



The Arrow

March 2012
Newsletter

The Arrow
Volume 22 Issue 1

UNDERSTANDING THE WITHDRAWAL PROCESS

By Todd Shea, Town Manager

The Municipal Officers of the Town of Arundel have received a citizen initiated petition to withdraw from RSU 21. Since the Town has received this petition, we are required to follow several steps which are spelled out in the State of Maine Statutes, specifically 20-A MRS § 1466. A full copy of this statute is available at the Arundel town offices and is also available on the home page of the Town's website, www.arundelmaine.org by clicking on the withdrawal statute.



A PUBLIC HEARING on the process and the question to be voted on will be held on Monday, March 26, 2012 in the ML Day School Library at 7 PM. In the event of a turnout larger than can be accommodated in the library, the meeting will be moved to the gymnasium. Once again, the intent of this public hearing will be to explain the process that must be followed, as well as to explain the financial request (\$35,000) that is made in the secret ballot referendum.

Petition for Withdrawal

The initial step in the process is the petition. The statute requires that at least 10% of the number of voters in the municipality who voted at the last gubernatorial election must sign the petition to withdraw from the RSU. For Arundel that 10% number was 187. The Town has received and verified 361 signatures on the petition submitted. This action necessitates the Town begin the process and hold a town wide vote on this matter.

Vote on Petition for Withdrawal:

Step One

The question to be voted on: *Do you favor filing a petition for withdrawal with the Board of Directors of Regional School Unit # 21 and with the Commissioner of Education, authorizing the withdrawal committee to expend \$35,000 and authorizing the Municipal Officers to transfer the amount not to exceed \$35,000 from the Town of Arundel's undesignated fund for this purpose?*

The question above will be voted on by secret ballot at the **Special Referendum Election to be held on Tuesday, April 10, 2012 at the Arundel Fire Station** from 8 am to 8 pm.

YES Vote - In Favor

Should the result of this vote be a simple majority in favor (50% plus one vote in favor of petitioning for withdrawal), a withdrawal committee will be appointed by the municipal officers. The makeup of this committee is spelled out in the State statute as follows: one member from the municipal officers, one member from the general public and one member from the group filing the petition. One representative of the RSU Board representing Arundel will also be appointed by the Commissioner of Education. The Chair of the RSU Board will call a meeting of the withdrawal committee within 30 days of the notice of a vote in favor of petitioning for withdrawal. This committee is responsible for preparing a WITHDRAWAL AGREEMENT that will be submitted for the Commissioner of Education's approval within 90 days of the committee's formation. Several requirements exist in the statute pertaining to this withdrawal agreement, and they can be found at 20-A MRS § 1466.4.A (1)-(11). Please see the Town's website or visit Town Hall for a copy of this statute. This document must be approved by the Commissioner of Education prior to the next step in the process.

NO Vote - Opposed

Should the result of this vote be a simple majority opposed (50% plus one vote opposed to the withdrawal) there will be no further action taken on the petition received. The Town of Arundel may not petition for withdrawal within 2 years after the date of a town vote on this petition for withdrawal if the petition receives less than 45% of the votes cast.

Upon Completion of the Withdrawal Agreement

Step Two

In the event that the Town votes in the affirmative on the withdraw question, and upon eventual approval of the Commissioner of Education on the withdrawal document presented, the Town would be required to hold another municipal election **to vote on the withdrawal agreement.** A public hearing would be held prior to this vote should the Town meet all of the milestones required in State statute to require a vote on the final withdrawal agreement. If this vote does, in fact, become necessary in the Town of Arundel, another special town meeting would be held, at a date specified by the Commissioner of Education. The results of this final vote would need to be 2/3 of the votes cast in favor of withdrawal in order to withdraw from RSU #21.



\$35,000 and Where it Will Go

by Todd Shea, Town Manager



Voters will find, on the Secret Ballot at the Special Town Referendum Election being held on Tuesday, April 10, 2012 at the Arundel Fire Station, that the amount of \$35,000 has been requested for use by the withdrawal committee, should one be formed. The request for this amount is a result of language contained in State of Maine Statute 20-A § 1466 (11), Cost of Advisors. If you have had the opportunity to read the article titled "Withdrawal Procedure" on page 1 in this publication, you have heard reference to this Statute before. If you are reading this article and have not read the "Withdrawal Procedure" article, please turn to that article for more information. The cost of advisors allows the withdrawal committee to employ competent advisors to assist in the drafting and review of any and all documents associated with withdrawal from RSU #21.

The \$35,000 figure is not exact, at this point the Town does not know what the costs associated with the withdrawal committee will be. This is a "not to exceed" amount that allows the committee to expend funds up to the approved amount to assist in the committee's charge to draft a withdrawal agreement that is acceptable to the commissioner of education. These funds will be utilized for attorney's fees in regards to contracts, deeds, transfers of property, etc. They will also be utilized for consultant services to assist the withdrawal committee in an attempt to find out what the true costs to the Town will be should the Town vote to withdraw from RSU #21.

An affirmative vote on the secret ballot question will not only affirm the petition that the Town has received, it will authorize the Municipal Officers to draw a maximum of \$35,000 from the Town's Undesignated Fund balance for the purpose of advisors to the withdrawal committee.

As always, your vote matters. Please take the time to cast a secret ballot at the Special Referendum Election being held on Tuesday, April 10, 2012 at the Arundel Fire Station.

Education by the Numbers

Todd Shea

The following figures are an attempt to illustrate the costs of educating the students of the Town of Arundel in regards to the taxes paid by residents. Historically education costs have been rising statewide and state contributions have been decreasing. For more information on state aid to education funding please visit <http://www.maine.gov/education/data/subsidy/subsidy.htm>.

FY 2006	\$2,978,000*
FY 2007	\$3,322,284*
FY 2008	\$3,360,598*
FY 2009	\$3,814,292*
FY 2010	\$3,327,596**
FY 2011	\$3,693,011**
FY 2012	\$3,918,927**

*Values derived at by subtracting Maine Department of Education reported State Contribution to education from Assessors' Certification of Assessment for year indicated.

**Values reported directly from Assessors' Certificate of Assessment for year indicated.

Nomination Papers



Nomination Papers for the upcoming Municipal Election on June 12th are available at the Town Office for the following positions:

Selectmen - 2 positions for 3 year terms

RSU#21 Director - 1 position for a 3 year term

Budget Board - 2 positions for 3 year terms & 1 position for a 2 year term

Candidates must be registered to vote and reside in Arundel. A minimum of 25 signatures of registered Arundel voters is needed to qualify. The deadline to file nomination papers is Friday, April 27th at close of business.

FMI call 985-4201.

COMING SOON

ONLINE TAX PAYMENT OPTION

by Todd Shea

In the very near future the Town will be rolling out a new service to taxpayers. Beginning in late March or early April 2012, taxpayers will be able to make their real estate & personal property tax payments online through a link on the Town's website. We are in the process of setting up and testing this program, and once it has been implemented a taxpayer will only need to go to the Town's website,



www.arundelmaine.org, click on the tax payment link, and follow the instructions to make a payment. If this option proves to be a success, judging by the amount of taxpayers using the service, the Town may begin collecting other fees in the same manner.

Residents must keep in mind that there is an additional fee for utilizing this service. The charge for an online payment by check will be \$1.00 payable at the time of the tax payment. The fee for credit cards is higher due to the fees charged by the credit card companies to the municipality for the convenience of using the card. All fees are the responsibility of the user. All fees will be listed on the Town's website, so please be aware of these fees when choosing which method of payment to use. Payments made at Town Hall will remain cash or check only at this point. Should you have any questions please contact the Town Office during normal business hours at 985-4201.



Arundel Historical Society



By Jake Hawkins-President AHS

A hopeful, happy spring to everyone! While things traditionally slow down in winter the Arundel Historical Society has been very busy and will continue to be throughout this year.

In December, we hosted a Spaghetti Supper which was quite well attended. We would like to give our heartfelt thanks to Tammy Pelletier and Karen Huard for cooking duties and initiating that dinner. The 2nd weekend in March we welcomed a good crowd to our Bean Supper. Thanks to everyone who attended and to those who donated time and supplies to make it a success.

Other events on tap for this year include a community yard sale/scrap metal drive, bean suppers, a fundraising calendar, an auction, bake sales, and a craft fair. Check our website and posted signs to keep apprised of these events as they occur. We always welcome your participation!

Fundraising is always a priority for the AHS and this year we have a special MEMBERSHIP DRIVE now in progress until June. The Kennebunk Savings Bank has generously agreed to match every new membership, up to 50 members, with a \$50 donation. So this is the perfect time to join as a new member. Check out our website, www.arundelhistoricalsociety.org for membership information. We are always looking to expand our membership base. Also look for Burnham-Lunt donation boxes (small white house) at local businesses and the Town Hall.

Speaking of the Burnham-Lunt Project, we moved the two houses on February 12th. They are now in the field at the corner of Route 111 (Alfred Road) and Limerick Road. This area of town used to be called North Chapel and the AHS thought it would be appropriate that the new home for these dwellings be called "North Chapel Common". During our search for the history of the Burnham house we were given a photograph of the original North Chapel Church. A building styled after the church will be built for use as a community meetinghouse on the site of North Chapel Common. We envision it as a place for our suppers and activities and, just as importantly, a place for other community events, groups to meet, cultural events, etc. It will be a focal point for the town and something the people of Arundel can utilize and be proud of for many years.

Events in the immediate future are a Baked Bean Supper on April 28 and an Auction on May 11. We are seeking donations of collectibles, artwork, antiques, etc. for the auction. Our annual May raffle calendar, which has prizes generously donated by local businesses and individuals for every day of the month of May, is available for a donation of \$5. For info about the auction, the calendar, or the community yard sale, contact Joanne @ 985-3087.

We are always looking for donations of time, talent, and treasure as our strength lies in the support of the community. Our meetings are the first and third Thursdays of the month at 7:00 P.M. at the M.L Day School, and you are always welcome to attend.

Public Works and Our Roads

by Roger Taschereau, Public Works Director



Although the winter snows started before Halloween leaving us with 8" of plowable snow, the remainder of it has been relatively mild. We have responded to 25 different sanding or plowing runs to date. We have used 841 yards of winter sand, 540 tons of salt and 595 gallons of liquid calcium. When not plowing or sanding we cut brush on many different roadways and have done major trimming and removing of dead standing trees at the ball fields behind the M.L. Day School.

We hope for an early spring to do prep work prior to paving on Limerick Road from the Turnpike to New Road. The River Road from the railroad tracks to Old Post Road is also scheduled and Irving Road needs major work before reclaiming and paving. All of this work needs to be done before major price increases in paving costs are felt.

Arundel Fire-Rescue Fundraiser

The Arundel Fire-Rescue placed a donation box for returnable beverage containers between the Fire Station and the Town Hall. The Arundel Fire-Rescue wishes to say THANK YOU for dropping off your returnable beverage containers, we are very grateful, our "CLYNK" account is starting to grow. To those residents of Arundel who didn't know about our box, would you kindly think of either, picking up a "CLYNK" bag at the fire station or sharing with "your" Fire-Rescue a few returnables each month. "CLYNK" bags can also be dropped off at Hannaford stores. With your help, the Arundel Fire-Rescue will soon have raised enough funds to purchase a piece of much needed equipment. EVERY can or bottle helps, please give. Thank you. Members of the Arundel Fire-Rescue



Business Sponsors Wanted

Todd Shea, Town Manager

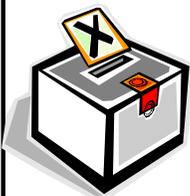
The Town of Arundel is looking for business sponsors to cover the costs of publication of the Arrow. The Arrow is a quarterly publication mailed to each mailing address in the Town. The cost of publication is approximately \$600 per issue. Interested Arundel businesses should contact the Town Manager at arundel@roadrunner.com or call the town office for more information.



Volunteers Needed

Todd Shea

The Town of Arundel is in need of volunteers for several boards and committees. Typical meeting schedules are once a month for a few hours. The work that each and every committee does is very important to the future of the Town, and the more residents become involved the more successful the Town will be in planning for these future needs. Anyone who is interested in joining any board or committee can get an application on the Town's website, www.arundelmaine.org, at the Town Hall, or by calling the Town Manager at 985-4201. Applicants must be residents of the Town of Arundel and must be registered to vote as such. Current needs are for the Economic Development Committee and Zoning Board of Appeals. Applications are also needed to fill positions that may come about in the future.



**April 10, 2012
Special Referendum Election
Arundel Fire Station
8 am to 8 pm**

The Town will hold a special referendum election to vote by secret ballot on the petition question:

Do you favor filing a petition for withdrawal with the Board of Directors of Regional School Unit # 21 and with the Commissioner of Education, authorizing the withdrawal committee to expend \$35,000 and authorizing the Municipal Officers to transfer the amount not to exceed \$35,000 from the Town of Arundel's undesignated fund for this purpose?

A **PUBLIC HEARING** on this Referendum Question and the withdrawal process will be held

Monday, March 26th,

at 7 pm at the Mildred L. Day School Library

Copies of the Statute 20-A MRSA § 1466 are available on the Town's web site at: www.arundelmaine.org

See Page 1 & 2 for more information.

**Absentee Ballots Law
Changes**



Absentee Ballots are available 30 days before ANY election. You may vote in person at the Town Office any time **up to and including the Thursday before any election.**

NO ABSENTEE VOTING is allowed the **3 business days before** any Election unless you meet special guidelines due to **unexpected absence or illness.**

You or an immediate family member may request an absentee ballot or have one mailed to the you by completing an application or by telephone request (voter only).

Applications are available online at www.arundelmaine.org

FMI call 985-4201 or stop by the Town Clerk's office.

Town of Arundel
468 Limerick Rd
Arundel, ME 04046

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ARUNDEL, ME 04046**

Visit the Town's WEBSITE at www.arundelmaine.org
State of Maine Online services at<http://www.state.me.us/>

