Election Day set for Tuesday, July 14; polls open from 8 to 8, Veazie Town Meeting starts at 8 p.m.

Tuesday, July 14, will be a busy day in Veazie and the rest of Maine. Because of the pandemic, the State Primary and Special Referendum Election in Maine was switched from the second Tuesday in June (June 9) to July 14, the second Tuesday in July.

Voters in Veazie will elect two members of the Town Council, one member of the School Committee, and one Sewer District trustee. Both in-person and absentee voting are available for the July 14 election.

In-person voting will take place at the Fletcher Building, 1084 Main St. The polls will open at 8 a.m. and close at 8 p.m.

The Annual Town Meeting will start at 8 p.m. on July 14. During the Town Meeting, citizens will vote on the Municipal, School, and Capital Budget for 2020-21.

Two candidates are running for two vacancies on the

Carolyn Hathaway retiring after 37 years of fixing broken zippers, finding lost mittens, and taking care of Veazie school front office

If you have been a student at the Veazie Community School or the John R. Graham School over the last 37 years, you have encountered Carolyn Hathaway at the helm in the front office. Mrs. Hathaway has had the pleasure of taking care of every Veazie student in the last four decades on a day-to-day basis. Every day, week, and month, she handed out countless bandaids, ice cups, and chapsticks. She has been a miracle worker fixing broken zippers and photo copiers and finding lost mittens, while continuing to support her administrator with daily office needs.

Her dedication to her VCS family has been endless—and when she talks about her job, she replies, “I don’t go to work, I am just going to school.”

Veazie's compassionate smile, calming demeanor, and love for children has welcomed all at the door, but retirement is finally here, with her last day officially June 30.

She says it is difficult to say goodbye, but adds: “I’m not leaving, just retiring. I’ll always be here to help.”

Mrs. Hathaway says she looks forward to seeing everyone in the community and will closely follow all school activi-

(The Please turn to page 5)
As I write this article the weather outside is beautiful but I’m certain just like most of you I did not expect 2020 to start the way it did. I was actually looking forward to COVID-19 being behind us by late March as our budget process had started. It was cut short quickly as the decision was made to close the Municipal Building to the Public on March 17th.

Many challenges this spring; many unknowns this summer and fall. Town Meeting set for July 14, 2020. Municipal, School budgets approved unanimously by Council, Budget Committee

On April 13, 2020, the budgets were presented to the Council for review and to approve the figures for the public hearing that was held on May 11, 2020 at 6:30 pm via Zoom. Prior to the meeting, residents were provided with a copy of the final proposed budgets for both the Municipal and School Departments, which had previously been approved by the Budget Committee. Included in the packet were summary sheets for both of the proposed Municipal and School Budgets.

The Municipal Budget shows an increase of $23,206,000, and the School Budget shows an increase of $322,630,94 from monies requested in FY 19/20. All Departments have met with the Budget Committee and upon completion of these meetings, the following budgets were approved unanimously by both the Council and the Budget Committee.

In closing, with the budget and the projected revenues as presented, Assessor Birch and I project the mill rate will be 0.0185. This projection is based on receiving the amount of Revenue Sharing the State of Maine reported before the pandemic. We will most likely not know the actual amount until the pandemic is over and the after effects are known. I feel confident all Departments have worked on the proposed budgets with the directives you provided early on in the process.

In closing, I believe we were able to do this by hard work and dedication from all involved in crafting this and prior year budgets.

First, I hope you and your loved ones are doing well and are doing your best to figure out this “new normal” which has been forced on us by the COVID-19 pandemic. It certainly is a vacation for us, but is not for our customers if the transaction needed to be completed online. All Police and Fire personnel have performed flawlessly without hesitation. Again, I am so thankful and proud of the staff I have working with me. Please thank them the next time you see them. I assure you they have worked extremely hard for you through these unprecedented times.

Although we have many unknowns for the next fiscal year, we prepared for these unknowns by working through and trying to be fully responsible. This was true for the Municipal and School Budgets. This year more than any past years, we started the budget process early and worked in coordination with the School to have a completed budget to be presented to the Budget Committee. Also, as in years past, I would like to thank each of the members for their dedication to the budget process. We all worked diligently to construct the budget which will be presented at the Town Meeting. Working together as a team, and under the guidance of the Council, we are projecting no increase in the mill rate.

Proposed Municipal Expenses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Increase(Decrease)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Executive</td>
<td>317,963.00</td>
<td>(63,807.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police</td>
<td>332,360.00</td>
<td>(53,310.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire</td>
<td>230,555.00</td>
<td>(62,285.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefits*</td>
<td>186,000.00</td>
<td>52,206.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Investment</td>
<td>42,800.00</td>
<td>7,360.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital</td>
<td>251,500.00</td>
<td>39,300.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reserve</td>
<td>73,500.00</td>
<td>4,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fixed Cost</td>
<td>479,600.00</td>
<td>(7,500.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mandatory</td>
<td>1,638,423.00</td>
<td>97,776.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>3,273,984.00</td>
<td>115,552.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Proposed Expenses</td>
<td>6,864,495.00</td>
<td>233,206.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* This is a new line which was combined from each of the departments.

Proposed Municipal Revenue:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Increase(Decrease)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Municipal</td>
<td>236,357.00</td>
<td>30,870.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Revenue</td>
<td>570,700.00</td>
<td>14,720.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PP Tax Committee**</td>
<td>3,212,236.00</td>
<td>148,522.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PP Tax Commitment*</td>
<td>2,697,092.00</td>
<td>16,054.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homestead Reimbursement**</td>
<td>130,126.00</td>
<td>23,040.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BETE**</td>
<td>17,984.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Proposed Revenues</td>
<td>6,864,495.00</td>
<td>233,206.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Place holder only. Number will not be finalized until taxes are committed.

Benjamin Birch continues to be the Town’s Tax Assessor and is a great member of our team of employees. His wealth of knowledge to a very complex process is greatly appreciated. He is in the office on Tuesdays from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, but is always available to answer questions that homeowners may have about their property assessment. He can be reached via email at bhbirch@veazie.net.

In another section of the Viking, you will find our plan for the Town meeting which will be held on July 14, 2020, at 8 p.m. at the school. We developed this plan by using guidance provided by the Governor and the State of Maine. The plan ensures everyone’s safety and takes into consideration the new protocols due to COVID-19.

We are continuing to work on a plan for voting at the Town Office to make sure we meet all the COVID-19 guidelines. If you are uncomfortable with coming to the Office to cast your vote, you may request an absentee ballot. Your vote will be counted the same as if you voted in person. Many citizens have already (Please turn to page 4)
Election Day set for Tuesday, July 14; polls open from 8 to 8, Veazie Town Meeting starts at 8 p.m.

(Continued from page 1)

The candidates are Jeff Manter, who is running for reelection to his second term on the Council; and Aaron Turcotte, who previously served on the Council for part of a term in 2017-18 before he had to resign because of a change in his duty assignment as a Maine State Trooper.

One candidate, Kristen Bagley, is running for one vacancy on School Committee.

Robert Tomlinson, Chair of the Sewer District Trustees, is running for re-election to his fourth three-year term as a Trustee.

Absentee ballots may be requested by phone, on-line, or in person up to and including Election Day.

Absentee ballots may be requested in writing, by phone, online, or in person up to and including the day of the election, without specifying a reason. However, if you are asking to receive your ballot by mail, please request it early enough to allow for postal mail delivery time – both to receive it and return it (2-5 days each way).

You can request an absentee ballot by calling your Municipal Clerk’s office at 947-2781. You can request an absentee ballot online or by mail from the Secretary of State’s website: https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/AbsenteeBallot/online-form.pl.

Absence of an absentee ballot request is being accepted right now. Printed absentee ballots will be available by mid-June, and we will issue your ballot as soon as possible after that date.

• Absentee ballot requests are being accepted right now. Printed ballots will be available by mid-June, and we will issue your ballot as soon as possible after that date.
• Ballots must be returned to the municipal clerk no later than 8:00 pm on Election Day.

For additional information go to: https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/voter-info/absentee-guide.html.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE CANDIDATE
JULY 14, 2020

ONE CANDIDATE
ONE VACANCY
3-YEAR TERM

Kristen Bagley

Kristen Bagley has been a resident of Veazie for 14 years. In that time she has served on the PTO at the Veazie Community School with three years as president. Additionally, she was elected to the school board in 2015-2020 and served as the chairman of the school board for the last three years.

She also raised the money to purchase a VCS - Small School, Big Heart shirt for every student and staff of the school. Kristen’s husband is a lifelong Veazie resident that attended the school as well as her three children who have either graduated or are currently attending VCS.

Kristen and her family are members of the Veazie Salmon Club.

TOWN COUNCIL CANDIDATES
JULY 14, 2020

TWO CANDIDATES
TWO VACANCIES FOR 3-YEAR TERMS

Jeff Manter

My name is Jeff Manter. I have lived in Veazie for the past 10 years. I have been married to my wife Deedra for 25 years and we have a 22-year-old daughter, Cassidy, who is a senior at Husson College and plans to continue on to law school after her graduation. I have been an active Veazie town councilor for the past three years and have truly enjoyed my time helping to make a difference in my community. I graduated in 1992 from Bentley College in Wellesley, MA with a bachelor’s degree in business management. In 1996 I received my MBA from the University of Southern Maine. I spent the first 10 years my career as an Economic Development Specialist and a Director helping towns/cities in Aroostook and Cumberland County apply for and receive funding to address economic needs within their communities. For the past 15 years I have been employed with the Dead River Company where I have held a variety of different technology roles. I am currently the Manager of Network Operations as well as Manager of the Helpdesk. I am an avid golfer and although I am not as good as I would like to be, I love the game. While my true passion in life is spending quality time with family and friends, I like to keep moving and stay busy so I am a handyman at heart. You might say I’m “a jack of all trades” and a master of none”, but many of my friends often invite me over to “socialize” or “fix” something.

Aaron Turcotte

I would like to introduce myself as a candidate for the position of town councilor. I have been a resident of Veazie for six years and live with my wife and two children. This opportunity parallels my desire and commitment to continue serving the public, specifically those in the town I now call home.

I grew up in the Katahdin Region, graduating from Schenck High School in East Millinocket. I hold a degree in criminal justice and have worked in this field for 19 years. Currently, I am a patrol supervisor with the Maine State Police.

I am the Treasurer for the Maine State Troopers Foundation, the charitable arm of the Maine State Troopers Association. Previously, I served as the President of the Maine State Troopers Association, and board member for the National Troopers Coalition in Washington DC. For nine years, I was on the Board of Directors for Special Olympics Maine. I also served on the Veazie Town Council in 17-18, before I had to resign due to a change in duty assignment. These positions reflect my strong commitment to leadership, the ability to foster excellent working relationships with others and to encourage innovation as the town continues to emerge as an ideal community in which to live and work.
I typically use this edition of The VIKING to recap spring events at VCS and would be remiss if I did not mention COVID-19. The COVID-19 pandemic has clearly been the most significant challenge public education has faced in recent years. Over-night, schools across our great nation were forced to shift to a remote learning platform. I have nothing but pride and respect in how our school and community handled these unforeseen circumstances. We surveyed families this spring to learn what went well and how we could improve. We received feedback from 73% of our families including 249 open-ended responses. We were featured in three different Bangor Daily News articles showcasing the creative and amazing learning opportunities provided by our spectacular staff. We gave our 8th graders a wonderful in-person graduation send-off followed by a festive community parade thanking largely to the support from Veazie Police and Fire Departments under the direction of Chief Leonard and Chief Metecalf.

This summer, Veazie Community School is providing 7 different remote learning opportunities for our students. We presently have more than half of our school enrolled in one of the following: Extended School Year. Math Camp. Reading Recovery. Library & STEM. Coding Club. Gardening Club. Social/Emotional Support Services.

During our winter edition of The VIKING, I shared news that our gym floor needed replacement due to water damage from a long-term drainage issue. Our insurance fully covered the replacement of the floor, and as you can see by the picture, what was once an incredible school gym is now a truly amazing gym.

On behalf of the Veazie School Committee and all staff and students at VCS, I want to express sincere gratitude towards Carolyn Hathaway’s 37 years of dedication and service—starting at the John R. Graham School, and now the Veazie Community School. While I have personally only had the opportunity to work with Carolyn for five of these years, I have enjoyed and appreciated her tremendous support.

To say she has been the rock of VCS is an understatement. Carolyn has assisted numerous administrators through countless transitions, initiatives and special projects including the opening of a brand new school, and most recently, a global pandemic. The institutional knowledge Carolyn possesses is priceless and can never be replaced.

Carolyn’s pleasant demeanor towards guests, her dedicated support of staff, and the love she has given to thousands of children will never be forgotten. I wish nothing but the best for Carolyn in her retirement. Mrs. Hathaway will forever be a part of the Veazie Community School family.

— Matthew D. Cyr
Superintendent of Schools and Principal, VCS

The Veazie Community School gym with its new floor.
The FY21 school budget offers continued support for short and long-term planning using the guidance of our capital improvement plan and shared leadership model. The Department of Administration’s funding formula provided a significant increase in revenue—always a good thing! This increase is largely to support our enrollment growth along with increased need for special education services. The budget being presented to you will maintain all current levels of programming, with some enhancements in targeted areas. Our two largest cost centers (Regular Instruction and Special Education Instruction) make up nearly 2/3 of our overall budget increases. A majority of these increases are related to a jump in high school enrollment, contractual salaries and benefits, and increases in budget lines associated with the expansion of special education services. In this year’s budget process, I am recommending that we take advantage of recent improvements in state aid, and establish a reserve account specifically for high school enrollment and high cost out of district placements. Over time, this reserve account will allow us greater flexibility in supporting costs associated with fluctuations in these two areas.

Article 5 (Student & Staff Support) saw an increase for a couple of reasons. First and foremost, we added one day/week to our school counselor position making it full-time beginning next year. This enhances our capacity to provide social/emotional support for our students and families, and aligns with our longterm KC7 student support model. Secondly, we adjusted where in the budget our “combination” teachers belong (for example, some of our specialists also teach math and social studies) as outlined in Article 1, while library media belongs in Article 5).

System Administration and School Administration saw similar shifts in the distribution of responsibilities so that our overall school system’s staffing maximizes benefits of the E279 DOE funding formula. Beginning next year, we will have a full-time school office manager and assistant to the superintendent. This office staffing shift enhances our ability to function as an independent school unit. Going forward, we will be in a better position to support curriculum and RTI initiatives—particularly C3T work. We will also benefit from increased checks and balances within the business and school offices. Transportation costs increased for out of district placements. Article 9 (Facilities and Management), saw increases to support three projects on our capital plan. The first being replacing our playground. If you recall, last year we established a playground reserve fund. At that time, the school committee shifted $60,000 from our fund balance into this newly created reserve. This year, we have budgeted the remaining costs for a complete playground replacement—a much needed project to improve student safety and enhance our outdoor playground experiences for both the school and greater community. Our new playground is on schedule to be completed by September.

Our second project involves the replacement of exterior wall sections on the cafeteria patio area and near by north facing walls. Last summer, we replaced the exterior wall nearest the playground as it was showing the greatest need. Eventually, all of the wooden exterior wall sections will need to be replaced—it would be too costly to do it all at once which is why we are completing this work in phases. The cafeteria and north facing wall phase will be completed this summer. Finally, we applied and received a DOE SRRF grant (School Revolving Renovation Fund). The project we were awarded was the replacement of the current cafeteria patio with a safer egress that addresses the movement of snow and...
State of Maine: ........................................... County of Penobscot, ss: ...........................................
To:  Stephen Leonard, Chief of Police for the Town of Veazie, in said County of Penobscot, State of Maine
GREETINGS:
In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the voters of the Town of Veazie, in said County, qualified by law to vote in Town affairs, to meet at the Municipal Building, in said Town, on Tuesday, the 14th day of July, A.D., 2020 at 8:00 a.m., and then and there to act on Article 1 and by secret ballot on Article 2 as set out below.

Article 1: To elect a Moderator by written ballot to preside at said meeting.
Article 2: To elect by secret ballot all Town Councilors, School Committee members and Sewer District Trustees as are required to be elected.

TOWN BUDGET ARTICLES

Article 3: To see what the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for the Executive Department. Recommended by the Town Council & Budget Committee: $317,963.00
Article 4: To see what the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for the Police Department. Recommended by the Town Council & Budget Committee: $332,340.00
Article 5: To see what the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for the Fire Department. Recommended by the Town Council & Budget Committee: $29,065.00
Article 6: To see what the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Benefits for the Municipal Departments. Recommended by the Town Council & Budget Committee: $186,000.00
Article 7: To see what the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Community Investment. Recommended by the Town Council & Budget Committee: $42,600.00
Article 8: To see what the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for the Capital Improvement Programs. Recommended by the Town Council & Budget Committee: $251,500.00
Article 9: To see what the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for the Reserve Accounts. Recommended by the Town Council & Budget Committee: $73,500.00
Article 10: To see what the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Fixed/Variable Cost Items: Recommended by the Town Council & Budget Committee: $497,600.00
Article 11: To see if the Town will vote to fix a date when taxes are due and to set an interest rate, the amount not to be compounded, on all real estate and personal property taxes not paid on or prior to September 30th. Interest will commence on October 1st on all taxes not paid on or prior to September 30th.
Due Date suggested: … Upon receipt of tax bill
Interest rate suggested: …9.0% 
Article 12: To see if the Town will finance the voted expenditures as follows:

TAX COLLECTOR’S REVENUE
Total Tax Collector’s Revenue: $469,336.00

TREASURER’S REVENUE
Total Treasurer’s Revenue: $351,907.00

TOWN CLERK’S REVENUE
Total Town Clerk’s Revenue: $3,280.00

Revenue and non-property tax revenues by the Town Council & Budget Committee: $825,043.00

Article 13: To see if the Town will vote to establish the interest rate to be paid to a taxpayer who is determined to have paid an amount of real estate taxes in excess of the amount finally assessed for the year 2020-2021 at 3.0% per year on the amount of overpayment.

SCHOOL BUDGET ARTICLES

ARTICLES 14 THROUGH 24 AUTHORIZE, EXPENDITURE, SOURCE, CATEGORIZATION

ARTICLE 14: To see what the Veazie School Committee will be authorized to expend for Regular Instruction.
School Committee/Budget Committee/Town Council
Recommend: $2,332,920.90

ARTICLE 15: To see what the Veazie School Committee will be authorized to expend for Special Education.
School Committee/Budget Committee/Town Council
Recommend: $1,019,088.56

ARTICLE 16: To see what the Veazie School Committee will be authorized to expend for Career and Technical Education.
School Committee/Budget Committee/Town Council, Recommend: $0.00

ARTICLE 17: To see what the Veazie School Committee will be authorized to expend for Other Instruction.
School Committee/Budget Committee/Town Council Recommend: $42,828.19

ARTICLE 18: To see what the Veazie School Committee will be authorized to expend for Student and Staff Support.
School Committee/Budget Committee/Town Council Recommend: $238,641.15

ARTICLE 19: To see what the Veazie School Committee will be authorized to expend for System Administration.
School Committee/Budget Committee/Town Council Recommend: $145,737.81

ARTICLE 20: To see what the Veazie School Committee will be authorized to expend for School Administration.
School Committee/Budget Committee/Town Council Recommend: $144,616.58

ARTICLE 21: To see what the Veazie School Committee will be authorized to expend for Transportation and Buses.
School Committee/Budget Committee/Town Council Recommend: $139,050.00

ARTICLE 22: To see what the Veazie School Committee will be authorized to expend for Facilities Maintenance.
School Committee/Budget Committee/Town Council Recommend: $247,673.13

ARTICLE 23: To see what the Veazie School Committee will be authorized to expend for Debt Service and Other Capital Expenditures.
School Committee/Budget Committee/Town Council Recommend: $0.00

ARTICLE 24: To see what the Veazie School Committee will be authorized to expend for Student Support.
School Committee/Budget Committee/Town Council Recommend: $0.00

ARTICLES 25 THROUGH 26 RAISE FUND FOR THE PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET

ARTICLE 25 (requires a recorded vote): To see what the Town will appropriate for the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act, and to see what the Town will raise as the Town’s contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15688. School Committee/Budget Committee/Town Council Recommend $2,761,277.76 be appropriated and $1,919,938.66 be raised.

ARTICLE 26 (Requires a Written Ballot): To see what the Town will raise and appropriate in additional local funds as required to fund the budget recommended by the School Committee/Budget Committee/Town Council.

School Committee/Budget Committee/Town Council Recommend: $1,322,055.23, which exceeds the State’s Essential Programs and Services funding model by $1,322,055.23.

The School Committee gives the following reasons for exceeding the State’s Essential Programs and Services funding model by $1,322,055.23: The essential programs and services funding model does not provide funding fully to cover the cost of general education, student technology, student transportation, system administration, curricular and extra-curricular programming. If student enrollment remains static or declines, and/or property valuations continue to increase at a rate faster than the state average, the formula will calculate lower EPS total allocations and reduce per student EPS allocations accordingly.

Explanation: The local additional funds are those locally raised funds over and above the Town’s local contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and local amounts raised for the annual payment on non-state funded debt service that will help achieve the Town budget for educational purposes.

ARTICLE 27 SUMMARIZES THE PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET

ARTICLE 27 (requires a recorded vote): To see what the Town will authorize the School Committee to expend for the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and local amounts raised for the Town from the annual payment on non-state funded debt service that will help achieve the Town budget for educational purposes that $2,761,277.76 be appropriated and $1,919,938.66 be raised.

ARTICLE 28 AUTHORIZES EXPENDITURE OF GRANTS AND OTHER RECEIPTS

ARTICLE 28: In addition to amounts approved in the preceding articles, the Town will be authorized to expend such other sums as may be received from federal or state grants or programs or other sources during the fiscal year not exceeding the amount listed under the grant or program provided that such grants, programs or other sources do not require the expenditure of other funds not previously appropriated.
Explanation: This article has no relation to previously voted articles pertaining to the general operating budget’s expenditures and revenues. The question authorizes the School Committee to expend any other receipts such as state and federal grants for the fiscal year.

ARTICLE 29 RAISES AND APPROPRIATES FUNDS FOR THE SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAM

ARTICLE 29: Shall the Town raise and appropriate $40,000.00 for the school nutrition program with authorization to expend any additional, incidental, or miscellaneous receipts in the interest and for the well-being of the school nutrition program?

ARTICLE 30 AUTHORIZES A TRANSFER TO THE CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

ARTICLE 30: Shall the School Committee be authorized to transfer from the Town’s capital fund $40,000.00 from the available fund balances to the Capital Reserve Fund and to expend said funds only upon express authorization of the Town voters?

ARTICLE 31 AUTHORIZES THE DISPOSITION OF ANY ADDITIONAL STATE SUBSIDY RECEIVED

ARTICLE 31: In the event that the Town receives any additional state subsidy in excess of the amount included in its budget, shall the School Committee be authorized to use all or part of the additional state subsidy to increase expenditure for the operating budget in any category approved by the School Committee and/or increase the allocation of finances in a reserve fund approved by the School Committee.

ARTICLE 32 AUTHORIZES THE REGIONAL VOCATIONAL BUDGET

ARTICLE 32: Shall the Regional Vocational Budget as approved by the Cooperative Board for the year beginning July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 be approved in the amount of $3,105,184.26?
FY 2020-2021 Town Meeting Plan
Scheduled for July 14, 2020 at 8:00PM
At Veazie Community School

State law requires that municipalities hold an annual town meeting to establish municipal and local education budgets as well as local property taxes to include school taxes. State law also prohibits annual town meetings from being conducted by remote participation (1 M.R.S. § 403-A(2)). Therefore, the Town of Veazie will hold its annual town meeting as it is a necessary, critical function of the Town.

The Governor’s Executive Order 9/28 requires individuals to remain at home except “to conduct or participate in Essential Activities,” and except with respect to certain workers, certain work-related travel. “Essential Activities” include “traveling to and from a federal, State, or private government building for a necessary purpose.”

The Restoring Maine’s Economy Plan, Stage 2, began June 1st. That document provides that, “Stage 2 envisions a continued prohibition on gatherings of more than 50 people.”

Taking all this into consideration, I submit the following plan for your review.

1. Town Meeting will be held at the Veazie Community School located at 1040 School Street on July 14, 2020, at 8:00 p.m.
2. As required by law, voters shall register and must be physically present to speak or to vote. Therefore, the meeting will not be conducted by remote participation.
3. The meeting will be set up so there is a primary room with an attendance limit of 50 people including election personnel and local officials. Other rooms will be available if needed and will be limited to 50 people per room. The additional rooms will be connected by a speaker so residents will be able to hear and participate in the meeting.
4. To conduct voting in the additional rooms, the elected Moderator shall travel between rooms. Additionally, the Moderator may choose to appoint a ballot clerk for assistance.
5. Room/chairst/equipment will be set up at least 7 days in advance of the meeting. Cleaning and disinfecting will be done before and after the meeting, including floors, all doors and handles, and furniture and equipment.
6. Budget documents will be available by internet or in a continued display. Any physical budget documents, ballots, etc., will be printed and placed on chairs at least 7 days in advance of the meeting.

7. Social/distant physical will be utilized. Chairs will be spaced at least 6 feet apart in rows separated by at least 6 feet.
8. If more than one line is needed to check in voters, the voter registrars will be spaced at least 6 feet apart at tables.
9. The voter registration lines will be marked at 6 foot intervals. Staff will maintain a distance of 6 feet and room entry/exit points before and after the meeting.
10. Hand sanitizer will be available at the voter registration tables and in rooms used.
11. Clerks and other workers will wear and as necessary be issued gloves and cloth face coverings.
12. Although physical distancing will be maintained, all meeting participants will be reminded that they should wear cloth face coverings for additional protection of others, subject to medical exceptions.
13. Minors will not be permitted to attend.
14. The Moderator will explain and propose specific measures to expedite the meeting within legal parameters.
15. A single microphone for voters to speak will be used. The Moderator will require distancing and individuals will be instructed not to touch the microphone.
16. The Moderator will use voice voting (“Yeas”/“Nays”).
17. When a written ballot is required by law, distancing will be maintained. The Moderator will only allow a limited number of people to approach the ballot box at any one time, and ballot clerks will wear gloves and cloth face coverings.
18. Voters will not be permitted to touch ballot boxes.

This plan was drafted following the Restoring Maine’s Economy Plan COVID-19 Prevention Sample Checklist. The Checklist can be found at this link: https://www.maine.gov/covid19/sites/maine.gov/covid19/files/infile/Restarting%20Maine%20Economy%20%26%20Preparing%20Maine%20to%20Renew%20Maine%20%26%20Resume%20Economy%20:%20Sample%20Dealership%20CHECKLIST.pdf

We will continue to monitor the Governor’s emergency orders and continuing guidance of the Restoring Maine’s Economy Plan, modify this plan accordingly and provide as much notice as possible to changes in this plan.

Re-opening of Municipal Building to the Public

The following plan, which is easy to follow and safe for both Staff and Customers, has been approved by the Town Council to allow the re-opening of the Town Office, effective June 10:

1. The main Office will be open to the public at 8 a.m. and will close each day at 4 p.m. (The closure time varies by 30 minutes to give staff time to prepare the office for the next day.)
2. Entrance to the building will be accomplished by using the ramped portion of the building.
   • Signage will be installed directing customers to proceed up the ramp to enter the building.
   • Markers will be placed on the ramp to assist with maintaining 6 feet of distance between each person.
   • Signage will be placed on the entry way door asking customers upon entering the building to use hand sanitizer from the hand sanitizer station installed to the right of the entryway.
   • Face coverings will be made available but are not required.
3. Two people will be allowed at the Clerk’s Counter at a time. We will recommend only one person from each household come to the office to conduct business.

This is a fluid plan and may be adjusted as guidance is received from Staff members or other agencies.

__________________________________________________________________________________________

June 2020 • The Viking • Town of Veazie - Veazie Community School • Page 7
Congratulations to the Veazie Community School Class of 2020
Grade 6 enjoys Zoom interview with illustrator Russ Cox

By Susan Logan, Grade 6 Teacher

Grade 6 would sometimes illustrate scenes from books they were reading in class. We were a class of doodlers or illustrators.

The class was excited to have Russ Cox join us on Zoom to share his work. He is an illustrator from Maine who grew up in the hills of Tennessee without many conveniences. As a child he spent his time whittling and drawing. Most of his work is created in pencil, gouache, and watercolor.

Some of his Commercial clients are Leap Frog, McDonald’s, Warner Brothers and Hershey to name a few. Also, he has illustrated book titles such as Whatever Says Mark (a book about punctuation) by Terry Collins, The Boy Whose Face Froze Like That by Lynne Plourde, Freddy the Frogcaster, and many others.

The class learned some simple drawing techniques and drawing tools to use on the computer. The class enjoyed the time spent with Mr. Cox.

Sunday March 15th the congregation of the Veazie Congregational Church observed the 200th anniversary of the State of Maine with the dedication of a State of Maine flag. Mary Bagley church clerk and Pastor Patrick Seymour in the photo.

VCS student poem
The Loudest Silence
By Duncan Carlisle, gr. 7

The loudest silence
Often occurs
When someone is on “thin ice”
Whether they did something or not
Whether it was wrong or right
But either way
The sounds of silence is always there
We don’t know why the noise of no noise is so loud
But it is
It really is the loudest noise
I find it odd
How loud it is,
The noise of no noise
But even if you didn’t do anything,
You’re just sitting in a car,
It is still there
It is always different for everybody
You can’t explain the noise of no sound
But there it is,
Always there
Hiding in the background,
Waiting for silence,
So it can take its place with the sound of no sound.

The VIKING is supported in part by advertising dollars

Your ad could go here!

for more information, call Mark Leonard at 947-2781
Veazie celebrates 200th birthday of Maine, 167th birthday of town

On March 6th the Town of Veazie celebrated the 200th Birthday of the State of Maine and the 167th Birthday of the Town of Veazie. The celebration was held at the school.

Matt Bishop, former Veazie student, gave a talk on what it was like in Veazie, then part of Bangor, 200 years ago.

Mary Bagley, also a former student at Veazie School, talked about what school was like in Veazie 200 years ago.

The students at VCS learned the State of Maine song and sang it, along with Happy Birthday to the State of Maine.

Cup cakes were given to the students to celebrate with.

Thanks to the Historical Committee for putting on this celebration.

VCS student poem
The Light at the End of the Tunnel
By Lana Friess, gr. 7

In times like these hope slowly fades away
But we must find the light,
The light at the end of the tunnel
Every day healthcare workers risking their lives,
Their lives for those of others
Their courage
Their perseverance
Their light
Let their light shine bright
Let it encourage us that there is hope
Hope for people sick
Hope for people at home
Hope for first responders
We all must remember that there is light
Let the light at the end of the tunnel shine bright
Now more than ever

Veazie celebrates St. Patrick’s Day

On March 11th the Veazie Seniors and Friends held their St. Patrick’s Day celebration with a boiled dinner. Joining us was Jappo the clown who entertained us with his very creative balloon making skills.

Upcoming Holidays and Council Meetings

July 14............Council Meeting, VCS Gymnasium, 7 p.m.
July 14............State and Municipal Elections, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Fletcher Building
July 14............Annual Town Meeting, VCS Gymnasium, 8 p.m.
July 15............Special Council Meeting, 9 a.m.
August Council Meeting—TBD
Sept. 7...........Labor Day, Office Closed
A Shout Out to the Families about Remote Learning in the spring of 2020

By Laurie Kimball,
Grade 1 Teacher

If you give a primary student a Zoom lesson, he’ll probably want to show you a close up of his eyeball. Showing you his eyeball will make him think of a tree outside that he once saw his cat in. He will then bring you outside to show you how he can climb this tree. Let’s just say our Pre-K through Grade Two Students did exceptionally well during this Remote Learning Time!

Teachers took their enthusiasm of trying something new and used it to unite the wing with many different learning activities. On Thursday, May 7th students got to use their engineering skills to make a fort. At 7:00 pm that night families logged into the Fort Night Zoom Session. Students from all primary classes were finally able to see each other again! Teacher used Zoom Breakout rooms to share stories to multi grade groups. It was a huge success!

So much of a success, the teachers joined forces a couple of weeks later to create a Flat Teacher activity. Students were sent a Bitmoji of their teacher and then had one week to write about all the adventures they went on together. Activities ranged from tree climbing and biking to picnics and Godzilla encounters! No wonder the teachers were so exhausted that week!

In the midst of these bigger events, daily assignments were geared toward keeping the kids motivated and connected as well. There were scavenger hunts, science experiments, websites, research projects, bands formed, plants planted, Guess Boxes, books read, surprises mailed, math games and lots of things to share. All of the extra efforts lead up to our last day in which we went out with a BANG! Each child from Pre-K to Second Grade was given a confetti filled balloon. After memories were shared and good-byes were said we all popped our balloons in a celebration of a great year!

So really, if you happen to give a primary student a Zoom lesson, he might show you her eyeball but he’ll also have a pretty great last few months of a super, awesome, school year to remember as well!

A huge thank you goes out to all our Veazie Community School Families. We couldn’t have done these past 13 weeks without you.

You were the glue that held our teachers and students together. We want to take this time to recognize you for going the extra mile to make this Remote Learning Time successful.

We know it was hard. You were managing Zoom times, locating websites, keeping track of paperwork, answering questions, reading emails, printing papers, making schedules and finding materials all while many of you were working and had other kids at home.

It was definitely not what any of us expected but we did it...together! We will go into next year stronger and more ready than ever.

Thank you again for being our true partners in your child(ren)’s education.

If you give a primary student a Zoom lesson . . .
VCS teachers joined forces in May to create a Flat Teacher activity. Students were sent a Bitmoji of their teacher and then had one week to write about all the adventures they went on together. Activities ranged from tree climbing and biking to picnics and Godzilla encounters! No wonder the teachers were so exhausted that week!
On Thursday, May 7th students got to use their engineering skills to make a fort. At 7:00 pm that night families logged into the Fort Night Zoom Session. Students from all primary classes were finally able to see each other again! Teacher used Zoom Breakout rooms to share stories to multi grade groups. It was a huge success!

Students enjoy confetti-filled balloons on last day
On our last day we went out with a BANG! when each child from Pre-K to Second Grade was given a confetti filled balloon. After memories were shared and good-byes were said, we all popped our balloons in a celebration of a great year!
If I led my community, the first thing I would do is add a library to Veazie. It would be nice to have a local library where people can go every day to borrow a book or sit in a quiet space to read. Reading is very important and it is also a great hobby. Libraries can bring people together and offer more than just books. For example, they could have story time for young children, and have authors come visit to talk about their books. A library would be a wonderful addition to the community of Veazie, and citizens could donate books. To figure out where to place the library, I would visit the town office to see if they have any available buildings I could use.

I would also love to add a community park. There are lots of towns and cities in the area that have parks, so why not have one of our own? Community parks are a good way for people to get outside and get fresh air. A community park would be a great place for people to walk their dogs, kids to play on a playground, and even a nice place to go on a walk. The community park could also have some events like fundraisers and sports. Also, we could create an ice rink in the winter for skating and hockey, and there could even be a flower garden with benches so the senior citizens of Veazie could enjoy the park as well. The park would need to be somewhere in a forested area, and Veazie has a lot of options.

I think it would be important to add more houses to Veazie so that more people can come live in our town. There are a lot of empty places in Veazie that would be perfect for building houses. Since Veazie is a wonderful place to live in, I think it would be helpful to build even more houses in our town.

There is a riverside park in Veazie that I would like to change a bit. The riverside park is a nice place to go visit, but there could be more there. In the summer there could be activities such as arts and crafts for adults and children. For example, there could be rock painting, and creating art out of nature. The park is a beautiful place and it would be great to see it visited more often.

If I led my community I would add these three things to make Veazie even better than it already is. These would be great additions to my community because a library, community park, and more houses are all important things that could be added to Veazie, Maine.

Coronavirus Haiku poetry

“The Trapped”
The world stored away
Locked in isolation here
When will we come out?
—Dom Ondo, gr. 8

People stuck at home
Eating the potato chips
They are still hungry
—Avery Messer, gr. 8

Coronavirus
It has disrupted my life
Make it go away
—Nick Vetelino, gr. 8

“Coronavirus Boredom”
When my future kids
Say they have nothing to do
I will roll my eyes
—Sarah Hartford, gr. 7

I’m washing my hands
And those who didn’t used to
Now have no excuse
—Rachel Wheelden, gr. 7

Donate Your Bottles and Cans to Support Opportunities for Individuals with Disabilities

Independence Advocates of Maine is excited to announce a drop off site at 234 Main Street, Orono, for your donated bottles and cans. You may also drop off donations directly at Mahani’s Redemption Center on Stillwater Avenue in Old Town. Since 1977, I AM has been providing innovative and dynamic supports to individuals with intellectual disabilities and autism in our community.

Our Community Ties program has locations in Orono and Veazie and provides Community and Home Supports to help individuals lead included lives. Recently, Community Ties has added the service of virtual community supports to individuals in a variety of interest areas. This service is easy to sign up for and includes assistance obtaining technology needed to stay connected.

To learn more about these opportunities, contact Karen Benson, Community Programs Manager at 866-3769 Ext. 135 or email kbenso@iamsupports.org.
Veazie Community School
Summer Learning
June 30 - July 30

All Veazie Community School summer learning opportunities will be virtual using Zoom or Google Meet.

Math Camp— This program is open to any current Kindergarten through 8th grade student who is not already participating in our Extended School Year program. Students will meet virtually in groups for 45 minute sessions two days per week during July. Through interactive games, drills, and other activities, students will focus on reinforcing fundamentals in order to maintain skills during the summer and to gain strategies for future success in math learning. Click here to sign-up for Math camp. Contact Mr. Arell for more information: marell@veaziecs.org

Summer Library Programming—Join Mrs. Shannon, VCS Library Media Specialist, this summer for Storytime and STEAM activities. More details can be found here: https://sites.google.com/veaziecs.org/library. Contact Mrs. Shannon for more information: mshannon@veaziecs.org

Coding Club—Join Code Club to create your own games, art and gadgets using your computer. We will meet this summer via Zoom and have fun exploring how computers work. Code Club is open to all VCS students from grades 3-8 and will meet once each week for 50 minutes. For more information, contact Mr. Arias-Palomo: arias-palomo@veaziecs.org. Click here to sign-up for Coding Club.

Social Emotional Support—Veazie Community School is excited to announce a new Social Emotional check-in for the month of July for Pre-K through 8th grade. Staff will be providing age-appropriate activities and hangouts to support students’ social-emotional needs and development. The SEL check-in will be delivered twice each week for 30 minutes and will be adjusted to meet the needs of students. This will be a unique program and could be a simple check-in with a familiar face, group to hang out with, or a fun virtual activity. Contact Mrs. Dineen with questions: ldineen@veaziecs.org. Click here to sign-up for Summer SEL services.

ESY—VCS Special Education Director Debrajean Scheibel will be communicating directly with parents and IEP teams to provide details for our Extended School Year programming (ESY). Contact Mrs. Scheibel for more information: dscheibel@veaziecs.org

Reading Recovery Support— Mrs. Logan will continue to work with Reading Recovery students at different times during the summer. Mrs. Logan will be in direct contact with parents to provide further details. Contact Mrs. Logan for more information: slogan@veaziecs.org