

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

TODD SHEA, TOWN MANAGER

To the Residents of Arundel,

It is my pleasure to provide you with this report of the Town of Arundel in my third year as your town manager. The Town of Arundel is a very special place to many of the residents and business owners who have decided to locate themselves here, and I am very fortunate to be able to serve you in this capacity. Please understand that I maintain an open door policy, I enjoy the feedback from residents who take the time to stop by, and do everything in my power to meet with residents and business owners at their request. If you don't have the ability to stop in during business hours and there is something that you would like to inform me of, please feel free to email me at townmanager@arundelmaine.org and let me know how we can help.

This fiscal year we continued to video record meetings for the following: Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, Comprehensive Plan Review Committee, Zoning Board of Appeals, Budget Board and the Economic Development Committee. If you visit the Town's website at www.arundelmaine.org and go to the Public Records section you will find all of the available videos for your viewing. Typically these recordings are uploaded the morning following the meeting, but in order to experience your town government first hand all residents are encouraged to attend the meetings in person. All meeting dates and times are posted on the Town Calendar page of our website, and agendas are only a click away.

I would like to remind all residents and business owners of the email notification system that is available on our website as well. By signing up and following a few simple instructions you

are able to receive emails providing agendas, election notices and program offerings as well as critical issues of interest to residents and business owners. Transparency is what we strive for in your municipal government, and this service is a convenient way to keep up with the goings on of the Town of Arundel.

As a member of RSU #21, Arundel shares in the resources and expenses of the larger educational community. As a part of this district, it is very important for residents to know what the matters at hand are. Particularly since many of these matters impact your tax bills. Please check the RSU #21 website, www.rsu21.net, regularly to keep informed of all of the happenings in the district that impact you. You will find meeting notices, agendas, audio and video recordings of these meetings, as well as matters of interest to you. Regarding RSU #21 matters, the three towns defeated a bond referendum for construction and renovation project for the ML Day, Kennebunkport Consolidated and Kennebunk High Schools in January of 2014. Although the turnout of 984 voters was very high for a January vote, this is still only approximately 35% of the registered voters in Arundel. It is not only important for residents to get out and vote on issues, but also to vote in an informed manner. The Town and RSU websites are very important tools in keeping up to date on all town and district happenings.

Financially the town is solid, yet interest rates earned on reserve accounts are still at all time lows. Tax collections remain positive with a total of three foreclosures in FY 2013-2014. The General Fund Balance as of June 30, 2013, as stated in the auditor's report, is just under \$2.3 million (\$2.298 million). This amount is the balance as of June 30, 2013. At the Arundel Town Meeting on June 12, 2013 voters approved the use of \$310,000 from the General Fund balance to reduce the mil rate. At the end of the current fiscal year 2013-2014 it is anticipated that the General Fund balance will be approximately \$2.1 million. The Capital Projects Fund Balance as of June 30, 2012 is \$920,258, an amount that I hope the town

votes to continue funding. These funds are utilized to purchase equipment and facilities and reduce the amount of borrowing required when replacing equipment. Voters approved funding several capital reserve accounts at the Town Meeting in June of 2013, and these funds are being put to good use improving the infrastructure of the Town. This balance is still low considering Arundel's needs, and all of the capital reserve requests in the Town Meeting warrant for June 11, 2014 are due to the need to continue to maintain and repair this aging infrastructure.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the dedicated employees; full time, part time, per diem, and seasonal alike, as well as all paid and unpaid volunteers for their unwavering dedication to the town. Without all of you, town business certainly would not run as smoothly. Town Hall, Public Works, Fire-Rescue, and Recreation staff perform their jobs with a positive attitude and take pride in the work that they do. There is a dire need for volunteers for many boards and committees, and I personally ask each resident of the town to consider this as a personal request to at least consider some sort of community involvement. Volunteer applications are available at town hall, on the Town's website, or can be sent directly to you by emailing a request to me personally. A community cannot thrive without dedicated volunteers, and I once again sincerely request that all residents consider their ability to serve.

Once again this has been a Maine winter worth mentioning, as cold and snowy was the predominant forecast for the majority of the season. I feel that residents of Arundel are very fortunate to have the dedicated Public Works Department that keeps the roads clear and safe, and dare say that we do have some of the best maintained roads in the region. Many long hours are spent preparing for and taking care of what Mother Nature throws at us. If you have a chance stop by the shop on Bergeron Drive and let them know that they are appreciated, I encourage you to do so.

Arundel Fire-Rescue continues to provide excellent full time 24/7 Paramedic level rescue and volunteer fire response. There have been a number of new recruits in the department, many of whom are Arundel residents. I am encouraged by the level of interest in volunteering. Chief Mullen welcomes all new volunteers, and is always interested to know how the Department can better serve the community. I encourage folks to stop by or send him an email at fire-chief@arundelmaine.org with questions or concerns. I once again take this opportunity to thank all of the surrounding mutual aid towns that work together with Arundel to keep our communities safe.

Recreation Department programs continue to grow as more residents utilize the very convenient and varied programs that are offered. Please contact the Recreation Director, Jenn Dumas, at recreationdirector@arundelmaine.org, or visit the website should you have any questions regarding these programs. You can also sign up for Recreation Department email notices on the town website to keep informed of the programs being offered.

Arundel residents may also be interested to know that Down East Magazine, in their March 2014 issue, named Arundel one of the Six Best Places to Live in Maine for 2014. I am sure that all of you who live here already knew that, but it does deserve mentioning.

Finally, I feel the need to repeat myself in the call for volunteers for Town boards and committees. The Board of Appeals, Budget Board, Economic Development Committee, Recreation Committee and several other volunteer posts have vacancies that need to be filled. Please contact me at town hall, in person or electronically, for applications and more information about available positions. I sincerely hope that all residents who read this will consider this request, and I thank you for taking the time to read this report.