
DAVIS, TODD T*	\$96.70
DAVIS, VERNON*	\$183.60
DAVIS, VERNON*	\$3631.61
DAY, JOHN C*	\$510.19
DAY, LEROY*	\$369.65
DEILULIO, ANTHONY*	\$1213.59
DESOUSA, CHARLOTTE R.*	\$509.40
DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY*	\$1253.99
DOOLEY, CORINNE*	\$2487.17
DOOLEY, CORINNE*	\$1467.58
DOUGENECK, WILLIAM*	\$1496.95
DOUGHTY, PRISCILLA, ESTATE OF	\$736.85
DOWNTOWN BETHEL BED AND BREAKFAST, LLC*	\$4024.59
EIDER DOWN, LLC	\$1968.19
ETHERIDGE, STEVE R*	\$4577.15
FARRENKOPF, RICHARD R. & SAMANTHA R III*	\$1265.62
FORTUNE, ROBERT & VICTORIA+	\$390.46
FORTUNE, ROBERT & VICTORIA*	\$1592.42
FOSTER, LAWRENCE S*	\$1610.17
GAINEY, CHRISTINA K	\$3496.97
GAINEY, CHRISTINA K	\$507.96
GAINEY, CHRISTINA K*	\$237.46

GARLOUGH, DAVID*	\$719.71
GARLOUGH, DAVID*	\$187.08
GAY, ERIC*	\$194.64
GERTZMAN, MARK I*	\$1190.34
GILBERT, TRAVIS M., MARY JANE & BRENT GILBERT*	\$640.76
GILL, MARK*	\$1.87
GOBEL, JOHN A*	\$562.22
GOLDBERG, JONATHAN*	\$2563.06
GOODRICH, BRIAN*	\$93.46
GREAT COMANOE, LLC*	\$42.83
GROCKI, MEGAN E. & MATTHEW P.*	\$369.65
GROFF, KIMBERLY A. *	\$30.77
GROVER, DAWN R. & JAMES K.	\$1823.76
GROVER, EVANNA M.*	\$11.99
GURPREET SINGH WALIA, PLLC	\$2315.19
GURPREET SINGH WALIA, PLLC	\$85.81
HAMNER, STACIE*	\$9.88
HARMON, GREGORY W*	\$426.56
HARRINGTON ROBERTS TRUST	\$2104.06
HASTINGS, JAY*	\$2317.03
HATSTAT, REBECCA*	\$115.06
HEDDEN, PETER*	\$337.82
HELMS, ALEX *	\$73.44
HOSTERMAN, JANE*	\$6.83
HURD, SCOTT*	\$1516.53
JEMS & CO LLC*	\$3706.27
JEMS & CO LLC*	\$505.51
JEMS & CO LLC*	\$481.03
JERBECK CONSTRUCTION*	\$5121.22
JOHNSON, EVAN K*	\$2134.04
JONES, DOUGLAS G *	\$403.92
JONES, DOUGLAS GRANT*	\$1171.37
JOSEY, BARRY*	\$468.18
JS HOLDINGS, LLC*	\$1062.43
K&T PROPERTIES*	\$6.81
KEITH, SCOTT A*	\$1261.68
KELLY, MATTHEW*	\$73.44
KENNISON, CHRISTOPHER *	\$159.26
KENNISON, CHRISTOPHER*	\$340.27
KENNISON, CHRISTOPHER*	\$197.03
KLINGENSTEIN, ANNA-ROSE*	\$2372.11

KNUDSEN, JAY MORGAN*	\$72.22
KNUDSEN, JAY MORGAN*	\$72.16
LATOUF, KATELYN A. & WILLIAM G.*	\$367.20
LAVIGNE, ERNEST L III*	\$151.78
LOCKE SUMMIT ESTATES LLC*	\$114.21
LOCKE SUMMIT ESTATES LLC*	\$269.28
MACPHIE, SARAH*	\$108.83
MAGUIRE, FREDERICK*	\$2552.89
MAHAR, JOHN P III*	\$2143.22
MAHAR, JOHN, P. & LORNA, L*	\$831.10
MANN, ELIJAH A*	\$687.89
MARIN, RICHARD*	\$962.06
MARSHALL, ROBERT, A*	\$1331.71
MASON, KENNETH H*	\$156.57
MASON, TONY	\$90.58
MCCLURE, CHRISTINE*	\$34.05
MCCUE, ROBERT B. ESTATE OF*	\$153.00
MCCUE, ROBERT B. ESTATE OF*	\$2537.96
MCCUE, ROBERT B. ESTATE OF*	\$159.12
MCMAMARA, BLAKE T*	\$144.43
MEDD, DON*	\$2.87
MOGHTADER, PAUL F*	\$7.71
MOOERS, JAMES L.*	\$670.75
MOUNTAINSIDE HOMES, LLC	\$381.89
MOWERY, JOSHUA*	\$1330.49
MTF, LLC*	\$884.34
MTF, LLC*	\$242.55
MURRAY, JESSICA*	\$652.38
MUSSETT, OLIVIA E.*	\$42.98
NORTH, DEREK*	\$404.38
NORTHEAST WIRELESS NETWORKS	\$1101.60
OBEAR, THOMAS ROBERT	\$769.90
ORINO, ROMEO J III*	\$553.25
OWENS, DAVID L	\$258.22
OXFORD NETWORKS*	\$1876.23
PAISLEY, ROBERT G*	\$5.64
PALMER, RUSSELL	\$676.87
PARKER, WALTER GORDAON JR*	\$1349.15
PAUL, ERIC*	\$2365.99
PIAWLOCK, BRIAN	\$585.07
PIAWLOCK, THOMAS L & DONALD R	\$18.97

PIAWLOCK, THOMAS L & DONALD R*	\$6.12
PIAWLOCK, THOMAS L & DONALD R	\$1085.69
RATOFF, JOHN & KELLY*	\$362.30
ROBERTSON, DENNIS*	\$0.50
SAITO, OSAMU*	\$4244.83
SAUNDERS, ANNMARIE*	\$1155.45
SAVAGE, RICK*	\$2804.18
SAVAGE, RICK SR*	\$657.29
SCHIAVE HOMES LLC*	\$13.02
SCRIBNER, JEFF*	\$1719.72
SHAPIRO, ANNE	\$3048.98
SHIMAMURA, WILLIAM*	\$1406.38
SILVA, CHRISTOPHER*	\$4.27
SILVA, CHRISTOPHER*	\$337.82
SMITH, MICHAEL R & HEATHER L*	\$295.45
SNOW, JENNIFER A*	\$3071.02
SOJAN, LLC*	\$5666.51
STADNICKI, THOMAS*	\$1323.14
STEARNS, JOYCE	\$1472.47
SULTAN, CORP*	\$2031.84
SUMMIT RIDGE ENERGY	\$24480.00
TEMPLETON, LAKE N*	\$4428.43
THE AMOS COGGIN RINVER HOUSE*	\$2186.62
TOMPKINS, PAUL	\$959.46
TYLER, CHRISTOPHER*	\$533.44
TYLER, QUENTIN*	\$751.54
TYLER-NETHERLAND, LLC*	\$3399.05
VAISHALI DIXIT LIVING TRUST*	\$2395.37
W SQUARED ENTERPRISES LLC*	\$2943.59
WALKER, JEFF	\$1233.79
WALKER, JEFFREY G	\$407.59
WALSH, OLIVIA TRUSTEE OF OLIVIA WALSH TRUST	\$4.16
WARNER, COLLEEN M*	\$20.19
WHEELER, ROGER A*	\$235.62
WHEELER, ROGER A*	\$235.12
WHEELER, ROGER A *	\$249.69
WHEELER, RYAN*	\$243.29
WILSON, BENJAMIN*	\$288.86
WINKLER, RICHARD T*	\$372.45
WINTER HOLBEN DESIGN, LLC*	\$2.82

WOLFE, CYNTHIA	\$369.65
WOLFE, CYNTHIA	\$4332.96
YEAGER, STEPHEN E*	\$2244.82
YOUNG JONES, DIANE L*	\$396.58
YUMA, ENTERPRISES*	\$536.11

*INDICATES EITHER PAYMET IN FULL OR ABATEMENT WAS MADE AFTER JUNE 30, 2023

OXFORD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Christopher R. Wainwright



Sheriff

Christopher Wainwright

Chief Deputy

James Urquhart

2023 Annual Report Annual Town Report

January 10, 2024

Dear Neighbors, Residents, and Taxpayers,

As I step into my Sixth year as Sheriff, I reflect with immense pride on the achievements of our agency across the county. The momentum we have going into the New Year is a testament to the dedicated team of men and women who serve Oxford County with unwavering pride. Their commitment to our mission, rooted in professionalism, integrity, and leadership, is the driving force propelling our agency forward.

In previous years, I've highlighted the escalating volume and complexity of our calls to service. Notably, the surge in responses to mental health concerns since 2019 underscores the pressing need for increased state funding for community services and sheriff's departments statewide. This is crucial to ensuring the safety of individuals in need and those around them.

Our commitment to addressing the opioid epidemic in Oxford County persists through our collaboration with local organizations, notably the Western Maine Addiction Recovery Initiative. We actively refer eligible individuals to Project Save ME as part of our ongoing efforts. This police-assisted initiative aims to bridge individuals affected by substance use disorder with dedicated recovery coaches, advocates, and various treatment services, providing crucial support on their journey to recovery.

Over the summer, deputies participated in Camp P.O.S.T.C.A.R.D (Police Officers Striving To Create And Reinforce Dreams). This camp provides children with a week filled with activities, including swimming, boating, hiking, crafts, and campfires. As the week unfolds, the kids discover that their camp counselors and leaders are police officers and sheriff's deputies from across Maine. This initiative underscores that for our deputies, being visible and present in our communities extends beyond their call of duty; they also serve as leaders, fostering positive connections with the next generation.

With that in mind, on behalf of our deputies, correctional officers, and support staff I want to thank our community for the ongoing support we have received. Whether through letters, social media, or public acknowledgments, your backing resonates throughout our agency.

We have great opportunities ahead of us, and I look forward to the work we will accomplish in the coming year. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact our office at 207-743-9554.

I wish you all a safe and healthy year ahead.

Respectfully,

Christopher Wainwright
Oxford County Sheriff



Oxford County Sheriff's Office

2023 Calls For Service by Location

Bethel

911 hangup call	107	Littering/Pollution Problem	1	Unlawful Sexual Touching	1
Abandoned Vehicle +++++	4	Suspicious Mail/Package	1	Unwanted Person	9
Elder Abuse	1	Misdialed Number to 911	40	Vandalism	1
Aircraft Problem	2	Missing Person	4	Violation Conditional&Release	1
Alarm	89	Mental Subject	5	Vehicle Serial # Inspection	4
Ambulance or Medical Assist	12	Noise Problem	5	Violation of Bail Conditions	6
Animal Problem	15	Operating After Suspension	3	Violation of Protection Order	19
Assault, Police, Simple	2	OUI of Alcohol	2	Vehicle off Road	5
Assault, Simple	2	Parking Problem	9	Welfare Check	31
Agency Assist	35	Property Damage, Non-vandalism	8	Warrant Failure to Appear	5
Attempt to Locate	2	Peace Officer	4	Warrant Failure To Pay Fine	2
Attempted Suicide	1	Public Indecency	1	Weapons Offense	1
Attended Death	1	Service Of Papers	3	Total Incidents	1364
Burglary, Non-res, Unlawf Ent	1	Protection From Abuse Order	11		
Burglary Of Motor Vehicle	2	Protection Harassment Order	2		
Burglary, Resident, Unlawf Ent	5	Property Watch	24		
Citizen Dispute	23	Radar Detail	1		
Civil Dispute	3	Request Call	107		
Civil Issue	24	Resisting/Interfering w/Police	1		
Custodial Interference	8	Request Officer	33		
Citizen Assist	7	Sexually Explicit Dissem/Mat	1		
Criminal Mischief	6	Sex Offense Compliance Violati	2		
Cont Substance/Sale/Manu/Other	1	Sex Offender Reg Verification	6		
Disabled Vehicle	7	Search Warrant	1		
Disorderly Conduct	10	School Shooting	2		
Domestic Incident	11	Suicidal Person/Welfare Check	2		
Drug Info/Statistics	8	Suicide	1		
Detail	88	Suspicion	89		
DUI Alcohol or Drugs	3	Traffic Accident NonRep	1		
Request Extra Patrol	15	Traffic Accident, Prop Damage	68		
False Fire Alarm	1	Traffic Accident, Pers Injury	12		
False Information or Report	1	Terrorizing	2		
Found Property or Items	8	Theft Involving Firearms	2		
Fraud	3	Traffic Hazard	6		
Harassment	7	Threatening	2		
Information	27	Traffic Offense	60		
Intoxicated Person	5	Theft, Property, Bicycle	1		
Juvenile Problem	13	Theft, Property, Other	30		
K-9 Assisted	1	Trespassing	6		
Lost or Found Property	5	Theft, Vehicle: Automobile	6		
Loitering	1	Unsecure Premises	4		

RESPONSIBLE PET CARE OF OXFORD HILLS, INC.

Shelter & Adoption

9 Swallow Road, South Paris Maine

responsiblepetcare.org

Responsible Pet Care of Oxford Hills, Inc. is a non-profit, 501-C3 shelter for homeless, domesticated animals with a lifesaving philosophy. Located at 9 Swallow Road in South Paris, we are typically equipped to provide treatment and shelter for 100 felines and 20 dogs, but many times exceed those numbers if necessary. All cats and dogs are adopted into approved homes for reasonable adoption fees. All animals are spayed/neutered, vaccinated, tested and flea treated. In 2023, intake was 228 dogs and 499 cats at the shelter; 144 dogs were adopted and 499 felines. We also assisted countless pet owners with pet challenges they were facing, such as to help them to keep pets in the home rather than to give them up, pet food support, spay/neuter grants and to locate lower cost services for spay/neuter. We also were able to host 4 low cost, 3 day spay/neuter clinics at our shelter.

In 2023, we had a very high census of felines, more than in 2022. The reason being a lack of spay/neuter services during the pandemic, a shortage of veterinarians and the increased cost of veterinary services. The demand in our area is high for low cost spay/neuter services and we will continue our clinics if we can find a veterinarian.

“RPC” has agreements with the Towns of Norway, Paris, Oxford, Otisfield, Woodstock, West Paris, Greenwood, Hebron, Buckfield, Hartford, Mechanic Falls, Poland, Gilead, Milton Township, Dixfield, Mexico, Hanover, Bethel, Byron and Andover to take strays. We accept owner surrender cats and dogs when cage/kennel space allows, as well as transfers from other shelters,

- Did you know? One unsprayed female cat is capable of producing 20+ kittens per year for most of her life, female kittens start reproducing as early as 6 months of age, *and* siblings will breed. This is why it is so important to spay, neuter and report strays to the animal control officer.
- Did you know? Each time a dog gives birth to puppies it takes two years off her life. When you purchase a puppy, be conscious of where it comes from. Do not support “puppy mills”. In “puppy mills”, female dogs are bred too often, puppies may be sold too young and dogs may be kept inhumanely. Additionally, because of substandard care, they may be sick or become sick. Be very careful if you purchase a pet on line.
- Did you know? It is unlawful to sell a puppy or kitten before the age of 6 weeks. It is also required that a breeder and/or pet dealer provide the buyer of the puppy or kitten with a written disclosure indicating their history, including healthy records.

Dog licenses are due each year by January 1. Cats are not required to be licensed, but by law are required to be vaccinated for rabies. There is rabies present in our area, so vaccination is very important. If your dog gets lost and is wearing the dog license tag or other identification, there is a very good chance that he will be returned to you. The cost to register your dog is \$6.00 if spayed/neutered and \$11.00 if not. If you do not license your dog by January 31, there is a late fee of \$25.00 per dog. “RPC” urges you to identify pets by ID tag, dog license tag and microchip if

possible so that pets may be returned if lost. "RPC" does microchip by appointment for \$30. Responsible Pet Care typically sponsors rabies vaccination clinics in January and September, but since the pandemic, we have only been able to find a vet to provide us service for the September date. If you are missing your pet, please call both your animal control officer and "RPC" at 743-8679.

We appreciate and thank you for your support, compassion and kindness toward animals.

Responsible Pet Care Directors

Shirley H. Boyce, Cynthia Wescott,

Autumn Dow, Barbara Jamieson, Aimee Heath



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 dark ink, appearing to read "Janet T. Mills".

Janet T. Mills
Governor

SUSAN M. COLLINS
MAINE

415 DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20516-1904
(202) 774-2523
(202) 724-7093 (FAX)

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1904

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
VICE CHAIR
HEALTH, EDUCATION,
LABOR, AND PENSIONS
SELECT COMMITTEE
ON INTELLIGENCE

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

ANGUS S. KING, JR.
MAINE

133 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
PORTLAND, ME 04103
Website: <https://www.king.senate.gov>

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 1, 2024

COMMITTEES
ARMED SERVICES
CHAIRMAN, STRATEGIC FORCES
SUBCOMMITTEE
ENERGY AND
NATURAL RESOURCES
CHAIRMAN, NATIONAL PARKS
SUBCOMMITTEE
INTELLIGENCE
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

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.

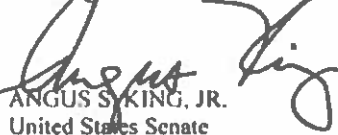
First, it was a true honor to be appointed to the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee this year to help address the challenges facing Maine veterans. We owe our way of life to these brave men and women and share a collective responsibility as a grateful nation to give back to our veterans. That means delivering 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 our 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

AUGUSTA
40 Western Avenue, Suite 417
Augusta, ME 04330
(207) 622-8292

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207 Market Street, Suite 20350
Bangor, ME 04401
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Committee on Armed Services
Committee on Small Business

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

Dear Friends,

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, which 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 F. Golden
Member of Congress

6 State Street, Suite 101
Bangor, ME 04101
Phone: (207) 249-7400

7 Hatch Drive, Suite 230
Caribou, ME 04736
Phone: (207) 492-6009

179 Lisbon Street
Lewiston, ME 04240
Phone: (207) 241-6767



Senator Lisa Keim
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0003
(207) 287-1505
Lisa.Keim@legislature.maine.gov

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

Thank you for 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 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.

Promoting policies that empower people to build to a better future for themselves is always the focus of my work; in this era of diminishing personal liberty, restrictive regulations, and soaring costs, commonsense solutions have never been more essential.

We did find success 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, with a heavy reliance on bonds to fill the gap. However, we now have created a sustainable source of funding to maintain our transportation infrastructure by dedicating 40% of vehicle sales and use taxes collected by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles. This dedicated revenue stream is predicted to raise more than \$200 million for infrastructure each biennium and take us away from using borrowed money for basic upkeep.

The Second Regular Session began in January 2024. I have heard from many of you regarding the biggest concerns you are facing, including increasing energy costs, child care, education, housing, inflation, child welfare, mental health and substance abuse, workforce development, and community safety, among others. As your State Senator, I will continue to advocate for you in Augusta.

Again, thank you for electing me to serve you in the State Senate. Please do not hesitate to reach out with your comments or questions, or if you would like assistance in navigating our state's bureaucracy. I look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

Lisa Keim
Senator, Maine State District 19
1505 Main St. Dixfield, ME
Working Together for a Better Maine

Fax: (207) 287-1527 * TTY (207) 287-1583 * Message Service 1-800-423-6900 * Web Site: legislature.maine.gov/senate



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May 16, 2024

Selectboard
Town of Bethel, Maine
Bethel, Maine

We were engaged by the Town of Bethel, Maine and have audited the financial statements of the Town of Bethel, Maine as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023. The following statements and schedules have been excerpted from the 2023 financial statements, a complete copy of which, including our opinion thereon, will be available for inspection at the Town Office.

Balance Sheet - Governmental Funds	Statement C
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances - Governmental Funds	Statement E
Budgetary Comparison Schedule - Budgetary Basis - Budget and Actual - General Fund	Schedule 1
Schedule of Departmental Operations - General Fund	Schedule A
Combining Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances - Nonmajor Special Revenue Funds	Schedule E
Combining Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances - Nonmajor Capital Project Funds	Schedule G
Combining Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances - Nonmajor Permanent Funds	Schedule I

RHR Smith & Company

Certified Public Accountants

STATEMENT C

TOWN OF BETHEL, MAINE

BALANCE SHEET - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
JUNE 30, 2023

	General Fund	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 5,885,089	\$ 8,315	\$ 5,893,404
Accounts receivable (net of allowance for uncollectibles):			
Taxes	231,622	-	231,622
Liens	41,748	-	41,748
Other	101,143	-	101,143
Due from other governments	601	-	601
Due from other funds	566,648	1,460,810	2,027,458
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 6,826,851</u>	<u>\$ 1,469,125</u>	<u>\$ 8,295,976</u>
LIABILITIES			
Accounts payable	\$ 247,168	\$ -	\$ 247,168
Accrued expenses	55,561	-	55,561
Due to other governments	5,263	-	5,263
Due to other funds	1,460,810	75,652	1,536,462
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>1,768,802</u>	<u>75,652</u>	<u>1,844,454</u>
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES			
Prepaid taxes	33,567	-	33,567
Deferred tax revenue	113,129	-	113,129
TOTAL DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES	<u>146,696</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>146,696</u>
FUND BALANCES			
Nonspendable	-	-	-
Restricted	-	301,035	301,035
Committed	-	1,123,344	1,123,344
Assigned	300,000	44,746	344,746
Unassigned	4,611,353	(75,652)	4,535,701
TOTAL FUND BALANCES	<u>4,911,353</u>	<u>1,393,473</u>	<u>6,304,826</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES AND FUND BALANCES	<u>\$ 6,826,851</u>	<u>\$ 1,469,125</u>	<u>\$ 8,295,976</u>

See accompanying independent auditor's report and notes to financial statements.

STATEMENT E

TOWN OF BETHEL, MAINE

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

	General Fund	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES			
Taxes:			
Property taxes	\$ 7,224,530	\$ -	\$ 7,224,530
Excise taxes	722,625	-	722,625
Intergovernmental revenues	710,006	-	710,006
Charges for services	702,059	8,020	710,079
Investment income	21,933	3	21,936
Miscellaneous revenues	124,422	850	125,272
TOTAL REVENUES	<u>9,505,575</u>	<u>8,873</u>	<u>9,514,448</u>
EXPENDITURES			
Current:			
General government	575,156	-	575,156
Public safety	968,815	-	968,815
Public works	1,197,538	-	1,197,538
Recreation and culture	78,217	-	78,217
Health and welfare	100,246	-	100,246
Education	3,600,612	-	3,600,612
County tax	525,328	-	525,328
Municipal buildings	80,681	-	80,681
Unclassified	464,984	27,628	492,612
Debt service:			
Principal	89,592	-	89,592
Interest	10,082	-	10,082
Capital outlay	-	1,285,297	1,285,297
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>7,691,251</u>	<u>1,312,925</u>	<u>9,004,176</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	<u>1,814,324</u>	<u>(1,304,052)</u>	<u>510,272</u>
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)			
Transfers in	15,800	1,167,200	1,183,000
Transfers (out)	(1,156,611)	(23,000)	(1,179,611)
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)	<u>(1,140,811)</u>	<u>1,144,200</u>	<u>3,389</u>
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES	673,513	(159,852)	513,661
FUND BALANCES - JULY 1, RESTATED	<u>4,237,840</u>	<u>1,553,325</u>	<u>5,791,165</u>
FUND BALANCES - JUNE 30	<u>\$ 4,911,353</u>	<u>\$ 1,393,473</u>	<u>\$ 6,304,826</u>

See accompanying independent auditor's report and notes to financial statements.

SCHEDULE 1

TOWN OF BETHEL, MAINE

BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE - BUDGETARY BASIS
BUDGET AND ACTUAL - GENERAL FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual	Variance
	Original	Final	Amounts	Positive (Negative)
Budgetary Fund Balance, July 1, Restated	\$ 4,237,840	\$ 4,237,840	\$ 4,237,840	\$ -
Resources (Inflows):				
Taxes:				
Property Taxes	7,177,235	7,177,235	7,224,530	47,295
Excise Taxes	606,300	606,300	722,625	116,325
Intergovernmental Revenues:				
State Revenue Sharing	300,000	300,000	379,689	79,689
Homestead Reimbursement	113,006	113,006	158,493	45,487
BETE Reimbursement	55,062	55,062	55,064	2
LRAP	60,000	60,000	61,056	1,056
Other	33,250	33,250	55,704	22,454
Charges for Services	482,975	482,975	702,059	219,084
Interest Income	4,000	4,000	21,933	17,933
Interest on Taxes/Lien Costs	35,000	35,000	33,488	(1,512)
Miscellaneous Revenues	40,480	40,480	90,334	49,854
Proceeds from Sale of Assets	-	-	600	600
Transfers from Other Funds	15,800	15,800	15,800	-
Amounts Available for Appropriation	<u>13,160,948</u>	<u>13,160,948</u>	<u>13,759,215</u>	<u>598,267</u>
Charges to Appropriations (Outflows):				
General Government	602,283	616,323	575,156	41,167
Public Safety	1,014,593	1,029,678	968,815	60,863
Public Works	1,319,015	1,391,960	1,197,538	194,422
Recreation and Culture	96,593	96,593	78,217	18,376
Health and Welfare	99,060	102,060	100,246	1,814
Education	3,600,612	3,600,612	3,600,612	-
County Tax	525,328	525,328	525,328	-
Municipal Buildings	102,560	131,060	80,681	50,379
Unclassified	683,693	683,693	464,984	218,709
Debt service:				
Principal	89,592	89,592	89,592	-
Interest	10,079	10,079	10,082	(3)
Transfers to Other Funds	1,079,700	1,156,611	1,156,611	-
Total Charges to Appropriations	<u>9,223,108</u>	<u>9,433,589</u>	<u>8,847,862</u>	<u>585,727</u>
Budgetary Fund Balance, June 30	<u>\$ 3,937,840</u>	<u>\$ 3,727,359</u>	<u>\$ 4,911,353</u>	<u>\$ 1,183,994</u>
Utilization of Unassigned Fund Balance	<u>\$ 300,000</u>	<u>\$ 510,481</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (510,481)</u>

See accompanying independent auditor's report and notes to financial statements.

SCHEDULE A

TOWN OF BETHEL, MAINE

SCHEDULE OF DEPARTMENTAL OPERATIONS - GENERAL FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

	Original Budget	Budget Adjustments	Final Budget	Actual	Variance Positive (Negative)
General Government -					
Administration	\$ 237,856	\$ -	\$ 237,856	\$ 229,706	\$ 8,150
Finance	104,573	13,640	118,213	112,534	5,679
Town clerk	109,377	400	109,777	110,109	(332)
Planning/CEO	93,734	-	93,734	76,065	17,669
Assessor's office	56,743	-	56,743	46,742	10,001
	602,283	14,040	616,323	575,156	41,167
Public Safety -					
Police department	392,958	-	392,958	389,465	3,493
Fire department	265,716	3,685	269,401	279,908	(10,507)
Ambulance	355,919	11,400	367,319	299,442	67,877
	1,014,593	15,085	1,029,678	968,815	60,863
Public Works -					
Public works	646,138	72,945	719,083	577,314	141,769
Solid waste/recycling	672,877	-	672,877	620,224	52,653
	1,319,015	72,945	1,391,960	1,197,538	194,422

SCHEDULE A (CONTINUED)

TOWN OF BETHEL, MAINE

SCHEDULE OF DEPARTMENTAL OPERATIONS - GENERAL FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

	Original Budget	Budget Adjustments	Final Budget	Actual	Variance Positive (Negative)
Recreation and Culture -					
Recreation	59,900	-	59,900	53,069	6,831
Angevine Park	13,543	-	13,543	6,562	6,981
Fountain/Park and cemetery	23,150	-	23,150	18,586	4,564
	96,593	-	96,593	78,217	18,376
Health and Welfare -					
General assistance	3,000	3,000	6,000	1,785	4,215
Contributions-local	83,948	-	83,948	86,349	(2,401)
Contributions-agencies	12,112	-	12,112	12,112	-
	99,060	3,000	102,060	100,246	1,814
Education	3,600,612	-	3,600,612	3,600,612	-
County Tax	525,328	-	525,328	525,328	-
Municipal Buildings					
Cole Block/Town office	29,060	2,000	31,060	22,131	8,929
Fire station	26,720	13,000	39,720	23,126	16,594
Town garage	28,600	10,000	38,600	19,086	19,514
Greenleaf Station	18,180	3,500	21,680	16,338	5,342
	102,560	28,500	131,060	80,681	50,379

SCHEDULE A (CONTINUED)

TOWN OF BETHEL, MAINE

SCHEDULE OF DEPARTMENTAL OPERATIONS - GENERAL FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

	Original Budget	Budget Adjustments	Final Budget	Actual	Variance Positive (Negative)
Debt Service -					
Principal	89,592	-	89,592	89,592	-
Interest	10,079	-	10,079	10,082	(3)
	99,671	-	99,671	99,674	(3)
Unclassified -					
Employee benefits	522,897	-	522,897	414,623	108,274
Municipal insurance	56,513	-	56,513	41,969	14,544
Overlay	104,283	-	104,283	8,392	95,891
	683,693	-	683,693	464,984	218,709
Transfers to Other Funds -					
Capital projects funds	1,079,700	64,500	1,144,200	1,144,200	-
Enterprise fund	-	12,411	12,411	12,411	-
	1,079,700	76,911	1,156,611	1,156,611	-
Total Departmental Operations	\$ 9,223,108	\$ 210,481	\$ 9,433,589	\$ 8,847,862	\$ 585,727

See accompanying independent auditor's report and notes to financial statements.

SCHEDULE E

TOWN OF BETHEL, MAINE

COMBINING SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
NONMAJOR SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

	Angevine Park	Recreation Donation	Fire Relief	ARPA	Ski Donation	Directional Sign/Post	Total
REVENUES							
Charges for services	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,600	\$ 5,420	\$ 8,020
TOTAL REVENUES	-	-	-	-	2,600	5,420	8,020
EXPENDITURES							
Other	1,264	3,470	-	-	5,162	3,542	13,438
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	1,264	3,470	-	-	5,162	3,542	13,438
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES	(1,264)	(3,470)	-	-	(2,562)	1,878	(5,418)
FUND BALANCES - JULY 1, RESTATED	4,501	8,332	19,739	289,512	7,582	10,010	339,676
FUND BALANCES - JUNE 30	\$ 3,237	\$ 4,862	\$ 19,739	\$ 289,512	\$ 5,020	\$ 11,888	\$ 334,258

SCHEDULE G

TOWN OF BETHEL, MAINE

COMBINING SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
NONMAJOR CAPITAL PROJECT FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

	Streets/ Roads	SCBA	Ambulance	Revaluation	Sidewalk Maintenance	Lower Main St Sidewalks
REVENUES						
Other	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL REVENUES	-	-	-	-	-	-
EXPENDITURES						
Capital outlay	393,565	149,999	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	1,835	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	393,565	149,999	-	-	1,835	-
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	(393,565)	(149,999)	-	-	(1,835)	-
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)						
Transfers in	401,000	75,000	44,000	10,000	5,000	-
Transfers (out)	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)	401,000	75,000	44,000	10,000	5,000	-
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES (DEFICITS)	7,435	(74,999)	44,000	10,000	3,165	-
FUND BALANCES (DEFICITS) - JULY 1, RESTATED	102,932	75,050	100,613	140,000	7,209	52,954
FUND BALANCES (DEFICITS) - JUNE 30	\$ 110,367	\$ 51	\$ 144,613	\$ 150,000	\$ 10,374	\$ 52,954

SCHEDULE G (CONTINUED)

TOWN OF BETHEL, MAINE

COMBINING SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
NONMAJOR CAPITAL PROJECT FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

	Cole Blk Building	Fire Dept Pump	PW Truck Reserve	PW Reserve	Pathway Extension
REVENUES					
Other	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
TOTAL REVENUES	-	-	-	-	-
EXPENDITURES					
Capital outlay	-	335,000	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	600
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	-	335,000	-	-	600
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	-	(335,000)	-	-	(600)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)					
Transfers in	40,000	75,000	190,000	50,000	-
Transfers (out)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)	40,000	75,000	190,000	50,000	-
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES (DEFICITS)	40,000	(260,000)	190,000	50,000	(600)
FUND BALANCES (DEFICITS) - JULY 1, RESTATED	51,834	260,000	33,571	105,694	10,202
FUND BALANCES (DEFICITS) - JUNE 30	\$ 91,834	\$ -	\$ 223,571	\$ 155,694	\$ 9,602

TOWN OF BETHEL, MAINE

SCHEDULE G (CONTINUED)

COMBINING SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
NONMAJOR CAPITAL PROJECT FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

	Fountain	Code Book	Exercise Station	PW Grader	BWD Demolition	Records Restoration
REVENUES						
Other	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
TOTAL REVENUES	-	-	-	-	-	-
EXPENDITURES						
Capital outlay	-	6,397	-	8,614	-	-
Other	150	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	150	6,397	-	8,614	-	-
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	(150)	(6,397)	-	(8,614)	-	-
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)						
Transfers in	-	15,000	-	-	-	1,500
Transfers (out)	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)	-	15,000	-	-	-	1,500
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES (DEFICITS)	(150)	8,603	-	(8,614)	-	1,500
FUND BALANCES (DEFICITS) - JULY 1, RESTATED	150	3,400	2,039	9,589	10,000	16,011
FUND BALANCES (DEFICITS) - JUNE 30	\$ -	\$ 12,003	\$ 2,039	\$ 975	\$ 10,000	\$ 17,511

SCHEDULE G (CONTINUED)

TOWN OF BETHEL, MAINE

COMBINING SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
NONMAJOR CAPITAL PROJECT FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

	Cemetery Restoration	Drainage Improvements	Conservation Commission	Ambulance Power Load Reserve	Snowblower Reserve
REVENUES					
Other	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL REVENUES	-	-	-	-	-
EXPENDITURES					
Capital outlay	89,483	13,425	-	15,658	127,770
Other	-	-	2,815	-	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	89,483	13,425	2,815	15,658	127,770
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	(89,483)	(13,425)	(2,815)	(15,658)	(127,770)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)					
Transfers in	10,000	20,000	-	15,700	90,000
Transfers (out)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)	10,000	20,000	-	15,700	90,000
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES (DEFICITS)	(79,483)	6,575	(2,815)	42	(37,770)
FUND BALANCES (DEFICITS) - JULY 1, RESTATED	13,717	-	3,399	-	90,000
FUND BALANCES (DEFICITS) - JUNE 30	\$ (65,766)	\$ 6,575	\$ 584	\$ 42	\$ 52,230

TOWN OF BETHEL, MAINE

SCHEDULE G (CONTINUED)

COMBINING SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
NONMAJOR CAPITAL PROJECT FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

	TS Well Septic	EBS Demo	Vernon St Sidewalk	Pond Money Contracted	Ball Fields	Rt 2 Design Sidewalk
REVENUES						
Other	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
TOTAL REVENUES	-	-	-	-	-	-
EXPENDITURES						
Capital outlay	-	139,000	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	-	139,000	-	-	-	-
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	-	(139,000)	-	-	-	-
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)						
Transfers in	-	94,500	-	-	-	23,000
Transfers (out)	-	-	(23,000)	-	-	-
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)	-	94,500	(23,000)	-	-	23,000
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES (DEFICITS)	-	(44,500)	(23,000)	-	-	23,000
FUND BALANCES (DEFICITS) - JULY 1, RESTATED	1,397	35,000	23,000	5,000	152	30,000
FUND BALANCES (DEFICITS) - JUNE 30	\$ 1,397	\$ (9,500)	\$ -	\$ 5,000	\$ 152	\$ 53,000

TOWN OF BETHEL, MAINE

SCHEDULE G (CONTINUED)

COMBINING SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
NONMAJOR CAPITAL PROJECT FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

	Cemetery	Ambulance Paving	Admin Equipment	Backhoe Repair	Website Reserve	Total
REVENUES						
Other	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL REVENUES	-	-	-	-	-	-
EXPENDITURES						
Capital outlay	-	-	6,386	-	-	1,285,297
Other	-	4,000	-	-	4,790	14,190
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	-	4,000	6,386	-	4,790	1,299,487
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	-	(4,000)	(6,386)	-	(4,790)	(1,299,487)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)						
Transfers in	-	-	-	-	7,500	1,167,200
Transfers (out)	-	-	-	-	-	(23,000)
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)	-	-	-	-	7,500	1,144,200
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES (DEFICITS)	-	(4,000)	(6,386)	-	2,710	(155,287)
FUND BALANCES (DEFICITS) - JULY 1, RESTATED	1,066	4,000	6,000	9,000	-	1,202,979
FUND BALANCES (DEFICITS) - JUNE 30	\$ 1,066	\$ -	\$ (386)	\$ 9,000	\$ 2,710	\$ 1,047,692

See accompanying independent auditor's report and notes to financial statements.

SCHEDULE I

TOWN OF BETHEL, MAINE

COMBINING SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN
 FUND BALANCES - NONMAJOR PERMANENT FUNDS
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

	<u>Cemeteries</u>	<u>Total</u>
REVENUES		
Interest income	\$ 3	\$ 3
Other	850	850
TOTAL REVENUES	<u>853</u>	<u>853</u>
EXPENDITURES		
Other	-	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES	853	853
FUND BALANCES - JULY 1	<u>10,670</u>	<u>10,670</u>
FUND BALANCES - JUNE 30	<u>\$ 11,523</u>	<u>\$ 11,523</u>

See accompanying independent auditor's report and notes to financial statements.

*Thank you for helping us make
the past year a success and
we are looking forward to
working with you in the
coming year.*

*The Town of Bethel Staff and
Volunteers.*



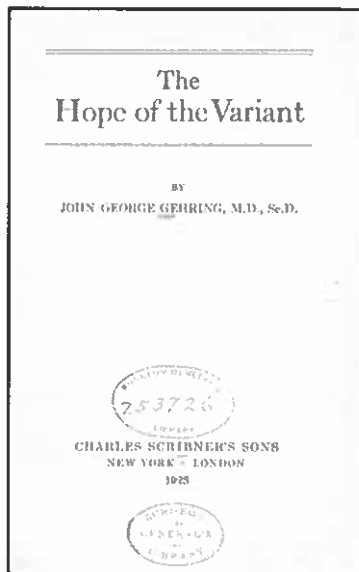
**SPIRIT OF AMERICA AWARD 2024
AWARDED TO THE EMPLOYEES OF THE TOWN OF BETHEL
THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR DEDICATED WORK**

Dr. John George Gehring's Hope for "Variants"

An unforgettable name in Bethel's history is that of Dr. John George Gehring, whose home at the south end of Broad Street is currently being redeveloped by the Northern Forest Center to provide much-needed housing for our community.

Gehring first came to Bethel in 1888 after marrying Marian True Farnsworth, a daughter of Dr. Nathaniel T. True. Though trained in conventional medicine, beginning in the 1890s, Gehring began experimenting with innovative techniques to treat both physical and mental ailments. His therapy emphasized the mind-body connection and included the use of hypnotic suggestion, a regulated daily schedule, conversations with the doctor, and various medications. This regimen was augmented by the relaxing, congenial environment that was fostered at the clinic.

Many of Gehring's "guests" (as he generally referred to them, rather than patients) boarded with the doctor, and meals were taken together, family style. The evenings would be filled with entertainment and the days afforded plenty of time for outdoor activities such as skiing and snowshoeing, or, in the Doc's own words, "the added prescription of liberal doses of exercise at the wood-pile."



In 1923, Dr. Gehring published his only book, *The Hope of the Variant*, in which he outlined his methods for the treatment of mental illness. He defined a "variant" as an individual "whose normal differs from the average."

A review published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* praised the book's "lucidity and force" as well as its accessibility. The reviewer wrote:

The book is written primarily for the general physician and not for the specialist in neuropathy. The language is not too technical, and it can be heartily recommended for this purpose. The author's method of presentation introduces no conflict with rational therapeutics, and leaves behind no impression that he is offering a panacea for ills of all kinds.

While some of Gehring's ideas might appear quaint today, many of the methods he advocated find echoes in modern psychiatric practice.

In a world filled with the constant pinging of electronic devices and all of the anxieties that attend such distractions, perhaps we would all do well to pause and reflect on the benefits of fresh air, exercise, and community.

William F. Chapman, Executive Director
Museums of the Bethel Historical Society

Back cover, top: The Gehring House as it appeared shortly after construction.

Back cover, bottom: Patients undergoing therapy at the wood pile.

