



## Bulletin

Vol. 2 May 21, 2021

### **Budget Referendum Election**

A reminder that this year's Annual Budget Town Meeting will be held by secret ballot on Tuesday June 8<sup>th</sup> rather than at an open Town Meeting. Polls will be open from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm at the West Bath Fire Department located at 192 State Road.

Absentee ballots are currently available for this election. Our new curbside drop box has been installed just in time for our Budget Referendum Election! The drop box is in the parking lot near the main entrance to the Town Office and is clearly marked for easy recognition.

If you would like additional information about how to vote, or if you would like to request an absentee ballot, please contact Town Clerk, Karly Perry at [townclerk@westbathmaine.gov](mailto:townclerk@westbathmaine.gov), or call the Town Office at (207) 443-4342.

A Referendum Guide containing information on each budget article and a sample ballot are available at [www.westbath.org](http://www.westbath.org). A copy of the guide may also be requested at the Town Office and a sample ballot may be viewed during regular business hours.

### **Library Choice Advisory Vote**

The Town of West Bath currently votes annually whether to fund library services at Patten Free Library. The Board of Selectmen are interested in learning whether residents would like to choose where they obtain a library card.

A survey will accompany each ballot at the Budget Referendum Election. If you choose to vote at the polls, you will be handed a survey with the ballot. If you choose to vote absentee, a survey will be included in the envelope that contains the ballot.

The survey is printed on a half-sheet of pink paper to make it easily distinguishable from the Budget Referendum ballot. The surveys should be returned *with* the ballots and will be counted following the election.

Please note that the survey is *non-binding* and will be used by the Board of Selectmen for informational purposes only.

## **Ordinance to Establish Board of Road Commissioners**

The following question appears on the Annual Budget Town Meeting ballot:

*'Shall the ordinance entitled "Ordinance to Establish Board of Road Commissioners" enacted on July 31, 2014, which provides that the Board of Selectmen serves as a three-person board of road commissioners, be repealed?'*

The Board of Selectmen oversee the work of the Road Commissioner, but do not serve as a Board of Road Commissioners. This ordinance was intended to be temporary when it was enacted in 2014 while the Town did not have an elected or appointed Road Commissioner. The ordinance was never followed and was not repealed prior to appointing our current Road Commissioner.

## **Call for Road Committee Members**

A Road Committee will be established to work with the Road Commissioner and the Board of Selectmen in creating a road inventory and establishing a 10-year capital plan.

Town staff will use the Road System and Sign Management Software (RSMS) created by the Maine Local Roads Center Maine Department of Transportation to facilitate recordkeeping. The program tracks maintenance-related items such as pavement and gravel surface conditions, drainage status, culvert placement, sign inventory, and current and historical budget data.

The 10-year capital plan will be included in a future update of the Town's Comprehensive Plan.

If you are interested in serving on the Road Committee, please contact Karly at [townclerk@westbathmaine.gov](mailto:townclerk@westbathmaine.gov), or call or stop by the Town Office to request a committee appointment application.

Members will be appointed to the committee by the Board of Selectmen at their first meeting in July.

## **Online Burning Permits**

Warden's Report is an online site where West Bath residents can go to obtain burning permits. It is also a fast and simple way for Fire Chiefs, Dispatchers, Forest Rangers and Town Wardens to access a database where they can view all active permits.

Permits are free to residents. The site may be accessed at [www.wardensreport.com](http://www.wardensreport.com).