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## City of Belfast, Maine Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Annual Report

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# CITY OF BELFAST, MAINE



## FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT

## Dedication

### Wayne Marshall and Joseph Slocum



This year, Mayor Sanders and members of the Belfast City Council, are pleased to dedicate the City of Belfast Annual Report to two men who have given years of service to the betterment of our community and its citizens; Wayne Marshall, Director of Code and Planning from 1998 to September 2020, and Joe Slocum, City Manager from 2007 to March 2020.

Citing Wayne Marshall's significant contribution to the betterment of Belfast is certainly accurate of Wayne's work over the past 22 years, but it is not enough. The level that Wayne cares about the Department of Code and Planning, the people in this community, and the function and purpose of local government is admirable. Nor would Belfast be the Belfast we know and love today without Wayne's ability to play the long game. He has been a constant in our City through many changes and at the very center of most. Wayne has served as a mentor and friend to many members of staff and elected City officials over the years.

Wayne will leave behind a legacy that is not just seen along our streets and waterfront but also in those that follow him. Our incoming Director of Code and Planning and current Code Enforcement Officer Bub Fournier explains, "Wayne's expertise and understanding of the seams between overlapping issues has been a great resource that will be hard to do without. His approach has always been full comprehension and he has never been swayed by easy solutions or deterred by long hours of doing things correctly. His sense of humor and wit will echo in our department for many years after he retires."

Joe Slocum believed that working in government was his civic duty and his opportunity to give back to a community that he truly believed in and cared about. He was honored to be part of the daily contributions and achievements that the City's dedicated staff, volunteers and community worked so hard for, and it showed. Whether it was the complicated Harbor Walk, the rebuilding of the pedestrian Belfast Armistice Bridge, the new Public Works facility, the immensely complicated Rail Trail, supporting energy savings initiative, or negotiating the complexities of the Front Street Shipyard Joe brought a careful and dynamic energy to moving the issues forward.

In his last Manager's Report, Joe explained "this community is not an accident. It is the deliberate product of a diverse culture that is unrelenting in its common love of everything that is here. In spite of many attempts, Belfast cannot be wrapped up into some summary brand. We are blessed by being as much as we are, by who we are, as we are, by who we are not. Our diversity is our special asset. It encourages and respects every individual's desire to be themselves. There is such deep warmth here. It welcomes, shares, celebrates and outwardly displays great common pride."

Wayne Marshall and Joe Slocum have helped foster a community that we all are proud to call home. And for that we will be forever thankful.



# CITY OF BELFAST

131 Church Street  
Belfast, ME 04915

**Eric Sanders**  
Honorable Mayor

Website: [www.cityofbelfast.org](http://www.cityofbelfast.org)  
Tel: (207) 338 3370 ext. 110  
Fax: (207) 338 2419

Dear Belfast Residents,

It is with great pride that I find myself writing to you as your Mayor. I had served as a Belfast City Councilor for 10 years when I ran for Mayor, and I made certain to ask Walter Ash to swear me in, as I am a believer in traditions, and Walter was in my view, the tradition to follow.

Another tradition in Belfast is the active participation, informativeness and passion of its great Citizens. This is a City of thinkers, doers, and helpers. In 2020, with the multitude of Social platforms and mobile apps to use them, the Voice of the Citizen is heard clear as a bell. As it should be!

A word about the pandemic: 2020 will want to be remembered as the Year of the Pandemic. As one would naturally think. However, I will remember 2020 as the Year of Response, Determination, and Care. Please allow me to explain.

Response- On March 15, I received a call from Councilor Neal Harkness as I arrived home from work. City Hall was destined to close 2 days later. We had a brand new (Awesome) City Manager on the job for 9 days, the virus was in our City, and people were concerned about their health, their jobs, their neighbors, and their loved ones. It was a cluster moment in time. Councilor Harkness had spent that afternoon discussing the situation with fellow Councilors, and his 2 points or questions have ultimately led the response from the City.

1. What can the City do now to assist Citizens?
2. What can the City do after to promote and assist?

Now 6 months later, we are still answering question 1, but eagerly await the chance to answer question 2.

Within a week the City chose to start the Belfast Keep the Faith Fund with \$150,000 for both food assistance vouchers for Citizens, and a direct and quick emergency cash gift to any Business in town. We expected the Federal response would take time. We were right. Oh, and multitudes of Belfast Citizens and just plain nice people from all over the country contributed well over \$50,000 to join the fight. I will let our City Manager elaborate on the other things, but respond? Belfast did.

Determination- week after week, month after month, the City Staff has chosen not to give up or in to the Pandemic, but instead has chosen to work together to bring an even better consistency to the Public. It hasn't been easy for any of them, it is a year fraught with tension, but our City Staff is the finest in the Country. The End. Period. The Best of the Best.

Caring- I see it every day in our Citizens, folks taking the extra moment to assist, to answer questions, to help others.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. I and around 7000 others will say, "Belfast listens. Belfast gets it. And it's my City for sure!"

This is the Annual City Report, the first since 2005. A tradition we had gotten away from, but one which will serve as a baseline guide for each of you to hopefully answer questions.

Here's to Traditions, and Never Give Up!

Eric

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## CITY OF BELFAST DIRECTORY OF INFORMATION

<b>EMERGENCY</b>	Fire & Ambulance	<b>911</b>
<b>EMERGENCY</b>	Police	<b>911</b>

Non-Emergency Fire & Ambulance Departments---338-3362-----

Non-Emergency Police Department-----338-2420-----

**Information regarding all aspects of the City can be found on the web-site:**

[www.cityofbelfast.org](http://www.cityofbelfast.org)

City Hall-----	338-3370-----	<a href="http://www.cityofbelfast.org">www.cityofbelfast.org</a>
City Manager-----	338-3370---x110---	<a href="mailto:citymanager@cityofbelfast.org">citymanager@cityofbelfast.org</a>
Treasurer's Office-----	338-3370---x 111---	<a href="mailto:treasurer@cityofbelfast.org">treasurer@cityofbelfast.org</a>
Tax Office-----	338-3370---x 131---	<a href="mailto:deputyclerk@cityofbelfast.org">deputyclerk@cityofbelfast.org</a>
Clerk's Office-----	338-3370---x 114---	<a href="mailto:cityclerk@cityofbelfast.org">cityclerk@cityofbelfast.org</a>
Assessor's Office-----	338-3370---x 117---	<a href="mailto:assessor@cityofbelfast.org">assessor@cityofbelfast.org</a>
Planning / Code Office-----	338-3370--x 125--	<a href="mailto:planningandcodes@cityofbelfast.org">planningandcodes@cityofbelfast.org</a>
Parks & Recreation-----	338-3370--x 127---	<a href="mailto:parksandrec@cityofbelfast.org">parksandrec@cityofbelfast.org</a>
Park Pool-----	338-1661-----	
Harbor Master-----	338-1142-----	<a href="mailto:harbormaster@cityofbelfast.org">harbormaster@cityofbelfast.org</a>
Public Works-----	338-2375-----	<a href="mailto:publicworks@cityofbelfast.org">publicworks@cityofbelfast.org</a>
Wastewater Treatment Facility-----	338-1744-----	<a href="mailto:wwtp@cityofbelfast.org">wwtp@cityofbelfast.org</a>
Transfer & Recycling Station-----	338-1817-----	<a href="mailto:transferstation@cityofbelfast.org">transferstation@cityofbelfast.org</a>
Animal Control Officer-----	338-2420-----	
Belfast Cable TV -----	323-2430-----	<a href="mailto:beltv@cityofbelfast.org">beltv@cityofbelfast.org</a>
Belfast Free Library-----	338-3884-----	<a href="mailto:info@belfastlibrary.org">info@belfastlibrary.org</a>
Cemetery-----	338-2264-----	<a href="mailto:cemetery@cityofbelfast.org">cemetery@cityofbelfast.org</a>
Belfast Municipal Airport-----	338-4736-----	<a href="mailto:airport2@cityofbelfast.org">airport2@cityofbelfast.org</a>
Boat House Rental-----	338-3370—x 127---	<a href="mailto:parksandrec@cityofbelfast.org">parksandrec@cityofbelfast.org</a>

## Mayor and City Council

Councilors and Mayor may be contacted through email or by message to City Hall at **338 3370** ext **110**.

			<u>TERM</u>
			<u>EXP.</u>
<u>Mayor</u> 2021	Eric Sanders	<a href="mailto:mayor@cityofbelfast.org">mayor@cityofbelfast.org</a>	Nov.
<u>Ward 1 Councilor</u> 2020	Mary Mortier	<a href="mailto:ward1councilor@cityofbelfast.org">ward1councilor@cityofbelfast.org</a>	Nov.
<u>Ward 2 Councilor</u> 2020	Neal Harkness	<a href="mailto:ward2councilor@cityofbelfast.org">ward2councilor@cityofbelfast.org</a>	Nov.
<u>Ward 3 Councilor</u> 2021	Brenda Bonneville	<a href="mailto:ward3councilor@cityofbelfast.org">ward3councilor@cityofbelfast.org</a>	Nov.
<u>Ward 4 Councilor</u> 2021	Mike Hurley	<a href="mailto:ward4councilor@cityofbelfast.org">ward4councilor@cityofbelfast.org</a>	Nov.
<u>Ward 5 Councilor</u> 2020	Paul Dean	<a href="mailto:ward5councilor@cityofbelfast.org">ward5councilor@cityofbelfast.org</a>	Nov.

### City Department Heads

All may be contacted through email or by message to City Hall at **338 3370**

			<u>EXT.</u>
<u>City Manager</u>	Erin Herbig	<a href="mailto:citymanager@cityofbelfast.org">citymanager@cityofbelfast.org</a>	110
<u>Director of Code &amp; Planning</u>	Wayne Marshall	<a href="mailto:wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org">wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org</a>	125
<u>City Treasurer</u>	Theresa Butler	<a href="mailto:treasurer@cityofbelfast.org">treasurer@cityofbelfast.org</a>	111
<u>City Assessor</u>	Brent Martin	<a href="mailto:assessor@cityofbelfast.org">assessor@cityofbelfast.org</a>	117
<u>City Clerk</u>	Amy Flood	<a href="mailto:cityclerk@cityofbelfast.org">cityclerk@cityofbelfast.org</a>	114
<u>Tax Collector</u>		<a href="mailto:taxcollector@cityofbelfast.org">taxcollector@cityofbelfast.org</a>	132
<u>Director of Parks &amp; Recreation</u>	Norm Poirier	<a href="mailto:parksandrec@cityofbelfast.org">parksandrec@cityofbelfast.org</a>	127
<u>General Assistance Administrator</u>	Jodie Stout	<a href="mailto:generalassistance@cityofbelfast.org">generalassistance@cityofbelfast.org</a>	120
<u>Facilities &amp; Maintenance</u>	Norman Gilmore, III	<a href="mailto:maintenance@cityofbelfast.org">maintenance@cityofbelfast.org</a>	113
<u>Chief of Police</u>	Gerry Lincoln	<a href="mailto:chief@belfastmepd.org">chief@belfastmepd.org</a>	338-2420
<u>Fire Chief / Ambulance Director</u>	James Richards	<a href="mailto:firechief@cityofbelfast.org">firechief@cityofbelfast.org</a>	338-3362
<u>Director of Public Works</u>	Robert Richards	<a href="mailto:publicworks@cityofbelfast.org">publicworks@cityofbelfast.org</a>	338-2375
<u>Director of Library</u>	Steve Norman	<a href="mailto:snorman@belfastlibrary.org">snorman@belfastlibrary.org</a>	338-3884
<u>Harbor Master</u>	Kathy Pickering	<a href="mailto:harbormaster@cityofbelfast.org">harbormaster@cityofbelfast.org</a>	338-1142
<u>Cemetery Superintendent</u>	Steve Bogue	<a href="mailto:cemetery@cityofbelfast.org">cemetery@cityofbelfast.org</a>	338-2264
<u>Wastewater Superintendent</u>	Jon Carman	<a href="mailto:wwtp@cityofbelfast.org">wwtp@cityofbelfast.org</a>	338-1744
<u>Transfer &amp; Recycling Station Manager</u>	Mike McFadden	<a href="mailto:transferstation@cityofbelfast.org">transferstation@cityofbelfast.org</a>	338-1817

## **CITY OF BELFAST COMMITTEES**

### **Airport Advisory Committee - 7 Members - 3 Year Terms**

Chair: William Ryan Exp. 2022                      Duke Tomlin Exp. 2022                      Kenn Ortmann Exp. 2021  
Secretary: R. Truxes Exp. 2020                      Lynn Karlin Exp. 2021                      John Downs Exp. 2020  
Dave Aldrich Exp. 2020

### **Board of Assessment Review - 4 Members & 1 Alternate - 3 Year Terms**

Chair: Biff Atlass Exp. 2022                      Member: Roy Rodgers Exp. 2022  
Member: David Bond Exp. 2021                      Member: Mary Dutch Exp. 2021  
Alt.: Joel T. Lee Exp. 2022

### **Broadband Committee - Unlimited Members - 2 Year Terms**

Chair: Zafra Whitcomb Exp. 2021                      Secretary: Doug Chamberlain Exp. 2020  
Member: Charity Leschinski Exp. 2022                      Member: Joellen Easton Gaseidnes Exp. 2020  
Member: John Arrison Exp. 2021                      Councilor: Mary Mortier  
Member: Thomas Kittredge

### **Cemetery Trustees - 4 Members & 1 Alternate - 3 Year Terms**

Chair: Joyce Fenner Exp. 2020                      Member: Joanna Curtis Exp. 2021  
Secretary: Megan Pinette Exp. 2022                      Member: Paul Hamilton Exp. 2020  
Alt. Amanda Munson Exp. 2020

### **Climate Committee - 8-10 Members (including 2 Council Members) - 1 Year Term**

Chair: Jonathan Beal Exp.2020                      Vice-Chair: Sharon Besso Exp.2021  
Secretary: Barbara Bell Exp. 2021                      Beverly Roxby Exp. 2021  
Dr, Joe Duggan Exp. 2021                      Henry Reisner Exp.2020  
Mayor Eric Sanders Exp. 2021

### **Comprehensive Plan Committee - 1 Member per Ward + 2 At-Large Members - Term - Upon Completion of Plan**

Ward 1 Member: Jill Goodwin                      Ward 2 Member: Scott Kelley  
Ward 3 Member: Tammy Lacher Scully                      Ward 4 Member: Syrena T. Gatewood  
Ward 5 Member: Peter Brunette                      #1 At-large Member: John J. Carrick III #2 At-large Member:  
Anne Saggese



## CITY of BELFAST COMMITTEES

### Energy Committee - 6 Members - Staggered Terms

#### 3 year term

Andrew Carpenter Exp.2020  
Jonathan Fulford Exp.2020  
Matt O'Malia Exp.2020

#### 2 year term

Eric Sanders Exp.2020  
Michael Hurley Exp.2020  
Sadie Lloyd Exp.2020

### Harbor Advisory Committee - 6 Members - 2 Year Terms

Member: John B. Turner Exp. 2021  
Member: Joanne Moesswilde Exp. 2021  
Member: Gerald Brand Exp. 2020

Member: Daniel Miller Exp. 2021  
Member: Robert Winslow Exp. 2020  
Alt: Andrew Peters Exp. 2020

### In Town Design Review Committee - 12 Members Presently - No Terms

Martha Block  
Mary Dutch  
Gail Savitz  
Richard O'Connor  
Dominic Mercadante  
James H. Duff

Tangie Abercrombie  
Gianne Conard  
Tangie Abercrombie  
Roy Rodgers  
Judy Stein  
Barry Brindle

### Library Board of Trustees - 5 Members - All 3 Year Terms

President: Kay Zegel Exp. 2020  
Treasurer: Robert Adler Exp. 2022  
Member: Syrena Gatewood Exp. 2021

Vice President: Cynthia Martell Exp. 2021  
Secretary: Robin Kruger Exp. 2020

### Parks & Recreation Commission - 7 Members - 1 Alternate - 3 Year Terms

Chair: Larry Theye Exp. 2022  
Member: Carol Good Exp. 2020  
Member: Aynne Ames Exp. 2021  
Member: Rafe Blood Exp. 2022

Secretary: Heather Hay-Brackett Exp. 2020  
Member: Catherine Gleeson Exp. 2022  
Member: Kali Litrides Exp. 2021  
Alt. Member: Amanda Cunningham Exp. 2021

## **CITY of BELFAST COMMITTEES**

### **Pedestrian, Biking & Hiking Committee - 5 Members – 1&2 Year Terms**

Chair: Jim Merkel Exp. 2020

Member: Christopher Gardner Exp. 2020

Member: Zachary Schmesser Exp. 2021

Secretary: Bill Smith Exp. 2020

Member: Glenn Montgomery Exp. 2020

Alt. Member: Tim Freeman Exp. 2020

### **Planning Board Members - 5 Members - 2 Alternates - 5 Year Terms**

Seat #1 Secretary: Richard O'Connor Exp. 2020

Seat #3: Hubert Townsend Exp. 2023

Seat # 5: David Bond Exp. 2020

Alt 2: Kimberly "Daisy" Beal Exp. 2021

Seat #2: Geoffrey Gilchrist Exp. 2020

Seat # 4: Wayne Corey Exp. 2024

Alt 1: Stephen Ryan Exp. 2021

### **Zoning Board of Appeals - 5 Members - 1 Alternate - 3 Year Terms**

Chair: Peter Nessin Exp. 2020

Member: Michael Nickerson Exp. 2020

Member: Douglas Smith Exp. 2022

Member: Roger Pickering Exp. 2022

Member: Dana Keene Exp. 2022

Alternate: Vacancy Exp.



# CITY OF BELFAST

131 Church Street  
Belfast, Maine 04915

**Erin Herbig**  
City Manager

**E-mail:** [citymanager@cityofbelfast.org](mailto:citymanager@cityofbelfast.org)

**Tel:** (207) 338-3370 ext. 110

Like every citizen of Belfast, I never imagined the current state our community is in when I entered my new role as City Manager on March 9, 2020, more than halfway through the fiscal year. Within my first week on the job, the State of Maine responded and adjusted operations due to a global pandemic and in coordination with our Governor's mandates, the City of Belfast did the same.

At the simplest level, the City Manager's office is responsible for the overall operation and management of all municipal departments and employees, as well as the implementation of all policy decisions made by the City Council. With the impacts of COVID-19 on our community, our economy and our bottom-line, we have been faced with challenges that the City of Belfast has never seen before.

Of this I am sure: The City of Belfast will get through this and we will get through this together. I have already seen proof of this as we finished out Fiscal Year 2019-2020 and as we look ahead. A great deal of work has been accomplished by the City thanks to our experienced staff and clear direction from our dedicated Mayor and Councilors to respond to the pandemic. A few examples of this are:

The Belfast Keep the Faith Fund Grocery Voucher was created to provide relief to Belfast residents who have been laid off or experienced reduced work hours and small businesses located in Belfast that have been forced to close or had a reduction in revenue beyond 25% due to COVID-19.

The Belfast Keep the Faith Small Business Grant Program was created to provide relief to businesses located in Belfast that have had to close or experienced a significant reduction in business since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The City of Belfast made donations to our Long-Term Care Facilities, Tall Pines and Harbor Hill, to support their workforce during the continuing health crisis.

"Curbside Belfast" was created to provide businesses the ability to apply for a temporary permit, allowing restaurants and retailers to utilize city parking spaces in front of their businesses. We have had 13 downtown businesses utilize this opportunity that has helped keep our downtown vibrant and bustling during a very difficult time.

This pandemic will continue to present many challenges that remain unknown. What I do know is that our Mayor and Council have always been innovative, compassionate and will lead our community through this challenging time. I know that City of Belfast employees are resourceful and mindful of how to stretch each dollar to provide services to our community on a very lean budget because we understand the impact our spending has on our community. I know our community is resilient and that we can and will get through this together.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the City of Belfast as City Manager. I am honored to work on behalf of my hometown and the people that live here every day. If I can be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me. I wish you all the very best in the coming year.



22 Wright Brothers Drive

**Airport Manager**

**Kenn Ortmann**

**City of Belfast  
Municipal Airport  
131 Church Street  
Belfast, Maine 04915**

**Phone: 207 338 3370 x 600**

**Email: [airport2@cityofbelfast.org](mailto:airport2@cityofbelfast.org)**

Annual Report  
July 1, 2019-June 30 2020

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

The most accurate source of information regarding the number of operations currently at the airport is the General Aviation Recording Device (GARD) system, which records and saves all radio transmissions made at/near the airport. The GARD system showed FY20 operations averaged approximately 267 per month-there were some months with incorrect readings so this is an estimate. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) also develops a Terminal Area Forecast which estimates the number of annual operations at non-towered KBST as 10,000. It is the opinion of the Airport Manager that the number of actual operations at the airport falls somewhere between the FAA and the GARD numbers. Known regular users of the airport include: athenahealth, LifeFlight, Front Street Shipyard clients, and HNP AIR LLC.

The airport currently generates revenue three ways: 1) ground leases to private individuals; 2) property taxes on aircraft hangars; and 3) leases of City-owned buildings. The City receives approximately \$26,600 per year from 24 ground leases, approximately \$10,500 in property taxes from 24 hangars, and \$4,200 per year from the leasing of the City-owned Lowe Hangar and a T-hangar. KBST currently has approximately 20 aircraft based here (generally the airport where it spends the most time).

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

One major airport project, the recent parallel taxiway project, was substantially completed during FY20. A major change in management was implemented in November 2019 when responsibility for airport operations was moved from Economic Development Director Thomas Kittredge to Co-Managers Scott Story and Kenn Ortmann, and later to just Kenn Ortmann.

Ongoing challenges for the airport include: 1) high ground lease rates, both when compared to other Maine airports and to other United States airports; 2) a small number of sites where commercial aviation activity is allowed but which also do not possess high development costs; 3) a lack of accessible, competitively-priced aviation fuel; and, 4) limited options for creating new additional revenue streams.

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

Respectfully offered: Kenneth Ortmann, Airport Manager June 5, 2020



**City of Belfast  
Office of the Assessor &  
Addressing Office**

131 Church Street  
Belfast, Maine 04915  
Phone: (207) 338-3160, Ext 22  
Email: [assessor@cityofbelfast.org](mailto:assessor@cityofbelfast.org)

May 14, 2020

Memo: Annual Report Preliminary Content  
To: Theresa Butler, Treasurer  
From: Brent Martin, City Assessor

Assessing activity is busier than ever and the timing of COVID-19's shutdown brings attention to two important components driving the Assessing Office – Tax Day and the Certified Ratio. Tax Day defines the day the assessment values are measured in relation to the market value of properties and the Certified Ratio is median percentage these measurements. If assessments are within 10% of market value, the taxpayers may receive 100% of the exemptions. If market values increase, as they have, and assessed values do not track those increases, the tax payers may not claim 100% of the tax savings of the exemptions. Additionally, if assessed values fall below 90% of market value, it is likely that assessments may not be fairly applied throughout the City. This is the basis for why we have been equalizing over the past few years.

This year presents complex issues. The data analyzed by the Assessing Office revolves around the status of property and the markets as of April 1<sup>st</sup>. When COVID-19 froze the City, State, Country and World, the Assessing Office remained faced with having to compare assessed values to rising sale prices leading up to the market standstill in place as of April 1<sup>st</sup>. Since we were at approximately 91% of market value last year, this meant our assessed values were beginning to fall below 90%, suggesting taxpayers may lose part of their exemptions, unless we adjust the assessments upward after figuring out why they are not reflecting market values in certain parts of the City.

This effectively pushes us to continue equalizing throughout the City for this year. As we finalize additional sales studies for 2020, if we find it necessary, we may be making small adjustments in home and garage values for residential properties throughout all of Belfast. This will likely be reflected as a few dollars in taxable value per square foot of home or garage, which would then be multiplied by the mill rate, which is not yet determined. We will know this and be reporting on it in the next couple of weeks. Despite COVID-19, we still must maintain fair assessments as part of the multi-year equalization process that has been improving our data.

We know we are not in a vacuum. We will be weighing the prospective recovery status of the economy and real estate markets as we set values for commitment and will seek to set assessments with as low an influence as we can to still maintain our ratio at 100%. This will allow for the maximum exemption benefits while still improving the fairness of the assessments as verified by the State. Keep in mind that adjustments to taxpayer valuations are meant to increase fairness between and among property owners.

As stated in the tax bill letter in 2019, the City's total valuation base had grown \$12 million to \$792 million from 2018 to 2019 (up from \$733 million since 2015), mostly the result of increases in commercial real

property, business equipment and residential permit activity, all while absorbing nearly \$30 million in valuation losses attributable to STAG (the vacant Bank of America buildings). Our data quality has improved greatly since 2015, making assessed values more reliable. The City kept the mill rate within 6% of 2015 at 22.9 – up less than 1% from 2018, and the City is trying hard to do the same again for 2020, while attaining even better assessment data.

Though the valuation changes are not completed as of May 14, 2020, they are expected to be completed about one to two months earlier than the prior commitment dates over the past ten years, while leaving the due dates the same. This would allow earlier payment of taxes to improve cash flow to the City in a strange budget year, while not affecting those on auto-pay. Additionally, this allows the Assessing Office to immediately embark on tightening next year's data, including office maintenance, photos, and some digitizing of additional data (such as re-scanning physical cards). The Assessing Office will be faced with updating TRIO software this year and the process is known to be cumbersome. This results in some additional labor costs that are sought for 2020-2021.

As of today, we have 4562 accounts, comprised of 3991 real property and 571 personal property accounts, which is an increase of over 250 since 2013. Historically, 275 deeds were processed yearly by my predecessor. We are processing up to 40% more on a yearly basis. The level of complexity of the site descriptions, split parcel descriptions, and ownership issues in the deed conveyances has increased greatly, resulting in greater time to reconcile and process real estate transfers.

This past 10 months of operations within our budget has been tight. The State quickly implemented a Solar and Wind Equipment Exemption, which required our office to track down solar installations, rework the software in a manner not done before, and then share this with municipalities across the state. We have had to shift our operations from office to remote-based and then back, prudently maintaining remote access and parallel data. We have shifted our field data gathering process to a tethered tag-team approach between myself and the Lister, Avis Winchester, where we have been able to complete exterior inspections in equalizing Maps 1 through 5 with over 1146 accounts where 950 accounts had both up or down land and condition-related value adjustments. We should also be completing 146 additional accounts in Maps 14, 15, and 16 by commitment. This process will be labor-intensive as it spills over into this fall.

The Assessing Office's budget remains reasonable in light of the continuing success with our internal equalization efforts. The budget reflects a more intensive labor/wages focus as we get closer to completing multiple years of equalization, assuming the market remains somewhat range-bound and doesn't continue upward from where it left off. The Assessing Office constantly strives to make assessed values fair and equitable. Please contact us if concerned with any changes in valuation. We will make sure all eligible exemptions are applied on a timely basis. For business owners, we can walk through the various state filing requirements and explain which exemptions are available. We appreciate emails or phone numbers for our records as we constantly are reaching out to property owners with questions or suggestions.

As always, I am honored to work for the people of Belfast.

Brent Martin, CMA-3, CRA  
City Assessor

## City of Belfast Cemetery Department Annual Report-2019

### **Cemetery Directors:**

Joyce Fenner	Megan Pinette
Paul Hamilton	Joanna Curtis
Amanda Munson, Alt.	

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

Grove Cemetery	Belmont Avenue
East Belfast Cemetery	Rt 1 East Belfast
South Belfast Cemetery	Woods Road
North Belfast Cemetery	Doak Road
West Belfast Cemetery	Pitcher Road
City Point Cemetery	Oak Hill Road
Piper Cemetery	Back Belmont Road.

We perform all the regular maintenance and will complete those tasks requested of us for all lot owners. We performed a complete mowing on all Cemeteries approximately 20 times last summer. This includes trimming around 21,000 or so stones, trees and roadways. We also service all funeral arrangements in the grounds. In 2019 we cared for 9 traditional burials and 41 cremation burials. Most all of these services required our Chapel Tent and seating options for a more comforting experience. As of October 2012, we have made the Chapel open to the public for services and other functions. The agreed upon fee for the rental is \$150.00 and arrangements can be made through the Superintendent.

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

The process of restoration of the Old Section of Grove Cemetery is complete. This was a three year project and many visitors have remarked on the condition of these older stones. We are very pleased with the outcome.

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

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

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

Steve Bogue, Cemetery Supt.



# City Clerk Annual Report

As we say hello to 2020 we reflect on the passing of 2019.

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

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

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

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

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

## **City Statistics:**

<u>Vital Statistics</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>		<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
<b>Births</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>Certificates Issued:</b>	<b>573</b>	<b>668</b>
<b>Deaths</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>Certificates Issued:</b>	<b>676</b>	<b>704</b>
<b>Marriages</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>Certificates Issued:</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>141</b>

<u>Dogs</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
<b>Licenses Issued:</b>	<b>1082</b>	<b>1114</b>

<u>IF&amp;W Fishing &amp; Hunting Licenses Issued</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
<b>Fishing Licenses</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>295</b>
<b>Hunting Licenses</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>219</b>

## **Voter Information as of 12/31/2019**

Total registered voters	<u>5512</u>	Registered <u>207</u> new voters
Democrats	<u>2320</u>	Changed <u>138</u> voter registrations
Republicans	<u>1229</u>	Removed <u>216</u> voters from our list
Green Independent	<u>234</u>	
Un-enrolled (not party)	<u>1729</u>	

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Amy I. Flood, City Clerk

**CODE & PLANNING DEPARTMENT**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**JULY 1, 2019 TO JUNE 30, 2020**  
**By Wayne Marshall, Director, Code & Planning**

The most recognizable function of the Department is the review and issuance of Building Permits and similar Permits required by City Ordinances. The Department, through its Code Enforcement Officer, issued the following permits between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020:

- Building permits for new single family residences - 11 permits
- Building permit for new multifamily construction - 0 permit
- Building permits for commercial construction - 7 permits
- Other Building Permits - 173 permits
- New Mobile Home Permits - 11 permits
- Electrical Permits - 194 permits
- Plumbing Permits - 123 permits

The Code Enforcement Officer conducts inspections associated with all of the above permits.

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

Department staff regularly provides services to the Belfast Planning Board and Intown Design Review Committee and occasionally to the Harbor Committee and City Council regarding their respective reviews of projects to ensure compliance with requirements in the City Code of Ordinances. Clearly, the most significant project reviewed by the Planning Board and the Department in FY 2020 was the Nordic Aquafarms proposal to develop a land based salmon aquaculture facility near the lower reservoir of the Little River. This \$500 million project would result in the production of 33,000 metric tons of salmon annually is the largest project proposed in Belfast in many decades. Nordic Aquafarms submitted its permit applications to the City in June 2019, and concurrently submitted applications to the State Department of Environmental Protection and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. In the ensuing year, the Planning Board conducted 12 public hearings on the project and met over 20 times to consider permit requirements. The 5 City Permit applications remained pending before the Board as the fiscal year came to a close.

Nordic Aquafarms, however, was not the only major project that the Planning Board and Department reviewed in FY 2020. Other major projects included the following:

- SunRaise Solar proposal to develop a 4.5 megawatt (20 acre) commercial solar farm on Perkins Road. The Department and Board, in response to new State initiatives to encourage the development of commercial solar installations, first developed amendments to City Ordinances to allow commercial solar installations (Ordinance amendments adopted by City Council in January 2020), and then reviewed and approved the SunRaise Solar Permit application in February 2020. Construction of this project was slated to begin in the late summer of 2020.
- In May, 2020, the Board completed its review and approval of a project proposal by Realty Resources to develop 25 units of affordable rental housing for older adults that will be constructed at 80 Wight Street, and in June, the Board completed its review of a similar project proposed by Developers Collaborative for a property located at 75

Wight Street. The two projects will result in 50 new units of affordable rental housing for older adults, the first new affordable housing that has been constructed in Belfast in 7+ years.

- In October 2019, the City Council, following the review and recommendation of the Belfast Planning Board, approved a contract rezoning agreement to allow the development of a Tractor Supply Store on Belmont Avenue across Rte 3 from the Schoodic Drive entrance to Bank of America. Construction of the store started in earnest in the spring of 2020 and it is scheduled to open in the fall of 2020.
- As the fiscal year was drawing to a close, the Planning Board and subsequently the City Council was completing its review of a contract rezoning agreement with Dan Waldron, WhiteCAP Builders, to renovate and reopen the Three Tides Restaurant property on the City's waterfront. It was a sad day when this much revered Restaurant closed, and all were happy to see the proposed expansion and to know that it would again become part of Belfast.
- Although the applicant, Paul Overgaag, chose to withdraw his proposal shortly after the COVID pandemic came to the forefront, the Department notes that it worked closely with the Planning Board and subsequently the City Council to adopt amendments to the City Downtown Height Ordinance standards that would have created an opportunity for Mr. Overgaag to construct a multi-use building at the corner of Main and Washington Streets.

The Department often works with the Council and other City Committees on non-Zoning projects, as well as preparing amendments to the City Code of Ordinances. Some of the more notable projects in FY 2020 are listed below:

- City Energy Committee, with the able assistance of Sadie Lloyd Mudge, former City Planner, completed the conversion of all City street lights to LED lights.
- Olver Associates, City Engineer, completed an assessment of how to make much needed energy and operational improvements to the Wastewater Treatment Plant. This project was initiated and shepherded by the Energy Committee and managed by Sadie Lloyd Mudge, The Council approved the City making the improvements.
- City completed two shore stabilization projects, one at City Park and the second near the eastside of the Armistice Bridge, to mitigate significant coastal erosion that had occurred, much of which was associated with winter 2018 storms. The Department managed these projects.
- City Code of Ordinance amendments that were adopted include: changes to the front setback requirement for 25+ properties in the Residential 1, 2 and 3 zoning districts; amendments to the Route 3 Commercial zoning district for the area located westerly of Crocker Road; amendments to the Office Park zoning district, particularly the area located westerly of Crocker Road; and the aforementioned amendments regarding the adoption of solar energy system standards and the building height standard for a section of the Downtown Commercial zoning district.

FY 2020 also was a year of major change for the Department. Sadie Lloyd Mudge, who served as City Planner for 6+ years, ended her full-time employment with the City in July 2019. In October 2019, Jon Boynton was hired as City Planner. In May 2020, Wayne Marshall, who has served as the Department Director since December 2019, announced that he would be retiring from his position, however, he would be remaining with the City to complete review of the Nordic Aquafarms project.

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

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT SUMMARY (FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021)**

### ***Mission and Services:***

The essential mission of the Economic Development Department is to develop and implement the City's economic development plan. This plan contains five strategies: 1) lower the cost of doing business and remove/prevent obstacles to private investment/business development; 2) bring more people to Belfast throughout the year, especially during non-summer seasons; 3) improve quality of place; 4) pursue targeted business attraction; and 5) efficiently connect existing businesses and start-ups with current business development resources.

The three primary services that this department provides are: 1) infrastructure development; 2) grant research, writing, and management; and 3) technical assistance to businesses.

### ***Statistics:***

While this department does keep extensive and organized notes regarding any interactions and/or projects with a given business or entrepreneur, the department has not established a system that would be able to provide a highly-accurate number of the individual businesses and entrepreneurs assisted within a given year and the amount of time spent with each of those businesses and entrepreneurs. Through doing a limited review of the departments e-mails, computer file folders, and task lists, one can derive an extremely conservative number of 350 total businesses and entrepreneurs receiving some level of assistance since the department's creation in June of 2010, with up to 20 individual businesses and entrepreneurs receiving assistance contemporaneously. (If there is a desire to have more accurate information, the department may need to invest in some type of client relationship management software to more easily and accurately track interactions.) As each of these businesses and entrepreneurs come to this office with unique needs, nearly every provision of assistance is custom-tailored, which requires more time and effort to effectively respond. Provision of assistance to all, or nearly all, of these businesses and entrepreneurs, has to be delivered in multiple communications (it is not atypical to have dozens of communications over period of several months, along with multiple face-to-face meetings, conference calls, or tours of potential properties, for an individual client). This provision of assistance represents a major portion of the department's time.

While it is not the best barometer of the impact or value of this department, the number and amounts of grants secured is one of the easiest to measure/quantify. This department is currently managing/implementing/closing out the following grants: 1) a \$1,900,000 U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration Public Works Grant, which was awarded in 2014 and was used to reconstruct and realign, and to upgrade the utilities within, the portion of Front Street between Main and Pierce Streets; 2) on behalf of Belfast Municipal Airport, a \$3,602,725 Federal Aviation Administration and Maine Department of Transportation Airport Improvement Program Grant, which was awarded in 2018 and was used for the extension of that airport's parallel taxiway system; 3) a \$299,994 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Brownfields Assessment Program Grant, which was awarded in 2019 and is being used to fund environmental assessment work on sites that have commercial redevelopment potential but which are contaminated or have the perception thereof; 4) a \$10,000 Efficiency Maine Trust Level 2 Electric Vehicle Charging Station Grant which was awarded in 2019 and will be used to construct an electric vehicle charging station at the City's parking lot at the intersection of Bridge, Front, and Pierce Streets; and 5) a \$3,000 Maine Arts Commission Bicentennial Project Grant, which was awarded in 2020 and will be used for a series of historic photographic murals to be placed on the exteriors of various buildings in Belfast. Management of grants/projects is time-consuming; typically, the time spent on the management of these grants/projects is several multiples of the time that was spent actually applying for them. Since this department was established in June of 2010, it has played a lead role in securing \$9,916,975 in various grants (representing 89.5% of the \$11,070,456 in grants that it has applied for).

### ***Challenges:***

This department continues to face the following 3 major challenges:

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

Since this department's creation, the number of requests by businesses, particularly startup businesses, appears to have increased year-over-year (with the exception of the recent COVID-19 pandemic), as Belfast becomes more visible due to its successes and becomes more aware of the fact that the City can offer assistance through this department. Requests for direct assistance from businesses and entrepreneurs currently outstrip available staff time. In the future, if the City does not wish to exclude any businesses or entrepreneurs, or to not reduce the level of assistance provided, additional staff capacity might be necessary (whether it be contract, full-time, part-time, or intern).

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

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

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

Finally, measuring this department's impact on the Belfast economy is also a challenge. Determining the amount of impact this department has on the success of a given project necessarily relies on assumptions and is unable to be quantified to a level of absolute certainty. In addition, the City of Belfast does not have the capacity to generate statistically significant economic statistics on its own, and therefore must rely on existing economic statistics, many of which only provide data for larger geographic areas instead of data at the municipal level. Further complicating matters, the City of Belfast has for some time been a significant *net job importer*; in 2017 (the most recent year for which data was available), 5,413 people worked in Belfast but lived outside of that community, compared to only 1,230 people who lived in Belfast but worked outside of that community. (This may lead to the situation where economic development successes taking place in Belfast result in little or no change to the incomes or the unemployment rates of Belfast residents.) Despite this challenge, it is important over the long-term to effectively and as accurately as possible determine the impact of this department, and communicate that information to both the elected officials and the residents of Belfast, to best be able to ensure the department's continued existence and support.

**2019 ANNUAL REPORT  
FINANCE DEPARTMENT**

The finance department wears many hats throughout the year. This department is responsible for the City’s financial records, accounts payable, organizing and producing the yearly budget, sharing supervisor roles with the city clerk in the collection of property taxes, sewer, motor vehicle registrations, IF& W registrations and licenses, permits, other various receipts and customer requests.

The total municipal budget for July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020 with the comparison of the previous fiscal year July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019 is broken down as follows:

<u><b>FY 18-19</b></u>		<u><b>FY 19-20</b></u>	
Gross Budget	\$9,927,589	Gross Budget	\$10,401,972
Less Estimated Revenues	(\$4,817,169)	Less Estimated Revenues	(\$5,076,260)
Net Budget (Taxpayers)	\$5,110,420	Net Budget (Taxpayers)	\$5,325,712

Besides the municipal budget the tax payers also fund a share of the school and county budgets. The school appropriation for FY19-20 was \$10,427,479 and for FY18-19 \$10,306,066. The county tax for FY19-20 was \$1,534,146 and for FY18-19 \$1,541,219.

The 2019 taxes were committed on August 21, 2019 with a mil rate of 22.90 per thousand, and interest rate of 9%. The first half installment was due October 10, 2019 and the second installment was due March 3, 2020. For your convenience payments are also accepted at any time throughout the year. Although scheduled payments do not stop the lien process on any unpaid balances it may be a more manageable option.

I would happily report that the city had no tax lien foreclosures in January 2020 for unpaid 2017 tax liens, this is down from 2 tax lien foreclosures in January 2019. Please be aware of the available programs to help with either lowering your tax bill or assistance with paying your taxes if you are having financial difficulties. The homestead exemption is a great program for Maine residents to help with lowering of their tax bill. If you think you may be eligible or would like to inquire please stop by the office for an application or visit the city’s website. Also, if you may be in need of assistance paying your tax bill don’t hesitate to reach out to us as well. We would be glad to assist with any knowledge of programs available, or point you in the right direction.

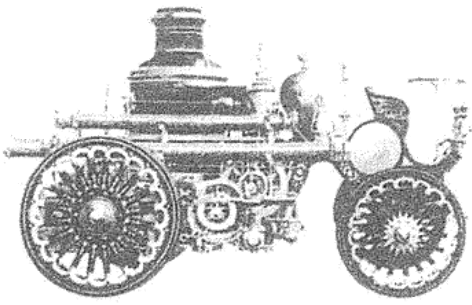
Other tasks that are the responsibility of the finance office are payroll for all city employees, human resources involving working directly with all employees whether it would be a new hire, current employee, or retired employee and maintaining personnel files. The City of Belfast currently employs 70 full time employees and approximately a total of 145 part-time, seasonal, and on-call fire & ambulance staff.

Attached please find the most recent auditor's report for fiscal year ending June 30, 2019 and supporting financial statements. The full audit can be found on the city's website as well as in the treasurer's office. Historically, the audit will be available in March following the end of the each fiscal year.

As always, please do not hesitate to visit our office during regular business hours 8:00 am – 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday except for Wednesdays the office closes at 3:30pm for staff meetings.

Respectfully Submitted,

Theresa Butler  
City Treasurer



*Belfast Fire & Ambulance Department*  
131 Church Street • Belfast, Maine 04915  
Phone 338-3362

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2019 BELFAST FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT

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

The Belfast Fire Department responded on 331 roll calls which included Meetings and Training for the calendar year 2019. 31 calls were to the Town of Swanville with whom we have a written contract for Fire Suppression.

The Department also responded on a total of 8 mutual aid calls to the Neighboring Fire Departments. There is a written Mutual Aid agreement to assist all Fire Departments in Waldo County if needed and available.

ANNUAL MANDATED TRAINING:

Hose Testing	Bloodborne Pathogen	Fire Extinguisher
Ground Ladders	SCBA Refresher	Hazmat Refresher
Fit Testing	SOPP	Pumper Testing
Aerial Platform Testing	Turn out gear inspection	

Other Types of Training:

Hydrant Hose Connection	Ice Rescue	Boat Safety	Ice Rescue
Aerial Tower Operation	Water Flow	Hose Lay	Vehicle Fires
Fire Behavior	Cancer Awareness		Snowmobile Operation
Pumper Operation			

TYPE OF CALL:

Vehicle Accidents 112	Smoke & Fire Alarms 93	Structure 26
Jaws of Life 9	Wires / Trees 20	Meetings 12
Motorcycles 3	Cooking Error 5	Chimney 3
Grass/Woods/Brush 11	Carbon Monoxide 6	Propane 18
Water RESCUE 2	Electrical 8	Ambulance Assist 8
Car/ Pedestrian 3		

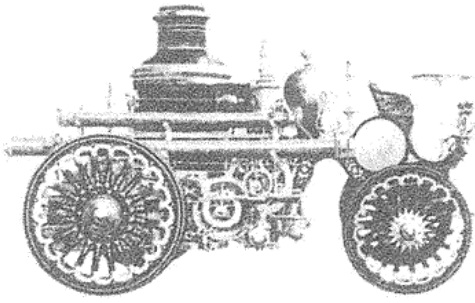
Equipment:

Aerial Platform Ladder	Brush Truck	Snowmobile	Rescue Sled
2 Pumpers	2 Tankers	Rescue Boat	Jaws of Life
6x6 ATV W/ Pump	Hazmat Trailer		

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

Fire Permits issued 487	Fire Safety Inspection
Carbon Monoxide Tests	Chimney/ Stove Inspections
Smoke Alarm Program	Means of Egress ( Schools & Nursing Homes)





*Belfast Fire & Ambulance Department*  
*131 Church Street • Belfast, Maine 04915*  
*Phone 338-3362*

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2019 Belfast Ambulance Service Annual Report

The Belfast Ambulance Service responded to 2,538 calls within the past 12 months, traveling 61,295 miles. There were 1,506 local calls and 910 Out of Town Calls.

Monthly Call tallies are as follows:

January 210	February 237	March 219	April 235
May 229	June 205	July 201	August 219
September 187	October 187	November 207	December 202

Belfast Ambulance Service provides Ambulance Service and responded to the following out of Town calls

Northport 104	Swanville 68	Belmont 64	Morrill 55
Waldo 59			

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

Belfast Paramedics assisted the following towns with 148 Intercepts

Searsport 28	Searsmont 25	Brooks 35	Stockton 11
Liberty 27	Unity 06	North East 02	Winterport 08

The Service provided 910 Out of Town Calls:

Bangor 244	Portland 77	Lewiston 19	Rockport 86
Augusta 13			

Type of Calls:

Cardiac, Respiratory, Drug related, falls, Strokes, Cardiac arrest, Motor Vehicle accidents, transfers

Ambulance charges per call: BLS-\$650.00 ALS-\$900.00 PIFT-\$1,200 Intercepts \$100.00  
 Mileage \$15.00 per loaded mile

We have 3 Ambulances in Service:

- R-4-2019—46,551
- R-1- 2016—101,768
- R-2-2015—110,535

The City of Belfast started the Ambulance Service in 1968 with a used 1961 Cadillac hearse.

Levels of Care: Basic EMT-- Advanced EMT-- Paramedic EMT—Driver

Active Members: 6 EMT's—2 - AEMTs—4 Full time Paramedics- — 4 Drivers— 3 Part time Paramedics

In Active members: 3 EMTs—6 AEMTs—7 part time Paramedics —5 Drivers

### City of Belfast General Assistance 2019/2020 Annual Report

We have been following the procedures that were put into place for 2018/2019 fiscal year regarding temporary housing and employment. These rules continue to be working well and again is helping our clients become more dependent, accountable and responsible for their own actions. During this year we had a few obstacles such as shortage on low income housing and the COVID 19 pandemic, these are the two main issues that have increased my budget.

COVID 19- During the months of March, April and May have an increase numbers in rent, food and Personal and Household. The increase was from citizens who were not able to work due to business closings, decreased hours, self-employed and individuals having issues with unemployment. There still is a need for assistance for individuals and families that have been affected and are not sure when the need will end. I am working with local agencies, Hospice Volunteers of America, Ring of Caring, Waldo County Public Health Nurse, Waldo County Action Partners and Hannaford to help make sure that everyone in need, has and will continue to be helped especially our seniors who are not able to leave their homes. Below are the amounts for the months March through May and the increase from last year.

	March-May 2019	March-May 2020	Increase
RENT	\$5,983.00	\$10,243.93	\$4,260.93
FOOD	\$654.00	\$2,095.01	\$1,441.01
P&H	\$183.95	\$350.01	\$166.06

Low-income/affordable housing for Belfast continues to be a challenge. It is harder to find and compared to previous years the price of rents has increased. I am seeing applicants that are on a set income or families who only have one parent working have their rent increased by almost \$100.00 a month. They are struggling to pay their rent and have enough money to live for the remainder of the month. I have been working with a group of local churches, the public health nurse, Waldo Cap, different agencies and concerned citizens. We have created the Waldo County Homeless Coalition. The WCHC has been collecting data to come up with ways to help the homeless and low-income families and individuals. Meeting have been temporarily postponed until the pandemic is over. We are planning on starting meeting again once people are able.

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

Please let me know if you would like to talk more about how general assistance runs and operates please call me 338-3370 ext120 or email [generalassistance@cityofBelfast.org](mailto:generalassistance@cityofBelfast.org).

Sincerely,

Jodie Stout

General Assistance Administrator

## **City of Belfast Harbor Department Annual Report – May 2020**

The Harbor Department is divided into four primary functions: Taking care of the City's slip facilities at Thompson's Wharf and the City Landing, Mooring Permitting & Management, Safe Navigation, and Emergency Response. Our Thompson's Wharf slip facility is year-round and berths seasonal summer and winter vessels, as well as commercial vessels including fishermen and charter vessels. The City Landing provides public water access with the most usable launch ramp in the area, short-term/transient summertime rental berths, space for commercial fishermen and marine businesses to operate, berthing for larger vessels including the cruise ships, and amenities for visiting boaters such as fuel, ice, showers and wifi. We also maintain and rent ten transient rental moorings. All mooring management and navigation is done under the guidance of Federal and State of Maine regulations, and local ordinance. Emergency response is anything from a dinghy broken loose, vessel broken down, to vessels sinking/people in the water.

The Harbor Master is full time. The part-time Assistant Harbor Master, Tim Place, is starting his second year, and we usually hire 4 – 5 part time dock attendants to work over the summer. The Harbor Master and Assistant are trained for emergency response situations and vessel navigation. The attendants help run the City Landing and provide assistance to the visiting boaters.

This past year, after several years of planning, the City of Belfast received approval by the Coast Guard for a Special Anchorage designation which charts our mooring field, designates local uses for the harbor such as vessel anchoring, and provides necessary navigational aids. We now have two new channel markers to help vessel operators find the channel if they are unfamiliar with the harbor, are travelling at night, or in adverse weather conditions. The Harbor Department was also fortunate to be approved this past year for both a Harbor Management Grant and Small Harbor Improvement Grant which allowed us to build 11 new floats to replace some of our older floats. The City has over 75 floats in total between our facilities.

Over the past six years or so, the City has completed management plans for most of the harbor, which has helped greatly with the increase in vessel traffic, public use, and commercial use. The Harbor Committee hopes in the near future to continue with work on a management plan for the river up to the Head of Tide as we are responsible for all tidal waters. We are also looking at future maintenance for some of our larger structures such as the breakwater, which was built in the mid-1980's. The breakwater provides protection for the City Landing as well as for much of the Inner Harbor area. The City has recently looked into more substantial protection such as a breakwater or wave attenuator which may protect a larger area of the harbor, but currently to build such structures is cost-prohibitive. The Climate Crises Committee has done a lot of research to get a better idea of how potential sea level rise will affect the harbor and surrounding areas in the future and Belfast was also chosen for a State Planning study to determine how marine facilities may be affected. This information will be taken into consideration with harbor-related maintenance projects.

Harbor revenues are currently up about 5% this fiscal year (from Harbor records). The number of mooring permits remains steady at around 300 total. It's difficult to determine at this time how the Harbor Department will be affected by the COVID 19 restrictions as far as revenues. It appears that both the charter vessels and cruise ships will either be running late in the season or not at all. The cruisers from out of state may also find it difficult to get as far north as Maine with marinas south of here being closed or quarantined. However, I do expect we will see a lot of local boating traffic as most seem anxious to get their boats in this season.

Most marine events in the area have been cancelled or postponed until later in the season, but the City Landing will operate as usual as much as possible this summer with guidance from the City Council, State, CDC, and Coast Guard. The Harbor Office will be open 7 days a week starting Memorial Day weekend and we can be reached by phone, email, or VHF radio.

Respectfully Submitted, Katherine Pickering, Harbor Master, City of Belfast

The Belfast Free Library is a high traffic public building (or was, until the COVID-19 shutdown). In 2019, over 160,000 visits were made to the library; more than 9,000 people attended library programs; and almost 38,000 uses were made of the library's WiFi connection and computers. Online services are ever increasing, but the library still has been a popular destination.

Circulation of library material (books, ebooks, and audiovisual) remains strong. Even when something is not owned by the Belfast Free Library, it almost certainly exists somewhere in the nine million unique holdings in other library collections in Maine and will be delivered to our library, usually within a week, as a result of our participation in the Minerva and Maine InfoNet library organizations. About 29,000 items were borrowed or sent out through interlibrary loan in 2019.

Youth Services Librarian Erica Rubin Irish continues to provide services to youngsters in the Belfast community. She arranges and conducts numerous storytimes as well as stellar programs, and she is strengthening the library's collaboration with local schools. Recently, she has taken many of her programs online due to the pandemic.

Brenda Harrington organizes and presents a wide variety of adult programs. "Maine Authors Talk About..." continues to be a very popular summer series of discussions. The monthly new art displays orchestrated by Brenda in the Kramer Gallery always welcome and delight people coming to the library. Brenda also is the library's vital connection and organizer with the Belfast Poetry Festival, the Belfast Creative Coalition, and the Maine Community Foundation.

Reference and Special Collections Librarian Sharon Pietryka—besides her daily responsibilities answering research questions—coordinates the activities of the local Wawenoc Genealogy Group. Sharon also is working with summer resident and esteemed volunteer Ted Steel to conduct a thorough inventory of the archival collection. Additionally, Sharon acts as the library's technology guru.

This past year, the library debuted a new Mobile MakerSpace, which was funded by grant from the William W. Treat Foundation.

The kitchenette in the Abbott Room was remodeled this past year with proceeds from the library's Annual Appeal.

New, more comfortable chairs (80 of them) were purchased for the Abbott Room by the Friends of the Belfast Free Library. In the previous year, the Friends purchased new chairs for the Gammans Room. The Friends also gave the library \$11,000 this year to replace the City's annual library book budget, which was eliminated because of the budget crisis. The library cannot get by without its Friends! Thank you, Friends!

Significant HVAC problems came to light in the past year. The fuel pump, air separator tank, and heating coils in the air exchange unit had to be replaced when they stopped working. The library has begun working with the City Energy Committee to develop plans for a new, more energy efficient HVAC system.

The library, with much help from Public Works, dealt with sewer back-ups into the Abbott Room in June and again in July and again in August.

A walk-in reciprocal borrowing pilot program with many other libraries throughout Maine began in September.

The library's handyman extraordinaire Ken Vandrey retired this past year. Cliff Friberg has taken over Ken's former tasks.

During May through September, there was a special exhibit at the Portland Museum of Art on the historic Haystack Mountain School of Crafts. Several pieces in the exhibit were from the Belfast Free Library's archives! Former BFL librarians Betsy Paradis and B.J. Jamieson had searched diligently in years past to find many items in our archives for the exhibit.

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

The library worked with RSU 71 to provide extra programs for the students who had new free time on Friday afternoons due to the weekly early school release on Fridays.

The Belfast Garden Club continues to beautify the plantings around the library. Many, many thanks to the Belfast Garden Club for the fabulous work they do!

Challenges for the year ahead include, as always, keeping up with the digital world; serving the ever-changing public; and acting as good caretakers and stewards of our historic library building. The extra challenge will be figuring out how to provide library service during a pandemic!

Staff: Steve Norman, Director  
Erica Rubin Irish, Youth Services Librarian  
Sharon Pietryka, Reference & Special Collections Librarian  
Brenda Harrington, Adult Services Coordinator  
Gail Bryan  
Vicky DePersiis Vona  
Tiffany Howard  
Logan Clark  
James Campbell  
Kate Harris  
Ashleigh Eastham

Trustees: Kay Zegel, President  
Cyndie Martell, Vice President  
Robert Adler, Treasurer  
Robin Kruger, Secretary  
Syrena Gatewood



**BELFAST PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
2019 Annual Report**

The Belfast Parks and Recreation Department is proud of its park system and the response from the community, its many visitors as to the beauty and condition of the parks. The City's parks are key components for improving public health, increasing physical activity, and reconnecting youth/families with nature and enhancing quality of life. Capitalizing on these trends were the 7,000+ people at City Park this year enjoying tennis, pickle ball, basketball, the playground and swimming in the public pool. Another feature of City Park is the pavilion, a sheltered public gathering place which can be rented and reserved for special functions such as family reunions, weddings or birthday parties.

As the season's changed hundreds engaged in winter activities such as skating at the community ice rink and the Muck, enjoying our Holiday on the Harbor event, cross-country skiing in the parks and on the rail trail. The Department was also involved in the Winter Whoopla, an event designed to get people in and around the community participating in a number of activities.

Evidence of the parks and programs bringing people to Belfast was validated by the Belfast Ukulele Festival and the Maine Celtic Celebration held in June and July. An estimated 3,000+ people attended the annual Arts in the Park at Steamboat Landing Park during the month of July. In August the parks were filled with the Belfast Harbor Fest activities followed by the September tradition of the Maine Wiener Fest. September also played host to the more than 500 bicyclists and volunteers involved with the Bike Maine event. The parks continue to be a hub of community events from large scale to small. The traditional Belfast Summer Nights is always a great community social evening every Thursday during the summer rotating from the parks to the streets. In 2019 along with Belfast Flying Shoes we hosted four outdoor community contra dances in the parks, at the Railroad Station and the Footbridge.

The popularity of the dog park at the Walsh Field complex provides hundreds of dog owners an important outlet to socialize and recreate with their pets.

The "fine-tuning" of planted beds and maintenance of the landscaping demonstrated the effectiveness of a committed and focused work force this year with the excellent workmanship provided by the Parks ground crew. The inclusion of the Harbor Walk and the Rail Trail will be a welcomed challenge for the crews to maintain as their popularity of use continues to grow. In addition a collaboration with Elizabeth Wolfe created an opportunity to plant and develop an annual Daffodil Project.



## Belfast Police Department Year in review (2019/2020)

By Chief Gerald Lincoln

### The Department

With 16 full time officers in our compliment, the Belfast Police Department is responsible for delivering public safety and law enforcement services to the Belfast Community. Our officers are capable and in tune with the public they serve. They take their jobs seriously because their jobs are serious. My challenge to our officers is to maintain a balance of friendly, community-oriented policing, while at the same time being vigilant with regard to criminal behavior and activity. This is no small task, and not an easy concept. We must be effective in our efforts to deter criminal conduct, but we can't assume everyone is a criminal. I'm pleased with the efforts our officers put into taking care of our community, we're not perfect, however I see a continued strong desire by every member of our agency to do the best they can for the people they serve.

In the 2019, our officers responded to almost 7,500 calls for service, in those calls for service were 86 assaults, 49 domestic abuse cases, 91 thefts, 152 disturbance cases, and 335 animal control cases. The rest of the calls ranged from public assists, burglaries, vandalism, car accidents, etc.

Our K-9 unit responded to 32 calls in this year. Most of these calls were for tracking purposes. Our K-9, along with its handler, Officer Travis Spencer, are well known in the K-9 community as one of the best K-9 teams in the State. They have racked up an impressive number of tracks and have played a very important role in making Belfast and the greater Waldo County area a safer place.

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

Sergeant Dan Thompson, our Department's Accident Reconstructionist, has reconstructed some very serious crashes this year for the Belfast Police Department and surrounding agencies. We are fortunate to have this certification within our agency. With the increase in traffic, we've had the unfortunate experience of multiple serious accidents in the past to include fatalities. The most serious accidents require in depth investigations and having this capability allows us to conduct a timely, accurate, and essential service to our community.

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

Our efforts have not gone un-noticed, our officers are often asked to assist with training at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy as instructors where they provide new officers from around the state with training in Firearms, Mechanics of Arrest and Defensive Tactics, Emergency Vehicle Operations, as well as Intoxilyzer training. I'm pleased that our officers are sought out to assist with the training of these new officers. It's both an honor and a tremendous credit to the quality work and commitment they have for their profession and to their community.

Of course, no police department is without a support staff. We have three individuals who work for us in this role. First is Mary-Beth, she is one of the busiest individuals in the agency. Her tasks include, but are far from limited to, every form of records keeping our agency requires. She documents Uniform Crime Index (a State/Federal system for recording the types of crimes that occur in our community). Additionally, she's responsible for preparing payroll, answering the phone, copying reports for citizens, preparing documents in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, and assisting people who walk into the office. She does all this with a friendly, kind and warm demeanor.

Next is Penney, she's worked for the Belfast Police Department for over 18 years as a part time receptionist. Penney brings a strong clerical skill to the equation, and assists in many areas of records keeping from Parking Tickets to Dog License databases.

Last but not least we have Russ (Parking Enforcement). Russ is tasked with ensuring our parking ordinances are enforced in the downtown area. Russ makes his job look much easier than it actually is. Parking tickets are certainly not a favorite thing for people. However, our ordinance and the manner in which Russ does his job very often result in a positive outcome to the vast majority of people he comes into contact with.



## **2020/2021 Budget Year**

In the fiscal year 2020/2021, I have requested a budget that would allow the Department to meet the expected needs of the City of Belfast in a fiscally responsible and efficient way. While this year is a challenging year, we have basic needs, of a Department our size, to best provide services the community expects of it Police Department and I have not requested funding for any new or extraneous items or ventures, with the exception of necessary accommodations for our female officers. I have only requested minimal increases to cover contractual and item cost increases from the previous year.

## **The Future**

In my opinion we are situated well in terms of meeting the expectations not only of our community, but also the changing certification demands that are almost certainly coming our way. The Maine Chiefs of Police Association approved the accreditation program for police departments throughout the State of Maine. At this time the accreditation process is still voluntary and there are incentives for compliance such as an insurance break of 10% through the Maine Municipal Association, however the process will likely become mandatory in the near future. This accreditation will cost more money to manage for Departments.

Nothing about the accreditation process concerns me in terms of being able to meet the requirements. I'm confident that our department and the officers who serve our community meet or exceed most all the components of the process that have to do with the service we provide and the techniques we use to investigate the variety of calls we respond to. I am concerned that the process will simply require us to focus much more time and resources toward administrative functions that very few individuals outside the accreditation process would even be aware of or interested in.

Other mandates I predict will certainly be forthcoming such as e-ticketing, digital report submission, and other technological advances will further burden tight Law Enforcement budgets in the not so distant future.

## **In Closing**

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

Respectfully,

Chief Gerald Lincoln

## **PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

### ***Year of 2019***

In January of 2019 we started the year off with eleven storm events. Four of these events were snow and rain. We recorded (27") of snow. In February we had four snow events (18") and two mixed precipitation events. The month of March brought us three snow events (12") and two rain events. In April we had five snow events (9") early. The month of November we had snow (3") events. December brought us four snow events (14") and two rain (5.5") events. We accumulated 224 hours overtime with these events. The Public Works Department used approximately 4,200 yards of sand and 1,929 tons of salt. The Airport was plowed 14 times.

*All of us at the Public Works Facility would like to thank City Manager Joe Slocum, the past and current mayors and council members for supporting to build a new Public Works facility. It is greatly appreciated by each and every one of us. Again Thank you all for this amazing facility.*

### ***Projects that were done by the Public Works Department in the summer of 2019:***

1. We ditched roughly 3,700 feet on 13 different roads.
2. We replaced / installed some driveway and crossover culverts at 31 various locations. A total of 1,220 feet of various sizes (12" to 18").
3. Annual roadside mowing, street sweeping, crosswalk striping, special events assistance, debris / leaf pickup, Airport mowing, landfill mowing and the installation / removal of the city floats and ramps.
4. We moved in to our new Public Works Facility at 54 Crocker Road. It took approximately 6 weeks to relocate. It is a very nice facility.
5. The annual installation / removal of benches (8), bike racks (10), rubbish containers (53) flower pots (12) and crosswalk signs (14).
6. The annual summer paving project was delayed until the spring of 2020 due to the price of asphalt. Scheduled Roads / Streets to be paved: Smart, Achorn, Blake, Baker, Northport, Elm, Court, Durham, Penobscot and Salmond. We will work with the paving contractor and haul the millings as the streets are being milled.

Belfast Public Works Department

14 full time year round positions - 3 people added in the winter for 22 weeks for downtown sidewalk maintenance

Roughly 57 miles of roads for summer maintenance

66 miles of roads for winter maintenance

About 18 miles of sidewalks for maintenance

We maintain the city sewer lines; W.W.T.P. maintains the pump stations only

We maintain the old landfill on the Pitcher Road. Mow it 4 times a season and monitor for washouts / cracks.

Airport maintenance includes snow removal and mowing that we provide

We install / remove the floats at the City Landing.

We paint the parking lots, downtown parking spaces, crosswalks, bike icons, crosswalk icons, directional arrows. Center lines, edge lines and bike lane lines on the roads are contracted out.

We average 30-40 storms in the winter time. We average over 200 hours overtime per person, 1,800 ton of road salt, 4,000 yards of sand per season

Road paving: We have gained a little ground the last three years with the price being down. Paving streets used to be on a 10 year cycle. Now anywhere from 10-18 years with the cost of Hot Mix Asphalt.

Sidewalks maintenance: We try rebuilding sidewalks but what is budgeted the money doesn't go far.

Equipment purchases: We have all our main pieces of trucks on a 10 – 12 year plan with loaders and other equipment as needed. The amount of work that we do and with more projects being asked of us to do I feel we need to stay on this schedule. You can keep equipment longer but maintenance and parts cost will add up in the long run for a piece of equipment that is simply wearing out.

**2019 Annual Report**  
**Tax Office**

**Real Estate Taxes**

The tax mil rate increased for the third year in a row, from \$22.70 in 2018 to \$22.90 for 2019. The interest rate was set by the City Council at 9%, and increase from 8% in 2018.

On August 21, 2019, a total of \$17,383,071.69 was committed to Amy I. Flood by the Assessor, Brent Martin. On September 17, 2019 a total of \$15,649,660.68 was recommitted to Theresa Butler. The First installment was due 10/10/2019 and the second installment was due 3/03/2020. The foreclosure date for the 2017 Real Estate Taxes was January 27, 2020, this year there were no Foreclosures. As of December 31, 2019 there are 131 unpaid 2018 Real Estate Tax accounts

On July 23, 2019, liens were placed on 186 accounts for unpaid 2016 Real Estate Taxes. These liens have a foreclosure date of January 27, 2021.

**Sewer Department**

The sewer charges for the first half of 2019 (January – June), were billed in July with a commitment of \$ 433,325.82 with 1454 accounts in the system. The second half of 2019 (July – December), was billed in February 2020 with 1451 accounts and a commitment of \$498,032.12.

Total charges for the calendar year 2019 were \$931,357.94, an increase of \$16,804.91.

**Airport Hangars**

The Tax Office collected \$23,609.00 for hangar lease payments.

**Motor Vehicles**

Excise tax collected for Fiscal Year 2018-2019 was of \$1,155,526.94. Agent fees collected were \$20,093.00

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

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

**Inland Fisheries & Wildlife**

Our office processed 336 boat registrations with \$10,854.90 collected in boat excise.

We also issued 121 ATV registrations and 90 snowmobiles.

A total of \$1,451.00 was collected in agent fees for the Fish and Wildlife registrations processed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Theresa Butler, Tax Collector & Amy I. Flood, BMV Agent & Sewer Clerk

## **CITY OF BELFAST TRANSFER STATION**

Mayor Eric Sanders, Belfast City Councilors, Mary Mortier, Neal Harkness, Brenda Bonneville, Mike Hurley, Paul Dean and City Manager Erin Herbig.

I'm happy to be here to address the 2020/2021 budget for the Belfast Transfer Station. We are a small, efficient and hard-working crew who run a facility, utilized by a large portion of our community. We serve not only our citizens, but help with the recycling efforts for Searsport and Swanville as well.

We have a crew of 5 individuals, Steve Roberts, Ron Spear, Peter Baily, Mike Ames and I. In the short time I've been a part of this team I've been extremely impressed with their dedication to the job. These people are among the hardest working and most loyal staff I've ever had the pleasure of working with. Not a single sick day used.

I learned just last week I have to be particularly careful when handling requests for time off with this crew. Just last weekend Peter Bailey requested Saturday off to spend time with his kids via text message. I responded "Sure". I actually reflected on the request and thought to myself "I should have taken more time to spend with my kids back when they were young". I was yet again impressed with Pete. Saturday morning came and I noticed Pete was at work. I asked him what he was doing there and Pete said, well you didn't sound real happy that I was taking the day off so I decided to come in. I felt horrible, and explained to Pete that I was actually thinking I should have taken more time off like that when I was his age. I assured him that in the future if I said "Sure" when he asked for a day off I meant it. Pete refused to go home and remained at work for the rest of the day.

I can go on with examples of the impressive work ethic that all of these individuals possess. The ethic is genuine, it's part of who they are, it's not because they make bundles of money, or because the job is so glamorous. In fact the job can be down-right disgusting at times, and the money we're paying our people is a serious issue with me. Peter Baily and Mike Ames are both making Minimum Wage. As I said before not only have they not called in sick, but they have not failed to do a single thing that's been asked of them. Keeping in mind the type of service we provide that is impressive in and of itself. Ron Spears (who's been there for 6 + years) is making a bit more than minimum wage.

Steve Roberts has been with the Belfast Transfer Station since it opened. He shows up 2 hours early to work every day without fail. If Steve's car isn't in its usual spot when I get to work, I know something has gone very wrong. I can tell you in 6 months that has happened no more than 2 times. Both times were extraordinary situations. Steve's depth of knowledge on the workings of this facility are second to none. Steve is part of the Highway Department bargaining unit. So I can't directly address his compensation formally until contract negotiations are in place. But if Steve isn't the lowest paid City Employee with 30+ years on the job I'll be shocked. Steve's hourly pay is under \$20.00 per hour.

You'll notice the fact that I chose to start my annual report without mentioning a single word about the amount of trash that we took in, or the recycling material we processed and shipped out. The fact is the last 6 months have been quite a challenge. It seems that everything that could go wrong has gone wrong. The computer we used to manage the book keeping and the cash register crashed. All of

the information was lost. None of the information was backed up so all of the data for the past 7 years was lost when the computer crashed. In February our garage door broke in the upright position (as luck would have it.) The starter on the Forklift went bad, upon further examination the starter was in need of repair for years and had chewed up the Flywheel, which changed a \$1,200.00 job into a \$5,000.00 job. The backhoe has leaking fuel injectors and wore out wheel barring's. 3 of the 4 compactor machines we use to process recyclable materials are 30 or more years of age. Not only are they wore out, we can't get parts for them anymore. I don't mention these things to complain but rather to demonstrate the fact that this facility isn't what makes this department successful. Your facility is wore out by anyone's standards. The success of the Belfast Transfer Station has everything to do with the people who work there not the machines they use.

I understand this budget has some significant challenges for us all. I feel confident I can squeeze another year out of what we have here. I predict my building maintenance line is going to be hard to keep on target for the year simply because it's where all these repairs are going to come from. I can't predict what part of the worn out system will break next. If I had to guess it would probably be our compactor where we dispose of our household trash. That machine is used very frequently. It's working fine now, but like everything we have it's old and it's worn, and extremely expensive to fix.

Beyond that there are a few areas of the operation that I'd like some direction on.

1. Recycling. In the past there were markets for the recycling materials we processed. Right now those markets have dried up. We used to make good money recycling now we are looking for cost mitigation. We need to decide at what point do we stop recycling efforts locally and divert the material to Fiberight? We pay \$71.00 per ton to ship to Fiberight. Some of the recycling materials we handle are costing us over \$90.00 a ton to get rid of and an additional \$800.00 per load to have hauled off. And that's before we pay our staff to process the material. I estimate Mixed Plastic and Mixed Paper are currently costing us about \$176.00 per ton to ship out of our facility. We lose money on these materials, and they are very likely not being recycled. They are most likely being used as fuel.

2. Who is allowed to use this facility? I'm not asking this question because of the fact that one of our citizens decided it was a good idea to yell and swear at me because he noticed a vehicle from New Hampshire dumping trash at our facility. I'm asking because I need to know if it's okay for people other than Belfast citizens to dump at our facility. I will say that an awful lot of people who are not from Belfast use our facility. I'll also say that the disposal of a lot of recycling materials are costing us money. So even if the people deposit recycling materials they are still costing the Belfast Tax Payer money. I think the biggest volume of out of town individuals who utilize our facility come from Morrill and Northport. I would be happy to figure out some workable solution/agreement with each of these towns if that's something you are interested in exploring.

Currently Swanville and Searsport bring us recycling materials. Because the market has changed so, they actually pay us to bring that material here for us to process. Unfortunately when individuals from out of town come to the facility they get to drop off recycling materials for free. Which has a negative effect on my budget because almost all of the recycling we do costs us money at this time. I can explain more as to why we should continue to recycle from a fiscal perspective at the meeting.

In all I suspect our numbers heading into the next fiscal year will be just below projections due to the fact that so many people utilized the time away from work to clean up yards, basements, garages and attic spaces that it doesn't seem possible there's any trash left here in Belfast. But I'm sure we will find more.

I look forward to answering your questions and addressing any concerns you might have with the budget I've submitted.

Thank you  
Mike McFadden.

## **Cable TV department review of 2019-2020**

The video department found itself dealing with almost double the workload this year, compared to past years. This was due in part to the additional work to do live remote productions related to the Nordic Aquafarm hearings as well as the additional meetings and live streaming of committee meetings relating to the response to Covid-19. The department has produced additional interviews with Councilors Mayor, local health professionals, business leaders, educational administrators and city department heads to keep the community informed about how the city is adjusting to the pandemic. These programs have been shared on social media, posted to the city's website and shown on Belfast Community TV in an effort to reach as many citizens as possible.

\$10,000 dollars has been the annual expense of funding the city's public access channel for several years. This channel which began operation in 2006 provides 24/7 programming to the community. In May of 2019, the station's offices moved due to a doubling of the rent when ownership of the building changed. The station has found a new home at the Crosby Center. The station is operated primarily by volunteers. There is one part time employee, who's responsible for downloading of programs. Due to budget issues, that employee has reduced their paid work from 5 to 3 hours per week. And so the weekly expense was reduced from \$50 to \$32. The station has assisted community members in producing their own programs, such as "Good Morning Belfast". It has loaned equipment and provided production support to individuals producing documentaries, or recording church services. In fact with the need to eliminate "in person" church services, the station has taught individuals and clergy how to record services using station equipment from their homes. Additionally the station has recorded candidate forums, Nordic Aquafarm presentations, and talks from Bookshops, Historical Societies or city committees. The station receives support from local businesses such as accounting, computer support, and vehicle maintenance. There is also some modest financial support from generous donors. The \$10,000 covers every expense from rent, streaming, a Vimeo channel that has over 2000 local programs available for on-demand viewing, part time employee expenses office expenses, equipment maintenance, production expenses, and equipment replacement. We struggle to maintain our services to the community with increasing expenses, but to date have been able to operate with generous volunteer support.



## CITY OF BELFAST WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY

### 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

The Wastewater Treatment Facility ran well during 2019, there were no effluent discharge violations during the year.

The City continues to be required by the Department of Environmental Protection to implement Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) abatement projects based on the City's CSO Master Plan recommendations. Olver Associates Inc. continue monitoring key points of the sewerage collection system during night time low flow conditions and during storm events in wet weather conditions and update the City's CSO Master Plan every five years. Over the past 20 years the main focus of the abatement program has been to systematically replace 100+ year old vitrified clay pipe exhibiting high levels of groundwater induced infiltration that increase system flows and cause CSO events to occur during wet weather times of the year. The ultimate goal and threshold of the abatement program is to eliminate all CSO events during a 25 year storm event. A 25 year storm event is equivalent to 4.9 inches of rain or a combination of rain and snowmelt in a 24 hour period. In 2019 scheduled flow monitoring was done and the CSO Master Plan was updated and submitted to MEDEP for review and approval in consideration of a new Discharge Permit being issued in 2021. To date, all indications are that the CSO abatement program has been successful in reducing the number of CSO events annually and the amount discharged each event. During 2019, there were three CSO events at both CSO locations, CSO outfall #002 located at the end of Miller Street discharged a total of 187,506 gallons of untreated wastewater and CSO outfall #003 located at the end of Condon Street discharged a total of 143,999 gallons of untreated wastewater. The City has spent \$9,743,000.00 for CSO abatement projects to date. The Updated CSO Master Plan identifies three additional CSO abatement projects that need be done in the next ten years, total estimated funding required - \$5,102,000.00. Hopefully, the City will soon meet its goal and have the opportunity to get back to scheduling its own projects and not be mandated by MEDEP to complete CSO abatement projects by specific dates.

### 2019 WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY PROCESS REVIEW

Treated 239,857,000 gallons of wastewater, an average of 657,147 gallons per day.

Produced 850 tons of dewatered sludge for composting by Casella Organics at their Hawkrigde Facility in Unity Plantation.

Used 3,300 gallons of sodium hypochlorite to disinfect the treated wastewater effluent and 13,860 pounds of sodium bisulfite to dechlorinate the chlorinated effluent before being discharged to Belfast Harbor.

Received at the treatment plant wastewater with an average Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) concentration of 283 mg/l (BOD is a measure of oxygen required to remove organic matter from water in the process of decomposition by aerobic bacteria).

Discharged from the treatment plant treated wastewater with an average Biochemical Oxygen Demand concentration of 17 mg/l. A BOD reduction of 94%.

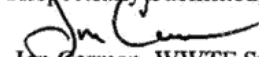
Received at the treatment plant wastewater with an average Total Suspended Solids (TSS) concentration of 397 mg/l.

Discharged from the plant treated wastewater with an average Total Suspended Solids concentration of 7 mg/l. A TSS reduction of 98%.

Note: License requirement for BOD and TSS % removal is 85%.

There are three full time staff that operate and maintain the wastewater treatment plant and eighteen pumping stations throughout the community. Staff is very proud of the facility and welcomes any group or individual who wishes to tour the facility to call 338-1744 to arrange a guided tour.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Jon Carman, WWTF Superintendent

# C.H. DORR & CO., P.A.

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Robert A. Dorr, CPA  
Nicholas R. Dorr, MBA  
Charles H. Dorr, CPA

146 PARKWAY SOUTH – SUITE 102  
BREWER, MAINE 04412-1655

TEL (207) 989-2800  
FAX (207) 989-2801

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the City Council  
City of Belfast, Maine

### Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, and the aggregate remaining fund information of City of Belfast, Maine, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2019, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the City's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

### Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

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

### Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

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

## Opinions

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the City of Belfast, Maine, as of June 30, 2019 and the respective changes in financial position, and where applicable, cash flows thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

## Other Matters

### *Required Supplementary Information*

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis and budgetary comparison information on pages 4 through 15 and 42 through 43 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

### *Other Information*

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the City of Belfast, Maine's basic financial statements. The other information is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. The schedule of expenditures of federal awards is presented for purposes of additional analysis as required by Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards*, and is also not a required part of the basic financial statements.

The combining and individual fund financial statements, the detailed budgetary comparison schedule, the schedule of expenditures of federal awards, and the other schedules are the responsibility of management and were derived from and related directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America.

In our opinion, the combining and individual fund financial statements and the schedule of expenditures of federal awards are fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

**Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards***

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated March 2, 2020, on our consideration of the City of Belfast, Maine's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements or other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the City of Belfast, Maine's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

*C.H. -Dow & Co.*

Brewer, Maine  
March 2, 2020

## **WALDO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

6 Public Safety Way  
Belfast, ME 04915

### **SHERIFF**

Jeffrey C. Trafton

### **Administrative Offices**

207-338-6786

**Fax**

207-338-6784

### **CHIEF DEPUTY**

Jason Trundy

January 02, 2020

Citizens of Waldo County,

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

Some highlights of 2019 included the use of body cameras for the Patrol Deputies. The body cameras are enhancing our accountability to the public, evidence collection and our ability to critique deputy performance. In the Corrections Division, we entered into an inmate boarding contract with the Somerset County Sheriff's Office, saving \$170,000 in the first year. We also increased our collaboration with the Knox County Sheriff's Office by sharing our Jail Administrator saving additional taxpayer funds in both Counties.

Our patrol division handled 8,376 calls for service in 2019. These calls included all types of incidents from murders, domestic violence, robberies, burglaries, thefts, child abuse, sexual abuse, drug overdoses, and much more. The drug abuse epidemic continues to ravage our citizens and cause much of the crime in our county. The patrol division also conducted 2,056 traffic stops throughout the county in an effort to increase traffic safety on our roads and highways.

Our Corrections Division continues to excel in the operation of the Maine Coastal Regional Re-entry Center serving 62 residents in 2019. These are men who were nearing the end of their term of incarceration. Our many programs assist them with their integration back into society as productive and contributing citizens. During their stay at the re-entry center, residents provided 10,053 hours of community service throughout Waldo County. This translated

to \$110,585 in free labor to citizens and non-profit agencies. Residents also provided more than 153,000 pounds of fresh vegetables to local food pantries and those in need from the County's Garden Project overseen by Waldo County Commissioner William Shorey. The residents also paid \$29,105 in room and board to the County.

The 72 hour holding and booking facility processed 727 persons who were arrested in Waldo County by all the law enforcement agencies serving our County. If a person who has been arrested cannot make bail within 72 hours, he or she has to be transported to the Somerset County Jail in East Madison by our Transport Division. Our average daily population of Waldo County prisoners held at Somerset was 22 men and women. This along with bringing prisoners to court and medical appointments, generated 387 transports with our transport division, traveling more than 67,444 miles in 2019.

Our Civil Service Division served 1,840 sets of legal paperwork all over the County in 2019.

It has been an honor for all of us to be of service to the citizens of Waldo County in 2019. We look forward to a safe and productive 2020.

Respectfully,



Sheriff Jeffrey C. Trafton



# Waldo County Sheriff's Office

Total Number of **Belfast** Complaints in 2019 Received, by Nature of Call

<u>Nature of Call</u>	<u>Total Calls Received</u>	<u>% of Total</u>
911 Disconnect	7	0.88
911 Misdial	1	0.13
Agency Assistance	27	3.38
Alarm	4	0.50
Animal Problem - Law Assigned	1	0.13
Assault	1	0.13
Attempt to Locate	2	0.25
Background Check	69	8.64
Insufficient Funds Check	1	0.13
Be On Lookout	1	0.13
Burglary	1	0.13
Accident Car/Deer	1	0.13
Child Custody	1	0.13
Civil Complaint	1	0.13
Cruiser Accident	2	0.25
Detail Accident Reconstruction	1	0.13
Detail Bail Chk	1	0.13
Detail Court	3	0.38
Detail Drug Take Back Program	1	0.13
K-9 Detail	13	1.63
Miscellaneous Detail	31	3.88
Detail Parade	2	0.25
Detail Radar	2	0.25
Disorderly Conduct	1	0.13
Disturbance	3	0.38
Domestic Disturbance	3	0.38
Escort	1	0.13
False Information to Police	1	0.13
Found Property	4	0.50
Harassment	6	0.75
Hostage Incident	1	0.13
Indecent Exposure	1	0.13
Information Report	22	2.75
Juvenile Problem	2	0.25
Late Report of PD 10-55	3	0.38
Lost Property	1	0.13
Medical Emergency EMD	2	0.25
Mental/Medical	2	0.25
Motor Vehicle Theft	1	0.13
Motorist Assist	7	0.88
Motor Vehicle Complaint	23	2.88
Officer Complaint	1	0.13
Paperwork Service	19	2.38
Traffic Accident with Damage	12	1.50

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<u>Nature of Call</u>	<u>Total Calls Received</u>	<u>% of Total</u>
Traffic Accident with Injuries	4	0.50
Probation Violation	1	0.13
Public Assist	14	1.75
Search Warrant	5	0.63
Service PO	11	1.38
Speaking Engagement	4	0.50
Suspicious Person, Circumstnce	3	0.38
Sweetser Incident	5	0.63
Test for Law Nature no Inciden	1	0.13
Theft	3	0.38
Threatening	3	0.38
Traffic Hazard	1	0.13
Traffic Violation	16	2.00
Prisoner Transport	386	48.31
Vehicle Off the Road	1	0.13
Violation Conditional Release	1	0.13
Violation Protection Order	1	0.13
Wanted Person	37	4.63
Welfare Check	5	0.63
Wildlife Problem or Complaint	1	0.13
Inmate Work Detail	6	0.75

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Total reported: 799

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Total Number of Traffic Stops for 2019: 173

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**Report Includes:**

All dates between '00:00:00 01/01/19' and '00:00:00 01/01/20', All nature of incidents, All cities matching 'BF', All types, All priorities, All agencies matching 'WSO'



# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 1, 2020

COMMITTEES:  
ARMED SERVICES  
BUDGET  
ENERGY AND  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
INTELLIGENCE  
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Dear friends,

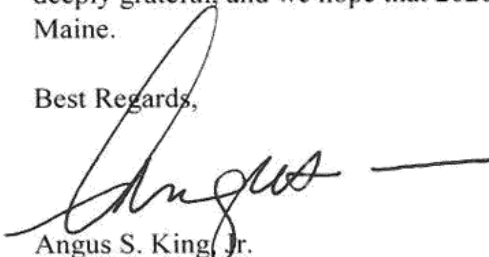
The beginning of a new year provides the opportunity to reflect on the progress of the past 12 months. If you've been watching cable TV, you might think that every waking moment of 2019 in Washington has been consumed by divisive, partisan issues – and while there's no shortage of those debates, there have also been opportunities for bipartisan cooperation. You sent me to the Senate to make the most of those opportunities, so as we enter into the New Year, I wanted to take a moment to update you on my efforts to work with members of both parties to make life better for the people of Maine.

One of my most important priorities this past year has been emphasizing preventive healthcare. Maine's distinction as the oldest state in the nation brings us wisdom, of course – but it also creates unique challenges, particularly relating to healthcare. The key to addressing these obstacles is being proactive, because the cheapest, safest medical procedure is the one that doesn't need to happen. That's why I've introduced legislation to incentivize healthier living, expand mental health screenings, and help more Americans access regular check-ups. We're making progress, but we've got a long way to go – and I'd like your help, because I know that the best ideas are the ones that come from families and communities on the front lines of these challenges. To strengthen this effort, I convened a policy forum on prevention in Bangor in October, which has already given me exciting new ideas that I'll carry with me into 2020. If you have additional thoughts on encouraging preventive healthcare, please share them with my office.

This year has also continued the growth of Maine's forest products industry – a key focus of my work to revitalize Maine's rural economy and communities. We've seen significant investment in mills across the state, creating good jobs to support rural Maine. I'm also pleased that the investments aren't just in our mills – the industry is thriving because of its commitment to innovation. We're fortunate to have the University of Maine's top-notch researchers exploring cutting-edge ways to use our forest resources, including capitalizing on the rise of 3D printing technology with the world's largest 3D printer. Combining this work with ongoing federal support, our vast forests, and Maine's dedicated workforce, I know that the future of this industry is bright, and I'll continue working to support it on all fronts.

I'm proud of all we've accomplished together this year, but even as I reflect on all that we've achieved, it is challenging to not think of the work left undone. It sometimes can be discouraging to watch these important priorities hang in limbo, but fortunately for me, encouragement is never far. After all, I get to live in Maine – which means I get to count Maine people as my neighbors and friends. I'm always struck by the kindness that our citizens show not only to me, but also to each other. This focus on collaboration and compassion is an inspiration, and it powers my efforts bring a little bit of Maine common sense to Washington. Thank you for all you do to for our state – Mary and I are deeply grateful, and we hope that 2020 will be a good year for you, your family, your community, and the State of Maine.

Best Regards,



Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator

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Augusta, ME 04330  
(207) 622-8292

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Bangor, ME 04401  
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BIDDEFORD  
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Biddeford, ME 04005  
(207) 352-5216

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SUSAN M. COLLINS  
MAINE

453 DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1504  
1301 224-2023  
1101 224-2003 (FAX)

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1804

COMMITTEE  
SPECIAL COMMITTEE  
ON AGING  
CHAIRMAN  
APPROPRIATIONS  
HEALTH, EDUCATION,  
LABOR, AND PENSION  
SELECT COMMITTEE  
ON INTELLIGENCE

Dear Friends,

As 2019 ends and 2020 begins, I am pleased to report that Congress made progress on a number of issues important to Maine families despite the polarization in our country.

In a major win for surviving military and retiree spouses to whom we are deeply indebted, I was proud to co-lead the repeal of what is often referred to as the "Military Widow's Tax," an unfair offset of survivor benefits that has prevented as many as 67,000 surviving spouses—including more than 260 from Maine—from receiving the full benefits they deserve.

The high cost of health care and prescription drugs continues to be a top issue for families and seniors. To provide continued relief for more lower- and middle-income individuals, I led the charge to extend for another two years the medical expense tax deduction that I included in the 2017 tax law. Without this extension, nearly 20,000 Mainers and millions of Americans with high medical expenses, including many with preexisting conditions, would have faced an increased tax burden. In other good news, the CREATES Act I cosponsored became law. It will prevent pharmaceutical companies from blocking access to a sufficient supply of brand-name drugs needed for the studies that allow less expensive alternatives to enter the marketplace.

Improving people's health and wellbeing remains my priority. On a per capita basis, Maine has the highest incidence of Lyme disease in the country. In August, I held a Senate hearing at the University of Maine's Tick Lab on this growing public health crisis. A comprehensive public health strategy to combat this epidemic is needed, and the new law I authored will do just that.

In addition, I helped champion another \$2.6 billion increase for the National Institutes of Health, our nation's premiere biomedical research institution, including significant boosts for Alzheimer's disease and diabetes research. Last year, NIH funded more than \$111 million for research at 14 Maine institutions.

To help prepare the graduates of Maine Maritime Academy, I secured \$300 million for a new training ship, which will ensure rigorous instruction for MMA students for decades to come.

Significant federal funding was approved for work at Bath Iron Works and Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. Funding appropriated by Congress will pay for three new destroyers, make a down payment on an additional ship, and finance infrastructure improvements at PNSY.

As Chairman of the Transportation and Housing Appropriations Subcommittee, I have led efforts to improve our nation's crumbling infrastructure and ensure that Maine's housing needs are addressed. For Maine's roads, bridges, airports, and seaports, tens of millions in federal funding will help make urgently needed upgrades and improve safety. Funding will also support housing assistance to low-income families and seniors and aid communities in reducing homelessness among our youth. The Community Development Block Grant program will assist numerous towns and cities in our State.

The Aging Committee I chair has continued its focus on financial security for our seniors. A new law I authored will make it easier for small businesses to offer retirement plans to their employees. Our Aging Committee's Fraud Hotline fielded more than 1,200 calls this year. Congress passed a new law to crack down on robocallers who are often the perpetrators of these scams. And a new law I authored will expand the IRS' Identity Protection PIN program nationwide to prevent identity theft tax refund fraud.

At the end of 2019, I cast my 7,262nd consecutive vote. In the New Year, I will keep working to deliver bipartisan solutions to the challenges facing Maine and the nation. If ever I can be of assistance to you, please contact one of my state offices or visit my website at [www.collins.senate.gov](http://www.collins.senate.gov). May 2020 be a good year for you, your family, your community, and our state.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

## Janice Dodge

17 Vine St  
Belfast, ME 04915

Phone: (207) 338-1626

[Janice.Dodge@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:Janice.Dodge@legislature.maine.gov)

Dear Belfast Residents,

I am pleased to continue in service to the citizens of Belfast! It is a joy to deliver copies of my Legislative Newsletter to the town office! You are lucky to have such experienced and friendly staff working on your behalf.

This legislative session took an unusual turn as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. While the second session of the Legislature generally runs through mid-April, the Presiding Officers made the decision to end our session on March 17. This was done in an effort to adhere to the Center for Disease Control's social distancing guidelines and to keep staff, constituents and our communities safe.

Before adjourning, my colleagues and I passed emergency legislation to help Mainers through the evolving COVID-19 crisis. Among other things, we included provisions to temporarily expand unemployment insurance benefits; empower the state Department of Education to waive certain school-day requirements and ensure students continue to receive needed meals while schools were closed; allow remote participation in municipal meetings; establish a consumer loan guarantee program to help eligible Mainers access low- or no-interest loans; and authorize the Governor to prohibit utilities from terminating residential electric and water service during this period. We additionally designated at least \$11 million in state funding to further respond to COVID-19. While I am no longer in Augusta, I remain in close contact with the administration and am working to provide relief for our community.

In addition to our COVID-19 efforts, the Legislature passed a \$73 million supplemental budget that raised rates for direct health care providers, increased the state's pre-k-12 education contribution by \$38 million, and more, all while adding another \$17.4 million to the "Rainy Day Fund." We also passed a bond in the amount of \$105 million for transportation needs and \$15 million for broadband access.

On top of these critical actions, we achieved some big successes this session. We passed an affordable housing tax credit that will help us build 1,000 more affordable housing units over the next eight years. We put new safeguards in place to prevent tragedies like last year's devastating explosion in Farmington. And we passed a package of health care bills aimed at driving down costs and increasing accessibility for all Mainers.

There is certainly more we'd like to do, but until then, I am proud of what we have been able to accomplish for Maine people. Please contact me if I can be of any help to you and your family, or if you want to discuss any legislation. I fully welcome your questions and feedback.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janice S. Dodge".

Janice Dodge, State Representative

*129th Legislature*  
**Senate of**  
**Maine**  
*Senate District 11*  
*Waldo County*

**Senator Erin Herbig**  
3 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0003  
(207)287-1515  
[Erin.Herbig@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:Erin.Herbig@legislature.maine.gov)

Dear Friends and Residents of Belfast,

I serve in the Maine Senate to break down barriers to success in Waldo County. Last year, we made progress on the issues that impact Mainers every day: Property tax relief; access to reliable, high-speed internet; local training for local jobs; support for our veterans and first responders; access to affordable health care; and prescription drug costs.

We passed a bipartisan budget that provides \$130 million in property tax relief without raising taxes. That includes a new program to provide a check for at least \$100 to every household that qualified for the Homestead Exemption by April 1, 2019.

The budget also includes \$4 million to expand access to reliable, high-speed internet and \$2.5 million for career and technical education. This year, I am introducing a bill for \$15 million to expand internet access and another for \$4 million to fund career and technical education.

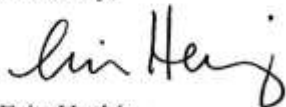
Maine will now join several other states in allowing police officers who have served in the military to wear veterans' insignia on their uniforms. This change, which I sponsored, will recognize veterans when they come home and help them better connect with other veterans in their communities.

We also worked to make health care more affordable and more accessible. We passed laws to require insurance companies to cover hearing aids, protect coverage for those with preexisting conditions and lower prescription drug costs.

These are just the highlights. We made significant strides, but there is still a lot to do. In Augusta this year, I will keep working to ensure a promising future for our kids. Please never hesitate to reach out to me at (207) 287-1515 or [Erin.Herbig@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:Erin.Herbig@legislature.maine.gov).

I look forward to continuing to work with you this year!

Sincerely,



Erin Herbig  
State Senator

**Washington Office**  
1223 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
Phone: (202) 225-6306  
Fax: (202) 225-2943  
[www.golden.house.gov](http://www.golden.house.gov)



**Committee on Armed Services**  
**Committee on Small Business**  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Contracting  
and Infrastructure

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

Dear Friends,

I hope this letter finds you well. It is an immense honor to serve as your representative in Congress. I take very seriously the responsibility that has been placed on me, and I would like to take this opportunity to share with you some of what I've been working on in my first year in Congress.

At the beginning of this term, the House passed H.R. 1, a comprehensive package of reforms I cosponsored to get big money out of politics and fight corruption in Washington. And in December, I helped pass H.R. 3, the *Lower Drug Costs Now Act*, which would limit out-of-pocket prescription drug costs paid by seniors, fund the expansion of Medicare coverage to include dental, vision, and hearing, and lower prescription drug prices for thousands of Mainers. Additionally, as a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I worked to ensure our annual defense authorization bill supports America's national security and Maine's shipyard workers, National Guardsmen, manufacturers, and universities.

On top of working on this legislation, I have also been advocating for our district directly to administrative agencies. I have been fighting for Maine lobstermen to urge the president to intervene in proposed regulations by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) that would hurt our lobster industry. I pressed government agencies to ground their regulations in sound science and data when crafting new regulations on Maine's lobstermen. I also persuaded the Army Corps of Engineers to hold a public hearing in Maine about the proposed Central Maine Power NECEC transmission line, which gave hundreds of people the opportunity to voice their opinions about the project.

Some of the most important work of members of Congress is rooted in on-the-ground constituent services. We have three offices in the district -- in Caribou, Bangor, and Lewiston -- and my staff work tirelessly to help Mainers solve problems they may face with federal government agencies. I urge you to stop by to talk to us in person and let us know how we can better serve you and your communities.

My favorite part of the job is coming home to the district and hearing about what matters to you. This year, I brought a hearing of the House Small Business Subcommittee on Contracting and Infrastructure to Maine to find ways to expand access to rural broadband. I've also held open town halls and coffee hours throughout the district to hear directly from Mainers veterans, as well as roundtables to find more ways to help small businesses in Maine grow and create jobs.

As always, please continue to reach out to me and my staff if you'd like to voice an opinion, let us know about a local event, or seek any assistance with federal agencies.

Respectfully,

Jared Golden  
Member of Congress

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Bangor, ME 04101  
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7 Hatch Drive, Suite 230  
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Phone: (207) 492-6009

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



**UNPAID REAL ESTATE TAXES AND PROPERTY LIENS**  
**TAX YEAR: 2019-1 TO 20192**  
**AS OF 9/22/20**

Acct	Name ----				
1380 L	BEAN, ROSELYN M.	2019	1,160.85	494.73	666.12
3104 L	BELFAST SQUARE ASSOCIATES	2019	17,395.25	0.00	17,395.25
188 L	BLACK, JAMES A.	2019	3,287.38	0.00	3,287.38
3377 L	BLACK, JAMES A.	2019	1,688.37	0.00	1,688.37
484 L	BLODGETT, PAULINE, HEIRS OF	2019	2,300.20	0.00	2,300.20
3509 L	BLODGETT, WENDELL R.	2019	652.59	0.00	652.59
4125 L	BRIGGS, CHERYL ANN	2019	302.37	0.00	302.37
1101 L	CAMDEN, RICHARD	2019	921.86	0.00	921.86
438 L	CANNING, WENDY J.	2019	91.56	41.54	50.02
2352 L	CASSIDA, SAMUEL E	2019	4,263.98	0.00	4,263.98
3889 L	CLARK, ALAN G.	2019	322.59	0.00	322.59
2130 L	CLARKE, DAVID H	2019	1,215.82	0.00	1,215.82
135 L	COLLINS, BRIAN	2019	1,321.81	0.00	1,321.81
2978 L	CRAWFORD, ANNIE COGGAN	2019	2,081.36	1,952.56	128.80
3421 L	CUNNINGHAM, MICHAEL	2019	2,545.47	0.00	2,545.47
1393 L	CURTIS, EVERETT	2019	434.94	0.00	434.94
1439 L	CURTIS, EVERETT H	2019	994.64	0.00	994.64
1440 L	CURTIS, EVERETT H	2019	787.49	0.00	787.49
797 L	CURTIS, EVERETT H.	2019	3,784.02	0.00	3,784.02
1441 L	CURTIS, EVERETT H.	2019	669.45	0.00	669.45
1442 L	CURTIS, EVERETT H.	2019	695.95	0.00	695.95
1637 L	DAKIN, CHRISTOPHER	2019	1,817.97	223.22	1,594.75
352 L	DAWSON, WILLIAM L JR	2019	6,840.35	0.00	6,840.35
3422 L	DINSMORE, GENE	2019	1,215.82	0.00	1,215.82
4277 L	DODGE, ARTHUR, JR.	2019	2,548.31	0.00	2,548.31
3141 L	DRAKE, KASEY	2019	180.04	0.00	180.04
1861 L	DUBLIN, LUCY MAE	2019	68.92	25.73	43.19

## Non Zero Balance on All Accounts

Tax Year: 2019-1 To 2019-2

As of: 09/22/2020

Acct	Name ----	Year	Original Tax	Payment / Adjustments	Amount Due
1242 L	DYER, BELINDA	2019	1,938.89	0.00	1,938.89
1606 L	DYER, CHRISTOPHER D	2019	852.52	0.00	852.52
3610 L	ELLIOTT, WILLIAM C	2019	2,918.84	0.00	2,918.84
3997 L	EVANS, HOLLY	2019	1,381.63	0.00	1,381.63
1153 L	EWALD, DAVID C.	2019	2,341.15	0.00	2,341.15
4128 L	GAWLER, EDITH	2019	789.90	0.00	789.90
1369 L	GORDON, ARTHUR	2019	728.35	0.00	728.35
1848 L	GREEN, NATALIE	2019	4,896.46	0.00	4,896.46
2968 L	GREEN, RENE P.	2019	4,576.09	0.00	4,576.09
1356 L	GRINDLE, SHANNA	2019	1,302.97	0.00	1,302.97
2611 L	HALL, CHARLES L JR	2019	3,764.01	0.00	3,764.01
244 L	HARBORVIEW BELFAST, LLC	2019	6,139.82	0.00	6,139.82
746 L	HARRIMAN, DIANNE M	2019	941.65	0.00	941.65
1363 L	HEROUX, PHILIP D (HEIRS)	2019	1,946.11	0.00	1,946.11
4430 L	HODGDON, DAVID	2019	1,519.75	0.00	1,519.75
347 L	HOLLAND, JAMES A	2019	1,249.97	0.00	1,249.97
3804 L	HOLMES, MENA F.	2019	7,510.00	0.00	7,510.00
206 L	HUTCHINGS, DAVID C.	2019	6,139.40	0.00	6,139.40
2161 L	HUTCHINGS, DAVID C.	2019	2,324.29	0.00	2,324.29
2162 L	HUTCHINGS, DAVID C.	2019	623.69	0.00	623.69
315 L	ISTEERO, SUSANNE ALBERT	2019	6,577.80	0.00	6,577.80
972 L	JACKSON, PATRICIA ANNE	2019	1,093.39	0.00	1,093.39
1826 L	JOHNSON, ALEXIS D.,Trustee	2019	5,053.03	0.00	5,053.03
2127 L	JOHNSON, GEORGIA, HEIRS OF	2019	622.84	0.00	622.84
596 L	KANDRA, MONIQUE M.	2019	9,649.01	0.00	9,649.01
940 L	KBI, INC	2019	11,135.23	0.00	11,135.23
1638 L	LANGILLE, SHIRLEY (LT)	2019	211.78	0.00	211.78
2292 L	LAROCQUE, GLADYS W.	2019	2,182.17	0.00	2,182.17
454 L	LEADBETTER, JOHN H	2019	1,129.11	0.00	1,129.11
3682 L	LEVANGIE, MARGARET L.	2019	1,607.81	0.00	1,607.81
2875 L	LEWIS, ALFREDA A M HEIRS	2019	4,953.84	68.84	4,885.00
1548 L	LITTLEFIELD, DANIEL K	2019	720.03	0.00	720.03
1017 L	LITTLEFIELD, RONALD G.	2019	2,326.70	0.00	2,326.70
1044 L	LITTLEFIELD, RONALD JR	2019	218.58	0.00	218.58
4265 L	MARESH, ISRAEL	2019	572.67	0.00	572.67
1172 L	MARSHALL, DWIGHT C.	2019	1,925.22	0.00	1,925.22
1038 L	MCINTIRE, JEFFREY W	2019	667.04	0.00	667.04
1856 L	MERRILL, DAWN M.	2019	3,029.65	0.00	3,029.65
2941 L	MILLER, DAN	2019	79.31	0.00	79.31
503 L	MISLUK, KAREN L	2019	805.67	197.46	608.21
2944 L	MORROW, ROWLAND A. JR	2019	14,660.30	0.00	14,660.30
1799 L	MOSES, LAWRENCE II	2019	8,690.31	0.00	8,690.31
1798 L	MOSES, LAWRENCE L II	2019	4,756.75	0.00	4,756.75
4013 L	OXTON, BRANDON	2019	153.55	0.00	153.55
1489 L	PERKINS, ANDREW	2019	2,341.15	0.00	2,341.15

Acct	Name ----	Year	Original Tax	Payment / Adjustments	Amount Due
3818 L	PETERS, UNIQUE	2019	2,179.76	0.00	2,179.76
1643 L	PIKE, CHERYL	2019	1,435.45	0.00	1,435.45
3135 L	PORTER, THOMAS E	2019	93.80	0.00	93.80
4436 L	REDDING, WILLIAM	2019	242.76	0.00	242.76
3400 L	REYNOLDS, MICHAEL	2019	322.59	0.00	322.59
416 L	REYNOLDS, MICHAEL TRUST	2019	875.75	0.00	875.75
2 L	RICHARDS, DOUGLAS B., JR	2019	1,218.65	0.00	1,218.65
382 L	RIPLEY, AMBER	2019	878.59	11.55	867.04
3267 L	RODERICK, CHARLES M	2019	1,448.80	0.00	1,448.80
542 L	ROE, ANTHONY H.R.	2019	6,477.05	0.00	6,477.05
1134 L	SAGGESE, ANNE K	2019	2,403.79	0.00	2,403.79
583 L	SCOTT, MICHAEL C.	2019	71.74	0.00	71.74
1568 L	SHUTE, BENJAMIN	2019	939.24	0.00	939.24
1573 L	SHUTE, TINA F	2019	2,353.19	0.00	2,353.19
680 L	ST. GERMAIN, PAUL	2019	2,446.72	0.00	2,446.72
4532 L	STAPLES, ELIJAH	2019	247.48	0.00	247.48
1539 L	STAPLES, GAYLE	2019	735.15	0.00	735.15
3449 L	STAPLES, GAYLE	2019	293.68	0.00	293.68
1604 L	SWEETLAND, TIMOTHY C.	2019	642.96	0.00	642.96
3595 L	TENOFF, DIANE M	2019	3,459.96	0.00	3,459.96
3365 L	TURNER, SUNDAY	2019	178.06	0.00	178.06
2222 L	VAZQUEZ, SONIA I	2019	1,536.61	0.00	1,536.61
1170 L	WAY, SANDRA P., HEIRS OF	2019	2,716.50	0.00	2,716.50
2279 L	WHALEN, DONNA S	2019	3,932.51	0.00	3,932.51
771 L	WHITE, FRANCINA R.	2019	1,425.39	0.00	1,425.39
848 L	WIGHT, ROY N.	2019	7,016.19	0.00	7,016.19
1322 L	WILLIAMS, BRADLEY P	2019	2,601.31	0.00	2,601.31
2044 L	YORK, WALTER R. & WINSTON H.(TRSTS)	2019	1,782.32	0.00	1,782.32
4558 L	ZAHARES, KIM M.	2019	4,822.21	0.00	4,822.21
2737 L	ZOCCHI, JUDITH	2019	5,006.84	0.00	5,006.84
189 L	ZOCCHI, JUDITH M.	2019	4,933.01	0.00	4,933.01
2283 L	ZOCCHI, JUDITH M.	2019	1,461.95	0.00	1,461.95
<b>Total for 104 Accounts:</b>			264,817.80	3,015.63	261,802.17

**Payment Summary**

Type	Principal	Interest	Costs	Total
P - Payment	2,503.01	230.82	281.80	3,015.63
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,503.01</b>	<b>230.82</b>	<b>281.80</b>	<b>3,015.63</b>

**Lien Summary**

2019-1	261,802.17
<b>Total</b>	<b>261,802.17</b>

<b>Total for 109 Accounts:</b>	278,303.61	16,496.05	261,807.56
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# NOTES

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