

The Arrowsic Arrow

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Arrowsic, Maine 04530

February, 1994

Dear Reader,

Lots of news—I printed it small to try and fit it all in. Please let me know (442-8270) if what follows is too difficult to read, and I'll send you out an edition with larger type. SPEAKING OF NEWS, REMEMBER ARROWSIC'S MOST IMPORTANT BEARER OF NEWS, GEORGE THE AMAZING MAILMAN. PLEASE SHOVEL AROUND YOUR MAILBOXES SO HE DOESN'T HAVE TO GET OUT OF HIS TRUCK TO DELIVER YOUR MAIL.

From Fire Chief Don Bryant: Regional Dispatch and 911

The idea of a regional dispatch center for Sagadahoc County has been considered by County, Municipal, Fire, Police, and communications organizations since November of 1991. In February of 1993 a steering committee consisting of Barry Norris from Bowdoinham, Howard Marston of Phippsburg, and Joseph Melrose Jr. of Bath was formed and they have done extensive research into the issue and made recommendations to the county commissioners.

Each functional area and each municipality affected has had input. A report was completed and presented on November 1993. A summary presents the following problems:

1. Outdated equipment at the present Sheriffs dispatch center
2. Use of single radio frequency by two dispatch centers
3. Inadequate staffing, training, and standard operating procedures
4. Residents of Bath and Topsham paying for two communications centers at the present time
5. Calls being transferred from one center to another

The basic recommendation of the steering committee is that a central dispatch center will provide better communications at a lower overall cost than the present three centers located in the Bath Police station, Sagadahoc Sheriff's office and Topsham Police Department. The report is comprehensive and complete and addresses as many issues as possible. Details concerning staffing, operations, and costs are available in the report from the county clerk.

What does this mean to Arrowsic? Arrowsic Fire and Ambulance calls are dispatched through the Bath Police Department by dialing **911**. Our police calls are dispatched through the Sagadahoc Sheriff's office by calling **443-9711**. Our County taxes fund the Sheriff's dispatch center and we pay approximately \$300. per year to the Bath Police. If a central dispatch center is created, all calls will be directed to that center. The committee report indicates the anticipated county tax increase will be \$4700. for Arrowsic, or an increase of 14%. It is likely that without a central dispatch center the Sagadahoc Sheriff's office must upgrade its dispatch center and some increase in county taxes is eminent.

The central dispatch should provide better dispatch service for emergency units and well trained dispatchers to provide assistance to the callers. It should also reduce confusion by providing one number for Fire, Rescue, and Police calls (911).

In my opinion the biggest drawback to the consolidation of centers is the funding mechanism. The committee recommends assessment of County taxes based on property valuation to provide funding for the center. I feel the option presented to fund the program through a telephone surcharge is a more equitable method. This would require a tariff approval and agreement from NYNEX and the Public Utilities Commission.

The committee and all the area people who have volunteered assistance for this report have done an excellent job and deserve recognition for tackling this important and complicated project. Regardless of the final funding method I support the concept of a centralized, more efficient, more capable dispatch center.

From the Codes Enforcement Officer, David Foster 443-2114

Spring will be with us in a little over a month and many people will be thinking about building projects. Some projects require permits of some kind and others need no permits. I would like to suggest that you call and check with me before you start. During the last year, several people have had to pay the Town fairly sizable fines for structures that were built without permits. I don't think anyone enjoys that type of hassle, so please take care to avoid it. If you are in the Shoreland Zone you should also check with me if you are doing any tree cutting and since this also applies to some other areas it is probably best to call me first in any case. If you get the answering machine leave a number where I can call you.

From the Planning Board, John Wood, chair

The Ad Hoc Review Committee, a subcommittee of the Planning Board, has drawn up a questionnaire to elicit the Town's views on commercial development in Arrowsic.

Copies of the questionnaire have been sent to 284 Arrowsic taxpayers. If you are a resident of Arrowsic and did not receive a questionnaire, you can pick one up at the Town Hall during regular business hours. Please use the enclosed, stamped envelope to return the questionnaire by March 1.

And a reminder, as of June 1993, all "home businesses" require a Home Business Permit from the Planning Board. This one page application is painless; the permit is free.

From a residents' group, The Ad Hoc Garbage Committee:

The Arrowsic board of selectmen has turned down a citizens' request for a special town meeting to consider resuming weekly trash pickups in Arrowsic.

A petition for a special town meeting began circulating in early January after several town residents became concerned with the health, safety, and convenience problems that cropped up in the new bi-weekly pickup schedule. Before circulating the petition, however, the residents met with the selectmen several times in an effort to work out some sort of a compromise pickup schedule.

When no compromise could be reached, the residents began circulating the petition for a special town meeting. The petition was drawn up free of charge with the assistance of a local lawyer who is well-versed in municipal law. It was signed by 46 Arrowsic town residents and presented to the selectmen on January 31st.

The selectmen said they were opposed to such a special town meeting even before the petition was submitted to them. But the petitioners felt the subject had not been clearly publicized nor adequately discussed at the regular June, 1993, town meeting. In any case,

in a letter drawn up on Feb. 14, the selectmen turned down the request for a special town meeting in June.

At this point, it appears there is no reasonable recourse to the board's action. Litigation is the only other possible step. However, the ad-hoc residents' committee that circulated the petition sees litigation as divisive. We would, however, like to thank everyone who helped gather signatures or signed. We hope to see you all at the June meeting. If you'd like clarification's or to keep abreast of any further developments, please feel free to contact any one of the following: Ken Textor at 443-1677; Howard Morrison at 443-3766; Dottie Doyle at 443-3850; or Bill Wiseman at 443-3937.

From the Selectmen, Manli Ho, chair

Three weeks ago, the Board of Selectmen received a petition requesting a special town meeting to consider reinstating weekly trash pickup. The petition asks a notary public to call a special town meeting and also asks the Selectmen to insert an article in the warrant issued for that meeting. After careful review and legal consultation, the Board has notified the 36 signers of the petition that it cannot honor their request. Both the Town attorney and the Maine Municipal Association have advised us that the petition is improperly drafted, blurring two statutory provisions.

The Board considers the vote on trash pickup taken at the June 1993 Town Meeting to be valid and binding. We believe that it was clear from the Selectman's report, the Recycling Committee's report, and from discussion at the Town Meeting that biweekly pickup use was being recommended.

The Selectmen strongly believe that, absent an emergency, calling a special town meeting to reconsider essentially the same issue would not only undermine the Town Meeting vote, but would set a dangerous precedent.

The Selectmen have every intention of bringing the entire question of trash disposal to the regular Town Meeting in June. We wish to reiterate that weekly trash pickup will be among the options presented in a Town-wide survey this Spring and at a public hearing prior to Town Meeting.

We urge everyone to participate in this process, so that together we can come up with the best possible solution for all of Arrowsic's residents.

IN OTHER MATTERS:

The Selectmen want to thank Paul Schlein for his efforts in designing and building a home for the Town computer. We're still oohing and aahing.

Thanks also to Charlie Collins and his crew for keeping our Town roads clear this icy, snowy winter. There have been no serious accidents and almost no complaints, despite the worst weather since...last year.

The town has turned over the handling of concealed weapons permits to the State Police. Those wishing to obtain a permit may call or write to Department of Public Safety, Maine State Police Licensing Division, State House Station #164, Augusta, Maine, 04333-0164. Tel: 624-0775.

The Selectmen's next scheduled meetings are on the following Mondays at 6PM: Feb 28, Mar 21, Apr 11, and Apr 25.

Deborah Bassett, Town Clerk, would like to extend an invitation to all Arrowsic residents to skate on her pond and sled on the hills around the pond. It's a great place for kids to play. (For those who don't know, hers is the place across from the town hall). She says parties with bonfires are fine as long as everyone gets the proper fire permits and cleans up after they are done. You can park at the Town Hall or Whitmore's Landing Road and walk over.

From The Naturally Better Food Co-op

We are just a group of folks who would like to order some of their food from a wholesaler. Some of the food is organic and some is not organic. There is a local food co-op that orders different bulk items each month. We welcome your participation. There are no monthly fees or "bump" added to the cost of the food, because we are able to use the Town hall for our monthly receiving station, although during the winter we do contribute towards the heat and electricity. Call Paul & Mona Schlein at 443-3209 or Prudy Foster at 443-2114 if you are interested in participating in the group of Food Co-ops. Our next order day will be 3/9 with delivery of food on 3/16. The only cost is the monthly order/pricing booklet other than you food. Future order meetings are: 4/13, delivery on 4/20; 5/11, delivery on 5/18; and 6/8, delivery on 6/15

The North-enders would like to thank the folks that came up and sang Christmas Carols. It was lovely.

Did you know that if all the world's water were in a drinking glass, 97% would be salt water. The remaining 3% is fresh water. 3/4 of that 3% is frozen in glaciers or ice caps. Only a few drops are available to the entire planet for our survival.

TOWN HALL HOURS ARE WEDNESDAYS 3-5:30 PM AND FRIDAYS 8:30-11 AM

From Nancy Brown Stump, Tax Collector: the following vehicles are due for registration:

FEBRUARY				
AMES, HAROLD	MOORE, GEORGE D	STORER, HOWARD	ELWELL, FRED JR	PINETTE, ALFRED J
APPEL, JAMES M	MORRISON, HOWARD P	SULLIVAN, CATHERINE	ELWELL, FREDERICK W	REYNOLDS, JOAN C
CARLETON, JAMES R	MOSIER, LARRY R	VITELLI, ELOISE A	ELWELL, RICHARD	RICHARDSON, JOAN E
CARLTON, DALE	MOUNT, PAMELA	WALSH, LOUISE M	FOSTER, DAVID R	ROBBINS, KAREN
CARLTON, DALE	MOUNT, PAMELA A	WINWOOD, JOHN D	GILES, SAMUEL D	ROSS, SUSAN M
CHADWICK, STEVEN	NICHOLSON, ALLISON	WOLFE, LYNNE B	GUCKENBURG, GREGORY	SCHLEIN, PAUL B
DUNN, FLOYD L JR	NODINE, ANNIE		GUCKENBURG, MARY L	SHELDON, CATHERINE
ELWELL, RICHARD	PACKARD, NANCY		KENNEY, JUDITH	SHOVER, EVELYN R
ELWELL, RICHARD H	PINETTE, ALFRED J		LAEMMLE, CLARE M	SHOVER, EVELYN R
FATSCHE, RUTH ANN	PUFF, KATHLEEN S		LAWRENCE, SANDRA L	SHUFELT, ERNEST F
FRYE, WARREN T	ROOT, DONALD N	BASSETT, LEROY H	MACMAHAN, JOSEPH V	SIMMONS, WILLARD
HALL, E VICTOR	ROSS, LAURIE P	BEATON, DONALD	MCKEEN, KEVIN	STINSON, CARL N
HALL, VICTOR	SCOTT, NANCY J	CAREY, JULIE A	MILLER, ALLEN L	STUART, KIM M
HEATH, RALPH W	SHUFELT, ERNEST F	CARLTON, ANN M	MILLER, GEORGE F	SULLIVAN, MICHAEL
KICKEN, RUDOLF	SHUFELT, LESLIE A	CHAFFEE, BARBARA	OLDS, PATRICIA A	SWAN, MARY E
KNIGHT, MILDRED E	SHULTZ, ROBERT E	CHANDLER, ROBERT L	OLEARY, ROBERT	TEXTOR, MELISSA J
LOVEITT, WILBUR F	SIMMONS, CYNTHIA E	COST, WILLIAM T JR	PACKARD, PHILLIP	WARNER, DORIS
MCLUER, JOHN W	SIMMONS, WILLARD G	DAVIS, SHELDON	PACKARD, PHILLIP E	WEISS, DAVID R
	SMITH, LUCY-DIANE L	DOYLE, JOHN E JR	PEABODY, JANE H	WILLIAMS, SETH
	STAFFORD, GEORGE F	DUNN, FLOYD L	PHINNEY, WILHELMINA	WOOD, JOHN

The Arrow thanks The Brennans, and Lil Gowen for their contributions. Articles, comments, letters, can be sent to Patty Olds, Bald Head Rd or dropped in the Town Hall Mail slot, address to The Arrow