

The Arrowsic Arrow

Town Meeting is Wednesday, June 19, at 6:30 p.m.

Because of the overflow last year, the meeting will be held in a weatherproof tent this year. The tent has sides to keep out bugs and wetness and will be in the Town Hall parking lot toward the Old Stage Road.

Warrant corrections

The following corrections in this year's warrant did not get into the Town Report at publication time.

(Replacing the sections as they now appear in the Town Report:)

Article 10. Ordinance to Establish Fire Protection and Emergency Services Commission

I. C. The Commission shall elect a chairman and a secretary at its first meeting following the annual town meeting.

Article 12. To see if the Town will vote (a) to dissolve the Fire Department Capital Improvement Fund and to transfer the monies therein to the Town of Arrowsic Capital Improvement Fund, (b) to deposit in the latter fund all proceeds from the sale of any assets of the Arrowsic Volunteer Fire Department, and (c) to authorize the Selectmen to take any action they deem necessary to wind up the affairs of the Fire Department including the sale, lease or other dispositions of assets of the Department.

Figures Incorrect

The figures in the **Assessors' Report** on Page 6 of the Town Report which should reflect the 1994-1995 Audit, are incorrect. They are figures for the 1995-1996 tax year, which are unaudited.

Patten Free Library Hearing

A hearing was held May 16 at the Town Hall by Patten Free Library Corporators Sandy Weiss, Ken Textor and Al Stone to discuss and answer questions about the Library's

current building drive. As part of the \$3,000,000 drive, residents of outlying towns, including Arrowsic, are being asked for their support.

In the case of Arrowsic, the Library is asking for a 5 year pledge, beginning with \$4,998 this coming year. The cost to Arrowsic citizens is \$10 per capita each year. Arrowsic is one of the five towns that the Library serves. More than 57 percent of the citizens of these towns hold Library cards. One key service provided by the library has been to schoolchildren, especially after school and on Saturdays.

The growth in the population using the Library in recent years has put increasing demands on its present facilities. The main building is more than 100 years old; more stack space is needed as well as a better Children's Library and Reference section. In addition, Federal law mandates access for the handicapped, including wheelchair access. Bath has pledged \$500,000 and private and institutional donors have already contributed more than \$1,000,000. The drive has already exceeded the halfway mark. Arrowsic's pledge is commensurate with the size of the town and would help augment a vital community service.

Road Commission Hearing

Some 15 residents joined the Road Commission on June 1 for a discussion about paving Bald Head Road.

The Commission's proposed budget includes \$30,000 for paving, originally targeted for the Northerly 0.8 miles of Bald Head Road, between Route 127 and Steen Road. However, a survey of residents

served by the road found about half of them opposed to paving.

Chairman Jim Stump explained that "lacking an overwhelming consensus for change, our intent is to maintain the present character of the road." Subject to the Town's approval, the paving budget will be used instead to upgrade Preble Point and Vail Roads.

Advocates of paving Bald Head Road argued that the Town may be liable for accidents caused by defects in the road. The Commission maintained that a gravel road is not inherently unsafe, and that accidents can best be prevented by reducing speed. The Commission plans to post a "SLOW" sign near the intersection of Bald Head Road and Steen Road, where several vehicles slid off the road last winter.

Also in the warrant is \$45,000 for improvements to Route 127. The Road Commission does not support this expenditure, but has included it in the budget in order to allow the Town to decide.

Fire Protection Hearing

The Ad Hoc Fire Protection Committee held a hearing June 5 at the Town Hall to discuss a proposal to the town to contract for fire protection services with Woolwich. Among the 50 participants were the Selectmen and Fire Chiefs of both towns, the Woolwich Fire Commissioners, and members of the Arrowsic and Georgetown fire departments. Also present was technical services specialist Neil Courtney of Maine Fire Training and Education, who was commissioned by the Selectmen to do a comprehensive study for the town.

The Committee said its recommendation emerged after a year-long study of the town's fire protection services and ways to improve it. Committee Co-Chair Greg Guckenburg reported that manpower problems: the shortage of local volunteers, and inadequate equipment and facilities, which would cost the town nearly \$250,000 to upgrade, led the Committee to the conclusion that a local fire department is not a sustainable option.

Courtney told the meeting that it had been a "tumultuous" year because "it is hard to offer up a department to be dissolved." He said that the "window of risk is very large" with

the present fire department in terms of safety and liability and that Woolwich would be a more capable fire department for the town.

Arrowsic Fire Chief Don Bryant challenged the Committee and Courtney's conclusions, saying that the fire department could upgrade its equipment gradually and not "have to go in for giant changes". He said the upgrade costs estimated by Courtney and the Committee are for "the ideal". According to the Committee and Courtney, the estimates were based on long range plans submitted by Bryant to the Selectmen.

Selectman Brian Scott, a captain in the Arrowsic Fire Department, said losing the fire department "hurts me awful". "There is nothing in this town but the fire department that's got our name on it," he said. "I don't believe that a proper and thorough study was done."

The department has lost 12 out-of-town volunteers this year and morale is very low, according to Assistant Chief Gil Thomas, who is a Woolwich resident. He said the town can't "leave us in limbo. Either support us or do away with us."

Committee Co-Chair Milly Stafford, one of the original fire department members in 1959, said the department has always had trouble with manpower. "We never got enough volunteers in town," she said. "It was our baby for a long time, and I hate like hell to see it go, but I can't see any sense in keeping the poor thing alive any longer."

Questions were raised about Mutual Aid, traffic, and response time should the town contract with Woolwich. Woolwich Fire Chief Don Forbes said that Mutual Aid would still be part of the service since his department has an agreement with both Sagadahoc and Lincoln counties. He said that in the years he has been on the Woolwich Fire Department, and during the last decade as Chief, "We have not had traffic jams which we have not been able to get through." Woolwich covers areas in its own town which are further than Arrowsic and response time has not been a problem, he said.

When asked whether he would absorb Arrowsic's volunteers into his own force, Forbes said the department needs volunteers and receives about three applications a month. However, to become eligible, applicants must meet requirements including

a criminal background check, driving record check, and a physical to determine whether they are physically capable of doing the job. "There is a certain weeding out process," he said. The Arrowsic Fire Department does not have these requirements.

Other questions centered on the timing and specifics of the proposed contract. The Woolwich Fire Department and Fire Commissioners voted on April 28 to recommend to the town that they negotiate a contract with Arrowsic. Woolwich had five committees study the issue and is waiting for Arrowsic to make a decision at Town Meeting. Woolwich is "very open to this," according to Woolwich Selectman Crispin Connery. "This is a courageous issue to

face." The process of negotiating a contract and submitting it to Woolwich voters will follow Arrowsic's decision, he said. "We can come to a collective conclusion," he said. "It will be successful. You will find that we are a very inclusive community."

Among other topics discussed at the meeting were equipment, record keeping, insurance and the State mandate. The Committee, appointed in June 1995 by the Selectmen, also provided a fact sheet which included the following costs in tax dollars of the Arrowsic Fire Department.

The average cost to contract for a town of Arrowsic's size is \$10,000 to \$12,000 a year.

Year	Approp.	Insurance	Utilities	Payroll	Capital Fund	TOTAL
1993-94	8,781.53	3,985	1,276	1,725	6,000	21,767.53
1994-95	7,858.01	3,744	1,000	1,725	6,500	20,827.01
1995-96	8,825	3,650	1,000	1,725	6,000	21,200

School Committee Hearing

School Committee members Jerry Pieh, Don Hudson, Eloise Vitelli and outgoing superintendent Laura Hickey held a hearing on the school budget on June 4 at the Town Hall. Only three others attended. The 1996-97 budget includes an overall decrease of \$500, while the town's share will increase by approximately \$5,000. This paradox is a result of changes in the state's formula.

The Committee pointed out that the school budget is made up primarily of tuition fees paid on a per student basis.

The Committee thanks Don Hudson for his many years of service and is grateful for the flip-chart presentations he developed for town meeting.

A Positive Experience

To the Editor:

I and a lot of people left the Arrowsic Town Hall last June with such a sad feeling and there are still some negative effects from it. I would like to comment on a positive experience a lot of us had at the Town Hall in December.

While I was Town Clerk, Nancy Brown Stump would ask me if my kids would be

interested in being a part of the Christmas performance at the Town Hall. I would say "no," it was bad timing, etc. This year my oldest son got the call from Brea Stump and both of my kids decided to do it. The older kids would rehearse in one place, the younger kids in another. We would all figure out who was going to carpool in which direction. These kids worked hard! They were so excited when it was showtime. The Town Hall was packed. Al Miller did a wonderful skit with the kids. We saw two great performances. And then the Arrowsic singers entertained us and they were great. After all of this, we had snacks and enjoyed everyone's company. My hat is off to all of the adults who helped these kids, you know who you are. I don't want to try to list them, I'd miss somebody. To all of the performers, you were wonderful. It was an inspiration to know that we can fill the Town Hall and it can be a positive experience. If you hear about a children's performance next December, go and get there early. We can all learn from these kids.

Thank you,
Ann Carlton

Candidate for Town Clerk

To Arrowsic residents:

Since taking over for Jane Peabody as town clerk in October, I have met many of you. I am enjoying the clerk job and would like to continue for another year. I have taken several training courses the State of Maine holds. I have appreciated the patience townspeople have shown me as I have tried to grasp the duties of town clerk.

I have received great support from the selectpersons, previous town clerks and many residents for which I am continually grateful. Thank you!

Sue Elwell

Candidate for Tax Collector

To Arrowsic residents:

My name is **Elizabeth Rollins** and I propose to run for the position of tax collector, which I understand will be open in June.

Having lived in Arrowsic for the past 12 years, I feel I have the interest and the time necessary to devote to this position. I also have experience in office administration and business management. If I am elected, I would plan to attend the required workshops so that we could again register our vehicles in Arrowsic rather than having to go to Georgetown or Woolwich. I would welcome your support.

From the Codes Officer

It's that time of year again, when people start to think about yard work and home improvements.

Some projects don't need a permit, while most do. All structures must meet the setback requirement for your specific area. Shoreland and Resource Protection have the most strict requirements of all, while Rural Residential I and II have different requirements. Check with me at 443-2114 before you start any project on your property.

If I am not here leave a short message on the answering machine and I will call you back. Don't be like the guy from the West Coast who left his address and not his phone number. I don't have regular hours at the Town Hall because there isn't enough business to require it.

Dave Foster, Codes Officer and Local Plumbing Inspector #780

Food Drive Results

Our mailman, **George**, would like to thank one and all for participating in the Post Office Food Drive this year. Arrowsic and Georgetown donated 800 pounds of food. The only town in the 045 zip code area (which includes 50 towns) that surpassed this amount was Wiscasset, with a population that is bigger than our two towns combined. Good work!

Senior Spectrum Services

Senior Spectrum offers many services for Arrowsic seniors including Meals on Wheels, activity centers and home care. For more information, call 1(800) 639-1553.

Early Morning Walk

Are you an early riser? Do you enjoy stimulating conversation? Have you put off exercising? If you have answered "Yes!" to these questions, please join Pat Harcourt and myself on our morning walks. We leave the Town Hall at 5:30 a.m. and returned around 6:30 a.m. to 6:45 a.m. Call Sue Elwell at 443-5992

Groundwater Research Talk

Stephen Mabee, a hydrogeologist, will present the results of his research on groundwater in Georgetown at 7 p.m. July 8 at the Georgetown Central School. Sponsored by the Georgetown Conservation Commission, the talk will be about bedrock wells, watersheds, salt water intrusion and problems associated with sole source aquifers. For information, call 371-2575.