

TOWN OF NEWCASTLE

272nd ANNUAL REPORT



July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

Front Cover

Sherman Marsh

Taken by Select Board Chair, Karen Paz

2024 ANNUAL REPORT of the Town of NEWCASTLE, MAINE

July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 Financial Reports

June 2024 Annual Town Meeting Warrant



Town Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Friday 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Telephone: 563-3441; Fax: 563-6995

Board of Selectmen regularly meet the second and fourth Mondays at 6 p.m. at the community room at the Huntley Fire Station on River Road. The meetings are live stream broadcast via the Town's YouTube channel.

www.newcastlemaine.us

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Dedication



This year we would like to acknowledge you, our residents,
for your continued efforts in building a
warm and welcoming community.

To those of you that give your time to serve on our boards,
committees, and elections; you all contribute to
our town operating smoothly.

We, the staff, Thank You!

Kevin • Shelly • Michelle • Emma • Michael • George • Jim

Directory of Municipal Officials

Select Board and Tax Assessors

| | <u>Term Expires</u> |
|--|---------------------|
| Karen Paz, Chair, Select Board & Assessors | 2024 |
| Tor Glendinning, Member, Select Board & Assessors | 2026 |
| Thomas Kostenbader, Member, Select Board & Assessors | 2025 |
| Rufus Percy, Member, Select Board & Assessors | 2026 |
| Joel Lind, Vice Chair, Select Board & Assessors | 2024 |

Municipal Officials

| | |
|---|------------------------------|
| Town Manager / | |
| Emergency Management Director: | Kevin Sutherland |
| Interim Town Clerk / Registrar / Tax Collector / | |
| Treasurer / General Assistance Administrator: | Michelle Cameron |
| Administrative Assistant / BMV Agent / | |
| Deputy Town Clerk / Deputy Registrar / | |
| Deputy Tax Collector & Treasurer: | Shelly Clifford |
| Deputy Town Clerk / Deputy Registrar / | |
| Deputy Tax Collector: | Emma McKearney |
| Animal Control Officer: | Lincoln Co. Sheriff's Office |
| Assessor's Agent: | Jim Murphy |
| CLC Ambulance Director: | Ellen McFarland |
| Code Enforcement Officer / | |
| Local Plumbing Inspector: | George Chase |
| Fire Chief / Fire Warden: | Casey Stevens |
| Asst. Fire Chief: | James Kaler |
| Deputy Fire Chief: | James Bryant |
| Deputy Fire Warden: | Robert Hatch |
| Harbor Master: | Eric Peters |
| Deputy Harbor Master: | Bernie DeLisle |
| Health Officer: | John M. Dickens, MD |
| Road Commissioner: | Seth Hagar |
| Shellfish Warden: | Lincoln Co. Sheriff's Office |
| Town Planner: | Michael Martone |

Town Boards and Committees**Appeals Board:**

| | |
|------------------|---------|
| Lydia Crafts | 2024 |
| Greg Gerbi | 2024 |
| Merle Parise | 2025 |
| Roger Wilcox | 2024 |
| Leonardo Azevedo | Expired |

Damariscotta-Newcastle Harbor Committee:

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| David Lawrence | Newcastle Representative |
| Gisela Heimsath-Rhodes | Newcastle Representative |
| Charles "Chip" Holmes | Newcastle Representative |
| Steven Hufnagel | Damariscotta Representative |
| Eric Peters | Harbor Master |
| Bernie DeLisle | Deputy Harbor Master |
| Vacant Seat | Damariscotta Representative |

Damariscotta-Newcastle Shellfish Committee:

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Ryan Fraser, Chairman | Damariscotta |
| Robert Wallace, Member | Newcastle |
| Blake Hay, Member | Damariscotta |
| Sandy Paulsen, Vice Chair | Newcastle |
| Carroll Lincoln, Member | Damariscotta (Non-Resident) |
| Heather Leslie, Member | Newcastle |

Damariscotta- Newcastle Shellfish Warden:

Lincoln County Sheriff's Office

Finance Committee:

| | |
|------------------|--------|
| R. Benjamin Frey | Chair |
| John Hartman | Member |
| John Mills | Member |

Fish Ladder / Alewives Committee:

| | |
|--------------|--------------------------|
| Jim Brinkler | Newcastle Representative |
|--------------|--------------------------|

Great Salt Bay Sanitary District Trustees:

| | |
|----------------|----------------------|
| Louis Rector | 2025 |
| Lynne Plourde | 2024 |
| William Brewer | Damariscotta Trustee |
| Lewis Cameron | Damariscotta Trustee |
| John Gallagher | Damariscotta Trustee |
| Robert Whear | Nobleboro Trustee |

Harriett Gertrude Bird Playground Committee:

Carol Juchnik
 Jim Mercer
 David O'Neal
 Megan Verney
 Chrissy Wajer

L. C. Regional Planning Committee:

Mal Carey Newcastle Representative

L. C. Television Newcastle Directors and Staff:

| | |
|------------------|------------------|
| Marva Nesbit | Vice President |
| Scott Shott | Newcastle Member |
| Holly Margaritis | Secretary |

Newcastle School Board Members:

| | |
|------------------------|------|
| Dennis Anderson | 2024 |
| Meredith Verney | 2025 |
| Elizabeth "Betsy" Ball | 2026 |

Newcastle Historical Society – Select Board Appointee:

Ms. Arlene Cole Trustee

Newcastle Historical Society Members:

| | |
|----------------|----------------|
| Tim Dinsmore | President |
| Michael Titus | Vice President |
| Karen Paz | Treasurer |
| Karen Campbell | Secretary |
| Betsy Evans | Trustee |
| Sandra Barth | Trustee |
| Bruce Campbell | Trustee |

Newcastle Veterans Memorial Park Committee:

| | |
|-----------------|--------|
| Ellen McFarland | Chair |
| Betsy Evans | Member |
| Calvert Hurdle | Member |
| Ann Houlton | Member |

Planning Board:

| | |
|---------------------------|------|
| R. Benjamin Frey, Chair | 2025 |
| Kevin Houghton, Member | 2026 |
| Lucas Kostenbader, Member | 2025 |
| Wanda Wilcox, Member | 2026 |
| Vacant Seat | |

Federal and State Officials**Senator Susan Collins**

Augusta Office
 68 Sewall Street, Room 507
 Augusta, ME 04330
 Main: (207) 622-8414
www.collins.senate.gov

Washington, D.C. Office
 413 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
 Washington, D.C. 20510
 Main: (202) 224-2523
 Fax: (202) 224-2693

Senator Angus King

Augusta Office
 4 Gabriel Drive
 Suite 3
 Augusta, ME 04330
 (207) 622-8292

Washington, D.C. Office
 133 Hart Bldg.
 Washington, D. C. 20510
 (202) 224-5344
www.king.senate.gov

U.S. Representative Chellie Pingree

Portland Office
 2 Portland Fish Pier, Suite 304
 Portland, ME 04101
 (207) 774-5019
pingree.house.gov

Washington, D.C. Office
 2162 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
 Washington, D.C. 20515
 (202) 225-6116

Governor Janet T. Mills

Office of the Governor
 #1 State House Station
 Augusta, ME 04333-0001

Phone: Toll-Free: 1-855-721-5203
 TTY: Maine relay 711 (deaf/hard of hearing)
 Fax: (207) 287-1034

State Senator *District 13* Cameron Reny (D)

Senate Chambers
 3 State House Station
 Augusta, ME 04333-0003
 Tel: (207) 287-1515
 Office: (207) 287-1505

P.O. Box 156
 Round Pond, ME 04564
Cameron.Reny@legislature.maine.gov

State Representative *District 90* Lydia V. Crafts (D)

House of Representatives
 2 State House Station
 Augusta, ME 04333-0002
 Tel: (207) 287-1400 (Voice)
 Tel: (207) 287-4469 (TTY)
 1-800-423-2900 Toll-Free Message Center
www.maine.gov/legis/house

4 Mills Rd., PMB#13
 Newcastle, ME 04553
Lydia.Crafts@legislature.maine.gov
 Work: (207) 593-2664

Board of Selectmen

It's been a productive year in Newcastle as we've added new faces to the town government and taken on some new and important projects.

We happily welcomed Kevin Sutherland to Newcastle last summer, first as interim then as full-time town manager after the departure of Sarah Macy in May. Kevin comes to us with prior experience in Saco and Bar Harbor as well as Ithaca, NY, a fantastic attitude, and a host of skills that have and will continue to serve our town well. He enjoys meeting residents, so if you haven't done so yet, please introduce yourself when you see him.

You have probably noticed a couple other new faces in the town office since the last town meeting. We are excited that Emma McKearney joined us as Deputy Clerk in September, having previously worked for DHHS in Augusta. Michael Martone came aboard in July as our Planner (shared with Damariscotta) formerly with the Midcoast Council of Government. You probably also recognized a familiar face back in the office. Fortunately for us Michelle Cameron came back to Newcastle as Treasurer and interim Town Clerk last summer. We want to give a special shout out to Shelly Clifford for being the glue to hold everything together through all the changes. Thank you also to CEO George Chase and Assessors' Agent Jim Murphy for their steady and much-appreciated presence.

The Select Board welcomed new member Rufus Percy in June. Rufus is an excellent addition and brings a wealth of knowledge in construction and heavy equipment which informs many of our conversations. We are fortunate to have him.

We are excited that the Village Partnership Initiative (VPI) with the Maine Department of Transportation was kicked off this year with an informational meeting in February. The VPI covers Newcastle's downtown from Rte. 1 along Main Street to the river including small sections River and Mills Roads where they intersect with Main Street. Wright-Pierce, who is preparing the pre-engineering report, will study traffic patterns, volumes and problems; pedestrian usages, safety and ADA compliance; parking availability and possible parking additions.

Check the town website or watch for newspaper announcements of future meetings which will be hosted in partnership with the Lincoln County Regional Planning Commission.

We continue to invest in our roads in Newcastle. This past year saw the final paving of Station Road. Island Road will be paved this spring as will another section of Academy Hill Road.

Town staff and the Select Board are reviewing and updating all of our ordinances and policies, as well as updating shore land zoning and the core zoning code to make them compliant with state laws.

Several members of the Taniscot Fire Co. and the town manager worked closely to obtain numerous bids to replace an elderly 1974 pumper truck that no longer has the ability to do its job. At a special town meeting in March, voters approved the purchase of a KME pumper truck which will cost \$656,000 and probably take 2 years to be delivered.

Climate change had a significant impact on Newcastle in the last 12 months. In May 2023, a storm severely damaged a large concrete box culvert on Lynch Road. We made temporary repairs, posted a temporary weight limit on the bridge and are now working with FEMA to get reimbursed for building a more long-lasting, climate change resistant bridge over that span.

The seemingly monthly 100-year storms of the winter brought challenges in both clean-up and budgeting. In hope of obtaining guidance and funding for Newcastle's response to climate change, we have joined the Community Resilience Partnership Program with support from the Lincoln County regional Planning Commission and Coastal Rivers Conservation Trust.

If you haven't been on the town website lately, please check it out at newcastlemaine.us. The office staff is working hard to keep it current and informative. Bookmark the website for quick access to office hours and closures, upcoming meetings and supporting documentation, archival information, and much more. You will also find a convenient link to the state website where you can quickly and easily reregister motor vehicles and save yourself a trip to town.

Please reach out to the members of the Select Board with concerns and questions or come to one of our meetings. We want to hear from you.

NEWCASTLE SELECT BOARD

Independent Auditor's Report

WILLIAM H. BREWER

Certified Public Accountant

858 Washington Street

P.O. Box 306

Bath, Maine 04530

(207) 443-9759

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

Select Board
Town of Newcastle
Newcastle, Maine

Opinions

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town of Newcastle, as of and for the years ended June 30, 2022 and 2021, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Town of Newcastle's basic financial statements as listed in the Table of Contents.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities and each major fund of the Town of Newcastle as of June 30, 2022 and 2021, and the respective changes in financial position, and where applicable, cash flows thereof for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Town of Newcastle, and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Town of Newcastle's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgement made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, we:

- Exercise professional judgement and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Town of Newcastle's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgement, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Town of Newcastle's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis and budgetary comparison information be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Town of Newcastle's basic financial statements. The fund financial statements are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the combining and individual nonmajor fund financial statements are fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

Bath, Maine

February 8, 2024



TOWN OF NEWCASTLE
BALANCE SHEETS - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2022 AND 2021

| | GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|---------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|-----------------|
| | MAJOR | | NON-MAJOR | | | |
| | GENERAL | CAPITAL RESERVES | OLD DUMP | CEMETERIES | HARBOR | |
| | | | | | | 2021 TOTAL |
| ASSETS: | | | | | | |
| Cash | \$ 2,764,591.22 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 9,671.21 | \$ 2,801.14 | \$ 2,777,063.57 |
| Accounts Receivable | 83,989.64 | | | | | 83,989.64 |
| Prepaid Expenses | 3,651.62 | | | | | 3,651.62 |
| Taxes Receivable | 277,871.99 | | | | | 277,871.99 |
| Tax Liens | 45,105.97 | | | | | 45,105.97 |
| Tax Acquired Property | 235.43 | | | | | 235.43 |
| Investments | 20,869.01 | | | 169,712.01 | | 190,581.02 |
| Due From Other Funds | 681.34 | | | | 21,410.94 | 301,339.15 |
| Total Assets | \$ 3,176,127.21 | \$ 300,115.88 | \$ - | \$ 179,383.22 | \$ 24,212.08 | \$ 3,679,838.39 |
| LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS, AND FUND BALANCES | | | | | | |
| Liabilities: | | | | | | |
| Accounts Payable | \$ 11,798.50 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 11,798.50 |
| Due To Other Funds | 297,806.40 | | 681.34 | | | 298,487.74 |
| Total Liabilities | \$ 309,604.90 | \$ - | \$ 681.34 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 310,286.24 |
| Deferred Inflows: | | | | | | |
| Deferred Tax Revenue | \$ 19,802.32 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 19,802.32 |
| Deferred Revenue | 403,334.22 | | | | | 403,334.22 |
| Total Deferred Inflows | \$ 423,136.54 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 423,136.54 |
| Fund Balances: | | | | | | |
| Nonspendable | \$ 225.43 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 110,541.70 | \$ - | \$ 110,777.13 |
| Trust Fund Purposes | | | | 68,841.52 | | 68,841.52 |
| Assigned | 454,005.09 | 319,252.64 | | | 24,212.08 | 797,469.81 |
| Unassigned | 1,989,145.25 | (19,136.76) | (681.34) | | | 1,969,327.15 |
| Total Fund Balances | \$ 2,443,385.77 | \$ 300,115.88 | \$ (681.34) | \$ 179,383.22 | \$ 24,212.08 | \$ 2,946,415.61 |
| Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows, and Fund Balances | \$ 3,176,127.21 | \$ 300,115.88 | \$ - | \$ 179,383.22 | \$ 24,212.08 | \$ 3,679,838.39 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements

TOWN OF NEWCASTLE

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Exhibit F

TOWN OF NEWCASTLE STATEMENTS OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2022 AND 2021

| | GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES | | | | | | 2021 TOTAL |
|--|-------------------------|---------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| | MAJOR GENERAL | CAPITAL RESERVES | OLD DUMP | CEMETERIES | HARBOR | 2022 TOTAL | |
| REVENUES: | | | | | | | |
| Property Taxes | \$ 5,047,785.77 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 5,047,785.77 | \$ 4,664,866.65 |
| Excise Taxes | 461,244.28 | | | | | 461,244.28 | 528,225.07 |
| Education | 350,381.84 | | | | | 350,381.84 | 226,723.87 |
| General Government | 46,054.87 | | | | | 46,054.87 | 81,665.10 |
| Intergovernmental | 339,240.83 | | | | | 339,240.83 | 279,557.87 |
| Public Works | 39,256.00 | 30,683.74 | | | | 69,939.74 | 58,580.36 |
| Interest | 34,658.19 | (784.55) | | (6,686.11) | 1.40 | 27,188.93 | 115,060.19 |
| Unclassified/Protection | 93,419.97 | 100.00 | | | 4,967.51 | 98,487.48 | 43,044.50 |
| Total Revenues | \$ 6,412,041.75 | \$ 29,999.19 | \$ - | \$ (6,686.11) | \$ 4,968.91 | \$ 6,440,323.74 | \$ 5,997,723.62 |
| EXPENDITURES: | | | | | | | |
| Education | \$ 3,360,383.23 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 3,360,383.23 | \$ 3,158,712.67 |
| General Government | 539,897.17 | 85,273.59 | | | | 625,170.76 | 606,523.51 |
| Protection | 292,613.34 | | | | | 292,613.34 | 338,189.08 |
| Public Works | 596,572.58 | 650,368.47 | | | 192.04 | 1,247,133.09 | 2,709,407.75 |
| Debt | 255,623.49 | | | | | 255,623.49 | 56,523.04 |
| Special Assessment | 423,047.41 | | | | | 423,047.41 | 417,337.09 |
| Unclassified | 67,703.00 | | | | | 67,703.00 | 108,461.19 |
| Total Expenditures | \$ 5,535,840.22 | \$ 735,642.06 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 192.04 | \$ 6,271,674.32 | \$ 7,395,154.33 |
| Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures | \$ 876,201.53 | \$ (705,642.87) | \$ - | \$ (6,686.11) | \$ 4,776.87 | \$ 168,649.42 | \$ (1,397,430.71) |
| OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES): | | | | | | | |
| Operating Transfers - In | \$ - | \$ 799,484.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 799,484.00 | \$ 597,104.00 |
| Operating Transfers - Out | (799,484.00) | | | | | (799,484.00) | (597,104.00) |
| Total Other Financing Sources (Uses) | \$ (799,484.00) | \$ 799,484.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| Excess of Revenues and Other Sources Over (Under) Expenditures and Other Uses | \$ 76,717.53 | \$ 93,841.13 | \$ - | \$ (6,686.11) | \$ 4,776.87 | \$ 168,649.42 | \$ (1,397,430.71) |
| Fund Balance, July 1 | 2,366,668.24 | 206,274.75 | (681.34) | 186,069.33 | 19,435.21 | 2,777,766.19 | 4,175,196.90 |
| Fund Balance, June 30 | \$ 2,443,385.77 | \$ 300,115.88 | \$ (681.34) | \$ 179,383.22 | \$ 24,212.08 | \$ 2,946,415.61 | \$ 2,777,766.19 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements

Exhibit G

TOWN OF NEWCASTLE
STATEMENTS OF FIDUCIARY NET POSITION - NONSPENDABLE TRUST FUNDS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2022 AND 2021

| | C&M HATCH | SHEEPSKOT CEMETERY | GLIDDEN ST. CEMETERY | PINE KNOLL CEMETERY | WHITEHOUSE CEMETERY | HUSSEY CEMETERY | WORTHY POOR | CEMETERY TRUST | 2022 TOTAL | 2021 TOTAL |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|----------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------|
| ASSETS: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cash and Cash Equivalents | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 8,160.24 | \$ 1,510.97 | \$ 9,671.21 | \$ 5,559.20 |
| Investments | \$ 3,214.08 | \$ 53,311.86 | \$ 27,316.14 | \$ 45,837.98 | \$ 898.74 | \$ 3,188.70 | \$ 35,944.51 | \$ 169,712.01 | \$ 180,510.13 | \$ 180,510.13 |
| Total Assets | \$ 3,214.08 | \$ 53,311.86 | \$ 27,316.14 | \$ 45,837.98 | \$ 898.74 | \$ 3,188.70 | \$ 44,104.75 | \$ 1,510.97 | \$ 179,383.22 | \$ 186,069.33 |
| LIABILITIES | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| FUND BALANCES: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Nonspendable | \$ 2,090.54 | \$ 25,951.46 | \$ 22,623.69 | \$ 33,873.32 | \$ 553.80 | \$ 2,500.00 | \$ 23,038.99 | \$ - | \$ 110,541.70 | \$ 110,541.70 |
| Restricted | \$ 1,213.54 | \$ 27,360.40 | \$ 4,692.45 | \$ 11,964.76 | \$ 344.94 | \$ 688.70 | \$ 21,065.76 | \$ 1,510.97 | \$ 68,841.52 | \$ 25,527.63 |
| Total Fund Balances | \$ 3,214.08 | \$ 53,311.86 | \$ 27,316.14 | \$ 45,837.98 | \$ 898.74 | \$ 3,188.70 | \$ 44,104.75 | \$ 1,510.97 | \$ 179,383.22 | \$ 186,069.33 |
| Total Liabilities and Fund Balances | \$ 3,214.08 | \$ 53,311.86 | \$ 27,316.14 | \$ 45,837.98 | \$ 898.74 | \$ 3,188.70 | \$ 44,104.75 | \$ 1,510.97 | \$ 179,383.22 | \$ 186,069.33 |

Exhibit H

STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION
NONSPENDABLE TRUST FUNDS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2022 AND 2021

| | C&M HATCH | SHEEPSKOT CEMETERY | GLIDDEN ST. CEMETERY | PINE KNOLL CEMETERY | WHITEHOUSE CEMETERY | HUSSEY CEMETERY | WORTHY POOR | CEMETERY TRUST | 2022 TOTAL | 2021 TOTAL |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|----------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------|
| REVENUES: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Investment Income, Net of Unrealized | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gain/Losses | \$ (120.84) | \$ (2,004.22) | \$ (1,026.95) | \$ (1,723.34) | \$ 129.60 | \$ (283.26) | \$ (1,658.10) | \$ 0.90 | \$ (6,686.11) | \$ 8,114.83 |
| Other | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Revenues | \$ (120.84) | \$ (2,004.22) | \$ (1,026.95) | \$ (1,723.34) | \$ 129.60 | \$ (283.26) | \$ (1,658.10) | \$ 0.90 | \$ (6,686.11) | \$ 36,665.00 |
| EXPENDITURES | | | | | | | | | | |
| Net Change in Fund Balances | \$ (120.84) | \$ (2,004.22) | \$ (1,026.95) | \$ (1,723.34) | \$ 129.60 | \$ (283.26) | \$ (1,658.10) | \$ 0.90 | \$ (6,686.11) | \$ (4,437.96) |
| Net Position, July 1 | \$ 3,214.08 | \$ 53,311.86 | \$ 25,345.09 | \$ 47,561.32 | \$ 699.14 | \$ 3,471.96 | \$ 45,762.85 | \$ 1,510.07 | \$ 186,069.33 | \$ 190,307.29 |
| Net Position, June 30 | \$ 3,214.08 | \$ 53,311.86 | \$ 27,316.14 | \$ 45,837.98 | \$ 898.74 | \$ 3,188.70 | \$ 44,104.75 | \$ 1,510.97 | \$ 179,383.22 | \$ 186,069.33 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

TOWN OF NEWCASTLE
BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE - GENERAL FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2022

| | ORIGINAL AND FINAL BUDGET | ACTUAL |
|---|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| REVENUES: | | |
| Property Taxes | \$ 5,067,766.98 | \$ 5,047,785.77 |
| Excise Taxes | 420,300.17 | 461,244.28 |
| Education | 298,203.00 | 350,381.84 |
| General Government | 31,950.00 | 46,054.87 |
| Intergovernmental | 338,938.36 | 339,240.83 |
| Public Works | 36,000.00 | 39,256.00 |
| Grants | | 93,419.97 |
| Interest | 48,000.00 | 34,658.19 |
| Total Revenues | <u>\$ 6,241,158.51</u> | <u>\$ 6,412,041.75</u> |
| EXPENDITURES: | | |
| Education | \$ 3,380,294.92 | \$ 3,360,383.23 |
| General Government | 572,654.00 | 539,897.17 |
| Protection | 362,444.00 | 292,613.34 |
| Public Works | 550,096.00 | 596,572.58 |
| Debt | 270,507.00 | 255,623.49 |
| Special Assessments | 423,047.41 | 423,047.41 |
| Unclassified | 64,223.00 | 67,703.00 |
| Total Expenditures | <u>\$ 5,623,266.33</u> | <u>\$ 5,535,840.22</u> |
| Excess of Revenues Over Expenditures | <u>\$ 617,892.18</u> | <u>\$ 876,201.53</u> |
| OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES): | | |
| Operating Transfers - Out | (799,484.00) | (799,484.00) |
| Excess of Revenues and Other Sources Over (Under) | | |
| Expenditures and Other Uses | <u>\$ (181,591.82)</u> | <u>\$ 76,717.53</u> |
| Fund Balance, July 1, 2021 | <u>2,366,668.24</u> | <u>2,366,668.24</u> |
| Fund Balance, June 30, 2022 | <u><u>\$ 2,185,076.42</u></u> | <u><u>\$ 2,443,385.77</u></u> |

TOWN OF NEWCASTLE
STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2022

| | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|
| Cash Balance, July 1, 2021 | | \$ 2,539,033.24 |
| ADD: CASH RECEIPTS: | | |
| Property Tax Collections: | | |
| Current Year | \$ 4,794,876.92 | |
| Prior Years | 211,403.88 | |
| Prepayments | <u>19,484.88</u> | |
| Total Property Tax Collections | | \$ 5,025,765.68 |
| Excise Taxes | | 461,244.28 |
| Departmental (Schedule B-3) | | 587,505.93 |
| State Revenue Sharing | | 271,182.61 |
| Homestead Reimbursement | | 142,601.00 |
| Accounts Receivable | | 31,767.63 |
| Harbor Receipts | | 4,967.51 |
| Capital Reserves Receipts | | <u>30,783.74</u> |
| Total Cash Receipts | | <u>6,555,818.38</u> |
| Total Cash Available | | <u>\$ 9,094,851.62</u> |
| LESS: CASH DISBURSEMENTS: | | |
| Departmental (Schedule B-3) | \$ 5,521,267.72 | |
| Prepaid Expenses | 3,651.62 | |
| Accounts Payable | 69,506.96 | |
| Capital Reserve Expenses | 735,642.06 | |
| Harbor Expenses | <u>192.04</u> | |
| Total Cash Disbursements | | <u>6,330,260.40</u> |
| Cash Balance, June 30, 2022 | | <u><u>\$ 2,764,591.22</u></u> |

Schedule B-2

TOWN OF NEWCASTLE
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN UNAPPROPRIATED SURPLUS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2022

| | | |
|--|------------------|-------------------------------|
| Unappropriated Surplus, July 1, 2021 | | \$ 2,005,815.86 |
| INCREASE: | | |
| Operating Account Balances Lapsed (Schedule B-3) | | 231,954.76 |
| DECREASE: | | |
| Appropriated at Town Meeting | \$ 220,000.00 | |
| Increase in Deferred Property Taxes | <u>28,625.36</u> | |
| | | <u>248,625.36</u> |
| Unappropriated Surplus, June 30, 2022 | | <u><u>\$ 1,989,145.26</u></u> |

RESULTS

Municipal Election June 13, 2023

Selectmen/Assessor:

| | |
|------------------------|------------|
| TOR GLENDINNING | 151 |
| RUFUS PERCY | 125 |
| Blanks | 85 |
| Write-In | 4/1 |

School Committee:

| | |
|-----------------------|------------|
| ELIZABETH BALL | 164 |
|-----------------------|------------|

| | |
|--|------------|
| Question #1: GSB School Budget | 183 |
| Question #2: GSB CSD Budget Validation | 183 |
| Total Votes Cast: | 183 |

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT AND SECRET BALLOT ELECTION

Tuesday, June 11, 2024 AND Monday, June 17, 2024

To R. Benjamin Frey, a resident for the Town of Newcastle, in the County of Lincoln, State of Maine,

GREETINGS:

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Newcastle in said County and State, qualified by law to vote in town affairs, to meet at the Fire Station building at 86 River Rd on Tuesday, the 11th day of June, A.D. 2024 at 8:00 am, then and there to act upon Article 1 - Article 5 by secret ballot as set out below, the polling hours therefore to be from 8:00 am until 8:00 in the evening; Articles 6-34 are to be voted on at Open Town Meeting to be held Monday, the 17th day of June, A.D. 2024 at 6:00 in the evening to meet at 81 Academy Hill Road, in the Lincoln Academy cafeteria.

ARTICLE 1: To elect a moderator by written ballot to preside at said meeting.

ARTICLE 2: To elect by secret ballot, in accordance with the vote of the town, the following offices:

1. One (1) trustee of the Great Salt Bay Sanitary District for a three-year term
2. One (1) member of the Great Salt Bay School Committee for a three-year term
3. Two (2) Select Board members/Assessors and Overseers of the Poor for a three-year term

ARTICLE 3: Do you favor approving the GREAT SALT BAY, CSD ELEMENTARY education budget for the upcoming school year that was adopted at the latest Great Salt Bay, CSD Annual Budget Meeting and that includes locally raised funds that exceed the required local contribution as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act?

ARTICLE 4: Do you favor approving the NEWCASTLE SECONDARY education budget for the upcoming school year that was adopted at the latest Newcastle Special Town Meeting and that includes locally raised funds that exceed the required local contribution as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act?

ARTICLE 5: Do you favor approving the school administrative reorganization plan prepared by the Great Salt Bay Reorganization Planning Committee to reorganize the Great Salt Bay Community School District, the Town of Bremen Municipal School Unit, the Town of Damariscotta Municipal School Unit, and the Town of Newcastle Municipal School Unit into a regional school unit with an effective date of July 1, 2025?

OPEN TOWN MEETING

Monday, June 17, 2024, 6:00 pm

For Fiscal Year 2025: July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

And, to notify and warn said inhabitants to meet at the Lincoln Academy cafeteria in said town on Tuesday, the 17th day of June 2024 A.D., at 6:00 in the evening, then and there to act on Articles 6 through 34 as set out below, to wit:

ARTICLE 6: Shall the town utilize remote electronic keypad voting as the method of voting for all articles at this Town meeting, the June 17, 2024, Annual Town Meeting?

ARTICLE 7: Shall the Town adopt the proposed amendments to the Core Zoning Code, as drafted in the document titled 'Proposed Core Zoning Code Amendments 2024.03' and addressed at the Public Hearing held by the Planning Board on March 28, 2024?

ARTICLE 8: Shall the Town adopt the proposed amendments to the Shoreland Zoning Ordinance and the associated Shoreland Zoning Map, as drafted in the documents titled 'Proposed Shoreland Ord. Amend. 2024.02.15', 'Shoreland Land Use Tables - Default, Current, Proposed.pdf', and the Shoreland Zoning Map dated March 2024, as addressed at the Public Hearing held by the Planning Board on March 28, 2024?

ARTICLE 9: Shall the town raise & appropriate for the General Government category as follows:

| GENERAL GOVERNMENT | | | |
|------------------------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| | FY23 | FY24 | FY25 |
| | Actual* | Budget | Select Board |
| COMPENSATION | | | |
| 01 - SELECT BOARD | 15,000.00 | 15,000.00 | 15,000.00 |
| 03 - TOWN MANAGER | 70,741.42 | 90,000.00 | 100,940.00 |
| 04 - TOWN CLERK/REGISTRAR | 51,637.72 | 55,000.00 | 50,000.00 |
| 05 - TREASURER/TAX COLLECTOR | 31,294.38 | 55,000.00 | 64,397.00 |
| 06 - ADMIN ASST | 0.00 | 0.00 | 56,760.00 |
| 07 - ELECTION WORKERS | 1,367.27 | 1,200.00 | 2,000.00 |
| 16 - FULL-TIME DEPUTY | 50,607.02 | 54,370.00 | 0.00 |
| 17 - HARBOR MASTER | 3,000.00 | 3,500.00 | 3,500.00 |
| 18 - FULL-TIME BONUS | 0.00 | 0.00 | 2,000.00 |
| 20 - OVERTIME COMPENSATION | 1,372.01 | 1,000.00 | 500.00 |
| 01 - COMPENSATION TOTAL | 225,019.82 | 275,070.00 | 295,097.00 |

| | FY23 | FY24 | FY25 |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | Actual* | Budget | Select Board |
| FRINGE BENEFITS | | | |
| 01 - FICA/MEDICARE | 22,230.77 | 19,554.00 | 23,014.00 |
| 02 - MMA HEALTH TRUST INS/MEDICARE | 71,771.49 | 96,244.00 | 100,334.00 |
| 03 - RETIREMENT | 19,757.22 | 24,361.00 | 21,936.00 |
| 04 - VISION/DENTAL/LIFE | 272.45 | 4,932.00 | 3,060.00 |
| 05 - INCOME PROTECTION PLAN | 2,504.52 | 2,000.00 | 2,000.00 |
| 06 - MANAGER AGREEMENT | 414.90 | 0.00 | 12,000.00 |
| 07 - previously DENTAL | 2,401.66 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 02 - FRINGE BENEFITS TOTAL | 119,353.01 | 147,091.00 | 162,344.00 |
| | | | |
| INSURANCES | | | |
| 05 - PROPERTY & CASUALTY LIABILITY | 19,753.00 | 20,000.00 | 21,349.00 |
| 10 - MMA UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE | 139.00 | 1,000.00 | 500.00 |
| 15 - MMA WORKERS COMPENSATION INS | 127.50 | 8,600.00 | 7,000.00 |
| 03 - INSURANCES TOTAL | 20,019.50 | 29,600.00 | 28,849.00 |
| | | | |
| CONTRACTED SERVICES | | | |
| 01 - ASSESSORS' AGENT | 22,500.00 | 25,200.00 | 26,400.00 |
| 05 - LEGAL FEES | 28,000.00 | 28,000.00 | 30,000.00 |
| 06 - PAYROLL COMPANY | 2,765.15 | 2,400.00 | 3,100.00 |
| 07 - AUDIT SERVICES | 10,500.00 | 10,500.00 | 12,000.00 |
| 04 - CONTRACTED SERVICES TOTAL | 63,765.15 | 66,100.00 | 71,500.00 |
| | | | |
| OPERATIONS/SERVICES | | | |
| 04 - MMA ANNUAL DUES | 3,443.00 | 3,546.00 | 3,746.00 |
| 05 - POSTAGE/ENVELOPES | 5,289.33 | 5,000.00 | 7,200.00 |
| 07 - ELECTION SUPPLIES | 143.73 | 2,500.00 | 2,500.00 |
| 09 - COMPUTER SUPPORT | 7,430.07 | 7,000.00 | 8,500.00 |
| 10 - COMPUTER HARDWARE | 60.00 | 1,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 11 - HARRIS (TRIO) SOFTWARE | 23,541.82 | 34,000.00 | 28,300.00 |
| 12 - WEBSITE | 2,100.00 | 2,500.00 | 2,665.00 |
| 15 - AVAILABLE | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 20 - TAX MAPS | 7,100.00 | 3,800.00 | 3,800.00 |
| 30 - TOWN REPORT | 2,677.00 | 2,600.00 | 2,750.00 |
| 35 - RECORDS RESTORATION/PRESERVATN | 0.00 | 2,700.00 | 0.00 |
| 55 - ADS | 4,117.70 | 2,000.00 | 4,000.00 |
| 75 - MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT | 227.45 | 1,000.00 | 500.00 |
| 80 - PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT/FEES | 2,252.22 | 3,000.00 | 5,000.00 |
| 81 - SB/PB VIDEO RECORDINGS | 2,700.00 | 4,200.00 | 2,750.00 |
| 91 - RECORD REG OF DEEDS | 2,490.00 | 3,500.00 | 2,500.00 |
| 95 - OFC & OTHER SUPPLIES | 4,355.54 | 6,000.00 | 4,927.00 |
| 25 - OPERATIONS/SERVICES TOTAL | 67,927.86 | 84,346.00 | 79,138.00 |

| | FY23 | FY24 | FY25 |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| | Actual* | Budget | Select Board |
| LEASES | | | |
| 01 - COPIER | 3,583.51 | 3,000.00 | 3,600.00 |
| 26 - LEASES TOTAL | 3,583.51 | 3,000.00 | 3,600.00 |
| | | | |
| TOWN OFFICE BUILDING | | | |
| 01 - HEATING FUEL | 2,291.95 | 1,500.00 | 2,000.00 |
| 02 - ELECTRICITY | 2,971.66 | 2,500.00 | 2,500.00 |
| 03 - WATER & SEWER | 806.08 | 800.00 | 810.00 |
| 04 - MAINTENANCE & REPAIRS | 9,899.56 | 5,000.00 | 4,000.00 |
| 05 - TELEPHONES | 2,464.87 | 2,700.00 | 2,700.00 |
| 06 - JANITORIAL | 2,198.00 | 4,300.00 | 4,880.00 |
| 65 - TOWN OFFICE BUILDING TOTAL | 20,632.12 | 16,800.00 | 16,890.00 |
| | | | |
| HARRIET BIRD PLAYGROUND | | | |
| 01 - HEATING FUEL | 518.08 | 600.00 | 600.00 |
| 02 - ELECTRICITY | 393.80 | 400.00 | 400.00 |
| 04 - MAINTENANCE & REPAIRS | 1,949.67 | 2,000.00 | 2,000.00 |
| 67 - HARRIET BIRD PLAYGROUND TOTAL | 2,861.55 | 3,000.00 | 3,000.00 |
| | | | |
| CEMETERY MAINT | | | |
| 01 - CEMETERY MAINTENANCE | 500.00 | 3,000.00 | 4,000.00 |
| 02 - CEMETERY MOWING CONTRACT | 19,000.00 | 14,400.00 | 20,000.00 |
| 70 - CEMETERY MAINT TOTAL | 19,500.00 | 17,400.00 | 24,000.00 |
| | | | |
| VETERAN PARK | | | |
| 01 - MAINTENANCE/PLANTINGS | 597.50 | 1,000.00 | 750.00 |
| 78 - VETERAN PARK TOTAL | 597.50 | 1,000.00 | 750.00 |
| | | | |
| MISC | | | |
| 99 - CONTINGENCY | 4,029.73 | 28,258.40 | 50,000.00 |
| 99 - MISC TOTAL | 4,029.73 | 28,258.40 | 50,000.00 |
| | | | |
| 101 - GENERAL GOVERNMENT TOTAL | 547,289.75 | 671,665.40 | 735,168.00 |

*** The FY23 Actuals have not been audited in time for budget preparation**

ARTICLE 10: Shall the town raise & appropriate for the Community and Public Services category as follows:

| COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC SERVICES | | | |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| | FY23 | FY24 | FY25 |
| | Actual* | Budget | Select Board |
| WASTE DISPOSAL | | | |
| 05 - SEPTIC WASTE CONTRACT | 2,300.00 | 2,300.00 | 2,300.00 |
| 10 - TRANSFER STATION | 117,863.70 | 125,316.00 | 143,700.00 |
| 10 - WASTE DISPOSAL TOTAL | 120,163.70 | 127,616.00 | 146,000.00 |
| | | | |
| GENERAL ASSISTANCE | | | |
| 04 - AVAILABLE | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 99 - BUDGET | 0.00 | 3,000.00 | 2,000.00 |
| 51 - GENERAL ASSISTANCE TOTAL | 0.00 | 3,000.00 | 2,000.00 |
| | | | |
| PROVIDER AGENCIES | | | |
| 09 - AMERICAN LEG | 450.00 | 450.00 | 0.00 |
| 10 - CLC YMCA | 0.00 | 5,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 11 - COASTAL KIDS | 2,000.00 | 2,000.00 | 4,000.00 |
| 13 - MIDCOAST CONSERVANCY | 3,000.00 | 3,000.00 | 3,000.00 |
| 14 - ECUMENICAL FOOD PANTRY | 500.00 | 500.00 | 500.00 |
| 15 - HEALTHY KIDS | 1,700.00 | 1,700.00 | 0.00 |
| 16 - HEARTY ROOTS | 0.00 | 0.00 | 2,000.00 |
| 17 - LCTV | 13,500.00 | 13,500.00 | 13,500.00 |
| 18 - MAINE BROADCASTING | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 19 - MIDCOAST ME COMMUNITY ACTION | 1,500.00 | 1,500.00 | 1,400.00 |
| 20 - NEW HOPE FOR WOMEN | 830.00 | 996.00 | 996.00 |
| 21 - SKIDOMPHA LIBRARY | 27,612.00 | 27,612.00 | 27,612.00 |
| 22 - SPECTRUMS GENERATION | 1,756.00 | 1,756.00 | 1,756.00 |
| 23 - ADULT EDUCATION | 6,595.00 | 8,812.00 | 0.00 |
| 89 - PROVIDER AGENCIES TOTAL | 59,543.00 | 66,926.00 | 54,864.00 |
| | | | |
| 102 - COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC SERVICES | 179,706.70 | 197,542.00 | 202,864.00 |

*** The FY23 Actuals have not been audited in time for budget preparation**

ARTICLE 11: Shall the town raise & appropriate for the Planning and Development category as follows:

| PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT | | | |
|---|------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| | FY23 | FY24 | FY25 |
| | Actual* | Budget | Select Board |
| COMPENSATION | | | |
| 06 - CODE ENFORCEMENT OFCR/LPI | 18,541.22 | 27,000.00 | 27,864.00 |
| 21 - DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATOR | 48,245.30 | 56,151.00 | 53,857.00 |
| 01 - COMPENSATION TOTAL | 66,786.52 | 83,151.00 | 81,721.00 |
| OPERATIONS/SERVICES | | | |
| 80 - PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FEES | 0.00 | 0.00 | 3,700.00 |
| 18 - HARBOR MASTER CELL PHONE | 511.23 | 500.00 | 0.00 |
| 75 - MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT | 0.00 | 0.00 | 250.00 |
| 25 - OPERATIONS/SERVICES TOTAL | 511.23 | 500.00 | 3,950.00 |
| PLANNING BOARD | | | |
| 05 - PLANNING BOARD ADMINISTRATION | 0.00 | 3,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 06 - PLANNING BOARD CONSULTATION | 0.00 | 10,000.00 | 5,000.00 |
| 07 - BROADBAND CAPACITY | 0.00 | 35,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 75 - PLANNING BOARD TOTAL | 0.00 | 48,000.00 | 5,000.00 |
| 103 - PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT TOTAL | 67,297.75 | 131,651.00 | 90,671.00 |

*** The FY23 Actuals have not been audited in time for budget preparation**

ARTICLE 12: Shall the town raise & appropriate for the Public Safety category as follows:

| PUBLIC SAFETY | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| | FY23 | FY24 | FY25 |
| | Actual* | Budget | Select Board |
| COMPENSATION | | | |
| 08 - FIRE CHIEF PAY | 12,126.07 | 12,000.00 | 12,000.00 |
| 09 - FD OFFICERS | 11,175.00 | 16,350.00 | 16,350.00 |
| 10 - FD HOURLY CALL PAY | 17,113.50 | 16,000.00 | 17,000.00 |
| 01 - COMPENSATION TOTAL | 40,414.57 | 44,350.00 | 45,350.00 |

| | FY23 | FY24 | FY25 |
|---|------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| | Actual* | Budget | Select Board |
| FIRE DEPARTMENT | | | |
| 09 - PHONES | 1,968.32 | 1,500.00 | 2,000.00 |
| 15 - FIRE DEPT. DUES | 813.99 | 700.00 | 700.00 |
| 20 - S.C.B.A. | 5,769.27 | 8,000.00 | 8,000.00 |
| 25 - COMMUNICATIONS | 8,358.68 | 7,500.00 | 6,000.00 |
| 30 - TRAINING | 396.03 | 4,000.00 | 3,000.00 |
| 40 - NEW EQUIPMENT | 5,392.91 | 10,000.00 | 10,000.00 |
| 42 - EQUIPMENT/VEHICLE MAINT | 16,736.36 | 15,690.00 | 15,000.00 |
| 45 - PERSONAL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT | 7,990.29 | 12,600.00 | 12,600.00 |
| 50 - INSURANCES | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 52 - HOSE REPLACEMENT | 0.00 | 5,000.00 | 5,000.00 |
| 55 - ADMINISTRATIVE/OFFICE | 3,383.39 | 4,000.00 | 3,000.00 |
| 60 - VEHICLE GAS & OIL | 4,524.54 | 5,500.00 | 5,000.00 |
| 05 - FIRE DEPARTMENT TOTAL | 55,333.78 | 74,490.00 | 70,300.00 |
| | | | |
| ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES | | | |
| 01 - ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES | 4,708.66 | 3,500.00 | 3,600.00 |
| 02 - LC ANIMAL SHELTER | 2,753.52 | 2,680.00 | 0.00 |
| 03 - WILD ANIMAL CONTROL | 737.00 | 1,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 55 - ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES TOTAL | 8,199.18 | 7,180.00 | 3,600.00 |
| | | | |
| EMERGENCY HEALTH SERVICES | | | |
| 01 - AMBULANCE/EMERGENCY MED SERVIC | 82,702.86 | 74,241.00 | 81,941.00 |
| 02 - EMA DIRECTOR STIPEND | 850.00 | 850.00 | 0.00 |
| 03 - HEALTH OFFICER STIPEND | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 56 - EMERGENCY HEALTH SERVICES TOTAL | 83,652.86 | 75,191.00 | 82,041.00 |
| | | | |
| INFRASTRUCTURE | | | |
| 01 - HYDRANTS (16) | 49,327.01 | 51,000.00 | 55,000.00 |
| 02 - STREET LIGHTS | 2,540.75 | 2,000.00 | 2,600.00 |
| 03 - FLASHING LIGHT-ROUTE ONE | 314.93 | 400.00 | 400.00 |
| 57 - INFRASTRUCTURE TOTAL | 52,182.69 | 53,400.00 | 58,000.00 |
| | | | |
| FIRE STATION/COMMUNITY ROOM | | | |
| 01 - HEATING FUEL | 3,920.37 | 6,000.00 | 6,500.00 |
| 02 - ELECTRICITY | 3,104.99 | 4,000.00 | 4,000.00 |
| 03 - WATER/SEWER GSBSD | 806.08 | 800.00 | 850.00 |
| 04 - MAINTENANCE & REPAIRS | 1,956.29 | 7,000.00 | 7,000.00 |
| 06 - JANITORIAL SERVICES FOR CR | 1,092.00 | 2,000.00 | 2,250.00 |
| 66 - FIRE STATION/COMMUNITY ROOM TOTAL | 10,879.73 | 19,800.00 | 20,600.00 |

| | FY23 | FY24 | FY25 |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| | Actual* | Budget | Select Board |
| SHEEPSCOT FIRE STATION | | | |
| 01 - HEATING FUEL | 1,100.94 | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 |
| 02 - ELECTRICITY | 325.77 | 400.00 | 500.00 |
| 04 - MAINTENANCE & REPAIRS | 1,606.02 | 1,500.00 | 1,000.00 |
| 68 - SHEEPSCOT FIRE STATION TOTAL | 3,032.73 | 2,900.00 | 2,500.00 |
| | | | |
| 105 - PUBLIC SAFETY TOTAL | 253,695.54 | 277,311.00 | 282,391.00 |

*** The FY23 Actuals have not been audited in time for budget preparation**

ARTICLE 13: Shall the town raise & appropriate for the Public Works category as follows:

| PUBLIC WORKS | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| | FY23 | FY24 | FY25 |
| | Actual* | Budget | Select Board |
| CONTRACTED SERVICES | | | |
| 08 - TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE | 24,500.00 | 10,000.00 | 15,000.00 |
| 04 - CONTRACTED SERVICES TOTAL | 24,500.00 | 10,000.00 | 15,000.00 |
| | | | |
| FACILITIES | | | |
| 01 - ELECTRICITY SAND/SALT SHED | 298.15 | 600.00 | 400.00 |
| 02 - MAINTENANCE SAND/SALT SHED | 5,000.00 | 5,000.00 | 1,500.00 |
| 03 - MAINTENANCE PUBLIC LANDING | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 40 - FACILITIES TOTAL | 5298.15 | 5,600.00 | 1,900.00 |
| | | | |
| WINTER OPERATIONS | | | |
| 01 - SNOW REMOVAL-ROADS | 277,498.29 | 280,505.00 | 466,520.00 |
| 02 - SNOW REMOVAL DOWNTOWN & MAIN | 52,144.02 | 52,144.00 | 54,230.00 |
| 03 - PERMITS-SNOW REMOVAL | 2,500.00 | 4,500.00 | 4,500.00 |
| 04 - MISCELLANEOUS WINTER OPERATION | 0.00 | 3,500.00 | 2,000.00 |
| 05 - WINTER SALT | 87,999.44 | 88,000.00 | 80,000.00 |
| 41 - WINTER OPERATIONS TOTAL | 420,141.75 | 428,649.00 | 607,250.00 |

| | FY23 | FY24 | FY25 |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| | Actual* | Budget | Select Board |
| ANNUAL OPERATIONS | | | |
| 01 - COLD PATCH | 0.00 | 2,000.00 | 1,200.00 |
| 02 - GRAVEL-GRADING | 28,800.00 | 35,700.00 | 40,000.00 |
| 03 - GRADING | 44,000.00 | 43,600.00 | 40,000.00 |
| 04 - MOWING-ROADSIDE | 2,400.00 | 5,000.00 | 5,000.00 |
| 05 - CATCH BASIN CLEANING | 2,975.00 | 5,000.00 | 3,000.00 |
| 06 - CATCH BASIN REPAIR | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 07 - CATCH BASIN REPLACEMENT | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 08 - LINE STRIPING | 14,372.78 | 10,000.00 | 10,000.00 |
| 09 - STREET SWEEPING | 6,745.00 | 7,500.00 | 7,500.00 |
| 10 - TREE WORK | 12,292.10 | 30,000.00 | 17,500.00 |
| 11 - CRACK FILLING | 14,848.00 | 10,000.00 | 10,000.00 |
| 12 - BRIDGE MAINTENANCE | 0.00 | 20,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 42 - ANNUAL OPERATIONS TOTAL | 126,432.88 | 168,800.00 | 134,200.00 |
| | | | |
| GENERAL CONTRACTOR | | | |
| 01 - LABOR | 15,101.00 | 9,750.00 | 9,750.00 |
| 02 - EQUIPMENT | 12,625.09 | 9,600.00 | 9,600.00 |
| 03 - CULVERTS | 19,082.96 | 10,000.00 | 18,500.00 |
| 04 - MATERIAL | 1,713.20 | 13,000.00 | 11,000.00 |
| 43 - GENERAL CONTRACTOR TOTAL | 48,522.25 | 42,350.00 | 48,850.00 |
| | | | |
| EQUIPMENT | | | |
| 01 - TRAFFIC CONTROL EQUIPMENT | 390.00 | 1,000.00 | 750.00 |
| 02 - STREET SIGNS | 6,166.00 | 4,000.00 | 2,500.00 |
| 03 - TRAFFIC SIGNS | 290.00 | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 |
| 04 - MISCELLANEOUS SIGNAGE | 49.96 | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 |
| 44 - EQUIPMENT TOTAL | 6,895.96 | 7,000.00 | 5,250.00 |
| | | | |
| 107 - PUBLIC WORKS TOTAL | 631,790.99 | 662,399.00 | 812,450.00 |

*** The FY23 Actuals have not been audited in time for budget preparation**

ARTICLE 14: Shall the town raise & appropriate for Reserve Accounts as follows:

| TRANSFERS TO RESERVES | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------|-------------|--------------|
| | FY23 | FY24 | FY25 |
| | Actual* | Budget | Select Board |
| TRANSFERS TO RESERVES | | | |
| 01 - HARRIET BIRD CLUB HOUSE | 0.00 | 1,500.00 | 1,500.00 |
| 02 - VETERAN PARK RESERVE | 0.00 | 250.00 | 0.00 |
| 04 - ROADS CAPITAL PROJ | 844,270.95 | 855,530.00 | 967,535.00 |
| 05 - COMPUTER RESERVE | 0.00 | 3,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 07 - MUNICIPAL BUILDING RESERVE | 54,522.74 | 50,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 08 - REVALUATION RESERVE | 15,000.00 | 12,500.00 | 27,000.00 |
| 09 - FRINGE BENEFIT RESERVE | 539.26 | 12,000.00 | 12,000.00 |
| 10 - FIRETRUCK RESERVE | 0.00 | 50,000.00 | 50,000.00 |
| 11 - VPI RESERVE | 0.00 | 50,000.00 | 0.00 |
| 98 - TRANSFERS | 914,332.95 | 1,034,780.0 | 1,058,035.00 |
| 118 - TRANSFER TOTALS | 914,332.95 | 1,034,780.0 | 1,058,035.00 |

* The FY23 Actuals have not been audited in time for budget preparation

ARTICLE 15: Shall the town raise & appropriate for Debt Service as follows:

| DEBT SERVICE | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| | FY23 | FY24 | FY25 |
| | Actual* | Budget | Select Board |
| DEBIT SERVICE | | | |
| 60 - LOAN PYMT-FIRE TRUCK #9326084 | 27,083.04 | 27,084.00 | 27,072.00 |
| 70 - LOAN PYMT-ACADEMY HILL#4423848 | 226,633.07 | 226,633.00 | 222,785.00 |
| 30 - DEBIT SERVICE TOTAL | 253,716.11 | 253,717.00 | 249,857.00 |
| 110 - DEBT SERVICE | 253,716.11 | 253,717.00 | 249,857.00 |

* The FY23 Actuals have not been audited in time for budget preparation

ARTICLE 16: Shall the Town authorize the Select Board to accept prospective gifts and donations providing the Board places these funds in appropriately designated reserve accounts and only used for the intended purposes stated or in the best interests of the Town?

ARTICLE 17: Shall the Town authorize the Select Board to accept gifts of real property or personal property for the benefit of the Town?

ARTICLE 18: Shall the Town authorize the Select Board to accept and expend, on behalf of the town, any State and Federal funds which may be received from time to time in the form of grants and funds from any source deemed appropriate by the municipal officers during the period of July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, or act on anything relative thereto?

ARTICLE 19: Shall the Town authorize the Select Board, on behalf of the town, to sell and dispose of any real estate acquired by the town for non-payment of the taxes thereon and to execute quitclaim deeds for said property, in accordance with appropriate state law and procedures?

ARTICLE 20: Shall the Town authorize the Select Board, on behalf of the Town, to sell and dispose of any surplus equipment owned by the Town in accordance with appropriate State law and procedures?

ARTICLE 21: Shall the Town direct the Select Board to establish the dates on which this year's taxes shall be due and payable?

ARTICLE 22: Shall the Town authorize the Select Board to fund abatements by expending overlay, and in the event the overlay is depleted, authorize funding abatements through the unassigned fund balance?

ARTICLE 23: Shall the Town authorize the Select Board to enter into multi-year contracts on behalf of the Town?

ARTICLE 24: Shall the Town authorize the Select Board to carry unexpended funds forward to the next fiscal year within the existing budget line items?

ARTICLE 25: Shall the Town authorize the Select Board to establish and appoint the members of standing and/or ad hoc committees of the Select Board to advise the Board regarding the administration and operations of the town government?

ARTICLE 26: Shall the Town authorize the Select Board to reduce the total amount of taxes to be collected by the FY 2025 total amount of estimated revenue including use of surplus for a total of \$1,365,764?

ARTICLE 27: Shall the Town vote to authorize the Treasurer to waive the foreclosure of tax lien mortgages pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. § 944 upon a finding by the Select Board that ownership of the property that is subject to the tax lien mortgage would be contrary to the Town's best interests.

ARTICLE 28: Shall the town instruct the Tax Collector to charge interest at the rate of 8.5% per annum on all uncollected taxes and authorize the Select Board to establish the date on which interest starts to accrue, except for those taxpayers enrolled in the tax club before June 1, 2024 and have made all payments on time and to date?

ARTICLE 29: Shall the Town vote to authorize the Tax Collector to accept prepayments on taxes not yet committed, and to pay interest at a rate of 0% (zero percent) as a courtesy to taxpayers who wish to pay some or all of their uncommitted taxes?

ARTICLE 30: Shall the town authorize the Select Board to expend funds from any Town Reserve account for an unbudgeted major expense: (Note: "major" is defined as any cost not included in a corresponding operating budget)?

ARTICLE 31: Shall the town allow the Select Board to transfer an amount not to exceed 2% of the total annual budget request from one category to another without prior approval of a special town meeting?

ARTICLE 32: Shall the Town authorize the Select Board to regulate river herring fishing in all streams in which the town has an interest in accordance with the plan filed with and approved by the Commissioner of Marine Resources?

ARTICLE 33: Shall the Town authorize a transfer of \$168,000 from its undesignated fund balance to a newly created Severe Storm Reserve Fund?

ARTICLE 34: Shall the Town authorize a transfer of \$50,000 from Municipal Building Reserve Fund to a newly created Municipal Building Maintenance Reserve Fund?

ARTICLE 35: Shall the Town raise & appropriate \$11,000 to fund a newly created PFAS Reserve Fund?

ARTICLE 36: Shall the Town enact a moratorium ordinance prohibiting the review, consideration or issuance of any permits or approvals for any applicant seeking to buy, sell, or trade in firearms while the Town considers municipal zoning and land use regulations regulating the location of such uses?

Given under our hands at Newcastle, Maine this 22nd day of April, 2024.

Karen Paz, Chair _____

Joel Lind _____

Tor Glendinning _____

Thomas Kostenbader _____

Rufus Percy _____

A true and attested copy by: _____

Michelle Cameron, Interim Town Clerk

RESULTS

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT AND SECRET BALLOT ELECTION

Monday, June 13, 2023 AND Tuesday, June 20, 2023

To R. Benjamin Frey, a resident for the Town of Newcastle, in the County of Lincoln, State of Maine,

GREETING:

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Newcastle in said County and State, qualified by law to vote in the town affairs, to meet at the Fire Station building at 86 River Rd on Tuesday, the 13th day of June, A.D. 2023 at 8:am, then and there to act upon Article 1 - Article 2 by secret ballot as set out below, the polling hours therefore to be from 8:00am until 8:00 in the evening; Article 3-29 are to be voted on at open Town Meeting to be held Tuesday, June 20, 2023 at 7:00 in the evening to meet at 81 Academy Hill Road, in the Lincoln Academy cafeteria.

Article 1: To elect a moderator by written ballot to preside at said meeting.

Article 2: To elect by secret ballot, in accordance with the vote of the town, the following offices:
1: Two (2) Select Board Members/Assessors and Overseers of the Poor for a three-year term
2: One (1) member of the Great Salt Bay School Committee for a three-year term

OPEN TOWN MEETING

Tuesday, June 20, 2023, 7:00pm
For Fiscal Year 2024: July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

And, to notify and warn said inhabitants to meet at the Lincoln Academy Cafeteria in said town on Tuesday June 20, 2023, then and there to act on Articles 3 through 29 as set out below, to wit:

Article 3: Shall the town utilize remote electronic keypad voting as the method of voting for all articles at this Town meeting, the June 20, 2023, Annual Town Meeting?

Passed as written.

Article 4: Shall the Town repeal the Town of Newcastle Parking Ordinance adopted June 7, 1989?

Yes – 1 No – 48 Article defeated.

Article 5: Shall the Town adopt the Town of Newcastle Traffic and Road's Ordinance as presented? For a digital copy, please visit the Town's website at newcastlemaine.us or visit Town Office for a paper copy.

Yes – 4 No – 41 Article defeated.

Article 6: Shall the Town raise & appropriate for Administration & Operations as follows:

Yes – 43 No – 11 Passed as written.

| Admin & Operations | | FY22 Actual | FY23 Budget | FY 24 Select Board |
|--------------------|--|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | Select Board | 15,000.00 | 15,000.00 | 15,000.00 |
| 2 | Town Manager & Treasurer | 65,091.94 | 70,200.00 | 90,000.00 |
| 3 | Town Clerk, Registrar | 56,004.70 | 56,650.00 | 55,000.00 |
| 4 | Treasurer, Tax Collector | 34,031.28 | 30,252.83 | 55,000.00 |
| 5 | Election Workers | 753.50 | 1,200.00 | 1,200.00 |
| 6 | Full-Time Deputy | 48,274.12 | 50,057.28 | 54,370.37 |
| 7 | Harbormaster | 0.00 | 3,000.00 | 3,500.00 |
| 8 | Overtime Compensation | 1,120.22 | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 |
| | Compensation Subtotal | 220,275.76 | 227,360.11 | 275,070.37 |
| 9 | FICA (SS &) Medicare | 20,515.13 | 15,671.03 | 19,553.96 |
| 10 | Health Insurance | 74,375.11 | 80,662.72 | 96,243.71 |
| 12 | Retirement | 20,549.31 | 17,690.73 | 24,360.74 |
| 13 | Vision / Dental / Life Insurance | 1,617.95 | 1,000.00 | 4,932.00 |
| 14 | Short Term Disability | 2,043.31 | 2,000.00 | 2,000.00 |
| | Fringe Benefits Subtotal | 119,100.81 | 117,024.48 | 147,090.41 |
| 15 | Property Casualty Liability Insurance | 19,808.80 | 20,000.00 | 20,000.00 |
| 16 | Unemployment | 447.77 | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 |
| 17 | Workers Compensation | 6,774.00 | 8,600.00 | 8,600.00 |
| | Insurances Subtotal | 27,030.57 | 29,600.00 | 29,600.00 |
| 18 | Assessors Agent | 19,250.00 | 25,200.00 | 25,200.00 |
| 19 | Legal Fees | 25,000.00 | 28,000.00 | 28,000.00 |
| 20 | Payroll Company | 2,470.75 | 2,400.00 | 2,400.00 |
| 21 | Audit Services | 9,000.00 | 9,000.00 | 10,500.00 |
| | Contracted Service Subtotal | 55,720.75 | 64,600.00 | 66,100.00 |
| 22 | MMA Annual Dues | 3,259.00 | 3,357.00 | 3,546.29 |
| 23 | Postage & Envelopes | 3200.05 | 5,000.00 | 5,000.00 |
| 24 | Election Supplies | 2534.37 | 2,400.00 | 2,500.00 |
| 25 | Computer Support | 6,576.86 | 7,000.00 | 7,000.00 |
| 26 | Computer Hardware | 6,271.34 | 750.00 | 1,000.00 |
| 27 | Computer Software | 34,367.85 | 33,000.00 | 34,000.00 |
| 28 | Website | 2,200.00 | 2,500.00 | 2,500.00 |
| 29 | Tax Maps | 3,600.00 | 3,800.00 | 3,800.00 |
| 30 | Town Report | 2597.00 | 2,500.00 | 2,600.00 |
| 31 | Records Restoration | 0.00 | 2,700.00 | 2,700.00 |
| 32 | Advertising | 1,956.64 | 2,000.00 | 2,000.00 |
| 33 | Mileage | 98.02 | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 |
| 34 | Professional Development & Fees | 2,629.63 | 2,700.00 | 3,000.00 |
| 35 | Video Recordings | 0.00 | 4,200.00 | 4,200.00 |
| 36 | Registry of Deeds Recordings & Printings | 2,658.00 | 3,500.00 | 3,500.00 |
| 37 | Office & Other Supplies | 4,530.59 | 9,000.00 | 6,000.00 |
| 38 | Copier/Printer Lease & Supplies | 3,322.57 | 3,000.00 | 3,000.00 |
| | Leases Subtotal | 3,322.57 | 3,000.00 | 3,000.00 |
| 39 | Town Office – Heating Fuel | 473.02 | 1,000.00 | 1,500.00 |
| 40 | Town Office – Electricity | 2,457.77 | 2,100.00 | 2,500.00 |
| 41 | Town Office – Water & Sewer | 806.08 | 800.00 | 800.00 |
| 42 | Town Office – Maintenance & Repairs | 10,377.48 | 5,000.00 | 5,000.00 |
| 43 | Town Office – Telephone | 2,328.54 | 2,700.00 | 2,700.00 |
| 44 | Town Office – Janitorial | 2,156.00 | 4,300.00 | 4,300.00 |
| | Town Office Building Subtotal | 18,598.89 | 15,900.00 | 16,800.00 |
| 45 | Harriet Bird Clubhouse – Heating Fuel | 0.00 | 600.00 | 600.00 |
| 46 | Harriet Bird Clubhouse – Electricity | 272.21 | 300.00 | 400.00 |
| 47 | Harriet Bird Clubhouse – Maintenance & Repairs | 837.11 | 2,000.00 | 2,000.00 |
| | Harriet Bird Clubhouse Subtotal | 1,109.32 | 2,900.00 | 3,000.00 |

| | | | | |
|----|--------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 48 | Cemeteries - Maintenance | 0.00 | 3,000.00 | 3,000.00 |
| 49 | Cemeteries - Mowing Contract | 16,650.00 | 14,400.00 | 14,400.00 |
| | Cemetery Maintenance Subtotal | 16,650.00 | 17,400.00 | 17,400.00 |
| 50 | Veteran's Park Maintenance | 175.84 | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 |
| | Veteran's Park Subtotal | 175.84 | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 |
| 51 | Contingency | 0.00 | \$15,000.00 | \$15,000.00 |
| 52 | Abatements | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| | CATEGORY TOTAL | 538,463.86 | 579,191.59 | 660,907.07 |

Article 7: Shall the Town raise & appropriate for the Public Services as follows:

Yes – 50 No -4 Passed as written.

| Category: Public Services | | FY22 Actual | FY23 Budget | FY 24 Select Board |
|--------------------------------------|--|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | Septic Waste Disposal | 2,300.00 | 2,300.00 | 2,300.00 |
| 2 | Solid Waste Disposal | 111,019.50 | 119,325.15 | 125,315.55 |
| | Waste Disposal Subtotal | 113,319.50 | 121,625.15 | 127,615.55 |
| 3 | General Assistance | 1,740.00 | 3,000.00 | 3,000.00 |
| | Services Subtotal | 1,740.00 | 3,000.00 | 3,000.00 |
| 4 | American Legion | 450.00 | 450.00 | 450.00 |
| 5 | CLC YMCA | 0.00 | 0.00 | 5,000.00 |
| 6 | Coastal Kids | 2,000.00 | 2,000.00 | 2,000.00 |
| 7 | Midcoast Conservancy | 3,000.00 | 3,000.00 | 3,000.00 |
| 8 | Ecumenical Food Pantry | 500.00 | 500.00 | 500.00 |
| 9 | Healthy Kids | 1,700.00 | 1,700.00 | 1,700.00 |
| 10 | LCTV | 10,855.00 | 13,500.00 | 13,500.00 |
| 11 | Maine Public Broadcasting | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 12 | Midcoast ME Community Action | 1,400.00 | 1,500.00 | 1,500.00 |
| 13 | New Hope Midcoast | 830.00 | 830.00 | 996.00 |
| 14 | Skidompha Library | 27,612.00 | 27,612.00 | 27,612.00 |
| 15 | Spectrum Generations | 1,756.00 | 1,756.00 | 1,756.00 |
| 16 | Adult Education | 9,635.00 | 6,595.39 | 8,811.00 |
| | Provider Agency Subtotal | 59,838.00 | 59,543.39 | 66,925.99 |
| 17 | CEO/LPI Compensation | 15,474.05 | 18,000.00 | 27,000.00 |
| 18 | Planning Services | 2,115.00 | 53,000.00 | 56,151.00 |
| 19 | Harbor Master Cell Phone | 0.00 | 500.00 | 500.00 |
| 20 | Planning Board | 0.00 | 3,000.00 | 3,000.00 |
| 21 | Planning Consultation | 0.00 | 0.00 | 10,000 |
| 22 | Broadband Capacity | 0.00 | 35,000.00 | 0.00 |
| | Planning and Development Subtotal | 17,589.05 | 109,500.00 | 96,651.00 |
| | CATEGORY TOTAL | 192,486.55 | 293,668.54 | 294,192.54 |

Article 8: Shall the Town raise & appropriate for Public Safety as follows:

Yes – 44 No – 6 Passed as written.

| Category: Public Safety | | FY22 Actual | FY23 Budget | FY 24 Select Board |
|------------------------------------|--|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | Fire Chief | 12,335.24 | 12,000.00 | 12,000.00 |
| 2 | Fire Department Officers | 5,050.00 | 16,350.00 | 16,350.00 |
| 3 | Firefighters | 11,686.21 | 16,000.00 | 16,000.00 |
| | Compensation Subtotal | 29,071.45 | 44,350.00 | 44,350.00 |
| 4 | Phones | 1337.36 | 2,520.00 | 1,500.00 |
| 5 | Dues | 0.00 | 0.00 | 700.00 |
| 6 | S.C.B.A | 5,911.57 | 7,282.00 | 8,000.00 |
| 7 | Communications | 1020.28 | 7,500.00 | 7,500.00 |
| 8 | Training | 240.00 | 4,000.00 | 4,000.00 |
| 10 | New Equipment | 3,214.64 | 6,600.00 | 10,000.00 |
| 11 | Equipment & Vehicle Maintenance | 15,646.80 | 12,550.00 | 15,690.00 |
| 12 | PPE - Turn Out Gear | 9,663.62 | 10,960.00 | 12,600.00 |
| 13 | Hose Replacement | 0.00 | 0.00 | 5,000.00 |
| 14 | Administration & Office Supplies | 4,333.42 | 4,000.00 | 4,000.00 |
| 15 | Vehicles Gas & Oil | 3,581.63 | 6,600.00 | 5,500.00 |
| | Fire Department Subtotal | 44,949.32 | 62,012.00 | 74,490.00 |
| 15 | Animal Control Services | 1,977.68 | 3,000.00 | 3,500.00 |
| 16 | Lincoln County Animal Shelter | 2,540.40 | 2,540.40 | 2,679.60 |
| 17 | Wild Animal Control Officer | 190.00 | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 |
| | Animal Control Services | 4,708.08 | 6,540.40 | 7,179.60 |
| 18 | Emergency Medical Services | 30,398.77 | 82,702.86 | 74,241.09 |
| 19 | EMA Director | 850.00 | 850.00 | 850.00 |
| 20 | Health Officer | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| | Emergency/Health Services | 31,348.77 | 83,652.86 | 75,191.09 |
| 21 | Hydrants | 45,221.02 | 51,000.00 | 51,000.00 |
| 22 | Street Lights | 2,877.24 | 4,000.00 | 2,000.00 |
| 23 | Traffic Lights | 271.14 | 400.00 | 400.00 |
| | Infrastructure Subtotal | 48,369.40 | 55,400.00 | 53,400.00 |
| 24 | Fire Station - Heating Fuel | 5,710.84 | 7,000.00 | 6,000.00 |
| 25 | Fire Station - Electricity | 1,972.02 | 3,000.00 | 4,000.00 |
| 26 | Fire Station - Water & Sewer | 806.08 | 800.00 | 800.00 |
| 27 | Fire Station - Maintenance & Repairs | 3,268.31 | 4,000.00 | 7,000.00 |
| 28 | Fire Station - Janitorial | 1071.00 | 1,500.00 | 2,000.00 |
| | Fire Station Subtotal | 12,828.25 | 16,300.00 | 19,800.00 |
| 29 | Sheepscot Fire Station - Heating Fuel | 1184.21 | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 |
| 30 | Sheepscot Fire Station - Electricity | 274.73 | 300.00 | 400.00 |
| 31 | Sheepscot Fire Station - Maintenance & Repairs | 301.19 | 1,000.00 | 1,500.00 |
| | Sheepscot Station Subtotal | 1,760.13 | 2,300.00 | 2,900.00 |
| | CATEGORY TOTAL | 173,035.40 | 270,555.26 | 277,310.69 |

Article 9: Shall the Town raise & appropriate for Public Works as follows:

Yes – 39

No – 7

Passed as written.

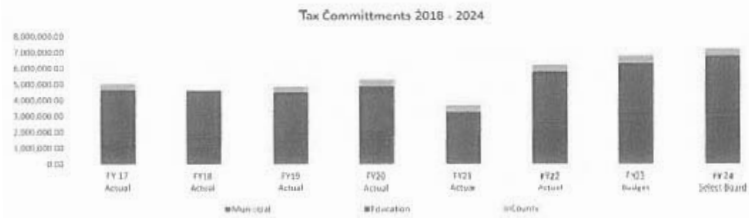
| Category: Public Works | | FY22 Actual | FY23 Budget | FY 24 Select Board |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | Road Commissioner | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 2 | Technical Assistance | 0.00 | 30,000.00 | 10,000.00 |
| | Operations Subtotal | 0.00 | 30,000.00 | 10,000.00 |
| 3 | Electricity - Sand/Salt Shed | 299.81 | 600.00 | 600.00 |
| 4 | Maintenance - Sand/Salt Shed | 0.00 | 5,000.00 | 5,000.00 |
| 5 | Maintenance - Public Landing | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| | Facilities Subtotal | 299.81 | 5,600.00 | 5,600.00 |
| 6 | Roads - Snow Removal | 277,530.78 | 277,311.00 | 280,505.00 |
| 7 | Main Street & Downtown – Snow Removal | 45,219.56 | 52,144.00 | 52,144.00 |
| 8 | Permits - Snow Removal | 2,500.00 | 4,500.00 | 4,500.00 |
| 9 | Miscellaneous Winter Operations | 125.00 | 2,000.00 | 3,500.00 |
| 10 | Winter Salt | 69,835.45 | 88,000.00 | 88,000.00 |
| | Winter Operations Subtotal | 395,210.79 | 423,955.00 | 428,649.00 |
| 11 | Cold Patch | 1,190.00 | 2,000.00 | 2,000.00 |
| 12 | Gravel - Grading | 22,000.00 | 28,800.00 | 35,700.00 |
| 13 | Grading | 38,050.00 | 42,000.00 | 43,600.00 |
| 14 | Roadside Mowing | 9,145.00 | 5,000.00 | 5,000.00 |
| 15 | Catch Basin Cleaning | 0.00 | 7,000.00 | 5,000.00 |
| 16 | Catch Basin Repair | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 17 | Catch Basin Replacement | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 18 | Line Striping | 0.00 | 10,000.00 | 10,000.00 |
| 19 | Street Sweeping | 0.00 | 7,000.00 | 7,500.00 |
| 20 | Tree Work | 15,306.10 | 25,000.00 | 30,000.00 |
| 21 | Crack Filling | 3,620.00 | 7,850.00 | 10,000.00 |
| 22 | Bridge Maintenance | 0.00 | 0.00 | 20,000.00 |
| | Annual Operations Subtotal | 89,311.10 | 134,650.00 | 168,800.00 |
| 22 | Labor | 4,877.30 | 6,500.00 | 9,750.00 |
| 23 | Equipment | 15,645.00 | 8,000.00 | 9,600.00 |
| 24 | Culverts | 15,213.10 | 23,100.00 | 10,000.00 |
| 25 | Material | 0.00 | 12,500.00 | 13,000.00 |
| | General Contractor Subtotal | 35,735.40 | 50,100.00 | 42,350.00 |
| 26 | Traffic Control Equipment | 1,720.50 | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 |
| 27 | Street Signs | 3,483.23 | 4,000.00 | 4,000.00 |
| 28 | Traffic Signs | 2,326.77 | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 |
| 29 | Miscellaneous Signage | 895.68 | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 |
| | Equipment Subtotal | 8,426.18 | 7,000.00 | 7,000.00 |
| CATEGORY TOTAL | | 528,983.28 | 651,305.00 | 662,399.00 |

Article 10: Shall the Town raise & appropriate for Reserve Accounts as follows:
Yes – 48 No – 2 Passed as written.

| Category: Reserves | | FY22 Actual | FY23 Budget | FY 24 Select Board |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | Harriet Bird Clubhouse | 1,500.00 | 1,500.00 | 1,500.00 |
| 2 | Veteran's Park | 1,250.00 | 250.00 | 250.00 |
| 3 | Highway Equipment | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 4 | Roads Capital Projects | 686,734.00 | 855,530.00 | 855,530.00 |
| 5 | Computer Reserve | 3,000.00 | 3,000.00 | 3,000.00 |
| 6 | Municipal Building Reserve | 75,000.00 | 50,000.00 | 50,000.00 |
| 7 | Revaluation Reserve | 20,000.00 | 15,000.00 | 12,500.00 |
| 8 | Alewife Reserve | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 9 | Fringe Benefit Reserve | 12,000.00 | 12,000.00 | 12,000.00 |
| 10 | Firetruck Reserve | | 50,000.00 | 50,000.00 |
| 11 | Village Partnership Initiative | | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 12 | Harbor Management Reserve | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| CATEGORY TOTAL | | 799,484.00 | 987,280.00 | 984,780.00 |

Article 11: Shall the Town raise & appropriate for Debt Service as follows:
Yes – 49 No – 2 Passed as written.

| Category: Debt Service | | FY22 Actual | FY23 Budget | FY 24 Select Board |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | Loan Payment – Lynch Road | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 2 | Loan Payment – Fire Truck | 29,339.96 | 27,084.00 | 27,084.00 |
| 3 | Loan Payment – Town Office | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 4 | Loan Payment – AH Road | 228,540.45 | 243,422.57 | 226,633.07 |
| CATEGORY TOTAL | | 257,880.41 | 270,506.57 | 253,717.07 |



Article 12: Shall the Town authorize the Select Board to accept prospective gifts and donations providing the Board place these funds in appropriately designated reserve accounts and only used for the intended purposes stated or in the best interest of the Town?

Yes – 40 No – 0 Passed as written.

Article 13: Shall the Town authorize the Select Board to accept and expend, on behalf of the Town any State and Federal funds which may be received from time to time in the form of grants and funds from any source deemed appropriate by the municipal officers during the period of July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, or act on anything relative thereto?

Yes – 38 No – 0 Passed as written.

Article 14: Shall the Town authorize the Select Board, on behalf of the Town, to sell and dispose of any real estate acquired by the town for non-payment of the taxes thereon and to execute quitclaim deeds for said property, in accordance with appropriate state law and procedures?

Yes – 45 No – 0 Passed as written.

Article 15: Shall the Town authorize the Select Board, on behalf of the Town, to sell and dispose of any surplus equipment owned by the Town in accordance with appropriate State law and procedures?

Yes – 45 No – 0 Passed as written.

Article 16: Shall the Town direct the Select Board to establish the dates on which this year's taxes shall be due and payable?

Yes – 47 No – 0 Passed as written.

Article 17: Shall the Town authorize the Select Board to fund abatements by expending overlay, and in the event the overlay is depleted, authorize funding abatements through the unassigned fund balance?

Yes – 44 No – 3 Passed as written.

Article 18: Shall the Town authorize the Select Board to enter into multi-year contracts on behalf of the Town?

Yes – 43 No – 5 Passed as written.

Article 19: Shall the Town authorize the Select Board to carry unexpended funds forward to the next fiscal year within the existing budget line items?

Yes – 45 No – 2 Passed as written.

Article 20: Shall the Town authorize the Select Board to establish and appoint the members of standing and/or ad hoc committees of the Select Board to advise the Board regarding the administration and operations of the town government?

Yes – 41 No – 5 Passed as written.

Article 21: Shall the Town authorize the Select Board to reduce the total amount of taxes to be collected by the FY 2024 total amount of estimated revenue (TBD) including use of surplus?

Yes – 47 No – 2 Passed as written.

Article 22: Shall the Town vote to authorize the Treasurer to waive the foreclosure of tax lien mortgages pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A § 944 upon a finding by the Select Board that ownership of the property that is subject to the tax lien mortgage would be contrary to the Town's best interests.

Yes – 40 No – 1 Passed as written.

Article 23: Shall the Town instruct the Tax Collector to charge interest at the rate of 6% per annum on all uncollected taxes and authorize the Select Board to establish the date on which interest starts to accrue, except for those taxpayers enrolled in the tax club before June 1, 2023, and have made all payments on time and to date?

Yes – 47 No – 3 Passed as written.

Article 24: Shall the Town vote to authorize the Tax Collector to accept prepayments on taxes not yet committed, and to pay interest at a rate of 0% (zero percent) as a courtesy to taxpayers who wish to pay some or all of their uncommitted taxes?

Yes – 49 No – 1 Passed as written.

Article 25: Shall the Town authorize the Select Board to expend funds from any Town Reserve account for an unbudgeted major expense: (Note: "major" is defined as any cost not included in a corresponding operating budget)?

Yes – 46 No – 3 Passed as written.

Article 26: Shall the Town authorize the Select Board to transfer an amount not to exceed 2% of the total annual budget request from one category to another without prior approval of a special town meeting?

Yes – 44 No – 2 Passed as written.

Article 27: Shall the Town authorize the Select Board to regulate river herring fishing in all streams in which the Town has an interest in accordance with the plan filed with and approved by the Commissioner of Marine Resources?

Yes – 47 No – 0 Passed as written.

Article 28: Shall the Town authorize a transfer of \$50,000 from its undesignated fund balance to the village partnership initiative reserve account?

Yes – 44 No – 6 Passed as written.

Article 29: Shall the Town authorize the previously allocated \$35,000 from FY 2023 for Broadband Expansion to be carried forward to expend in FY 2024?

Yes – 40 No – 3 Passed as written.

Minutes Transcribed by Lauren Allen

Town Manager

To the Residents of Newcastle:

What a truly wonderful community! I had no idea how much I would fall in love with Newcastle when I came on board as interim Town Manager at the end of June 2023.

In the first month, the Select Board was able to set and support a priority list for staff to focus our attention. Once we were at full staff, we've been marching forward with those goals.

Public Policy

The leading common theme of the Select Board this year has been a focus on public policy – specifically around ordinance and policy clean up. Either out of necessity (i.e. state requirements), community / Select Board request, or staff recommendation.

Did you know, in addition to all the Maine state statute requirements Newcastle must follow, we have 10 general ordinances, 13 Land use specific ordinances, and about a dozen policies in place? The process to amend, with notifications, of an ordinance is 2-3 months and the land use process is 4-6 months.

These laws and policies need to be reviewed periodically. This year, that effort has been a regular part of the Select Board meeting agenda. All ordinances need to be approved by the legislative body, so the Select Board held several Special Town Meetings to approve changes to some of the ordinances.

You will continue to see this in the coming year, including two ordinances that are shared with Damariscotta. Many of these changes are tied to changes in line with state law, the change in now having a Town Manager for Newcastle, or for general clarification in language.

So, what have we tackled this year? Two updates to the Undesignated Fund Balance Policy, amended the Personnel Policy, and approved a Purchasing Policy that went into effect after the Purchasing and Bid Ordinance was repealed on December 11th. There were two additional updates to the Core Zoning Code proposed at that Special Town Meeting, but only one of those was approved by

attending residents. The Traffic and Parking Ordinance was approved by the Select Board in September and further updated in November. In October, updates to the General Assistance Ordinance were approved. Finally, in March, the Finance Committee Ordinance and Fireworks Ordinance were updated at the Special Town Meeting on March 25th.

There are updates to the Shoreland Zoning and Core Zoning codes up for your consideration at the Annual Town Meeting. The two items have taken up a significant amount of time by our Town Planner and the Planning Board to meet requirements from the state.

Also, the Select Boards of Newcastle and Damariscotta have been attempting to meet quarterly.

At their workshop in October, the Boards collectively prioritized some common goals: Addressing Housing Needs, Coordinating our Future Land Use Development, and Finding Solutions to Transportation Challenges.

At their workshop meeting in January, they focused on drafting revisions to the Joint Harbor Management Ordinance. This will come to a joint Special Town Meeting in the fall, potentially along with revisions to the Shellfish Conservation Ordinance.

Public Outreach

What I've learned about Newcastle is how friendly residents are and how passionate everyone is about this place. And with so many goals of the Board, that made me excited to assist in their completion – I asked to be considered for the full-time Town Manager position. Now, in this capacity, I really appreciate the opportunity to get to know the residents and staff that I serve. So please stop in and introduce yourself.

A few other ways to engage include attending planned events we've had, and will be hosting soon, 1) the Village Partnership Initiative (VPI) where we've partnered with the state to explore ways to improve the state-owned roads/intersection downtown; 2) The Community Resilience Partnership (CRP).

Another state sponsored program where, once we've received some community feedback about what Newcastle can/should be doing around climate adaptation, we can begin to apply for state funding to support those efforts.

Additionally, attendance at Select Board meetings or by participating in Special Town Meetings and the Annual Town Meeting are wonderful ways to get involved and stay informed.

Public Infrastructure and Assets

In May of last year, a severe storm compromised a large box culvert on Lynch Road. Its replacement is eligible for federal and state funds but has come with a long lead time to get this large project approved and many lessons learned. Since then, we've seen several damaging storms (although not as severe as last May's storm) and have learned the importance of managing, maintaining, and tracking our assets.

At the Special Town Meeting in March, the attending residents approved a bond for the replacement of a pumper truck in the fleet of fire apparatus. Its arrival will likely take two years, so while this won't affect the budget for FY25 or possibly the FY26 budget; it has led to a larger conversation about asset inventory and a more robust outlay of capital planning.

Finally, as part of the prioritization of goals process last July, the Board had identified facility/town property maintenance as a priority for staff. That, in conjunction with efforts on the list to explore relocating town office, identifying a more permanent sand/salt shed location and structure, talks of a larger public meeting space, and gathering a road condition inventory, public infrastructure and assets is an area of focus that will likely take a more prominent role in the priorities of the next Select Board term.

Conclusion

Honestly, this just scratches the surface of what was accomplished this past year and is in store for the coming year. But none of it would be possible without a forward thinking Select Board to work with and stellar staff making it happen. Everyone comes to the table with good ideas and expertise, a supportive attitude, and most importantly, civility. Newcastle is a truly special place.

Respectfully submitted,
KEVIN L. SUTHERLAND,
Town Manager

Assessor's Report

James Murphy, Jr., Assessors' Representative
Murphy Appraisal Services, Inc.

First and foremost, a revaluation will be completed for the 2024-2025 tax commitment. This means that valuations for land and buildings will change for the coming tax year. This action is to stay in front of any warning letters from the State of Maine concerning the town's average ratio. The current town wide ratio stands at 74%, but this does not mean your current value is at the same ratio. The statutory minimum is 70%.

The process will be a comprehensive analysis of the statistics: applying those statistics analyses to the town's assessing system and reviewing every resulting land and building valuation individually. Letters of new values will be sent to every property owner with a deadline for additional information required by June 30, 2024.

After that date the valuations will be concluded for the tax commitment to be completed in July of 2024. Please feel free to send me an email and I will return your property record for your review. I want to be as fair and accurate as possible.

One of the most common questions asked of me is, 'How is the assessing completed?' I thought I would start out with a general overview as part of a series of town report submissions that will take a couple of years to complete as to how assessing is completed.

The valuations used for taxation purposes are based on market sale prices. There is a perception that the just value for taxation purposes is the exact same as the market price of your property. It rarely is. The assessor takes the data of market sales compiled over a period of years, analyzes that data and concludes which market evidence should be applied to all properties town wide.

The goal of assessing is not precise valuation accuracy year in and year out. The real goal is equity. This is a requirement of the Maine Constitution, Article 9, Section 8. Just Value means relative valuations between classes of property, not exact value between your neighbor's house and your valuation.

Classes of property are defined by their use. Maine Title 36 Section 701-A defines how assessing is to be completed. Highest and Best Use is always talked about as ‘what if a big box could be built’ on a particular site. The assessor must consider a potential use BUT one of the four requirements of Highest and Best Use is the legal question.

If the planning board has not approved the new construction then Highest and Best Use is usually a residential use; residential use being the most probable use. This is based on my conclusion that most vacant sites could be a residential use without a lot of complicated paperwork.

Vacant land, developed land such as rural, urban and waterfront residential properties and commercial and industrial properties are all examples of property classes. The Maine Supreme Court has stated that Just Values for classes of properties must be within 10 percentage points of each other.

For example, if urban residential properties are assessed at 90% of the average market prices and commercial properties are assessed at 70% of the average market prices then the municipality is not achieving overall Just Value and must take action, a revaluation, to correct this inequity. Revaluations can be undertaken any year in full or partially and be targeted based on the market data.

Applications for the Homestead Exemption are available at the town office or on line through the state website. Also available are the Veterans Exemption, Blind Exemption and other programs that can assist at the town and state level. Please call me at 563-3441 if you have a question. I am usually scheduled for the Newcastle Town office only on Mondays. You can also email me at *assessor@newcastlemaine.us*.

ASSESSMENT STATISTICS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Total Taxable Valuation-Real Estate | \$331,403,000 |
| Total Taxable Valuation-Personal Property | <u>2,022,900</u> |
| Total Taxable Valuation | \$335,200,300 |

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Commitment Date | July 24, 2023 |
| Last day to appeal valuation | January 22, 2024 |
| Tax (Mill) Rate | \$16.00 per \$1,000 of taxable value |

| | |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| 2023-2024 Taxes to be raised | \$5,363,204.80 |
| 2022-2023 Taxes to be raised | \$5,301,471.81 |
| 2021-2022 Taxes to be raised | \$5,067,766.98 |

MUNICIPAL REVENUES



| | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Revenue received from... | And Expenses for... |
| Property Taxes 75.2% | Education 65.7% |
| Other Fees/State 24.8% | Municipal 25.8% |
| | County 8.5% |

Road Commissioner

To the citizens of Newcastle,

It is with immense pleasure that I present to the citizens of Newcastle the annual Road Commissioner report for this past year. I have a special challenge for residents, can anyone remember a year in which we have had more storms than this past year? This year we have seen hurricanes, multiple winter weather events and spans of time with pro-longed power outages. These storms have had an impact on our operating budget, as none of these events were anticipated. Fortunately, the major infrastructure of the town has weathered the storms very well with no significant issues as a result, except the Lynch Road culvert, which is further discussed later in my report. This is a testament to some of the preventative measures that we have been taking on both the capital and regular maintenance side of the budget. This past year, despite the added complications of the weather, we have been able to accomplish a great deal of work as we continue to work our way around the town correcting years of budget shortfalls and other circumstances that have led us to being behind in some areas.



The above picture illustrates damage that was done to the salt building after one of the most recent storms. Temporary repairs have been made and a new cover was ordered and just arrived, it will be installed prior to the winter season.

Overall, the roads in town are improving and the continued support from residents, manager and the Board of Selectmen are a true testament to the importance of bringing these areas back to an acceptable level. This year's budget stays the course with our CIP plan and maintains the level of our regular maintenance budget with some very minor adjustments to items such as road gravel and engineering services.

One significant issue that is upon the town is the replacement of the box culvert on Lynch Road. As most will remember, this culvert has been the topic of many discussions in the prior years, stemming as far back as the reconstruction project that the town did on Lynch Road, approximately 12 years ago. This culvert was initially designed incorrectly and ultimately had to be replaced as a result of lack of capacity. Unfortunately, during one of the storm events this structure suffered a catastrophic failure of the footing of the culvert, which caused it to settle and ultimately opened up a hole in the roads surface.

We have had multiple engineers take a look at the situation and it has been deemed safe to travel on with a reduced weight restriction, which the Board enacted, and the road has been permanently posted until this situation is corrected. The town has contracted with an engineering firm for the replacement of the culvert with a small span bridge. The Manager and I have been working with FEMA for funding for the replacement. At this point in time, we remain very cautiously optimistic that the funding will be supported by FEMA and the impact to the town will be minimal. The goal has been and will continue to be to keep the financial burden off of the town as much as possible while planning on a solution that will prevent this type of situation from happening again.

Here are some details of the accomplishments from this past year, some insight on where we plan to go next.

Station Road Project:

Station Road entered into the final stage of the maintenance plan, in which the new surface pavement has been installed. The street signs were replaced, and this project is now complete and has been performing very well.

Island Road Project:

Island Road entered into the second phase of the program during this phase the following will be accomplished:

1. The road surface will be reclaimed to a depth of 12 inches
2. New cross culverts and drainage will be installed. (The exception to this will be the culverts at the rail crossing as these are part of the railroad and have federal restrictions on them. I am currently working with them to address these;

it will simply be at their time frame.)

3. Stumps will be removed
4. New geo-fabric will be installed along with 1 foot of new MDOT Type D gravel to elevate the roadbed and provide new structure to it.
5. Base pavement will be installed
6. Turn around constructed prior to the causeway for the use of Emergency vehicles, plows and buses as needed.



The picture above shows an old abandoned well that was under the road on Island Rd. Rocks and debris had been put into the structure and it was partially paved over. A hole had opened up on the side of the road and this was discovered to be the cause.

Academy Hill Road

We continue to work on Academy Hill in sections. The road was rebuilt several years ago, and the base gravel continues to be in good condition. We are working the worst sections of the road first, once we have completed the trouble sections, we will shim and overlay the entire road. This final overlay will not be for a couple of years as we have two additional sections that we will need to address before we are ready for the final overlay.

To the future and beyond!

What do we have planned for the future, what projects are in the works and where will effort be put forth? Upon passage of the budget, there are several projects that have been put forth on the capital improvement side of the budget.

1. Academy Hill Road
 - Reclaim and pave additional 1,000 feet



The picture above shows a new water line being installed on Pump St. Although the town is not responsible for water line installation or repair, we do need to work closely with the utility company and plan around their projects. New water to areas of Newcastle is essential for growth and the safety of us all.

2. Rebuilding of Hasan Avenue – (Rte. 215 side)
3. River Road sidewalk reconstruction from the fire house approximately 1,000 feet towards town.
4. Surface pavement on Island Road to complete phase 3 of the project.

As always, the maintenance side of the budget continues to have all the same services that we have grown accustomed to. Striping, catch basin maintenance, tree work, sign replacement and maintenance, along with plowing, salt and some allowances for general maintenance items are all built into the budget. As always, particulars about this and any aspect of future plans are simply an email or phone call away. I enjoy the interactions with all of you and welcome the opportunity to discuss any future plans we have pertaining to roads.

It goes without saying that the town of Newcastle has made great strides over the past few years. I hope that you are as proud as I am of the work that has been done and improvements that have been made. We continue to work towards the goal of having maintenance to do and not re-building, each year we are getting closer. I opened my report with the question - have we ever seen the weather has as much of a factor as we have seen recently. I firmly believe that the proof of our progress has been seen this year. The number of issues surrounding failures or problems as a result of lack of attention has significantly decreased, despite the fact the severity of the storms has increased.

Please feel free to reach out at any time with any comments, questions, or concerns as I am always here to support the citizens of this great town. Please keep an eye on the town website for updates on projects and road issues. Please utilize the email option for the quickest response in the event you need to contact me, *roadcommissioner@newcastlemaine.us*.

Respectfully,
SETH HAGAR,
Road Commissioner

Tax Collector's Report

Unpaid 2023 Real Estate Taxes as of 05/01/2024

| Name | Amt. Due |
|----------------------------|----------|
| 48 MAIN LLC | 2,454.40 |
| 67 NEWCASTLE LLC | 2,698.76 |
| 765, LLC | 2,313.60 |
| ABBOTT, WILLIAM | 43.20 |
| ANDERSON, DENNIS P | 3,628.00 |
| ARBUCKLE, JOHN R II | 2,220.80 |
| ARBUCKLE, JOHN R II | 1,752.00 |
| ATTICKS, MARY D. | 2,557.60 |
| AZEVEDO, LEONARDO | 388.00 |
| AZEVEDO, LEONARDO | 708.00 |
| BAILEY, DESIREE | 81.60 |
| BARBERICH, TIMOTHY J | 2,639.38 |
| BARBERICH, TIMOTHY J | 194.07 |
| BARRETT, ROBERT S. | 9,632.00 |
| BARTLETT, LAWRENCE A | 1,872.80 |
| BARTLETT, LAWRENCE A | 244.80 |
| BATES, ANN C | 3,180.80 |
| BELOLAN, COURTNEY L | 2,007.20 |
| BERGMAN, LARRY V.; TRUSTEE | 1.60 |
| BERKOWITZ, GLEN A | 2,268.80 |
| BERRY, DONNA M | 974.40 |
| BERRY, ERMA G'; DEVICES OF | 1,506.40 |
| BILLINGS, STANLEY C | 240.00 |
| BLAKE, ROBERT E | 1,744.48 |
| BLOOD AND SONS, LLC | 2,017.60 |
| BOOTH, ANNE C.; DEVICES OF | 1,791.20 |
| BOOTH, ANNE C.; DEVICES OF | 32.00 |
| BOWDOIN, ANN M. | 225.60 |
| BRANNEN, COLIN L | 1,490.40 |
| BREWER, THOMAS L | 5,502.40 |
| BROOKE, SCOTT | 2,850.07 |
| BUEHNER, CHRISTIAN L | 1,826.37 |
| BUTLER, ROISEN | 18.88 |
| CAPITOL12, LLC | 2,086.70 |
| CASH, RICHARD M | 378.40 |
| CASH, RICHARD M | 1,452.80 |
| CHAMBERLAIN, PAUL D | 6.23 |
| CHEFF, STEVEN W. | 2,103.88 |
| CLARKE, BRADLEY H | 3,689.60 |
| CLAYTER, STEPHANIE L | 979.20 |
| CORSCADEN, PATRICIA | 2,648.15 |
| CORSCADEN, PATRICIA | 305.60 |
| CORSON, ANDREW | 19.20 |
| CROSBY, ANITA M. | 720.00 |
| CROWELL, DAVID A | 3,574.40 |
| DAINS, LYNN B | 565.60 |
| DAIUTE, JESSE C | 3,262.40 |

| Name | Amt. Due |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| DAIUTE, MARK H | 3,822.40 |
| DAIUTE, MARK H | 556.80 |
| DINSMORE, LISA; TRUSTEE | 2,200.00 |
| DINSMORE, SANDRA L | 810.83 |
| DOHERTY, CHRISTOPHER C | 2,185.60 |
| DUMONT, THEODORE J | 3,900.80 |
| DUMONT, THEODORE J | 96.00 |
| EDGECOMB, VICTOR A | 2,116.80 |
| EDMUNDS, HANNAH | 1,040.00 |
| FERRANTE, DAVID J | 2,180.80 |
| FORD, ROBIN L | 1,910.40 |
| FORTIER, BERNICE M.; DEVISEES OF | 3,609.60 |
| FOSSETT, KAREN M | 1,606.40 |
| FOWLER, DOUGLAS T | 4,446.40 |
| FOX, FAITH A | 4,184.00 |
| FREKER, JOHN C | 6,187.20 |
| FREY III, , JOHN H. | 3,245.19 |
| GAGNON, ADAM W | 3,969.60 |
| GAGNON, STEPHEN R | 2,222.82 |
| GAUDET, LORENZO | 3.20 |
| GLASIER, SUSAN E | 1,262.40 |
| GLEASON, JEANETTE H | 3,412.00 |
| GRAHAM, STEVEN R | 1,369.60 |
| GUTEK, RICHARD R., TRUSTEE | 950.40 |
| HACKETT, E.A. & | 438.40 |
| HAMLYN, ROBERT T | 3,626.79 |
| HANDEL, THOMAS J | 1,869.04 |
| HANNIGAN, PATRICIA A | 2,464.80 |
| HART, WILLIAM | 3,599.20 |
| HERVOCHON, GEORGE F III | 2,214.40 |
| HOFFMAN, MARK R | 5,715.20 |
| HOFFMAN, MARK R | 821.14 |
| HOLME, CHRISTOPHER B.; TRUSTEE | 2,708.00 |
| HOLT, BRIAN | 255.15 |
| HOMAN, JOHN W | 2,291.20 |
| HOUGHTON, KEVIN K | 1,188.00 |
| HUTCHISON, TAMARA M | 3.20 |
| HYMANSON, ANNA | 1,747.20 |
| J&R SCHUMACHER, LLC | 823.20 |
| JUCHNIK, FRANK | 2,499.48 |
| KALER, JAMES E JR | 1,140.00 |
| KELLOGG, CHARLENE C. | 6,547.20 |
| KNOWLTON, LAURIE | 4,033.60 |
| KOCH, ALEXANDER B | 2,697.60 |
| LANE, PATRICIA J. | 4,723.20 |
| LEE, HENRY G | 6,204.80 |
| LEE, LAWRENCE R | 6,835.20 |
| LEE, WHITNEY; TRUSTEE | 4,713.60 |
| LENZYCKI, PAUL R | 1,193.60 |
| LEVENSOHN, LUC | 2,507.20 |
| LIBBY, HALVOR | 2,200.00 |
| LIBBY, HALVOR | 6,401.60 |
| LIBBY, HARLOW J JR | 806.40 |
| LIZOTTE, KATHERINE A | 3,164.80 |

| Name | Amt. Due |
|--|-----------|
| LOERZEL, RICHARD P. | 19.20 |
| LOTHROP, LUCILLE E | 1,192.00 |
| LOTHROP, LUCILLE E | 1,392.84 |
| LUDWIG, DOUGLAS P | 3,275.40 |
| LYONS, JAMES J. JR & KEVIN M.; TRUSTEES | 1,272.00 |
| MADDOX, MATTHEW R | 3,952.00 |
| MCCLURE, JULIA | 198.40 |
| MCCORMACK, WINTHROP L. | 11,171.20 |
| MCGOVERN, COLIN R | 316.00 |
| MCGREGOR, ELIZABETH M | 8,803.20 |
| MCGREGOR, ELIZABETH M | 4,934.40 |
| MCGREGOR, ELIZABETH M | 4,728.00 |
| MCLELLAN, KIMBERLY B | 1,784.77 |
| MCTIGUE, JOHN J | 4.40 |
| MERRITT, STEPHANIE A | 1,515.05 |
| MILLIGAN, ALLEN T | 2,996.35 |
| MILLS, JOHN D | 2,966.40 |
| MILLS, KIMBERLY J | 1,547.20 |
| MOONSTONE HOLDINGS, LLC | 2,001.60 |
| MORAN, THERESA M | 115.20 |
| MORRISSEY, GAVIN M. | 1,563.20 |
| NEIGHBOR, ROBERT A. | 364.00 |
| NELSON, RAOUL R | 8.32 |
| NEPTUNE-BENNER, CASANDRA L. | 648.00 |
| NEWCASTLE VENTURES, LLC | 12,270.02 |
| NIELDS, BELINDA | 4,984.80 |
| NORRIS, LYNNE M | 827.57 |
| NORWALK, JAY F | 2,055.07 |
| PEASLEE, GUY F | 268.00 |
| PHILBRICK, ALLEN | 1,258.40 |
| PHILBRICK, ELAINE B | 4,835.20 |
| POPP, STEPHEN J | 4,168.00 |
| PROPST, REBECCA C. | 1,898.40 |
| QUINTERO, EMILIO C | 1,472.00 |
| REED, JACKLYN D | 636.75 |
| REED, JACOB S | 1,524.80 |
| RIPPY, NICHOLAS J. | 1,337.86 |
| ROY, JOHN R | 768.00 |
| RUDY, JACQUELINE E. | 1,666.40 |
| RUSSELL, DEXTER S | 96.00 |
| RUSSELL, DONNA L | 648.00 |
| SANDNER, JEFFREY R | 43.20 |
| SANDNER, JEFFREY R | 432.00 |
| SCHUMACHER, JOHN M | 2,346.40 |
| SCHWARTZ, JOAN | 1,816.80 |
| SHEPARD, AMANDA | 701.60 |
| SHERMAN, PETER M | 321.60 |
| SHERMAN'S LANDING, LLC | 6.39 |
| SHIELDS, HELEN M | 1,840.00 |
| SIMMONS, MARGO C | 7,380.80 |
| SIMONDS, CYNTHIA J | 4,128.00 |
| SKENE, JR., ALEXANDER J. | 3,680.00 |

| Name | Amt. Due |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| SMITH, JAMES M | 1,145.60 |
| SMITH, JAMES M | 4,843.20 |
| SMITH, KIMBERLY | 2,520.00 |
| SPEAR, MARISHA | 526.40 |
| SPECTOR, DAVID J | 2,508.22 |
| SPINNEY, GEORGE R JR | 20.80 |
| STEVENS, CASEY T.; TRUSTEE | 1,529.60 |
| STEWART, REINE E.; | 51.20 |
| STRAW, LEE R | 4,616.00 |
| STROTHMAN, WENDY J | 7,091.20 |
| SZCZEPANSKI, JOHN E | 497.60 |
| TAYLOR, JAMES E | 2,041.60 |
| THOMAS, RICHARD H | 1,815.20 |
| THOMPSON, JOANNA C | 176.53 |
| TIME WARNER CABLE NORTHEAST LLC | 1,593.60 |
| TWIN VILLAGE, LLC. | 555.20 |
| VAN ABSHOVEN, MICHELLE M | 1,745.54 |
| WALTZ, WARREN S | 1,891.20 |
| WARNER, BARBARA J.; TRUSTEE | 3,243.20 |
| WARNER, BARBARA J.; TRUSTEE | 617.60 |
| WEGMANN, CHARLES LUCAS | 3,628.80 |
| WEGMANN, CHARLES LUCAS | 824.00 |
| WELCH, BENJAMIN M JR | 3,635.20 |
| WELCH, BENJAMIN M JR | 8,025.60 |
| WELCH, BENJAMIN M JR | 5,147.20 |
| WELCH, CHRISTINE A | 464.00 |
| WELCH, MICHAEL H | 1,391.26 |
| WESTON, GEORGE N.; DEVISES OF | 619.20 |
| WILLIAMS, BARBARA H | 1,570.40 |
| WOOD, ERIC M | 273.61 |
| YOUNG, JONATHAN R | 4,340.80 |
| Z38, LLC | 5.78 |

Unpaid 2023 Personal Property Taxes as of 05/01/2024

| Name | Amount Due |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| COLBY AUTO CENTER | 145.60 |
| FAUX, GEORGE F | 240.00 |
| MIKE'S PLACE | 76.80 |
| MJP FORESTRY | 22.40 |
| NEWCASTLE POTTERY DESIGN | 17.60 |
| NEWCASTLE PRE-SCHOOL | 19.20 |
| SANDNER, JEFFREY & BRENDA dba | 363.20 |
| SPECTRUM NORTHEAST, LLC | 9,276.80 |
| SPECTRUM NORTHEAST, LLC | 3,555.20 |
| STRAW, LEE R | 264.00 |
| TRUE NORTH SURVEYING SERVICES | 107.20 |

Unpaid 2022 Real Estate Taxes as of 05/01/2024

| Name | Amount Due |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| BERRY, DONNA M | 59.05 |
| CLAYTER, STEPHANIE L | 1,074.00 |
| DOHERTY, CHRISTOPHER C | 1,344.65 |
| FORD, ROBIN L | 2,044.78 |
| FOWLER, DOUGLAS T | 4,636.19 |
| FOX, FAITH A | 4,013.73 |
| GAGNON, ADAM W | 4,049.03 |
| GAGNON, STEPHEN R | 693.53 |
| GLASIER, SUSAN E | 1,364.29 |
| HEMINGWAY, JENNIFER A | 3,127.37 |
| HOFFMAN, MARK R | 5,944.90 |
| LENZYCKI, PAUL R | 1,293.77 |
| LIBBY, VIVIAN C | 118.92 |
| LIBBY, VIVIAN C | 5,406.20 |
| LUDWIG, DOUGLAS P | 3,456.97 |
| MCCLURE, JULIA | 261.31 |
| MCCORMACK, WINTHROP L. | 11,521.33 |
| NEPTUNE-BENNER, CASANDRA L. | 255.21 |
| POPP, STEPHEN J | 4,299.62 |
| QUINTERO, EMILIO C | 1,579.14 |
| REED, JACOB S | 1,127.85 |
| ROY, JOHN R | 857.50 |
| SANDNER, JEFFREY R | 510.20 |
| SMITH, JAMES M | 1,252.69 |
| SPEAR, MARISHA | 1,019.87 |
| STEVENS, CASEY T.; TRUSTEE | 1,638.18 |
| STRAW, LEE R | 4,810.03 |
| TAYLOR, JAMES E | 2,163.01 |
| YOUNG, JONATHAN R | 4,157.18 |

Unpaid 2022 Personal Property Taxes as of 05/01/2024

| Name | Amount Due |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| COLBY AUTO CENTER | 144.69 |
| FAUX, GEORGE F | 238.50 |
| MIKE'S PLACE | 76.32 |
| NEWCASTLE POTTERY DESIGN | 17.49 |
| NEWCASTLE PRE-SCHOOL | 19.08 |
| SANDNER, JEFFREY & BRENDA dba | 360.93 |
| STRAW, LEE R | 268.71 |
| TRUE NORTH SURVEYING SERVICES | 106.53 |

Town Clerk

2023 Births - Our Newest Residents - 15 recorded births

Location of Births

Augusta - 1; Brunswick - 6; Damariscotta - 7; Portland - 1

2023 MARRIAGES - Our Newest Couples

| <u>Couple</u> | <u>Date of Marriage</u> |
|--|-------------------------|
| Morenzoni, Christine Evelyn / Smith, Richard Daryl | 07/22/2023 |
| Klibansky, Katherine Rose / Brown, Ryan David | 09/08/2023 |
| Prior, Kelsey Lee / Garber, Paul Michael | 09/23/2023 |
| Hennessey, Kathleen Laura/ Fitzherbert, Desmond Paul | 10/07/2023 |
| Cunningham, Courtney Jean / Russell, Brad Elroy | 10/14/2023 |
| Kostenbader, Lucas Daniel / LaFontaine, Megan Amanda | 08/05/2023 |
| Reed, Jacob Stanley / Olges, Kristina Michele | 10/14/2023 |
| Suslavich, Claudia Regina / Morenz, Martin Robert | 05/28/2023 |
| Styron, Gage Lee/ Ford, MacKenzie Kathleen | 12/06/2023 |

2023 DEATHS – Our Losses

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Age</u> | <u>Location</u> | <u>Date</u> |
|--------------------------|------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Bailey, David Adrian | 90 | Newcastle | 04/14/2023 |
| Cain, Robert Edward Jr. | 84 | Newcastle | 03/19/2023 |
| Clauson, Joanne M. | 93 | Damariscotta | 04/24/2023 |
| Dejean, Gertie | 94 | Newcastle | 08/26/2023 |
| Delemontex, George F. | 82 | Rockport | 11/29/2023 |
| Dinsmore, Robert Harry | 82 | Portland | 08/13/2023 |
| Doe, Robert Louis | 74 | Togus USVA | 05/10/2023 |
| Fahey, George B. | 92 | Damariscotta | 03/08/2023 |
| Ferris, Shirley Gertrude | 98 | Newcastle | 01/11/2023 |
| Gill, Joyce B. | 76 | Damariscotta | 11/16/2023 |
| Hanley, Geraldine N. | 97 | Damariscotta | 02/17/2023 |
| Hilton, John Rueben | 82 | Newcastle | 06/17/2023 |
| Hunt, Eldon Clark Jr. | 74 | Newcastle | 03/11/2023 |
| Hunt, Norman C. | 81 | Rockport | 08/25/2023 |

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|----|--------------|------------|
| Kinzer, Ellen B. | 74 | Portland | 05/14/2023 |
| Kinzer, Karlton Klemmer II | 81 | Brunswick | 07/10/2023 |
| Kreuter, Barbara Auguste | 70 | Newcastle | 12/01/2023 |
| Lawlor, James Patrick | 67 | Rockport | 01/28/2023 |
| McMahon, Barbara Emerson | 91 | Newcastle | 02/21/2023 |
| Miller, Phillip Albert | 76 | Newcastle | 01/08/2023 |
| Nicolaus, Bernadette | 84 | Newcastle | 04/21/2023 |
| Page, Paula | 86 | Portland | 10/18/2023 |
| Paye, Myrna L. | 96 | Newcastle | 05/22/2023 |
| Pearson, William Nunan | 83 | Damariscotta | 11/12/2023 |
| Sellick, Lhea A. | 38 | Edgecomb | 04/02/2023 |
| Skilling, James Kerr | 92 | Damariscotta | 10/24/2023 |
| Strawser, Daniel George Sr. | 79 | Scarborough | 05/12/2023 |
| Verney, Edna Ann | 87 | Newcastle | 12/30/2023 |
| Williams, Duane H. | 69 | Damariscotta | 05/17/2023 |

2023 Building Permits

| Date w/CEO Approval | Permit # | Applicant/Owner | Map/Lot | Reason for Permit | Fees |
|---------------------|----------|---------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------|----------|
| 1/10/2023 | 23-01 | Kelsey Towle | M9/L4-B | Single Family Home | \$125.00 |
| 1/19/2023 | 23-02 | Brendan Parsons | M13/L83 | 28' Yurt - Temp. Winter Restaurent | \$100.00 |
| 1/19/2023 | 23-03 | Brendan Parsons | M13/L83 | 20' Yurt - Temp. Winter Restaurent | \$100.00 |
| 2/9/2023 | 23-04 | Bruce & Lynn Bernier | M16/L9-D | Single Family Home | \$125.00 |
| 2/16/2023 | 23-05 | C. Hanning Vantborg | M2/L23 | Farm Store | \$100.00 |
| 3/16/2023 | 23-06 | Bill & April Jubett | M8/L18-A | Tool Shed | \$100.00 |
| 3/23/2023 | 23-07 | Jason Nehbross & Celeste Mosher | M13/L67 | Remodel, Walkway & Cover Patio | \$75.00 |
| 4/25/2023 | 23-08 | L. Jon Libby | M8/L3 | Single Family Home | \$125.00 |
| 4/25/2023 | 23-09 | Baldwin / Markmann | M3/L72 | 2-Story Bldg | \$125.00 |
| 4/27/2023 | 23-10 | Gavin Morrissey | M11/L46-A | Single Family Home | \$125.00 |
| 6/8/2023 | 23-11 | Kyle Markmann | M3/L72 | Shed | \$100.00 |
| 5/2/2023 | 23-12 | Ben Shepard | M11/L31-1 | Single Family Home | \$125.00 |
| 6/8/2023 | 23-13 | Stone Heimo | M3/L34-A | Single Family Home | \$125.00 |
| 6/8/2023 | 23-14 | Stone Heimo | M3/L34-A | Accessory Bldg | \$100.00 |
| 5/25/2023 | 23-15 | Matthew Morgenbesser | M8/L39-B | Accessory Bldg | \$100.00 |
| 6/1/2023 | 23-16 | Carol Miller | M17/L1 | Garage w/Attic | \$100.00 |
| 5/30/2023 | 23-17 | Bill & April Jubett | M8/L18-A | 8x4 Shed | \$100.00 |
| 6/6/2023 | 23-18 | Kaydie Russell | M8/L52 | Single Family Home & 8x12 Shed | \$200.00 |
| 6/16/2023 | 23-19 | Shane Butterfield | M9/L46-5 | Double-Wide Mobile Home | \$125.00 |
| | 23-20 | Joe Dalton | M2/L53 | Porch Expansion | \$125.00 |
| 6/22/2023 | 23-21 | Starr Pateet | M5/L66 | Barn | \$125.00 |
| 6/22/2023 | 23-22 | Starr Pateet | M5/L66 | Single Family Home | \$125.00 |
| 7/6/2023 | 23-23 | Megan Gibbons | M7/L33-A | Tourist Rental | \$100.00 |
| 7/13/2023 | 23-24 | Kristin Harman | M3/L35 | Solar Panels | \$100.00 |
| 7/18/2023 | 23-25 | Marina Stern & Virginia Brown | M3/L73 | Pole Barn House & Garage | \$200.00 |
| 7/18/2023 | 23-26 | Two The Shore LLC | M3/L59 | Tree Cutting | \$50.00 |
| 7/27/2023 | 23-27 | WaterShed | M2/L23C&1 | Constructing a DiningHall | \$275.00 |
| 7/20/2023 | 23-28 | Jason Fuller | M9/L41 | 14x14' Deck | \$100.00 |
| 8/10/2023 | 23-29 | Rich & Maura Sullivan | M18/L18-A | 24x14 Shed | \$100.00 |
| 7/31/2023 | 23-30 | Doug Cogger | M6/L18-B | 4x15' Deck | \$100.00 |
| 7/25/2023 | 23-31 | Zachary Gilbert | M8/L49 | Single Family Home | \$125.00 |
| 8/8/2023 | 23-32 | Julie Nash & Kevin Foster | M3/L65-D | Single Family Home | \$125.00 |

2023 Building Permits

continued

| Date w/CEO Approval | Permit # | Applicant/Owner | Map/Lot | Reason for Permit | Fees |
|---------------------|----------|-------------------------------|------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| 8/10/2023 | 23-33 | Lee Emmons | M7A/L48 | Shed used for Chicken Coop | \$100.00 |
| 8/31/2023 | 23-34 | Christoph Aeppli & Leah Bauer | | | |
| 9/1/2023 | 23-35 | Brad Russell | M3/L65N | 360 sq Foot Deck | \$100.00 |
| 8/17/2023 | 23-36 | Kaydie Russell | M8/L60-1 | Storage Shed 12x16 | \$100.00 |
| 8/17/2023 | 23-37 | James Bowers | M8/L52 | 16x12' Deck w/4x4 platform | \$100.00 |
| 8/30/2023 | 23-38 | Philip Sewell | M5/L33 | Single Family Home | \$125.00 |
| 7/14/2023 | 23-39 | Luc Levensohn | M8/L18-7 | Single Family Home | \$125.00 |
| 8/24/2023 | 23-40 | Chris Arsenault | M13/L42 | Tourist Rental | \$100.00 |
| 8/29/2023 | 23-41 | Mark Hanley | M9/L26 | Solar Array - Roof | \$50.00 |
| | 23-42 | Erica Berman | M3/L59 | Tree Cutting/Earth Moving/Shoreland | \$175.00 |
| | 23-43 | Keith Karver | M5/L44 | 10'x13' Storage Bldg | \$100.00 |
| 11/6/2023 | 23-44 | Steve Corson | M17/L19 | Tree Cutting - Shoreland | \$50.00 |
| | 23-45 | Merle Parise | M4/L73&73B | Post & Barn | \$100.00 |
| 9/20/2023 | 23-46 | Jada Kavanagh | M5/L67-B | 2 Porch Remodels & Extension | \$175.00 |
| 10/2/2023 | 23-47 | Thomas Fake | M2/L27 | Storage Barn 28x36 | \$100.00 |
| 10/3/2023 | 23-48 | Kyle Markmann | M3/L72 | 12x16 Sugar Shack | \$100.00 |
| 10/10/2023 | 23-49 | Tor Glendinning | M11/L14 | 7x15 Lean to existing barn | \$100.00 |
| 10/10/2023 | 23-50 | Michael Welch | M4/L63-A | 10x16 Storage Shed | \$100.00 |
| 10/12/2023 | 23-51 | Deanne Shaw | M11/L42 | 10x12 Storage Shed | \$100.00 |
| 10/18/2023 | 23-52 | Ronald Ratner | M16/L2-A | Addition to 1st Floor Bedroom/w Bath | \$150.00 |
| 10/19/2023 | 23-53 | Emery & Troy Chapman | | | |
| 3/21/2024 | 23-54 | Donna Aldrich | M4/L69-A | Storage Shed 16x20 | \$100.00 |
| 11/2/2023 | *23-54 | Frances Perkin Center | M11/L46-B | 2 Decks/Roof Overhangs/Steps | \$100.00 |
| 11/2/2023 | 23-55 | Frank & Beverly Smith | M3/L60-R | Sign | \$30.00 |
| | 23-56 | Kyle Markman | M13/L19 | Garage- 1200sf | \$100.00 |
| 11/28/2023 | 23-57 | Daniel Rackauskas | M3/L72 | Residential Companion Permit | \$- |
| 11/28/2023 | 23-58 | Brendan Parsons | M5/L17 | 572' Roof Solar Array | \$50.00 |
| 11/28/2023 | 23-59 | David Lawrence | M13/83 | Yurts | \$25.00 |
| 12/5/2023 | 23-60 | Rob Nelson | M7/L45 | Shoreland Tree Removal/Replacement | \$50.00 |
| 12/5/2023 | 23-61 | Rob Nelson | M13/L17-1 | Multi-Unit Blding | \$725.00 |
| | | | M13/L17-1 | Multi-Unit Blding | Both Permits |

2023 Plumbing Permits

| Date Received | Permit | Property Owner | Type | Location | |
|------------------|--------|----------------------|--|----------|--------|
| | | | <div>S(Septic) I(Interior) T(Tank)</div> | Map | Lot |
| | | | | | |
| 1/12/2023 | 23-01 | John Laskey | I(Interior) | 2 | 20-A-2 |
| 1/12/2023 | 23-02 | Alex Thibadoux | I(Interior) | 7 | 57 |
| 1/17/2023 | 23-03 | David Lawrence | I(Interior) | 7 | 45 |
| 1/31/2023 | 23-04 | Kelsey Towle | S(Septic) | 9 | 4B-5 |
| 1/31/2023 | 23-05 | Kelsey Towle | I(Interior) | 9 | 4B-5 |
| 2/9/2023 | 23-06 | Bruce & Lynn Bernier | S(Septic) | 16 | 9-D |
| 2/9/2023 | 23-07 | Bruce & Lynn Bernier | I(Interior) | 16 | 9-D |
| 2/21/2023 | 23-08 | Kevin Voigt | I(Interior) | 13 | 10 |
| 3/2/2023 | 23-09 | Gertrud Collins | I(Interior) | 9 | 4-B |
| 3/2/2023 | 23-10 | Lincoln Home | I(Interior) | 12 | 41 |
| 4/4/2023 | 23-11 | Bill Jubett | I(Interior) | 8 | 18-A |
| 4/27/2023 | 23-12 | Richard Shepard | S(Septic) | 11 | 31-1 |
| 4/19/2023 | 23-13 | Jon Libby | S(Septic) | 8 | 38-A |
| 4/20/2023 | 23-14 | Michael Howland | I(Interior) | 13 | 50-1 |
| 4/20/2023 | 23-15 | Michael Howland | Tank Only | 13 | 50-1 |
| 4/25/2023 | 23-16 | Markmann & Baldwin | S(Septic) | 3 | 72 |
| 4/25/2023 | 23-17 | Markmann & Baldwin | I(Interior) | 3 | 72 |
| 4/27/2023 | 23-18 | Gavin Morrissey | I(Interior) | 11 | 46-A |
| 4/27/2023 | 23-19 | Gavin Morrissey | I(Interior) | 11 | 46-A |
| 5/2/2023 | 23-20 | Bruce Bernie | I(Interior) | 16 | 9-D |
| 9/21/2023 | 23-21 | John Frey | S(Septic) | 7 | 5-F |
| 6/1/2023 | 23-22 | Wm. Flynn | S(Septic) | 7 | 35 |
| 7/5/2023 | 23-23 | Marina Stern | S(Septic) | 3 | 73 |
| 6/6/2023 | 23-24 | Kaydie Russell | I(Interior) | 8 | 52 |
| 6/8/2023 | 23-25 | Stone Heimo | S(Septic) | 3 | 34A |
| 6/14/2023 | 23-26 | Jessica Kanwit | I(Interior) | 9 | 19A |

2023 Plumbing Permits *continued*

| Date Received | Permit | Property Owner | Type | Location | |
|------------------|--------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------|----------|
| | | | | Map | Lot |
| | | | S(Septic) I(Interior) T(Tank) | | |
| 6/15/2023 | 23-27 | Joe Dalton | S(Septic) | 2 | 53 |
| 6/16/2023 | 23-28 | Shane Butterfield | S(Septic) | 9 | 46-5 |
| 6/16/2023 | 23-29 | Shane Butterfield | I(Interior) | 9 | 46-5 |
| 6/22/2023 | 23-30 | Starr Pateet | I(Interior) | 5 | 66 |
| 6/22/2023 | 23-31 | Starr Pateet | S(Septic) | 5 | 66 |
| 7/12/2023 | 23-32 | Roger Wilson | I(Interior) | 2 | 18-1 |
| 7/11/2023 | 23-33 | Neal Jones | S(Septic) | 7 | 52 |
| 7/18/2023 | 23-34 | Jeff Curtis | S(Septic) | 2 | 50 |
| 7/20/2023 | 23-35 | Jared Mitkus | S(Septic) | 4 | 74 |
| 7/27/2023 | 23-36 | WaterShed | S(Septic) | 2 | 23-C & 1 |
| 7/25/2023 | 23-37 | Zachary Gilbert | S(Septic) | 8 | 49 |
| 7/25/2023 | 23-38 | Zachary Gilbert | I(Interior) | 8 | 49 |
| 8/8/2023 | 23-39 | Julie Nash & Kevin Foster | S(Septic) | 3 | 65-D |
| 8/3/2023 | 23-40 | Stern / Brown | I(Interior) | 3 | 73 |
| 8/3/2023 | 23-41 | Julie Nash | I(Interior) | 3 | 65-D |
| 8/9/2023 | 23-42 | Mobius (Holmes House) | I(Interior) | 7A | 27 |
| 8/10/2023 | 23-43 | Christopher Ryan | I(Interior) | 8 | 28 |
| 8/30/2023 | 23-44 | Philip R Sewell | S(Septic) | 8 | 18-7 |
| 8/30/2023 | 23-45 | Nathaniel Sandner | S(Septic) | 2 | 28-C |
| 10/5/2023 | 23-46 | Suzanne Laurencell | S(Septic) | 2 | 6-A |
| 10/17/2023 | 23-47 | Watershed | I(Interior) | 2 | 23-C |
| 10/17/2023 | 23-48 | Celeste Mosher | I(Interior) | 13 | 67 |
| 10/24/2023 | 23-49 | Markmann & Baldwin | I(Interior) | 3 | 72 |
| 11/8/2023 | 23-50 | Kimberly Starbird | I(Interior) | 2 | 38-I |
| 12/19/2023 | 23-51 | Bruce Bernier | I(Interior) | 16 | 9-D |
| 12/28/2023 | 23-52 | Richard Ingraham | I(Interior) | 5 | 33 |

Town Planner

I am excited to have officially taken the position of shared Town Planner for Newcastle and Damariscotta as of July 2023. In the limited time since starting, working with the Planning Board, Town staff, and the community as a whole has been informative and productive. The foundation of the position of Town Planner has consisted of supporting and administering the Planning Board and its process. The five-member Planning Board continued their regular monthly meeting schedule this year, reviewing several Planning applications for consistency and conformity with the adopted ordinances of the Town. Working with both the Town's Planning Board and Code Enforcement Officer, the processing of Planning applications is becoming better defined and more efficient - a trend we hope to continue as my position and the whole Planning Department continue to settle in and implement the relatively new Core Zoning Code.

In addition to reviewing the larger Planning applications submitted to the Town, the Planning Board has held several workshops and Public Hearings on proposed amendments to existing ordinances. Some modest changes to the Core Zoning Code have been approved by residents already, with some significant amendments working their way through the adoption process currently to be voted on at the annual town meeting in June 2024. Proposed changes include updating the Shoreland Zoning Ordinance for consistency with local ordinances and to comply with the State's current standards ("Chapter 1000") as well as modifying the Core Zoning Code to comply with recently implemented State law addressing the current housing shortage (LD 2003).

I look forward to continuing to support the Planning Board, solidifying the application and review process, and continuing to work toward Newcastle's vision for the future.

Respectfully submitted,
MICHAEL MARTONE, AICP
Town Planner

Veterans Memorial Park Committee

Our Veterans Memorial Park Committee is deeply saddened to report the death of Allan Ray in February of this year. Allan had been with the Park since its inception well over thirty years ago. He is greatly missed.

We are fortunate to have a fine group of volunteer gardeners who come with tools, energy and enthusiasm to work sessions in the spring, summer and fall. We work in the Veterans Park and the smaller Tanisnot Museum Garden on Pump Street.

The Old Bristol Garden Club very kindly continues to grant money to help with fertilizers and plants for the perennial garden. Louis Doe Home Center always takes care to deliver mulch to the gardens. Renys Department Store donates bulbs every fall helping to make the gardens show off in the early spring. This is definitely a community garden.

Thank you to the Chamber of Commerce for their dedicated work making the Park look so festive over the holidays.

Thank you Newcastle taxpayers for your continued support of The Veterans Memorial Park, which honors our service men and women.

BETSY EVANS
ELLEN MCFARLAND

K-12 Education Report

The Central Lincoln County School System (CLCSS), operating as an Alternative Organizational Structure (AOS 93) serves seven towns: Bremen, Bristol, Damariscotta, Jefferson, Newcastle, Nobleboro, and South Bristol. AOS 93 brings together eight smaller school districts under the umbrella of AOS #93, which provides Central Office services. We encompass five elementary schools: Bristol Consolidated, Jefferson Village, Nobleboro Central, South Bristol and Great Salt Bay, and are responsible for all secondary students as well. Approximately 1020 students attend PreK to eighth grade in their communities own school district within AOS 93. AOS 93 does not operate a high school, each AOS 93 town pays the approved state tuition rate to a local public or private high school. Through their high school, students have the opportunity to attend vocational programming, mainly at Bath Area Tech Center, Capital Area Tech Center, or Midcoast Tech Center. The majority of our students attend school locally and a small percentage attend schools with boarding options. In order to receive these public funds schools must meet criterias for instruction and complete an approval process with the State of Maine. During the 2023-2024 school year there were approximately 540 students attending area public high schools, private academies or equivalency programs.

AOS 93 is guided by a mission statement with the common purpose of providing high quality learning for all CLCSS students. This system creates a network to implement a common curriculum, assessment and instruction aligned with important learning standards that supports all students achieving a high level during the school years. During the summer, intervention efforts for our students who have lost learning during the pandemic continue with a full-day summer school program. Each school partners with CLC YMCA and Coastal Rivers Conservation Trust to provide students with targeted academics as well as outdoor, experiential learning opportunities.

The vibrancy of our local communities and their support for our AOS 93 schools is essential for the attainment of student aspirations. Our common mission of providing high quality learning for all AOS 93 students continues. Together we make a positive difference in the lives of our students, local families, and the communities in which we live and work.

Great Salt Bay Community School continues to be a vibrant K-8 learning community dedicated to providing a rigorous and engaging 21st-century education. The school's mission centers on creating a nurturing, safe, and enjoyable environment where all children are challenged and inspired to pursue excellence in every aspect of their education.

Great Salt Bay Community School takes pride in its commitment to academic rigor, as evidenced by the consistently high performance of students on state assessments. The results of state assessments demonstrate the effectiveness of the school's instructional practices, with students testing at or above the state average across various subjects.

As part of the school's commitment to continuous improvement, it is participating in a three-year program with the Maine Department of Education to develop a school-wide Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program. PBIS is a framework designed to create a supportive and nurturing environment where all students can thrive by developing and demonstrating positive behaviors.

Great Salt Bay School continues to foster meaningful partnerships with various organizations, enriching the learning experience for students. Collaborations with Coastal Rivers Conservation Trust, Darling Center, Farms Kitchen, Hidden Valley Nature Center, Kieve, Owl's Head Museum, the Twin Villages Food Bank, and the CLC YMCA contribute significantly to a well-rounded education. These partnerships demonstrate the school's dedication to engaging students with real-world experiences and diverse learning opportunities.

Recognizing the importance of co-curricular and extracurricular activities, Great Salt Bay School offers a range of programs to complement the total educational experience. From the Civil Rights Team, Drama Club, Girls' on the Run, Jazz Band, Outing Club, Yearbook, and many other clubs and teams, students have the chance to explore their interests beyond the classroom. The school also provides diverse athletic opportunities, including archery, basketball, cheerleading, cross country, field hockey, golf, soccer, softball, track & field, and volleyball.

Striving for excellence, the Great Salt Bay Community School aims to strengthen the educational experience for its students year after year. The collaborative efforts of educators, staff, students, parents/guardians, and community ensure that Great Salt Bay School remains a beacon of educational excellence in the MidCoast region. Thank you for your continued support.

LYNSEY JOHNSTON,
Superintendent
TARA MCKECHNIE,
Assistant Superintendent
KIM SCHAFF, Principal,
Great Salt Bay
Community School

October 2023 Enrollment

| | Pre-K | Kdgn. | 1st Grade | 2nd Grade | 3rd Grade | 4th Grade | 5th Grade | 6th Grade | 7th Grade | 8th Grade | TOTAL ELEM. |
|----------------------------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| Bristol | 12 | 19 | 18 | 28 | 19 | 19 | 19 | 17 | 19 | 14 | 184 |
| In District Transfer | | | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 2 | | | | 8 |
| Superintendent's Agree | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tuition Agreement | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bristol Total | 12 | 19 | 19 | 29 | 22 | 20 | 21 | 17 | 19 | 14 | 192 |
| Bremen | | 4 | 4 | 2 | 12 | 6 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 54 |
| Damariscotta | | 18 | 16 | 20 | 23 | 21 | 20 | 16 | 30 | 17 | 181 |
| Newcastle | | 12 | 8 | 13 | 16 | 11 | 15 | 16 | 15 | 21 | 127 |
| In District Transfer | | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 7 |
| Superintendent's Agree | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| Public Tuition | | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 18 |
| GSB, CSD Total | 36 | 30 | 37 | 52 | 40 | 45 | 42 | 56 | 49 | 387 | |
| Jefferson | | 24 | 21 | 31 | 27 | 28 | 31 | 24 | 27 | 21 | 234 |
| In District Transfer | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| Superintendent's Agree | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| Jefferson Total | 24 | 21 | 31 | 27 | 28 | 31 | 24 | 27 | 21 | 234 | |
| Nobleboro | | 19 | 13 | 20 | 18 | 13 | 11 | 10 | 14 | 14 | 132 |
| In District Transfer | | | | | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 6 |
| CAL (from out of NCS) | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Public Tuition | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Superintendent's Agreement | | 1 | | | | 1 | | | 1 | | 3 |
| Nobleboro Total | 20 | 13 | 20 | 19 | 14 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 18 | 17 | 145 |
| South Bristol | 6 | 2 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 10 | 51 |
| Superintendent's Agree | | | | 1 | | | | 1 | | | 2 |
| In District Transfer | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | | 2 | 8 |
| Public Tuition | | | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 |
| So. Bristol Total | 7 | 2 | 9 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 12 | 61 |
| TOTAL ELEMENTARY | 19 | 101 | 92 | 120 | 124 | 108 | 114 | 101 | 127 | 113 | 1019 |

SECONDARY ENROLLMENT and home school

| | 9th Grade | 10th Grade | 11th Grade | 12th Grade | TOTAL SEC. |
|------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Bremen | 12 | 17 | 6.5 | 7 | 42.5 |
| Bristol | 14.5 | 32 | 23.5 | 19.5 | 89.5 |
| Damariscotta | 25 | 24.5 | 20 | 18 | 87.5 |
| Jefferson | 33 | 27 | 28.5 | 31.5 | 120 |
| Newcastle | 21 | 24.5 | 26 | 25.5 | 97 |
| Nobleboro | 15 | 17 | 22 | 18.5 | 72.5 |
| South Bristol | 9.5 | 9 | 4.5 | 7 | 30 |
| TOTAL SECONDARY | 130 | 151 | 131 | 127 | 539 |

K-12 AOS No. 93 Total

1558

Lincoln Academy

To the Residents of Newcastle,

Thank you for your continuing support of Lincoln Academy, an independent school serving students from mid-coast towns since our founding in 1801. The school is thriving thanks to our supportive community, vibrant and diverse student body, and hardworking faculty and staff.

Lincoln Academy “By the numbers”

- 25% of LA students qualified for free and reduced lunch (underreported since lunch is free for everyone)
- 20% of juniors and seniors attend vocational programming at BRCTC
- 18% of LA students take one or more AP classes during their years at LA
- 54% of LA students play at least one sport
- 23% participate in band, choir, and/or theater programs

2023-24 Facilities Upgrades:

LA’s historic bell tower is scheduled for structural repairs. The bell itself is currently being refurbished by Elderhorst Bell Company in Pennsylvania. The belfry and tower will be shored up, starting with the foundation, before we return the bell to its traditional perch.

In the summer of 2024, we will replace the light poles on the William Clark field. The new lights will be more energy efficient and throw off less light pollution during night games, and a new sound system will be integrated into the new poles.

Enrollment: 564 Students from 21 Towns and 13 Countries:

Enrollment numbers have been positive, with our current ninth grade class size exceeding last year’s predictions. Next year’s incoming class (the class of 2028) is expected to be very close in number to the graduating Class of 2024, and we anticipate total day student enrollment to remain consistent next year. The residential program continues to grow, and we expect to have over 40 international and domestic students in the dorm next year.

Academics:

Lincoln Academy offers 135 classes, including over 40 STEM classes, more than 30 Performing and Visual Arts classes, 33 Advanced Placement (AP) and honors classes, and 11 vocational certificate programs through the Bath Regional Career and Technical Center (BRCTC).

Athletics:

In 2023 LA sports teams won conference championships in both boys and girls tennis, girls track, boys soccer, and both boys and girls cross country. We had seven KVAC Coach of the year awards, three Good Sportsmanship awards, and school records broken in track and field. Individual athletes won KVAC championships in wrestling, swimming, track and field, and cross country. Roan Donaghy '25 of Damariscotta won the Class B State Championship in Racewalk, and Kellen Adickes '25 of Bristol won the New England Golf Championship.

Performing Arts:

The theater program staged seven sold-out performances of The Crucible in the fall of 2023. 13 musicians (including band, choir, jazz, and orchestra) qualified for All-State music festivals, while 45 qualified for District III Honors music festival.

Of the 149 graduates in the class of 2023:

- 74 enrolled in 4-year colleges
- 39 enrolled in 2-year colleges
- 34 entered the workforce
- 2 entered the military

One member of the class was a National Merit Semifinalists and 44 were AP Scholars. Graduates were awarded over \$350,000 in scholarships through Lincoln Academy, local, statewide, and national foundations.

Faculty Credentials

- 57% of Lincoln Academy faculty have their Master's or other advanced degree
- 4 faculty members have gone beyond state certification to become Nationally Teacher Certified Teachers

Career Preparation

- The Second Annual Peter J. Benner Job Fair hosted 30 local businesses with immediate openings for employment. Some students were hired on the spot! The third annual Job Fair took place on April 3, 2024.
- A weekly Career Exploration Series is currently underway, bringing professionals to campus to meet with students and discuss a wide variety of career paths.
- The online Jobs Board connected dozens of students and recent graduates with summer and year-round jobs at local businesses and organizations.

2022-23 Per-pupil tuition (set by the state, paid by towns)

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Tuition Rate | \$13,300 |
| Insured Value <i>(added to tuition for facilities upkeep)</i> | <u>\$798</u> |
| Total <i>(Maximum allowable tuition/MAT)</i> | \$14,098 |

Accreditation:

Lincoln Academy is accredited by the Maine Department of Education and the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). We will submit our written reports for our 10-year accreditation in June of 2024, with two campus visits scheduled for April and September/October of 2024. The process provides an important opportunity to assess both our strengths and areas that need improvement.

Please join us on the historic Lincoln Academy campus this year for an athletic event, concert, theater performance, or Commencement on June 7, 2024 at 4 p.m. You can find more information and a calendar of upcoming events on our website, *lincolnacademy.org*.

JEFFREY S. BURROUGHS,
Head of School

Adult and Community Education

Central Lincoln County Adult & Community Education is thankful for the support shown by its communities over the past four decades. There have been many changes to the charge of adult education since the 2014 passing of the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), the greatest of these being a focus on preparing adults for the workforce. While high school completion (formerly the GED program, now HiSET) continues to be a main focus, the state and federal governments as well as local demand have created the need to go beyond a focus on high school to post-secondary certifications, workforce preparation, and college and career advising. We assist students well beyond their high school graduation and have adults continue to return as their lives and goals change. In addition, we create opportunities for community members to engage in the school community through life-enriching activities. We hope you will continue to support and join us on our journey.

Tax impact of Newcastle local contribution 2023

| Town | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|-----------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Newcastle | \$6,402 | \$6,402 | \$6,402 | \$6,595 | \$6,595 | \$6,595 | \$6,595 |
| Cost per \$100K | | | | | | | \$1.84 |
| Taxes based on average home value | | | | | | | \$7.41 |

**notes to above:*

- Newcastle's local contribution to adult education was \$6,595 for the 2022 - 2023 school year.
- Cost per \$100K is based on the total assessed value reported on maine.gov for 2023.
- Taxes are based on the average owner-occupied home value of \$402,400 from federal census information. The total taxes for the average owner-occupied home in 2023 was \$7.41 per household.

By the Numbers

Central Lincoln County Adult & Community Education (CLCAE) is part of the Maine Department of Education’s MidCoast Hub 7 collaborative that includes 9 programs spread across the 4 midcoast counties from Sagadahoc north through Waldo. Each of the nine programs relies on a combination of money from the state (State Subsidy), local taxes (the Local Contribution), and our primary grants AEFLA (the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act federal grant) and MCCA (the Maine College and Career Access state grant).

| FY23 students served: | Number | Rank in Hub |
|----------------------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| High School Equivalency | 25 | 4th |
| MCCA | 47 | 3rd |
| Workforce prep | 13 | 4th |
| NRS (federal reporting) eligible | 28 | 3rd |
| Enrichment | 587 | 3rd |

Adult and Community Education Local Enrollment

In terms of students served, CLCAE has a wonderful reputation throughout the midcoast for helping students succeed where they have yet to be successful in their local high school due to a variety of reasons. We continue to see a need for increased services. The COVID-19 pandemic may be over, but the effects on teenage students are now being felt. 2023 represented the first year of completing high school students who did not have a single year of ‘normal’ school attendance.

For FY23, there were 11 student enrollments in academic programs from Newcastle. This represents 15.94% of the enrollments within the AOS. There were an additional 87 enrollments in enrichment classes, representing 22.96%. Newcastle’s share of the local contribution to adult education in 2023 was 15.04%.

We see student enrollments increasing in college and career advising, with many working with us to help determine the best pathways based on career values and interests and the availability of funding in support of further education. Traditional CNA classes have become “hybrid” with part of the class taught live via Zoom and clinicals on-site at hospitals throughout the entire midcoast region.

Meetings with career navigators happen both virtually and onsite at our office. Nearly all students spend a portion of their classes accessing materials through online learning management systems. Technology use has increased significantly, and all of the adults in our communities have FREE access to learning about Microsoft products, computer basics, and online security. We will continue to adapt as needed to enable the adults in our communities to succeed and improve opportunities for their families.

Respectfully submitted,
DAVID A. WATTS, Director
dwatts@aos93.org
Central Lincoln County Adult
& Community Education

Skidompha Library

I am proud to report that Skidompha continued to expand its service and offerings in fiscal year 2022-2023. Our success, however, is possible only with Newcastle's continued financial support. That support allows us to manage our operational responsibilities, continue to expand our programming, and make necessary repairs and improvements to the facility. Newcastle's contribution remains critical to maintaining the level of services we provide, and I am thankful to the Town for its ongoing confidence in Skidompha and its work in the community.

Some stats to put the year in perspective: Skidompha circulated over 70,000 items, and processed over 12,000 interlibrary loans. Our three most popular books were *Flop Dead Gorgeous* by David Rosenfelt, *The Retreat* by Sarah Pearse, and *The Lock-Up* by John Barnville. We also offered almost 300 different programs that informed, entertained, and helped over 3,500 people and loaned passes to local museums and parks to 637 patrons borrowed.

Skidompha also applied for and won a number of significant grants that brought critically-needed funds to the library. We received support to maintain our Hoopla downloadable library subscription - almost 12,000 Hoopla titles borrowed by 1,200 users, fund our Summer Read programming as well as new programming targeting adults, teens, and young children, and support our in-house EPOCH teen magazine.

In addition, we maintained our regular programming of weekly drop-in tech help, Chats for Champions, Poetry, Mindfulness Meditation, Children's Story Time, and our monthly book club. We also continued to provide our bread-and-butter reader services, access to two downloadable eBook collections, and our critical clerical services of open public Wi-Fi, printing, faxing, scanning, and copying remained available. And as ever, we continued our commitment to being a source of compassionate human connection to our patrons.

Skidompha is rising - over fiscal year 2020-2021, 21,800 people entered the library. In fiscal year 2021-2022, that figure rose to 36,000. This fiscal year we had over 50,000 people through our door. Skidompha will continue to rise through the generosity of our community and supporting municipalities, and through the passion and energy of its staff.

My fourth full year as Executive Director, while challenging, was profoundly fulfilling, and I am both proud and privileged to work with such extraordinary people as the Skidompha Library staff. Their work makes Skidompha a destination space, a 3rd space where people may meet, create connection, collaborate, and enjoy the unique services and resources Skidompha offers.

We are grateful for your continued support.

With thanks,
MATTHEW GRAFF,
Executive Director

Newcastle Fire Company Taniscot Engine Company

The Newcastle Fire Company responded to 168 calls in 2023, to protect life and property, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Our volunteers leave their jobs, families, free time, and sleep to answer the calls, and it is their honor to do it. Without your trust and support, we would not be able to provide the high-level of service you have come to expect day in and day out, and for that we are thankful.

Firefighter training is one of, if not the most important functions at the fire station. As you can imagine, there are many different topics we are privileged to learn about. These are some examples: vehicle extrication, ladders, structural firefighting, traffic control, wildland firefighting, water rescue, communication, emergency air quality monitoring, and hazardous materials. No two calls are the same, so our training is frequent.

The motorized equipment in the fire stations is in good serviceable order and is constantly being assessed by the members of the Fire Company, mechanics, and pump service mechanics for reliability and service life. We take great pride in the maintenance and care of our equipment to ensure the longest service possible. With the support of the Newcastle Select Board and the Townspeople a new Rescue Pumper was ordered to replace two apparatus, our 1974 Ford Pumper and our 2020 International Rescue. We are expecting delivery of the new Rescue Pumper sometime around April of 2026.

The Fire Company has 9-1-1 address signs available to our residents upon request. These signs are blue reflective backing with white reflective numbers. They can be one or two sided and mounted on a post or building. The signs cost \$10.00 each. Placing these signs at the end of your driveway or on your house or business helps the Fire, Police, and Ambulance responders locate you when you're in need of emergency assistance. If you would like a sign, please call the fire station at 563-3888 and leave a message, we will return your call.

Newcastle Fire Company Inc. is a non-profit 501(c)3 and our fundraising efforts are always ongoing. Our current fundraising efforts will go towards additional battery powered hydraulic extrication tools, and to replace our Avon Rescue Boat. All of the donations we receive are much appreciated; they help reduce our fund requests through taxes and help to make sure we have the equipment we need to help you. Donations can be made payable to: Newcastle Fire Company Inc., 86 River Rd., Newcastle, ME 04553. All donations are tax deductible, and a receipt will be provided.

If anyone needs a Smoke Detector, we have some available at the fire station and can install them for you at no cost. If you or someone you know needs a smoke detector, please call the fire station at 563-3888 and leave a message. Smoke detectors are your best defense at surviving a fire. Please, please, make sure yours are always working and if you need one, please call us.

Personally, I joined the fire company when I was 16. I have always enjoyed the exciting and rewarding experience of responding to emergencies and spending time with our members. The experiences and knowledge that you gain from being a firefighter is valuable and helpful in your everyday life. We are still in need of more volunteers. We are mostly shorthanded when responding to calls during the daytime working hours. If you're interested in helping your community and making good relationships come see us at the fire station. We are there almost every Tuesday evening at 7pm. We would love to meet you.

Very Respectfully,
CASEY STEVENS, Fire Chief
Newcastle Fire Company Inc.



THERE'S A FIGHTER IN YOU.

**FIND THE
FIGHTER IN YOU**

MakeMeAFirefighter.org

SEVEN OUT OF TEN FIREFIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY RESPONDERS ARE VOLUNTEERS.

and your community needs more volunteers like you. We invite you to join a family that'll always have your back and train you up to serve our community in ways few can. We may even give you our secret chili recipe.



READY TO LEARN MORE?

Newcastle Fire Company

207-563-3888

newcastlefd@roadrunner.com

Lincoln County Sheriff's Office

Greetings,

As I begin my twenty-second year I want to once again thank you for the opportunity to serve as the Lincoln County Sheriff. During my time in office, I have been privileged to find myself surrounded by men and women working hard every day to provide the best possible public safety services for each of you.

During the past several years some of my toughest challenges have been staffing during a period when greater accountability and transparency have been expected, while the interest in those seeking a career in public safety seems to have diminished.

Despite these challenges, I have worked hard with our County Commissioners to develop policies and practices to attract and retain employees to Lincoln County. I did this while being the first sheriff in Maine to begin a Citizens Advisory Board with a goal of improving our transparency and providing valuable insight and opinions as we work to improve policy during a law enforcement accreditation process.

I am happy to report, that as I expected, in early 2024 the staffing level at the Sheriff's Office reached a point that will allow us to be more proactive with the public safety we provide without adding any additional positions to the budget.

Planning has begun to put in place a Deputy to provide dedicated traffic enforcement in areas of high crash and complaints. Traffic complaints are one of the most common concerns I hear in the community. I hope by assigning a deputy to this position we can improve traffic safety and better respond to the concerns I have been hearing for many years.

Additionally, I hope to assign another deputy to a position of Community Resource Deputy. This deputy's primary focus will be building relationships with those vulnerable populations in Lincoln County that are at high risk or often subject to crime. I anticipate

that by building relationships with these vulnerable populations (elderly, children, mentally ill, substance use disorder, domestic violence, etc.) the deputy can begin working on strategies to reduce crime and make our county a safer place to live.

I look forward to serving you again in 2024 and once again want to thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Sheriff. Please reach out at any time if you have issues or concerns you wish to discuss.

TODD B. BRACKETT, Sheriff

Great Salt Bay Sanitary District

Great Salt Bay Sanitary District (GSBSD) is a publicly owned, quasi-municipal utility organized to provide safe drinking water in Damariscotta and Newcastle, and to provide wastewater treatment services in the Towns of Damariscotta, Newcastle, and Nobleboro. The District currently has 831 water customers and 566 wastewater users. Scott Abbotoni is the Water Division Manager and currently oversees the Wastewater Division as LeeAnna Libby retired from the District after 36 years of service in December of 2023.

Our mission is to provide safe drinking water, adequate fire protection and effective wastewater treatment. The District is committed to public health, customer service and environmental protection.

The Drinking Water Division's water supply is "Little Pond" a pristine 77-acre spring fed pond with an ultraviolet light water treatment system as a primary disinfectant and Sodium Hypochlorite as a secondary disinfectant.

The Welton Tank on Standpipe Road in Damariscotta and the Academy Hill Tank in Newcastle feed the Twin Villages water for fire suppression and quality drinking water.

The Water Division was able to obtain Federal Infrastructure money in 2023 to replace some aging water lines on Glidden, Pump, and Cross Streets in Newcastle, and a line that runs through the woods from Welton Tower on Standpipe Road, to Route 1 by Hammond Lumber in Damariscotta. Currently the water main replacement on Pump Street in Newcastle has been completed with the rest of the water main lines to be replaced in 2024. This will help with water quality and increased fire flows throughout the water system.

The Wastewater Division's treatment facility for Damariscotta and Newcastle consists of three aerated lagoons with a capacity of eight million gallons.

In 2012 the lagoons were cleaned; aeration system was upgraded and the lagoon liners were inspected.

2016 an upgrade was done to the Plant's office, electrical and lagoon blower system.

2018 an equipment storage garage was erected at the Main Plant.

2021 the District connected to a new collection line put in by the town of Damariscotta. The eight-inch line runs through the waterfront parking lot connecting to new service lines that run to the businesses.

2023 approximately 280 feet of sewer main was replaced on Mills Road in Newcastle.

2024 the District plans to replace pumps at the following pump stations, Days Cove, Parking Lot, Main Street and Church Street. These pumps were purchased with ARPA grant money from the Office of the Lincoln County Commissioners.

The Damariscotta Mills area of Newcastle and Nobleboro has a small sand filter. The sand filter is fed by septic tanks which are maintained on a three-year rotation, by the District. In 2024 the District plans to replace both pumps at the Mills Pump Station as they are over 35 years old.

The Great Salt Bay Sanitary District's operations are carried out by four full-time employees, a part-time contract operator from Maine Rural Water and are overseen by an elected six-member Board of Trustees. Representing Damariscotta are William Brewer, John Gallagher, and Lewis Cameron. Newcastle Trustees are Lynne Plourde and Louis Rector, and representing Nobleboro is Robert Whear. The Trustees meet the second Wednesday of each month at 5 p.m. The District office is located at 121 Piper Mill Road in Damariscotta. The public is encouraged to attend.

Office hours are; Monday – Friday 7:00am - 3:00pm, for more information, please contact our Water Division at 563-3010 or our Wastewater Division at 563-5105.

Respectfully submitted,
SCOTT L. ABBOTONI,
Water Division Manager
and Wastewater Division

Nobleboro-Jefferson Transfer Facility

The Transfer Station, operated by Nobleboro and Jefferson, and under contract with Bremen, Damariscotta, and Newcastle, provides for the disposal of most types of solid waste generated in the five towns. In 2023 our household waste, construction, demolition, and bulky waste all went to Waste Management in Norridgewock, ME. We use the services of Lincoln County Recycling to recycle cardboard, newspaper, plastic, and many other products. We also recycle our universal hazard waste (televisions, computer, fluorescent light bulbs, mercury switches and rechargeable batteries)

2023 did not see a lot of change in our staffing. John Arsenault is still our manager and doing a great job keeping the station running smoothly. We still have Howard Griffin and Kevin Nunes. Glenn Daiute has come back and replaced Shawn Wilkie. They all work hard to make sure your trip to the transfer station is a positive experience.

I would like to thank everyone that takes the time to recycle. This effort really helps us save money in the long run. We do have programs for recycling paint, food waste, metals, electronics, paper, and cardboard. In 2023 we had two hazardous waste days for people to get rid of their hazardous chemical and other hazardous materials. We hope to do the same again this year. We will be advertising this so be watching for it.

The outlook for 2024 is we hope to continue our efforts to recycle whenever we can. The attendants are more than willing to help you recycle. Everything you recycle helps reduce the amount it costs to put items in the mainstream trash.

Also in 2024, we are planning on replacing one of the compactors and buying 2 new trash containers. This has changed the amount the towns have to raise.

The Transfer Station is open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. The front gate is closed at 3:50 p.m. each night to allow time to close out the computer. We are closed on Sunday and Monday. This allows our staff to have two days off in a row.

We will continue to review our operations in effort to provide good service and the most efficient Transfer Station possible. We are interested in your comments and recommendations and will attempt to incorporate them whenever possible.

Respectfully submitted,
RICHARD SPEAR,
Transfer Station Agent

Fish Agent

Alewives arrived in Damariscotta Mills at the end of April this spring along with heavy rain. Damariscotta Lake rose 24 inches in less than 48 hrs during the first few days of May. Despite all the high water, and very cold temperatures throughout the month, 779,405 Alewives climbed the ladder successfully. While the number of fish making it into Damariscotta Lake was satisfying, those same conditions impacted our harvesting efforts in a negative way, and we only brought in \$35,405 in proceeds for the towns this year.

Based on our required scale sample collecting this season, the Maine Department of Resources determined that the Alewife population that visits the Mills each spring continues to be healthy and sustainable. Our efforts to successfully pass Alewives headed downstream back to the Gulf of Maine, as well as immature fish making that journey for the first time continue to pay off.

It was a busy summer down around the fish ladder. The replacement of the footbridge that connects the Harvest area to Ladds Hill was completed, and looks great. The project had been in the works for several years, with Gartley and Dorsky Engineering working on a design, and was finally built this year by the Kennebec Trail Company. The Towns of Nobleboro, Newcastle, and the Fishladder Restoration Group split the costs evenly, and were supplemented by a grant from the Horizon Foundation. Laurel Ames oversaw the project from start to finish, and kept the ball rolling.

With the footbridge project complete, attention was turned to the fish ladder itself, and Mike Nelson, along with John Nelson, worked on repairing stonework in the lower half of the ladder, and will hopefully return to do more in 2024. The Fish Ladder Restoration Group and KEI funded this work, and it will go a long way toward the longevity of the ladder. Further work is forthcoming, with the walkway between the bridge and harvest area in need of replacement, as well as the lowest section of the ladder, where work wasn't done during the original restoration. Deb Wilson met with former USFW fish ladder engineer Curt Orvis who had a few suggestions for improvements in that section.

In addition, it's time for the Towns to Nobleboro and Newcastle to consider the replacement of the dippers, which have served them well for over sixty years, but have reached a point where patching and repairing them is probably out of the question.

Despite the slow fishing for the Harvesters this spring, they still showed up in the dark every morning, and again each afternoon, cheerful and ready to go. Thank you to Kurt Oehme, JB Smith, Jim Brinkler, Richard Powell, Leigh Morrell and Tom Curtis for your efforts, and to Bob Barkalow for pitching in as well. Low after the run was over, Kurt and Leigh continued to see to it that the operation was running smoothly, and Ken Ames pitched in again this year tackling and wrapping up several projects on short notice.

If you happen to be down at the Fish Ladder this spring, and run into any of the folks I've mentioned above, or any of those I didn't, tell them thanks, because without their efforts we wouldn't have what we have today at the Damariscotta Mills Fish Ladder.

Newcastle Historical Society

Another year has come to a close and with it a time to reflect on what NHS has accomplished as well as our aspirations for 2024. What a year 2023 has been for NHS! We celebrated our 25th year as an organization and were recognized by the 131st Legislature of the Maine Senate in a declaration expressing their appreciation and gratitude for our work in preserving and sharing Newcastle's history.

NHS's preservation efforts have taken several forms. After 5 years of hard work and perseverance by a core of dedicated NHS volunteers and with the professional services of Joe Ferrannini of Grave Stone Matters of Hoosick Falls, NY, the documentation and restoration of Pleasant Street Cemetery has been completed, as is possible, with regard to all known inscribed head and footstones. This project was a herculean effort on the part of everyone involved given that several of the stones were highly fragmented, scattered, and buried beneath the ground surface. Funding of our efforts was generously provided by the Glidden Cemetery Association. We at NHS feel a great sense of pride in restoring this small but important aspect of Newcastle's history. Maintenance of the grounds will be an ongoing concern but for now the owners of the property and NHS are working together with the upkeep.

NHS was also able to preserve information about the structure and architecture of one of Newcastle's oldest extant residences, the circa 1795 Hopkins-Billings Homestead located at Hopkins Hill. Sadly, the house had fallen into disrepair and the owner wanted it removed given its condition. NHS was permitted by the owner to document the deconstruction process of this early house by taking a series of photographic images.

NHS also continues to work on preserving documents through scanning and cataloging. Over 2,000 more negatives in the Dinsmore-Flye collection have been scanned, placed in archival sleeves, labeled and filed in the past few years. The scanning of the "Newcastle Papers" which are retained at Skidompha Library was completed.

These original town papers were donated to the library in the 1970s prior to the organization of NHS. They cover many topics including early tax valuations, town government communications extending as far back as 1750, colonial laws, and town road planning. Additionally, several local families have donated or loaned NHS various family records including photographs, letters, and deeds to be scanned. These records will eventually be made accessible for research.

Visibility is key to our mission at NHS, to this end we had a wide range of programs available to members and the public. They were well attended and included talks on Samoset and the Wawenock of Pemaquid by author Jodi Bacheldor - a cosponsored event with Damariscotta Historical Society, Involuntary Americans - indentured Scotsmen by author Carol Gardner, restoration of the Kavanaugh mansion at Damariscotta Mills by Steve Williams, and presentations by officers and trustees at NHS on Richard Diebold's Newcastle Shipbuilding Company and restoration efforts at Pleasant Street Cemetery. Furthermore, NHS members were invited to tour the former Sheepscot Grange building, now owned by Vern & Tracy Verney. They have amassed a sizable collection of materials related to the history of Sheepscot Village. A tour of Riverside Boat Company was generously provided by Paul & Linda Bryant, which was informative. NHS officers and trustees toured ongoing archaeological fieldwork that I'm directing into the mid-to-late 18th-century Barstow and Bryant Shipbuilding Complex which was focused on the Hatch Smithy site. Fieldwork on this project is to be concluded in 2024. NHS also displayed select historic images from our Dinsmore-Flye Photographic Collection at Skidompha Library and had a booth at the CLC Craft Fair where we sold copies of historic photographs, maps, and books. All of these events afforded us an opportunity to share in Newcastle's rich and diverse history and to bring visibility to our cause.

We continue to receive generous donations of 3-dimensional objects and ephemera pertinent to telling Newcastle's story. We welcome such gifts, though our storage capacity at Taniscot limits what we can accept. Some of the many items received in 2023 include a late 18th/early 19th-century ledger from the Jones Tavern, a wooden ship model of a vessel constructed in Newcastle, an oyster

shell gifted by the Lincoln County Historical Association, a hand-drawn portrait of Ephraim Taylor of Newcastle gifted to us by the Museum of History and Industry in Washington state, and numerous Newcastle Town Reports dating from the 1890s to 1980s given to us by the Bristol Historical Society.

We would be remiss without mentioning the passing of two past officers at NHS - John Hilton and Geraldine Hanley. John was the society's first president and Gerry our first treasurer. Both contributed in many ways to NHS, and for that we are truly grateful. We extend our condolences to their respective families. Arlene Cole has stepped down as the museum curator - a role she has been in since the society's inception in 1998 - but will continue on as a trustee and plans on writing articles of interest on Newcastle history for the Lincoln County News. We thank her for her steadfast service that was a labor of love.

We remind members and nonmembers that our doors at the museum (Taniscot Engine House) will be open Saturdays (10-2) during the months of July and August, and on special occasions such as Memorial Day and Pumpkin Fest. It is always refreshing to converse face-to-face about local history with like-minded individuals. Look for upcoming announcements of talks and programs sponsored by NHS in *The Lincoln County News* and on various social media platforms. Finally, we very much would like to expand our membership base and encourage those interested in preserving Newcastle's history to become active members. To become a member please visit our website at: nhsmaine.org or mail us at: Newcastle Historical Society, P.O. Box 482, Newcastle, Maine 04553. Thank you!

Respectfully submitted,
TIMOTHY S. DINSMORE,
President

Harriet Gertrude Bird Playground Report

As the Committee looks back over the past year, we do so with both sadness and gratitude for our beloved Chair, Edna Verney who passed away this past December. She left a huge void in our committee, and throughout the entire Newcastle community. Her unwavering work and support for the Harriet Gertrude Bird Playground will be forever cherished and missed.

As we move forward, the Committee is working closely with our Town Manager on the following: new membership, updated bylaws, and future improvements.

We are pleased to report that the Farm League and T-ball youth baseball teams are currently using the field, as well as several neighborhood families.

When the facility is not being rented, the parking lot is a great place to play basketball, pickle ball, and ride bikes.

The committee would like to thank Vern Verney for mowing the grounds.

If you are interested in renting the building, please contact Chrissy Wajer 512-0580 or ccaeg5@gmail.com.

Respectfully Submitted,
CHRISSY WAJER
DAVID O'NEAL
JIM MERCER
CAROL JUCHNIK
DERIC VERNEY
MEGAN VERNEY

Lincoln County Television (LCTV)

Lincoln County Television (LCTV) begins its 35th year as the local community media station, with thanks to the Newcastle community for financially supporting your station and for your continuing support.

Even as the COVID-19 emergency has been lifted, LCTV continues to be our community's central resource for citizen access to municipal meetings, community events, public health updates, sports, and cultural offerings.

We have expanded how we deliver local, fast, and trustworthy information to Lincoln County citizens with upgraded equipment and services, new staff members, and new shows for broadcast and online viewing. We continue to offer technology advising to Lincoln County municipalities to help them upgrade and optimize their remote meeting equipment for more robust citizen access.

In 2023, we broadcast and archived 192 municipal meetings from all over Lincoln County, a 22 percent increase over 2022, including 23 Newcastle meetings.

For 2023 original programming, we broadcast 481 original shows, events, specials, games and community updates on LCTV.org, local channel 7, YouTube, and streaming services. This represents an increase of 20 percent over the 400 shows produced in 2022 and a 224 percent increase over 200 shows in 2021.

Key successes for 2023 include winning four grants from the Maine Community Foundation, Bangor Savings Bank, Genada Foundation, and Ayco Charitable Foundation. We sponsored two summer interns – a Lincoln Academy student and a college student - to support the next generation of videographers.

LCTV's 2023 original shows included 51 Wuzzup New Shows, 45 Chamber Chats with Damariscotta and Wiscasset Chambers, 19 Wiscasset Speedway Shows, 15 Talkin' Town Talks, 13 Community Conversations, 12 Vintage Racers Roundtables co-produced with the Maine Vintage Motorsports, seven Putting the Y in Community shows with the CLC YMCA, six Damariscotta Historical Society Shows, four Boothbay Harbor Summer Specials, a Waldoboro 250th Anniversary

Special covering multiple events, two Frances Perkins Center shows, two Coastal Currents show with Coastal Rivers Conservation Trust, a two-part Unity Raceway 75th Anniversary show, a show commemorating the Lincoln Academy 1987 soccer championship, a show sponsored by local banking institutions on avoiding financial fraud schemes, school graduations, local church services, and more. For high school sports, we aired 92 games, including: 73 basketball, 8 football, 4 baseball, 2 softball, 1 soccer, and 4 Meet the Player segments.

A scant 12 hours after the October 2023 shootings in Lewiston, LCTV aired Community Updates with public safety officials on local channel 7 and Facebook, to help keep citizens informed.

In 2023, we continued broadcasts of our live-streamed high school basketball games on channel 7, for viewers who prefer to watch on their televisions rather than a computer. And for times when our local high school sports teams play at the same time, we offered multiple *LCTV.org* and YouTube live streams simultaneously.

We continued to grow our connections to the community with new partnerships, expanded sponsorships from local businesses, and a greater number of people receiving our weekly newsletter and social media posts. LCTV also offers an online bulletin board for local community non-profits to share their programming and services.

LCTV finished 2023 with a record-breaking solid year of accomplishments, service to our communities, and increased capabilities. We are very grateful to our Board of Directors and to all the towns, businesses, and individuals who help us thrive.

We look forward to 2024 with solid plans and direction from our Board to deliver more quality programming for Lincoln County people, to connect more meaningfully to our broadcast and online viewers, and to strengthen community partnerships.

All our productions are available on channel 7 for Tidewater/Spectrum customers; streaming and on-demand viewing at *LCTV.org*; streaming services on Roku, Amazon Fire TV, and Apple TV; and YouTube. Community members are invited to contact us at *info@lctv.org*, by writing to LCTV, 29 Sheepscot Road, Newcastle, ME 04553, and by phone at 563-6338. LCTV's channel 7 schedule is found weekly in *The Lincoln County News*.

Coastal Rivers Conservation Trust

Caring for the lands and waters you love in the Damariscotta-Pemaquid Region

Coastal Rivers Conservation Trust is your community land trust, caring for the lands and waters of the Damariscotta-Pemaquid region by **conserving special places, protecting water quality, creating trails and public access, deepening connections to nature, and confronting climate change.**

For the benefit of all Newcastle residents, in 2023 we provided:

- **Public access to trails, open space and shoreline** on Coastal Rivers' many nature preserves. We maintain a growing network of over 50 miles of hiking trails in the Damariscotta-Pemaquid region, including the accessible Rhoda and Lee Cohen River Trail at Round Top Farm. In Newcastle, Baker Forest, Marsh River Bog, and Mills Overlook Preserve are open to the public for low impact recreation on the trails.
- **Strategic land conservation and stewardship.** Coastal Rivers owns 10 properties in Newcastle, all open to the public for low impact recreation. In addition to opportunities for recreation, these conservation lands serve to keep wildlife habitat intact, protect water quality, and help mitigate the effects of climate change.

Coastal Rivers monitors 4 voluntary deed restrictions in Newcastle, also known as conservation easements, on privately owned land. We also co-manage Dodge Point Public Land, owned by the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands, and Sherman Marsh Wildlife Management Area, owned by the State of Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

- **The River~Link Trail and wildlife corridor.** Coastal Rivers is one of 13 organizational partners behind the River~Link Trail and wildlife corridor spanning from Newcastle through Edgecomb to Boothbay. The partnership includes land trusts, towns, and state and federal agencies. The trail, over 5 miles long, offers a rare deep-woods experience right here in midcoast Maine.

- **Supporting local agriculture and addressing food insecurity.**
 - o The Damariscotta area farmers' market takes place weekly at Coastal Rivers' Round Top Farm, throughout the farming season, at no cost.
 - o Coastal Rivers provides three acres of prime agricultural farm land for our partners at Twin Villages Foodbank Farm (TVFF), also at no cost, as well as administrative support and a home for TVFF's Community Food Storage Hub. TVFF grows nutrient-dense vegetables for donation to the Damariscotta/ Newcastle Ecumenical Food Pantry plus six other Lincoln County food pantries, school backpack programs, and other low-income food programs. Last year, TVFF grew and donated 40,000 pounds of food and distributed tens of thousands more through the Food Storage Hub.
- **Water stewardship.** Coastal Rivers water quality initiatives have two main goals: protecting water quality and preventing the introduction of invasive aquatic plants. Programs include:
 - o **Estuary water quality monitoring**, at seven points along the Damariscotta River Estuary, including at the town landing and in the harbor. Twice a month from May through October, volunteers test for transparency, dissolved oxygen, salinity, temperature, and total nitrogen. These data help us understand changes in water quality and habitat conditions over time.
 - o **A River clean-up**, together with oyster growers and representatives from Darling Marine Center and Maine Sea Grant.
 - o **Maintenance of the pump-out barge off in Damariscotta Harbor.** Boaters use the barge to dispose of their sewage at no charge. Coastal Rivers helps monitor the levels and move the barge to the town dock as needed, where it is pumped into a truck and taken away for treatment.

- o **Fresh water quality monitoring**, in support of Lake Stewards of Maine. Trained volunteers check for changes in water quality and cyanobacteria blooms in Pemaquid, Biscay, and Muddy Ponds that might lead to conditions that could have an effect on wildlife human health, habitat, recreational opportunities, or property values.
- o **The Courtesy Boat Inspection (CBI) program** at the Pemaquid Pond boat landing and **Invasive Plant Patrol**, both of which seek to keep aquatic invasive plants out of our lakes and ponds.
- o **The LakeSmart Program**, offering free, individualized technical advice and information to lake and pond-side homeowners about best property care and management practices to prevent erosion and safeguard water quality.
- **Coastal Rivers nature education programs** that connect people of all ages with nature, growing the community of people who care about our landscape and natural resources. We provided over 10,000 student-hours of programming to people of all ages in 2023. **All teacher support and outdoor education programs are free of charge to AOS 93 schools.**
 - o Great Salt Bay kindergarten, 2nd, and 3rd graders participated in regular programs with Coastal Rivers and are engaged in hands-on programs about a variety of topics including horseshoe crabs, estuaries, wetlands, oysters, winter ecology, animal life cycles, alewife migration and much more. The Outdoor Club, led by school guidance counselor Jill Davis, worked with Coastal Rivers Education staff weekly to improve the school trails.
 - o Lincoln Academy IDEAL and edLab students meet with us weekly during the school year to engage in a variety of natural history, service learning, and project learning activities. A highlight of last year's work with these students was conducting a water quality monitoring project which was presented to local town managers and the code enforcement officer.

o Throughout the year, for people of all ages, we offer in-person guided hikes and family programs that are open to the public and free of charge. We also host free online workshops, trainings, and discussions on a variety of topics. Find our calendar of events and programs at *coastalrivers.org/events*.

Coastal Rivers is a nationally accredited land trust. This accreditation means we meet the highest standards of financial management, ethical conduct, responsible government, and lasting stewardship.

Our work is made possible by support from the community, including many members and volunteers who reside in Newcastle. To become a member or volunteer, please visit *coastalrivers.org/get-involved*.

We welcome your comments and questions. Contact us at 207-563-1393 or *info@coastalrivers.org*.

Midcoast Conservancy

Dear community members and friends:

The mission of Midcoast Conservancy is to protect and restore vital lands and waters on a scale that matters, in partnership with the communities we serve, throughout the Midcoast Maine region through conservation, restoration, outdoor recreation and learning. Our service area comprises 24 towns, three watersheds and over 15,000 acres of conserved land which include 55 preserves and over 100 miles of trails.

We continue working toward our 30x30 initiative goal, aspiring to conserve 30,000 acres of the midcoast area by 2030, which will contribute significantly to protecting and restoring the vital lands and waters of the midcoast, act to mitigate the impacts of climate change, and ensure the quality of life our residents and communities deserve. We are also committed to making it possible for everyone to enjoy the benefits of time spent outdoors.

In Newcastle this year, Midcoast Conservancy worked to do the following:

- Conducted the inaugural year of fecal bacteria monitoring program on Damariscotta Lake
- Continued cyanobacteria and water quality monitoring
- Oversaw anti-erosion projects done by our Youth Conservation Corps
- Maintained the 2.4 miles of trail at Griggs Preserve and Marsh River Preserve; thank you to all volunteers who came out and helped!

Newcastle is a vital partner for all the work we do and we are grateful for our partnership. Many of our members and volunteers come from Newcastle and we invite all of you to join us! Learn more at www.midcoastconservancy.org. Feel free to call or email me or our staff anytime.

Respectfully submitted,
TIM TRUMBAUER,
Co-Executive Director

Governor Janet T. Mills

Since my first day in office, I have been guided by the belief that to strengthen our state, we have to invest in our greatest asset: the people of Maine. With the support of the Legislature, my Administration has invested in what people need to succeed - job training, child care, health care, education, broadband, and housing.

Those investments are working - small businesses are expanding their operations; people are moving here to work and raise their families; and graduates are staying in Maine to pursue rewarding, life-long careers - all encouraging signs that are reflected in the strength of our economy. In fact, Maine has the best rate of economic growth in New England and one of the best rates in the nation.

At the same time, we have our challenges. In late October, a gunman took the lives of 18 innocent citizens and injured many more in an act of senseless and unconscionable violence. Then, in December and January, heavy rains and powerful winds brought massive flooding that destroyed homes and businesses, roads, and bridges, and changed the very landscape of our coast.

I have proposed legislation to address both issues - first, to rebuild from these storms and prepare for those to come; and, second, to expand mental health services and keep weapons out of the hands of dangerous people to better protect public safety.

We have made good progress over the past five years to ensure that every person can find a good-paying job in Maine; have affordable health insurance; have the peace of mind that their children are safe at home and at school; breathe clean air and drink clean water and enjoy the rolling hills, lush forests, mighty rivers, and bold coast of Maine.

There are still plenty of challenges, particularly when it comes to the affordability of housing, child care, energy, and other things, but thanks to the resilience and the resolve of Maine people, I am more confident than ever before in the future of our state.

It is my honor to serve as your governor.

Sincerely,
JANET T. MILLS,
Governor

U.S. Senator Angus S. King Jr.

Washington, DC

Dear Friends,

Thank you for allowing me to add my congratulations and gratitude for the positive differences each town and city in Maine makes for its people and ultimately for Maine as a whole. When I travel around the state and visit the various regions in Maine, I see firsthand the differences you all make, the focus you put on excellence, and the helping hands you extend to neighbors. I have learned valuable lessons watching your collaborations with each other. They got the State motto right – *Dirigo* – because you all certainly do lead the way and exemplify the best of Maine.

First, it was a true honor to be appointed to the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee this year to help address the challenges facing Maine veterans. We owe our way of life to these brave men and women and share a collective responsibility as a grateful nation to give back to our veterans. That means delivering veterans the benefits they have earned, addressing the veterans' suicide crisis, improving transition-to-civilian-status programs, and ensuring every veteran can access essential services, like affordable housing and behavioral healthcare.

Next, one of the most significant infrastructure projects in Maine history is underway: affordable and universal broadband availability throughout the state. Supported through funding in the bipartisan infrastructure bill, we are now within striking distance of broadband service even in our most rural communities. Additionally, infrastructure improvements in our roads and bridges, water and septic upgrades for our towns and support for our workforce and employers are also in the pipeline. Serious steps are being taken to address the toll from substance abuse and to provide our older neighbors with resources to help them continue to stand strong throughout their golden years. It is my goal here to make sure everyone has access to stable employment opportunities and quality healthcare which is of critical importance to keep our families healthy and happy.

I am thankful for each town in Maine for their commitment to their communities, to their citizens, and to this country. I will do my part to listen to your concerns and work to find useful solutions to the issues you face. My offices throughout Maine remain available to you if you face hurdles with the federal government, whether it be veteran issues, social security problems, student loans, immigration, tax assistance and more. I hope you will reach out to my offices in Presque Isle, Bangor, Augusta, Portland, or Biddeford and allow me the chance to be part of your solutions. Together, I know we can continue to build a stronger, brighter future for our great state.

Maine is known for its grit and resiliency, and we are making great strides – something others across the country have noticed. Thank you for being one of the reasons Maine is so special; it is not only a pleasure to serve you – it is a pleasure to know you. Mary and I wish you a happy and safe 2024.

Best Regards,
ANGUS S. KING, JR.,
United States Senate

U.S. Senator Susan M. Collins

Dear Friends:

It is an honor to serve the people of Maine in the U.S. Senate, and I welcome this opportunity to share an update on issues important to Maine and America.

One of my priorities for 2023 has been to improve the appropriations process in Congress – the way it decides how to spend taxpayer money. I took over as the Vice Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee last year. Along with Chair Patty Murray, we decided the best change we could make was not to do something new. Instead, it was to do something old – that is, go back to the regular and transparent committee process that we used to have.

Part of restoring this process included holding 50 public Committee hearings, which allowed for input from senators on both sides of the aisle. As a result, for the first time in five years, the Senate Appropriations Committee passed all twelve of its funding bills on time. This was done with strong bipartisan support. In fact, seven of them passed unanimously.

Now, we need to work with the House of Representatives to pass these twelve bills and turn them into laws.

These bills contain funding for a wide range of Maine priorities, including support for the workforce at Bath Iron Works and Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, our lobster industry, infrastructure improvements, affordable housing, biomedical research, veterans, and heating assistance programs like LIHEAP. These bills also contain nearly \$590 million in Congressionally Directed Spending for 231 projects throughout the State of Maine. These projects would help promote job creation, expand access to health care, and improve public safety, infrastructure, and important resources in communities across all 16 counties of our state. I will continue to work to get these bills signed into law in the new year.

On October 25, 2023, the horrific mass shooting in Lewiston claimed the lives of 18 Mainers and injured 13 others. In response, I led Maine's Congressional Delegation in requesting an independent investigation by the U.S. Army Inspector General into the events leading up to the shooting. On December 15, 2023, the Under Secretary of the Army wrote to inform me that such an investigation will take place, and the Army Inspector General has instructed her team to immediately begin preparing to conduct this investigation. While nothing can undo the events of October 25th, I will continue to work to understand what happened and what could have been done differently, and to find answers for the victims, survivors, and their families.

No one works harder than the people of Maine, and this year I honored that work ethic when I cast my 8,855th consecutive roll call vote.

As we look ahead, I remain committed to addressing the concerns of Maine families and communities. If you need assistance or wish to share your thoughts, please do not hesitate to reach out to one of my six state offices.

Sincerely,
SUSAN M. COLLINS,
United States Senator

U.S. Representative Chellie Pingree

Dear Friends,

I hope this letter finds you well and in good health. It is my honor to serve the people of Maine's First District, and I'm pleased to share some ways that I can support you and your community this year.

I know that navigating many federal agencies and programs can be frustrating. One of my most important roles as a Member of Congress is to assist you if you're having trouble. My office can help to resolve challenges with a wide range of programs, including Social Security, veterans' benefits, passport renewals, and more. If you need help, please reach out to my Portland office at (207) 774-5019 or visit my website at pingree.house.gov/contact.

As you know, communities around Maine have experienced major damage as a result of winter storms and widespread flooding in recent months. These storms have underscored the importance of disaster preparation, particularly as we face the growing impact of climate change. I am working closely with Governor Mills and her administration to ensure that federal assistance is available for both short-term recovery needs and long-term resiliency planning. My staff and I are continually updating my website with new resources and stand ready to answer any questions you may have.

My office can also provide more information about the annual Community Project Funding (CPF) process. Each year, Congress enacts appropriations bills that provide the federal government with the funding it needs to operate. CPFs are a critical tool to directly support local governments and nonprofit organizations through federal appropriations. If you know of a project that might be a good fit, I encourage you to keep in touch as more details about the Fiscal Year 2025 funding process become available, as eligibility requirements and limitations can differ from year to year.

It is always a privilege to hear from you, so don't hesitate to reach out to my office any time that I can be helpful. Please rest assured that I do not take the responsibility of representing you lightly, and as we move into this new year, I will continue fighting for Mainers on the issues that impact us most. Thank you, and I hope to see you in Maine soon.

CHELLIE PINGREE,
Member of Congress

State Senator Cameron Reny

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to serve as your State Senator. It has been an honor to be able to work for friends and neighbors, and I'm proud to represent our strong communities in Augusta.

During the 2023 session, I dove into the legislative process headfirst and fought for change. I learned a lot, made good connections on both sides of the aisle, and managed to pass significant bills from the expedition of health insurance referrals to patients in Urgent Care facilities to supporting affordable workforce housing in rural Maine. My job is to hear your concerns and raise your voices. I plan to do the same this next legislative session.

Our district means a lot to me. This is where I grew up, and where I have chosen to raise my own family. I have spent my career as an educator and community advocate, working at local, school, district, and state-wide levels to solve problems, support equitable policies, and advocate for children and families. I look forward to continuing to put these skills to work for you.

Please remember that I am a resource for you all year. If you need help contacting a state agency or just want to share a comment or concern, please don't hesitate to reach out. You can email me at cameron.reny@legislature.maine.gov or call my legislative office at (207) 287-1515. You can also just stop me and say "hi" if you see me at a community event or in the grocery store. Life isn't easy, but it seems harder than usual right now. We all need help sometimes, please don't be afraid to ask.

Sincerely,
CAMERON RENY
State Senator, District 13
*Representing Lincoln County
and the towns of Washington
and Windsor*

State Representative Lydia Crafts

It has been an honor to serve you in the Maine House of Representatives. When you elected me to the State House, I promised to work to address our state's most pressing challenges head on – and that's exactly what we did in 2024.

We passed legislation that will make transformational investments to improve the lives of Maine people, make it easier for more folks to make ends meet and help create communities where all Mainers can thrive, including right here in Newcastle.

This session, we gave final approval to a supplemental budget that invests in Maine people and builds on the budget we passed last year. It includes \$60 million in critical funding for storm relief, \$76 million for affordable housing, \$12.9 million for child care and \$19.6 million for essential mental and public health services.

The budget also ensures that we meet our obligations to Mainers by continuing to fund 55% of public education costs. Additionally, it preserves the income eligibility expansion for Medicare Savings Programs and upholds the increase in the pension income tax deduction that we passed last year, which will help lower costs and provide ongoing tax relief for older Mainers.

As of this writing, the second regular session of the 131st Legislature has concluded. This session, I was proud to serve as the House chair of the Transportation Committee, where we continued to invest in repairing and adding to state roads, maintaining and replacing bridges, clearing roads of snow and ice and managing stormwater through culvert replacement.

If there is anything I can do to be of assistance to you or your family, please feel welcome to reach out. I always enjoy connecting with constituents – whether you have concerns about local matters, questions about state programs or would like to discuss thoughts on legislation. I can be reached at Lydia.Crafts@legislature.maine.gov and (207) 593-2664.

LYDIA CRAFTS,
State Representative



Town of Newcastle Contacts

Emergency Calls Fire, Ambulance, Police – 911

| | | |
|--|---|----------|
| Administrative Asst. | Shelly Clifford <i>sclifford@newcastlemaine.us</i> | 563-3441 |
| AOS 93 Superintendent's District Office | <i>aos93.org</i> | 563-3044 |
| Animal Control Officer | Lincoln County Sheriff Non-Emergency Number | 563-3200 |
| Assessor's Agent | Jim Murphy <i>assessor@newcastlemaine.us</i> | 563-3441 |
| Cemetery Sexton | Tom Stevens <i>stevens.memorials@gmail.com</i> | 563-1376 |
| Central Lincoln County Ambulance | Non-Emergency Number | 563-7105 |
| Code Enforcement Officer Local Plumbing Inspector | George Chase <i>ceo@newcastlemaine.us</i> | 380-6091 |
| Deputy Clerk | Emma McKearney <i>clerk@newcastlemaine.us</i> | 563-3441 |
| Newcastle Fire Chief | Casey Stevens <i>cstevens@newcastlemaine.us</i> | 563-3888 |
| Great Salt Bay School | <i>greatsaltbayschool.org</i> | 563-3091 |
| Great Salt Bay Sanitary District | Water - Scott Abbotoni <i>water@gsbsd.org</i> | 563-3010 |
| Great Salt Bay Sanitary District | Wastewater – LeeAnna Libby <i>wastewater@gsbsd.org</i> | 563-5105 |
| Harbormaster | Eric Peters <i>harbormaster@newcastlemaine.us</i> | 682-8312 |
| Lincoln Academy | <i>lincolnacademy.org</i> | 563-3596 |
| Lincoln County Sheriff's Office | Non-Emergency Number | 563-3200 |
| Nobleboro – Jefferson Transfer Station | Richard Spear, Transfer Station Agent | 563-1610 |
| Road Commissioner | Seth Hagar <i>roadcommissioner@newcastlemaine.us</i> | 563-8588 |
| Town Manager | Kevin Sutherland <i>townmanager@newcastlemaine.us</i> | 563-3441 |
| Town Clerk/Tax Collector/Treasurer | Michelle Cameron <i>treasurer@newcastlemaine.us</i> | 563-3441 |
| Skidompha Library | Matthew Graff <i>director@skidompha.org</i> | 563-5513 |

Visit our website: *newcastlemaine.us*

