

**2008-09**

**ANNUAL REPORT**



Town of  
Mechanic Falls

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# **ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE  
MUNICIPAL OFFICERS  
AND  
SUPERINTENDANT OF SCHOOLS

FOR THE PERIOD  
JANUARY 1, 2009 TO DECEMBER 31, 2009

INCLUDING THE FINANCIAL REPORTS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR  
JULY 1, 2008 TO JUNE 30, 2009



## Valerie Emery

Valerie Emery has been a third grade teacher at Elm Street School for thirty-five years. She will be retiring in June 2010 after positively impacting Elm Street School and the lives of many eight and nine year old children.

Mrs. Emery, born July 11, 1952 to Gardner and Viola Stone, grew up in Mechanic Falls. Mrs. Emery has two boys of her own, Rob and Steve and two step-sons, Jonathan and Josh. She married her husband, Joe Emery, in 2000 and they reside in Mechanic Falls.

She attended Water Street School and Elm Street School before moving on to Edward Little High School and earned her teaching degree from the University of Maine at Farmington. Valerie Emery completed her student teaching at Elm Street School under the mentorship of Jean Williams and she spent twenty-five of her teaching years working in a collaborative third grade team with Eunice Stover.

Valerie is an active member of the Vineyard Christian Fellowship Church in Mechanic Falls. She helps lead worship and fellowship time at Bucknam Oaks for some of the elderly folks that live there. She is always known for doing things for other people and very often puts them before herself.

In Valerie's thirty-five years in the classroom, she has taught children the importance of treating others with respect and solving problems peacefully. Mrs. Emery invested many hours outside the classroom in order to make the most of the time that her class was with her. The extra time was evident in the quality of instruction provided and the organization of the classroom. She placed strong emphasis on life-long skills, such as penmanship and mastery of the multiplication tables. Some of the things that students remember most about Mrs. Emery are her innovative science lessons, her "Invention Convention", the holiday programs, her special interest in eagles, and her recognition of their accomplishments in reading and math.

*Valerie Emery will be missed by the staff, students, and families at Elm Street School. We wish her the best in her retirement and hope that she will visit us often!*

*Elm Street School Staff and Administration*



# **MECHANIC FALLS, MAINE**

## **ANDROSCOGGIN COUNTY**

### **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

Incorporated March 22, 1893

#### **Population by Census**

1980	2,589
1990	2,919
2000	3,138

#### **Form of Government**

Charter / Town Meeting / Council / Town Manager

#### **Altitude**

Approximately 300 feet above sea level (downtown area)

To about 600 feet above sea level (Pigeon Hill area)

#### **Area**

Approximately 11.6 square miles

Approximately 21.77 miles of publicly maintained roads

#### **Public Schools**

School Union #29 (RSU #16 as of July 1, 2009)

Mechanic Falls / Minot / Poland

Elm Street School, K-8

Poland Regional High School, 9-12

## TAX INFORMATION

State Valuation	
1999/00	\$77,750,000
2000/01	80,950,000
2001/02	92,250,000
2002/03	93,450,000
2003/04	105,800,000
2004/05	118,850,000
2005/06	125,500,000
2006/07	141,350,000
2007/08	155,700,000
2008/09	163,750,000
2009/10	166,150,000

Tax Commitment	
1999/00	\$1,789,255
2000/01	1,814,919
2001/02	1,895,589
2002/03	2,090,902
2003/04	2,302,892
2004/05	2,451,786
2005/06	2,486,440
2006/07	2,562,732
2007/08	2,605,930
2008/09	2,556,611
2009/10	2,465,800

Town Valuation	
1999/00	\$76,138,500
2000/01	77,230,630
2001/02	78,235,170
2002/03	79,805,432
2003/04	82,246,133
2004/05	83,965,286
2005/06	131,557,680
2006/07	135,568,928
2007/08	137,864,855
2008/09	139,705,496
2009/10	141,712,679

Tax Rate / \$1,000	
1999/00	\$23.50
2000/01	24.24
2001/02	26.20
2002/03	26.20
2003/04	28.00
2004/05	29.20
2005/06	18.90
2006/07	18.90
2007/08	18.90
2008/09	18.30
2009/10	17.40

## HOURS OF OPERATION

### Town Office

Monday – Thursday 7:30 AM to 5:30 PM  
Friday 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM

### Transfer Station

Wednesday & Thursday Noon to 5 PM  
Saturday 8 AM to 5 PM  
Sunday 8 AM to Noon

### Library

Monday 9 AM to Noon, 1 PM to 5:30 PM  
Wednesday Noon to 5:30 PM  
Saturday 9 AM to 2 PM

### Water Department

Monday – Friday 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM

## GENERAL INFORMATION

**Governance:** By Charter adopted in 1992, Five Elected Council and a Town Manager

**Annual Town Meeting:** Third Saturday in May beginning at 9 AM

**Fiscal Year:** July 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>

**Tax Payments:** Property tax payments are due twice per fiscal year. The first half payment is due by the close of business day on October 15<sup>th</sup> and the second half due by the close of business day on May 15<sup>th</sup>. Interest is imposed for late payments.

Property owners should notify the Town Office of changes to your property or structures on your property located in Mechanic Falls, by April 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.

Various Tax Exemptions are available to citizens. Please contact the Tax Office for further information.

**Vehicle Registrations:** *What to bring to the Town Office...*

- Re-registration - bring the old registration, current proof of insurance and current mileage of the vehicle.
- New Registration – (dealer sale) bring Green Sales Tax Form, Blue Title Application Form, Window Sticker and current proof of insurance
- New Registration – (private sale) bring Bill of Sale, current proof of insurance, Title (1995 Vehicle of newer) and Release of Lien (if applicable)
- New Registration - (transfer) bring same as private sale plus the Registration of the vehicle the Plates are transferred from

**Dogs:** All dogs must be licensed annually, by January 31, within the municipality of which their owner resides.

**Permits:** The Town of Mechanic Falls requires numerous permits for specific activities; please contact the Office at 345-2871 for more information. Not obtaining the proper permit prior to engaging in an activity is subject to fines and or prosecution.

### Meeting Schedules:

Town Council – First Monday, 7 PM

Library Trustees - First Wednesday, 7 PM

Planning Board – Third Monday, 6 PM

Historical Society – Fourth Wednesday, 6:30 PM

Development Comm. – Second Monday, 7 PM

Charter Commission – As Needed

Recreation Committee – Second Thursday, 7 PM

Safety Committee – Quarterly, 9 AM

Board of Appeals – As Needed

Fire & Rescue – Second Monday, 7 PM

## ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS

(As of January 1, 2010)

### ELECTED OFFICIALS

#### Town Council

Daniel Blanchard, Chair	2011
Roger Guptill, Vice Chair	2011
Robert Small	2010
Rielly Bryant	2010
Nancy Richard	2012

#### Regional School Unit #16 Directors

David Griffiths, Chair	2010
Yvon Gilbert	2010
Jacques Wiseman	2011
Carlton Beckett	2012
Melissa Hodgkin	2012

#### Sanitary District Trustees

Michael Baird, Chair	2010
Arthur Montana	2010
Roger Guptill	2011
Wayne Marquis	2012
Randall Plummer	2012

### APPOINTED COMMITTEES

#### Budget Committee

Bonnie Payette, Chair	2012
Ed Piirainen	2010
Bill Diehl	2010
Tom Kuklinski	2010
Peter Ford	2011
Oliver Emery	2011
Louis Annance	2012
Robert Belanger	2012

#### Planning Board

Arthur Montana, Chair	2012
Keith Morse, Vice Chair	2010
Paul Conklin Jr.	2010
A. John Hyman	2010
John Straight	2011
Paula Stotts	2011
Paula Bolduc	2012

#### Development Commission

Michael Baird, Chair	2011
Stuart Davis, Treasurer	2012
Jon Damon	2010
Brenda Coleman	2010
Cathy Fifield	2012

#### Board of Appeals

Tony Bennett, Chair	2010
Ed Piirainen	2010
Thomas Walton	2011
Bruce Richardson	2012
Donald York	2012

## APPOINTED COMMITTEES CONTINUED

### Recreation Committee

Larry Burgess, Chair	2010
John Destrini, Vice Chair	2010
Jim Marston, Treasurer	2011
Pamela Grondin, Secretary	2012
Melissa Hodgkin	2011
Jack Callahan	2011
Christina Whalen	2011
Matt Gary	2012
William Bickford	2012
Michelle Emery	2012

### Charter Commission

Gary Purington, Chair	2013
Peter Ford	2013
William Diehl	2013
Jennifer Boenig	2013
Lawrence Newth	2013
Oliver Emery	2013
Roger Gupstill	2013
Michael Needham	2013
Randall Plummer	2013

### Library Trustees

Nancy Petersons, President  
 Cathy Griffiths, Secretary  
 Janice Earle, Treasurer  
 Janney Lupton  
 Rhonda Tamaro  
 Krystal Bernier  
 Vicki Dean

### Safety Committee

Steve French, Water Department, Chair  
 Jeffrey Goss, Police Department  
 John Hawley, Administration  
 Melissa Hodgkin, Fire / Rescue  
 Kathryn Oak, Transfer Station  
 Scott Penney, Public Works

### Historical Society

Eriks Petersons, President	2012
Matt Gary, Vice President	2012
Kenneth Carlin, Secretary	2010
Joan Walton, Treasurer	2010
Jennifer Oliver, Press Secretary	2011
James Craig	2010
Nancy Petersons	2011
Jean Williams	2010

### Revenue Enhancement Committee

Robert Small, Chair  
 Carlton Beckett  
 Jennifer Boenig  
 Jay Bryant  
 Yvon Gilbert  
 Lou Goulet  
 Nancy Gupstill  
 John Hawley

*124th Maine Legislature*



*Second Regular Session*

**Senator John Nutting**

Senate District 17  
Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee, Chair  
Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee, Member  
3 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0003  
(207) 287-1515 Office  
(207) 524-3941 Home

E-mail: [www.mainesenate.org/nutting](http://www.mainesenate.org/nutting)



Dear Constituent,

The Legislature has reconvened for the second half of the 124th Maine Legislature. As it is the second year of the two-year legislative cycle, lawmakers will focus largely on budget matters and issues that are deemed to be emergency in nature.

As a result of the global recession, lawmakers last year reduced state spending by \$500 million. While those spending reductions balanced our books at the time, declining revenues from sources like sales and income taxes continue to impact our state's overall operating capacity. Lawmakers must now reduce spending by an additional \$400 million to avoid raising taxes. Just as people are making difficult decisions in their own budgets, so must lawmakers with the state budget.

While I am proud of the work our state government performs, there are many areas where we can seek reform to reduce additional areas of spending. I am continuing my efforts to reduce at least ten more of the governor's upper level political appointees. I was troubled recently to learn that a new political appointee position was created at the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

While lawmakers work to reduce spending, we must be careful again to balance the needs of some of our most important services. Since education and health care spending account for 80 percent of our state's operating budget—these areas will see spending reductions. My hope is that these cuts will be as thoughtful as possible to minimize the impact on key services for our most vulnerable as well as maintaining our responsibility to provide a top-notch education to our students. It is also imperative that careful effort be taken to minimize the impact spending reductions have on local property taxpayers.

While ominous, major spending reductions do provide state and local governments with an opportunity to rethink how we deliver many services. Through a combination of newer technologies and collaborative efforts, we can enjoy many of the same services we have in the past by becoming more innovative.

Finally, I would like to invite you to share with me your ideas and concerns by going to my website at [www.mainesenate.org/nutting](http://www.mainesenate.org/nutting). Just click on the contact link and the rest is easy. I would also like to invite you to sign up for my e-mail newsletter I send out periodically to keep constituents informed of legislative and state news. You can sign up for those updates through the above link as well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Nutting'.





## TOWN MANAGER'S FINANCE MESSAGE

Last year at this time we were talking about being in a recession and as most can plainly see, the situation hasn't improved any this year. We have been exposed to many government efforts to try to jump start the economy whether it be stimulus funds for infrastructure improvements to create jobs, zero percent financing on the purchase of new vehicles or the rebate for folks purchasing homes for the first time. There was a credit given called Making Work Pay that was available when filing your income tax return and energy rebates for purchasing energy efficient appliances, green technology or home improvements.

Retailers even tried to jump in to help out. A potato chip company was adding 20 percent more product to their bags and not increasing the price. You could get five more feet of aluminum foil today for the same price as five feet less last year. There was a television war at Christmas time affording more homes the ability to acquire jumbo screens. Even the Disney folks were offering vacations at reduced rates in an effort to get people to separate themselves from their money.

People are getting rid of their "corded" home phones, reducing magazine and newspaper subscriptions, eating out less and spending less at the grocery store. Coffee is being made at home instead of stopping at the drive up window first thing in the morning and Saturday nights are being spent at home. Financial adjustments are being made everywhere you look and conservation is on the rise. Those who are still fortunate to have jobs are saving and not splurging.

Our municipality has struggled the last year just like everyone and everywhere else. We had to make reductions because most of those cost saving measures that citizens are making directly impact the revenues generated by the State that would normally be handed down to help our operational expenses. When people don't buy, state taxes aren't generated. When newer vehicles aren't purchased, excises taxes aren't generated. When folks don't renovate or improve their homes, constructions fees aren't generated for the municipality.

Citizens have begun to notice the little things that have disappeared over the last couple of years. The reminder postcards we used to mail for property tax payments that were coming due or the dog registration deadline. We heard many times this year from angry folks that it was the Town's fault they were late because they didn't get their reminder. Individuals who used to use the gymnasium for free now have to pay rental fees and clean-up deposits. Tree work around town has been eliminated. Construction permits fees have increased and that new back yard deck is slightly more expensive. Free printed copies of the Annual Report will most likely phase out after this year. Recreational fees may need to be considered and adjusted for participation. Town office hours were reduced to four and a half days a week.

Municipal staff willingly took a hit this past year as well. They once again agreed to no wage or benefit increases for the second year in a row. Overtime was significantly reduced and for some departments eliminated and replaced with comp time. Administrators gave copious hours of free time. During the last half of the fiscal year, additional revenue cuts were handed down from the State level causing us to consider layoffs. Staff unanimously agreed to ten furlough days in five months in order to save all positions.

Financially though, and as bad as it sounds, the Town remains stable. We are able to provide the full complement of public safety, our roads are always open and safe for passage, and public services remain

intact and available. Folks have learned to do with less and lower their expectations and we are getting by. Next budget year we are facing additional revenue shortages and increases to our fixed expenses. The economical challenges do not appear to be going away anytime soon but we will strive to perform and provide with what we are given in hopes for more prosperous times. We appreciate those that understand the position we are in, we apologize to those who are inconvenienced and to the rest of you, thank you for your support.

John Hawley  
Town Manager

## TOWN COUNCIL

**A**nother year has come and gone and economically speaking we are no better off than we were last year. In some instances we are worse. For those driving through Mechanic Falls it would appear as though we were unscathed, but on the contrary we were just as affected as all those around us.

State revenues were reduced significantly midway through the year leaving the municipality with a shortfall beginning in January. Nonessential spending was frozen, municipal department hours were reduced and our staff took the equivalent of ten furlough days in the last five months of the fiscal year. We finished the year in the black managing to avoid layoffs, but it didn't go unnoticed or without a little pain.

The defeat of the citizens initiative to reduce motor vehicle excise taxes in November was a victory for the municipality. Despite the fact that nobody likes to pay these types of taxes, it is one of main sources of municipal funding each year. It's also one of the only taxes that can be controlled by the consumer based on their particular choice of vehicle purchase. We do make every effort we can to keep taxes low but it must be kept in mind that we still need to operate our municipality. Our local property taxes have been slowly reduced over the last several years to keep up with losses in funding but we are doing so by putting off much needed projects and repairs.

The first year of the school consolidation seems to be going well. Mechanic Falls saw a sizable savings of \$92,000 in our assessment to the new RSU, but the school district felt the sting of reduced educational funding as well. Projected increased losses in funding for the next year paint a gloomy outlook. As much as we don't want it to happen, we have begun to see a slight loss in connection with the tight bond between Elm Street School and our municipality. Services we used to provide for the school, now have to be charged for. What used to be "our" school that we took care of is now part of a larger organization shared by the tri-town community.

We endorsed the creation of the Revenue Enhancement Committee who met on a monthly basis and explored alternative revenue sources to try to minimize tax payer reliance. Tough times called for in depth research and you can read of their results in a report presented by Councilor Robert Small. I want to thank Bob and his committee for their diligence and commend their results.

Dispatch consolidation did not go away after dissolving the committee last year. The County Commissioners put together a different group, this time made up of public safety leaders from around the county, to explore the

issue once again. It seems to be the consensus of the new group that consolidation will provide the most efficient and effective service for the small towns, but the cost of doing so still needs to be considered and has yet to be discussed.

Despite the times we are in, I believe our community is doing well. We have a great staff, we are financially stable, and our business community is hanging in there. Better times are sure to be ahead.

Remember, the oldest and truest form of government happens once a year and you can take part in the steering of your community. Town Meeting will be on Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 9 a.m., at the municipal building gym. Do your part and participate.

Daniel Blanchard  
Town Council Chairman

## PLANNING BOARD

The Mechanic Falls Planning Board is made up of volunteer citizens who are tasked with reviewing potential business development, residential subdivisions and ordinance review. They thoroughly look over proposed applications and ensure that they are going to be compliant with our local zoning and land use ordinance.

Last year I reported that the Planning Board met 5 times with one meeting not taking place due to lack of quorum. Well, this year the Planning Board also met 5 times to review development around the town.

In March, the Board approved Kenneth & Dee Robinson to operate an animal breeding and care facility involving rabbits. Chuck Starbird was also at the meeting seeking a permit to operate a trucking and distribution terminal to transfer recyclable waste and construction demolition debris onto trucks for transport to a sort facility located at the Mill property. The Board approved the project. Chuck had to seek further approval from the Department of Environmental Protection before starting.

In May, the Board reviewed and approved Ray Levesque's application to operate a food catering business located at the old Congregational Church at 64 Elm Street. Chuck Starbird was also at this meeting seeking an extension to a fill permit granted to him in 2006 as well as an amendment to the previously approved trucking/distribution terminal. The Board approved both items. Dan O'Connell was in attendance to get a subdivision amendment due to a title issue on a property regarding the 'CPL Mike Mahoney Subdivision' approved in 2003. The Board approved this item as well.

Lastly, in August, the Board reviewed James Vadeboncoeur's proposal to operate a tattoo and piercing parlor located in Depot Square. There were some initial concerns regarding this type of business. However, after speaking with James and his colleagues and reviewing his business plan, it was clear that this was going to be a well run establishment. On top of that, James has done quite a bit of work to the old Depot in order to get his business going.

The Planning Board is made up of 7 members with 2 alternates. Currently, the Board consists of 6 members. We are looking for citizens who want to be a part of this community and assist with potential development in Mechanic Falls. A common misconception is that you need to own land in the town to be a board member. That is not true, you need only to be a resident to join the Board. If you have some free time and wouldn't mind giving up one evening a month, stop in a let us know you're interested. We will train you for what you will need to know. When the planning board does need to get together, they generally meet the third Monday of each month. Board meetings have usually been conducted at 7PM, however the Board made a change this past year and is now meeting at 6PM. These meetings are always open to the public but you might want to call before coming to make sure there is a meeting, as we will not meet if there are no agenda items to discuss.

Nicholaus Richard  
Administrative Assistant to the Board

## BOARD OF APPEALS

The Board of Appeals is tasked with two functions: to hear administrative appeals of the actions of the Code Enforcement Officer or the Planning Board and to hear requests for dimensional variances. The Mechanic Falls Zoning & Land Use Ordinance does not allow the Board of Appeals to issue "use variances". Administrative appeals are hearings in which an aggrieved party alleges there was either a procedural error or omission in an action taken by the Code Enforcement Officer in the administration or enforcement of the Town's land use ordinances or a procedural error or omission in an action taken by the Planning Board.

While we may not like the outcome of some of these cases, the Board of Appeals is fair in applying the mandatory "Undue Hardship" criteria to requests for variances. Maine Supreme Court decisions over the years have severely limited our ability to relax our interpretation of the Undue Hardship criteria. This Board only needs to meet on an "as needed" basis. In the past year the Board did not have any issues to review and therefore did not meet.

Any citizen who would like more information on variances, appeals, or would like to join the Board of Appeals should contact the Town Office.

Nicholaus Richard  
Administrative Assistant to the Board

## DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

The Town Council created the Mechanic Falls Development Commission in 1981, in response to the loss of more than 250 jobs when Marcal Mill shut down. The MFDC is a non-profit organization charged with stimulating industrial and commercial development and expansions in Mechanic Falls. The MFDC

promotes economic development by providing financial loan assistance to businesses, which create new jobs, and by acquiring and selling land in support of the Town's economic development efforts.

Since 1983, the MFDC has administered the Revolving Loan Fund, which is a low-interest loan program available to existing and new businesses for the purpose of creating and retaining jobs. In addition to the RLF, the MFDC has administered the Micro-Loan program since 1996. Since its inception, the Micro-Loan program has been highly successful in attracting new businesses and new employment opportunities. This revolving loan program currently has approximately \$450,000 available to qualified Mechanic Falls' businesses.

Over the years, the MFDC has made contributions to the Town's Community Development Block Grant efforts, often sponsoring \$15,000 or more toward the required local financial match. Projects have included the replacement of sidewalks, the Depot Square Transportation Center's development, and new roads with new underground water and sewer pipes.

During 2009 the MFDC funded two loan requests. One loan was made to the TTC Group to assist with additional improvements to the former Marcel Mill. The second loan was issued to Davis Land Surveying to assist in the company's start up costs. The demand for MFDC financing assistance remains quite low as a result of the soft economy. In addition the low interest rate environment has continued to have a negative effect on MFDC investment earnings.

During 2009 the MFDC joined the Oxford Hills Chamber of Commerce. It is expected that this membership will generate some additional exposure and networking opportunities for the MFDC.

The MFDC is pleased to report that the annual audit performed by Smith & Associates, CPAs of Yarmouth has resulted in an unqualified, clean opinion. The MFDC contracts with the Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments (AVCOG) to provide professional services including loan underwriting and servicing as well as meeting and financial records management.

Business owners interested in participating in the MFDC loan programs should call Ed Dox at AVCOG, 783-9186, or the Town Office 345-2871.

Greg Whitney  
Finance Director  
A. V. C. O. G.

## SAFETY COMMITTEE

**W**e continue to receive reduced insurance premiums because of the work of the Safety Committee, coupled with the cooperation of the Town's employees. Not only are we saving money but we are also having a safe environment to work in.

The duties of the Safety Committee are review and develop safety plans for the town, and to inspect our properties and make recommendations to correct any safety issues. With the help of our insurance carrier we feel that we are providing our employees a safe, comfortable environment to work in.

We continue to offer a “safety day” for all our employees. We do this twice. Once at in the evening, then again the next morning so that as many employees can attend as possible. We go over all of our safety polices that the town has adopted. In addition to our safety day we held a separate seminar on electrical safety. Central Maine Power provided us with an eye opening presentation, leaving us with a better respect for electricity.

Again, as in the past we request that if anyone sees anything that they believe is unsafe to our employees, or to the public, please feel free to bring it to the attention of the Safety Committee and we will be happy to investigate it.

Steve French  
Safety Committee Chairman

## REVENUE ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

 On behalf of the Revenue Enhancement Committee, I would like to share with you a brief history of our committee and highlight some of our accomplishments during the last year.

The committee began with Town Council’s approval in April 2009 to examine any and all ways town officials could generate revenue without raising taxes. Given the economic downturn and severe budget cuts imposed by the Maine State Legislature, we felt it was important to brainstorm new ideas as well as explore ways to maintain and enhancement current resources.

During the summer of 2009, the committee met with local respected forester Fred Huntress to discuss selective timber harvesting on town property. Mr. Huntress walked the property on Pigeon Hill Road and determined what areas should be cut to maintain a healthy landscape. After hearing his proposal, the Town Council authorized the selective timber harvest which generated approximately \$34,000 for the town’s coffers. The committee has also taken steps to find a way to capitalize on another natural resource readily available to the town: our water. Millions of Americans purchase bottled water on a regular basis and since our town uses the same aquifer as Poland Spring, we are currently researching our options to share our water resource with others.

Renewable energy sources have also been a main focus for the committee members. Kirk Nadeau, President of Kean Project Engineering in Turner, shared with the committee his expertise in the wind turbine field. Unfortunately, Mr. Nadeau said with current technology and wind speed readings from Pigeon Hill Road, a wind turbine wouldn’t be an economical investment at this point. However, he shared several other energy ideas and suggestions. To further explore some of those options, Town Manager John Hawley applied for a \$10,000 grant through Efficiency Maine in November 2009 to hire an energy consultant and create an energy plan for the town. Efficiency Maine is still waiting to receive federal funds and hasn’t awarded any grant monies yet.

Attracting new businesses and maintaining a healthy partnership with current businesses is also an integral part of sustaining our community. Committee members learned about the town’s Economic Development Commission which currently has approximately \$450,000 available to loan to existing and new businesses. In

an effort to showcase our local businesses, the committee is also in the process of creating a program that would allow business owners to place a framed advertisement that would be displayed in the town office complex.

Our town wouldn't be what it is today without all of you and to foster a sense of community, the committee thought bringing back a Homecoming-type weekend was an excellent idea. Plans are currently underway for the town's first annual Community Day, a weekend-long event that will bring area residents together for some fun while highlighting our town's rich history. The event will also give several local organizations and groups an outlet to raise funds during the event. More details about this event will be forthcoming.

As a committee, we're always looking for new ideas and would love to see some new faces at our meetings. Please feel free to contact the town office if you're interested in attending a meeting.

Robert Small  
Town Council  
Revenue Enhancement Committee Chairman

## TOWN CLERK

In an effort to be more convenient, we began new hours for the Town Office effective July 1, 2009. Those hours are Monday thru Thursday 7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. and Friday 7:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. and we have found that these hours have been well received by the public.

It was another busy year in the Clerk's office with elections. We finally made it through the RSU consolidation for Mechanic Falls, Poland and Minot. We also had a referendum election on November 3rd. This turned out to be a very busy day and went very smooth considering 1,063 voters passed through the booths. We also issued 158 absentee ballots for this election. I would like to thank each and every citizen who offered a helping hand on Election Day and a big thank you goes out to our election workers who put in a very long day!



We implemented a changeover to the MOSES program for all Fish & Game transactions so that it will be a much quicker process when purchasing a hunting or fishing license or registering an ATV, boat or snowmobile. This program is linked directly with the Fish & Game department and allows us to cut the processing time and decrease the amount of paperwork required of these transactions.

We ask that any new motor vehicle transaction not be brought into the town office later than 15 minutes prior to closing. The amount of time for the paperwork involved requires a staff person to stay later than closing hours and our budgets do not permit overtime. We had

two new specialty plates this year, the Animal Welfare and the Breast Cancer Awareness plates. These specialty plates have an additional fee of \$20.00.

Our annual rabies clinic with Dr. Warren Frechette was held January 17<sup>th</sup> and we vaccinated 18 dogs. Unlicensed dogs from Mechanic Falls were also registered that day. Please remember that all dogs are to be licensed NO later than December 31<sup>st</sup>. The fee is \$11.00 for male/female and \$6.00 for spayed/neutered.

Please check out the Towns website to keep up to date on the Council Meeting minutes or any new and upcoming events in town.

Lisa M. Palmer  
Town Clerk

## BIRTHS

1/4/09	Lucas Thomas Verrill
2/7/09	Kaydence Julie Lynn Boston
2/12/09	Mataeya Skye Washington
3/04/09	Dallas Paul Billings
3/06/09	Irelyn Bea Smith
03/12/09	Mathias Benedict Fecteau
03/14/09	Christian James Benson
03/25/09	Xyiannah Rose Hunt
03/29/09	Wesley Gerard Caron
04/09/09	Nevaeh Rose Jordan
04/23/09	Caleb Weston Pinkham
05/02/09	Mage Willow Elizabeth Stoner
05/15/09	Lucas Wayne Scott
05/25/09	Brody Leroy Jenkins
05/26/09	Autumn Evelyn Burlock
06/03/09	Hope Jean LaComb
06/11/09	Unnamed Bergmann
06/12/09	Justin Lee Powers
06/13/09	Autumn Isabelle Purington
06/25/09	Jonathan Troy Plummer
07/09/09	Gavin James Vadeboncoeur

07/18/09	Samuel Blake Lothrop
07/21/09	Abel Rhys Madore
07/22/09	Zayta Ann Williams
08/09/09	Meghan Reilly Markavich
08/18/09	Wyatt Joseph Nugent
08/22/09	Leighton David Clark
09/07/09	Liam Gabriel Nichols
09/23/09	Landen Hayes Levesque
09/23/09	Sydney Grace Corriveau
09/24/09	Lindie Addison Bolduc
09/24/09	Nickolas Riley Enman
09/29/09	Eben Roger Breton
10/07/09	Jeremiah Wilcox
10/29/09	Daila Mai Malpass
10/30/09	Dexter Avery Leonard
11/08/09	Meghan Marie Komanetsky
11/09/09	Roree Patience Leigh Libby
11/11/09	Orren Wesley Ridlon
12/01/09	Carter Leigh Hatch
12/16/09	Michael Paul Marcel Rivard Jr.
12/22/09	Logan Joseph Ciriello

## DEATHS IN MECHANIC FALLS

1/5/09	Andrew M. Crane
1/22/09	Roger G. Gagnon
2/3/09	Carol C. Sawyer
3/09/09	Frederick H. Edwards
04/28/09	Frederick Leighton

05/20/09	Eva Johnson
05/30/09	William Branagan
06/04/09	Aldina M. Frazee
11/26/09	David J. Taylor

## DEATHS IN OTHER TOWNS

2/15/09	Maurice H. Thorne
2/18/09	Loren O. Crouse
03/21/09	Carroll E. Decker Jr.
04/16/09	Ronald A. White
06/04/09	Carlton Tripp Sr
06/05/09	Bernice Robbins
06/18/09	Muriel Bonney
06/22/09	Phyllis Copp

07/09/09	Charles B. Call
10/19/09	Dora M. Thibodeau
11/09/09	Kenneth M. Kalloch
11/15/09	Charles C. Felker
11/23/09	Sylvia E. Goddard
12/03/09	Robert W. Milton
12/06/09	Georgia A. Herrick
12/31/09	Joseph G. Kilkelly

## MARRIAGES

01/03/09	Norman A Lizotte & Tina M Proctor
04/11/09	Neil W Corriveau & Jessica Lee-Anne Moulton
05/02/09	Norman S Lowe & Kristi A Griffin
05/05/09	Daniel R Zinninger & Rachel A Dustin
06/09/09	Christopher J Wilson & Amanda A Barker
06/13/09	Scott T Horne & Jennifer Lee Pray
06/14/09	Sean W Malone & Kristen K Adams
06/22/09	Adam M Durant & Jennifer A Barnard
07/03/09	Gary B Hanning & Jo-Ann M Rawls
07/03/09	Alban J Thibeault & Sandra L Webster
07/11/09	Matthew F Yates & Elizabeth A Harlow
08/14/09	Dwight A Kimball & Randie-Jo Foster
08/22/09	Timothy J Oliver & Jennifer M Raymond
08/30/09	Lucas A Bartlett & Heather M Foss

09/10/09	Thomas D Doherty & Kelli D Bush
09/12/09	David J Barton & Dawn M Vono
09/26/09	Don E Gagnon & Deborah A Copp
10/08/09	Stephen G Hackett & Elyssa A Marshall
10/10/09	Paul R Andrews & Sara A Brimigion
10/13/09	Jonathan M Guyette & Myrtle A Nichols
11/06/09	Orman F Cummings IV & Jessica L L'ecuyer
11/08/09	Thomas M White & Lisa T Marin
12/19/09	Paul K Roberts & Chelsea Elea-Layne Toth
12/24/09	Eugene L Morrell & Stacy L Durfee
12/29/09	Zachary R Yates & Ashley R Brown

## HEAVY SPRING RAIN OVER THE FALLS



*Photo courtesy of Peter M. MacDonald II*

## TOWN MANAGER

Last year, within my report, was a plea for folks who had read my information to email me and let me know you at least took a look at it. More than four hundred copies of the annual report were picked up off the front counter in the town office last year. I am very sad to say that only ONE person emailed me. Yup, only one. *Thanks Phil!*

I am not one that likes to get up on a soap box, in fact I hate speaking in public all together. So I am completely at ease preaching on paper and because there seems to be only one person interested anyway, I run very little risk of offending anyone and nobody wants to argue with me.

Our society is heading for some really tough times. And I don't mean economically. I mean socially. Economic hardships are already here and we are partially to blame. Small towns like ours thrived and flourished on the backs of involved citizens. I can remember in my very early days with the fire department that there was a waiting list of individuals interested in joining. Today our department struggles with only about 30 of the 60 positions that are allotted by our employment policy. And these folks are no longer true volunteers. We pay them \$8.00 an hour to do what they do best. I can remember looking through old town reports and rarely seeing a duplicate name on the list of committees. Now you see that many folks are serving on more than one group because able-bodied volunteers are becoming extinct. It is often joked by those now serving that they will see each other at the next meeting of another cause. The list of tasks and duties has not gotten any smaller. In fact they seem to be getting larger but the diehard volunteers are burning out and are losing interest in adding to their already heavy commitments. Somebody has to get these things done and more and more responsibilities are passed on to those of us employed by the municipality. Parent / teacher organizations barely get by with a few hardcore parents pushing to offer the same activities they had as school aged kids. Teachers and administrators have to pick up the slack.

People today are choosing to take a "hands-off" approach to their community's well being. Sure we are all busy with both parents working and we value the hours spent together at home. Some people feel they don't have anything to offer or don't feel they have the knowledge to serve in certain capacities. Others just think that someone else will do it. But they aren't anymore. The fact is that most committees and organizations have folks who joined not knowing what they were getting into. Many elected officials have had no previous experience serving in such a capacity. I can assure you however that given a little time these very same folks became effective, proficient, and very productive members of their group. Nobody likes to be the new guy but it has never been more important to be involved. Your taxes depend on it.

If volunteers aren't doing it, the only other alternative is to pay someone to do it. Slowly but surely that is what is happening to our society and its affecting us close to home. Due to the decrease in socially civic responsibility there is a negative impact economically. Some programs are falling by the wayside because the expense to pay an organizer puts the cost to participate out of reach. We need to reexamine our priorities and assess how we are treating our community. Nobody enjoys handing out money unnecessarily and taxpayers hate to see their bills increase. I think part of the solution is involvement. Most committees and groups meet only a few hours a month. If you're unhappy with what you pay in property taxes look to see if there is a group that is in need of

assistance. Attend public meetings when budgetary issues are being debated. Only slightly more than 2% of our population came out to town meeting last year. Only 6% of the registered voters decided the municipal budget this year. If you're unhappy about how things are done, let us know by showing up! Spend a few hours on a Saturday in May to help determine where tax dollars should or should not be allocated. We run this community the way that we do, because people aren't telling us otherwise. Get involved!!

Throughout each year I get asked several of the same questions over and over again. Allow me to try to briefly explain why we do some of the things we do.

**1. If times are so tough financially, why are we purchasing new municipal vehicles like dump trucks and pickup trucks for the police and water departments?**

One of the things Mechanic Falls does really well is saving for the future. Our Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is a series of savings accounts set up specifically to put aside smaller amounts of money each year for the future purchase of our higher priced vehicles. Based on historical data and trial and error, we have our vehicles on replacement schedules that allow us to buy when the maintenance costs do not get too expensive and the trade values do not deplete to nothing. We periodically adjust the replacement schedules to extend or reduce the length of time we hang on to vehicles. We are purchasing these items that we pre-planned for with money already allocated by previous town meeting votes for these specific purposes.

**2. Why are we purchasing police trucks instead of police cars that are so much cheaper?**

Yes, the upfront purchase cost is cheaper for a car. However, we have found that the maintenance expenses on trucks has been much less, we are able to keep them a little bit longer and the trade value on a truck is greater than ten times what we were getting on cars. In the long run they are cheaper for us to operate and maintain.

**3. When are we going to fix up our sidewalks?**

We actually set up a CIP budget line a couple years ago specifically for future improvements to our sidewalks. We have been putting in \$20,000 for the last couple of years and the account now has about \$40,000 in it. We need a lot more than \$40,000 to fix what needs repair or replacement and I hoped that we would continue to add to this account. Unfortunately, during these tough economic times, sidewalks are considered low priority and those funds often get cut.

**4. Why don't we reuse the sand we sweep up in the spring for slippery roads the next year?**

Well there are a couple of reasons. Most importantly is the Department of Environmental Protection doesn't allow us to. Sand swept off roads is considered hazardous waste because it contains trash, oils and other fluids from motor vehicles. The other reason is the sand loses its gripping power after being driven over so much. Sand particles become rounded over and it is like spreading tiny marbles on the ground.

**5. Why won't the town take down the old tree in front of my house, it's in the town right of way and they own it?**

That isn't actually true. Trees in the town's right of way are still owned by the property owner. Right of way only permits easement for the town to conduct maintenance a certain distance off the edge of the road. A right of way does not grant ownership, only access. The tree is still yours.

**6. Why do we own such a big ladder truck for a fire department that has so few fires? Minot and Poland don't have one.**

This could actually be quite a lengthy response but to keep it short, no we don't have a lot of fires but we do have many residential units that may need to be reached in the event of a fire. Declining numbers of volunteers in the fire department greatly limits the manpower available on a fire ground and so we are forced to do more with less. It is much safer and faster for two men to operate the ladder truck than it is for many men to use ground ladders. Minot and Poland do not have ladder trucks because we own one. They rely on us to assist them with it when needed. They own other types of heavy apparatus that we don't such as a heavy rescue and tank trucks that we won't purchase because we rely on them to return the favor when we need help.

One of the things I have tried to be conscious of since being hired as your town manager is making sure that I am available and accessible. When I am in the office and am not busy, I will answer your phone calls. I make it a point to answer emails in a reasonable amount of time (that means 24 hours) and I have even been known to respond on the weekends. I am very interested in what you have to say and some of your comments direct my planning. I am available Monday through Friday during regular business hours.

The town of Mechanic Falls is very fortunate in that we have incredible people working for the municipality. Many of the staff have been around for a very long time and are experts when it comes to our community. We do have some short-timers that come and go but for the most part the level of commitment and loyalty is very strong with my staff. I fully appreciate each and every one of them and they work very hard for you.

My email is [jchawley@roadrunner.com](mailto:jchawley@roadrunner.com). Feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns or complaints.

John Hawley  
Town Manager

## CODE ENFORCEMENT & PLANNING

Hello all, as you know I am Nicholas Richard, your Code Enforcement Officer. Time sure has flown this past year. In the beginning of the year I split time between Poland and Mechanic Falls as a trial to see if the two Municipalities could share a Code Enforcement Officer to alleviate budget constraints. Well, we here at the Town Office as well as Poland's Town Office quickly realized that each town needed their own Code Enforcement Officer. I returned to fulltime operation here in June.

As you have already read in the Planning Board report, the activity has remained roughly the same as far as meetings went. This year we had 6 new houses permitted with 7 replacement houses permitted. We had a total of 129 permits issued for the year.

This past year presented a few major enforcement issues to this office, 2 of which are still on-going. One is dealing with a non-conforming use and buildings erected prior to permits being obtained. The second issue deals with the conditions of a few rental properties in the town. I would say the major issue of the year was the condemnation of a structure located on Lewiston Street. There are always the little nuisance complaints like too

many unregistered vehicles on ones property, but for the most part, those are handled with just a friendly letter explaining the violation.

It is important to remember that new construction projects need construction permits. Any new construction that has a value of greater than \$1,000 or affects 100 square feet or more needs a building permit. Cosmetic jobs such as replacement windows, new siding or roofing do not require permits. If you have any doubts, its better to call and ask. State and Federal rules and regulations are changing all the time and in a lot of cases grandfathering is not permitted or granted. As the CEO, I am the point person for our community to keep up on such changes. This is another good reason to check in before starting a project. I am here to help this community develop in a safe manner ensuring proper construction methods are utilized while minimizing impacts on the local ecology. Violating State or Federal rules can bring some hefty fines on top of possible fines from the town. A call ahead of time will save a headache down the road. All inspections are scheduled through this office. I can be contacted by calling 345-2221.

Nicholaus Richard  
Code Enforcement Officer

## LIBRARY

**A**nother busy year at the Library. The annual Book Sale raised \$992.26 this year (after paying for advertising, etc.). Please remember we accept donations all year long but we cannot accept Reader's Digest condensed books, encyclopedias, or text books as they do not have any marketable value and they just don't sell.

The November Pie Sale brought in a healthy \$916. which is an increase over 2008. The Trustees and volunteers are, as always, responsible for each of these successes.

The Summer Reading Club for 2009 was "Get Crafty @ Your Library". Rhonda Tammaro deserves many thanks for her inspired craft workshops. The children loved every minute of it and enjoyed well-earned prizes.

We have three computers (2 desktops and 1 laptop) for the public to come in and use. These computers we purchased using funds donated by a Gates Grant and funding raised by the Trustees. We are slated to receive two upgrades next year with funding already secured.

Historical donations continue to be received at the Library until the Mechanic Falls Historical Society officially, physically opens. Please don't forget to donate in the meantime. When cleaning out that basement or barn, keep in mind that you might have something of historical value worthy of future display



Volunteers are always needed and more than welcomed...the projects never end!

Thanks to each and every member of the town, you are all wonderful!

Sandi Brown-Eustis  
Librarian

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Mechanic Falls Historical Society is slowly nudging its way into the mainstream of local thought and attention. The society has a building. The historic collection is growing. The downstairs is being utilized by different groups for meetings and community suppers. Ultimately we plan to convert the upstairs into a museum or a gallery showcasing this town's history while retaining the pews, thus allowing other social functions to take place. There is so much to tell and show about this community and its past – and the society is pursuing this with vigor.

The historical society's pursuit is done without any local tax funds. The society is determined to make its place in town by local support, donations and fund raisers.

The society welcomes all who wish to share in this town's history. No membership fees – your presence at any of our upcoming events will be enough! And we could always use your ideas and encouragement to further our pursuit.

Thank you,

Eriks Petersons  
President

## RECREATION

**T**he Mechanic Falls Recreation Department offers the youths of our community the opportunity to participate in a variety of athletic programs. These programs benefit our youths by encouraging teamwork, building self-confidence, promoting physical activity, and developing social and leadership skills. All of these benefits carry forward as these children develop into young adults.

The Recreation Department is comprised of a ten member all volunteer committee, who do our best to offer the children of our community these programs in an enjoyable and safe environment. Thanks to the contributions of the Recreation Committee, volunteer coaches, players, and parents, the Recreation programs have achieved tremendous success in the past year.

In 2009, Mechanic Falls Recreation offered the following youth programs with over 300 combined participants:

Tee-Ball - Shawnee Peak Skiing Program – Baseball - Tri-town Basketball – Softball - Tri-town Soccer - Summer Recreation Program

In 2009 with the help of our community and local businesses participating in Recreation fundraisers, we have been able to continue to enhance our facilities, our contributions to the community, and our programs. We were very proud to have completed a number of capital improvement projects, supported Mechanic Falls Elm Street School athletics through donations, and continued to offer youth sports with registrations fees that have consistently been lower than surrounding towns. We have been able to accomplish these things while experiencing reductions in budget year after year as Recreation continues to move towards becoming increasingly self sustaining through registration fees and fundraisers. Below is a list of our accomplishments in 2009.

- Donated 18 new basketballs to Elm Street School to supplement and replace unserviceable inventory.
- Purchased a commercial grade ice-maker which was installed at Elm Street School.
- Supplemented safety mats for the Elm Street School Cheering program.
- Completed building of two concrete block dugouts, finalizing the multi-year dugout replacement project for all ball fields at the Recreation facility. In addition, ongoing maintenance and repair to dugouts was completed.
- Restructured dugout fencing to increase safety for players and spectators.
- Added fence top protection (Poly-cap, safety yellow) to all ball field fences.
- Purchased a softball pitching machine and added electricity to the softball field.
- Continued field maintenance and reseeding to enhance the appearance of the Recreation facility.
- Purchased a PA system for announcing games and use during award ceremonies.

In addition, our most significant accomplishment in 2009 was successfully hosting the 9 Year Old Cal Ripken Maine State Baseball Tournament. If you visited our Recreation facility last year, I am sure you would agree with the many positive comments that we received from the players, coaches, officials, and fans. Seventeen teams from nearby and not so nearby towns participated in the tournament, which spanned almost two weeks. We received many compliments about the quality and atmosphere of our facilities, the ball fields, the Recreation building and snack-shack. Given the tremendous success of this tournament, along with past tournaments we've hosted, we plan to continue hosting similar events and bring more and more people to our Recreation facility, which we take great pride in.

Our continuing goal for capital improvement projects is to provide quality, lasting improvements that will ensure that these benefits are available to the children of our community for years to come, all at a minimum cost to the taxpayer by using donated funds, donated labor, and quite often donated materials. For 2010/2011, our plans for the Recreation capital improvement budget are to resurface the outside basketball court and to build an announcer's booth on the Minors baseball field. Additionally, the Recreation department plans to use money from fundraisers and registration fees to purchase safety screens for baseball and softball batting practice, repaint the Snack Shack, make improvements in the municipal gym, and continue to repair the drainage system between the Majors and Babe Ruth fields.

Financial support for our programs is essential to our continued ability to offer quality safe programs. The Recreation Committee will meet our goal in 2010/2011 of having all programs be self sustaining through

signup fees and fundraising efforts. In 2009, fundraisers included baseball/softball "tagging", soccer cash calendars, basketball shoot-a-thon, ski program Recreation dance, and the baseball/softball business sign and uniform sponsorship programs.

On behalf of the Recreation Committee, I would like to thank all of our partners and program supporters including Poland Recreation Department, Elm Street School, Mechanic Falls Public Works and Water Departments, town employees, residents, and businesses. Your generous support allows us to continue to offer these quality youth athletic programs.

Finally, a special Thank You to the children and parents who participated in our programs during the past year. Your involvement and dedication have contributed greatly to the success of our Recreation programs.

Larry Burgess  
Recreation Committee Chairperson

## SANTA FOR THE KIDS

This was the 19<sup>th</sup> year of the program and the donations we received made it possible for us to help a record breaking number of 39 families with 129 children and adults. Hannaford Bros Co. and Future Foods were very generous to us again this year and that enabled us to help more families this year. All families received grocery gift certificates and diapers if needed.

We ran this program a little different this year, requiring all applicants to submit an application showing financial need. It took a few more minutes on their part, but gives us all piece of mind knowing that no one is abusing this program.

Once again, Don and Sue Bosse of Mechanic Falls were an asset to this program. They again enlisted the aid of the Marine Corps Reserve, Toys for Tots and Teens program, which provided toys including 5 bicycles that were distributed to families in our community. The community response to this program has always been great, and given the current economy it made each and every donation we received extra special. The Town office may organize and run this program, but we do not do it alone. I want to thank all that donated, with gifts, turkeys, food baskets, knitted items, money, gift certificates and even the wrapping paper. The donations we receive truly make this a community project.

Those wishing to make donations for next year can drop off new, unwrapped toys at the Town Office at any time; the clearance sales make our money go much further. Any and all donations are appreciated. Thank you.

Shirley Marquis  
Tax Clerk  
Coordinator - "Santa for the Kids" Program

## ANIMAL CONTROL

Generally, I visit Mechanic Falls on a daily basis

Last year, there were a total of 364 general complaints, 21 animal trespassing violations, 17 dogs returned to their owners, 9 animal bites, and 6 animals that needed to be laid away or found a new home.



Just a friendly reminder, all dogs older than 6 months must be licensed annually. To avoid late fees, licensing must be completed no later than January 31<sup>st</sup>.

You, your family and your pets could be in danger from harmful insects that carry disease. Talk to your veterinarian about simple precautions that will offer protection for all of you.

Rabies is fatal. Vaccinations are extremely important in the prevention and control of numerous diseases in dogs and cats, including distemper, parvo, and rabies. Given annually, these vaccinations are an excellent investment in your pet's future.

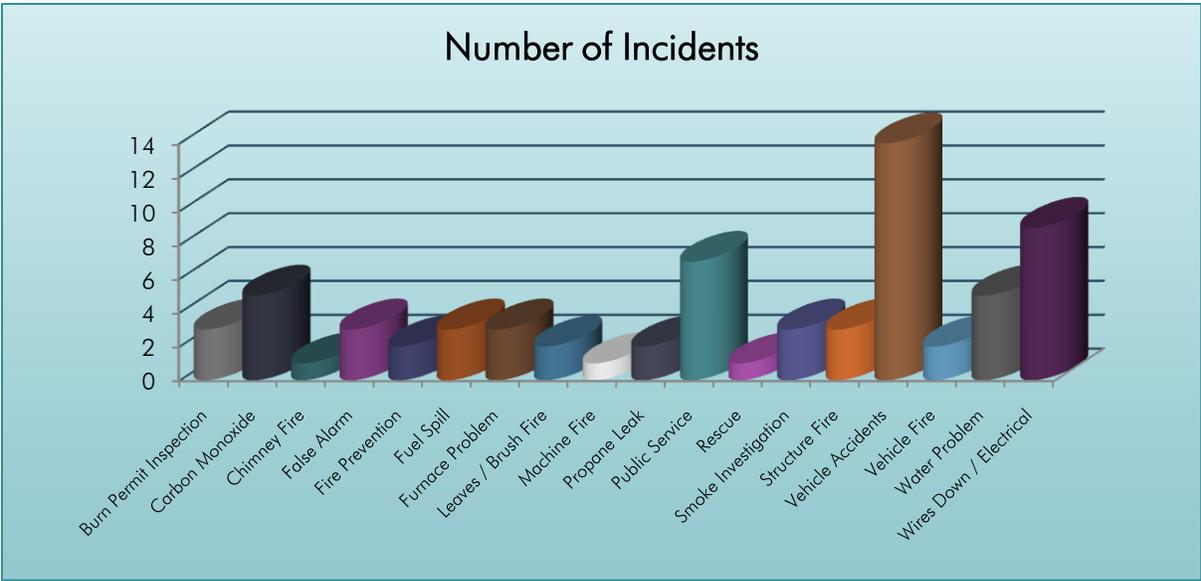
Spaying or neutering is another way to protect the life of your pet. A hysterectomy can reduce the chances of your dog or cat getting uterine infections and breast or ovarian cancer. Neutering reduces the risk of testicular and prostate disease, as well as the tendency to roam and fight. Controlling the unwanted animal population is as equally important.

Robert Larrabee  
Animal Control Officer

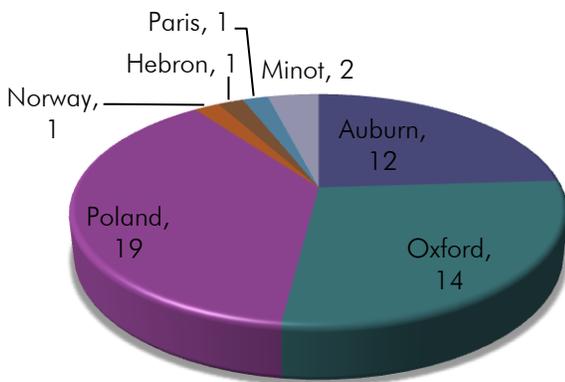
## FIRE DEPARTMENT

It's that time of year again when the weather is getting nice and time for our folks to get together for town meeting. I hope the winter was good to all of you since it kind of petered out helping us all with the heating bills. Unfortunately, the lack of snow limited the recreation for the ice fishermen and snowmobilers, but now it's time to enjoy the warm weather. We are hoping it greens up quickly because the lack of snow left areas to dry out earlier than usual, increasing the risk of brush fire season. Keep in mind that outdoor burning is only allowed with a permit issued from the department or on-line.

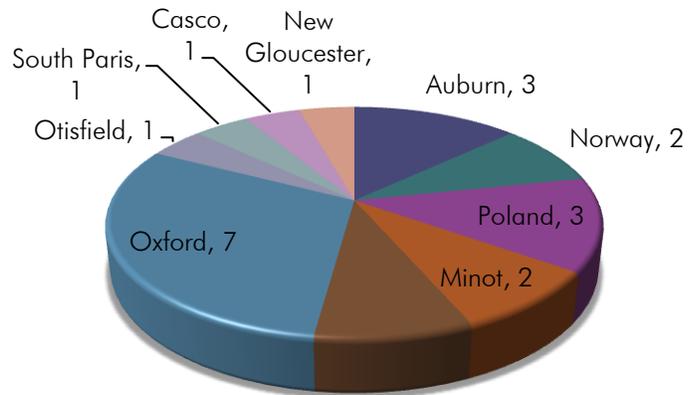
This past year was rather routine for us. We handled the average number of car accidents, assisted folks with flooded cellars, odor investigations and chimney fires. We didn't respond to any great newsworthy incidents with the exception of the fatal fire in November. We have not had a fire related fatality in the community for decades. There is no amount of training or experience that can prepare you for something like this and it struck our department hard. My staff got through it and moved on with a great deal of support from the community.



I need to say thanks to the other municipal departments who support us throughout the year. Without the assistance from the Police, Public Works, Water Department, Sanitary District, Emergency Management and the Town Office staff, we wouldn't be able to provide the quality of the service that we do.



Mutual Aid Given



Mutual Aid Received

During these tough economic times, we have strived to keep our budgets manageable while still offering the level of service you have come to expect. Our proposed budget reflects the needs for us to get the job done safely and efficiently. We have requested minor increases to keep up with rising fuel costs and minor wear and tear on our trucks and equipment. Time flies by and most people have forgotten that our two "new" fire trucks are now ten years old. Bunker gear required for the protection of our firefighters continues to increase, as safety mandates are forever modifying what we need to wear. We also purchased a specialized management software package to assist with record keeping within the department. Federal and State requirements set high standards for reporting and with no full time staff to manage these requirements we needed the software to help us organize our time, maintenance, training, reports and records. Huge fines are being dished out to departments

with poor accountability. The remainder of the proposed budget still allows us to function and operate a very capable department.

I would like to take an opportunity to give a special Thank You and express my sincere appreciate to Peter Bragdon who retired this past year, after serving the department for 34 years. He will be missed very much.

Fred C. Sturtevant III  
Fire Chief

## RESCUE

**R**escue responded to 233 calls from January through December. Our average response time is currently 3 minutes from the time we are activated until the time we go enroute and another 3 minutes from the time we leave the station until we arrive on scene. According to state reports most of our calls are between 09:00 and 12:00 noon. See below for a breakdown of the call times.

Time Period	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	TOTAL	%
0001-0300	4	2	3	3	3	2	2	19	8.15%
0301-0600	0	1	0	1	2	2	1	7	3.00%
0601-0900	2	3	4	2	1	2	1	15	6.44%
0901-1200	6	9	6	4	12	7	11	55	23.61%
1201-1500	1	4	9	1	2	6	6	29	12.45%
1501-1800	1	1	9	2	2	2	7	24	10.30%
1801-2100	4	11	0	5	5	6	11	42	18.03%
2101-0000	6	3	1	2	2	3	5	22	9.44%
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	20	8.58%
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

The department is made up of 10 basic emergency medical technicians, 1 intermediate, 1 paramedic and 1 driver. We currently have 3 people who are doing ride along time with the department. One of who will be finishing an EMT class soon and the other two who will be starting a class in the near future. If you are interested in joining rescue, please see the Town Office for an application.

We have been using the State MEMSRR system for a little over a year now, to enter all of our runs and are very happy with all the data we can pull from that system.

A brief rundown of the calls for the year are as follows:

Abdominal Pain/Problems	7	Chest Pain/Discomfort	15
Airway Obstruction	1	Chronic Bronchitis	6
Altered Level of Consciousness	2	Diabetic Hyperglycemia	1
Asthma	3	Diabetic Symptoms	1
Back Pain (Non-Traumatic)	2	Diarrhea	2
Behavioral/Psychiatric Disorder	11	ETOH Abuse	2
Cardiac Arrest	1	Fever	2

G.I. Bleed	1
General Malaise	2
Headache	4
Hypertension	1
Hypotension	1
Nausea/Vomiting	1
No Apparent Illness/Injury	6
Not Applicable	29
Not Available	2
OB/Delivery	1
Obvious Death	1
Other	15
Other Abdominal/GI Problem	1
Other Cardiovascular Problem	1

Other Illness/Injury	8
Pain	24
Patient Assist Only	1
Pregnancy/OB Delivery	1
Respiratory Distress	11
Seizure	4
Smoke Inhalation	1
Stroke	1
Traumatic Injury	9
Unconscious	2
Unknown Problem	3
Weakness	12
Public Service	34

Thank you for all your support and donations throughout the year.

Please make sure your house is numbered and visible to insure a quicker response.

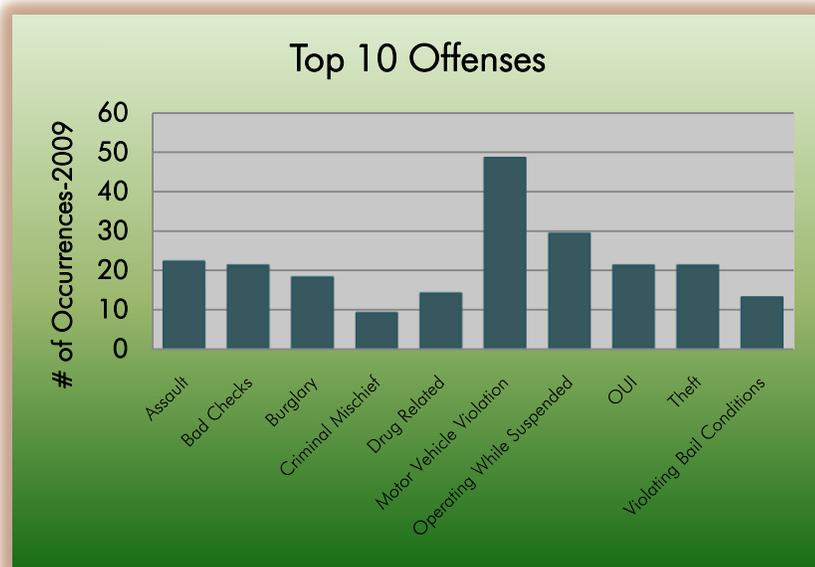
Jennifer Casey  
Rescue Chief

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

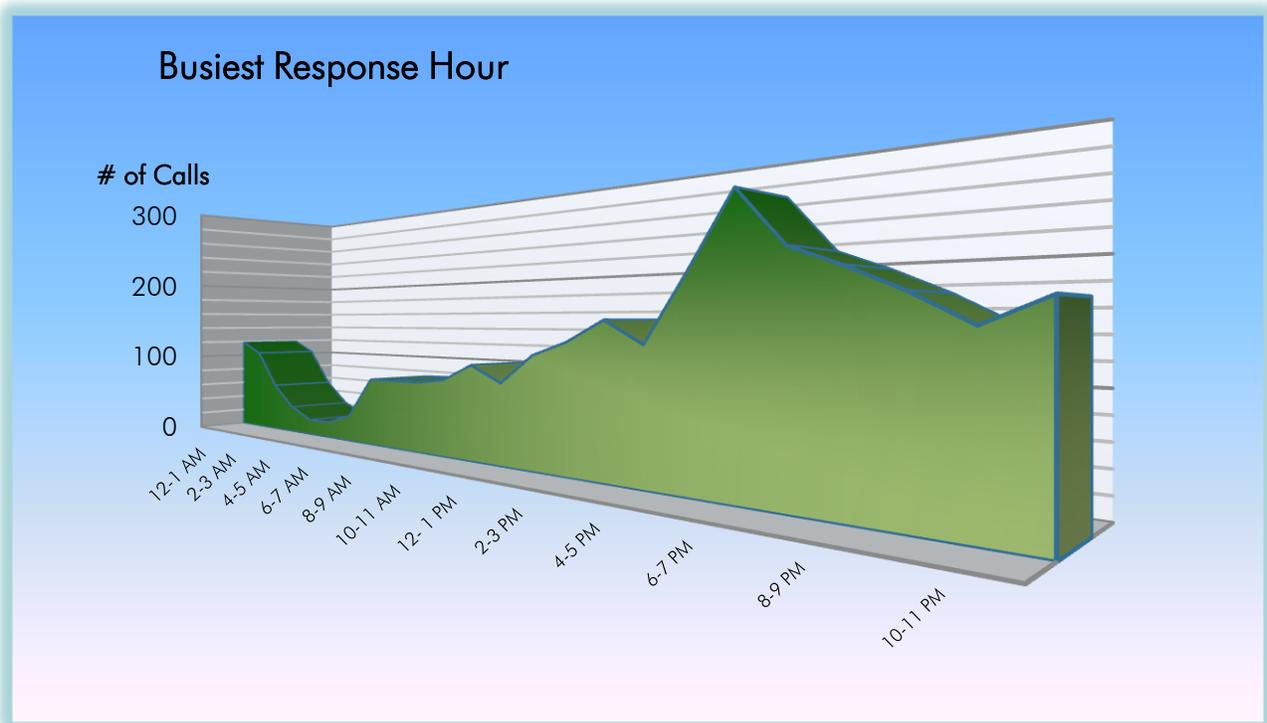
Mechanic Falls Police Officers handled **2760** plus calls for service in 2009. You have a police officer on duty 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for 365 days a year. If you need our service we are always here.

That being said, there is generally only one of us on duty at any given time. Calls are handled by a

prioritized assessment process. If we get dispatched to a theft and while we are going to that a report of a missing child or car crash with injuries is reported the theft will be moved to the bottom of the list. That is just the way that we have to do things so that the most serious calls are handled first. We do understand that all calls are very important, and that however minor a call is for us, it is quite possibly the most important incident that has happened to you in a long time. Every call is important.



We currently have 2 patrol vehicles. We have a 2009 Dodge Charger and a 2010 Ford 4X4 pick-up truck. Many have commented that the truck seems extravagant and excessive. The fact of the matter is that it is actually more cost effective to run a truck. When initially purchased the truck is approximately \$3,000 to \$3,500 more. We actually spent a remarkably smaller amount of money repairing the first truck that we purchased than what we usually spent on a car over the same service length. Then a great thing happens when it is time to trade the truck and purchase a new one. We have consistently gotten \$2,500 trade-in on patrol cars when we trade. When we traded this winter for the new truck we are currently using we were given \$12,500. That is a \$10,000 difference from the truck to a car and computes out to a \$6,500 savings in buying a 4X4 truck instead of buying a patrol car. This has us contemplating what our purchase will be when the time comes to replace the car we currently have. I felt that this was important information for the tax payers to be aware of, so that they will be assured that we are not out making luxury purchases on their dollar. We made this decision after studying what other departments were finding when they made the same transition. Originally, we took some harsh criticism but the whole process has paid off and we have saved the town a good amount of money.



We continue to participate in local activities above and beyond law enforcement itself. Doing so gives us satisfaction and the opportunity to be involved with the community on a different level than the enforcement piece that is our every day job. A great deal of satisfaction comes from having members of the community socialize with you about matters other than just police work.

I write this as I head into my 23<sup>rd</sup> year of law enforcement in Mechanic Falls. I could never have imagined my career being what it has been so far when I signed on as a reserve officer in September of 1987. The officer's that serve this community try their very best to provide you with exceptional police service. I am very proud of

their efforts and of the service provided. Everything does not always go the way that we hope, but the effort is made with the best of intent in every call we handle. I urge each and every citizen to be involved with the safety and protection of their community and report crime and suspicious activity. Thank you for your support.

Jeffrey Goss  
Police Chief

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

**M**echanic Falls is a great little town to live in for many reasons, we know. One is that we remained relatively unscathed by any major disasters again this year, being missed by mere miles when several significant snowstorms paralyzed much of the Northeast and Atlantic coast. A couple of heavy rainstorms caused some concern but we carefully monitored the rivers and streams and only minor damages occurred.

During the past year positive plans were put into place for our safety should a disaster materialize in our community. The EMA finalized a Comprehensive Emergency Operations Plan including an Animal Shelter.

Also, County EMA has completed the task of establishing a Command Vehicle for use by all Androscoggin cities and towns. During the next few months local officials will be trained in operating the vehicle in the event our area does encounter a major disaster.

County EMA is also in the process of changing our method of communications from wide-band radio frequencies to narrow-band communications. The project is expected to be operational January 2011.

Thankfully, Mechanic Falls is one of the infamous small towns where everyone works together for the good of our people. So let me extend my thanks, once again, to all our municipal departments for their continued support in helping to keep our community safe and for assisting not only me, but one another, when the need arises.

David C. Stimson  
Emergency Management Director

## PUBLIC WORKS

The Public Works Department is always busy doing something around town no matter what time of year it is. We pride ourselves in staying busy and doing whatever it takes to make this town's roads, parks, downtown area, the municipal area, and sidewalks safe, clean, and respectful so that the taxpayers are proud of the place where they live. I and my crew take great pride in making sure this happens, whatever the circumstances that arise.

The beginning of 2009 we had a few good snowstorms that kept us quite busy into the first of March then the snow just shut off and that was it for the year. We got around 100 in. of snow last year, about 39in less than the year before but still a good amount. We also used 400 tons of salt to bare the roads up after storms and about 3,000 yards of sand on the roads and in the public pile.

We do a variety of things throughout the year, spring clean up of the sidewalks and streets, paint striping, bush-hog the roadsides, ditching, transfer station duties and any road building that comes around. We also take care of all the parks and municipal grounds, mowing and trimming.

We have traded paint striping and bush-hogging with Poland for our street sweeping and hope that it continues. It saves both towns in the long run and everyone seems to be happy.



The Public Works department hopes that you are satisfied with what we do and we hope to serve you all for years to come.

On a sad note, I need to say that the Public Works department had some difficult times at the end of the year and into the new year with one of our own getting real sick and passing away in mid January of 2010. For those of you who did not know Lucien Paradis, he was a great man and a great friend. He did things in our shop in his three years that saved so many taxpayer dollars by doing work in house, instead of taking it to a garage. He loved his job, the people and especially his truck and plowing snow. Myself and my men, Ron Tirrell and Tim Estes miss him so much every day, it makes it hard sometimes but Lou would want us to keep trucking so that is what we do.

I also want to thank Chris Arsenault, Matt Kyllonen and Bob Goddard for stepping up and being there to help out when Lou was sick. It takes a whole crew to makes things happen in a Public Works department and we have a damn good one.

Thank you to my men, our boss John Hawley for his support and the support of the Town Council. It is appreciated.

Scott R. Penney  
Public Works Director

## SOLID WASTE

The Transfer Station went through some staffing changes in the last year. Bob Abbott, Randy Plummer, Rich Worden and Russ Abbott all moved on for various reasons. The new faces that replaced them are Kathryn Oak, Don Lahey and Lydia Fisher. Sid Hall continues to put his time in and enjoys helping folks when they stop by.

For the most part, our transfer station is running about as efficiently as it can. With the downfall of recycling revenues the past couple of years, we have not been able to recoup some of the expenses we had realized in those previous years but we continue to look for ways to do things ever so slightly that decrease our operational expenses. You may notice slight changes in the way things are done over time and it is usually because we are able to improve our functionality or increase our recycling rates. Mechanic Falls has the bragging rights of being one of the communities in Maine with a recycling rate well above the State benchmark of 50%. In 2008 (2009 statistics aren't available until 2010) we were at about 65% and the staff are always looking at other ways to increase this number.

Many folks have heard about Single-Stream Recycling. This is a process in which you can bring all your recyclables, mixed together and dump in one bin at the transfer station. Some communities are switching to this practice but after looking at this possibility for Mechanic Falls a couple of times, the hauling fees for the materials are still just as expensive as hauling our separated items. When the recycling market is up, we benefit from the sale of our separated items. Communities switching to singles stream give up that benefit for the convenience and the profits stay with the processor who ends up sorting the materials in the end. We would also have to purchase a second compactor to make it more practical for us. We continue to keep this option on the back burner and will revisit the idea as the market and economy changes.

The staff at the transfer station tries very hard to keep folks educated on the methods and processes at the transfer station. Some folks take offense or get defensive when one of the attendants brings something to their attention. Please keep in mind that recycling education is a large part of their job. They aren't picking on anyone, they are only trying to help folks understand why it is what we do. These efforts are for the benefit of keeping waste disposal at a minimal cost. Alternatives such as private roadside pick-up or hauling your own to an out of town facility are both costly and inconvenient.

Thank you to those who follow the rules to the best of their ability. We know that some will make minor mistakes and forget to sort something out. If you have any questions don't hesitate to ask.

Scott Penney  
Public Works Director



## WATER DEPARTMENT

The year started off with us looking for a substantial leak. Usually when we have a large leak it doesn't take long before we discover it, or have it pointed out to us. When we can't find it we look to the river or someplace where water can get away unnoticed. We ended up calling in the Maine Rural Water Association (MRWA) to assist us. They have listening devices to help pinpoint leaks. The first place we listened was the river crossing behind the American Legion. A leak was detected but not of the volume we were looking for. We shut down the river crossing and it remains off today. Our big water project of the late eighties provided us with a new river crossing at Fireman's field. That is the line that is providing water to the westerly side of town. After about two weeks of searching, Scott Penney found a rather large hole under the snow bank on Oak Street. That was the leak we were looking for! There was an abandoned sewer service near the leak and the water was going straight to the river.

We are in the process of changing out all the meters in town to the new "Touch read" system. We have done this one-quarter of the system a year. At the writing of this report we have three quarters of the town done.

There was great excitement generated by the thought of stimulus money for water projects this year. We were not fortunate enough to get any of that money in the first round, but we are anxiously awaiting news on what might be a second round. We have applied for money from the State Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund. This could be in the form of grants, or very low interest loans. We have been approved for three projects in the 2010 construction season. One is a main extension from the Poland Regional High School towards the Aggregate Road. This will be fully funded by the Town of Poland but because it is our water system the application has to be in our name. This project when done will be a revenue generating project with no Mechanic Falls investment. The second request is for a new back-up well at the pumping station. This is needed because our existing back-up well is plugged. And the third project is a new river crossing behind the American Legion.

Every few years we are able to replace some of our existing infrastructure. This year we replaced approximately one thousand feet of one-inch plastic with eight-inch ductile iron on Riverside Drive. This project allowed us to provide fire protection to the neighborhood. It would appear that we accomplished this project for approximately half the cost of hiring the job out. As the job terminated the Public Works Crew helped us with pavement restoration. It is the cooperation of our departments that allows us to complete projects like this at a reasonable price. We would like to thank the Riverside Neighborhood for their tolerance during this project. We tried to keep traffic interruption, dust and mud to a minimum.

Stephen French  
Superintendent

## MUNICIPAL REVENUES RECEIVED

JULY 1, 2008 TO JUNE 30, 2009

Veteran's Exemption	1,891.00	Sex Offender Registry	55.00
Tree Growth	6,020.61	Wills / Fax Fees	647.00
Payment in lieu of Taxes	97.97	Zoning Fees	50.00
BETE Tax Reimbursement	3,037.00	Court Fees	884.51
Tax Acquired Property	00.00	Postage / Photocopies	572.94
Motor Vehicle Excise	346,312.37	Variance Fees	125.00
Boat Excise	1,949.10	Water Admin. fees	8,000.00
Cash Management Interest	39,354.67	Public Safety Report	555.25
Interest / Real Estate	15,841.66	Dog Fees	802.00
Lien Costs	4,416.66	Genealogy Reports	7.50
Supplemental Tax	00.00	Home Occupation Fees	35.00
Conditional Use Permits	1,310.25	MFDC Admin. Fees	00.00
Driveway Entrance Permits	130.00	Amusement Permit Fees	180.00
Pole Permits	00.00	Cable Franchise Fees	23,996.18
Building Permits	8,770.14	Transfer Station Fees	4,383.60
Plumbing Permits	932.75	Transfer Station Stickers	3,460.00
Electrical Permits	1,775.00	Carnival Service Fees	00.00
Commercial Hauler Permits	00.00	CEO Citations	431.34
Vital Stats.	1,340.00	Tree Growth Penalties	00.00
Marriage	910.00	Police Fines	1,147.00
Motor Vehicle Licenses	9,868.00	Dog Late Fees	835.00
Snowmobile / ATV Licenses	317.00	Nat Geo Fees	00.00
Boat Licenses	142.00	Municipal Gym Rental	265.00
Victualer's Licenses	530.00	Adult Ed. Rental	13,680.00
Hunting / Fishing	936.25	U S Cellular	4,238.88
Dog Licenses	509.00	Headstart Rental	1,840.00
Liquor License	300.00	Tennis Lights	00.00
Rabies Call	2.00	Service Charges	100.00
Weapons Permits	235.00	Insurance Reimbursements	3,378.50
Highway Block Grant	15,975.00	Recycling Earnings	14,651.42
State Revenue Sharing	429,187.83	Welfare Reimbursements	636.00
State Welfare Refund	14,729.99	Police Reimbursements	00.00
Library Grant	00.00	Sold Items and Equipment	10.00
Homestead Exemption	95,300.00	Gas Tax Reimbursement	00.00
FEMA	38,428.38	Sale of town-Owned Property	00.00
Snowmobile Refund	1,045.96	Oxford Bank Accounts	00.00

Total Revenues Received:	\$1,126,562.71
Total Anticipated (Budgeted):	\$1,073,217.00
% Of Budgeted Revenues Received:	104.97%
Other Revenues, General Education	\$3,007,748.85
Adult Education	\$195,120.63
Programs / Grants	\$215,774.00

## SALARIES / PAYMENTS TO MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS

July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009

### ADMINISTRATION

*John Hawley	62,952.36
Shirley Marquis	32,219.43
Lisa Palmer	29,477.09
Lisa Prevost	41,130.98

### ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

Robert Larrabee	3,895.00
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### TOWN COUNCIL

Daniel Blanchard	600.00
Rielly Bryantl	500.00
Roger Guptill	500.00
*Nancy Richard	529.00
Robert Small	500.00

### PLANNING BOARD

Arthur Montana	84.00
Brian Grondin	50.00
Robert Belanger	50.00
John Hyman	60.00
Keith Morse	80.00
John Straight	40.00
Paul Conklin Jr	60.00
Paula Stotts	40.00

### BOARD OF APPEALS

Tony Bennett	00
Ed Piirainen	00
Bruce Richardson	00
Tom Walton	00
Donald York	00

### PLANNING / CODE ENFORCEMENT

Kieth Bennett	1,102.50
Lawrence Cloutier	100.00
Wayne Marquis	167.50
Nick Richard	36,141.82
Rodney Smith	100.00

### CUSTODIAN

*Randall Plummer	13,343.94
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### ELECTION CLERKS

Gloria Diehl	224.76
Nancy Petersons	30.81

### FIRE DEPARTMENT

David Barton	721.88
Jeff Bolduc	253.75
*Wayde Boston	2,123.00
Donald Boyd	1,365.38
Peter Bragdon	325.38
Edward Brown	643.76
*Thomas Casey	1,966.58
David Clukey	1,014.38
*Jon Damon	1,563.89
*Matt Fifield	1,578.64
Eric Friree	438.90
*Jennie Friree	2,710.64
*John Gaffey	2,000.03
*Nathan Harvey	1,360.53
*Paul Harvey	237.29
Brandon Kimball	738.51
Benjamin Limerick	360.25
Donald Patterson	2,444.94
Cathterine Proulx	792.38
Will Proulx	361.38
*Armand Richard	1,121.76
*Chris Strout	1,737.64
*Fred Sturtevantl	4,788.89
*Jake Verrill	774.51

Chris Wilson	590.27
Richard Wing	873.51
Zach Yates	600.01

#### EMA DIRECTOR

* David Stimson	747.50
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#### LIBRARY

Krystal Bernier	48.75
Sandra Brown-Eustis	6,014.28
Michelle Paladino	960.92
Rhonda Tammaro	1,849.75

#### POLICE DEPARTMENT

James Avery	17,633.60
Jason Boulanger	8,542.88
William Cook IV	37,749.78
Michelle Emery	7,554.76
Nick Gagnon	4,318.15
Jeffrey Goss	59,110.60
Paul Harrison	53,710.37
Kevin Nichols	42,965.21

#### PUBLIC WORKS

*Chris Arsenault	1,102.31
Tim Estes	33,228.69
Wade Clukey	150.20
*Robert Goddard	886.64
Matt Kyllonen	828.51
Josh Michaud	1,941.00
Lucien Paradis	29,400.25
Scott Penney	49,454.37
Ron Tirrell	30,778.55

#### TRANSFER STATION

Robert Abbott	8,329.90
Russell Abbott	1,256.00
Sidney Hall	6,948.76
Kathryn Oak	2,449.90
Richard Worden	2,643.24

#### WATER DEPARTMENT

Carolyn Bennett	13,642.20
Stephen French	48,692.85
Jacob Verrill	11,087.68
Chris Wilson	30,941.12

#### RESCUE

Jennifer Casey	4,244.01
*Melissa Hodgkin	1,648.25
Elwood Strout	552.75
Matt Tupper	439.63
Martha Wiseman	500.38

#### SPRING CLEAN UP

Steve Manchester II	261.00
Cory Sands	261.00

#### RECREATION – SUMMER PROGRAM

*Mike Downing	2,010.03
Paula Glatz	3,660.80
Richard Griffiths	999.90
Suzanne Marston	4,990.00
Katherine McKellick	777.70
Alycia Walsh	900.00

# MUNICIPAL AUDIT REPORT

## BALANCE SHEET - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS June 30, 2009

	General Fund	Other Gov. Funds	Total Gov. Funds
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Cash	\$2,640,675	\$0	\$2,640,675
Taxes Receivable	144,445	0	144,445
Tax Liens Receivable	37,646	0	37,646
Accounts and Notes Receivable	58,177	0	58,177
Inventories	3,546	0	3,546
Due From Other Funds	0	654,625	654,625
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$2,884,489</b>	<b>\$654,625</b>	<b>\$3,539,114</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE</b>			
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Accounts Payable	\$96,827	\$0	\$96,827
Accrued Expenses	235,874	0	235,874
Taxes Paid in Advance	2,893	0	2,893
Deferred Revenues	118,190	0	118,190
Due to Other Funds	729,691	0	729,691
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$1,183,475</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,183,475</b>
<b>FUND BALANCE</b>			
Reserved for:			
Education	\$324,024	\$0	\$324,024
Federal Grant Purposes	\$0	\$125,699	\$125,699
Permanent Funds, Nonexpendable	\$0	\$1,755	\$1,755
Unreserved, Reported In:			
General Fund	1,376,990	0	1,376,990
Special Revenue Fund	0	54,679	54,679
Capital Project Funds	0	463,163	463,163
Permanent Funds, Expendable	0	9,329	9,329
<b>TOTAL FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>\$1,701,014</b>	<b>\$654,625</b>	<b>\$2,355,639</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>\$2,884,489</b>	<b>\$654,625</b>	<b>\$3,539,114</b>

**MUNICIPAL AUDIT REPORT**

**STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE  
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS  
June 30, 2009**

	General Fund	Other Gov. Funds	Total Gov. Funds
<b>REVENUES</b>			
Taxes	\$2,915,472	\$0	\$2,915,472
Intergovernmental	3,576,725	399,571	3,976,296
Licenses, Permits and Fees	45,530	0	45,530
Charges for Service	43,851	57,230	101,081
Investment Income	39,355	13,701	53,056
Miscellaneous	28,011	0	28,011
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$6,648,944</b>	<b>\$470,502</b>	<b>\$7,119,446</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
<b>CURRENT</b>			
General Government	\$317,719	\$37,107	\$354,826
Protection	341,799	38,097	379,896
Public Works	370,309	65,622	435,931
Fiscal Services	449,642	0	449,642
Education	4,608,963	488,814	5,097,777
Community Services	49,291	0	49,291
Debt Service	156,424	0	156,424
Fixed Charges	189,635	0	189,635
Capital Outlay	0	177,080	177,080
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$6,483,782</b>	<b>\$806,720</b>	<b>\$7,290,502</b>
<b>EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$165,162</b>	<b>(\$336,218)</b>	<b>(\$171,056)</b>
<b>OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)</b>			
Transfers in (Out)	(304,421)	340,421	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>(\$175,259)</b>	<b>\$4,203</b>	<b>(\$171,056)</b>
<b>FUND BALANCE - JULY 1, 2007</b>	<b>1,876,273</b>	<b>650,422</b>	<b>2,526,695</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>FUND BALANCE - JUNE 30, 2008</b>	<b>\$1,701,014</b>	<b>\$654,625</b>	<b>\$2,355,639</b>
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

## SUPERINTENDANT OF SCHOOLS

Dear Citizens of Mechanic Falls,

***School Consolidation*** – School Consolidation has been a very big change for the town of Mechanic Falls. Consolidation was not an easy change, but through communication, planning, commitment, patience and courage we have accomplished this amazing feat. I would like to express to you why school consolidation has been positive for Mechanic Falls and for the towns of Minot and Poland, the other two towns that make up our new Regional School Unit (RSU) #16.

**Change is not easy - but it can be simple.** Things will always change. We don't have a choice about that, but we do have a choice on how we react to change; and as a leader, whether or not we choose to create change. The choice really boils down to this...either we manage change, or it will manage us.

***School Consolidation*** has allowed us to streamline our educational services and reduce the overall tax burden.

By combining our resources, we have offered, and will continue to offer, more expanded educational programs and better access to those programs, especially at Poland Regional High School. Better preparing our students to be successful in post-secondary schools, in the workforce and beyond is imperative, as fewer jobs are available and the competition is greater.

In Mechanic Falls, Minot and Poland, ***School Consolidation*** has allowed all of our schools access to health and wellness programs, band and music, foreign language and an expansion of our gifted and talented classes.

***School Consolidation*** has also allowed us to share teachers across the district, developing common themes, exchanging ideas and working better as a team. This consolidated effort is fundamentally improving how our students are educated.

For Mechanic Falls, Minot and Poland, ***School Consolidation*** is working well! It is saving taxpayer money, reducing waste and putting more money back into the classroom.

We have a great school district, and it has been a privilege working with the town of Mechanic Falls. I truly appreciate everything the Mechanic Falls community does for our kids and the support you give to our schools. If I can be of any assistance to you, I encourage you to email me at [dduquette@rsu16.org](mailto:dduquette@rsu16.org), call me at 998-2727 extension #108 or stop in at central office.

Respectfully,  
Dennis Duquette  
RSU #16 Superintendent



## ELM STREET SCHOOL

The 2009-2010 school year is one that has been filled with change, challenge, and collaboration. On July 1<sup>st</sup>, Mechanic Falls, Minot, and Poland officially joined to form Regional School Unit 16. As the three communities have come together, new procedures, protocols, and relationships have developed. For the first time, a tri-town public school program for four year olds was implemented in Mechanic Falls. RSU 16 and Head Start joined to offer thirty-six four years olds a high quality educational experience. A Spanish teacher offered eighth graders in the three towns a foreign language program. A health teacher was shared between Minot and Mechanic Falls and other services were combined. Students across the three towns have joined for several common education experiences. Poland Spring Bottling generously provided RSU 16 sixth graders with a three-day residential science experience at Ferry Beach Ecology School. Grant funding and a personal donation will allow RSU 16 seventh graders to attend Camp Keive, which provides adventure based leadership training.



During 2009-2010, Elm Street School's staff focused more intently on assessment and what to do when students do not learn. With this goal in mind, new assessments have been utilized, schedules have been changed, and intervention plans developed. Resources have been placed where they are needed most and volunteers have provided valuable support to students. The focus of teachers and support staff at Elm Street School is always on learning and doing whatever it takes to support students. It is this clear vision, caring attitude, and unwavering commitment that makes Elm Street School such a special place!

Elm Street School continues to be used throughout the year as a gathering place for the community. Attendance at school programs and athletic events has been outstanding. As a school, we continue to work closely with the Mechanic Falls Recreation Committee. The building is utilized for basketball on weeknights and weekends from November through February and for various events in other seasons. Girl scouts and other groups meet regularly at Elm Street School. The Tri-Town Optimist Club has supported multiple projects to benefit children in Poland, Minot, and Mechanic Falls. The links between school and community are strong and help to provide our students with a strong sense of support.

As principal of Elm Street School, I personally and professionally appreciate the assistance provided by the community, the municipal departments, the RSU 16 administration, staff, and school committee, and the dedicated staff of Elm Street School. I applaud the accomplishments of our students and am proud to represent our school and community.

Mary Martin  
Principal

## POLAND REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

**G**reetings Citizens of Mechanic Falls;

As we enter our 11<sup>th</sup> year of school at Poland Regional High School, we continue to serve the students of RSU 16 with excitement and enthusiasm. Our partnership with the town of Mechanic Falls has been strong and we look forward to continuing our relationship. We depend on the support of the Mechanic Falls community and we hope the work our kids do outside the school building helps us earn that support.

Last winter, our students raised hundreds of dollars for heating assistance in the three towns. Over \$300 went to help Mechanic Falls residents heat their homes. Our students also shoveled the roof of an elderly neighbor, served as big brothers and big sisters, raised money for Camp Sunshine, provided Christmas presents for kids in need, helped with town recreation teams, built houses for habitat for humanity, and spent hundreds of hours helping out when needed. This year we are raising money for cancer research, an issue that touches families and kids in all three of our towns.

Last year was a year of change. The RSU came into existence, the alternative school at Bakerstown closed, and the DPaTH alternative program opened at the high school. Thankfully, this year has brought just one significant change. Every high school student has been assigned his or her own laptop. The computers are part of the state technology initiative that started in the middle school and has finally moved into the high school. Our students will be the most tech savvy kids in the country, able to manipulate technology to do powerful things and make them marketable to employers. We are very excited about this opportunity for our students.

We are thankful for everything the community does for us. We appreciate every family member and neighbor who comes out to cheer on our teams, watch our plays and hear a band or chorus concert. Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,  
Cari Medd  
Poland Regional high School Principal



## ADULT EDUCATION

Dear Citizens of Mechanic Falls:

Last year was an excellent year for students in Adult Education! When unemployment increases, more people attend classes. Many dared to dream and make their dreams a reality. By June 30, we had a total of 88 students who earned adult high school credentials: 73 adult high school diplomas and 15 General Education Development (GED) equivalency diplomas. Over the past ten years, our number of graduates has shown an upward trend with more students graduating and more attending college.

In addition to earning high school diplomas, many students prepared to enter the military, to meet employer or training requirements and college prerequisites. Students studied reading, writing, mathematics, science, business skills and computer literacy. In two semesters, plus a summer session, Adult Education had a total of 731 enrollments:

190 Academic
34 Vocational
18 Adult Transitional (College Prep)
<u>489 Enrichment</u>
731 Total Enrollments

Thanks to funds appropriated at town meeting, Adult Education had enough “seed money” to qualify for grants exceeding \$40,000, plus a mix of state monies. Adult Education is grateful for the support of the Town of Mechanic Falls.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy E. Watson  
Director of Adult and Community Education



## UNPAID PROPERTY TAXES

### REAL ESTATE LIENS 2006

Baroudi, Adam	1,249.09
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### Real Estate 2008

Johnson, Eric	731.43
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### Real Estate Liens 2009

Allen, Diana	268.28
Baroudi, Adam	3949.32
Beal, Richard/Karen Plummer, Randy	846.38
Bisbee, Leland & Bradley	1333.52
Black, Pamela	1763.75
White's Custom Woodworking	308.72
Brown, Roger & Catherine	43.28
Childs, Christine (LE)	1649.28
Cushman, Joseph & Patricia	1467.48
Davidson, Cecelia	1003.86
Doherty-Kalloch, Marla	260.73
Dostie, Thelma	1990.40
Douglass, Rachel	353.92
Downes, Anthony & Elaine	1164.00
E & K Construction Co	4070.84
Fraser, Joel & Kathleen	1085.80
Hill, Dorothy	697.05
Hill, Dorothy	831.74
Hill, Dorothy	2229.86
Hill, Dorothy	898.90
Houston, Bettyann	478.00
Irizarry, Domingo	1098.00
Johnson, Eric	1416.42
Jones, Angela	1945.29
Lambert, Ronald	161.50
Lambert, Heirs of Patricia	1319.98
Legere, Nancy	165.29

Leonard Jr, David & Michelle	2064.06
Madore, Randal	847.29
Martin's Country Homes Inc.	3570.63
McBride, Cherilea	87.03
Millett, Charles & Sandra	3034.87
Millett, Hartley & Lucille Martel	1623.96
Morin, Beverly	2047.04
Palmer, Jeremy	750.12
Parsons, Jennifer	1335.29
Pearl Jr, Charles & Ginger	893.25
Pelletier, Gloria A	492.73
Pelletier, Gloria A	1283.21
Plummer, Randy	307.62
Ring, Michael & Linda	3.04
Roberts, Homer & Virginia	1129.66
Rowe, Julianne & Ashley	1379.91
Smith, Crystal	547.54
Stimson, Nina & David	420.53
Tardif, Selena	901.36
Tibbetts, Heirs of Elva	1318.70
Toussaint, Russell & Charlene	1628.15
White, Jeffrey	457.50
White, Jeffrey	444.69
White, Jeffrey	464.82
White, Jeffrey	468.48
Willson, Bruce & Janice	2143.85

## 2010 First Half Unpaid

Allen, Diana	130.94
Arsenault, Armand	356.01
Baroudi, Adam	1880.94
Beal, Richard/Karen/Plummer, Randy	402.38
Bell, Daniel	121.80
Berry, Scott	116.58
Bisbee, Leland	637.36
Black, Pamela	841.90
Blueberry Hill Farms, LLC.	146.77
Brown, Roger	96.05
Bryant, Chad	27.00
Bullis, Mary	198.62
Calabrese, Brett	343.91
Carey, John	87.79
Chase, Brian	2435.22
Childs, Christine (LE)	1149.71
Colon, Carlos	19.75
Conant, Neal	402.70
Cote, Edward	1056.62
Crane, Joyce	1061.14
Crane, Heirs Of Andrew	1039.04
Crockett, Donald	202.76
Crumb, David	1018.42
Cummins, Heirs Of John	447.62
Cummins, Heirs Of John	1063.14
Cunningham, Thomas	563.44
Cushman, Joseph	701.05
Davidson, Cecelia	757.34
Davis, John Jr	2053.03
Destrini, John	1393.77
Doherty-Kalloch, Marla	221.77
Dostie, Thelma	1787.33
Dostie, Jerome	512.78
Dostie, Jerome	831.72
Douglass, Rachel	171.65
Downes, Anthony	729.15
Dubois, Maurice	73.78
Dufour, Barbara	74.39
Dufour, Denis	1503.54
E & K Construction Co	1935.32
Farris, Scott	42.89
Fecteau, James	1327.27
Fecteau, Julie	1025.56

Foster, Randall	1099.68
Fraser, Joel	531.66
Gagnon, Jeremy	158.95
Gauthier, Normand	268.57
Gordon, Timothy	711.92
Hale-Jenkins, Deborah Anne	444.69
Hawley, Donald Sr	270.66
Hill, Dorothy	331.39
Hill, Dorothy	395.42
Hill, Dorothy	1060.10
Hill, Dorothy	427.35
Hoffman, Traci	842.34
Houghton, Bruce	799.36
Houston, Bettyann	230.64
Irizarry, Domingo	397.73
Irizarry, Domingo	1044.00
Johnson, Eric	673.38
Jones, Angela	924.81
Jones, Brandon	224.72
Keniston, Heath	57.42
Lagueux, Raymond Jr	108.21
Lambert, Ronald	156.95
Lambert, Heirs Of Patricia	630.93
Larrabee, Douglas	1189.12
Larrabee, Kimberly	83.00
Legere, Nancy	86.65
Leonard, David Jr	984.67
Lowe, Walter	738.11
MacGregor, Irving Jr	1077.36
MacGregor, Irving Jr	774.91
Madore, Randal	406.21
Major, Kevin	188.27
Martin's Country Homes Inc	1840.14
McBride, Cherilea	228.12
McInnis, Shirley	1032.00
Millett, Charles	1447.77
Millett, Hartley	879.22
Morin, Beverly	976.58
Nay, Clark	736.89
New England Telephone	1039.39
Palmer, Jeremy	166.52
Parsons, Jennifer	769.43
Parsons, Jennifer	1718.51
Pearl, Chad & Roxanne	1659.91

Pearl, Charles	457.45
Pelletier, Gloria	468.50
Pelletier, Gloria	1392.70
Penney, Estelle	37.33
Plummer, Randy	149.64
Powers, Steven	237.53
Ram-Ewe Farms	3736.83
Ram-Ewe Farms	646.06
Ram-Ewe Farms	820.59
Reed, Charles	927.58
Ricci, Mark	1194.08
Richardson, Heirs Of Hiram	918.11
Ring, Michael	230.64
Roberts, Homer	542.01
Rowe, Julianne	1317.01
Schmidt, Jeffrey	525.74
Smith, Crystal	260.31
Stimson, Nina	199.93
Stimson, Nina	898.52
Stotts, Mark	990.24
Strickland, Shirley	1171.54
Sturtevant, Darleen	631.19

Tammaro, Rhonda	102.60
Tardif, Gerald	374.67
Tibbetts, Heirs Of Elva	626.92
Toussaint, Russell	777.43
Trask, Michael Sr	33.11
Tufts, Lorraine	898.80
Twitchell, Priscilla	48.11
Vallee, Norman	491.55
Vallee, Norman	217.50
Vallee, Norman	166.00
Vallee, Norman	47.85
Warren, Kelly	88.22
Wheeler, Tracy Rose	226.20
White, Jeffrey	217.50
White, Jeffrey	211.41
White, Jeffrey	220.98
White, Jeffrey	222.72
Wilbur, Steven	592.04
Willson, Bruce	1022.60
Wing, Richard	756.55
Wing, Richard	459.88

### 2009 Personal Property

Hemond, Jannine / Rita's Pizza & Subs	62.04
J & W Oil Company	152.80
TRM ATM Corporation	25.62

### 2010 Personal Property 1st Half Unpaid

Adams, David	38.91
Grant Holdings	463.08
J & W Oil Company	20.74
Kyllonen, Michael	81.87
Leaf Financial Corp	231.34
TD Banknorth N.A.	498.71
Tennant Sales & Service Co	63.64
TRM ATM Corporation	24.36

## BUDGET SUMMARY

	2007/08 APPROVED	2008/09 APPROVED	2009/10 APPROVED	2008/09 EXPENDED	2010-11 PROPOSED	NET CHANGE
<b>BUDGET CATEGORIES</b>						
Boards and Council	\$8,070	\$10,820	\$10,162	\$10,064	\$11,901	\$1,739
Legal Services	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$1,283	\$5,000	\$0
Municipal Complex	\$71,765	\$80,457	\$71,254	\$88,507	\$84,356	\$13,102
Town Clerk / Elections	\$128,290	\$131,001	\$131,477	\$124,080	\$131,327	-\$150
Town Manager	\$57,152	\$63,605	\$63,985	\$62,808	\$65,137	\$1,152
Utilities	\$135,400	\$150,540	\$155,140	\$155,404	\$125,140	-\$30,000
Code Enforcement / Planning	\$38,810	\$43,963	\$42,684	\$30,972	\$43,191	\$507
Library	\$18,158	\$21,375	\$20,875	\$14,251	\$21,267	\$392
Recreation	\$6,630	\$6,630	\$3,712	\$6,630	\$3,000	(\$712)
Social Services / Welfare	\$7,425	\$14,595	\$19,595	\$28,410	\$25,095	\$5,500
Assessor	\$12,800	\$16,300	\$16,300	\$17,284	\$19,050	\$2,750
Auditor	\$6,600	\$6,700	\$6,700	\$6,700	\$6,000	-\$700
Contingency	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000	\$0
Debt Service	\$158,935	\$156,424	\$153,813	\$156,425	\$212,650	\$58,837
Pensions / Insurances	\$266,723	\$270,710	\$291,421	\$270,255	\$305,884	\$14,463
Animal Control	\$4,690	\$4,950	\$4,950	\$4,344	\$5,100	\$150
Dispatcher	\$4,240	\$10,630	\$10,630	\$9,234	\$10,190	(\$440)
EMA	\$750	\$750	\$750	\$712	\$750	\$0
Fire Department	\$43,800	\$55,365	\$56,615	\$54,283	\$56,620	\$5
Police Department	\$270,763	\$287,865	\$284,637	\$254,334	\$288,275	\$3,638
Rescue	\$18,780	\$19,280	\$19,730	\$15,670	\$22,556	\$2,826
Health Officer	\$0	\$750	\$750	\$500	\$750	\$0
Public Works	\$251,945	\$285,706	\$313,674	\$245,839	\$285,667	(\$28,007)
Roads	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Solid Waste	\$126,196	\$112,810	\$113,048	\$122,160	\$110,949	(\$2,099)
County Tax	\$141,439	\$146,975	\$149,142	\$149,675	\$154,340	\$5,198
<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND</b>	\$1,794,361	\$1,913,201	\$1,956,044		\$2,004,195	\$48,151
<b>TOTAL CIP BUDGET</b>	\$205,420	\$205,420	\$54,000		\$99,000	\$45,000
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	\$1,999,781	\$2,118,621	\$2,010,044		\$2,103,195	\$93,151
<b>APPLIED REVENUES</b>	\$1,026,857	\$1,073,217	\$964,640		\$776,740	(\$187,900)
<b>APPLIED FUND BALANCE</b>					\$212,650	
<b>NET TO BE RAISED</b>	\$972,924	\$1,045,404	\$1,045,404		\$1,113,805	<b>\$68,401</b>

## TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLES

### Town Meeting Warrant Articles Saturday, May 15, 2010

Greetings:

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town of Mechanic Falls, qualified to vote in Town affairs, to assemble at the Gymnasium in the Mechanic Falls Municipal Building, in said Town on Saturday, the 15th of May, 2010, at nine o'clock in the morning, then and there to act on articles numbered 1 to 37 inclusive, all said articles being set out below, to wit. If said articles are not completed by the time of adjournment of said meeting, the meeting shall be reconvened each following evening beginning at 6 PM. at the same location, until completed.

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

**ARTICLE 2:** To see if the Town will vote to adopt the Moderator's Manual as prepared by the Maine Municipal Association as the parliamentary procedure for the meeting, and to see if said Moderator's Manual shall be amended to prohibit motions for passage of more than one article at a time, and to see if said Moderator's Manual shall be amended to prohibit Town Councilors or Budget Committee Members from making motions on articles in which they are making a recommendation.

**ARTICLE 3:** To see if the Town will vote to permit municipal administrators or staff, school department administrators or staff and elected State officials, who are not residents of Mechanic Falls, to speak as appropriate when recognized by the Moderator.

**ARTICLE 4:** To see if the Town will fix a date when taxes shall be due and payable, and to see if the Town will fix a rate of interest to be charged on taxes unpaid after said date. (Recommended that one half of annual taxes be due and collectible on or before October 15, 2010 and that second half of taxes be due on or before May 15, 2011, and also recommended that an interest of 7.00 percent per annum be charged on all unpaid taxes as of that date.)

**ARTICLE 5:** To see if the Town will allow the Town Council to act on their behalf in matters of making necessary transfers among over-drafted accounts when such overdrafts do not exceed ten percent of the approved budget or \$10,000, whichever is larger, and when such transfers will not make the Town's budget as a whole over-drafted.

**ARTICLE 6:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Council to approve payment of bills, pertaining to emergencies and unforeseen expenses, that they deem necessary from the Contingency Account.

**ARTICLE 7:** To see if the Town will vote to apply the following anticipated revenues against the total amount authorized to be raised by taxation or to see what action the Town will take.

Miscellaneous Tax Income	\$	3,150
Excise Taxes	\$	316,800
Interest/Penalties	\$	39,000
Permits	\$	14,300
Licenses	\$	14,350
Intergovernmental Revenues	\$	308,400
Charges	\$	40,470
Fines and Penalties	\$	700
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$	39,570
Reserve Based Revenue	\$	00
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>776,740</b>

**ARTICLE 8:** To see if the Town will authorize the Town Council to accept and expend unforeseen funds from insurance settlements, grants, gifts and other limited receipts for the support of a balanced municipal budget with any surplus funds transferring to the fund balance account at the close of the fiscal year.

**ARTICLE 9:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$11,901 for Boards and Council Budget. ( Council and Budget Committee So Recommend. )

**ARTICLE 10:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$5,000 for Legal Services Budget.  
( Council and Budget Committee So Recommend. )

**ARTICLE 11:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$84,356 for Municipal Complex Budget. ( Council and Budget Committee So Recommend. )

**ARTICLE 12:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$131,327 for Town Clerk/Elections Budget. ( Council and Budget Committee So Recommend. )

**ARTICLE 13:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$65,137 for Town Manager Budget.  
( Council and Budget Committee So Recommend. )

**ARTICLE 14:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$125,140 for Utilities Budget.  
( Council and Budget Committee So Recommend. )

**ARTICLE 15:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$43,191 for Code Enforcement and Planning Budget. ( Council and Budget Committee So Recommend. )

**ARTICLE 16:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$21,267 for Public Library Budget.  
( Council and Budget Committee So Recommend. )

**ARTICLE 17:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$3,000 for Recreation Budget.  
( Council and Budget Committee So Recommend. )

**ARTICLE 18:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$25,095 for Welfare Budget.  
( Council and Budget Committee So Recommend. )

**ARTICLE 19:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$19,050 for Assessor Budget.  
( Council and Budget Committee So Recommend. )

**ARTICLE 20:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$6,000 for Auditor Budget.  
( Council and Budget Committee So Recommend. )

**ARTICLE 21:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$10,000 for Contingency Budget.  
( Council and Budget Committee So Recommend. )

**ARTICLE 22: Paving Bond**

Shall the Town (1) approve a capital improvement project consisting of the repair and repaving of various roads as determined necessary by the Council, including engineering and design costs, transaction costs and other expenses reasonably related thereto; (2) appropriate a sum not to exceed \$500,000 to fund the project; (3) authorize the Town Treasurer and the Chair of the Council to issue general obligation securities of the Town (including temporary notes in anticipation of the sale thereof) in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$500,000 to fund the appropriation; and (4) delegate to the Treasurer and the Chair the authority and discretion to fix the dates, maturities, interest rates, denominations, calls for redemption (with or without premium), form, and other details of said securities, including authority to execute and deliver the securities on behalf of the Town?

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

**TOTAL TOWN INDEBTEDNESS**

a. Bonds outstanding and unpaid	\$ 1,464,461
b. Bonds authorized and unissued	\$ - 0 -
c. Bonds to be issued if this article is approved	\$ 500,000

**COSTS**

At an estimated maximum interest rate of 4.0% for a five (5) year maturity, the estimated costs for this bond will be:

Principal	\$ 500,000
Interest	\$ 50,000
Total Debt Service	\$ 550,000

**VALIDITY**

The validity of the bonds and the voters’ ratification of the bonds may not be affected by any error in the above estimates. If the actual amount of the total debt service for the bond issues varies from the estimates, the ratification by the voters is nevertheless conclusive, and the validity of the bond issue is not affected by reason of the variance.

( Council and Budget Committee So Recommend. )

**ARTICLE 23:** To see if the Town will vote to allocate from Fund Balance \$212,650 for Debt Service Budget.

( Council and Budget Committee So Recommend. )

**ARTICLE 24:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$305,884 for Pensions and Insurances Budget. ( Council and Budget Committee So Recommend. )

**ARTICLE 25:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$5,100 for Animal Control Budget. ( Council and Budget Committee So Recommend. )

**ARTICLE 26:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$10,190 for Dispatcher Budget. ( Council and Budget Committee So Recommend. )

**ARTICLE 27:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$750 for Emergency Management Agency Budget. ( Council and Budget Committee So Recommend. )

**ARTICLE 28:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$56,620 for Fire Department Budget. ( Council and Budget Committee So Recommend. )

**ARTICLE 29:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$288,275 for Police Department Budget. ( Council and Budget Committee So Recommend. )

**ARTICLE 30:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$22,556 for Rescue Department Budget. ( Council and Budget Committee So Recommend. )

**ARTICLE 31:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$750 for Health Officer Budget. ( Council and Budget Committee So Recommend. )

**ARTICLE 32:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$285,667 for Public Works Department Budget. ( Council and Budget Committee So Recommend. )

**ARTICLE 33:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$110,949 for Solid Waste Department Budget. ( Council and Budget Committee So Recommend. )

**ARTICLE 34:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$99,000 for Capital Improvements Budget.

\$ 1,000	Computer Reserve
\$ 56,000	Public Works Vehicle / Equipment Reserve
\$ 30,000	Fire / Rescue Apparatus Reserve
<u>\$ 12,000</u>	Comprehensive Plan Update
\$ 99,000	Total

( Council and Budget Committee So Recommend)

**ARTICLE 35:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$154,340 for Androscoggin County Tax Assessment. ( Council and Budget Committee So Recommend. )

**ARTICLE 36:** Water Department Main Extension Bond

Shall the Town (1) approve a capital improvement project consisting of the design and construction of a public water main extension in the Town of Poland from Poland Regional High School southerly for approximately 8,000 feet, including the construction of a water main along Aggregate Road to service municipal facilities, and including engineering and design costs, transaction costs and other expenses reasonably related thereto; (2) appropriate the sum of \$986,100 to fund the project; (3) authorize the Council to negotiate a cost-sharing agreement with the Town of Poland on terms that the Council deems to be in the best interests of the Town of Mechanic Falls, including, but not limited to, a funding arrangement whereby the Town of Poland will guarantee the repayment of the project costs (4) authorize the Town Treasurer and the Chair of the Council to issue general obligation securities of the Town (including temporary notes in anticipation of the sale thereof) in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$986,100 to fund the appropriation; and (5) delegate to the Treasurer and the Chair the authority and discretion to fix the dates, maturities, interest rates, denominations, calls for redemption (with or without premium), form, and other details of said securities, including authority to execute and deliver the securities on behalf of the Town?

*Note: This article seeks approval for a water main extension from Poland Regional High School southerly to Aggregate Road. The Mechanic Falls Water Department will construct and own the new line, and the Town of Poland will be contractually obligated to pay for the entire cost of the project by making payments to Mechanic Falls on a schedule that will allow Mechanic Falls to make the debt service payments on the bond.*

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

### 1. TOTAL TOWN INDEBTEDNESS

a. Bonds outstanding and unpaid	\$ 1,464,461
b. Bonds authorized and unissued	\$ - 0 -
c. Bonds to be issued if this article is approved	\$ 986,100

### 2. COSTS

At an estimated maximum interest rate of 2.5% for a twenty (20) year maturity, the estimated costs for this bond will be:

Principal	\$ 986,100
Interest	\$ 191,154
Total Debt Service	\$ 1,177,254

### 3. VALIDITY

The validity of the bonds and the voters' ratification of the bonds may not be affected by any error in the above estimates. If the actual amount of the total debt service for the bond issues varies from the estimates, the ratification by the voters is nevertheless conclusive, and the validity of the bond issue is not affected by reason of the variance.

( Town Council as Water Department Trustees So Recommend )

**ARTICLE 37:** Water Department Back Up Well and Replacement River Crossing Bond  
 Shall the Town (1) approve two capital improvement projects proposed by the Water Department and consisting of the construction of a river-crossing water main and the construction of a well for a back-up water source, including engineering and design costs, transaction costs and other expenses reasonably related thereto; (2) appropriate the sum of \$150,600 to fund the river-crossing main project and \$156,000 to fund the back-up well project, for a total appropriation of \$306,600; (3) authorize the Town Treasurer and the Chair of the Council to issue general obligation securities of the Town (including temporary notes in anticipation of the sale thereof) in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$306,600 to fund the appropriation; and (4) delegate to the Treasurer and the Chair the authority and discretion to fix the dates, maturities, interest rates, denominations, calls for redemption (with or without premium), form, and other details of said securities, including authority to execute and deliver the securities on behalf of the Town?

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

### 1. TOTAL TOWN INDEBTEDNESS

a. Bonds outstanding and unpaid	\$ 1,464,461
b. Bonds authorized and unissued	\$ - 0 -
c. Bonds to be issued if this article is approved	\$ 306,600

### 2. COSTS

At an estimated maximum interest rate of 2.5% for a ten (10) year maturity, the estimated costs for this bond will be:

Principal	\$ 306,600
Interest	\$ 37,500
Total Debt Service	\$ 344,100

### 3. VALIDITY

The validity of the bonds and the voters' ratification of the bonds may not be affected by any error in the above estimates. If the actual amount of the total debt service for the bond issues varies from the estimates, the ratification by the voters is nevertheless conclusive, and the validity of the bond issue is not affected by reason of the variance.

( Town Council as Water Department Trustees So Recommend )

**ARTICLE 38:** To choose the following Town Officials:

- Two (2) Town Councilors for the term of three years
- Two (2) RSU #16 Directors for the term of three years
- Two (2) Sanitary District Trustees for the term of three years

Signed this 5<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2010.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Daniel Blanchard

\_\_\_\_\_  
Roger Guptill

\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Small

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rielly Bryant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Nancy Richard