

Town of Rome, Maine 2020 Annual Report



“Increasing Communication in Our Community”

IMPORTANT DATES

January 1, 2021	Municipal fiscal year begins.
February 1, 2021	Dog licenses become overdue . If dogs are not registered by this date, a \$25 late fee will be assessed.
March 12, 2021	Municipal election of officers and referendum 12:00-8:00 pm at the Community Center.
March 13, 2021	Annual Town Meeting, 10:00 am, Belgrade Central School.
April 1, 2021	List of all personal property or real estate must be reported to the Assessor, per Maine statute. Applications for any exemption must be received in writing by the Assessor.
June 8, 2021	Primary RSU 18 School Budget Referendum 8:00am-8:00pm, Community Center.
June 30, 2021	All ATV & Snowmobile registrations expire.
October 15, 2021	2022 Dog licenses are available with the Town Clerk.
November 1, 2021	All 2021 taxes are due: interest accrues from this date, only to be changed by a vote of the Town.
November 2, 2021	Potential Referendum Election, Polls open 8:00am-8:00pm, Rome Community Center.
December 31, 2021	All Boat & Hunting/Fishing Licenses expire. 2021 Dog and Kennel Licenses expire.

2021 MAINE GOVERNMENT HOLIDAYS

January 1 (Fri.)- New Year's Day	September 6 (Mon.)-Labor Day
January 18 (Mon.)- Martin Luther Kings Jr. Day	October 11 (Mon.)-Indigenous People's Day
February 15 (Mon.)-President's Day	November 11 (Thurs.)-Veteran's Day, Obsv.
April 19 (Mon.)-Patriot's Day	November 25 (Thurs.)-Thanksgiving Day
May 31 (Mon.) Memorial Day	November 26 (Fri.)- Thanksgiving Friday
July 5 (Mon.)- Independence Day	December 24 (Fri.)-Christmas Day
December 31(Fri.)- New Year's Day	

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MUNICIPAL OFFICERS
FOR
ROME, MAINE



For the Year Ending December 31, 2020

PLEASE BRING THIS REPORT
TO TOWN MEETING ON
SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 2021

Cover photo courtesy of Kelly Archer

Table of Contents

Town Report Dedication	4
Spirit of America Awards	6
Legislative Contacts	9
Municipal Officials & Committee Members	10
Town Department Reports	13
Board of Selectmen Letter.....	13
Town Clerk Report.....	17
Road Commissioner Report.....	19
Assessors' Report.....	21
Code Enforcement Office Report.....	22
Plumbing Inspector Report.....	25
Fire Department Report.....	27
Rescue Department Report.....	28
Emergency Management Report.....	29
Delta Ambulance.....	30
Neighbors Driving Neighbors Report.....	31
Rome Ruff Riders Report.....	33
Belgrade / Rome Special Needs Food Pantry.....	34
Travis Mills Foundation.....	35
Town of Rome Scholarship Report.....	36
North Pond Association.....	37
Belgrade Lakes Association.....	38
7 Lakes Alliance.....	41
Dams Committee Report.....	43
Recreation Committee Report.....	44
Connect - Rome.....	46
RSU 18 Reports	48
Superintendent's Report.....	48
Rome's School Board Director Report.....	49
FirstPark General Assembly Representative Report	51
County & State Official Report	
Sheriff's Report.....	52
Senators & Representatives.....	54
Selectmen's Reports	59
Financial Reports	64
Tax Collector's Report	66
Auditor's Report	73
Property Tax Levy Limit	83
Advantages of a Comprehensive Plan	85
Town Meeting Warrant	86

The 2020 Town Report is Dedicated to



Neighbors Driving Neighbors

When it came time to decide who to dedicate the Town Report for 2020 to, the Board of Selectmen thought of Neighbors Driving Neighbors. We came to this decision by thinking about this last year and all the trials and tribulations that everyone has had to work through. It is amazing to see communities come together when help is needed.

Neighbors Driving Neighbors is a non-profit volunteer driving service. Their goal was to help residents from Belgrade, Fayette, Mt. Vernon, Rome, and Vienna to remain in their homes after they are no longer able to drive. In our rural area it is not easy to find public transportation on a regular basis. Many of us take for granted being able run to the grocery store, pick up prescriptions, or go to a doctor's appointment, while other residents struggle to find someone to take them. Neighbors Driving Neighbors provides that help within a 35-mile radius for those that do not drive or can not depend on other means of transportation.

In March of 2020 Covid-19 brought many challenges and Neighbors Driving Neighbors may have had to stop their ride program temporarily but never stopped helping. With the new "stay home, stay safe" and offices of all sorts closing, the new issue is how do safely we get the residents what they need? Those residents self-quarantining, by choice or by doctor's order, still needed food, prescriptions, and etc. This lead Neighbors Driving neighbors to became more of a delivery service until they would be able to take passengers again safely. The NDN helped residents by delivering food and prescriptions to their homes, using all the necessary precautions recommended by the CDC. During the summer they provided a list of local businesses that residents could order items from. By doing this not only were the residents helped greatly, but so were the local businesses. Everything was now becoming a "take-out" only and if you happened to be someone quarantining this service became their saving grace. As

time went by and certain restrictions were lifted the NDN set up barriers between the front and back seat of their vehicles. This allowed them to help residents get to doctor's appointments that were now in-person not by zoom or by phone call. Unfortunately, we all saw an up turn in the cases and this service had to be halted again in late fall. As more and more are able to be vaccinated against Covid-19 we hope to see our lives slowly come back to some sense of normalcy. We are incredibly lucky to live in an area that takes care of each other so well.

You can help Neighbors Driving Neighbors by becoming a volunteer or helping during their fund-raising events. Amazon users can support NDN by choosing them as their preferred charity.

THANK YOU

NEIGHBORS DRIVING NEIGHBORS

CONTACT INFORMATION

Email: neighborsdrivingneighbors@gmail.com

Phone: 207-860-0677



SPIRIT OF AMERICA AWARD

The Spirit of America Foundation Tribute is presented in the name of Maine municipalities to local individuals, organizations and projects for commendable community service.

Peter Serrada and his wife Colleen started vacationing in Rome in 1975 after purchasing the property the year before which they now live on. During this time Peter worked for the State of New Jersey transportation department as an accountant specializing in auditing. His final position as an auditor was with the county of Union in New Jersey. The original vacation home on the property was moved there from Strong by Rome's Carl Johnson.

As his retirement approached their ties to the Rome property had grown and they decided to have their retirement and current home, a Hammond Lumber log home, built on the property in 1997. They moved in later that year and became full time Rome residents.

Peter is a veteran having served in the US Navy as a Fireman from 1966-1970.

He has performed various community service functions for Rome, his church and the Maine University system.

Shortly after retirement Peter volunteered at the University of Farmington, assisting with the establishment of the Senior College at the campus. This College focuses on lifetime learning for Maine residents fifty and over.

As a young man Peter was infatuated with astronomy. Stars, galaxies and the unknown fascinated him. This fascination became a very useful to UMO astronomy students. Peter was one of several amateur astronomers around the state who volunteered to assist these students with their field lab assignments. These students came to the volunteer's home and completed the assignments on the volunteer's telescope and under their tutelage.

Peter served on the finance committee of his church in Farmington for several years.

He was nominated to the Rome Budget Committee at the town meeting in 2002 and has served on this committee every year since his nomination. He decided to retire from the committee this year.

The town of Rome and Rome's select board thank you.



SPIRIT OF AMERICA AWARD

The Spirit of America Foundation Tribute is presented in the name of Maine municipalities to local individuals, organizations, and projects for commendable community service.

In 2019 the award was presented to Alice Vanderwerken and David Sprague of Stoney End Farm.

Originally from Vassalboro the couple found themselves riding through Rome one day and came upon an old farm that was for sale on the Mercer Road. That was 28 years ago. After much hard work and perseverance, it developed into what is now called the Stoney End Farm and store. They grow strawberries which people come from miles around to pick. In fact, you can find most any kind of vegetable growing there which they sell from the store or farm stand. The day I was there I saw all these, what I thought was dozens of windchimes, hanging from the ceiling, but were actually peppers hanging to dry to be ground into powder and bottled. On the table was a huge bowl of chilis drying for the same purpose. They showed me some of the most beautiful wooden bowls that David had made from burls from a variety of trees.

They donate strawberries to the Union Church in Belgrade Lakes for their money making projects.

Alice has, for 17 years, been associated with the Lakes Farmers Market which runs from June through September, as a market manager. She is an employee of the Allied Physical Therapy in Farmington. She is also an accomplished seamstress.

With all they have to do on the farm Alice still finds the time to be on the Budget Committee and the Appeals Board and has for several years. She makes and donates pies for our community suppers and pie sale events.

David, a retired master electrician, makes wooden bowls and spoons for the store, in fact you will find anything from chili powder to an occasional wooden urn there. How do I know about the wooden urn, when talking one day with to our now late selectmen, Malcolm Charles, he told me that David had made him one and that I could use it after he was done with it. Now as much as I liked Malcolm I wasn't sure that I wanted to share an urn with him. But it all worked out and I decided to purchase my own when the time comes.

When asked how they ended up with a berry patch, a store and a farm they both said that they just fell into it. And in reality, that's the way most things happen.

We are truly grateful that David and Alice are a significant part of Rome and we are all the richer for it.

To submit nominations for future Spirit of America award winners, please contact the Board of Selectmen. So many people serve Rome in so many ways – let's honor their volunteerism! The town will forever honor the volunteer service of all award recipients with the installation of a plaque at the Rome Community Center.



STATE & FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE CONTACTS

MAINE STATE REPRESENTATIVE- HOUSE DISTRICT 76

Dan Newman (R-Belgrade)
2 State House Station
Augusta, Me 04330
Legislative Office: (207)287-1440
Dan.Newman@legislature.maine.gov

MAINE STATE SENATOR-SENATE DISTRICT 3

Bradlee “Brad” T. Farrin (R-Skowhegan)
262 Skowhegan Rd.
Norridgewock, Me 04957
Home: (207) 634-3074
Cell: (207) 614-4123
State House: (207) 287-1505
Brad.farrin@legislature.maine.gov

UNITED STATES CONGRESSMAN, 2ND DISTRICT OF MAINE

Jared Golden (D-Oakland)
1223 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Lewiston: (207) 241-6767
Washington, DC: (202) 224-2523
To contact via e-mail, visit golden.house.gov

UNITED STATES SENATOR

Susan M. Collins (R-Bangor)
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Augusta: (207) 622-8414
Washington, DC: (202) 224-2523
To contact via e-mail, visit collins.senate.gov

UNITED STATES SENATOR

Angus S. King, Jr. (I-Brunswick)
133 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Augusta: (207) 622-8292
Washington, DC: (202) 224-5344
To contact via e-mail, visit king.senate.gov

MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Selectmen, Assessors and Overseers of the Poor

First (1-year term)	MONICA MCCARTHY, 2021
Second (1-year term)	LOIS STRATTON, 2021
Third (1-year term)	KELLY ARCHER, 2021
Town Clerk (1-year term)	JULIE L MORRISON, 2021 BARBARA BRICKETT, DEPUTY
Treasurer (1-year term)	TAMMY LYONS, 2021
Property Tax Collector (1-year term)	TAMMY LYONS, 2021
RSU 18 School Board Director (3-year term)	DR. ANDREW COOK, 2021
Road Commissioner (1-year term)	CARROLL BUBAR, 2021
Registrar of Voters (1-year term)	JULIE L. MORRISON, 2021
Assistant to the Selectmen (1-year term)	BARBARA BRICKETT, 2021
Excise Tax Collector/BMV Agent (1-year term)	JULIE L. MORRISON, 2021
Code Enforcement Officer (1-year term)	ANDREW MARBLE, 2021
Health Officer (1-year term)	ANDREW MARBLE 2021
Plumbing Inspector (1-year term)	ANDREW MARBLE, 2021
911 Address Director (1-year term)	ANDREW MARBLE, 2021
Director of Emergency Management (1-year term)	ED PEARL JR., 2021
Fire Chief (1-year term)	GARY FOSS, 2021 ED PEARL JR., ASSISTANT, 2021
Rescue Chief (1-year term)	GARY FOSS, 2021

Forest Fire Warden	GARY FOSS ED PEARL JR., DEPUTY LLOYD THOMAS, DEPUTY
Animal Control Officer (1-year term)	ROBERT P. CROSBY, 2021
Sexton (1-year term)	MIKE PROCTOR, 2021
Budget Committee.....	SANDRA PHILLIPS (RES.) PETER SERRADA (RES.) ALICE VanDERWERKEN, (2 yr. term), 2021 RICHARD LABELLE, (2 yr. term), 2021 PIERRETTE KELLY (RES) LINCOLN NYE (1 yr. term), 2021 HILLARY SCHULTZ (3 yr. term) 2021 JOAN ORR (3 yr. term), 2021
Planning Board (3-year terms)	RICHARD GREENAN (CO-CHAIR) (3 yr. term), 2022 BARBARA SAXTON (CO-CHAIR), 2022 ALAN LABELLE, 2021 J. JACKSON SCHULTZ, 2023 DANIEL ROBBINS, 2023 FRED GAGNON (RES) LINCOLN NYE (ALT.) (1 yr. term), 2021 STEVEN MCCARTHY (ALT.) (1 yr. term), 2021
Board of Appeals & Fair Hearing Authority.....	PETER SCHULTZ (CHAIR)(3 yr. term), 2021 ALICE VanDERWERKEN (3 yr. term), 2021 PETER KALLIN (2 yr. term), 2022 WILLIAM KELLEHER (2 yr. term), 2021 JOAN ORR (1 yr. term), 2021 EDWIN CHARLES (ALT)(1 yr. term), 2021 CHARLES RANDALL, JR. (ALT)(1 yr. term), 2021
Belgrade Lakes Dams Committee.....	RICHARD GREENAN (ALT.) (3 yr. term), 2021 TIMOTHY COMEFORD (3yr. term), 2021 J. JACKSON SCHULTZ (3 yr. term), 2021
Recreation Committee.....	PAMELA CHRISTENSEN (3 yr. term) 2022 ALAN LABELLE (2 yr. term) 2022 CARROL BUBAR(Alt.) (1 yr. term), 2021 SANDRA SHUTE (1 yr. term), 2021 TRENT SHUTE (1 yr. term), 2021 SUSAN BROZ (1 yr. term), 2021

Broadband Working Group	JOAN ORR, CHAIR DR. AMY MADDEN DAVE MACLEAY DAWN WILLARD-ROBINSON DR. ANDREW COOK ED PEARL JR. JOHN ROMAC JOSHUA ZUKERMAN MONICA MCCARTHY SPENCER CHURCHILL DR. TIM PIEH
FirstPark / KRDA General Assembly.....	DR. ANDREW COOK
Kennebec Valley Council of Governments General Assembly.....	DR. ANDREW COOK
CARROLL BUBAR	

THANK YOU

To all our residents who volunteer to serve our town so well as members of our many boards and committees, thank you. Your willingness to serve is greatly appreciated.

Residents interested in serving on any board or committee may notify the **Board of Selectmen** or the **Chair of the respective committee.**

February 2021

Selectmen’s Letter to Residents and Taxpayers of the Town of Rome

The pandemic and the political climate posed unique and unprecedented challenges to communities and to municipal leaders across the nation in 2020. We often reflected on how fortunate we are to live in a community like Rome, and hope you were encouraged as well by our relative safety and ability to pull together.

The decision to close the Town Office and Community Center last March was a difficult one, but your town officials and staff worked together to reopen as quickly and as safely as possible, in alignment with the ever-evolving guidelines from state and public health officials. Our community unfortunately has not escaped impact from Covid-19, but we look forward to the day when we will safely reopen the Community Center to all kinds of activities again.

The patience and flexibility required of our fellow elected officials and staff, as well our residents, has been considerable. We sincerely appreciate it. Things haven’t always been perfect or smooth, but we made adjustments, and we got through it – and continue to get through it – together.

The Board of Selectmen pursued, won and administered a Keep ME Healthy grant of almost \$60,000 for COVID-19 prevention, education and protection throughout the summer and fall in partnership with DHHS. The grant enabled us to put things in place immediately to help keep our residents and visitors safe. We improved the Town’s ability to communicate important information to residents and visitors via a new electronic signboard for the Town Office property, an enhanced Rome web site, better phone and internet service at the Community Center, and mailings. We acquired equipment, supplies and signage to manage a new traffic pattern inside and outside the Town Office, enhanced cleaning services upon reopening, made modifications to the Town Clerk’s and Tax Collector/Treasurer’s service windows, supplied sanitizer and PPE, hired a

part time Town Beach monitor over the summer, and provided “care kits” including sanitizer, signage, PPE and cleaning supplies to local businesses and the Rome Baptist Church. We were also able to acquire videoconferencing equipment including a multi-purpose projector and screen for the Community Center to improve the experience for those who want to attend our public meetings and events remotely. All of this was accomplished without placing additional local tax burden on our residents, and the electronic signboard, web site, videoconferencing equipment and enhancements to our phone and internet service will continue to benefit Rome well into the future.

With the virus came increased reliance on internet connectivity, as school and workplace closures forced students, workers and others at risk to be home for extended periods, attending class or working remotely. The Board established a new Broadband committee, with representation from RSU18 and Rome businesses, physicians, public safety, IT and others. This group, chaired by Joan Orr, applied for and won a seed grant from ConnectMaine to survey our community in 2021 and determine our needs and options for better connectivity in our community. Please look out for the speed test and survey this spring and summer.

We owe all of our Board and Committee members a debt of gratitude for the time and energy they invest on our community’s behalf. Please join us in recognizing the contributions of the following Rome committee members who have chosen to step down as their terms ended this year: Tim Comeford (Dams Committee), Fred Gagnon (Planning Board), Pierrette Kelly (Budget Committee), Liz Koucky (Rome Scholarship Fund Committee), and Sandra Phillips (Budget Committee). Their investment of time and talent to benefit Rome is greatly appreciated. We would also like to recognize our Code Enforcement Officer Andrew Marble for ten years of service to the Town.

The Board of Selectmen oversaw the reconstruction of Wooster Hill Road and the north end of Mercer Road throughout the spring, summer and fall of 2020, and recommend additional investment in 2021 to complete the

shoulder work on Wooster Hill and Mercer Road, and to rebuild a section of Crystal Springs Road from rt 225 to the Town's salt and sand shed.

The Board also oversaw the completion of the unlicensed junkyard cleanup at 602 Augusta Road, and wish to acknowledge the efforts of Larry DiPietro Jr and his family in helping to facilitate compliance with the September 6th, 2019 consent order between his family and the town, as well as his plans to reseed the property this spring.

Despite the virus's best efforts to keep us isolated, Rome still wants to get outside to play. The Rome Ruff Riders have kept our trails in tip-top condition for snowmobilers, and they groom The Mountain trail for multi-purpose use, in cooperation with 7 Lakes Alliance who maintain The Mountain and six other area trails for our residents and visitors to enjoy. Rome's Recreation Committee found a way to promote safe recreation throughout the year, from improving the basketball court at the Community Center and the facilities at the Town Beach, to conducting the annual Christmas Giving Tree and delivering toys and clothing to area children. Our town office team of Barbara Brickett and Julie Morrison were indispensable to the Giving Tree effort as well. Our heartfelt thanks go out to them, to the Recreation Committee, the Ruff Riders and all of you who have supported their efforts throughout the year.

As we look to the future, we must recognize that change is inevitable, but *how* we change is up to us. If there are things about our community that we value and want to preserve, we must be proactive about defining and protecting those things. But who gets to decide what they are? The best answer is: *all* of us. The Board of Selectmen recommend investing in a process over the next 18 months, with expert facilitation from Kennebec Valley Council of Governments (KVCOG), to meet and make our core values as a community explicit through the creation of a Comprehensive Plan. Rome's Comprehensive Plan will provide a basis for decision making about future land use and development, public services, our local economy, recreation and resources moving forward. The success of this endeavor depends on your support and on broad public participation, and it is a chance for us to make decisions about Rome's future together in a way that

will impact generations to come. We sincerely hope you will support this process and get involved.

We have also proposed a new position in the coming year to provide administrative support not only for the Board of Selectmen, but to act as liaison between all of the town's boards and committees to improve communication and the flow of information between all essential town functions. This key administrative role will help ensure that your public officials are better informed and better prepared, to make better decisions and be more responsive to you. Many towns our size without a Town Manager leverage skilled Administrative Assistants to hold things together, enhance internal and external communications, provide continuity and enable town officials to focus on the roles for which they were elected. In our view, this position as proposed (32 hours/wk with full benefits) will provide a good job with a good income for a qualified individual while providing Rome the support necessary to function smoothly and efficiently in these changing times.

Respectfully submitted,

Monica McCarthy

Lois Stratton

Kelly Archer

TOWN CLERK’S REPORT - 2020

Births- 13
 Marriages- 8
 Deaths- 9

In Memoriam

January 7, 2020	Audrey Wentworth Vogt	89 years
April 15, 2020	Doris Inez Drury	92 years
May 14, 2020	Stephen J. Loder Sr.	72 years
June 1, 2020	Maureen Theresa Vines	80 years
July 18, 2020	Eleanor Govostes	83 years
August 24, 2020	Stephen John McElvaine	62years
October 31, 2020	Glenn D.W. Mueller	86 years
November 24, 2020	Donna Jean Pearl	72 years
December 10, 2020	Frederick L. Ahlgren	83 years

DOG LICENSES ISSUED

Male/Female.....21
 Neutered/Spayed.....105
 Kennel License.....7

- The number of Boat, ATV, Snowmobile registrations, and Hunting & Fishing licenses done in office were slightly down this year due to COVID-19 with more people using online registrations.

HUNTING/FISHING LICENSES ISSUED

Hunting/Fishing Combo.....13
 Fishing.....13
 Hunting.....2
 Junior Hunting.....0
 Non-Resident Hunting/Fishing Combo.....2
 Non-Resident Fishing.....7
 Non-Resident Hunting.....1

Boats.....249
 ATVs.....47
 Snowmobiles.....43
 Non-Resident ATV.....5
 Non-Resident Snowmobiles.....11

2020 was a busy year for elections, with 2 Elections in March. The March 3, 2020 State Primary Election resulted in 364 votes cast and the March 13, 2020 Municipal Election resulted in 281 votes cast. The July 14, 2020 Special Election, RSU 18 Budget meeting and the State Primary Referendum Election resulted in 262 votes cast. This year was a record year for the November 3, 2020 Presidential election. Voter attendance for that

election was 436 in-person absentee/mail in absentee ballots and 283 Election day in person votes for a total of 719 voters.

ELECTION	ABSENTEE	IN PERSON VOTING DAY	TOTAL
03-03-2020	53	311	364
03-13-2020	86	195	281
07-14-2020	102	160	262
11-03-2020	436	283	719

Due to the Town Clerk applying, The Town of Rome was fortunate to receive an Election Grant in the amount of \$5,000.00 from Center for Tech and Civic Life. We were able to purchase several items with this Grant, including the ballot drop box outside the office, additional voter booths, signage, Surveillance system at main entrance for Ballot Drop Box, purchase the stamps needed for the record absentee ballots sent out, extra help with the in-person absentee voting as well as extra help during the election to sanitize after each voter. The Town was also fortunate to receive a DS200 tabulation machine, at no cost to the Town, from the Secretary of State.

I would like to thank everyone that worked during our 4 Elections this year. It was an uncertain time to be working with such a large group of people in any area. My staff of election workers were rock stars and came through for not only me as Town Clerk but the residents of Rome as well to provide safe and accurate elections.

Respectfully Submitted,

JULIE L. MORRISON
Town Clerk

ROAD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

While 2020 was unusual in many ways for the people of Rome, much of the same could be said for Town roadwork completed at the same time. Our regular summer construction was completed early in the season, as usual, but outside of that, things were unusual. The 2019-2020 winter season was sporadic; we didn't have a terrible amount of snow, but I think we were all surprised by the early May storm that left us with a few inches on the ground and required plow trucks to hit the roads.

This last year's major construction work took place on Wooster Hill and Mercer Roads. The entire length of Wooster Hill road saw drainage improvements and a base coat of pavement. The portion of Mercer Road that was not completed in the 2015 project (box 305 to Mercer town line) also had drainage upgrades and a base coat of pavement. Rick Labbe Construction was responsible for groundwork, and Pike Industries was the paving contractor. In reconstructing these roads, we also completed a substantial amount of brush cutting to open the roadways up more.



Shoulder damage over a driveway culvert on Watson Pond Road

In 2021, I am looking to complete the Wooster Hill and Mercer Roads project by putting the top coat on these two roads. This is the second and final year of the project, which was much overdue. In addition to those two sections, I am recommending the Town shim and overlay Crystal Springs from Route 225 to Hillside Lane (salt/sand shed). That section of road, in particular, sees local truck traffic and is breaking apart. This recommendation should help extend the life of the road and defer a more considerable expense at this time.

There was A LOT of brush to cut and clean up around town this last year. We had several unusual storms that brought down trees and power lines, blocking roads and causing damage. Wind, wind and rain, heavy snows, and warm temperatures— all were cause for road and tree damage that had to be addressed. The number of storms and the amount of brush quickly depleted what remained of the brush account. After the last storm with heavy snow, numerous locations around still require brush removal from the ditch lines. As a part of the 2021 brush budget, I intend to hire Wayne French to pick that brush up and dispose of it. Keeping clear ditches is an essential preventative maintenance measure for roadways.



Downed trees on Watson Pond Road near the Highlands, during a 2020 high wind and rain event

I continue to work hard in keeping with the road plan that has been in place for five years now. Ideally, if there is any residual brush money this next year, I would allocate those funds to work ahead on cutting back Drury Lane. Drury Lane is the next road in line with the established road plan, followed by Richardson Road and Dry Point Drive. I should also note that we cut out, compacted, and patched a very short section of Dry Point nearest Route 27 to help eliminate recurring roadway issues and erosion in that area.

As always, there are two important reminders, especially relevant in the winter months: First, *it is illegal to plow across public roads*. Second, to ensure safe travel and not obstruct the free flow of traffic, *you should not park your vehicle along the road shoulder* for an extended period. Maine State Law governs both of these safety concerns, and you are encouraged to comply.

Our Town accomplishes significant infrastructure improvements and maintenance because of our dedicated contractor partners. I appreciate your continued support in executing these road projects as we all strive to maintain a quality infrastructure. I strive to lay out a plan, partner with reputable contractors, and deliver a quality finished product at an economical price for the taxpayers. Thank you for another productive year; I look forward to the opportunity of serving the people of Rome as Road Commissioner again in 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,

CARROLL BUBAR
Road Commissioner

ASSESSOR'S REPORT

VALUATION AND COMMITMENT

Land	\$202,252,700	
Buildings	\$94,653,120	
Exemptions*		\$6,796,300
Personal Property	\$389,700	
Total RE & Personal Property Valuation	<u>\$297,295,520</u>	
Homestead Reimbursement	\$4,757,410	
Taxable Valuation	\$302,054,630	
County Tax #	\$362,666	
Municipal Appropriation	\$984,828	
Local Education Appropriation	\$2,179,316	
Overlay	\$80,117	
Total Assessments	<u>\$3,606,927</u>	
Revenue Sharing		\$17,000
Homestead Reimbursement		\$51,237
Other Revenue		\$336,799
Total Deductions		<u>\$405,055</u>
Net Commitment		<u>\$3,201,873</u>
2020 Mill Rate		<u>\$10.77</u>

*Exemptions include Homestead, Veteran's, and for the blind
forecasted

Assessor's notice is given each year on April 1. All resident and non-resident taxpayers of Rome are required to bring or mail to the Assessors, a list of all estates, real and personal, which you hold as guardian, executor and administrator, trustee, or otherwise on that date. Any taxpayer who neglects to submit his list by the time requested in barred by law of his right to appeal to the Assessors for any abatement of taxes later.

Currently, the Town of Rome contracts assessing services to RJD Appraisal (Robert J. Duplisea) of Pittsfield, Maine. All assessment records and tax maps are available for public inspection during regular Selectmen's hours or once a month by appointment with the Assessor, if desired. These records are also available during the regular hours of the Office of the Town Clerk.

Anyone who qualifies and has not yet filed by Homestead Exemption must do so by April 1, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,
Monica McCarthy
Lois Stratton
Kelly Archer

Code Enforcement Officers Report

Dear Rome Residents

As could probably be surmised by anyone not living in a cave for the last year, 2020 was a pretty interesting period. Thanks in part to how disgusting humans are (and the large number of said disgusting humans located in cities), 2020 saw a massive exodus from major metropolitan areas as people escape the festering confines of cities to hole up in the quiet countryside (i.e. Rome). Nowhere was this more evident than while doing inspections around our lakes in mid-March and April. During these inspections, I found seasonal camps (which normally only see occupancy during June, July and August) filled to the brim two or three months ahead of schedule. Not surprisingly, many folks quickly realized that in order to live in these camps and not kill each other, changes were desperately needed! As a result, I saw a lot of applications to add offices, bathroom and storage sheds this year, as well as overall weatherization projects (insulate walls, roofs, and plumbing pipes).

A total of 48 permits were issued in 2020, which break down as follows:

- 7 Single Family Dwellings
- 13 Additions
- 18 Garage/sheds
- 5 Renovation
- 3 Filling and Earth Moving
- 1 Commercial

Code News!: In this segment, I'll cover the latest changes in the world of code, and add an exclamation point to try and make it sound exciting!

This years "Code News!" is...the 2015 Energy Conservation Code!

Now, most of you are probably reading this and saying, "wait, what?... its 2021, why do we care about the 2015 energy code?". Well, much like our fashion sense, Maines building code adoption consistently lags the rest of the nation, and 2015 counts as "new" to us.

While I don't want to bore average readers with monotonous details about building code, I need to give you just a smidge of background info before I can dive into the good stuff. As an extremely brief re-cap, Maine adopted the "Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code" (MUBEC) in 2012 to regulate all construction in Towns over 4000 in population (the legislature changed this in October of 2019 so that MUBEC is now in "effect" State wide regardless of town population). Made up of 7 individual codes, MUBEC initially used the 2009 International Building Code Standards, which are updated and released by the International Code Council (ICC) every three years. A couple years ago, the State finally updated its old 2009 building codes by adopting the 2015 ICC standards for everything EXCEPT the energy code (which remained on the old 2009 standard).

Thus, we finally arrive at the actual CODE NEWS! for the year, which is the adoption the 2015 Energy Code.

So what makes the 2015 energy code so news worthy you may ask? In a word, LOTS!

It's no secret that Maine is a cold place, and that it takes money to heat our houses and keep them warm. It also goes without saying that insulation plays a huge role in this equation, and that increasing insulation

rates in our homes has a direct impact on the amount that we spend heating them. With this in mind, the 2015 Energy Code not only increases the insulation levels new home have, but more importantly, changes where that insulation is located.

A typical home in Maine is constructed with 2x6 walls, with the wall cavities filled with R-21 fiberglass batt insulation. While this meets Code under the 2009 standard, it will not under the 2015. This is because under the 2015 standard, “cavity only” insulation is not allowed. “What?” you might ask.

Well, in our typical wall described above, we placed R-21 insulation in the stud cavities, and had a 2x6 stud located every 16” to frame the wall. Since softwood has an R value of roughly R-1/inch, we can see that every 16”, our wall has a small section with an R-value of only 6 (or 5.5, since a 2x6 is really 1.5”x5.5”). This is referred to a “thermal bridging”, as the reduced r-value of the studs acts as a “bridge” or highway for the warmth to escape the building. This phenomenon is even more prevalent on box sills, plates and headers, and can easily be seen on thermal imaging cameras when photographed on cold days. To counteract thermal bridging, the new 2015 Code will require continuous insulation on either the inside or outside of the wall. While the code does not specify the exact method needed to fulfill this requirement, the obvious answer for a lot of builders will be to put ridged foam on the outside of the house. While this method will certainly work, it is not the only method to consider, and can actually result in mold/rot within the wall if not performed correctly (using too little foam on the outside of the building). Other methods which would meet the new code include double stud walls, interior continuous foam, and “wrap and strap” construction.

While insulation is a large factor in determining how energy efficient a home is, infiltration is king. Infiltration is when unwanted outside air “infiltrates”, or moves into a house through cracks, gaps, and other openings. To demonstrate how detrimental infiltration can be, imagine having a super insulated house, but then leaving the front door wide open and trying to heat it. As you can image, all the insulation in the world won’t help if your simply letting all the heat from the building escape outside. This is precisely what happens with infiltration.

Infiltration is measured using a blower door test to depressurize a building and figure out how many “air changes per hour” (ACH) a structure has. ACH is simply a way to quantify how many times the volume of air inside the house is swapped out each hour. Obviously, the higher the ACH number, the more air that is lost to the outside (and heat with it). The 2009 Energy code required no more than 7 air changes per hour, but then goes on to say that this could be “visually” inspected for compliance. Since most infiltration happens from small cracks and holes which are barely recognizable, this “visual inspection” was ridiculous.

In contrast, the 2015 Energy Code will require no more than 3 air changes per hour (making buildings over twice as tight as the 2009 code), and will require blower door testing to prove compliance.

This could be a game changer for both construction practices and energy efficiency standards.

While I would be willing to bet that many contractors are actually building pretty close to this 3ACH standard (since many are using the “zip” system with taped seams on all sheathing joints), most think it’s a horrible idea. Everywhere I go I hear contractor bellow about how “you can’t have a building that tight caus’ it’ll rot!”, or “A house has got to breath!”. Typically, this is uttered about 30 seconds after they finished bragging about how tight their houses are, and how they will heat with a match. The fact of the matter is, they’re right, but for the wrong reasons. People live in houses, and (as mentioned earlier), people are gross. We cook, we fart, we shower (some of us), and we breath out CO₂ (and tons of moisture with it). All of these activities contaminate the air inside our homes, and require us to exchange that air with fresh air from outside. Relying on infiltration is NOT the way to get fresh air into a houses though! Infiltration is un-reliable (it changes based on the outside weather), and extremely in-efficient (no heat retention).

Instead of relying on infiltration, the best way to get fresh air into a house is by controlling it! This can be summed up with a simple yet memorable rhyme; “build tight, ventilate right”.

By building a structure as tight as possible, and then using mechanical ventilation (such as Energy Recovery Ventilation [ERV], or Heat Recovery Ventilation [HRV]), we can easily control the location

and amount of fresh air entering our homes. Furthermore, mechanical ventilation devices like those mentioned above recover a large portion of the heat from the air we are exhausting to pre-warm the fresh incoming air. This means in addition to providing continuous fresh air, proper mechanical ventilation can actually save money on heating bills. While its true that these systems add additional costs to the construction of the home, they pay dividends in energy savings and health benefits. How do I know? I personally installed one in my own home a couple years ago, and feel it is one of the best purchases I have made. Having clean fresh air all winter long without having to sacrifice my homes efficiency (and heating bills) is simply amazing.

Alright, it's time once again for this years "don't do that award", wherein I give you real life examples of folks who made bad decisions, and paid the price for doing so.

This years "Don't Do That" award goes out to a plumber who got a little carried away with a hole saw.

The story starts out during a routine plumbing inspection in a Town to the north (in addition to being the Code Officer in Rome, Smithfield and Mount Vernon, I am also the Plumbing Inspector in 4 other Towns). During the inspection last fall, I found where a plumber (following instructions from the building contractor) had run a 3" waste pipe through 21 consecutive floor joists. Since a 3" waste pipe required a 4" hole to fit through it, and since the floor joists were made up of 2x10s (which are actually closer to 1.5" x 9"), the plumber had drilled out nearly half of the floor joists on one entire side of the building. As if drilling 4" holes were not bad enough, the pitch of the pipe (1/4" per foot) meant that by the last 6 or 7 floor joists, the "hole" was no longer a "hole", but instead a 5" notch which had simply been cut out with a sawsall.

So what does the code say with regard to "drilling" and "notching"? For solid lumber floor joists, the building code requires all holes be no larger than 1/3 the overall height of the structural member, and at least 2" from the members edge. Notches, on the other hand, can only be 1/6 the height of the member, and cannot be located in the middle third of the span. Taking these two codes into account, we can see that for a 1.5" x 9" floor joist (2x10), we could legally drill a 3" hole, and cut a 1.5" notch.

Therefore, the 4" holes which were drilled were 33% larger than allowed, and the 5" notches were a whopping 233% larger than allowed!

When I failed the inspection (the plumbing code does not allow any structural members to be significantly weakened, and refers back to the building code mentioned above), the building contractor argued that the holes and notches hadn't actually weakened the floor joists.....right.....

I do enjoy a good laugh....

As always, please feel free to contact me if you ever have any questions about building, land use or shoreland zoning. I'm here to help!

Sincerely

Andrew Marble
Code Enforcement Officer

Plumbing Inspectors Report

Dear Rome Residents

There were a total of 32 plumbing permits issued in 2020 which breakdown as follows:

- 16 Internal plumbing permits
- 16 Subsurface Wastewater plumbing permits

While the Covid 19 pandemic has already dominated most headlines this year, my plumbing report will try to beat the dead horse just a bit further, and highlight a way the pandemic has effected the world of plumbing.

Remember back to that wonderful period in March/April of 2020 where toilet paper hording became a thing? During this period, folks were forced to either buy Charmin rolls on the black market for exorbitant prices or get creative with their wiping material of choice. As would be expected, paper towels were viewed by many as a handy stand in for toilet tissue, and the “quicker picker-upper” soon became the “quicker rear-end-wiper”. Why this catchy slogan never began appearing on select rolls of paper towels is beyond me....

While its easy to see why paper towels would be the go-to substitute for toilet paper, (they’re both made of paper, they both come on a roll and they both have handy perforations for tearing off what you need) they, unfortunately, are a nightmare for your plumbing system. The problem with paper towels is precisely what makes them so great for cleaning up spills; they’re durable! When paper towels are manufactured, long grain wood fibers are used to give the product strength and longevity (even when soaking wet). Toilet paper on the other hand is made with very short grain wood fibers which almost immediately begin to break apart as soon as they touch water (ever try to clean up a liquid spill with toilet paper...). This important distinction is what wrecks havoc with the plumbing in your home and septic. When paper towels are flushed, they retain their original size and structure, and are much more apt to cause clogs in your homes drainage pipes. Worse still, when paper towels do make their way to your septic tank, they take exponentially longer to break down, and can clog tank baffles, tank filters, septic pumps, or even the septic field itself. Who knew one simple toilet paper stand-in could cause so much trouble! Don’t flush paper towels!

Now I know what you’re thinking; the toilet paper crisis is over, and paper towel flushing is old news. Well, even though the crisis may be over, there happens to be another item being flushed that is equally murderous on septic systems and in record high demand right now thanks to Covid 19.

What is this evil product causing mass chaos and septic systems everywhere to explode? You guessed it; “flushable” sanitizing wipes.

In an effort to sterilize every square inch of the earth to protect against Covid 19, Salmonella, the Bubonic plague and cooties, more sanitizing wipes were sold in 2020 than any other year on record. While I myself have nothing against these handy wipes, the issue comes from the evil marketing departments which slings garbage information at consumers in an attempt to sell more products.

Walk down the aisle at your local supermarket and you’ll see numerous claims of “flushable” this and “septic safe” that. What makes these wipes flushable you might ask? Well, if you put them in the toilet and press the handle, they flush; Viola! they are flushable! By the same token, I could say that my sons Legos are all flushable; throw them in the toilet, press the handle, and they’re gone! Flushable!

In reality, these “flushable” wipes are constructed nearly identical to paper towels, meaning the same long strand wood fibers which give the wipes their robustness, is the same thing that loves to clog your plumbing pipes and take forever to decompose in your septic system.

While most folks reading this likely have their own personal septic system, this problem gets exponentially worse when you look at municipal sewage treatment systems which have hundreds (if not thousands) of households attached to them. Like some sort of nasty mighty morphing power ranger, these flushable wipes often twist together in municipal sewers to form a braided rope from hell, capable of binding up pumps, clogging sewers, and causing hundreds of thousands of dollars in damages. In fact, there have been numerous cities (like New York City, San Francisco, and Washington D.C.) which have filed suit against “flushable” wipe manufacturers to try and recover some of the money spent repairing the damage they’ve caused. While some of these lawsuits have been successful in recovering expenses, they have not been able to get the words “flushable” or “septic safe” removed from packages. This is because there is basically no standard as to what “flushable” actually means, and without it, the companies claim that making them remove the “flushable” language from the packaging would impair their First Amendment (freedom of speech) right. I’m sure this is exactly what our founding fathers had in mind when they were drafting the Constitution....

While you may not have a “braided rope from hell” morphing together in your septic tank, do yourself a favor and never flush anything except toilet paper down your toilet. Well.... toilet paper, and the occasional “flushable” Lego.

Respectfully Submitted

Andrew Marble
Licensed Plumbing Inspector

P.S.

Don’t forget to pump your septic tank once every 3-4 years (or sooner if you use “flushable” Legos often....)

ROME VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

2020 the Rome Volunteer Fire Department had another quiet year.

The Covid-19 virus initially made training and equipment maintenance a challenge but as time went on, we overcame those challenges and do look forward to 2021.

In 2021 we are looking to upgrade our 1993 - 2000-gallon tank truck, to a 2021- 2000-gallon pumper tanker truck. Which will allow us to provide better fire suppression for our residents and mutual towns.

We'd like to tell Rome residents that the joint venture of the daytime coverage with the Belgrade Fire & Rescue has been a success. We appreciate the support.

We would like to thank all the Town Officials and all the residents of Rome for the continued support and the gracious donations to the department.

I would like to personally thank all the Rome Fire Volunteers, for the countless hours they have spent making our community safer. Also, I would like to thank the families of the members, it doesn't go unnoticed!

The Rome Volunteer Fire Department is always looking for volunteers. Please contact anyone on the department, for an application. Also, follow us on Facebook, "Rome Fire & Rescue".

We'd like to remind each of our citizens of the value of working smoke alarms, carbon monoxide detectors, and the visible address numbers on your homes. As it's critical for a quicker response time. If you have a question on any of these items, please feel free to contact the department.

Respectfully submitted,
Gary Foss, Fire Chief
Ed Pearl, Assistant Fire Chief

ROME RESCUE REPORT

In 2020 the Rome Volunteer Rescue Departments call volume dropped significantly due to Covid-19, because the town residents were being cautious. The virus has presented us with new challenges, both in how we continue to do our jobs and how to stay safe with minimal risks. The State Emergency Management Agency has done a great job in supplying the department members with PPE (personal protective equipment) to keep our members, residents, and family members safe.

We have upgraded to a 2009 Chevy enclosed rescue unit to better serve our Rome residents and mutual aid towns.

We'd like to take this time to tell Rome residents that the joint venture of the day time coverage with the Belgrade Rescue & Fire has been a success. We appreciate the support.

We would like to thank all the Town Officials and all the residents of Rome for the continued support and the gracious donations to the department.

I would like to personally thank all the Rome Rescue Volunteers, for the countless hours they have spent making our community safer. Thank you to the Rome Volunteer Fire Department for their assistance. Also, I would like to thank the families of the members, it doesn't go unnoticed!

The Rome Volunteer Rescue Department is always looking for volunteers. Please contact anyone on the department, for an application. Also, follow us on Facebook, "Rome Fire & Rescue."

As a reminder, please make sure your home-camp numbers are visible from the roadways, as it's critical for a quicker response time.

Respectfully submitted,
Gary Foss, EMT, Rescue Chief

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS REPORT 2020

I am entering my fourteenth year of serving the residents of the Town of Rome as Emergency Management Director.

Last year at this time we were just hearing and using the words (Covid-19, personal space, Personal Protective Equipment and Face Masks). Now these words are used several times a day. Who would have thought that in today's world we would go to the grocery store and not be able to get the things we needed? We all are changed forever.

Myself, my assistant Adam Clement, Fire chief Gary Foss and the Selectpersons had Zoom meetings and discussed the towns needs to be prepared for the pandemic. Adam, Gary and I made sure that our first responders have all the PPE that they needed.

I'd personally like to thank Adam, Gary and the Selectpersons for all their help during this pandemic.

I encourage the townspeople to go to the Red Cross website (www.redcross.org) or the State of Maine Emergency Management Agency for any information on preparing for disasters. The Fire Chief and I together have kept the Town NIMS compliant. By keeping the town NIMS (National Incident Management System) compliant, we can apply for Federal and State grants.

Please make sure that your house numbers are visible for emergency responders. If you have any questions about how to prepare or need resources, please feel free to contact me anytime. My Email is edpearl1605@gmail.com.

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Pearl Jr.

Adam Clement



DELTA AMBULANCE

29 Chase Avenue | Waterville, ME 04901-4642
P: 207.861.4244 | F: 207.861.4475
DeltaAmbulance.org

24-HOUR DISPATCH

Augusta Area: 207.623.4900 | **Waterville Area:** 207.861.4244

Service Report – Rome 2020

Delta Ambulance, founded in 1972, is the leading provider of high quality, compassionate emergency services and medical transportation in central Maine. Our superior training, experience and state-of-the-art medical technology sets us apart from other ambulance services.

We are pleased to be able to provide emergency Paramedic care to the people of Rome and to continue supporting your First Response Rescue at no cost to your community. As a regional, community-based organization, we continue to fund our operations solely by reimbursement directly from the patient and the patient’s insurance. This is currently possible due to our economy of scale. A significant portion of our patient charges, annually, are written off as charitable giving to the uninsured and underinsured. Additionally, we continue to support community events throughout our coverage area.

According to state data, in 2020 (January 1 – December 31), we responded to over 19,000 911-calls, 81 of which were in Rome. Additionally, we serve your community by regularly providing non-emergency care and transfer services for patients as well as standby for fire calls.

Our average response times, the time between our receipt of the call and our arrival, for delivery of paramedic care was 18.5 minutes for emergencies.

Paramedic care is the highest level of Pre-Hospital care available. Our Paramedics exceed State Standards for recertification and respond with the latest medical technology available including 12 lead EKG and pharmaceutical interventions. Our care is reviewed in our Continuing Quality Improvement (CQI) program, which is recognized as a leading process in Maine.

Our support for your Rescue Services continues to include continuing medical/rescue education and on-scene replacement of medical supplies used on the call, all at no cost to the town.

During the current COVID-19 health crisis and beyond, Delta Ambulance is committed providing the highest quality emergency medical services to the communities we serve - safely and effectively. This is Delta’s number one priority and we are prepared and proud to serve you as your trusted emergency medical service provider.

As always, if we can assist you with a project or answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

We thank you for the opportunity to serve the people of Rome. We remain committed.

Respectfully,

Timothy A Beals, Executive Director
February 12, 2021

Bill McKenna
Director of Community Relations
207.861.4251
B.McKenna@DeltaAmbulance.org



2020 Annual Report

Neighbors Driving Neighbors

Serving the towns of Belgrade, Fayette, Mt. Vernon, Rome and Vienna

Volunteers providing rides to those who don't drive so that they can more easily stay in their own homes.



We love our Volunteers!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What a year! We peaked at 65 rides for about 20 people in Oct of 2019, then 62 in November, dropped to about 50/month going into the new year with roughly the same number of riders and nearly 40 drivers, then crashed with COVID to 0 with the shutdown in March. We began doing a few food/prescription deliveries to homes, and by late June we were ready, with front to back seat barriers, to re-open with a few willing drivers and riders for medical appointments in July, then to a wider number of destinations in September. In October 2020 we were back up to 26 rides with 8 drivers, but with then national surge of COVID cases threatening to catch up to us here in Maine. We once again cut back on rides to just delivery in late Nov.

Staff, manager Mary Beth Paquette and coordinator Irene Goff, have struggled mightily to keep the operation going along with offering some virtual comfort to some of our isolated riders. Our fundraising committee has done a wonderful job continuing to raise money from donors like many of you, generous corporations, private and federal COVID loans and grants, and a very successful on-line auction, orchestrated by board member Peter Roderick. Our board has been incredibly helpful and diligent in these tough times. Several wonderful members have retired (Tim Pike, Ellie Andrews, Eunice Reneyske, and Dennis Keschl), and have been replaced with new, enthusiastic members (Harald Bredesen, Becky Seel, Tanna Witkin, and Kelli Burnham).

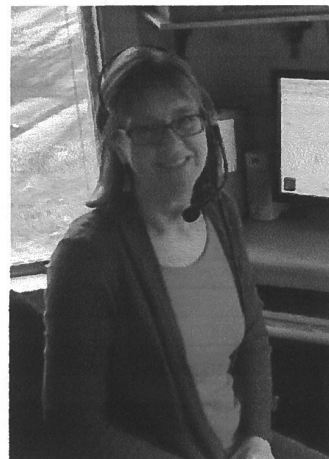
You our supporters, have been crucial to this success over
(continued on page 2)

IRENE TO RETIRE

We aren't happy about it but she's ready to do it! Irene Goff has been a steady and active force for NDN since it's inception in 2015. She was hired as the Coordinator when it all started and has been totally immersed in all that NDN was and has grown to be.

Her skills in seeing the big picture and then getting us there have brought NDN to a place of statewide admiration. Our up-to-date computer technology, launched by Irene, will carry us through many years of continued growth.

Irene will be missed by many. She leaves a legacy of kindness, acceptance, patience and competency. She will continue to be a part of NDN as a volunteer for which we are enormously grateful. **THANK YOU, IRENE!**



Celebrating 5 years of service to our communities!



Our riders say —

I appreciate your organization. It has been a life saver. I can't afford to get the old car repaired so that I'd be driver-free. Thank you.

The food box was greatly received. Thank you for thinking of us. We appreciate your kindness.

You guys are lifesavers.

Thanks so much for all you are doing, as we are so grateful. You have no idea how grateful we are.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE continued from Page 1
 the past year. We are unsure what the future will bring this next year. But I hope all of you, who know us or come to do so this upcoming year, continue to help us as riders, drivers, and/or donors. That will allow us to serve our 5 towns' residents of all ages, but especially the elderly, so they can age in place, thrive, and continue helping their/our communities remember the past, and thereby to plan better for the future!

Thank you, one and all! Dan Onion, President

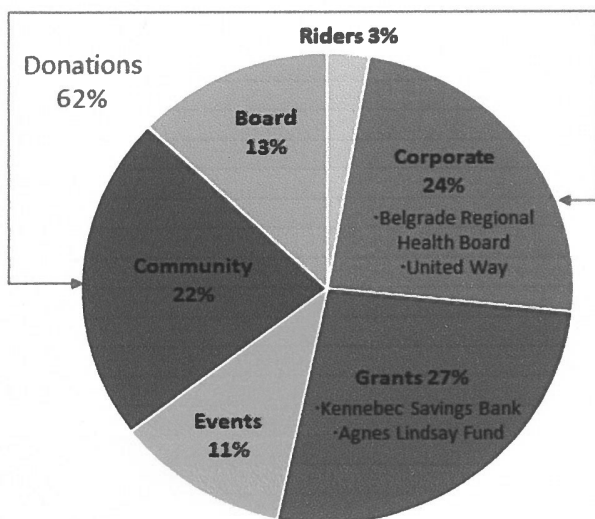
**Please consider Neighbors Driving Neighbors in your Planned Giving!
 Contact NDN for details.**

Amazon users you can support us by using Amazon Smile and choosing Neighbors Driving Neighbors as your preferred charity. Amazon smile is essentially all the same goods, prices and Prime privileges but Amazon makes a small donation with each purchase. Thank you for your support!

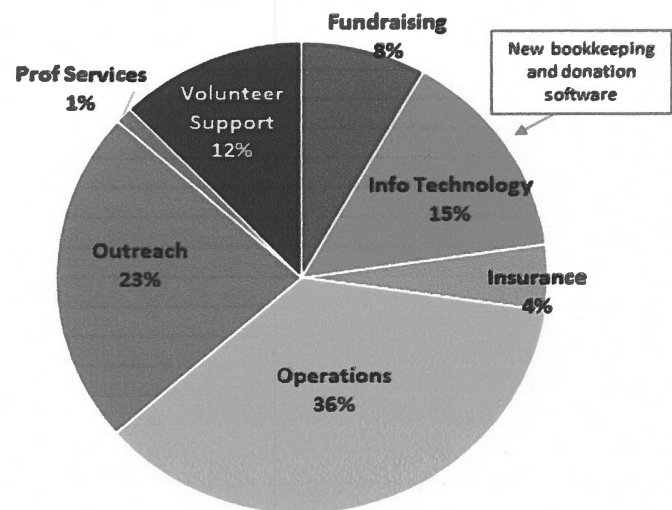
NDN Finances

Oct. 2019 – Sept. 2020

Income



Expense



Contact Neighbors Driving Neighbors

Email - neighborsdrivingneighbors@gmail.com Phone - 207-860-0677

**ANNUAL REPORT
for
ROMR RUFF RIDERS**

We would again like to start this report with a thank you to both the Town of Rome and the office of the selectmen for their support and the property owners who have allowed us the use of our trails over their land. Without this support there would be no snowmobile club in Rome.

Last year, 2019/2020 was a year unlike any we have seen in a lifetime. What looked like a great season for our snowmobile club was cut short when the Governor closed all of the state snowmobile trails due to Covid 19. This reduced our time on the 26 miles of trails we maintain. However we still completed over 71 hours of grooming, and over 400 hours on trail maintenance and 182 hours on the maintenance equipment that was used. The trail work included trimming, removing rocks, installing culverts, and improving the trail. This improvement enhances the riders experience and improves their safety. All of this work was accomplished with our membership volunteers and the use of their equipment. Our total expenses for 2019/2020 came to \$17,878.89. The earth moving equipment, fuel, and labor costs were all donated by our members. The trail grant from the State covered a little less then 25%. All other monies are from snowmobile registration, donations, membership, and a trail map developed, sponsored, and sold by the Rome Ruff Riders Club. Copies are available at the Town Office.

Our small club maintains trails that connect to Mercer, New Sharon, Mt Vernon, and the State ITS trail system. All this with club owned grooming equipment that has about reached replacement time. One 18 year old unit has been rebuilt 3 times and others are 10 & 11 years old and are showing signs of needing replacement. We are working hard on a replacement plan to bring our fleet up to current standards. Club membership applications are available at the Town Office. We meet the second Tuesday of the month from September to April at the Town Hall at 7:00 PM.

We maintain our trails to provide local adults and youths the ability to enjoy great snowmobiling close to home and to connect them to the 3,500 miles of the state ITS (interconnected trail system.)

Let us again thank the Town of Rome and land owners for their support and remind them that the State provides the land owners with \$400,000 liability insurance on approved and maintained trails.

Rome Ruff Riders S/C
President, Lincoln Nye

BELGRADE ROME SPECIAL NEEDS FOOD PANTRY

Beginning in March 2020, precautions were implemented at the pantry because of the pandemic and we continued to function smoothly with a new group of volunteers (thank you so much for stepping up). We have new protocols in place. Clients remain in their vehicles. They are greeted by a volunteer who takes their name and needs. Volunteers inside the pantry assemble orders and then bring groceries outside and place them in vehicles. All volunteers and clients are required to wear masks, asked to sanitize their hands frequently and social distance if possible. Our system appears to be working and we have had no reports of any infections. We have COVID policy written if infection should be reported.

The generosity of our community has always been amazing but during these times, everyone has stepped up, come forth and provided any help we need to continue operating. As an example, we were in need of a means of transport for large grocery shipments coming from the government and Good Shepherd Food Bank. Our previous means were no longer available because of COVID restrictions on our older volunteers. The town of Belgrade saw this need, offered a truck and a driver which enabled the pantry to continue receiving these shipments of food - thank you Belgrade! Also, because of the age of many of our past volunteers and their health concerns, we could not have functioned and kept the pantry open without the new volunteers who came forward - thank you new volunteers! The pantry not only received these physical signs of support, we also have received generous monetary assistance from the many individuals and businesses in our community - thank you! Thanks also goes to Good Shepherd Food Bank in Auburn. During these difficult and unprecedented times, they have been a wealth of information and guidance, protocol advice and food support.

Our client numbers have shifted. We have new clients visiting the pantry because of the economic situation due to the pandemic along with clients who have visited in the past. During the winter months, clients may now visit the pantry every two weeks. In 2020, in addition to monthly pantry visits, clients were offered a “4th of July” Basket and also our annual Holiday Basket. Both were additional offerings and consisted of items to celebrate the season.

We now have a new Volunteer Coordinator. Our previous coordinator Laverne Pelletier (thank you Laverne for many years of service) retired from the pantry. Beginning in March, our Treasurer Tony Mastromarino stepped into this role on a temporary basis. Tony organized all the weekly volunteers, compiled lists of new and old volunteers and made sure all our grocery pickup volunteer needs were met - thank you so much Tony for an amazing job in "crazy" times. Taking over these responsibilities is Board member Anne Grier - thank you Anne for accepting this big job! If anyone is interested in volunteering, please contact Anne either at 207-465-7483 or anne_grier@hotmail.com.

The pantry is open to all residents of Belgrade and Rome on Tuesdays from 9:00-11:00 and is located at 508 Smithfield Road in the North Belgrade Community Center (207-495-2022). We are constantly looking for ways to connect with those in need. If you or anyone you know is in need of assistance, please contact the pantry. To all our neighbors and our community, The Belgrade/Rome Food Pantry thanks you.

Board - Marylou Butterfield, Chairperson, Hazel Labbe, Secretary, Tony Mastromarino, Treasurer, Anne Grier, Volunteer Coordinator, Evelyn Fowler, Eleanor Collinsworth, Kayla Kohler



Travis Mills Foundation
747 Western Ave
Manchester, ME 04351
207-480-3490

February 2021

Residents of Rome,

Despite a pandemic in 2020, the Travis Mills Foundation still managed to assist more Veterans and their families than ever before. Thanks to the generous support we received in the form of a grant from the Town of Rome, we were able to host our second successful winter season – providing families with experiences snowshoeing, ice fishing and more. We were then able to pivot our services to meet the needs of our Veterans and their families where they were – safe at home. The remainder of the year we focused more on helping families differently than we have in the past - in the form of financial aid, virtual programs, and weekly virtual content. We provided everything from bike racks for vehicles to get families out cycling together, grills to allow veterans to help with the extra cooking duties at home, grocery gift cards, weekly adaptable workouts, at home cooking classes, weekly yoga, and more!

2021 continues to find us working with our veterans and families virtually. We are sending carefully selected boxes of supplies to families which allows them to participate in activities with us from their own homes. We have done crafts, workouts, cooking, games and much more! Feedback from these programs so far has been incredibly positive. We know nothing can replace the in-person experience at the Retreat, but we also recognize that there is still a need for interaction and fun activities from the safety of their home. So, we continue to adapt and overcome our current circumstances and to make the most of it. We are proud to be able to continue to serve our veterans and their families, from our home to theirs.

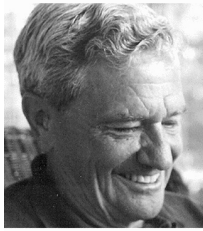
Patriotically,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Travis Mills', written in a cursive style.

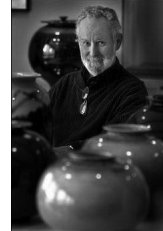
US Army SSG (Ret.) Travis Mills and the Travis Mills Foundation Team

www.travismillsfoundation.org

Town of Rome Academic Scholarships



Doug McClure



Brother Thomas Bezanson

The Rome Scholarship Fund was created by Bob McTaggart in 1998. In 2007, a second Rome Scholarship Fund was established in honor of Brother Thomas Bezanson. The funds are administered and invested by Maine Community Foundation. The administration of Messalonskee High School decides which graduating Rome seniors receive these two awards, based upon criteria set forth in the scholarship founding documents. There is currently \$2500.00/yr. available for each scholarship. A third \$1,000 scholarship, given by the Town of Rome itself, goes to the academically top ranked senior in Rome. Additionally three \$50 scholarships are normally awarded to the top three Rome eighth graders.

The 2020 recipients were:

Rome Fund scholarship: *

Brother Thomas Bezanson Fund scholarship: *

Town of Rome Scholarship: **Alexander Pierce**

Eight Grade Scholarships: *

*Because of the COVID school disruptions these scholarships were not awarded in 2020.

The initial funding of the Rome scholarship was given in recognition of Rome teachers Martha Mosher, Louisa Moulton, Beulah Richards and Francis Watson. The high school scholarships provide support to Messalonskee high school graduates who have lived in Rome for at least two years prior to graduating and are in the top half of their class academically.

The Rome and Bezanson scholarships have grown over the years through the generous contributions of many. For example, when Doug McClure passed away in the summer of 2008, the Rome scholarship fund was designated as a way to honor Doug's passion for education and his love for people. As a result of contributions by many in Rome, and excellent investing by the Maine Community Foundation, the principal is now >\$130,000.

This year we wish to thank Liz (Tonge) Koucky for her 20 years as director of the Rome Scholarship Committee. Liz also served the town (as a Rome School Board member) and the school district (as a faculty member) admirably. She pioneered the opening of the Pre-K programs in the district's elementary schools. She completed the final 15 years of her career teaching at the James H. Bean Elementary School. **Thank you Liz!**

Lynn LaBelle
Rome Scholarship Committee

Andrew Cook
Rome Scholarship Committee

North Pond Association

The North Pond Association is grateful to partner with Rome residents and town officials to help watch over the watershed that is so vital to the quality of life we all enjoy. To those of you new to Smithfield, the North Pond Association is an all-volunteer organization supported by your donations. The NPA thanks you for your continued support. The monetary funding we request each year is earmarked for payment of Courtesy Boat Inspectors. These paid employees are trained and hired by 7 Lakes Alliance as the first line of defense in our quest to keep invasive aquatic plants from entering our lake. If found, North Pond's ecosystem would forever be altered because the rapidly growing plants displace our native plants. The cost of eradication is much more than the cost of prevention, so thank you again for the support!

CBI STATS Summer 2020 as reported from 7 Lakes Alliance - North Pond CBIs inspected 1286 boats, down 120 boats from 2019 (1406 boats inspected) and down 300 from 2018 (1589 boats inspected). Most days there were several boats already in the water by the time the CBI arrived at 7am. (The NPA could use some volunteers to cover 5-7am in the summer! FREE training and FREE tshirt!) A total of 11,362 boats were inspected within the five Ponds using 7LA's CBIs. There were NO invasive plants recovered but 29 native plants were removed by CBIs from boats.

As most of you know, North Pond experienced a serious, early in the summer algae bloom in 2020. All of us are part of the Belgrade Watershed, whether you have a camp on the water or not. The NPA is part of LakeSmart, managed by Maine Lakes. We like to ask the question, "Are You Buff Enough?" to bring attention to the need for buffers along the shoreline. The NPA has a volunteer site evaluator and on a side note, we could use more! The evaluation is FREE. The checklist used helps home and camp owners recognize where problem stormwater runoff could be loading phosphorus and other non point source pollutants into the lake. There are also helpful easy, inexpensive suggestions for all to use to redirect or stop the runoff. Nutrient overloading whether internal or external combined with the hotter than normal temperatures, the drought and lack of wind helped create the algae bloom last summer. We encourage everyone to watch the path of rain water on your driveway or yard to see if the water is slowed down or if it rushes to the ditch, lake or stream. WWW.LAKES.ME has a great link to LakeSmart information or find it at WWW.NORTHPONDMAINE.ORG.

The North Pond Association will once again host an Earth Day Kiosk and Boat Landing Clean Up in both Mercer and Smithfield, we will host our 7th Are You Buff Enough? How to become LakeSmart-er Workshop and all lake associations in our watershed will participate this year, Watercraft Safety Course at Fairview Grange #342 with the MDEP (may be virtual only TBD) and most likely host our Annual Meeting virtually in August as well.

We will continue to raise awareness and education efforts, especially for the many new camp owners around the lake. We hired Charlie Baeder to manage our 319 Grant Funded Projects and many have been completed around the lake with more to come in 2021. The NPA continues to promote tri-town businesses in North Pond News, a portable toilet at the boat landing, provide informational materials at town offices and area stores. We also continue to work with lake scientists from 7 Lakes Alliance and Colby College, to help reach our goals.

Respectfully,
Jodie Mosher-Towle, NPA President

December 7, 2020

Board of Selectmen
Town of Rome
8 Mercer Road
Rome, Maine 04963

Dear Selectmen

Re: 2021 Funding for Belgrade Lakes Association

The purpose of this letter is for the Belgrade Lakes Association (BLA) to request a total of \$12,000 in funding from the Town of Rome; \$10,000 to be used for the ongoing STOP MILFOIL mitigation work on Great Pond and Long Pond in 2021 and \$2,000 to be used to help fund the Courtesy Boat Inspection Program in 2021 at the boat ramps on these two lakes.

STOP MILFOIL Mitigation

2020 marked another year of hard work on Great Pond removing invasive year. It was an extremely productive year. The crews removed 33,006 gallons of plants. That's 16% more than was removed in 2019 and the second most productive year since the program started in 2012.

Total spending on invasive milfoil mitigation increased this year to nearly \$175,000. The BLA funded \$120,000 of that total or 69%. The \$10,000 contribution from the Town of Rome accounted for about 7.5% of the total spending. Thank you.

The good news is that again this year the invasive milfoil was contained and did not spread to other parts of Great Pond or into Long Pond. Here is a more detailed report on the progress that was made this past work season.

2020 STOP MILFOIL Progress

1. Plants Removed – This year we had a very experienced and productive crew. They all were returnees from 2019 and as result were able to get in the water and to work on day one of the season. As a result they pulled and removed 33,006 gallons of invasive milfoil, 16% more than in 2019 ... in a COVID year. Small amounts of milfoil were also removed from Robbins Mill Stream and Rome Trout Brook plus just three plants along the shoreline in North Bay. The vast majority of plants were removed from Great Meadow Stream and the mouth of the stream in North Bay.

2. Barriers Laid – This was big advancement this year. The 7 Lakes Alliance crew put down 65,340 square feet of burlap barriers on the bottom of Great

Meadow Stream to kill the invasive plants and prevent them from growing back. Not only is the burlap a permanent barrier that stays down over the winter but the crew was able to lay many times more square feet of burlap than the synthetic barriers used in the past, which had to be pulled up at the end of every season.

3. Lakeshore Surveyed – The 7 Lakes Alliance crew surveyed all the high-risk areas of both Great Pond and Long Pond. Fortunately, no new infestations were found.

4. Donations – As of December 1, 2020, the BLA STOP MILFOIL Annual Appeal had received a total of \$55,850 in donations so far this year. We will again undertake a major fund raising effort in 2021 for this program.

2021 Funding Request

The BLA is again requesting \$10,000 from the taxpayers of Rome, the same amount that they have overwhelmingly approved the last several years. We believe there continues to be several very good reasons why you should support this funding request:

1. Continued Strong Results – As evidenced by the progress reported above, the residents of Rome are getting a very good return from the tax dollars they are investing in this program. The invasive milfoil is confined to the original infestation area. It has not spread throughout Great Pond and into Long Pond.

2. Ongoing Threat – Even though the milfoil is being kept in check, it still poses a major threat to our lakes and the community. Invasive milfoil requires aggressive action every year to keep it from spreading.

3. Vulnerability – Invasive milfoil can grow into thick beds in water up to 20' deep. In addition to all our shallow shoreline, well over a third of Great Pond is less than 20' deep and therefore potential milfoil habitat. It could really spread.

4. Community Problem – If Great Pond or Long Pond ever become heavily infested with invasive aquatic plants it could have a devastating affect, not only on lakeshore property, but also the entire community. Here's what might happen. Shorefront property will be harder to sell. Prices will come down and values and taxes will drop. Non-shorefront property owners will have to pick more of the tax burden. The Belgrades will become less attractive to prospective property buyers, renters and vacationers. They will simply choose to go elsewhere. Local businesses will suffer. The bottom line is that milfoil is a community wide problem that warrants the support of the taxpayers of Rome and other local municipalities.

5. Public Support – Our local citizens are very aware of the threat posed by invasive milfoil. Fortunately they are very supportive and appreciative of the work being done to control it. Voters in Rome and Belgrade have voted year after year to provide taxpayer money to help fund this work. In total over \$1,258,000 has been

given to the STOP MILFOIL fund raising campaign since its inception in 2012. Citizens have also actively volunteered to work with our milfoil crew and to search for new outbreaks as part of the Adopt-A-Shoreline program. Over 70% of the shoreline has been adopted to date. Our donors, volunteers and our citizens also expect that we will continue to successfully manage this problem in the future.

Courtesy Boat Inspection Program

Another key aspect of our battle with invasive aquatic plants is the Courtesy Boat Inspection program. Paid inspectors were stationed at the Great Pond and Long Pond boat ramps this past summer from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm from Memorial Day to Labor Day. The BLA invested \$33,880 dollars in this program in 2020.

Our lakes were very busy this summer and so were our Courtesy Boat Inspectors. They inspected 5,079 boats at the Great Pond ramp and 2,664 at the Long Pond ramp. In total that's 11% more than the number of boats inspected in 2019. Ninety plant fragments were removed from boats; fortunately none of those fragments were invasive plants.

The whole rationale behind the Courtesy Boat Inspection program is that prevention is much better and far less expensive than having to deal with a second major infestation. We want to keep more invasives out of our lakes, especially those that are even more harmful than the invasive milfoil we are currently fighting.

THANK YOU!

On behalf of the Belgrade Lakes Board of Directors and all our members, I want to thank you for your ongoing support of our milfoil mitigation work and the Courtesy Boat Inspection program ... and for the very significant financial contribution the taxpayers of Rome make to these programs. Those funds have been critically important to our success to date.

I also want to thank you for your support of this funding request for 2021. Working together we can continue to manage this threat to our lakes, maintain our property values and tax base and ensure the future economic vitality of our community.

If you have questions regarding our milfoil mitigation work, plans for next year or this funding request, please do not hesitate to contact me.

With great appreciation,

Lynn Matson
BLA Immediate Past President and STOP MILFOIL Task Force Chair

TOWN OF ROME
7 Lakes Alliance Annual Report

Town funding supports the lake conservation work in the Belgrade Lakes region. The Town's support is critical to the success of the local erosion control program, and is used to leverage funding from other sources. 7 Lakes Alliance **Youth Conservation Corps** program serves all 13 towns that comprise the 180 square mile Belgrade Lakes watershed. An investment in lakes is an investment in keeping taxes low and in maintaining local jobs. Clean lakes support the economy and a significant portion of the tax base of our region.

7 Lakes Alliance **Youth Conservation Corps** erosion control program (to prevent algae blooms and improve water quality):

- Has, since 1996, completed 1,625 projects, the largest such program in Maine.
- Employs high school and college-aged young people.
- Funding provided by homeowners, towns, lake associations, private donors, and businesses.

These conservation projects include installation of native, woody shrubs to enhance shoreline buffers, infiltration trenches to eliminate runoff gullies, infiltration steps to eliminate eroding pathways, and riprap to remediate eroding shorelines, among other Best Management Practices.

Thank you for your past generous support of our Youth Conservation Corps program (YCC) in the Belgrade Lakes region. In the 2020 summer season, 7 Lakes Alliance Youth Conservation Corps completed more projects than we could have expected given the coronavirus pandemic. The YCC provides high school and college students summer employment working to protect the water quality of the region by decreasing soil erosion.

7 Lakes Alliance **Youth Conservation Corps** review of 2019:

- Installed 119 erosion control Best Management Practices (BMPs) in the Belgrade Lakes Watershed. Projects were completed on all 7 lakes, prioritized by impact on lake water quality.
- In 2019, the YCC employed 12 high school and college-aged youth.

7 Lakes Alliance **Youth Conservation Corps** accomplished in 2020:

- Installed 25 erosion control BMPs in the Belgrade Lakes Watershed. Projects were completed on all 7 lakes, prioritized by impact on lake water quality.
- In 2020, the YCC employed 5 high school and college-aged youth.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Rose Day, President & CEO
7 Lakes Alliance



Ensuring Our Future

137 Main Street, PO Box 250
Belgrade Lakes, ME 04918
(207) 495-6039 Office
(207) 495-3611 Fax
info@7lakesalliance.org
www.7lakesalliance.org

December 18, 2020

Town of Rome
8 Mercer Road
Rome, ME 04963

Dear Town of Rome Selectmen:

Thank you for your generous support of our Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) program in the Belgrade Lakes region. In the 2020 summer season, 7 Lakes Alliance Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) completed more projects than we could have expected given the virus outbreak. The YCC provides high school and college students summer employment working to protect the water quality of the region by decreasing soil erosion.

I am writing to ask the Town of Rome for support of the 7 Lakes Alliance **Youth Conservation Corps** and to let you know what was accomplished in 2019 and 2020.

The YCC program serves all 13 towns that comprise the 180 square mile Belgrade Lakes watershed.

With respect to 2019 erosion control programs (to prevent algae blooms and improve water quality),
7 Lakes Alliance's Youth Conservation Corps (YCC):

- Installed 119 erosion control Best Management Practices (BMPs) in the Belgrade Lakes Watershed. Projects were completed on all 7 lakes, prioritized by impact on overall watershed health.
- In 2019, the YCC employed 12 high school and college-aged youth.

With respect to 2020 erosion control programs, the YCC:

- Installed 25 erosion control BMPs in the Belgrade Lakes Watershed. Projects were completed on all 7 lakes, prioritized by impact on overall watershed health.
- In 2020, the YCC employed 5 high school and college-aged youth.

For 2021, 7 Lakes Alliance is requesting the Town of Rome to budget \$4,000 for the Youth Conservation Corps. Your funding helps leverage diverse funding partnerships that ensure YCC can protect the values of the lakes for their economic, ecological, recreational, and community values.

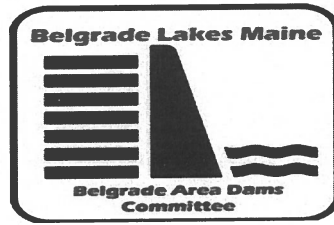
I have enclosed our financial information. We would be happy to attend a budget meeting this winter to provide additional information. If you have questions, please contact me by phone (207) 495-6039, or by email at laura.roseday@7lakesalliance.org.

Thanks again for your ongoing support and the opportunity to present this request.

With regards,



Laura Rose Day
President & CEO



Dams Committee 2019 Annual Report - 2020 Budget Request

To the Towns of: **Belgrade, Mt. Vernon, Oakland, Rome and Sidney**
 Members of Inter-Local agreement for management of Belgrade Area Dams

Mother Nature was very good to us this past year. Giving us what we consider normal summer temperatures and enough rain to easily maintain the water level management plan that we are asked to follow. The four Belgrade Area Lakes managed by our Committee are now at normal winter water storage levels as we look forward to spring ice out.

Normal maintenance and repairs were conducted on all three dams during the past year. As reported last year, the 104 year old wooden crib and rock structured Wings Mill Dam at Long Pond is in need of major restructure repairs. At this time, the permitting process for the remediation project has been completed. The Engineering is in the final stages as we enter into the bidding process for the work to be done. Last year we asked for the amount of \$ 60,000 for an installment on this project. For 2020 the Dam Committee is requesting that the signatory municipalities of the inter-local agreement appropriate the amount of \$60,000 to begin the remediation work to address the structural problems with the Wings Mill Dam.

When funds are appropriated, work on this project is projected for late summer, early fall of 2020 and will take approximately 6 to 8 weeks to complete.

We are also requesting \$20,000 for the continuing preventive maintenance and repairs to all three Dams.

A total request of \$80,000:	<u>Share of Cost</u>	<u>Shoreline Miles</u>	<u>Over Paid 2019</u>	<u>Balance Due</u>
Belgrade	\$ 38,400 (48 %)	37.6	* \$ 6,400.	\$ 32,000
Rome	\$ 18,400 (23 %)	17.8	* \$ 500.	\$ 17,900
Oakland	\$ 11,200 (14 %)	11.3	00.	\$ 11,200
Sidney	\$ 6,400 (08 %)	6.3	00.	\$ 6,400
Mt. Vernon	\$ 5,600 (07%)	5.5	00.	\$ 5,600

* 2 Towns paid a larger share of last years budget before Sidney and Mt. Vernon joined the inter-local agreement following approval at their Town Meetings.

The Members of the Committee would like to thank the residents and officials of Communities involved in this partnership for their continued assistance and support. **Enjoy the Lakes!**

Respectfully Submitted on behalf of all Members of the Belgrade Area Dams Committee,
 Doug McCafferty, Committee Chairperson

Rome Recreation Committee Annual Report

While the Recreation Committee faced the COVID-19 challenge of not being able to have in-person meetings and plan community activities during 2020, many of us found ourselves doing more hiking, swimming, boating, etc. than usual as other forms of activities were limited. How fortunate we were here in Rome to have such incredibly beautiful weather this summer for outdoor activities! How grateful we were for that.

In spite of COVID-19, the Recreation Committee was able to carry out a few projects which we hope will enable community members to enjoy the great outdoors of Rome a little bit more. First, we added some lines to the basketball court behind the Community Center, starting off with the foul lanes and lines. We still have paint left, so we plan to add side lines and end lines this spring. Anyone want to volunteer to organize some three-on-three leagues?

Next, with donations by Hammond Lumber (building materials), Rick Labbe (stone), and Carroll Bubar (toilet paper dispenser), and Alan LaBelle (toilet stand and seat), we built an outhouse for the Town Beach. Later, the Town hired, with a COVID-19 grant, a person to monitor the beach for sanitation, picking up random bits of trash, keeping the outhouse clean and monitoring numbers using the beach. Good news is we are seeing a lot of regular use by residents. If you haven't been there - check it out, at the end of Friedrichs Lane opposite the community church on Rt 225.

In the fall, Carroll Bubar cleared brush away from the entrance to the Beach, improving the visibility of drivers leaving the Beach turning onto Rt 225. A larger crew, including Carroll with an excavator, Lois Stratton with her tractor, and a few more folks, installed additional rip rap (donated by Rick Labbe) at the shoreline. The crew was entertained and educated by Andy Cook on various topics including nuclear energy, Maine history and the site of the lake in Canada formed by a huge meteorite. Thanks, Andy, you made the morning's work fly by!

Having to cancel the Tag Sale and Community Dinner, the Committee looked ahead to the holidays and, with the Town and Pastor Kendall, helped to organize the annual giving tree. Through donations of both gifts and money, we were able to help out several families in our community. Thanks to all those who donated and/or shopped for these folks.

The Kelly Archer family offered to string lights on the tree in front of the Town Office to brighten up the long, dark nights of winter. The Committee agreed to purchase the lights and the Archers got to work. It was a very rainy, windy and cold weekend, but they persevered to get the job done and the lights turned on. We agreed with the Archers to reassess in the spring to tweak the job, rearranging and adding a few more lights. Thank you, Archer family!

The Committee has set up a Google Group, called "RomeBulletinBoard". You can access it by searching "Google Groups" on your computer, then searching

“RomeBulletinBoard”. Click to join the group and follow the prompts. If you don’t have a Google email, you may be asked to create one, but you will then use your own email as a member of the group (this is not shared with the general group membership). The Group Administrator (that’s me, Sandy Shute) will admit you to the group. You can then choose if you want to get daily emails, if any, listing any new topics submitted or you can just choose to visit the sight when you want. You can also post on the sight if you have information or questions or whatever to share.

This Google Group was formed to create an online means for Rome and vicinity residents to share information. Do you: have a neighbor who has been hospitalized and for whom you would like to organize meals, have a car for sale, want to know what kind of bird you just photographed (you can insert photos), need a ride to the bus station/airport, need referrals for construction, maintenance, repair, want to announce a meeting (religious and political meetings may be announced, but, please refrain from religious and political discussions), want to create a book group, knitting group, hiking group, want to share that great photo you just took of a beautiful sunrise/sunset, have extras seeds/seedlings to share? You get the idea. The more people who join, the more useful and fun the sight becomes!

The sight can be informative, useful, entertaining and community building. Please sign up and join the fun! If you have any questions regarding the group, please email me at Sandyshute@gmail.com.

It’s great to see so many people involved in so many different community projects - what a great place to live!

Respectfully submitted,
Sandy Shute

Connect - ROME

Rome is pleased to announce it has received a \$2,500 Phase I grant from ConnectMAINE. These funds will support the development of a plan for expanding the availability of broadband service across our community.

Large telecom companies have not made significant investments in the infrastructure of rural areas with small populations like ours. As a result, many of our more remote residents may be experiencing barriers to education, business prosperity, community growth, and expanded social interaction. In Rome, we would like to take more control of our own future and have begun applying for funding to expand on community-driven solutions.

The Rome Broadband interconnectivity project has one goal:

To get every year-round resident, every potential year-round resident camp, every business, every charitable institution, every State, local and federal employee and every governmental institution in town connected at the maximum possible internet speed within 24 months.

We will start work on this goal through a community wide survey followed by a professionally-led internet study as well as the completion of the economic potential of such a network – for providers identified.

Activities include:

- Determining local broadband needs and goals;
- Inventorying the existing infrastructure assets;
- Conducting a gap analysis defining the additional broadband infrastructure necessary to meet identified needs and goals;
- Assessing relevant municipal procedures, policies, rules and ordinances that have the effect of delaying or increasing the cost of broadband infrastructure deployment; and
- Strategizing to promote digital inclusion that addresses affordable internet service and equipment, digital literacy and public computer access.

Do you have internet? Great! Are you able to upload and download videos, pictures and webpages with ease? If you live in some parts of Rome, then probably not. While a convenience to many of us, broadband is a necessity for businesses, community services, students, and individuals who work from home. Slow and unreliable internet places Rome on the wrong side of the digital divide and out of contact with customers, clients, educational opportunities, and our many visitors.

You can help us start our work by TAKING THE MAINE SPEED TEST. The Maine Broadband Coalition Has launched a statewide crowdsourcing data collection effort to help demonstrate where there is internet service, who provides it and how fast it is. The Coalition is crowdsourcing and visualizing the speed testing information to provide users and state officials with up-to-date service maps. The “Get Up To Speed Initiative” will generate the most granular data set and map of the presence and quality of internet in Maine ever.

You can take the test at: <https://www.mainebroadbandcoalition.org/> and can find instructions on speed testing and the interactive map of results at: <https://www.mainebroadbandcoalition.org/speed-test-info>

ConnectMAINE awards grants through a competitive application and review process. Projects are funded through a one quarter of one percent (0.25%) assessment on all communications, video and internet service bills, and a \$0.10 surcharge on all landline numbers, which generate approximately \$1.5 million per year. <https://www.maine.gov/connectme/>

Based on our completion of and report from Phase I, Rome may be able to apply for Phase II infrastructure funding intended to take a community to the next for expanded broadband service.

If you would like to join the effort or to learn more please contact Joan Orr torr97@roadrunner.com.

Joan Orr, Rome Resident and Chair of the Rome Broadband Committee

Contact Email Address Torr97@roadrunner.com



Regional School Unit No. 18

Phone: 207.465.7384

Fax: 207.465.9130

41 Heath St. Oakland, ME 04963

Carl Gartley
Superintendent

Keith Morin
Asst. Superintendent

Melannie Keister
Director of Business / Finance

Every January, as we move into a new year, I send an update to our towns. Like everything else this year, this has been a little more challenging to write. I know there will be people reading this whose lives were tragically impacted by this terrible pandemic. Some may have been sick themselves or feel isolated. Other may have lost people they care about. All of us have a sense of loss due to putting major aspects of our lives on hold for more than a year. On behalf of our entire district, I hope everyone in our community is doing well. Please, if you are still struggling you are not alone. Reach out for help.

Throughout the last year, I have seen so many examples of people stepping up to meet the unique challenges we have faced. When students were hungry at home, we delivered food. When people needed technology to connect, we provided it. When people needed our schools to open, we put in the herculean effort to make that happen. When people wanted the opportunity to learn from home, we made it available. Our students and staff have been safe in our schools, and the education of our students did not suffer.

All year long students in each of our schools have done amazing things. I have watched students and their teachers stand in the cold singing because of their love of music. I met with a group of impressive students (remotely) as they worked to start a new club at the high school for online gaming. I watched classes tap into authors and guest readers in our community and from around the country to inspire the love of reading in our students. I watched teachers stretch learning outdoors with some of the most creative math and science lessons I have ever seen. I watched athletes relish in the ability to just play their sport, regardless of playoffs or fans. These things happened every day.

Early in the year when I was sitting in (remotely) on a class, I witnessed an exchange that I want to share. A teacher, who was admittedly terrified of technology, was attempting to run a class with both in-person and remote students. It was not going well, not even close. The first person to offer help was a student. The young lady gave the teacher advice, quickly solved some of the tech issues, and acted as tech support and assistant for the entire time. What could have easily been a failure ended up being the perfect example of what has made our district be successful this year. We have worked together, and we refuse to give up. What could have been a lost year for students, has turned into a huge success for RSU 18. Thank you to the entire staff, our parents, our students and the community for helping make this happen.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carl Gartley
Superintendent of Schools

RSU 18 SCHOOL BOARD DIRECTOR'S REPORT

“Rome - Helping RSU 18 set the standard for academic excellence for public schools in Maine”

This note reflects exclusively my personal perspective as your Rome Town RSU 18 School Director. It in no way or manner represents the perspective of the Superintendent or the School Board. You are encouraged to access the RSU 18 web site or contact the Superintendent for information.

Exceptional success under exceptional circumstances:

Our students, faculty, administration and staff achieved exceptional success in 2020 under exceptional circumstances. As Assistant Superintendent Keith Morin said, “Our priorities are safety, safety, safety and academics.” And indeed those were achieved. Some notable achievements:

1. **Schools were opened** in the fall for full time “in person” instruction.
 - a. Through extraordinary efforts and team work by the Superintendent, his staff, the building Principals, the faculty and staff, the schools were modified and opened in a safe manner.
 - b. Further through exceptional efforts by the IT team (led by Adam Murray) the school was ready to implement 100% remote learning if necessary and the faculty was prepared to make it real if necessary.
 - c. Sports were implemented as allowed by the Maine Principals Organization and State guidelines
 - d. The music programs continued, again in compliance with guidelines.
2. **This was exceptional in in Maine.** Many districts were on a less than full time program.
3. **Here are the incredible RSU 18 results:**
 - a. To our knowledge **there were no school caused COVID cases,**
 - b. **> 90% of our students returned** to school either in person, via remote, or a mix!
 - c. **No slippage in academic performance** as measured by standardized tests,
 - d. **Even an improvement in English language arts** outcomes. And
 - e. **Our district remains,** as best as we can measure, **one of the premier districts** academically in our area.
4. And there were many other notable achievements:
 - a. **The Superintendent Carl Gartley, with the support of his staff led by Keith Morin was successful in being awarded \$4,367,000 in special COVID grants.** By law these could only be applied to things outside the approved/normal budget. This exceptional funding (>10% of our normal budget) was used for: additional PCs and “hot spots” for learners, technical solutions for music, remote teaching and mathematics, additional staff and a faculty support, upgraded IT, instruction and improvement in on line instruction platforms, outdoor learning spaces, cleaning materials and equipment, additional transportation staff and vehicles, new windows, air exchange equipment, and upgraded nutritional equipment and supplies. These enduring investments will benefit the district well into the future.
 - b. High School Principal Paula Callan created **a real graduation ceremony for our graduating seniors.**
 - c. The spring & summer **free nutrition program was sustained** with daily prepared meal deliveries at key district locations. Kudos to nutrition director Barbara Bonnell, her staff and our bus drivers!
 - d. **The \$13M bond issue fire safety, safety, building and athletics field upgrades were substantially completed.** The student drop off areas are safer, the buildings’ security and fire

safety has been upgraded. Class room, gym and facilities upgrades have been achieved. HVAC upgrades for air circulation and energy efficiency have been implemented. And the athletic fields (the least of the bond issue investments) are in place and look great. Further the important upgrades to the Messalonskee school complex bus route area and transportation garage (much needed) are underway.

- e. Our student **scholarship funds earned more than 10% (>\$97,000)** on the invested principal.
5. Most notably we have all **gained new skills and appreciation of the value of remote learning tools**. Our students are better for it, they are ready for the new post COVID world. And our teaching is better for it. Remote learning tools and skills have opened a new horizons for teaching. It seemed rough to achieve at the start but it is better and better as we go. Kudos to the students, the parents who are helping them at home, our faculty for learning and making it work, our IT department (special kudos), and the training the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent have provided and supported.
6. And we all learned, maybe the hard way, **how critical parental involvement is to our students' success**. You are intrinsically involved if they are learning at home, you have no choice. Kudos to the parents!

But not all is perfect:

1. Regrettably, our neediest students are some of our hardest hit. Remote learning seems not to be an ideal solution for these students. The challenge seems unavoidable. Much was done to create the best program possible, but we look forward to when we can help these students in an “in person” way.
2. Further **our mathematic scores**, as measured by standardized test, are not where we want them to be. However, given the circumstances, we are well ahead of where I thought we might slip to. So this is still an important area for focus. When the dust settles I know Carl and Keith will keep hammering away (with the parents, faculty and students) on this important area of life skill!
3. And our extracurricular activities have faced challenges.

All in all, exceptional success under exceptional circumstances. We are a better district for it, stronger, with more capabilities, with better learners and ever more capable teachers. You may wish to write a note of thanks to our Superintendent, I know he and the team appreciate them!

Rome a great place to live – a great place to grow up.

Yours in achieving academic excellence for the benefit of our children,



Dr. Andrew G. Cook,
Rome School Board Director
207-465-6388 (m) 207-397-5332 (h)
acook@rsu18.org

First Park/Kennebec Valley Regional Development Authority (KRDA)
General Assembly Representative's 2020 report
Get out as soon as we can while we can

Background: First Park was created in 2001 to create jobs for the 24 surrounding towns. Each town backed the debt and in return receive a portion of the tax revenues & hopefully get employment for residents. The Park is a high end office park intended to attract businesses from outside the Kennebec Valley area. Rome is one of the investing towns.

The Current Situation: Several lots changed hands in 2020. LL Bean put their two prime lots up for sale. No lots have been sold since 2013 despite a strong economy. Businesses that wanted a lot were turned down by the executive board. They built elsewhere. These include F.W. Webb, and a business Eagle Rental located in Alabama. The root cause of the Park's situation is the governance structure. As a result it is not expected that the Park's track record will change.

Rome was assessed \$ \$29,422 for 2020-21. We received \$16,436 in reimbursement for a net 2020 negative cash flow of \$12,986. Every year Rome has been involved in First Park we have taken a loss. Our total net negative cash flow (loss) in First Park is \$336,071 (2001 to present). This amount could have paid the town Social Services budget for 9 years. The bond indebtedness has been paid off. The Park is now officially "break even." That means, per the founding legislation, we could leave the authority agreement.

The Director made a substantial effort in 2020 to profile and sell lots. Kudos to him, Jim Dinkle. On the other hand there is an abundance of white collar, office friendly real estate, much of which is developed, available in the August/Waterville area. This real estate competes with First Park for new businesses. There is interest in lots 19-22. Opening these lots will require extending First Park Drive north of T-Mobile for an estimated cost of \$1M. It may be possible to obtain these funds through grants. We are told T-Mobile is expanding its work force by 300 people at the First Park location.

Because of the continued lack of progress in lot sales we, in Rome, are staying with our 2015 plan. Specifically:

1. We recommend Rome exit First Park at the first possibility. We can exit this year.
2. The First Park infrastructure is beginning to age. It is reasonable to expect that there will soon be a request to issue another bond in order to repair the roads, lighting etc. and perhaps even open up new roads and bizarrely buy an additional lot. If we fail to take advantage of the "break even" window we may find ourselves indefinitely burdened with additional debt costs. This amount could increase without our ability to stop it.
3. We continue to recommend that Rome stridently oppose the creation of any new debt or cost. New debt or cost will delay the date of "net breakeven" and impede our ability to exit. It will also place an additional burden on our tax payers, a burden that could extend to the year 2099.
4. **It is suggested that we ask our town lawyer to prepare a letter and the supporting documentation for Rome to exit the First Park/Kennebec Regional Development Authority (KRDA).**

Respectfully your representative,



Dr. Andrew G Cook
Dr.andrew.g.cook@gmail.com
465-6388 (m) 397-5332 (h)

"First to Serve ~ 1799"



**Office of the Sheriff
Kennebec County, Maine**

Ken Mason, Sheriff
Alfred G. Morin, Chief Deputy

Lieutenant J. Chris Read
Law Enforcement
125 State Street
Augusta, Maine 04330
Telephone (207) 623-3614
Fax (207) 623-6387

Captain Richard E. Wurple
Corrections Administrator
115 State Street
Augusta, Maine 04330
Telephone (207) 623-2270
Fax (207) 623-8787

January 4, 2021

The Kennebec County Sheriff's Office is pleased to make the following report regarding the services we provided to the people of Kennebec County in 2020. These services include the Law Enforcement Division, Corrections' Services, Civil Process, Court and Transport Division. We provided many regional assets to our communities including, Two K-9 Teams, Dive Team, Sex Offender Registry, Veterans Advocacy, Accident Reconstruction and Drug Recognition Experts(DRE).

I would like to begin by saying that 2020 was certainly a challenging and unusual year for all of us. COVID -19 changed all of our lifestyles and daily activities. It did not, however, change the fact that your Sheriff's Office continued to respond to calls for service as well as caring for the inmates incarcerated at our facility. In other words, it was business as usual for my staff. We just went about it a little differently.

In 2020, Law Enforcement Deputies in full-time and part-time capacity logged thousands of calls for service. There was a brief time of about three months from the middle of March to about the middle of June when calls for service were actually down, likely due to the COVID-19 outbreak. It was a welcome relief, as the threat of the viral infection was yet another caution our Deputies added to their daily routine.

Thanks to the Stanton Foundation, Kennebec received a \$25,000.00 grant to purchase another K-9. That grant paid for the dog (Brock) and all associated equipment training for Brocks handler, Deputy Zack Carey.

Since the beginning of the year, four new full-time patrol deputies have joined our ranks due to resignations or expansion of the division. Due to the State Police reducing their commitment to our call-sharing agreement, the Sheriff's Office has increased its patrol staff by three members.

The patrol division welcomes Phil Lynch, Brandon Van Wyk, Jordan Gaudet and Nathan Johnson. Deputy Lynch was a part time reserve deputy already working with us. Deputy Van Wyk came to us from the correctional division and Jordan Gaudet and Nathan Johnson were already certified full time officers and came to us from Hallowell PD. We will be bringing on two new deputies in January of 2021 to fill our roster.

Our Civil Process Deputies serve legal documents on behalf of attorneys, the courts, citizens, local, and state government, landlords and other entities. In 2020, the three civil deputies received over 6,876 requests for service in Kennebec County. Some of the services include, civil summons & complaints, foreclosures, evictions, small claims, child support notices from the State and enforcement of court orders and writs to name a few.

During the past year, our Correctional Facility managed 1920 inmate intakes. The offenses committed by defendants included everything from Trespass to Homicide. Substance abuse and the proper treatment of citizens with mental illness continue to be two primary concerns at the Correctional Facility.

Inmates at the Kennebec County Correctional Facility are asked to work and earn time off their sentences if applicable. Inmates who are considered to be a risk to the community work inside the facility cleaning and cooking, while others are supervised on outside projects. One my think that this only benefits the county, but it does not. It also benefits the inmate population as well.

We are committed to providing innovative programs to reduce crimes, assist victims, and to provide enhanced public safety. We acknowledge the ever-growing opiate addiction problem nationwide and have committed to partnerships at the Federal, State and Local levels to combat this problem. Our approach is aggressive enforcement, education, treatment and recovery for those afflicted with this horrible addiction.

I would like to thank all of my administrative staff who support the patrol division, detective division, correctional division and the civil deputies. The copious amounts of paperwork that is handled by these individuals is staggering and their work is greatly appreciated. Job well done by all.

As your Sheriff, and moving forward into 2021, my focus will remain steadfast in serving the people of Kennebec County and our visitor's.

Ken Mason, Sheriff

SUSAN M. COLLINS
MAINE

413 DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1904
(202) 224-2523
(202) 224-2693 (FAX)

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1904

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

Dear Friends:

It is an honor to represent Maine in the United States Senate. I am grateful for the trust the people of our State have placed in me and welcome this opportunity to reflect on 2020, an incredibly challenging year for Maine families, small businesses, and communities.

When the pandemic struck, our country faced the specter of an overwhelmed health care system and devastation to our small businesses and the millions of people they employ. I immediately worked with Republicans and Democrats to pass multiple laws allocating approximately \$3 trillion to respond to this public health and economic crisis, including more than \$8 billion directed to Maine to support testing, schools, the economy, and other purposes — that is nearly double Maine’s annual state budget.

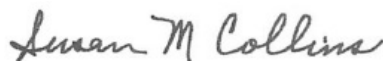
I am especially proud of the bipartisan Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) I co-authored. This program has provided three out of four Maine small businesses with nearly \$2.3 billion in forgivable loans, which has helped sustain more than 250,000 Maine jobs. I have met thousands of Maine small employers and employees in all 16 counties who are surviving because of the PPP. As one small business owner told me, the PPP provided “exactly what we needed at exactly the right time.” The PPP also allowed employers to maintain benefits, such as health care, during this challenging time. Another round of PPP is needed to sustain small businesses and their employees.

While the pandemic continues across Maine, our nation, and the world, I thank the first responders, health care professionals, teachers, grocery store employees, factory workers, farmers, truck drivers, postal employees, and so many others who continue to stay on the job during this difficult time. With the deployment of the first vaccines, better tests, and the incredible speed with which these life-saving responses were developed, I am hopeful we can emerge from this crisis in the next few months.

While providing relief to American families was my focus throughout 2020, other accomplishments include the passage of the Great American Outdoors Act, which provides full funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund and addresses the maintenance backlog at our national parks, forests, and wildlife refuges. As Chairman of the Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee, in 2020 alone, I secured \$132 million to improve Maine’s roads, bridges, airports, buses, rail, ferries, and seaports. Finally, as Chairman of the Aging Committee, I led the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act, which funds programs that improve the well-being, independence, and health of our nation’s seniors and their caregivers, and I authored laws to reduce the cost of prescription drugs and protect individuals with Alzheimer’s disease.

As the end of 2020 is approaching, I have cast more than 7,535 votes, never having missed one. In the New Year, my focus remains to work with colleagues to find common ground on policies to help support the health and safety of Mainers and the safe, responsible opening of our communities. If ever I or my staff can be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact one of my state offices. May the coming year be a successful one for you, your family, your community, and our state.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator

ANGUS S. KING, JR.
MAINE

133 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
(202) 224-5344
Website: <http://www.King.Senate.gov>

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
BUDGET
ENERGY AND
NATURAL RESOURCES
INTELLIGENCE
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

January 1, 2021

Dear Friends,

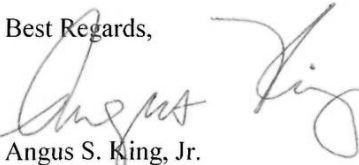
2020 was a year unlike any in our lifetimes. Our state and nation dealt with unprecedented challenges--the coronavirus pandemic, ensuing economic fallout, and a prolonged, heavily divisive campaign season each took a significant toll on all of us. The worst part? In order to protect each other, we had to face these challenges in isolation. But a new year represents new possibilities; a chance to take stock of what we're grateful for and focus on the opportunities in front of us. As we reflect back on 2020, we will remember heartbreak and loss – but we cannot forget the shining rays of hope that broke through the darkness, reminding us all that better days are ahead.

Throughout the pandemic, my top focus has been on bridging the partisan divide in Washington in order to deliver desperately-needed relief for Maine people. Joined by colleagues last March, we pushed for bipartisan negotiations to produce a strong bill that helped fellow Mainers, businesses, and institutions weather this storm. In the weeks and months after the *CARES Act* passed, our team stayed in close contact with people throughout the state to determine how we should adjust our response to best support our citizens. Unfortunately, the aid provided by the *CARES Act* lapsed without Congressional action, leaving too many families and businesses in limbo. I never stopped pushing for a bipartisan relief bill and, after extensive negotiations, we ended the year on a good note by breaking the gridlock and passing new relief legislation. This new bill isn't perfect; in fact, it should just be the start our renewed response. As we enter 2021 with a new administration and new Congress, we must fight for additional legislation to help restore stability to our working families and rebuild our economy and public health infrastructure.

In the midst of this crisis, Congress did manage to accomplish a few successes that will outlast this awful pandemic. Among these was the *Great American Outdoors Act*, a bipartisan bill which was enacted into law in August 2020 and will help address a \$12 billion backlog at our national parks so future generations of Americans can enjoy these beautiful lands and create lifelong memories. Also, as we learn more about the recent hacks of our nation's networks, there is help on the way: 27 of the cybersecurity recommendations made by the Cyberspace Solarium Commission – which I co-chair with Republican Congressman Mike Gallagher– made it into this year's defense bill. While there is no guarantee that these provisions would have prevented the massive hack, they will certainly improve our cyber defenses.

Despite the challenges, I'm hopeful for the future. Vaccines are being distributed across our state – starting with our healthcare heroes, who have sacrificed so much throughout this unprecedented catastrophe and deserve our eternal gratitude. If there can be a silver lining from these challenges of 2020, maybe it will be this: I hope that, in the not-so distant future, we will be able to come together physically and we will be reminded of our love for each other. We have differences, without a doubt. But as Maine people stepped up to support each other, we saw again and again that our differences pale in comparison to the values we share. We are one state, and one community – and there is nothing we cannot or will not do for each other. Mary and I wish you a happy and healthy 2021. We can't wait to see you soon.

Best Regards,



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator

AUGUSTA
4 Gabriel Drive, Suite F1
Augusta, ME 04330
(207) 622-8292

BANGOR
202 Harlow Street, Suite 20350
Bangor, ME 04401
(207) 945-8000

BIDDEFORD
227 Main Street
Biddeford, ME 04005
(207) 352-5216

PRESQUE ISLE
169 Academy Street, Suite A
Presque Isle, ME 04769
(207) 764-5124

Washington Office
1223 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
Phone: (202) 225-6306
Fax: (202) 225-2943
www.golden.house.gov



Committee on Armed Services
Committee on Small Business
Chairman, Subcommittee on Contracting
and Infrastructure

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

Dear Friends,

I hope this letter finds you safe and well. I know that this year has been challenging for many of our communities. In the midst of these challenges, it remains a privilege to represent you, and I appreciate the opportunity to update you on what I have been working on in Congress for the people of the Second Congressional District.

The coronavirus pandemic has made this year an especially difficult one. We've seen the struggles of small businesses, workers and families, hospitals, and states and towns. COVID-19 has been a serious threat to public health that requires a comprehensive, ongoing response. In March, Congress passed the largest of three bipartisan pieces of relief legislation, the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act*. The *CARES Act* was a \$2 trillion economic relief package to provide immediate assistance for some of those hit hardest by the pandemic. While an important start, many of the programs and benefits created by the *CARES Act* were set to expire by the end of 2020 at a time when COVID-19 cases were on the rise. That's why in late December, Congress passed another bipartisan bill to provide COVID-19 relief to small businesses and hospitals, the unemployed, and families struggling to put food on the table. However, the action Congress took at the end of 2020 cannot distract from its failure to act sooner. The unwillingness of many members of Congress to accept compromise throughout the fall left many Mainers struggling and led to a rushed process that produced a bill with serious flaws. In 2021, Congress needs to step up, come together, and lead the country through this pandemic and get our economy back on track.

There are a few bright spots that came out of the work done by Congress this year. As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I helped advocate for a national defense bill that would include important priorities for American national security, Maine shipbuilders, and servicemembers and their families. The legislation authorizes a new DDG-51 Arleigh Burke-class destroyer to be constructed at Bath Iron Works and helps BIW compete for new work by encouraging a new multi-year procurement process for the DDG-51 Flight III. This funding bill also makes permanent new federal guidelines proposed by Senator King and me to allow Gold Star Families free admission to national parks and other federal lands.

I've been working to improve mental health services for veterans for years, and I led the Maine delegation's effort to address the need for long-term mental health substance abuse treatment for veterans in our state. This past fall the Veterans Administration announced we were successful. Construction starts next year on a new, 24-bed facility at Togus that will ensure Maine veterans won't be sent out of state to receive residential care for substance use disorder and associated mental health issues. This is one result that I am especially proud to deliver for my fellow Maine veterans.

As I reflect upon what I am most grateful for this year, I am especially glad to be able to share that my wife Izzy and I are expecting a baby in 2021. We are excited about this new addition to our family and look forward to the blessings ahead.

This period is challenging for Mainers as we all take steps to limit the spread of the coronavirus, protect our families and our communities, and lean on each other to withstand this pandemic and economic hardship. My staff and I stand ready to assist Mainers as we work through these challenges together. I look forward to continuing to work on your behalf in 2021.

Respectfully,

Jared 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



Brad Farrin
Senator, District 3

130th MAINE SENATE

3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

An Update from Senator Brad Farrin

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

Let me begin by thanking you for allowing me the honor of serving you in the Maine Senate. I am grateful that you have put your trust in me and can assure you I will continue to work tirelessly on your behalf.

As you are no doubt aware, Maine is in the midst of the one of its greatest difficulties, both in public health and economic downturn. The 130th Maine Legislature faces the challenge posed by a \$1.4 billion budget shortfall, and perhaps more than ever before, state government must learn to live within its means.

As we move through the Legislative session I will be mindful of this and will do my best to hold the line on any new taxes or unneeded borrowing. Like you and your family, state government must tighten its belt in slow economic times and make the difficult but necessary decisions that will allow us to weather the storm.

At the same time, it is very important that we restore a sense of balance in state government where both the Governor and the Legislature work together on behalf of you, our constituents. This is even more important given the unusual nature of how and where this Legislature will meet, given the safety considerations required by the global pandemic. However the legislative process plays out, it is imperative that the public continue to have access to and play a critical role in the work of the Legislature. These will be a few of my priorities this coming year.

In addition to working on these important issues, I look forward to serving on the Legislature's Transportation Committee as well as the Veteran's and Legal Affairs committee.

Again, thank you for electing me to serve you in the State Senate. The 130th Legislature certainly has a great deal of work to do; but I believe that if we come together, there is nothing we can't accomplish. Please feel free to contact me at 287-1505 or brad.farrin@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 black ink, appearing to read 'Brad Farrin'.

Brad Farrin
State Senator



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

Daniel J. Newman

33 Caribou Road
Belgrade, ME 04917
Phone: (207) 458-1837
Daniel.Newman@legislature.maine.gov

March 3, 2021

Rome Municipal Clerk
8 Mercer Road
Rome, ME 04963

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Thank you for the privilege of allowing me to serve as your State Representative. Serving the residents of House District 76 in the Maine Legislature is a responsibility that I do not take lightly and I am honored you have entrusted me to be your voice at our State Capitol.

This past year has been unlike no other that we have endured in our lifetime. By remaining strong, staying safe and working together while respecting each other's voices and opinions, we will be able to return to a more normal way of life.

On December 2nd, the 130th Legislature was sworn-in at the Augusta Civic Center instead of the chambers at the State House as a safety precaution due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

This session, our biggest priority is addressing the next biennial budget with which we're facing a serious budget shortfall over the next three years. Difficult decisions will have to be made for prioritizing resources while addressing the needs created by this pandemic.

I encourage you to actively participate in your state government. Phone calls and letters are always a welcomed avenue for providing feedback. This session, with the increased utilization in remote meetings and hearings, happenings in Augusta are now even more accessible. Using the homepage of the Maine Legislature: **Legislature.Maine.Gov**, you will find access to Zoom meetings, public hearings, and YouTube videos providing updates on the latest at our State Capitol.

To join my weekly eNewsletter featuring current state news, please contact me at Daniel.Newman@legislature.maine.gov and I will happily add you to my distribution list.

Again, thank you for giving me the honor of serving you in Augusta and may you all have a safe and healthy 2021.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daniel J. Newman".

Daniel J. Newman
State Representative

District 76 Belgrade, Fayette, Mount Vernon, Rome, Vienna and Wayne

Selectman's Report

We, the Selectman of Rome, hereby submit this report of receipts and expenditures for the year ending December 31, 2020.

General Assistance

Raised and Appropriate	2,500.00
Total Expended	0.00
Balance Lapsed	2,500.00

Roads and Bridges

Raised and Appropriated	30,000.00
Total Expended	33,042.81
Contingency	3,042.81
Balance	0.00

Cash Disbursements:

Rick Labbe Construction	16,852.00
Carroll Bubar	10,083.00
Pike Industries	3,226.03
HD Supply Company	52.78
Pavement Plus	2724.00
Stephen Foster	105.00
Total Disbursements	33,042.81

Local Road Assistance

State of Maine	17,508.00
2020 LARP	9,368.00
Deferred Revenue	8,755.00
2020 Expended	9,368.00
Balance Carried	8,753.00

Paving

Raised and Appropriated	306,000.00
Total Expended	303,285.81
Balance Lapsed	2,714.19

Brush Cutting

Raised and Appropriated	10,000.00
Total Expended	9,970.00
Balance Lapsed	30.00

Snow Removal

Raised and Appropriated	74,000.00
Contingency	5,730.80
Total Expended	79,730.80
Balance	0.00

Salt and Sand

Raised and Appropriated	45,000.00
Total Expended	32,544.96
Balance Lapsed	12,455.04

Road Signs

Raised and Appropriated	500.00
Total Expended	280.64
Balance Lapsed	219.36

Selectman's Office Expense

Raised and Appropriated	1,375.00
Total Expended	1,172.09
Balance Lapsed	202.91

Town Clerk's Expense

Raised and Appropriated	1,200.00
Total Expended	1,066.54
Balance Lapsed	133.46

Treasurer & Tax Collector's Expense

Raised and Appropriated	7,500.00
Total Expended	5,332.64
Balance Lapsed	2,167.36

Trio Software

Raised and Appropriated	13,388.00
Contingency	546.97
Total Expended	13,934.97
Balance	0.00

Vital Records

Received	550.00
Balance Lapse	550.00

Social Security and Medicare

Raised and Appropriated	10,000.00
Total Expended	8,848.22
Balance Lapsed	1,151.78

Town Officer's Salaries

Raised and Appropriated	104,833.00
Total Expended	100,390.05
Balance Lapsed	4,442.95

Streetlights

Raised and Appropriated	3,000.00
Total Expended	2,442.50
Balance Lapsed	57.50

Emergency Preparedness

Raised and Appropriated	200.00
Total Expended	0.00
Balance Lapsed	200.00

Fire Department

Raised and Appropriated	47,150.00
Total Expended	37,208.42
Balance Lapsed	9,941.58

Disbursements:

FD Building Maintenance	6,187.34
FD Equipment Maintenance	3,540.15
FD New Equipment	7,129.59
FD Labor	12,044.50
FD Training	108.63
FD Truck Maintenance	3,154.46
Maine Compliance	1,300.00
Tower Fee	300.00
Hose Testing	1,943.75
Forestry Grant	1,500.00
Total Expended	37,208.42

FD CD Balance

Raised and Appropriated	81,051.67
Interest	15,000.00
Balance Carried	586.63
	96,638.30

FD Donations

Carry Forward	5,429.00
2020 Donations	2,000.00
Total Expended	0.00
Balance Carried	7,429.00

911 Dispatch-Waterville

Raised and Appropriated	2,731.00
Total Expended	3,464.60
Contingency	733.60
Balance	0.00

Somerset Dispatch

Raised and Appropriated	2,542.00
Total Expended	2,373.50
Balance Lapsed	168.50

State Dispatch Services

Raised and Appropriated	7,727.00
Total Expended	8,612.00
Contingency	885.00
Balance	0.00

Insurance

Raised and Appropriated	20,000.00
Total Expended	19,006.89
Balance Lapsed	993.11

Rome Community Center

Raised and Appropriated	19,000.00
Total Expended	18,687.45
Balance Lapsed	312.55

Town Cemetery Care

Raised and Appropriated	15,000.00
Total Expended	12,885.00
Balance Lapsed	2,115.00

Solid Waste Disposal

Sanitary Landfill	
Raised and Appropriated	53,000.00
Total Expended	61,154.86
Contingency	8,154.86
Balance	0.00

Legal Expense

Balance Carried 2019	3,547.00
Contingency	1,795.69
Total Expended	5,342.69
Balance	0.00

Plumbing

Cash Received	4,830.00
Total Expended	4,830.00
Balance	0.00

Building Permits

Cash Received	3,588.00
Balance Lapsed	3,588.00

Appeals Board

Cash Received	50.00
Balance Lapsed	50.00

Planning Board Expense

Raised and Appropriated	1,000.00
Total Expended	1,072.22
Balance Overdraft	72.22

Contingent Fund

2019 Carried Balance	21,946.07
Cash Received	19,198.61
Paid Overdraft	13,611.04
Total Expended	8,329.60
Balance Carried	19,204.04

Cash Receipts.

Vet's Reimbursement	551.00
Tree Growth	4,271.47
Charter Com Franchise	14,376.14
Total Received	19,198.61

Disbursements

2020 Scholarships	1,000.00
Snowpond Tech	1,598.80
Pavement Plus	5,730.80
Total Disbursed	8,329.60

Global Towers Legal

Balance Carried	74.34
-----------------	-------

Rome Campership Fund

Balance Carried	614.39
Balance Carried	614.39

State Revenue Sharing

Cash Received	38,699.21
Used toward Commitment	17,000.00
Balance Lapsed	21,699.21

Recreation Account

Balance Carried	851.00
Total Expended	1,024.00
Donations	1,200.00
2019 Interest	7.83
Balance Carried	1,034.83

Auto Excise Tax Account

Cash Received	227,480.92
Expended Toward Commitment	227,000.00
Balance Lapsed	480.92

Agent Fees

Cash Received	4,746.00
Expended Toward Commitment	4,250.00
Balance Lapse	496.00

Dog License Account

Balance Carried	2,159.00
Cash Received	527.00
Total Expended	387.64
Balance Carried	2,298.36

Animal Welfare

Cash Received	1,097.00
Total Expended	1,097.00
Balance	0.00

Inland Fisheries

Cash Received	22,185.91
Total Expended	22,185.91
Balance	0.00

Boat Excise

Cash Received	8,064.40
Expended Toward Commitment	8,500.00
Balance	(435.60)

Assessing

Raised and Appropriated	24,250.00
Total Expended	24,249.96
Balance Lapsed	.04

First Park

Raised and Appropriated	30,404.00
Total Expended	29,421.66
Balance Lapsed	982.84

Homestead Exemption

Cash Received	46,285.00
Balance Lapsed	46,285.00

Rome Rescue	
Raised and Appropriated	12,875.00
Total Expended	6,560.57
Balance	6,314.43
Disbursements:	
Labor	3,263.00
Truck Maintenance	2,016.44
New Equipment	980.05
Equipment Maintenance	151.08
License/Dues	150.00
Total Expended	6,560.57
Rescue CD	
	40,954.70
2019 Interest	276.02
Total Expended	35,000.00
Rescue CD Balance	16,230.72
Rescue Donation Carried	
	2,100.00
2020 Donations	1,750.00
Rescue Donation Carried	3,850.00
Audit	
Raised and Appropriated	5,000.00
Total Expended	4,850.00
Balance Lapsed	150.00
MMA Dues	
Raised and Appropriated	3,015.00
Total Expended	3,015.00
Balance	0.00
Town Report	
Raised and Appropriated	1,298.00
Total Expended	1,385.00
Contingency	87.00
Balance Lapsed	0.00
Belgrade Dams	
Raised and Appropriated	17,900.00
Total Expended	17,900.00
Balance	0.00
RSU #18	
Budget	2,179,316.09
Total Expended	2,179,315.95
Balance Carried	.14

Kennebec County Tax	
Budget	362,666.37
Total Expended	362,666.37
Balance	0.00
KVCG	
Raised and Appropriated	3,470.00
Total Expended	3,440.00
Balance Lapsed	30.00
Notary	
Raised and Appropriated	500.00
Total Expended	500.00
Waterville Humane Society	
Raised and Appropriated	1,586.00
Total Expended	1,585.70
Balance Lapsed	.30
7 Lakes Alliance	
Raised and Appropriated	4,000.00
Total Expended	4,000.00
Rome Ruff Riders	
Raised and Appropriated	1,000.00
Total Expended	1,000.00
No Pond Association-Milfoil	
Raised and Appropriated	2,000.00
Total Expended	2,000.00
Spectrum Generation	
Raised and Appropriated	500.00
Total Expended	500.00
Rome-Belgrade Food Pantry	
Raised and Appropriated	1,500.00
Total Expended	1,500.00
Belgrade Lake Assoc-Milfoil	
Raised and Appropriated	12,000.00
Total Expended	12,000.00

Respectfully,

Monica McCarthy
Lois Stratton
Kelly Archer

Financial Reports

As Treasurer of the Town of Rome, I hereby submit the following reports for the fiscal year
January 1, 2020– December 31, 2020

Revenue Summary Report

Balance January 1, 2020		257,715.57
2021 Prepaid Tax Accounts	2,403.96	
2020 Tax Accounts	3,086,843.36	
2019 Tax Accounts	221,889.99	
Tax Liens	19,015.72	
Auto Excise	228,061.68	
Agent Auto	4,746.00	
Boat Excise	8,064.40	
NSF Town Fee	125.00	
Clerk Mailing	79.15	
Agent IF&W	613.00	
Equipment sale	106.00	
Dog Town	527.00	
Dog Registration	1,104.00	
Vital Record	550.00	
Excise Mailing	330.80	
Building Permits	3,588.00	
Sub-Division	150.00	
Legal Fee's reimbursement	700.00	
Burn Permits	42.00	
Interest Bank	2,411.15	
Interest Taxes	9,449.67	
Lien Fees Collected	2,463.44	
Tax Collector's Copies	13.90	
Dump Stickers	146.00	
Selectmen's Copies	16.00	
Appeals	50.00	
Charter Com Franchise Fee	14,376.14	
Gain on Land sale	75.00	
First Park	16,436.00	
MMA Work Comp Dividend	957.00	
MMA Work Comp Adjustment	872.00	
Miscellaneous Refund	160.00	
Cemetery Lot Sales	2,000.00	
Community Center Rental	300.00	
Junkyard Permit	75.00	
Recreation Donations	200.00	
Fire Department Donations	2,000.00	
Rescue Donations	1,750.00	
CEO Fines	6,500.00	
From State Government		
State Revenue Sharing	38,699.21	
Homestead Reimbursement	46,285.00	

Veterans Reimbursement	551.00	
Tree Growth Reimbursements	4,271.47	
Snowmobile Reimbursements	516.36	
GA Reimbursement	241.43	
Local Roads Assistance Program	17,508.00	
BETE Reimbursement	20.00	
Keep Maine Healthy Grant	28,825.16	
Election Grant	5,000.00	
Total Revenue	3,747,263.83	
Total 2020 Warrants	3,510,978.42	
Transferred to Savings	(250,000.00)	
Transferred to Capital Accounts	(45,000)	
Balance		(58,714.59)
Ending Balance TD Bank December 31, 2020		199,000.98

Money Market Account	
Balance January 1, 2020	775,579.05
2020 Interest	2,353.02
Transfer from Checking	250,000.00
Balance December 31, 2020	1,027,932.47

Cemetery Trust	
Balance January 1, 2020	7,080.30
2020 Interest	27.16
2020 Cemetery Lot Sales	2000.00
Balance December 31, 2020	9107.46

Recreation Account	
Balance January 1, 2020	851.46
2020 Interest	7.83
Total Expenses	1,023.88
Donation Revenue	1,200.00
Balance December 31, 2020	1,035.41

Transfer Stations Reserve CD	
Balance January 1, 2020	146,705.67
2020 Interest	1,364.02
Balance December 31, 2020	148,069.69

Fire Department New Truck CD	
Balance January 1, 2020	81,051.67
2020 Interest	586.63
Raised at Town Meeting	15,000.00
Balance December 31, 2020	96,638.30

Fire Department Enterprise Savings	
Balance January 1, 2020	5,079.00
Total Expensed	1,027.00
2020 Interest	18.96
Balance December 31, 2020	4,070.96

Rescue Department New Truck CD	
Balance January 1, 2020	40,954.70
2020 Interest	276.02
Raised at Town Meeting	10,000.00
Total Expensed	35,000.00
Balance December 31, 2020	16,230.72

Legal Capital Reserve	
Balance January 1, 2020	15.37
Raised at Town Meeting	10,000.00
2020 Interest	17.88
Balance December 31, 2020	10,033.25

Community Center Reserve	
Balance January 1, 2020	30,147.04
Raised at Town Meeting	10,000.00
2020 Interest	111.79
Balance December 31, 2020	40,258.83

Respectfully Submitted,

Tammy J Lyons
Treasurer

As Tax Collector of the Town of Rome, I hereby submit the Following report for the Fiscal year.
January 1, 2020- December 31, 2020.

2020 Tax Account				
Commitment				3,201,872.75
	Reasl Estate		3,197,676.70	
	Personal Property		4,196.05	
		Total to Collect		3,201,872.75
No Supplemental				0
Abatements				
	Dennis & Sandra Phillips		294.02	
		Total Abatement		294.02
Balance to be Collected				3,201,578.73
Less 2020 Tax Funds Received				3,090,745.39
Less Prepaid 2020 Taxes				3,286.76
Unpaid 2020 Taxes				107,546.58

2020 Unpaid Taxes

Name	
AGOSTINELLI, RAYMOND A	21.54
ARDITO, MARK	59.04
ARDITO, RALPH W JR	236.94
ATKINSON, SHANE	82.93
AVNERY, M TSVI	188.48
AVNERY, TSVI	188.48
BACHELDER, TERRY	193.86
BEEBE, DONALD	82.93
BEEBE, KENNETH P	157.24
BEHLER, ROBERT F	368.33
BENSON, LAWRENCE	4.31
BERKOWITZ, BARBARA	4.31
BESSEY, RICHARD S	148.63
BORDES, LISETTE M	319.49
BORMAN, MEGAN P. 2012 FAMILY TRUST	3161.00
BOUCHARD, PETER L., JR.	2892.83
BOUCHARD, PETER LII	2443.71
BRICKETT, EDWARD A	2680.65
BROUSSEAU, JEAN EDWARD & LYNN ANN	1085.62
BROUSSEAU, JEANETTE & J. EDWARD	223.46
BROWN, LAWRENCE W	1224.55

BURNHAM, WILBUR	392.03
BURNHAM, WILBUR K	203.55
BUTTERFIELD, KIRK J	167.71
CHICKERING, ANDREW	398.49
** CIANCHETTE, LISA W	11.05
CICHON, MR.	4.31
CLEGG, FREDERICK J III	594.50
CLEMENT, JOEL K	15.08
CLOUKEY, LAURA F	392.03
CLUB TACONNET	6998.35
CLUB TACONNET UNIT OWNERS ASSN	639.74
CONNOR, ROBERT	164.78
CORSON, KATHLEEN A	1555.19
CORSON, KATHLEEN A	15.08
** COTE, HEATHER M	2599.88
COTTRELL, JACQUELINE R	441.10
COYNE, PETER JAMES	2734.50
DEVOE, WARREN H., TRUSTEE	1480.88
DIXON, TAMMY TRUSTEE	155.09
** DONNELLY FAMILY TRUST 2005	14.44
DUPLESSIS, LEO A	6710.57
DUPLISEA, KIMBERLY M	1.00
EMERY, CASEY	78.58
ENLOE, MICHELLE	148.63
FIELD JR., WILLIAM GLENN	4.31
** FIGOLI, BRUCE M II HEIRS OF	896.06
FORD, BARBARA	601.60
FOSS, STEPHEN A	396.34
GILBERT, JASON ROGER	1583.19
GORE, JOHN	90.47
GRAHAM, JEFFREY B	2891.75
GRASKY, JAMES R	12.73
GRIMES, IRENE C	148.63
HAFENECKER, MELISSA DOWNING	257.40
HAGGARTY, MARK P	2612.80
HARTMAN, BRUCE	4.31
HENRY, DEBBORA A	317.71
HICHBORN, CONRAD A	1183.62
HUNN, JODY	113.09
** JABAR, GEORGE M II	119.20
JOHNSON, RODNEY A	847.60
KELLY, NANCY S	30.16
LABELLE, SARA (1/4 INT)	200.00
LACOURSE, DONALD	384.74
LACOURSE, DONALD J	3315.01
LAMBROU, PAUL T	10.77
LAMBROU, PAUL T	155.09
LAUNIERE, SYLVAIN J	980.07
LODER, SARAH FAMILY TRUST (2/3 INT)	589.82

	LOFSTROM, JASON	1525.03
	LONG, MICHAEL	91.03
	MACDONALD, JOHN H	725.90
	MARTIN, DANIEL R	570.81
**	MARTIN, TERENCE D	7499.15
	MAYBERRY, DOUGLAS	281.10
	MAYBERRY, DOUGLAS L	26.93
	MAYBERRY, DOUGLAS L	123.86
	MCGOWAN, WILLA R	1715.66
	MCGOWAN, WILLA R	472.80
	MCGOWAN, WILLA R	283.25
	MENARD, SHEILA	155.09
	MURRAY, LAURA	424.33
**	MYDER, EDWARD	369.41
	MYERS, SHANNON	247.63
	NAGLE, ROBERT	147.91
	NIGHTINGALE, GARY L	152.93
	OCONNOR, JOHN J	4.31
	OKEEFFE, JAMES	1521.54
	OLDIS, KATHERINE O	4658.02
	OLIVER, BEVERLY	4.31
**	OLSON, GEORGE A	210.02
	PAJOR, ANTOINETTE W	1465.80
	PARADIS, FERNANDO	197.09
**	PARADIS, JANET E ROSS	3.01
	PARTRIDGE, CHERYL A	1184.70
	PEARL, EDWARD I JR	306.95
	PERRY, MICHAEL P	186.32
	PHILBRICK, JAMES	77.54
	PHILBRICK, JAMES	77.54
	PHILBRICK, JAMES	995.15
	PHILBRICK, JAMES	117.39
	PHILLIPS, DENNIS W	317.51
	PIETRAK FAMILY TRUST	158.32
	POOLER, BRUCE	4258.46
	RAZVODOVSKY, VITALY	214.32
**	RAZVODOVSKY, VITALY	148.63
	REAL, JAMES A	1189.01
	REAL, LESLEY	8.62
	RICHARDSON, BARTON, HEIRS OF	21.54
	RISLEY GREAT POND TRUST c/o JOHN	5341.92
	ROHLOFF, DORTHY T LAPLANTE	257.40
	ROSE, ANGEL L	1309.63
	ROSENTHAL, RONA, TRUSTEE	0.67
	ROSS, KATHLEEN A	472.80
	ROY, LEE	4.31
	SADULSKY, WILLIAM	74.31
	SILVERMAN, MARTIN	99.48
	SMITH, AARON L	188.48

SPENCE, JOSEPH M	248.79
SPENCE, WILLIAM G	981.15
SPURDLE, DAVID W	166.94
STANLEY, JOSHUA R	104.47
STEEB, PAUL	596.66
THIBEAULT, MARK E	48.24
TOBEY, ROGER W	14.00
** TSAKOS, GEORGE N	4.31
VALENCIA, PAULA F	94.78
WEST, FORREST	317.07
WHEELER, WENDALL	90.47
WHITEHURST, SHEENA	127.09
WHITNEY, MATTHEW W	2189.54
WILLETTE, HUNTER	236.94
WILLETTE, HUNTER	77.54
WILLIAMS, DEBRA	562.19
** WILSON, ELAINE A	403.21
WITHAM, LESLIE L III	460.96
WITHAM, LESLIE LEROY III	116.32
WITHAM, SHELLEY L	455.57
WORDELL, EUNICA G	22.62
WORDELL, NATHANIEL B	4.31
YOUNG, RJ., ROBERT ARTHUR	2323.09
ZIMBA, THEODORE	82.93
	107546.58

** = PAID AFTER 12/31/2020

2019 Tax Account

Unpaid Taxes, January 1, 2020	222,052.50
Paid to Tax Collector	
2019 Taxes	186,321.49
Total Secured by Tax Lien	17,586.95
Paid to Treasurer	11,616.36
Balance of Unpaid 2019 Liens	6,527.70

2019 Unpaid Taxes

Name	Amount
BENSON, LAWRENCE & DOROTHY	4.01
BELLAVANCE, RONALD	553.10
BORMAN, MEGAN P. 2012 FAMILY TRUST 11/27/2012	293.79
BROUSSEAU, JEAN EDWARD & LYNN Ann	871.88
BROWN, RALPH JR.	30.06
CICHON, MR. & MRS. JOHN	4.01
CLOUKEY, LAURA F & BRENDAN	364.73
*** COTE, HEATHER M.	56.50
DIXON, TAMMY TRUSTEE	174.35
FIELD JR., WILLIAM GLENN	4.01
*** FIGOLI, BRUCE M II HEIRS OF	833.66
FOSS, STEPHEN A. & SHEILA	398.80
GREENLEAF, MARION & IRVING	1,007.01
HARTMAN, BRUCE & DANUTA	4.01
LAMBROU, PAUL T	10.02
LAMBROU, PAUL T	144.29
LAUNIERE, SYLVAIN J.	911.82
OLIVER, BEVERLY	2.15
PARADIS, FERNANDO & PEARL (LIFE ESTATE)	213.43
PEARL, EDWARD I. JR. & BETH A.	315.63
*** RAZVODOVSKY, VITALY	199.40
SADULSKY, WILLIAM	8.79
SALVAS, CRAIG A	4.01
WHITEHURST, SHEENA	118.24
Total 2019 Unpaid Taxes	6527.70

*** paid after 12/31/2020

Foreclosed 2018 Tax Liens

Owner	Map/Lot	Location	Principal Only
Cichon, Mr John & Cichon, Mrs	29-061	Radcliff Dr BHA	3.71
Benson, Lawrence & Dorothy	29-030	Rutger Dr BHA Sec A	3.71
Total			7.42

Matured Tax Liens – All Years

Owner	Map/Lot	Location	Principal Only
Horgan SR	14A-015	Long Lake	24.31
Perrault, James	02-004A	Watson Pond Rd	27.02
Brown, Ralph	14A-127,128/,129,130	23 Dahlia Est	84.81
Benson, Lawrence & Dorothy	29-030	Rutger Dr BHA Sec A	3.71
Salvas, Craig & Rhonda	29-108	235 Ladd Rd	11.31
Cichon, Mr John & Cichon, Mrs	29-061	Radcliff Dr BHA	3.71
Total			154.87

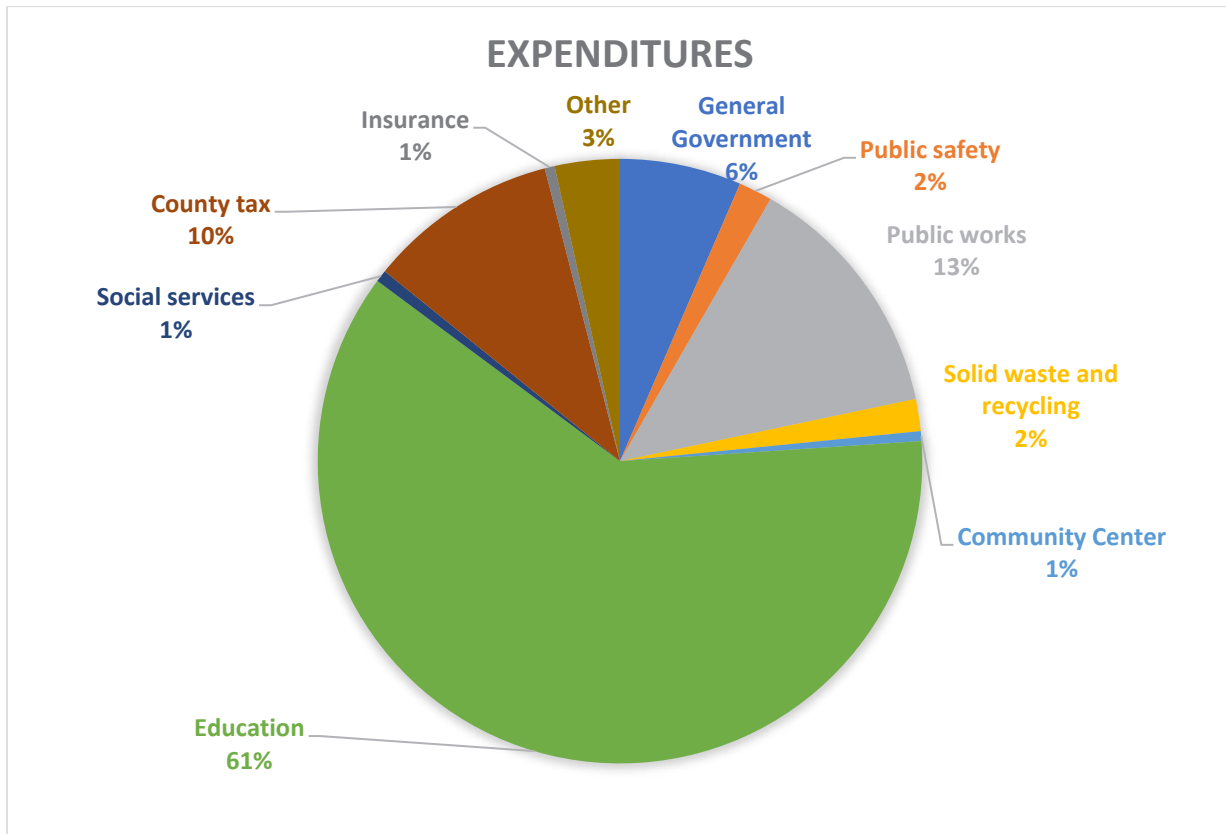
Total Overlay

Overlay	80,116.91
Tax Discounts	67,726.33
Abatement	294.02
Balance Lapse	12,096.56
 Interest on Taxes & Liens	
2020 Interest	9,449.67
Lien Fees Collected	2,463.44

Respectfully,
Tammy Lyons
Tax Collector

2020 Town of Rome Expenditures

General Government	231,360
Public safety	64,089
Public works	476,880
Solid waste and recycling	61,155
Community Center	18,687.00
Education	2,179,316
Social services	22,658
County tax	362,666
Insurance	19,007
Other	123,624
	3,559,442





February 15, 2021

Selectboard
Town of Rome
Rome, Maine

We were engaged by the Town of Rome, Maine and have audited the financial statements of the Town of Rome, Maine as of and for the year ended December 31, 2020. The following statements and schedules have been excerpted from the 2020 financial statements, a complete copy of which, including our opinion thereon, will be available for inspection at the Town Office.

Included herein are:

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 Balance Sheet - Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Schedule B
Combining Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances - Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Schedule C
Combining Balance Sheet - Nonmajor Special Revenues Funds	Schedule D
Combining Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances - Nonmajor Special Revenue Funds	Schedule E

RHR Smith & Company

RHR Smith & Company
Certified Public Accountants

3 Old Orchard Road, Buxton, Maine 04093
Tel: (800) 300-7708 (207) 929-4606 Fax: (207) 929-4609
www.rhrsmith.com

STATEMENT C

TOWN OF ROME, MAINE

BALANCE SHEET - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
DECEMBER 31, 2020

	General Fund	Transfer Station Fund	Fire Department Fund	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
ASSETS					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,298,023	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 61,160	\$ 1,359,183
Investments	-	148,070	96,638	51,231	295,939
Accounts receivable (net of allowance for uncollectibles):					
Taxes	108,739	-	-	-	108,739
Liens	6,091	-	-	-	6,091
Other	28,574	-	-	-	28,574
Due from other funds	39,093	-	-	14,664	53,757
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 1,480,520	\$ 148,070	\$ 96,638	\$ 127,055	\$ 1,852,283
LIABILITIES					
Accounts payable	\$ 158,793	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 158,793
Accrued payroll	2,404	-	-	-	2,404
Due to other governments	4,367	-	-	-	4,367
Due to other funds	14,664	-	2,392	36,701	53,757
TOTAL LIABILITIES	180,228	-	2,392	36,701	219,321
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES					
Prepaid taxes	2,404	-	-	-	2,404
Deferred revenue	8,755	-	-	-	8,755
Deferred tax revenues	87,369	-	-	-	87,369
TOTAL DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES	98,528	-	-	-	98,528
FUND BALANCES					
Nonspendable	-	-	-	-	-
Restricted	52,873	-	-	16,425	69,298
Committed	-	148,070	94,246	64,822	307,138
Assigned	22,632	-	-	-	22,632
Unassigned	1,126,259	-	-	9,107	1,135,366
TOTAL FUND BALANCES	1,201,764	148,070	94,246	90,354	1,534,434
TOTAL LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES AND FUND BALANCES	\$ 1,480,520	\$ 148,070	\$ 96,638	\$ 127,055	\$ 1,852,283

See accompanying independent auditors' report and notes to financial statements.

STATEMENT E

TOWN OF ROME, MAINE

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND
BALANCES - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020

	General Fund	Transfer Station Fund	Fire Department Fund	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES					
Taxes:					
Property taxes	\$ 3,318,691	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,318,691
Excise taxes	235,459	-	-	-	235,459
Intergovernmental revenues	287,140	-	-	-	287,140
Charges for services	17,680	-	-	-	17,680
Miscellaneous revenues	29,407	1,364	587	7,832	39,190
TOTAL REVENUES	3,888,377	1,364	587	7,832	3,898,160
EXPENDITURES					
Current:					
General government	231,360	-	-	-	231,360
Public safety	64,089	-	-	-	64,089
Public works	476,880	-	-	-	476,880
Solid waste and recycling	61,155	-	-	-	61,155
Community center	18,687	-	-	-	18,687
Education	2,179,316	-	-	-	2,179,316
Social services	22,658	-	-	-	22,658
County tax	362,666	-	-	-	362,666
Insurance	19,007	-	-	-	19,007
Other	123,624	-	-	54,408	178,032
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	3,559,442	-	-	54,408	3,613,850
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	328,935	1,364	587	(46,576)	284,310
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)					
Transfers in	-	-	15,000	46,435	61,435
Transfers (out)	(61,435)	-	-	-	(61,435)
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)	(61,435)	-	15,000	46,435	-
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES	267,500	1,364	15,587	(141)	284,310
FUND BALANCES - JANUARY 1	934,264	146,706	78,659	90,495	1,250,124
FUND BALANCES - DECEMBER 31	\$ 1,201,764	\$ 148,070	\$ 94,246	\$ 90,354	\$ 1,534,434

See accompanying independent auditors' report and notes to financial statements.

SCHEDULE 1

TOWN OF ROME, MAINE

BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE - BUDGETARY BASIS
 BUDGET AND ACTUAL - GENERAL FUND
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual Amounts	Variance Positive (Negative)
	Original	Final		
Budgetary Fund Balance, January 1, Restated	\$ 934,264	\$ 934,264	\$ 934,264	\$ -
Resources (Inflows):				
Taxes:				
Property taxes	3,201,874	3,201,874	3,318,691	116,817
Excise taxes	235,500	235,500	235,459	(41)
Intergovernmental revenues:				
State revenue sharing	17,000	17,000	136,513	119,513
Homestead exemption	51,237	51,237	46,285	(4,952)
Local road assistance program	-	-	18,122	18,122
Other	16,917	21,739	86,220	64,481
Interest income	-	-	2,411	2,411
Interest/cost on liens	5,000	5,000	11,802	6,802
Charges for services	4,250	4,766	17,680	12,914
Miscellaneous revenues	150	14,526	15,194	668
Amounts Available for Appropriation	<u>4,466,192</u>	<u>4,485,906</u>	<u>4,822,641</u>	<u>336,735</u>
Charges to Appropriations (Outflows):				
General government	176,885	176,885	231,360	(54,475)
Public safety	92,425	92,425	64,089	28,336
Public works	484,900	484,900	476,880	8,020
Solid waste and recycling	53,000	53,000	61,155	(8,155)
Community center	19,000	19,000	18,687	313
General assistance	2,500	2,500	-	2,500
Education	2,179,316	2,179,316	2,179,316	-
Social services	22,659	22,659	22,658	1
County tax	362,666	362,666	362,666	-
Insurance	20,000	20,000	19,007	993
Other	128,577	176,928	123,624	53,304
Transfers to other funds	46,000	61,435	61,435	-
Total Charges to Appropriations	<u>3,606,928</u>	<u>3,655,279</u>	<u>3,620,877</u>	<u>34,402</u>
Budgetary Fund Balance, December 31	<u>\$ 859,264</u>	<u>\$ 830,627</u>	<u>\$ 1,201,764</u>	<u>\$ 371,137</u>
Utilization of unassigned fund balance	<u>\$ 75,000</u>	<u>\$ 103,637</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (103,637)</u>

See accompanying independent auditors' report and notes to financial statements.

SCHEDULE A

TOWN OF ROME, MAINE

SCHEDULE OF DEPARTMENTAL OPERATIONS - GENERAL FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020

	Original Budget	Budget Adjustments	Final Budget	Actual Expenditures	Variance Positive (Negative)
General Government -					
Salaries and wages	\$ 104,833	\$ -	\$ 104,833	\$ 102,794	\$ 2,039
Payroll taxes	10,000	-	10,000	8,848	1,152
Assessing	24,250	-	24,250	24,250	-
Administration	34,787	-	34,787	92,453	(57,666)
MMA dues	3,015	-	3,015	3,015	-
Subtotal General Government	176,885	-	176,885	231,360	(54,475)
Public Safety -					
Fire	63,850	-	63,850	40,635	23,215
Dispatch	13,000	-	13,000	14,450	(1,450)
Rescue	12,875	-	12,875	6,561	6,314
Emergency preparedness	200	-	200	-	200
Street lights	2,500	-	2,500	2,443	57
Subtotal Public Safety	92,425	-	92,425	64,089	28,336
Public Works -					
Paving	306,000	-	306,000	303,286	2,714
Snow removal	74,000	-	74,000	74,000	-
Sand/salt	45,000	-	45,000	32,545	12,455
Sand and salt shed	1,500	-	1,500	-	1,500
Roads and bridges	30,000	-	30,000	30,543	(543)
Local road assistance	-	-	-	9,368	(9,368)
Other	28,400	-	28,400	27,138	1,262
Subtotal Public Works	484,900	-	484,900	476,880	8,020
Solid Waste and Recycling	53,000	-	53,000	61,155	(8,155)
Cemeteries	19,000	(15,435)	3,565	-	3,565

SCHEDULE A (CONTINUED)

TOWN OF ROME, MAINE

SCHEDULE OF DEPARTMENTAL OPERATIONS - GENERAL FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020

	Original Budget	Budget Adjustments	Final Budget	Actual Expenditures	Variance Positive (Negative)
Community Center	19,000	-	19,000	18,687	313
General Assistance	2,500	-	2,500	-	2,500
Education	2,179,316	-	2,179,316	2,179,316	-
Social Services	22,659	-	22,659	22,658	1
County Tax	362,666	-	362,666	362,666	-
Insurance	20,000	-	20,000	19,007	993
Other -					
Dog expense account	-	2,159	2,159	388	1,771
Legal	-	5,343	5,343	5,343	-
Global Towers legal	-	74	74	-	74
First Park	37,904	-	37,904	31,946	5,958
Animal shelter	1,586	-	1,586	1,586	-
Contingency	-	39,348	39,348	7,329	32,019
Snowmobile club	-	516	516	516	-
Campership donations	-	614	614	-	614
Notary	500	-	500	500	-
Audit	5,000	-	5,000	4,850	150
KVCOG	3,470	-	3,470	3,440	30
Flagpole	-	297	297	-	297
Discount taxes	-	-	-	67,726	(67,726)
Overlay	80,117	-	80,117	-	80,117
Subtotal Other	128,577	48,351	176,928	123,624	53,304
Transfers to Other Funds -					
Capital projects funds:					
Community center reserve	10,000	-	10,000	10,000	-
Fire department fund	15,000	-	15,000	15,000	-
Rescue reserve	10,000	-	10,000	10,000	-
Legal reserve	10,000	-	10,000	10,000	-
Special revenue funds:					
Recreation committee	1,000	-	1,000	1,000	-
Permanent fund	-	15,435	15,435	15,435	-
Subtotal Transfers to Other Funds	46,000	15,435	61,435	61,435	-
TOTAL DEPARTMENTAL OPERATIONS	\$ 3,606,928	\$ 48,351	\$ 3,655,279	\$ 3,620,877	\$ 34,402

See accompanying independent auditors' report and notes to financial statements.

SCHEDULE B

TOWN OF ROME, MAINE

COMBINING BALANCE SHEET - NONMAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
DECEMBER 31, 2020

	Special Revenue Funds	Capital Projects Funds	Permanent Funds	Total Nonmajor Governmental Funds
ASSETS				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 3,761	\$ 50,292	\$ 7,107	\$ 61,160
Investments	-	51,231	-	51,231
Due from other funds	12,664	-	2,000	14,664
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 16,425</u>	<u>\$ 101,523</u>	<u>\$ 9,107</u>	<u>\$ 127,055</u>
LIABILITIES				
Due to other funds	\$ -	\$ 36,701	\$ -	\$ 36,701
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>-</u>	<u>36,701</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>36,701</u>
FUND BALANCES (DEFICITS)				
Nonspendable	-	-	-	-
Restricted	16,425	-	-	16,425
Committed	-	64,822	-	64,822
Assigned	-	-	-	-
Unassigned	-	-	9,107	9,107
TOTAL FUND BALANCES (DEFICITS)	<u>16,425</u>	<u>64,822</u>	<u>9,107</u>	<u>90,354</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES (DEFICITS)	<u>\$ 16,425</u>	<u>\$ 101,523</u>	<u>\$ 9,107</u>	<u>\$ 127,055</u>

See accompanying independent auditors' report and notes to financial statements.

SCHEDULE C

TOWN OF ROME, MAINE

COMBINING SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN
FUND BALANCES - NONMAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020

	Special Revenue Funds	Capital Projects Funds	Permanent Funds	Total Nonmajor Governmental Funds
REVENUES				
Interest income	\$ 27	\$ 406	\$ 27	\$ 460
Other	5,372	-	2,000	7,372
TOTAL REVENUES	<u>5,399</u>	<u>406</u>	<u>2,027</u>	<u>7,832</u>
EXPENDITURES				
Other	3,473	35,500	15,435	54,408
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>3,473</u>	<u>35,500</u>	<u>15,435</u>	<u>54,408</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	<u>1,926</u>	<u>(35,094)</u>	<u>(13,408)</u>	<u>(46,576)</u>
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
Transfers in	1,000	30,000	15,435	46,435
Transfers (out)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)	<u>1,000</u>	<u>30,000</u>	<u>15,435</u>	<u>46,435</u>
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES (DEFICITS)	2,926	(5,094)	2,027	(141)
FUND BALANCES (DEFICITS), JANUARY 1	<u>13,499</u>	<u>69,916</u>	<u>7,080</u>	<u>90,495</u>
FUND BALANCES (DEFICITS), DECEMBER 31	<u>\$ 16,425</u>	<u>\$ 64,822</u>	<u>\$ 9,107</u>	<u>\$ 90,354</u>

See accompanying independent auditors' report and notes to financial statements.

SCHEDULE D

TOWN OF ROME, MAINE

COMBINING BALANCE SHEET - NONMAJOR SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS
DECEMBER 31, 2020

	Fire Department Account	Fire Department Donations	Rescue Donations	Recreation Committee	Total
ASSETS					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 3,761	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,761
Due from other funds	310	7,429	3,890	1,035	12,664
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 4,071</u>	<u>\$ 7,429</u>	<u>\$ 3,890</u>	<u>\$ 1,035</u>	<u>\$ 16,425</u>
LIABILITIES					
Due to other funds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
FUND BALANCES					
Nonspendable	-	-	-	-	-
Restricted	4,071	7,429	3,890	1,035	16,425
Committed	-	-	-	-	-
Assigned	-	-	-	-	-
Unassigned	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL FUND BALANCES	<u>\$ 4,071</u>	<u>\$ 7,429</u>	<u>\$ 3,890</u>	<u>\$ 1,035</u>	<u>\$ 16,425</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES	<u>\$ 4,071</u>	<u>\$ 7,429</u>	<u>\$ 3,890</u>	<u>\$ 1,035</u>	<u>\$ 16,425</u>

See accompanying independent auditors' report and notes to financial statements.

SCHEDULE E

TOWN OF ROME, MAINE

COMBINING SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
NONMAJOR SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020

	Fire Department Account	Fire Department Donations	Rescue Donations	Recreation Committee	Total
REVENUES					
Interest income	\$ 19	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8	\$ 27
Other	1,422	2,000	1,750	200	5,372
TOTAL REVENUES	<u>1,441</u>	<u>2,000</u>	<u>1,750</u>	<u>208</u>	<u>5,399</u>
EXPENDITURES					
Other	2,449	-	-	1,024	3,473
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>2,449</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,024</u>	<u>3,473</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	<u>(1,008)</u>	<u>2,000</u>	<u>1,750</u>	<u>(816)</u>	<u>1,926</u>
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)					
Transfers in	-	-	-	1,000	1,000
Transfers (out)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES	<u>(1,008)</u>	<u>2,000</u>	<u>1,750</u>	<u>184</u>	<u>2,926</u>
FUND BALANCES, JANUARY 1	<u>5,079</u>	<u>5,429</u>	<u>2,140</u>	<u>851</u>	<u>13,499</u>
FUND BALANCES, DECEMBER 31	<u>\$ 4,071</u>	<u>\$ 7,429</u>	<u>\$ 3,890</u>	<u>\$ 1,035</u>	<u>\$ 16,425</u>

See accompanying independent auditors' report and notes to financial statements.

Property tax levy limit

What is a Municipal Property Tax Levy Limit?

The Municipal Property Tax Levy Limit regulates the amount of money that municipalities can raise through property taxes. It applies only to property taxes used for municipal operations (road maintenance, libraries, parks and recreation, etc.). It does not apply to property taxes raised for schools, counties, TIFs, or the overlay. The limit allows a municipality to increase property taxes, but only by an amount equal to the growth of statewide personal income plus local property development within the municipality. The limit is adjusted downward if a municipality receives extra money from the State that it can use instead of property taxes.

Why does Maine have Municipal Property Tax Levy Limits?

In 2005, the Maine Legislature and Governor John E. Baldacci set a goal of lowering Maine's state and local tax burden ranking to the middle one-third of states by 2015. To achieve this, they created Municipal Property Tax Levy Limits, as well as limits on county assessments, school funding, and state General Fund appropriations. If Maine's government spending and taxes increase at a slower rate than other states, Maine's tax burden ranking will fall.

What is "LD 1"?

"LD 1" refers to the first bill, or "Legislative Document," filed with the 122nd Legislature in December 2004. The official title of the bill was "An Act to Increase the State Share of Education Costs, Reduce Property Taxes and Reduce Government Spending at All Levels." The bill became law in 2005. It limits the growth of taxes and appropriations made by state, county, and municipal governments, and school administrative units. The current laws for county and municipal limits can be found in Title 30-A of the Maine Revised Statutes, the laws for the General Fund limits can be found in Title 5, and the laws for school districts can be found in Title 20-A.

What is the Growth Limitation Factor and how is it calculated?

The Growth Limitation Factor refers to the allowable increase in a town's property tax levy. Each year, a town's Municipal Property Tax Levy Limit is calculated by increasing the previous year's limit by the Growth Limitation Factor. The Growth Limitation Factor is based on the local Property Growth Factor and the statewide Income Growth Factor.

What is the Income Growth Factor and how is it calculated?

According to LD 1, the Office of Policy and Management is responsible for calculating the Income Growth Factor, which equals the statewide average annual personal income growth from the previous ten years, adjusted for inflation. The Office of Policy and Management releases a new Income Growth Factor in September of each year following the release of revised estimates of the previous year's income growth from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

What is the Property Growth Factor and how is it calculated?

The Property Growth Factor reflects growth in a municipality's tax base. It is equal to the value of newly taxable property in the most recent year for which data is available, divided by the total assessed value of all property in the same year. "New property," or property assessed for the first time since the last April 1st, includes newly created lots, new buildings, building additions, and new personal property. Dividing the total value of new property by the most recent total value of all assessed property in the town eliminates the impact of reassessments. New property that is tax-exempt under the Business Equipment Tax Exemption (BETE) program may also be included in the calculation when a municipality qualifies for a 'enhanced reimbursement' pursuant to Title 36, section 694, subsection 2, paragraph B. In such cases, the full value of BETE qualified property may be included in both the numerator and denominator when computing the Property Growth Factor.

**ADVANTAGES OF MUNICIPAL ADOPTION OF A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
CONSISTENT WITH THE PLANNING AND LAND USE REGULATION ACT**

(30-A, M.R.S.A. §4301 et seq.)

Note: The Planning and Land Use Regulation Act is commonly referred to as the Growth Management Act

1. An adopted consistent comprehensive plan is legally required to substantiate any zoning ordinance (that regulates land area beyond the minimum required in the state shoreland zoning guidelines), *see 30-A, M.R.S.A. §4314.*
2. An adopted consistent comprehensive plan is legally required to substantiate any impact fee ordinance, *see 30-A, M.R.S.A. §4314.*
3. An adopted consistent comprehensive plan is legally required to substantiate any rate of growth ("building cap") ordinance, *see 30-A, M.R.S.A. §4314.*
4. An adopted consistent comprehensive plan, while not specifically required to substantiate other types of ordinances, provides the most solid legal footing to all land use and related ordinances by providing clear municipal policy intent within the parameters of state law.
5. Zoning ordinances enacted pursuant to an adopted consistent comprehensive plan, if determined by DACF to be consistent with the plan, become binding on state agencies (Governor can override if state interests are overly frustrated), *see 30-A, M.R.S.A., §4352.6.*
6. State growth related capital investments may only be made within a growth area designated within an adopted consistent comprehensive plan or one of the following growth area surrogates: sewer and water district, census designated place or urban compact area, *see 30-A, M.R.S.A. §4349-A.1.*
7. State agencies are directed to award preference for many state grant and investment programs to municipalities with an adopted consistent comprehensive plans, *see 30-A, M.R.S.A. §4349.3.*
8. State agencies are directed to assist municipalities with an adopted consistent comprehensive plan with plan implementation, *see 30-A, M.R.S.A. §4349-A.2-A.*
9. Consistency of comprehensive plan and zoning ordinance is one component for eligibility for Natural Resource Protection Act (NRPA) permit granting authority, *see 38, M.R.S.A., §480-F.1.B.*
10. Qualify for authority to issue Site Location of Development Act permits and for exemptions for certain growth-area developments. *See 38, M.R.S.A. §488.14 & .19 & 38, M.R.S.A. §489-A*

11. Qualify for relaxed Maine DOT traffic permit standards for certain growth-area developments. *See 23, M.R.S.A. §704.A.2.D*
12. The most important advantage of adopting a consistent comprehensive plan is creating a highly participatory and official public statement describing the desired future for your community! In doing so, your municipality is contributing to a larger effort in conceit with your neighbors to attain the State's Growth Management Goals.

Note: This list reflects the interpretation of KVCOG. This list is not meant to render a legal opinion. We recommend contacting the Maine Municipal Association or municipal attorney ifan official legal interpretation is needed.

TOWN WARRANT MARCH 12-13, 2021

To: Residents of the Town of Rome

Greetings:

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby requested to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Rome, qualified to vote on Town affairs, to assemble at the Rome Community Center, in said Town on Friday, March 12, 2021, at 11:45 a.m. to elect a moderator to preside at said meeting, to elect town officers and officials for the ensuing year, and act upon Articles 2 through 6. Polls are to be opened from 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., at which time the meeting will be recessed; the recessed meeting will be reconvened at the Belgrade Central School at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 13, 2021, then and there to act upon the remaining articles in the warrant.

Article 1. To choose a moderator to preside at said meeting.

Article 2. To proceed with voting by Australian ballot system to elect First Selectman, Assessor, and Overseer of the Poor for a term of one year; Second Selectman, Assessor, and Overseer of the Poor for a term of one year; Third Selectman, Assessor, and Overseer of the Poor for a term of one year; Town Clerk for a term of one year; Tax Collector for a term of one year; Treasurer for a term of one year; and Road Commissioner for a term of one year.

Article 3. To vote by secret ballot on the following Referendum Question:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$202,588 for the Mercer Road, Wooster Hill Rd. and Crystal Springs Lane (from rt 225 to entrance to salt and sand shed) and to appropriate all monies received from the Local Road Assistance Program (LRAP) to help fund this project. (This completes the 2yr project for Wooster Hill Rd.) Spent \$299,617.01

**Reconstruction to include completion of shim and surface coat on Wooster Hill Road, sections of Mercer Road and Crystal Springs Lane. Reconstruction of the Crystal Springs Lane to include grinding, paving, ditching, and raising the level of the road from rt 225 to the entrance of the salt and sand shed.*

Board of Selectmen recommends approval 3-0
Budget Committee recommends approval 5-0

- Article 4.** To vote by secret ballot on the following Referendum Question:
Shall an ordinance entitled “Adult Use Recreational Marijuana Ordinance” be enacted thereby authorizing adult use marijuana stores and certain adult use marijuana cultivation facilities in the Town pursuant to 28-B M.R.S. § 402 of the Marijuana Legalization Act?
- Article 5.** To vote by secret ballot on the following Referendum Question:
Shall an ordinance entitled “Rome Food Sovereignty Ordinance” be enacted?
- Article 6.** To vote by secret ballot on the following Referendum Question:
To see if the Town will vote to withdraw from the Kennebec Regional Development Authority effective as soon as possible under applicable law and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to take all action necessary and appropriate to effectuate the same?
- Article 7.** To see if the Town will allow non-residents who have information pertaining to Article 8 through Article 81 to speak when recognized.
- Article 8.** To see if the Town will vote to increase the property tax levy limit established for the Town of Rome by State law in the event that the municipal budget approved under these warrant articles will result in a tax commitment that is greater than the property tax levy limit. *Note: This vote must be taken by written ballot.*
- Article 9.** To see if the Town will vote to allow the Board of Selectmen to appropriate an amount not to exceed three-twelfths (3/12) of the annual budgeted amount in each budget category of the 2021 annual budget to support expenditures during the period of January 1, 2022 until the date of the 2022 Annual Town Meeting.
Board of Selectmen recommends approval 3-0
Budget Committee recommends approval 5-0
- Article 10.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,500 for General Assistance. Spent \$ 0.00
Board of Selectmen Recommends approval 3-0
Budget Committee Recommends approval 5-0
- Article 11.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$22,800 for the maintenance and operation of the Rome Community Center. Spent \$18,687.45
Board of Selectmen recommends approval 3-0
Budget Committee recommends \$20,500 5-0
- Article 12.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$10,000 for the Community Center Reserve Account. *Balance as of 12/31/2020: \$40,258.83*
Board of Selectmen recommends approval 3-0
Budget Committee recommends approval 5-0

- Article 13.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$15,000 for the care and maintenance of Rome cemeteries. Spent \$12,885.
Board of Selectmen recommends approval 3-0
Budget Committee recommends approval 5-0
- Article 14.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,000 for the repair of headstones at the Village, Tuttle and Berry Cemeteries. Spent \$0
Board of Selectmen recommends approval 3-0
Budget Committee recommends approval 5-0
- Article 15.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,000 for tree-related services in Town-maintained cemeteries. Spent \$2,550.00
Board of Selectmen recommends approval 3-0
Budget Committee recommends approval 5-0
- Article 16.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$30,000 for the repair of Town-maintained roads and bridges. Spent \$33,042.81.
Board of Selectmen recommends approval 3-0
Budget Committee recommends approval 5-0
- Article 17.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$500 for the purchase and installation of street signs for Town-maintained roads. Spent \$280.64.
Board of Selectmen recommends approval 3-0
Budget Committee recommends approval 4-1
- Article 18.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$12,500 for roadside mowing and the cutting of brush along Town-maintained roads. Spent \$9,970.
Board of Selectmen recommends approval 3-0
Budget Committee recommends approval 5-0
- Article 19.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$94,000 for the snow plowing and sanding of Town-maintained roads. Spent \$79,730.80.
Board of Selectmen recommends approval 3-0
Budget Committee recommends approval 2-2-1
- Article 20.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$45,000 for the purchase and stockpiling of salt and sand. Spent \$32,544.96
Board of Selectmen recommends approval 3-0
Budget Committee recommends approval 4-1
- Article 21.** To see if the Town will vote to establish the Salt and Sand Shed Maintenance Reserve Account for maintenance of the Town's salt and sand shed.
Board of Selectmen recommends approval 3-0
Budget Committee recommends approval 5-0

- Article 22.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,500 for maintenance of the Town's salt and sand shed. Any unspent balance in the Town salt and sand shed maintenance budget at the end of the fiscal year shall be transferred to the Salt and Sand Shed Maintenance Reserve Account.
Board of Selectmen recommends approval 3-0
Budget Committee recommends approval 5-0
- Article 23.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,500 for the payment of street lighting, to include the lighting at the salt and sand shed on Hillside Lane. Spent \$2,442.50.
Board of Selectmen recommends approval 3-0
Budget Committee recommends approval 5-0
- Article 24.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$21,000 for Property, Casualty, Workers' Compensation, and Unemployment insurance premiums. Spent \$19,006.89.
Board of Selectmen recommends approval 3-0
Budget Committee recommends approval 5-0
- Article 25.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$500 for Notary Fees. Spent \$500.
Board of Selectmen recommends approval 3-0
Budget Committee recommends approval 5-0
- Article 26.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$5,000 for the legally required auditing of Town books and records. Spent \$4,850.00.
Board of Selectmen recommends approval 3-0
Budget Committee recommends approval 5-0
- Article 27.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$25,000 for Assessing Services. Spent \$24,250.
Board of Selectmen recommends approval 3-0
Budget Committee recommends approval 5-0
- Article 28.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$58,500 to fund the Town's solid waste disposal contract with Waste Management/Crossroads in Norridgewock. Spent \$61,154.86.
Board of Selectmen recommends approval 3-0
Budget Committee recommends approval 4-0-1
- Article 29.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,586 to fund the Town's contract with Somerset Humane Society. Spent \$1,586.
Board of Selectmen recommends approval 3-0
Budget Committee recommends approval 5-0

- Article 30.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$3,470 for membership in Kennebec Valley Council of Governments (KVCOG) Spent \$3,440.
Board of Selectmen recommends approval 3-0
Budget Committee recommends approval 3-1-1
- Article 31.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,984 for membership in Maine Municipal Association (MMA). Spent \$3,015.
Board of Selectmen recommends approval 3-0
Budget Committee recommends approval 5-0
- Article 32.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$11,888 for TRIO software licensing, registrations, and technical support. Spent \$13,934.97
Board of Selectmen recommends approval 3-0
Budget Committee recommends approval 5-0
- Article 33.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,400 for the replacement of one computer and purchase of one laptop. Spent \$3,765.00
Board of Selectmen recommends approval 3-0
Budget Committee recommends approval 5-0
- Article 34.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$4,600 for the contract governing the regular operation and maintenance of the three Belgrade Region Dams. Spent \$4,600
Board of Selectmen recommends approval 3-0
Budget Committee recommends approval 5-0
- Article 35.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$5,075 to complete the structural improvements necessary at the Wings Mills Dam. Spent \$13,300.
Board of Selectmen recommends approval 3-0
Budget Committee recommends approval 5-0
- Article 36.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,389 for the printing of the annual town report. Spent \$1,385
Board of Selectmen recommends approval 3-0
Budget Committee recommends approval 4-1
- Article 37.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$10,000 for the Legal Reserve Account. Spent \$0 *Balance as of 12/31/2020 \$10,033.25*
Board of Selectmen recommends approval 3-0
Budget Committee recommends approval 5-0
- Article 38.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$7,500 as needed for legal expenses to enforce the withdrawal from the Kennebec Regional Development Authority if indeed that is the Town's decision via the ballot question.
Spent \$2,525.25
Board of Selectmen recommends approval 3-0

Budget Committee recommends approval 5-0

Article 39. To see if the Town will vote to change the term and method of selection of the Town Clerk from being elected for a one-year term to being appointed annually by the Board of Selectmen (after an initial competitive hiring process) effective as of the 2022 annual Town Meeting.

Board of Selectmen recommends approval 2-1

Budget Committee recommends approval 5-0

Article 40. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$152,192 for municipal officers' and officials' salaries. Spent \$100,390

Board of Selectmen recommends approval 2-1

Budget Committee recommends approval 5-0

	Proposed 2021	Spent 2020	Budget 2020
First Selectman	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000
Second Selectman	\$5,500	\$5,500	\$5,500
Third Selectman	\$5,500	\$5,500	\$5,500
Property Tax Collector	\$22,000	\$22,000	\$22,000
Treasurer	\$6,500	\$4,500	\$4,500
Town Clerk and Motor Vehicle Agent/Excise Collector (\$17/hr)*	\$28,288	\$26,381	\$28,288
Administrative Assistant** (\$18.50/hr)* <i>\$1,000 funded with ConnectME grant</i>	\$41,784	\$5,398 = Deputy Clerk \$2,898; Assistant to Selectmen \$2,500	\$5,575 =Deputy Clerk \$3,075; Assistant to Selectmen \$2,500
Registrar of Voters	\$720	\$720	\$720
Road Commissioner	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
RSU 18 School Board Director	\$250	\$250	\$250
Meeting Moderator (\$150 per mtg/event)	\$600	\$300	\$450
Election Warden (\$13/hr)	\$800	\$637	\$800
Ballot Clerk (\$12/hr)	\$3,000	\$1,837.80	\$3,000
Code Enforcement Officer***	\$22,800	\$14,000	\$14,000
Licensed Plumbing Inspector ****	¾ fees	\$ -	¾ fees
Health Officer	\$100	\$100	\$100
911 Addressing Officer	\$500	\$500	\$500
Planning Board (\$200 per member)	\$1,400	\$1,200	\$1,200
Board of Appeals (\$100 per member)	\$500	\$400	\$500

Fire Chief	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200
Assistant Fire Chief	\$600	\$600	\$600
Rescue Chief	\$600	\$600	\$600
Emergency Management Director	\$250	\$250	\$250
Sexton	\$500	\$500	\$500
Animal Control Officer (\$30 per call)	\$1,500	\$1,016	\$1,500
ACO- summons, court, enforce (\$14/hr)	\$300	\$0	\$300
Total Salaries	\$152,192	\$100,512	\$104,733

**hourly wage, not to exceed budgeted amount*

*** includes benefits*

****adds 8 hours per week 6 months of the year and increases pay \$150/mo.*

*****no taxation required, appropriation only*

Article 41. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$14,000 for the Town’s contribution to Social Security and Medicare. Spent \$8,943.85.

Board of Selectmen recommends approval 3-0

Budget Committee recommends approval 5-0

Article 42. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$12,660 for the following expense accounts. Spent \$10,404.70.

Board of Selectmen recommends approval 3-0

Budget Committee recommends approval 5-0

	Proposed 2021	Spent 2020	Budget 2020
Selectmen	\$1,400	\$1,172.09	\$1,375
Town Clerk	\$1,200	\$1,066.44	\$1,200
Excise Tax Clerk	\$600	Included w/ Town Clerk	\$0
Tax Collector/Treasurer	\$7,000	\$5,330.74	\$7,000
Planning Board	\$1,200	\$1,017.22	\$1,000
Code Travel Expense	\$900	\$900	\$900
Road Com. Travel Exp.	\$360	\$360	\$360
Total	\$12,660	\$9,846.49	\$13,835

Article 43. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$15,495 for regional emergency dispatching services. Spent \$14,450.10

Board of Selectmen recommends approval 3-0

Budget Committee recommends approval 5-0

Article 44. To see if the Town will vote to establish the Emergency Management Reserve Account.

Board of Selectmen recommends approval 3-0

Budget Committee recommends approval 5-0

Article 45. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$2,500 for the Town’s Emergency Management Agency. Any unspent balance in the Town Emergency Management Agency budget at the end of the fiscal year shall be transferred to the Emergency Management Reserve Account. Spent \$0
 Board of Selectmen recommends approval of \$200 2-1
 Budget Committee recommends approval 5-0

Article 46. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$51,150 for the Rome Fire Department. Spent \$37,208.43

	Proposed 2021	Spent 2020	Budget 2020
Building Maintenance	\$10,000	\$6,187.35	\$9,000
Equipment Maintenance	\$4,000	\$3,540.15	\$3,500
New Equipment	\$6,500	\$7,129.59	\$6,500
Labor (\$15/hr)	\$17,000	\$12,044.50	\$15,700
Training	\$600	\$108.63	\$600
Truck Maintenance	\$6,000	\$3,154.46	\$6,000
Tower Fee	\$1,000	\$300	\$300
State of Maine compliance	\$1,300	\$1,300	\$1,300
Medical	\$250	\$0	\$250
Hose Testing	\$2,000	\$1,943.75	\$2,500
Grant (matching funds)	\$2,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
Total	\$51,150	\$37,208.43	\$47,150

Board of Selectmen recommends approval 3-0
 Budget Committee recommends decreasing labor appropriation to \$15,000 for a total appropriation of \$49,150 5-0

Article 47. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$15,000 for Fire Department Truck Reserve Account. *Balance as of 12/31/2020: \$96,638.30*
 Board of Selectmen recommends approval 3-0
 Budget Committee recommends approval 5-0

Article 48. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$22,500 as Rome’s proportionate share of the second Belgrade Lakes full-time firefighter/paramedic’s salary. Spent \$2,083.34 (month of December)
 Board of Selectmen recommends approval 3-0
 Budget Committee recommends approval 5-0

Article 49. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$13,249 for the Rome Rescue Department. Spent \$6,810.22

	Proposed 2021	Spent 2020	Budget 2020
Equipment Maintenance	\$500	\$151.08	\$500
New Equipment	\$2,000	\$980.05	\$2,000
Labor (\$15/hr)	\$4,500	\$3,263	\$4,725
Training	\$2,900	\$0	\$2,900
Truck Maintenance	\$1,500	\$2,016.44	\$1,500
Licenses and Fees	\$350	\$150	\$350
Education	\$900	\$0	\$900
Grant Application Fee	\$599	\$0	\$0
Total	\$14,774	\$6,810.22	\$12,875

Board of Selectmen recommends approval 3-0
 Budget Committee recommends approval 5-0

Article 50. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$10,000 for the Rescue Truck Reserve Account. 2020 Expended \$35,000

Board of Selectmen recommends approval 3-0
 Budget Committee recommends approval 5-0

Article 51. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$12,000 for donation to the Belgrade Lakes Association to mitigate milfoil in Great Meadow Stream, Great Pond, and Long Pond and support the courtesy boat inspections. Spent \$12,000

Board of Selectmen recommends approval 3-0
 Budget Committee recommends approval 4-0-1

Article 52. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$4,000 for 7 Lakes Alliance's (formerly, Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance) Youth Conservation Corps program to protect and preserve North Pond, Great Pond, and Long Pond. Spent \$4,000

Board of Selectmen recommends approval 3-0
 Budget Committee recommends approval 5-0

Article 53. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,000 for donation to North Pond Association for courtesy boat inspection. Spent \$2,000

Board of Selectmen recommends approval 3-0
 Budget Committee recommends approval 5-0

Article 54. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,880 for donation to Spectrum Generations on the condition that the funds be used to serve Rome residents. Spent \$500

Board of Selectmen Recommends approval 3-0
 Budget Committee recommends approval of \$1,000 5-0

- Article 55.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$600 for donation to the Kennebec Behavioral Health. Spent \$600
 Board of Selectmen recommends approval 3-0
 Budget Committee recommends Non-approval 3-2
- Article 56.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$505 for donation to Life Flight of Maine. Spent \$505.00
 Board of Selectmen recommends approval 3-0
 Budget Committee recommends Non-approval 5-0
- Article 57.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$200 for donation to Hospice Volunteers of Waterville Area. Spent \$200
 Board of Selectmen recommends approval 3-0
 Budget Committee recommends Non-approval 5-0
- Article 58.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,000 for donation to Belgrade/Rome Special Needs Food Pantry. Spent \$1,500
 Board of Selectmen recommends approval of \$1,500 3-0
 Budget Committee recommends approval 5-0
- Article 59.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$353.50 for donation to Sexual Assault Crisis and Support Center. Spent \$353.50
 Board of Selectmen recommends approval 3-0
 Budget Committee recommends Non-approval 5-0
- Article 60.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$100 for donation to Maine Public (formerly, Maine Public Broadcasting Network) Spent \$0
 Board of Selectmen recommends approval 3-0
 Budget Committee recommends Non-approval 5-0
- Article 61.** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$150 for donation to the Community Health and Counseling Services. Spent \$0
 Board of Selectmen recommends approval 3-0
 Budget Committee recommends Non-approval 5-0
- Article 62.** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$100,000 from unassigned fund balance (surplus) to offset the 2021 tax commitment.
 Board of Selectmen recommends approval 3-0
 Budget Committee recommends approval 5-0

Article 63. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the appropriation of \$239,370 in anticipated revenues to offset the 2020 tax commitment.

Auto Excise	\$210,000
Boat Excise	\$7,500
Office/Agent Fees	\$4,250
TCT Revenues	\$2,500
Selectman Revenues	\$120
KRDA/First Park	\$15,000
Total	\$239,370

Board of Selectmen recommends approval 3-0

Budget Committee recommends authorizing an appropriation of \$238,870
5-0

Article 64. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to carry over, and assign fund balance accordingly, to the 2021 fiscal year any appropriated but unexpended funds at 2020 fiscal year end, provided that the funds remain in the same account.

Global Towers	\$74.00
Dog Account	\$2,298.36
Campership Fund	\$614.39
Contingency	\$20,203.97
Recreation Comm	\$1,035.45
Transfer Station CD	\$148,069.69
Rescue Truck Reserve CD	\$16,230.72
Rescue Donations	\$3,890.00
F.D. Truck Reserve CD	\$96,638.30
FD Donations	\$7,429.00
FD Enterprise	\$4,070.96
Legal Reserve	\$10,033.25
Flagpole	\$297.34
Total	\$310,885.43

Board of Selectmen recommends approval 3-0

Budget Committee recommends approval 5-0

Article 65. To see if the Town will vote to set the due date for 2021 property taxes as October 31, 2021 and to charge interest on the delinquent tax rate of 6% per annum on taxes unpaid as of November 1, 2021.

Board of Selectmen recommends approval 3-0

Budget Committee recommends approval 5-0

- Article 66.** To see if the Town will vote to set the interest rate to be paid by the Town on abated taxes at 2% for the period of assessment and to authorize such interest paid or abatements granted to be appropriated from overlay funds or, if necessary, from unassigned fund balance (surplus).
Board of Selectmen recommends approval 3-0
Budget Committee recommends approval 5-0
- Article 67.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector to discount tax bills 3% if paid in full 30 days from tax billing date; the discount is to be paid from overlay funds.
Board of Selectmen recommends approval 3-0
Budget Committee recommends approval 5-0
- Article 68.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen, on behalf of the Town, to dispose of any property acquired by the Town for non-payment of taxes, and to execute quitclaim deeds or bills of sale, as the case may be, subject to the following: Before putting the foreclosed property up for sale, the Tax Collector may offer the property to the previous owners for payment of all back taxes, fees, and interest; if they decline, the property will be advertised for sale and sold by sealed bid; the Board of Selectmen shall have the right to accept or reject any and all bids; and the sale of the property shall be advertised in four conspicuous places (Community Center, Eastside Fire Station, Mt. Phillip Grange, Website) within the Town and a local daily newspaper (Morning Sentinel) for three consecutive days at least two weeks prior to the sale. Except that the Board of Selectmen shall use the special sale process required by 36 M.R.A. § 943-C for qualifying homestead property if they choose to sell it to anyone other than the former owner(s) for the amount of the accrued taxes, interest and cost plus any taxes and interest that would have been due had the Town not acquired the property.
Board of Selectmen recommends approval 3-0
Budget Committee recommends approval 5-0
- Article 69.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer to waive the foreclosure of tax lien mortgages pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. § 944 upon finding by the Board of Selectmen that the ownership of the property subject to the tax lien mortgage would be contrary to the Town's interests.
Board of Selectmen recommends approval 3-0
Budget Committee recommends approval 5-0
- Article 70.** To see if the Town will vote to apply all franchise fees, tree growth reimbursements, and veteran tax exemption reimbursements to the contingency fund and to appropriate the same for unexpected expenses and/or to cover overdrafts.
Board of Selectmen recommends approval 3-0
Budget Committee recommends approval 5-0

- Article 71.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to sell by bid or auction, or on such terms and conditions as deemed in the best interest of the Town, such equipment, vehicles, or furniture as are no longer necessary for Town operations, as determined by the Board of Selectmen.
Board of Selectmen recommends approval 3-0
Budget Committee recommends approval 5-0
- Article 72.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept or reject any conditional gifts/grants of money, or personal property, to the Town and to appropriate and expend funds for the purpose for which the gift/grant was made, in accordance with any conditions imposed by the donor.
Board of Selectmen recommends approval 3-0
Budget Committee recommends approval 5-0
- Article 73.** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate all of the money received from the State for snowmobile registrations to the Rome Ruff Riders for the maintenance of their network of snowmobile trails, on condition that those trails be open in snow season to the public for outdoor recreation purposes at no charge, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into an agreement with the Club, under such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen may deem advisable, for that purpose.
Board of Selectmen recommends approval 3-0
Budget Committee recommends approval 5-0
- Article 74.** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$1,200 for donation to the Rome snowmobile club, Rome Ruff Riders. Spent \$1,000
Board of Selectmen recommends approval 3-0
Budget Committee recommends approval 4-0-1
- Article 75.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,000 to support the Rome Recreation Committee activities. Spend \$1,000
Board of Selectmen recommends approval 3-0
Budget Committee recommends approval 5-0
- Article 76.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$8,000 to fund year one of a two-year process for development of a Comprehensive Plan for the Town.
Spent \$0 (*New Article*)
Board of Selectmen recommends approval 3-0
Budget Committee recommends approval 5-0
- Article 77.** Shall an Ordinance entitled *Rome Minimum Lot Size Ordinance* be amended as shown on the handout entitled “*2021 Proposed Amendments to the Rome Minimum Lot Size Ordinance*”?

Article 78. Shall an Ordinance entitled “Commercial Development Review Ordinance” be amended as follows? (Proposed amendment underlined)

Article 9: Definitions

“Home Occupation: *An occupation or profession which is carried on within a dwelling unit or accessory building, which is clearly incidental and secondary to the residential use of the dwelling, carried on by a member of the family residing in the dwelling unit; including no more than 2 outside employees not residing in the dwelling unit; does not involve the storage of materials or goods outside; does not use lighted signs; does not have more than two signs on premise with a combined total area larger than 32 square feet; and, which does not alter the residential character of the neighborhood.”*

Article 79. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to call upon our State and Federal elected representatives to enact fossil fuel pricing legislation to speed the transition to clean energy sources and to protect Maine from the increasing costs and environmental risks (including floods, unprecedented wind storms, etc.) associated with climate change. To protect households, we support a Carbon Fee & Dividend approach. It charges producers for pollution associated with burning fossil fuels, and rebates the money collected to all residents on an equal basis. Such a “Carbon Cash-Back” program decreases long-term fossil-fuel dependence throughout the economy, aids in the economic transition for energy consumers, and keeps local energy dollars in Maine’s economy. Carbon Cash-Back has been championed by US economists (Jan 17, 2019 WSJ) as the most effective and fair way to deliver rapid reductions in harmful carbon emissions at the scale required for our safety. Cash-back carbon pricing is:

- Effective in reducing pollution;
- Good for people in improving health while putting money directly in people’s pockets to spend as they please;
- Revenue neutral, in that the Government keeps none of the funds.

We expect our representatives to lead in this critical moment for the health and well-being of our citizens and for the protection of Maine’s natural resources upon which we all rely.

The record of the vote approving this article shall be transmitted by written notice to Rome’s State Legislators, to the Governor of Maine, to Rome’s Congressional Delegation, and to the President of the United States, informing them of the instructions from their constituents, by Rome’s Select Board within 30 days of this vote.

- Article 80.** To see if the Town will vote to elect from the floor five members and two alternate members to serve on the Budget Committee to review all items to be inserted into the Town Warrant requiring appropriation of monies and their recommendations noted. The terms of Alice VanDerwerken (3-year full member), Richard LaBelle (2-year full member), Lincoln Nye (1-year full member), Joan Orr (1-year full member) and Hillary Schultz (3-year full member) all expire.
- Article 81.** To see if the Town will vote to elect from the floor four members to serve on the Recreation Committee. The terms of Trent Shute (one-year full member), Sandy Shute (one-year full member), Susan Broz (one-year full member) and Carroll Bubar (one-year alternate member) all expire.

ROME BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Monica McCarthy
Lois Stratton
Kelly Archer



TOWN OFFICE INFORMATION

8 Mercer Rd.

Rome, ME 04963

Phone (207) 397-4011

www.romemaine.com



Board of Selectmen

selectmen@romemaine.com

Meetings every other Monday at 6:00PM

397-4011 (option #4)

Town Assessing Agent

To reach the assessing agent, please contact the

Office of the Tax Collector. The assessing

agent is scheduled in-office the third Tuesday

of each month

Town Clerk & Motor Vehicle Registration

townclerk@romemaine.com

<https://www1.maine.gov/online/bmv/repaid-renewal/>

Monday 10AM- 7 PM

Tues-Thursday 9AM-4PM

397-4011 (option #1)

Planning Board

Meeting at Town Office the 2nd

Monday of each month, agenda permitting at 6PM

Treasurer & Tax Collector

tct@romemaine.com

Monday 6-8PM

Tuesday, Thursday 9-1PM

397-4011 (option #2)

Board of Appeals and Fair Hearing

Authority

Meeting at Town Office, as needed

Code Enforcement Officer

ceo@romemaine.com

Monday 3- 7PM

Wednesday 9-1PM

397-4011 (option #3)

Waste Management/Transfer Station

(Airport Rd., Norridgewock)

Sunday, Monday, Tuesday Closed

Wednesday-Friday 9:30AM-6PM

Saturday 7:30AM- 4PM

Please Note: Hours of operation subject to change; hours may change through winter months. In the event of closing, postings will be made on the website and with local newspaper/television media. Town Office is closed on all Federal holidays; if Monday holiday, meetings will be moved to Tuesday for that week. Please check town website or call to confirm office hours.