

2021

# STARKS

ANNUAL REPORT



# Town of Starks

[www.starksme.com](http://www.starksme.com)

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57 Anson Road,  
Starks, ME 04911

## COVER PHOTO CONTEST

Please submit original photographs of or in Starks to [townofstarks@gmail.com](mailto:townofstarks@gmail.com) with the date, and location it was taken, along with a title for your photo.

## Cover Photo: Tiny Treasure September 2021

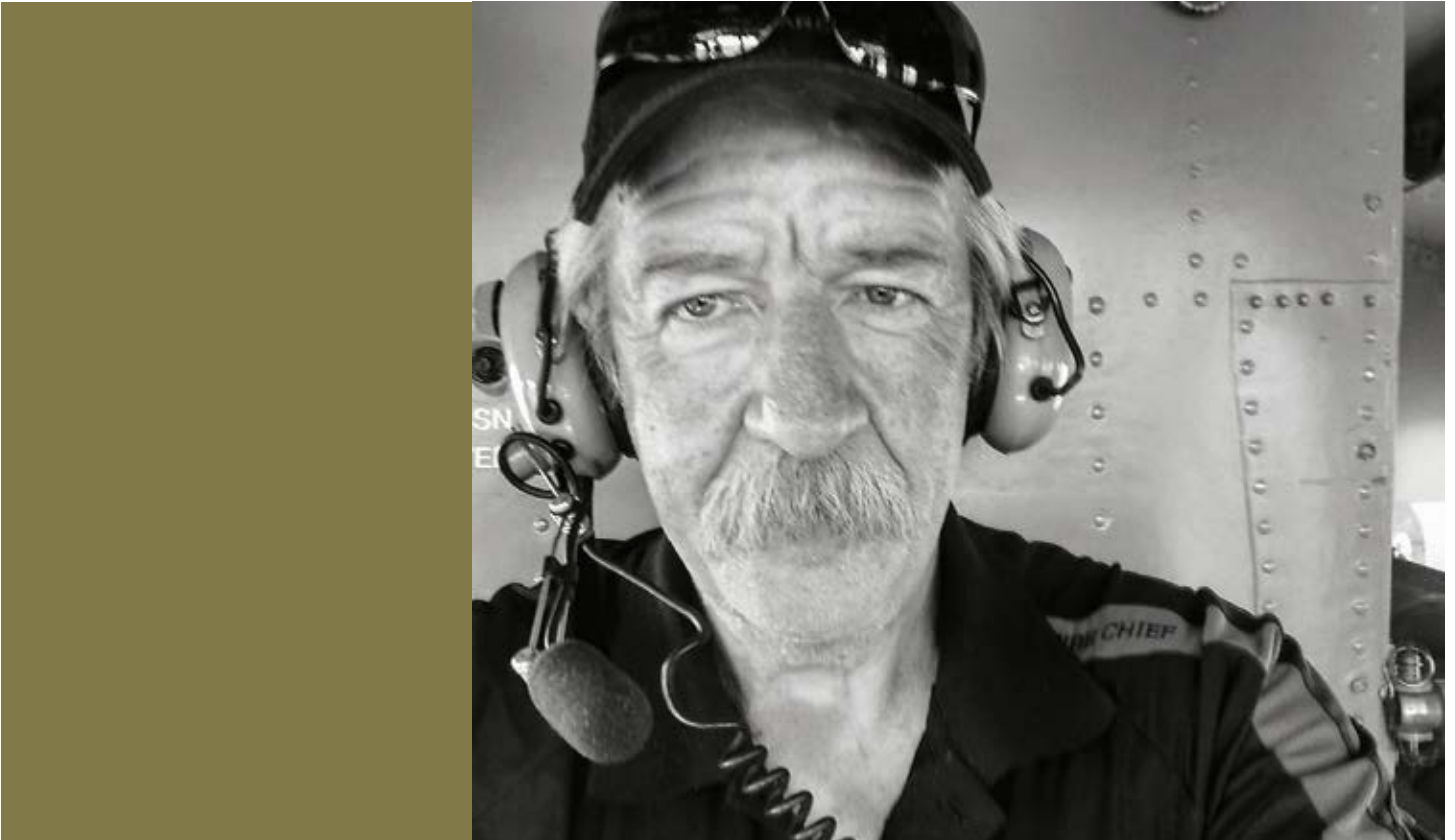
Taken by Darlene Taylor during  
the summer of 2021



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# WILLIAM PRESSEY



Bill was born in 1957 to Ruby Oliver Pressey and Everett Pressey and raised on Pressey Road in Starks. He attended Starks and Madison Schools, graduating from Madison High. In 1977 he married Charlene Whipple and they raised two daughters, Kristy, and Danielle. They have also watched their grandchildren Jada and Ryker grow. Chances are you know Bill and his whole family, including Danielle's partner John Robbins. All of them are invaluable contributors to our town. Friendly, kind and always willing to help out would best describe the Pressey family. Our town is a much better place because we are lucky enough to have the Presseys call Starks home.

As a teenager Bill worked on local farms haying and doing other chores. He was also part of the crew at the Abijah Hill Ski Slope where he worked alongside his dad and skied. His adult employment history includes the paper mill in Jay, Olde England Electronics, cable installation, and crop manager on the Shusta's vegetable farm in Madison. Bill and Charlene owned and operated several enterprises including Whips General Store in Starks and Deja vu (used goods emporium) in West Farmington and Starks.

Later in life, his athletic abilities extended well beyond the ski slope to encompass his pitching career on the very successful Starks Steamers softball team, a highlight in the town's sports annals.





Bill's service to the town includes many positions and duties. As sexton he has maintained high standards in caring for our public cemeteries. His service as building superintendent has involved many complex issues since the town's acquisition of the former school, now our community center. He continues to care for the building and his love for it is evident to all residents. His tenure as a member of the public works crew where he worked on both summer and winter roads made him a familiar face to everyone who traveled the local byways. He always had a happy wave for the passing public. Following in his father's footsteps, he distinguished himself as a member of the Starks Fire Department and as it's chief. He oversaw the dramatic rebuilding of the department into one of the best small-town departments in our region. He has done so much to fulfill his abiding belief in community, examples being not only his revitalization of the Fire Department, but also his having created and administered the *All Things Starks* Facebook page which has done so much during these times when people are otherwise unable to socialize.

This year, 2021, Bill retired from both the public works department and as fire chief. However, he continues on the fire department roster and don't be surprised if you see him helping to keep roads safe again.



Top Left

In 2014 Bill was awarded Stark's 'citizen of the year' during the annual pumpkin festival. He was also the recipient of the 2020 'Spirit of America foundation Tribute'.

Top right

Bill with his grand daughter Jada during the annual remembrance ceremony of fallen firefighters at the Maine Firefighter Memorial in Augusta

*Bill, you truly are a beloved member of this community! THANK YOU for your past and continued service to Starks, you have done much to make our community a safe and pleasant place to live in and visit.*

## MUNICIPAL OFFICERS TERMS

### **Selectmen - 3 year**

Paul Frederic	3-2022
Joseph Hayden	3-2023
Ernest Hilton	3-2024

### **Assessors - 3 year**

Maryanne Gawlinski	3-2022
Joseph Hayden	3-2023
Cathleen Horner	3-2024

### **Tax Collector - 3 year**

Jenn Zweig Hebert	3-2024
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### **Town Clerk - 3 year**

Jenn Zweig Hebert	3-2022
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### **Registrar of Voters - 2 year**

Jenn Zweig Hebert	1-2023
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### **Treasurer - 3 year**

Erin Norton	3-2023
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### **Planning Board - 5 year**

Ken Lust	4-2022
Lee Eric Hoar	5-2023
Claire Nelson	5-2023
Joe Hartigan	4-2024
Gwen Hilton	4-2025
Vacant (Alternate)	

### **CEO/Plumbing Inspector - 1 year**

Leo Mayo	3-2022
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### **Fire Chief**

David Gray	
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### **Town Fire Warden - 1 year**

David Gray	3-2022
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### **GA Administrator**

Jenn Zweig Hebert	3-2022
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### **Animal Control Officer - 1 year**

Danielle Pressey	3-2022
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### **Health Officer - 3 year**

Leo Mayo	5-2023
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### **Building Superintendent - 1 year**

William Pressey	3-2022
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### **Town Sexton - 1 year**

Danielle Pressey	3-2022
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### **Warrant Officer - 3 year**

William Pressey	3-2023
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### **RSU # 9 School Board Director - 3 year**

Carol Coles	7-2024
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### **Appeals Board - 5 year**

Carol Coles	9-2022
Maryanne Gawlinski	9-2022
Jared Norton	9-2023
George Martikke	9-2024
Sara Brusila	9-2024

### **Budget Committee – 1 year**

Carol Coles	3-2022
John Newsom	3-2022
David Gray	3-2022
Ashley Hayden	3-2022
Ken Lust	3-2022

### **Water District - 3 year**

Joe Hartigan	Operator
AnnMarie Simone	11-2022
Robin Melancon-Quimby	11-2022
Jared Norton	11-2023
Erin Norton	11-2023
Ashley Hayden	11-2024



## **Town of Starks**

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Starks, ME 04911

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## **OFFICE OF THE SELECTBOARD**

**March 11, 2022**

2021 was a busy year. Most notably we sold the old town office at 10 Locke Hill Road for \$71,000 with closing in early January 2022. This is a matter which has been under discussion for a number of years, and it was good to finally get the matter closed. Closing on the sale was delayed six months because members of a prior Selectboard had mistakenly quit claimed the property to a prior owner necessitating getting the title back in the name of the Town so we could sign it over to the buyers. The building was conveyed with an acre of land out of about four acres owned there, so the Town retains about three acres including the intersection of Locke Hill Road and Rt 43. The Selectboard is recommending the entire net proceeds of the sale be put into the Community Center Building fund to be used for capital improvements to the building. The Board is also recommending expenditure of about \$30,000 towards a complete overhaul of the HVAC control system. Because the building was formerly a school the control system is exceedingly complex and over the years has been modified in ways which are not now completely understood.

Joe continues as the Selectman that oversees roads, and upon his recommendation the Board acquired a used 2005 International 10-wheeler plow truck from a private contractor in Chelsea for \$53,000. It came with a complete set of plows and a sander. Purchasing the complete set new would have cost \$250,000. It replaces an unreliable single axle truck on the New Sharon route and allows much more efficient winter maintenance. It complements a 2003 Volvo wheeler which we bought at a DOT auction a couple of years ago in which we invested about \$25,000 which is serving us very well.

Following our policy over the last several years, we applied for a \$125,000 grant to replace the Duley Brook culvert at the bottom of the Locke Hill Road with an open bottom box culvert like the one installed on Smith Brook on the River Road in 2020. We should be hearing about an award in coming months, with construction likely in 2023. The project will also move the water main to the Village out from under the road and thereby make it much less vulnerable to damage. Typically, though these grants have been premised as a cost share, the Town has been able to accomplish the entire project for the amount of the grant award.



Duley Brook – Christmas Day, 2020

We are also looking into modifying an educational trust for the education of Starks' children established by a former resident, John Higgins. The trust started as \$50,000 when Mr. Higgins' estate was probated but has grown to over \$250,000. Unfortunately, the Town's residents have been getting little value out of it- only a few thousand \$\$ per year. We're looking to increase that substantially and use it for direct cash payments to students in town.

Finally, one of the longer-term investments the Town has been involved with, for over 20 years now, is First Park, a business park located at the I-95 exit in Oakland. The premise of it was that the member towns would make investments for a few years then start receiving payoffs of net operating funds. It hasn't worked out that way due to the business plan. We've been looking into modifying the business plan for the Park to enable it to start paying benefits to member towns sooner.

Regrettably Bill Pressey has retired as Fire Chief to be replaced by his very capable assistant Dave Gray. As is noted in the dedication, Bill was instrumental in resurrecting the Starks Fire Department and turned it into a very highly respected and active local department. Neighboring towns have become accustomed to being able to rely on the Starks crew to show up and respond professionally and capably to various emergencies. Dave has many years of experience as a professional firefighter in Connecticut before retiring to Starks.

We also lost a couple of long-time members of the road crew. Bill Pressey who had worked for the town for many years retired as did John Abbott. John had been the plow operator out towards Anson, and Bill had worked on the roads out towards New Sharon. Bill still works for the town on a limited basis and remains as the custodian of the Community Center. We'll continue to see Bill around (we hope) for many years.

As in the past, members of the Board are active in a number of other organizations. We're all on the board of AMS the local ambulance board, and the KRWC, the recycling operation. Joe oversees the day-to-day recycling operation. In addition, Ernie now works with Ken Lust on the First Park board. And the Town is involved with the local Council of Governments, KVCOG, with Paul a member of the Board and Ken Lust on the revolving loan committee. Paul is also a long time member of the County budget committee. As we all are now aware, Paul is terming off the Selectboard and will be sorely missed.

Finally, it is to be noted we are embarking on a project to provide fiber-to-the-door broadband for every residence in Starks. More project details will develop over coming months.

We generally meet every first and third Monday evening at 7 PM and welcome people coming in with their questions, comments and concerns.

Paul Frederic              Joe Hayden              Ernie Hilton



## FROM THE DESK OF THE TOWN CLERK

As another busy year wraps up it is meaningful to note that it once again was a difficult and unprecedented year!

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect how we operate Town Office and the Community Center.

The gym is once again available for rent for private parties or groups. Last Fall, the Selectmen allowed Mt. Blue Rec Cheer to use the space on weeknights to practice. It has been wonderful to see the children smiling and doing acrobatics in our beautiful gym. Call the Town Office during our scheduled hours if you are interested in renting the gym for your event.

Our mobile friendly website, [www.starksme.com](http://www.starksme.com) - it is packed with an amazing amount of information related to our town. Everything from ***paying your taxes online, re-registering your cars, trucks and trailers, ATV, snowmobile and boat re-registrations, hunting and fishing licenses***, tax maps, the annual town report, town adopted ordinances and applications, planning board activities to upcoming events/deadlines is at your fingertips. **Check it out.**

Other ways we try to help you stay informed of town happenings is the official Town of Starks Facebook page, the casual Facebook group "ALL THINGS STARKS" (not town affiliated) and a town wide email list. If you haven't utilized these great ways to keep in touch, check out the Facebook pages, and/or send an email request to [townofstarks@gmail.com](mailto:townofstarks@gmail.com) and request to be added to receive town wide emails.

2021 was a less active election year with the only activity being Town Meeting, School Budget and a Referendum Election in November. Until further notice our polling place will remain in the gym so we can maintain social distance and other new safety measures. I want to thank the following election workers: **Sarah Bessey, Maryanne Gawlinski, Cathleen Horner, Erin Norton, Danielle Pressey, Vicki Stevens, and Barbara Vischer.** Kudos to **Bill and Danielle Pressey** as well for all the extra cleaning they provided. And, as always, thank you to **Jerry Brackett** for posting the warrants for the town.

Thank you to the Select Board, **Joe, Paul and Ernie** for their hard work and dedication to running the town successfully. Thank you to my Deputy **Maryanne Gawlinski** who is always available to lend a hand. And, as always, A *SPECIAL THANK YOU* goes to my office mate **Erin Norton.**

Vital records for 2021 were as follows:

<u>Births</u>	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Marriages</u>
4	10	6

Town office hours are **Mondays 10 am-2 pm, Wednesdays 3pm-7pm, and the first Saturday of the month 8 am -11 am.** I understand these limited hours can be frustrating for some – so I am willing to help folks (in a pinch) during off hours. Call me on my home phone (696-3756), cell phone (578-0341) or email me at [mthungermaine@gmail.com](mailto:mthungermaine@gmail.com) and I will do my best to accommodate your needs.

I am honored to be working as the Clerk for the Town of Starks. I hope to continue to serve you well.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jenn*

Jennifer A Zweig Hebert

**Non Zero Balance on All Accounts**

**Tax Year: 2021**

**As of: December 31, 2021**

Status	Acct	Name	Original Tax	Payments/ Adjustments	Amount Due
	1	Abbott, Brandi S	781.34	-4.11	785.45
**	6	Abbott, Roger L	1,574.27	0.00	1,574.27
**	7	Abbott, Roger L	478.83	0.00	478.83
	19	Anger Jr. Robert K	524.67	3.21	521.46
	711	Ashby, Deborah	203.24	-1.07	204.31
	26	Atwood, John T	90.57	-0.48	91.05
**	457	Barnes, Helen C	227.13	-1.19	228.32
	635	Bavolar, James R	563.33	-2.96	566.29
	705	Beane, Walter S	2,515.50	-13.23	2,528.73
**	767	Bellefleur, Brad	182.53	-0.96	183.49
	629	Bellefleur, Eileen M	368.51	-1.94	370.45
	324	Bellefleur, Sarah	394.33	-2.07	396.40
	46	Belmore, Thomas G	312.87	-1.65	314.52
	564	Belyea, Charles L	205.72	-1.08	206.80
	60	Boucher, Douglas A	765.32	-2.82	768.14
	331	Boucher, Douglas A	177.56	-0.93	178.49
	140	Brawn, Stanley L	1,101.80	-5.80	1,107.60
	702	Bushey, Jason B	703.60	-3.70	707.30
	87	Churchill, Caleb	543.44	-2.86	546.30
	89	Churchill, William CSr	2,159.69	-11.36	2,171.05
	416	Clark, Kelly D	612.06	-3.22	615.28
	337	Coconis, Michael	1,080.40	-5.68	1,086.08
	98	Colburn, Gary	1,128.17	-5.93	1,134.10
	111	Costigan, Julie L	501.61	-0.47	502.08
	409	Costigan, Kenneth	443.90	-2.34	446.24
**	115	Cowan, Edward	795.42	495.26	300.16
	120	Curran, Thomas	288.98	-1.52	290.50
	136	Deming, Roi A	416.00	-2.19	418.19
	455	Donovan, Gregory J	439.61	-2.31	441.92
	167	Dube, Brad A	1,421.43	-7.48	1,428.91
	786	Dudash, Shane	275.73	-1.45	277.18
	169	Duhaime, Deanne	483.80	40.22	443.58
	176	Dyke et Al, Darrell A.	1,177.88	519.93	657.95
	179	Edwards, Ivan	231.96	-1.22	233.18
	338	Estate of Gladys Lambert	284.98	-1.50	286.48
**	185	Evans Jr., William A	838.36	699.95	138.41

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\*\* Indicates Paid in Full after December 31, 2021

\* Indicates Partial Payment after December 31, 2021

**Non Zero Balance on All Accounts**

**Tax Year: 2021**

**As of: December 31, 2021**

	678	Farrell, Donna M	1,288.33	-6.78	1,295.11
	749	Fields Jr., Bruce W	176.73	-0.93	177.66
	758	First Light	667.84	-3.51	671.35
	201	Frederic, Joseph W	1,465.75	-7.71	1,473.46
	205	Friend, Tara M	724.18	-3.81	727.99
	209	Gaeta, Lorraine A	652.79	-3.43	656.22
	210	Gaeta, Lorraine Ann	409.24	-2.15	411.39
	460	Giguere, Raymond R	615.65	-3.24	618.89
	241	Hand, Roger	461.15	-2.43	463.58
	245	Harris, Nelson N	231.13	-1.22	232.35
**	747	Hartigan, David	434.09	0.24	433.85
	249	Hartigan, Dennis P	777.47	-4.09	781.56
	703	Hayden, Joseph P.O.	1,336.79	-7.03	1,343.82
	735	Hayden, Joseph P.O.	412.55	-2.17	414.72
**	262	Henckel, Peter N	476.20	-2.50	478.70
	285	Horelick, Estate of, Walter	573.27	4.50	568.77
	207	Howton, Anna	284.98	-1.50	286.48
	299	Irvine, Carl H Jr	180.32	-0.95	181.27
	386	Johnson, Christopher	554.77	-2.86	557.63
	739	Kiger, Nathan A	2,120.89	-11.16	2,132.05
	708	Lane, James	218.70	-1.15	219.85
**	36	Lavallee, Lucy M	196.20	-1.03	197.23
**	688	Leahy, Barry F	916.78	703.99	212.79
	760	Lemay, George E Jr	2,099.35	-11.04	2,110.39
	359	Liddell, John N Sr	496.50	-2.61	499.11
	742	Locke, Duane M	769.88	500.00	269.88
**	374	Luce, Norman	2,573.35	-13.54	2,586.89
**	22	Luce, Norman F	498.71	-2.62	501.33
**	33	Luce, Norman F	269.10	-1.42	270.52
**	34	Luce, Norman F	434.09	-2.28	436.37
**	90	Luce, Norman F	354.56	-1.87	356.43
	67	Mannion, Richard F Jr,	264.13	-1.39	265.52
	368	Mansfield, Kelly Jayne	898.15	0.00	898.15
**	715	Mansfield, Kelly Jayne	48.46	0.00	48.46
	389	Martikke, George	578.24	-3.04	581.28
	390	Martikke, George F	841.95	-4.43	846.38

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\*\* Indicates Paid in Full after December 31, 2021

\* Indicates Partial Payment after December 31, 2021

**Non Zero Balance on All Accounts**

**Tax Year: 2021**

**As of: December 31, 2021**

	166	Mattos, June Ann	448.18	222.91	225.27
	438	Mcmurrough, Bryan S	849.13	-4.47	853.60
	405	McPherson, Wayne	217.32	-1.14	218.46
**	407	Meagher, Brian	2,992.67	0.00	2,992.67
**	412	Melancon-Quimby, Robin	201.03	0.00	201.03
**	508	Melancon-Quimby, Robin	132.41	0.00	132.41
*	505	Melancon-Quimby, Robin M	801.91	0.00	801.91
	529	Merrill, Danielle L	837.67	-4.41	842.08
	171	Napoleon, Alexander G	404.27	-1.93	406.20
	430	Newton, Kirt	1,352.81	-7.12	1,359.93
	675	Nichols, Michael A	907.67	-4.77	912.44
	520	Norton, Erin	483.80	-2.54	486.34
	690	Norton, Erin E	2,750.63	-14.47	2,765.10
	261	Norton, Jared M	275.73	-1.45	277.18
	565	Norton, Jared M	383.70	-2.02	385.72
	436	Norton, Jordan D	192.19	-1.01	193.20
	439	O'Donald, Melissa	193.99	-0.57	194.56
	444	Oliver, Herbert E	161.13	-0.85	161.98
	456	Osgood, Wanda	939.15	497.69	441.46
**	459	Ouellette, Kenneth W	703.19	486.80	216.39
	466	Patenaude, Alan	198.82	-1.05	199.87
	465	Patenaude, Alan T	455.08	-2.39	457.47
	472	Patten, Bruce K	364.50	-1.92	366.42
	474	Patten, Bruce K	168.31	-0.89	169.20
*	497	Pederen, Ronald	1,664.99	1,201.36	463.63
	480	Peppermint, Cary	467.51	-2.46	469.97
	485	Peters, Bruce	374.45	-1.97	376.42
	486	Peters, Bruce	483.80	-2.54	486.34
**	492	Piche, Bradley M	684.55	-3.60	688.15
	32	Poirier, Jared	409.24	-2.15	411.39
	762	Prescott, Gerald S	320.74	-1.69	322.43
	778	Pressey, Heirs of Ruby	424.15	-2.23	426.38
	499	Pressey, Robert M	854.38	-4.49	858.87
	500	Pressey, Ruby, Heirs Of	468.33	-2.46	470.79
*	256	Quimby, Francis J	905.88	0.00	905.88
**	502	Quimby, Glenda	1,699.37	0.00	1,699.37

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\*\* Indicates Paid in Full after December 31, 2021

\* Indicates Partial Payment after December 31, 2021



**Non Zero Balance on All Accounts**

**Tax Year: 2021**

**As of: December 31, 2021**

	510	Rackliff, Michael A	288.84	-1.52	290.36
	517	Randall, Lewis G., Randall Barbara J	484.90	-2.55	487.45
	38	Renner, Trustee, Leslie	2,482.91	-13.06	2,495.97
	527	Riley, Margot	1,875.54	5.98	1,869.56
	9	Riley, Megan	180.73	-0.95	181.68
	528	Rioux Family Revocable Trust	143.45	0.56	142.89
	530	Robinson, John	2,051.31	-10.79	2,062.10
	70	Rosie, Crystal	247.42	-1.30	248.72
	777	Ross, Jon A	1,035.53	-5.45	1,040.98
	665	Russo, Diane M	1,137.14	131.19	1,005.95
	463	Semas Joseph, J	849.54	251.28	598.26
**	556	Sheen, Jada F	503.68	-2.65	506.33
	558	Sherrer, Charles R	995.62	-5.24	1,000.86
	560	Sherrer, Earskin	258.47	-1.36	259.83
	731	Smedberg, Elizabeth	249.49	-1.31	250.80
	31	Smith, Perry	1,079.29	2.72	1,076.57
	114	Smith, Perry	603.92	3.10	600.82
	599	Smith, Perry	384.39	2.25	382.14
	571	Smithers, Linda	3,899.51	-20.51	3,920.02
	579	Staph, Mike	988.72	-5.20	993.92
	593	Sterry Earl R. Jr.	359.95	148.90	211.05
	691	Stevens, Charles L	781.34	-4.11	785.45
**	596	Sullo, David A	893.87	0.00	893.87
**	597	Sullo, Nicholas E	745.72	0.00	745.72
	792	Sweetser, Jeff A	729.01	-3.83	732.84
	722	Swisher, John R	218.70	0.00	218.70
	605	Taylor, David E	1,166.28	-6.13	1,172.41
	615	Thayer, Erika L	1,117.54	-5.88	1,123.42
**	613	Thayer, James	1,211.98	-6.38	1,218.36
	617	Theberge, Andre	2,646.25	-13.92	2,660.17
**	754	Tibbetts, Antonio	577.27	4.32	572.95
	393	Tracy, Howard S	493.88	-2.60	496.48
**	774	Tracy, Trista A	176.73	0.59	176.14
	631	Tutt, Dawn	1,332.93	-7.01	1,339.94
	638	Vessella, David A	1,133.69	41.24	1,092.45
**	282	Viant, Jules	424.01	0.00	424.01

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**Non Zero Balance on All Accounts**

**Tax Year: 2021**

**As of: December 31, 2021**

	639	Vincent, Edward B	189.57	-1.00	190.57
	410	Vomorde, Carson C	1,261.96	-6.64	1,268.60
	352	Webber, Archie L	192.19	-1.01	193.20
**	247	Webster, Robert D	750.00	0.00	750.00
	782	Welcome, Cordell	11.05	-0.06	11.11
	781	Welcome, Jeffery	539.58	-2.84	542.42
	467	Whipple, Charles Bruce	1,370.34	-7.21	1,377.55
	658	Whipple, Charles Bruce	124.26	-0.65	124.91
	659	Whipple, Charles Bruce	1,118.51	-5.88	1,124.39
**	660	White, Stephen	554.21	4.38	549.83
	580	Whitmore, Robert	424.29	-2.23	426.52
	395	Witham, Jr., William R	1,449.60	-7.63	1,457.23
	676	Worthley, Melinda	597.29	-3.14	600.43
	677	Worthley, Melinda	174.93	-0.92	175.85
	746	Wyman, Joseph	914.58	-4.81	919.39
	748	Wyman, Joseph	434.09	-2.28	436.37
**	692	Zink Jr., George H	508.65	0.00	508.65
		<b>Total for 161 Accounts:</b>	119,134.14	5,520.52	113,613.62

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\*\* Indicates Paid in Full after December 31, 2021

\* Indicates Partial Payment after December 31, 2021

**Non Zero Balance on All Accounts**

**Tax Year: 2020**

**As of: December 31, 2021**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Acct</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Original Tax</b>	<b>Payments/ Adjustments</b>	<b>Amount Due</b>
	711	Ashby, Deborah	298.75	-6.80	305.55
	629	Bellefleur, Eileen M.	702.25	-17.88	720.13
	702	Bushey, Jason B.	916.13	-23.55	939.68
	87	Churchill, Caleb	427.19	-11.28	438.47
	89	Churchill, William C.Sr.	2,270.56	516.25	1,754.31
	120	Curran, Thomas & Jennifer	403.29	-9.67	412.96
	136	Deming, Roi A.	351.74	-8.06	359.80
	455	Donovan, Gregory J.	601.60	-14.71	616.31
	241	Hand, Roger & Carolee	605.59	-15.44	621.03
	708	Lane, James	317.60	-7.32	324.92
**	368	Mansfield, Kelly Jayne	749.13	0.00	749.13
**	715	Mansfield, Kelly Jayne	125.87	0.00	125.87
	405	McPherson, Wayne	315.92	-7.27	323.19
	529	Merrill, Danielle L.	1,072.25	-28.04	1,100.29
	430	Newton, Kirt	1,700.31	-45.28	1,745.59
	485	Peters, Bruce	507.48	-12.53	520.01
	486	Peters, Bruce	640.81	-16.19	657.00
**	492	Piche, Bradley M.	885.57	-22.91	908.48
	778	Pressey, Heirs of Ruby	563.09	-14.16	577.25
	499	Pressey, Robert M. & Crystal L.	1,092.62	-28.60	1,121.22
	500	Pressey, Ruby, Heirs Of	621.95	-15.68	637.63
	517	Randall, Lewis G., Randall Barbara	642.15	-16.23	658.38
	38	Renner, Trustee, Leslie	2,834.14	282.06	2,552.08
	558	Sherrer, Charles R.	1,264.82	-33.33	1,298.15
	792	Sweetser, Jeff A	1,214.49	-31.94	1,246.43
	605	Taylor, David E.	1,472.88	-39.04	1,511.92
	615	Thayer, Erika L.	992.63	-25.85	1,018.48
	639	Vincent, Edward B.	282.09	-6.35	288.44
	410	Vomorde, Carson C.	1,589.54	-42.24	1,631.78
	467	Whipple, Charles Bruce	1,721.69	-45.87	1,767.56
	658	Whipple, Charles Bruce	202.46	-4.16	206.62
	659	Whipple, Charles Bruce	1,414.65	-37.44	1,452.09
	580	Whitmore, Robert	575.59	-14.20	589.79
	395	Witham, Jr., William R	1,818.31	-48.52	1,866.83
		<b>Total for 34 Accounts:</b>	<b>31,195.14</b>	<b>147.77</b>	<b>31,047.37</b>

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\*\* Indicates Paid in Full after December 31, 2021

\* Indicates Partial Payment after December 31, 2021

**Non Zero Balance on All Accounts**

**Tax Year: 2019**

**As of: December 31, 2021**

Status	Acct	Name	Original Tax	Payments/ Adjustments	Amount Due
	711	Ashby, Deborah	246.89	0.00	246.89
	120	Curran, Thomas & Jennifer	374.99	0.00	374.99
	455	Donovan, Gregory J.	429.27	0.00	429.27
	405	McPherson, Wayne	165.12	0.00	165.12
	430	Newton, Kirt	1,672.18	0.00	1,672.18
	485	Peters, Bruce	477.63	0.00	477.63
	486	Peters, Bruce	608.92	0.00	608.92
	499	Pressey, Robert M. & Crystal L.	1,142.05	36.73	1,105.32
	500	Pressey, Ruby, Heirs Of	678.55	0.00	678.55
	517	Randall, Lewis G., Barbara J. Randall,	668.60	272.50	396.10
*	558	Sherrer, Charles R.	1,250.25	1,063.59	186.66
	605	Taylor, David E.	1,313.35	0.00	1,313.35
	615	Thayer, Erika L.	1,043.57	0.00	1,043.57
	639	Vincent, Edward B.	255.63	0.00	255.63
	410	Vomorde, Carson C.	1,631.41	0.00	1,631.41
	658	Whipple, Charles Bruce	197.15	0.00	197.15
	659	Whipple, Charles Bruce	1,390.90	0.00	1,390.90
	580	Whitmore, Robert	70.78	0.00	70.78
		<b>Total for 18 Accounts:</b>	<b>13,617.24</b>	<b>1,372.82</b>	<b>12,244.42</b>

**Non Zero Balance on All Accounts**

**Tax Year: 2018**

**As of: December 31, 2021**

Status	Acct	Name	Original Tax	Payments/ Adjustments	Amount Due
	485	Peters, Bruce	457.76	-75.78	533.54
	486	Peters, Bruce	581.17	-96.80	677.97
	500	Pressey, Ruby, Heirs Of	616.70	-102.86	719.56
		<b>Total for 3 Accounts:</b>	<b>1,655.63</b>	<b>- 275.44</b>	<b>1,931.07</b>

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\* Indicates Paid in Full after December 31, 2021

\* Indicates Partial Payment after December 31, 2021



**Non Zero Balance on All Accounts**

**Tax Year: 2017**

**As of: December 31, 2021**

Status	Acct	Name	Original Tax	Payments/ Adjustments	Amount Due
	485	Peters, Bruce	429.90	-88.55	518.45
	486	Peters, Bruce	546.68	-113.48	660.16
	500	Pressey, Ruby, Heirs Of	562.61	-116.88	679.49
		<b>Total for 3 Accounts:</b>	1,539.19	- 318.91	1,858.10

**Non Zero Balance on All Accounts**

**Tax Year: 2016**

**As of: December 31, 2021**

Status	Acct	Name	Original Tax	Payments/ Adjustments	Amount Due
	485	Peters, Bruce	403.58	-106.19	509.77
	486	Peters, Bruce	517.08	-137.87	654.95
	500	Pressey, Ruby, Heirs Of	594.26	506.64	87.62
		<b>Total for 3 Accounts:</b>	1514.92	262.58	1252.34

**Non Zero Balance on All Accounts**

**Tax Year: 2015**

**As of: December 31, 2021**

Status	Acct	Name	Original Tax	Payments/ Adjustments	Amount Due
	485	Peters, Bruce	412.19	-151.88	564.07
	486	Peters, Bruce	528.47	-192.10	720.57
		<b>Total for 2 Accounts:</b>	940.66	-343.98	1,284.64

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\*\* Indicates Paid in Full after December 31, 2021  
\* Indicates Partial Payment after December 31, 2021



## *From the Treasurer's Desk*

Greetings friends! It's hard to believe we are still slowly wading through a global pandemic. What we initially thought would be just a few short weeks is now entering year three. We've made a great effort to maintain the same high standards as always in service to our Starks residents, while also being conscientious about budgets and spending habits during a time when people are unwell and some still out of work. The legislature sets the maximum rate at which interest can be charged on taxes. In most years it's up around eight or nine percent, but last year we saw it drop to six, and this year to four. This should be considered by boards and departments when presenting budgets and taxation to voters. The abrupt reduction in max allowable interest rate to taxes should result in trying our best to hold the line -I think we did!

Early this year we got to work calculating and estimating cost increases/decreases and how they would affect our overall commitment this coming fall. According to my recent calculations, we're looking at a 0.18% increase of \$2,115.78 in taxation this year when compared with last year's town meeting warrant. We were able to reduce overall taxation on the current warrant largely because of article nine, where we're asking to reduce the 2022 commitment by \$55,854. This figure represents the unexpended balances from our 2021 budget, less the Public Works Department, which we've asked you to apply to our Capital Roads Reserve via article eight.

We saw a BIG jump in valuation last year, a result of improvements to the CMP corridor. Central Maine Power submitted a self-assessed value increase of over *six million dollars* -a great help to us during the 2021 commitment. We were able to keep overlay higher than usual at the maximum (5%) and **DECREASE** taxation. This wouldn't have been possible had the corridor not been augmented. As your Treasurer, it is my strong feeling that Starks benefits greatly by the improvements to the existing corridor that runs six and a half miles through town. I see expansion to the existing corridor as a much better option for generating energy than the loss of agricultural fields to solar like we've seen in surrounding communities. This is a dismal change to the beautiful landscape of years past.

As we prepare for this new budget year, I want to extend a big THANK YOU to the Board of Selectmen -Ernie, Paul, and my AMAZING dad Joe for their continued efforts on behalf of the Town, and their support of me as Treasurer. I'd also like to say a heartfelt thank you to my office mate and bestie Jennifer Hebert for being the guiding beam of light on our town office ship. She is truly the glue that keeps us all together. I appreciate and love her so much! A few notable others that I worked with or were helpful to me this past year are -Bill Pressey, Danielle Pressey, John Robbins, Maryanne Gawlinski, and Cathy Horner. The budget committee members I worked with last year were great too! Thanks to Carol Coles, Ken Lust, Dave Gray, John Newsom, and Ashley Hayden.

My role as a Municipal Treasurer has evolved considerably since I began this work in 2008. The position has a very specific skill set that requires a self-motivated, naturally curious, driven individual. I love working for the people in my hometown while also working as Treasurer in New Sharon and Chesterville. I hope to continue working for the people of Starks until my own expiration date. If you have any questions about town finances, expired liens or want to chat about your taxes, please feel free to reach out. I'm always happy to meet up and address your concerns.

Respectfully,

*Erin Norton*

## 2021 FUND BALANCES

2021 Town of Starks	BALANCES	
	As of 12/31/20	As of 12/31/21
Skowhegan Savings Primary Checking Account	653,796.14	785,012.67
General Fund Sweep Account	100,000.00	100,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 753,796.14</b>	<b>\$ 885,012.67</b>

2021 Reserve Funds	BALANCES		
	As of 12/31/20	Due To/Due From	As of 12/31/21
LRAP - Balance due Chicken Street 2019	0.00	28,900/23,105.30	5,794.70
Re-Valuation Account	41,241.66	0.00	41,241.66
Capital Roads Reserve	45,000.00	5,000.00	50,000.00
Capital Improvement Reserve	78,036.21	15,000/53000	40,036.21
Fire Department Capital Reserve	20,000.00	5,000.00	25,000.00
BIF - Building Improvement Fund	64,607.99	15,280.00	79,887.99
Helen Reed Scholarship Fund	4,610.97	0.00	4,610.97
Locke Cemetery Assoc. Perpetual Care	-	17,354.27	17,354.27
American Rescue Act (ARPA)	-	33,585.82	33,585.82
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>253,496.83</b>	<b>44,014.79</b>	<b>297,511.62</b>

### Due to / Due From Summary

LRAP - Balance totaled \$28,900 less remaining expenses of Chicken Street

Capital Roads - Appropriation from 2021 Annual Meeting

Capital Improvement - 2021 Appropriation less purchase of new truck

BIF - Appropriation from 2021 Town Meeting, rental income & donations

Helen Reed Scholarship - Adopted at 2017 Annual Meeting

Locke Cemetery Assoc. disbanded, turning over to Town

American Rescue Act Funds - First half of expected revenue received 2021

Bank of America / US Trust Account	BALANCES		
	As of 10/31/20	Gain / Loss	As of 10/31/21
John W Higgins Trust Fund Market Value	213,146.51	43,569.26	256,715.77

# Expense Report 2021

Article #	Description	Budget	Expended	Balance	% Spent
3	Contingency	\$3,000.00	\$959.96	\$2,040.04	32.00%
3	Administration	\$124,962.00	\$94,996.22	\$29,965.78	76.02%
3	Former Town Hall	\$3,500.00	\$958.67	\$2,541.33	27.39%
3	CEO Legal	\$7,000.00	\$0.00	\$7,000.00	0.00%
3	Town Salaries	\$74,650.00	\$69,427.00	\$5,223.00	93.00%
3	Planning & Appeals Boards	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	0.00%
3	Training of outgoing Officers	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	0.00%
3	Community Center	\$18,000.00	\$15,929.47	\$2,070.53	88.50%
3	Fire Department	\$45,300.00	\$42,183.46	\$3,116.54	93.12%
3	Fire Chief Salary	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	100.00%
3	Animal Control	\$1,000.00	\$770.00	\$230.00	77.00%
3	AMS Ambulance	\$10,240.00	\$10,240.00	\$0.00	100.00%
3	Street Lights	\$1,500.00	\$1,209.37	\$290.63	80.62%
3	Public Works	\$216,500.00	\$113,784.83	\$102,715.17	52.56%
3	Town Dump Maintenance	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$0.00	100.00%
3	General Assistance	\$4,000.00	\$3,564.43	\$435.57	89.11%
3	Recreation/Library Reimbursements	\$2,000.00	\$560.00	\$1,440.00	28.00%
3	Salt Shed Debt Service	\$9,787.00	\$9,786.48	\$0.52	99.99%
35 assessment	First Park	\$3,094.00	\$3,094.00	\$0.00	100.00%
3	Social Organizations	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	100.00%
3	Capital Improvements	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	100.00%
3	Building Improvement Fund (BIF)	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	100.00%
3	Capital Roads Account	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	100.00%
3	Fire Department Capital Reserve	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00		100.00%
Assessment	County Tax	\$124,956.53	\$124,956.53	\$0.00	100.00%
Assessment	RSU #9	\$519,335.50	\$519,335.50	\$0.00	100.00%
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$1,219,625.03</b>	<b>\$1,061,055.92</b>	<b>\$156,529.07</b>	<b>87.00%</b>



## 2021 Treasurer's Revenue Report

Account #	Account	Credit
98	Real Estate Payments	876,942.81
99	Supplemental Payments	694.49
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>877,637.30</b>

### Revenue Summary

Account #	Account	Debits	Credits	Balance
100	- Excise - Auto	\$140.64	\$121,071.78	\$120,931.14
101	- Excise - Boat	\$0.00	\$630.00	\$630.00
102	- Fees - Agent	\$0.20	\$5,136.30	\$5,136.10
103	- Over Short	\$67.70	\$166.54	\$98.84
104	- Interest - Real Estate	\$0.00	\$7,406.33	\$7,406.33
105	- Lien Fees	\$0.00	\$2,191.71	\$2,191.71
106	- Dog Fees	\$0.00	\$244.00	\$244.00
107	- Plumbing Permit Fees	\$0.00	\$2,212.50	\$2,212.50
108	- Building Permit Fees	\$0.00	\$350.00	\$350.00
109	- Cemetery Interest	\$0.00	\$4.81	\$4.81
110	- Homestead Exemption	\$0.00	\$52,101.00	\$52,101.00
111	- Site Review Fee	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
112	- Veteran's Exemption	\$0.00	\$297.00	\$297.00
113	- First Park	\$0.00	\$2,623.00	\$2,623.00
114	- Tree Growth Reimbursement	\$0.00	\$22,154.89	\$22,154.89
115	- Operating Interest	\$0.00	\$914.18	\$914.18
116	- Revenue Sharing	\$0.00	\$90,520.48	\$90,520.48
117	- Reimbursements	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
119	- Miscellaneous Revenue	\$0.00	\$4,211.44	\$4,211.44
120	- General Assistance Reimbursements	\$0.00	\$2,524.76	\$2,524.76
121	- Higgins Trust Interest	\$0.00	\$3,366.47	\$3,366.47
122	- Snowmobile Reimbursement	\$0.00	\$383.96	\$383.96
123	- MMA Fire Department Grant	\$0.00	\$1,678.00	\$1,678.00
124	- Connect ME Grant	\$0.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
125	- American Rescue Act (ARPA)	\$0.00	\$33,585.82	\$33,585.82
126	- Local Road Assistance Program LRAP	\$0.00	\$28,900.00	\$28,900.00
127	- Building Rental/donation Fees (to BIF)	\$25.00	\$305.00	\$280.00
128	- Locke Cemetery Perpetual Care	\$0.00	\$17,354.27	\$17,354.27
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$233.54</b>	<b>\$402,884.24</b>	<b>\$402,650.70</b>

Total Revenue Received by Starks      **1,280,288.00**  
*(The Total Sum of Cash Receipts Report and Revenue Summary)*

## Cemetery Trust Balance December 31st 2021

\$10,020.03

<b>Frederic Cemetery</b>	<b>Total Trust</b>	<b>% of Trust</b>	<b>2021 Interest</b>
John W. Higgins	\$5,000.00	79%	\$10.13
Frederic Cemetery Trust	\$157.10	2%	\$0.26
Alice Frederic Fields Trust Fund	\$180.27	3%	\$0.38
Sawyer and Trask Fund	\$334.74	5%	\$0.64
M.D. Frederic Trust Fund	\$100.00	2%	\$0.26
Bertha Waugh Smith-Georgia & Clifford Brann Lot	\$59.37	1%	\$0.13
Glen Frederic Trust Fund	\$500.00	8%	\$1.03
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,331.48</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>\$12.82</b>
<b>Locke Cemetery</b>			
Bertha Waugh Smith-Sampson & Mary Duley Lot	\$59.38	6%	\$0.14
Clarence Norton	\$100.00	9%	\$0.22
Calvin Bryant Fish & Henrietta Fish Lot	\$200.00	17%	\$0.40
Arthur Morse Trust Fund	\$350.00	30%	\$0.73
David J. Taylor-Milia Taylor Trust Fund	\$100.00	9%	\$0.22
Arthur Buffington Fund-William Gillis Lot	\$40.00	4%	\$0.10
Robert R nichols & George Nichols Lot	\$100.00	9%	\$0.22
Frank Sterry Fund-Williamson Lot	\$200.00	17%	\$0.40
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,149.38</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>\$2.40</b>
<b>Tupper or Williamson Cemetery</b>			
Captain Stevenson & George Williamson Lots	\$95.88	18%	\$0.18
Emma J. Frederic Trust Fund	\$139.81	27%	\$0.27
Betsy Cook Trust Fund	\$59.93	11%	\$0.11
Betsy Smith Cemetery Lot Trust Fund	\$79.17	15%	\$0.15
William P. True Fund Lot	\$150.00	29%	\$0.29
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$524.79</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>\$1.00</b>
<b>Brake Hill Cemetery</b>			
Arthur and Susie Morse Lot	\$200.00	22%	\$0.40
Brake Hill Cemetery Lot	\$608.02	67%	\$1.21
Maude Rankin & Anne Ederly Fund-Lovell Lot	\$100.00	11%	\$0.20
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$908.02</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>\$1.80</b>
<b>Churchill Cemetery</b>			
Arlin L. & Lucinda Chapman			
Justin O. & Sarah T. Chapman	\$1,000.00	10.00%	\$2.00
<b>Total Trust</b>	<b>\$10,000.00</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$20.03</b>
Issued to Ferderic Cemetery			\$12.82
Issued to Locke Cemetery			\$2.40
Issued to Town of Starks			\$4.81
Transferred to the General Fund on January 19, 2022			\$20.03
Prepared by Erin Norton			

## PLANNING BOARD REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2021

The Starks Planning Board meets regularly on the first Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at the Starks Community Center. When necessary, additional meetings and hearings are held to address business before the Board, and if there is no business, meetings may occasionally be canceled. The Board sends out meeting notices via email and places notices on the *All Things Starks* Facebook page. The public is encouraged to attend all meetings.

### **Permitting Activity during 2021 included:**

- Approved a request by CMP for the transfer of ownership to NECEC LLC and granted two 6-month permit extensions under the Site Plan Review Ordinance for the transmission line project.
- Granted one 6-month permit extension under the Site Plan Review Ordinance to Starks Holdings LLC related to their solar array facility off the Anson Road
- Approved Site Plan Review and Shoreland Zoning permits for the Alpaca Farm and Wilderness Campground
- Approved Site Plan Review permit for Rackliff's Bottle Redemption Center
- Approved Site Plan Review Permit for Scott and Sons Garage
- Conducted a site visit regarding Happy Vibes Campground
- Conducted a site visit for Brad Luker Shoreland Zoning Special Exception Application

Permit requests often involve a pre-application conference, site visit, application review, public hearing, and issuance of a decision. Applications, final decisions, and Board meeting minutes are posted on the Town's website.

**Ordinance Updates:** The Planning Board is also responsible for proposing amendments to existing ordinances and developing new ordinances, where needed. Input from other town officials and the public is critical in any of the Board's work on ordinances. Public meetings are always held on proposed changes to the town's ordinances. Ordinance activity in 2021 has included:

- Revising the Subdivision Application and creating a new Shoreland Zoning Application
- Proposing ordinance amendments for the March 2022 referendum to include:
  - An update of the 30-year-old Building Ordinance
  - A moratorium on the construction of commercial solar farms which will allow time to consider additional regulations in the Site Plan Review Ordinance

Copies of the proposed ordinances are available at the Town Office and posted on the Town's website. The Selectmen will hold public hearing prior to a referendum vote.

Copies of all Town ordinances can be obtained from the Town Clerk and are available on the Town of Starks website at: [www.starksme.com](http://www.starksme.com).

Respectfully submitted,

The Starks Planning Board: Gwen Hilton (Chair), Ken Lust (Vice Chair), Claire Nelson (Secretary), Joe Hartigan, John Newsom, Eric Hoar (Alternate)



# Animal Control Report 2021

BY DANIELLE PRESSEY

Greetings,

2021 didn't bring much change with the pandemic. I am still awaiting the state in-class training part of being a new ACO. Hopefully it will be made available this coming year.

Starks' largest animal control complaints are mostly: dogs at large, barking dogs, and pigs on the loose.

Please remember Maine has a leash law and all dogs with the exception of, those being used while hunting, must be on a leash unless they are on your own property. Repeat wanderers will start having to be picked up and given a free ride to FCAS where they can be bailed out with proof of ownership and a fee.

There is an article to adopt a new animal control ordinance on the annual town meeting warrant for your consideration.

Please try to keep your pets/livestock contained to avoid issues around damaging other people's property, but most importantly for their own safety. These heavy animals often find their way onto the main road and put themselves and drivers at unnecessary risk.

Don't forget dog licenses are always due by January 31st! Bring proof of rabies vaccination to the town office after October 15th and pay a small fee. Spayed/neutered dogs are \$6, unaltered \$11. A hefty late fee of \$25 will be applied if registering after the due date. 90% of dog licensing fees go directly to the Maine Animal Welfare Program to help care for abused and neglected animals that they receive into their custody. If you need help finding or affording a rabies vaccination for your furry friend, please do not hesitate to call me and I'll try to help you find available resources. There are often free or reduced rate clinics in the area.

If you are thinking about adding a new pet to your family, please consider adopting from a local shelter!

If you are looking to make a donation to a good cause this coming year, please consider donating to your local shelters. The town of Starks uses Franklin County Animal Shelter and I have personally found them to be a great crew. They are especially attentive to the animals. The shelter is often in need of blankets, bleach, paper towels, treats and toys along with the essentials like cat and kitten food, dog and puppy food, and cat litter. You can set up time to have a meet and greet with an adoptable animal and/or to drop off a donation.

Please feel free to contact me directly and leave a message with any ACO related issues, or questions.

## Who to call

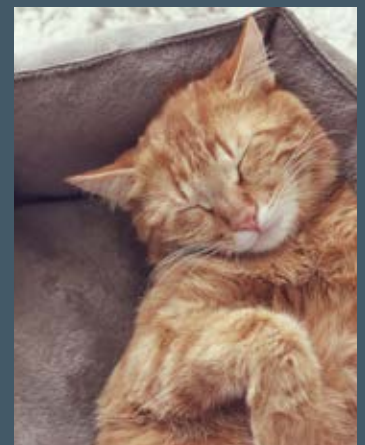
Animal Control Officer  
207.399.1399

Animal Control  
Officer Dispatch  
207.474.7400

Franklin County  
Animal Shelter  
207.778.2638

Animal Poison Control  
1.888.426.4435

Starks Town Office  
207.696.8069





# Code Enforcement & Plumbing Inspector

There were fifteen plumbing permits issued in 2021. Four complete septic systems, three replacement systems, and eight internal plumbing permits and inspections for compliance as required.

Site reviews and issuance of twelve permits for construction included no new single family dwellings, but did include covered porches, additions, barns, pole barns, mobile home replacement, and seasonal quarters for camp councilors.

Please remember, before you begin any construction project to contact the Code Enforcement Officer to determine what permitting is required. A permit is not required for construction of up to one hundred fifty square feet.

CEO hours are the first and 3rd Wednesday of each month from 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm at the town office.

Respectfully submitted,  
Leo Mayo

Home 207.566.7341  
Office 207.696.8069  
57 Anson Road  
Starks, ME 04911



## Community Center

Respectfully Submitted by  
William Pressey

Greetings,

Things were fairly quiet at the Community Center this year. There were no major issues involving the building integrity. Its use was limited due to the ongoing issues, but hopefully this year will see a change in that aspect. I did observe substantial use of the grounds which is a good thing.

The new security camera system is up and running. The lighting to the entryway was updated with more energy efficient fixtures and bulbs. The building was also wired so that the furnace can be run by generator in the event of an extended power outage.



### THINGS TO CONSIDER

- New appliances
- Roof Extension



There were some changes made in what is known as the selectboard room to allow memorabilia from the Historical Society to be displayed. There are future changes planned to continue this project so that their items can be viewed and enjoyed by all. We also hope to put a small roof extension over the back doors to help prevent blockage from ice and snow falling from the roof and ensure that it is always open for emergency egress.

# SEXTON REPORT

## CALENDAR YEAR 2021



BY DANIELLE PRESSEY

Greetings Starks,

The pandemic continued to put a damper on getting maintenance done! Unfortunately, we were not successful in finding a company to give us an estimate for headstone repair. We currently have many headstones between the seven town owned cemeteries that have fallen over or deteriorated from weather over time. It is my goal to have a good portion of these headstones fixed in the coming year.

We had one major cemetery incident in Starks this year when a very large pine tree fell onto the fence and into Brake Hill cemetery during a heavy wind storm. It landed on several headstones, damaging two severely, and hinging on damaging several more. With the help of Bill Pressey and Joe Hayden we were able to remove the tree without damaging any other stones. I want to extend a huge THANK YOU to them for their help!

Some fence repair work and replacements were done this year with even more to come. Discussions around certain areas of fence removal and/or replacement will be passed along to the Select Board for a final decision this spring and summer.

In December, the Starks Fire Department graciously volunteered to place donated wreaths at each cemetery in observance of fallen U.S. veterans during the 'Wreaths Across America' campaign. I'd like to thank everyone from the SFD for their efforts and volunteerism.

All in all, your town cemeteries are in fair/good condition, but I have hopes of upgrading them to good/great condition over the next few years. As always, I'm looking forward to warm weather and a new year!

### TOWN MAINTAINED CEMETERIES

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Brake Hill Cemetery

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Churchill Cemetery

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Didson Cemetery

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Fairbanks Gravesite

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Greenleaf Cemetery

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Piper-Williams Cemetery

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Tupper-Williamson Cemetery

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# STARKS TOWN LIBRARY



Use of the Starks Town Library is encouraged during Starks Town Office hours. We welcome you to come in and browse! Look around, find the books you would like to take with you, and check them out in the notebook provided on the library desk. Include the book title and author, your name, and date. When you return the books, note date returned. If it is your first time taking out books, please leave your name, address, and contact information on the paper in the front cover pocket of the notebook.

The downstairs library area consists of books by Maine authors for adults, young adults, and children; adult fiction and non-fiction sections; a young adult fiction section; and books in large print. The children's section includes picture books, easy readers, and chapter books. In our cozy reading nook we have a children's book display that changes seasonally.

Located in the upstairs hallway, you will find a variety of books including westerns, international crime, gardening, cooking, arts & crafts, sports (hunting, fishing, baseball, etc.), and a Stephen King section.

Two computers are available for use by Starks residents. One is located in the library and the other is located in the hall leading to the upstairs.

There are two free book sections - one for children and the other for adults and youth. Look for the signs indicating free in the downstairs area. These free books are yours to keep! Every so often we also have a table of give-aways (books, paper, school stuff, games, etc.). Check it out!

We look forward to the time when once again we can gather in the library to talk, plan, laugh, and just enjoy the opportunity to be together. Not only would we like to resume some of the programs and activities of the past (such as Starks SummerKids, fun stuff for young and young at heart, story time, presentations (L.C. Bates Museum, Chewonki Traveling Natural History Program, etc.), arts & crafts, our community Christmas program, and Mug Up), we would also like to welcome new ideas and participation.

Although library use and activities were limited again this year, we did carry on with our traditional Halloween activity of giving youngsters books and treats. This was held outdoors with Starks Library Committee members dressed in scary Halloween costumes. The children, dressed in awesome costumes, selected books and treats from a variety of choices.

The Starks Library Committee appreciates and thanks all of the people in the community who have volunteered and/or supported the library over the years.

## *Starks Water District*

P.O. Box 599 ♦ Anson, Maine 04911 ♦ 866-696-6491 ♦ [starkswater@gmail.com](mailto:starkswater@gmail.com)

### **Starks Water District Annual Report**

#### **Due to COVID-19 restrictions some operational changes have been made.**

The Starks Water District is available by phone and by email as needed and will respond to non-emergency requests within 24 hours. If you need to make a payment arrangement, please call. Payments can be made by mail with a check or money order or by phone using a debit or credit card. Please note that the Water District is a separate entity from the Town, so payments should always be made out to **Starks Water District**.

#### ***If you have a problem with your water service please let us know and we will address it as soon as possible.***

We meet virtually every quarter on the third Wednesday of the month at 7PM. Interim meetings will be posted at the Town Office and the All Things Starks Facebook page. The Starks Water District Board of Trustees pre-scheduled meetings for 2022 will be as follows:

January 19	July 20
April 20	October 19

Any changes to Board meeting dates or times will be posted on the All Things Starks Facebook page one week in advance. If schools are canceled and/or the Town Office is closed due to weather conditions, the meeting will be rescheduled. If you will be attending a board meeting, please call ahead and the meeting connection information can be sent to you.

Starks Water District income from water service, fees, and transfers for 2021 was \$10,968.25 and our total expenses were \$11,269.00 resulting in a net loss of \$300.75. We have worked hard to reduce our annual expenses and have 3 customer changes in number of accounts this year (+). We would like to encourage customers to pay their water service bills in a timely manner if possible, so that we can continue to provide clean, safe, affordable drinking water to the community. We are currently expecting to do some infrastructure work if funding comes through in 2022.

We currently have a full Board of Directors/Trustees, appointed for 3 year terms:

Ashley Steward-Hayden, Chair	2024 (p)	Robin Melancon-Quimby	2023
Erin Norton, Vice-Chair	2022	Jared Norton	2023
Ann Marie Simone, Clerk/Treasurer	2023		

A copy of the Terms and Conditions and current rates and fees are available on request.

Report prepared by:

Ann Marie Simone, M.Ed., D.D.  
Clerk/Treasurer



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## STARKS FIRE CALLS 2021

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Structure Fires - 2

Structure Mutual Aid - 11

Chimney Fires - 1

Motor Vehicle Accidents - 6

Asist AMS Ambulance - 6

Trees in Roadway - 3

Trees on Lines/Fires - 2

Wildland Fires - 3

Illegal Burns 1

Smoke Investigation - 1

CO Alarm - 2

**TOTAL CALLS - 35**



## FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Greetings,

Another year has passed, and your fire department has continued its efforts to improve and grow to better serve our community.

We had three members attend and complete Basic Fire School which was sponsored by Anson Fire and conducted by the Maine Fire Service Institute.

Although we had cut our 2021 budget in anticipation of lower revenue sharing from the state, we were able to continue to improve on equipment and train personnel.

And although we were unable to have our annual Starks Fire Family Fun Day again this year, we were still able to raise donations thanks to the generosity of this community. Thank you all for that.

It is a good team that serves this community and I am confident that the leadership of Chief Gray will continue to move your department forward.

I want to personally thank the citizenry and Select Board for all the support received.

Respectfully submitted

*Bill Pressey*

Chief - Starks Fire (Ret.)



## Anson/Madison & Starks Ambulance Service

P.O. Box 277  
Madison, Maine 04950  
(207) 696-5332

Dear Citizens,  
Another year has passed and it was a busy one for the Ambulance service. We responded to 1730 calls during 2021 which was 170 more than last year. 2021 was another trying year for anyone working in health care. It has also become much harder for those who need home health to get the assistance they need. We are finding people who may have been hospitalized or go to a Nursing Home, sent home to recuperate. While we cannot take the place of home health, we are here if you have an emergency.

Please check to make sure your house numbers can be seen from the road especially at night. It is also helpful if the entrance to your house is easily accessible for a stretcher. When you call 911 try to answer all the questions the dispatcher asks you to the best of your ability. These items will not only speed up reaching you in case of an emergency, but will also be helpful for us to provide appropriate care.

In the last 2 years we have heard many people say “thank you for what you do”, and I want to say that means a great deal to the crew! It is always inspiring to be acknowledged by the people we serve.

Please continue to be safe, listen to the facts and take care of each other. Call 911 for any emergency.

George Demchak AMS Ambulance Operations Director



# Annual Report 2021



## **KENNEBEC VALLEY REGIONAL WASTE CORP.**

**FROM TREASURER JOE HAYDEN**

Kennebec Valley Regional Waste Corporation is the recycling outfit co-owned by Anson and Starks. It's Board and officers are made up of the Boards of Selectmen in both towns as well as two local citizens.

The recycling plant is located on route 201 in Bingham where more than one hundred twenty tons of recycled materials generated by Anson and Starks residents, is processed each year. There are just over one hundred participating residents from Anson/North Anson and just under one hundred participating residents from Starks.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, and lots of online ordering, cardboard volume and other recyclable materials increased by approximately 20%, which in turn has generated more revenue.

If you're interested in recycling a schedule for pick up in your area can be found at the Town Office. If you have any other questions please feel free to call Joe Hayden or Arnold Luce.

PHONE 207.431.5471

PO Box 91  
Anson, ME 04911



# Recycled Materials & Sorting

Please follow the instructions below when preparing and separating recycled materials. Protect your materials from the rain, wind, and snow. Place materials curbside by 7:00 am on your scheduled collection day. Feel free to bundle newspapers, magazines and mixed paper together.

please no styrofoam coffee cups and no trash



## PLASTIC

**Allowed:** #1 PET & #2 HDPE Plastic bottles & jugs except no petroleum (oil etc.) containers.

**Not Allowed:** Other types of plastic, including plastic bags or film, no bowls or trays.

**Preparation:** Rinse/wash containers clean.

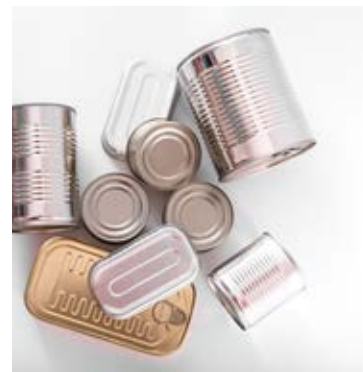


## CARDBOARD

**Allowed:** Corrugated cardboard and paper grocery bags.

**Not Allowed:** Mixed paper and waxed cardboard

**Preparation:** Flatten all boxes. Keep clean and dry. Bundle large quantities.



## ALUMINUM CANS

**Allowed:** all metal cans, foil, and metal jar lids.

**Not Allowed:** fuel containers, propane tanks, aerosol cans and heavy steel.

**Preparation:** Rinse/wash containers clean



## NEWSPAPER

**Allowed:** Newspapers with inserts, phone books magazines and catalogs.

**Not Allowed:** Waxy magazines and pages

**Preparation:** Bag or bundle, keep clean and dry. Please keep separate from mixed paper.



## UNIVERSAL WASTE

### No Universal Waste Pickup!

You must make other arrangements with your town wise large item pickup or dump. Items that will not be picked up include all bulky ate such as fluorescent light tubes, TVs, computers, monitors, peripherals and non-mercury containing devices may be recycled.



## MIXED PAPER

**Allowed:** Boxboard/paperboard cereal/cracker boxes, paper towel tubes, foreign cardboard, shoe boxes and similar items. Paper egg cartons, all types of office and school paper, brown envelopes, paper feed and seed bags, mail -including junk and similar items.

**Not Allowed:** Paper layered with plastic, waxed paper, paper towels, napkins or wet soiled paper.

**Preparation:** Keep clean and dry. flatten boxes. Must be bagged and separated from other materials

# Starks Food Cupboard

A Program of East Parish Housing Ministry, Inc.

## Annual Report 2021

We would like to take the time and thank everyone that has made this year another successful year for our Food Cupboard. Because of the selfless generosity of local gardeners and citizens of Starks that donated, we were able to make 42 Thanksgiving Baskets last year and provide assistance to the town's people throughout the year.

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 we weren't able to fund raise in 2021 the way we typically do at festivals and such. There is a plan to request assistance using social media and other safe ways without creating unsafe gatherings. The fundraising done in a typical year helps with food as well as operating expenses at the food cupboard.

Thank you to the citizens at the Annual Town Meeting for your continued support of this much needed program. It's a huge help and is greatly appreciated, at a time when the federal surplus is getting smaller with each delivery. We were still able to meet the needs of the town's people. We had another increase of clients added our existing roster of families. The need for assistance with food continues to grow each year.

We would also like to extend a huge thank you to the volunteers that donate their time to ensure that the boxes are made, deliveries are picked up and shelves are stocked. We couldn't operate without you! We also want to thank our numerous generous donors.

The Starks Food Cupboard is open the first and third Wednesday of each month from 9am to 11am unless school is cancelled in which case we'll also be closed. In response to emergency requests: please contact Cindy at 696-4337 or Deborah at 399-3137.

Respectfully Yours,

*Cynthia Kimball*, Coordinator

Income	
Beginning Balance	\$1,319.59
FEMA	\$0.00
Miscellaneous Donations	\$3,850
Town of Starks	\$900.
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$6,069.59</b>

Expenses	
Good Shepard Food Bank	\$30.00
Save A Lot	\$0.00
Hannaford	\$377.00
Insurance	\$1,279.00
CMP	\$608.00
Oil	\$630.00
Plowing	\$430.00
Lawn Mowing	\$1,200.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$4,554.00</b>

Ending Check book Balance \$1,515.59

Town of Starks, Maine  
Budget Committee Report for 2021



The Budget Committee was established by Town Ordinance and consists of five members elected at the annual Town Meeting. Candidates are generally nominated from the floor and serve a one-year term.

In accordance with the ordinance, “The Committee shall have the following powers and duties:<sup>1</sup>

- A) To review and make recommendations on the annual operation budget as proposed by the selectmen.
- B) To review and make recommendations on annual expenditures as proposed by the selectmen.
- C) To review and make recommendations on supplemental appropriations and expenditures and other budgetary action whenever proposed by the selectmen.
- D) To make such other recommendations on fiscal matters as it may from time to time deem advisable “

Elected members of the 2021 Budget Committee are the following:

- Carol Coles     [carolrcoles@gmail.com](mailto:carolrcoles@gmail.com)
- David Gray    [grayalice@hotmail.com](mailto:grayalice@hotmail.com)
- Ashley Haydon [ashleyhayden25@yahoo.com](mailto:ashleyhayden25@yahoo.com)
- Ken Lust       [kenlust@gmail.com](mailto:kenlust@gmail.com)
- John Newsom   [dawn.tatum@gmail.com](mailto:dawn.tatum@gmail.com)

The role of the Budget Committee is to assist the Board of Selectmen, the Town Treasurer and the Board of Assessors in establishing the mil rate as well as helping to craft a budget that best serves the people of the Town of Starks. The Budget Committee is advisory only and has no decision-making authority.

The Budget Committee met with the Board of Selectmen, the Board of Assessors and the Town Treasurer on September 15, 2021 to review revenue projections and anticipated expenses for the remainder of the year as work proceeded to set the annual property tax rate. Members attending were Dave Gray, Ken Lust and John Newsom. Absent were Ashley Haydon and Carol Coles. The same group and the Town Clerk meet in January to review and reach consensus on all recommended budget items, both revenue and expenses, for consideration by the town at the March Town Meeting.

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<sup>1</sup> Town of Starks Budget Committee Ordinance enacted November 5, 2002

**RSU9 Mt Blue Regional School District**  
**which serves the towns of**  
**Farmington, Wilton, Temple, New Vineyard, Chesterville, Vienna,**  
**New Sharon, Weld, Industry and Starks.**

I began my first term in July 2018, my second in July 2021; and currently serve as Chairman. I pledge to bring my very best self to serving our children and families. I can be reached by text or call at my personal cell 207 631 8460 or at [carolrcoles@gmail.com](mailto:carolrcoles@gmail.com) or [ccoles@mtbluersd.org](mailto:ccoles@mtbluersd.org)

I am committed to making our board meetings compassionate ones where we may hold different opinions but where we express our views with kindness. Being on the board is different than representing only one's own town. As board members we must adhere to a Code of Ethics (RSU9 policy BCA). We have a collective responsibility to the board and the district. I am also committed to assuring that the Public Comment period is a time to welcome the public with respect and our full attention as they bring their concerns to the RSU9 Board of Directors.

Tina Meserve resigned as superintendent in December of 2020. RSU9 was fortunate that high school principal Monique Poulin was qualified and agreed to be our Interim Superintendent as we conducted a search for a new superintendent. In July 2021 RSU9 hired Christian Elkington, who brings a friendly demeanor, solid experience and a firm commitment to transparency and communication. Also, in July, our board welcomed five new members, from New Sharon, Chesterville, Industry, Wilton and Farmington respectively, all of who participated in board training by board Vice Chair, Debbie Smith of Weld, Superintendent Chris and me.

COVID-19 continues to negatively impact us all. Safety remains the top priority to ensure that our students, staff and all of our families are as safe as possible at school. As a board we continue to align our practices with those of Maine CDC and DOE and federal CDC.

The lack of good Internet connectivity is an ongoing problem throughout the ten towns in our school district but its especially difficult for our families here where we have no cable options, and our DSL or satellite based internet options are often unreliable and/or weak. RSU9 continues to collaborate with Starks and on county and state initiatives to improve our options.

All three unions (Education Association, Administrators and Support staff) negotiated new contracts this year. I was a negotiator on all three contracts and know first hand that we worked very hard and together to achieve our mutual goals for the good of the district. I was especially pleased with the increases in salaries, long overdue, for key support staff.

A long report, but so much has happened this past year! Thank you for your time, your ideas and your help. I appreciate this town and its residents for their strong support of education. We joined RSU9 in 2012, ten years ago! We have benefitted from the expanded range of K-12, Adult Ed and Forster CTE (Career and Technical Education) and I am proud to work with all of you and the district. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Carol Riemer Coles



## Town of Starks Town Meeting Warrant

Greetings: In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the **Town of Starks**; qualified to vote in town affairs, to meet at the Starks Community Center, 57 Anson Road, in the said Town of Starks on **Friday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022**, at 11:30 AM then and there to act upon Articles 1 then by Australian ballot on article 2, the polling hours therefore to be from 12:00 PM to 8:00 PM, the annual Town Business Meeting will be held the following day, Saturday March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022 beginning at 9:00 AM to act on Articles 3-50.

### Article 1

To choose a moderator to preside over said meeting.

### Article 2

To choose by Australian ballot all Town Officers for the current year.

### Article 3

To elect five **Budget Committee** members from the floor.

### Article 4

To see if the Town will vote to increase the **property tax levy limit** established for the Town of Starks by state law in the event that the municipal budget approved under the following warrant articles results in a tax commitment that is greater than the property tax levy limit (must be voted on by written ballot).

### Article 5

To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board to spend an amount not to exceed **3/12 of the annual budget** in each budget category of the 2022 annual budget during the period from January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 to the 2023 Annual Town Meeting.

### Article 6

To see if the Town will vote to make **taxes due** and payable on the date of commitment. And to begin charging interest on taxes sixty days after the date of commitment at a rate of **4%** annually.

### Article 7

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to apply for a **Tax Anticipation Note**, if needed, to pay current expenses and to pay any interest and costs from overlay.

### Article 8

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to pay **abatements** from overlay.

### Article 9

To see if the Town in accordance with 36 M.R.S. § 506-A will vote that if a taxpayer pays an amount in excess of their final assessment it shall be refunded in the amount of the overpayment.

### Article 10

To see if the Town in accordance with 36 M.R.S. § 506 will authorize the Tax Collector and Treasurer to accept prepayment of taxes not yet committed and pay no interest thereon.

### Article 11

To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board, on behalf of the Town, to **sell and dispose** of any real-estate acquired by the Town for nonpayment of taxes thereon, on such terms as they deem advisable; and to execute the appropriate deeds for such property. Except that the Select Board shall use the special sale process required by 36 M.R.S. § 943-C for qualifying homestead property if they choose to sell it to anyone other than the former owner(s).

**Article 12**

To see if the Town will vote to apply available excise taxes (vehicle and boat), tax interest, miscellaneous revenue, lien charges, and revenue from the sale of tax acquired property to lower the commitment.

**Article 13**

To see if the Town will vote to accept the following gifts, grants and funds listed below as provided by the Maine State Legislature, and any other sources, and apply the funds to lower the commitment or benefit the town in such other ways as the Select Board deems reasonable.

<b>Potential Revenues</b>	
Maine Municipal Revenue Sharing	General Assistance Funds
Tree Growth Reimbursements	Veterans Exemption Funds
Homestead Exemption Funds	FEMA Reimbursements
State and Federal Grants	Civil Emergency Funds
State Aid to Education	Any Other Funds or Gifts

**Article 14**

To see if the Town will vote to apply lien cost revenue to the lien cost expense account.

**Article 15**

To see if the Town will vote to apply all revenues from the Community Center rentals and donations, to the Building Improvement fund.

**Article 16**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation, **\$119,139** for **Administration** and additional administrative expenses in the current year.

Description	Taxation/Requested
FICA	\$10,000.00
Medicare	\$3,000.00
Worker's Compensation	\$6,750.00
Mileage Reimbursement	\$3,000.00
Training	\$500.00
Unemployment Tax	\$50.00
Drug Testing	\$350.00
Postage	\$2,000.00
Dues	\$3,600.00
Office Supplies	\$2,300.00
Planning Board Event Security	\$1,500.00
Miscellaneous	\$5,000.00
Audit	\$6,000.00
Trio Software Renewal & Clerk Package	\$10,000.00
Legal Services	\$8,000.00
Town Report	\$1,144.00
Legal Ads	\$500.00
Xerox Machine	\$1,500.00
Water Rent & Hydrant Use	\$5,000.00
Kennebec Valley Waste Recycling	\$11,195.00
Large Item Drop off – 2X annually	\$11,000.00
Cemetery Maintenance	\$1,750.00
Property & Casualty	\$20,000.00
CC Generator Quote	\$5,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$119,139.00</b>

Recommended by Select Board and Budget Committee

**Article 17**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation, **\$7,000** for the **Legal Expenses of Code Enforcement** in the current year.

Description	2021 Budget	Taxation/Requested
CEO Legal	\$7,000	\$7,000

Recommended by Select Board and Budget Committee

**Article 18**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation, **\$77,650** for **Salaries** in the current year.

Description	2021 Budget	Taxation/Requested
Code Enforcement	\$3,000	\$3,000
Deputy-Clerk TC & Treas.	\$3,000	\$3,000
Elections	\$4,000	\$4,000
Assessor Chair	\$3,250	\$3,250
Assessor	\$2,750	\$2,750
Assessor	\$2,750	\$2,750
Selectman	\$3,000	\$4,000
Selectman	\$3,000	\$4,000
Selectman	\$3,000	\$4,000
Road Commissioner Stipend	\$7,500	\$7,500
Town Clerk	\$10,000	\$10,000
Tax Collector	\$13,500	\$13,500
Treasurer	\$10,000	\$10,000
Building Superintendent	\$6,000	\$6,000
Health Officer	\$1,800	\$1,800
Sexton	\$100	\$100
GA Administrator	\$500	\$500
Town Report Administrator	\$500	\$500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$77,650</b>	<b>\$80,650</b>

Recommended by Budget Committee

**Article 19**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation, **\$500** for the **Training** of an incoming elected official by the outgoing officer. This applies only to Town Clerk, Tax Collector and Treasurer's positions.

Description	2021 Budget	Taxation/Requested
Training of Officers	\$500	\$500

Recommended by Select Board and Budget Committee

**Article 20**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation, **\$1,000** for the **Appeals Board and Planning Board** in the current year.

Description	2021 Budget	Taxation/Requested
Planning & Appeals Boards	\$1,000	\$1,000

Recommended by Select Board and Budget Committee

**Article 21**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation, **\$16,000** for the **Community Center** in the current year.

Description	2021 Budget	Taxation/Requested
Community Center Operating Expenses	\$18,000	\$16,000

Recommended by Select Board and Budget Committee

**Article 22**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation, **\$57,500** for the **Fire Department** in the current year.

Description	2021 Budget	Taxation/Requested
Fire Department	\$45,300	\$57,500

Recommended by Select Board and Budget Committee

**Article 23**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation, **\$4,000** for the **Fire Chief's** Salary in the current year.

Description	2021 Budget	Taxation/Requested
Fire Chief	\$4,000	\$4,000

Recommended by Select Board and Budget Committee

**Article 24**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation, **\$1,756** and carry forward from the Animal Control Fund balance, **\$244** for **Animal Control expenses** in the current year, for a total budget of **\$2,000**.

Recommended by Select Board and Budget Committee

**Article 25**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation, **\$11,520** for the Anson Madison Starks **Ambulance Service** in the current year.

Description	2021 Budget	Taxation/Requested
AMS Ambulance	\$10,240	\$11,520

Recommended by Select Board

**Article 26**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation, **\$1,500** for **Street Lights** in the current year.

Description	2021 Budget	Taxation/Requested
Street Lights	\$1,500	\$1,500

Recommended by Select Board and Budget Committee

**Article 27**

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate from taxation, **\$216,800** for the **Public Works Departments** in the current year.

Description	2021 Budget	Taxation/Requested
Equipment	\$55,000	\$50,000
Garage	\$14,000	\$19,000
Summer Roads	\$72,500	\$72,500
Winter Roads	\$75,000	\$75,000
Mowing of Former Dump	\$300	\$300
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$216,800</b>	<b>\$216,800</b>

Recommended by Select Board and Budget Committee

**Article 28**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation, **\$1,475.24** for **General Assistance**, and to apply 2021 GA reimbursements from the State, to the GA account, for a budget of \$4,000.

Description	2021 Budget	Taxation/Requested
General Assistance	\$4,000	\$1,475.24
GA Reimbursements 2021	\$2,524.76	

Recommended by Select Board and Budget Committee

**Article 29**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation, **\$2,000** for **Rec Sports** and **Library Membership** reimbursements in the current year.

Description	2021 Budget	Taxation/Requested
Rec Sports/Library Reimbursements	\$2,000	\$2,000

Recommended by Select Board and Budget Committee

**Article 30**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation, **\$5,100** for **Social Organizations** in the current year.

Organization	Taxation/Recommended
Starks Food Cupboard	\$1,000
Franklin County Animal Shelter	\$1,408
Family Violence	\$250
Kennebec Behavioral Health	\$542
Memorial Day Fund	\$100
Maine Public Broadcasting Network	\$200
KVCAP	\$250
Farmington Sexual Assault and Prevention	\$250
Hospice Volunteers	\$500
East Parish Housing Ministry	\$500
American Red Cross	\$100
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,100</b>

Recommended by Select Board and Budget Committee

**Article 31**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation, **\$9,787** for **debt service** on the **Sand and Salt Shed** in the current year.

Recommended by Select Board and Budget Committee

*Explanation: Sand & Salt Shed bond pay off date: January 15<sup>th</sup> 2029*

**Article 32**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation, **\$15,000** for the **Capital Improvement Reserve**.

Description	2021 Budget	Taxation/Requested
Capital Improvement Reserve	\$15,000	\$15,000

Recommended by Select Board and Budget Committee

*Explanation: Capital Improvement balance December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021 \$40,036.21*

**Article 33**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation, **\$10,000** for the **Building Improvement Fund (BIF)**.

Description	2021 Budget	Taxation/Requested
Building Improvement Fund	\$15,000	\$10,000

Recommended by Select Board and Budget Committee

*Explanation: Building Improvement Fund balance December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021 \$79,887.99*

**Article 34**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Undesignated Funds, **\$102,715.17** for the **Capital Roads Reserve**.

Recommended by Select Board and Budget Committee

*Explanation: The amount requested in this article represents all the remaining balances in the Public Works Department for the 2021 Calendar year. Capital Roads Reserve is used for paving projects. The Capital Roads Reserve balance December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021 \$50,000.*

#### Article 35

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation, **\$10,000** for the **Fire Department Capital Reserve**.

Description	2021 Budget	Taxation/Requested
Fire Department Capital Reserve	\$5,000	\$10,000

Recommended by Select Board and Budget Committee

*Explanation: Fire Department Capital Reserve balance December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021 \$25,000*

#### Article 36

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Select Board to raise and appropriate from taxation, **\$3,000** to pay for **Unanticipated Expenses** and emergencies in the current year.

Recommended by Select Board and Budget Committee

#### Article 37

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from **Undesignated Funds, \$55,853.94** to lower the tax commitment.

Recommended by Select Board and Budget Committee.

*Explanation: The amount requested in this article represents all the unexpended balances from the 2021 Annual Town Meeting budget, less the Public Works Department.*

#### Article 38

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate **100% of the refund** of Snowmobile Registrations, received annually from the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, for the improvement and maintenance of trails, on condition that those trails be open to the public, and to be used at the discretion of the Anson / North Anson Snowmobile Club.

#### Article 39

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to dispose of assets with an estimated value of \$500 or less without having to place legal ads, the details of these assets to be emailed to an available email list and posted inside and outside the Town Office for bids. This does not include tax acquired property.

#### Article 40

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to make final determinations regarding the opening and closing of roads to winter maintenance pursuant to 23 M.R.S. § 2953.

#### Article 41

Shall an ordinance entitled: **“Animal Control Ordinance of the Town of Starks”** be enacted. A copy of the proposed ordinance can be found at the Town Office and on the Town Website [www.starksme.com](http://www.starksme.com)

*Statement of Fact: The proposed Ordinance would replace the previously enacted “Dog Control Ordinance for the Town of Starks” and any other previously enacted animal control ordinance.*

#### Article 42

To see if the Town will vote to accept the conveyance of a **parcel of land from the Locke Cemetery Association** now owned as a private cemetery, and to continue operation of the said cemetery as a public cemetery.

*Explanation: The Locke Cemetery Association has decided to disband and is asking the Town to take over the cemetery which is located north of Locke Hill Road. Access to it is by way of Chicken St. and Cemetery Road.*



#### Article 43

To see if the Town will vote to commit to appropriate **\$63,000 from Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds** (aka American Rescue Plan Act or ARPA funds) received by the Town from the federal government for a **broadband improvement project** in the Town of Starks, as required in the estimation of the Selectboard, and to authorize the Selectboard to proceed with such a project when it is presented.

*Explanation: Project estimated to occur within three years.*

#### Article 44

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the funds received from the sale of the facility formerly used as the municipal office at 10 Locke Hill Road, to the Community Center **Building Improvement Fund**.

*Explanation: The net amount received from the sale was \$67,173*

#### Article 45

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard to expend funds from the Building Improvement Fund for upgrades to the **HVAC system in the Community Center**.

*Explanation: Estimated amount for HVAC controls upgrade was \$23,000 in 2019. This estimate has not been reviewed since.*

#### Article 46

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard to expend funds from the Building Improvement Fund to upgrade and repair as necessary, the **appliances in the kitchen at the Community Center**.

*Explanation: Plan to replace oven and smaller refrigerator.*

*Explanation: Building Improvement Fund balance December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021 \$79,887.99*

#### Article 47

To see if the Town will vote to **accept a grant for the replacement of the culvert at the base of Locke Hill Road** with a natural bottom bridge as already designed, and in the course of the project, to move the public water line and to authorize the overall project.

*Explanation: A grant application for \$125,000 has been submitted. The project would replace the use of culverts with a natural bottom bridge similar to the bridge built over Smith Brook on the Sandy River Road in 2020. The water main which serves the entire village runs under the culvert which carries Duley Brook under the road. This always leaves the water main vulnerable to damage when the culvert is worked on or replaced. Work on the culvert is required often so the risk of damage to the water main is high. The project would be a permanent solution to a number of issues. The Town has undertaken two of these projects thus far: at Watson Corner and Smith Brook.*

#### Article 48

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from undesignated, up to **\$13,000** for improvements to the **infrastructure of the Starks Water District**.

*Explanation: The Water District has a list of improvements and upgrades which totals \$12,463.*

#### Article 49

To see if the Town will vote to close the books on December 31, 2022.

#### Article 50

To see if the Town wishes to hold the next Annual Town Meeting on March 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> 2023.



February 21, 2022

Selectboard  
Town of Starks  
57 Anson Road  
Starks, Maine 04911

We were engaged by the Town of Starks and have audited the financial statements of the Town of Starks as of and for the year ended December 31, 2021. A complete copy of the draft audited financial statements, including our opinion thereon, will be available for inspection at the Town Office.

Thank you very much for your understanding and cooperation throughout the entire audit process.

*RHR Smith & Company*

Certified Public Accountants

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



Integrity      Respect      Fairness      Dedication

**SOMERSET COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

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**2021 Sheriff's Office Annual Report**



Dale P. Lancaster  
Sheriff

It is my continued honor and privilege to serve as your Sheriff. The Office of the Sheriff oversees the operations of the County Jail, law enforcement, court security, and civil process. Somerset County is approximately 4,000 square miles. The County is comprised of 27 towns, 6 plantations, and 83 unorganized townships. This year, I was unanimously voted by the Maine Sheriff's Association Executive Board to serve as the next President of the MSA. I continue my appointments to the Board of Directors for the New England State Police Information Network and Maine's Drug Enforcement Agency.

As we continue into our second year of the Covid-19 pandemic, it has continued to impact our law enforcement, Courts, civil processing, and Jail. Considerable time and resources has been spent purchasing PPE gear and developing and implementing Covid-19 safety measures to protect Deputies and Corrections Officers. We resumed service of civil paperwork and have seen a significant increase in receipts. We stopped in-person visits at the Jail, except that Attorneys are now allowed to meet with their clients in the no-contact areas of the Jail. We continue to evaluate and modify our safety measures as the pandemic continues to affect our daily operations.

**Law Enforcement**

The patrol division is comprised of 11 rural patrol Deputies. Through funding from the State of Maine, we have one Deputy dedicated to patrolling the unorganized townships. The patrol division is overseen by a Lieutenant. The Detective division is comprised of three Detectives and is overseen by a Lieutenant. The Sheriff's Office continues to partner with MDEA (Maine Drug Enforcement Agency) to have an agent assigned to the Detective division. The patrol division has 2 trained drug recognition experts and 1 forensic mapper.

The Sheriff's Office has 4 Deputies assigned to Madison along with a Secretary/Dispatcher.

In 2021, the Sheriff's Office had 2 Deputies graduate from the Maine Criminal Justice Academy, Deputy Kyle Haseltine and Deputy Ashley Smith. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, a portion of Deputy Haseltine's training was done remotely. Throughout 2021, The Sheriff's Office Criminal Division investigated a large volume of illicit drug trafficking activities. The Sheriff's Office obtained and executed numerous drug search warrants, which subsequently led to the arrest and conviction of numerous people from Maine and out of State on various Federal and State level drug trafficking charges. Illegal drugs, in particular Fentanyl, continue to be an issue in Somerset County. The Criminal Division dedicates a large amount of time and resources to combat this problem. The Criminal Division investigated numerous serious felony level cases to include robberies, burglaries, thefts, scams, aggravated assaults, unattended deaths and sexual abuse cases. In 2021, the Crimes Against Persons Detective investigated 30 sex crimes. 18 of those cases involved child sexual abuse where forensic interviewing was utilized. Detective Jeremy Leal is a Children's Advocacy Center forensic interviewer. Because of these investigations, and working with the District Attorney's Office prosecuting these cases, we were able to get substantial sentences in a number of child abuse cases. The Sheriff's Office Criminal Division tracks individuals who are required by law to register as sex offenders. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, our in-person check-ins for registered sex offenders were limited. 3 individuals were charged with Sex Offender Registration Notification Act violations.

**Jail**

The Somerset County Jail, when operating at full capacity, operates with 36 budgeted Correctional Officers, 8 Shift Supervisors, 2 cooks, 12 program and support staff, and 9 administrative staff to include Major Cory Swope, who is the Jail Administrator. The County Jail is now 14 years old. We are projecting the Jail bond will be paid off in 2028. The County Jail is nationally accredited through the American Correctional Association and is operating under nationally accepted best practice standards. The County Jail is also PREA (Prison Rape Elimination Act) certified. In 2021, the



## Integrity      Respect      Fairness      Dedication

### SOMERSET COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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Somerset County Jail processed 831 bookings, a 30% decrease from 2020. Bookings decreased because I asked State and local law enforcement agencies to utilize alternative means of enforcement rather than arrest, unless it was a life safety issue, in an effort to keep Covid-19 out of the Jail. State and local law enforcement leaders in Somerset County were a great help in this effort. We continue to partner with Redington-Fairview General Hospital and their Pathways to Recovery opioid response implementation grant consortium.

- In 2021, a significant amount of time and resources have been dedicated to extensive modification of operations related to the Covid-19 pandemic. After almost 18 months of no Covid-19 outbreaks, we entered an outbreak beginning October 23, 2021 that was cleared by the CDC within 30 days. Due to the physical design of the facility and the diligent efforts of staff, positive inmates were isolated and the outbreak was contained from spreading throughout the Jail.
- The triennial PREA (Prison Rape Elimination Act) Audit was completed on December 30-31, 2021. PREA Certification reflects adherence to the highest Federal standards in ensuring a safe environment for staff and inmates of the facility.
- The triennial ACA (American Correctional Association) Audit is scheduled for May 9-11, 2022. ACA Accreditation solidifies that the Jail is operating under nationally accepted best practice standards.
- In 2021, we were able to find grant money to procure a Doctor of Nursing Practice to work with those inmates that are on the medical assisted treatment program.
- The Jail is undertaking the project of a new inmate telephone system and Jail management system.
- Recruitment and hiring initiatives continue to be ongoing. Starting Corrections Officer wages was recently adjusted to \$18.23 per hour in an effort to be more competitive throughout the local economy.

#### Civil Process

In 2021, the Somerset County Sheriff's Office Civil Deputies received 1,707 papers to process and serve. That is a 43% increase from 2020.

#### Calls for Service

- In 2021, the Sheriff's Office received 15,008 calls for service from our residents. This represents a 3.4% increase from 2020.
- During 2021, the Sheriff's Office responded to 226 calls for service from the Town of Starks, which is a 19% increase over 2020. These calls included 21 motor vehicle accidents, 22 motor vehicle stops, 8 calls requesting citizen assistance, 6 domestic disturbances, as well as calls for theft, welfare checks, and other requests for police services.

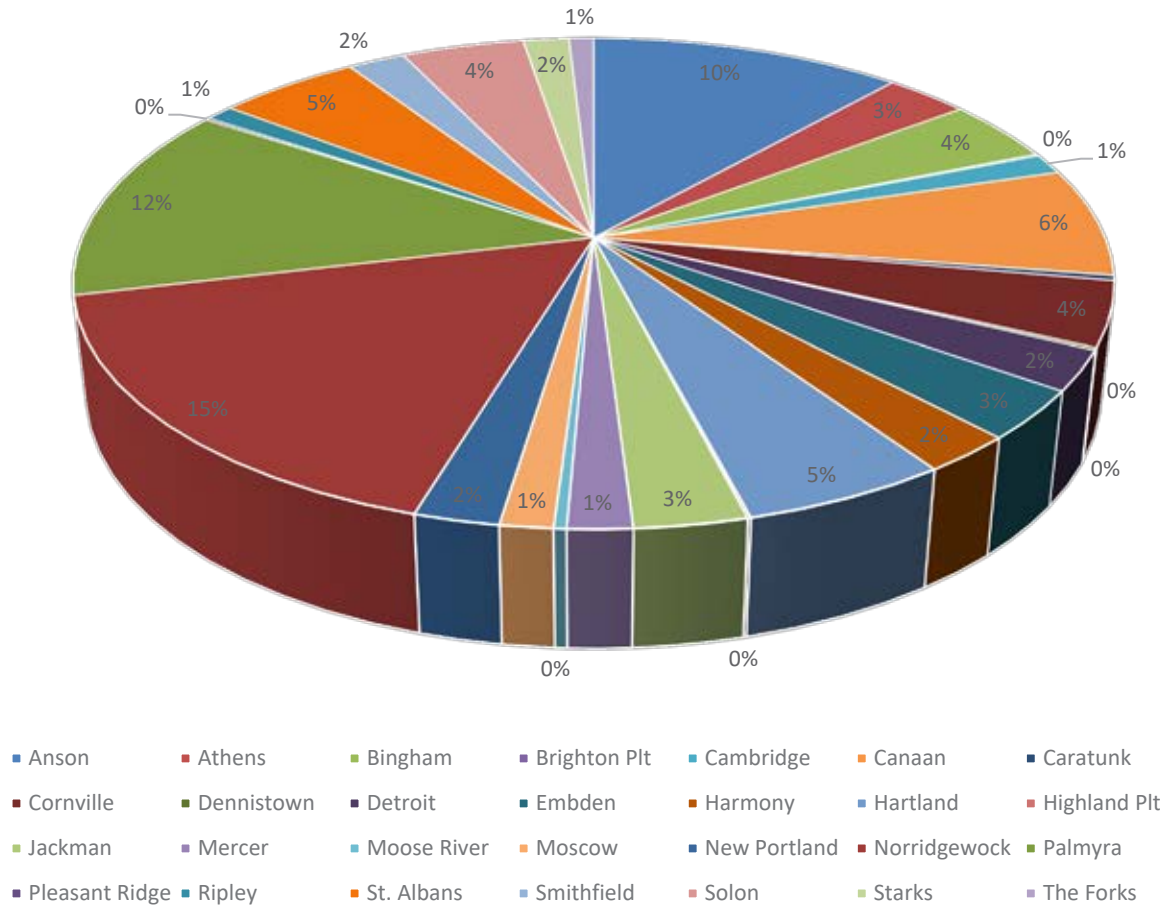
The Somerset County Sheriff Office remains committed to our core values: INTEGRITY-RESPECT-FAIRNESS-DEDICATION.



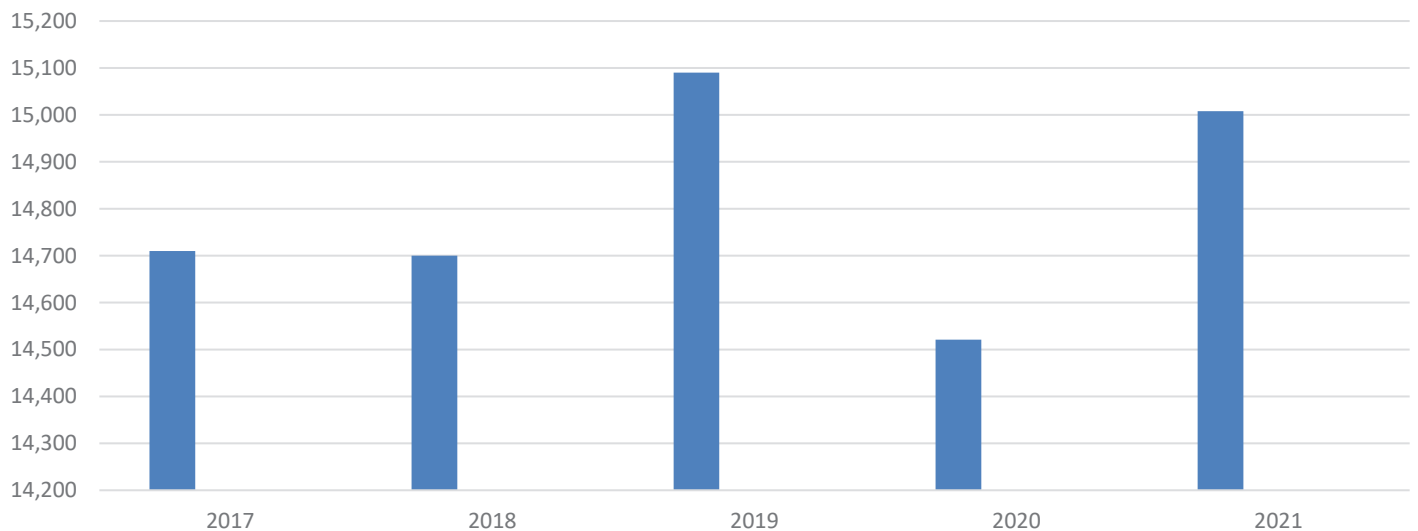
Integrity      Respect      Fairness      Dedication

**SOMERSET COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

2021 Percentage of Calls for Service by Town



Calls for Service 2017 - 2021



SUSAN M. COLLINS  
MAINE

413 DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1904  
(202) 224-2523  
(202) 224-2683 (FAX)

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1904

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

Dear Friends:

I am deeply honored to serve the people of Maine in the U.S. Senate, and I welcome this opportunity to share some of the areas I have been working on over the past year.

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic continues to pose enormous challenges for our state and our country. When the pandemic began, I co-authored the Paycheck Protection Program that helped small businesses remain afloat and keep their employees paid. In Maine, our small businesses received more than 47,000 forgivable loans totaling \$3.2 billion. I also led efforts to provide relief for loggers, lobstermen, and bus companies.

In addition, I helped secure \$700 million to assist Maine's overwhelmed hospitals and nursing homes, and a new law I led prevented Medicare payment cuts to help further ease the financial strain on our hospitals. I also urged the CDC to update its recommendations so that our students and teachers could safely return to their classrooms, and I pressed the Administration to end the closure of the U.S.-Canada border.

While addressing the pandemic has been a major focus, I've also worked hard to ensure Maine's other needs are met. A group of 10 Senators, of which I was a part, negotiated the landmark bipartisan infrastructure bill that was signed into law in November. I co-authored the section of the bill that will provide Maine with as much as \$300 million to expand high-speed internet in rural and underserved areas.

Soaring inflation is another crisis, particularly when it comes to the cost of heating oil. I have strongly supported federal programs that help Maine families stay warm. In November, Maine was awarded \$35 million to help low-income Mainers pay their energy bills. And the bipartisan infrastructure bill included \$3.5 billion to help families make energy efficiency improvements that would permanently lower their heating costs.

As a senior member of the Appropriations Committee, I have supported investments in Maine's communities. This year's funding bills include \$265 million I championed for 106 projects across Maine. These projects would help create jobs, improve workforce training, address the opioid crisis, and increase access to childcare and health care services. In addition, I worked to reverse proposed cuts to our Navy in order to help protect America and keep the skilled workers at Bath Iron Works on the job. The bills also include \$475 million for the construction of a new dry dock at Maine's Portsmouth Naval Shipyard that will allow the Navy to continue to carry out its submarine missions. I will keep working to get these important bills enacted.

No one works harder than the people of Maine, and this year I honored that work ethic when I cast my 8,000<sup>th</sup> consecutive vote, becoming the only Senator in history to do so without ever having missed a roll call vote. The Lugar Center at Georgetown University once again ranked me as the most bipartisan Senator for the eighth year in a row.

In the New Year, I will keep working to solve problems and make life better for the people of Maine and America. May 2022 be a happy, healthy, and successful one for you, your family, and our state.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator



## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 3, 2022

COMMITTEES:  
ARMED SERVICES  
CHAIRMAN, STRATEGIC FORCES  
SUBCOMMITTEE  
BUDGET  
ENERGY AND  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
CHAIRMAN, NATIONAL PARKS  
SUBCOMMITTEE  
INTELLIGENCE  
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Dear Friends,

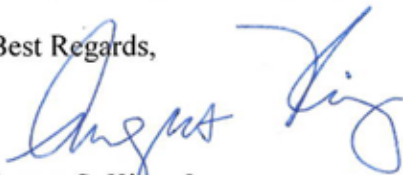
On the heels of 2020's challenges, 2021 brought us both amazing progress and frustrating setbacks. The incredible rollout of several effective, FDA approved COVID-19 vaccines helped reduce the risks of this deadly pandemic – but vaccine hesitancy, combined with the dangers of new variants, have prolonged this crisis and created new risks for Maine people. The challenges raised tension levels to boiling points during the fallout of the 2020 presidential election and the January 6<sup>th</sup> Capitol attack. But despite that, Congress was able to deliver for a nation gripped by an unprecedented pandemic. As we reflect back on the year, we see the important action that will make a difference for Maine people – as well as work still unfinished.

As COVID-19 continued to impact communities across our state and the country, Congress's first priority this year was to confront the pandemic's health threats and economic toll. We immediately got to work on the *American Rescue Plan*, crafting an emergency bill to meet the moment and get our nation back on stable footing. The legislation delivered essential support to businesses facing crises, households in need, and the medical professionals on the front lines of this fight. The funds helped get vaccine shots in arms, while also confronting the damage done to our economy. All told, the *American Rescue Plan* is bringing billions of dollars to Maine, helping the state continue to push through this crisis and bounce back stronger than ever.

After passing the *American Rescue Plan*, Congress turned its attention to a longstanding but unfulfilled priority: infrastructure. Through hard work and compromise, both parties came together to pass a bipartisan bill that finally addresses key infrastructure needs. For Maine people, the bill means an estimated \$1.5 billion to repair crumbling roads and out-of-date bridges, \$390 million to improve access to clean drinking water, and more. I am most excited about the significant funding for broadband – because, as we have seen during the pandemic, broadband is a necessity to succeed in the 21<sup>st</sup> century economy. The historic investments in the bipartisan infrastructure bill, combined with additional funding I pushed for in the *American Rescue Plan*, will bring an estimated \$400 million for broadband home to Maine. These funds will be nothing short of transformational, creating new opportunities across our state.

These two bills have made and will continue to make a real difference for Maine people, helping to both address the challenges of COVID-19 and lay a foundation for long-term success. I am proud of what we've accomplished this year – but I know there is still a lot of work to do and that the road ahead is challenging. Even still, I am filled with optimism because I know the true nature of our citizens, though challenged, has not changed. Despite every hardship, people in towns and communities have stepped up with strong local leadership, a willingness to help, and a Maine 'neighborhood' spirit. It is why I truly believe we can and will get through anything together. Mary and I wish you a happy, healthy, and safe 2022.

Best Regards,



Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator

AUGUSTA  
40 Western Avenue, Suite 412  
Augusta, ME 04330  
(207) 622-8292

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

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

PORTLAND  
1 Pleasant Street, Unit 4W  
Portland, ME 04101  
(207) 245-1565

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



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

Dear Friends,

I hope this letter finds you safe and well. It remains a privilege to represent you in Congress, and I appreciate the opportunity to update you on what I have been working on for the people of the Second Congressional District.

This year, our small businesses, workers and families, hospitals, states, and towns continued to face challenges related to the coronavirus pandemic. COVID-19 has been a serious threat to public health and our economy that requires a comprehensive, ongoing response. While we are not yet out of the woods, there is a light at the end of the tunnel. Still, I know there are many Mainers who will continue to need assistance getting through this pandemic. I am committed to making sure our communities' most urgent needs are met to get our economy back on track.

One thing I am particularly proud of this year is that Democrats, Republicans, and the Biden Administration worked together to pass the bipartisan *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act*, which will make a once-in-a-generation investment in our nation's infrastructure and support Maine jobs. This bill will bring \$1.3 billion to Maine for highways and \$225 million for bridge replacement and repairs, as well as \$234 million to improve public transportation options. It will also allocate over \$100 million to help provide broadband access to the 42,000 Mainers currently without it and make 310,000 Mainers eligible for the Affordable Connectivity Benefit to help families pay for internet access. Crucially, it will also provide Maine with \$390 million to combat Maine's historically high rates of lead poisoning by replacing lead pipes and allowing Maine families access to clean drinking water.

Another one of my priorities in Congress is protecting Maine jobs. For one, shipbuilders at Bath Iron Works are a vital part of our economy, and the ships they build are critical to our national security. Throughout 2021, I led the Maine congressional delegation in pushing back against the Biden Administration's proposed decrease in DDG-51 shipbuilding, a proposal that would have had serious consequences for the shipbuilding workforce at BIW, one of the two shipyards that produces these destroyers, and American naval capabilities around the world. We fought successfully to include authorization for construction of three new DDG-51 destroyers in the final National Defense Authorization Act. I will continue to work hard with my colleagues on the House Armed Services Committee to ensure that we protect our national security and shipbuilding jobs in Maine.

My most meaningful work in Congress continues to be providing direct assistance to Mainers. My staff and I stand ready to serve you. If you are looking for assistance with a federal agency, help for your small business, or want to keep me informed about the issues that matter to you, please reach out to one of my offices below:

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

I am especially glad to share that my wife Izzy and I were pleased to welcome our daughter, Rosemary, into the world this year. Mom and baby are happy and healthy, and we're so thankful for this blessing. We look forward to showing her the beauty of Maine in the months and years ahead.

Sincerely,

Jared F. Golden  
Member of Congress



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

**Thomas Skolfield**

349 Phillips Road  
Weld, ME 04285  
Home Phone: (207) 585-2638  
[Thomas.Skolfield@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:Thomas.Skolfield@legislature.maine.gov)

**2021 Annual Town Report Letter**

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

It has been an honor to serve the as your Representative in the Maine State Legislature for the last seven years. As I begin the second session of my final term, I remain committed to seeing our communities succeed.

The first session of the 130<sup>th</sup> Legislature convened in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, which meant we met in the Augusta Civic Center every few weeks through May 19<sup>th</sup>. We finished our business at the State House two months later on July 19<sup>th</sup> and briefly reconvened in October to address redistricting. In 2022, our in-person meeting schedule is still up in the air, but committee and constituent work will continue to be conducted electronically.

I have had the privilege of serving on the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. For the last few years, I have worked to strengthen our state's agricultural infrastructure, and have looked for creative solutions to address the many challenges our farmers and foresters face.

I encourage you to actively participate in your state government. Phone calls and letters are always welcome. With the wider use of technology, meetings and hearings are more accessible than ever. Using the homepage of the Maine Legislature: **Legislature.Maine.Gov**, you will find access to Zoom meetings and YouTube videos. Additionally, I send a weekly e-mail with current state news. If you wish to receive these updates, please contact me at [Thomas.Skolfield@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:Thomas.Skolfield@legislature.maine.gov) and I will gladly add you to our list.

Thank you again for giving me the honor of serving you in Augusta. I hope you all enjoy a safe and healthy 2022.

Sincerely,

Thomas Skolfield  
State Representative

District 112 Anson, Avon, Carrabassett Valley, Carthage, Kingfield, New Portland, Phillips, Starks, Weld and Sandy River Plantation, plus the unorganized territories of East Central Franklin (including Freeman, Madrid and Salem Townships), and Perkins and Washington Townships



Brad Farrin  
Senator, District 3

130<sup>th</sup> MAINE SENATE

3 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

December 2021

Dear Neighbors and Friends:

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your State Senator. I am humbled by the trust you have placed in me to be a voice for you, your family, and our community in Augusta.

The 130<sup>th</sup> Legislature began unlike any other. Public hearings and work sessions, traditionally held in filled committee rooms at the State House, took place virtually via Zoom. And the Legislature did not convene in person at the State House until June. Given the unusual nature of how the Legislature met to accommodate safety considerations required by the pandemic, I was adamant that the balance in state government between the Executive and Legislative branches be restored – and that the public continues to play a critical role in the Legislative process.

Prior to adjourning on July 19, we passed a supplemental budget and determined how the federal American Rescue Plan funds should be appropriated. We also passed Republican-led legislation to give nearly \$150 million in surplus revenue back to hard-working taxpayers as a one-time payment of \$285 that was distributed between November and December.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Session will begin in January, and I am eager to get back to work supporting bills that help Mainers and small businesses alike who have struggled as a result of the pandemic. I will continue to serve as Chair of the Veterans Caucus and as the ranking Republican on two legislative committees – Transportation as well as Veterans and Legal Affairs.

Again, thank you for electing me to serve you in the State Senate. Please feel free to contact me by phone at 287-1505 or at [brad.farrin@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:brad.farrin@legislature.maine.gov) if you have comments, questions or need assistance in navigating our state's bureaucracy. If you would like to receive regular legislative updates, you may sign up to do so at [www.mesenategop.com](http://www.mesenategop.com). Finally, I encourage you to get involved and contact your local, state and federal representatives to let them know how you feel on various matters. Many things have changed during the pandemic that will have a lasting impact, and it is imperative your representatives know how you feel on these critically important issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brad Farrin".

Brad Farrin  
State Senator





### **Town Office Hours**

Mon. 10 am - 2 pm  
Wed. 3 pm - 7 pm  
1st Sat. of the Month  
8 am - 11 am



### **Selectmen Meetings**

1st & 3rd Mondays - 7 pm

### **Board of Assessors**

1st & 3rd Thursdays - 7 pm

Phone: 207-696-8069

Fax: 207-696-8201

### **2021-2022 Dates to Remember:**

**November 29** - Last day to make 2021 Tax Payments without incurring interest. (Will accept postmarked date)

**December 1** - May start purchasing 2022 Hunting/Fishing Licenses and 2021-22 Snowmobile Registrations.

**December 1** - Nomination Papers will be available for the 2022 Town Election of Officers. 2022 Elections include **Selectman, Assessor, Town Clerk** (3 year terms)

**January 10** - Last day to submit completed Nomination Papers for the 2022 Town Election.

**February 13** - Liens for 2019 Taxes will expire and Board of Selectmen will begin foreclosure process.

**February 11** - Absentee voting is available for Town Elections  
*This year, there are two ballots!*

- A candidate ballot for Selectmen, Assessor, Town Clerk
- A referendum ballot for two planning board ordinance revisions.

*Please reference our website for more information, the details of the articles and copies of the sample ballots.* You may call the town office to request ballots be mailed to you or vote in person in the presence of the clerk during regular town office hours. The warrant articles and sample ballots are up on the Town's website ([www.starksme.com](http://www.starksme.com)). Please take the time to review them.

**February 28** - **Public Hearing at 6 PM.** Voters will have an opportunity for questions and clarifications regarding the revision of three town ordinances. The details of the February 28th hearing (Zoom link) is also on the website.

**March 11** - Annual Town Meeting opens - voting by Australian "Secret" Ballot from 12 pm - 8 pm.

**March 12** - Annual Town Business meeting begins at 9am at the Starks Community Center.

**April 1** - Notifications for Homestead Exemptions, Veterans Exemptions and Tree Growth Applications due to Board of Assessors.

**April 7** - Board of Assessors begins annual site visits to properties.

**August 1** - Projected date for 30 day notice to be mailed for 2021 Lien process.

**September 8** - Projected date for Recording of 2021 Tax Liens.

### **Town Office Closed**

**Jan 1, 2022** - New Year's

**Jan 17, 2022** - MLK Day

**Feb 21** - Presidents Day

**May 30** - Memorial Day

**June 20** - Juneteenth

**Sept 5** - Labor Day

**Oct 10** - Indigenous Peoples Day

**Dec 26** - Christmas

**Jan 2, 2023** - New Year's

Pay Online - Fees Apply

**Reminder: If you pay your tax bill after November 29, 2021 interest will have started. Call for a pay-off amount - or risk leaving a small bal-**

**Town Office Address:  
57 Anson Road  
Starks, ME 04911**

**Don't forget to include  
ADDRESS CHANGES with  
your tax payment!**

Check out the NEW and  
IMPROVED WEBSITE!

**[www.starksme.com](http://www.starksme.com)**

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