

# CITY OF BELFAST ANNUAL REPORT



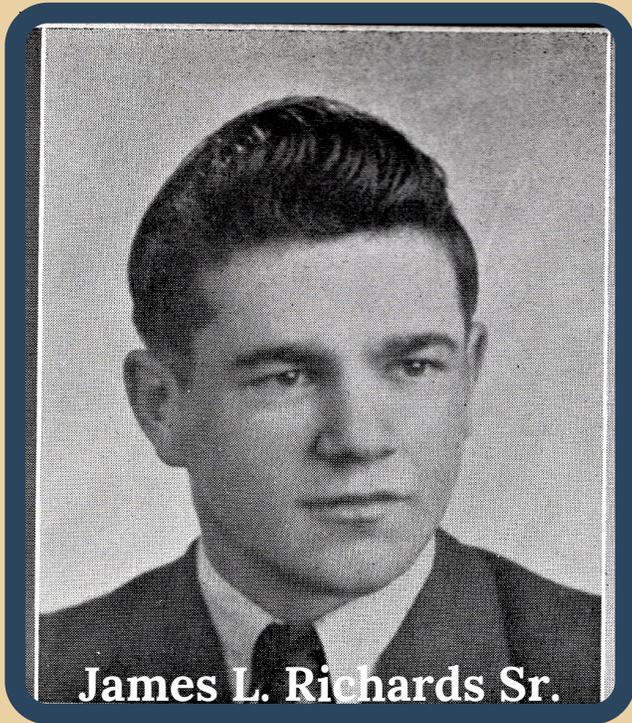
FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021

COVER PHOTO BY DOUG CHAMBERLIN





# DEDICATION



THIS YEAR'S CITY OF BELFAST ANNUAL REPORT IS DEDICATED TO A MAN WHO HAS SERVED THE CITY FOR OVER 53 YEARS AND HOLDS A PLACE NEAR AND DEAR TO THE HEART OF BELFAST. MAYOR SANDERS AND THE MEMBERS OF THE BELFAST CITY COUNCIL OFFER THIS YEAR'S DEDICATION TO FIRE CHIEF JAMES L RICHARDS SR., WHO FIRST STARTED HIS JOURNEY SERVING THE CITY BY JOINING THE FIRE DEPARTMENT IN 1968.

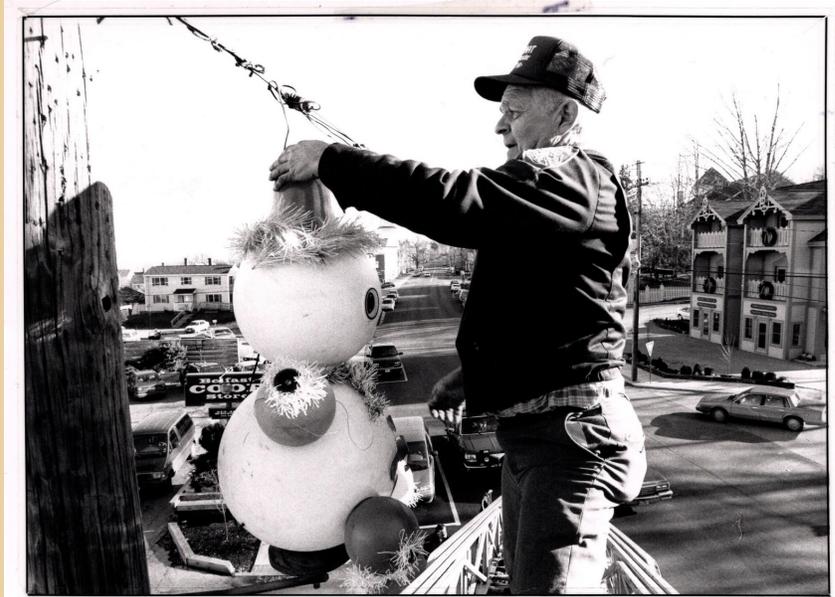
CHIEF RICHARDS DEMONSTRATED BRAVERY, SKILL, AND IMMENSE CARE FOR HIS POSITION AND THE PROTECTION OF THE BELFAST COMMUNITY FROM THE VERY START. AFTER JUST A MERE 6 YEARS OF SERVING THE FIRE DEPARTMENT, CHIEF RICHARDS' DEDICATION AND APTITUDE FOR THE WORK EARNED HIM THE TITLE OF FIRE CHIEF, A GREAT HONOR WELL DESERVED.

HIS PROFICIENCY IN THE PRACTICE WAS PUT TO THE TEST WITHIN HIS FIRST 48 HOURS AS FIRE CHIEF, WHEN A SIGNIFICANT FIRE CONSUMED A BLOCK OF THE DOWNTOWN BUSINESS DISTRICT. CHIEF RICHARDS AND HIS CREW BATTLED THE HISTORIC FIRE VALIANTLY AND THIS EVENT DEMONSTRATED THE COMMITMENT THAT CHIEF RICHARDS WOULD HAVE IN PROTECTING THE SAFETY OF THE BELFAST COMMUNITY FOR MANY YEARS TO COME.

CHIEF RICHARDS CONTINUALLY DEMONSTRATED HIS COMMITMENT TO THE CITY'S SAFETY AS HE WORKED DILIGENTLY THROUGHOUT THE YEARS TO EXPAND THE FIRE DEPARTMENT. WHEN CHIEF RICHARDS WAS FIRST APPOINTED AS FIRE CHIEF, THE FIRE DEPARTMENT WAS CONFINED TO THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE CITY HALL BUILDING. MUCH OF THE DEPARTMENT'S EQUIPMENT AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE VEHICLES WERE STORED OFF-SITE IN THE PUBLIC WORKS GARAGE AT THE TIME.

AFTER YEARS OF ADVOCACY FOR A MORE ADEQUATE WORK SPACE, CHIEF RICHARDS CHAMPIONED THE EXPANSION OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT INTO A FULL FUNCTIONING FIRE STATION IN 1988. THE DEPARTMENT HAS NOW EXPANDED ENOUGH TO ACCOMMODATE THE NEEDS OF NOT JUST THE CITY OF BELFAST, BUT ALSO SERVES TO PROTECT THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF SWANVILLE, NORTHPORT, BELMONT, MORRILL, AND WALDO.

THE FIRE DEPARTMENT NOW WEARS A BRASS PLAQUE IN HONOR OF CHIEF RICHARDS, WHICH READS "BELFAST FIRE DEPARTMENT, JAMES L. RICHARDS SR. STATION, DEDICATED TO THE YEARS OF MERITORIOUS SERVICE OF CHIEF JAMES L. RICHARDS SR."



*Jim Richards putting up the cute lights*

CHIEF RICHARDS TOOK ON ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT CIVIC DUTIES AND EXECUTED HIS ROLE WITH THE UTMOST RESPECT AND HONOR. THE CHIEF PLAYED A HEAVY HAND IN DEVELOPING AND PROTECTING THE BELFAST THAT WE LIVE IN AND LOVE. OUR COMMUNITY IS INFINITELY BETTER FOR HAVING CHIEF RICHARDS AS OUR FIRE CHIEF. WE HAVE GREAT GRATITUDE FOR HIS ADMIRABLE AND EXEMPLARY SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY.



\*All dedication photos provided by the Belfast Historical Society\*

# MAYOR

**We had a year I would describe as** 16 Giant steps forward, and currently a couple back. I, not unlike you, are probably doing mental gymnastics right now, with about 3 weeks of non-mask freedom after a year and a half of masking, sanitizing, and being slightly fearful of the unseen virus sweeping our World. COVID has brought out the best in Belfast, I can safely tell you that. From neighbors helping each other, to following CDC guidelines, to learning how to talk with a surgical mask on (I presumed I needed to talk louder, but apparently that is NOT the case).

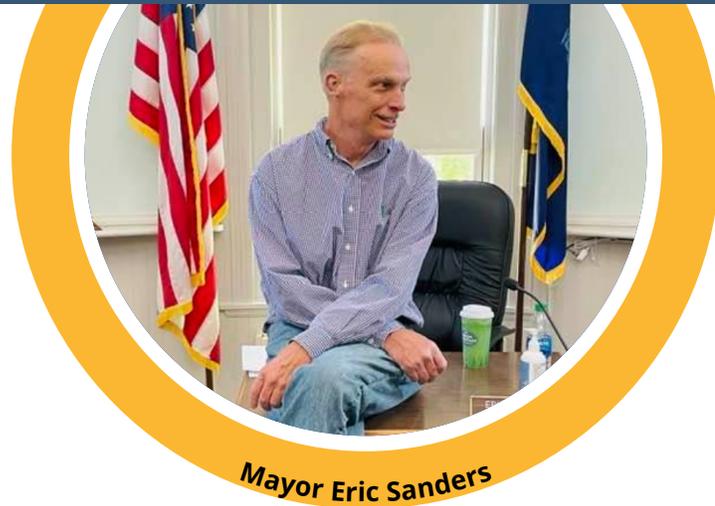
We don't know what will happen in the few months left of 2021, but if this were Fun Town Splash Town, we would be back on the rollercoaster.

**I am of course, enamored of our City, it's Citizens, our Council, and you, the Diversity of the Community.** There is a LOT going on. And true to form, we don't always agree. But we get along, because otherwise, we'd be Rockland. Oops, I did it again. But still.....

**Our downtown Businesses and Employees are on Full Throttle,** lots of Community oriented Events were back into play, and we not only survived, we flourished. As a cliché, "What a Difference a Year Makes" may not be hyperbole in this context.

Tourists were out in full force starting on Memorial Day, the 4th you could barely drive through town with the throng (literally), and I have NEVER seen so many smiles on People's faces. From Belfast folk to Tourists. We were exceptionally tolerant of the Tourists this year I thought. Good deal.

**Game on, we said.** And Belfast has shined this year as the place to go, as the Place to BE! And we already LIVE here!



**Mayor Eric Sanders**

Political issues? We are known for it, and we continue to be the standard bearers for change, for People speaking their mind, and for having a Protest Corner. And thank goodness we do! There's a lot going on!

**Taxes are going down thanks to the Council and City Manager,** careful planning, and not overspending money we don't have.

My message is simple. It's what I see every day. From the fine folks at Wentworth's gas station where I get my coffee every morning, to Hammond Lumber, where Paul tells me what to get because I forgot, to our fine Schools, to my Buddy who takes me out lobstering, to our fine Employees who work tirelessly for the City (for all of us), and to Norman Gilmore our Building Maintenance Director, who just exudes greatness, Belfast has it all. And then some. And then some more!

Can we improve? Absolutely! Ask anybody! Or when you are the Mayor, they just tell you. And then we try. Really hard. Knowing deep inside, that even with a Pandemic, with the unknown just as real as last year, and with a million little problems and opportunities... We know this. Belfast being Belfast is the best thing in the world, and the best place to live.

**So I salute all of you! Because all of you make it special.**

Take care, shovel your Neighbor out if needed, and carry on!

**We got this!**

**Eric**

# Belfast City Council



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# CITY MANAGER



Erin Herbig City Manager

Like all communities across our country, the City of Belfast has certainly been challenged this year. Tough times are not new to Belfast. Our community has faced many challenges in our history. And like all events that had previously tested our City, we have confronted and responded to COVID-19 with the same might and grit that have always characterized Belfast as a city.

The leadership provided by our Mayor and Council has been fearless, strategic, and thoughtful as they have led our community. I know they will continue to lead our community through the remainder of this pandemic and beyond with the same attention and grace.

City of Belfast Employees have been nimble and kind while providing uninterrupted 24-7 services to our community that our citizens count on. We will continue to provide that same level of service with deep commitment and pride in the year ahead.

Our local businesses downtown, outside the bypass, and on the east side are thriving and busier than ever. A new record is set most every day for sales and services by our local merchants. We have bolstered existing relationships, and we will continue to partner and collaborate for more exciting growth moving forward.

Our community has clearly demonstrated how welcoming and hospitable the people of Belfast are on a fundamental level. We have seen incredible and creative ways of public participation in social, business, municipal, and political matters. We will continue to adapt so that Belfast remains a place where public conversation will be authentic, valued, and productive.

Over the past year, the City of Belfast has demonstrated how we rise together to support our neighbors in times of uncertainty and hardship.

There is certainly much more hard work ahead of us, but the Belfast I know has never been known to shy away from a challenge. In the year ahead, we will continue to work hard to meet the new needs of the world while also preserving the qualities of the people and places we know that make Belfast, Belfast.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the City of Belfast as City Manager. I am honored to work on behalf of my hometown and the people that live here. It is a privilege to work alongside you every day, and to be a part of the pride that we share in our community.

*I wish you all the very best in the coming year.*



Assistant to City Manager  
Manda Cushman

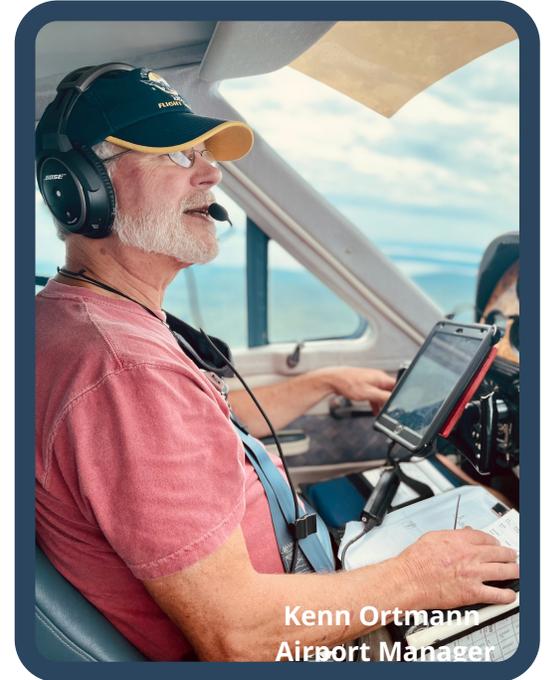


Communications Assistant  
Mackenzie Barnhart

# AIRPORT

**Belfast Municipal Airport (KBST)** is a 218-acre general aviation airport with a 4,000-foot runway, which caters to corporate jets and small aircraft; scheduled commercial service does not exist at this airport. The airport was built in the 1940's, and in its current runway configuration (an orientation of 150°/330°) since the 1960's.

In the recent past we have used information from the **General Aviation Recording Device (GARD)** system, which records and saves all radio transmissions made at/near the airport, to estimate airport activity. In 2020 it was discovered that the original GARD system was counting radio static, so we did not have an accurate count of calendar year 2020 airport operations. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) develops a Terminal Area Forecast which estimates the number of annual operations at non-towered KBST as 10,000. A new GARD system has been installed that supplements recorded transmission with Automatic Dependent Surveillance – Broadcast (ADS-B) data, so we anticipate much more accurate information in the future. Known regular users of the airport include: athenahealth, LifeFlight, Front Street Shipyard clients, and HNP AIR LLC.



Kenn Ortmann  
Airport Manager



The airport currently generates revenue **four ways**: 1) ground leases to private individuals; 2) property taxes on aircraft hangars; 3) leases of City-owned buildings; and 4) aircraft excise taxes. The City is receiving approximately \$21,000 per year from 25 ground leases, approximately \$19,500 in property taxes from 25 hangars, \$4,200 per year from the leasing of the City-owned Lowe Hangar and a T-hangar, and approximately \$1,600 in excise taxes. KBST currently has approximately 25 aircraft based here (generally the airport where it spends the most time).

# AIRPORT

The City of Belfast receives an annual allocation of entitlement funds from both the FAA (\$150,000.00) and the Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT) (\$8,333.33); these funds can be banked for up to 4 years. These funds can be used to pay for 95% of the costs of an FAA-approved project; the remaining 5% of the project costs are covered by the City of Belfast. Certain projects, like the recent parallel taxiway project, may also qualify for additional discretionary FAA funding. The FAA prioritizes projects that improve airport safety. Smaller airport capital projects and maintenance-type projects, however, are often funded 100% by the City.

A major project anticipated during 2021 is a Fuel Farm meeting both 100LL and Jet-A fuel needs. It will also address a major airport safety concern related to the transportation and storage of aviation fuel. This project will eliminate one of the challenges noted above and will also create a fifth, and potentially significant, revenue stream for the Airport.

The Airport is also exploring the possibility of leasing some of its land, with extremely limited use-options, for a solar farm. There are several Maine airports that have gone through this process and who can provide valuable guidance and advice. The FAA is supportive of airports exploring this option to generate an additional revenue source.

Belfast Municipal Airport has, and will to continue to be, an asset to Belfast and the surrounding region, providing transportation, economic, health-care, educational, and recreational benefits. The City should continue to improve the airport and make it more viable, through making safety improvements, increasing capabilities and facilities, generating more revenue, and maximizing funding from the FAA and MDOT.

A major change in management was implemented in November 2019 when responsibility for airport operations was moved from Economic Development Director Thomas Kittredge to Co-Managers Scott Story and Kenn Ortmann, and later to just Kenn Ortmann.

During this past year activities involving a substantial time commitment by the Airport Manager include the Fuel Farm project, revising the hangar ground lease rates to be more competitive with our competition, engaging the Belfast Airport Advisory Committee in more substantive issues, evaluating and maintaining airport grounds, updating the hangar leases themselves, customer service and evaluating and exploring creative ways to manage our protected surfaces.

Ongoing challenges for the airport include: 1) a small number of sites where commercial aviation activity is allowed but which also do not possess high development costs; 2) a lack of accessible, competitively-priced aviation fuel; 3) limited options for creating new additional revenue streams; and 4) the need to implement a proactive pavement management program to maximize the life of the airport's most valuable asset.

# ASSESSING OFFICE



Avis Winchester & Annie McGowan

The real estate market here has been lopsided in terms of activity. The commercial and industrial sectors have had to navigate the regulatory mire. Some with great success, while others have held their collective breath through well-intended restrictions, adapting business models where possible and innovating new policies to make the best of things while we get through this. Commercial property plans in place prior to the pandemic moved forward rapidly, such as Dollar General, Tractor Supply, and the conversion of a particular hotel into condominiums. Conversely, the residential sector has had a spike in interest from all over the country. Inventory has decreased, and the demand is driving market values as fast as or more severely than in the mid-2000's. The residential demand is attributed to homes becoming the best place to remote-work. As one new home owner told me, "Now I can work where I want to work; not where I have to work." Many people want to work and live in Belfast. In short, these are trying times in keeping up with the balance of Belfast's real estate valuation shifts.

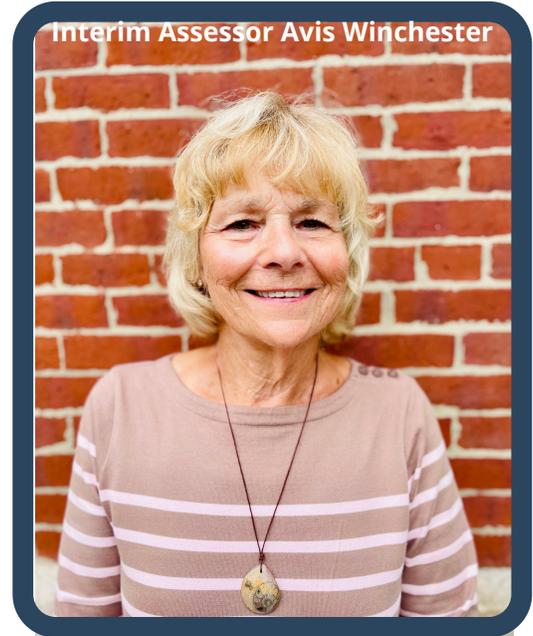
As with all real estate-related discussions pertaining to the City of Belfast, one can't help but discuss the prior year's influences that Covid-19 has brought upon Belfast. In the Assessing Office this time last year, preparation was in order to brace for a potential slow-down in real estate transactions and values, while keeping hope the pandemic would just blow over. Instead, the Assessing Office has been just one area within City Hall where we have felt the weight of unsuspected increases in activity and workload. We address more real estate questions, input and track increasingly complex real estate transactions and personal property data, and are looking to the future to develop synergies between different departments to enhance communication both internally and with the public over the coming years. Having one eye on the past and another on the future is keeping us busy.

Many taxpayers are aware that we have a high mill rate at 0.233, which is, essentially, 2.33% of a property's assessed value and this typically assumes the assessed value is equal to the market value of a property. In a perfect world, every property owner's assessed value would equal their market value. Each property owner's portion of the budget would then be fairly and equitably be apportioned to them. However, an important explanation is in order. The median assessed values for residential properties are repeatedly coming in closer to only 82% of market value, which is an effective tax rate of only 1.9%, or 19 mills. Since other types of property remain closer to 100% of market value, when certain properties become under-assessed versus market value, the Assessing Office attempts to bring the assessed values closer to market value to maintain fairness among taxpayers.



# ASSESSING OFFICE

As the market has increased steadily the past several years, the changes to the assessed valuations have been incremental through the equalization process. The Assessing Office attempts to identify the similarly situated properties, of a similar nature and value, that need changes to their assessments to better reflect their respective market values. Had the City not begun adjusting values in 2017, our median assessed values would be approximately 70% or less of market value and we would be faced with a substantial cost for a third-party revaluation effort.



As stated in the tax bill letter in 2020, the City's total valuation base had grown \$24 million to \$816 million from 2019 to 2020 (up from \$733 million since 2015), mostly the result of increases in residential outbuildings and other real property, commercial real property, business equipment and residential permit activity, all while absorbing nearly \$30 million in valuation losses attributable to STAG (the vacant Bank of America buildings). Our focus since 2017 has been adjusting base lot land values in most of the 37 tax maps, achieving valuations more consistent with market values.

The Assessing Office constantly strives to make assessed values fair and equitable. Please contact us if concerned with any changes in valuation. We will make sure all eligible exemptions are applied on a timely basis. For business owners, we can walk through the various state filing requirements and explain which exemptions are available. We appreciate emails or phone numbers for our records as we constantly are reaching out to property owners with questions or suggestions.



# CABLE TV

The department of video services greatly increased its live streaming of municipal meetings this year.

The pandemic made it impractical to hold in person meetings, so many meeting were held online instead. Maine State Government requires municipal meetings to be accessible to the public. The solution that the City of Belfast came up with was to live-stream meetings on the city's website. In addition to the meetings that were already being streamed such as the council and planning board meetings, the department also streamed meetings of the harbor committee, the broadband committee, the energy committee, the climate crisis committee, the pedestrian biking and hiking committee, the library trustees and the zoning board of appeals. The video department has produced additional interviews with city councilors, the mayor, city department heads, business leaders, and educational administrators to keep the community informed about city operations and pandemic related issues. In addition to programs, the department produced public service announcements encouraging safe behavior, as well as advertisements for municipal job openings. Videos have been shared on social media, posted to the city's website and shown on Belfast Community TV in an effort to reach as many people as possible.

A portion of the cable TV budget is devoted to supporting Belfast's public access channel. This channel which began operation in 2006, this year celebrates 15 years of service to the greater Belfast community. In response to the pandemic, three local churches have used the community station to cablecast their services. Churches as well as other community members borrow station equipment to produce programming. Station volunteers assisted local organizations to create various programs including, producing a telethon for the Belfast Creative Coalition to support local artist, producing and editing a "virtual Celtic celebration", creating virtual concerts with the Pen Bay singers, and recording an original holiday play for the Belfast Maskers. Other volunteers created children's programming and a weekly arts and issues program called "Good Morning Belfast." The station supported legislation that required cable companies to return the local access channel positions to their original location on the cable dial, so all cable subscribers could easily access their local channels. The government channel returned to channel 7 and the public access channel returned to channel 2 from having been moved to the less accessible channels 1301 and 1303.



For over ten years the city has provided \$10,000 to operate the public access channel. Besides funding from the city, Belfast Community Television receives support from local businesses that provide accounting, IT, and vehicle maintenance services to the station. There is also modest financial support from generous donors. The station maintains its services to the community while facing increasing expenses, but to date has been able to operate through frugality and generous volunteer support.

# CEMETERY



The Cemetery Department is both privately and publicly funded and has the responsibility of maintaining all seven Cemeteries located in Belfast. They are as follows:

- |                               |                             |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <i>Grove Cemetery</i>         | <i>Belmont Avenue</i>       |
| <i>East Belfast Cemetery</i>  | <i>Route 1 East Belfast</i> |
| <i>South Belfast Cemetery</i> | <i>Woods Road</i>           |
| <i>North Belfast Cemetery</i> | <i>Doak Road</i>            |
| <i>West Belfast Cemetery</i>  | <i>Pitcher Road</i>         |
| <i>City Point Cemetery</i>    | <i>Oak Hill Road</i>        |
| <i>Piper Cemetery</i>         | <i>Back Belmont Road</i>    |

We perform all the regular maintenance and will complete those tasks requested of us for all lot owners. We performed a complete mowing on all Cemeteries approximately 20 times last summer. This includes trimming around 21,000 or so stones, trees and roadways. We also service all funeral arrangements in the grounds. In 2020 we cared for 10 traditional burials and 24 cremation burials, even though the Covid pandemic postponed or cancelled many services. We expect that 2021 will be busier than most because of the backlog caused. Most all of these services required our Chapel Tent and seating options for a more comforting experience. As of October 2012, we have made the Chapel open to the public for services and other functions. The agreed upon fee for the rental is \$150.00 and arrangements can be made through the Superintendent.

The members of the Belfast Garden Club have to be thanked for their diligence in weeding and watering the flower gardens in the Chapel area again this year. Volunteers and donations are always welcomed!!!

The process of replacing the old fence at the Doak Road Cemetery was nearly completed and the finishing touches will be completed this season. The old wrought iron fence will be available for bid sales this summer! Contact the Superintendent!

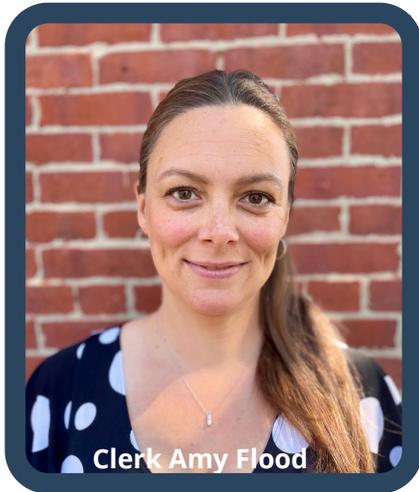


The Cemetery Department still has an interactive web based database for interested persons to search our records for genealogy purposes. Photos of monuments and stones are being transferred to this site as they are received. The public may access this database by finding the Cemetery link on the City of Belfast Website. Any omissions or errors can be reported also.

The Cemeteries are open to traffic from April to December depending on the weather and we have employees available to assist from May to November. Our hours are 7:00 to 3:30, Monday through Friday. Others by appointment also.

Please feel free to contact me for any information on the Belfast Cemeteries. I can be reached at 338-2264 or 323-2940 or at [cemetery@cityofbelfast.org](mailto:cemetery@cityofbelfast.org).

# CLERK'S OFFICE

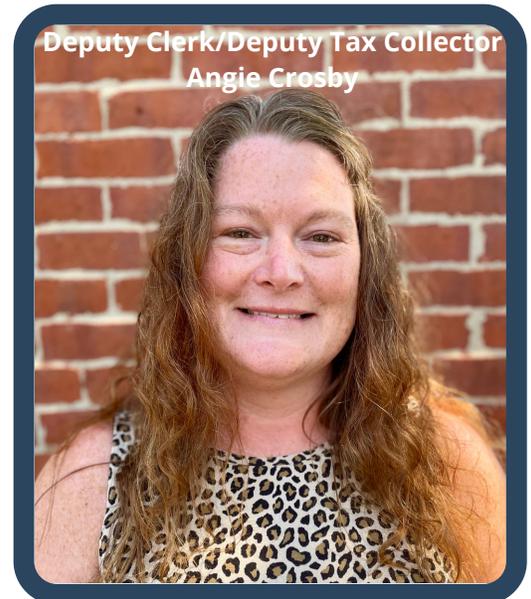


Clerk Amy Flood

As we say hello to 2021 we reflect on the passing of 2020.

It's always a pleasure serving the citizens of Belfast. We provide general information, by phone, mail, email and in person to the Citizens of Belfast and Visitors alike, as well as City Council and other City Employees. We provide information about the services offered by the different city departments as well as general information about our community. So if you have questions please don't hesitate to contact us; if we can't answer your question we will help you find someone who can.

The City Clerk's office is the keeper of the records of the city. We process birth, death and marriage records, burial permits, dog licenses, hunting & fishing licenses as well as genealogy requests. We process all fees and receivables for the city, such as code department permit fees, ambulance department, cemetery department receipts, transfer station receipts, police department receipts and harbor department receipts. We issue business licenses and permits such as taxi cab license, liquor licenses, special amusement, catering, victualer (food service), coin operated machine licenses and lunch wagon licenses. We help provide prospective businesses with the information on how to obtain their state licenses as well as their local licenses required to start a new business or expand their current operation. If you're thinking of starting a business in Belfast or have any questions about our services we provide, please give us a call.



Deputy Clerk/Deputy Tax Collector  
Angie Crosby

The City Clerk's office now cross trains for better customer service with our Tax Collector's department as well. This includes tax payments, sewer payments, hanger tax payments, registrations: vehicles, trailers, campers, RV's, ATV's, snowmobiles and boats. This has proven to be very efficient for meeting customer's needs in a timely manner.

The City Clerk's office administers all elections, Federal, State and Local. If you have any questions about registering to vote or anything elections related, please feel free to contact us at 207-338-3370 or via email at [cityclerk@cityofbelfast.org](mailto:cityclerk@cityofbelfast.org).

*The City Clerks Office is here for you; stop by and see us sometime.*

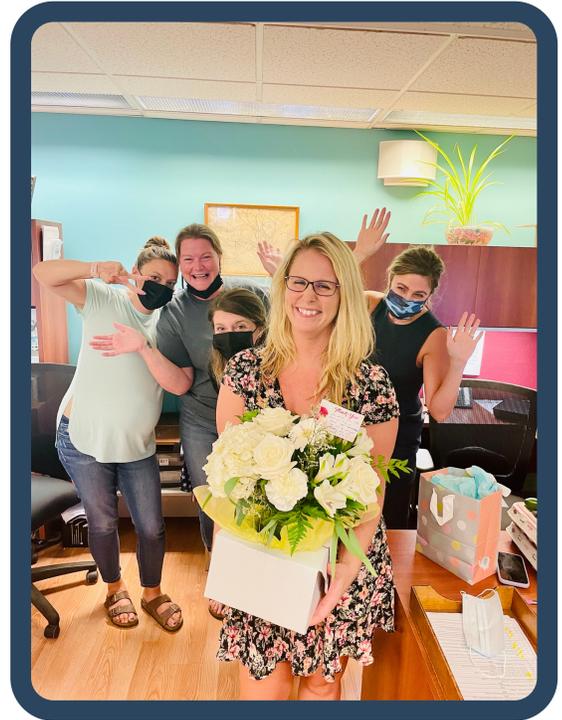
# CLERK'S OFFICE

## City Statistics:

<u>Vital Statistics</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
Births:	158	149
Deaths:	199	154
Marriages:	70	64

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
Certificates Issued:	668	497
Certificates Issued:	704	496
Certificates Issued:	141	112

<u>Dogs</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
Licenses Issued:	1114	858



<u>IF&amp;W Fishing &amp; Hunting Licenses Issued</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
Fishing Licenses:	295	220
Hunting Licenses:	219	146

### Voter Information as of 12/31/2020

Total registered voters: 5,888	<i>Registered 841 new voters</i>
Democrats: 2,717	<i>Changed 2,158 voter registrations</i>
Republicans: 1,339	<i>Removed 119 voters from our list</i>
Green Independent: 253	
Un-enrolled (not party): 1,579	

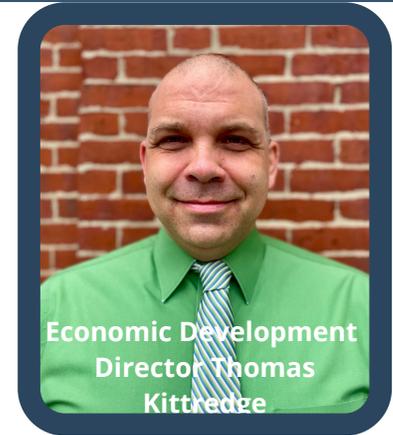
Thank you for allowing us to serve you. We look forward to another wonderful year in Belfast.

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## Services and Mission:

The primary services that this department performs are:

- 1) business and community infrastructure development;
- 2) grant research, writing, and management; and
- 3) provision of technical assistance to businesses.



The plan that currently provides the largest amount of guidance to this department's efforts is the City's economic development plan, contains five strategies:

- 1) lower the cost of doing business and remove/prevent obstacles to private investment/business development;
- 2) bring more people to Belfast throughout the year, especially during non-summer seasons;
- 3) improve quality of place;
- 4) pursue targeted business attraction; and
- 5) efficiently connect existing businesses and start-ups with current business development resources.

Other plans and reports that provide a level of guidance to this department's efforts include Creating Vibrancy in Belfast, Maine, the development plans for the City's various tax increment financing districts, and the City's Comprehensive Plan.

## Statistics:

While this department does maintain extensive and organized notes regarding any interactions and/or projects with a given business or entrepreneur, the department has not yet established a system that would be able to provide a highly accurate number of the individual businesses and entrepreneurs that are assisted within a given year and the amount of time spent with each of those businesses and entrepreneurs. (This would likely require an investment in some kind of client relationship management software, which would allow these interactions to be tracked easier and more accurately). As each of these businesses and entrepreneurs come to this office with unique needs, nearly every provision of assistance is custom tailored, which requires more time and effort to effectively respond. Provision of assistance to all, or nearly all, of these businesses and entrepreneurs, has to be delivered in multiple communications (it is not atypical to have dozens of communications over period of several months, along with multiple face-to-face meetings, conference calls, or tours of potential properties, for an individual client). This provision of assistance represents a major portion of the department's time.

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

While it is not the best barometer of the impact or value of this department, the number and amounts of grants secured is one of the easiest to measure/quantify. **This department is currently managing/implementing/closing out the following grants:**

- 1) a \$299,994 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Brownfields Assessment Program Grant, which was awarded in 2019 and is being used to fund environmental assessment work on sites that have commercial redevelopment potential but which are contaminated or have the perception thereof;
- 2) a \$100,000 Community Development Block Grant Public Service Grant, which was awarded in 2019 and is being used by Front Street Shipyard to offer workforce training related to carbon fiber ferry construction;
- 3) a \$100,000 Community Development Block Grant Community Enterprise Grant, which was awarded in 2020 is being used to provide façade improvement subgrants to for-profit and non-profit businesses in Belfast;
- 4) a \$44,335 Community Development Block Grant Public Service Grant, which was awarded in 2020 is being used by the Starrett Children's Center to cover their salary, operational, and workforce development costs, and to purchase new appliances, playground furniture, books, and science equipment;
- 5) a \$16,000 Central Maine Power Make-Ready Grant which was awarded in 2021 and is being used to construct an electric vehicle charging station at the City's parking lot at the intersection of Bridge, Front, and Pierce Streets; and
- 6) a \$231,216 Community Development Block Grant Housing Assistance Grant, which was awarded in 2019, and is being used to pay for their costs related to their rehabilitation of the property located at 80 High Street into housing for individuals with chronic mental health diagnoses and for young adults who have diagnoses of an intellectual or developmental disability, and who are aging out of children's services. Management of grants/projects is time consuming; typically, the time spent on the management of these grants/projects is several multiples of the time that was spent actually applying for them. Since this department was established in June of 2010, it has played a lead role in securing \$10,061,304 in various grants (representing 89.7% of the \$11,214,792 in grants that it has applied for).

## Challenges:

This department continues to face the following three major challenges:

- 1) **Increase in demand for services and expectations in the level of service provided.**

Since this department's creation, the number of requests by businesses, particularly startup businesses, have increased year over year, as Belfast becomes more visible due to its successes and business becomes more aware of the fact that the City can offer assistance through this department. Requests for direct assistance from businesses and entrepreneurs currently outstrip available staff time. In the future, if the City does not wish to exclude any businesses or entrepreneurs, or to not reduce the level of assistance provided, additional staff capacity will be necessary.

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



\*Photos provided by Thomas Kittredge\*

## 2) Available funding sources for both the City of Belfast and its businesses.

Another major challenge is continuing to find grant funding sources, both to help the City fund business and community infrastructure projects, and to also directly assist businesses and entrepreneurs. While many of the existing well-known funding sources (such as Community Development Block Grants) have seen their funding reduced year after year, there are still new programs being developed. However, this means that the universe of potential funding sources is always changing, funding opportunities can be missed if they are not found in a timely manner (as many of them are offered or for a limited period of time, sometimes even only once). While the department has expertise in identifying grant opportunities from both state and federal grants, it does not have much expertise and knowledge regarding the much larger universe of private foundation grants (which are generally more for non-profits than governmental entities). Seeking out and identifying potential funding sources can be very time consuming, because one has to access multiple sources of information (there does not appear to be one all-inclusive information source), with some of them still only available in print format. This department is currently making efforts to make Belfast businesses and property owners more aware of, and easier to access, certain incentive programs that could be of benefit to them, such as Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits, New Markets Tax Credits, and Opportunity Zones. There do exist computer-based grant information resources, but they tend to be costly (on the order of thousands of dollars per year), and again, there does not appear to be one single all-encompassing grant information resource.

## 3) Measuring benefits and impacts on the economy of the City of Belfast.

Finally, measuring this department's impact on the Belfast economy is also a challenge. Determining the amount of impact this department has on the success of a given project necessarily relies on assumptions and is unable to be quantified to a level of absolute certainty. In addition, the City of Belfast does not have the capacity to generate statistically significant economic statistics on its own, and therefore must rely on existing economic statistics, many of which only provide data for larger geographic areas instead of data at the municipal level. Further complicating matters, the City of Belfast has for some time been a significant net job importer; in 2018 (the most recent year for which data was available), 5,358 people worked in Belfast but lived outside of that community, compared to only 1,262 people who lived in Belfast but worked outside of that community. (This may lead to the situation where economic development successes taking place in Belfast result in little or no change to the incomes or the unemployment rates of Belfast residents.) Despite this challenge, it is important over the long term to effectively and as accurately as possible determine the impact of this department, and communicate that information to both the elected officials and the residents of Belfast, to best be able to ensure the department's continued existence and support.

# TAX COLLECTOR



## Motor Vehicles

Excise tax collected for the Year 2020 was of \$1,007,723.47, which is a decrease of \$120,919.02. Agent fees collected were \$29,188.00.

We are pleased to offer an email reminder for registration renewals. If you have a current email and are interested in receiving a reminder notice, please stop by or call our office with your registration or Plate # and we will set that up for you. This notice provides you with the expiration of your registration as well as the cost for renewal.

We also offer online registrations through the State of Maine through the Rapid Renewal Program, this can be accessed on the [cityofbelfast.org](http://cityofbelfast.org) website under "How do I?" tab, then "pay taxes".

## Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

Our office processed 465 boat registrations with \$9,860.00 collected in boat excise.

We also issued 110 ATV registrations and 76 snowmobiles.

A total of \$594.00 was collected in agent fees for the Fish and Wildlife registrations processed.

## Real Estate Taxes

The tax mil rate increased for the fourth year in a row, from \$22.90 in 2019 to \$23.30 for 2020. The interest rate was set by the City Council at 8% for 2020, which is a decrease from 9% in 2019.

On August 25, 2020, a total of \$18,035,239.18 was committed to Theresa Butler by the Assessor, Brent Martin. The first installment was due 10/1/2020 and the second installment is due 3/1/2021. The foreclosure date for the 2018 Real Estate Taxes was January 27, 2021, this year there were no Foreclosures. As of December 31, 2020 there were 111 unpaid 2019 Real Estate & Personal Property Tax accounts.

On July 16, 2020, liens were placed on 137 accounts for unpaid 2019 Real Estate Taxes. These liens have a foreclosure date of January 18, 2022.



## Sewer Department

The sewer charges for the first half of 2020 (January – June), were billed in August with a commitment of \$428,861.80 with 1450 accounts in the system. The second half of 2020 (July – December), was billed in January 2021 with 1455 accounts and a commitment of \$549,246.32.

Total charges for the calendar year 2020 were \$978,108.12, an increase of \$46,750.18.

## Airport Hangars

The Tax Office collected \$29,325.25 for hangar lease payments, which is an increase of \$5,716.25.

# OUTSTANDING TAXES

## 2020 Outstanding Real Estate Taxes as of 6/30/2021

333 HIGH STREET, LLC	1,784.74	GORDON, ARTHUR	1,022.87
74 HIGH STREET, LLC	1,470.78	GRANT, JARED A	0.76
APPEL, CATHERINE A.	0.44	GREEN, NATALIE	4,678.64
BARR, TAMMY	1,209.27	GREEN, RENE P.	4,368.75
BARTLETT, PENSON N JR	4,002.94	GRINDLE, SHANNA	1,009.59
BATCHELDER, WARREN LLOYD JR, HEIRS OF	9.56	GUM, RICHARD	146.18
BEERS, JANE HOUCK	1,977.00	HALL, CHARLES L JR	6,412.16
BELFAST SQUARE ASSOCIATES	0.47	HALL, CHARLES L JR (1/2 Interest)	6.70
BELLE POINT COMMERCIAL, LLC	1,989.82	HARBORVIEW BELFAST, LLC	5,887.91
BLACK, JAMES A.	3,005.70	HARRIMAN, DIANNE M	1,146.36
BLACK, JAMES A.	1,582.07	HAUSE, THOMAS C	2,740.08
BLAISDELL, JOSH	898.21	HEATH, HEIDI	0.36
BLAKE, KEVIN	319.21	HENRY REVOCABLE TRUST DTD 7/6/16	8,075.78
BOYNTON, GARY E.	0.94	HEROUX, PHILIP D (HEIRS)	1,873.32
BROOKINGS, JACK M. & ERICA	2,608.00	HEWS, KEVIN	322.30
CASSIDA, SAMUEL E	4,121.20	HODGDON, DAVID	1,370.04
CASSIDA, SAMUEL E.	114.17	HODGDON, NICHOLAS	724.63
CHAPPELL, GEOFFREY S.	705.99	HOLDEN, ARISTA	2.30
CHAPPELL, GEOFFREY S.	3,143.17	HOLLAND, JAMES A	855.11
CLARK, ALAN G.	158.44	HOLMES, MENA F.	7,206.69
CLARKE, DAVID H	1,099.76	HUTCHINGS, DAVID C.	5,764.42
COLBY, CHRISTOPHER C	1,010.35	HUTCHINGS, DAVID C.	2,197.19
COLDEST BROOK, LLC	7,744.92	HUTCHINGS, DAVID C.	552.21
COLLINS, BRIAN	1,120.73	ISTEERO, SUSANNE ALBERT	6,316.63
COREY FAMILY REALTY TRUST	1,537.18	JACKSON, PATRICIA ANNE	899.38
CORNERSTONE PROPERTY MGT., LLC	857.44	JOHNSON, ALEXIS D., Trustee	4,830.09
CRABIEL, DAVID J.	5.25	JOHNSON, GEORGIA, HEIRS OF	722.30
CRESSEY, MICHAEL E	0.08	JORDAN, GEORGE, REVOCABLE TRUST	17.61
CURTIS, DAVID BARRY	1,170.82	KANDRA, MONIQUE M.	9,189.52
CURTIS, EVERETT	356.49	KB REALTY, LLC	818.99
CURTIS, EVERETT H	941.32	KB REALTY, LLC	206.20
CURTIS, EVERETT H	710.65	KBI, INC	9,076.83
CURTIS, EVERETT H.	3,492.67	KEENE, CYNTHIA	161.93
CURTIS, EVERETT H.	596.48	KEENE, CYNTHIA	205.04
CURTIS, EVERETT H.	622.11	KEENE, CYNTHIA B	189.89
DAKIN, CHRISTOPHER	1,637.59	KEENE, CYNTHIA B.	27.96
DINSMORE, GENE	1,001.90	KEENE, DANA	206.20
DODGE, ARTHUR, JR.	2,413.88	KEENE, DANA	50.09
DOLE, PATRICK	90.87	KEENE, DANA	40.77
DUBLIN, LUCY MAE	2,796.00	KEENE, DANA	267.95
DYER, BELINDA	1,728.86	KEENE, DANA	264.45
DYER, CHRISTOPHER D	657.06	KEENE, DANA	237.66
DYER, PAUL	244.65	KEENE, DANA	194.55
ELLIOTT, WILLIAM C	2,155.01	KEENE, DANA	242.32
EVANS, HOLLY	1,295.48	KEENE, DANA	497.45
EWALD, DAVID C.	2,106.32	KEENE, DANA	72.23
F.C. WORK & SONS, INC.	5.56	KEENE, DANA	119.99
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF BELFAST	1,700.90	KEENE, DANA	60.58
GARDINER, LOWMAN JR	1,241.19	KEENE, DANA	156.11
GARTON, SHAE	322.17	KEENE, DANA	184.07
GATES, LISA M	3.90	KEENE, DANA AND CINDY	58.25
GAWLER, EDITH	1,637.99	KEENE, DANA L	164.26
GILBERT, SUZETTE L.	3,501.99	KEENE, DANA L	58.25
GOOSE RIVER OCEAN FRONT LLC	5,468.51	KEENE, DANA L.	433.38
KEENE, DANA L.	119.99	RICE, NANCY A. (TRUSTEE)	1,506.34
KEENE, DANA TRUSTEE	415.90	RICHARDS, DOUGLAS B., JR	1,139.37
KEENE, DAVID E.	3,349.37	RILEY, JUDY C	10.72
KEENE, DAVID E. & SEEKINS, NANCY R	419.40	RIPLEY, AMBER	209.70
KELLETT, CHRISTINE F.	453.72	ROBBINS, AMY L	433.38
KELLY, KATHLEEN M.	532.40	ROE, ANTHONY H. R.	4,112.45
KENT, J. THOMAS, JR	10,328.89	ROE, ANTHONY H.R.	4,874.36
KEYES, ISAAC	1.30	SAGGESE, ANNE K	2,283.40
KIGER, DONALD H. & MARTHA J.	8,583.36	SEEKINS, IRA D.	2.21
KNIGHT, HARVEY S.	2.32	SHERSHOW, MICHAEL J.	0.15
KONESNI, ERWIN A.	1,379.36	SHUTE, BENJAMIN	857.44
LANDCO HOMES, INC	73.39	SHUTE, TINA F	2,108.65
LAPPOINT, ELAINE C.	17.68	SILVA, C L C/S A CHAPMAN CO-TRST	1.26
LAROCQUE, GLADYS W.	2,080.69	SILVA, C L C/S A CHAPMAN CO-TRST	1.21
LEADBETTER, JOHN H	1,479.55	SILVA, C L C/S A CHAPMAN CO-TRST	4.11
LEE, MORGAN PATRICK	3.00	SILVA, C L C/S A CHAPMAN CO-TRST	0.73
LEHMAN, FRANK P	0.04	SMITH, LINDA L.	26.10
LESAN, JANET N	690.84	SMITH, LINDA L.	5.49
LEVANGIE, MARGARET L., HEIRS OF	3,126.86	SOBELLO, JOSHUA	2,045.74
LEVI FARRELL TRUST u/d/t May 28 2019	978.60	SPENCER, JAMES R.	0.29
LEWIS, ALFREDA A M HEIRS	4,727.57	SPENCER, JAMES R.	2.19
LITTLEFIELD, DANIEL K	666.38	ST. GERMAIN, PAUL	2,931.14
LITTLEFIELD, RONALD G.	2,458.15	STAPLES, GAYLE	233.00
LITTLEFIELD, RONALD JR	246.98	STONE COAST HOMES, LLC	1,567.72
LODS, CHARLES	3,119.87	SWAN LAKE, LP	0.55
LOTHROP, MICAELA C & JOHN (dcd) ttees	3,722.17	SWAN LAKE, LP	0.45
MACGREGOR, ROBERT P	2.42	SWAN LAKE, LP	0.45
MACGREGOR, ROBERT P.	0.71	SWAN LAKE, LP	0.45
MARESH, ISRAEL	945.98	SWAN LAKE, LP	0.55
MCADVEY, DOUGLAS P., HEIRS OF	447.36	SWEETLAND, TIMOTHY C.	486.97
MCLEAVEY, JAMES G	0.05	TENOFF, DIANE M	3,203.75
MCINTIRE, JEFFREY W	1,316.45	THE ESTATE OF GWEN MALLOZZI	179.41
MCKEAGE, ALETA	0.01	THOMANN, KERGAN A	1,209.19
MCQUILKIN, JANA R	1.58	THOMAS, SR., TROY C	2,592.12
MERRILL, DAWN M.	1,985.16	THOMAS, TROY CLAYTON	461.34
MERRY, ASTIN L	23.30	TURNER, SUNDAY	121.16
MERRY, DELORES H (L/E)	4.14	VanBenschoten, Lenore & Dewberry, Liana, TTEES	0.86
MERRY, FAUSTINA T. (LE)	0.26	VAZQUEZ, SONIA I	1,330.43
METTE, ROBERT R.	1.60	WEAVER, ROBERT D.	2.64
MILLS, SCOTT A LIVING TRUST dtd 10/23/2014	21.74	WENTWORTH, LLLP	23,281.36
MIRANDA, PAUL EDWARD	2,984.73	WHITE, FRANCINA R	1,502.85
MURPHY, CHARLES W	570.85	WHITNEY, KENNETH S	1,880.31
NELLIGAN, THELMA J HATCH	137.29	WIGHT, ROY N.	6,780.30
NICKERSON VICKI L 7/9TH INT	168.92	WILLIAMS, BRADLEY P	2,465.14
O'NEILL, PAULINE O.	1,989.82	YORK, WALTER R.	960.61
ORF, INC	479.98	YORK, WALTER R. & WINSTON H.(TRSTS)	1,025.20
ORMAN GROUP, LLC	503.28	ZAHARES, KIM M.	4,655.34
PARENT, NEAL	2,977.28	ZEILOR, JOHN D SR	3,369.18
PECKHAM, CHERYL A	149.12	ZELDIN, EDMOND	93.20
PELLERITI, LEO	3.45	ZOCCHI, JUDITH M.	4,750.87
Pensco Trust Co. Custodian FBO	6,068.01	ZOCCHI, JUDITH M.	1,363.05
PERITO, DIANNE F.	228.24	ZOCCHI, JUDITH M.	4,785.82
PERKINS, ANDREW	2,122.63		
PETERS, UNIQUE	2,057.39		
PORTER, THOMAS E	229.50		
RAY, MAYNARD	363.48		
REYNOLDS, MICHAEL	284.26		

## 2019 Outstanding Real Estate Tax Liens

BLACK, JAMES A.	3,068.60
BLACK, JAMES A.	1,554.91
CLARK, ALAN G.	256.48
CLARKE, DAVID H	1,099.20
CURTIS, EVERETT	350.37
CURTIS, EVERETT H	895.39
CURTIS, EVERETT H	698.45
CURTIS, EVERETT H.	3,547.21
CURTIS, EVERETT H.	586.24
CURTIS, EVERETT H.	611.43
DINSMORE, GENE	297.71
DODGE, ARTHUR, JR.	1,090.49
DUBLIN, LUCY MAE	25.77
DYER, BELINDA	1,793.07
DYER, CHRISTOPHER D	760.28
EVANS, HOLLY	439.61
EWALD, DAVID C.	1,842.68
GAWLER, EDITH	706.46
GREEN, NATALIE	4,598.32
GREEN, RENE P.	4,293.75
HARBORVIEW BELFAST, LLC	5,786.83
HARRIMAN, DIANNE M	822.50
HEROUX, PHILIP D (HEIRS)	1,799.94
HODGDON, DAVID	1,201.02
HOLLAND, JAMES A	1,138.13
HOLMES, MENA F.	7,082.97
HUTCHINGS, DAVID C.	2,159.47
HUTCHINGS, DAVID C.	542.73
ISTEERO, SUSANNE ALBERT	6,196.74
JACKSON, PATRICIA ANNE	989.28
JOHNSON, ALEXIS D., Trustee	4,747.17
KANDRA, MONIQUE M.	9,116.49
LEADBETTER, JOHN H	1,016.76
LEVANGIE, MARGARET L.	1,497.66
LEWIS, ALFREDA A M HEIRS	1,660.24
LITTLEFIELD, DANIEL K	634.33
LITTLEFIELD, RONALD G.	7.55
LITTLEFIELD, RONALD JR	70.00
MARESH, ISRAEL	487.77
MCINTIRE, JEFFREY W	583.95
MERRILL, DAWN M.	2,823.57
OXTON, BRANDON	89.31
PERKINS, ANDREW	2,175.50
PETERS, UNIQUE	2,022.07
REYNOLDS, MICHAEL	182.59
REYNOLDS, MICHAEL TRUST	769.44
RICHARDS, DOUGLAS B., JR	1,108.36
ROE, ANTHONY H.R.	6,107.43
SAGGESE, ANNE K	2,235.04
SHUTE, BENJAMIN	842.72
SHUTE, TINA F	2,186.95
STAPLES, GAYLE	229.00
SWEETLAND, TIMOTHY C.	561.05
TENOFF, DIANE M	3,219.74
TURNER, SUNDAY	119.08
VAZQUEZ, SONIA I	1,162.79
WHITE, FRANCINA R.	1,022.12
WIGHT, ROY N.	6,613.52
WILLIAMS, BRADLEY P	2,422.82
YORK, WALTER R. & WINSTON H.(TRSTS)	1,644.22
ZAHARES, KIM M.	4,534.20
ZOCCHI, JUDITH	4,696.79
ZOCCHI, JUDITH M.	4,639.54
ZOCCHI, JUDITH M.	1,339.65
<b>Total 2019 Outstanding Real Estate Tax Liens</b>	<b>128,805.45</b>
<b>2018 Outstanding Real Estate Taxes</b>	
CITY OF BELFAST, INHABITANTS OF (tax acquired)	238.35
CITY OF BELFAST, INHABITANTS OF (tax acquired)	1,180.40
TURNER, SUNDAY	118.04
<b>Total 2018 Outstanding Real Estate Taxes</b>	<b>1,536.79</b>
<b>2017 Outstanding Real Estate Taxes</b>	
CITY OF BELFAST, INHABITANTS OF (tax acquired)	229.95
CITY OF BELFAST, INHABITANTS OF (tax acquired)	1,138.80
<b>Total 2017 Outstanding Real Estate Taxes</b>	<b>1,368.75</b>
<b>2016 Outstanding Real Estate Taxes</b>	
CITY OF BELFAST, INHABITANTS OF (tax acquired)	238.16
CITY OF BELFAST, INHABITANTS OF (tax acquired)	1,190.80
<b>Total 2016 Outstanding Real Estate Taxes</b>	<b>1,428.96</b>
<b>Total 2020 Outstanding Real Estate Taxes</b>	<b>338,620.95</b>

# OUTSTANDING TAXES

2020 Outstanding Personal Property Taxes		2019 Outstanding Personal Property Taxes	
AIRWAVES INC	0.09	BARTELS, PAUL E AND ANNE M	93.89
ARCHANGEL COMPUTERS	37.28	BRAMBLES, INC	34.35
AUTOMATIC VENDING AND	25.63	FAULKINGHAM INC	1,813.68
BAKER, LEWIS	23.30	MCDONALD, TED	70.99
BARTELS, PAUL E AND ANNE M	95.53	MOSES, LAWRENCE L II	320.60
BELFAST PEDIATRICS LLC	3.23	PETERS, UNIQUE	34.35
BISHOP, KING E	25.63	ST PETER VENTURES, LLC	1,426.67
BRAMBLES, INC	34.95	<b>Total 2019 Outstanding Personal Property Taxes</b>	<b>3,794.53</b>
C & C AUTO	32.62		
COASTWISE REALTY	37.28	2018 Outstanding Personal Property Taxes	
Crabiel, D & Brassbridge, D.	0.16	FAULKINGHAM INC	1,797.84
DANS TOWING AND AUTO	149.12	PETERS, UNIQUE	34.05
DUNN, KIM	1.09	<b>Total 2018 Outstanding Personal Property Taxes</b>	<b>1,831.89</b>
FRENCH AND WEBB INC	0.54		
GENESIS GUILD	128.15	2017 Outstanding Personal Property Taxes	
GOOD KARMA FARM	0.19	FAULKINGHAM INC	1,734.48
IM WIRELESS	69.90	PETERS, UNIQUE	32.85
KIDS UNPLUGGED	129.31	<b>Total 2017 Outstanding Personal Property Taxes</b>	<b>1,767.33</b>
MCDONALD, TED	72.23		
MIDCOAST IPHONE REPAIR	44.27	2016 Outstanding Personal Property Taxes	
Midcoast Vinyl Records	32.62	FAULKINGHAM INC	1,632.77
MOODY, RAYMELLE V	59.65	PETERS, UNIQUE	32.06
Moorings Oceanfront Resort,	163.10	<b>Total 2016 Outstanding Personal Property Taxes</b>	<b>1,664.83</b>
MOSES, LAWRENCE L II	326.20		
NAUTILUS	990.13	2015 Outstanding Personal Property Taxes	
OCIEPKA & BURNETT, PA	0.04	FAULKINGHAM INC	1,597.12
PERMANENT EXPRESSIONS	51.26	PETERS, UNIQUE	31.36
PETERS, UNIQUE	34.95	<b>Total 2015 Outstanding Personal Property Taxes</b>	<b>1,628.48</b>
PILLEY, STEPHEN	65.24		
POPE, CLEMENT L.	69.90	2014 Outstanding Personal Property Taxes	
QUENCH	0.15	BUTLER, JOHN	147.22
RIP TIDE SMOKE SHOP	0.83	FAULKINGHAM INC	2,572.02
ROBIN'S NEST CONSIGNMENT	0.06	PETERS, UNIQUE	30.31
ROSE, JOSEPH	151.45	<b>Total 2014 Outstanding Personal Property Taxes</b>	<b>2,749.55</b>
SAIL LOCKER	0.17		
SCRIBNER, PATRICK	0.41	2013 Outstanding Personal Property Taxes	
SMITH, JOHN F AND BARBARA F	302.60	BUTLER, JOHN	141.44
ST PETER VENTURES, LLC	144.46	FAULKINGHAM INC	2,471.04
STALLWORTH, ROBERT	0.14	PETERS, UNIQUE	29.12
THE COCA-COLA COMPANY	0.05	<b>Total 2013 Outstanding Personal Property Taxes</b>	<b>2,641.60</b>
THE SALTY DOG	65.24		
THURBER, G P WELLS	34.95	2012 Outstanding Personal Property Taxes	
T-NETIX	0.19	FAULKINGHAM INC	2,142.36
UNWOUND MASSAGE THERAPY	46.60	PETERS, UNIQUE	23.76
VILLAGE WEAR	55.92	<b>Total 2012 Outstanding Personal Property Taxes</b>	<b>2,166.12</b>
VINES, RYAN	69.90		
WENTWORTH, LLOYD H	1,176.65	2011 Outstanding Personal Property Taxes	
WHITE, SUSAN TOBEY, STUDIO	34.95	FAULKINGHAM INC	1,958.42
YORI, ELIZABETH R, N D	0.17	PETERS, UNIQUE	21.72
Zahares, Kim & Guida, Gary	142.13	<b>Total 2011 Outstanding Personal Property Taxes</b>	<b>1,980.14</b>
<b>Total 2020 Outstanding Personal Property Taxes</b>	<b>4,930.61</b>		
		2010 Outstanding Personal Property Taxes	
		FAULKINGHAM INC	1,138.49
		PETERS, UNIQUE	21.72
		<b>Total 2010 Outstanding Personal Property Taxes</b>	<b>1,160.21</b>
		2009 Outstanding Personal Property Taxes	
		FAULKINGHAM INC	1,138.49
		<b>Total 2009 Outstanding Personal Property Taxes</b>	<b>1,138.49</b>
		2008 Outstanding Personal Property Taxes	
		FAULKINGHAM INC	524.92
		<b>Total 2008 Outstanding Personal Property Taxes</b>	<b>524.92</b>

# FIRE & AMBULANCE

The **Belfast Fire Department** consists of a Chief, 2 Asst. Chiefs, 1 Captain, 1 Lieutenant (Training & Scott Officer) 1 Lieutenant (Training & Clerk) and 1 Safety Officer.

The **Belfast Fire Department** responded to 317 calls for the 2020 calendar year which included training and monthly meetings.

Thirty eight calls were to the Town of Swanville of which we do have a written contract for Fire Suppression.

The Fire Department also responded to a total of eight Mutual Aid calls to other Fire Departments in Waldo County. A Mutual Aid contract agreement is also in place to assist all Fire Departments when requested and available.



## Types of calls:

Jaws of Life  
 Structure (20)  
 Carbon-Monoxide  
 Gasoline Spill  
 Grass/Woods  
 Motorcycles  
 Trash/Debris  
 Ambulance Assist  
 Trees/Wires  
 Furnace  
 Electrical  
 Dryer  
 Mulch  
 Propane  
 Chimney  
 Stove

Fire Permits issued: 693  
 False Alarms: 57  
 Auto Accidents: 75  
 Fatal Accidents: 4

## Annual Mandated Training:

Bloodborne Pathogen  
 Turnout Gear  
 Inspection  
 Aerial Platform Testing  
 Fit Testing  
 SOPP  
 Hazmat Refresher  
 Hose Testing  
 SCBA Refresher  
 Fire Extinguisher  
 Ground Ladders  
 Pumper Testing x4

## Other Types of Training:

Basic First Aid/CPR  
 Aerial Tower Operation  
 Pumper Operation  
 Boat Safety/Operation  
 Hose Lay W/ Hydrant  
 Fire Behavior  
 Ice Rescue  
 Water Flow

The Belfast Fire Department had a few less training sessions in 2020 because of the COVID-19 Virus.

## Equipment:

2 1250 GPM Pumpers  
 2 1250 GPM Tankers  
 93ft. Aerial Platform  
 Rescue Boat  
 Jaws of Life  
 Mini-Pumper  
 Hazmat Trailer  
 Snowmobile & Rescue  
 Brush & Rescue  
 6x6 ATV  
 Sled

## Other Activities:

Fire & Safety Inspections  
 Chimney & Stove Inspections  
 Smoke Alarm Program  
 Carbon-Monoxide Tests  
 Smoke/Outside Fire

# FIRE & AMBULANCE

The Belfast Ambulance Service responded to 2,277 calls within the past 12 months, traveling a total of 63,501 miles. There were 1,217 local calls and 882 out of town calls.

January: 202  
February: 223  
March: 163  
April: 156  
May: 171  
June: 180  
July: 205  
August: 180  
September: 178  
October: 193  
November: 172  
December: 201

Belfast Paramedics assisted the following towns with 90 Paramedic Intercepts:

Searsmont: 21  
Liberty: 20  
Stockton Springs: 8  
Searsport: 21  
Unity: 1  
Brooks: 17  
Winterport: 2

Ambulance Charges per call:

BLS: \$650.00  
ALS: \$900.00  
PIFT: \$1200.00  
Critical Care: \$2000.00  
Paramedic Intercepts: \$100.00

FIRE DEPARTMENT



The Belfast Ambulance Service provides Ambulance Services and responded to the following out of town calls:

Northport: 120  
Swanville: 84  
Waldo: 59  
Belmont: 55  
Morrill: 45

The Services also has a written Mutual Aid Agreement with all other Ambulance Services in Waldo County.

Belfast Ambulance Responded to:

Motor Vehicle Accident: 125  
Sick Person: 134  
Cardiac: 119  
Falls: 198  
Respiratory: 118  
COVID Vaccine: 54

As well as other types of calls this past year.

# FINANCE

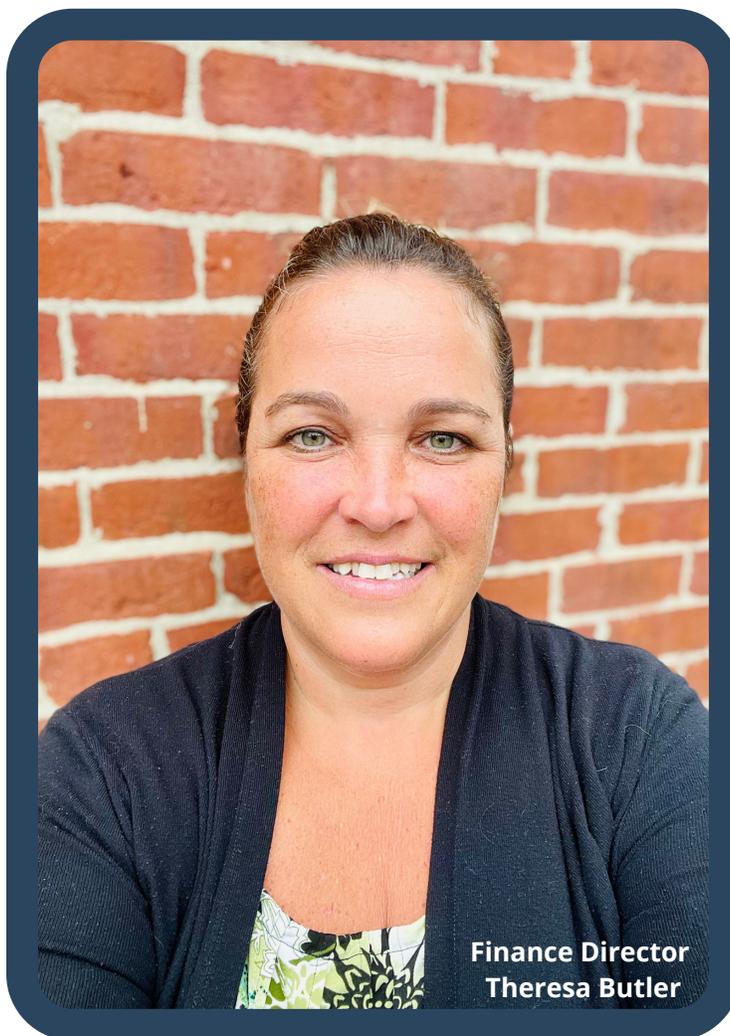
The Finance department is responsible for the City's financial records, accounts payable, organizing and producing the yearly budget, assisting the city manager with tasks, overseeing the collection of property taxes & sewer accounts for lien and foreclosure purposes, assisting department heads with requests as needed, other various tasks and customer requests.

The total municipal budget for July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021 with the comparison of the previous fiscal year July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020 is broken down as follows:

FY 19-20		FY 20-21	
Gross Budget	\$10,401,972	Gross Budget	\$10,422,588
Less Estimated Revenues	(\$5,076,260)	Less Estimated Revenues	(\$4,342,366)
Net Budget (Taxpayers)	\$5,325,712	Net Budget (Taxpayers)	\$6,080,222

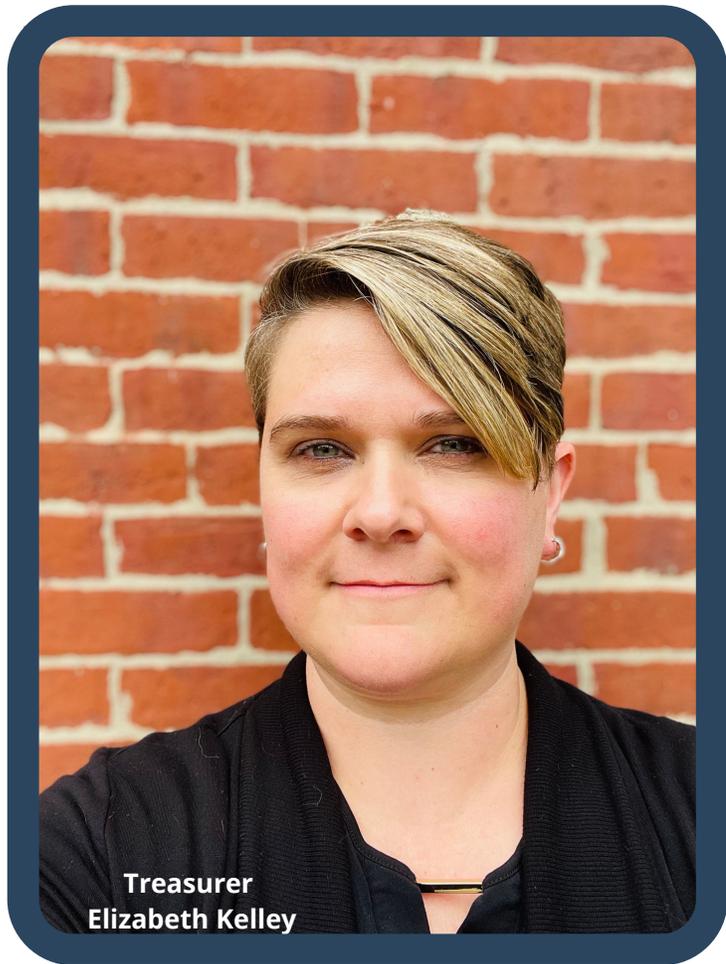
Besides the municipal budget the tax payers also fund a share of the school and county budgets. The school appropriation for FY20-21 was \$10,318,570 and for FY19-20 \$10,427,479. The county tax for FY20-21 was \$1,545,085 and for FY19-20 \$1,537,147.

The 2020 taxes were committed on August 25, 2020 with a mil rate of 23.30 per thousand, and interest rate of 8%. The first half installment was due October 1, 2020 and the second installment was due March 1, 2021. For your convenience payments are also accepted at any time throughout the year. Although scheduled payments do not stop the lien process on any unpaid balances it may be a more manageable option.



Finance Director  
Theresa Butler

# FINANCE



Treasurer  
Elizabeth Kelley

I would happily report that again this year there were no tax lien foreclosures in January 2021 for unpaid 2018 tax liens, this would be the second year in a row of no foreclosures. This is down from 2 tax lien foreclosures in January 2019. Please be aware of the available programs to help with either lowering your tax bill or assistance with paying your taxes if you are having financial difficulties. The homestead exemption is a great program for Maine residents to help with lowering of their tax bill. If you think you may be eligible or would like to inquire please stop by the office for an application or visit the city's website. Also, if you may be in need of assistance paying your tax bill don't hesitate to reach out to us as well. We would be glad to assist with any knowledge of programs available, or point you in the right direction.

Other tasks that are the responsibility of the finance office are payroll for all city employees, human resources involving working directly with all employees whether it would be a new hire, current employee, or retired employee and maintaining personnel files. The City of Belfast currently employs 72 full time employees and approximately a total of 145 part-time, seasonal, and on-call fire & ambulance staff.

Attached please find the most recent auditor's report for fiscal year ending June 30, 2020 and supporting financial statements. The full audit can be found on the city's website as well as in the treasurer's office. Historically, the audit will be available in March following the end of each fiscal year.

As always, please do not hesitate to visit our office during regular business hours 7:00 am – 6:00 pm, Monday through Thursday, we are located on the first floor of the 131 Church Street entrance.



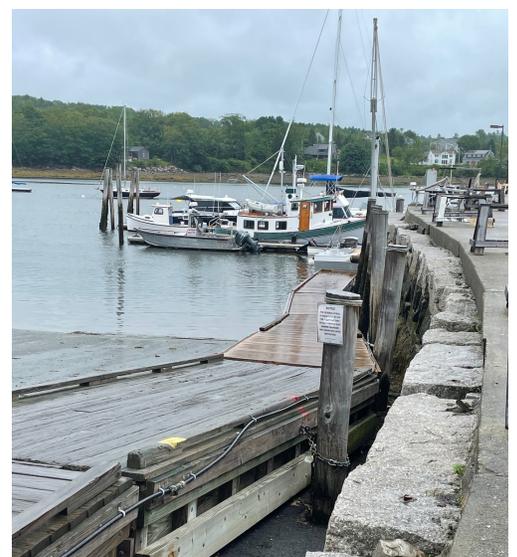
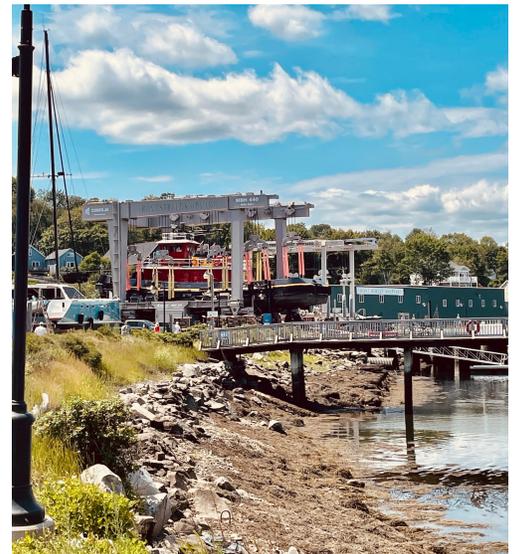
Theresa Butler & Elizabeth Kelley

# HARBOR

As with everyone else, working with the COVID situation this past year affected operations at the harbor, especially early in the season. The floats were put in mid-April, the usual time and were fortunate to run the docks as close to normal as possible, aside from asking the public to stay off the docks so boaters and marine workers could maintain distancing. Boaters were slow to take advantage of the summer in part because of confusion as to what was allowed and open due to COVID. Some marinas didn't get docks in on time and some were closed completely until later in the season, and cruisers were having a difficult time with quarantines and moving north. By August we did get busy on the docks at the City Landing, although the rental moorings were not used nearly as much this last season. The cruise ships were not allowed to run, and our charter boat operators chose not to because of the uncertainties with tourist travel and maintaining distancing on the vessel. There was an increased number of large private yachts in the Penobscot Bay area in part due to not being able to travel into Canadian waters or other areas out of US waters.

**Boat sales have increased substantially** starting late last year with many people looking for ways to safely enjoy themselves outdoors. I expect the harbor to be busy this coming season with various types of watercraft including kayakers and paddleboarders. It is uncertain at this time whether the cruise ship or charter vessel operators will run this coming season. The cruise ships are especially scrutinized by the CDC and will only be able to run with an approved safety plan.

**The Harbor Committee** hasn't met on a regular basis this past year due to scheduling and getting used to 'Zoom' meetings but have discussed and are moving forward with harbor projects – especially those that may be necessary with the predictions of sea level rise. The 'Breakwater' is a project we are currently reviewing to determine whether just maintenance should be done at this time, or whether a rebuild is a wiser choice. The Breakwater is a very important structure in protecting the City Landing and other facilities north into the Inner Harbor. Other smaller projects include replacing the expansion joints in the Armistice Bridge, and building & repairing floats.



# HARBOR



Another project currently being built and worth watching is the dock expansion at Belfast Marina, formerly the Consumers Fuel Marina. The facility is designed to hopefully withstand the SE storms we see on occasion.

Slip space is in high demand not just in Belfast, but in other coastal Maine facilities as well. The majority of boaters are getting older and slips are preferred over moorings, more boaters are coming to Maine, and as boat sales increase, a place to put them will be needed. There is a full wait list for Thompson's Wharf, the City's seasonal slip facility for summer renters, and the past few years the winter slips have also been full. Mooring numbers in Belfast Harbor have been fairly stable the last few years with around 300 permits issued.

Harbor revenues were up for the fiscal year of 2019-20 – primarily the slip rentals. This current fiscal year slip rentals are down some at the City Landing, as well as the mooring rental revenues but an early spring may help get revenues back up. Fuel sales are steady, and most boaters and small engine owners appreciate that we are selling non-ethanol, high octane gasoline.



Mooring permit renewals will be mailed out as usual in early March and the floats are schedule to be put in around mid April. The Harbor Office last season did not stay open into the evening as in the past, but we will be open at least from 7am to 5pm, 7 days a week from July into September.

# GENERAL ASSISTANCE

We are still following the procedures that have been in place regarding temporary housing and employment requirements. I am looking at each case and keeping in mind the different struggles people are having during the pandemic. Now more than ever working with local agencies, Belfast Soup Kitchen, Waldo County Public Health Nurse, Waldo County Action Partners, Waldo County Bounty, Hannaford, Hospice Volunteers of America, Ring of Caring, and the community to help make sure that everyone in need has been and will continue to be helped. These rules continue to be working well and again are helping our clients become more dependent, accountable, and responsible for their own actions.



General Assistance Administrator  
Jodie Stout

Below are the totals and increases for the top 3 categories during the months of March 2020 through December 2020 compared to last year, 2019. The increases are due to people not able to work due to business closings, decreased hours, self-employed and individuals having issues with unemployment.

March 2020 changed some procedure that the State of Maine had in place before the COVID 19 pandemic. Below are the changes:

1. Every case is considered an emergency.
2. The GAA can take self-attestation if for some COVID 19 related reason, the applicant cannot provide verification.
3. Can take applications by phone.
4. Initially it was interpreted that GAAs cannot give job search requirements; now you can but with the allowance that if the applicant gives any COVID 19 reason for not searching or getting a job, then you cannot penalize them.
5. Can approve benefits for two months instead of every 30 days.
6. As of January 14th, 2021, Economic Impact payments, also referred to as stimulus payments, received as part of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 shall not be considered as a resource in determining eligibility for General Assistance

# GENERAL ASSISTANCE

AMOUNTS ARE SENT TO STATE FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF 70%

	<u>MARCH-DEC. 2019</u>	<u>MARCH-DEC. 2020</u>	<u>INCREASE</u>
<u>RENT</u>	\$31,599.00	\$55,887.26	43%
<u>FOOD</u>	\$2,440.00	\$5,382.02	54%
<u>FUEL</u>	\$1,805.22	\$5,644.00	68%

**SNAP benefits have been increased** so the demand for food has decreased. There are also other programs helping the people of Belfast and Waldo county to keep fed.

1. **KEEP THE FAITH.**  
Residents who have lost their job, decreased hours, or a hardship due to COVID 19.
2. **FARM TO FAMILY BOX.**  
Distributed monthly.
3. **FOOD FOR CHILDREN.**  
Delivering food boxes to kids from RSU 71 that are being homeschooled or can not get to school for food.
4. **GOOD SHEPHERD FOOD BOXES.** Distributed monthly.
5. Stimulus checks.

**The months with the biggest need for food assistance** were March 2020-September 2020. The need/demand for assistance for food has decreased 41.7% since September. Below are some of the reasons I believe have contributed to these numbers.

**The remainder of the fiscal year** again I will be focusing on the pandemic and how to assist all of the citizens of Belfast.

Please let me know if you would like to talk more about how general assistance runs and operates please call me 338-3370 ext. 120 or email [generalassistance@cityofbelfast.org](mailto:generalassistance@cityofbelfast.org).

# BELFAST FREE LIBRARY

**Staff:** *Steve Norman, Director*

*Erica Rubin Irish, Youth Services Librarian*

*Sharon Pietryka, Reference & Special Collections Librarian*

*Brenda Harrington, Adult Services Coordinator*

*Jula Sampson*

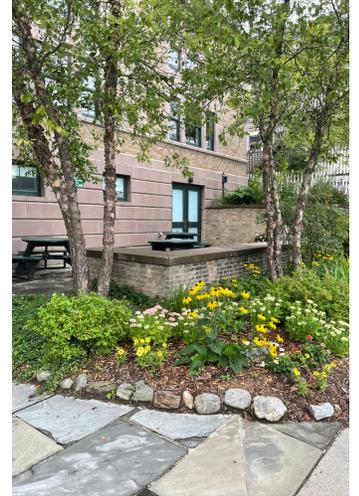
*Vicky DePersiis Vona*

*Tiffany Howard*

*Logan Clark*

*James Campbell*

*Ashleigh Eastham*



**Normally, the Belfast Free Library is a high traffic public building.** In 2019, over 160,000 visits were made to the library; more than 9,000 people attended library programs; and almost 38,000 uses were made of the library's WiFi connection and computers.

**In 2020, however, the number of people in the library had to be limited because of the pandemic.** The number of visits in 2020 was only 63,300 (a 61% drop from the year before). Still, considering the library was entirely closed to the public for a month-and-a-half and, after that, the number of people present at one time on each floor was limited (while many people remained reluctant to go out into public places at all), the number of visits shows a remarkable determination by people to come to the library.

***Library staff labored diligently under trying circumstances this past year to keep everything going and to serve the public.***



**During the pandemic, the use of the library's online services skyrocketed.** Circulation of E-books and E-audiobooks was up by 34% for the year (up by about 70% during the shutdown) and digital streaming services were up by 45% for the year (up by 145% during the shutdown).

**The library reopened for curbside services in May** (one of the first libraries in Maine to do that) and reopened for walk-in service in June (again, one of the first libraries in Maine to do that).

**By December 2020, the library's monthly circulation was 96% of what it was pre-COVID.** Interlibrary loan volume (including both categories of items sent to or borrowed from other libraries) was even higher than a year ago.

# BELFAST FREE LIBRARY

**Youth Services Librarian Erica Rubin Irish** took children's services online. She began online storytimes and yoga storytimes, and she and Teen Librarian Logan Clark collaborated on a weekly podcast to discuss good books. Erica developed many Take & Make Kits to distribute regularly to kids and teens. She reimagined the Summer Reading Program and carried it out in a new way this year.

**Responding to the pandemic, Brenda Harrington** totally reinvented the way she conducted programs. She not only switched gears to present all of the library's programs by Zoom, she also facilitated the use of Zoom by countless local groups to conduct their own Zoom meetings in COVID times. Brenda also applied for and received a grant to fund a program called All of Belfast Climate Dialogues (ABCD). This extremely competitive grant from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services was awarded to only fifteen libraries in the U.S. Because COVID arrived after the grant was submitted, Brenda had to completely rework the way the program will be implemented—quite a daunting task! This program begins in March and will continue for two years.

**Reference and Special Collections Librarian Sharon Pietryka** continued to answer research questions, mostly by phone and email but also by appointment. She is coordinating the library's participation in the Maine COVID-19 Community Archives project, an effort to preserve for posterity the experiences of Mainers during the pandemic. Sharon is also the library's technology guru.

**The Friends of the Belfast Free Library** once again gave the library \$11,000 to replace the City's annual library book budget, which was eliminated two years ago because of the City's budget crisis. The library definitely needs its Friends! Thank you, again, Friends!

**The library's Trustees** continue to investigate ways to continue the planning to replace the library's aging HVAC system with an energy-efficient, environmentally responsible new system.

The walk-in reciprocal borrowing pilot program with many other libraries throughout Maine that began last September had to be paused because of COVID.

**Steve Norman** serves as the Minerva consortium representative to the Maine InfoNet Board and is currently Vice Chair of that board.

As in years past, the **Belfast Garden Club** continued to beautify the plantings around the library. Many, many thanks to the Belfast Garden Club for their amazing contributions to the quality of life in Belfast!

The main challenges for the library in the year ahead include acting as good caretakers and stewards of our historic library building and figuring out how to provide exemplary library service during the pandemic.

# PARKS & RECREATION



The Belfast Parks and Recreation Department is proud of its park system and the response from the community, its many visitors as to the beauty and condition of the parks. The many City parks are key components for improving public health, increasing physical activity, and reconnecting youth/families with nature and enhancing quality of life. The 2020 year of the pandemic proved just how valuable our parks, trails and natural resources are to people.

Capitalizing on these trends were the 7,000+ people at City Park this summer season enjoying tennis, pickle ball, basketball, the playground and the recently installed two disc golf baskets. The Park was extremely popular due to the ability to recreate safely from a distance.

Evidence of the parks and programs bringing people to Belfast was validated by the absence of some key events such as the Belfast Ukulele Festival, and the Maine Celtic Celebration held in June and July. An estimated 3,000 to 4,000 people would have attended the annual Arts in the Park at Steamboat Landing Park if held and in August the parks would have busy with the Belfast Harbor Fest activities followed by the September tradition of the Maine Wiener Fest. Unfortunately due to the pandemic all of our community events were cancelled.



The ability of each park to have its own “parksonality” that helps create lasting impacts upon users was facilitated this year by the creation of a community gardens in Wales Park. The popularity of the dog park at the Walsh Field complex provides hundreds of dog owners an important outlet to socialize at a safe distance and recreate with their pets.



# PARKS & RECREATION

The “fine- tuning” of planted beds and maintenance of the landscaping demonstrated the effectiveness of a committed and focused work force this year with the excellent workmanship provided by the Parks ground crew. The inclusion of the Harbor Walk and the Rail Trail will be a welcomed challenge for the crews to maintain as their popularity of use continues to grow.



**The identification of capital improvement** projects provides an excellent road map toward meeting the Department’s stated mission of strengthening and improving services, facilities and programs. A few of the high priority areas for improvements include the City Park restrooms, the public pool and the re-development of a skate park which would create a park environment with a skate facility as part of the park. Another park area on our list of need for improvement with trails for hiking, cross country skiing and snowshoeing is Sportsman Park on the Shepard Road.

**The Belfast Parks and Recreation Department** is committed to expanding the services provided with the addition of senior activities and working closely with senior groups / organizations in 2021-22.

As in the past, two dedicated groups continue to support all efforts - **the Parks & Recreation Commission and Friends of Belfast Parks**. Within both groups, we are always looking for more involvement by the general public. If you have an interest in volunteering within the parks contact the Department for more information of how to get involved.

**The Belfast Parks and Recreation Department** wants all residents and visitors to enjoy your parks and public lands – get outdoors and recreate safely!

# PLANNING & CODES



The most recognizable function of the Department is the review and issuance of **Building Permits** and similar Permits required by **City Ordinances**. The Department, through its Code Enforcement Officer, issued the following permits between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021:

- *Building permits for one and two family homes - 15 permits*
- *Building permit for new multifamily construction - 2 permits (Wight St)*
- *Building permits for commercial construction - 34 permits*
- *Other Building Permits i.e. reno, additions, garages etc.- 118 permits*
- *New Mobile Home Permits - 9 permits*
- *Electrical Permits - 210 permits*
- *Plumbing Permits - 105 permits*
- *Subsurface Wastewater permits - 12 permits*

The number of building permits issued for new residential construction have yet to return to levels the City saw prior to the 2007 - 2008 housing recession, however, there appears to be increasing interest compared to 5 years ago. Similar to most years, the most frequently issued building permit was for renovations to existing houses and the construction of accessory structures, such as sheds, decks and garages.



Planning & Codes Director  
Bub Fournier

The Code Enforcement Officer conducts inspections associated with all of the above permits as well as Curbside Belfast, Lunch Wagons, Signs and Junkyard Permits. The CEO also has been active enforcing the City's Code of Ordinances and reviewing minor site plans under his jurisdiction.



Planning & Codes Office  
Assistant Erica Nealley

Department staff regularly provides services to the Belfast Planning Board and Intown Design Review Committee and occasionally to the Harbor Committee and City Council regarding their respective reviews of projects to ensure compliance with requirements in the City Code of Ordinances.

# PLANNING & CODES



**Staff supported the Planning Board meetings 32 times since last July 1, 2020.** The Nordic Aquafarms project was a topic on 18 agendas. Nordic Aquafarms proposed to develop a land-based salmon aquaculture facility near the lower reservoir of the Little River. This \$500 million project would result in the production of 33,000 metric tons of salmon annually and is the largest project proposed in Belfast in many decades. Nordic Aquafarms submitted its permit applications to the City in June 2019. The Planning Board issued 5 permits for the project in late December 2020. There are many conditions of approval associated with the permits issued by the Planning Board requiring staff and Board review. The permits were appealed to the Zoning Board of Appeals, denied and are currently being appealed further to the Superior Court.

**The Department has had many discussions regarding its role** when the Nordic Aquafarms project gets underway. Additional workload from the project, given the high volume of other development in Belfast, has been discussed throughout the past year. There will, undoubtedly, be more work than the four staff members in the Department can handle. The Department envisions essential but limited work ahead of building permit applications and their associated fees. Overall, the permit fees associated with this project will need to be utilized to pay for additional support for permit review, inspections and ensuring the project meets all the conditions of the Planning Board permits. When the project gets closer to breaking ground, the Department will be analyzing potential workflow timelines so that we can ensure we will be ready and have the necessary professionals involved when they are needed.

**Development Reviews were agenda topics** at 17 meetings and included multi-family housing, retail stores, solar farms, site plan amendments at existing businesses, and both commercial and residential subdivisions. Ordinance Amendments were discussed at 5 meetings covering multi-family dwellings and shoreland zoning topics.

**Multi-family housing projects approved over the past year** are being overseen by Code Enforcement Officer Steve Wilson. Almost 100 new multi-family dwelling units have been approved in the past year in response to the housing crisis the City is currently experiencing. These include 2 projects on Wight Street totaling about 50 units and another 48 units approved at the former Public Works site at 115 Congress Street.

# PLANNING & CODES

The Department often works with the Council and other City Committees on non-Zoning projects, as well as preparing amendments to the City Code of Ordinances. Some of the more notable projects so far in FY 2021 are listed below:

- *Curbside Belfast, with the assistance of the Director, City Planner and Code Enforcement Officer along with other Departments such as the City Manager's Office, Public Works and other groups and Boards was rolled out in April with a new, more permanent permitting landscape.*

- *Climate resiliency study of the City's Wastewater Treatment infrastructure. This project was shepherded by the City Planner Jon Boynton. The project utilized grant funds aimed at identifying potential weaknesses in the City's infrastructure in response to the potential for sea level rise in the future. City Engineer Mandy Olver, of Olver Associates will be preparing a report from this study which the City can use to determine how to proceed.*

- *City Code of Ordinance amendments that were adopted with the help of Department staff include: changes to Planning Board review of multi-family projects; amendments to prohibit the use of Exploding Targets in the City. City Code of Ordinance amendments that are still undergoing work by the Department include adoption of less restrictive multi-family standards outside the bypass and adoption of State shoreland timber harvesting standards.*

FY 2021 also was a year of major change for the Department. Wayne Marshall, who has served as Director, City Planner and even Code Enforcement Officer for 25+ years, is no longer the Director of the Department and has been working to finalize the Nordic Aquafarm Planning Board review process as a Project Planner. Bub Fournier was hired as Director of the Planning and Codes Department. In October 2020, Stephen Wilson was hired to replace Bub Fournier as Code Enforcement Officer.

During this past year, the Department has grappled with continuing to provide a high level of service during the pandemic. All meetings continue to be held via video conferencing. A high volume of developers and other community members continue to express interest in projects in Belfast. Due to pressure on real estate, high material costs, the housing crisis, contractor availability issues and further fallout from over a year of the pandemic, the Department continues to experience a difficult development landscape that has added increasing work to already full staff schedules.

The Department provides a diverse range of services to residents and property owners in Belfast. All of our staff, Steve Wilson, Code Enforcement Officer, Jon Boynton, City Planner, Erica Nealley, Administrative Assistant, and Bub Fournier, Department Director, hope that our collective efforts have served the City well. If you have questions or comments about the Department, you can call us at 338-3370 x 125, or by email at [directorplanning@cityofbelfast.org](mailto:directorplanning@cityofbelfast.org).

# WASTE WATER

During the 2020 season, there were not any final effluent exceedances and the facility operated efficiently within its permit limitations.

**Combined Sewer Overflows** - The City continues to be required by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to continue implementing Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) abatement projects based on the schedule in the City's ongoing updates to its CSO Master Plan. Every five years, this plan is updated to examine the impacts of the work completed to-date and evaluate the remaining work needed to eliminate ongoing CSO's. Back in 2019, the City updated its CSO Master Plan and submitted it to MEDEP for review. In 2020, we responded to DEP's letter commenting on the City's Master Plan update and schedule. At this point, we do not yet have an approved Master Plan and Schedule. To date, it appears that the overall CSO abatement program has been successful in reducing overflows but more work will be needed to get below the thresholds required by the DEP. The City has two CSO locations - at the end of Miller Street (CSO No. 002) and at the end of Condon Street (CSO No. 003). In 2020, the City experienced 37,414 gallons of wastewater discharged at CSO No. 002 and 59,032 gallons discharged at CSO No. 003. Significant funds have been spent in efforts to reduce these overflows with another estimated \$5.1 million of added work identified in the 2019 Master Plan Update.

**2020 Wastewater Treatment Plant and Pump Stations Operations Review** - The City WWTP staff of three maintains and operates the central WWTP and eighteen pumping stations and their associated equipment. The wastewater treatment plant treated 203.848 million gallons of wastewater or an average of 0.552 gallons per day. The strength of the wastewater is measured with two tests which have limits based on the City's DEP Wastewater Discharge Permit. The final effluent Total Suspended Solids was an average of 6.9 mg/l compared to an average limitation of 30 mg/l. The percent removal averaged 98 percent compared to the permit limitation of 85%. The final effluent Biochemical Oxygen Demand was an average of 17 mg/l compared to the average limitation of 30 mg/l. The percent removal averaged 94 percent compared to the permit limitation of 85%.

The facility processed about 581 Tons of dewatered solids or sludge which was removed for composting at Casella Organics at their Hawkridge Facility in Unity Plantation.

**Project and Other Updates** - In 2020, the City replaced a portion of the failed Vitrified Clay (VC) sewer on lower Franklin Street as well as eliminated an old problematic cross-country sewer that served Charles Street. This project required extending the sewer up from Waldo Avenue to connect homes that previously discharged into the cross-country sewer. This also allowed hooking in a new home that was constructed on Charles Street. The City's consultant continued design on the WWTP Energy Efficiency project which will be bidding in early 2021 for improvements at the WWTP. The City completed its application to the DEP for its new wastewater discharge license which will require year-round chlorination, year-round compliance with fecal coliform bacteria limits and will establish new limits for Enterococci bacteria. This will require substantial improvements to the City's dechlorination building in order to keep the chemicals from freezing.

**We want to commend the City's Wastewater Treatment plant staff** for their ability to continue to do their jobs during these challenging times and for their excellent work in keeping the treatment plant and the eighteen pumping stations well maintained. If anyone has any questions regarding any aspect of the treatment plant operations, please feel free to contact us at (207) 338-1744.

# POLICE DEPARTMENT

## The Department

With 16 full time officers in our compliment, the Belfast Police Department is responsible for delivering public safety and law enforcement services to the Belfast Community. Our Officers are a capable, well-trained, hard-working, caring, and professional group who care about the community they serve and how they serve their community. While responding to calls, they need to be compassionate yet fair as well as being prepared for everything from escaped goats to the worst-case person with a weapon. This is no easy task, yet our Officers do this every day and do well.



In the year 2020, our officers responded to about 7,400 calls for service. These calls for service included the following:

Nature of Call	Total Calls Received	% of Total
911 Disconnect	286	3.89
911 Misdial	137	1.86
911 Open Line	60	0.82
Abandoned Vehicle	33	0.45
Agency Assistance	164	2.23
Alarm	167	2.27
Alcohol Offense	4	0.05
ALS/Paramedic Assist	40	0.54
Animal Problem - Law Assigned	297	4.04
Assault	43	0.59
off road motorized vehicle	3	0.04
Background Check	3	0.04
Insufficient Funds Check	19	0.26
Be On Look Out	8	0.11
Burglary	34	0.46
Business Check	1	0.01
Accident Car Deer	44	0.60
Child Abuse or Neglect	5	0.07
Child Custody	25	0.34
Civil Complaint	83	1.13
Computer Crimes	4	0.05
Council Notice	17	0.23
Counterfeit Money	4	0.05
Criminal Mischief	65	0.88
Criminal Trespass	61	0.83
Detail Accident Reconstruction	4	0.05
Detail Bail Check	9	0.12
Detail Bike Patrol	42	0.57
K-9 Detail	26	0.35
Miscellaneous Detail	131	1.78
Detail Parade	2	0.03
Detail Prob Check	3	0.04
Detail Radar	1131	15.40
Detail School	12	0.16
Detail Traffic	25	0.34
Disorderly Conduct	34	0.46
Disturbance	211	2.87
Domestic Disturbance	91	1.24
Controlled Substance Problem	40	0.54
Electronic Monitoring	1	0.01
Escort	19	0.26
Explosion	2	0.03
Fire Alarm	2	0.03
Fireworks	8	0.11

Nature of Call	Total Calls Received	% of Total
Foot Patrol	38	0.52
Forgery	1	0.01
Found Property	153	2.08
Fraud	26	0.35
Friendly Caller	10	0.14
Fuel Drive Off	4	0.05
Harassment	122	1.66
House Check	33	0.45
Identity Theft	5	0.07
Indecent Exposure	7	0.10
Information Report	349	4.75
Intoxicated Person	53	0.72
Juvenile Problem	61	0.83
Kidnapping	1	0.01
Late Report of PD 10-55	60	0.82
List Assist	21	0.29
Litter, Pollution, Public Health	16	0.22
Loitering	15	0.20
Lost Property	140	1.91
Medical Emergency	6	0.08
Medical Emergency EMD	162	2.21
Mental Medical	39	0.53
Message Delivery	8	0.11
Missing Person	12	0.16
Motor Vehicle Theft	4	0.05
Motorist Assist	47	0.64
Motor Vehicle Complaint	320	4.36
Noise Complaint	56	0.76
Odor	1	0.01
Officer Complaint	9	0.12
Operation Game Thief	4	0.05
OUI Alcohol	2	0.03
Paperwork Service	13	0.18
Parking Enforcement	144	1.96
Delinquent Parking Fines	35	0.48
Parking Problem	15	0.20
Traffic Accident with Damage	178	2.42
Petroleum Spill	1	0.01
Traffic Accident with Injurie	51	0.69
Pornography	2	0.03
Probation Violation	2	0.03
Property Watch	8	0.11
Prowler	5	0.07
Public Assist	272	3.70

# POLICE DEPARTMENT



The calls for service this year were, as with most everything, heavily effected by COVID-19. Calls such as foot patrol, bike patrol, and traffic stops are lower while other calls such as suspicious persons, lost property, information, 911 disconnect calls are up. The overall call numbers are similar to recent years but are of a different nature than usual. These numbers also do not reflect all of our property and business checks as they are tracked in a different manner. I am working on getting more visibility on these aspects as they are a significant and important part of what our Officers are doing in the community.

Our K-9 unit responded to 26 calls in this year, again down some from last year due to COVID restrictions. Most of these calls were for tracking purposes. Our K-9, along with its handler, Corporal Travis Spencer, are well known in the K-9 community as one of the best K-9 teams in the State. This year they have completed drug detection training and with this increased capability, it is expected they will be utilized more in that role. They have played a very important role in making Belfast and Waldo County a safer place.

Nature of Call	Total Calls Received	% of Total
Rape	4	0.05
Recovered Stolen Property	1	0.01
Reported Death	4	0.05
Robbery	1	0.01
Runaway Juvenile	6	0.08
IRS Scam and similar	16	0.22
Search Warrant	3	0.04
Service PO	56	0.76
Sex Offender Violation	8	0.11
Sex Offense	9	0.12
Speed Complaint	24	0.33
Structure Fire	9	0.12
Suspicious Person, Circumstance	250	3.40
Suspicious Pkg/Explosives	1	0.01
Sweetser Incident	139	1.89
Theft	157	2.14
Threatening	50	0.68
Traffic Hazard	65	0.88
Traffic Violation	122	1.66
Traffic Stop	1518	17.90
Prisoner Transport	3	0.04
Unsecure Premises	17	0.23
Utility Problem	19	0.26
Vagrancy	9	0.12
Vehicle Off the Road	28	0.38
Vehicle/Equipment Fire	3	0.04
Vehicle Fire	1	0.01
VIN Verification	9	0.12
Violation Conditional Release	13	0.18
Violation Protection Order	25	0.34
Wanted Person	44	0.60
Water Rescue	1	0.01
Weapon Offense	2	0.03
Welfare Check	296	4.03
Wildfire	1	0.01
Wildlife Problem or Complaint	38	0.52

Officer Roy Smith, who is our School Resource Officer has been extremely busy in the Belfast Area School system even with the school system following a modified and changing schedule. While the majority of his time is spent at the Belfast Area High School, he spends a lot of time at the Middle School and makes time to visit the Belfast Area Elementary Schools. Officer Smith has become an integral and accepted part of the Belfast School system and is in, I feel, one of the most important positions in the Police Department. No other Officer in the Department has contact with as many citizens of our community on a daily basis, than the School Resource Officer.

# POLICE DEPARTMENT

One of the ways we are responsive to the needs and expectations of the City of Belfast is through the willingness of our Officers to take on additional specialties above and beyond what is required of them to be a Patrol Officer. Some of the specialties include: OUI/Standardized Field Sobriety Tests Trainer, K-9 Officer, Polygraph Examiner, Firearms instructors, Field Training Officers, Emergency Vehicle Operations instructor, Tazer instructor, and MARC (mechanics of arrest restraint and control) instructor among others. Almost all of our Police officers are trained in mental health crisis intervention, with the goal of all of them being trained in this important and needed specialty. Many of our officers are trained in Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement which is extremely valuable in keeping the roads of Belfast safe. The special training our officers have received over the last several years relates directly to the service we provide for this community on a daily basis. I'm confident our Department is moving in a positive direction.

The Police Department is extremely fortunate to have an experienced and hard-working support staff. We have three individuals who work for us in this role. First is Mary-Beth, she is one of the busiest individuals in the Police Department. Mary-Beth does everything from filing, FOIA requests, data input and reporting, mailings, ordering Office supplies and uniform/equipment for Officers, and documents training. She also documents Uniform Crime Index (a State/Federal system for recording the types of crimes that occur in our community). Additionally, she's responsible for preparing payroll, answering the phone, copying reports for citizens, and assisting people who walk into the office. She does all this with a friendly, kind, warm, and pleasant demeanor.



2021/2022 Budget Year

In the fiscal year 2021/2022, I have requested a budget that would allow the Department to meet the expected needs of the City of Belfast in a fiscally responsible and efficient way. While this year is a challenging year, we have the basic needs of a Department our size to best provide services the community expects of it Police Department and I have not requested funding for any extraneous items or ventures. I have mainly requested minimal increases to cover contractual and item cost increases from the previous year.



# POLICE DEPARTMENT

## The Future

In my opinion, we are situated well in terms of meeting the expectations of our community. The Maine Chiefs of Police Association approved the accreditation program for police departments throughout the State of Maine. At this time the accreditation process is still voluntary and there are incentives for compliance such as an insurance break of 10% through the Maine Municipal Association. There are many benefits to accreditation however a close look at these benefits vs. cost warrants a close look at whether this is pursued formally or in a manner adopting parts of the program which are beneficial and cost effective.

Nothing about the accreditation process concerns me in terms of being able to meet the requirements. I'm confident that our department and the officers who serve our community meet or exceed most all the components of the process that have to do with the service we provide and the techniques we use to investigate the variety of calls we respond to.

Other mandates, I predict, will certainly be forthcoming such as e-ticketing, for which we have submitted, and been awarded, a grant for printers necessary to comply with, digital report submission to the District Attorney's Office, and other technological advances which will further burden tight Law Enforcement budgets in the not-so-distant future.

Another issue becoming more prevalent is recruitment and retention of Officers. This is a national issue we have been fortunate to have overcome up to this point. However, with fewer people interested in becoming police officers, as we have recently seen in our application process, it is becoming more and more competitive to recruit and retain those officers. We will need to be more creative in keeping our Department competitive in recruiting new officers and retaining those currently working here. Fortunately, we have a great community which has been instrumental in doing so to this point and, I'm confident, will be moving forward in the future.



## In Closing

It is an enormous honor for me to be the Chief of the Belfast Police Department. In my opinion, I work for the best community in the State of Maine. I look forward to answering any questions you or the community may have regarding any aspect of police services.

# TRANSFER STATION

The **Belfast Transfer Station** is running very nearly full steam ahead with the services the community has come to expect. One lingering exception to that is our ability to process mixed paper. Mixed paper continues to be one of the more contaminated recyclable materials we process. Because of the extreme safety concerns to our employees who are required to process this material by hand, we are still diverting the mixed paper material into the waist stream. We simply do not have a safe way to deal with the material currently. Apart from Mixed Paper we are accepting all recycling materials that we have in the past.

As far as our waste stream goes since July 2020 we have hauled off 798.11 tons of demolition. If things remain consistent through the second 6 months of the year, we will be over by 200 tons on our estimate. The driving force behind much of this increase has been the recent spike in building activity across the city. This increase does not adversely affect our operations from a financial or workload perspective. The Municipal Solid Waste (household trash) is at 411.53 tons for the year. Our estimate was 700 tons for the year. I suspect we will be awfully close to that number by the end of June 2021. This is a surprise considering the first couple of months of the fiscal year we diverted all recycling materials into the waist stream due to COVID-19.

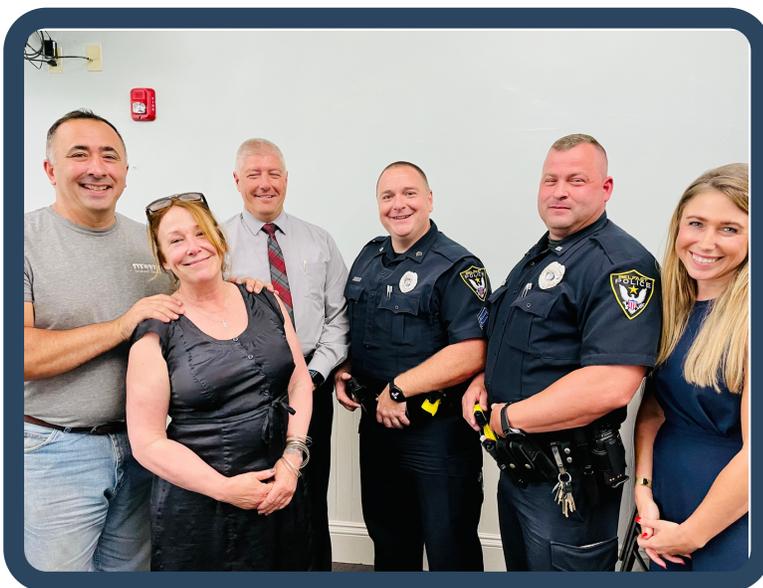


**Our budget is holding strong.** The only exception to that is our 440-575 (Trans-Tipping-Disposal) line. We have been hit hard on that line due to the increase in transportation fees from \$290.00 per trip to \$628.99 per trip. With the sale of the operation to a new company the Fiberight facility will be opening soon under a new name. This will result in our ability to send our trash there and resume the lower price per haul. There could be other options we might want to explore, however at this moment no one is sure what services the new owners will be providing and which ones they will not. I will keep everyone posted to any new developments.

# TRANSFER STATION

**Maintenance continues to be an issue.** This fiscal year I requested and was granted a significant increase in the maintenance line to take care of some issues that needed to be addressed. Some of my estimates fell a little short so after consulting with our mechanic we decided it would do no harm to our equipment to postpone the repairs we had scheduled for several reasons. First, as stated above, my estimates fell a little short of the actual costs. (By about \$2,000.00) I also decided not to order the indoor scale used to weigh the bales of recyclable materials. (Currently we are utilizing the outdoor scale for this purpose) The reason is our budget in the 440-575 line is taking a hit by the increased trucking costs. So, I decided to save money where I could this year because of the exceptional situations we have been facing. My hope is we won't have quite as many exceptional situations to deal with this next fiscal year and I can push forward with the rest of the important work that needs to be done.

**Lastly and in my opinion most importantly is,** I am asking for funding to change the two 32 hour per week positions to full time positions. Peter Bailey and our newest employee Austin Colburn work to process all the materials we take in for recycling. I have said it before, and I will say it again, these are two of the hardest working individuals I have ever had the pleasure of working with. They perform a job that is vital to our community. They are faithful to their jobs. Perhaps the single largest argument I can make for committing to the full-time status of these two positions is that if Mr. Bailey or Mr. Colburn misses a day of work, that does not mean they miss the work, it just means they did not get paid for a day and they did not have to spend the day at work. The actual work is still there waiting for them when they come back the next day. There is no one here to do the work for them. Because of that fact I see these two positions as being more than a part time job. The responsibility to the operation of the facility is far greater than what we should expect from someone in a part time position. Beyond recycling, Mr. Bailey and Mr. Colburn work to keep the facility and the grounds clean and as orderly and the equipment maintained.



**As always it has been my honor to serve our community for another year.** I look forward to meeting whatever is instore for us in the next fiscal year.

# PUBLIC WORKS



In January we started the month off by hauling in 1136 yards of sand due to the weather we had in November and December of 2019. January storms we had five snow (14") events and a rain event. February brought us six snow (13") events and two rain events. In March we had three rain events and one snow (6") event. Early April brought one snow (10") event and then came spring. The year of 2020 ended with 3 snow (7") events and whole lot of rain and high wind storms. We accumulated 200 hours overtime with these events. The Public Works Department used approximately 4,475 yards of sand and 1,586 tons of salt. The Airport was plowed 9 times this year.

## Projects that were done by the Public Works Department in the summer of 2020:

1. We ditched roughly 2,100 feet on 8 different roads.
2. We set up barricades, cement barriers and cones for outdoor dining in the downtown area at nine locations due to the Covid pandemic situation.
3. We replaced / installed some driveway and crossover culverts at 23 various locations. A total of 820 feet of various sizes (12" to 18").
4. Annual roadside mowing, street sweeping, crosswalk striping, debris / leaf pickup, Airport mowing, landfill mowing and the installation / removal of the city floats and ramps.
5. The annual installation / removal of benches (8), bike racks (10), rubbish containers (53) flower pots (12) and crosswalk signs (14).
6. We assisted Benner Tree Service with the planting of 23 trees in various locations and watered these trees on a daily basis.
7. We rebuilt and repaved some sidewalks on Vine, Waldo, High, Cedar, Court and Northport Avenue. We worked with Jeff Butterworth in rebuilding the cement sidewalk on Main Street between Cross and Front Street.

# DIRECTORY

<b>Belfast Municipal Airport</b>	<b>(207) 338-3370 ext. 600</b>
<b>Assessing Office</b>	<b>(207) 338-3370 ext. 122</b>
<b>Cable TV</b>	<b>(207) 323-2480</b>
<b>Cemetery</b>	<b>(207) 338-2264</b>
<b>Clerk's Office</b>	<b>(207) 338-3370 ext. 114</b>
<b>Economic Development</b>	<b>(207) 338-3370 ext. 116</b>
<b>Fire &amp; Ambulance</b>	<b>(207) 338-2420</b>
<b>Finance</b>	<b>(207) 338-3370 ext. 111</b>
<b>Harbor</b>	<b>(207) 338-1142</b>
<b>General Assistance</b>	<b>(207) 338-3370 ext. 120</b>
<b>Belfast Free Library</b>	<b>(207) 338-3884</b>
<b>City Manager's Office</b>	<b>(207) 338-3370 ext. 110</b>
<b>Parks &amp; Recreation</b>	<b>(207) 338-3370 ext. 127</b>
<b>Planning &amp; Codes</b>	<b>(207) 338-3370 ext. 125</b>
<b>Police</b>	<b>(207) 338-2420</b>
<b>Public Works</b>	<b>(207) 338-2375</b>
<b>Tax Collector</b>	<b>(207) 338-3370 ext. 132</b>
<b>Transfer Station</b>	<b>(207) 338-1817</b>
<b>Waste Water</b>	<b>(207) 338-1744</b>

## ON THE COVER



**From Doug Chamberlin:**

*"Like many, I find the Fournier Tugs emblematic of Belfast's active harbor. On one of my many early morning explorations, I was lucky to encounter a tug returning to the dock so I could snap this shot. You can see my other images of Belfast and elsewhere at <https://greymont-images.pixels.com>."*

# CITY COMMITTEES

## **AIRPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**7 MEMBERS**

**3 YEAR TERMS**

Kenn Ortmann  
Lynn Carlin  
William Ryan  
Duke Tomlin

Jonathon Pleney  
David Aldrich  
Jim Truxes

## **BELFAST WATER DISTRICT SPECIAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES 5 MEMBERS 5 YEAR TERMS**

Stephen Hall  
Bruce Osgood  
Henry Chalmers  
Tammy Morse

Eileen Dubinett  
Kenneth Colby Horne  
Keith Pooler

## **BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW 4 MEMBERS & 1 ALTERNATE 3 YEAR TERMS**

Biff Atlass  
David Bond

Joel T. Lee  
Mary Dutch

## **BROADBAND COMMITTEE UNLIMITED MEMBERS 2 YEAR TERMS**

Charity Leschinski  
Mary Mortier

Thomas Kitredge  
Zafra Whitcomb

## **CEMETERY TRUSTIES 4 MEMBERS & 1 ALTERNATE 3 YEAR TERMS**

Joyce Fenner  
Steve Boguen  
Megan Pinette

Paul Hamilton  
Joanna Curtis  
Amanda Munson

## **CLIMATE CRISIS COMMITTEE 8-10 MEMBERS (INCLUDING 2 COUNCIL MEMBERS) 1 YEAR TERM**

Jon Beal  
Barbara Bell  
Eric Sanders  
Jonah Lovejoy

Sharon Besso  
Joe Duggan  
Hank Reisner  
Elizabeth Sterner

## **COMPREHENSIVE PLAN COMMITTEE 1 MEMBER PER WARD + 2 AT LARGE MEMBERS - TERM UPON COMPLETION OF PLAN**

Anne Saggese  
Jessica Falconer  
Jill Goodwin  
John L. Carrick III

Syrena T. Gatewood  
Tammy Lacher Scully  
Thomas Fowler

## **ENERGY COMMITTEE**

**6 MEMBERS**

**STAGGERED 2&3 YEAR TERMS**

Jon Fullford  
Andre Carpenter  
Matt O'Malia

Eric Sanders  
Mike Hurley

# CITY COMMITTEES

## **HARBOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE          6 MEMBERS          2 YEAR TERMS**

Joanne Moesswilde  
Jerry Brand  
Kathy Given  
Andrew Peters

Dan Miller  
John B. Turner  
Robert Winslow

## **IN TOWN DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE          12 MEMBERS          NO TERMS**

Mary Dutch  
Gianne Conard  
Jim Duff

Tangie Abercrombie  
Pegi Miller

## **LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTIES          5 MEMBERS          3 YEAR TERMS**

Steve Norman  
Kay Zegel  
Syrena Gatewood

Dick Swain  
Bob Adler  
Dorothy Havey

## **PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION          7 MEMBERS & 1 ALTERNATE          3 YEAR TERMS**

Larry Theye  
Kali Litrides  
Heather Hay-Brackett  
Norm Poirier  
Amanda Cunningham

Carol Good  
Cathy Gleeson  
Aynne Ames  
Rafe Blood

## **PEDESTRIAN, BIKING & HIKING COMMITTEE          5 MEMBERS          1&2 YEAR TERMS**

Chris Gardener  
Glenn Montgomery  
Jack Shaida

Tim Freeman  
Zach Schmesser

## **PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS          5 MEMBERS & 2 ALTERNATES          5 YEAR TERMS**

Hugh Townsend  
Geoff Gilchrist  
David Bond

Wayne Corey  
Daisy Beal  
Kathleen Dunckel

## **ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS          5 MEMBERS & 1 ALTERNATE          3 YEAR TERMS**

Peter Nesin  
Michael Nickerson  
Dana Keene

Lewis Baker  
Douglas Smith  
Bub Fournier

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

## TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF BELFAST, MAINE

### Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, and the aggregate remaining fund information of City of Belfast, Maine, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2020, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the City's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

### Management's Responsibility 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.

### Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements 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 entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

TEL (207) 989-2800

FAX (207) 989-2801

# C.H. DORR & CO., P.A. CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

## Opinions

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the business type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the City of Belfast, Maine, as of June 30, 2020, and the respective changes in financial position, and where applicable, cash flows thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

## Other Matters

### *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 on pages 4 through 15 and 28 through 41 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not 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 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.

### *Other Information*

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the City of Belfast, Maine's basic financial statements. The other information is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements.

The schedule of expenditures of federal awards is presented for purposes of additional analysis as required by Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards*, and is also not a required part of the basic financial statements.

The combining and individual fund financial statements, the detailed budgetary comparison schedule, the schedule of expenditures of federal awards, and the other schedules are the responsibility of management and were derived from and related directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to 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 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 fund financial statements and the schedule of expenditures of federal awards are fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

### Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated March 29, 2021, on our consideration of the City of Belfast, Maine's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements or other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the City of Belfast, Maine's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

# SHERIFF'S OFFICE



6 Public Safety Way  
Belfast, ME 04915  
Administrative Offices:  
TEL: 207-338-6786  
FAX: 207-338-6784

**SHERIFF JEFFREY C. TRAFTON**  
**CHEIF DEPUTY JASON W. TRUNDY**

## WALDO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

### Citizens of Waldo County,

The Members of the Waldo County Sheriffs Office are proud to serve the citizens of our great County. We want to thank the members of the public for their continued support. We are a full-service Sheriffs Office providing Law Enforcement, Corrections and Civil Paperwork Service to folks who live, work and visit Waldo County.

2020 was a year different from any other. The Covid-19 pandemic has made providing Law Enforcement and Corrections services very challenging. The killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis has impacted how our Nation views the Law Enforcement profession and how the services we provide will be delivered and regulated moving forward. Locally, we have continued to enhance our collaboration with the Knox County Sheriffs Office with a new inmate boarding agreement and further sharing of resources resulting in savings of hundreds of thousands of dollars to county taxpayers.

Our patrol division handled nearly 8,400 calls for service in 2020. These calls included all types of incidents from murders, domestic violence, robberies, burglaries, thefts, child abuse, sexual abuse, drug overdoses, and much more. The drug abuse epidemic continues to ravage our citizens and cause much of the crime in our county. The patrol division also conducted 1,491 traffic stops throughout the county in an effort to increase traffic safety on our roads and highways.

**Respectfully,**

**SHERIFF JEFFREY C.  
TRAFTON**

Our Corrections Division continues to excel in the operation of the Maine Coastal Regional Re-entry Center serving 46 residents in 2020. These are men who were nearing the end of their term of incarceration. Our many programs assist them with their integration back into society as productive and contributing citizens. During their stay at there-entry center, residents provided 4,455 hours of community service throughout Waldo County. This translated to a savings in labor costs of \$53,461 to citizens and non-profit agencies. Residents also provided more than 173,000 pounds of fresh vegetables to local food pantries and those in need from the County's Garden Project overseen by Waldo County Commissioner William Shorey. The residents also paid \$8,928 dollars in room and board to the County.

The seventy-two-hour holding and booking facility processed 649 persons who were arrested in Waldo County by all the law enforcement agencies serving our County. If a person who has been arrested cannot make bail within 72 hours, he or she has to be transported to the Knox County Jail in Rockland by our Transport Division. Our average daily population of Waldo County prisoners held at the Knox County Jail was 21 men and women. This along with bringing prisoners to court and medical appointments, generated 310 transports with our transport division, traveling more than 50,000 miles in 2020.

Our Civil Service Division served 1,030 sets of legal paperwork all over the County in 2020.

It has been an honor for all of us to be of service to the citizens of Waldo County in 2020. We look forward to a safe and productive 2021.

# WALDO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

## TOTAL NUMBER OF BELFAST COMPLAINTS IN 2020 RECEIVED, BY NATURE OF CALL

<u>Nature of Call</u>	<u>Total Calls Received</u>	<u>% of Total</u>
911 Disconnect	3	0.41
911 Misdial	1	0.14
Agency Assistance	38	5.25
Alarm	3	0.41
Animal Problem - Law Assigned	1	0.14
Assault	1	0.14
Background Check	61	8.43
Be On Lookout	1	0.14
Business Check	5	0.69
Child Custody	2	0.28
Civil Complaint	4	0.55
Computer Crimes	2	0.28
Criminal Mischief	1	0.14
Criminal Trespass	1	0.14
Cruiser Accident	1	0.14
Detail Bail Chk	1	0.14
Detail DRE	9	1.24
K-9 Detail	11	1.52
Miscellaneous Detail	14	1.93
Detail Parade	2	0.28
Detail Radar	2	0.28
Disorderly Conduct	3	0.41
Disturbance	7	0.97
Domestic Disturbance	1	0.14
Controlled Substance Problem	1	0.14
Electronic Monitoring	4	0.55
Failure to Appear	4	0.55
Fire Alarm	1	0.14
Found Property	2	0.28
Fraud	1	0.14
Harassment	3	0.41
Information Report	21	2.90
Intoxicated Person	4	0.55
Medical Emergency EMD	4	0.55
Mental Medical	1	0.14
Message Delivery	1	0.14
Motorist Assist	7	0.97
Motor Vehicle Complaint	21	2.90
Officer Complaint	5	0.69
Operation Game Thief	1	0.14
Paperwork Service	11	1.52
Traffic Accident with Damage	9	1.24
Traffic Accident with Injuries	8	1.10
Public Assist	26	3.59
Search Warrant	4	0.55
Service PO	4	0.55
Sex Offender Violation	2	0.28
Sex Offense	2	0.28
Suspicious Person, Circumstnce	8	1.10
Theft	3	0.41
Threatening	2	0.28
Traffic Violation	26	3.59
Prisoner Transport	310	42.82
Vehicle Off the Road	3	0.41
Violation Conditional Release	1	0.14
Violation Protection Order	3	0.41
Wanted Person	34	4.70
Welfare Check	8	1.10
Wildfire	1	0.14
Wildlife Problem or Complaint	3	0.41

SUSAN M. COLLINS

MAINE

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UNITED STATES SENATE  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1904

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

## DEAR FRIENDS

It is an honor to represent Maine in the United States Senate. I am grateful for the trust the people of our State have placed in me and welcome this opportunity to reflect on 2020, an incredibly challenging year for Maine families, small businesses, and communities.

When the pandemic struck, our country faced the specter of an overwhelmed health care system and devastation to our small businesses and the millions of people they employ. I immediately worked with Republicans and Democrats to pass multiple laws allocating approximately \$3 trillion to respond to this public health and economic crisis, including more than \$8 billion directed to Maine to support testing, schools, the economy, and other purposes — that is nearly double Maine’s annual state budget.

I am especially proud of the bipartisan Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) I co-authored. This program has provided three out of four Maine small businesses with nearly \$2.3 billion in forgivable loans, which has helped sustain more than 250,000 Maine jobs. I have met thousands of Maine small employers and employees in all 16 counties who are surviving because of the PPP. As one small business owner told me, the PPP provided “exactly what we needed at exactly the right time.” The PPP also allowed employers to maintain benefits, such as health care, during this challenging time. Another round of PPP is needed to sustain small businesses and their employees.

While the pandemic continues across Maine, our nation, and the world, I thank the first responders, health care professionals, teachers, grocery store employees, factory workers, farmers, truck drivers, postal employees, and so many others who continue to stay on the job during this difficult time. With the deployment of the first vaccines, better tests, and the incredible speed with which these life-saving responses were developed, I am hopeful we can emerge from this crisis in the next few months.

While providing relief to American families was my focus throughout 2020, other accomplishments include the passage of the Great American Outdoors Act, which provides full funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund and addresses the maintenance backlog at our national parks, forests, and wildlife refuges. As Chairman of the Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee, in 2020 alone, I secured \$132 million to improve Maine’s roads, bridges, airports, buses, rail, ferries, and seaports. Finally, as Chairman of the Aging Committee, I led the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act, which funds programs that improve the well-being, independence, and health of our nation’s seniors and their caregivers, and I authored laws to reduce the cost of prescription drugs and protect individuals with Alzheimer’s disease.

As the end of 2020 is approaching, I have cast more than 7,535 votes, never having missed one. In the New Year, my focus remains to work with colleagues to find common ground on policies to help support the health and safety of Mainers and the safe, responsible opening of our communities. If ever I or my staff can be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact one of my state offices. May the coming year be a successful one for you, your family, your community, and our state.

Sincerely,

SUSAN M. COLLINS

United States Senator

# UNITED STATES SENATE

Angus S. King, Jr.

133 Hart Senate Office Building

(202) 224-5344

Website: <http://www.King.Senate.gov>

Washington, DC 20510

January 1, 2021

COMMITTEES:  
ARMED SERVICES  
BUDGET

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
INTELLIGENCE  
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Dear Friends,

2020 was a year unlike any in our lifetimes. Our state and nation dealt with unprecedented challenges--the coronavirus pandemic, ensuing economic fallout, and a prolonged, heavily divisive campaign season each took a significant toll on all of us. The worst part? In order to protect each other, we had to face these challenges in isolation. But a new year represents new possibilities; a chance to take stock of what we're grateful for and focus on the opportunities in front of us. As we reflect back on 2020, we will remember heartbreak and loss – but we cannot forget the shining rays of hope that broke through the darkness, reminding us all that better days are ahead.

Throughout the pandemic, my top focus has been on bridging the partisan divide in Washington in order to deliver desperately-needed relief for Maine people. Joined by colleagues last March, we pushed for bipartisan negotiations to produce a strong bill that helped fellow Mainers, businesses, and institutions weather this storm. In the weeks and months after the CARES Act passed, our team stayed in close contact with people throughout the state to determine how we should adjust our response to best support our citizens. Unfortunately, the aid provided by the CARES Act lapsed without Congressional action, leaving too many families and businesses in limbo. I never stopped pushing for a bipartisan relief bill and, after extensive negotiations, we ended the year on a good note by breaking the gridlock and passing new relief legislation. This new bill isn't perfect; in fact, it should just be the start our renewed response. As we enter 2021 with a new administration and new Congress, we must fight for additional legislation to help restore stability to our working families and rebuild our economy and public health infrastructure.

In the midst of this crisis, Congress did manage to accomplish a few successes that will outlast this awful pandemic. Among these was the Great American Outdoors Act, a bipartisan bill which was enacted into law in August 2020 and will help address a \$12 billion backlog at our national parks so future generations of Americans can enjoy these beautiful lands and create lifelong memories. Also, as we learn more about the recent hacks of our nation's networks, there is help on the way: 27 of the cybersecurity recommendations made by the Cyberspace Solarium Commission – which I co-chair with Republican Congressman Mike Gallagher– made it into this year's defense bill. While there is no guarantee that these provisions would have prevented the massive hack, they will certainly improve our cyber defenses.

Despite the challenges, I'm hopeful for the future. Vaccines are being distributed across our state – starting with our healthcare heroes, who have sacrificed so much throughout this unprecedented catastrophe and deserve our eternal gratitude. If there can be a silver lining from these challenges of 2020, maybe it will be this: I hope that, in the not-so distant future, we will be able to come together physically and we will be reminded of our love for each other. We have differences, without a doubt. But as Maine people stepped up to support each other, we saw again and again that our differences pale in comparison to the values we share. We are one state, and one community – and there is nothing we cannot or will not do for each other. Mary and I wish you a happy and healthy 2021. We can't wait to see you soon.

Best Regards,

Angus S. King

United States Senator

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#### BIDDEFORD

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04005

#### PRESQUE ISLE

169 Academy  
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04769  
(207) 764-5124

# JARED GOLDEN

## CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

### 2ND DISTRICT OF MAINE

[www.golden.house.gov](http://www.golden.house.gov)

#### Washington Office

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Washington, D.C. 20515  
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Fax: (202) 225-2943

Dear Friends,

I hope this letter finds you safe and well. I know that this year has been challenging for many of our communities. In the midst of these challenges, it remains a privilege to represent you, and I appreciate the opportunity to update you on what I have been working on in Congress for the people of the Second Congressional District.

The coronavirus pandemic has made this year an especially difficult one. We've seen the struggles of small businesses, workers and families, hospitals, and states and towns. COVID-19 has been a serious threat to public health that requires a comprehensive, ongoing response. In March, Congress passed the largest of three bipartisan pieces of relief legislation, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The CARES Act was a \$2 trillion economic relief package to provide immediate assistance for some of those hit hardest by the pandemic. While an important start, many of the programs and benefits created by the CARES Act were set to expire by the end of 2020 at a time when COVID-19 cases were on the rise. That's why in late December, Congress passed another bipartisan bill to provide COVID-19 relief to small businesses and hospitals, the unemployed, and families struggling to put food on the table. However, the action Congress took at the end of 2020 cannot distract from its failure to act sooner. The unwillingness of many members of Congress to accept compromise throughout the fall left many Mainers struggling and led to a rushed process that produced a bill with serious flaws. In 2021, Congress needs to step up, come together, and lead the country through this pandemic and get our economy back on track.

There are a few bright spots that came out of the work done by Congress this year. As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I helped advocate for a national defense bill that would include important priorities for American national security, Maine shipbuilders, and servicemembers and their families. The legislation authorizes a new DDG-51 Arleigh Burke-class destroyer to be constructed at Bath Iron Works and helps BIW compete for new work by encouraging a new multi-year procurement process for the DDG-51 Flight III. This funding bill also makes permanent new federal guidelines proposed by Senator King and me to allow Gold Star Families free admission to national parks and other federal lands.

I've been working to improve mental health services for veterans for years, and I led the Maine delegation's effort to address the need for long-term mental health substance abuse treatment for veterans in our state. This past fall the Veterans Administration announced we were successful. Construction starts next year on a new, 24-bed facility at Togus that will ensure Maine veterans won't be sent out of state to receive residential care for substance use disorder and associated mental health issues. This is one result that I am especially proud to deliver for my fellow Maine veterans.

As I reflect upon what I am most grateful for this year, I am especially glad to be able to share that my wife Izzy and I are expecting a baby in 2021. We are excited about this new addition to our family and look forward to the blessings ahead.

This period is challenging for Mainers as we all take steps to limit the spread of the coronavirus, protect our families and our communities, and lean on each other to withstand this pandemic and economic hardship. My staff and I stand ready to assist Mainers as we work through these challenges together. I look forward to continuing to work on your behalf in 2021.

Respectfully,

Jared Golden  
Member of Congress

Committee on Armed Services

Committee on Small Business

Chairman, Subcommittee on Contracting and  
Infrastructure

130th Legislature  
STATE OF MAINE  
Senate District 11

**Senator Chip Curry**  
3 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-003  
(207) 287-1515  
Chip.Curry@legislature.maine.gov

**Dear Friends and Residents of Belfast,**

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your state senator. I am honored to represent Waldo County in Augusta, and I promise to work as hard as I can on your behalf.

In this past year we have confronted a global pandemic, personal and tragic losses, an economic crisis and a host of significant disruptions to our daily lives. Even though the end of this difficult time seems to be coming to a close with the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccines, I would encourage everyone to stay strong and do their part now to slow the spread of the virus. I also ask everyone to continue what we do best, looking after and caring for each other.

In the Legislature, I have been appointed to serve as Chair of the Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business Committee. I requested this committee because I know that a strong diversified economy is essential for our rural communities. I look forward to working creatively to uplift Maine's workers and small businesses and strengthen our local economies. I will also serve on the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee, which oversees many of our heritage industries and hobbies including hunting, fishing and boating.

At least for the start of the session, we will be doing much of our work virtually, and only convening in person when it's necessary. Our committee hearings and meetings will all be live-streamed and recorded and can be viewed online at [www.legislature.maine.gov](http://www.legislature.maine.gov). Most importantly there are many ways you can have your voice heard at the legislature. You will be able to participate and provide testimony on bills via phone or videoconference, as well as by submitting written testimony online at [www.mainelegislature.org/testimony](http://www.mainelegislature.org/testimony). The legislature works best when we hear from you and I will make sure that you have ample access to see our work and to add your voice to the process.

I also want to remind you that I am here as a resource to you or your family. Whether you have an issue with a business recovery grant, unemployment benefits, need to contact a state agency or just have a question or comment, don't hesitate to reach out. You can send me an email at [Chip.Curry@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:Chip.Curry@legislature.maine.gov) or call my office at 287-1515.

I know these are still difficult times, but we will get through them and on to brighter days.

**Sincerely,**  
**Chip Curry**  
*State Senator*

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Message Service: 1-800-423-6900

# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 0433-0002

(207) 287-1400  
Maine Relay 711 (207) 287-4469  
17 Vine Street  
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jan.dodge@legislature.maine.gov

**Dear Belfast neighbors,**

It's an honor to continue representing you in the Maine House of Representatives. This new legislative session looks quite different because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. We were sworn in at the Augusta Civic Center, and much of our early work has taken place remotely, with both legislators and the public participating via the internet.

We are as determined as ever to continue to do the work you elected us to do. All our work is available to access online, either live or after the fact, and I encourage you to visit [www.legislature.maine.gov](http://www.legislature.maine.gov) if you are interested. I also hope you will feel free to contact me with any questions about how to stay informed about our proceedings.

A major part of our work this session is balancing the state budget for the next two years, and public hearings on this legislation are underway as of this writing. One of my goals for this budget includes making sure our recovery from the economic fallout of the pandemic leaves nobody behind. I will also be pushing to make sure the budget adequately funds our schools, strengthens our health care and behavioral health resources, provides help to local governments and property taxpayers and continues our efforts to address the climate crisis.

Another critical area of work will be our economy, particularly considering how difficult the pandemic has been for our working families and entrepreneurs. We will also need to continue to improve access to broadband, augment workforce training and invest in Maine's large infrastructure network. And, given the experience of so many constituents last year, we will need to address the serious shortcomings in our unemployment insurance system that were brought to light by the current situation.

My own bills include measures to expand intensive case manager services at the Waldo Reentry Center, increase availability and reduce stigma around Naloxone, increase veteran property tax exemption and decrease robocalls.

Once again, I am serving on the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee, which oversees the state systems of education, along with the university and community college system, the Maine Arts Commission, Maine State Library, Maine State Museum and Maine Public Broadcasting Corporation.

Through both my committee work and other legislative business, I am committed to working with all my colleagues, regardless of party, to advocate for our community and move our state forward. Please contact me if I can be of any help to you and your family, or if you want to discuss any legislation. I fully welcome your questions and feedback.

**Warm wishes,**

**Jan Dodge**

**State Representative**







