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2020

## Hope Maine Annual Town Report 2020

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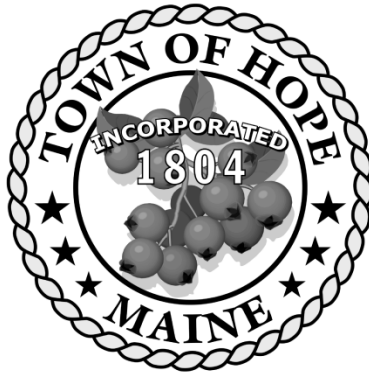
# Town of Hope

## 2020 Annual Report

# Town of Hope

Knox County

Maine



## 2020 Annual Report

July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019 Financial Reports

June 2020 Annual Town Meeting Referendum

*Cover: Hobbs Pond  
Photo by Molly Luce*

**Mary Tolles**

The year was 2004 and I had been a Hope resident for six years. I received a message from a friend in Vermont, telling me that she knew about the woman hired by the Town of Hope to be our bookkeeper. (Mary had chosen Hope after visiting a college friend here, while riding her bicycle across the United States.)

My friend said, "This Mary is no ordinary bookkeeper. She's a Certified Public Accountant and a Systems Analyst, and has enough experience to be the Chief Financial Officer of a large corporation." Hope, Maine had gotten lucky.

Shortly after meeting Mary I said "I've heard about you". We shared a laugh about her friend and my friend being friends. Then she got back to work.

Little did I know, that in 16 years, I would be taking over her job.

They were tough shoes to fill and Mary knew that. The awareness was revealed by the fact that she had given the Town 2-1/2 years notice of her retirement.

By December 2019, someone was finally hired, but he only lasted a week. Then a second hire and a third hire both resigned before starting, citing better offers.

Eventually I would become the 4<sup>th</sup> person hired. I started on February 28, one business day before the primary election, two weeks before the shutdown.

Mary retired on May 13<sup>th</sup> of this memorable year, after sharing as much about her knowledge, as one can do over the phone in a socially distanced world.

Her systems are a marvel to behold for someone like me, who loves that kind of thing, and her practical learning approach has served Hope beyond measure.

Mary knew how to set up tasks so that she could find mistakes. "Everyone makes mistakes," she would say, "the trick is finding them."

I would solve some new problem, only to present it to Mary and get "Yes, but how is that going to look to the auditor?", "You need to reconcile that." Or, "But it's not GAAP."

GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles) are the rules that, when followed, allow us to say, "We are confident in this number, it's backed up by this data, and if we're not sure, this is how we check it."

And accounting was only the half of what Mary did. On top of being Hope's Bookkeeper, Mary wore a multitude of mostly invisible hats that I'm only now I am starting to understand. I often would discover some little gem of a file or system that she had quietly created to help herself accomplish her many jobs.

So here I sit, knowing that whatever I write for a dedication to the legendary Mary Tolles, will not do her justice.

(Especially since one of her jobs was The Hope Town Report which she received 10 awards in 16 years for hers from The Maine Municipal Association. I found them in a drawer so I am sure that few even knew about all of them.)



She had awards from the Maine Municipal Association for Hope's Town Reports from 2004, 2005, 2013, 2014 (Supreme), 2009, 2015, 2017 (Superior), 2010, 2011 and 2019 (Excellence). That's 10 awards in 16 years, and nobody knew.

We wish Mary Tolles a beautiful retirement and that we will miss her, and her dedication to her craft. Thank you, Mary.

Her last day at the Hope Town Office was May 13th. Her first day was 16 years earlier, in the era of Florance Merrifield and Bob Peabody. Three Town Administrators and five Town Clerks later, Mary persisted. (The contents of this Town Report were curated, compiled, checked, double checked, and edited by Mary Tolles.)

Bill Brewer said, "you're lucky to have 'a Mary' and your audit fee is one-third of what it would be if you didn't have her.

Fast forward to the end of February and this same Mary starts to train me to do her job which I began to learn. The Town Report, that starts as soon as one year goes to press (There's a 10-page checklist). There's a 20-page checklist for the accounting year. Mary does the quarterly reports for the selectmen and everyone knew that whoever replaced her would probably not have that level of accounting sophistication such as myself.

So the Town has hired an accounting firm to help the Bookkeeper to aid in the things that Mary did for 16 years.

The Accountants who did the Town Audit knew and said to the Selectmen years ago, "because you have Mary, this annual audit costs \$8,000 instead of \$25,000."

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**STATE AND FEDERAL  
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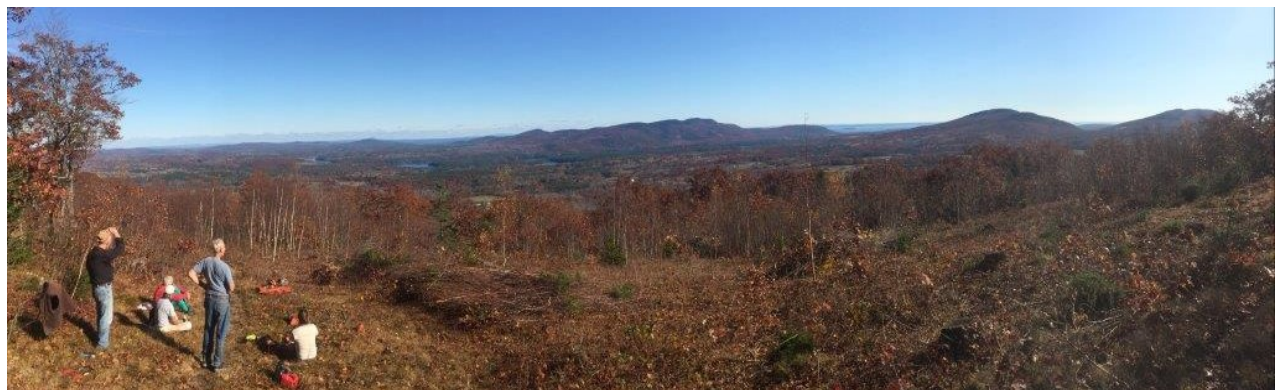
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Hatchet Mountain Panorama

*photo courtesy of Coastal Mountains Land Trust*

**MUNICIPAL OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES****ADMINISTRATION**

## Selectmen, Assessors &amp; Overseers of the Poor

Wendy Pelletier.....	term expires 2020
Sarah Ann Smith, Vice-Chair .....	term expires 2020
Brian Powers, Jr., Chair .....	term expires 2021
Bruce Haffner .....	term expires 2022
Thomas Ingraham .....	term expires 2022
Town Administrator, GA Administrator, Treasurer .....	Samantha Mank
Town Clerk, Tax Collector, Deputy Treasurer, Election Warden .....	Alexenia Payor
Registrar of Voters, Deputy Town Clerk, Bookkeeper.....	Langley Willauer
Assessors' Agent.....	Vern Ziegler
Addressing Officer.....	Clarence Keller
Election Clerks (terms expire 2020) .....	Bradley Boyd, Richard Crabtree, Mary Jane Doubleday, Nancy Ford, Elinor Goldberg, Donna Griffith, Sydney Hall, Margaret Ludwig, Hannah Sisk, Brittany Spear

**FINANCE**

## Budget Committee:

Elinor Goldberg .....	term expires 2020
James Guerra.....	term expires 2020
William Pearce, Jr .....	term expires 2020
William Jones.....	term expires 2021
Betty Ingraham.....	term expires 2022
Charles Weidman.....	term expires 2022
Theresa Withee .....	term expires 2022

## Knox County Budget Committee Member (District 5 Representative):

Robert Duke, Jr. ....	term expires 2020
-----------------------	-------------------

**EDUCATION**

Superintendent – School Union 69 (K-8) .....Dianne Helprin

## School Committee:

Emily Burgess, Chair .....	term expires 2020
Sarah Gilbert .....	term expires 2020
Jude Masseur.....	term expires 2020
Timothy Lock.....	term expires 2021
Jacob Eichenlaub .....	term expires 2022

## Five Town Community School District Committee Member (Hope Representative):

Brooks Crane .....	term expires 2020
--------------------	-------------------

**PUBLIC WORKS**

Road Commissioner:

John Monroe .....term expires 2020

Representatives to Mid-Coast Solid Waste Board of Directors

Michael Brown.....term expires 2020

Wendy Pelletier.....term expires 2022

**PUBLIC SAFETY**

Emergency Management Director ..... Clarence Keller

Fire Chief, Fire Warden ..... Clarence Keller

Volunteer Firefighters:

Leonard Ames, Assistant Chief

Christopher Brown

Jeff Connon

Brad Dodge

Michael Eaton, Deputy Chief

Jacob Eichenlaub

Dan Ford

Richard Hawkins, Safety Officer

Fred Holbrook

Matthew Hunt

Curtis Kozielec

Alex Ludwig

Michael Mank

Mary McGregor

Scott Nelson

Brian Payson

David Peabody

Everett Perry

Scott Porter

Ginny Ryan

Charles Weidman

Dana Winchenbach

Kim Young

Junior Volunteer Firefighters:

Sylvan Eichenlaub

Kendra Merrill

Farin Weidman

Hope Volunteer Fire Department Life Members:

Wayne Berry

Mary Holmes

Sydney Mank

Chris Pearse

Ray Sisk

Ronald Wright

Representatives to Ambulance Review Committee:

Richard Crabtree

Sarah Ann Smith

Health Officer ..... Edward Steele

Animal Control Officer ..... Heidi Blood

**PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

Code Enforcement Officer/Local Plumbing Inspector ..... Samantha Mank

## Planning Board:

Jessica Snyder .....term expires 2020  
 Juanita Hunt .....term expires 2021  
 Lewis Merrifield .....term expires 2021  
 Langley Willauer, Chair.....term expires 2021  
 Harold Mosher, Co-Chair .....term expires 2022  
 John Fallows .....term expires 2023  
 Robert Hall, Jr., Secretary.....term expires 2024

## Board of Appeals/Board of Assessment Review:

John Jensen .....term expires 2020  
 Ronald Wright.....term expires 2021  
 Steven Bowman, Vice-Chair .....term expires 2022  
 Nancy Ford.....term expires 2022  
 VACANT .....term expires 2023  
 Mary Ireland, Secretary .....term expires 2024  
 Brian Powers, Sr. ....term expires 2024

**COMMUNITY**

## Cemetery Committee:

Mary Berry .....term expires 2020  
 Jodi Saastamoinen.....term expires 2020  
 Brittany Payson.....term expires 2021  
 Cynthia DellaPenna .....term expires 2022  
 Michael True .....term expires 2021

Cemetery Sexton..... Beth Gindel

## Recreation Committee:

Richard Bresnahan .....term expires 2019  
 Marie Berry .....term expires 2019  
 VACANT .....term expires 2019  
 VACANT .....term expires 2019  
 Todd Snyder.....term expires 2020

## Solar Committee:

Richard Bresnahan  
 David Hall  
 Thomas Ingraham  
 William Jones

Timothy Lock  
 Chris Pinchbeck, Chair  
 Ron Smith

**ELECTED OFFICIALS****State Representative – House District #95 William Pluecker**

## State House Contact Information:

2 State House Station  
 Augusta, ME 04333-0002  
 207-287-1400  
 1-800-423-2900 (message phone)

[Bill.Pluecker@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:Bill.Pluecker@legislature.maine.gov)

<http://legislature.maine.gov/house/house/MemberProfiles/Details/1383>

## Home Contact Information:

1133 Finntown Road  
 Warren, ME 04864  
 207-273-3044

**State Senator – State District #12**

## State House Contact Information:

3 State House Station  
 Augusta, ME 04333-0003  
 207-287-1515  
 800-423-6900 (messages)  
 207-287-1583 (TTY)

[www.legislature.maine.gov/District-12](http://www.legislature.maine.gov/District-12)

**David Miramant**

## Home Contact Information:

174 Mountain Street  
Camden, ME 04843  
 207-236-4845

[David.Miramant@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:David.Miramant@legislature.maine.gov)

**U.S. Senator Susan Collins**

413 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
 Washington, DC 20510-1904  
 202-224-2523 (Wash. D.C. office)  
 207-622-8414 (Augusta, ME office)  
[www.collins.senate.gov](http://www.collins.senate.gov)

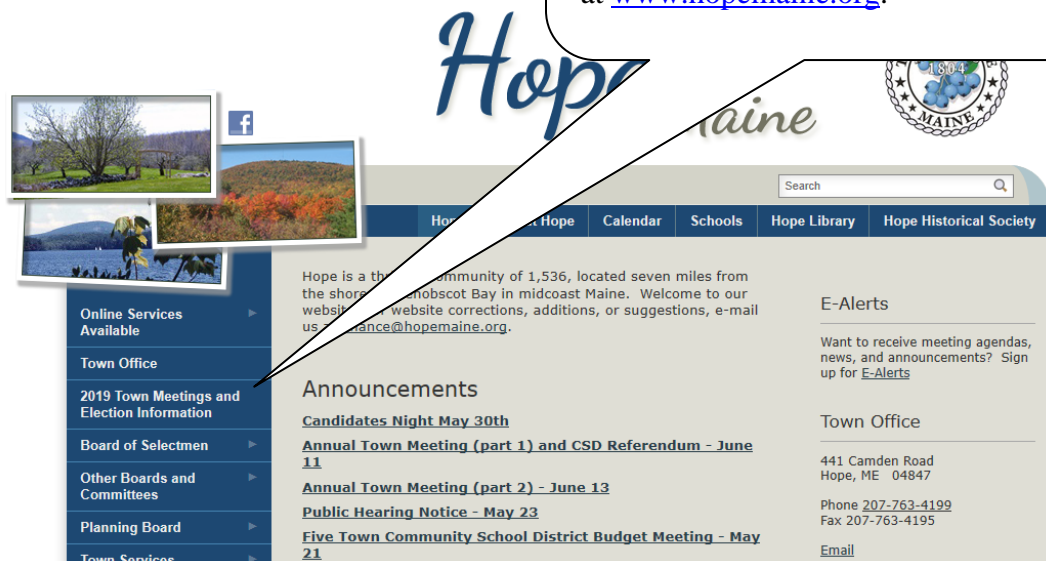
**U.S. Senator Angus King**

133 Hart Senate Office Building  
 Washington, DC 20510-1905  
 202-224-5344 (Wash. D.C. office)  
 207-622-8292 (Augusta, ME office)  
[www.king.senate.gov](http://www.king.senate.gov)

**U.S. Representative Chellie Pingree**

2162 Rayburn House Office Building  
 Washington, DC 20515  
 202-225-6116  
 Portland, Maine office – 207-774-5019  
[www.pingree.house.gov](http://www.pingree.house.gov)

Want to see a sample ballot before an election? They are posted at least seven days before each election at the Town Office, Hope Elementary School, Hope General Store, Pushaw's Trading Post, and at [www.hopemaine.org](http://www.hopemaine.org).



## CHAIR

Brian Powers, Jr

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

A year ago, the Selectmen of Hope could not have imagined what 2020 would have in store for the citizens of Hope, the State of Maine, The United States, and every other country on the planet. As I write this, we are still in the middle of the world-wide COVID-19 health pandemic. Schools are closed, businesses across the globe are shut down, and most people have paused or stopped working in some way. It is the first time in anyone's recollection that our government told the people of America not to go to work! These are certainly uncharted waters for everyone. The term "social distancing" is now common language and Zooming has a completely new meaning. Hopefully, a year from now this unprecedented event will be a distant memory, and I will be writing about all the positive things that have happened since.

In the meantime, we on the Select Board have tried to keep tabs on the pulse of the citizens of Hope. Starting with the elderly, we have reached out to make sure all of their daily needs are met and that nobody is left out. Making sure people are well fed and that their medical needs are met has been the top priority for the Selectmen. We could only accomplish this with the help of many local volunteers who have stepped up and put others first. This is one of the reasons I live here: neighbors helping neighbors is a way of life in Hope. The people of Hope are not just "HIP," they are KIND, COMPASSIONATE, and truly care about others. We are lucky to live in such a town.

As of today, there are still many unknowns. Will there be a normal Town Meeting? Will we be able to vote in person? Will schools be able to resume normal functions this fall? These are just a few of the challenges we are facing. In addition, we realize that many peoples' economic situations have changed, and the Town's ability to pay for normal everyday protocol may be impacted. At this time, we expect some of our State funding may also be cut due to lower tax revenues received by the State. Therefore, we are taking precautions on how to proceed with spending. The good news on this dim outlook is that our Town Fund balance (savings account) is robust, and our new town investment strategy is somewhat on par, even in these down economic times. We will make every attempt to make sure that citizens' taxes stay as flat as possible and only carry increases where we have no choice.

One of the potential increases in our municipal budget is plowing and sanding. At this time, we still do not have a contract for the coming year. This situation has been a heavily debated topic for the past several months. We will exhaust all avenues to keep costs down for the taxpayer; hopefully, a decision will come soon. However, if huge increases continue, we may have to seek other options down the road. We have put out a call for volunteers to start up a Roads Advisory Committee. This was normal protocol several years ago but somehow fell by the wayside. We hope getting a group back together again to work with the Road Commissioner will help with long-term planning. Anyone with experience and interest in our roads should contact the Town Office.

One of the few bright spots this year has been the completion and implementation of Hope's municipal solar array. This project took well over a year from start to finish, and



many people both young and old worked tirelessly to see it through! We now have the sun helping to power our municipal buildings and change the way we heat and cool them as well. This was done with the help of a generous donation that replaced oil- and propane-fired equipment with electric heat pumps, powered by the array. We hope the long-term benefits of this system will help carry the town forward to a healthier planet while saving the taxpayers money.

In addition, we entered into a lease agreement at the beginning of the school year to rent space in our Town Office to the Sweetland School of Hope. This was exciting to get kids doing schoolwork back in the “old” Hope School. The venture has worked out so well that we have extended the agreement for the upcoming year. Having school-age kids in the building again has brightened the day for so many, including our office staff who have had nothing but praise for the program and the attitude and behavior of the students. The building likes having kids back in it.

Before the global pandemic, the Selectmen authorized a Broadband Committee to start looking at options for town-wide, high-speed internet service. They were off and running and then got slowed down by the current health crisis. However, if there is a positive that has come out of this pandemic, it is the fact that now more than ever people need good internet service. With more people having to work at home and kids using it for all of their schoolwork, it is very apparent that good internet is not an option, it is a must. We are hoping that around this time next year our town’s internet service will be much different than it is today.

There have been several changes with key personnel in the town. New Select Board members Thomas Ingraham and Bruce Haffner have brought fresh ideas and perspectives to the town. Our rookie-of-the-year town clerk Chelsea Summers has moved on, but we were lucky that her sister, Alexenia Payor, was the best and well-qualified replacement. Mary Tolles, our 16-year town bookkeeper, has sadly-for-us retired, but her replacement, Langley Willauer, has stepped in nicely. We are sad for the departures and wish everyone the best, but we are happy to have the current staff in the office. We also want to give Samantha Mank a big thank you for all that she does and how well she maintains her composure and positive attitude even on days when things don’t go as planned. Samantha has exceeded our expectations and we are lucky to have her as our employee. Hopefully, she will be here for years to come!

Finally, our long-time Select Board member Wendy Pelletier decided not to run this year. Wendy’s nine years of service to the Town has been a huge positive for the people of Hope. Wendy has set the bar high when it has come to serving the citizens of Hope. She has rarely missed a meeting and taken the task of working for the town to new levels. The people of Hope got a true bargain when they elected her to serve them. Thank you, Wendy, and hopefully you will soon come back to the town in some capacity.

Finally, it has been a pleasure to serve the people of Hope. We as a Board try to put the town’s best interests first, and collectively figure out the path to get us there. We wish good health and happiness to all, and hope the year ahead brings new and positive stories to Hope. Stay well.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR  
Samantha Mank



## TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

July 1, 2019 began our new fiscal year in Hope. The Board of Selectmen welcomed two new members, Thomas Ingraham and Bruce Haffner but had to say goodbye to Mike Brown and Dick Crabtree. Thank you, gentlemen, for your service to the Town.

The Selectmen met with Lindsay Pinchbeck and began leasing space at the Town Office for the Sweet Tree School Middle School students. It was very nice to have the space that had originally been used as a school to once again be purposed for education.

The Solar Project that would provide solar electricity to the Town Office, Hope Corner Fire Station, and the South Hope Fire Station received an enormous boost when a generous donation of heat pumps for all three buildings was made by Hope Solar LLC. Once the DEP approved the plan to install the array in True Park, and the final approval and permitting was received by the Board of Selectmen and Planning Board, the project went “live” and is now providing solar power to the municipal buildings. The Solar Project had several steps to go through and many people and committees to get it over the finish line. Many thanks to all who participated including the Selectmen, The Solar Committee, students from Sweet Tree School, residents who showed up for the many meetings, ReVision Energy, Cordija (who conducted the energy audit on the facilities), the Planning Board, Hope Solar LLC, all who made private donations to offset costs, and all the others who may not be listed.... Again, Thank You!

Broadband/Fiber Optic Internet service discussions began in February 2020 with a meeting with LCI/Lincolnvile Telephone. Many residents attended the meeting and were encouraged at the possibility that all of Hope could have access to high speed internet. On March 10<sup>th</sup>, the Selectmen appointed an ad hoc Broadband Committee consisting of Allie Feener, Duane Wright, Melissa Hall, Regina Rooney, James Hancox, Kate Bracher, Dieter Weber, Barbara Mason, Alexandra Ruby, Linda Moran, Michael Kelley, Ellie Goldberg, Bruce Haffner, and Thom Ingraham, to assist in getting 100% access to high speed broadband internet to each current and future resident and parcel available in the Town of Hope as directed by the Board of Selectmen.

The Town Office staff has also had a significant turnover. Mary Tolles, the Town's Bookkeeper (*and much more*), made plans to retire effective April 1<sup>st</sup>. We began searching for her replacement in October allowing for ample on-the-job training time with Mary. After four rounds of advertising, resume reviews and interviews, Langley Willauer accepted the position and began work on February 28, 2020.

Chelsea Summers was awarded the Town Clerk Rookie of the Year award on September 10, 2019. Apparently, the people in the Town of Hope were not the only ones who realized her talents and value as she was soon offered a position in another local town at the Assistant Town Administrator. Chelsea's last day was January 17, 2020. After poring over several resumes and conducting interviews for every single applicant, Alexenia Payor accepted the position as Hope's new Town Clerk and began working on January 21, 2020.

For the first time in twenty years, Maine participated in the Presidential Primary on Super Tuesday, March 3, 2020. Allie had worked a total of 23 days and Langley who had worked a total of one day, were thrust into conducting a major election. Mary was still here and with her help, the staff did an amazing job! One and a half weeks later, everything changed.

On March 15, 2020, Governor Mills declared a Civil State of Emergency virtually closing down the State of Maine amid growing concerns and cases of the Covid-19 Coronavirus. The Hope Town Office closed to in-person, in-the-building transactions. The staff rotated to only one person in the office at a time while trying to offer curb-side service. Selectmen's meetings were conducted via Zoom as were all other meetings. The budget process ground to a complete halt.

Mary extended her retirement by a month in order to help the new bookkeeper remotely handle his duties. On May 15<sup>th</sup>, she officially retired.

As we navigated this new normal, a team of residents that have been called "Hope Help" made personal phone calls to folks who could be considered in the "at risk" group, to offer some help if there were any unmet needs. It is so wonderful to residents helping and showing concern for each other.

With certain restrictions in place, we were able to re-open the Town Office for full service on June 9, 2020.

Unfortunately, we were not able to have our traditional Town Meeting, but we did provide an opportunity for every warrant article to be voted on at the polls which resulted in a record number of residents providing a vote and having a say in town affairs.

Things have certainly changed. Now we conduct business through a plexiglass shield, and everyone is wearing a facemask. We stand six feet away from our neighbors and handshaking has almost been eliminated. But even so, Hope is resilient and strong.

Thank you all for another year as your Town Administrator. It continues to be a great privilege...

TOWN CLERK  
Alexenia Payor



**TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**  
July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019

**Vital Statistics**

Number of births	15
Number of marriages	10
Number of deaths	15

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Date of Death</u></b>	<b><u>Place of Death</u></b>	<b><u>Age</u></b>
George Donald Benson	August 17, 2018	Rockport	83
Scott William Huber	September 18, 2018	Hope	17
Keith Arthur Olson	September 23, 2018	Rockport	65
Donald Everett Holbrook, Sr.	October 22, 2018	Portland	79
Sharon Lee Wadsworth	November 18, 2018	Rockport	70
Kolby Howard Adams	November 28, 2018	Liberty	9
Alicia Ellen Niles	December 26, 2018	Rockport	58
Leslie Arthur Green	January 23, 2019	Rockport	68
Burrill Covell Landers	February 22, 2019	Hope	85
Dora Jean Ettlinger	March 5, 2019	Hope	68
Janet Lorraine Pease	March 24, 2019	Rockport	87
Paul Eugene Marshall	April 20, 2019	Hope	94
Roberta Marie Staples	June 3, 2019	Rockport	89
Douglas Stanhope Durkee	June 26, 2019	Rockport	93
Joel Edward Morse	June 30, 2019	Rockland	81

<b><u>Town Fees Collected</u></b>	<b><u>FY2016</u></b>	<b><u>FY2017</u></b>	<b><u>FY2018</u></b>	<b><u>FY2019</u></b>
Auto Excise Tax	\$315,462	\$323,853	\$333,766	\$337,921
Boat Excise Tax	3,649	3,598	3,544	3,775
Building Permits	7,589	8,752	13,621	7,961
Plumbing Permits	2,985	2,951	4,394	3,305
Motor Vehicle Agent Fees	5,712	5,865	5,896	5,911
Recreational Vehicle Agent Fees	341	324	349	290
Photocopies	99	129	88	102
Copies of Vital Records	524	563	842	1,025
Marriage Licenses	216	328	424	436
Planning Board	150	250	500	0
Sale of Maps and Publications	130	168	92	62
Inland Fisheries & Wildlife Agent Fees	338	335	249	241
Dog License Fees	1,759	1,433	2,190	1,450
Returned Check Charges	60	100	90	30
Sale of Cemetery Lots	1,400	400	2,000	1,600
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$340,414</b>	<b>\$349,049</b>	<b>\$368,045</b>	<b>\$364,109</b>

**State Fees Collected and Sent to State**

Bureau of Motor Vehicles	\$121,150	\$122,498	\$125,008	\$130,102
Inland Fisheries & Wildlife	17,956	17,161	18,987	15,223
Dog Licenses	989	1,163	1,170	1,392
Plumbing Permits	1,175	1,149	1,834	1,361
Vital Records	108	120	149	186
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$141,378</b>	<b>\$142,091</b>	<b>\$147,148</b>	<b>\$148,264</b>

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS  
Langley Willauer



### REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

Hope residents who are eligible to vote may register at the Town Office during regular business hours or at the polls on Election Day. Proof of residency is required at the time of registration. If this is your first time registering to vote in Maine, you must also bring proof of identification, such as a driver's license or other photo ID. You may register to vote when you register your vehicle at a branch office of the Bureau of Motor Vehicles. You may register by mail with a card supplied by the Secretary of State, but you must enclose a copy of your driver's license. Seventeen-year-olds may register to vote if they will be eighteen before the next Election Day. Only registered voters may vote at Town Meetings and at the polls per 30-A M.R.S.A. § 2524(1).

To vote in a primary election or participate in a caucus, you must be enrolled in a political party. If you are unenrolled, you may enroll in a party at any time, including caucus day or election day. However, if you are changing parties, you must do so at least 15 days before that party's caucus or primary. You may file a request to change or withdraw party enrollment only after three months of enrollment in one of the three recognized political parties in Maine – Democratic, Green Independent, or Republican. Please note that although some unenrolled candidates and voters choose to designate themselves as "Independent," there is no Independent Party in Maine.

In Maine, a registered voter may vote by absentee ballot for any reason. Absentee ballots are available 30 days before an election, and voters can request a ballot in person at the Town Office, by mail, by phone, or on the internet from the Secretary of State's website. There is a link to that site at [www.hopemaine.org](http://www.hopemaine.org). Immediate family members may request a ballot on behalf of a family member in person or by mail.

1,228	Registered voters as of June 30, 2018
92	Names added
(57)	Names removed – moved
<u>(12)</u>	Names removed – deceased
<u>1,251</u>	Registered voters as of June 30, 2019

#### Registered Voters as of June 30, 2019

426	Democratic
52	Green Independent
390	Republican
<u>383</u>	Unenrolled
<u>1,251</u>	Total registered voters

**HOPE PROFILE**

Population per 2010 census	1,536
Area in acres	15,232
Area in square miles	23.8
Miles of Town roads	18.24
Miles of State Aid roads	14.31
Miles of State Highway	1.94
Registered voters as of June 30, 2019	1,251
Property valuation base as of April 1, 2019	\$205,030,850
Number of land parcels as of April 1, 2019	1,230
Number of Homestead Exemptions as of April 1, 2019	503
Number of acres classified under Tree Growth Tax Law	2,071
Number of acres classified under Farmland Tax Law	4,196
Number of acres classified under Open Space Tax Law	137
2019-2020 tax rate per \$1000 of valuation (mil rate)	\$16.70
Certified assessment ratio	100%



Proud loon parents, Lermond Pond

*photo by L. Purinton*

**WILLIAM H. BREWER***Certified Public Accountant**858 Washington Street**P.O. Box 306**Bath, Maine 04530**(207) 443-9759**(207) 563-5495*

## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

Board of Selectmen  
Town of Hope  
Hope, Maine

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, and each major fund of the Town of Hope, as of and for the years ended June 30, 2019 and 2018, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Town'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. 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 the 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, business-type activities, and each major fund of the Town of Hope as of June 30, 2019 and 2018, and the respective changes in financial position, and where applicable, cash flows thereof for the years 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; Budgetary Comparison Schedule; General Fund; Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards; Schedule of Town's Proportionate Share of Net Pension Liability; and Schedule of Town Contributions information be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a 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 an 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 Town of Hope's basic financial statements. The introductory section and the combining and individual nonmajor fund financial statements are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the financial statements.

The combining and individual nonmajor fund financial statements are the responsibility of management and were derived from and relate directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the 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 to 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 nonmajor fund financial statements are fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

The introductory and statistical sections have not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, accordingly, we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on them.



Bath, Maine

September 24, 2019

An independent audit of the Town's financial statements was performed for the year ended June 30, 2019, by the accounting firm of William H. Brewer, 858 Washington Street, Bath, ME 04530. The complete audit report, including the opinion thereon, is available for inspection at the Town Office during normal business hours. These two pages contain the audit opinion. The following five pages have been excerpted from the audit report. A complete copy of the audit can also be found in the Finances section at [www.hopemaine.org](http://www.hopemaine.org).

Exhibit A

TOWN OF HOPE  
STATEMENTS OF NET POSITION  
JUNE 30, 2019 AND 2018

	GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS	BUSINESS-TYPE ACTIVITIES	2019 TOTAL	2018 TOTAL
<b>ASSETS AND DEFERRED OUTFLOWS</b>				
<b>CURRENT ASSETS:</b>				
Cash (Note B)	\$ 728,222	\$ -	\$ 728,222	\$ 1,313,228
Investments (Note N)	653,389		653,389	-
Accounts Receivable (Note C)	73,468	4,113	77,581	60,421
Taxes Receivable	157,517		157,517	116,610
Tax Liens	43,998		43,998	39,557
Inventory		3,146	3,146	5,769
Due From Other Funds		2,830	2,830	1,163
Prepaid Expenses	3,262		3,262	25,745
Total Current Assets	<u>\$ 1,659,856</u>	<u>\$ 10,089</u>	<u>\$ 1,669,945</u>	<u>\$ 1,562,493</u>
<b>PROPERTY, PLANT, AND EQUIPMENT:</b>				
Net Property, Plant, and Equipment (Note I)	3,772,785		3,772,785	3,966,206
<b>DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES:</b>				
Related to Pension	78,607		78,607	56,023
Total Assets and Deferred Outflows	<u>\$ 5,511,248</u>	<u>\$ 10,089</u>	<u>\$ 5,521,337</u>	<u>\$ 5,584,722</u>
<b>LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS, AND NET POSITION</b>				
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES:</b>				
Notes and Bonds Payable (Note D)	\$ 36,831	\$ -	\$ 36,831	\$ 70,165
Accounts Payable - Trade	20,943		20,943	22,911
Accrued Wages	183,686	680	184,366	168,065
Other Accrued Expenses	230,136		230,136	107,691
Due To Other Funds	2,830		2,830	1,163
Total Current Liabilities	<u>\$ 474,426</u>	<u>\$ 680</u>	<u>\$ 475,106</u>	<u>\$ 369,995</u>
<b>LONG-TERM LIABILITIES:</b>				
Pension Liability	\$ 50,402	\$ -	\$ 50,402	\$ 22,616
Notes and Bonds Payable - Net of Current Portion (Note D)	184,155		184,155	220,986
Total Long-Term Liabilities	<u>\$ 234,557</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 234,557</u>	<u>\$ 243,602</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ 708,983</u>	<u>\$ 680</u>	<u>\$ 709,663</u>	<u>\$ 613,597</u>
<b>DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES:</b>				
Related to Pension	\$ 18,100	\$ -	\$ 18,100	\$ 33,635
<b>NET POSITION:</b>				
Net Invested in Capital Assets	\$ 3,542,354	\$ -	\$ 3,542,354	\$ 3,857,220
Restricted for:				
Nonspendable Perpetual Care	21,905		21,905	21,425
Capital Projects	118,670		118,670	115,770
Other Purposes	346,350		346,350	290,426
Unrestricted	754,886	9,409	764,295	652,649
Total Net Position	<u>\$ 4,784,165</u>	<u>\$ 9,409</u>	<u>\$ 4,793,574</u>	<u>\$ 4,937,490</u>
Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows, and Net Position	<u>\$ 5,511,248</u>	<u>\$ 10,089</u>	<u>\$ 5,521,337</u>	<u>\$ 5,584,722</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements

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Exhibit B

TOWN OF HOPE  
STATEMENTS OF NET POSITION  
JUNE 30, 2019 AND 2018

FUNCTIONS/PROGRAMS	EXPENSES	PROGRAM REVENUES				NET (EXPENSE) REVENUE AND CHANGE IN NET POSITION			
		CHARGES FOR SERVICES	OPERATING GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS	GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES	BUSINESS-TYPE ACTIVITIES	2019 TOTAL	2018 TOTAL		
Primary Government:									
Governmental Activities:									
General Government	\$ 513,788	\$ 20,872	\$ 300	\$ (492,616)	\$ -	\$ (492,616)	\$ (459,168)		
Public Safety	145,761		500	(145,261)		(145,261)	(109,667)		
Public Works	513,241		34,476	(478,765)		(478,765)	(454,679)		
Sanitation	52,462			(52,462)		(52,462)	(52,215)		
Culture and Recreation	6,231			(6,231)		(6,231)	(4,400)		
Education	3,680,439	1,600	980,966	(2,699,473)		(2,699,473)	(2,615,532)		
Cemeteries	6,441			(4,841)		(4,841)	(1,718)		
Interest	9,912			(9,912)		(9,912)	(12,581)		
Intergovernmental on Behalf Payments	144,506		144,506	-		-			
Total Governmental Activities	\$ 5,072,781	\$ 22,472	\$ 1,160,748	\$ (3,889,561)	\$ -	\$ (3,889,561)	\$ (3,709,560)		
Business-Type Activities:									
School Lunch Program	74,712	34,970	37,663	(2,079)	(2,079)	(2,079)	(6,021)		
Total Primary Government	\$ 5,147,493	\$ 57,442	\$ 1,198,411	\$ (3,889,561)	\$ (2,079)	\$ (3,891,640)	\$ (3,715,581)		
General Revenues:									
Taxes:									
Property Taxes				\$ 3,185,459	\$ -	\$ 3,185,459	\$ 2,918,124		
Excise Taxes				341,695		341,695	337,310		
Interest and Costs on Taxes				15,960		15,960	12,796		
Intergovernmental:									
State Revenue Sharing				71,432		71,432	64,958		
Homestead Exemption				95,191		95,191	68,848		
Tree Growth Reimbursement				8,607		8,607	8,972		
Veterans' Exemption				1,180		1,180	1,059		
General Assistance Reimbursement				336		336	545		
Burn Permit Revenue Sharing				158		158	118		
BETE Reimbursement				70		70	19		
Restricted Interest				736		736	631		
Unrestricted Interest				9,223		9,223	5,024		
Investment Earnings				8,161		8,161	-		
Unrealized Gain				8,622		8,622	-		
Miscellaneous				894		894	838		
Total General Revenues				\$ 3,747,724	\$ -	\$ 3,747,724	\$ 3,419,242		
Change in Net Position				\$ (141,837)	\$ (2,079)	\$ (143,916)	\$ (296,739)		
Net Position, July 1				4,926,002	11,488	4,937,490	5,234,229		
Net Position, June 30				\$ 4,784,165	\$ 9,409	\$ 4,793,574	\$ 4,937,490		

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements

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Exhibit E

TOWN OF HOPE  
BALANCE SHEETS - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS  
JUNE 30, 2019 AND 2018

	GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES			SPECIAL REVENUE			PERMANENT CEMETERY		2019 TOTAL	2018 TOTAL
	GENERAL FUND	CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND	FEDERAL AND STATE PROGRAMS	PRE-K PROGRAM	OTHER GRANTS	CEMETERY MAINTENANCE	PERPETUAL CARE			
ASSETS:										
Cash	\$ 728,222	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 728,222	\$ 1,313,228	
Investments	512,463	107,900				10,801	22,225	653,389		
Receivables:										
Taxes	153,748							153,748	113,332	
Liens	39,813							39,813	35,617	
Governmental Agencies	38,613		30,517					69,130	48,300	
Other	4,338							4,338	4,524	
Due From Other Funds		10,770		121,478	57,899	720	120	190,987	93,305	
Prepaid Expenses	3,262							3,262	25,745	
Total Assets	\$ 1,480,459	\$ 118,670	\$ 30,517	\$ 121,478	\$ 57,899	\$ 11,521	\$ 22,345	\$ 1,842,889	\$ 1,634,051	
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE:										
LIABILITIES:										
Accounts Payable	\$ 20,943	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,943	\$ 22,911	
Accrued Payroll	168,700		587	14,399				183,686	167,350	
Other Accrued Expenses	220,690							220,690	96,436	
Due To Other Funds			43,262				440	193,818	92,142	
Deferred Revenues (Note G)	89,683							89,683	99,903	
Total Liabilities	\$ 650,132	\$ -	\$ 43,849	\$ 14,399	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 440	\$ 708,820	\$ 478,742	
Fund Balance:										
Nonspendable	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 21,905	\$ 21,905	\$ 21,425	
Restricted	14,851			107,079	57,899	11,521		179,829	143,913	
Committed	15,000	118,670						145,191	150,283	
Assigned	140,000							140,000	112,000	
Unassigned	660,476		(13,332)					647,144	727,688	
Total Fund Balance	\$ 830,327	\$ 118,670	\$ (13,332)	\$ 107,079	\$ 57,899	\$ 11,521	\$ 21,905	\$ 1,134,069	\$ 1,155,309	
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	\$ 1,480,459	\$ 118,670	\$ 30,517	\$ 121,478	\$ 57,899	\$ 11,521	\$ 22,345	\$ 1,842,889	\$ 1,634,051	

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements

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Exhibit F

TOWN OF HOPE  
STATEMENTS OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS  
FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2019 AND 2018

	GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPE			SPECIAL REVENUE			PERMANENT		2018 TOTAL
	GENERAL FUND	CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND	FEDERAL AND STATE PROGRAMS	PRE-K PROGRAM	OTHER GRANTS	CEMETERY MAINTENANCE	CEMETERY PERPETUAL CARE	2019 TOTAL	
REVENUES:									
Property and Excise Taxes	\$ 3,537,374	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,537,374	\$ 3,234,810
Licenses and Permits	13,187							13,187	21,199
Intergovernmental Revenues	857,527		95,057	228,750	750			1,181,334	1,020,164
Grants and Donations	300	500				4	30	1,550	3,000
Interest Income	22,334	109				119	244	22,477	15,073
Investment Income	6,615	1,183				117	241	8,161	
Unrealized Gains	7,092	1,172				1,120	480	8,622	
Charges for Services	7,686							9,286	9,506
Other Revenues	3,599							3,599	3,585
State Retirement Contribution	144,506							144,506	131,035
Total Revenues	\$ 4,600,220	\$ 2,964	\$ 95,057	\$ 228,750	\$ 750	\$ 1,360	\$ 995	\$ 4,930,096	\$ 4,438,372
EXPENDITURES:									
ADMINISTRATION:									
Town Administration - Salaries and Benefits	\$ 142,477	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 142,477	\$ 141,469
General Administration	51,330	11,581				22	45	62,978	46,699
Municipal Building	26,494	483						26,977	25,868
Professional Services	20,435							20,435	24,319
General Assistance	481							481	500
PUBLIC SAFETY:									
Animal Control	5,950							5,950	5,962
Fire Department	69,404							69,404	62,137
Ambulance Services	38,658							38,658	10,368
PUBLIC WORKS:									
Recreation Department	6,231							6,231	4,400
Street Lights	1,462							1,462	1,412
Roads	442,446							442,446	418,644
Sanitation	52,462							52,462	52,215
Cemeteries	6,374							6,374	3,718
COUNTY TAX	249,954							249,954	238,466
EDUCATION	3,360,925		114,147	121,671	1,911			3,598,654	3,396,087
DEBT SERVICE	81,887							81,887	84,549
STATE RETIREMENT CONTRIBUTION	144,506							144,506	131,035
Total Expenditures	\$ 4,701,476	\$ 12,064	\$ 114,147	\$ 121,671	\$ 1,911	\$ 22	\$ 45	\$ 4,951,336	\$ 4,647,848
Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	\$ (101,256)	\$ (9,100)	\$ (19,090)	\$ 107,079	\$ (1,161)	\$ 1,338	\$ 950	\$ (21,240)	\$ (209,476)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES):									
Operating Transfers - In	\$ -	\$ 12,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 470	\$ -	\$ 12,470	\$ 16,053
Operating Transfers - Out	(12,000)						(470)	(12,470)	(16,053)
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	\$ (12,000)	\$ 12,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 470	\$ (470)	\$ -	\$ -
Excess of Revenues and Other Sources Over (Under) Expenditures and Other Uses	\$ (113,256)	\$ 2,900	\$ (19,090)	\$ 107,079	\$ (1,161)	\$ 1,808	\$ 480	\$ (21,240)	\$ (209,476)
Fund Balance, July 1	943,583	115,770	5,758	17,137	41,923	9,713	21,425	1,155,309	1,364,785
Transfers - In				(17,137)	17,137			(17,137)	(48,475)
Transfers - Out									
Fund Balance, June 30	\$ 830,327	\$ 118,670	\$ (13,332)	\$ 107,079	\$ 57,899	\$ 11,521	\$ 21,905	\$ 1,134,069	\$ 1,155,309

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements

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Schedule A-1

TOWN OF HOPE  
BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE - GENERAL FUND  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2019

	ORIGINAL BUDGET	FINAL BUDGET	CARRIED FORWARD	ACTUAL	LAPSED VARIANCE FAVORABLE (UNFAVORABLE)	CARRIED VARIANCE FAVORABLE (UNFAVORABLE)
REVENUES:						
General Property Taxes	\$ 3,173,207	\$ 3,173,207	\$ -	\$ 3,200,467	\$ 27,260	\$ -
Abatements	(20,083)	(20,083)		(4,788)	15,295	
Excise Taxes - Automobile	310,000	310,000		337,921	27,921	
Excise Taxes - Boats	-	-		3,775	3,775	
Dog Licenses	-	-		1,450	1,450	
Building and Plumbing Permits	-	-		11,300	11,300	
Intergovernmental:						
Education Subsidy	642,152	642,152		646,076	-	3,924
Revenue Sharing	60,000	60,000		71,433	11,433	
Local Road Assistance	30,000	30,000		34,476	4,476	
Homestead Exemption Reimbursement	95,191	95,191		95,191	-	
Burn Permit Revenue Sharing	-	-		158	158	
BETE Reimbursement	66	66		66	-	
Veterans' Reimbursement	-	-		1,180	1,180	
Tree Growth Reimbursement	-	-		8,607	8,607	
General Assistance Reimbursement	700	700		336	(364)	
Interest:						
Delinquent Taxes	-	-		13,255	13,255	
Operating Funds	-	-		9,079	9,079	
Investment Earnings	-	-		13,707	13,707	
Charges for Services	-	-		7,686	7,686	
Miscellaneous	55,000	55,000		4,339	(50,661)	
Total Revenues	\$ 4,346,233	\$ 4,346,233	\$ -	\$ 4,455,714	\$ 105,557	\$ 3,924
EXPENDITURES:						
ADMINISTRATION:						
Town Administration - Salaries and Benefits	\$ 140,101	\$ 140,101	\$ 1,800	\$ 142,477	\$ (576)	\$ -
General Administration	54,681	54,681		51,330	3,351	
Municipal Building	16,925	26,925		26,494	(569)	1,000
Professional Services	24,880	24,880		20,435	4,445	
General Assistance	1,000	1,000		481	519	
PUBLIC SAFETY:						
Animal Control	6,570	6,570		5,950	620	
Fire Department	57,957	87,957		69,404	4,553	14,000
Ambulance Services	38,659	38,659		38,658	1	
PUBLIC WORKS:						
Recreation Department	6,450	6,450		6,231	219	
Street Lights	1,705	1,705		1,462	243	
Roads	414,514	414,514	23,000	442,446	(4,932)	
Sanitation	52,462	52,462		52,462	-	
Cemeteries	5,725	5,725		6,374	(649)	
COUNTY TAX	249,955	249,955		249,954	1	
EDUCATION	3,292,757	3,292,757	79,095	3,360,925	-	10,927
DEBT SERVICE	81,892	81,892		81,887	5	
Total Expenditures	\$ 4,446,233	\$ 4,486,233	\$ 103,895	\$ 4,556,970	\$ 7,231	\$ 25,927
Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	\$ (100,000)	\$ (140,000)	\$ (103,895)	\$ (101,256)	\$ 112,788	\$ 29,851
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES):						
Transfers In	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Transfers Out	(12,000)	(12,000)		(12,000)		
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	\$ (12,000)	\$ (12,000)	\$ -	\$ (12,000)	\$ -	\$ -
Excess of Revenues and Other Sources Over (Under) Expenditures and Other Uses	\$ (112,000)	\$ (152,000)	\$ (103,895)	\$ (113,256)	\$ 112,788	\$ 29,851
Fund Balance, July 1, 2018	57,592	57,592		943,583		
Fund Balance (Deficit), June 30, 2019	\$ (54,408)	\$ (94,408)	\$ (103,895)	\$ 830,327	\$ 112,788	\$ 29,851

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CHAIR

William Pearse, Jr.

### **BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT**

This year has been challenging for everyone. In the review of the Town's budgets, both municipal and school, the agreed upon desire of the Budget Committee was to keep cost increases to a minimum. While most taxpayers were able to pay their taxes on time this past April, the unknown still exists out there concerning COVID-19 and how this will affect the Town's ability to operate in the coming year.

Therefore, the proposed budget this year, if accepted by the Voters, is preliminarily looking to show a 1.65% increase or .28 increase in the Mill Rate. (This is subject to the Town Valuation coming in at 206 million.) While both the Municipal and School Budget for this current year had savings for unspent funds due to the COVID-19 virus, the Budget Committee felt it best to allow these balances to lapse to undesignated fund balance. This would then give the Town funds to draw on should the revenue not be there either from the payment of taxes or a reduced funding from the State.

With so much unknown out there, it was a very difficult time for everyone involved in the 2020/2021 budget to see a clear path as to what the year will hold. Hopefully, the year will come back to a normal sense and we all can get back to living the way it was pre-COVID-19.

Be safe everyone.



Assessors' Agent  
C. Vernon Ziegler, CMA



### ASSESSORS' AGENT REPORT

Under current Maine law, for taxes assessed on April 1, 2020 the Homestead Exemption value will be \$25,000. To qualify for the Maine Homestead Exemption, you must be a legal resident of the State of Maine, have owned residential property in Maine for at least the past twelve months, and the homestead must be your permanent place of residence. You can only claim the exemption for one property and cannot claim the exemption in any other state. When a property is sold, the exemption is removed, and the new homeowner must apply for the exemption. Applications must be filed by April 1 each year. Applications received after the filing date are not valid for the current year. Once your application has been approved, it is automatically renewed each year that you qualify for the exemption.

Legislation passed last year establishes the Property Tax Relief Fund for Maine Residents and requires the fund to be used to provide property tax relief payments directly to Maine residents whose residence qualifies for an exemption under the Maine homestead property tax exemption. When the fund reaches a target balance, the Treasurer of State is required, by March 1, to mail checks for the tax relief payment to each owner of a qualifying homestead. This year the payment was \$104 for each property that qualified for a Homestead exemption on April 1, 2019. To receive a check, you must have a Homestead exemption and you can't have a Homestead exemption unless you submit an application to the Assessors.

The Maine Veteran Property Tax Exemption is currently \$6,000. You qualify for an exemption if (1) You served in the U.S. Armed Forces during a recognized war period or other recognized service period or you received an Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, and, (2) You will be at least 62 years old on April 1 or you are receiving a total disability pension from the U.S. Government. An important change was made to the Veteran's Exemption eligibility. The law eliminated the requirement that a veteran of the Vietnam War must have served on active duty for a period of more than 180 days. If you are a veteran of the Vietnam War who would otherwise qualify for the exemption in the past but did not because of the 180 days of service requirement, this change would allow you to apply for the Veteran Exemption.

A new law for this year is an exemption for renewable energy equipment. The law exempts solar and wind energy equipment, except that of industrial power suppliers, from property tax. A taxpayer claiming the exemption must file an application with the municipality in the first year the exemption is sought. Maine Revenue Services will be developing an application for this exemption and it should be available prior to the April 1 filing deadline. As soon as it is available, it will be posted to the town website or it can be picked up at the Town Office.

Forms for all property tax exemptions are located at <https://hopemaine.org/taxrelief> on the Town website. They are also available at the Town Office during office hours.

All participants with parcels enrolled in the Maine Tree Growth Tax Program are required to submit a current forest management and harvest plan and file an application and Forest Type Map with the local assessor every ten years. If a piece of property enrolled in the Program was transferred, the new owner has one year from the date of transfer to comply with the provisions of the law. Landowners who fail to meet the requirements of the law are disqualified from classification and must be withdrawn from the program. The required withdrawal penalty must be assessed by the Town.

The Assessors' Agent's schedule is available at the Town Office by the first of each month. If you would like to meet with me, please call the office to schedule an appointment.

I am thankful to your dedicated Town Office staff for their assistance and to the Assessors for their support. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Assessors' Agent.

**2020 Real Estate Tax Bill**  
**July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020**

Town of Hope  
 441 Camden Road  
 Hope, ME 04847  
 207-763-4199

If you have lived full-time for at least one year in the house you own, you are probably entitled to a homestead exemption, which reduces the taxable amount of your property. You only have to apply once – not every year. Last year, Hope taxpayers with the homestead exemption saved \$409.15 on their tax bills. To be sure you are getting this exemption, check the top right corner of your tax bill. For more information, see explanation below.

Current Billing Information	
Land	59,000
Building	299,400
<b>Total Assessment</b>	<b>358,400</b>
Homestead Exemption	0
Other Exemption	0
<b>Total Tax</b>	<b>358,400</b>
1000	16.700
1000 Tax Bill	\$5,985.28
aid to Date	\$0.00
1st Payment Due 10/01/2019	\$2,992.64
2nd Payment Due 04/30/2020	\$2,992.64
<b>Total Due</b>	<b>\$5,985.28</b>

Maine Revenue Services conducts an annual audit of all sales in Lincolnville. For the 2020 State validation they determined that our property, on average, was assessed at 89% of market value.

Because Hope's assessed values are so low, the Assessors, as required by Maine law, were only able to declare a ratio of 98% as April 1, 2020.

All exemptions have to be adjusted by the declared ratio. The homestead exemption is \$25,000 of your declared ratio is 100%. At 98% the Homestead Exemption is only \$24,500 (\$25,000 x 98%)

TAX COLLECTOR  
Alexenia Payor



### TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

#### 2018 Tax Liens Unpaid as of June 30, 2019

*Heirs of Irving & Delores Bassett	\$ 1,088	*Paul Payson	\$ 6,007
*Joel Blemaster	6,461	*Peter & Donna Perry	1,708
*Holly Campbell	2,012	*Peter & Donna Perry & M. Upton	1,094
*Daniel Gilbert	781	*Richardson Property Management	36
*Rachel Hendrick	1,182	*Karl & Jennifer Smith	2,799
*Donna & James Jillson	1,220	*Sarah Spear	952
*Clint & Bonnie Martz	544	*Kevin Stockbridge	2,441
*Robert & Angela Monroe	2,283	*Joan Tripp	505
*Robert & Angela Monroe	1,773	*Wayne & Joan Tripp	1,800
*William Neils	1,044		
*Paul Payson	7,530		

\*Paid after June 30, 2019

#### 2019 Abatements Granted

Holly & Brian Underhill	\$ 184
Holly & Brian Underhill	200
Holly & Brian Underhill	211

#### 2019 Supplements – Farmland Withdrawal Penalties (all paid)

Leslie Robnson & Bruce Melanson	\$ 3,032	Wayne Breda & Sarah McBrian	\$ 3,702
Heirs of Carolie Larner	779	Theodore & Brenda-Jo Crabtree	4,487
Ronald & Sonja Howard	2,561	James & Jean Fine	2,315
Gwendolyn Brodis	166		

## HOMESTEAD EXEMPTIONS

Every taxpayer who had a Homestead Exemption in fiscal year 2019-20 saved \$334 in property taxes. Most homeowners who are residents of Hope are eligible for this exemption. Check your tax bill to be sure you have this exemption or call the Town Office if you have any questions.

**2019 Real Estate Taxes Unpaid as of June 30, 2019**

Heirs of Irving & Delores Bassett	\$ 826	*Bruce Melanson & Leslie Robinson	\$ 270
*W. Blackmore & J. Banash	3,189	*Bruce Melanson	2,641
Joel Blemaster	6,542	*Bruce Melanson	2,926
*Stephen Boerger	453	*John & Raymond Merrifield	55
*Stephen Boerger & Jolene Lovejoy	495	*Pamela Miller	88
*June Brown	288	*Derick Monroe	1,366
*Matthew & Alanna Brown	1,338	*Fred & Mary Jean Monroe	1,895
*Holly Campbell	1,496	*Robert & Angela Monroe	4,623
*Joshua Carle	866	*Robert & Angela Monroe	1,755
*Nancy Carlson et al.	1,539	William Neils	1,002
*Robert & Gayle Carpentier	704	*Elizabeth O'Haverty	1,076
*Robert & Gayle Carpentier	82	*James & Cynthia Ostrowski	2,313
*Marguerite Carroll & David Simpson	336	*Paul Payson	6,080
*Center for Ecological Living & Learning	847	*Paul Payson	7,637
*Kevin & Dawn Chapin	1,823	*Eric Pearse	2,502
*Cynthia Cook	4,990	*Robert & Eric Pearse	1,857
*Todd & Shelley Crabtree	1,596	*Oliver & Kelly Perkins	698
*Arlene Davis, Life Estate	2,072	*Peter & Donna Perry	4,693
*Aurolyn Downing, Trustee	1,004	*Peter & Donna Perry and M. Upton	1,783
*Chris Feener	1,694	*Allison Philbrook	4,349
*Chris Feener	693	*Thomas & Damon Pierpont	760
*Christopher Feener	523	*Bonnie Poland	1,184
*Christopher Feener	664	*Richardson Property Management	436
*Kathryn Folsom	2,482	*Richard Riefe	2,117
*Daniel Ford	1,977	*Coragene & Todd Riggs	2,377
*Gary & Rosalie Gallant	835	*Todd Riggs	1,459
*Bernard & Christine Garrigan	3,618	*Christopher and Crystal Robinson	870
*Daniel Gilbert	932	*Eric Robitaille	2,421
*E. Hannibal-Drury & C. Drury	752	*Jodi Saastamoinen	750
*Hannah & Adam Harter-Ives	459	*Warren & Sheryl Seelig	2,534
*Neil & Karen Hebb	1,651	*Kenneth & Sally Siriani	856
Rachel Hendrick	2,439	*Karl & Jennifer Smith	2,791
Donna & James Jillson	955	*Brittany Spear	424
*Martha Johnston	623	*Sarah Spear	1,427
*Maureen Kehoe-Ostensen	804	*Walter Stinson	1,459
*Rochelle Kenney et al.	835	Kevin Stockbridge	2,437
*Heirs of Carolie Larner	1,519	*Carl Stoddard	1,334
*Carrie Laurita	3,198	*David Stone, Sr., Life Estate	666
*Thomas Laurita, Personal Rep.	897	*Donna Teague, Life Estate	246
*William Laurita	439	*Wayne & Lynn Thomas	2,400
*Thomas Leeper	2,028	Joan Tripp	451
*Linda Lewis	154	Wayne & Joan Tripp	2,290
*Bonny Longley	923	*James & Stephanie Turner	1,970
*David Lothrop	958	Jeffrey Walker	898
*Maine Escapes	1,850	*David Wellman	4,102
*Sandra Mansfield	167	*David Wellman	985
*Clint & Bonnie Martz	539	*Stacy Whitley	3,365
*Lurana McCreddie	225	*John Wight	2,928
*Scott & Deanna McGregor	4,521	*Scott & Sheryl Young	1,949
*Bruce Melanson & Leslie Robinson	277		

\*Paid after June 30, 2019

BOOKKEEPER  
Langley Willauer



### TREASURER'S REPORT

	Amount Budgeted July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019	Amount Spent July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019	Amount Budgeted July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020
<b>ADMINISTRATION COST CENTER</b>			
<b>Administration – Payroll Costs</b>			
Selectmen	\$ 4,100	\$ 4,100	\$ 4,100
Town Administrator	51,131	51,092	55,480
Town Clerk/Tax Collector	30,308	29,868	32,844
Bookkeeper	26,738	28,994	36,506
Custodian	2,548	1,963	2,756
Town Meeting Moderator	100	100	100
Election Clerks	800	859	876
FICA/Medicare	10,100	10,298	12,000
Health Insurance	12,426	12,389	13,429
Workers' Compensation Insurance	2,650	2,303	2,900
Unemployment Insurance	1,000	511	900
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$141,901</b>	<b>\$142,477</b>	<b>\$161,891</b>
<b>General Administration</b>			
Property/Liability Insurance	\$11,700	\$11,641	\$12,223
Repair and Maintenance	5,750	4,959	5,800
Telephone	2,080	2,016	2,100
Website	1,146	1,231	1,451
Training and Workshops	1,200	1,042	1,890
Printing	1,100	941	1,100
Supplies	3,140	3,033	2,940
Software Licenses	15,116	15,802	15,946
Memberships	2,900	3,037	3,129
Postage	3,500	2,660	3,850
Travel and Mileage	545	895	1,120
Equipment	1,800	320	1,900
Copier Lease	804	804	804
Advertising	600	405	1,000
Fees	3,100	2,442	6,100
Miscellaneous	200	101	200
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$54,681</b>	<b>\$51,329</b>	<b>\$61,553</b>

	Amount Budgeted July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019	Amount Spent July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019	Amount Budgeted July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020
<b>Municipal Building</b>			
Mowing	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,100
Shoveling & Plowing	3,675	3,675	3,859
Security System	300	288	300
Repair and Maintenance	1,500	1,514	2,000
Electricity	1,650	2,218	1,980
Heat	3,150	2,491	2,625
Supplies	650	559	650
Energy Audit	0	9,750	0
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$11,925</b>	<b>\$21,495</b>	<b>\$12,514</b>
<b>Professional Services</b>			
Legal	\$ 4,930	\$ 918	\$ 6,400
Assessing	13,950	13,717	14,100
Accounting	0	0	10,000
Audit	3,800	3,800	3,800
Tax Map Update	2,200	2,000	2,200
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$24,880</b>	<b>\$20,435</b>	<b>\$36,500</b>
<b>General Assistance</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>	<b>\$481</b>	<b>\$750</b>
<b>TOTAL ADMINISTRATION COST CENTER</b>	<b>\$234,387</b>	<b>\$236,217</b>	<b>\$273,208</b>
<b>RESERVE ACCOUNTS COST CENTER</b>			
Fire Truck Replacement Fund	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Municipal Buildings Repairs	5,000	5,000	5,000
Fire Department Equipment	8,500	8,500	8,500
Office Equipment and Software	2,000	2,000	2,000
Solar Reserve	0	0	9,600
Emergency Road Repairs	20,000	20,000	20,000
<b>TOTAL RESERVE ACCOUNTS COST CENTER</b>	<b>\$45,500</b>	<b>\$45,500</b>	<b>\$55,100</b>

	Amount Budgeted July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019	Amount Spent July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019	Amount Budgeted July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020
<b>PUBLIC SAFETY COST CENTER</b>			
<b>Ambulance Services</b>	<b>\$38,659</b>	<b>\$38,658</b>	<b>\$38,659</b>
<b>Animal Control</b>			
Salary	\$ 4,280	\$ 4,080	\$ 4,200
Shelter Agreement	1,536	1,536	1,690
Supplies	50	47	100
Postage	50	26	55
Mileage	654	261	522
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 6,570</b>	<b>\$ 5,950</b>	<b>\$ 6,567</b>
<b>Fire Department</b>			
Fire Chief Stipend	\$ 3,570	\$ 3,570	\$ 4,320
Volunteer Firefighters' Stipends	8,568	8,568	10,000
Emergency Mgmt. Director Stipend	1,500	1,500	1,500
Workers' Comp. Supplemental Ins.	800	794	800
Mowing	2,000	2,000	2,200
Plowing & Sanding	8,177	8,177	8,586
Repair and Maintenance	14,300	26,035	28,050
Security	564	990	564
Electricity	1,865	1,811	1,955
Heat	3,515	3,747	3,453
Telephone	643	650	650
Training/Workshops	1,500	910	1,500
Supplies	400	377	400
Memberships	505	0	525
Postage	50	55	55
Mileage	300	371	300
Fuel	1,200	1,349	1,200
Bond Payment	48,330	48,325	46,687
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$97,787</b>	<b>\$109,229</b>	<b>\$112,745</b>
<b>TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY COST CENTER</b>	<b>\$143,016</b>	<b>\$153,837</b>	<b>\$157,971</b>



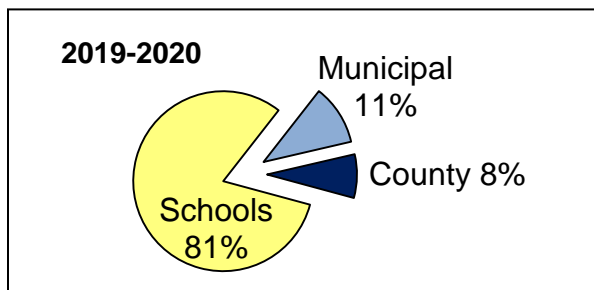
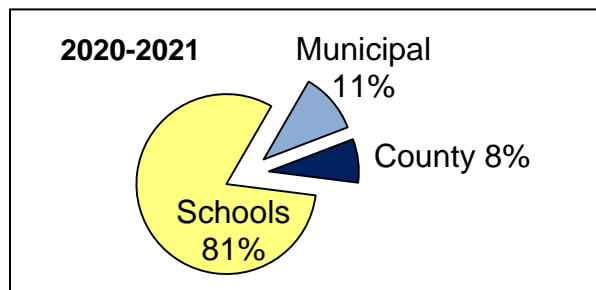
	Amount Budgeted July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019	Amount Spent July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019	Amount Budgeted July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020
<b>PUBLIC WORKS COST CENTER</b>			
<b>Recreation</b>			
Mowing	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,750
Repair and Maintenance	2,500	2,305	5,000
Equipment Rental	1,450	1,425	1,525
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$6,450</b>	<b>\$6,230</b>	<b>\$9,275</b>
<b>Street Lights</b>	<b>\$1,705</b>	<b>\$1,462</b>	<b>\$1,705</b>
<b>Roads</b>			
Road Commissioner Stipend	\$ 155	\$ 155	\$ 155
Plowing and Sanding	116,000	116,000	116,000
Annual Paving	110,965	101,539	120,600
Repair and Maintenance	117,066	103,147	93,108
Electricity	500	228	500
Supplies – Sand and Salt	49,100	74,495	51,500
Supplies – Other	23,728	26,882	41,348
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$417,514</b>	<b>\$422,446</b>	<b>\$423,211</b>
<b>Sanitation</b>			
Mid-Coast Solid Waste	\$50,162	\$50,162	\$54,290
Septic Contract	2,300	2,300	2,300
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$52,462</b>	<b>\$52,462</b>	<b>\$56,590</b>
<b>Cemeteries</b>			
Sexton stipend	\$ 525	\$ 525	\$ 525
Mowing	2,850	2,850	3,135
Repair & Maintenance	2,000	2,300	2,000
Supplies	100	474	100
Memberships	25	0	0
Software	225	225	225
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$5,725</b>	<b>\$6,374</b>	<b>\$5,985</b>
<b>TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS COST CENTER</b>	<b>\$483,856</b>	<b>\$488,974</b>	<b>\$496,766</b>
<b>TOTAL MUNICIPAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 906,759</b>	<b>\$ 924,528</b>	<b>\$ 983,045</b>
<b>Elementary Education – (K-8)</b>	<b>1,932,355</b>	<b>1,926,422</b>	<b>1,926,421</b>
<b>Secondary Education – (9-12)</b>	<b>804,077</b>	<b>804,076</b>	<b>850,470</b>
<b>Adult Education – CSD</b>	<b>17,912</b>	<b>17,913</b>	<b>17,681</b>
<b>County Tax</b>	<b>204,523</b>	<b>204,522</b>	<b>219,821</b>
<b>County Dispatch Fees</b>	<b>45,432</b>	<b>45,432</b>	<b>48,227</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,911,058</b>	<b>\$3,922,893</b>	<b>\$4,045,665</b>

Note: FY19 Budget includes \$94,977 of carryovers and FY20 Budget includes \$23,918 of carryovers.

**BUDGET COMPARISON**

	<u>2021</u> <u>Proposed</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>2020</u> <u>Approved</u> <u>Budget</u>
Municipal budget (Warrant Articles 14-17)	\$ 972,245	\$ 968,045
County tax assessment	268,048	268,048
Hope Elementary School (K-8) after Sp. Town Meeting	1,926,421	1,917,503
Five-Town CSD (High School/Adult Ed)	868,151	868,151
Abatements and overlay	20,000 est.	20,793
Revenue (Warrant Article 13)	(478,525)	(478,525)
Use of fund balance (Warrant Article 13)	<u>(140,000)</u>	<u>(140,000)</u>
Amount to be raised by property taxes	\$3,436,340	\$3,424,015
Total valuation base	\$203,700,000 est.	\$205,030,850
Mil rate	\$16.87 est.	\$16.70

For every \$20,000 change in amount to be raised, there is a corresponding mil rate change of 10 cents.

**LD1 calculation:**

2020 Municipal Property Tax Levy Limit (LD1 cap)	\$553,616
Growth factor (calculation available upon request)	22,311
Decrease (increase) in State Revenue Sharing	<u>(6,475)</u>
2021 Municipal Property Tax Levy Limit (LD1 cap)	<u>\$569,452</u>
2021 proposed municipal budget	\$ 972,245
Revenue	(478,525)
Use of fund balance	<u>(140,000)</u>
2021 core municipal commitment	353,720
LD1 cap for 2021	<u>569,452</u>
Amount by which budget is lower than LD1 cap	<u>\$199,896</u>

<u>Historical Mil Rates</u>	<u>FY16</u>	<u>FY17</u>	<u>FY18</u>	<u>FY19</u>	<u>FY20</u>	Proposed <u>FY21</u>
Town	1.66	1.44	1.62	1.65	1.83	1.81
County	1.08	1.14	1.18	1.23	1.32	1.31
Hope El. School	7.60	7.81	8.53	9.17	9.46	9.35
Five-Town CSD	<u>3.06</u>	<u>3.21</u>	<u>3.47</u>	<u>4.05</u>	<u>4.26</u>	<u>4.23</u>
Total	<u>13.40</u>	<u>13.60</u>	<u>14.80</u>	<u>16.10</u>	<u>16.87</u>	<u>16.70</u>

**HOPE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BUDGET SUMMARY**

Cost Center	Amount Appropriated
Regular Instruction	\$ 1,401,408
Special Education	\$ 658,087
Career and Technical Education	\$ 0
Other Instruction	\$ 27,847
Student and Staff Support	\$ 269,723
System Administration	\$ 116,207
School Administration	\$ 194,120
Transportation and Buses	\$ 142,110
Facilities Maintenance	\$ 256,212
Debt Service and Other Commitments	\$ 0
All Other Expenditures	\$ 0
Summary of Total Authorized School Budget Expenditures:	\$ 3,065,714



## PRINCIPAL

Danielle S. Fagonde

**HOPE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL REPORT**

Our core values at HES are respect, responsibility, and perseverance. These values are intentionally taught, modeled, and practiced. The results are evident as Hope students have distinguished themselves this year in both academics and athletics.

Our boys' basketball team was runner-up for the Busline League while the girls were the Champions for Busline. We had six students qualify for the Elementary Music Festival, three students qualify for the 6th Grade Music Festival, two students qualify for the 7th and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Band and Chorus Festival, and one student qualified for the 7th and 8th grade Jazz Festival. We have a student moving on to the national level for the National Geographic Geography Bee.



Hope Elementary School's enrollment is currently 187 students. We are delighted to welcome Sarah Schrader (first grade), Oai Ha (middle school math), and Hannah Sis (French) to our teaching staff and Jessica Pearson, Shannon Stewart and Wenda Fisher as our Ed. Techs.

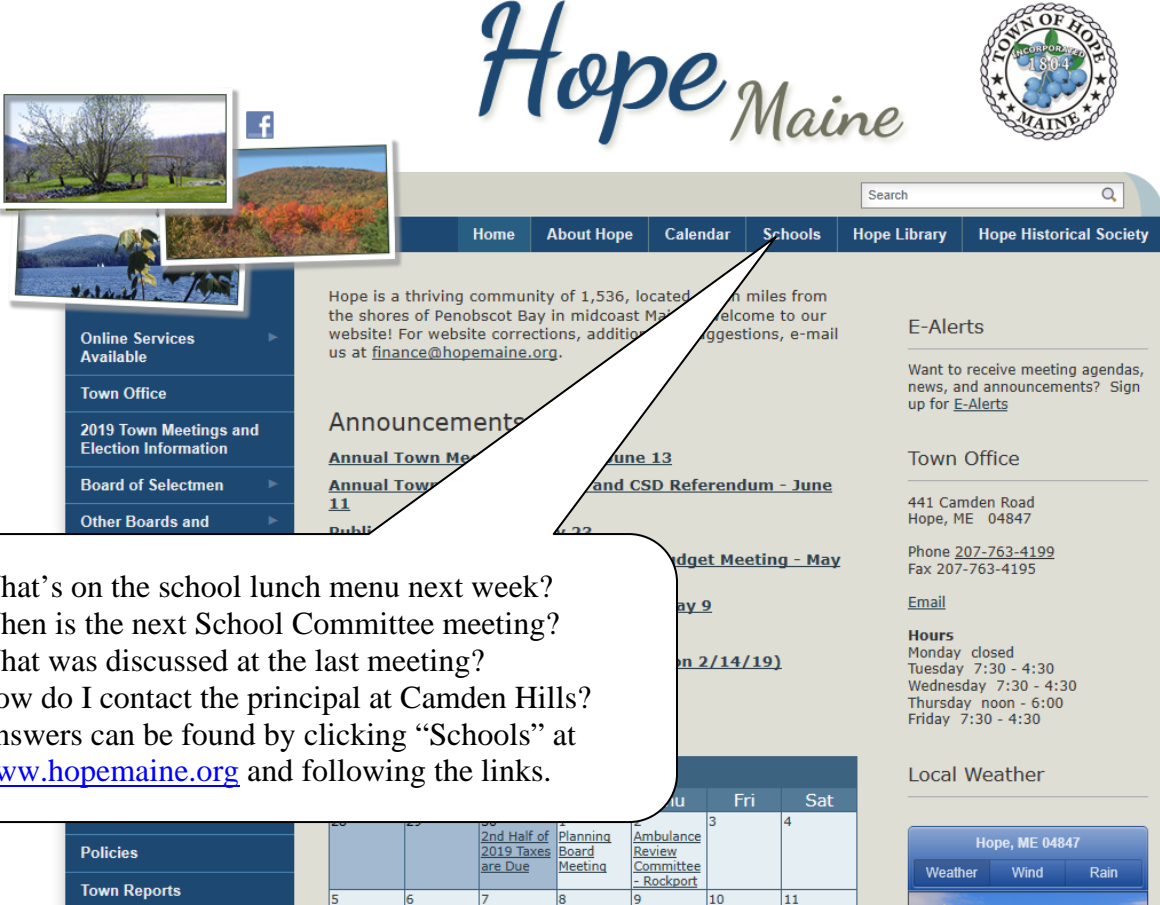
Our school goals are to increase student engagement, become a community of readers, and build student confidence. For student engagement, we have added drama, creative writing, Change Makers and Lego Club to our after-school program. To encourage reading, we have held school-wide reading celebrations, participated in reading challenges, partnered with local libraries to get more books in the hands of children, and participated in state-wide initiatives. Project-based learning continues to be a goal for integrating our studies, providing opportunities to learn collaboration, creativity, communication, and critical thinking. Our teachers have spent time visiting King Middle School in Portland, Maine to work on developing this innovative learning model that we feel will increase student engagement and confidence.

Everyone at the school is modeling and practicing the growth mindset: students, staff, and administrators alike, learning together. We see evidence of this in better attitudes towards both learning and practicing new skills, perseverance, increased self-esteem, and not being afraid to make mistakes. As always, we thank Partners for Enrichment for providing outstanding drama, music, art, dance, science, and literary experiences for our students.

Our building continues to be well maintained as we take measures to also be environmentally conscious. Over the past summer, we changed all light bulbs to LED. Rugs in two of the remaining hallways have been replaced with VCT (vinyl composition tile). Our walkway in front of the school has been repaved with a concrete curb added. This project included a tree removal due to the root system that was causing damage. The entire exterior of the building was stained, and two of the main exterior doors have been replaced. We are so thankful to our donors for raising over \$6,000 to purchase a new scoreboard for our gym.

School safety is a topic that cannot be left unmentioned in today's world. Along with many other schools across the nation, Hope Elementary has most recently responded to the COVID-19 pandemic by planning for an extended school closure. We worked closely with our school community in order to help in the best way possible. Teachers are communicating with students and their families, being mindful not to add more pressure, but supplying what is needed on an individual basis. We have supplied many materials and resources and will continue to do so. Students are able to virtually choose books from our school library and meals will be delivered to families as long as we are able. We have a solid plan in place, and we are here to help our community.

With the social, emotional, educational, and fiscal challenges we are facing, our work as educators is even more critical than ever before, and we thank you for your support.



The screenshot shows the Town of Hope Maine website. The navigation menu includes links for Home, About Hope, Calendar, Schools, Hope Library, and Hope Historical Society. The 'Schools' link is highlighted with a callout box containing the following text:

What's on the school lunch menu next week?  
When is the next School Committee meeting?  
What was discussed at the last meeting?  
How do I contact the principal at Camden Hills?  
Answers can be found by clicking "Schools" at [www.hopemaine.org](http://www.hopemaine.org) and following the links.

The website also features a sidebar with links to Online Services, Town Office, 2019 Town Meetings and Election Information, Board of Selectmen, and Other Boards and Committees. The main content area includes a welcome message, a search bar, and a calendar of events. The footer contains a calendar for the month of May and a local weather widget for Hope, ME 04847.

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS  
Maria Libby

**CAMDEN HILLS REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL  
FIVE TOWN CSD**

**ADAPTING TO A CHANGING WORLD**

Our district's willingness to take considered risks and try new things paid off in unexpected ways this year. Because we had executed Remote School Days over the past two years, we were positioned incredibly well when an abrupt shift was necessitated by COVID-19. We hardly skipped a beat in continuing learning for students and they have benefited significantly because of that. We immediately recognized that structure would be important during this stressful time, so after slightly shortening the school day at the high school, we are holding synchronous classes. That means that students and teachers attend classes at set times every day, according to the same basic schedule as before. Emotional support has been an important part of "school" this spring, and we fully recognize the important role our district has in keeping any sense of normalcy in this unprecedented time. Our goal has been to keep students engaged, to provide continuity and structure, and to be caring, empathetic, compassionate, and merciful people for the families in our communities.

Our desire to put forth an extra effort and seek continual improvement on behalf of students was manifest in numerous other ways this year as well. We have been researching ways to incorporate more of the outdoors into our programming, we have significantly increased our efforts to provide equity in every way we can, and we have grown as a caring and compassionate campus. Everything we do is aimed to better meet the varied needs of our current learners.

As part of our effort to establish the high school as an innovation hub, we had pulled together an exciting conference to bring educators and industry together around the topic of innovation. We had an incredible array of presenters and a great program set up. Hopefully, we will be able to reschedule that for another time. When I do a 360 degree look around our districts, I am awed at all we do because the quality of our staff is exceptional. We offer an education and experience that rivals any school in this nation. It is no wonder our community takes such pride in our high school.

It is hard to predict the exact financial toll COVID-19 will take on our communities, which makes it a difficult time to pass a school budget. We made some last-minute changes to provide relief to our taxpayers, and if we need to do more when the times come, we will. We have always appreciated the hard-earned tax dollars that every property owner of these five towns contributes to educating our young people.

While I firmly believe that there is no greater gift one generation can give to another than a superb education, I recognize that we are in uncertain times. We are moving forward with a budget that will decrease tax bills for many, but we recognize that a full understanding of the economic impact of the current COVID-19 pandemic is unknown. At this juncture, the Five Town CSD is coming in with a *minus* 1.58% overall taxpayer impact.



FIRE CHIEF  
Clarence Keller

### FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT



It is with great pleasure that I submit my annual report on the activities of the Hope Fire Department. In 2019, the department responded to 66 calls which is up from 55 calls in 2018. The calls included the following:

7 motor vehicle accidents	30 mutual aid calls	6 alarm investigations
3 road hazards	2 powerlines down	3 chimney fires
4 EMS assist	1 structure fire	4 smoke scare

I am very excited about the happenings at the fire department. The Town of Hope's most valuable resource is its volunteers. Two years ago I reported that our volunteer ranks had dwindled to 14 members. The last two years we have had very aggressive recruitment campaigns and as I reported in last years report, we were up to 21 members and as of the writing of this year's report we are up to 27 members. Hope is very fortunate to have these folks and I am blessed to be their chief. I would like to say THANK YOU and publicly recognize them for their service to the Town of Hope.



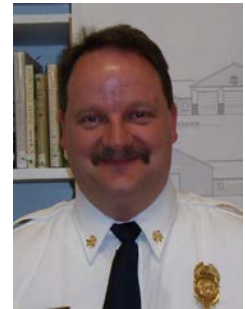
Over the last couple of years, we have been working to train more with our mutual aid partners. This picture is at Rockport during training using the Maine Fire Service Institute Smoke Trailer.

A FREE online burning permit system is available at **wardensreport.com**. If permits are being issued that day you can secure a permit there. The permit is emailed to you and notification is also sent to both fire department officials and dispatch.

HOPE for the best! PREPARE for the worst! If you need us, call us, we will be there!

DIRECTOR  
Clarence Keller

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY



It is with pleasure that I submit my annual report on the activities of your Emergency Management Agency program.

With our changing world, I truly appreciate the efforts of the Hope School Safety Team under the leadership of Principal Danielle Fagonde, as they work to be prepared for the safety of the student body at Hope Elementary School. Besides attending their meetings, I continue with our regular monthly training sessions at the county level and also continue to maintain our National Incident Management Systems (NIMS) Compliancy. This compliancy provides training so that all those involved in emergency management receive the same training so that in an emergency situation, multi-jurisdictional agencies can all work together because we have all been trained to the same standard of management.

### WINTER STORM + EXTENDED POWER OUTAGES = WARMING SHELTER

In the event of an extended power outage caused by a winter storm, the Hope Corner Fire Station at 475 Camden Road will be made available during the day as a warming shelter. Most folks do not want to abandon their houses, but sometimes it's nice to be able to just get away for a bit and charge your cell phone, socialize a little, and get warmed up. In the event that the situation requires overnight sheltering, the plan is for a regional approach, as the American Red Cross cannot support shelters in each individual town. The Union Elementary School is the designated regional shelter for Hope should that need arise. If anyone is interested in volunteering during the shelter times, please send me an email at [firechief@hopemaine.org](mailto:firechief@hopemaine.org).

### REMEMBER – EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY!

As I am writing this, we are in the midst of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Things are getting busy at EMA. This is the type of thing we prepare for along with natural disasters. Here is to HOPING for the BEST! And Preparing for the worst!



ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER  
Heidi J. Blood



### **ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER'S REPORT**

I look forward to serving the Town of Hope as Animal Control Officer (ACO) again this year and encourage all to contact me with any questions, complaints, or concerns regarding Animal Control. I am ACO for Appleton and Union along with four Waldo County Towns. I live in Searsmont with an array of my own pets, including dogs, horses, chickens, rabbits and cats.

The Town of Hope currently has nearly 400 licensed dogs and I'm happy to say that most were licensed in a timely manner this year. I answered more than 40 calls for assistance this year and traveled nearly 500 miles.

The Town of Hope is contracted with PAWS Animal Adoption Center in Camden to take in our lost/stray animals that I pick up. So, if your dog gets loose and I cannot identify it, it gets delivered to the shelter for safe keeping until its owner can claim it. A fee must be paid to the shelter to claim your pet once it enters their care. If your dog is licensed and wearing its tags, I will make every effort to contact you and reunite you with your pet. Stray cats and dogs are all taken in and scanned for a microchip. PAWS will also take in your unwanted animals, but Animal Control will not handle it. YOU must call PAWS and arrange to get the animal to them for relinquishing. This includes stray cats that you have been feeding. I have several live traps and kennels available to assist with stray cats if needed. Please keep in mind, that every cat you see is not a homeless stray. Cats wander at will. PLEASE do not feed a cat if it enters your property, it will only entice it to return.

Dog licenses expire each year on December 31st, regardless of when it was first done. You can renew your dog's license for the next year any time after October 15. A state mandated late fee of \$25.00 is applied starting February 1<sup>st</sup>. This is non-negotiable as it is STATE law. You can renew your dog's license at the Town Office.

Maine law requires that every dog and cat be vaccinated against rabies. If you are unsure of your pet's vaccination status, call either the Town Office or your veterinarian. Most vaccines are good for three years after a pet's initial rabies vaccine, which is only good for one year. Rabies is in every county of Maine: we had one positive wildlife case for rabies in Hope this year.

Animal Control does not generally handle wildlife complaints unless it is a wild animal that has encountered a domestic animal. I have live traps available for borrowing if you find yourself in need of trapping a nuisance animal. I also have several kennels and other equipment available.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at 207-322-3237 or [hjb04915@yahoo.com](mailto:hjb04915@yahoo.com) with any questions, complaints or concerns regarding animals in Hope.

**MID-COAST SOLID WASTE CORPORATION**

90 Union Street • P.O. Box 1016 • Rockport, ME 04856

Tel: 207-236-2467 Fax: 207-236-7968

Dear Residents,

Mid-Coast Solid Waste Corporation (MCSWC) is a solid waste disposal and recycling facility servicing the four towns of Camden, Hope, Lincolnville, and Rockport, Maine. The facility utilizes a Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) solid waste disposal program that allows residents and businesses to pay a fee for disposal of municipal solid waste as they generate it. The PAYT process encourages waste reduction and creates incentive for residents to recycle more in order to minimize the number of bags needed by a household.

MCSWC follows the State of Maine Solid Waste Management Hierarchy offering diversion programs at the facility. They include recycling materials, brush, metal and glass collection, usable clothing collection, film plastic collection in partnership with Hannaford, and a returnable bottle program with the Lions Club. The annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection, typically held in June, includes collection of paint materials through the PaintCare program.

Exciting changes to assist MCSWC reach corporate goals and further assist the community with keeping items from the waste stream are happening at the facility. MCSWC has teamed up with ScrapDogs Community Composting to run a pilot study that diverts compostable food material from household trash. The waste industry reports compostable food waste is greater than 25% of waste produced; diversion can make a marked difference in how much MSW is disposed of annually, which creates both an economic and environmental impact. Many residents are now being educated on this topic and taking part in the program.

The Swap Shop, a popular reuse venue, outgrew its current space and will be expanding to a larger building this season. The work of long-term Swap Shop volunteers George, Geoff and Sharon, and newer Waste Watch Committee (WWC) volunteers, helped support this change by ramping up the diversion of reusable items. Marci Casas, WWC Chair, will oversee the expansion so residents can continue to drop off and retrieve used items instead of tossing them away! In collaboration with ecomaine, the WWC has also coordinated education seminars for area schools and civic groups to keep focus on all our diversion programs.

The last year proved challenging for our recycling program as we worked to reduce contamination of our saleable materials. Since early 2018, when the recycling market changed worldwide, the demand for recycling material has been down. The Board of Directors has set a directive to continue accepting recycling materials and to strive to have them recycled. Those who volunteer or work at the facility are dedicated to educating residents on what is recyclable. Often, necessary work needs to adapt as we grow our ability to collect recyclables and divert waste. Please feel free to ask questions, as our knowledgeable staff is happy to help you.

The MCSWC landfill experienced a fire in July of 2019. Fires in landfills are a common and often times, spontaneous occurrence. The staff works through many processes on a regular basis to keep down this threat. MCSWC had assistance from Rockport and Camden Fire & Police Departments, Dave Bolstridge, Camden Wastewater Superintendent, Maine Water, David St. Laurent, Camden DPW and the Maine DEP who offered advice and joint actions.

It is important to let the members of the Board of Directors know that we appreciate their support and dedication to our facility. Please take a moment to admire the new front-end loader purchased this year, which assists with many daily operations.

We cannot say enough about the incredibly hardworking and committed employees who staff the facility. You know some by name and some by face – Kenny, Bob, Gary, Syd, Beth, Kevan, Eric, Caleb, Russell, Dickie, Jim, Mark and our new manager, Michael Martunas. MCSWC would like to recognize and thank two valuable employees that retired this year, Earle (Skip) Wentworth who provided 21 years of service to the community and Pat Anderson after eight years. Our employees will continue to make the facility safe and easy to use. The staff appreciates all the residents and companies who make our jobs interesting and enjoyable.

Respectfully,

Chair Robert Falciani and the entire Mid-Coast Solid Waste Team

The image is a screenshot of the Town of Hope website. At the top, the word "Hope" is written in a large, blue, cursive font. To the right of the word is the Town of Hope seal, which is circular and features a landscape with a tree and water, surrounded by the text "TOWN OF HOPE" and "INCORPORATED 1864". Below the word "Hope" is a navigation bar with "Home" and "About" links. On the left side of the page is a vertical menu with various links: "Online Services Available", "Town Office", "Town Meeting and Election Information", "Board of Selectmen", "Planning Board", "Other Boards and Committees", "Town Services", "Finances", "How Do I...?", "Assessing and Property Taxes", "Tax Maps and Other Maps", "Ordinances", "Town Reports", "Arts and Recreation", and "Business Directory". The "How Do I...?" link is highlighted with a blue background. A callout box with a white background and a black border points to the "How Do I...?" link. The callout box contains the text: "Where can I buy yellow bags? What can I recycle? Is the transfer station open on Sundays? Answers to all these questions can be found by following the links at [www.hopemaine.org](http://www.hopemaine.org). Click on 'How Do I...?' and then 'How do I manage my household trash?'"

ROAD COMMISSIONER  
John Monroe



### ROAD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Last year's budget included rebuilding and repaving Crabtree Road, replacing culverts, and resurfacing dirt roads.

This was also the final year of our winter maintenance contract of \$116,000 per year. The Select Board put it out for bid twice and both times any reliable bid for winter maintenance was more than twice the previous contract amount. They chose to reject all bids and put it out a third time as a Request for Proposal. The best reliable proposals were \$195,300 per year for five years, or \$211,575 per year for three years, both options were from the same contractor. I recommended the five years for a \$48,825 savings. As of right now the board has chosen to reject the saving and accept the three-year term for \$211,575, with the thought of the town buying its own equipment and starting a public works department.

In the 2020-2021 budget we are requesting the following:

<u>Plowing / Sanding</u>	<u>\$ 211,575</u>
Winter sand	28,000
Winter salt	37,656
Paving and edging Gillette Road and Hope Street	168,552
Supplies (gravel, culverts hydro seed, etc.)	25,866
Sign replacement	2,000
Patching	4,103
 <u>Repairs &amp; Maintenance</u> (roadside mowing, replacing culverts, resurfacing dirt roads, ditching, cleaning culverts, checking complaints & cutting bushes).	 \$ <u>69,368</u>
 <b>Total</b>	 <b>\$ 545,120</b>

The Plowing/Sanding and Repairs & Maintenance lines from above are the only two lines available to fund a public works department. The question is this: can the town purchase for \$280,943 per year (the amount of plowing/sanding and repairs & maintenance combined); a garage, four plow trucks, a loader for sand, three full time workers with benefits, part time workers for flagging, workers compensation and liability insurance, excavators, grader, compactors, patch wagon, hay mulcher, hydro seeder, tractor, pavement edger, pavement saws, etc; not to mention repairs – to have their own public works department? I am hoping I can convince the board to take the \$48,825 savings on snow removal before they sign a contract.

I can be reached to report any concerns at 542-9636

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER  
Samantha Mank



### CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER / LOCAL PLUMBING INSPECTOR REPORT

As your Code Enforcement Officer and Local Plumbing Inspector, I have a very simple philosophy; I am here to assist you. Sometimes, Code Enforcement gets a bad reputation for trying to stop everyone from doing anything. I assure you, that in the Town of Hope that is not true. It is my goal to help each resident with their project in a fair and concise way. The state has very stringent Land Use Regulations and our Town has adopted a Land Use Ordinance. My part is to guide you and your project to completion while following all of the rules. Sounds easy, right? Sometimes it isn't. We have a volunteer appointed Planning Board that helps review many proposed projects and ensure that all residents are following the same set of standards.

At the last Annual Town Meeting, the voters approved a substantial change to the Land Use Ordinance (LUO). The Shoreland Zoning portion of the LUO, which was in large part chapter 6, was completely removed and was made its own stand-alone ordinance known as the Hope Shoreland Zone Ordinance.

In 2019, the Town issued 39 building and land use permits. Six of those permits were for single-family dwellings, nine were accessory structures such as a garage or shed, six were additions on to existing structures, five were for home occupations for in home businesses, the remainder include miscellaneous permits for tree removal, decks and ramps, storage, driveways, and demolition.

A total of 22 plumbing permits were also issued last year. Eleven permits were for Sub-Surface Waste-Water systems and 11 permits were for internal plumbing.

If you have a project in mind, feel free to contact me and I will do my best to work with you to help you get any needed permits.

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
<b>Single-Family Dwelling Permits</b>	6	8	7	5	11	8	10	6
<b>Total Building Permits</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>39</b>



## CHAIR

Langley Willauer

## PLANNING BOARD

After many years of strong leadership, John Fallows relinquished the chairmanship of the Hope Planning Board. The good news for all of us is that he stayed on as a member, making his experience available to future cases. We are all grateful for his past leadership and on-going service because he was a steadying force as a leader, from which the Town benefited greatly.

The Town of Hope Planning Board consists of seven citizen volunteers appointed by the Board of Selectmen (and women!) to five-year terms. The Board is authorized by the Planning Board Ordinance and acts as a group of judges who interpret Hope's Land-Use ordinances and the laws of the State of Maine on behalf of you, the citizens of Hope. The Town's code enforcement officer handles most of the day-to-day land-use decisions. However, commercial, industrial, and natural resource issues typically go before the Planning Board, which meets on the first Wednesday of each month when there is business to consider.

At Town Meeting last year, a new Shoreland Zone Ordinance was approved by the voters, as well as revisions to the Land Use Ordinance. This marked the end of a significant effort by the Planning Board to separate out the State-mandated Shoreland Zoning rules from the broader Land-Use Ordinance. By doing so, the Town can more easily incorporate future mandates from the State of Maine, keeping our rules current and consistent.

The other big project was considering Hope's Municipal Solar Array. The Town of Hope presented an application to the Planning Board in August. After conducting a site-plan review, a site visit, and on September 25, 2019, a public hearing, the Board approved the project.



CHAIR

Brian Powers, Sr.

**BOARD OF APPEALS  
BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW**

This past year has been quiet for the Hope Board of Appeals and Assessment Review.

The board only met once this term on January 21st to elect officers and discuss other housekeeping matters. As always, notice of the meeting was publicly posted prior to the event. Ron Wright officially retired after thirteen years as a member due to health issues. We wish Ron the best and thank him for his dedication to serving our community.

Bradley Boyd has officially joined the Board as of January 14th, 2020 to fill the vacancy created by Ron's retirement. Brad and his wife Lorinda are the owners of the "Lucky Us" farm on Ludwig Road. The name they selected for the old Sprowl farm speaks to their appreciation of living here in Hope. His interest in volunteering on the Board is welcome and appreciated, he is the sixth member of the board, but we are still one short plus an alternate. Volunteers are, and always have been, integral to the necessary functions of small local governments throughout Maine.

The Board members are as follows: Bradley Boyd, Nancy Ford, John Jensen, Mary Ireland - secretary, Steve Bowman - Vice Chair, and Brian Powers - Sr. chairman.

On December 5th, 2019, four members, Steve Bowman, Mary Ireland, Nancy Ford, and Brian Powers Sr. of the board attended a workshop conducted by the Maine Municipal Association for local Planning Boards and Appeals Boards. The training involved the Maine Right to Know Law, decision making process and record keeping, variances and appeals. The workshop was held in Augusta and well attended by other boards from throughout the State.

Whether voting or volunteering, "if you have the opportunity to become involved in the public side of government and choose not to, you have no advantage over those who cannot." – unknown. We need another member on the Appeals Board and an alternate, please help us fulfill that need, because your help does make a difference.

## SEXTON

Beth Gindel

### CEMETERY COMMITTEE

It has been a busy year for the Cemetery Committee, with a new Sexton and new committee members. We welcome Beth Gindel as Sexton along with Mike True, Jodi Saastamoinen, Mary Berry, Cindy DellaPenna and Brittany Payson as committee members. They have been very dedicated in working to restore Hope's two cemeteries.

The new Deeds were mailed out this year for Hope Grove Extension; if you did not receive a deed please contact the Sexton. Several years ago, new rows were added, which meant adjusting the old row numbers. New deeds were created to reflect the new assigned row number for each grave.

Beth has been diligently working on collecting death records, as well as military records for both cemeteries, and entering that data into the cemetery software program for Hope Grove Cemetery and the Extension. It will take a little bit longer for entering the data into the software for Morey Hill Cemetery, with the limited records and information available and the condition of the cemetery itself. This is a work in progress.

The Cemetery Committee, along with the Sexton, have been working on cleaning up the perimeter of the Morey Hill Cemetery, holding two Community Clean-up Days this past year. These clean-up days consisted of cutting down the small trees and bushes that had grown along the stone walls covering graves and removing leaves and branches from the cemetery. The large brush pile at the back of the cemetery was removed, as well. We are thrilled to have found numerous head stones in this process of cleaning up and we will continue to work on finding more as we remove roots and stumps in preparation for making it level so that it can be mowed. We will also be identifying and repairing the gravestones that have been located.

We have learned some history about the cemeteries from Cindy. Morey Hill Cemetery is our oldest cemetery and was established in 1804. At that time the townspeople voted to have a hearse house built at the cemetery to house a horse drawn carriage. Hope Grove Cemetery was established years later in 1843, and originally was owned by a grave company and not the town.

This year our goal is to keep working on the restoration of Morey Hill Cemetery. We will be working on removing the stumps and roots, filling in depressions, locating graves, and repairing gravestones. We will also continue to repair and set the gravestones in Hope Grove cemetery.

If you are interested in volunteering your time to help in the restoration process, please contact the Sexton. We certainly can use the extra help.

Feel free to contact the Sexton with any questions or concerns about the cemeteries.



## PRESIDENT

Debbie Hastings

**ALFORD LAKE/LERMOND POND ASSOCIATION**

The AL-LP Association is a non-profit organization that was originally started in the mid 1970's by a small group who saw the need to protect and preserve both bodies of water by working together with the owner of the dam and water rights. Since then, many things have been accomplished and new challenges continue to emerge.

We encourage all shorefront property owners to join. We are the first line of defense as we notice minor or major changes in the waters where we live either year-round or in the summer. We also are keenly aware of many people who enjoy the lake and pond who do not own shorefront property. You too can join as a friend of the Association . You would have all of the benefits of full membership except for voting at annual meetings.

We have several things that we work on every summer: testing water quality and clarity, working with the owner of the dam and water rights to have good and fair water levels on both bodies of water (and helping to keep the dams and gates in good condition in order to achieve this), conducting courtesy boat inspections for invasive plants (which are becoming an ever-increasing threat, showing up in areas not far from us), planning our annual breakfast meeting, and attending workshops to learn new information on ways to do things better. We share all this in our newsletter that comes out in July and is sent to all members via e-mail or postal mail. Copies are also left at local stores, Beaver Lodge, and the Hope Town Office.

We have a unique situation in that our Association has two bodies of water and two dams. Keeping everyone happy with water levels is our goal but it is sometimes a challenge. Last year both AL and LP were too high in the beginning of the summer. Both dam gates were wide open, and water was still too high. Between the winter runoff, the heavy rains and the many inlets that flow into AL, we had more water than we could control. Last summer, we spent a lot of time discussing ways to keep good and fair water levels, if Mother Nature would help us out, we should be in good shape.

Please consider joining our Association to help us keep our beautiful natural resources as the pristine waters that they are now. With increasing challenges, more help is always needed.

Our board members are Carol and Bob Bender, Dan Smiley, Mary Moran, Shannon Bowser, Ron Kenoyer, Jim Hunt and Richard Morgan. I am currently president and have been for a total of 15 years, which has been a wonderful journey for me. I look forward to joining Jean McMullan and Tom Baum as honorary members at our board meeting in May.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at 785-2459 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

All of our lives have changed significantly recently but I sincerely hope that we can all enjoy another great summer in our beautiful town of Hope.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
Ian Stewart

### COASTAL MOUNTAINS LAND TRUST



Coastal Mountains Land Trust is a conservation organization that has worked in the western Penobscot Bay region, including the town of Hope, since 1986 to conserve wildlife habitat, scenic landscapes, public access to natural lands, water resources, and productive forest and farmland. Thanks to community and member support, we have protected over 12,000 acres throughout our service region, which extends from Rockport to Prospect. The Land Trust also continues its active and expanding public access program inviting the public through its Trail Guide, social media, and partnership with other organizations, to use and enjoy over 45 miles of trail.

We are expanding our family event series. This year will include our quarterly story hour at Beech Hill, a pollinator walking tour, a learn-to-rake-blueberries farm tour, our community Free Pick and the annual Kites & Ice Cream festival. All of our events are free and open to the public.

The Land Trust has completed a total of ten conservation projects in Hope. We have protected 318 acres by conservation easements, a permanent agreement that keeps land in private ownership while protecting critical resources of the properties. We also own 185 acres of land with extraordinary conservation value.

On Bald and Ragged Mountains, progress continues to further the vision of a four-season, eight-mile Round the Mountain trail originating from the Camden Snow Bowl. Trail work began in 2019, and the trail will serve as an artery for an expanded system of trails and will continue to grow the Camden Snow Bowl as a four-season recreational destination.

Our office is located at 101 Mt. Battie Street in Camden. Please call us at (207) 236-7091, check out our website ([coastalmountains.org](http://coastalmountains.org)) and sign up for our monthly eNews.



Trail gate at Hatchet Mountain Preserve on Hatchet Mountain Road

SECRETARY  
Nancy Keller

### HATCHET MOUNTAIN SNO-RIDERS

The riding season was very short due to the mild winter. A lot of trail work and bridge repair was taken care of this season. The Goose River Snowmobile Club decided to give up maintaining their trails so we will be taking over maintaining them. Therefore, we purchased their equipment in order to do this. We would like to thank everyone that helped work on the trails this season. See you next season.

This year we gave out one scholarship to a high school student from Hope. We raise the money for the scholarships by providing cottage care for the summer residents by keeping an eye on their cottages during the winter months.

Our meetings are the second Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. from October through April. We have potluck dinners and once in a while we go out to a restaurant. We meet at the Hope Corner Fire Station, if you are interested in joining or coming to a meeting, you can call Nancy Keller at 763-4118.



Newly installed Beverage Road bridge

**THE HATCHET MOUNTAIN SNO-RIDERS WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL  
THE LANDOWNERS WHO PERMIT SNOWMOBILERS TO USE THEIR LAND.**

**WE INVITE THESE LANDOWNERS TO JOIN US AT OUR OCTOBER 8th  
MEETING FOR A HOT DOG ROAST**

**PLEASE CALL NANCY KELLER AT 763-4118 FOR DETAILS**

**PRESIDENT**

David Hall

**HOBBS AND FISHPONDS ASSOCIATION**

The Association remains active in its mission to maintain clean and healthy water in a diversified natural environment. We have 50 members of the approximately 120 land owners and welcome new members whether they are landowners, visitors, or townspeople.

We continue to monitor water quality for bacterial contamination and clarity three times a summer for the on-going concern of the risk of an invasive species contamination. Please make a habit of inspecting your boats, fishing gear, and water toys for any vegetation and remove it before entering the water. And please, ask your renters to do the same.

The reconstructed Association dam at Crabtree Road is monitored regularly and is functioning well. Beaver were again a nuisance last fall but have been legally trapped out.

The Association is run by volunteers. So no tax money supports the Association's work which helps secure the value of the of the ponds' properties and the Town tax base. Please consider joining us in our efforts. Our membership fee is just \$35 per family. All are welcome to the Annual Meeting of the Association to be held on Tuesday, July 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. As usual we will have a guest speaker.

Contact: David Hall 207-975-2772 [davidhall47@gmail.com](mailto:davidhall47@gmail.com)



## PRESIDENT

Juanita Hunt

**HOPE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

It's amazing how a few volunteers can come together and make a great contribution to preserve the history of Hope. They come together once a month to enjoy a program, to have conversation with one another, and of course to enjoy some refreshments.

The society is open to the public most Mondays at 479 Camden Road from 9 a.m. to noon. A host will give you a tour and answer questions about Hope's history.

There are always some repairs that have to be addressed. This year the roof of the garage and ell were shingled. Windows that needed scraping, puttying, and painting were repaired by HHS members. New storm windows were purchased for the Faith Hart room, and HHS member Lewis Merrifield volunteered to install them. Many thanks to all who helped!

Emily Saladino acquired an old trunk and filled it with Hope's yesteryear memorabilia which she donated to Hope Elementary School. The trunk travels from room to room, filled with donated historical items so the student may have a chance to see many old items from Hope's history.

Marie Berry and Ann Leadbetter head up the historical society's food and craft sale on voting days. This is a great example of the town coming together. To help fund projects of the Society, HHS members donate their fine foods and Florance Merrifield donates a multitude of her crafts. We could not do without the many townspeople purchasing the food and crafts. Florance creates a beautiful quilt each year for a raffle and in the nine years she has made/donated a quilt, five of the quilts have been won by Hope citizens.

Marie Berry has headed up a yard and bake sale with Florance's crafts on the last Saturdays of June, July, and August. Along with the other members who volunteered to help out. HHS members as well as townspeople-donated items for the sale. Tour guides were available to give tours of the historical house, in which thirty-eight people took advantage of the tours. What a great way to meet your neighbors and get a bargain.

HHS thanks Ron Smith for the many, many bottles he has picked up along the roadside, keeping the roadsides cleaned up. He donates the proceeds to the society.

After many hours of intensive work, transcribing the "Hope's Town Clerk's Record Book" from 1804 to 1848 was completed (There are over 400 pages). We are very grateful to Cindy DellaPenna, Mary Ireland, Linda Hillgrove, and Ron Smith for their long hours of transcribing.

Bob Appleby has retired after more than a dozen years designing, setting up, and entering information into the Society's website. Bob spent many hours researching and editing information for the site, including getting GPS locations for graves not known previously. The Society and Town surely owe him thanks for all the work done over the years as webmaster.



Two sessions of students from Sweettree School visited HHS, in which they came armed with notebooks and questions. It was nice to have kids interested in Hope's history.

The Veterans cabinet, "Lest We Forget," at the Town Office has been updated, so now there are over 225 veterans' pictures on display. Hope is very proud of its veterans. There were ten members of the Crabtree family who served, seven of the Merrifield family, and seven of the Richardson family, of which six were brothers.

This past year, we are pleased to say there were numerous items from Hope's ancestors donated to the society. We ended the year with a Christmas brunch.



Florance Merrifield mounting photographs



Margaret Morse and the finished Veteran's cabinet, Hope Town Office

## BOARD MEMBER

Jill Lang

**HOPE LIBRARY**

The Hope Library is an all-volunteer library housed at the Hope Town Office and open to the public during town office hours. The Hope Library is funded 100% through grants and donations. You can find news from the Hope Library on our website: [hope.lib.me.us](http://hope.lib.me.us) and the Hope Library Facebook page.

The year 2019 was one of transition. Early in 2019, a call went out to the community for volunteers to assist the library in its governance and operations resulting in a number of new board members and a dedicated group of volunteers to assist the public during library visits.

The Hope Library Board of Directors is comprised of Hope residents Judith Jones, Jill Lang, Amy Gertner and Elizabeth Tibbetts, and Yvonne Gloede of Spruce Head. The library volunteers are Sydney Hall, Betty Ingraham, Harold Mosher, Gina Sargent, Rita Rogers and Simi Delevett.

It is important to use this report to give a special thanks to previous Board Members who dedicated so much time and energy to keep the Library open: Beth Guiseley, Debbi Stockwell, Teresa Withee, Sydney Hall, Nancy Connon, Lorraine Davis and the late Jean Ettlinger.

Because we are part of the Maine State Library system, the Hope Library is able to offer free Wi-Fi for its patrons. We have two laptop computers available for patron use. Generally speaking, our library is self-serve, in that books are checked out in a hand-written log. Following much work by volunteer Sydney Hall, we were planning to launch a bar-code-based checkout system.

The Hope Library had 930 visitors (including repeat visitors). We have 5,710 print items (adult and children) in our collection. If you include ebooks, downloadable materials and audio and video materials, we have 23,031 items in our collection. We have 490 Hope registered users (card holders). Non-residents may receive a card for \$10.

In 2019, the Hope Library offered the following programs to the community, and we would be delighted to have your suggestions for 2020 events. Highlights from 2019 included a book club which met regularly, art and sculpture displays from local artists as well as programs from

- Pulitzer Prize winning author and Camden resident, Patricia O'Toole, author of "The Moralist: Woodrow Wilson and the World He Made."
- Anne Perkins, manager of Headacre Farm in Owls Head, who talked about "Putting Your Garden to Bed for the Winter."
- Master Gardener and Beekeeper, Jean Vose. whose program was titled "Gardening to Attract Pollinators."
- Author Laurie Chandler, who spoke about "The Story of the First Woman to Solo-thru Paddle the Northern Forest and Canoe Trail."
- Jan Zimmerman, Hope camp owner, whose presentation was about "Native American Storytelling for the Whole Family."

We look forward to the day we can welcome the community back to our library. Please feel free to reach out to us by email: [hope@hope.lib.me.us](mailto:hope@hope.lib.me.us)

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

2 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002  
(207) 287-1315

**William D. Pluecker**

1133 Finntown Road  
Warren, ME 04864  
(207) 273-3044

Bill.Pluecker@legislature.maine.gov

Citizens of Hope,

It is an honor and a privilege to serve in the 129th Legislature representing Hope. As part of my duties, I have been serving on the Agriculture, Conservation, & Forestry Committee where I have been able to ensure that many of the bills coming out of our committee are focused on making life in rural communities more economically sustainable and care for the land upon which so much of our local economy depends. We have funded \$1,000,000 in the Mainers Feeding Mainers program which creates markets for local farmers while feeding those who need it. We have also freed up regulations allowing schools to donate food waste to farmers for animal feed, and working on legislation to direct our state institutions to purchase 50% of their food from local farmers and fishermen by 2050. We also passed my legislation to ensure that when you see “Raised in Maine” on meat it means that the animal was born, raised, and butchered in the state, protecting our farmers from cheap imports, and ensuring consumers know the Maine steak from the store is actually growing our rural agricultural economy.

The legislature worked hard this year, considered some 2500 bills, passing some bold initiatives, and moved relatively quickly to pass a budget. While I have some concerns about the increase in total spending, I am happy overall because I believe that the budget is fair and provides funding for some key initiatives, like addressing the skyrocketing costs of healthcare and adding direct funds to address the opiate crisis. I am proud to say that this budget doesn’t increase or create new taxes, and at the same will be providing much-needed property tax relief. For example, if you have filed for a homestead tax exemption, you should soon receive a check for \$104.00. This is a direct action by the Legislature provided to taxpayers across all of Maine’s sixteen counties to provide some relief from rising property taxes.

Also included in this year’s budget are increases in municipal revenue sharing, up from 2 to 3% in 2020, increasing to 3.75% in 2021. With state revenue projections turning out higher than originally expected, we were able to put more money in the State’s rainy-day fund while also being able to provide additional resources for towns to pay for local services like public safety, and road maintenance. Hope will be receiving from the state \$109,193 in 2020 and \$144,157 in 2021- this represents an increase of \$40,384 and \$34,964 over the last approved budget in 2017. This is great news!

This next session, there are a lot of big issues and we will need to work to figure out how the government can efficiently and effectively expand our state’s economic potential. Please get in touch with me to share your opinion on pending legislation or if you need help with any government agency. I am at your service and proud to represent our community.

William “Bill” Pluecker  
State Representative





*Senator David Miramant*  
3 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0003  
(207) 236-4845  
[David.Miramant@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:David.Miramant@legislature.maine.gov)

Dear Friends and Residents of Hope,

I serve in the Maine Senate to work for change that will improve the lives of folks across our state. Our second session concluded sooner than expected this year, under circumstances that have upended life for all of us. Even so, I want to share with you some of the important work we were able to do as a legislature.

This year, we grew Maine's Rainy Day Fund to a historic high of \$258 million. The pandemic and ensuing economic crisis has highlighted the need for such a fund, but the bipartisan, balanced budget we worked to pass means we won't have to rely on it yet.

We worked to fix our broken health care system, protecting those with pre-existing conditions and lowering prescription drug costs. We also capped the out-of-pocket cost of insulin, and we put an end to surprise and abusive billing practices that have made health care an unpredictable, costly expense for many Mainers.

We also took action to improve access to reliable, high speed internet across the state. From students keeping up with their learning to small businesses trying to find innovative ways to expand and stay competitive, an internet connection is more important now than ever.

I'm proud of everything we accomplished, but there's more work to be done. I will keep working to promote renewable energy, lower property taxes and continue expanding access to health care. While we may not always agree, I approach every decision by listening to all sides, studying the issue closely and ultimately deciding what I believe is in the best interests of the folks I represent and all Maine people.

With COVID-19 affecting many in our community, I have been working one-on-one with constituents to find solutions to the challenges they're facing. If I can ever be of any help to you, please reach out to me at (207) 287-1515 or by email at [David.Miramant@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:David.Miramant@legislature.maine.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Miramant".

Dave Miramant  
State Senator

*Fax: (207) 287-1585 \* TTY (207) 287-1583 \* Message Service 1-800-423-6900 \* Website: [legislature.maine.gov/senate](http://legislature.maine.gov/senate)*



STATE OF MAINE  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
1 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333-0001

Dear Friends:

It was the highest honor of my life to take the oath of office to become Maine's 75th governor. Over the next four years, I will do everything in my power to make Maine the safe, beautiful, prosperous state we all want for our children and grandchildren.

That is why on my first day in office I directed the Maine Department of Health and Human Services to implement Medicaid expansion as quickly and efficiently as possible. My Administration will ensure that it is paid for sustainably; that the cost of health insurance is controlled; and that the cost of prescription drugs is reined in. In addition to creating a Director of Opiate Response to marshal the collective power and resources of state government to stem the tide of the opioid epidemic, we will make Narcan widely available, increase access to medication assisted treatment and recovery coaches, and expand drug courts.

We also need a healthy environment. My Administration will embrace clean energy; change our modes of transportation; weatherize homes and businesses; and reach a goal of 50 percent of our energy coming from Maine renewable resources. By reducing the impacts of climate change, we will create good-paying jobs, preserve our environment, and protect our state's farming, fishing, and forestry industries.

We will also develop a world-class workforce starting with Pre-K for every 4-year-old in Maine and more post-high school options that result in a valued credential. Attracting talented young people to move here and make Maine their home will be top priorities of my Administration.

Maine communities, especially rural communities, are confronting a severe workforce shortage and an aging and declining population. It is time for bold, dynamic ideas that will change Maine for the better. That is why I, along with people ranging from small business owners, innovators and entrepreneurs, to economists and every day, hard-working Mainers, developed an economic plan designed to make it easier for small businesses to grow, for people to come and stay, and for Maine to thrive.

I welcome your ideas. We are all in this together. We all want Maine to have a beautiful environment, happy people, and prosperous communities

Thank you,

Janet T. Mills  
Governor

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888-577-6690 (TTY)

FAX: (207) 287-1034

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CHELLIE PINGREE  
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
1<sup>ST</sup> DISTRICT, MAINE

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, AND  
RELATED AGENCIES

INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND  
RELATED AGENCIES

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS,  
AND RELATED AGENCIES

HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

SUBCOMMITTEES:

BIOTECHNOLOGY, HORTICULTURE, AND  
RESEARCH

CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

Dear Friends,

I hope this letter finds you well. It's a privilege to represent you and your family and I am thankful for the opportunity to update you on my work in Washington and Maine.

In 2019, I was honored to work with my colleagues to pass hundreds of bills that address everything from fighting climate change to raising the minimum wage. And while Congress has become an increasingly partisan place, I was proud to continue my habit of reaching across the aisle, introducing a number of bipartisan bills and cosponsoring even more.

On the House Appropriations Committee, I worked to support programs important to Maine, such as rural broadband investment, Head Start, PFAS clean up, and shipbuilding at Bath Iron Works. Further, I firmly believe we need to make substantial investments in all aspects of our infrastructure, from safe drinking water and modernized schools, to upgraded highways, transit, and rail. From my seat on the Appropriations Committee I advocated for increased funding for the BUILD grants program which funds investments in transportation infrastructure by states, local governments, and transit agencies. I also pushed for increased funding for the Community Development Block Grant program, our national park system, local and organic agriculture, election security, and the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Since my time in the Maine State Senate, lowering the cost of prescription drugs has been one of my top priorities. This year I introduced two bills that would help Americans afford their prescription medications. I also voted for a bill that would allow the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to directly negotiate prices for certain drugs. I look forward to continuing this important work in 2020 so Americans are no longer faced with the choice of picking up prescriptions they desperately need or putting food on the table.

I am sure this coming year holds many challenges and opportunities for our country, and I promise that the interests and principles of Mainers will continue to guide my work. If there is anything my offices in Washington or Maine can do to be of assistance – whether you, your town, or your organization is applying for a grant; you're facing an issue with a federal agency; or if you'd just like to share a thought or opinion – please do not hesitate to reach out.

Best wishes,

Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress

2 PORTLAND FISH PIER, SUITE 304  
PORTLAND, ME 04101  
PHONE: 207-774-5019  
FAX: 207-871-0720



1 SILVER STREET  
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SUSAN M. COLLINS  
MAINE

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WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1904  
(202) 224-2523  
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United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1904

COMMITTEES:  
SPECIAL COMMITTEE  
ON AGING  
CHAIRMAN  
APPROPRIATIONS  
HEALTH, EDUCATION,  
LABOR, AND PENSIONS  
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



ANGUS S. KING, JR.  
MAINE

133 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
(202) 224-5344  
Website: <http://www.King.Senate.gov>

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 1, 2020

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

Dear friends,

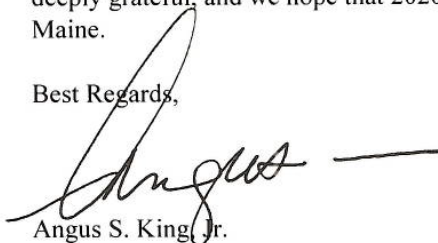
The beginning of a new year provides the opportunity to reflect on the progress of the past 12 months. If you've been watching cable TV, you might think that every waking moment of 2019 in Washington has been consumed by divisive, partisan issues – and while there's no shortage of those debates, there 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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**TOWN OF HOPE  
MINUTES OF SPECIAL TOWN MEETING  
January 1, 2020**

*The meeting was called to order at 6:32pm.*

**ARTICLE 1.** To elect a Moderator to preside at said meeting.

*Michael Mayo was nominated and elected with votes of 3 YES and 0 NO*

**ARTICLE 2.** To see if the voters of the Town of Hope will authorize the Board of Selectmen to spend up to \$20,000 from the unassigned fund balance for an emergency repair to a Town Fire Pumper Truck.


*Moved and seconded to appropriate \$20,000 from the unassigned fund and so voted unanimously with 16 votes*

*Meeting adjourned at 6:39pm*

**OFFICIAL BALLOT**  
**STATE OF MAINE**  
**Town of Hope**  
**Annual Town Meeting Referendum**  
**July 14, 2020**

---

**INSTRUCTION TO VOTERS**

- Vote “Yes” or “No” by filling in the oval to the left like this 
  - To have your vote count, do not erase or cross out your choice.
  - If you make a mistake, ask for a new ballot.
- 

, Town Clerk

**Annual Town Meeting Referendum Ballot for the Town of Hope, July 14, 2020**

---

**ARTICLE 1.** Hope Elementary School Budget. Shall the Town appropriate the sum of **\$3,056,714** and raise the sum of **\$1,896,401** for the 2020-2021 school budget?

☐ Yes

☐ No

**Recommendations:**

*School Board: Recommend Yes*


*Budget Committee: Recommend Yes*

**VOTER INFORMATION:** The Hope Elementary school budget submitted in this Question 1 totals **\$3,056,714**. It includes locally raised funds in the amount of **\$1,896,401**, to be assessed to the Town of Hope in accordance with state law. The locally raised amount exceeds the maximum state and local spending target by **\$799,882**. This budget includes these cost centers and amounts:

<i>Cost Center</i>	<i>Amount Appropriated</i>
<i>Regular Instruction</i>	<i>\$1,392,408</i>
<i>Special Education</i>	<i>\$658,087</i>
<i>Career and Technical Education</i>	<i>\$0</i>
<i>Other Instruction</i>	<i>\$27,847</i>
<i>Student and Staff Support</i>	<i>\$269,723</i>
<i>System Administration</i>	<i>\$116,207</i>
<i>School Administration</i>	<i>\$194,120</i>
<i>Transportation and Buses</i>	<i>\$142,110</i>
<i>Facilities Maintenance</i>	<i>\$256,212</i>
<i>Debt Service and Other Commitments</i>	<i>\$0</i>
<i>All Other Expenditures</i>	<i>\$0</i>
<b><i>Summary of Total Authorized School</i></b>	<b><i>\$3,056,714</i></b>

**OFFICIAL BALLOT**  
**STATE OF MAINE**  
**Town of Hope**  
**Annual Town Meeting Referendum**  
**July 14, 2020**

**INSTRUCTION TO VOTERS**

- Vote “Yes” or “No” by filling in the oval to the left like this 
- To have your vote count, do not erase or cross out your choice.
- If you make a mistake, ask for a new ballot.

**ARTICLE 2.** Shall the Town appropriate non-property tax revenues in the amount of **\$670,225** to help fund the Municipal Budget and reduce the property tax assessment for FY 2020-2021 as detailed in Articles 3-7?

☐ Yes  
☐ No

**Recommendations:**

Board of Selectmen: **\$670,225**

Budget Committee: *Recommend Yes*

<i>Revenue Source</i>	<i>Selectmen Recommend</i>	<i>Selectmen Vote</i>
<i>Excise Taxes - Vehicles</i>	\$318,000	5-0
<i>Cemetery Maintenance</i>	\$3,000	5-0
<i>Highway Block Grant</i>	\$27,200	5-0
<i>State Revenue Sharing</i>	\$100,000	5-0
<i>GA Reimbursement</i>	\$750	5-0
<i>Grant Income</i>	\$0	5-0
<i>Unassigned Fund Balance</i>	\$175,000	5-0
<i>Miscellaneous Revenue</i>	58,000	5-0
<b><i>Totals</i></b>	<b><u>\$670,225</u></b>	

**ARTICLE 3.** Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of **\$272,316** for the Administration Cost Center?

☐ Yes  
☐ No

**Recommendations:**

Board of Selectmen: **\$272,316**

Budget Committee: *Recommend Yes*

<i>Dept.</i>	<i>Selectmen Recommend</i>	<i>Selectmen Vote</i>
<i>Town Administration</i>	\$160,717	4-1
<i>General Administration</i>	\$59,139	5-0
<i>General Assistance</i>	\$750	5-0
<i>Municipal Buildings</i>	\$13,550	5-0
<i>Professional Services</i>	\$38,160	5-0
<b><i>Totals</i></b>	<b><u>\$272,316</u></b>	

**ARTICLE 4.** Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of **\$148,972** for the Public Safety Cost Center?

☐ Yes  
☐ No

**Recommendations:**

Board of Selectmen: **\$148,972**


Budget Committee: *Recommend: Yes*

<i>Dept.</i>	<i>Selectmen Recommend</i>	<i>Selectmen Vote</i>
<i>Ambulance</i>	\$38,659	5-0
<i>Animal Control</i>	\$6,567	5-0
<i>Fire Department</i>	\$98,745	5-0
<b><i>Totals</i></b>	<b><u>\$148,972</u></b>	



**OFFICIAL BALLOT**  
**STATE OF MAINE**  
**Town of Hope**  
**Annual Town Meeting Referendum**  
**July 14, 2020**

**INSTRUCTION TO VOTERS**

- Vote “Yes” or “No” by filling in the oval to the left like this 
- To have your vote count, do not erase or cross out your choice.
- If you make a mistake, ask for a new ballot.

**ARTICLE 5.** Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of **\$83,025** for the Public Works Cost Center (excluding the roads budget – see Article 6)?

☐ Yes  
☐ No

**Recommendations:**

Board of Selectmen: **\$83,025**

Budget Committee: *Recommend Yes*

<i>Dept.</i>	<i>Selectmen Recommend</i>	<i>Selectmen Vote</i>
<i>Cemeteries</i>	\$9,577	5-0
<i>Recreation</i>	\$12,600	5-0
<i>Sanitation</i>	\$59,143	5-0
<i>Streetlights</i>	\$1,705	5-0
<b><i>Totals</i></b>	<b>\$83,025</b>	

**ARTICLE 6.** Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of **\$528,895** for the maintenance and repairs of the Town Roads (balance of the Public Works Cost Center)?

☐ Yes  
☐ No

**Recommendations:**

Board of Selectmen: **\$528,895**

Budget Committee: *Recommend No*

<i>Dept.</i>	<i>Selectmen Recommend</i>	<i>Selectmen Vote</i>
<i>Roads</i>	\$528,895	3-2
<b><i>Totals</i></b>	<b>\$528,895</b>	

**ARTICLE 7.** Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of **\$60,200** for the Reserve Accounts Cost Center?

☐ Yes  
☐ No

**Recommendations:**

Board of Selectmen: **\$60,200**


Budget Committee: *\$60,200*

<i>Item</i>	<i>Selectmen Recommend</i>	<i>Selectmen Vote</i>
<i>Emergency Road Repairs</i>	\$20,000	5-0
<i>Fire Department Equipment</i>	\$8,500	5-0
<i>Fire Truck Replacement</i>	\$10,000	5-0
<i>Fire Truck Repair/Maintenance</i>	\$5,000	5-0
<i>Municipal Buildings Repair</i>	\$5,000	5-0
<i>Office Equipment/Software</i>	\$2,000	5-0
<i>Solar Reserve</i>	\$9,700	5-0
<b><i>Totals</i></b>	<b>\$60,200</b>	

**OFFICIAL BALLOT**  
**STATE OF MAINE**  
**Town of Hope**  
**Annual Town Meeting Referendum**  
**July 14, 2020**

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**INSTRUCTION TO VOTERS**

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  - To have your vote count, do not erase or cross out your choice.
  - If you make a mistake, ask for a new ballot.
- 

**ARTICLE 8.** Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of **\$500** for the Area Interfaith Outreach (AIO)?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

*Explanation: In 2019, AIO provided Hope residents approximately \$5,800 in social services through the Child Hunger Program (Backpack Program), food pantry visits, and energy assistance programs.*

**ARTICLE 9.** Shall the Town appropriate the sum of **\$5,119** from the unassigned fund balance to cover the FY 2019 overdraft in the Public Works Cost Center?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

*Explanation: This will not be raised through the FY 2020-2021 tax assessment. The overdraft in Public Works was due to additional sand and salt purchased for winter road maintenance above the budgeted amount.*

**ARTICLE 10.** Shall the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to fix the salaries of the officials and employees appointed by it under provision of 30-A M.R.S.A. §2601(1) and (2), subject to funding of previous Cost Center Articles?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No


**ARTICLE 11.** Shall the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into multi-year contracts on behalf of the Town?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

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- 

**ARTICLE 12.** Shall the Town amend the ordinance entitled: “Animal Control Ordinance”?

☐ Yes

☐ No

*(The proposed Animal Control Ordinance Amendment is available for public inspection at the Town Office or Town website [hopemaine.org](http://hopemaine.org))*

**ARTICLE 13.** Shall the Town will vote to appropriate all of the money received from the State of Maine for snowmobile registrations to the Hatchet Mountain Sno-Riders Snowmobile Club for the maintenance of their network of trails, on the condition that those trails are open to the public for the purpose of snowmobiling at no charge?

☐ Yes

☐ No

**ARTICLE 14.** Shall the Town authorize the Tax Collector to accept prepayment of taxes not yet committed pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. § 506, with no interest to accrue on any excess prepaid over the amount finally committed?

☐ Yes

☐ No

**ARTICLE 15.** Shall the Town approve setting September 30, 2020 as the date when the first one-half of taxes shall be due and payable, with interest on the first installment to start after that date, and the date of April 30, 2021 as the date when the second one-half of taxes are due and payable, with interest on the second installment to start after that date; to set the interest rate at 8.00% for unpaid taxes pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. § 505(4); and to list taxpayers’ names in the Town Report if taxes are not paid by June 30, 2021?


☐ Yes

☐ No

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**ARTICLE 16.** Shall the Town approve setting the interest rate to be paid by the Town on abated taxes at a rate of 4.00% for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. § 506-A and to authorize such interest paid or abatements granted to be appropriated from overlay funds or, if necessary, from the unassigned fund balance?

☐ Yes

☐ No

**ARTICLE 17.** Shall the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen, at its discretion, to sell by sealed bid or public auction (with the Board of Selectmen reserving the right to reject any and all bids) and to convey by quitclaim deed any real estate acquired by the Town for nonpayment of taxes thereon, or to convey the property to the prior owner upon payment in full of all taxes, interest and charges incurred by the Town; provided that the Board of Selectmen shall use the special sale process required by 36 M.R.S. §943-A for qualifying homestead property, as applicable?

☐ Yes

☐ No

**ARTICLE 18.** Shall the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to sell or otherwise dispose of Town-owned personal property with a value of \$1,000 or less on such terms and conditions as it deems advisable?


☐ Yes

☐ No

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- 

**ARTICLE 19.** Shall the Town authorize the Treasurer to waive the foreclosure of tax lien mortgages and file such waivers at the Knox County Registry of Deeds pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. § 944 upon a finding by the Board of Selectmen that ownership of the property that is subject to the tax lien mortgage would be contrary to the Town’s best interests?

☐ Yes

☐ No

**ARTICLE 20.** Shall the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept or reject donations of personal property and/or to accept or reject donations and/or gifts of money to the various accounts of the Town for the ensuing year and to appropriate those moneys donated for specific purposes, provided that any donation and/or gift which obligates the Town to incur liabilities that total \$1,000 or more per year, as determined by the Board of Selectmen, shall be decided at a special town meeting?

☐ Yes

☐ No

**ARTICLE 21.** Shall the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept conditional or unconditional gifts of real property, provided that any gift which obligates the Town to incur liabilities that total \$1,000 or more per year, as determined by the Board of Selectmen, shall be decided at a special town meeting?


☐ Yes

☐ No

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- 

**ARTICLE 22.** Shall the Town authorize the School Board to accept or reject donations of personal property and/or to accept or reject donations and/or gifts of money to the various accounts of the school for the ensuing year and to appropriate those moneys donated for specific purposes, provided that any donation and/or gift which obligates the Town to incur liabilities that total \$1,000 or more per year, as determined by the Board of Selectmen, shall be decided at a special town meeting?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

**ARTICLE 23.** Shall the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for state, federal (including Community Development Block Grants) and other grants on the Town’s behalf for purposes deemed by the Board of Selectmen to be in the best interests of the Town; to accept such grants, including, when necessary, the authority to sign contracts and related documents and to accept conditions of approval; and to appropriate such grant funds for any purpose for which the Town has appropriated funds in Fiscal Year 2020-2021?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

**ARTICLE 24.** Shall the Town appropriate the proceeds of any payment on insurance claims for damage occurring to Town property, with such appropriation dedicated to the budget line item for the same type of property as the loss sustained?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

**ARTICLE 25.** Shall the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to carry unexpended funds forward to the next fiscal year within the existing cost centers?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

**TELEPHONE NUMBERS****EMERGENCY CALLS**

Fire – 911

Ambulance – 911

Police – 911

Animal Control Officer .....	322-3237
Assessors' Agent .....	763-4199
Camden Hills Regional High School .....	236-7800
Cemetery Sexton .....	975-0156
Code Enforcement Officer/Local Plumbing Inspector .....	763-4199
Fire Station, Hope Corner .....	763-3411
Five Town Community School District (CSD) .....	236-3358
Game Warden .....	800-452-4664
Hope Elementary School .....	785-4081
Knox County Sheriff (non-emergency) .....	594-5656
Mid-Coast Solid Waste Corp. ....	236-2467
Road Commissioner .....	542-9636
Superintendent's Office (SU 69) .....	763-3818
Town Administrator .....	763-4199
Town Fax .....	763-4195
Town Office .....	763-4199

**TOWN OF HOPE**

441 Camden Road  
Hope, Maine 04847

**Office Hours:**

Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday: 7:30 – 4:30

Thursday: Noon – 6:00

Closed Monday

Phone: 763-4199

Fax: 763-4195

Visit our website:

**[www.hopemaine.org](http://www.hopemaine.org)**