

Town of Surry Annual Town Report



Photo by Phil Roberts

2024-2025

Town of Surry
Annual Town Report
for Fiscal Year 7/1/2023-6/30/2024

&

The Warrant for the
2025 Annual Town Meeting



Town Election – April 11, 2025

Town Meeting – April 14, 2025

Surry Town Office

Office Hours: Tuesday–Friday 7:30am–12pm & 1pm–4pm

We are closed from 12pm-1pm for lunch break

Code Enforcement Office Hours: Tuesday 4pm-7pm and Thursday/Saturday by appointment.

Our mailing address is 741 North Bend Road, Surry, ME 04684

The Tax Assessor is available by appointment only on the 1st Tuesday of the month.

Please contact the Town Office to make an appointment.

Property taxes are due September 30th and March 30th.

Partial tax payments can be made at any time.

Payments must be applied to the oldest tax bill.

The Surry Town Office observes and will be closed for the following holidays:

New Year's Day

Independence Day

Martin Luther King Jr Day

Labor Day

Presidents' Day

Indigenous Peoples' Day

Patriots' Day

Veterans Day

Memorial Day

Thanksgiving & the day after Thanksgiving

Juneteenth

Christmas Day

The Town Office will be closed for winter break December 24, 2025 – January 2, 2026.

Normal business hours will resume on January 6, 2026.

Thank you to all who contributed to the town report.

Cover photo - Toddy Pond by Phil Roberts

*Bucksport Mill LLC is in the process of abandoning the Toddy Pond dam. The four towns of Blue Hill, Orland, Penobscot and Surry are looking for a solution to maintain the dam so that there isn't an up to 8 ft drop in the water level.

Select Board Meetings

Select Board meetings are held at 6pm on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month unless otherwise posted. These meetings are open to the public and can be accessed remotely via Zoom. The Zoom link can be found on our website homepage: townofsurrymaine.com.

*If meeting dates fall on a holiday or election, they will be rescheduled and posted on our website under latest news and the website calendar.

TextMyGov

Text My Gov is a text notification service that the Town of Surry started using in 2024. To sign up, text the word "**SURRY**" to **91896** or visit our website, townofsurrymaine.com. Please note, after the initial keyword of "**SURRY**" is sent, you will receive a confirmation message asking you to reply **YES** to opt-in. Please remember to reply **YES** or you will not be subscribed.

Note: In this town report, you may notice that reports related to the Town of Surry's finances/audit are not included. The omitted portions of the report will be available at the Surry Town Office and on our website as soon as they are available from the auditor.

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Select Board

Mary Allen, Chair 2026
Chris Stark, GA Administrator 2027
Tom Welgoss, Assessor 2025

Town Administrator/Tax Collector

Darcel Winslow

Town Clerk/Registrar

Emily Morrow

Treasurer

Chris Nemeth

Code Enforcement Officer

Bill Booth

Plumbing Inspector

Darcel Winslow

Assessor's Agent

RJD Appraisal, Matt Caldwell

Road Commissioner

Stanley Saunders

Animal Control Officer

Carol Ann Cutler (Until December 2024)
Dan McKay (Started January 2025)

Health Officers

William Caddoo
Katherine Lane
Douglas Trenkle

Harbormaster

William Caddoo

Constable

Patrick Kane

Town Crier

John Curtis

Shellfish Warden

Michael Boucher

Superintendent of Schools

Derek Perkins

Surry Elementary School Principal

Sarah Dunbar

School Board

Nick Noddin, Chair 2026
Jared Benner, 2026
Donald Driscoll, 2025
Kerry McKim, 2027
Kristen McFarland, 2025

Scholarship Committee

Nick Noddin, Chair
Mary Allen
Joan Welgoss

Surry Fire Department

Bryan McLellan, Chief
Russell Smith, Assistant Chief
Richard Black, Captain
Brian Bailey
Todd Casey
Byron Childress
William Coney
Bill Dammier
Edgar Foudray
Jordan Lapka
Michael Locke
Pam Morse
Sara Randolph
Tracey Utting
Amber Wallace-DeJulio
Jaxson Wallace-DeJulio
Reggie Winslow
Roger Woodbridge
Honorary Members
Fred Allen
Corey Esposito
Wayne Moon
Billy Mulhern

Alewife Committee

Susan Shetterly
Barbara Tedesco
Pat Tedesco
Tom Welgoss

Backpack Committee

Joan Welgoss, Chair
Lesley Blumenschein
George Borowsky
Carolyn Bower
Cindy Engle
Ellen Gormley
Peter Gormley
Lola Hosler
Patricia Jencks
Lee Marville
Janet Pierce
Rita Roberts

Board of Appeals

Michael Locke, Chair
Marshall Dodge
Peter Gormley
William Matlock
Margaret Smith, Alternate
Susan Sokol

Broadband Committee

Chris Stark, Chair
George Borowsky
Heather Brackett
William Matlock
Robert Reder
Phil Roberts

Cemetery Trustees

North Bend – Stanley Saunders
W Surry & Cunningham Ridge – Pat
Saunders
Village Cemetery – John Curtis
Newbury Neck & Morgan Bay – Darcel
Winslow

Climate Action Workgroup

Robert Balaban
Jordan Lapka
Irene Schmidt
Chris Stark
Thomas Sylvia

Comprehensive Plan Committee

Catherine Engel
Patricia Jencks
Katherine Lane
William Matlock
Irene Schmidt
Susan Sokol
Tom Welgoss, Select Board Liaison

Conservation Commission

Michelle Berger, Co-chair
Irene Schmidt, Co-chair
Susan Guilford, Treasurer
Michael Jensen
Kim Johnson
Karen Merritt
Courtney Weaver
Nancy Hathaway, Associate
Lucy Leaf, Associate
Susan Sokol, Associate
Ralph Topham, Associate

Economic & Community Development

Bob Balaban
George Borowsky
Chris Nemeth
Kathy Tracy
Tim Tunney
Ted Webersinn
Tom Welgoss, Select Board Liaison

Finance Committee

Alfred Judd, Chair
David Hollenberg
Diana Merenda
Rita Roberts
Irene Schmidt

Investment Committee

Robert Strong, Chair
Robert Capen
Thomas Grogean
Ralph Topham
Ted Webersinn
Ryan Willette

Memorial Park

Marie Merkel, Chair
Mary Allen, Select Board Liaison
Barbara Barwise
Cathy Engel
Beth Sylvia
Anne Vickers
Darcel Winslow

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Pat Saunders, Co-chair
Denise Sevigny, Co-chair
Mary Allen
Margret Baldwin
Audrey Carter
Stephen Chace
Marie Merkel
Paula Mrozicki
Elizabeth Sylvia

Old Surry Village School Committee

Glyneta Thomson, Chair
John Curtis
Elizabeth Vickery
Richard Saunders
Rick Zeamer

Planning Board

Phil Roberts, Chair
Patrick Kane, Vice Chair
George Borowsky
David Hollenberg
Alfred Judd
Tom Minogue
Moira O'Neill
Jared Benner, Associate
Alden Saunders, Associate
Hilary Vanblaricom-Nelson, Secretary

Recreation Committee

Kristi Miltner, Chair
Patrick Carter
Pete Collier
Shaneika Cox
Brittany Harkins
Katrina Scott-Willette

Shellfish Conservation

Sara Bushmann, Chair
Carol Roberts
Elizabeth Sylvia

Select Board

It has been an honor to work with an outstanding team of dedicated and talented office staff, department heads, and the many volunteers that serve on boards, committees, and workgroups that make Surry a very special community: from providing emergency assistance and community services to supporting conservation, economic development and fiscal responsibility. We were busy last year and made progress in a number of areas. Tom, Chris and I have worked very well together, emphasizing open communication and hearing everyone's viewpoints in Town. Credit for our progress over the last year was only possible because of the support from our talented and dedicated Town Office Staff, Emily Morrow and Darcel Winslow, and with the help of volunteers who tirelessly serve on Surry's committees and work groups. Thanks to Darcel for filling in as Treasurer during the period the post was open and to Tom Welgoss for ensuring that our audit reports were in and providing the critical training to Darcel.

We welcome Chris Nemeth, our Treasurer since last fall, who brings unique skills and experience. Under the direction of the Select Board, Chris is exploring economic and community development opportunities and will assist the new Surry Economic and Community Development Committee.

We deeply appreciate all the hard work of the Comprehensive Plan Committee and the community input on the surveys and visioning sessions, to ensure that Surry is a place where people can be happy and healthy. The plan will help the Select Board in being competitive when applying for grants to address Surry's needs.

The Surry Economic and Community Development Committee is actively identifying, prioritizing, and pursuing ways to expand Surry's tax base and making it an even better place to live and work.

The Surry Fire Department has been engaged in robustly improving its capabilities by addressing equipment and staffing needs. We have pursued grant funding to replace fire department equipment, although these efforts have not yet produced the desired results. We will continue the efforts because of the need to effectively respond to emergencies. Recruitment and retention of volunteer fire fighters is a priority for our Fire Chief. Because of Fire Chief Bryan McLellan's efforts, we currently have 21 volunteer firefighters. Many of our current firefighters have undergone rigorous training to further their readiness and competence. We are currently working to put in a dry hydrant and turnaround at Goldstream Road and to install a cistern on Newbury Neck Rd. to have year-round access to a water supply within 5 miles from our major roads for our Fire Department. This will greatly improve the timeliness of Fire Department responses in those areas. In addition, Surry, with 7 other towns on the peninsula has begun working on a "Blue Hill Peninsula Community Wildfire Protection Plan" with a \$220,000 grant.

We appreciate the efforts of Surry's Road Commissioner, Stanley Saunders, who, for about 40 years now, maintains our Town roads and Town wharf, guides the Select Board in setting road maintenance priorities, and is always there when a road is blocked or flooded to ensure everyone's safety.

Following the impact of the early 2024 winter storms, we have been and are investigating storm damage mitigation measures that will reduce our vulnerability. The Climate Vulnerability Risk Assessment by the GEI Engineering Consultants was completed, and the report was presented to the Town in December 2024. The reports are posted on the Town's website under "Climate Vulnerability." Follow-up actions focused on our vulnerabilities and are being pursued (e.g., Newbury

Neck Evacuation Route). We received two grants in 2024, totaling \$125,000 which will enable us to continue with the engineering and pre-construction phases of the road project at Carrying Place Beach. Another vulnerability is Emerton Brook Marsh at the Cross Road. Engineers, environmental and road experts visited this area on three occasions last year. They pointed out that the culvert is undersized, and the road needs to be elevated. The high tides and storm surge is causing rapid erosion of the marsh, and prevents natural sedimentation build up on the south side of the culvert. The Select Board has been pursuing grants to save this important Surry asset. We are tirelessly seeking grant funding to mitigate the effects of sea level rise, wildfires and to replace Fire Department vehicles and equipment.

The possible abandonment of the Toddy Pond Dam proposed by the owner is and continues to be of critical importance to our Town. We are working with Select Board members of Penobscot, Blue Hill and Orland and our legislators to find a solution. If the owner receives permission from the Maine DEP, the release of water from the dam would be devastating not only to the property owners on the Pond. With a drop of eight feet of water in the Pond the loss in value of those properties would impact all taxpayers in Surry. Information about the issue is posted on the Town's website under "Toddy Pond Dam."

We are working with the Surry School, Fire Department and Public Works departments to improve our long-range planning with the help of the Finance Committee and School Board. The School has completed addressing its PFAS water contamination issue, and using engineering input, it is evaluating the need for heating and ventilation improvements.

The Maine DOT erected two speed control signs on both ends of the village. They became activated in early summer.

The process of defining the need for a short-term rental ordinance has commenced – further work is required to determine what is required.

The Shellfish Ordinance was enacted, and a Shellfish Committee was formed last year. We recently hired a Shellfish Warden, Michael Boucher.

A Marine Resources Committee was formed to address the preservation and use of our important salt water assets.

A Select Board Resource support system is being explored. This is intended to be a multi-disciplinary group of citizens, who will work on specific research assignments, to assist the Select Board in conducting background research to address opportunities or issues of importance to the Town.

We are saddened by the passing of Kathy Booth, the wife of our Code Enforcement Officer, Bill Booth.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the Town of Surry with its wonderful staff and countless volunteers.

Mary, Tom and Chris

General Assistance

Everyone deserves to have their basic needs met, including food, shelter, rent, electricity, heating fuel, medical costs, utilities, burial costs, and other critical things. If you are in urgent need of help, please don't hesitate to reach out. In Surry, the most common requests for general assistance are (in this order): heating and electric bills, lack of food, or the threat of homelessness.

Before asking for assistance through your town, you are required to seek help through either the Department of Health and Human Services in Ellsworth (855-797-4357) or Downeast Community Partners (207-664-2424) first unless you need emergency assistance such as if there is an immediate threat of eviction, having your electricity cut off, or need immediate heating assistance.

General Assistance Application (through the state): An application for General Assistance is available at the Town Office and on the Town website. However, in an emergency you can apply by phone. You can call the town office or 211 to reach General Assistance (GA) for Surry. In the GA application you will be asked to list your income and expenses over the past month to the best of your ability. The GA Administrator, Chris Stark, will review the application with you to be sure that it is complete. If you do not meet the requirements of the General Assistance application, there are other resources. While meeting with Chris he can talk with you about other resources that you may not have known about or considered. Payment for General Assistance is to the vendor, not the individual or family.

Surry Fuel Assistance Program (funded by the generous donations of Surry Residents)

Funded by the donations of Surry residents, this program is separate from the General Assistance program, does not have the stringent guidelines of GA, and does not require that you fill out the GA application. It is a separate and simple application form. The program provides up to 100 gallons of oil, kerosene, or propane; electricity used for heating; or a cord of wood to anyone who demonstrates a need. In the last couple of years, the need for heating assistance has been great and, we are currently looking for more donations for this program since there have been cuts in the Heating Assistance Program (HEAP) through Downeast Community Partners.

Special thanks to:

Food:

Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry, Ellsworth, and Tree of Life Food Pantry in Blue Hill for providing food to Surry residents in need.

Rides:

Ted Fletcher, of the Surry Community Improvement Association (SCIA) for coordinating rides for individuals in Surry that can't drive themselves to **medical and dental appointments or to a pharmacy**. Several people in town consistently use this service (approximately 52 rides were provided in 2024) and there is room for more. Ted Fletcher can be reached at 667-9475 to request a ride or to be a volunteer driver.

Also, under the auspices of the SCIA and in concert with Surry Neighbors Helping Neighbors, rides were provided for residents **to attend Healthy Peninsula's Walk-In Cafe** on Wednesday mornings from 10-11:30 am at the Congregational Church in Blue Hill. In 2024 approximately 32 rides were provided, and the goal is to expand to grocery shopping and more town events. Beth Sylvia is the coordinator of this program and can be reached at 508-930-3874.



The DownEast Wood Bank is a local 501c3 non-profit that was established to provide Surry residents with seasoned firewood if they were experiencing a heating crisis. Families can make appointments for pickup at the Wood Bank's woodlot in Surry. The Wood Bank allots 1/2 cord per family per pickup. Families can access the Wood Bank once per month. Firewood is provided at no cost to the family.

In 2024, the Wood Bank provided firewood for 24 families in Surry. Families are provided with information about how to safely and efficiently use firewood in their home. They are also encouraged to volunteer with the DownEast Wood Bank or some other community program.

The DownEast Wood Bank relies on volunteers and local donations to make its mission a success. More information can be seen on their website downeastwoodbank.org or by following them on Facebook at DownEast Wood Bank. Appointments can be made by calling 207-812-4472.

Town Clerk's Report

2024 Vital Statistics

- Births: 9
- Deaths: 21
- Marriage Licenses Issued: 13

2024 Licenses and Registrations

- Cars, Trucks and Trailers: 1,426
- Hunting and Fishing Licenses: 73
- Boats: 199
- Snowmobiles: 25
- ATVs: 70
- Dogs: 158

Vehicle Registrations Reminders:

- To **re-register** your vehicle or trailer, please remember to bring your **current registration, proof of insurance** and **mileage**. Some vehicles may be re-registered online through Rapid Renewal.
- For **newly purchased** vehicle registrations from a Maine licensed dealer, please bring your title application (if the vehicle is a 1995 model year or newer), proof of insurance, and current registration if you are looking to transfer your previous license plate.
- For **private sale** purchased vehicles please bring your signed bill of sale, signed over title to new owner from the previous owner (if the vehicle is a 1995 model year or newer), proof of insurance and current registration if you are looking to transfer your previous license plate. **On a private sale of any vehicle, you are required by State law to pay sales tax at the time of registration at Maine Bureau of Motor Vehicles.*
- Excise tax is based on the manufacturer's suggested retail price (MSRP) and the age of the vehicle, not what you paid for the vehicle.

Dog Licenses

- Dog licenses are available every year beginning October 15th. All dogs must be licensed by January 31st to avoid a state mandated \$25 late fee. To register your dog, you will need to provide proof of rabies vaccination and spay/neuter certificate.

Thank you to all of the outstanding election workers who assisted with both Town and State elections. We couldn't do it without your help!

Code Enforcement

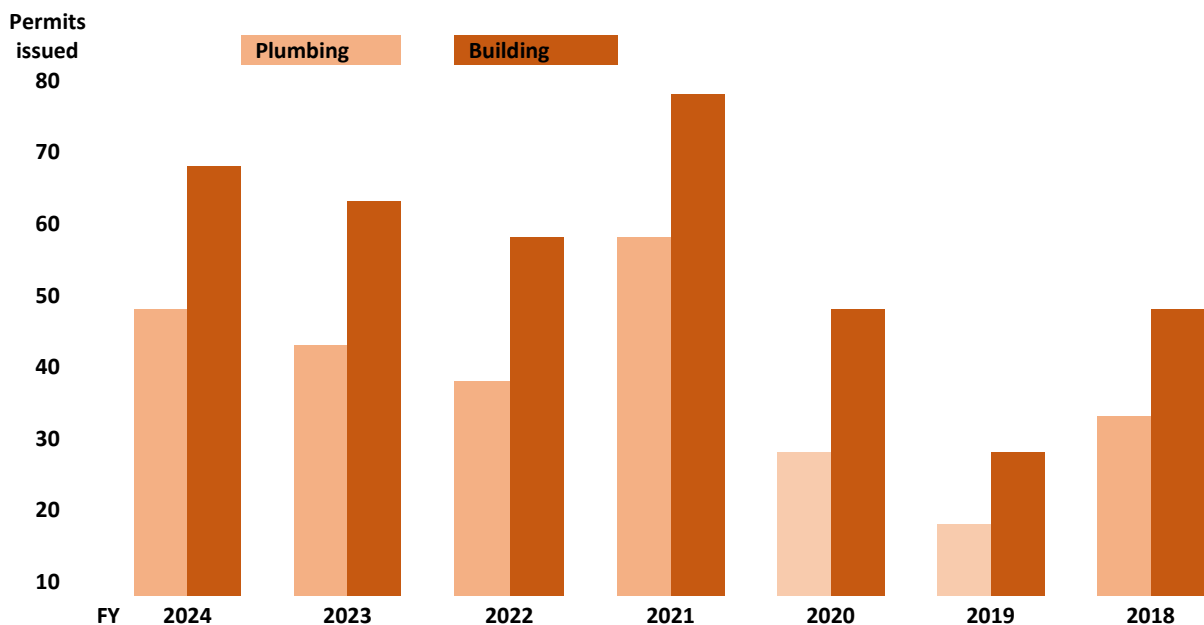
Regular Code Enforcement hours are Tuesdays 4-7PM, Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings are by appointment only; during the busy months, appointments and inspections can be arranged at other times. Bill Booth, CEO can be reached at 667-5912 or ceo@townofsurrymaine.com. Darcel Winslow, LPI can be reached at 667-5912 or taxcollector@townofsurrymaine.com.

2024 was a busy year for the Code Enforcement office issuing 107 permits. 44 plumbing permits and 63 building permits. Our second busiest year in a decade!

It is the Code Enforcement Office's goal to help residents of Surry with their construction projects, and to help them maneuver through the Surry Code of Ordinances and the Planning Board process, when necessary.

We are in the process of implementing an online portal to apply for and process permits; it is a work in progress and will hopefully be fully functional by the end of the current year. Contact via email is preferred over phone calls and plumbing inspections should be requested 24 hours in advance.

Respectfully submitted,
Darcel Winslow, Deputy Code Enforcement Officer/Licensed Plumbing Inspector
William (Bill) Booth, Code Enforcement Officer



Road Commissioner's Report

I would like to thank you for your continued support and help in accomplishing the work that was performed this year.

2024-2025 was a normal year with no major problems in the highway maintenance, but our most challenging problems were the unusually severe major storms that we had last winter. The major areas were at Carrying Place Beach, through the pines area south of Carrying Place Beach, both sides of Perry's Lobster Shack, Cross Road culvert, and the town wharf. Some road damage was done at the Carrying Place and Cross Road culvert. The guardrail was also damaged. Some of the damage has been repaired. We have quite a lot more damage to repair and have been working with FEMA for reimbursement of most of the cost.

Sweeping and cleanup of salt/sand accumulated from winter is done annually. This includes all town roads, intersections, Town Office and Town Park parking areas.

Ditching, shoulder repair and cutting back of trees and limbs continued on the Wharf Road, Cross Road, Playhouse Road and Newbury Neck Road. On Newbury Neck Road and Cross Road our most extensive culvert replacement and shoulder and ditching work was done in preparation for new paving from Pat Kane's to Cross Road, approximately 1.5 miles. Five cross culverts were rusted out and replaced and upgraded to a larger size. Three driveway culverts were replaced. On Cross Road we will be paving from the intersection of Newbury Neck Road to just beyond the cemetery. All new pavement will be backed up with new shoulders.

Our planned paving project for the coming season will be Jellison Ridge Road and Murphy Road.

The roadside mowing has been accomplished by Ray McDonald & Son as in past years. His crew continues their great work.

Our roadside clearing back of trees and brush was done by Michael Smith. He continues to do a great job.

KJ Dugas Construction continued their contract keeping our roads plowed and sanded through the 2024-2025 season. They continue to maintain excellent service in keeping our roads open and safe throughout the winter season.

Our prospective for the upcoming year will be to continue roadside ditching, grading, repair of shoulders and replacement of culverts as necessary.

Respectfully submitted,
Stanley Saunders, Road Commissioner

Fire Chief's Report

Your volunteer fire department serves the community in many ways; from reducing property loss to structure fires, to assisting EMS personnel with CPR on cardiac arrest calls. They leave their jobs, beds, and families to serve others. Last year our volunteers responded to 75 emergency calls.

Their commitment is much more than responding to emergencies. Our members must receive extensive initial and recurring training. Our equipment requires monthly checks for readiness and operation. In addition to emergency calls, we have dozens of scheduled training, meetings, and equipment checks every year.

Recruiting, training, and retaining sufficient volunteers to respond to any emergency at any time will always be our greatest challenge. Nationwide it gets more difficult every year for volunteer fire departments to maintain sufficient membership. There simply aren't enough people working in Surry who are able to leave their jobs at a moment's notice to respond to an emergency, especially during the daytime when most are working in another town.

As volunteers retire or can no longer fit the volunteer fire department into their busy lives, we continue to recruit new volunteers. But it takes hundreds of hours to train a volunteer to fight structure fires, or drive and operate a fire engine. We're constantly training the next generation of firefighters to respond.

While we need more firefighters, especially during the daytime, we have lots of jobs to be done for all volunteers. From traffic control at car accident scenes to paperwork in the office, there's something for everyone to do who wants to help keep the community safe. We have a membership form that you can fill out on the town website if you're considering joining.

We expect our newest fire engine to be delivered to us at the end of this year. The chassis has been acquired and delivered to the company that builds the fire engine body in New Brunswick. We're carefully watching how the federal tariff situation unfolds as the manufacturer has warned us it could significantly increase the total cost of the vehicle.

We've once again applied for significant federal grants. There was a freeze on grant funds earlier this year, but they appear preserved as I write this. Our ability to prepare for and respond to many larger incidents, particularly hazardous materials incidents, is dependent on FEMA and funding it provides to the state and county. We will continue to do our best to adapt to and overcome whatever disruption comes from the volatile political environment.

Our three water supply projects at Flood Stream, Gold Stream, and Newbury Neck are progressing.

- We have completed restoring our water supply access point to the Flood Stream at the end of the Toddy Pond Road. The bank had eroded significantly, and we worked with the DEP and a local contractor to repair it.
- We have developed plans to improve access to Gold Stream Pond from Goldstream Road, off of the Toddy Pond Road, to ensure safe access to water for firefighting on that end of town.

- Using remaining ARPA funds last year, we ordered a 15,000 gallon underground cistern, which we will be installing on Newbury Neck. We have no freshwater access for firefighting on Newbury Neck. Shuttling water large distances during a fire requires significant resources and risk on the road. This project will ensure year-round access regardless of ice or drought.

Assistant Fire Chief Russell Smith is retiring from the department this year. Russell has volunteered for the fire department for over 40 years in many capacities. He has been a devoted and dependable volunteer through the years of significant change in the fire service. We greatly appreciate his contributions and thank him for his service.

Respectfully submitted,

Bryan McLellan

Cemetery Committee

The Cemetery Committee did not meet in 2024. Any needed communication was done via telephone.

The cemetery budget will remain the same as last year, though costs continue to rise we try hard to keep the budget manageable. Reggie Winslow has been mowing and maintaining cemeteries in Surry since 2011. He and his crew will continue to maintain and mow all six of Surry's cemeteries which cover over 11 acres of land; we thank them for their hard work and dedication.

Some winter storm damage is expected but appears to be minimal. Damage caused by vandalism is an ongoing problem, especially at Morgan Bay Cemetery; we will take extra measures this spring to try to minimize the damage. Sadly, cameras may be a needed next step. Tree trimming and reseeding will be done throughout all six cemeteries, as needed.

Cemetery lots are still available in Morgan Bay, Village, Hillside and Cunningham Ridge Cemeteries; lots remain at \$350 each. One lot has space for one body or four cremains. Both Bayview and West Surry Cemeteries are full; no new lots can be sold, though some burials will still take place on lots that were previously purchased.

Questions, concerns and/or ideas can be directed to Darcel at the Town Office 667-5912 or by email at: taxcollector@townofsurrymaine.com.

Respectfully submitted,
Darcel Winslow, Chair
John Curtis
Stanley Saunders
Patricia Saunders

Animal Control Officer's Report

Dear Town Citizens,

The Animal Control Department of Surry remains committed to promoting public safety, animal welfare, and responsible pet ownership within our community.

In my position as your Animal Control Officer, I am responsible for enforcing animal-related laws, investigating animal cruelty or neglect cases, and capturing stray or dangerous animals. I extend my gratitude to all residents for their support and collaboration in achieving these goals. The Town of Surry is contracted with the Small Animal Clinic in Ellsworth and that clinic is located at 9 Toothaker Lane. It is important to know that this shelter closes at 5 p.m., weekdays, and is only open Saturday mornings. Closed Sundays.

Please understand that in the case of stray animals the ACO may not be able to collect it until there is a shelter open to receive it. In such cases the animal may need food and shelter until the ACO can reasonably be expected to deliver it to an accredited shelter.

Most cases that come to the attention of the ACO are dogs-at-large. The Office of Animal Control is complaint driven, so if you continually see the same dog running free, and you don't report it, then the ACO has no way of knowing that information in order to get it stopped. When multiple complaints are received summonses will be issued to the repeat offenders. A summons will require a court appearance and possibly a fine.

The owner of any dog involved in a dog bite incident to a human will be issued a summons and have to appear in court. In serious cases like these the "wheels of justice turn very slowly", but with patience they will be heard, and due justice will hopefully be served.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as the Animal Control Officer for the Town of Surry, and a special thank you to the good Samaritan residents that are willing to take responsibility for a FRIENDLY stray or lost/found animal until either myself, the Sheriff, or Small Animal Clinic can take over. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments at my contact information listed below.

Carol Ann Cutler
207-610-2220
carolann@creaturequarters.com

Transfer Station Report

The Blue Hill-Surry Transfer station, co-owned by the two towns, is also used by Brooklin, Brooksville and Sedgwick. Current hours are Tuesday through Saturday, from 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Transfer Station stickers are available at the Town Office and are required when disposing of waste at the Transfer Station. Transfer Station staff are required to enforce this policy and may ask to see your sticker if it is not displayed. Surry residents have expressed the desire for the Transfer Station to be open on Sundays. We are continuing efforts to obtain agreement from the other towns to accomplish this.

Surry shares proportionately in Transfer Station costs. Our share rose 28% in calendar year 2023 and 25% in calendar year 2024, from each preceding year, largely due to higher fuel and labor costs to transport waste to its destination.

Dozens of towns in the area have been sending their trash to the Juniper Ridge landfill and it is estimated that it will reach its limit by 2027. The Blue Hill-Surry Transfer station also sends recycled materials (the single sort bin) to Eco Maine in Portland. The single-sort bin at our Transfer Station is used for recyclables (paper, cans, rigid plastics) which are trucked to Southern Maine to the ECO Maine facility. Tires are collected separately and should not go into other waste bins. Please separate clean glass in the labeled bin. Since 1978 the bottle bill has evolved into a successful recycling program (for glass, metal, and plastic beverage containers) which reduces litter, conserves resources, and saves energy. The only waste products that generate revenue are cardboard (separate bin), metals, and recyclables (aluminum and glass beverage containers). We accept clean glass jars in a separate bin which are pulverized and can be used as inert fill. Let the Transfer Station Manager know if you are interested. We have an ongoing program for cardboard recycling. We receive money for this material so every ton of cardboard (a separate container, not the single sort container) we send to be recycled can have a positive impact on our annual budget. Proceeds of the sale of cardboard are shared with employees 50-50. We urge you all to break down corrugated cardboard and place it in the proper bin.

The owners of the Hampden waste facility, Municipal Waste Solutions (MWS), plan to begin operation of the plant in 2025. https://www.foxbangor.com/news/new-hampden-trash-plant-aims-to-boost-maine-s-recycling-efforts/article_5a3dcbb4-f09c-11ef-9b04-4bc0d2513e0e.html

<https://www.bangordailynews.com/2025/02/20/bangor/bangor-business/hampden-trash-plant-6-8-weeks-away-from-reopening-joam40zk0w/>

The waste will be processed using anaerobic digestion which produces gas that is sold to Bangor Gas and fed into its pipeline. The residual waste that cannot be converted to gas will be sent to Juniper Ridge. The Hampden Facility will be able to "single sort waste" so there will be changes to our Blue Hill Transfer Station. We anticipate that all waste will be co-mingled and then sorted at the Hampden facility.

We expect to see cost savings in our transport fees since we will no longer be sending single-sort materials to ECO Maine in Portland.

Surry Scholarship Committee

In 2024, the Jordan Scholarship Committee awarded four scholarships. The following four students were each awarded \$2,500 to aid in their pursuit of further education.

- Brooklynn Carter
- Anna Mitchell
- Monte Weaver
- Natalie Esposito

All four of these students have completed the requirements for the award and payments have been sent. The scholarship is awarded from a Trust Fund established through the generous bequest of the late Robert L. Jordan. Donations towards scholarships for deserving Surry students are accepted by the town throughout the year.

Surry Children's Backpack Food Program Committee

The Children's Backpack Food Program commenced in 2017. Its goal is to provide food for the weekend to eligible Surry Elementary School students and their siblings.

Each week the backpack committee shops for food and fills the students' backpacks. Currently, food is discretely provided to 9 children. We are very appreciative of the support provided by Principal Sarah Dunbar and the school staff, particularly communicating the program to families that may benefit from it.

The backpacks include food for breakfast, lunch, and supper, plus snacks for each weekend day and holiday. This year, we offered Thanksgiving dinners with all the fixings to every participating family; 5 families opted to receive them.

The number of meals plus snacks sent home with the children has grown to over 37,000, since the backpack program began.

The program is funded 100% by donations, all of which goes towards the purchase of food. As of December 31, 2024, the program has \$34,217 of reserve funds to meet future food costs.

We are grateful for the financial support provided by Surry residents and many other individuals, businesses and civic organizations who have contributed to the program. We are also grateful to The Gatherings for providing a place to store and pack the food, and to Hannaford Supermarket for providing Thanksgiving Turkeys. The program would not be possible without the generosity of all supporters and our faithful and dedicated volunteers.

Joan Welgoss, Chair	Peter Gormley
Lesley Blumenschein	Lola Hosler
George Borowsky	Pat Jencks
Carolyn Bower	Lee Marville
Cindy Engle	Janet Pierce
Ellen Gormley	Rita Roberts

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee for the Town of Surry has a dual mandate: (a) monitor the Town's finances throughout the year, and (b) review the proposed budget in order to make recommendations to the Select Board.

Over the past several years, the Finance Committee has been working with the Select Board on a longer-term capital budget process for the Town. The intent is to identify upcoming capital needs of substantial cost and therefore be in a position to better plan for funding such needs.

During Finance Committee's research over the past several years, the Finance Committee has identified four main areas of capital needs: Road Maintenance; Fire Department; the Surry School, and Coastal Protection, each of which is addressed below. As a result of this research, the Finance Committee has concluded, based on previously unforeseen facts on the ground today, that the Town seems to have underinvested over the recent years in the Town's ability to prepare for and fully meet all future capital needs.

ROADS: The Town is fortunate that needed road-related capital expenditures are less than might be expected, as many of the roads in Surry are state highways and are maintained by the state budget. Nonetheless, annual Town expenditures are needed to keep up with ongoing needs for our Town roads.

FIRE DEPT: We have very old fire trucks that are overdue for replacement. One new fire truck is currently on order and a second needs to be ordered soon. Combined, these will require the Town to expend about \$900,000, and additional expenditures for fire-related capital needs are likely needed, bringing the total of deferred fire needs close to \$1 million.

SCHOOL: With respect to the school, the deferred capital needs are significant. Our inquiries have identified numerous and expensive needs, including an adequate ventilation system to provide healthy air for students and staff; an effective heating system; a modern roofing system replacement (perhaps with a metal roof to reduce maintenance costs and potentially support an energy efficient solar system to lower energy expenses); classroom and floorplan improvements and modernization; an improved kitchen; window replacements; installation of a sprinkler system, and other significant upgrades. Although the Surry School is a sound structure that is technically able to be upgraded, it is clear that an overall plan – prepared by professionals – is a necessary initial step to assure that any steps taken are cost effective and meet the educational needs for years to come. The School Board has recently engaged an experienced professional firm to conduct that assessment. The school also serves as a community center and upgrades need to be accomplished with those needs in mind.

COASTAL PROTECTION: Sea level rise and worsening storms are threatening our coastline, especially in the areas of the Carrying Place Beach and the Cross Road over the Emerton Brook Marsh. The Town has initiated efforts to address those needs.

The Town should be prepared to vigorously pursue grants to help defray the costs of these necessary capital expenditures. However, particularly given the uncertain status of federal and state grants for the next few years, it is also clear that the taxpayers of the Town will need to shoulder additional costs, especially for fire safety and educational essentials.

This year we welcome Diana Merenda and Rita Roberts as new members.

Respectfully submitted,

Alfred Judd, Chair
David Hollenberg
Diana Merenda
Rita Roberts
Irene Schmidt

Investment Advisory Committee Report

Calendar Year 2024

The Town of Surry initiated an investment program in February 2015 for the reserve funds appropriated by the Town for future capital expenditures. The objective of the program is to earn a return on these funds sufficient to hedge against inflation, while minimizing the risk of losing principal over the long term. The Town uses First National Wealth Management (a division of First National Bank) to help manage the program. The account is invested approximately 75% in fixed income or money market investments and 25% in equity investments.

The investments represent amounts reserved for future capital outlays for the Fire Department, the Old School, other municipal purposes, and early retirement of the Fire Department expansion loan.

The total cash invested to date is \$567,234. The market value (including accrued interest) of the amount invested as of 31 December 2024 is \$714,850.

From inception to 31 December 2024 the investments have produced an average annual return of 3.16%. Inflation over this same period was about 3.05%.

The table below shows the change in investment balances for calendar year 2024.

Summary of Investment activity for the year ended 31 December 2024

Balance, 1 January 2024	\$571,294
Contributions during 2024	\$102,500
Investment advisory fees paid	\$2,552
Net flows	\$99,948
Interest and dividends reinvested	\$27,570
Market appreciation	\$16,038
Balance, 31 December 2024	\$714,850
2024 Rate of Return	6.99%

Program status meetings were held in 2024 with First National Wealth Management on March 10 and September 5. The committee advises the Select Board as appropriate.

Investment Advisory Committee

Dr. Robert A. Strong, CFA, Chair Robert Capen Tom Grogan
Ralph Topham Ted Webersinn Ryan Willette, CFP

Surry Alewife Committee

2024 was a good year for the alewives of Patten Stream. 20 volunteers signed up to sit under the North Bend Road bridge to count fish for 30 minutes a slot as often as they could. We couldn't do this work without them.

The big news is that a beaver deceiver was set into the lower beaver dam just above Rattle Trap Road. It was a huge success: the fish passed through easily. No one had to go and notch the dam, and when the season was done, the deceiver was removed, and the beavers patched their dam back together.

This is the best way to protect the fish run without harming other wildlife. The beavers, over time, have added to the value of the stream by creating some gradual meanders that the fish move easily through – as do kayaks and canoes. Blue Hill Heritage Trust sponsored all this work, and this year we hope the program might expand to include the middle dam, which has become much larger.

The lack of rain probably prohibited the exit of the juvenile fish back to salt water in the early fall, but we hope they got out when the rains resumed.

The final count for returning alewives was 15,647 by our volunteer counters, which, when estimated for an entire season by DMR, comes to about 93,870 fish – a remarkable recovery for a run that a decade ago was virtually nonexistent.

We need more counters. If you have a half an hour to spend every week, or more, and think that it might be worth your while to sit under the bridge and listen to the spring birds, the water riffing against the rocks, and seeing, if you are lucky, a sudden, hurried pulse of beautiful fish homing to their spawning pond, please join us.

Barbara Tedesco
Pat Tedesco
Susan Hand Shetterly
Tom Welgoss

Surry Economic and Community Development Committee (SECDC)

The Surry Economic and Community Development Committee was first convened in December 2023, after the Select Board established the Committee, based on a recommendation contained in the 2014 Comprehensive Plan. The purpose of the Committee is stated in our mission statement:

“The Surry Economic and Community Development Committee is an action-oriented initiative tasked with identifying, planning, and implementing projects and programs that will enhance the tax base and resident experience in the Town of Surry.

With the aim of delighting our residents, we will seek ways to enhance our sense of community and provide for its ongoing financial sustainability, while minimizing adverse financial impacts on community resources (including roads and school capacity).”

We will be working to diversify Surry’s tax base while balancing the need to preserve and protect the unique character of our Town.

During the past year, the Committee conducted a number of benchmarking interviews to learn about successful economic and community development efforts in other towns. We collaborated with the Comprehensive Plan Committee to develop and review the Goals, Objectives, and Strategies for the Economy chapter of the Comprehensive Plan. We initiated an effort to explore ways to enhance Surry’s creative economy by supporting local artists and craftspeople.

Together with Castine, Brooksville, and the Hancock County Planning Commission we applied for and received a (no match) \$175,000 Housing Opportunity Grant from the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development to address the shortage of attainable housing in our region. Among a number of other projects, we will be working on this initiative during the coming year.

Like all Surry committees, our meetings are open to the public and community input is encouraged and welcome.

Having experienced turnover in the membership of the Committee during the past year, the SECDC team has now been reconstituted and is eager to continue the Committees’ exciting agenda during 2025.

Anyone interested in joining our committee or supporting our efforts by participating in a work-group to pursue individual projects should contact the Town Office.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Balaban
George Borowsky
Chris Nemeth (Treasurer)
Kathy Tracy
Tim Tunney
Ted Webersinn
Tom Welgoss (SB Liaison)

Comprehensive Plan Committee Town Report

Having an approved Comprehensive Plan is increasingly important for Maine towns. It helps the Town qualify for private and public grant funding to address costly issues without relying totally on property taxes. It provides an opportunity to get wide-spread resident input in an organized fashion and allows us to take stock of how the Town has changed over the past decade. And, it provides a shared vision for the Town's future.

The Comprehensive Plan Committee was commissioned by the Select Board in June of 2022. Much of the time between that date and the end of 2024 was spent:

- 1) Evaluating the 2014 plan to identify changes that occurred in the following years,
- 2) Identifying and researching emerging issues in the subject areas (Chapters) required by the State,
- 3) Providing extensive public engagement forums to listen to the concerns and ideas of residents and property owners through a variety of surveys and in-person listening sessions,
- 4) Drafting new Chapters covering what was learned, and
- 5) Developing Goals and Objectives as well as Strategies for implementation of those Goals and Objectives.

Last year, the Committee focused on providing updates to the community as Chapters, and the Goals, Objectives and Strategies were drafted. Completed Chapters were posted on the Town website, and the Committee used the Surry Scoop and Every Door Delivery Mailings to keep residents regularly apprised of the schedule and the evolving contents of the new Plan. In-person sessions to share the Plan and answer questions were also held in 2024.

On September 3, 2024, the State's Bureau of Resource Information and Land Use Planning notified the Town that our Comprehensive Plan Draft had been found to be complete and fully compliant with the Maine Growth Management Act. Many Surry residents have been complimentary about the Plan, voicing their appreciation for its thoroughness, and its thoughtful approach to some very complex and sensitive issues facing the Town.

The feedback we have received has been very meaningful to the Committee members, who have devoted an incredible number of hours working on the Plan. While several members had to drop off the Committee for personal reasons, their contributions, as well as those of many other Surry residents, are appreciated by the Committee members who have been able to continue participating all the way through to the Town vote.

A referendum vote on the completed plan was scheduled for Friday, April 11. If approved, the Select Board will determine an implementation follow-up process. In the meantime, several Town boards and committees are already beginning work on various Strategies. However, it's important to remember that the Strategies in the Comprehensive Plan are recommendations. To become legally enforceable ordinances, each would need to go through a drafting process, a public hearing process and a Town vote specific to that ordinance.

Conservation Commission

The Surry Conservation Commission (SCC) works to help protect the Town's vital natural resources through research, community education and providing advice to the Select Board regarding threats, opportunities and usage of our natural assets.

2024 was a very busy year for the SCC. Having amended our Charter to increase the number of full members, we now have a full complement of seven knowledgeable, talented and passionate members and four associate members. There are two sub-committees (Patten Pond Protection and Dark Skies) which welcome new associate members. Here are the major activities of the 2024-25 fiscal year:

EVENTS

- SCC member Michael Jensen presented a well-received informational session explaining the Tree Growth and Open Space tax programs available to residents.
- SCC member Irene Schmidt organized a standing-room-only Shoreline Stabilization Workshop with local and state experts providing critical information for waterfront homeowners affected by the severe storms of last winter.
- During the summer, SCC associate member Nancy Hathaway again organized the very popular Stars Over Surry program at Carrying Place Beach.

FRESH AND SALTWATER PROTECTION

- SCC worked with Shaw Institute to monitor bacterial pollution at Carrying Place Beach and at the Carter Preserve near the head of Morgan Bay during the summer of 2024. Fortunately, bacteria levels were found to be quite low at both locations except during extreme high tide events. Signs helping residents to find out when bacteria levels make swimming potentially unsafe have been purchased and will be posted during the upcoming summer.
- Following up on a recommendation from last year's Patten Pond water testing, SCC associate member Sue Sokol and then-SCC-chair Ralph Topham developed and distributed a letter to homeowners on the Surry side of the pond, encouraging actions to prevent runoff from those properties into the water. Such runoff can seriously damage water quality.

ORDINANCE DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT

- SCC members and associates worked with other committees and workgroups, as well as the Planning Board to provide support development of the Shellfish Ordinance, which was approved at a Special Town Meeting, and the Outdoor Lighting Ordinance, which is still being worked on by the Planning Board.

PLANNING FOR NEXT YEAR

- An Emerton Brook Marsh community workshop, with a Maine Department of Marine Resources speaker, is being planned for May 22. This saltwater marsh, which is a very important natural resource in Surry, is being degraded by the culvert under Cross Road, which impedes the necessary tidal flows in and out of the marsh. There are many things to learn about the functions of a salt marsh. Emerton Brook Marsh is in real danger, and the Cross Road is in jeopardy of repeated flooding and damage, as we saw in last winter's storms.

- SCC members have begun to prioritize the conservation-related strategies shown in the draft Comprehensive Plan which was approved by the State in 2024 and will be voted on by Surry residents on April 11.
- There are a number of conservation-related groups in Surry working on specific areas of interest or concern. The SCC will sponsor a meeting with representatives of these groups in March. The meeting will focus on opportunities for possible joint community education, joint recruitment of volunteers, greater on-going communication among the groups, an expanded annual meeting event to include the public, a possible alliance or other combination of some or all of these groups.

The SCC meets at 5:30pm on the third Thursday of each month at the Town Office. Anyone interested in helping to preserve Surry's beautiful natural resources is welcome to attend. Have a specific conservation-related project in mind? Associate members can lead projects like that! Let's talk.

Shellfish Committee

After the Surry Shellfish Conservation Ordinance was passed at the Town meeting in April 2024, the Shellfish Conservation Committee was formed in June 2024 and met for the first time on July 18, 2024. Since that first meeting, the committee has determined the fee structure for both resident and non-resident recreational licenses with the Select Board. The Shellfish Conservation Ordinance currently does not allow commercial harvesting. However, until recently, the Town of Surry did not have a licensed shellfish warden in place, and, without a licensed warden the ordinance preventing commercial harvesting was not enforceable. As of December 2024, the Shellfish Warden, Michael Boucher, was hired and is enforcing the Ordinance.

On October 15, 2024, the Department of Marine Resources along with the Shellfish Committee conducted a shellfish survey of oysters and clams in Patten Bay. The results of that survey are still being processed by the Committee and will be posted on the Town website. In January, the Shellfish Conservation Committee joined Dr. Beal (UMM) in submitting a proposal for a no match grant to examine potential effects of filter-feeding shellfish (oysters, mussels, quahogs, soft-shell clams) on recruitment of soft-shell clams.

The Shellfish Committee recommends minor changes to the Shellfish Ordinance concerning clarity for ages of harvesters. The Shellfish Committee recommends that the Ordinance clearly states that children 10 years old and under do not need a license. Resident and non-resident harvesters eleven and older do need to purchase a license at the Town Office. There is a one peck per person limit per day to harvest shellfish.

Shellfish Committee
Sara Bushmann, Chair
Carol Roberts
Elizabeth Sylvia

Friends of Memorial Park (FOMP) Annual Report

Thanks to a small cadre of dedicated FOMP volunteers, this year saw continued improvements to the Park, building on the ground work done in 2023. With much of the witch grass under control, our energies focused on extending the bloom season in the center garden, with more self-seeding annuals and choice deer-resistant perennials. We were fortunate to have lifelong gardener Barbara Barwise offer expert guidance on best varieties and planting wisdom.

One of the requests from our 2023 survey was for more shade trees in the park, to replace the elms lost to disease. In April, Tony Beardsley delivered a small red maple tree, donated by Blue Hill Heritage Trust - one of the many trial saplings they'd grown in the Surry Forest. Many thanks to Tony, BHHT and Larry Smolinski, who planted the tree for us. In a few years time, it should be casting a cool shadow on the memorial bench to its north side.

Another request from our survey was for more comfortable and attractive seating. Many thanks to Ann Hillman, formerly of Newbury Neck, for donating a classic-styled granite bench and to Stanley Saunders for installing it under the morning shade tree near North Bend Rd. The bench easily seats two friends enjoying ice cream cones or a pair of volunteers taking a break from weeding.

Knotweed continues to be a problem in Memorial Park. Our committee has investigated the use of poison or heavy coverings for control and dismissed these methods as not viable options. Instead, we opted to cut the knotweed back aggressively over the season. Special thanks to Anne & Jamie Vickers, Cathy Engel and Janice Morison for their diligence. Thanks also to Fire Chief Bryan McClellan, Irene Schmidt, Mary Allen and Ann Quinn, for assistance in burning the cut knotweed at the Salt Shed.

Goals for 2025:

- Spring renewal of perennial beds
- Pruning workshop for woody shrubs in June
- Handrail for garden steps designed and installed
- Repair or replace daylily beds near Surry Road
- Improved irrigation system with timer
- Fall planting of deer-resistant spring bulbs

Volunteer work sessions in the growing season are generally Monday mornings, from 9 to 10. If you'd like to help keep the Park blooming, just show up with your gardening tools and we'll find a section of the park that fits your skills and interest.

Respectfully submitted,
The Friends of Memorial Park Committee [FOMP]
Mary Allen, Select Board liaison
Barbara Barwise
Cathy Engel
Marie Merkel, Chair
Beth Sylvia
Anne Vickers
Darcel Winslow

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Neighbors Helping Neighbors continues to provide assistance to Surry residents. This past year has been a transition as our former leader, Betsy Armstrong, stepped down due to a move. We thank Betsy for her efforts in past years.

We are continuing our Bone Builders exercise classes for residents 60+ years of age at the Old Surry School House on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9 am to 10 am. This program, offered through the Retired Senior Volunteers Program of the University of Maine Center on Aging, was developed at Tufts University and is designed to improve strength and balance through moderate and scalable exercises. There is no cost to attend these classes and all equipment is provided. Please contact surrybonebuilders@gmail.com for more information.

We continue to provide sand buckets to residents upon request through the town office. We received an AARP grant to construct a town bulletin board. Upon completion, this will be placed outside the Surry Post Office and will be available for official town information or any town committee, group, or business.

We partnered with the Surry Community Improvement Association to provide rides for Surry residents to area activities and services, including Healthy Peninsula's Walk-In Café on Wednesday mornings from 10:00 to 11:30 am.

We continue to brainstorm ideas to assist residents of all ages and encourage anyone with ideas to join our team or contact us at agefriendlysurry@gmail.com or Pat Saunders at uwpats4@gmail.com with information or to request assistance.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Saunders, Co-chair
Denise Sevigny, Co-chair
Elizabeth Sylvia
Audrey Carter
Mary Allen
Paula Mrozicki
Margaret Baldwin
Marie Merkel
Stephen Chace

Planning Board

The Town of Surry Planning Board successfully completed another busy year. The board continued with a full slate of board members but is open to anyone from the town that would have an interest to serve on the board. The board is very thankful for the continued support of the town efforts in educating the people about the Surry Code of Ordinances (SCO) that encompasses all the ordinances passed at Town Meeting. I also thank all the members of the Board for their hard work this year to make certain every applicant received expedient respectful results from the planning board.

The Planning Board would like to thank our Secretary, Hilary Nelson, for her dedication and hard work for the board. Her work has directly reflected on the efficiencies of the board and the follow-on benefits derived by residents of the town. The board has also enjoyed the working relationship ongoing with the Town Code Enforcement Officer, Bill Booth. Bill's professional expertise have helped the Board understand the many complicated processes in the submission, review and decision making on submitted applications.

The Planning Board completed a complete review process and approved a new set of By Laws that will continue to provide the Board with rules and guidelines that are in alignment with the State of Maine preferred municipal organizations roles and responsibilities.

In May of 2024 the board in mass attended training provided by the Maine Municipal Association, this provided a basic introduction to the rules and procedures governing municipal planning boards and board of appeals. This educational opportunity further provided a baseline for all members of the board to have equal footing in how the organization and rules are applied in accomplishing the work of the board.

The Planning Board continued to work with the Comprehensive Plan Committee to ensure the approval process for the new Comprehensive Plan continues to a final town approval vote. The Board is looking forward in the new year to establishing several new ordinances that will be required to complete many of the positive elements of the new Comprehensive Plan.

It is my extreme honor to serve you as Planning Board Chair. The entire Board looks forward to serving the Town of Surry in 2025/2026. We understand that the future of the town starts with planning, the implementation and execution of fully developed zoning ordinances.

Respectfully Submitted
Planning Board Chair
Philip Roberts

Surry Recreation Committee:

The Surry Recreation Committee had yet another wonderful year of youth recreational sports activities!

Recapping 2024

Surry Rec offered youth fall soccer, youth winter basketball, and spring Little League baseball and softball.

We'd like to extend a huge thank you to all of our coaches and volunteers this year!

Baseball/Softball 2024 - Pete Collier, Jason McFarland, Travis Higgins, Rick Magoon, Courtney Benner, and Hannah Colson.



Our continued growth and interest in our programs has started to overflow into growth of middle school sports, which was the ultimate goal! A thriving middle school program gives our kids opportunities to play in high school without gaps in play. The middle school offered baseball and softball for the first time in 8 years. They allowed 5th graders, which pulled from our rec numbers, but is a sign of success.

Baseball/softball season was great with about 58 players coming out for teams ranging from T-ball to the majors. We were able to host a T-ball, and baseball minors team. We helped equip and coach the player pitch softball team as well. We did not have enough to host our own majors or coach pitch teams, but those kids played on neighboring teams and made many new friends.

Soccer 2024 - Lucretia Roy, Mike Miltner, and Kristi Miltner

Soccer season was a blast with wonderful weather. We had the same experience with the growth in programs resulting in a school team for the first time in 5 years. This reduced teams for rec resulting in about 30 kids coming out for three teams. Kids learned the basics, drills and competed with teams in the Ellsworth area.

Basketball 2024 - Jonathan Moon, Rick Gaspar, and Paige Osgood

Basketball season is coming to a close this winter. The growth overflowed into basketball as well. 4th and 5th graders made up the B team for the school this year. Even with the loss of the 4/5 team in rec we hosted 30 kids on three teams. It was incredible to watch their improvements this year and see their eagerness to learn. We played teams in Ellsworth, Bucksport, and Blue Hill areas.

We also had countless parent volunteers who helped in the dugouts, on the sidelines, run practices, setup and ran concessions, scoreboards and clocks, and helped with gear. THANK YOU to ALL of you!

We continued to offer professional photos for each of our sports seasons as well as running two Surry Shark Swag orders. You may have seen some carolina blue sweatshirts with our shark logo around town. Next availability to order will precede the baseball and softball season, with another in the Fall for soccer!

Basketball Numbers - 30 players spanning 4-10 years old
Baseball and Softball Numbers - 58 players spanning 4-14 years old
Soccer Numbers - 30 players spanning 4-10 years old

Town of Surry is a part of the DEFYMCA Community!

What does this mean?

As part of the 2024 budget for Surry Rec, we fund the YMCA \$3,500 to be one of the towns in the supporting community recreational program. We plan to be able to offer this again for the 2025 year.

What are the benefits

- Surry residents are welcome, at no cost, to the DEFYMCA free community times (this includes Ellsworth, Bucksport and Blue Hill locations).
- All 6th graders receive a free membership during the school year.
- All 2nd graders may enroll in a free session of group swim lessons.
- The DEFYMCA registration fee per child is included for Y league sports. (Surry Rec has always covered this fee for families to keep our fees for players lower, but now this helps even more!)
- Surry will be able to provide a representative to the peninsula recreation committee being developed by the DEFYMCA. The committee will help develop:
 - Adult, Family and Senior recreational activities throughout the peninsula and DEFYMCA ◦ Active participation in the development and coordination of youth sports and recreational activities
- Surry residents are eligible for membership and program scholarships that may exceed the sliding scale system they have in place to ensure that no one is turned away due to an inability to pay.
- Schools from supporting towns receive a 7 week water safety program for up to 25 kids. The program is offered during the day and transportation would be the responsibility of the school. This will be starting this spring for the first time with the 5th grade class after issues with transportation being rectified.

If you have any questions about use of the DEFYMCA facilities and being a community member, please contact your nearest DEFYMCA location in either Ellsworth, Bucksport or Blue Hill.

Conduct and Coaching Guides

This year Surry Rec created a code of conduct for spectators, players and coaches alike.

Surry Rec operates on the firm belief that youth sports should be about skill development, building teamwork, promoting leadership, sportsmanship, a love of the game and having fun!

We also created binders for each level and coach that includes the sport rules, concussion training, appropriate one on one guidelines, blood pathogens guidelines, and tips and drills for ease of coaching.

About Us

The recreation committee is a volunteer-run program, funded in part by taxpayers dollars and under the umbrella of the Town of Surry. We are responsible for planning and coordinating activities for Surry residents.

Over the years, we have grown in number and have been focused on offering youth recreational sport activities. We rely heavily on volunteers for coaching, refereeing/umpiring, and more! It is our continued hope always to grow the Surry Recreation offerings and provide opportunities for all of you community members, young and older. We are encouraging any and all community members to reach out to the committee if there is interest in becoming involved.

Surry Rec has seen faces come and go over the years. We are so grateful for the time and commitment that folks are able to give Surry Rec. This year, we would like to shout out to Erica Garvey, who has sat on the Surry Recreation Committee for several years and has been a tremendous asset. She has stepped aside for now to focus on other things but we thank her for everything she has done.

If you would like to offer an activity sponsored and coordinated through Surry Rec, please let us know!! We'd love to hear your ideas!

We are on Facebook! Follow us at "Surry Community Recreation" to get updates and schedules for events and activities.

If you have any questions, comments or want to volunteer, you can contact any of the Surry Rec Committee members below or send us a message through Facebook.

- Kristi Miltner
- Patrick Carter
- Shaneika Cox
- Katrina Scott-Willette
- Brittany Harkins
- Pete Collier



Old Surry Village School

At the Annual Town Meeting in April 2016, Surry voters granted permission to the Old Surry Village School Preservation group to rehabilitate the Town owned Old Surry Village School at no cost to the taxpayers. The goal was to repair and preserve it for use by residents of Surry. The Preservation Group was advised by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission to identify and correct alterations so that the building would conform to its nineteenth century appearance and qualify for the National Register of Historic Places. The Schoolhouse, built in 1872, educated Surry students for 80 years and in 1953 was repurposed to become the Surry Volunteer Fire Department for 35 years. No longer being consistently used, in 2015 demolition of the building was under consideration. The building was in remarkable condition for its age and had been in continual use at this time for 143 years. The renovations were completed by contractors and volunteers over the next three years. It was entered on the National Register of Historic Places March 13, 2020. This historic landmark qualified for listing under the category of educational and social significance to the Town, the State and the Nation.

The Old Surry Village School continues to be a testimony to our architectural heritage. Surry residents have been enjoying this new lease on life since 2018.

In a comprehensive report to the Surry Selectmen in December 2024, this year was no exception. Events and fundraisers included birthday parties, baby showers, a bridal shower, 2 retirement celebrations, 2 memorial ceremonies, Surry Student Art Show, Grange/Old School public supper, multiple lectures hosted and presented by John Curtis (Fun with Opera and Art Talks), many Town Committee meetings, the Annual Apple Pressing and Trunk or Treat at Halloween. Fundraisers included: 2 yard sale/bake sales, Christmas wreath sale, public supper and a fall pie sale.

In 2025, we look forward to any and all requests to use the Old School. Call 207-479-7044 or contact one of the volunteers listed below for availability. **There is no charge for Surry residents to use the building.** Voluntary donations for use go to the Town of Surry for upkeep and maintenance of the building.

Through fundraising and generous donations, the building pays for itself. Keep it up Surry! Come by to take a tour!

Respectively submitted,

Gete Thomson, Rick Zeamer, Richard Saunders, John Curtis and Liz Vickery

Surry Historical Society Annual Report for 2024

Over the past year it seemed like a strong magnetic force was emanating from the Surry Historical Society. With great benefit, it attracted to us some rare historic relics, invitations to address other historical societies (Bucksport, Ellsworth), requests from several town elders to sit for our interview program, four speakers who drew big crowds*, and for the fifth year in a row, over fifty town children who were magnetized by our Magic Chimney.

* Historian Holly Hendricks on the Civil War from the writings of a local man; Geophysicist Mike Coffin on the fluctuations of Earth's climate over millennia; Lynn Bonsey on her life and 40-year teaching career; John Shelley, son of the navy pilot who crashed off Goose Rock in 1943.

We were especially pleased that the magnetism attracted John Shelley. He first contacted us 10 years ago from Florida, seeking local information on his father's crash. We had none, but his call prompted us to find some old news articles, which we sent him. He could not accept our invitation to come speak as he lived so far away, but we stayed in touch over the years. Last spring he called and said he now lived in Thomaston and wanted to give a talk in Surry. "y-y-y-YES!" we said. His presentation was phenomenal and it drew one of our biggest audiences.

In ongoing outreach to young people, the society issued and distributed another special student edition of our newsletter, *Fore & Aft*. Find it on our Surry Historical Society Facebook page.

The Historical Society is based at Surry's Old Town Hall (built in 1828), which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The hall will be 200 years old in 2028. It is the oldest public building in town. We are soliciting donations of labor and material to help us prepare the building for its bicentennial. Please consider making any sort of contribution to help safeguard the history and artifacts of our unique town. For starters, we plan to paint the front steps in the spring and have requested that the dying tree beside the steps be removed.

A prime mission of the society is to popularize town history. We comb through our archives to find compelling stories to present at our free public meetings. Everyone is welcome to attend and participate. We meet on the third Monday of the months of June, July, August and September at 7:00 pm at the Old Town Hall, 1217 Surry Road.

We invite you to join us. Annual membership dues support our work and entitle you to receive our newsletters with articles of interest and a calendar of events. Memberships run from June 1 through May 31. Send us your iron filings (or better yet, a check) worth ten dollars (fifteen dollars for couples) or five dollars for students—all students, regardless of age. Mail to SHS, PO Box 17, Surry, ME 04684.

Edited versions of our public meetings are available (along with lots of other material) on our website: www.surryhistoricalsociety.com. Our Facebook page (*Surry Historical Society*) is yet another way to access historic (and current) information about Surry.

If you have questions, comments, ideas or wish to volunteer, please email: president@surryhistoricalsociety.com or phone me at 207-667-4877.

Respectfully submitted,

John H. Curtis, President; Directors: Catherine Engel, Audrey Carter, Richard Saunders, Terri Huntley, Wayne Smith, Mary Chace, Bob Milliken, Louise Talkington, Jane Smith

The image displays a collection of event posters for the Surry Historical Society, arranged in a grid-like fashion with decorative lightning bolt graphics. The posters include:

- Surry Historical Society Presents** (Top Left): A presentation about Lt. John Shelley and his son, John Shelley II, on Monday, August 19, at 7:00 pm. It features a lighthouse icon and photos of the subjects.
- Surry Historical Society Presents** (Top Right): A presentation by Lynn Bonney, a longtime teacher, on Monday, September 16, at 7:00 pm. It features a lighthouse icon and a photo of Lynn Bonney.
- Surry Historical Society Presents** (Middle Left): A presentation by historian Holly Handicks about the USS Pawtucket (1864-1867) and the Civil War, on Monday, June 17, at 7:00 pm. It features a lighthouse icon and a photo of the ship.
- Surry Historical Society Presents** (Middle Right): A presentation by marine geophysicist Mike Coffin about Earth's denatured bacteria, on Monday, July 15, at 7:00 pm. It features a lighthouse icon and photos of Mike Coffin and a landscape.
- Santa's Magic Chimney** (Center): A special event on Saturday, December 14, from 1-3 pm. It features a chimney icon and text about Santa's magic.
- 5 BIG SURRY YARD SALES** (Bottom Center): A series of yard sales on Saturday, July 20, from 8-Noon. Locations include Old Village School, Old Town Hall, The Gathering, and Rural Hall.
- OPEN HOUSES** (Bottom Center): Open houses on Saturday, June 29, from 10-2 pm. Locations include Old Town Hall, Old Village School, Morgan Bay Bridge, and Rural Hall.

Surry Community Improvement Association (SCIA)

The Surry Community Improvement Association's (SCIA) mission is *to promote community spirit and improve the quality of life for all residents of Surry by providing information, education, support, and social activities*. Here are the highlights of our events held during 2024:

In February we held the annual Soup/Chowder & Cookie Contest, an event that invites entrants to share a taste of their delicious recipes with the attendees judging their favorite. Bob Thomas, Brin Perry, and Ellie Colson were winners in 2024! This event is a fundraiser for the scholarship for a high school graduating senior who will continue higher education.

The SCIA-sponsored pickleball at the Surry Elementary School gymnasium continued until school closed for the summer with plans to play again after the basketball season has completed in February 2025.

In April the SCIA hosted the annual Presentations of the School and Town Budgets and Meeting of the Candidates for Select Board and School Board at the Surry School.

More than forty volunteers helped pick up trash along all five major roads during the Roadside Cleanup and Picnic event in May. We welcome volunteers to help make sections of our Surry roadsides free of debris all year long!

At the SCIA Annual Meeting & Awards Dinner in June, Brooks Engle and John Curtis received awards to honor their outstanding service to the SCIA and to the Town of Surry, respectively. We also recognized the SCIA's Patty Fitch Memorial Scholarship recipient, Brooklynn Carter, at the banquet. Officers elected for the coming year were Cathy Engel, President; Cathy Lloyd Vice-President; Marie Merkel, Secretary; and Jen Saunders, Treasurer. The SCIA members also voted to approve the updated bylaws.

In August, residents gathered at the Town Wharf for the SCIA Annual Potluck Picnic, traditionally held on the 1st Monday of the month. We were delighted to welcome Surry Elementary School's new principal, Sarah Dunbar.

This fall we started a new program to provide rides for nonmedical services in addition to our volunteer program to help people get to their medically related appointments (for which we received 52 calls this past year). We can always use more volunteer drivers for both of these programs.

Surry veteran, Richard Saunders, was the guest speaker at the Fall Harvest Dinner held in late October. Thank you to all Surry veterans for your service!

In December, Doug Havey provided a beautiful tree decorated by Surry's 4th graders for the Tree Lighting and Carols at Memorial Park. Peter Zimmerman provided the music, and we sang carols as we gathered around the firepit that Linda Greenlaw Wessel provided to keep us

warm! The SCIA also participated in the Christmas Angels program this year. Thank you to all who helped with this project. Finally, the SCIA decorated a tree for the Festival of Trees which was held at Rural Hall.

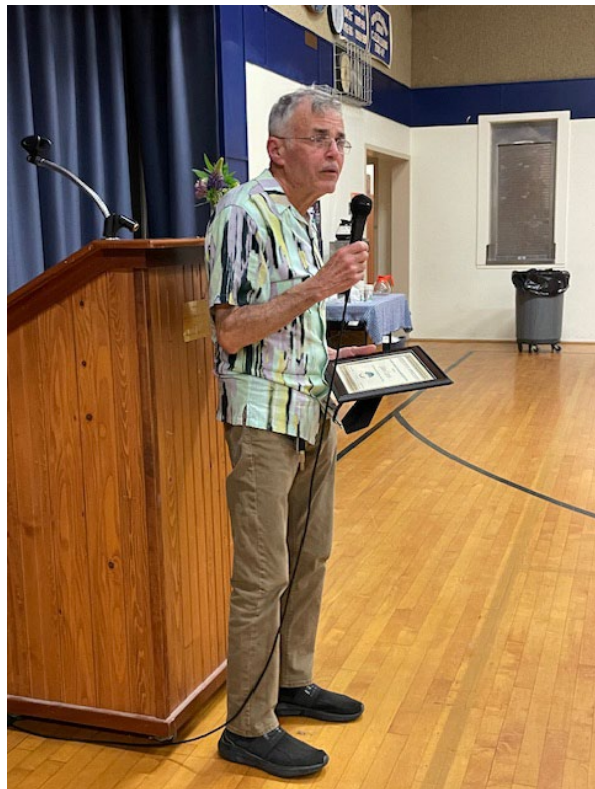
We welcome all to participate in the SCIA activities and to become new members or renew your membership . Please visit our Facebook page to keep posted on upcoming events, or for comments, questions, or suggestions.

Respectfully submitted,

SCIA Board Members: Cathy Engel, Cathy Lloyd, Marie Merkel, Jen Saunders, Brooks Engle, Joanne Ference, Doug Havey, Dave Hollenberg, Pat Hollenberg, Al Judd, Laura Pellerano, Beth Sylvia, Bob Thomas, Linda Greenlaw Wessel



Brooks Engle - Outstanding Service to the SCIA award



John Curtis – SCIA Outstanding Service to the Town of Surry award

Rural Hall Association

The Rural Hall is a grand old building that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The care and maintenance of the building is provided by the Rural Hall Association, a small group of volunteers. The Rural Hall has served as a meeting place and community activity center since its construction in 1871. It has been the home of the Surry Garden Club since 1937.

In addition to hosting the regular meetings of the Garden Club, workshops and educational presentations are held periodically. The Garden Club conducts their annual Plan/Bake Sale at the Hall at the end of May. The Garden Club also supports the fundraising activities of the Association by participating in the Surry Big 5 Yard Sale.

Other fundraising activities include the Annual Art Show/Sale where local artists are able to show and sell their art with a portion of their sales being donated to the Hall. The fourth annual "Festival of Trees" was held in early December. At this event local businesses and non-profits are invited to decorate Christmas trees. The public was invited to come and enjoy the trees and the holiday spirit. A number of the trees along with their decorations as well as many donated items were raffled off.

The next major maintenance items for the Hall are repainting both the exterior and interior of the building as well as providing handicapped accessibility. The Rural Hall Association is a 501(c)3 non-profit. You can find more information about the Rural Hall on our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/SurryRuralHall/>).

Dave Hollenberg
President, Rural Hall Association

Tax Collector's Report
Schedule of Valuation, Commitment and Collection
For Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2024

Total Taxable Valuation	\$445,049,000
Tax Rate per \$1000 Valuation	<u>\$10.52</u>
Tax Assessment	\$4,681,915

Collections and Adjustments

Cash Collections	\$3,753,406
Abatements Granted	\$1,811
Supplemental Taxes	<u>(\$6,677)</u>
Total Collections and Adjustments	\$3,758,272

Uncollected taxes as of June 30, 2024	\$250,883
---------------------------------------	-----------

Abatements approved in FY 2024

Sharon & Burton Lowry	2024	\$ 192.11
Old Surry Village School	2024	\$ 490.03
Michelle & Jonathan Mahon	2024	\$ 226.25
Robert Salois	2024	<u>\$ 902.29</u>
		\$ 1810.68

Supplements approved in FY 2024

Robert Salois	2024	\$ 308.61
Peter & Philip McPhail	2024	<u>\$5,471.96</u>
		\$5,780.57

Taxes are due 9/30 and 3/30 of each year. It is the tax payer's responsibility to keep their mailing address current for tax billing purposes. Changing your address on your auto registration or IFW license does not prompt an address change in the real estate system; you must specifically ask for your tax bill to be sent to a new or different address.

2024 Delinquent Taxes as of 01/31/2025

ABRAHAM, RACHEL D	1,296.14
BEMISS, STEPHEN D	3,832.52
BLANCHARD, KEVIN D	937.47
BROOKINGS, JACK M	1,798.09
CARROLL, CYNTHIA J- estate of	1,619.47
CASANOVA, EVELYN	1,885.96
CLARK, JEFFERY W	193.44
CLARK, JEFFREY W	361.64
CLARK, JEFFREY W	327.62
COUSINS, DAVID	1,110.13
FROST, HEATHER	661.79
GASPAR, WILLIAM H	378.88
HUGHES, ELLEN B	1,680.56
HURD, TREVOR	498.67
KINNEY, SCARLET L	484.49
LUNDIN, RITA L- estate of	2,283.82
MILLER, CLAYTON C	763.86
NICRON, LLC	94.24
OUELLETTE, VICKI	942.82
PAGE, DAVID J	359.76
PAGE, DAVID JON	939.99
ROBBINS, THOMAS	333.29
SANIPAS, CHET	256.45
SMITH, ARTHUR	788.81
SMITH, BENJAMIN J	1,587.84
SMITH-JIPSON, VICTORIA L	993.87
STEVENS, JASMINE I & ZACHARY D	412.99
SULLIVAN, CHRISTOPHER RICHARD JR	59.25
WEBBER, EUGENE	2,538.44
WRIGHT, JANICE (HIERS OF)	733.03
	30,155.33

2023 Delinquent Taxes as of 12/31/2024 *denotes paid after 12/31/24

ABRAHAM, RACHEL D	*	1,177.23
CARROLL, CYNTHIA J- estate of	*	1,412.78
CASANOVA, EVELYN		1,422.27
CERILLI, MARK J	*	40.29
DANICO, LISA L	*	559.37
FROST, HEATHER	*	1,345.36
HUGHES, ELLEN B	*	382.84
HURD, TREVOR	*	785.03
LUNDIN, RITA L- estate of	*	1,996.81
PAGE, DAVID J		66.18
PAGE, DAVID JON	*	814.34
SMITH-JIPSON, VICTORIA L	*	861.77
		10,864.27

The following Veterans and Veterans' Widows receive a \$6,000 exemption on their primary residence. This year's exemption took \$63.12 off each tax bill.

Exemptions – Veterans

ANDERSON, MARK A
ANDERSON, SUSAN
BEARDSLEY, ANTHONY W
BOUSQUET, WILLIAM A
CAPEN, ERNEST E
CARTER, DONALD H (LIFE ESTATE)
CASTLE, FREDERICK JR
CLAIRE E. AGOLIATI TRUST
COFFIN, CHERYL M.FAMILY TRUST
COMEAU, REBECCA C. & PAUL
CRANE, PETER J
CULLINANE, CLAIRE E B
DANNENBERG, CARL
DOAK, WILLIAM M
DOYEN, MALCOLM A
DUNN, JERRY W
FLETCHER, R THEODORE
GARVEY, JOSEPH
GRAY, DAVID L
GRAY, WAYNE R
HALL, MARTYN L
HANSEN, WILLIAM
HIGGINS, BRIAN A
HOFFMANN, ROGER W
JAECKEL, FREDERICK J., II
KAUFMAN, ANDREW J
LANESE, JOHN D
LEBEAU, ROBERT T
MANN, LYMAN EDWARD
MCCORMICK, FRANKLIN
MCNULTY, KRISTEN L
MOON, ROY
MROZICKI, NORMAN
MULHERN, WILLIAM R
PARSONS, GARY E
PELLERANO, EUGENE J
PEPPER, ELISABETH A
PERKINS, BRADLEY S
PEVA, JAMES M
SALMINEN FAMILY LAND TRUST

SAUNDERS, CLIFTON L
SAUNDERS, RICHARD E
SEDERQUIST, CARL A
SMITH, ARTHUR
SULLIVAN, DANIEL P
TAYLOR, RONALD
THE EILEEN A KILDEA LIVING TRUST
WEBERSINN, THEODORE
WIXON, JOHN V
YOUNG, DILLON J

Exemptions - Veterans Widows

ABRAHAM, RACHEL D
BOEGE, LAURA N
CARLSON, ELAINE
CURLEY, VIOLET
FOX, NANCY
GASPAR, NATALIE
GRAHAM, NANCY
HILLMANN, ANN
JENCKS, PATRICIA H
ROCKWELL, FLORENCE
SARGENT, BEVERLY
THOMPSON, PATRICIA A
WHITMAN, WENDY

Exemptions-Blind

SNOW, LOUISE T

Assessor's Report
July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025

Valuation

Real Estate Valuation	\$442,171,600	
Personal Property Valuation	2,877,400	
Total Taxable Valuation		\$445,049,000
Homestead and Business Equipment Exemption Reimbursed by State		8,598,412
Total Valuation Base		\$453,647,412
Rate per \$1,000 Valuation	\$10.52	
Tax Commitment		\$4,772,371

Appropriations

Abatements	\$4,000	
Administration	462,886	
Capital Outlay and Contingency	172,500	
Code Enforcement and Planning	54,881	
Conservation, Parks, Recreation, Libraries	60,858	
Long Term Debt Service	65,763	
Non-Profit Organizations and Human Services	31,709	
Public Safety	190,324	
Public Works	983,565	
sub-total	\$2,026,486	
Hancock County Tax	225,902	
Education	3,538,614	
Total Appropriations		\$5,791,002
Overlay		38,747
Total Appropriations plus Overlay		\$5,829,750

Less Allowed Deductions

Alewife Reserve	\$1,000
Animal Control Reserve	3,000
ARPA Funds Reserve	83,887
Auto Excise	372,608

Backpack Program Contribution Reserve	12,000	
Boat Excise Tax Reserve	3,700	
CEO Reserve	21,001	
Fund Balance	310,000	
General Assistance Reserve	3,600	
Local Road Assistance Program (LRAP)	60,000	
Old School Contribution Reserve	3,850	
State Revenue Sharing Reserve	150,000	
Surry Code of Ordinances (SCO) Reserve	3,254	
Tree Growth	29,479	
	<hr/>	
Total Deductions		<u>\$1,057,379</u>
Net Assessment		<u>\$4,772,371</u>

School Union #93

Blue Hill • Brooksville • Castine • Penobscot • Surry

Derek Perkins, Superintendent of Schools
Dawn McLaughlin, Assistant Superintendent
Sheila Irvine, Director of Special Services

February 5, 2025

First off, I would like to thank all of you for your support throughout my tenure as Superintendent of Schools for School Union #93. I have enjoyed working with the Town of Surry, and seeing the great strides Surry Elementary School has made this year!

Here are some of the highlights so far this year:

- Sarah Dunbar took over as the principal of Surry Elementary School, and has done a fantastic job! Under Sarah's leadership, the staff at Surry Elementary School has flourished and students have benefited greatly from the change in leadership.
- Surry Elementary School currently has an enrollment of 132 students across Pre-Kindergarten through 8th grade.
- Surry School Department currently has 59 students enrolled across 8 different area high schools. We currently have 34 students attending GSA, 16 students attending Ellsworth High School, 3 students at MDI High School, 2 students at Bucksport High School, 1 student at Hampden Academy, 1 student at John Bapst Memorial High School, 1 student at the Maine Virtual Academy, and 1 student at the Blue Hill Harbor School. Next year, we are projecting to have around 48 students in high school, with 28 of those students attending GSA, 14 students attending Ellsworth High School, 2 students at Bucksport High School, 1 student at Hampden Academy, 1 student at MDI, 1 student at John Bapst, and 1 student at the Blue Hill Harbor School.
- Surry Elementary School has two interventionists in place for reading and math working with students at all levels in both subject areas. We have made significant growth and improvement in both of these subject areas as a result.

I want to take a moment to recognize the outstanding efforts of our staff for their hard work and dedication to the school during these challenging times. I am happy to report that both our regular education and special education programs are fully staffed with high-quality individuals, and we have two exceptional bus drivers which has improved our transportation program and continues to allow us to transport both our elementary and high school students.

On the financial side, the Surry School Committee worked hard to develop a budget for FY 2026. The budget that was approved by the school committee shows a decrease of 2.25% or \$83,217.58 compared to last year, which is great news! With that said, the Surry School Committee and myself are committed to improving the facilities at SES. The school committee has prioritized adding a ventilation system to the school, replacing the roof system, and upgrading the boiler plant. The most immediate need is the ventilation system, and a proposal for that necessary upgrade will be shared publicly in the coming months. There will be a warrant article that we hope you will all consider supporting at the Surry Town Meeting that will place \$100,000 in our School Construction Reserve Account, with the purpose of bringing ventilation to the elementary school. This upgrade needs to happen for the betterment of our students, and our residents that utilize our school building quite regularly.

Thank you all in advance for your support of the budget at the upcoming Surry Town Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Derek Perkins

Derek Perkins

SURRY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Sarah Dunbar, Principal
sdunbar@surryschool.org
www.surryschool.org

754 North Bend Road
Surry, Maine 04684
Tel-667-9358 Fax-667-3296

Dear Members of the Surry Community,

This report highlights the hard work, dedication, and growth of our students, staff, and community over the past year. Our school continues to be a place of learning, creativity, and collaboration, and we remain committed to providing a supportive and inclusive environment for all students.

School Staff:

This year we welcomed several new staff members to Surry Elementary. We welcomed a new PE teacher to our staff, Chris Rozek, along with a new 6th grade teacher, Kevin DeBeck. Kate Mrozicki transitioned from her role as ed tech to Special Education/ Math Intervention Teacher. We also welcomed Danielle Perry and Carlos Rosales as Education Technicians. Carlos is also serving as one of our bus drivers at SES.

At SES we have a highly dedicated staff that cares deeply about students' success. Our educators consistently go above and beyond to ensure that every student receives the best possible learning experience. Thank you for all that you do to support our students and make our school such a special place. Your hard work does not go unnoticed, and it is truly appreciated by our entire school community.

School Enrollment:

Current Enrollment:132

Pr-K	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8	8	13	9	14	21	19	15	18	7

Academics:

This year, classes in K-8 have adopted a new math program, Illustrative Math. Illustrative Math is a coherent and rigorous problem based curriculum that aligns with Common Core Math Standards. Teachers and students are engaging in the learning process of this new program and are excited about what it has to offer.

After a few years off, SES participated in the Scripps National Spelling Bee. Students in grades 4-8 prepared for the spelling bee, it was impressive to see the tough competition in the school wide spelling bee.

This year at SES we started Friday all school morning assemblies. This time provides an opportunity for our school to come together and celebrate all the great things that are happening

SURRY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Sarah Dunbar, Principal
sdunbar@surryschool.org
www.surryschool.org

754 North Bend Road
Surry, Maine 04684
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at SES. Recently we celebrated a grant Mrs. Weaver received from the Courageous Steps Foundation. The 5th grade used this money for science supplies. Earlier in the year Mrs. Weaver also received the Maine Agricultural Grant to help fund projects in the greenhouse. At our assemblies we also celebrate kindness and how to be a positive member of the school community. We have also used this time to kick off the Healthy Heart Campaign. Many times throughout the year we open up the school outside of the school day to welcome parents, family, and community members to many different events. These include our open house, math night, literacy night, Winter concert, Spring concert, and fundraising events.

Last summer Surry received The Teach With Tech grant that is available to all Maine school districts that are involved in the Maine Learning Technology Initiative (MLTI). As part of this grant, Surry Elementary School received four VEX-CTE Workcell robots that will give students a greater understanding of automation in a manufacturing setting.

We are grateful for our PTCO at Surry, and all their efforts to support our students and staff at SES.

Athletics:

Our Middle School student athletes had a successful school year. We were excited to bring soccer back to SES after a few years without a team. Also this fall our cross country team had record numbers of participants, and ended with a very successful season. This winter with so much interest in basketball we were able to have a coed B team along with our girls and boys A teams. This spring we plan to see baseball and softball on the fields of SES. It is great to see the return of sports programming at SES and increased interest in existing programming.

School Board:

Jared Benner, Don Driscoll, Nick Noddin (Board Chair), Kristen McFarland, and Kerry McKim. Thank you for your commitment to the Surry school community.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my deep gratitude to the staff, students, parents, and community members for their unwavering support and dedication to making Surry Elementary a place where all students thrive. As we look ahead, we are optimistic about the future and remain committed to providing the highest quality education in partnership with our town.

Thank you for your continued support.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah Dunbar, Principal



Dear Town Residents,

I am honored to submit to you this report on behalf of George Stevens Academy. In my short time here as Head of School, I have come to see firsthand why this institution is so important to our community members and vital for the long-term success of many of the young people on this peninsula.

Our small but mighty school is filled with an outstanding student body of emerging scholars, student-athletes, thespians, and our community's future leaders. Our faculty and staff are caring and capable professionals, and our Board of Trustees is dedicated to building a robust future for our school that is steeped in tradition. Along with these wonderful members of our school, we are so fortunate and grateful to have so many community supporters, engaged alumni, and friends. It truly "takes a village."

At the writing of this report, our enrollment stands at 230 students. This includes the following breakdown of students from each municipality: 92 from Blue Hill, 15 from Brooklin, 26 from Brooksville, 11 from Castine, 1 from Hancock, 4 from Orland, 17 from Penobscot, 29 from Sedgwick, 33 from Surry, and 2 boarding students living with host families.

This year, GSA continues to prioritize academic innovation and hands-on learning. We are continuing the long-standing tradition of the Independent Study and Internship Program (ISIP), requiring juniors and seniors to engage in independent, interest-driven projects. This initiative, taking place during the two weeks following February vacation, concludes with a community-wide exhibition showcasing student work. Aside from this program, students at GSA are able to complete year-long mentorship experiences with local professionals and experts in their respective fields. This allows students to gain real-world experience and earn school credit in a hands-on approach.

Being a comprehensive school, GSA offers a wide array of courses and enrichment activities. Students can participate in courses in the creative, visual, and performing arts, in advanced mathematics, psychology, forensics, and many many more.

This fall, our campus has been alive with events that build school spirit and connect students, families, and neighbors. From Spirit Week festivities and athletic events to student dances and the GSA Theater Team's sold-out production of *And Then There Were None*, these moments remind us of the joy and unity a school community can create. Our musicians have also played a key role in local events, enriching the cultural fabric of our peninsula.

Campus improvements have been a focus this year. A deep clean of our facilities, complemented by ongoing maintenance and upkeep projects, along with an invigorated attention to aesthetics, will help to ensure that GSA remains a welcoming environment that is conducive to teaching and learning.

We are also excited about the progress of our capital campaign with the Gateway Project coming closer to fruition. Once complete, this project will enhance our campus's accessibility, functionality, and attractiveness for years to come.

After several challenging financial years, GSA is on firmer ground. We closed the 2024 fiscal year with a small net surplus and are hoping to replicate this for the current fiscal cycle. This achievement reflects responsible budgeting, close financial tracking, and is possible through the support of our many constituents.

Looking ahead, we will begin a listening tour across the peninsula's seven sending towns. These meetings will provide an opportunity for community members to share their thoughts on GSA's mission, programs, and future direction. Input gathered from these sessions will guide a strategic action plan that addresses academics, facilities, and finances while reinforcing GSA's role as a cornerstone of the peninsula.

George Stevens Academy remains committed to the success and well-being of every student who walks through our doors. I am deeply grateful for the steadfast support of our sending towns, families, alumni and friends, whose partnerships ensure GSA's bright future. As we continue to serve the students of this peninsula, we invite all of you to be involved and share in the journey of preparing the next generation of leaders, innovators, and community members.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Welch
Head of School
George Stevens Academy



Dear Surry Residents,

As we reflect on the past fiscal year at George Stevens Academy (ending June 30, 2024), I want to share some encouraging updates on the school's improving financial position. GSA has long been a cornerstone of our community, and we are deeply grateful for the continued support from our sending towns, families, alumni, and friends. Your investment in our students ensures that we can provide a well-rounded education that prepares them for success in college, careers, and life.

Once again, we extend our appreciation to the citizens of our sending towns for approving supplemental tuition beyond the state's maximum for the 2023-2024 school year. Public funds, including town-approved supplemental tuition, made up 87% of our total revenue when factoring in donations from supporters, or 73% without those contributions.

For FY24, total tuition, fees, and reimbursements amounted to \$4,284,115. Additional operating revenues came from fundraising with \$823,578 in unrestricted and restricted gifts and \$470,746 from the endowment, as detailed in our audited financial statements available on the GSA website.

One of the most significant financial improvements at GSA was that we finished the year with a \$86,180 operating surplus. While this was not a large reserve, it represents a substantial shift in the right direction. Given the financial challenges of past years, ending the year in the black was a meaningful and promising accomplishment. We remain committed to careful financial planning and responsible budgeting to sustain this positive trajectory.

The 2023-2024 education cost for our student body ended up at a total of \$5,562,729. The 2023-2024 state tuition rate, approved in December 2023, accounted for \$13,300.12 per student, with an additional \$798.01 per student through the state's Insured Value Factor (IVF). Town approved supplemental tuition accounted for \$414,407.

Philanthropy continued to play a vital role in GSA's financial health. Thanks to the generosity of alumni, families, and community members, our fundraising remains strong year after year, helping sustain programs that serve students with a variety of academic and career aspirations. In total, \$832,578 in charitable gifts were received last fiscal year, including funds for scholarships. This generosity strengthens GSA's ability to provide exceptional opportunities for students across the peninsula.

Last year's supplemental tuition request was also approved by a strong majority of voters. We are incredibly thankful for that trust and support from our community, as these funds have been vital for this year's budget. Your commitment to GSA allows us to continue our mission of providing a high-quality education while maintaining responsible financial stewardship, now and into the future.

With gratitude,

Dan Welch
Head of School

George Stevens Academy
Financial Summary
 Fiscal Year 2023 - 2024

Revenues

Tuition & IVF	3,463,356
Supplemental Tuition	414,407
Special Ed Reimbursement	406,352
GSA Fund (unrestricted & restricted)	823,578
Endowment Draw	470,746
Other Revenue	309,117
Total Revenue	5,887,556

Expenses

Salaries & Wages	2,777,895
Benefits	723,781
Departmental/Professional Services	425,164
Physical Plant/Occupancy Costs	396,974
Scholarship Expenses (Post-Secondary)	160,172
Technology Expense	116,614
Insurances Expense	300,558
Other Expenses	661,571
Total Expenses	5,562,729

Net from Operating per Audit 6/30/2024	324,827
Investment Returns	739,435
Total Operating Surplus per Audit 6/30/2024	1,064,262

Adjustments for Non-Operating Revenues

Investment Returns & Gains on sale of assets not available for Operating	(565,121)
Permanently Restricted Revenue	(26,553)
Temporarily Restrctied Revenue - amounts to be expended in subsequent years	(386,408)
Net Operating Surplus - available for Operating	86,180

PENINSULA AMBULANCE CORPS

As the effects of COVID waned in 2024, we experienced some new challenges. Staffing continued to be a challenge as full-time employees took leaves as provided under the Family and Medical Leave Act. In addition, inflation increased the cost of providing services. Our business model was able to cope with these challenges and we ended the year in good shape.

With two full-time employees taking time off for personal reasons, we had to use management and overtime to cover their hours. We were able to do this and, in fact, respond to much increased call volume without reducing our coverage. As the year ended, we saw a sudden spike in applications and we have now returned to pre COVID staffing levels.

The cost of doing business has increased as fuel, medical insurance, medical supplies and almost everything we use to provide our services have increased in cost. Our call volume is increasing which results in higher use of fuel and supplies as well as higher insurance reimbursement. Despite these challenges, PAC continued to provide services and adjust our practices to compensate for the increased cost of doing business. In addition, we continue to improve employee wages to remain competitive.

Our largest payor has become Northern Light Health. It accounts for 19% of our total income from patient transports. The new Blue Hill Hospital is now a critical access hospital with limited inpatient and ED beds which means that PAC conducts more transports from our Peninsula to Maine Coast and Eastern Maine hospitals. Movement of patients between hospitals is an important function of EMS. It gets patients to the definitive care they require and frees up local hospital needs for new patients. In addition, the income from interfacility transports helps keep town contributions as low as possible.

Our next 2 largest payors remain Medicare (federal government) and Medicaid/Maine Care (state government). Together, they represent 32% of our payors. However, for every \$1 PAC bills them, they pay only \$0.30 at best. This accounts for most of our operating deficit. If we include all payors, we still are only paid \$0.53 for every \$1 billed. This is a national issue and impacts rural services, such as ours, particularly hard because ambulance services in more densely populated areas can make many more reimbursable calls in a given amount of time. We continue to support state and national efforts to improve EMS reimbursement rates.

We are proud of our nine full-time and fifteen part-time and per-diem Staff—the Paramedics and EMTs who make the program work. They have completed 1818 calls in the last year and have been steadfast during these trying times. We continue to provide Staff with continuing education for federal and state mandated classes. We believe the morale of our staff is high and we know that they provide an invaluable service to PAC's seven communities on the Blue Hill Peninsula. We added three staff members in 2024. EMS staffing is an issue nationwide. We continue to explore recruitment and retention solutions.

Our three ambulances allow us to maintain our staffing model of two on duty ambulances with a spare to use when the others need service. This also allows us to staff the third ambulance for local events, such as the Blue Hill Fair, and at times of peak call volume when we utilize

management to staff the third ambulance. This allows us to respond to more calls. Our goal for 2025 is to increase coverage in the 7pm to 11pm period to match the increasing call volume.

Totals by town are displayed in the chart below. We set record call volume in 2024. Inter-hospital patient transports grew from 35.8% of PAC's total in 2023, to 48% in 2024 and while these are included in the call volume from Blue Hill, the patients transported live throughout the Blue Hill Peninsula.

2024 Calls by Town

Blue Hill	857	Penobscot	99
Brooklin	104	Sedgwick	134
Brooksville	69	Surry	189
Castine	81	Other	286

We cut our deficit in three ways: with the support of our town governments, by individual donations to our annual appeal, and by using unpaid volunteer board members to accomplish many tasks.

This year we are asking for \$24.75 per capita (from the 2020 census) for the operating budget (an increase of \$1.25) and \$8.00 (an increase of \$2.50) for the ambulance reserve fund. This is a total of \$32.75. We are scheduled for an ambulance purchase in 2027 to replace our oldest ambulance which by 2027 will have greater than 200,000 thousand miles on it. We were surprised a few months ago when our vendor notified us that the cost has increased significantly due to inflation, materials costs and labor costs. We experienced an 18% increase with our 2022 purchase. We are expecting at least a 45% increase for the 2027 purchase. This requires an increase in the ambulance replacement fund contribution from the towns with the 2025 budget.

Even though we have returned to pre-COVID staffing levels, we need more staff, and we must keep the people that we have. We must pay our people what they are worth if we are to keep them. Potential new Staff must balance their remarkable dedication to an essential calling with their need to feed their families, pay for heating and keep a roof over their heads. This year's requested increase in operating funds will support staff compensation.

Staff and ambulances are the visible aspects of PAC, but community loyalty and the funds provided by the towns are its lifeblood. Our annual appeal to the public provides an essential and remarkably consistent source of support, but close the remaining gap we have no choice but to rely on the good will of Town governments and the generosity of their taxpayers to understand the invaluable role played by the Peninsula Ambulance Corps.

Thank you for your support.

The Management, Staff and Board of the Peninsula Ambulance Corps

Scott A. Kane
Sheriff



William R. Birch
Chief Deputy

Hancock County Sheriff's Office
50 State Street, Suite 10
Ellsworth, Maine 04605
(207) 667-7575
Fax (207) 667-7516

TO THE RESIDENTS OF SURRY, MAINE

GREETINGS,

I am pleased to provide you with a summary of the events our Sheriff's Department was involved within your town of Surry for the year 2024. Although most incidents were as a result of citizens from your town calling for assistance or to report a crime, some, such as the service of subpoenas, and protection orders were initiated by our office. Also remember this summary only reports those incidents we were involved in and does not include any activity by the Maine State Police.

<u>Nature of Incident</u>	<u>Total Incidents</u>	<u>Nature of Incident</u>	<u>Total Incidents</u>
911 Call	18	Medical Emergency	2
Assist Law Enforcement	9	Person with Mental Illness	7
Assist Other	3	Missing Person	2
Alarm	23	Motor Vehicle Complaint	21
Animal Problem	2	Noise Complaint	1
Bail Check	1	All Court Paperwork	16
Check well being	11	Parking Violation/Obstructing	3
Child Abuse or Neglect	1	Traffic Accident w/ Damage	22
Citizen Requested Assistance	4	Traffic Accident, w/ Injuries	3
Civil Problem	2	Property Damage, Non Vandalism	1
Disabled/Stranded Motorist	3	Public Service Contact	3
Disorderly Conduct	3	School Safety Check	4
Domestic Call	4	Property/Business Check	1
Drug Intelligence Information	1	Rape/Statutory Rape/Sex Assault	1
Fire	1	Any Special Detail	36
Found Property	3	Suspicious Person/Veh/Incident	11
Fraud	7	Theft	12
Shots Fire, Shots Heard	3	Road Hazards (Sign/Signal/Debris)	1
In Person/phone/text/internet	1	Criminal Mischief/Damage	1
Information Report	16	Warrant Arrest	8
Lost Property	1	ATL Subject on a Warrant	2
Traffic Violation	5	Unattended Death	1
Trespassing	2	Total reported:	283

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Scott A. Kane".

Scott A. Kane
Sheriff of Hancock County

Blue Hill Heritage Trust

Blue Hill Heritage Trust’s mission is, “to lead in conserving land, water, and wildlife habitat on the greater Blue Hill Peninsula. To teach and practice a stewardship ethic. To promote ecological, economic, and community health for this and future generations.” Much of our work is future-focused, looking to protect and enhance the long-term health of both land and people, and Blue Hill Heritage Trust is committed to both conserving land in our towns and serving those communities.

In 2024 we conserved over 170 acres on the peninsula. About half of this was focused on habitat protection, with one project in Blue Hill and a second adjacent to our Wight’s Pond focus area in Penobscot, while the other half prioritized recreational opportunities across the peninsula.

In Surry, we anticipate connecting to an existing trail system on a conservation easement we hold with a new parking area and access trail on Newbury Neck. We are also thrilled to have served as the fiscal sponsor for Downeast Woodbank as they pursued their IRS 501(c)(3) designation, which they secured in 2024. The Woodbank’s dedicated volunteers are helping their neighbors in times of need, and we are so pleased to be able to have part of our land used in this way.

We want to thank all our Surry supporters for being our partners in this work. In 2024, the Trust voluntarily paid \$7,452 in real estate taxes to the town and a total of \$24,603 to all the towns in which we hold land.

We are looking forward to another great year in 2025 and hope to see many of you out enjoying the land and water.

With regards from all of us at BHHT,

George Fields
Acting Executive Director

BLUE HILL
HERITAGE TRUST





Blue Hill Public Library - Municipal Report for 2024

Hello from the Blue Hill Public Library. 2024 is in the history books and it was a good chapter at BHPL. Below I'll share some information about library funding and usage for the year, but first, let's look at some highlights from the year.

At the beginning of the year, we entered into a new partnership with various libraries around Hancock County, the Hancock County Download Library. Together we are offering a more robust collection of digital magazines, audiobook and eBooks, as well as free access to the *New York Times* digital edition. BHPL offers free access to the *Wall Street Journal* as well. For more information, see our digital services page at www.bhpl.net (where you will also see the recently added Kanopy streaming movie service).

In February we hosted the first annual Groundhog Day Ball in the Adelaide Pearson Room, a new fundraiser for the library. In October we hosted a similar event, a dance with the *Damn, Girls!*, which was a fundraiser for both BHPL and the George Stevens Academy library.

We also made some building improvements; some noticeable, and some not. The bulletin board and water fountain area are much improved, with a new hot beverage bar that serves tea and good coffee to library patrons. We added more outdoor furniture and purchased a new portable stage for larger events in the Adelaide Pearson Room.

During the summer, we sponsored a contest to design a new library card, resulting in two new designs that have been very popular.

One of the best aspects of 2024 is that we sailed through the year with the same great staff. We are 15 regular, year-round staff members, including 4 full-time and 11 (at times more) part-time staff, for a full-time equivalent of 8.6 staff members.

Library Funding

The library's operating income comes from three main sources: municipal funding (now 14% of the total, most of which is from Blue Hill, with additional funds from Penobscot, Sedgwick and Surry), annual fundraising (39%, derived from events, the annual fund, etc.) and operating income (47%, primarily from the library's endowment funds). For 2025, the library's operating budget is \$825,794. This provides the peninsula with 55 hours of weekly business hours over 6 days.

Our active Friends of the Library group provides funding for a significant portion of the library's lectures, workshops, and other public events for all ages, as well as items and services not provided by the operating budget, including performances, movies, and other materials. While we think of these things as "extras," BHPL would be a very different library without their contributions. All told, the Friends gave more than \$35,000 to the library in 2024 and has already provided \$15,000 for 2025.



2024 Activities

From a public services perspective, 2024 was very rewarding with the library providing more programs than our 2019-pre-pandemic benchmark. We engaged a record-breaking 10,714 visitors with these programs, answered more reference and technology questions than ever before, and added more electronic resources to meet the growing demand.

Over our 301 service days the library:

- Loaned 95,161 physical and digital items (books, audiobooks, movies, etc.). Use of physical items in the library collection decreased by 13% compared to 2023 due to the decrease in Inter-Library Loan (ILL) usage resulting from the hiatus of the ILL van service from June to early September. Use of physical materials, not including the ILL data, actually increased in 2024 by 2.6%, and digital library use surged with a 35% increase over last year—both due to an increase in e-book usage as well as the addition of new services such as e-magazines and online access to the *New York Times* and *Wall Street Journal*.
- Answered 4,008 reference questions, 443 more than 2023 and over 1,600 more than the 2019 pre-covid level. Library staff also provided 3,932 technology help sessions to patrons, a 9% growth over 2023 and a 183% increase over the 2019 level. Questions are answered in-person, by phone and via email.
- Served 96,665 patrons; approximately equal with our 2023 visitor total. The additional number of patrons using virtual services is not measured; however, 618 people registered for new library accounts (cards).
- Hosted 18,851 WiFi sessions, a 20% growth from 2023's total, while use of the library computers (3,404) decreased by 15%.
- Sponsored 599 cultural programs that attracted 10,714 attendees. This attendance is roughly equal (+0.3%) to 2023's total and over 370 (+3.5%) more than the 2019 attendance figure.
- Community-sponsored events (meetings, etc. that take place at BHPL but are not hosted by the library) totaled 599, with an attendance estimate of 4,011. These events increased 12% and attendance increased 28% over 2023. The 599 total is 23% greater than the community usage pre-Covid in 2019.

It is our honor to provide the community with professional library services, particularly in this day and age when such services are decreasing in many parts of the country. Thanks to our diverse funding model, this is accomplished with minimal impact on taxpayers and, we hope, maximum benefit to the entire Blue Hill Peninsula.

We encourage you to take full advantage of the library's many services. For more information, please see our website, www.bhpl.net, or reach out anytime.

We end this report with a public "thank you" to Marcia Schatz, who sadly passed in June of 2024. Marcia served the library ably for years, both as a Trustee and later as Library Director, and was one of the major forces behind the renovations and expansions of 1999-2001. The library is much improved because of her thoughtful stewardship.

Respectfully submitted,

Rich Boulet
Library Director

JULY 2023 — JUNE 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Last year was EPL's true comeback year from the dark days of the covid pandemic and we experienced an explosion of growth in FY24. Thank you to all of our loyal patrons who have kept us going and give meaning to our work.

Patron Visits	Program Attendance	Material Circulation	Tech Assistance
65,452 25% ↑ (52,479 in FY23)	11,789 105% ↑ (5,727 in FY23)	116,172 14% ↑ (101,558 in FY23)	1,545 7.2% ↑ (1,441 in FY23)

Some of our highlights:

- We were able to **reopen the building to the public on Mondays** beginning in July 2024 after Ellsworth City Council voted for an increased personnel budget.
- Launched our **Library of Things** collection, which now has 72 items and counting! Learning kits for children on many subjects, games and puzzles for all ages. New items added monthly!
- Received grant funding to install an ADA **accessible door opener** at our lower entrance.
- Formed Hancock County Download Library with 8 other local libraries to offer even more online resources, **Libby** (e-books, e-audiobooks, and e-magazines) & **New York Times Online**.
- Added **free passes to 5 local attractions**: Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens, Farnsworth Art Museum, Maine Maritime Academy, Maine Discovery Museum, and the Oceanarium.
- The Friends of EPL doubled the size of our **used book store** space with the purchase of a new shelf.
- Installed **Neighborhood Libraries** in 3 surrounding communities: Surry, Lamoine, and Hancock. Funded by a grant through Bangor Savings Bank Foundation and built by Surry's own Tom Sylvia.



Our EPL family experienced a devastating loss in August of 2023 with the passing of Surry resident and our Friends of the Library Vice President, Melanie Zador. Melanie was a truly remarkable person whose loss is still keenly felt by everyone at the library. It was her passing that was the inspiration behind the Baby's First Library Card program that was launched at Northern Light in April of 2024. All new babies receive a new board book, library card application, card voucher for those who do not live in funding towns, and early literacy information for caregivers. This program is funded by donations given in honor of Melanie.

The library's funding comes from multiple sources, the majority being City of Ellsworth tax appropriations 84.3%. Other funding sources include fundraising 6.4% (thank you Friends of EPL for funding our programs and Board of Trustees for the annual appeal), appropriations from surrounding towns 4.7%, grants 2.3%, and miscellaneous fines/fees 2%. EPL's FY24 budget was \$703,798. The library's main expense is personnel; we employed 14 people in 2024, 8 part-time & 6 full-time.

EPL Service Highlights

- 46,442 in library items
- 8 million titles across the state, deliverable to EPL
- 50 print magazines
- 7 print newspapers & online access to NYT
- Homebound delivery for qualifying residents
- Free device assistance
- Free meeting room reservations
- Free passes to 5 local attractions in 2024
- In library access to The Ellsworth American and Ancestry.com
- Freegal music streaming service
- Kanopy video streaming service
- Access to 2 e-vendors for downloadable material: 13,447 titles with Libby and 73,000 titles with CloudLibrary
- A **local history and genealogy** collection



Library Trustees 2024:

Craig MacDonald – Chair
 Kathleen Cravens – Secretary
 Judith Lyles
 Kristen Onos
 Rain Perez

Library Staff 2024:

Sarah Lesko – Director
 Renee McManus – Assistant Director
 Sandy Abbott – Administrative Assistant
 Keli Gancos – Youth Services Librarian
 Cheryl Flanders – Circulation Supervisor
 Berit Becker – Marketing and Communications Director
 Edmund Murray – Custodian
 Charlene Clemons – Special collections/Cataloging
 Aimee Barnes – Library Assistant
 Alene Taylor – Library Assistant
 Adriana Reyes – Library Assistant
 Joanna Sands – Library Assistant
 Jean Pauly – Library Assistant
 Colleen Linde – Library Assistant

- 1** Launch of Baby's First Library Card at Northern Light Hospital
2 Seed library available Mar-Aug
3 Staff build new bookshelf for the Friends' Used Book Store
4 EPL's first wedding & viral photo, congrats Magdi and Conrad!

Open Hours

Monday 9 AM — 5 PM
Tuesday 9 AM — 5 PM
Wednesday 9 AM — 6 PM
Thursday 9 AM — 6 PM
Friday 9 AM — 5 PM
Saturday 9 AM — 2 PM

www.ellsworthlibrary.net



Janet T. Mills
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0001

Dear Maine Resident:

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

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

That's good news, but I know that not everyone is feeling the benefits of our strong economy. The cost of living in Maine, as in much of America, is too high. The price of fuel, the cost of supplies, utilities and labor have driven up expenses for families across the country and impacted the budgets of towns, counties and nearly every state, including Maine.

I want everyone to benefit from the availability of good jobs, a good public education, and good health care in our state. That is why I have put forward a balanced budget proposal that proposes some savings and certain targeted revenue increases to maintain things we all support, like the state paying 55 percent of the cost of education and 5 percent municipal revenue sharing, to keep all these costs from being passed along to property taxpayers.

We have made good progress over the past six years to ensure that every person in Maine can find a good-paying job in a rewarding and stable career; go to the doctor when they feel sick because they have health insurance; and have the peace of mind that their children are safe at home and at school.

I look forward to working with communities and citizens across the state to solve problems, manage our finances, and keep our people healthy and safe.

Sincerely,

Janet T. Mills
Governor



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

SUSAN M. COLLINS
MAINE

413 DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1904
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(202) 224-2693 (FAX)

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1904

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
VICE CHAIR
HEALTH, EDUCATION,
LABOR, AND PENSIONS
SELECT COMMITTEE
ON INTELLIGENCE

Dear Friends:

It is an honor to represent Maine in the United States Senate, and I welcome this opportunity to share several key accomplishments for our state from the previous year.

As Vice Chair of the Appropriations Committee, I have secured nearly \$580 million for 230 projects across all of Maine's 16 counties to promote job creation, workforce training, and economic development; expand access to health care; support law enforcement; improve public education and infrastructure; and protect our environment. As the new Congress begins, I am honored to be taking the helm of the Committee, the first Mainer to do so in nearly a century, and I remain committed to ensuring that federal spending produces real results for our state and nation.

Maine has the oldest average age in the country, which is why I have long prioritized health-focused legislative efforts. There were more than 1,860 health care bills introduced during the 118th Congress. Only 15 health care bills were signed into law, and I was a lead sponsor of five of them. These bills will enhance care for individuals with Alzheimer's, autism, and substance abuse issues through improved research funding, strengthened public health programs, and increased support for rural first responders.

Another important bill that I coauthored was the *Social Security Fairness Act*. Since 2003, when I led the first-ever Senate hearing on the Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset, I have sought to end these provisions of the *Social Security Act* that unfairly reduce the Social Security benefits that public employees or their spouses have earned. I am pleased to say that with the passage of my bill, the *Social Security Fairness Act*, in December, public sector retirees will now receive the full Social Security benefits they have earned.

When the Maine way of life was under threat, I was certain to defend the interests of our state. I worked to protect Maine's potato farmers when the Department of Agriculture tried to reclassify the potato from a vegetable to a grain. I thwarted efforts to consolidate USPS mail operations at the Hampden postal facility, which would have disrupted mail delivery throughout our state. I sounded the alarm with leaders at the FBI and Departments of State and Treasury on the spate of illicit marijuana growing operations that are destroying properties and providing refuge to foreign criminals in our state. Following damage to our working waterfronts after last winter's storms, I secured \$15 million to help fishing communities recover. I championed funding to support the Maine Air National Guard base, Bath Iron Works, and Portsmouth Naval Shipyard.

As of last December, I have cast more than 9,100 consecutive votes, continuing my record of never missing a roll-call vote since my Senate service began in 1997. My ranking as the most bipartisan Senator reflects Maine's tradition of working with a spirit of cooperation and respect.

My highest priority as a Senator is to ensure that Maine's needs are met. If ever I can be of assistance to you, please contact one of my state offices or visit my website at collins.senate.gov.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator

ANGUS S. KING, JR.
MAINE

133 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
(202) 224-5344
Website: <https://www.King.Senate.gov>

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 1, 2025

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
CHAIRMAN, STRATEGIC FORCES
SUBCOMMITTEE
ENERGY AND
NATURAL RESOURCES
CHAIRMAN, NATIONAL PARKS
SUBCOMMITTEE
INTELLIGENCE
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Dear Friends,

Each year comes with renewed hope – to celebrate each other’s successes and care for each other in times of need. I am thankful to each town in Maine for their commitment to their communities, to their citizens, and to this country. We always work together to get things done. This past year was no different.

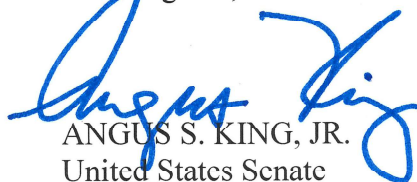
First, it was a true honor to be reelected to the United States Senate for another six-year term. Throughout my travels around the state, I heard many concerns about the cost of living and affordability of housing. Many of you also shared your concerns about access to medical and mental health services. The *Inflation Reduction Act* has been incredible for older people in Maine – Medicare is finally negotiating lower prices for prescription drugs, on top of the \$35 per month cap for insulin that took effect in 2023. We have an opportunity to build on what we have in common and do what Maine people do best; we will continue to help each other and lead through example.

I have also been consistently working to help our veterans. My team has repeatedly been successful in securing long-overdue recognition of military medals for many of Maine’s combat veterans and working to resolve issues with claims, travel pay, and access to healthcare and benefits our veterans earned through their selfless service to our country. I have also worked with my Veterans Affairs and Defense partners in Washington to successfully pass a national defense bill that strengthens our national security, takes care of our service members, and supports Maine businesses from Aroostook to York County.

I am also thankful to have such an incredible team across Maine available to you for hurdles you may face with the federal government. Whether it be veteran issues, social security problems, student loans, immigration, IRS and more, please never hesitate to reach out to my offices in Presque Isle, Bangor, Augusta, Portland, or Biddeford and allow us the chance to be part of your solutions.

Together, over the next six years, I know we can continue to build a stronger, brighter future for our great state. Thank you for being one of the reasons Maine is so special; it is not only a pleasure to serve you — it is a pleasure to know you. Mary and I wish you a happy and safe 2025.

Best Regards,



ANGUS S. KING, JR.
United States Senate

AUGUSTA
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(207) 622-8292

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Bangor, ME 04401
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BIDDEFORD
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Biddeford, ME 04005
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PORTLAND
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Portland, ME 04101
(207) 245-1565

PRESQUE ISLE
167 Academy Street, Suite A
Presque Isle, ME 04769
(207) 764-5124

Nicole Grohoski
Senator, District 7

P.O. Box 1732
Ellsworth, ME 04605



THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

January 3, 2025

Dear Friends and Residents of Surry,

On December 4th, I was sworn in for another term as your State Senator to represent the 22 coastal communities of Senate District 7. I will continue to collaborate with my colleagues, regardless of party affiliation, to do the best work we can for all Mainers. For the next two years, I will continue to chair the Taxation Committee and serve on the Energy, Utilities, and Technology Committee.

In the 131st Legislature, recognizing the significant impact municipal property taxes have on many of our older neighbors, the Taxation Committee improved the Property Tax Fairness Credit (PTFC) for Mainers over 65. These changes are now in effect for 2024 state income taxes. The PTFC helps Mainers of any age afford to stay in their homes, whether they own or rent, so please review this credit when you file your 2024 income taxes. As the returning Senate chair, I will collaborate with my colleagues to provide additional property tax relief for Mainers across the district and state.

Also in the last Legislature, we increased our investments in roads, bridges, broadband, housing, and working waterfronts. After severe winter storms, my colleagues and I focused on storm preparedness and resilience. We streamlined coastal permitting requirements to allow structures to be rebuilt faster and stronger. We also allocated \$60 million to rebuild commercial working waterfront infrastructure, support other businesses adversely affected by the storms, and enhance the long-term resilience of public infrastructure.

We also made significant investments in education, which helps alleviate the pressure on municipalities to raise property taxes. We kept our promise to fully fund the state's share of K-12 public education, and we set aside \$30 million for the Education Stabilization Fund, in case there is a future economic downturn. We also increased wages for education technicians and school support staff to 125 percent and 115 percent of the state minimum wage, respectively, to improve employee retention.

Please contact me if I can be of any assistance with state government or if you have questions about the legislative process. I also share information via Facebook (www.facebook.com/grohoskiformaine) and Instagram ([@grohoskiformaine](https://www.instagram.com/grohoskiformaine)) and send out periodic email newsletters; please let me know if you would like to be added to my mailing list. You can email me at Nicole.Grohoski@legislature.maine.gov or call the Senate office at (207) 287-1515.

I remain at your service, and I am honored to be your advocate in Augusta.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nicole C. Grohoski".

Nicole Grohoski
State Senator, District 7
Part of Hancock County and the Town of Isle au Haut



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002
(207) 287-1400
TTY: MAINE RELAY 711

Nina Azella Milliken

276 Turkey Farm Road
Blue Hill, ME 04614
Phone: (207) 412-8828

Nina.milliken@legislature.maine.gov

Dear Surry Neighbors:

It is an honor to have the opportunity to serve you again in the Maine House of Representatives. Over the next two years, I will be working hard as your advocate in Augusta to make life better for everyone in our district and in our state.

As of this writing, we have begun the first session of the 132nd Legislature. We have a lot of work ahead of us, which will include doing more to lower costs for Maine families, build an economy that works for everyone, increase access to housing and health care, and more. I'm looking forward to working with all of my colleagues to tackle these challenges head-on.

Our most significant priority will be crafting a two-year state budget, which will shape the direction of our state in the near future. I will be fighting to ensure that the budget includes policies that will provide relief and make it easier for more Maine families to build their lives here and make ends meet. Some of my other top goals for the budget include improving rural access to essential services and increasing affordable housing across Maine.

This session, I have again been appointed to serve on the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee, where we will continue our work on issues related to criminal law and procedure, supporting our first responders and keeping Mainers safe.

Please feel free to contact me if you ever need my help. My email is nina.milliken@legislature.maine.gov, and my phone number is (207) 412-8828. I also send out monthly e-newsletters that provide updates on our work at the State House and offer helpful information and resources. Please let me know if you would like to receive them.

I am grateful to be entrusted with this great responsibility, and I look forward to connecting with you over the next two years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nina Milliken".

Nina Milliken
State Representative

Washington Office
1710 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
Phone: (202) 225-6306
Fax: (202) 225-2943
www.golden.house.gov



Committee on Armed Services
Committee on Small Business

Jared Golden
Congress of the United States
2nd District of Maine

Dear Friends,

I hope this letter finds you well. It's an honor to continue serving as your representative in Congress, and I take the responsibility very seriously. Thank you for the opportunity to share an update on the work I've been doing for the people of the Second Congressional District.

Fisheries: This spring, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) announced a gauge increase for lobsters caught in the Gulf of Maine beginning in January 2025. Maine fishermen warned that this decision is founded on incomplete and inaccurate data. Additionally, this gauge increase could put Mainers at a competitive disadvantage to Canadian fishermen with looser regulations. That's why I sent a [letter](#) to the ASMFC urging them to delay their decision until they can evaluate data with fishermen, whose proactive stewardship provides invaluable insight. I have also submitted an amendment to this year's funding bill that would block federal funding from being used to implement and enforce a gauge increase. Because of these efforts, the ASFMC made the decision to delay the implementation of this new requirement. I'll always stand with Maine lobstermen against unfair, unnecessary regulations that threaten their livelihoods and industry.

Veterans: The first meeting I attended as an elected official was with a large group of veterans and the former Director of the Maine Bureau of Veterans Services. We discussed a lot, but one issue rose above the rest: how little was being done for Maine veterans who needed treatment for mental health issues or substance use. At the time, there were no in-patient treatment beds in Maine, so veterans had to wait for a bed to open up at an out-of-state facility. Fast forward 10 years, through unending red tape, and I'm delighted to report we just broke ground on a treatment facility at the Togus VA Medical Center in Augusta. This was the direct result of the tireless advocacy of veterans from across our state — this win is theirs.

Postal Service: This spring, the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) announced plans to consolidate and move some processing operations from the Eastern Maine Processing & Distribution Center in Hampden to Scarborough. This would have caused significant mail delivery delays that disproportionately harm rural communities. That's why I introduced the *Timely Mail Delivery*

6 State Street, Suite 101
Bangor, ME 04101
Phone: (207) 249-7400

7 Hatch Drive, Suite 230
Caribou, ME 04736
Phone: (207) 492-6009

179 Lisbon Street
Lewiston, ME 04240
Phone: (207) 241-6767



and Postal Services Protection Act, which would have halted this planned consolidation across the country. Following these efforts, the USPS announced they have scrapped their plan entirely. While this is a win for Maine, it is also evidence that we cannot become complacent. That's why I recently introduced the bipartisan *Postmaster General Reform Act*, which would establish term limits for the United States Postal Service's (USPS) postmaster general and require nominations to be confirmed by the Senate.

Regardless of the year, one of my top priorities is ensuring I'm accessible to you. My staff and I can help navigate federal programs; find resources in Maine; and resolve issues with Medicare, Social Security, the VA, and other federal agencies and programs. We are here to help:

- **Caribou Office:** 7 Hatch Drive, Suite 230, Caribou, ME 04736. Phone: (207) 492-6009
- **Lewiston Office:** 179 Lisbon Street, Lewiston, ME 04240. Phone: (207) 241-6767
- **Bangor Office:** 6 State Street, Suite 101, Bangor, ME 04401. Phone: (207) 249-7400

I wish you a healthy and prosperous year to come.

Respectfully,



Jared Golden
Member of Congress

THE WARRANT

July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026

HANCOCK, ss

STATE OF MAINE

To: Patrick Kane, a Constable in the Town of Surry, in said County.

Greetings:

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby requested to notify and warn the Inhabitants of the Town of Surry, qualified by law to vote in Town affairs, to assemble at the Surry Municipal Building in said Town on Friday, April 11, 2025, at 7:45 A.M. then and there to act upon Article 1 and by secret ballot on Articles 2 through 4 as set out below, the polling places therefore to be from 8:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.;

And, to notify and warn said Inhabitants to meet at the Surry Civic Center (Surry School Gym) in said Town on Monday, April 14, 2025 at 6:00 P.M. to act on Articles 5 through 66, as set out below, to wit:

1. To choose a Moderator to preside at the meeting.
2. To elect designated town officers by secret ballot (M.R.S.A. Title 30-A, Section 2528 and 2529)

Budget recommendations by the Select Board appear below in many of the following articles. The Finance Committee reviewed the budget amounts and made recommendations to the Select Board.

3. Shall the Town adopt the 2024 Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Surry pursuant to 30-A M.R.S. § 4324(9), which has been deemed by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to be “complete and consistent” with the Maine Growth Management Act (30-A M.R.S. § 4321, et seq.), as recommended by the Comprehensive Plan Committee following a public hearing on February 10, 2025, and approved by the Select Board on February 7, 2025?

[The Comprehensive Plan is available to view at the Town Office or on our website: townofsurrymaine.com]

Select Board Recommends a Yes vote.

4. Shall the Town commit to paying an extra \$1,700.00 in tuition for each Surry student attending George Stevens Academy for the 2025-2026 school year, and shall the Town raise and appropriate \$51,000.00 in additional local funds, which exceed the State’s Essential Programs and Services allocation model, for this purpose?

The School Committee gives the following reason for exceeding the State’s Essential Programs and Services funding model by \$51,000.00 in order to pay a tuition charge above the amount otherwise allowable by Title 20-A, section 5806. This figure is based on the anticipated number of Surry students at GSA for the 2025-2026 school year, which is 28 students, out of a total of 48 Surry high

school students. Tuition for two additional students has been budgeted as a contingency.

State-Mandated Explanation: The additional local funds are those locally raised funds over and above the Town's local contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and local amounts raised for the annual payment on non-state funded debt service that will help achieve the Surry public school budget for educational programs.

Select Board and Finance Committee Recommends a Yes vote.

School Board Recommendation: None

5. To see if the Town will vote to pay a total stipend of \$24,441.00 per year to the Select Board Members (\$8,147.00 each) for Town Administration, Assessors, General Assistance, and for the Blue Hill/Surry Solid Waste Transfer Station Committee. Funding for this Article is in Article 6.

Select Board and Finance Committee Recommend a Yes vote.

6. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate \$533,722.00 for Administration of the Town, which includes: Administration Costs of \$464,122.00; Assessing costs of \$29,100.00 and Municipal Building Operations of \$40,500.00; and to transfer unexpended legal expenses to the Legal Expense Reserve Account.

- To Raise from Taxation: \$248,222.00
- To Appropriate from Revenue Sharing Reserve \$200,000.00
- To Appropriate from Motor Vehicle Excise Tax Reserve \$60,000.00
- To Appropriate from Tree Growth Reserve \$20,000.00
- To Appropriate from Undesignated Fund Balance \$5,500

Select Board and Finance Committee Recommend a Yes vote.

SCHOOL BUDGET ARTICLES TO APPROPRIATE MONIES FOR THE JULY 1, 2025 TO JUNE 30, 2026 FISCAL YEAR

7. **ARTICLE S1.** To see what sum the town will authorize the school committee to expend for Regular Instruction. (Elementary Instruction Program, Secondary Instruction Program, Alternative Education, English as a 2nd Language, Gifted and Talented)

School Committee Recommends: \$1,870,768.80

8. **ARTICLE S2.** To see what sum the town will authorize the school committee to expend for Special Education. (Special Education Programs and Administration)

School Committee Recommends: \$561,662.36

9. **ARTICLE S3.** To see what sum the town will authorize the school committee to expend for Other Instruction. (Co-curricular, Extra-curricular, Summer School)

School Committee Recommends: \$25,702.70

10. **ARTICLE S4.** To see what sum the town will authorize the school committee to expend for Student and Staff Support. (Guidance Services, Health Services, Library Services, Instructional Technology, Instructional Staff Training, Curriculum Development)

School Committee Recommends: \$217,963.04

11. **ARTICLE S5.** To see what sum the town will authorize the school committee to expend for System Administration. (School Board Services, Office of the Superintendent Services)

School Committee Recommends: \$141,208.99

12. **ARTICLE S6.** To see what sum the town will authorize the school committee to expend for School Administration.

School Committee Recommends: \$222,986.21

13. **ARTICLE S7.** To see what sum the town will authorize the school committee to expend for Transportation and Buses.

School Committee Recommends: \$196,709.26

14. **ARTICLE S8.** To see what sum the town will authorize the school committee to expend for Facilities Maintenance. (Maintenance/Custodial, Capital Enhancement & Improvement, Capital Renewal & Renovation)

School Committee Recommends: \$219,439.75

15. **ARTICLE S9.** To see what sum the town will authorize the school committee to expend for All Other Expenditures, including the food service program, with authorization to expend any additional, incidental, or miscellaneous receipts in the interest and for the well-being of the food service program.

School Committee Recommends: \$66,431.68

16. **ARTICLE S10.** To see what sum the town will appropriate for the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and to see what sum the town will raise as the town's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15688.

School Committee Recommends that \$2,246,317.14 be appropriated and \$2,075,033.64 be raised.

State-Mandated Explanation: The town's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act is the amount of money determined by state law to be the minimum amount that a municipality must raise in order to receive the full amount of state dollars.

17. **ARTICLE S11. (Written Ballot Required).** To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate in additional local funds, which exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services allocation model as required to fund the budget recommended by the school committee.

School Committee Recommends \$1,268,055.65 for additional local funds and gives the following reason for exceeding the State's Essential Programs and Services funding model by **\$1,268,055.65**: in order to maintain current programs and offerings.

State-Mandated Explanation: The additional local funds are those locally raised funds over and above the town's local contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and local amounts raised for the annual payment on non-state funded debt service that will help achieve the Surry Public Schools budget for educational programs.

18. **ARTICLE S12.** To see what sum the town will authorize the school committee to expend for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026 from the town's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act, local funds for debt service on non-state-funded school construction projects, additional local funds for school purposes under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15690, unexpended balances, tuition receipts, state subsidy and other receipts for the support of schools

School Committee Recommends: \$3,522,872.79

19. **ARTICLE S13.** To see what sum the Town will raise for the School Construction Reserve Fund.

School Committee Recommends: \$100,000.00

Explanation: funds added to this reserve account will be used to pay for future upgrades to the school building, with the top priority being a HVAC/Ventilation system for Surry Elementary School.

20. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate \$53,448.00 for a 12-month contract with Peninsula Ambulance Corps.

- To Raise from Taxation: \$53,448.00

Select Board and Finance Committee Recommend a Yes vote.

21. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate \$169,781.00 for the Surry Fire Department. This includes \$27,000.00 for the Fire Chief's and Assistant Fire Chief's salaries, and stipends for the firefighters, SS/Medicare \$2,065.00 and \$140,716.00 for operating expenses.

- To Raise from Taxation: \$165,781.00
- To Appropriate from Revenue Sharing: \$4,000.00

Select Board and Finance Committee Recommend a Yes vote.

22. To see if the Town will vote to authorize up to \$25,000.00 for a Hancock County Deputy Sheriff to provide extra patrolling hours for public safety and speed monitoring.

- To raise from Taxation: \$25,000.00

Select Board and Finance Committee Recommend a Yes vote.

23. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate \$3,700.00 for an Animal Control Program.

- To Raise from Taxation: \$3,700.00

Select Board and Finance Committee Recommend a Yes vote.

24. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate \$6,825.00 for the E911 program, to be used for Hancock County dispatching fees, addressing and street signs.

- To Raise from Taxation: \$6,825.00

Select Board and Finance Committee Recommend a Yes vote.

25. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate \$1,900.00 for electricity for streetlights.

- To raise from MV Excise Tax: \$1,900.00

Select Board and Finance Committee Recommend a Yes vote.

26. To see if the Town will vote to fix compensation of labor and equipment for the Public Works Department using the Labor Reimbursement and Private Equipment Rates published by the State of Maine as a guideline.

Select Board and Finance Committee Recommend a Yes vote.

27. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate \$11,274.00 for Road Commissioner administrative expenses. This includes a stipend at \$7,500.00 a year, mileage allowance of \$3,200.00, and SS/Medicare at \$574.00.
- To Raise from Taxation: \$11,274.00
- Select Board and Finance Committee Recommend a Yes vote.*
28. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate \$467,200.00 for the Town road budget which includes winter roads (\$223,700.00), road maintenance (\$109,500.00), paving (\$125,000.00) and roadside mowing (\$9,000.00).
- To Appropriate from Motor Vehicle Excise Tax Reserve: \$427,200.00
 - To Appropriate from State of Maine Local Road Assistance Program Reserve: \$40,000.00
- Select Board and Finance Committee Recommend a Yes vote.*
29. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate \$213,261.00 for its 12-month share of operating the Blue Hill/Surry Solid Waste Transfer Station for the 2025-2026 year.
- To Raise from Taxation: \$213,261.00
- Select Board and Finance Committee Recommend a Yes vote.*
30. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate \$32,500.00 for cemetery maintenance and improvements.
- To Appropriate from Tree Growth Reserve: \$32,500.00
- Select Board and Finance Committee Recommend a Yes vote.*
31. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate \$8,380.00 which includes \$800.00 for a 12-month contract with Haslam Septic of Ellsworth for the right to dump septic waste from Surry households into their DEP licensed holding tanks, and \$7,580.00 for portable toilet services.
- To Raise from Taxation: \$8,380.00
- Select Board and Finance Committee Recommend a Yes vote.*
32. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate \$30,663.00 for Code Enforcement Officer wages and expenses.
- To Appropriate from Code Enforcement Officer Reserve: \$30,663.00
- Select Board and Finance Committee Recommend a Yes vote.*
33. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate \$9,886.00 for Planning Board and the Board of Appeals.
- To Raise from Taxation: \$996.00
 - To Appropriate from Surry Code of Ordinances Reserve: \$8,890.00

Select Board and Finance Committee Recommend a Yes vote.

34. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate \$17,254.00 for Economic and Community Development.

- To Appropriate from Tree Growth Reserve: \$17,254.00

Select Board and Finance Committee Recommend a Yes vote.

35. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate \$1,400.00 for the Conservation Commission.

- To Appropriate from Tree Growth Reserve: \$1,400.00

Select Board and Finance Committee Recommend a Yes vote.

36. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate \$500.00 for the Alewife Committee.

- To Appropriate from the Alewives Reserve: \$500.00

Select Board and Finance Committee Recommend a Yes vote.

37. Shall an ordinance entitled “Shellfish Conservation Ordinance, 2025 Revision Town of Surry’ be enacted?”

[A copy of the ordinance with revisions is attached to the warrant and available at the Town Office]

Select Board Recommends a Yes vote.

38. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate \$5,000.00 for enforcement of the Town of Surry Shellfish Ordinance, which includes the salary of a Shellfish Warden and other expenses.

- To Raise from Taxation: \$5,000.00

Select Board and Finance Committee Recommend a Yes vote.

39. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate \$9,792.00 for the Ellsworth City Library.

- To Raise from Taxation: \$9,792.00

Select Board and Finance Committee Recommend a Yes vote.

40. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate \$5,439.00 for the Blue Hill Library.

- To Raise from Taxation: \$5,439.00

Select Board and Finance Committee Recommend a Yes vote.

41. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate \$5,615.00 for the Surry Memorial Park for maintenance.

- To Appropriate from Tree Growth Reimbursement: \$4,615.00
- To Appropriate from the Memorial Park Reserve: \$1,000.00

Select Board and Finance Committee Recommend a Yes vote.

42. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate \$5,400.00 for maintenance of the Osgood Lot.

- To Raise from Taxation: \$5,400.00

Select Board and Finance Committee Recommend a Yes vote.

43. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate \$1,200.00 for the maintenance and construction of Town fresh waterways properties.

- To Appropriate from Boat Excise Tax: \$1,200.00

Select Board and Finance Committee Recommend a Yes vote.

44. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate \$16,600.00 for the management of Town marine resources.

- To Raise from Taxation: \$5,400.00
- To Raise from Boat Excise Tax: \$11,200.00

Select Board and Finance Committee Recommend a Yes vote.

45. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate \$600.00 for maintenance and utilities for the Old Town Hall (Surry Historical Society).

- To Raise from Taxation; \$600.00

Select Board and Finance Committee Recommend a Yes vote.

46. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate \$11,300.00 for Old School House expenditures, including renovations, repairs, heating, wi-fi, and electricity costs.

- To Raise from Taxation: \$3,100.00
- To Appropriate from Old School House Contribution Reserve: \$8,200.00

Select Board and Finance Committee Recommend a Yes vote.

47. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate \$14,379.00 for the support of community services organizations, to include:

- Ellsworth Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry - \$1,500.00
- Hospice Volunteers of Hancock County - \$1,000.00
- Downeast Community Partners (formerly WHCA) - \$5,709.00
- Northern Light Health (formerly Hancock County Home Care and Hospice) - \$2,270.00
- Eastern Area Agency on Aging - \$850.00
- Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program - \$850.00

Friends in Action of Ellsworth - \$1,000.00
Families First Community Center - \$700.00
Hancock County SPCA animal spay program for low-income households - \$500.00

- To Raise from Taxation: \$14,379.00

Select Board and Finance Committee Recommend a Yes vote.

48. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate \$14,000.00 for the Surry Children's Backpack Food Program.

- To Appropriate from Backpack Contribution Reserve: \$14,000.00

Select Board and Finance Committee Recommend a Yes vote.

49. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate \$500.00 for the Neighbors Helping Neighbors Program.

- To Appropriate from the Neighbors Helping Neighbors Reserve: \$500.00

Select Board and Finance Committee Recommend a Yes vote.

50. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate \$13,550.00 for the Surry Recreation Program which includes \$4,500.00 to be a supporting member town of the Downeast YMCA, entitling children and families to realize a range of sports and recreational benefits.

- To Raise from Taxation: \$3,550.00
- To Raise from Motor Vehicle Excise Tax: \$10,000.00

Select Board and Finance Committee Recommend a Yes vote.

51. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate \$8,500.00 for General Assistance.

- To Raise from Taxation: \$2,550.00
- Appropriate from General Assistance Reimbursement: \$5,950.00. *(State covers 70% of approved GA applicants)*

Select Board and Finance Committee Recommend a Yes vote.

52. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate \$161,897.00, or such other amount that should become due and payable during Fiscal Year 2026 for long-term debt incurred: \$40,692.00 for the 2019 expansion and renovation of the Fire Department; \$25,071.00 for payment for the 2021 Carrying Place Beach land acquisition; and \$96,134.00 for the purchase of a fire truck.

- To Raise from Property Tax: \$161,897.00

Select Board and Finance Committee Recommend a Yes vote.

53. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate \$17,500.00 for a contribution to the Fire Department sinking fund for early retirement of long-term debt.
- To Appropriate from Tree Growth Reserve: \$17,500.00
- Select Board and Finance Committee Recommend a Yes vote.*
54. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate \$10,000.00 for a contribution to the Fire Department Equipment Outlay Reserve Account.
- To Appropriate from Tree Growth Reserve: \$10,000.00
- Select Board and Finance Committee Recommends a Yes vote.*
55. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate \$10,000.00 for a contribution to the Municipal Capital Outlay Reserve Account.
- To Appropriate from Tree Growth Reserve: \$10,000.00
- Select Board and Finance Committee Recommends a Yes vote.*
56. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate \$40,000.00 for installation of a Fire Department water supply on Newbury Neck.
- To Raise from Taxation: \$31,250.00
 - To Appropriate from Tree Growth Reserve: \$8,750.00
- Select Board and Finance Committee Recommend a Yes vote.*
57. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate \$15,000.00 and authorize the Select Board to use such funds as they deem necessary to meet unanticipated expenses and emergencies that occur during fiscal year 2026, and to transfer any unexpended amounts to the Emergency and Catastrophe Reserve.
- To Raise from Taxation: \$15,000.00
- Select Board and Finance Committee Recommend a Yes vote.*
58. To see if the Town will vote to establish that taxes will be payable upon commitment.
- Select Board Recommends a Yes vote.*
59. To see if the Town will vote that property taxes shall be paid in two equal installments for the fiscal year 2026, the first half being due September 30, 2025, and delinquent thereafter, and the second half being due March 30, 2026, and delinquent thereafter, with interest at an annual rate of 5% charged on delinquent taxes.
- Select Board Recommends a Yes vote.*
60. To see if the Town will vote to set the interest rate to be paid by the town on abated taxes at 4% pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A., sec. 506-A.

Select Board Recommends a Yes vote.

61. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate \$4,000.00 to pay for abatements and any interest due thereon.

- To Raise from Taxation: \$4,000.00

Select Board and Finance Committee Recommend a Yes vote.

62. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector or Treasurer to accept prepayments of taxes not yet committed pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A., Sec. 506.

Select Board Recommends a Yes vote.

63. To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board, on behalf of the Town, to dispose of any Real Estate acquired by the Town for non-payment of taxes thereon, on such terms as they deem advisable in accordance with state laws and regulations, except that the Select Board shall use the special sale process required by 36 M.R.S.A. § 943-C for qualifying homestead property if they choose to sell it to anyone other than the former owner(s).

Select Board Recommends a Yes vote.

64. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to dispose of town owned personal property with a value of \$5,000.00 or less under such terms and conditions as they deem advisable.

Select Board Recommends a Yes vote.

65. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board on behalf of the Town to accept any County, State, Federal or private grants, that may become available to the Town or the Blue Hill/Surry Solid Waste Committee.

Select Board Recommends a Yes vote.

66. To see if the Town will allow the Select Board to renew alewife fishing rights with the Maine Department of Marine Resources for FY 2026, and assign to the Select Board control of alewife fisheries, including authority to negotiate contracts for the commercial taking of alewives for a period of up to three years, as a means of income to the town.

Select Board Recommends a Yes vote.

THIS IS A NON POSTED WARRANT
THERE MAY BE ADDITIONAL ARTICLES

Contact Information

741 North Bend Road
Surry, ME 04684
townofsurrymaine.com

Surry Town Office: 207-667-5912
Surry Town Office Fax: 207-667-5187
Surry Post Office: 207-667-4086
Blue Hill/Surry Transfer Station: 207-374-5458
Animal Control Officer - Dan McKay: 207-460-0623
Surry Elementary School: 207-667-9358
Superintendent's Office: 207-374-9927
Bureau of Motor Vehicles - Ellsworth Branch: 207-667-9363
Hancock County Registry of Deeds: 207-667-8353
Hancock County Sheriff's Office (Non-Emergency): 207-667-7575
Emergency: 911
Versant Power Outage Reporting Line: 1-855-363-7211

211 Maine is a free, confidential information and referral service that connects people of all ages across Maine to local services. These services include, but are not limited to transportation, food banks, mental health services, housing assistance and education resources. Dial 211 if you are calling from Maine, text your zip code to 898-211, or visit their website at 211maine.org for resources in your area.

Town Emails:
chair@townofsurrymaine.com
assessor@townofsurrymaine.com
ga@townofsurrymaine.com
clerk@townofsurrymaine.com
taxcollector@townofsurrymaine.com
treasurer@townofsurrymaine.com
ceo@townofsurrymaine.com