

The Arrowsic Arrow

Volume 11, Number 4 Arrowsic, Maine 04530 July, 1996

TOWN VOTES TO KEEP FIRE DEPARTMENT

Town Meeting, 1996, was held in a tent in the Town Hall parking lot with some 130 people and many more mosquitoes in attendance.

Skip Stinson presided as Moderator. Sue Elwell was elected Town Clerk. Greg Guckenburg was elected to a three year term as Selectman. Pat Harcourt was elected to a fourth year as Selectman to complete a term vacated by Brian Scott. Scott resigned after he was elected Fire Chief over David Foster by a 86 to 31 vote. Liz Rollins was elected Tax Collector. Prudence Foster was elected Treasurer. Wendy Briggs was elected to the School Committee. Salaries were fixed at \$23,280, with the Recycling Committee declining their share of \$250.

An article for the town to contract out its fire protection failed with 70 "No" votes to 53 "Yes" votes. Related articles to establish a Fire Protection and Emergency Services Commission and to dissolve the assets of the Fire Department failed as well. Instead, voters approved a \$10,525 operating budget for the Fire Department and an increase this year to \$9000 for its Capital Improvement Fund.

An article requesting \$4,000 for the Selectmen to turn over assessing to an outside assessor was defeated. The

amount to be raised for roads was set at \$66,300 with \$45,000 designated for Route 127 work which voters included despite the Road Commission's recommendation not to do so. Other town service articles, including ambulance, recycling, trash and septage were passed as written as were charitable contributions. All the school articles were approved with \$226,899 coming from taxes. Amy Card was designated the recipient of the town scholarship.

Voters amended articles for routine expenditures including insurance, town report, the auditor's report and utilities to come from surplus funds. But an article to appropriate \$10,000 to the Town Capital Improvement Fund from surplus was defeated. The town pledged \$24,990 to the Patten Free Library Capital Campaign, which is payable over the next five years.

**From the Selectmen, Pat Harcourt,
Chair, 442-8122;**

Melissa Textor, 443-1677;

Greg Guckenburg, 442-8020

We wish to welcome Greg Guckenburg to the Board of Selectmen. With his background in serving our community, he will be an asset to the board.

The Selectmen have scheduled a meeting at 7 p.m. August 19 at the Town Hall with all town officials and

committees to discuss a direction for the town. The meeting is open to all residents.

Several committees are looking for new members. The Selectmen also plan to appoint several new committees. If you are interested, come to the August 19 meeting, or call the Selectmen. We are planning an end of the summer Labor Day picnic for the entire town. We are looking for a site for this gala event, as well as volunteers to help organize. Anyone interested in helping or providing a site or suggestions, please call Pat.

Pat and Greg are out and about on assessing rounds, so don't be startled if you see us.

Town Hall Office Hours:
Wednesdays: 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Fridays: 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

From the Town Clerk, Sue Elwell, 443-5992

Welcome to newborn Franklin E. Markle.

We are looking for help sorting and filing old town records. If you would like to donate some time, please call the Town Clerk.

We are starting to compile a "welcome" booklet with information about various things in Arrowsic. If you have a home business you would like listed, please leave a business card or a write up with the Town Clerk. Also, we would like a babysitting page, so if you are interested, send your name and phone number into the Town Office.

Deer permits are here. You have until August 15, 1996 to apply for one.

From the Road Commission, Jim Stump, Chair, 442-7527

The Road Commission hopes to finalize the names of Arrowsic's roads, to be used in conjunction with the E-911 emergency response system, at its next meeting.

A map showing suggested names for the Town's 34 roads and common driveways was distributed at Town Meeting, and is available at Town Hall. Anyone wishing to comment on these road names is invited to attend the meeting on Saturday, September 7, at 9 a.m.

From the Planning Board, John Wood, Chair. 443-3874

After two site walks and a public hearing, the Planning Board on July 15 granted a conditional use permit to Alexander Bridge to build a 2000' driveway on property now owned by Tony Jackson east of Bald Head Road.

The proposed driveway will cross an intermittent stream and accompanying freshwater wetland in the Resource Protection District. The Board found that no setback was required because the freshwater wetland is smaller than two acres.

The Board did require that any ground disturbance be 100 feet from the saltwater marsh, and that erosion control measures be maintained until permanent vegetative cover is established. The applicant must also obtain a permit from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and from the Army Corps of Engineers if construction occurs between October 2 and July 14.

July, 1990

**From the Registrar of Voters,
Maybelle Sturgeon, 443-8797**

You can register to vote, or change information at the Town Hall during office hours.

Upcoming Meetings

July 23: Conservation Commission, 7 p.m.

Aug. 5: Planning Board, 7 p.m.

Aug. 8: Ladies Auxiliary, 7 p.m.

Aug. 12: Selectmen, 6 p.m.

Aug. 13: Land Committee, 7 p.m.

Aug. 17: Road Commission road tour, 9 a.m.

Aug. 19: Selectmen meeting with Town Committees, 7 p.m.

Aug. 22: Naturally Better Food Co-op, evening

Aug. 26: Selectmen, 6 p.m.

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

I would like to express my appreciation and gratitude to our seven fellow residents on the Fire Protection Committee for their year of hard work and selfless dedication, as I saw none expressed at Town Meeting.

What I saw instead was the chairman of the Selectmen publicly repudiating the committee he and his board had appointed. I saw the committee members maligned as liars and accused of having personal agendas because the facts they presented were not to the liking of those with vested interests in the Fire Department.

I am heartsick that this kind of tone has not only crept into our town politics but now dominates it. As a town, we no longer seem able to have a fair and open debate. We already face a shortage of people willing to serve our community. To be subjected to public humiliation and personal attacks after working so hard for the benefit of the town hurts us all in the long run. Who would want to perform any civic duty if that is the reward?

It is time to speak out, to insist on honesty and fair play. We can agree to disagree, but we must do so in a way that reminds us that we are neighbors, that we share something greater than ourselves, and that is the welfare of our entire community.

Manli Ho.

To the Editor

I wish to applaud the work done by the Arrowsic Fire Protection Committee. I appreciate the hours they dedicated, at the Town's request, to study the difficult and sensitive issue of fire protection for Arrowsic. The committee, made up of people who have acted as Fire Chief and Fire Department members, people who are currently members of the Ladies Auxiliary, and concerned citizens, contends that contracting for fire protection services makes more sense than continuing to struggle with the demanding operation of building up our fire department so that it meets the current safety, legal and liability standards. I, for one, respect the committee's research, and I respect their conclusions. I am sorry that I did not voice my support at Town Meeting.

The Fire Protection Committee did the job assigned to them, and they did it with thoroughness, integrity and a great sense of loyalty to the town. Though we can ask for no more from a committee than that, we then required this committee to absorb our anger and frustrations and discomfort with change, charging them with failure to do their job, and asking them to apologize for disclosures that were in any way noncomplimentary as regards our Fire Department.

If a committee is doing its job, it seems to me that it must look hard at its subject. It must understand and admit to the problems that arise. The fact remains: Arrowsic is small. And because we are small, we cannot have what other communities have without overtaxing our townspeople in money and time and requirements. Some may wish to dig deeper into their pockets to pull out a suitably equipped fire department that we can call Arrowsic, while others of us are saying that this goes deeper than our pockets reach and is bigger than even the collective pocket can reasonably sustain.

Again, I thank the committee for its research and its recommendations. I also thank them for their courage in alerting us to the

challenges that we can look forward to in the future.

Nancy Brown Stump

To the Editor:

I wish to express my respect and gratitude to the members of the Fire Protection Committee whose very thorough and objective work over the last year seems to have been neither publicly acknowledged nor appreciated by the Town as it should have been. Since the Moderator at our recent Town Meeting seemed confused on the ruling for granting a non-resident citizen permission to speak, I did not wish to confuse him further by requesting that I, a resident, but non-citizen, (and a taxpayer), be allowed to speak. Therefore, instead, I am writing what I wished to say.

I believe that two members of the Fire Protection Committee were longterm residents and involved with the Arrowsic Fire Department long before many of the rest of us ever came here. They put aside sentiment in viewing the facts as they found them. In return, they, along with the other members of the committee, were accused of lying, and the indisputable facts that they had presented were dismissed or ignored. The Town chose to vote against their recommendations by the accepted democratic procedure but the way the members of the committee were treated was not acceptable, and as well as some thanks, they are owed an apology.

Erica Wasilewski

To the Editor:

Some of us feel that there was a glaring omission at the Town Meeting. This was the failure to thank the committee that studied the feasibility of maintaining our current Fire Department. This committee worked long and hard at this task and presented a report that was carefully and thoroughly considered. It was even-handed and fair and the Town was very well served by this group.

Their report was apparently not read by many or was dismissed out of hand and the committee vilified, even slandered by those opposing the report. The members of this committee are honorable and respected members of this community, but they were treated (or ignored) in a cavalier manner.

The majority has spoken and we accept the decision to retain a local fire department. However, we wonder how many people will be willing to serve on future Town committees given the treatment these people endured.

Dean and Joan Richardson

Town Treasures

We would like the Arrowsic community to consider declaring Milly and George Stafford "Town Treasures" for their many years of generous and unstinting service in so many capacities.

Dean and Joan Richardson

Babysitting service

Brandon Elwell is available to babysit. He is responsible, good with children and fun. Call 443-5992.

The following letter was sent to the Times Record

To the Editor:

Public meetings have brought out many issues that concern people around the closing of acute care at Midcoast Hospital-Bath. Unfortunately, Midcoast has not satisfactorily answered very many of the questions raised by local town officials, health providers and the general public.

Instead, Midcoast's CEO Herb Paris and his staff have made clear that their motivation is solely profit. We are being asked to support Midcoast in their bid to overturn a court decision which limited the scope of a new Cook's Corner hospital. Winning that appeal, and probably putting Parkview Hospital out of business, is the only way Midcoast says they will build the new hospital.

We ask the Board of Midcoast Hospital to seriously reconsider this decision with not just profit in mind but collaborate with local officials on the long-term and short-term effects on all our communities.

Greg Guckenbug, Pat Harcourt
Selectmen, Town of Arrowsic

Car Registrations July-August

JULY

CONTROL LIST

23010 -

NAME

BARTER, MARLENE
 BASSETT, KENNETH
 BRENNAN, WILLIAM R
 CAMPBELL, ELIZABETH
 COLLIER, SUSAN J
 COST, CORINNE C
 DRAKE, SALLY P
 FOSTER, PRUDENCE
 GEIGER, MARK C
 GIBERSON, KIRK M
 HUDSON, W DONALD JR
 JORGENSEN, MARK
 KENNEY, VIVI M
 KREINDLER, MICHAEL
 LEVESQUE, CLARENCE
 LEVESQUE, CLARENCE
 MCDUGALL, ARTHUR JR
 MCIVER, PAULINE
 MILLER, ELAINE B
 MORRISON, HOWARD
 NICHOLSON, A L
 NICOL, JAMES
 OLDERMAN, RUSS
 PIEH, JEROME
 PINKHAM, MICHAEL D
 PRESBY-BARTER, NORMA
 ROOT, DONALD N
 SIMMONS, CONNIE L
 SKILLINGS COLEMAN, ELIZABETH
 STARBIRD, JOHN JR
 STARBIRD, JOHN S
 STONE, ALBERT
 STONE, GRACE W
 SULLIVAN, ELAINE M
 WARNER, DORIS E
 WARNER, JASON S
 WARNER, JOHN W III

AUGUST

CONTROL

23

NAME

AMES, SYLVIA
 BLAIKLOCK, WILLIAM C
 BURKE, JOHN G
 COLE, CHARLES D
 DUBE, MICHAEL D
 FUTTER, MARGARET E
 HOLBROOK, KIMBERLY
 JONES, JENNIFER B
 KANE, JEAN R
 KANE, JOSEPH A
 KANE, JOSEPH A JR
 KANE, MICHAEL M
 KENNEY, JUDITH
 KICKEN, RUDOLF
 KICKEN, RUDOLF
 KIMBALL, SUSAN C
 LOVEITT, WILBUR
 MACLEOD, JAMES
 MACMAHAN, JOSEPH V
 MAGGS, ROBERT J
 MILLER, JUDITH
 NICHOLSON, ALLISON J
 NICOL, JAMES
 NODINE, ANNIE
 PELLETTIER WALSH, LOUISE
 ROBBINS, KAREN
 SCHLEIN, PAUL B
 SMITH TOLAN, FRANCES C
 STAFFORD, GEORGE F
 STINSON, LUCY E
 SWEARINGEN, RICHARD T
 WEST, BARBARA
 WILLOUGHBY, STEPHEN
 YEATON, GLORIA
 YEATON, GUY M

35