

The Temple Times

Quarterly Newsletter ~ June, 2024

If you grew up in Maine, or have spent any appreciable time here, you know about Town Meeting. Even if you haven't attended for a while, you know this is an integral part of how small Maine towns are managed. If you are new to New England, this style of governance where residents meet once a year to vote directly on proposed projects and expenditures, may seem a bit strange. The Select Board is there to supervise day to day activities, make sure expenses stay within the budget, and generally ensure the town runs smoothly. We, the residents, set the tone for those activities, expenditures and overall nature of Temple and we do that largely through the Town Meeting. In addition, there is coffee, community and conversation.

The next one will be in March 2025. Plan to attend; it's kinda fun.

Janine Winn, Editor

Town Calendar: (also on the Town website)

- Select Board Meeting, each Monday, 6:00 to 7:30pm
- Planning Board 6:00pm 2nd Monday, each month
- Temple Historical Society (THS) 3:00pm, 3rd Monday each month
- THS Archive Rm open the 1st Monday each month, 9:00 - noon.
- June 8, THS Yard Sale at the Town Hall 9:00 - 2:00
- June 11, School Budget vote, 8 am - 8 pm

Town Office:

Hours: Monday, 11:00 to 7:00 PM
Thursday, 9:00 to 5:00 PM
(closed on major holidays)

Address: PO Box 549, Temple 04984
Email: templetownoffice@yahoo.com
treasurertownoftemple@yahoo.com

Website: townoftemple.org
Phone: 778-6680 Fax: 778-0183
Facebook page: Town of Temple Maine

Office Staff:

Tax Collector & Treasurer Sue Cantrell
Town Clerk Georgia Exner
Registrar of Voters Bob VanRiper
Select Board Austin Foss,
David True, and Dean Collins

Trash pick-up: every Friday. Recyclables pick-up on the 1st & 3rd Fridays each month. Weight limit per bag is 50 pounds.

Post Office: Temple PO business hours are 7:30 to 11:30, everyday except Sunday and holidays. Additionally, mail can be picked up during the hours that the Town Office is open.

Town Office Staff asks that when you come in to conduct business such as getting your dog licensed or your car registered, that you bring smaller bills when paying cash. They keep only a small amount of cash on hand so several \$100 bills in a row cause difficulties when trying to make change.

Property tax bills will go out on the Tuesday after Labor Day. The Town needs to be notified of the amounts due to the school district and the County, and the current property assessments

from O'Donnel and Associates before property taxes can be calculated.

Registering new (to you) cars must be done before 4:00 in the afternoon. Temple's Clerk is required to call Augusta for the official value of the vehicle in order to calculate the excise tax. Paperwork can be dropped off at the Town Office and Staff will call you when all is ready to complete the registration.

When re-registering a car or truck, please bring the expiring registration, proof of insurance and the current mileage of the vehicle.

Vehicles must be registered each year. Trailers can be registered for two years in many cases.

Did You Know? In 2023, Temple recorded 4 births, 4 deaths, and 1 marriage. At present, we have a population of 527 people.

Temple Planning Board: Progress in updating the Comprehensive Plan will move ahead with the recently received current Data Set from the State's Municipal Planning Assistance Program. This gives us much of the info needed to map the growth in Temple.

The Department of Environmental Protection has given its final approval for the expansion of the Mountain View development. This will allow Maine Woodland Properties to market another 69 lots up past the end of the Edes Brook Road. The lots range in size from 11 acres to 50 acres.

The Planning Board continues to invite others join us. If you are interested, please let our Board Chair Jim Dunham or the Office staff know. We meet on the 2nd Monday of each month.

Temple Historical Society: The newest issue of the Historical Society newsletter was sent out in mid-May. It is sent to dues-paying members of the Society and dues are only \$10 per year for individuals and \$15 for families.

Repairs to the Red Schoolhouse roof are a big concern for THS at present. It is expected that old

shingles will be removed and an ice and water shield will be laid down before new shingles are installed. Fundraising efforts over the next several months will raise money for the work.

As a first step in that effort, a **Community Yard Sale** sponsored by THS will be held at the Town Hall on Saturday, June 8, from 9 to 2:00. Outside with cooperative weather, and inside if it's wet. Table space is \$10 per table. Call Rita Smith at 778-4058 to arrange for space. And of course, buyers are most welcome!

The Society's Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, Sept. 7 this year and again the event will include a Silent Auction. More info to follow.

The Bulky Waste Day on May 18th saw less traffic than usual but nonetheless a big roll-off for metal and appliances was filled to the brim as was a only slightly smaller bin for general debris. Fewer tires and electronics than expected were dropped off. The fees that the Town charges for white goods, tires and such are less than the fees charged by Archies so the Bulky Waste Day can be a money saver for residents by as much as 50%.

Did you know? At the time of its incorporation in 1803, the population of Temple was 241. Population in 1840 was 955, Temple at its largest. By 1880, we had shrunk to just a few more than we have today. Western migration following the Civil War had a huge impact on Maine's rural towns.

Town Hall Upgrades: During April, the Town Hall's old chimney was taken down. This was the building's original chimney, built in 1957. While it fumes out, it did leak for years. The task was far easier than anticipated as the old mortar had degraded significantly over the years and gravity seemed to be all that was holding everything in place. Work continues on the new, lower level, accessible rest room.

RSU 9 School Budget for 2024/2025 was approved by voters at the May 21st annual Regional Budget Hearing. The \$45 million budget 8.2% increase will be on the ballot for a final vote at the June 11 referendum in each of district's 10 towns. several one **time costs**

The budget for the Fiscal Year is \$4 million more than the current \$41 million budget. The District is allocating \$2.98 million from the Fiscal Yr 2024 to offset some of the increase. This means voters will be picking up a little over \$1 million of the increase. Temple's increase is only 1.28% or \$6,445 over last year.

One focus of the increase is to stay competitive in wages and benefits compared to nearby districts. The regular instruction budget (\$12.69 million, a 12.53% increase) it includes contractual wage and benefit increases and new long-term and one-year positions. The budget will also allow the district to have a full-time pre-K program, a move that will bring in more state revenue.

The District sent out a brochure ahead of the May 21st meeting with each of the 22 articles on the agenda along with a brief explanation. Detailed information can be found at <https://www.mtbluersd.org/about/budget-information/24-25-budget-information> The vote scheduled for June 11 which does not breakdown the budget by Article, is the last step in approving the 2024/25 school budget.

Temple's Annual Meeting was held April 27 at 9:00 in the Town Hall. The first item of business was the election of a moderator for the meeting. Tom Saviello, who has been our moderator for many years, was elected by a nearly unanimous vote; Tom was the only one who voted against it but given that he is not a resident of Temple, his vote was ignored. Article 2 re-elected David True to his position as Select Person.

Article 3 was to have set the date for the 2025 meeting again on the last Saturday in April but a case was made by Erik Hellgren, our Road Commissioner, to move it to the last Saturday in

March. Erik explained that when the budget is approved so late in April, it puts Temple at the bottom of the list when contracting paving services. We then end up with our paving work being completed in October and November at best when freezing temperatures can impact the quality of the work. The Article was amended and approved for Saturday, March 29, 2025.

Another \$40,000 (Article 9) was allocated for upkeep for the Town Hall which will bring the designated fund to \$66,442. Projects on the slate are repairs to the roof, completing the downstairs restroom, purchase of a generator, and attention to parking areas.

Discussion regarding waste collection included complaints about our current hauler, Archie's, and efforts to change haulers. The Board has been creating a paper trail of complaints. The Article was approved with an amendment to form a committee to address the issues.

Articles 12 & 13 also engendered an important discussion. Approved were Articles to appropriate \$150,000 for the Roads and Bridges and \$150,000 for the paving account after hearing recommendations from Erik Hellgren. He estimates that it will cost about \$1.5 million to rebuild and repave the worst of our roads, and that the Town might want to consider using a 10-year bond to cover the costs. During the time that the bond is being repaid, only minimal maintenance work would be required. Putting such a plan into place would also require a Special Town Meeting unless we put it off for another full year.

Article 14 approved an appropriation for next winter's snow plowing contract although no bid have yet been accepted.

Article 22 which provides for the care of the Village Cemetery included a discussion about vandalism concerns.

Article 42 which designates that snowmobile registration funds go to the Shiretown Riders Club was amended to "whichever club provides maintenance of the Temple trails." This is not the exact wording but captures the intent and makes it

possible for Temple to work more closely with other clubs.

All told, the current budget for the Town to be raise by taxes is just shy of \$60,000 more than last year.

This report on the Meeting doesn't capture all of the discussions and votes but does attempt to capture the most important points. The meeting, including a break for coffee and snacks provided by the Fire Department Auxiliary, and attended by some 30 plus residents, lasted just under an hour. We had fewer articles than usual and nothing contentious was up for discussion so all went smoothly. It was an excellent way to start a springtime Saturday.

Temple's Annual Report is still available in hard copy at the Town Office, or online at townoftemple.org. It makes for interesting reading and if you've ever thought "Why the heck are they doing that?" you may well find the answer in the report.

In addition to information about our fiscal health and the warrant for the recent Annual

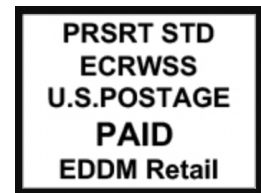
Meeting, the Report contains letters from the Select Board, the Fire Chief and the Road Commissioner, and letters from each of our legislative representatives. While the latter are pretty generic, the former reflect the activities of our essential community services.

Of note from the Select Board, for a long stretch "it seemed like [the road crew] had just recovered from one storm when another hit. Thank you to the residents for being patient throughout the recovery process... FEMA will cover 75% [of the repair bill] and State 15%, and [the Town] will cover the remaining cost.

"Daniel Swain, our Code Enforcement Officer has become the new town manager for Clinton and has stepped down as our CEO. Anyone interested in becoming the town CEO should submit a letter of interest to the Town Office.

"The Fire Dept continues to look for volunteers. Training is available in Farmington and associated costs are covered by the town. If you are interested, please contact Fire Chief, David True."

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Temple, Maine 04984



Postal Patron
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The second issue of
The Temple Times for 2024