



2023 Annual Report

IMPORTANT DATES

January 1, 2024	Municipal Fiscal year begins
February 1, 2024	Dog Licenses become overdue. \$25 late fee
March 5, 2024	State Presidential Primary Election 8:00am–8:00pm, Community Center
March 8, 2024	Municipal Election of Officers 12:00-8:00pm, Community Center
March 9, 2024	Annual Town Meeting, 10:00am, Community Center
April 1, 2023	All tax information and exemptions forms must be in writing to Assessor.
June 11, 2024	State Primary Election 8:00am-8:00pm at the Community Center
June 11, 2024	RSU 18 School Budget Referendum 8:00-8:00 pm at the Community Center
June 30, 2024	All ATV & Snowmobile registrations expire.
October 15, 2024	2025 Dog Licenses are available at Town Office.
October 31, 2024	Real Estate/Personal property taxes due.
November 1, 2024	All 2024 taxes are past due: Interest accrues from this date.
November 5, 2024	State Elections 8:00am-8:00pm at the Community Center.
December 31, 2024	All Boat & Hunting/Fishing Licenses expire. 2024 Dog and Kennel License expires.

2024 ROME TOWN OFFICE HOLIDAY CLOSURES

January 1 (Mon.) – New Year’s Day	September 2 (Mon.) – Labor Day
January 15 (Mon.) – Martin Luther King Jr	October 14 (Mon.) – Indigenous Peoples Day
February 19 (Mon.) – Presidents Day	November 11 (Fri.) – Veterans Day
April 15 (Mon.) – Patriots Day	November 27, 2024 – Thanksgiving (closing at 1pm)
May 27 (Mon.) – Memorial Day	November 28 (Thurs.) – Thanksgiving Day
June 19 (Wed.) – Juneteenth	December 24-26 (Tu.-Th.) Christmas Holiday
July 4 (Thur.) - Independence Day	December 31 (Tues.) – New Years Eve (closing at 1pm)

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MUNICIPAL OFFICERS
FOR
ROME, MAINE



For the year ending December 31, 2023

PLEASE BRING THIS REPORT
TO TOWN MEETING ON
SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 2024

Cover design courtesy of
Logo Contest Winner, Jaime Sands

Table of Contents

Town Report Dedication	3
Municipal Officials & Committee Members	5
Town Department Reports	7
Board of Selectmen Letter	7
Town Clerk Report.....	8
Assessors’ Report.....	9
Road Commissioner Report.....	10
Animal Control Report	11
Code Enforcement Office Report.....	12
Plumbing Inspector Report	18
Fire Department Report	22
Emergency Preparedness Report	23
Delta Ambulance.....	24
Rome Ruff Riders Report	25
Belgrade / Rome Special Needs Food Pantry	26
North Pond Association	27
7 Lakes Alliance.....	29
Dams Committee Report.....	30
Recreation Committee Report.....	31
RSU 18 Reports	32
Rome’s School Board Director Report	32
County & State Official Report	
Sheriff’s Report.....	33
Selectmen’s Reports	35
Financial Reports	39
Tax Collector’s Report	42
Independent Auditor’s Report	48
Town Meeting Warrant	58
Property Declaration	71



This year's town report is dedicated to Judy Buzzell, a long-time resident of the Town.

Judy was raised on the family farm on North Pond Road. Her parents Gene and Alice Lanteigne helped take care of her Uncle Lafayette ("Laffie") and Aunt Vesta Bushey. She was the older sister of Janice (Moreau) and Buddy Lanteigne. She attended the little one-room Dudley schoolhouse just up the road, being taught by Beulah Richardson. She recalled those years right to her final days, even writing a short biography of her childhood days, recalling the "good times". She would often reminisce of the children in the area gathering to hang May baskets for "Teacher", skating, and attending events at the Grange Hall. Judy graduated from Williams High School in 1957.

In 1958, she married Dale Buzzell and moved to Oakland for a brief time as they started a family. During those years, there was not a weekend that passed that some amount of time wasn't spent back on the Farm. In 1978, they returned to Rome. She and Dale built a home right next door to her parents to spend their later years. They both quickly became involved in Town government and the local Grange.

Judy served as the Town of Rome's Tax Collector and Treasurer for nearly 40 years. She took over for Virginia "Ginny" Jacobs and, after her four decades of service, proudly helped now-Treasurer and Tax Collector, Tammy Lyons, learn the role. During her tenure, you would find her handling the duties within her home; receiving phone calls and payments on any given day and nearly any hour. Stopping by to pay taxes wasn't just a payment made, it was usually an extended neighborly visit. She made many dear, lifelong friends through her Town work. She and the late Town Clerk Betty Sillanpaa worked closely for so many years and kept in close touch after retirement from local government. She also worked alongside

her close friend, Lois Stratton, with whom she worked on many fundraising projects and shared a passion for cooking and handwork.

For a number of years, Judy served on the Recreation Committee. She was always present when there was a Town supper, be it for a family benefit, senior dinner, or local fundraiser; Judy was a help in the kitchen. Through a series of public suppers, Judy and Lois also started what is called the “Campership Fund”, which provides modest scholarships for Rome children to attend a summer camp session if finances may be difficult. She enjoyed catching up with old friends and talking of the Rome Fair and days of old.

To many of Rome’s former students, Judy may be best known as our bus driver. Bus 47 (then 15 in the later years) was something she took pride in. Some days, the kids were a handful, but she truly enjoyed the children. Even after retiring from driving, always tried to keep track of where the kids were and what they were doing.

Judy passed away on October 27, 2023, at the age of 83.

For her love of the Rome and years of service to the community, this year we dedicate the Town Report 2023 to Judith L Buzzell.

MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Selectmen, Assessors and Overseers of the Poor

First (1-year term)KELLY ARCHER, 2024
 Second (1-year term) LARRY DIPIETRO JR., 2024
 Third (1-year term)ROBERT HUDSON, 2024

Town Clerk (1-year term)BARBARA BRICKETT. 2024
 JULIE MORRISON, DEPUTY

Treasurer (1-year term)TAMMY LYONS, 2024

Property Tax Collector (1-year term)TAMMY LYONS, 2024
 JULIE MORRISON, DEPUTY

RSU 18 School Board Director (3-year term) DR. ANDREW COOK, 2024

Road Commissioner (1-year term) CARROLL BUBAR, 2024

Registrar of Voters (1-year term)BARBARA BRICKETT. 2024

Administrative Assistant (1-year term).....ABBY DIPIETRO, 2024

Excise Tax Collector/BMV Agent (1-year term)JULIE MORRISON, 2024

Code Enforcement Officer (1-year term)ANDREW MARBLE, 2024

Health Officer (1-year term) ANDREW MARBLE, 2024

Plumbing Inspector (1-year term)ANDREW MARBLE, 2024

911 Address Director (1-year term)ANDREW MARBLE, 2024

Director of Emergency Management (1-year term) ED PEARL JR., 2024

Fire Chief (1-year term).....GARY FOSS, 2024
 ED PEARL JR., ASSISTANT 2024

Rescue Chief (1-year term)..... GARY FOSS, 2024

Forest Fire Warden..... GARY FOSS
 ED PEARL JR., DEPUTY
 LLOYD THOMAS, DEPUTY

Animal Control Officer (1-year term) DEXTER (BUZZ) BRIDGES, 2024

Sexton (1-year term) MIKE PROCTOR, 2024

Budget Committee.....	LINCOLN NYE, (3-year term), 2025 JOAN ORR (3-year term), 2025 ALICE VANDERWERKEN (2-year term), 2024 RICHARD LABELLE (2-year term), 2024 TRENT SHUTE (1 year term), 2024 PHILLIP BURNWORTH (ALT), 2024 SHAWN LANDRY (ALT), 2024
Planning Board (3-year terms).....	RICHARD GREENAN (CO-CHAIR), 2025 BARBARA SAXTON (CO-CHAIR), 2025 ALAN LABELLE, 2024 LINCOLN NYE, 2026 SHAWN LANDRY, 2026 CHRISTOPHER RALEIGH (ALT), 2024 DANIEL MCGLASHING (ALT), 2024 STEVEN MCCARTHY (resigned)
Board of Appeals & Fair Hearing Authority.....	ALICE VANDERWERKEN, (3-year term), 2024 PETER KALLIN (2-year term), 2024 WILLIAM KELLEHER (2-year term), 2025 JOAN ORR (1-year term), 2024 EDWIN CHARLES (3-year term), 2025 CHARLES RANDALL (ALT) (1-year term), 2024
Belgrade Lakes Dams Committee.....	RICHARD GREENAN (3-year term), 2024 BLAINE HORROCKS (3-year term), 2024 GARRETT LUSZCZKI (3-year term), 2024
Recreation Committee	SANDRA SHUTE (3-year term), 2024 CARROLL BUBAR (3-year term), 2024 LARRY DIPIETRO (3-year term), 2025 BARBARA MCCOSH (ALT) (1-year term), 2024
Comprehensive Planning Committee	SANDRA SHUTE (2-year term), 2024 JOAN ORR (3-year term), 2026 LARRY STAFFORD (1-year term), 2024 ALICE VANDERWERKEN (1-year term), 2024 BARBARA RUSSELL (1-year term), 2024 RICHARD GREENAN (2-year term), 2024

SELECTMEN'S LETTER TO THE CITIZENS OF ROME

This year was a year of grants. We have applied for and received grant funds from Risk Management (used to install additional lights on the exterior of the community center). Another grant from Efficiency Maine to help fund the heat pump upgrade this last fall, as well as a grant approval to remediate brown tail moths at the Rome beach this spring! We also have 2 grants that have been applied for, but we are waiting for a response. These grants include an upgrade to our Town Office cyber security and the other grant is to make improvements to two stream crossings in town. (located on Crystal Springs Lane and Watson Pond Road). All around these grant funds have been a great help to our town.

The Community Center has needed a replacement generator for some time and thankfully we have been told that the funds will soon be available to make this replacement a priority. This generator is vital to the Town in the event of needing to use the Community Center as a warming or cooling center.

Our supplemental food program is still on the 4th Wednesday of the month from 1-3pm, and we really appreciate the continued support of our volunteers, Corrine, Lucy, Linda, and Sue.

This last year our state was hit with severe storms resulting in tremendous costs. Rome did not go unaffected by these storms. We are waiting for further information to see if Rome, and the rest of Kennebec County, will be reimbursed by FEMA for these expenses.

Last year's most notable road work was the reconstruction and paving of the Ladd Road. This coming year D.O.T has agreed to resurface all of Watson Pond Road after the heavy use during the bridge shut down last winter. The Town would be responsible for \$20,000 plus sweeping and shoulder work for this project. Moving forward this year the road improvement plan is focusing on maintenance such as crack sealant and tree and brush removal. The next large project planned for the near future would be Oak Ridge Road reconstruction and paving.

We are sad to report that the Town will be losing our beloved Code Enforcement Officer, Andrew Marble. After 13 years Andy has decided to move on to other endeavors. We thank him for his dedication to the position and wish him all the best! With this news the Town is fortunate to have recently hired a new CEO who will be training with Andy until our annual Town Meeting. Welcome aboard, Don!

We look forward to seeing all the activities that will be taking place this next year! Please check the website, Facebook, postings at the Community Center and on the digital sign at the Community Center.

Thank you to all our Board and Committee members for your continued hard work and dedication to our Town. If you are thinking you might be interested in joining one of the Town committees, check out the application in the back of this book or on our website anytime!

And last but never the least, we thank the Town office staff! You all Rock!

Respectfully submitted.

Kelly, Larry, and Bob

TOWN CLERK’S REPORT - 2023

Births- 6

Deaths – 16

Marriages - 8

In Memoriam

February 15, 2023	Lisa Diane Wilson	60 years
February 28, 2023	Dawn P. Burnham	62 years
March 1, 2023	Richard James Corbett Jr.	63 years
May 2, 2023	Dana A. Delisle	62 years
June 3, 2023	Juanita Carol Hollingsworth-Vautour	76 years
July 12, 2023	Rosemary Taylor	72 years
August 6, 2023	George C. Dilts	73 years
August 9, 2023	Lois Marie LaBelle	96 years
August 21, 2023	Rita Eloise Nadeau	75 years
September 29, 2023	John James Kinane	68 years
September 30, 2023	Wendall W. Wheeler	52 years
October 4, 2023	Peter Anthony Serrada	76 years
October 27, 2023	Judith Lanteigne Buzzell	83 years
October 31, 2023	Philip E. Walter	52 years
December 2, 2023	Jo-Ann Elaine Holt	79 years
December 10, 2023	Dorothy M Knight	89 years

ELECTION	ABSENTEE	IN PERSON VOTING DAY	TOTAL
03-10-2023	45	107	152
06-13-2023	6	53	59
11-08-2023	64	320	384

Thank you to everyone that worked during our Elections this year. 2024 will be a busy Election year, we have 5 elections in 2024. I am very hopeful for another great year working with you all and allowing me to be your Town Clerk. Thank you to all Election Clerks for your dedication and professionalism.

Respectfully Submitted,

BARBARA BRICKETT
Town Clerk

INLAND FISHERIES AGENT – JULIE MORRISON

DOG LICENSES ISSUED

Male/Female.....	21
Neutered/Spayed.....	105
Kennel License.....	11
Boats.....	323
ATV’s.....	53
Snowmobiles.....	58
Non-Resident ATV.....	4
Non-Resident Snowmobiles.....	3

HUNTING/FISHING LICENSES ISSUED

Hunting/Fishing Combo.....	13
Fishing.....	16
Hunting.....	4
Archery.....	2
Junior Hunting.....	1
Non-Resident Hunting/Fishing Combo.....	0
Non-Resident Fishing.....	10
Non-Resident Hunting.....	0

Respectfully Submitted,

JULIE L. MORRISON
IFW & DOG AGENT

ASSESSOR'S REPORT

VALUATION AND COMMITMENT

Land	\$196,130,600	
Buildings	\$113,213,500	
Exemptions*		\$6,870,820
Personal Property	\$388,600	
Total RE & Personal Property Valuation	<u>\$302,861,880</u>	
Homestead & BETE Reimbursement	\$5,042,828	
Taxable Valuation		\$307,904,708
County Tax #	\$418,012	
Municipal Appropriation	\$989,731	
Local Education Appropriation	\$2,514,334	
Overlay	\$91,558.08	
Total Assessments	<u>\$4,013,635.08</u>	
Revenue Sharing		\$80,000
Homestead Reimbursement		\$58,978.86
Business Equip Tax Exemption Reimburs		\$22.23
Other Revenue		\$331,150
Total Deductions		<u>\$470,151.09</u>
Net Commitment		<u>\$3,543,483.99</u>
2023 Mill Rate		<u>11.70</u>

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

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 is 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, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,
 Kelly Archer
 Larry DiPietro Jr.
 Robert Hudson

ROAD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Over the last year, our road maintenance plan stayed on track as we invested in paving a good distance on the Ladd Road. This is another gravel road that we've been able to convert to pavement, which ultimately should save taxpayers money in the long-term. Gravel roads have their place, but regular maintenance can be costly and contribute to dirt run-off. When there is a significant run-off, bodies of water can be negatively impacted. This has the potential to devalue our lakes, ponds, and streams. Good road maintenance helps protect the waters.

We experienced two major storm events in 2023 that were cause for increased spending, which ultimately exceeded the regular maintenance budget. There was a storm from April 30-May 1, which impacted the region, caused a number of downed trees, and localized flooding. More significant in the Town of Rome was the December 18 storm that brought high winds and significant rainfall. This storm caused major damage to private and public property. Driveways were washed out, roads were over-topped, trees were down, and many areas of town became impassable. The April/May storm has been declared a disaster by FEMA, and the December storm we are waiting for that declaration to secure financial relief. (approximately \$20,000).

In the next year, I am recommending that the Town pave Oak Ridge (off the North Pond Road). The Maine Department of Transportation will be repaving Watson Pond Road due to the bypass around Castle Island last year. The Town has a responsibility of \$20,000 towards that project. In addition to this capital project, we also plan to complete regular maintenance of the roads. This will include repairing/replacing driveway culverts, shoulder repairs, crack sealing (if a qualified vendor can be selected), brush cutting, roadside mowing, etc.

I'd like to thank our contractor partners who will help maintain our roads. I'd also like to thank the Rome Fire Department for their help with managing downed trees and other obstructions during storm events. As always, it is a pleasure to serve the Town of Rome and I really appreciate your continued support for my position and funding road maintenance.

Respectfully submitted,

CARROLL BUBAR
Road Commissioner

Animal Control Officer Report

I have been an Animal Control Officer for nine years now and things have certainly changed in that short amount of time. The biggest issue is the cat population and what to do about it. I used to just take them to the Animal Shelter. The amount of room that the shelters have had has steadily decreased until now. They are full to capacity. If you wanted to donate to build bigger shelters, that would just delay the issue. If you donate towards having them spayed or neutered, that will slow down the population immensely. I am asking folks not to feed any cat that isn't yours. There is no leash law with cats because they don't obey them. Leave them alone and they will generally go home. If you feel that you must feed it, then also make sure that you have it spayed or neutered. If you have a cat that is allowed outdoors, I highly recommend that you have it microchipped so that it can be either tracked or at least identifiable as your cat. Please keep your dogs in your own yard with a fence, radio fence, runner or something.

A chip for tracking or to make it identifiable, or at least a tag on its collar will save you the expense of finding your stray dog at the Animal Shelter. Dogs can be licensed for the following year starting mid-October. Late fee of 25 dollars after January. Please don't make me have to do it. Thank you for entrusting me with this responsibility. It's not always easy but it is rewarding with some challenges. Please help support me in the challenges. Believe me, I'm not doing it for the pay.

Respectfully Submitted, Dexter "Buzz" Bridges, Rome ACO

Code Enforcement Officer Report



Dear Rome Residents

This year's report starts with a goodbye, as 2024 marks my last year working as the CEO and LPI in the Town of Rome. All good things have to come to an end, and as such, so has my time with this great Town.

The March 2024 Town meeting will be my last day working for Rome, which is sure to be bitter sweet. "Bitter", due to all the great individuals I'm leaving behind which I'll no longer have the pleasure of working with. "Sweet", because....I don't have to be a code officer anymore!!! SWEET!!!

Don't get me wrong, while I love crushing people's hopes and dreams just as much as the next person, taking a break from being the "No Guy" might be a nice change of pace for me.

Believe it or not, almost 13 years have passed since I first started working as the CEO in this Town. To illustrate my time here, I thought it might be helpful to lay out a brief timeline listing the highlights and history of my employment with Rome:

- Fall/Winter 2010: Rome's prior CEO makes some pretty major mistakes, resulting in the Town getting fined by the Maine DEP. The Town subsequently fired the CEO, thus opening the CEO position.
- 03/21/2011 : I meet with Rome Selectboard and somehow fool them into hiring me. Based on my complete lack of experience, I can only assume that the other applicants were 100% morons, making me (a 90% moron) seem appealing!
- 05/01/2011 : Start working as the CEO and LPI in the Town of Rome
- Remainder of 2011 : Pretend I know what I'm doing, but secretly not have a clue (i.e. "Fake it until I make it")
- 2012-2023 : Hit my stride. Crush hopes and dreams. Cause general hate and discontent throughout the Town.
- 03/09/2024 : Quit while I'm ahead / before I get fired.

*Note: Since I'm writing this in January of 2024, I'm going to feel really stupid if I get fired before the Town Meeting! I guess that's just a risk I'll have to take....

I'm sure there are one or two events which I've forgotten in my list, but all in all, I'd say that's a pretty good synopsis!

START OF BORING SECTION

Now for the boring stuff which no-one probably cares about or reads. In all reality, I could probably just cut and paste this section from every other CEO report across the state and no-one would be the wiser. Seriously, go ahead and grab a couple other Town reports from other Towns and read the CEO report

section. I bet they're almost verbatim to this next section, and snoozers! I'll even add exclamation points to mine in places, but you and I both know it's still boring (and not really exclamation point worthy). Here it goes:...

2023 was a very busy year in the Rome code office, with a wide variety of building permits issued. Despite the current high interest rates, the office was busy issuing building permits ranging from new houses to new decks, and everything in between. In total, 58 building permits were issued, which is slightly higher than 2022, and the second highest year on record! Perhaps more impressive than the overall number of permits issued was the number of new dwellings constructed in Rome. With 12 new dwellings constructed, it was the highest year ever!

The permits break down as follows:

- 12 New Single-Family Dwellings
- 22 Additions/Renovations
- 17 Garages/sheds
- 5 Temporary docks
- 1 Commercial Business
- 1 New Driveway Entrance
- 1 Partridge in a pair tree

END OF BORING SECTION

Is it just me or does literally every CEO report in the world start with some iteration of "it was another very busy year in the code office this year...". I mean come on!! They can't ALL be busy years!!! For once, I'd personally like to read a report that starts out "This year was extremely slow in the code office and consisted primarily of butt scratching and thumb twiddling."

The search continues....

Code News for You's:

"Andy!" you say, "what's exciting in the world of code enforcement these days?"

Well imaginary reader, I'm glad you asked! This year's top story in the code world goes out to Accessory Dwelling Units, lovingly referred to (by no one) as "ADUs".

Accessory Dwelling Units are like regular dwelling units, but "accessory to the principal dwelling". Clear as mud?

Let's break it down...

A "Dwelling unit" is loosely defined as any structure which has a bedroom, bathroom, and kitchen, with the kitchen typically being the key piece.

Determining what constitutes a "dwelling" is important because most towns base minimum lot size requirements on a per-dwelling-unit basis. For example, in this town, the Rome Minimum Lot Size ordinance (which was first adopted by the Town back in 1987), requires a minimum of 200' of road frontage and one acre of land per dwelling. If you want two dwellings on one property, you will need to meet the minimum size for each of the dwellings (meaning two acres of land, and 400' of frontage).



It's important to note that "structure" and "dwelling" are not the same thing. A duplex is a single "structure" that has two "dwelling units" in it. Since lot size is based on the number of "dwelling units", that single duplex would currently need the same minimum lot size requirements as building two separate houses.

Regulating lot size is not at all unique to Rome, as most Towns have similar (or even more restrictive) minimum lot requirements. Smithfield, for example, requires the same 200' of road frontage as Rome, but almost double the land area (requiring almost 2 acres of land per dwelling). Mount Vernon is very similar as well.

While having large minimum lot size requirements can help reduce congestion and retain the rural landscape of an area, there are some distinct downsides as well. These include promoting sprawl (houses are spread out much further), and increasing housing costs (bigger lots cost more \$\$).

This last issue, housing cost, is where ADU's come in. Unless you've been under a rock for the last few years, you're probably well aware that Maine (and the nation as a whole) is desperately lacking not just housing units, but specifically affordable housing units. Between inflation, interest rates, building material prices, and the impact of short-term rentals, the available housing stock in this country is now at a 40 year low.

In an effort to increase the number of affordable housing units across the State, the Maine legislature took some pretty drastic action back in 2022 and passed a bill titled "LD#2003". After being enacted into law, this bill subsequently became State Statute 30-A § 4364-B, and states that "a municipality shall allow an accessory dwelling unit to be located on the same lot as a single-family dwelling unit in any area in which residential uses are permitted".

In simpler words, the State basically just passed a law that says regardless of a Towns minimum lot size regulations, the Town MUST allow ADU's to be built.

This means even if a lot does not have enough road frontage and/or land area to allow a second dwelling unit (under the Towns Minimum Lot Size Ordinance), the Town must still allow an ADU to be built.

As always, there are a number of exceptions to this new ADU law that must also be met, which I'll breeze over briefly.

First (and possibly most notable for Rome), the law is not in effect within the shoreland zone. This means if you're within 250' of a major waterbody, you will still need to meet all minimum lot size requirements for each dwelling unit.

Second, you need to be able to provide a legal septic system and potable water supply for the ADU.

Third, the lot must still meet the "State Minimum Lot Size Law". This law basically requires a minimum of 20,000 square feet (roughly half an acre) of land for each dwelling. This ensures that the dwelling will have enough land to have a functioning septic system and minimize the chance of contaminating neighboring water sources.

Finally, Towns are allowed to adopt regulations regarding ADU's, provided the regulations do not conflict with the statute itself. This means that while a Town cannot prohibit ADU's altogether, they can regulate them somewhat. As you've probably already figured out, this last point is exactly why there is a warrant article on this year's town warrant to amend the Rome Minimum Lot Size Ordinance. This amendment

will place additional regulations on ADU's in Rome, namely regulating the size and height an ADU can be, as well as requiring off street parking for the ADU occupants.

The legislature originally placed an extremely aggressive implementation date on when the new ADU law would come into effect, scheduling the law (which had just been enacted in late 2022) to take effect July 1st, 2023. In other words, the legislature originally gave every Town in the State a little over 6 months to come up with regulations to deal with ADU's AND get them adopted in their ordinances! Considering the snail's pace with which the State government moves, I find it pretty hysterical that the legislature gave only 6 months for literally every Town in Maine to update their ordinances!!! Hypocrisy abounds!

As would be expected, most Towns (Rome included) were not going to meet this July 1st, 2023, deadline, and thus the legislature had to hold an emergency session in late June of 2023 to extend the effective date of the law. The effective date is now July 1st, 2024 (at least for Town like Rome which enact ordinances through Town meeting).

It remains to be seen whether these new ADU allowances will help bolster the affordable housing market, or just be a way for everyone to have a legal AirB&B on their property. Personally, over the last 6 years I've seen a steady increase in the number of people I've found trying to use campers, shacks, sheds and even a sailboat (on a trailer), to live in. Whether it's because they can't find anywhere else to live, or simply can't afford anything else, it's clearly a growing problem which needs to be addressed. While no one likes the Government cramming new regulations down their throat, I can't fault the legislature for at least trying to fix what is clearly a growing problem across the State.

Don't Do That Award:

While this report is already pretty long, what would it be without the annual "don't do that" award, wherein I belittle the actions of someone who made a poor decision and got caught doing so.

Side note: While this might be my last town report, with any luck the torch will be passed to the next CEO, who will continue to belittle and humiliate would-be evil doers.

With that in mind, here's a pro-tip for those would-be evildoers: reports are written in late December/early January. That means if you're going to do something dumb and get caught, you should do it in February-April to allow the maximum amount of time to pass before this article gets written. The passage of time may help your stupidity become forgotten and save you from the embarrassment of reading about yourself in the Town report.

I have a couple "don't do that awards" which I could use this year, but I think my favorite might just be a good ol' fashion illegal structure build.

Using a show of hands, how many readers know that you can't build a completely new deck within 100' of a major waterbody? Now, keeping your hands up, how many readers also know that you need a permit for any new structures which are built within the shoreland zone? Literally everyone reading this right now should have two hands raised in the air (I'll also except a hand and a foot if you're holding the Town Report to read).

I think we can all agree that these are not terribly difficult questions, and anyone with even a passing knowledge of shoreland zoning regulations should have a pretty good grasp on them. That's why when I found a brand new 16' x 20' deck being built 10' from Long Pond this past November, I had to do a double take.

How could building such a blatantly illegal structure be possible? Had I somehow traveled back in time to the early 1970s before shoreland zoning existed? Had I developed amnesia and forgot about an illegal bribe that I'd taken to allow it? Was someone lost, and thought they were building in Belgrade? My head swam...

As it turned out... nope... across the board. It was just a professional deck building company, building a brand-new fancy 300ft² deck 10' from Long Pond. You know, like any other normal Tuesday....

In the code enforcement world, we have something informally referred to as a "slam dunk" case, where the violation is so obvious, it would be literally impossible for the Town to lose. Thanks to this violation, if you look up the definition of "slam dunk" in the dictionary now, you will see a picture of this exact deck being built.

After speaking with the contractor about the violation, they informed me that they didn't think a permit was needed, since "other towns they worked in didn't require a permit for a deck in the shoreland zone" ...sure....

Just so you're all aware, shoreland zoning is a statewide regulation which was first enacted in 1971 and requires all new structures (including decks) to be setback from the water at least 100 feet. Again, this is not Town (or even county) specific, it is statewide...

After placing a stop work order on the site, I sent notice of violations to both the homeowner and the contractor which required the structure to be removed and fines to be paid. Both parties were exceptionally cooperative, and the structure was completely removed within a week of receiving the order. Furthermore, in all, roughly \$3000 in fines were paid.

Cost for lumber in scrapped deck = \$1200
Cost of labor to build (and then remove) scrapped deck = \$1000
Cost of fines paid to the Town of Rome = \$3000
Getting an education in Shoreland Zoning = Priceless



You can't put a price on education. For everything else, there's MasterCard... (Now accepted at the Town office, with a 2.5% additional fee...)

Lets Wrap It Up Already...

Well, that about wraps up my last report! Before the curtain closes on my time here in Rome, it's only fitting that I give thanks where thanks are due.

First, I'd like to thank the Selectboard (both current and previous Board members) for being so easy to work with, and more importantly, for always having my back. Without the support of the Selectboard, the CEO position is more or less a formality. When the poo hits the fan and I'm forced to be the bad guy,

it's nice to know that you have the support and dedication of the Select Board standing behind you. While I can write nasty-grams and waggle my finger all I want, without the backing of the Selectboard, it would all simply be white noise. For a CEO to truly do their job and do it well, they need a strong selectboard who isn't afraid to push an issue to court if necessary. Romes Selectboard has proven time and time again that it not only trusts my judgement but will back me up with action if needed. My appreciation for your support cannot be overstated!

In particular, I'd like to call out Kelly Archer, who has been a Selectboard member for nearly my entire stint working in Rome. In fact, Kelly was one of the original three Board members who took a chance some 13 years ago and hired me (a 90% moron)! Since that time, Kelly has always offered whatever assistance was needed, and has been exceptionally easy to work with. As an added bonus, she also makes some killer Needhams!

Next, I need to thank the hard-working individuals who have selflessly volunteered every month (and sometime more) to serve as Planning Board and Appeals Board members for the Town. These important jobs can be both time-consuming and thankless, but are one of the most important ways to give back to your community. While I can't possibly list all the great folks from those two Boards that I've had the pleasure of working with over the years, I would like to call out three particular members who put my years of service to shame. When my 28-year-old baby face first made an appearance at a planning board meeting 13 years ago, Barbara Saxton, Dick Greenan, and Alan Labelle were all there (probably wondering if it was "take your child to work day"). Fast forward to present day, and every one of those amazing individuals still shows up like clockwork once a month to review applications, consider ordinance amendments, and grill me about various junkyard violations throughout the town (just kidding, we all know that's Lincoln). While I have nothing but respect and gratitude for all of the Board members I've been privileged to work with, the dedication and involvement shown by these three in particular is truly impressive. Thank you!

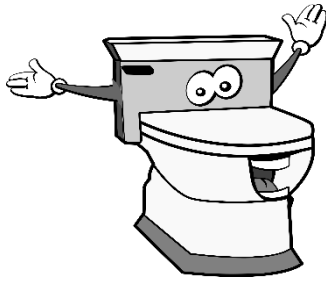
Similarly, I would be remiss if I didn't mention at least some of the amazing office staff which I've had the pleasure of working with over the years. Tammy Lyons, Abby DiPietro, Julie Morrison, and Barbara Brickett have all been excellent co-workers, willing to help out at a moment's notice. Tammy in particular has worked with me for over 10 years and has always been a great sounding board after various meetings have ran late into the night. Her tireless work ethic and can-do attitude is something I truly admire and will miss.

Finally, and possibly what I'll miss most, is the great men and women that make up this amazing community. Rome is a mixing pot; a kaleidoscope of all walks of life, that I have been fortunate enough to be a part of for the past decade. I have met literally hundreds of people working here over the years, and have made friends and connections which will last a lifetime. While my time as Rome CEO has come to a close, these friendships and bonds will carry on indefinitely.

In closing, thank you for your time, and for allowing me to be a part of your great community!

Sincerely:
Andy Marble
CEO/LPI #1135





Plumbing Inspector Report

Of all the articles written for the annual Town Report, the Plumbing Inspectors report might just be the strangest. It's supposed to be a report summarizing the plumbing which was permitted in the Town over the past year, but who in their right mind would want to read about that?! Seriously, how many folks are sitting around their breakfast table thinking "boy, I can't wait to learn about how many toilets were permitted in Town this year!"? The answer: No one!

Well, almost no one. There was that one weirdo who wanted to know how many bidets were installed in the Town. I think we can all agree though that anyone who takes a special interest in community bidet plumbing statistics is an odd duck who should be watched! Go find a less creepy hobby weird guy, like snakeskin collecting, or competitive mooing.

But I digress...

For all you weird plumb-o-philes out there, you can sleep soundly knowing that a total of 44 plumbing permits were issued in 2023. While not a record, this number is pretty much on par with the last couple of years.

These 44 permits break down as follows:

- 24 Internal plumbing permits
- 20 Subsurface wastewater permits
- 0 Bidets (sorry creepy guy)

Speaking of plumbing inspector reports, where is the Electrical Inspectors report anyway? Oh wait... most electrical doesn't get inspected in this Town! That makes total sense though... I mean, who ever heard of electricity hurting someone? Harmless as a newborn kitten...

Plumbing News!

There are some events that are so profound, so earth shattering, so absolutely galvanizing, that you can actually remember the exact location you were in when you first heard the news. The 9/11 attacks, the moon landing, the return of the Arby's Big Cheesy Bacon Burger.....to name but a few.

Such a date occurred on September 23, 2023.

I remember it like it was yesterday: The autumn leaves rustled in the crisp fall air, while I sat on my porch watching clips about the moon landing and eating an Arby's big cheesy bacon burger. As an audible chirp came from my phone, I casually looked down and saw it.....in bold letters at the top of the email:

"Effective today, New State of Maine Subsurface Wastewater Regulations".

My hands shook, my pulse quickened, my eyes locked. Sweat beaded from my face and ran down the sides of my lips, which were still mouthing the words over, and over, and over.... Then, like low rolling thunder moving over a hillside, a basal, earthy tone began to reverberate from my chest. The noise slowly gained in pitch and volume, pushing its way free of my body until my head tilted back and expelled the sound as a guttural wail of triumph. As blood poured back into my limbs, my arms shot towards the sky, raising my phone in victory, and screaming for the world to hear: “New Subsurface Wastewater Regulations Are HERE!!!!!”

Well, maybe it wasn't exactly like that, but we can pretend....

New septic regulations only get released once in a blue moon (they were last updated in 2015), so it's fairly exciting (at least for LPI's) when it occurs. While the vast majority of the regulations remained the same, there are a few important changes which are worth talking about.

First, many of you are probably aware that back in 2020, the State passed a law which required all septic systems located within the shoreland zone (within 250' of a major waterbody) to be inspected when a property was transferred (either sold or gifted to another owner). While the idea behind this regulation is excellent (track down and replace malfunctioning septic systems when properties are sold), the implementation of the law was a major dud. The law's shortcoming was simply that it lacked clarity. While it listed what was supposed to be inspected, and when that inspection was supposed to take place, it was completely silent on who enforced the regulation, and what needed to happen with the inspection information.

Thankfully, these shortcomings have been addressed with the new changes. The new regs now clarify the above issues, and even go so far as to define who can perform the inspections (a licensed “third party inspector”), as well as who this inspection report must be shared with (the creepy bidet guy....wait, I mean the LPI).

Given the advanced age of many of the septic systems around our ponds, and the impact poor systems can have on water quality, these clarifications to the inspection requirements are a huge win for the Town!

Another interesting change in the regulations is the addition of a definition for “detached bedroom”. While adding a simple definition may seem minor at first glance, it actually has some pretty major implications! To clarify, by “major”, I mean “major” for plumbing inspectors, which hovers somewhere between “don't care”, and “barely important” for everyone else. That being said, this is my report, so buckle up buckaroos, because I'm going to explain why it matters!

As many of you already know, septic systems need to be sized for the structures they serve and are measured on a “gallons per day” basis. With a residential system, this typically means looking at the number of “bedrooms” located in the dwelling, with each bedroom requiring 90 gallons per day. For example, if you had a three-bedroom house, you would need a septic system that could handle a minimum of 270 gallons per day (3 bedrooms at 90 gallons per day each). Nothing says “riveting storyline” like a math problem! Stay with me though....

Counting bedrooms in a dwelling is simple enough, but what about when a sleeping area is outside the main house? Whether it's finishing off a detached garage to add some beds, or building a stand-alone “bunkhouse”, adding additional sleeping area outside the house has become an increasingly popular

request. I'm guessing the popularity of this request is due to the desire to get pesky kids out of the house, since numerous scientific studies (conducted by me) have confirmed that most children are gross, noisy, and smelly.

Unfortunately, until now, the subsurface wastewater regulations have made adding additional sleeping areas (outside the dwelling) rather tricky to do.

The reason for this trickiness is due to the definition of "bunkhouse" within the plumbing code. A "bunkhouse" is defined as a "sleeping area for guests" (shocker) with one notable and important addition; they must be devoid of all plumbing fixtures (meaning no bathrooms)!

Literally the first thing someone asks me when inquiring about a bunkhouse is "can we have a bathroom in it?". Obviously, no one in a bunkhouse wants to wake up in the middle of the night and stumble blindly to the main house just to take a leak! In fact, I'd almost guarantee that any late-night tinkles in this scenario would result in a lawn watering 100% of the time!

If the purpose of the subsurface wastewater regulations are to protect human health and preserve water quality, forcing folks into becoming porch pee-ers probably isn't what it had in mind!

Unfortunately, since bunkhouses were literally the only "defined" way to permit a sleeping area outside the main dwelling (and the definition required them to be devoid of all plumbing), LPI's and CEOs were forced to "look the other way" if they wanted to use common sense and allow a bathroom in them.

Luckily, the septic angels have finally heard our prayers, and added a "detached bedroom" definition to the new regulations. This definition does not limit the use of plumbing fixtures, which means bunkhouse bathrooms are officially back on the menu! As long as the septic system is designed to handle the correct number of bedrooms (located both inside and outside the dwelling), then bathrooms are good to go!

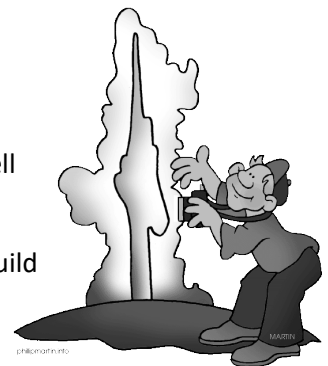
Make sure you don't put a kitchen (or anything remotely close to it) in that detached bedroom though! Doing so might create a second "dwelling" (defined as any structure which contains a bedroom bathroom and kitchen). This could inadvertently open up a tear in the space-time continuum, as well as a whole gaggle of other regulations (which I will spare you from at this time to avoid killing you from boredom.)

Who wants to hear a fun poo geyser story?!!

As most of my "regular" readers know from last years article, I am now a Maine licensed site evaluator, meaning I can design septic systems. In 2023, I designed well over 80 systems all across the state, with one in particular being share worthy.

This story starts back in the late 2000-teens, when a gentleman got permitted to build a brand-new camp about 150' from one of the Belgrade Lakes. As required by law, prior to permitting he hired a site evaluator and had a septic design completed. Since the camp was located fairly close to the water, the designer placed the new septic field up-hill from the camp, meaning the effluent was going to need to be pumped to it.

Apparently, as the project neared its end, the man installed the septic tank and pump, but ran short on money before the septic field could be installed. Ever the problem solver though, the man came up with a brilliant solution that would not only save money but finish the project on time. Rather than install the



septic field, he thought “I’ll just run the black plastic pump line from the septic tank up into the woods and let her blow!!”

And that’s exactly what he did....for years!! As renters stayed in the cabin (did I mention it was an Airbnb rental...) the tank would fill up and trigger the septic pump to turn on, creating a beautiful old faithful - like geyser of poo that would spray throughout the woods. How majestic!

This apparently went on for years! I was even told there were comments on the Airbnb page where guests complained of a “sewage smell” during their stay. Hmmmmm, I wonder where that came from! Don’t go play in that sprinkler kids!

Finally, in 2023 the local plumbing inspector caught wind of what was going on (I’m guessing that wind was pretty stinky) and put a stop to it. I was called in to design a new septic field, which was promptly installed, and all is now right in the world.

Hats off to the LPI for getting this fixed (I believe some hefty fines were also charged), but in all honesty, it’s pretty disheartening that it happened in the first place. Some people are seriously gross!

Hasta la vista, baby!

Well, with that, it’s time to bring this report to an end. This will likely be my last LPI report, as I’m moving on from the LPI position this year to focus on designing septic systems rather than inspecting them.

Stepping down as the Towns LPI is bittersweet, as I truly have enjoyed working with many of the contractors and property owners that live and work in this great Town. Of course, there are other parts of the job (like crawling around under mobile homes that smell like a mixture of cat pee, cigarette butts, and raw sewage), which will be missed slightly less. Only slightly though...

Thanks for reading folks, and as always, keep those septic tanks pumped, and those bidets a secret.

Sincerely

Andy Marble
Rome (outgoing) LPI



(Shameless plug alert **)**

If you’re in need of a new septic design, please give me a call, I’d love to help!

207-779-4858



Rome Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department

On behalf of the Town Rome Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department, we would like to thank YOU, the townspeople, and all our mutual aid departments. You continue to provide services to our town when you are called upon.

I would like to recognize Adam Clement, Captain of the Rome Volunteer Fire Department, for the work he did to provide the department with several grants. One to purchase a new set of Extrication Tools, including a cutter, spreader, and ram. Another to upgrade our Traffic Safety Equipment (Traffic Signs, Safety Cones, Vests, and Guardian Angel Lights). Also, a grant to help purchase an Automatic Chest Compression Device. This device provides high quality chest compressions for our cardiac arrest patients.

The department put the new tanker truck into service in June. This has been a great addition to our Fire Department Fleet.

I'm very proud of the dedication, professionalism, and the quality care the Rome Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department strives to provide to the Town of Rome. I would like to personally thank all the Rome Fire & Rescue Volunteers, for the countless hours they have spent making our community safer. Also, thanks to the families of our members, it doesn't go unnoticed!

To our Rome community, we'd like to remind you of the value of working smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, and the visibility of home address numbers.

The Rome Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department is always looking for volunteers. If this is something you are interested in, please reach out to anyone in the department, for an application.

The Rome Volunteer Fire Department monthly meeting is the 2nd Monday of every month. Training is the 3rd Monday of every month.

The Rome Volunteer Rescue Training is the 2nd Tuesday of every month, which is done jointly with the Belgrade Fire Rescue. This is provided by Delta Ambulance. These classes provide continuous educational hours that go toward the renewal of our Maine EMS License.

Please follow us on Facebook, "Rome Fire & Rescue".

Also, you can obtain a fire permit for FREE at www.wardensreport.com.

If you have questions, please contact either Gary Foss, Fire Chief or Ed Pearl, Assistant Fire Chief. As always, in the event of an emergency please call 911.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Foss, Fire Chief

Ed Pearl, Assistant Fire Chief

Emergency Preparedness Report 2023

I am entering my 17th year of servicing the residents of the Town of Rome as EMA Director and 36th year as a firefighter for the Town of Rome.

The Town of Rome is prepared to face natural disasters with the resources we have at our disposal. I encourage the townspeople to go to the Red Cross website for State of Maine EMA for information on preparing for disasters.

The fire chief and I have kept the town NIMS compliant.

I surveyed the damage left by the Grinch Storm in December 2023. I gave a verbal report to the selectpersons.

Please make sure your house numbers are visible for First Responders.

If you have any questions about how to prepare for disasters feel free to contact me directly.

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Pearl Jr.
Adam Clement



To our Community Partners,

Thank you for the opportunity to bring you information about our company and explain the significance of what we do in our local area. As the Company's new Director, this is my first time writing an annual report for Delta – a company that I've proudly served with since 2014. My career in Emergency Medical Services started in 2002 and has progressed through various agencies across three states. Delta promoted me to Field Supervisor, then Director of Operations, and appointed me as Executive Director in February 2023 following the retirement of Tim Beals. Delta has been a fantastic place to work and I'm very proud to be part of an organization that is so sincerely dedicated to its mission of providing excellent patient care to its patients and customers.

Delta provides 911 service to thirteen communities and interfacility transfer service primarily to two local hospital systems. These two services are distinct in their needs and commitments but intertwine in their benefits to our local communities. Medical emergencies do not stop at the 911 phase and often require definitive care and procedures unavailable locally. Transport to other facilities is crucial to ensuring good outcomes for our patients. Delta provides these necessary services, and more, with a high level of attention to quality.

Despite the realization of some major challenges at the end of the year, 2023 was a year of development and progress in many areas. We were able to formalize and expand our critical care transport program through a pilot project with Maine EMS and are currently the only ground-based ambulance service besides the Lifeflight of Maine's ground division that can transport critically ill patients on ventilators without accompanying hospital personnel. We received a grant from the Mildred H. Mcevoy Foundation which is allowing us to purchase new, state-of-the-art transport ventilators and send field personnel to a Critical Care Transport program. We also explored different scheduling and fleet deployment models to increase efficiency across field operations with the goals of reducing response times and increasing ambulance availability both for 911 coverage and inter-facility transfers.

Concerning sustainability, in July 2023 we implemented service charges for the first time in over fifty years and obtained a term grant from MaineGeneral Health at the end of the year. Also at the year's conclusion, we began preparations to sell our southern station at 10 Cony Rd in Augusta and search for alternative sites that would be more cost-effective and more appropriately sized for our current operations. A company-wide internal assessment was also initiated to flush out inefficiencies and ensure that we were providing the best possible service while reducing unnecessary expenses.

As we move into 2024, we continue to make appropriate and decisive changes with sustainability and quality at the forefront. We are proud to serve the over forty-one thousand people in our coverage area and thank our communities for their continued support in that mission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher Mitchell".

Christopher Mitchell
Executive Director



Rome Ruff Riders Snowmobile Club

The Rome Ruff Riders would like to thank the town residents and the Board of Selectmen for their support. Outdoor recreation is a big part of our community. As much as we are a snowmobile club we have hikers, bikers, snowshoers, horseback riders, dog sleds and cross country skiers utilizing many sections of the trails we maintain. We are very appreciative to have town support for our efforts to keep recreation opportunities open for the residents of Rome.

We are both blessed and cursed to have nearly 25 miles of trails traversing land with some significant elevation changes. This terrain requires constant attention to water flow to prevent soil erosion and stream contamination. Club volunteers have maintained these trails since 1973 and we now have over 3 dozen culverts and nearly 20 bridges. The material and equipment required to properly ditch and control the flow of water is supplemented by the generous donations from the Town of Rome.

We are excited to report a number of lasting trail improvements have been completed for the 2023-2024 season. A number of new culverts were installed, a significant section of ITS 87 was rehabilitated by adding ditches and a 52 foot bridge that was no longer safe to pass was replaced. The club has developed a 5 year work plan to address erosion control and keep our bridges safe.

However, our largest club expense comes with an aging grooming fleet. To keep the trails groomed and safe for riding it requires a trail drag and a machine to pull the drag. Unfortunately our trail system is not contiguous by land so we split our grooming fleet into the west side and the east side of Long Pond. We have sold off our older less reliable equipment and are working to rebuild a more modern fleet, replacing snowmobiles with tracked ATVs/UTVs for drag machines. The ATV/UTV can be used all year long and are much easier and safer to operate.

While much of our material and equipment is funded by grants and donations, we still find ourselves using personal equipment for grooming and donations from club members for fuel and use of construction equipment.

The 2023 town donation of \$1200 has helped us tremendously and we would ask the town to consider an \$800 increase for 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Doug McCosh, President
Rome Ruff Riders Snowmobile Club

Belgrade Rome Special Needs Food Pantry
2023 Annual Report

Our pantry is located at the North Belgrade Community Center, 508 Smithfield Road. It is open every Tuesday from 9am-11am to all residents of Belgrade and Rome. We have food collection boxes located at both Belgrade post offices as well as the Rome and Belgrade town offices. Food items that we appreciate as donations include: peanut butter, jelly, cookies, granola bars, canned pasta and box pasta.

We have continued to serve an average of 55-65 clients each month. This year was the second full year that clients were able to come to the pantry every other week. We have seen an increase of 33% in our numbers. We provide our clients a week's worth of food twice a month.

We have also continued our community outreach program with Belgrade Central School, where we provide a healthy snack option to children who come to school without a snack.

One of our services that we have been able to continue providing is our basket program. This December, we gave out 47 holiday baskets that provided a great Christmas dinner and a few extras!

This past November our treasurer, Anthony Mastromarino retired. He had been our Treasurer since 2008 and he was a valued member of our Board. We will miss him, but we wish him all the best in the next chapter of his life. Our new treasurer is Pamela Prescott, a long time Belgrade resident and retired school teacher. We are looking forward to working with her on our board.

We continue to offer all of these programs because of our generous donations that we often receive from our community members. However with the rising cost of food and our increased numbers these donations are needed more than ever. If you would like to make a monetary donation to the pantry you can send it to our PO Box 236 Belgrade, ME 04917

We continue to look for ways to connect with people in need. If you or anyone you know is in need of food assistance, please contact us. You can contact us by reaching out to the Belgrade Town Office or through our Facebook page- Belgrade/Rome Special Needs Food Pantry.

Our pantry continues to run smoothly because of our volunteers. We would like to thank everyone that volunteers to serve our communities. If you have an interest in volunteering, please reach out through our Facebook page.

Respectfully submitted by: Hazel Labbe

Board Members: Chairperson- Hazel Labbe, Secretary- Evelyn Fowler, Treasurer- Pamela Prescott, Volunteer Coordinators- Anne Grier, Eleanor Collinsworth, Lisa Day, Nicole Williams.

North Pond Association Annual Report 2023

The North Pond Association(NPA) is a volunteer organization of over 200 members and 25 businesses. The NPA is run by 12 board members who reside or summer on North Pond and/or Little Pond. We thank the Town of Rome for ongoing support and funding of the Courtesy Boat Inspector (CBI) program. Protecting the water quality in North and Little Ponds is key to our mission.

A 10-year **Watershed-Based Management Plan (WBMP)** was shared with the public at a meeting in July. This comprehensive plan managed by Ecological Instincts outlines the numerous steps and estimated costs necessary to improve the water quality in our lakes. The plan has been developed through partnerships with the Towns of Mercer, Rome, and Smithfield, Maine DEP, Colby College, 7 Lakes Alliance (7LA), the Kennebec County Soil & Water Conservation District (KCSWCD)and the NPA. Ecological Instincts has sent scientifically based recommendations for solutions to the ongoing algal blooms in North Pond to Maine DEP and US EPA for review.

Phosphorus run-off from lawns and roads contributes significantly to the algal blooms. A free **LakeSmart** evaluation is one way that property owners can minimize their impact on the lake water quality. In 2023 our three LakeSmart evaluators surveyed 24 properties with 6 qualifying for a LakeSmart Award. The key to the program is finding ways to buffer one's property to capture phosphorus before it enters the lake even though most of us have property limitations that won't qualify for the "Award". Each year an educational LakeSmart workshop is held at the Fairview Grange in Smithfield in early July. Please contact the North Pond LakeSmart coordinator Ed Glasheen at eglashe@yahoo.com to schedule your 2024 site visit.

319 grants provide funding for erosion control projects which help to keep runoff out of the lakes. The program is administered by Maine DEP as part of the US EPA Clean Water Act. In 2022-2023 there were 15 road and driveway projects completed! 7 Lakes Alliance was awarded \$112,410 in 319 grant funding for North Pond projects in 2024-2025. This money is available to homeowners, road associations, businesses and towns for erosion control projects that aim to improve water quality. A 50% match contribution is required by the landowner. Our thanks to Charlie Baeder at 7LA for all of his work and to Lynn Geiger, Erosion Control Policy Mgr at 7LA for coordinating the 319-grant program moving forward. Please contact NPA or 7LA this winter to discuss your project.

The **Courtesy Boat Inspection (CBI)** program plays a vital role in keeping invasive plants out of North and Little Ponds. In 2023 a total of 854 boats were inspected over 954 hours of service at the public boat launch. Thankfully no invasives were found. This program is run by 7LA and paid for by NPA. Money from our bottle redemption at

Tri Pond Variety as well as funding from the Towns of Smithfield, Rome and Mercer pays for the inspectors. The hourly wage for inspectors in 2023 was \$14/hr and is set to increase to \$15/hr in 2024. The financial support from the Town of Rome is greatly appreciated.

North and Little Pond volunteers partnered with 7LA in several lake wide paddles to look for invasive plants. The Fairview Grange hosted regular workshops run by 7LA to educate the public on how to differentiate native plants from invasive species such as **Curly Leaf Pondweed** (CPL) and Variable Leaf Milfoil. 7LA divers working with the Maine DEP worked in 2023 to remove CLP plants and their turions (buds that can germinate) from the Serpentine in the early Spring and the Fall. No rooted CLP was found past Sunset Camps; however, a large floating fragment was found in July and upwards of 50 fragments were found in the Leech Brook Cove area at the northeastern corner of North Pond in September. The good news is that Maine DEP is still considering this infestation as a "rapid response plan" and will cover most of the cost of remediation for the CLP in 2024-2025. Please contact Sharon Mann, Invasive Aquatics Director, 7LA for questions.

Restoring and preserving the water quality in our lakes is a prime focus of the North Pond Association. Using tools such as Lake Sediment Sampling, Water Quality Analysis, a Septic Database, Watershed NPS Assessment, Watershed AG & Forestry Survey Bathymetric Mapping, Municipal Ordinance Review, and Secchi Disc Measurements have provided the scientific basis to help achieve our goal of a healthy lake. All of us in the North and Little Pond watershed have a role to play. Together we will make North and Little Pond clear for all.



Dear Town of Rome and its citizens,

7 Lakes Alliance is grateful for the Town of Rome’s generous funding and collaboration to ensure the health of our region’s waters. Together, with many partners, including lake associations, we are successfully helping prevent and remediate harmful and expensive challenges of algae-promoting erosion and invasive plant infestations. Rome’s investment leverages public and private funds to ensure our lakes can support the tax base, economy and local jobs, and recreational opportunities. 2023 highlights of 7 Lakes’ work with its many partners, including Belgrade Lakes Association, North Pond Association and many others, include:

- Installed with 7 Lakes’ Youth Conservation Corps 132 erosion-control Best Management Practices (BMPs) watershed-wide: Great Pond-35, Long Pond-36, and North Pond-19 (recent algal blooms). BMPs also promote LakeSmart awards.
- Provided 21 YCC jobs for area youth -- increased from 15 in 2022.
- Implemented Year 1 of a two-year Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP) - administered U.S. Environmental Protection Agency federal Clean Water Act Section 319 grant for Long Pond.
- Secured a new two-year federal CWA Section 319 grant of \$124,270 for erosion control projects on Great Pond (2024-2025) to be matched by \$165,850 for a \$290,000 project total, and a new Section 319 grant for upstream North Pond (2024-2025) which will also benefit Rome.
- Deployed CWA Section 319 funds to support road improvement and erosion control projects for Foss Hill Road (town road) and several private roads in town; planned future 319 projects, e.g., Nickerson Lane (Great Pond), and Watson Pond Road (Long Pond). Planned MDOT culvert grants for Crystal Spring Road and Watson Pond Road.
- Monitored water quality with over 2000 samples across the Belgrade Lakes.
- Surveyed 200 acres in North Bay, finding and removing invasive milfoil plants from 2 new areas and 1 from Great Meadow Stream.
- Removed 13 invasive plants: stopped curly-leaf pondweed from out-of-state from entering Great Pond (1), and variable milfoil leaving Messalonskee (12); reduced curly leaf pondweed by 78 % in Serpentine.
- Conducted 12,034 Courtesy Boat Inspections watershed-wide: Long Pond- 2,678; Great Pond- 3,424; North Pond- 887; East Pond- 786; Salmon Lake (1,134); and Messalonskee Lake - 3,125.

Thank you. 7 Lakes looks forward to continuing our work with the Town of Rome, its citizens and many public and private partners to ensure healthy lakes that support the community now and in the future.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura Rose Day". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Laura Rose Day, Chief Conservation Officer



Dams Committee 2023 Annual Report and 2024 Budget Request - FINAL

To the Towns of **Belgrade, Mt. Vernon, Oakland, Rome and Sidney**
 Members of inter-local agreement for management of Belgrade area dams

After five years of draught, Mother Nature made up for it this year starting on Memorial Day. But thanks to your Dams Committee delegates, we were able to maintain the water level management plan they are charged with implementing. The four Belgrade area lakes under the auspices of the Dams Committee are now at normal winter water storage levels as we look forward to spring ice out.

Normal maintenance and repairs were successfully conducted on all three dams this past year in addition to successful completion of Belgrade’s Village Dam extensive concrete remediation project, new gate steel plating, seals, paint, etc.

For 2024, in addition to \$20,000 for the continuing preventive maintenance and repairs on all three dams, the Dams Committee is requesting an additional \$40,000 for the Village Dam’s new steel plates for both 9’x10’ radial gates, \$28,349 driveway work at the Wings Mill site, security fencing at the Village Dam, etc. and replenishment of the \$15,000 Capital Reserve Account to help offset future large project expenditures. The 2024 Proposed Budget Request reflects a 69.5% reduction from the 2023 Budget Request.

The pro-rata detail of the 2024 budget request is below:

Total request of \$103,349, which includes the above \$20K:			
		<u>Share of cost</u>	<u>Shoreline miles</u>
Belgrade	\$49,608	48%	37.6
Rome	\$23,770	23%	17.8
Oakland	\$14,469	14%	11.3
Sidney	\$ 8,268	8%	6.3
Mt. Vernon	\$ 7,234	7%	5.5

Members of the Dams Committee would like to thank the residents and officials of the five communities involved in this local governmental partnership for their continued assistance and support. Enjoy the lakes!

Respectfully submitted on behalf of all members of the Belgrade Area Dams Committee, Dick Greenan, Committee Chairman

Rome Recreation Committee Annual Report 2023

The year 2022, was a busy year for the Recreation Committee with expansion and improvement projects both at the Town Beach and Community Center. Most exciting and gratifying are the number of volunteers from the community participating in all our projects and events!

At the Town Beach, Paul LaBonte, The Tree Man, chipped up the brush that was cleared in the fall of 2021. These chips were spread at low and uneven spots along the nature walk. Twelve yards of Erosion Control Mix was spread at the waterfront by Sandy, Trent Shute, Andy Cook, Chelsea Sucky and her 2 sons, and Matt Whitney. Matt's daughters worked on assembling some very creative fairy houses out of found natural materials in the Fairy Village.

Back at the Community Center, yellow lines for pickle ball were painted on the basketball court. An equipment bin has been placed outside the Community Building with a combination lock. You can get the combination from Julie during office hours, or, text me at 207-632-5323. In the bin are two junior size basketballs and a pickle ball net, paddles and balls (with instructions on how to assemble the net – it takes about 5 minutes). We plan to add a couple of soccer balls as well.

In lieu of an indoor community dinner, we held an outdoor barbecue in June. Hamburgers, hotdogs, baked beans, salad and watermelon were provided. Kids got their faces painted and some folks got a tutorial on the pickle ball court! The afternoon was attended by folks of all ages, some year-round residents and some summer residents. It was deemed a success by all.

In October, a Trunk-or-Treat was held at the Community Building. Folks came in costume with car trunks decorated and offered treats to the Trick-or-Treaters. About 60 children attended, double the number from last year. Mark your calendars for next year – we'd love more "treaters" for the kids!

The Town contracted to have the Town Beach property surveyed as it is a very irregular shape and we would like to add more nature trails at that site. As a result of the survey, it was found that there is a dock installed and boats being stored on the Town property in what looks like overflow from the Hoyt Island property.

No landscape design was procured for the Town property at the Community Building as we still do not know when or if we might acquire additional land there.

A pavilion was funded by a grant facilitated by our Superintendent of Schools, discounts from Hammond Lumber and Rick Labbe, and donations from the Community. The exciting part of the project was the effort of an all-volunteer crew led by Dick Beck, logging over 125 hours to build the structure. THANK YOU, Dick, and all the volunteers! The town plans are to have electricity and internet made available.

The Annual Mitten Tree was organized with the office staff during the Holiday season where residents purchased items for some of our neighbors in need.

Looking Ahead...Christine Cook is interested in working on a community garden. How about: Soccer goals for the field? more summer barbecues? music events/dancing at the pavilion? a walking track? pickle ball clinic? yoga class? infant/toddler playgroup? If you have ideas or suggestions or would like to take the lead on or participate in any of these, please contact me at: sandyshute@gmail.com.

Respectfully submitted, Sandy Shute, Rome Recreation Committee Chair

RSU 18 SCHOOL BOARD ROME DIRECTOR'S 2023 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.

There are many exemplary positives about the work our Superintendent and his team did this year. These include the focus on safety for the students, faculty and staff, the focus on academic excellence, strong work force relations and continued attention to the physical condition of the district's buildings and classrooms. In addition to these successes, there are items noteworthy in their absence: no labor disruptions, no union or union relations disruptions, no violent events at any school or school facility, no failed budgets, no financial audit issues. Few districts can point to so many important things **not happening**.

Paul Anderson, Trent Shute and I worked with the excellent Belgrade team on the district wide, cost sharing committee work. The current additional local funds cost sharing formula was set and agreed upon when the district was formed. Years ago Rome voted to approve it. Over time the formula has resulted in a significantly disproportionate cost to Rome and Belgrade on a per student basis. Rome pays (on a per student basis) double what Oakland, Sidney and China pay. In fact we pay 40% more than the University of Maine college student tuition. The Rome and Belgrade team presented thoughtful and well prepared information on this topic to the five town committee. Regrettably the Rome & Belgrade approach to achieving thoughtful fairness and equity amongst the towns was not successful. I take total responsibility for this failure. Paul and Trent did a great job for us all. In the end I am confident logic, rational thought, a sense of fairness and concern for equity will prevail amongst all five towns. However we were not successful this year.

The RSU faculty have helped me to learn how important a solid grounding in reading and mathematics is for a student's academic success and success in life. This grounding is set in the Kindergarten through third grade (K-3) experience. To that end Trent Shute and I have been working on a project to start a rigorous, reading and mathematics, Rome Summer Academy for our town's K-3 students. With the removal of the asbestos tile in town hall (the Select Board) and the construction of the outdoor pavilion (the Recreation Committee), we now have the facilities to make it happen. Trent and I have spoken to senior Maine educators, the Select Board, and the Alford Center (Waterville). There is a very real possibility that we can make this happen. In-town teachers, older students and even experienced retirees can help staff it. We will see where this idea goes. We are hoping this will happen, endure and help give the students of Rome a rigorous grounding for their academic careers and their lives.

I have had strong support from our Selectmen and townspeople. As a result **Rome has been a leader** in helping to implement positive change (safety, academics, building maintenance and capital investments) in the RSU for our students, faculty and staff. Your support has been great. Thank you all!

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's School Board representative 207-465-6388 (m) 207-397-5332 (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 Bryan M. Slaney
Corrections Administrator
115 State Street
Augusta, Maine 04330
Telephone (207) 623-2270
Fax (207) 623-8787

January 31, 2024

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 2023. These services include the Law Enforcement Division, Correctional Services, Civil Process, Administrative and Transport Division. We provided many regional assets to our communities including K-9 Teams, Dive Team, Sex Offender Registry, Veterans Advocacy, Accident Reconstruction and Drug and a School Resource Officer for MSAD 49 and RSU#38.

In 2023, Law Enforcement Deputies again logged thousands of calls for service. Our calls for service have increased since 2021. Our geographic patrol responsibilities within the County have increased, as the state police have opted to reduce their rural patrol coverage.

Overdoses of illicit substances continue to plague our county. My staff responded to 18 overdoses in 2023, we were able to save 11 of those lives. This number does not include the saves by jail staff in 2022. As the disorder continues to increase, I wish to make it clear that we at the Sheriff's Office will always support our citizens with substance dependency disorders by providing avenues that can assist with their recovery.

The patrol division welcomes Scott Dumas, Riley Boivin and Simon Yorks to our patrol team. This is the only law enforcement agency Deputy Boivin has ever worked for and is doing an excellent job. He will be attending the full-time academy in the spring of 2024. Deputies Dumas and Yorks came to us from other agencies and they both have many years of experience. Great additions to our team of professionals.

My agency continues to receive federal funds to conduct patrol details specifically related to motor vehicle violations throughout our county. Kennebec County Deputies continue to excel statistically for the number of interdictions for drug related criminal activities. In 2023 the deputies seized over 6 pounds of fentanyl in several different contacts with individuals distributing this poison. There we also seizures of methamphetamines as well as cocaine.

Our Civil Process Deputies serve legal documents on behalf of attorneys, the courts, citizens, local, and state government, landlords and other entities. In 2023, the three civil deputies received over 5,111 requests for service in Kennebec County. This is a decrease from 2022 of documents received. 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.

We welcome any questions regarding civil service to be made to the office. Kennebec is very lucky to have Chief Civil Deputy Harry McKenney, who just happens to be the go-to guy on civil service matters statewide.

During the past year, our Correctional Facility managed 2206 inmate intakes. This is an increase from 2022. The offenses committed by defendants included everything from Trespass to Homicide. Our staffing at the correctional facility is robust and we are doing well. I will add that the staff have enormous responsibilities and work hard every day.

Substance abuse and the proper treatment of citizens with mental illness continue to be two primary concerns at the Correctional Facility. We have improved our medical and mental health services at Kennebec to help manage the needs of those incarcerated. Medical Assisted Treatment for Opiate dependencies continues in our facility, as it is now required by law.

Inmates at the Kennebec County Correctional Facility are asked to work and earn time off their sentences if applicable. Inmates who are a risk to the community work inside the facility cleaning and cooking, while others are supervised on outside projects. During the winter months, the outside trustees shovel several driveways in the Augusta area for those who are aging and unable to do it themselves. One may think that this only benefits the county, or our local municipalities, but it does not. It also benefits the inmate population as well. It allows them to be productive in our communities.

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.

In May of 2023 we moved into our new office located at 73 Winthrop Street in Augusta. What a breath of fresh air for the staff. Please feel free to stop in and see our new Sheriff's Office.

As your Sheriff, and moving forward into 2024, I remain committed to serving the hard-working taxpayers of this county, their families, and our visitors, honorably, professionally, and by using good common sense and judgement.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ken Mason, Sheriff

Selectman's Report

We, the Selectman of Rome, hereby submit this report of receipts and expenditures for the year ending December 31, 2023

General Assistance

Raised and Appropriated	5,000.00
Total Expended	6,505.00
Balance Overdraft	(1,505.00)

Roads and Bridges

Raised and Appropriated	36,000.00
Total Expended	48,081.40
Balance Overdraft	(12,081.40)

Cash Disbursements:

Rick Labbe Construction	38,418.50
Carroll Bubar	4,250.00
Pike Industries	3,404.64
Pavement Plus Inc	680.00
Gagne & Son	200.00
Tri Pond Variety	4.21
White Signs	242.08
Camden National Bank	50.97
Churchill Sand & Gravel	406.00
Skowhegan Equipment	425.00
Total Disbursements	48,081.40

Paving

Raised and Appropriated	105,000.00
Total Expended	104,703.40
Balance Overdraft	296.60

Brush Cutting

Raised and Appropriated	10,000.00
Total Expended	8,317.00
Balance Lapsed	1,683.00

Building Permits

Cash Received	8,4658.00
Balance Lapsed	8,4658.00

Snow Removal

Raised and Appropriated	110,000.00
Total Expended	125,799.93
Contingency	15,799.93

Salt and Sand

Raised and Appropriated	60,000.00
Total Expended	55,399.90
Balance	4,600.10

Selectman's Office Expense

Raised and Appropriated	1,400.00
Total Expended	1,549.49
Balance Overdraft	(149.49)

Town Clerk's Expense

Raised and Appropriated	1,800.00
Total Expended	2,762.29
Balance Overdraft	(962.29)

Treasurer & Tax Collector's Expense

Raised and Appropriated	7,000.00
Total Expended	7,206.40
Balance Overdraft	(206.40)

Trio Software

Raised and Appropriated	13,357.00
Total Expended	13,356.69
Balance Lapsed	0.31

Vital Records

Received	765.60
Balance Lapse	765.60

Social Security and Medicare

Raised and Appropriated	15,400.00
Total Expended	15,005.49
Balance Lapse	394.51

Town Officer's Salaries

Raised and Appropriated	172,820.00
Total Expended	165,711.93
Balance Lapsed	7,108.07

Streetlights

Raised and Appropriated	3,000.00
Total Expended	2,144.00
Balance Lapsed	856.00

Emergency Preparedness

Raised and Appropriated	500.00
Total Expended	31.97
Balance to EMA Reserve	468.03

Planning Board Expense

Raised and Appropriated	1,200.00
Total Expended	768.43
Balance Lapsed	431.57

Fire Department

Raised and Appropriated	53,150.00
Total Expended	49,125.93
Balance Lapsed	4,024.07

Disbursements:

FD Building Maintenance	8,316.38
FD Equipment Maintenance	6,823.10
FD New Equipment	5,165.68
FD Labor	19,620.00
FD Truck Maintenance	2,362.64
Maine Compliance	1,300.00
Tower Fee	660.00
Hose Testing	2,463.51
Forestry Grant	2,136.85
Training	277.77
Total Expended	49,125.93

FD CD Balance

	283,292.13
Raised and Appropriated	10,000.00
Interest	2,521.19
New Tank Truck expense	272,101.00
Balance Carried	23,712.32

FD Donations

Carry Forward	9,179.00
2023 Donations	650.00
Total Expended	3,067.95
Balance Carried	6,761.05

911 Dispatch-Waterville

Raised and Appropriated	7,700.00
Total Expended	7,498.36
Balance Lapse	201.64

State Dispatch Services

Raised and Appropriated	9,500.00
Total Expended	9,482.74
Balance Lapsed	17.26

Insurance

Raised and Appropriated	22,000.00
Total Expended	22,000.00
Balance Lapsed	0.00

Rome Community Center

Raised and Appropriated	25,000.00
Total Expended	29,183.66
Balance Overdraft	(4,009.50)

Town Cemetery Care

Raised and Appropriated	17,000.00
Total Expended	14,750.00
Balance Lapsed	2,250.00

Solid Waste Disposal

Sanitary Landfill

Raised and Appropriated	63,000.00
Total Expended	58,010.94
Balance Lapsed	4,989.06

Legal Expense

Raised and Appropriated	5,000.00
Total Expended	1,050.00
Lapsed in Legal Reserve	3,950.00

Plumbing

Cash Received	7,956.25
Total Expended	7,956.25
Balance	0.00

Contingent Fund

2022 Carried Balance	36,465.00
Cash Received	21,390.14
Total Expended	26,599.07
Balance Carried	31,256.07

Cash Receipts.

Vet's Reimbursement	465.00
Tree Growth	7,459.88
Charter Com Franchise	13,465.26
Total Received	21,390.14

Disbursements

2022 Scholarships	1,150.00
Chris Miller (shed)	3,840.00
Camden National Bank	859.02
Civicplus	3,734.12
Rich Ruhlin	100.00
Barbara Brickett	440.00
Pavement Plus	15,799.93
Bromar Print	676.00
Total Disbursed	26,599.07

Global Towers Legal			Homestead Exemption	
Balance Carried	74.34		Cash Received	58,364.00
			Used toward Commitment	58,978.86
Rome Campership Fund			Balance Overdraft	(614.86)
Balance Carried	614.39			
			Audit	
State Revenue Sharing			Raised and Appropriated	5,500.00
Cash Received	97,703.88		Total Expended	5,500.00
Used toward Commitment	80,000.00		Balance Lapsed	0.00
Balance Lapsed	17,703.88			
			Rome Rescue	
Auto Excise Tax Account			Raised and Appropriated	12,850.00
Cash Received	280,550.30		Total Expended	9,899.18
Expended Toward			Balance Lapsed	2,950.82
Commitment	245,000.00			
Balance Lapsed	34,774.20		Disbursements:	
			Labor	4,410.00
Agent Fees			Truck Maintenance	3,297.42
Cash Received	6,177.00		New Equipment	1,020.40
Expended Toward			Equipment Maintenance	371.36
Commitment	5,000.00		License/Dues	310.00
Balance Lapse	1,177.00		Education	490.00
			Total Expended	9,899.18
Dog License Account			Rescue Donation Carried	4,165.00
Balance Carried	2,226.00		2021 Donations	2,035.00
Cash Received	741.00		Rescue Donation Carried	6,200.00
Total Expended	297.53			
Balance Carried	2,669.47		MMA Dues	
			Raised and Appropriated	3,241.00
Animal Welfare			Total Expended	3,241.00
Cash Received	1,952.00		Balance	0.00
Total Expended	1,951.60			
Balance Lapsed	0.40		Town Report	
			Raised and Appropriated	1,500.00
Inland Fisheries			Total Expended	1,384.00
Cash Received	38,080.00		Balance Lapsed	116.00
Total Expended	38,080.00			
Balance	0.00		Belgrade Dams	
			Raised and Appropriated	29,621.00
Boat Excise			Total Expended	29,621.00
Cash Received	9,050.10		Balance	0.00
Expended Toward				
Commitment	8,500.00		RSU #18	
Balance Lapsed	550.10		Budget	2,514,334.00
			Total Expended	2,514,333.66
Assessing			Balance	0.34
Raised and Appropriated	27,000.00			
Total Expended	27,000.00			
Balance	0.00			

Kennebec County Tax
 Budget 418,012.00
 Total Expended 418,012.00
 Balance 0.00

KVCG
 Raised and Appropriated 3,500.00
 Total Expended 3,733.01
 Balance Overdraft (233.01)

Somerset Animal Shelter
 Raised and Appropriated 1,952.00
 Total Expended 1,951.60
 Balance Lapsed .40

7 Lakes Alliance
 Raised and Appropriated 8,000.00
 Total Expended 8,000.00

Rome Ruff Riders
 Raised and Appropriated 1,200.00
 Total Expended 1,200.00

No Pond Association-Milfoil
 Raised and Appropriated 4,000.00
 Total Expended 4,000.00

Spectrum Generation
 Raised and Appropriated 3,570.00
 Total Expended 3,570.00

Rome-Belgrade Food Pantry
 Raised and Appropriated 2,000.00
 Total Expended 2,000.00

Belgrade Lake Assoc-Milfoil
 Raised and Appropriated 24,000.00
 Total Expended 24,000.00

Kennebec Behavioral Health
 Raised and Appropriated 900.00
 Total Expended 900.00

Hospice Volunteers of Waterville
 Raised and Appropriated 200.00
 Total Expended 200.00

Sexual Assault Crisis & Support
 Raised and Appropriated 402.00
 Total Expended 402.00

Crisis & Counseling Center
 Raised and Appropriated 1,039.00
 Total Expended 1,038.77
 Balance Lapsed .23

Life Flight of Maine
 Raised and Appropriated 574.00
 Total Expended 574.00
 Balance .00

Community Health & Counseling
 Raised and Appropriated 150.00
 Total Expended 150.00
 Balance .00

Respectfully,

**Kelly Archer
 Larry DiPietro Jr.
 Robert Hudson**

Financial Reports

As Treasurer of the Town of Rome, I hereby submit the following reports for the fiscal year
January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023

Revenue Summary Report

Balance January 1, 2022		452,563.59
2024 Prepaid Tax Accounts	4,313.89	
2023 Tax Accounts	3,544,579.70	
2022 Tax Accounts	138,412.10	
Tax Liens	16,169.35	
Auto Excise	280,550.30	
Agent Auto	6,177.00	
Boat Excise	9,050.00	
NSF Town Fee	50.00	
Agent IF&W	728.25	
Mailing Fees	11.15	
Dog Town	554.00	
Agent Dog	193.00	
Vital Record	765.60	
Building Permits	8,346.58	
Junkyard Permits	50.00	
Legal Fee's reimbursement	1925.00	
TC Postage Refund Tax Bills	90.57	
Interest Bank	18,028.76	
Interest Taxes	3,481.22	
Lien Fees Collected	2,247.81	
Copies	19.35	
Dump Stickers	190.00	
Charter Com Franchise Fee	13,465.26	
First Park	1,142.00	
MMA Work Comp Dividend	1,061.00	
MMA PC Dividend	1,061.00	
MMA Work Comp Adjustment	182.00	
Miscellaneous Refund	50.00	
Cemetery Lot Sales	1,500.00	
Community Center Rental	500.00	
Rescue Donations	2,035.00	
Recreation Donations & Recreation Revenue	3,960.37	
Fire Department Donations & Fundraising	2,608.25	
CEO Fines	2,175.00	
Renewable Energy	85.00	
Maine Comm College Grant CEO	243.44	
Efficiency Maine Grant HP	16,800.00	
Good Shepherd Food Bank Grant	5,770.00	
Risk Reduction Grant FD	2,507.00	
From State Government		
State Revenue Sharing	97,703.88	
Homestead Reimbursement	58,364.00	

Veterans Reimbursement	465.00	
Tree Growth Reimbursements	7,459.88	
Snowmobile Reimbursements	714.96	
Local Roads Assistance Program	21,744.00	
BETE Reimbursement	26.00	
Stabilization Reimbursement	485.00	
Total Revenue	4,278,041.67	
Total 2023 Warrants	3,776,919.13	
Transferred to Savings	(140,000.00)	
Transferred to Capital Accounts	(30,000.00)	
Ending Balance TD Bank December 31, 2023		331,122.54

Money Market Account Savings	
Balance January 1, 2023	937,902.11
2023 Interest	17,183.04
Transfer From Checking	140,000.00
Balance December 31, 2023	1,095,085.15

Cemetery Trust	
Balance January 1, 2023	10,649.42
2023 Interest	35.10
2023 Cemetery Lot Sales	1,500.00
Balance December 31, 2023	11,653.97

Recreation Account	
Balance January 1, 2023	6,860.00
2023 Interest	3.69
Raised at Town Meeting	1,500.00
2023 Expenditures	8,388.99
Donation Revenue & T-Shirt Sales	3,974.08
Balance December 31, 2023	3,945.09

Transfer Stations Reserve CD	
Balance January 1, 2023	148,943.92
2023 Interest	7,201.64
Balance December 31, 2023	156,145.56

Fire Department New Truck CD	
Balance January 1, 2023	283,292.13
2023 Interest	2,521.19
Raised at Town Meeting	10,000.00
Purchase of Fire Truck	272,101.00
Balance December 31, 2023	23,712.32

Fire Department Enterprise Savings	
Balance January 1, 2023	7,054.00
2023 Interest	60.15
2023 Fundraising	1,958.28
2023 Expenditures	1,201.32
Balance December 31, 2023	7,871.11

Rescue Department New Truck CD	
Balance January 1, 2023	36,374.72
2023 Interest	875.32
Raised at Town Meeting	10,000.00
Balance December 31, 2023	47,250.04

Legal Capital Reserve	
Balance January 1, 2023	11,524.69
Unexpended Legal 2023	3,950.00
2023 Interest	188.89
Balance December 31, 2023	11,610.74

Community Center Reserve	
Balance January 1, 2023	23,472.56
Raised at Town Meeting	10,000.00
2023 Interest	436.80
Efficiency Maine Grant HP	16,800.00
2023 Expenditures	44,829.41
Balance December 31, 2023	5,879.95

ARPA Funds	
Balance January 1, 2023	71,297.12
2023 Expenditures	19,936.00
2023 Interest	1,018.93
Balance December 31, 2023	52,380.05

Respectfully Submitted,
Tammy J. Lyons
 Treasurer

2023 Tax Account

Commitment		3,543,483.99
Real Estate	3,531,200.23	
Personal Property	4,546.62	
2023 Stabilization Reimbursement	7,737.14	
		3,543,483.99
Supplemental		
Sally Merry	735.93	
William & Cynthia Anderson	360.36	
Total Supplemental	1,096.29	
Abatements		
Jessica Pepin	735.93	
Thomas & Marie Tarnay MD	1,949.22	
Pamela Ruez Christensen	360.36	
Timothy & Virginia Comeford	219.96	
Total Abatements	3,265.47	
Balance to be collected		3,541,314.81
Less 2023 Tax Funds Received		3,395,289.96
Less Prepaid 2023 Taxes		4,603.37
Unpaid 2023 Taxes		141,421.48

2023 Unpaid Taxes

ALEXANDER, BLAINE A., BRETT A. & TAYLOR, JEFF	4.68
AMRHEIN, ERICH H	57.33
AMRHEIN, ERICH H	98.28
AMRHEIN, KARL A	98.28
AMRHEIN, KARL A	98.28
ARDITO, RALPH W JR	257.40
ARMENTROUT, CHARLES E	1,774.54
BACHELDER, TERRY	236.93
BEAULIEU NELSON, KASEY E	1,473.03
BELANGER, BENJAMIN D	1,560.19
BELGRADE REGIONAL CONSERVATION ALLIANCE INC	628.29
*** BLACKBURN, MARTHA	20.33
*** BLACKBURN, MARTHA	11.96
BOLDUC, SCOTT A	10.00
BORMAN, MEGAN P. 2012 FAMILY TRUST 11/27/2012	3,433.95
BOUCHARD, PETER LII	2,654.73
BRICKETT, EDWARD A	2,938.45
BRICKETT, TIMOTHY L JR	650.52
BROUSSEAU, JEANETTE & J. EDWARD	243.36
BROWER, DAVID M	23.50
BROWN, LAWRENCE W	1,356.61
BRUMMETT, JOHN W	522.99
BURGESS, ROBERT J	4.68
BURKE, MAUREEN THERESA	25.74
BURNHAM, WILBUR	435.24
BUTTERFIELD, KIRK J	184.86

CADDICK, FRANCES LESTINA	1.49
CAREY, REBECCA L DOWNING	244.53
CHEN, PAUL S	7,472.79
CLARKE, WENTWORTH REVOCABLE TRUST	4,577.04
CLEGG, FREDERICK J III	403.06
DANA, JAMES F	4,516.20
DEROSE, MARK	161.46
DEROSE, MARK & SUSAN &	181.35
DIOLI, ARTHUR L REVOCABLE TRUST U/D/T DATED 9/25/2013	8,996.13
DIXON, TAMMY TRUSTEE	194.80
*** DOBSON, LAURIE	952.03
DOLE, RICHARD R	1,633.32
DUDLEY, WILLIAM	2,407.86
DUPLESSIS, LEO A	7,148.14
FALCONER, BRUCE R	3,524.04
FARROW, ROBERT	1,377.09
FISHER, H JOSEPH	4.68
FITZGERALD, PHILIP J	35.97
*** GAUTHIER, MARY L	4.68
GOLDEN POND COTTAGE LLC	4,261.14
GOMEZ, DUANE E	969.93
GREENLEAF, PATRICIA J	138.06
*** HAFENECKER, MELISSA DOWNING	279.63
HARTIOS, SPIROS M	161.46
HARVEY, GUY V	120.51
HARVEY, RUSSELL	161.46
HARVEY, RUSSELL Y	80.73
HEMISPHERES CORPORATION	668.07
HENRIQUES, AMERICO	163.80
HENRY, DEBBORA A	345.15
HICHBORN, CONRAD A	1,285.83
HILLARD, JASON	9.36
HOGAN JR., JOHN S. & MARJORIE	22.23
JOHNSON, SUE-ANNE	17.55
JOHNSON, SUE-ANNE	11.70
KATZ, JEFFREY L	634.14
*** KERWOOD, MARY	56.16
*** LAKESHORE FARM LLC.	62.58
*** LAKESHORE FARM, LLC	6.01
LALIBERTE, PETER B	3,175.38
LALIBERTE, PETER B	3,465.54
LAUNIERE, SYLVAIN J	821.93
LAWSON-YOUNG, LISA	1,797.12
LEE, STANLEY H	1,795.95
LODER, SARAH FAMILY TRUST (2/3 INT)	889.00
LONGLEY, FLYNN A	4.68
LOUDON, RUSSELL	257.40
LOUDON, RUSSELL	120.51
MARTIN, DANIEL R	7.61
MAYBERRY, DOUGLAS	305.37

MAYBERRY, DOUGLAS L	29.25
MAYBERRY, DOUGLAS L	191.30
McCANN, MARGARET FLOYD REVOCABLE TRUST DATED APRIL 172,001	6,164.73
MCGOWAN, WILLA R	467.65
MCGOWAN, WILLA R	307.71
MOSHER FAMILY TRUST (LIFE LEASE)	789.75
MOSHER, NICHOLAS	328.77
MURPHY, FRANCES E	3,983.85
MYERS, SHANNON	152.42
MYERS, SHANNON	71.51
NADEAU, GREGORY S	80.73
*** NARDI, JOHN F	2,824.38
NIGHTINGALE, EMILY ROSE	794.43
NIGHTINGALE, JARED L	6.80
*** OBURN, MARLENE MIGDAL	15.21
OKEEFFE, JAMES	1,663.74
PARADIS, FERNANDO	240.43
PEARL, EDWARD I JR	359.78
PERRAULT, JAMES	11.70
POIRIER, JOSPEH A.D., JR	43.57
POMERLEAU, RYAN R	162.04
POOLER, BRUCE	4,624.19
RACKI, PAUL A & KAY L	1,138.41
RICHARDSON, BARTON, HEIRS OF	23.40
ROSS, KATHLEEN A	539.95
*** RUST, JENNIFER L	161.46
RYAN, CAOLAN MICHAEL	237.51
*** SAWYER, CHELSEA	1,270.62
SEARS, ALICE	824.85
SEARS, ALICE	152.10
SMITH, RICHARD J & TRUDY JOINT REVOCABLE TRUST	23.40
SMITH, RICHARD J REVOCABLE TRUST	6,901.83
SPENCE, JOSEPH M	270.27
SPENCE, WILLIAM G	1,304.55
SPURDLE, DAVID W	181.35
ST HILAIRE, ERIN	713.70
STALLEY, GERALDINE M	684.10
STALLEY, GRAHAM CHARLES	161.46
STANLEY, JOSHUA R	2,210.13
STEWART, DEBORAH A	921.96
STORY, CAROL A	1,294.60
STYMIEST, TERRANCE	14.04
STYMIEST, TERRANCE	4.68
STYMIEST, TERRANCE	4.68
STYMIEST, TERRANCE	4.68
*** TRACY COVE I LLC (1/2 INT)	166.06
TSAKOS, GEORGE N	4.68
VAUTOUR, IRREVOCABLE TRUST	1,099.06
WALKER, STEPHEN R	6,160.05
WHITNEY, MATTHEW W	2,378.61

WILBUR, DAVID E	257.40
WILKINSON, ROGER (LIFE ESTATE)	477.36
WILLETTE, HUNTER	257.40
WILLETTE, HUNTER	84.24
WILLIAMS FAMILY TRUST	740.61
WILLIAMS, DEBRA	610.74
WITHAM, LESLIE L III	500.76
WITHAM, LESLIE L III	84.24
WITHAM, LESLIE L III	84.24
WITHAM, LESLIE L III	1,081.08
WITHAM, LESLIE L III	127.53
WITHAM, LESLIE LEROY III	126.36
WITHEE, MATTHEW S	195.39
WOOD, BRIAN	4.68
ZIMBA, THEODORE	90.09
*** paid after 12/31/2023	
Total unpaid 2023 Taxes	141,421.48

2022 Tax Accounts

Unpaid Taxes, January 1, 2023		139,101.04
Paid To Tax Collector	119,973.89	
2022 Taxes Secured by Tax Lien	19,127.15	
Paid To Treasurer	13,044.44	
Balance of Unpaid 2022 Taxes		6,082.71

2022 Unpaid Taxes

Name		Principal Due
AMRHEIN, KARL A		95.76
AMRHEIN, KARL A		95.76
ARDITO, RALPH W JR		250.80
*** BORMAN, MEGAN P. 2012 FAMILY TRUST 11/27/2012		440.65
DIXON, TAMMY TRUSTEE		178.41
HEMISPHERES CORPORATION		650.94
*** LAUNIERE, SYLVAIN J		469.88
LEE, STANLEY H		1,749.90
LONGLEY, FLYNN A		4.56
PARADIS, FERNANDO		222.87
PEARL, EDWARD I JR		339.15
ROSS, KATHLEEN A		514.71
STANLEY, JOSHUA R		511.86
TSAKOS, GEORGE N		4.56
WILKINSON, ROGER (LIFE ESTATE)		465.12
ZIMBA, THEODORE		87.78
*** paid after 12/31/2023	Total Unpaid 2022 Taxes	6,082.71

Matured 2021 Tax Liens

Map/Lot Owner	Location	Principal Only
28-008-C Lee, Stanley H	885 Rome Rd	1680.83
	Total	1680.83

Total Overlay

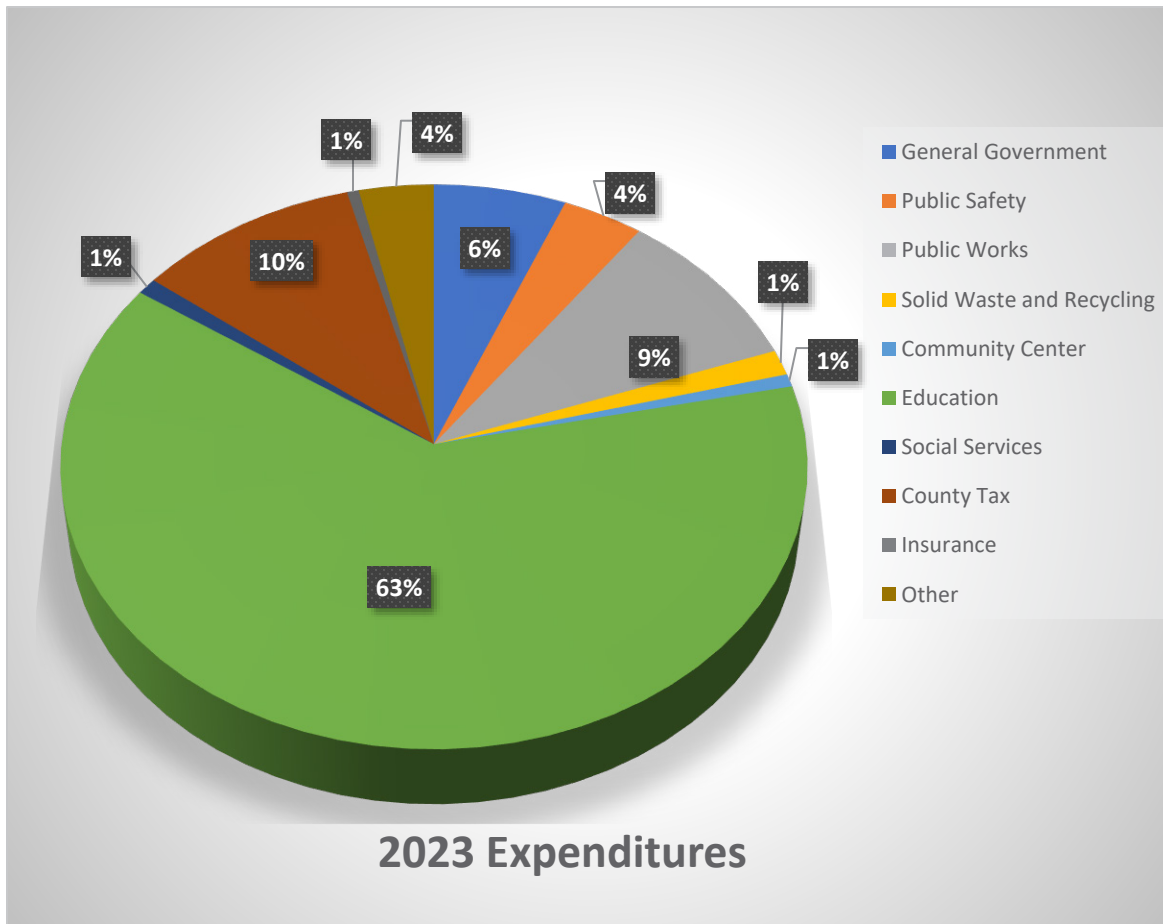
Overlay	91,558.08
2023 Tax Discounts	75,734.78
2023 Tax Abatements	3265.47
Balance Lapsed	12,557.83

Interest on Taxes & Liens

2023 Interest Collected	3,481.22
Lien Fees Collected	2,347.81

2023 Town of Rome Expenditures

General Government	247,942
Public Safety	151,857
Public Works	378,107
Solid Waste and Recycling	58,011
Community Center	29,009
Education	2,514,334
Social Services	37,728
County Tax	418,012
Insurance	22,000
Other	139,758
Total Expenditures	3,996,758





February 20, 2024

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, 2023. The following statements and schedules have been excerpted from the 2023 financial statements, a complete copy of which, including our opinion thereon, will be available for inspection at the Town Office.

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

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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, 2023

	General Fund	Transfer Station Fund	Fire Department Fund	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
ASSETS					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,414,330	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 130,974	\$ 1,545,304
Investments	-	156,143	24,347	48,250	228,740
Accounts receivable (net of allowance for uncollectibles):					
Taxes	143,002	-	-	-	143,002
Liens	7,764	-	-	-	7,764
Due from other governments	8,145	-	-	-	8,145
Prepaid items	18,458	-	-	-	18,458
Due from other funds	70,371	-	-	24,406	94,777
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 1,662,070	\$ 156,143	\$ 24,347	\$ 203,630	\$ 2,046,190
LIABILITIES					
Accounts payable	\$ 51,365	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 51,365
Accrued expenses	2,368	-	-	-	2,368
Due to other funds	24,406	-	15,893	54,478	94,777
TOTAL LIABILITIES	78,139	-	15,893	54,478	148,510
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES					
Prepaid taxes	4,314	-	-	-	4,314
Deferred revenue	9,480	-	-	-	9,480
Deferred tax revenues	137,264	-	-	-	137,264
TOTAL DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES	151,058	-	-	-	151,058
FUND BALANCES					
Nonspendable	18,458	-	-	-	18,458
Restricted	64,883	-	-	77,788	142,671
Committed	-	156,143	8,454	73,619	238,216
Assigned	40,600	-	-	-	40,600
Unassigned (deficits)	1,308,932	-	-	(2,255)	1,306,677
TOTAL FUND BALANCES	1,432,873	156,143	8,454	149,152	1,746,622
TOTAL LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES AND FUND BALANCES	\$ 1,662,070	\$ 156,143	\$ 24,347	\$ 203,630	\$ 2,046,190

See accompanying independent auditor's 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, 2023

	General Fund	Transfer Station Fund	Fire Department Fund	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES					
Taxes:					
Property taxes	\$ 3,544,580	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,544,580
Excise taxes	288,829	-	-	-	288,829
Intergovernmental revenues	206,356	-	-	-	206,356
Charges for services	18,990	-	-	-	18,990
Miscellaneous revenues	56,553	7,196	2,521	28,019	94,289
TOTAL REVENUES	4,115,308	7,196	2,521	28,019	4,153,044
EXPENDITURES					
Current:					
General government	247,942	-	-	-	247,942
Public safety	151,857	-	275,601	-	427,458
Public works	378,107	-	-	-	378,107
Solid waste and recycling	58,011	-	-	-	58,011
Community center	36,349	-	-	-	36,349
General assistance	6,505	-	-	-	6,505
Education	2,514,334	-	-	-	2,514,334
Social services	37,728	-	-	-	37,728
County tax	418,012	-	-	-	418,012
Insurance	22,000	-	-	-	22,000
Other	124,413	-	-	148,779	273,192
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	3,995,258	-	275,601	148,779	4,419,638
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	120,050	7,196	(273,080)	(120,760)	(266,594)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)					
Transfers in	-	-	10,000	44,288	54,288
Transfers (out)	(54,288)	-	-	-	(54,288)
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)	(54,288)	-	10,000	44,288	-
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES	65,762	7,196	(263,080)	(76,472)	(266,594)
FUND BALANCES - JANUARY 1	1,367,111	148,947	271,534	225,624	2,013,216
FUND BALANCES - DECEMBER 31	\$ 1,432,873	\$ 156,143	\$ 8,454	\$ 149,152	\$ 1,746,622

See accompanying independent auditor's 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, 2023

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual Amounts	Variance Positive (Negative)
	Original	Final		
Budgetary Fund Balance, January 1	\$ 1,367,111	\$ 1,367,111	\$ 1,367,111	\$ -
Resources (Inflows):				
Taxes:				
Property taxes	3,543,484	3,543,484	3,544,580	1,096
Excise taxes	253,500	253,500	288,829	35,329
Intergovernmental revenues:				
State revenue sharing	80,000	80,000	97,704	17,704
Homestead exemption	58,879	58,879	58,364	(515)
Local road assistance program	-	-	21,744	21,744
Other	-	-	28,544	28,544
Charges for services	8,650	8,650	18,990	10,340
Interest income	10,000	10,000	18,029	8,029
Interest/cost on liens	4,000	4,000	5,749	1,749
Proceeds on sale of assets	-	-	5,000	5,000
Miscellaneous revenues	-	-	27,775	27,775
Amounts Available for Appropriation	5,325,624	5,325,624	5,482,419	156,795
Charges to Appropriations (Outflows):				
General government	248,785	248,785	247,942	843
Public safety	154,405	154,405	151,857	2,548
Public works	371,842	371,842	378,107	(6,265)
Solid waste and recycling	63,000	63,000	58,011	4,989
Cemeteries	17,000	19,880	-	19,880
Community center	25,000	25,000	36,349	(11,349)
General assistance	5,000	5,000	6,505	(1,505)
Education	2,514,334	2,514,334	2,514,334	-
Social services	46,035	40,265	37,728	2,537
County tax	418,012	418,012	418,012	-
Insurance	22,000	22,000	22,000	-
Other	107,058	156,329	124,413	31,916
Transfers to other funds	31,500	54,288	54,288	-
Total Charges to Appropriations	4,023,971	4,093,140	4,049,546	43,594
Budgetary Fund Balance, December 31	\$ 1,301,653	\$ 1,232,484	\$ 1,432,873	\$ 200,389
Utilization of unassigned fund balance	\$ 65,458	\$ 78,976	\$ -	\$ (78,976)
Utilization of assigned fund balance	-	55,651	-	(55,651)
	\$ 65,458	\$ 134,627	\$ -	\$ (134,627)

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

SCHEDULE A

TOWN OF ROME, MAINE

SCHEDULE OF DEPARTMENTAL OPERATIONS - GENERAL FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

	Original Budget	Budget Adjustments	Final Budget	Actual Expenditures	Variance Positive (Negative)
General Government -					
Salaries and wages	\$ 172,820	\$ -	\$ 172,820	\$ 165,462	\$ 7,358
Payroll taxes	15,400	-	15,400	15,005	395
Assessing	27,000	-	27,000	27,000	-
Administration	16,967	-	16,967	23,877	(6,910)
TRIO software	13,357	-	13,357	13,357	-
MMA dues	3,241	-	3,241	3,241	-
Subtotal General Government	248,785	-	248,785	247,942	843
Public Safety -					
Fire	120,855	-	120,855	122,551	(1,696)
Dispatch	17,200	-	17,200	16,981	219
Rescue	12,850	-	12,850	9,899	2,951
Emergency preparedness	500	-	500	282	218
Street lights	3,000	-	3,000	2,144	856
Subtotal Public Safety	154,405	-	154,405	151,857	2,548
Public Works -					
Paving	105,000	-	105,000	104,703	297
Snow removal	110,000	-	110,000	110,000	-
Sand/salt	60,000	-	60,000	55,400	4,600
Sand and salt shed	6,000	-	6,000	3,864	2,136
Roads and bridges	36,000	-	36,000	48,081	(12,081)
Local road assistance	10,621	-	10,621	10,621	-
Belgrade Region dams	4,600	-	4,600	4,600	-
Wings Mills dams	29,621	-	29,621	29,621	-
Brush	10,000	-	10,000	11,217	(1,217)
Subtotal Public Works	371,842	-	371,842	378,107	(6,265)
Solid Waste and Recycling	63,000	-	63,000	58,011	4,989
Cemeteries	17,000	2,880	19,880	-	19,880
Community Center	25,000	-	25,000	36,349	(11,349)
General Assistance	5,000	-	5,000	6,505	(1,505)
Education	2,514,334	-	2,514,334	2,514,334	-

SCHEDULE A (CONTINUED)

TOWN OF ROME, MAINE

SCHEDULE OF DEPARTMENTAL OPERATIONS - GENERAL FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

	Original Budget	Budget Adjustments	Final Budget	Actual Expenditures	Variance Positive (Negative)
Social Services	46,035	(5,770)	40,265	37,728	2,537
County Tax	418,012	-	418,012	418,012	-
Insurance	22,000	-	22,000	22,000	-
Other -					
Dog expense account	-	2,226	2,226	298	1,928
Computer/laptop replacement	-	2,000	2,000	-	2,000
Legal	5,000	74	5,074	1,050	4,024
Animal shelter	-	1,952	1,952	1,952	-
Comprehensive plan	-	2,000	2,000	2,000	-
Withdrawal from KRDA	-	3,643	3,643	735	2,908
Snowmobile club	-	614	614	715	(101)
Annual Town Report	1,500	-	1,500	1,384	116
Audit	5,500	-	5,500	6,900	(1,400)
KVCOG	3,500	-	3,500	3,733	(233)
Flagpole	-	297	297	47	250
Contingency	-	36,465	36,465	26,599	9,866
Overlay	91,558	-	91,558	79,000	12,558
Subtotal Other	107,058	49,271	156,329	124,413	31,916
Transfers to Other Funds -					
Capital projects funds:					
Community center reserve	10,000	16,800	26,800	26,800	-
Rescue reserve	10,000	-	10,000	10,000	-
Fire Dept truck reserve	10,000	-	10,000	10,000	-
Emergency management reserve	-	218	218	218	-
Special revenue funds:					
Good Shepherd	-	5,770	5,770	5,770	-
Recreation committee	1,500	-	1,500	1,500	-
Subtotal Transfers to Other Funds	31,500	22,788	54,288	54,288	-
TOTAL DEPARTMENTAL OPERATIONS	\$ 4,023,971	\$ 69,169	\$ 4,093,140	\$ 4,049,546	\$ 43,594

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

SCHEDULE B

TOWN OF ROME, MAINE

COMBINING BALANCE SHEET - NONMAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
DECEMBER 31, 2023

	Special Revenue Funds	Capital Projects Funds	Permanent Funds	Total Nonmajor Governmental Funds
ASSETS				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 77,723	\$ 45,756	\$ 7,495	\$ 130,974
Investments	-	48,250	-	48,250
Due from other funds	20,688	3,718	-	24,406
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 98,411</u>	<u>\$ 97,724</u>	<u>\$ 7,495</u>	<u>\$ 203,630</u>
LIABILITIES				
Due to other funds	\$ 20,623	\$ 24,105	\$ 9,750	\$ 54,478
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>20,623</u>	<u>24,105</u>	<u>9,750</u>	<u>54,478</u>
FUND BALANCES (DEFICITS)				
Nonspendable	-	-	-	-
Restricted	77,788	-	-	77,788
Committed	-	73,619	-	73,619
Assigned	-	-	-	-
Unassigned	-	-	(2,255)	(2,255)
TOTAL FUND BALANCES (DEFICITS)	<u>77,788</u>	<u>73,619</u>	<u>(2,255)</u>	<u>149,152</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES (DEFICITS)	<u>\$ 98,411</u>	<u>\$ 97,724</u>	<u>\$ 7,495</u>	<u>\$ 203,630</u>

See accompanying independent auditor's 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, 2023

	Special Revenue Funds	Capital Projects Funds	Permanent Funds	Total Nonmajor Governmental Funds
REVENUES				
Interest income	\$ 1,019	\$ 12,517	\$ 346	\$ 13,882
Other	8,677	3,960	1,500	14,137
TOTAL REVENUES	<u>9,696</u>	<u>16,477</u>	<u>1,846</u>	<u>28,019</u>
EXPENDITURES				
Other	80,901	53,128	14,750	148,779
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>80,901</u>	<u>53,128</u>	<u>14,750</u>	<u>148,779</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	<u>(71,205)</u>	<u>(36,651)</u>	<u>(12,904)</u>	<u>(120,760)</u>
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
Transfers in	7,270	37,018	-	44,288
Transfers (out)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)	<u>7,270</u>	<u>37,018</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>44,288</u>
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES (DEFICITS)	(63,935)	367	(12,904)	(76,472)
FUND BALANCES (DEFICITS), JANUARY 1	<u>141,723</u>	<u>73,252</u>	<u>10,649</u>	<u>225,624</u>
FUND BALANCES (DEFICITS), DECEMBER 31	<u>\$ 77,788</u>	<u>\$ 73,619</u>	<u>\$ (2,255)</u>	<u>\$ 149,152</u>

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

TOWN OF ROME, MAINE

COMBINING BALANCE SHEET - NONMAJOR SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS
DECEMBER 31, 2023

	Fire Department Account	Fire Department Donations	Stephen and Tabitha King Grant	ARPA	Good Shepherd Food Bank Grant	Rescue Donations	Recreation Committee	Total
ASSETS								
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 3,843	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 73,004	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 876	\$ 77,723
Due from other funds	4,028	6,761	-	-	630	6,200	3,069	20,688
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 7,871</u>	<u>\$ 6,761</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 73,004</u>	<u>\$ 630</u>	<u>\$ 6,200</u>	<u>\$ 3,945</u>	<u>\$ 98,411</u>
LIABILITIES								
Due to other funds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,623	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,623
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 20,623</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 20,623</u>
FUND BALANCES (DEFICITS)								
Nonspendable	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Restricted	7,871	6,761	-	52,381	630	6,200	3,945	77,788
Committed	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Assigned	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unassigned	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL FUND BALANCES (DEFICITS)	<u>7,871</u>	<u>6,761</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>52,381</u>	<u>630</u>	<u>6,200</u>	<u>3,945</u>	<u>77,788</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES (DEFICITS)	<u>\$ 7,871</u>	<u>\$ 6,761</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 73,004</u>	<u>\$ 630</u>	<u>\$ 6,200</u>	<u>\$ 3,945</u>	<u>\$ 98,411</u>

See accompanying independent auditor's 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, 2023

	Fire Department Account	Fire Department Donations	Stephen and Tabitha King Grant	ARPA	Good Shepherd Food Bank Grant	Rescue Donations	Recreation Committee	Total
REVENUES								
Interest income	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,019	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,019
Other	2,018	650	-	-	-	2,035	3,974	8,677
TOTAL REVENUES	2,018	650	-	1,019	-	2,035	3,974	9,696
EXPENDITURES								
Other	1,201	3,068	40,000	19,936	8,307	-	8,389	80,901
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	1,201	3,068	40,000	19,936	8,307	-	8,389	80,901
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	817	(2,418)	(40,000)	(18,917)	(8,307)	2,035	(4,415)	(71,205)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)								
Transfers in	-	-	-	-	5,770	-	1,500	7,270
Transfers (out)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)	-	-	-	-	5,770	-	1,500	7,270
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES (DEFICITS)	817	(2,418)	(40,000)	(18,917)	(2,537)	2,035	(2,915)	(63,935)
FUND BALANCES (DEFICITS), JANUARY 1	7,054	9,179	40,000	71,298	3,167	4,165	6,860	141,723
FUND BALANCES (DEFICITS), DECEMBER 31	\$ 7,871	\$ 6,761	\$ -	\$ 52,381	\$ 630	\$ 6,200	\$ 3,945	\$ 77,788

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

TOWN WARRANT MARCH 8-9, 2024

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 8, 2024, at 11:45 a.m. to act upon Articles 1 and 2. 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 Rome Community Center at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 9, 2024, 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; Road Commissioner for a term of one year: and RSU 18 School Board Director for a 3-year term.
- Article 3.** To see if the Town will allow non-residents, who have information pertaining to any following articles, to speak when recognized.
- Article 4.** 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 2024 annual budget to support expenditures during the period of January 1,2025 until the date of the 2025 Annual Town Meeting.
Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0
Budget Committee recommends 5-0
- Article 5.** 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. *Budget as presented represents \$177,165.82 over the current tax levy limit.*
Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0
Budget Committee recommends non approval 5-0
- Article 6.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$6,000 for General Assistance. Spent \$6505
Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0
Budget Committee recommends 5-0

Article 7. Shall an ordinance entitled “Rome Minimum Lot Size Ordinance” be amended as follows?

Section VI. Accessory Dwelling Units

Notwithstanding the road frontage and lot size requirements listed under Section I of this ordinance, an Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) as described under Title 30-A 4364-B may be permitted outside the shoreland zone provided the following requirements are met:

1. *The ADU shall be served by a legal subsurface wastewater disposal system and shall have access to a potable water supply.*
2. *All requirements listed under Title 12 Chapter 423-A (State Minimum Lot Size Law) shall be met.*
3. *The total footprint of the ADU shall not exceed 1,000 ft²*
4. *The peak height of the ADU shall not exceed 25 feet.*
5. *Off-street parking shall be provided for all occupants of the ADU.*
 - a. *A minimum parking area of 162 ft² shall be provided for each bedroom within the ADU. This parking area shall be in addition to any parking necessary for the primary dwelling.*

Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0

Article 8. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$30,000 for the maintenance and operation of the Rome Community Center. Spent \$29,183.66

Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0

Budget Committee recommends 5-0

Article 9. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$10,000 for the Community Center Reserve Account. Spent \$44,829.41 (heat pump grant funds received \$16,800) *Balance as of 12/31/2023: \$5879.95*

Board of Selectmen recommends 5-0

Budget Committee recommends non approval 5-0

Article 10. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$20,800 for the care and maintenance of Rome cemeteries; to include repair of headstones as needed.

Spent \$14,750

Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0

Budget Committee recommends \$15,500 5-0

Article 11. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$35,000 for the repair of Town-maintained roads and bridges. Spent \$48,081.40

Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0

Budget Committee recommends 5-0

Article 12. To see if the Town will vote to establish a non-lapsing road repair and improvements reserve account for road improvements and repairs which shall remain non-lapsing until rescinded by the Town; to raise and/or appropriate \$120,000 for the 2024 fiscal year; and to further authorize the Selectboard to make expenditures from the account thereafter for these purposes without further vote of the Town.

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

- Article 13.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$10,000 for roadside mowing and the cutting of brush along Town-maintained roads. Spent \$11,217
Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0
Budget Committee recommends 5-0
- Article 14.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$142,500 for the snow plowing and sanding of Town-maintained roads. Spent \$125,799.93 (\$15,799.93 from contingency)
Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0
Budget Committee recommends 5-0
- Article 15.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$60,000 for the purchase and stockpiling of salt and sand. Spent \$55,399.90
Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0
Budget Committee recommends 5-0
- Article 16.** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$2,136 for maintenance of the Town's salt and sand shed. Spent \$3,864
Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0
Budget Committee recommends 5-0
- Article 17.** 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 \$2,144
Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0
Budget Committee recommends 5-0
- Article 18.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$25,702 for Property, Casualty, Workers' Compensation, and Unemployment insurance premiums. Spent \$22,000
Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0
Budget Committee recommends 5-0
- Article 19.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$7,500 for the required auditing of Town books and records. Spent \$6,900
Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0
Budget Committee recommends 5-0
- Article 20.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$28,500 for Assessing Services. Spent \$27,000
Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0
Budget Committee recommends 5-0

- Article 21.** To see if the Town will vote to start a reserve account for the Town reevaluation planned for 2025 and raise and appropriate \$27,600 for that account. (Total cost of revaluation \$92,000)
Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0
Budget Committee recommends 5-0
- Article 22.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$60,000 to fund the Town's solid waste disposal contract with Waste Management/Crossroads in Norridgewock. Spent \$58,010.94
Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0
Budget Committee recommends 4-0-1
- Article 23.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,870.00 to fund the Town's contract with Somerset Humane Society. Spent \$1,951.60
Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0
Budget Committee recommends 4-1
- Article 24.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$3,768 for membership in Kennebec Valley Council of Governments (KVCOG) Spent \$3,733.01
Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0
Budget Committee recommends 5-0
- Article 25.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$3,436 for membership in Maine Municipal Association (MMA). Spent \$3,241
Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0
Budget Committee recommends 5-0
- Article 26.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$20,592 for software licensing, registrations, and technical support. Spent \$16,675.29
Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0
Budget Committee recommends \$20,000 5-0
- Article 27.** 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 3-0
Budget Committee recommends 5-0
- Article 28.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$19,170 for the Belgrade Village Dam concrete remediation, additional scheduled projects in addition to funding a Capital Reserve Fund to help offset future large project expenditures. Spent \$29,621
Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0
Budget Committee recommends amending to appropriate \$19,170 from ARPA funds 5-0
- Article 29.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,500 for the printing of the annual town report. Spent \$1,384

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

Article 30. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$5,000 for the Legal Expense Account and for any unspent balance at the end of the fiscal year to be transferred to the Legal Reserve Account. *Balance as of 12/31/2023 \$15,663.58*
 Spent \$1,050

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

Article 31. To see if the Town will vote to carry forward \$2,907 as needed for legal expenses and/or to fund a lobbyist to substantiate the Town’s withdrawal from the Kennebec Regional Development Authority Spent \$735

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

Article 32. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$176,580 for municipal officers’ and officials’ salaries. Spent \$165,811.90

	Proposed 2024	Spent 2023
First Selectman *	\$6,000	\$6,000
Second Selectman *	\$5,500	\$5,500
Third Selectman *	\$5,500	\$5,500
Property Tax Collector*	\$23,800	\$23,000
Treasurer*	\$14,000	\$13,000
Town Clerk*/Registrar of Voters	\$8,500	\$8,500
Motor Vehicle Agent/Excise Collector (up to \$26/hr.)	\$41,080	\$38,710.83
Administrative Assistant (up to \$22/hr.)	\$23,100	\$17,913.50
Road Commissioner	\$5,000	\$5,000
RSU 18 School Board Director	\$250	\$250
Meeting Moderator (\$200 per event)	\$600	\$400
Election Warden (\$17/hr.)	\$800	\$0
Ballot Clerk (\$15/hr.)	\$900	\$487.50
Code Enforcement Officer (up to \$30/hr.)	\$33,000	\$33,000
Licensed Plumbing Inspector **	¾ fees	¾ fees
Health Officer	\$100	\$100
911 Addressing Officer	\$500	\$500
Planning Board (\$200 per member)	\$1,400	\$1,400
Board of Appeals (\$100 per member)	\$500	\$500
Fire Chief	\$1,200	\$1,200
Assistant Fire Chief	\$600	\$600
Rescue Chief	\$600	\$600
Emergency Management Director	\$250	\$250

Sexton	\$1,000	\$1,000
Animal Control Officer (\$200month)	\$2,400	\$2,400
Total Salaries	\$176,580	\$165,811.83

Stipend* *no taxation required, appropriation only*
 Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0
 Budget Committee recommends 4-1

Article 33. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$15,400 for the Town’s contribution to Social Security and Medicare. Spent \$15,005.49
 Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0
 Budget Committee recommends 5-0

Article 34. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$13,700 for the following expense accounts. Spent \$14,490

	Proposed 2024	Spent 2023	2024 Budget Committee Recommends
Selectmen	\$1,400	\$1,549.49	\$1,000
Town Clerk	\$2,000	\$2,762.29	\$1,500
Excise Tax Clerk	\$1,000	\$1,090.40	\$500
Tax Collector/Treasurer	\$7,000	\$7,219.39	\$6,500
Planning Board	\$1,200	\$768.43	\$1,200
Code Travel Expense	\$1,100	\$1,100	\$1,100
Total	\$13,700	\$14,490	\$11,800

Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0
 Budget Committee recommends \$11,800 5-0

Article 35. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$22,000 for regional emergency dispatching services. Spent \$16,981.10
 Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0
 Budget Committee recommends 5-0

Article 36. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$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 (*Balance as of 12/31/2023 \$3968.03*) Spent \$31.97
 Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0
 Budget Committee recommends non approval 5-0

Article 37. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$66,000 for the Rome Fire and Rescue Departments. Spent \$61,161.95

	Proposed 2024	Spent 2023	2024 Budget Committee Recommends
Building Maintenance	\$10,000	\$8316.38	\$10,000
Equipment Maintenance	\$4,000	\$7,194.46	\$4,000
New Equipment	\$10,000	\$6,186.08	\$8,000
Labor (\$16. /hr.)	\$25,600	\$24,030	\$26,000
Training & Education	\$1000	\$767.77	\$1,000
Truck Maintenance	\$6,000	\$5,660.06	\$6,000
Tower Fee	\$1,000	\$660	\$1,000
State of Maine compliance	\$1,300	\$1,300	\$1,300
Medical	\$250	\$0	\$250
Hose Testing	\$3,500	\$2,463.51	\$3,500
License and Fees	\$350	\$310	\$350
Grant (matching funds)	\$3,000	\$4,273.69	\$3,000
Total	\$66,000	\$61,161.95	\$64,400

Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0

Budget Committee recommends \$64,400 4-1

Article 38. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$10,000 for Fire Department Truck Reserve Account. Spent \$272,101 **Balance as of 12/31/2023: \$23,712.32*

* *See details with Fire Department Report*

Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0

Budget Committee recommends 4-1

Article 39. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$10,000 for the Rescue Truck Reserve Account. *Balance as of 12/31/2023:*

\$47,250.04 Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0

Budget Committee recommends 4-1

Article 40. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$28,500 for a contract with Delta Ambulance to continue service to the Town of Rome. Spent \$15,465

Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0

Budget Committee recommends 5-0

Article 41. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$41,990 as Rome's proportionate share of the second Belgrade Lakes full-time firefighter/paramedic's salary and benefits. Spent \$42,240

Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0

Budget Committee recommends 5-0

Article 42. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$24,000 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 and other water quality issues. Spent \$24,000

Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0

Budget Committee recommends 5-0

Article 43. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$8,000 for 7 Lakes Alliance’s (formerly, Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance) Youth Conservation Corps program to protect and preserve North Pond, Great Pond, Long Pond, Watson Pond, and other water quality issues. Spent \$8,000

Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0

Budget Committee recommends 5-0

Article 44. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$4,000 for donation to North Pond Association for courtesy boat inspections and other water quality issues. Spent \$4,000

Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0

Budget Committee recommends 5-0

Article 45. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$5,625 for donations to the following non-profit organizations that provide services to Rome residents. Spent \$6,834.77

	Proposed 2024	Spent 2023
Spectrum Generations	\$3,749	\$3,570
Kennebec Behavioral Health	\$600	\$900
Life Flight of Maine	\$574	\$574
Hospice Volunteer of Waterville Area	\$200	\$200
Sexual Assault Crisis & Support Center	\$402	\$402
*Community Health & Counseling Services	*\$0	\$150
*Crisis & Counseling Centers	*\$0	\$1,038.77
Maine Public (Broadcasting)	\$100	*\$0
Total	\$ 5,625	\$6,834.77

*Did not submit a request

Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0

Budget Committee non approval 4-1

Article 46. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,000 for donation to Belgrade/Rome Special Needs Food Pantry. Spent \$2,000

Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0

Budget Committee recommends 5-0

Article 47. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate up to \$100,000 from unassigned fund balance (surplus) to offset the 2024 tax commitment.

Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0

Budget Committee makes no recommendation 5-0

Article 48. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the appropriation of \$289,300 in anticipated revenues to offset the 2024 tax commitment.

Auto Excise	\$260,000
Boat Excise	\$8,500
Office/Agent Fees	\$5,800
TCT Revenues	\$2,000
Interest on Taxes	\$3,000
Bank Interest	\$10,000
Total	\$289,300

Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0

Budget Committee recommends 5-0

Article 49. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to carry over, and assign fund balance accordingly, to the 2024 fiscal year any appropriated unexpended funds in 2023 fiscal year end, provided that the funds remain in the same account.

Global Towers	\$74.00
Dog Account	2,669.47
Campership Fund	\$614.39
Contingency	\$31,256.07
Recreation Committee	\$3,945.09
Transfer Station CD	\$156,145.56
Rescue Truck Reserve CD	\$47,250.04
Rescue Donations	\$6,200
F.D. Truck Reserve CD	\$23,712.32
FD Donations	\$6,761.05
FD Enterprise	\$7,871.11
Legal Reserve	\$15,663.58
Escrow TP	\$2,000.00
ARPA	\$52,380.05
Local Road Assist Program	\$10,872
Flagpole	\$344.32
EMA	\$3,968.03
Community Center Reserve	\$5,879.95
Cemetery Trust	\$11,653.97
Cemetery Maintenance	\$2880.00
Total	\$390,106.00

Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0

Budget Committee recommends non approval 4-0-1

Article 50. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$24,070.98, to cover the following FY 2023 overdrafts:

KVCOG	\$233
All Expense accounts	\$1,622
RD Commissioner travel	\$83.48
Audit	\$700
FD wages	\$2,620
Brush Cutting	\$1,217
Roads & Bridges	\$12,081
Community Center	\$4,009.50
General Assistance	\$1,505
Total	\$24,070.98

Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0

Budget Committee recommends appropriating \$24,070.98 from contingency 5-0

Article 51. To see if the Town will vote to set the due date for 2024 property taxes as October 31, 2024 and to charge interest on the delinquent tax rate of 8.5% per annum on taxes unpaid as of November 1, 2024.

Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0

Article 52. To see if the Town will vote to set the interest rate to be paid by the Town on abated taxes at 4.5% 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 3-0

Article 53. 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 discounts and abatements are to be paid from overlay funds.

Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0

Article 54. 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 3-0

Article 55. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to dispose of tax-acquired property as it deems to be in the best interest of the Town, except that (i) the Board of Selectmen shall first use the sale process in 36 M.R.S. § 943-C if it chooses to sell tax-acquired property to anyone other than the former owner; and (ii) for the sale of tax-acquired property to someone other than the former owner, the excess sale proceeds, as defined in 36 M.R.S. § 943-C, shall be returned to the former owner.

Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0

- Article 56.** 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 3-0
Budget Committee recommends amending to appropriate up to \$10,000
- Article 57.** 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 3-0
Budget Committee recommends 5-0
- Article 58.** 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 3-0
Budget Committee recommends 5-0
- Article 59.** 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 3-0
Budget Committee recommends 5-0
- Article 60.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,000 for donation to the Rome snowmobile club, Rome Ruff Riders. Spent \$1,200
Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0
Budget Committee recommends 5-0
- Article 61.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,000 to support the Rome Recreation Committee activities. Spent \$8,388.99 Donations/funds raised \$3,974.08 Special Revenue Account Balance \$3,945.09
Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0
Budget Committee recommends 5-0
- Article 62.** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,500 to publish, print, and mail a townwide newsletter to residents. Spent \$0
Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0
Budget Committee recommends 5-0

- Article 63.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$8,000 to convert the Town of Rome maps from the current analog format to a more versatile digital format.
Spent \$0
Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0
Budget Committee recommends 5-0
- Article 64.** To see if the Town will vote to elect one member from the floor to the Rome Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee for a 3-year term. (Larry Stafford (1-year member)).
- Article 65.** To see if the Town will vote to elect from the floor five 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 Trent Shute (3-yr member), Alice VanDerwerken (3-yr member), Richard LaBelle (2-yr member), Philip Burnworth (1-yr alternate) and Shawn Landry (1-yr alternate) expire.
- Article 66.** To see if the Town will allow the Selectboard to appoint members to the Recreation Committee rather than being nominated from the floor.
- Article 67.** To see if the Town will vote to elect from the floor three members to serve on the Recreation Committee. The term of Barbara McCosh (1-yr alternate member), Carroll Bubar (3-yr member), Sandy Shute (3-yr member) expires.

Rome Board of Selectmen

Kelly Archer, #1 Selectman

Larry DiPietro, Jr., #2 Selectman

Robert Hudson, #3 Selectman

A True Attest Copy

Town Clerk

NOTES

TOWN OF ROME, MAINE



Boards and Committee Appointment Application

Application for Appointment to:

_____ Board of Appeals

_____ Water Quality Committee

_____ Newsletter Committee

_____ Planning Board Committee

_____ Recreation Committee

_____ Fire/Rescue Committee

_____ Historical Committee

_____ Budget Committee

_____ Comprehensive Plan Committee

_____ Dams Committee

_____ Veterans Memorial Committee

Name: _____

Address _____

Phone # (Home) _____ (Work) _____ (Cell) _____

Email: _____

Place of Employment _____

Education & Experience _____

Interests and Hobbies _____

Why do you wish to serve on a municipal board or committee?

References:

Name _____ Phone # _____

Name _____ Phone # _____

Please Return to: selectmen@romemaine.com OR mail to 8 Mercer Road Rome, Maine 04963



Property Declaration for Rome, Maine

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THIS SCHEDULE MUST BE RETURNED TO THE TOWN OFFICE ON
OR BEFORE THE 1ST DAY OF APRIL 2024

Under Paragraph 706, Title 36, Maine Revised Statutes Annotated, Taxpayers are to submit lists of property to the municipal assessor.

Before making an assessment, the Assessor shall give reasonable notice in writing to all liable to taxation in the Municipality to furnish to the assessor true and perfect lists of their estates, not by law exempt from taxation of which they were possessed of the first day of April of the same year.

If any person after such notice does not furnish such list, he is thereby barred of his right to make application to the assessor or any other appeal, therefrom for any abatement of his taxes, unless he furnishes such list with appeal and satisfied them that he was unable to furnish it at the time appointed.

Real Estate Property

NAME OF OWNER _____

(Please note any changes on the address label on the reverse side)

If you need a copy of your tax bill to forward to your Mortgage Company check here.

Mortgage company and address _____

If your land is subject to any enforceable restrictions, please check the appropriate blocks:

Deed Restrictions Right of Way Shore land Zoning Subdivision Restrictions

Please indicate any real estate tax exemption you receive on the reverse side of this form.

Land-No. of acres _____ Improvements: Drilled Well Septic System Dug Well

Number of Buildings: (Number the appropriate category)

House _____ Additions _____ Garages _____ Sheds _____ Cottages _____ Barns _____ Others _____

Mobile Home: Make _____ Size _____ Year _____ Serial No. _____

What additions, alterations or improvements have been made to your land or to the exterior or interior of any building since April 1, 2005? (such as: new kitchen, bath, heating system, fireplace, finished basement or attics, porches, pools, adding living area, etc.)

Have any buildings been removed or destroyed? Yes No _____

Personal Property

(Do not include property used in business or on a farm)

Backhoes, Bulldozer Make _____ Model _____ Year _____ Value _____

Skidders, Loaders Make _____ Model _____ Year _____ Value _____

Farm Tractor Make _____ Model _____ Year _____ Value _____

TITLE 7 M.R.S.A. SEC 3451

Each owner or keeper of a dog six months or over shall, on or before January first, annually, or at such time as such dog becomes six months old, cause such dog to be licensed in the municipal clerk's office in the Town where such dog is kept.

I have carefully read each item above and I have read and understand the above law concerning my responsibility and the penalty contained therein and to the best of my knowledge and belief each item has been filled out in a full and true and correct manner.

Signature



Welcome to the
ROME TOWN OFFICE
8 Mercer Rd. Rome, ME 04963
(207) 397-4011
www.romemaine.com

Board of Selectmen
Meetings every other Monday at 6:00PM
selectmen@romemaine.com
(207) 397-2137

Motor Vehicle Registration
Julie Morrison
bmv@romemaine.com
Monday 10AM- 7 PM
Tues-Thursday 9AM-4PM
(207) 397-2136

Town Clerk
Barbara Brickett
townclerk@romemaine.com
(207) 397-2139

Treasurer & Tax Collector
Tammy Lyons
tct@romemaine.com
Monday 6-8PM
Tuesday and Thursday 9-1PM
(207) 397-5072

Town Assessing Agent

To reach the assessing agent, please contact the Office of the Tax Collector. The assessing agent is scheduled in-office the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

Code Enforcement Officer

ceo@romemaine.com
Monday 9am- 7PM
Wednesday 8am-4PM
(207) 397-3293

Board of Appeals and Fair Hearing Authority

Meetings will be held at the Town Office, as needed.

Planning Board

Meeting at Town Office the 2nd Monday of each month 6PM, as needed.

Waste Management

Transfer Station
(207) 634-2714
(472 Airport Rd., Norridgewock)
Sunday, Monday, Tuesday CLOSED
Wednesday-Friday 9:30AM-6PM
Saturday 7:30AM- 4PM

Please Note:

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