

The Arrowsic Arrow

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Arrowsic, Maine 04530

March, 1996

Meeting Held To Discuss Town's Fire Protection

The Arrowsic Fire Protection Committee met on February 22 with the selectmen, fire commissioners and fire chiefs of Arrowsic, Georgetown, Woolwich and Bath to report on and discuss fire protection issues on the island. Neil Courtney, a fire consultant hired by the Town, was present and will be issuing a report to the selectmen. The meeting was also attended by 35 residents, most of them members of town boards.

Greg Guckenburg, co-chair of the Fire Protection Committee reported the findings of the committee's six-month study:

-Arrowsic spends \$26,000 to \$30,000 a year to maintain its own volunteer fire department.

More than 80 percent of this money, or about \$21,000, is raised through taxes.

-The island averages six fire calls a year. According to the fire chief's report in the 1995 Town Report, there were no fires on the island last year. All the fire calls which the Arrowsic fire department responded to were in other towns, as part of the mutual aid system.

-Of some 25 volunteers who are on call, four are Arrowsic residents. The majority reside in Phippsburg, Bath, Woolwich and Wiscasset.

-When responding to a fire on the island, most of the Arrowsic volunteers must drive long

distances before they reach the Arrowsic fire station or the scene of the fire.

-To meet state safety requirements for firefighters and reduce the risk of liability, the town would need to upgrade its present firefighting equipment and facilities. This could cost the town as much as \$250,000, including acquisition of land and a new fire station.

-Because of its size, Arrowsic contracts out most of its other services: ambulance, schools, snowplowing, road maintenance, trash and recycling.

-The committee looked at towns of comparable size to Arrowsic which contract out for fire protection. These include Mercer, contracting with Norridgewock, Chapman with Presque Isle, Clifton with Edington, Verona with Bucksport, Swanville with Belfast. Their contracts cost an average \$10,000 a year.

-Because of diminishing Federal and state funds, many towns in Maine are looking to combine resources and services in a process called regionalization. Arrowsic and four surrounding communities already do this with schools and with septage disposal. Several fire departments in the state are looking into this. These include Bangor, Brewer and Orono, and the Yorks: York Beach, York Harbor, York Village.

-According to the ISO, which rates the town for an insurance classification, contracting for fire protection could improve, but will

not diminish the island's rating of 9. Some companies use the rating to determine homeowners insurance. Courtney, who is a technical services specialist from Maine Fire Training and Education, has been working with the committee and believes that at the present level the town cannot deliver adequate fire protection. The town must either upgrade its equipment and services, or contract out to those who can meet standards consistently. Arrowsic is the only town he has evaluated for which he has suggested contracting out as an option, largely due to its small size.

Arrowsic, Woolwich and Georgetown officials agreed to continue the discussion after the meeting. The committee is scheduled to meet with the Woolwich officials to discuss a draft proposal for contracting for fire services later this month. A public hearing will be scheduled to discuss the issue.

Fire Protection Committee members are: Greg Guckenbug, Millie Stafford, co-chairs, George Stafford, Judy Kenny, Charlotte Brown, Jody Jones, and Bill Miller. For those interested in listening to the entire proceedings of the meeting, tapes are available at the Town Hall.

NOTICE

The Bath Postal Advisory council welcomes ideas and suggestions on how to improve mail service. The advisory council are volunteers who are working with postal officials on this issue. Arrowsic's representative is Pat Harcourt, 442-8122. Anyone interested in serving on the council can write to Bath Postal Customer Advisory Council, P.O. Box 1, Bath, Me. 04530

An Open Letter From Selectman Pat Harcourt:

We are a town of 500 people, with more than 350 registered voters, a good majority of whom don't participate in town affairs. Our committees are made up of 10 percent of our registered voters. Some committee members end up serving on more than one committee, while others have been doing their share for more than 10 years.

Having been both a regular voting citizen at town meeting, and a town official, I know how many things people aren't aware of in terms of issues and the running of the town.

I have heard people complain about things not being done the way they expect. Town government is only as good as the participation, knowledge and interest of the citizens of the town.

I understand people have responsibilities and time constraints; so do those who now serve in our town government. What I would like to see is more individual participation. This can include serving on a committee, or even taking an interest in town issues. I'd like to see more new faces involved in town affairs. I'd like more people to ask questions, to call the selectmen or a committee member to find out the facts.

You can't make an informed decision at town meeting by listening to your neighbor's comments, or just by reading about it in the papers, or hearing a 5 minute synopsis at town meeting on what took a committee months to work out. You can only do it by becoming an active, informed participant in our town.

The date of the Carlton Bridge Forum has been rescheduled for 7 p.m., April 18, 1996 at the United Church of Christ, Congress Ave., Bath.

NEXT ISSUE OF THE ARROW: End of May; please submit articles, letters, comments to the Arrow box in the Town Hall.

LETTERS TO THE ARROW

Letters should be signed and left at the Town Hall in the Arrow box. We try to publish all letters received, though we may edit some for length.

The following copies of letters to town officials were submitted to the Arrow for publication .

To: The Selectmen, Town of Arrowsic
2 January, 1996

As taxpayers and residents of Arrowsic, we have submitted our check for the 1995 town property tax due. It is with great reluctance and disappointment in the leadership of our town council during 1995, that we have tendered this check. We are referring to the actions made by a majority decision of the town selectpersons regarding the Pilarski dispute. The action of overturning a decision made by a court of law, and also disregarding the provisions of two ordinances, voted on and approved by the townspeople, is quite frankly unthinkable.

As we understand it., the position statement written by selectpersons Brian Scott and Melissa Textor on July 26, 1995, indicated that the legal fees incurred by the town of Arrowsic totalled approximately \$5200. Apparently, these expenses will now have to be borne by the taxpayers, as a result of an ill-advised and arbitrary decision made by the above named selectpersons.

We hope that in the future, these selectpersons will act in a more responsible manner when making such decisions involving the expenditure of taxpayer's funds.

John F. Rollins

To: Tax Collector, Town of Arrowsic

In protest against what I consider gross mismanagement of township affairs by two of our "selectpersons", I very seriously considered withholding a portion of my property taxes. Such action, however, would ultimately penalize ordinance-obeying, taxpaying Arrowsic residents by reducing -if only minimally- the total tax revenue. This revenue has been reduced enough already by the virtual theft of several thousand dollars

resultant from these two "selectpersons" action in ignoring the May 17 court decision and declaring that the Town will pay its legal fees.

Erica M. Wasilewski

To the Selectpersons:

While our full tax bill is enclosed, the amount that is used to defray the Pilarski's court costs is paid under protest. We do not believe townspeople should be held responsible for these costs, and we think the selectpersons who decide we should...against court orders and town sentiment acted irresponsibly.

Dean & Joan Richardson

UPDATE ON SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH

The results of a questionnaire sent to town residents by the search committee to find a new school superintendent at School Union 47 have been tabulated by the committee.

The questionnaire was distributed in February to elicit some guidelines regarding which attributes union residents would like to see in a new superintendent. Eighty-eight respondents ranked several attributes on a scale from 1-13, with the lower number being the most important.

The results showed that most residents want a superintendent who can communicate well, who will provide motivation and leadership, who will guide and assist the schools in producing outstanding programs, and who will manage the union with more participation and fun. A complete copy of the survey results are available for viewing at the Town Hall.

From the Recycling Committee:

available for viewing at the Town Hall.

From the Recycling Committee: The transition to curbside pickup of most recyclables seems to have gone well. T & R reports no problems, and the committee hasn't received much negative feedback. Residents are reminded that the bin at Town Hall is for mixed paper only. Any questions about the recycling program should be addressed to either Paul Schlein (443-3209), Jeff Mann (443-6174), or Bob Kalish (443-4660).

PATTEN FREE LIBRARY APPEALS TO AREA TOWNS

In this issue of The Arrow, we just wanted to give you a brief summary of the proposal the Patten Free Library will present at Town Meeting this year. As you may have heard, the PFL is asking the five area towns it serves to help finance the construction of a much-needed addition. Bath residents chipped in \$500,000 to this project last year, making their investment equal to about \$51 per person. The PFL is asking each town to match that \$51 per person investment, which in Arrowsic's case would make the total request \$24,990. Spread out over five years, that would end up costing about \$10 per person per year and, we think, have very little noticeable effect on the town tax rate.

Before town meeting, we will have at least one forum in which you can ask us anything you want about this proposal. From high-tech library services and expanded children's programs to better reference resources and handicapped accessibility, we believe this addition is long overdue. We hope our presentation will convince you this is an invaluable investment in the future. In the meantime, if you have any questions about this, please feel free to contact one of us and we'll be happy to help.

s/ Sandy Weiss, 433-2654

Al Stone, 442-7663

Ken Textor, 443-1677

NOTICE

Dog Licenses Were Due Jan. 31. Please register your dog with the Town Clerk.

RESULTS OF ROAD COMMISSION SURVEY

Twenty-eight residents returned the Road Commission's questionnaire on proposed improvements to Route 127. Of these, Sixty four percent were "strongly in favor" of shimming the repaving of .4 miles of road across the marsh at the north end of the island, while twenty-five percent were "in favor" and twelve percent were "neutral.

Regarding the other spot needing work, the corner of Route 127 near Ethel Elwell's property, fifty-six percent were "strongly in favor," thirty-seven percent "in favor" and seven percent "neutral." The Road Commission plans to ask the Maine Department of Transportation to include both projects in its next biennial budget. In case the DOT fails to okay the project, the Commission plans to apply to have the work done under the Collector Roads program, which would require a twenty-five percent match.

*Clip and Save***TOWN DIRECTORY AND MEETING SCHEDULE****Selectmen -- meet 2nd & 4th Monday,
6 p.m.**

Brian Scott, Chair...442-7409
Pat Harcourt.....442-8122
Melissa Textor.....443-1677

Town Clerk --Wed.. 3-5:30 p.m.:

Fri. 8:30-11:00 a.m.
Sue Elwell....443-5992

Registrar (same hours as above)

Maybelle Sturgeon....443-8797

Tax Collector

Sally Brooks...443-6814

Treasurer

Greg Guckenbergs...442-8020

Animal Control Officer

Chris Grill...442-8152

Planning Board

John Wood, Chair.
Lucy Hull
Jim Tolan
Jim Stump
David Spencer
Karen Robbins

Zoning Board of Appeals

Mary Hillery, Chair
Grace Stone
Bart Chapin
Jack Witham
Lisa Spencer

Emergency Preparedness

Dave Foster

School Committee

Jerry Peih, Chair
Don Hudson
Eloise Vitelli

Recycling Committee

Paul Schlein, Chair.
Jeff Mann
Bob Kalish

Road Commission -1st Sat. of month

Jim Stump, Chair.
John Wood, Sec.
Jenny Jorgenson
Richard Elwell
Joan Richardson

Conservation Commission- 4th Tues.

Josephine Ewing, Chair.
Joan Richardson
Mildred Stafford
William Blaiklock
Frances Smith
Noreen Blaiklock (alt.)
Charlotte Brown (alt.)

**Ladies Auxiliary Arrowsic Fire
Department**

Judy Kenny, Pres.
Celia Carlton
Lillian Gowen
Ethel Loveitt
Nancy Brown Stump
Margaret Brennan
Dotty Doyle
Ethel Elwell
Carol Ainsworth
Mildred Stafford

Ad Hoc Fire Protection Committee

Greg Guckenburg, Co-Chair
Mildred Stafford, Co-Chair
Judy Kenney
Charlotte Brown
George Stafford
Jody Jones
Bob Miller

Ad Hoc Land Committee

Phinney Ewing
Sandy Weiss
Don Bryant
Dave Foster
John Wood
Fred Kharl

CAR REGISTRATIONS DUE MARCH

NAME

CAREY, JULIE A
 CARLTON, ANN M
 COST, WILLIAM T JR
 DAVIS, RICHARD A
 DAVIS, SHELDON
 DOYLE, JOHN E JR
 DUNN, FLOYD L
 DUNN, FLOYD L
 ELWELL, RICHARD
 FRAHM, SHIRLEY D
 GILES, SAMUEL D
 GUCKENBURG, GREGORY
 GUCKENBURG, MARY L
 HAGAR, BONNIE M
 KENNEY, JUDITH
 LAEMMLE, CLARE M
 MANN, LAURIE
 MCKEEN, KEVIN
 MILLER, ALLEN L
 MILLER, GEORGE F
 MOORE, FRED A
 MOORE, GEORGE
 OCONNOR, JAMIE R
 OLDS, PATRICIA A

OLEARY, ROBERT
 ORR, ETHEL M
 PACKARD, PHILLIP E
 PEABODY, JANE H
 PERKINS, PAUL F
 PINETTE, ALFRED J
 PROCTOR, RONALD
 ROBBINS, KAREN
 SCHLEIN, PAUL B
 SCOTT, BRIAN E
 SHELDON, CATHERINE G
 SHOVER, EVELYN R
 SHUFELT, ERNEST F
 SIMMONS, WILLARD
 STINSON, CARL
 STONE, JOHN F JR
 SULLIVAN, MICHAEL
 TEXTOR, MELISSA J
 WALSH, JOHN
 WOLFE, LYNN B
 WOOD, JOHN
 FOSTER, DAVID + PAUDY

CAR REGISTRATIONS DUE APRIL

NAME

APPEL, JAMES M
 BASSETT, DEBORAH M
 BERTSCHY, MELANE M
 BRAWN, CHARLES W
 BROWN, MICHAEL P
 BROWN STUMP, NANCY E
 BRUMMER, KATHLEEN D
 BUCH, ERIC S
 BURNHAM, SONDRAL
 CAMPBELL, ELIZABETH
 CAREY, ANTONIO
 COLE, C DOUGLAS
 COLLIER, SUSAN J
 DOWNS, FREDERICK
 DOWNS, GEORGIA K
 EDSON, ROBERT W
 GOFORTH, JANET
 GOWELL, MARY
 JORGENSEN, MARK
 KINGSBURY, RICHARD C

LAWRENCE, RACHEL W
 MACLEOD, JAMES K
 MCDONALD, FRANKLIN SR
 MCLUER, JOHN
 MORRISON, HOWARD
 OCONNOR, JAMIE R
 OLEARY, ROBERT
 PELLETIER, ROLANDE
 PINKHAM, MICHAEL D
 SAFFORD, GEORGE
 SMITH, LUCY
 STOEBE, JEFFREY A
 STURGEON, ALFRED
 SULLIVAN, ROSALIE A
 WARNER, LINDA M
 WHITE, JOHN L