

Annual Report 2007-2008



Mechanic Falls Town Office

Town of Mechanic Falls

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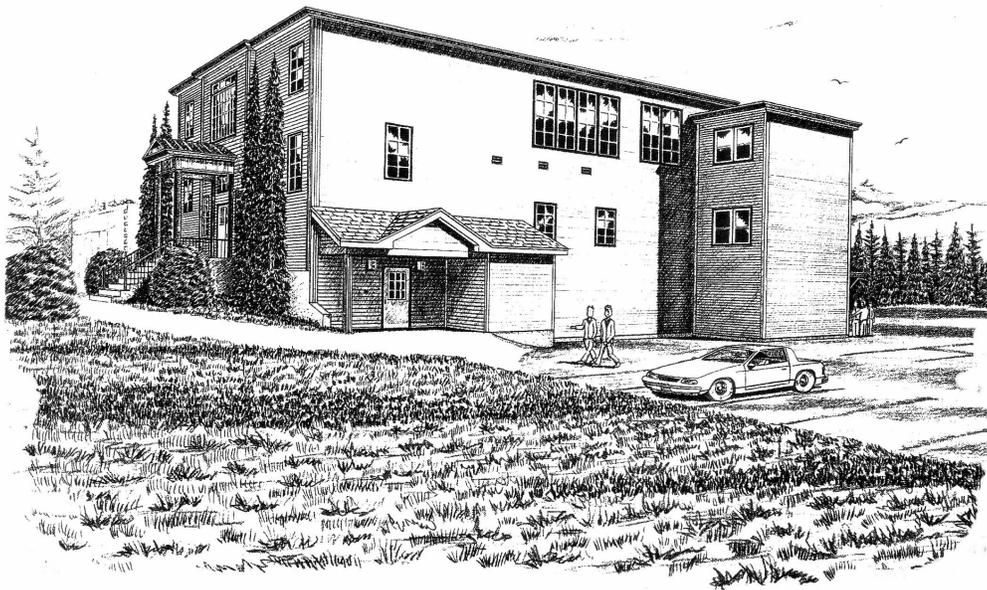
IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

EMERGENCY POLICE / FIRE / MEDICAL 911

Androscoggin Sheriff's Department	784-7361
Mechanic Falls Post Office	346-6171
Town Office	345-2871
Town Office Fax	345-9201
Public Works	345-3089
Transfer Station	345-3556
Code Enforcement Office	345-2221
Fire Department . Non Emergency	345-9896
Police Department . Non Emergency	345-9021
Animal Control Officer	743-8213
Library	345-9450
Water Department	345-5351
Sanitary District	345-3077
Elm Street School	345-3381
Poland Regional High School	784-8766
Superintendent's Office	998-2727
Adult Education	345-3217

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE MUNICIPAL OFFICERS
AND
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2008 TO DECEMBER 31, 2008

INCLUDING THE FINANCIAL REPORTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR
JULY 1, 2007 TO JUNE 30, 2008



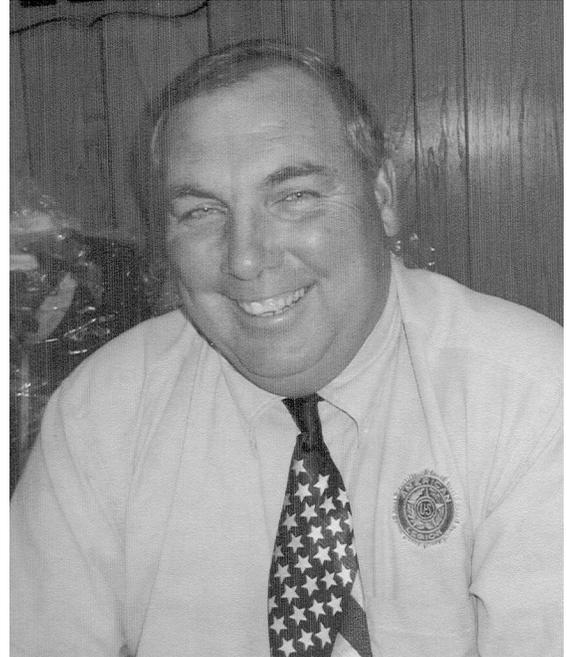
ANNUAL REPORT DEDICATION

GARY PURINGTON

Gary was born June 27, 1953 to Mary and Milton Purington. He grew up with one brother and 3 sisters. He attended Water Street School, Elm Street School and Edward Little High School graduating in 1972. He joined the Air Force, did his basic training in Mississippi and then was sent to Iceland for air traffic control. He was honorably discharged in 1974 due to color blindness but remained in the reserves for six years. Gary married his wife Linda in 1975 and although they had no children of their own, they have lots of nieces and nephews that they are very close to.

Gary has served on the Planning Board, Board of Appeals, Homecoming Committee and currently Chairs the Charter Commission. He is one of the original members of the Spirit Of Christmas Committee that organized in 1992. He served with the Mechanic Falls Fire and Rescue Department for 25 years when he retired in 1998 as a Deputy Chief.

Gary has been a member of the American Legion Post 150 for 25 years. He led the Activity Committee, House Committee, Special Olympic Committee, 1st Vice, and Post Commander for eight years as well as District Commander for the state. He has received many awards for his commitment to the Post and to the community of Mechanic Falls. During the 1998 ice storm he was out helping to clear roads of fallen trees, making sure the school shelter was operational, at the Legion helping to feed the CMP linemen and opening his home up for family, friends and neighbors to come to for showers or to stay because they had no power.



In whatever spare time that he has he likes camping, fishing, bird hunting and deer hunting. Someday when he retires he would like to take the camper and follow NASCAR racing around for a year. Or maybe go to Alaska fishing.

Gary Purington has served the community of Mechanic Falls for more than 28 years as custodian and maintenance director. His commitment goes far beyond the expectations of his job description. In addition to addressing facility needs, he has coached soccer, consistently supported fund raising efforts, and provided students with meaningful work. Gary promotes a safe and clean environment for learning and contributes to the education of our students. He is an integral part of the Elm Street School team!

Gary is a problem solver and an extremely hard worker. He finds a way to fix things that are broke and to make things that we can't afford. Gary has spent many nights plowing snow and monitoring our heating system. He works long hours and is committed to maintaining both building and grounds. Gary acts as our building historian and has supervised two additions to Elm Street School.

Gary models civic involvement and community pride for students and staff. He has supported Elm Street School's participation in the annual tree lighting, the Memorial Day parade, and the American Legion Award, which annually recognizes two eighth grade students for citizenship. Throughout the years, he has provided young people with an opportunity to complete scouting and community service projects. The Ice Storm of 98 is an example of Gary's commitment to meeting community needs. He was at the school shelter around the clock providing a comfortable place for people who were unable to stay in their homes.

Gary's actions exemplify community involvement, dedication, and a caring spirit. It is a pleasure to work with Gary and to have this opportunity to pay tribute to him. He continues to make a significant contribution to Elm Street School and the community of Mechanic Falls.

***Mary Martin
Elm Street School Principal***

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

Roads . Approximately 21.77 miles (publicly maintained)

Public Schools

School Union #29

Mechanic Falls / Minot / Poland

Elm Street School, K-8

Poland Region High School, 9-12

TAX INFORMATION

State Valuation		Tax Commitment	
1998/99	\$80,450,000	1998/99	\$1,642,691
1999/00	77,750,000	1999/00	1,789,255
2000/01	80,950,000	2000/01	1,814,919
2001/02	92,250,000	2001/02	1,895,589
2002/03	93,450,000	2002/03	2,090,902
2003/04	105,800,000	2003/04	2,302,892
2004/05	118,850,000	2004/05	2,451,786
2005/06	125,500,000	2005/06	2,486,440
2006/07	141,350,000	2006/07	2,562,732
2007/08	155,700,000	2007/08	2,605,930
2008/09	163,750,000	2008/09	2,556,611

Town Valuation		Tax Rate / \$1,000	
1998/99	\$73,008,500	1998/99	\$22.50
1999/00	76,138,500	1999/00	23.50
2000/01	77,230,630	2000/01	24.24
2001/02	78,235,170	2001/02	26.20
2002/03	79,805,432	2002/03	26.20
2003/04	82,246,133	2003/04	28.00
2004/05	83,965,286	2004/05	29.20
2005/06	131,557,680	2005/06	18.90
2006/07	135,568,928	2006/07	18.90
2007/08	137,864,855	2007/08	18.90
2008/09	139,705,496	2008/09	18.30



GENERAL INFORMATION

Charter: Adopted June, 1992. Town Manager form of Government, with five elected Councilors.

Fiscal year: July 1 to June 30.

Annual Town Meeting: Third Saturday in May at the Municipal Building Gym beginning at 9 AM.

Committee Meetings

Town Council . First Monday, 7PM

Planning Board . Third Monday, 7PM

Charter Commission . As needed

Recreation Committee . Second Thursday, 6PM

Board of Appeals . As needed

Library Trustees . First Wednesday, 7PM

Historical Society . Fourth Wednesday, 6:30PM

Development Comm. . Second Monday, 7PM

Safety Committee . Quarterly, 9AM

Fire & Rescue Dept. . Second Monday, 7PM

Car Registrations – What To Bring:

Re-Registration: Old Registration, Current Insurance Card and Mileage

New Registration (Dealer Sale): Green Sales Tax Form, Blue Title Application Form, Window Sticker, & Current Insurance Card

New Registration (Private Sale): Bill of Sale, Insurance Card, Title (1993 Vehicle or Newer), & Release of Lien (if applicable)

New Registration (Transfer): Same As Above, Plus Registration Of The Vehicle The Plates Are Being Transferred From

Town Office Hours:

Mon. - Fri. 8 A.M. to 5 P.M.

Transfer Station Hours:

Wed. & Thurs. Noon to 5 P.M.

Sat. 8 A.M. to 5 P.M.

Sun. 8 A.M. to Noon

Library Hours:

Mon. 9 A.M. to Noon, 1 P.M. to 5:30 P.M.

Wed. Noon to 5:30 P.M.

Sat. 9 A.M. to 2 P.M.

Burning Permits:

Mon. . Fri. 8:30 AM to 5 PM at the Town Office

Sat. & Sun 8:30 AM to Noon at the Fire Station

Property Lists: Resident and Non-Resident property owners need to bring or send to the local Assessor a list of your property (real estate or personal) located within Mechanic Falls as of April 1 of each year.

Tax payments are made twice per fiscal year. The first half is due on October 15th, second half on May 15th of the following year. Interest rate on outstanding taxes is 9%.

Exemptions: Veterans, Veteran's Widows, and Gold Star Widows, who become eligible for tax exemptions, need to make application to the local Assessor before April 1 of each year. Failure to submit such an application could result in loss of exemption for that year. Persons previously granted exemptions need not re-apply. Blind persons are also eligible for an exemption and need to make application by April 1 of each year.

Dogs: Dog owners or people keeping dogs within their households kindly submit a list of all dogs within their jurisdiction to the Town Clerk by January 31 of each year.

ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS

(As of January 1, 2009)

ELECTED OFFICIALS

TOWN COUNCIL

Daniel Blanchard, Chairman	2011
Roger Guptill, Vice Chair	2011
Nancy Richard	2009
Robert Small	2010
Rielly Bryant	2010

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

*Dissolving June 30, 2009

David Griffiths, Chair	2010
Jacques Wiseman, Vice Chair	2011
Katie Bryant	2009
Melissa Hodgkin	2011
Terri Arsenault	2009

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT #16 DIRECTORS

*Initiating July 1, 2009

David Griffiths	2010
Katie Bryant	2011
Jacques Wiseman	2011
Carlton Beckett	2012
Melissa Hodgkin	2012

SANITARY DISTRICT TRUSTEES

Michael Baird, Chairman	2010
Wayne Marquis, Vice Chair	2009
Arthur Montana	2010
Roger Guptill	2008
Randall Plummer	2009

APPOINTED COMMITTEES

BUDGET COMMITTEE

Carlton Beckett, Chair	2010
Ed Piirainen	2010
Bonnie Payette	2009
Peter Ford	2011
Yvon Gilbert	2010
Oliver Emery	2011
William Diehl	2009
Tom Kuklinski	2011

BOARD OF APPEALS

Tony Bennett, Chair	2010
Donald York	2009
Thomas Walton	2011
Bruce Richardson	2009
Ed Piirainen	2010
Vacant	2010
Vacant	2011

PLANNING BOARD

Arthur Montana, Chair	2009
Brian Grondin	2011
Keith Morse	2010
Paula Stotts	2011
John Straight	2011
Robert Belanger	2009
Paul Conklin Jr.	2009
A. John Hyman -Alternate	2009
Vacant . Alternate	2010

DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Michael Baird, President	2011
Stuart Davis, Treasurer	2009
Phyllis Copp, Secretary	2011
Cathy Fifield	2009
Brenda Coleman	2010
Jon Damon	2010
Matthew Bergmann	2010

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Tom Kuklinski, Chair	2011
Jim Marston, Treasurer	2011
Jack Callahan	2009
Melissa Hodgkin	2011
William Bickford	2009
John Destrini	2010
Pamela Grondin	2009
Matt Gary	2010
Larry Burgess	2010
Vacant	2010

SAFETY COMMITTEE

Stephen French, Water Dept. Rep, Chair
 John Hawley, Administration Rep.
 Scott Penney, Public Works Rep.
 Melissa Hodgkin, Fire / Rescue Rep.
 Jeff Goss, Police Dept. Rep.

CHARTER COMMISSION

All Terms Expire 6/30/10

Gary Purington, Chair
 Randy Plummer, Vice Chair
 Gigi Lee, Secretary
 Robert Belanger
 Oliver Emery
 Lou Goulet
 Lawrence Newth
 Roger Guptill
 Michael Needham



Ron Tirrell

LIBRARY TRUSTEES

Nancy Petersons, President	2010
Cathy Griffiths, Secretary	2009
Janice Earle, Treasurer	2009
Janney Lupton	2010
Rhonda Tammaro	Assoc.
Vicki Dean	Assoc.
Krystal Bernier	Assoc.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
BLOCK GRANT COMMITTEE**

Joan Walton
 Gigi Lee
 Vacant

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Eriks Petersons, President	2012
Matt Gary, Vice President	2012
Kenneth Carlin, Secretary	2010
Joan Walton, Treasurer	2011
Jennifer Raymond, Press Secretary	2011
Michael Mayberry	2012
Nancy Petersons	2011
Jean Williams	2010
Geraldine Barnard	2010



Scott Penney & Lucien Paradis



Tim Estes

ELECTED GOVERNEMENT REPRESENTATION

SUSAN M. COLLINS
MAINE

413 DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1904
(202) 224-2523
(202) 224-2693 (FAX)

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1904

COMMITTEES:
HOMELAND SECURITY AND
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS,
RANKING MEMBER
ARMED SERVICES
SPECIAL COMMITTEE
ON AGING

January 9, 2009

Dear Citizens of Mechanic Falls:

In 2008, Mainers entrusted me to serve another term in the U.S. Senate. I am deeply honored and pledge to continue to work with my colleagues, both old and new, and with President Obama to forge bipartisan solutions to the economic crisis and the many other challenges facing our nation. I appreciate this opportunity to report on some highlights of my recent work in the U.S. Senate.

The number one priority continues to be to strengthen our struggling economy. We must look at additional ways to get our economy back on track. Last summer, I introduced an economic recovery bill, which included a proposal for \$50 billion in infrastructure funding to create jobs and improve our nation's aging transportation infrastructure. Anyone who drives in Maine recognizes the deteriorating state of many of our roads and bridges. Investing in our infrastructure not only creates jobs but also leaves communities with lasting and needed assets. My proposal also includes \$1 billion in additional funding for the Workforce Investment Act and tax incentives to help small businesses and to encourage energy conservation.

One of the energy provisions of the legislation was signed into law last year. It provides a \$300 tax credit to help individuals purchase clean-burning wood pellet stoves in order to provide an affordable alternative for heating their homes.

Soaring energy prices throughout much of 2008 highlight the critical need for our nation to achieve energy independence. As a nation, we should set a goal of energy independence by the year 2020—an ambitious goal that will require a multi-faceted approach, but one that can be achieved through resolve and commitment. I joined a bipartisan group of 20 Senators that has developed a comprehensive bill to expand production of American energy, promote conservation, and spur the development of alternative sources of energy. To immediately mitigate the effects of high prices, I fought to increase funding for programs that help our seniors and low-income families such as the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and the Weatherization Assistance Program.

As the Ranking Member of the Senate Homeland Security Committee, I am committed to ensuring that our nation is as safe as possible and that government is prepared to respond to disasters. Maine certainly has had its share of natural disasters during the past year. This year, my homeland security priorities include renewing a port security law that I coauthored and strengthening security at labs containing dangerous pathogens.

Other priorities include supporting the vital work being done at Bath Iron Works, the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, and other defense-related businesses throughout Maine – all of which are making significant contributions to our national security. We must also continue to improve and expand access to affordable health care – particularly in our rural communities – expand aid for education, protect our environment.

While this is just a brief summary of my recent work in Washington over the past several months, please know that I will continue to work as hard as possible representing Maine in the U.S. Senate. I am grateful for many blessings, including the opportunity to continue representing Mechanic Falls and Maine in the United States Senate.

If ever I can be of assistance to you, please contact my Lewiston office at 207-784-6969, or visit my website at <http://collins.senate.gov>.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator

ELECTED GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATION

MICHAEL H. MICHAUD
2ND DISTRICT, MAINE

WASHINGTON OFFICE
1724 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
PHONE: (202) 225-6306
FAX: (202) 225-2943
www.house.gov/michaud

Congress of the United States House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

February 2, 2009

Dear Mechanic Falls residents and friends,

This year, Mainers are facing some of the greatest challenges seen for several generations. As I travel across Maine, I hear from many people worried about losing their jobs, heating their homes, putting food on the table, and getting affordable health care.

The economic crisis affects us all as Americans. Here in Maine, we must continue to create new jobs and help our businesses develop new ideas and products.

In my first three terms as your Congressman, I have found and won funding for research, training, and job development. In 2007, I authored a bill, which became public law, to create a Northern Border Regional Commission. The NBRC will invest federal resources in economic development and job creation projects in the most economically distressed areas of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and northern New York. I have supported efforts to restore funding to the Small Business Administration to make sure it can offer Maine businessmen and women the capital they need to start and invest in their businesses. I have also secured substantial investments in federal research and development at the University of Maine, promoting valuable research and creating jobs throughout Maine.

There is still so much else to do. Raising the truck weight limits on Maine's interstate north of Augusta will help our businesses, cut fuel costs and emissions and make so many of our rural and secondary roads safer for our families.

We need to keep our promises to our veterans and make sure that their benefits and health care are there when they need them. As the Chairman of the Veterans Affairs Health Subcommittee, I have worked to make health care more accessible for rural veterans and to increase the overall spending for the Department of Veteran's Affairs. In 2008, I sponsored HR 1824, the Montgomery GI Bill Expansion, to expand the scope of educational assistance under the Montgomery GI Bill so it may be used to obtain a

COMMITTEES:
VETERANS' AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH
CHAIRMAN
TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT
SUBCOMMITTEE ON RAILROADS, PIPELINES
AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,
PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
SMALL BUSINESS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON RURAL AND URBAN
ENTREPRENEURSHIP
SUBCOMMITTEE ON TAX AND FINANCE

2009 Legislative Update from Senator John Nutting



Dear Citizens of Mechanic Falls:

As your State Senator from District 17 to the 124th Maine Legislature, it gives me great pleasure to update you once again on some of the issues that are currently being debated at the State House in Augusta.

One of the top priorities that I will be focusing on this session is our economy. While many other states across the country are experiencing double-digit unemployment right now, Maine's economy is actually stronger than most. Despite our situation, many people are still hurting and need a job or more money in their pockets to make ends meet. Following the work I started last session, I will work hard again to eliminate non-essential advisory positions in state government and find other ways to reduce Maine's overall tax burden. Any work we do to eliminate positions, programs, or services must be thoughtful to the needs of our most vulnerable citizens like the elderly, mentally ill, and the disabled. We must keep a strong safety net to support these citizens who may have no one else to fall back on.

As we move forward through this economic downturn, now more than ever it is important for you to stay informed about the decisions your state government is making. If you would like to follow the activities of the Legislature's different committees or live debate of the Maine House and Senate, please go to www.maine.gov/legis. I would also encourage you to contact me about issues that matter to you by calling me at (207) 287-1515 or by contacting me through my Web site at www.mainesenate.org/nutting to leave me a message.

Thank you again for the honor of representing you. I wish you and yours the best in 2009!

Sincerely,

John Nutting
Maine Senate District #17

*Contact Senator John Nutting by mail at: 3 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333
Phone: (207) 287-1515, Web @ www.mainesenate.org/nutting*



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002
(207) 287-1440
TTY: (207) 287-4469

James M. Hamper

1023 King Street
Oxford, ME 04270
Residence: (207) 539-4586

January 2009

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

As I begin my third legislative term, I would like to thank you for the honor of representing our community at the Capitol. I will be returning to the Joint Standing Committee on Natural Resources as the Ranking Republican Member and will also continue to serve on the Joint Standing Committee on Labor. While I will be working hands-on with bills regarding issues with Natural Resources and Labor I will also be working diligently within my caucus to implement meaningful tax reform, revitalize our business climate and control state spending.

My colleagues and I will be confronting some serious issues over the next several months. Tax revenues are shrinking as this recession takes its toll and tough decisions will need to be made in order to cut state spending. Governor Baldacci presented his supplemental budget in December that addresses a \$140 million revenue downturn for the remainder of the current fiscal year, which ends June 30, 2009. The Legislature will then have the task of crafting a biennial budget that addresses a structural gap of more than \$800 million. In addition to our budget issues, we will need to make fixing Maine's health insurance system a top priority as well as the increasing concern about the State's energy situation.

With so many concerns being debated during the 124th, I encourage you to visit the Legislature's website at <http://janus.state.me.us/house/homepage.htm> for up-to-date bill status information, public hearing dates and roll call votes on legislation.

Again, thank you very much for the privilege of serving as your State Representative. Please stay in touch.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James M. Hamper".

James M. Hamper
State Representative

District 100 Mechanic Falls, Otisfield and Oxford

MUNICIPAL BUDGET MESSAGE

There is no easy way to analyze our economy but it is pretty evident, claimed by the so-called economists, that we are in a recession. I did also hear on a national radio broadcast just the other day that some believe we are bordering on a depression. These are definitely scary times for those that are unemployed and those that are working, question the ongoing security of their jobs. Everyday now we hear of sizeable cut backs, increasing unemployment, shrinking retirement plans and failing financial institutions.

We have seen a significant decrease in revenue sharing from the State in the last couple of years. In 2008 we received \$495,000, this year we were supposed to be receiving \$475,000 but that was reduce mid way through the year to \$444,000. The projected amount for 2010 is \$431,000. That is a \$64,000 reduction in two years. We have also seen a drastic reduction in excise taxes. This is the result of people keeping their cars longer, or not registering a second vehicle that they may own. Between these two items alone it has been over a \$100,000 reduction in income since 2008.



I didn't even include the exceptionally stormy winter we had that ate up quite a bit of our funding and resources. Fortunately, by pinching every penny we could, we ended the year in the black.

Considering all this negativity, we have put together a very conservative budget proposal that the Council, Budget Committee and municipal staff believe is not only palatable but keeps all staff and all services intact. There will be minor inconveniences that some have already noticed such as reduced use of salt on the roads in the winter months and snow banks don't get removed as quickly. No more reminder post cards about your expiring vehicle registration or dog license. We have also adjusted some fees to pass expenses on to the users as opposed to the tax payers. Folks now have to pick up the cost of bulky items at the transfer station and we are now charging for the use of the gymnasium at the town office.

A word of caution, although all those that have reviewed the proposed budget feel this is a good idea for this year, we are proposing to dip into our savings account. This account, formally known as fund balance, is generally an emergency account put aside to help cover expenses in the event of a natural disaster or other emergency situation. We all agreed that because of the drastically reduced revenues, this was about as close to a natural disaster we were going to get, without being hit by the real thing. If the economy wasn't in such bad shape, we probably could have slightly increased taxes to cover the money we are taking from fund balance. However, it was agreed that we should do everything in our power not to raise taxes this year. Maybe we can consider it in a future year when families are a little more prosperous and can take a small increase, but this is not that year. All current projections indicate a flat tax rate or less for next year.

Let's keep our fingers crossed and hope that the stimulus funds trickling down around us will be the start of a recovery for all.

John Hawley
Town Manager

TOWN COUNCIL

As a town council, we are challenged each year to oversee our community and make decisions that we believe will benefit the town as a whole. At times we are presented with obstacles that are relatively easy to hurdle and yet there are other issues that we have to tweak or adjust on an on-going basis. Each issue is heavily weighed on the economic impact of our whole community and although some don't necessarily agree with our decisions, I assure you that our intentions are only for the good of all.

One of the projects we endorsed was the school consolidation effort. I personally sat on the consolidation committee and was impressed with the effort that was put into developing this new school district. Having worked together sharing an education administration for so many years has made the process a little smoother, but it was the overall makeup of this committee that contributed to the success of this union. Each community brought their toughest, open-minded negotiators to the table and for many meetings the members hashed over the difficult decisions that needed to be made. In the long run, we all felt that this was going to be the best option for the students, staff, and taxpayers. This was one of those consolidation projects that we believe will ultimately save us some money.

We chose not to endorse the emergency dispatch consolidation effort. The goal was to bring all the communications centers, Lewiston / Auburn, Lisbon, Livermore, and the Sheriff's department under one roof and share the expenses county-wide as potentially part of the county assessment. Unfortunately, after a couple years of working on this project, there weren't any funding formulas presented that would have benefited Mechanic Falls. In fact it appeared as though all the small communities were going to have hefty increases and the cities using the centers' resources the most were going to see a significant savings. The committee was disbanded and the County Commissioners will take on the subject in the near future.

Speaking of County Commissioners, we witnessed the unseating of one Commissioner, who moved out of her district, the defeat by election of another, and one who was elected unopposed. Three brand new commissioners were elected to oversee Androscoggin County. What does that mean for us? There has been a promise of greater communications and better representation. A petition has been submitted requesting the Commissioner to form a charter commission to put together a charter for the county. This is in hopes of ironing out some of the decision making policies and setting guidelines for daily operations. The fresh faces will hopefully remove the negativity and controversy from our county government.

Energy efficiency was on our minds this year. We have taken steps to reduce our carbon footprint but more importantly we want to find ways to reduce energy expenses. We made several improvements that help conserve heat and electricity in the library, town office, public works, and fire station.

As we face another year of economic hardship, we will be looking for new opportunities to reduce expenses and increase revenues. A new committee will be formed to research and gather the opinions of experts in hopes that we can find new ways of bringing additional funding that would help offset taxes. We will be looking for their suggestions in the next year.

Last year's winter was exceptional. We had over 131 inches of snow fall in our community and I want to say thank you to the guys at public works. Each year they get negative comments from folks who are unhappy because they might have hit their mailbox, or they might have dumped a little snow in the driveway after it was plowed out. These guys work long hours that take them through some lonely nights all to ensure we have clear roads the next day. They don't get enough credit for what they do. Thanks guys!

I want to thank all the staff that works for the municipality. Each and every one of them plays a vital role in the day to day functions of our town. They work hard and take a lot of pride in what they do. This Town Council appreciates all of them.

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 John Hawley had reported that the Planning Board had not met once to review any applications. I am happy to report that the trend seen in the recent years is slowly reversing. In 2008, the Planning Board met 5 times with one meeting not taking place due to lack of quorum.

In July, the Board granted approval for Bobbi Jo E. Nugent to operate a photography studio, located at 309 Lewiston Street. At the same meeting the Board decided to recommend to the Town Council, an ordinance amendment regarding changeable signs and an amendment to rezone a portion of the old Ram Ewe Farms property from Rural to Highway Commercial. They also reviewed an application by Peter Bolduc to open a farm stand with retail sales and a restaurant however it was tabled pending the rezoning.

In August the Board reviewed and denied an application to add a 3rd unit to an apartment located on Pine Street.

In September the Board reviewed Peter Bolduc's proposed development and tabled the issue until a full site plan was prepared. The application for this development has since been cancelled at the request of the developer.

In December the Board met to hear 2 applications from Chuck Starbird. Chuck requested an ordinance amendment to allow for recycling operations in the Downtown Business 3 District and also to increase the amount of cars he can sell on his Old Mill Auto Sales lot. The Board tabled both items until a representative from Casella could present information on a recycling venture, and until a site plan could be drawn up for Chuck's car sales expansion.

The board does occasionally have vacancies. If you have some free time and wouldn't mind giving up an evening a month, stop in and let us know you're interested. The only requirement is that you have an interest in the community. We'll train you for the rest of what you'll need to know. When the planning board does need to get together, they generally meet the third Monday of each month at 7PM. These meetings are always open to the public but you might want to call before coming to make sure there is a meeting.

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 property owner 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 \$485,000 available to qualified Mechanic Falls businesses.

Over the years, the MFDC has made a few 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 development, and new roads with new underground water and sewer pipes.

During 2008 volatile fuel prices and the beginning of the economic downturn resulted in a lack of demand for MFDC financing assistance. In addition, declining interest rates have reduced available income for the Commission. However, the investment of funds into Certificate of Deposits has helped to offset the decline in interest rates.

The MFDC is please 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

Because of the work of the Safety Committee, coupled with the cooperation of the Town's employees we are enjoying a reduced insurance premium as well as having a safe environment to work in.

The duties of the Safety Committee are to 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.

It has been the practice for quite a few years now to host a safety day for all our employees. We do this twice. Once in the evening, then again the next morning so that as many employees can attend as possible. We go over all of our safety policies that the town has adopted. We have now coupled with the towns of Minot and Poland to assist them in complying with the required yearly safety training. This year the Town of Poland hosted this.

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.

Respectfully,

Stephen French
Committee Chairman

BIRTHS

3-21-2008	Olivia Juliet Willson	8-11-2008	Ian Michael Bosse
4-5-2008	Max Henry Morrisette	8-17-2008	Alynn Sirois Presby
4-6-2008	Reid William Falconer	9-8-2008	Amelia Gelinias Bisson
4-15-2008	Lillian Constance Moyse	9-12-2008	Renton Kiel-Bisson O'Toole
4-9-2008	Hannah Rose Gomes	9-14-2008	Noah Andrew Nichols
4-26-2008	Andrew Jeremy Greenman	9-18-2008	Zion Mariposa Bryant
4-30-2008	Brock Daniel Hamel	9-22-2008	Gavin Christopher Lewis
5-7-2008	Timothy Franklin Rivard	9-23-2008	Vivianne Jayne Corriveau
5-14-2008	Logan Iban Cunningham	9-26-2008	Jacob Roger Thomas Gagnon
5-30-2008	Willow Crystal Isabelle Tipton	10-6-2008	Lucas Matthew Williams
6-4-2008	Camden Timothy True	10-13-2008	Gabrielle Ellen Lenahan
6-8-2008	Cade Matthew Johnson	10-20-2008	Olivia Jordan Bunyea
6-21-2008	Trevor David Bartlett	10-21-2008	Keegan Robert Anktell
7-9-2008	Jes Arline Bernier	10-25-2008	Cassandra FitzGerald Doyle
7-18-2008	Gavin William Herrick	10-27-2008	Gage Edouard Pelletier
7-18-2008	Zerrick David Anthony Roy	11-26-2008	Olivia Geneva Snowman

MARRIAGES

1-19-2008	Steven B Nickey & Kimberly J Dunn
2-19-2008	Mark A Louis & Kathleen M Vann
4-19-2008	Corey M Foster & Christina C Carroll
5-17-2008	Ra J Chhay & Catherine A Mckinney
5-21-2008	Royden A Pierce & April E Malier
7-26-2008	Derek J Footman & Aimee L Michaud
8-1-2008	Nelson E Broski & Laura J Dumais
8-2-2008	Randall S Kimball & Christine M Cox
8-8-2008	Michael S Bellemare & Ann L Fontaine
8-23-2008	Daniel R Ball & Meggin E Chase
8-23-2008	Jeffrey B Jordan & Leanne A Bean
9-7-2008	Randal L Madore & Stephanie L Thomas
10-1-2008	Christopher L Moyse & Jennifer S Small
12-24-2008	Thomas C Webster & Sharon E Short

DEATHS

1-27-2008	Steven M Eskuri
1-30-2008	Scott R Bradford
4-10-2008	Phyllis E Stone
4-30-2008	Francis R Conant
6-17-2008	Patricia Lambert
7-26-2008	Royden A Pierce
9-14-2008	Eleanor M Jewell

DEATHS IN OTHER TOWNS

3-6-2008	Patricia L Thurlow
3-6-2008	Loretta M Schmidt
4-10-2008	Ethelle S Bryant
6-16-2008	Leona Duchette
9-18-2008	James P Melvin
10-5-2008	William R Libby
10-14-2008	Phyllis A Mitchell
11-1-2008	Gloria G Frisbie
11-19-2008	Helen A Lambert
12-6-2008	David E Frederick
12-29-2008	Shirley E Noyes

TOWN MANAGER



The President has his state of the Union address, the Governor has his state of the State speech and I have my state of the Town letter. For some reason, mine doesn't sound as impressive as the other two. However, I can assure you that mine is just as interesting because it reflects on what has happened locally and impacted you directly in the past year.

The most significant issue and the one we clearly spent the most time on was school consolidation. A new law proposed by the Governor and passed by the legislature required municipalities with certain student populations to consolidate with other community school districts for the sake of reducing administration costs. After quite a process of meetings and more meetings, it made sense that the towns of Poland, Minot and Mechanic Falls stick together and try for a consolidated

district. This required a special exception from the Department of Education due to the fact that we still didn't meet the minimum student population for a stand-alone district. Long story short, the three towns came together and created some binding agreements that met the law as required and will save us all some money in the long run. I can assure you there will be some growing pains as we get started on July 1, 2009 but if the outcome is as successful and productive as the committees that put this package together, our towns are going to get along fine together.

The transfer station is always a hot topic and although it seems to have subsided some, there is still opposition about having to sort, what most people consider garbage. After two years of the mandatory recycling, the numbers show that we have saved a significant amount of money on a budget that was increasing annually at drastic rate. As we discover a market for a particular item, we begin asking folks to separate them out. We can then sell these items and keep your taxes down. Furthermore, our land fill area which was quickly facing a closure within three years (at the rate we were filling it up) now has an anticipated life of 20 to 25 years. Once that land fill closes, we will never be permitted another so this is a remarkable step and savings for our future. Yes, sorting is a pain in the rear-end but those who don't wish to sort out their recyclables can contract to have their unsorted trash picked up at their home or chose to haul it to Mid Maine Waste in Auburn. Both options have a small fee.

You may have heard some grumblings about emergency dispatch consolidation. For the last couple of years, a committee of folks from all across Androscoggin County has been meeting to deal with another mandate from Augusta requiring the reduction of the number of PSAPs in Maine. A PSAP is a public safety answering point. It's where all our 911 calls are routed. The theory behind consolidation is that it will save money. Excuse me while I clear my throat, I mean, save the State money. We are currently paying the Sheriff's Department about \$10,000 a year for emergency dispatching services. As of this date, all the proposals presented would cost the town about four times more, for the same service we are currently receiving. This seems to be the case for all the other small towns in Androscoggin County. A select number of larger communities would see a rather healthy savings. I'm going on a hunch here but I expect this not to pass. By the time you read this, the County Commissioners, who initiated this committee to begin with, will have pulled the plug on this project and will be looking to find other alternatives.

Last spring, municipal and public officials from Poland and Mechanic Falls called a meeting with the Maine Department of Transportation for the purpose of sending a message that it is time for a true traffic signal at five corners, where Routes 11 and 26 come together. This certainly isn't a new idea but the number of accidents at that location doesn't seem to be decreasing and we thought it was time to put on a little pressure. Oh how naive we are. The State doesn't fall to any pressure and our meetings

were only partially successful. The DOT had studies as to why a traffic signal at this intersection was a bad idea and how there wasn't enough traffic at this point in time to warrant the red light. However, we did get them to part with some of their money and new signage was put up to replace the 1992 vintage stop and speed limit signs. In the summer of 2009, the DOT is going to make some lane improvements by putting in some different colored, low-level, islands that are supposed to delineate proper lane usage. I am anxious to see how these work, but will still be holding out for the traffic lights.

Does anybody actually read these reports? Let me know that you did and what your thoughts are by sending a quick email to jchawley@roardunner.com. And while you're at it, check out our municipal web page if you haven't already. It's at mechanicfalls.govoffice.com.

Last winter's snow fall was a record breaker and our account indicates we received 131.5 inches. We generally budget for an average of fourteen snowstorms and we had twenty eight. The amount of snow that piled up brought out the worst in everyone. The frustration levels were high and it was obvious that people were fed up with the winter months. Budget wise, we made out pretty well staying within budget even though we had to purchase additional salt and sand to get us through. We would prefer to see the average snowfall in the future.

The last several years, we haven't spent very much money on road improvements. In fact, we have gotten into this pattern of taking out a five year bond and then repairing and paving a couple of our twenty-two miles of roads. This year, we did however take the time to re-build a section of Brown Road from Milton Lane to the Poland town line. We took this project on this year because Poland was redoing their portion of Brown Road and we got a deal on the paving by going in together. We took a little bit of grief from some because we didn't spend money on engineering for this 1000 feet of road. Critics wondered why we require contractors, who are building new roads in town, to have their roads engineered. The answer is quite simple. It boils down to trust. Everyone knows that there are good and bad contractors out there and some of them are willing to take advantage and cut corners to save a buck. Our own crew, who has to continue to maintain the road long after it's finished, takes more pride in their work. If they're looking to save a dollar it's because they are looking out for the taxpayers, not their pocketbooks. We didn't pay to have this section of road engineered because we used the engineering from the section of Highland Avenue from Pine Street to the bridge as our guide. That section of road, which we rebuilt from the base up, has remained in excellent condition since we finished it. Why pay more money to have the same engineering drawn up? Brown Road's construction even exceeds our minimum road construction standards. We built it right, we saved money and we're sure it will last.

During the November election, we had a voluntary survey that citizens could fill out after they voted. The purpose for the survey was to gather opinions to see how people rated our municipal services. The full results as well as people's comments can be found on the town's website but to sum up, people seem pretty satisfied with the way we operate. We all had some negative feedback but the positive comments and ratings greatly outweighed the negative. We appreciate the few minutes that everyone took to fill those out as it provided very valuable information.

Energy efficiency was another priority last year. The high cost of heating fuel forced everyone to look at ways to save costs. Well, we spent a little money to make some improvements that are supposed to create savings in the long run. Some of the enhancements we made were motion detection light actuators in the water department, fire station and public works. There is a ton of energy used when all those lights are turned on and now when the sensors detect no motion, the lights turn themselves off. We also had all the light fixtures in the public works and fire station replaced with updated, high efficiency fluorescent lighting. In the town office we purchased a computer program that regulates each individual thermostat and allows us to put timers and restrictors. Thermostats now automatically turn themselves down during nights, weekends and holidays when the building is minimally occupied. A programmable thermostat was installed at the library as well. Over the last several years we have replaced all the windows in the town office and although this has eliminated quite a few of the drafts,

the building is still poorly insulated and a lot of heat is lost unnecessarily. An insulation project to fix this would be quite costly and there are no current plans to take this on.

I am sure you're tired of reading my babblings, but I promise I am nearing the end.

Every year we get several requests to have the large dead or dying trees along the roads around town trimmed or cut. When I get the requests, the caller predictably states that the tree belongs to the town because it's in the right of way. We received several of these calls last summer when we were pruning the large trees in Veterans Park. The difference between the trees in the park and the trees in the right of way is actually in who owns the trees. There is a popular misconception that trees in the right of way belong to the town and should be maintained by the town. This is not exactly true. A right of way only grants access not ownership. It gives us the ability to push snow off the road or conduct needed construction to the roadway. Trees in the right of way are actually owned by the property owner. Anyone who has looked into the cost of tree removal will tell you that it is rather expensive. The number of trees that need attention has gotten to be so many that it became too costly for the town to continue grooming them and funding for this activity was taken out of the budget several years ago.

After almost 170 years, sadly, another one of our churches has closed its doors. The Congregational Church on Elm Street held its last services towards the end of December. The members of the church wanted to see the building used and the Council and I certainly didn't want it to be sold and cut up into apartments. The church agreed to gift the building to the town with the stipulation that if the town no longer wished to keep the building and sold it, all proceeds would go to a non-profit organization that benefits Mechanic Falls citizens. Our newly established Historical Society, who has occupied a very small room at the library, has numerous photos, documents, artifacts and antiques that represent our town's history. Keeping all that tucked away in that little room doesn't benefit anyone and so it was agreed that if the Historical Society could operate and maintain the building with fundraising efforts and no commitment of tax dollars, the town would accept the building for this purpose. As this is being written we are in the process of transferring the deed and you should see some activity in that building very soon.

I just want to finish up by saying, my staff and I strive to provide the finest services we can with the financial resources we are given. We are not perfect and there isn't any way that we could operate in a fashion that pleases everyone. I can however assure you that each and every one of us is hard working, honest and committed. During the toughest of times, we still give our best efforts even when our performance is criticized. A good hard working staff is not easy to find and we here in Mechanic Falls are fortunate to have the folks that we do. I am proud of them and they are proud to be part of this community. I wish to thank those that support us; it is a pleasure working for you.

John Hawley
Town Manager

CODE ENFORCEMENT & PLANNING

Hello all, I am Nicholas Richard, the new Code Enforcement Officer. Some of you may not know me yet, but I have had the opportunity to meet many people in the community. I started here in April and look forward to serving this great community for many years to come.

As you will read in the Planning Board report, the activity has picked up some and hopefully the trend continues. This year we had 7 new houses permitted with 5 replacement houses permitted. We had a total of 111 permits issued for the year.

This past year presented two major enforcement issues to this office which are still ongoing. One is dealing with a non-conforming deck and the other issue deals with a recycling operation and a non-conforming business operation. There is 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 phone call.

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



The Library, once more, had a very good year with the annual fund raisers. The Book Sale raised \$1044 from its sales. So please remember, we gratefully accept book donations throughout the year, but sadly, we cannot accept Readers Digest books, encyclopedias, or textbooks as they do not sell. The Pie Sale yielded \$740, which is due to the generosity of community members that either made pies, or purchased them.

The 2008 Summer Reading Club was %Catch the Reading Bug at Your Library+. There was much participation in the craft activity workshops, and all enjoyed the prizes that were awarded.

As usual, there is plenty of ongoing activities at the Library, so volunteers continue to be needed at various times during the year. Many projects need many hands!

We look forward to any historical donations the community members wish to make, and we continue creating the Online Computer Catalog of the books owned by the Library.

As always, thank you for being the wonderful community you are!!

Sandi Brown-Eustis
Librarian

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Back in the spring of 2008 the Mechanic Falls Historical Society was a dormant structure in existence without a curb to stand on.

Due to a set of circumstances and benevolence, this community will be able to have a place to remember itself. Because of the desire and the efforts Ken Carlin and the decision of a church's congregation, this town will have a place to talk about itself. Because of a change in our cultural and social structure a center of this town's significance will become the center for memory and continued community activity.

Earlier this year the First Congregational Church in Mechanic Falls reluctantly chose to dissolve its congregation. In August the church membership voted unanimously to offer the building and assets to the Mechanic Falls Historical Society. At its September meeting the Town Council voted unanimously to approve of the gift by the church to the society. In 2009 The Mechanic Falls Historical Society will become owner and guardian of the First Congo Church building.

The society intends to accomplish two major objectives:

- 1) The building will be utilized to create a permanent site showcasing this town's history . a gallery of archives . be it photographs, publications, and memorabilia . from its inception to the present. It will become a place to visit and view what this town once was, what it became, what it is and where it is heading. It will become a place so people can remember, reflect and learn. It will become a place for research and understanding.
- 2) The building will be developed as a community center . a place for local meetings, get togethers, activities, classes, and suppers. The building's downstairs area is a functional area with plenty of room, equipped with kitchen facilities, tables and chairs. It will serve as a place to gather and share . for all ages.



Toward the end of 2008 the Historical Society began to build a foundation to attain these goals. A new board of directors was formed and panel of officers were elected.

The Mechanic Falls Historical Society aims to fulfill these objectives without tax revenue. We intend that the society and the building become a self-sustaining venture of community involvement. Maintenance costs and utilities will be the society's responsibilities . not the town's. The society plans to apply for grants, hold a bevy of fundraisers, charge a user's fee and accept donations from private citizens.

Membership to the Society is open to anyone who shares in the purpose of the society. There are no annual dues. Meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month in the downstairs room re-named Congregation Hall.

Eriks Petersons
President

RECREATION

Our recreation program offers opportunities for the youth of Mechanic Falls to participate in a variety of sports. Our ten member, all volunteer recreation committee does its best to offer our children a diverse array of safe, fun sports and activities.

Participant enrollment from Mechanic Falls in 2008 included:

- Baseball/Softball program- 126 children
- Shawnee Peak Skiing program- 22 children
- Tri-town Basketball program 60 children (not including K-1-2)
- Tri-town Soccer program- 64 children
- Summer Recreation program- 42 full & part time children

This year we exceeded our capital improvement goals listed in last year's annual report. Here's what we did:



-Successfully opened the new 24x32 recreation building with field equipment storage, a larger, cleaner concession stand (with hot & cold running water), and 2 bathrooms. If you visited our fields this year, I'm sure you appreciated the new facilities.

We were able to host an incredible softball tournament and under 12 District tournament of which our town should be proud. We received great positive feedback on the cleanliness of the facilities and wonderful condition of the fields.

-Completed construction of 2 new concrete block dugouts one with an announcer's booth above.

-Replaced infield material on the girls softball field with new infield mix for truer hops and an altogether improved playing surface.

-Completed relocation of the 2 batting cages.

-Replaced 2 old soccer goals at Elm St. School that were in disrepair.

-Reseeded areas surrounding the majors baseball field to improve the appearance of the facility and opened the Babe Ruth Field to viewing from the outfield fence.

-Began a dugout fencing relocation project.

Our goal with capital improvement projects is to provide quality, **lasting** improvements to provide benefits to the children of our community for years to come, all at a minimum cost to the taxpayer using donated labor and quite often donated materials.

For the 2009/2010 year, our plans include improving the fencing layout around all ball field dugout areas, making Babe Ruth fencing repairs, repairing the roofing on the minors field dugout, installing safety protection on the minors & majors fields fencing, new bleachers for the Babe Ruth field (currently in disrepair), and continuing repairs to 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. Our goal is to have all programs self sustaining through signup fees and fundraising efforts.

Our fundraising efforts allow us to charge registration fees that are consistently less than surrounding towns to encourage maximum participation. In 2008, the baseball/softball programs raised over \$2,000 from a tagging+fundraiser. Also, the baseball/softball business sign program, soccer cash calendars, and basketball shoot-a-thon continued to be very successful. Residents can also drop off bottle/can returnables at the town transfer station to support our program.

Thank you to 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.

Without your generous support, we could not continue to offer these quality programs.

Tom Kuklinski
Committee Chairperson

SANTA FOR THE KIDS

This was the 18th year of the program and the donations we received made it possible for us to help a record breaking number of 48 families with 174 children and adults. Hannaford Bros Co. was very generous to us this year and that enabled us to help more families this year. All families received grocery gift certificates and diapers if needed. Cumberland Farms donated bread for each family.

Once again, Don and Sue Bosse of Mechanic Falls was an amazing asset to this program. They again enlisted the aid of the Marine Corps Reserve, Toys for Tots and Teens program, which provided an astronomical amount of toys including 13 bicycles to be distributed to families in our community.

The community response to this program has been overwhelming. 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 received truly made 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 makes our money go much farther. Any and all donations are appreciated.



Shirley Marquis
Tax Clerk
Program Coordinator

ANIMAL CONTROL



For the most part, I am in your community on a daily basis following up on animal complaints.

Last year, there were a total of 378 general complaints, 21 stray or lost dogs that were returned to their owners, 42 complaints specifically for stray cats, 6 animal bites, 17 animal trespassing complaints, and 4 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 31st.

You, your family and your pets are 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

Hello from Mechanic Falls Fire and Rescue. It's that time of year when we get together to do our civic duty and attend the annual town meeting. This year was a busy one for both the number of calls and with the amount of training. We had a few structure fires, close calls that were luckily averted by alert home owners, and we supported our surrounding communities when they needed help. Two major incidents that you may recall were the mulch and building fires at Jolly Gardner in Poland and the huge New England Public Warehouse fire in Paris. Thankfully, we get their assistance in return when called upon.

The budget proposed for this year reflects what is needed for the services folks ask us to perform and so the members have adequate and safe equipment to



carry out the tasks at hand. We have tried to keep expenses as low as possible but costs do rise. Unfortunately, the State and Federal governments require more and more mandatory requirements each year that have expenses attached without supplying us with any funding to meet those requirements. If we don't meet them they refuse our requests for grants and in many case fines are given for non compliance.

The members try hard to be around when the tone goes out but sometimes we do run short on help. Most work out of town and balance responses with their personnel lives. I think sometimes we forget that all of the members are volunteers who very often drop what their doing to take the time to help another. We are very similar to others who help with sports leagues, the Red Cross, or your local church but our services are called upon unexpectedly requiring and instant response. These people give a lot of their personal time. For example, we had four of our firefighters spend ten months last year, often times a couple nights a week and many weekends training to improve their skills to be able better help when someone is in need. It take a lot of dedication to be in the fire service today and I just wanted to assure you that you have a good bunch of people ready for you when you call. In these trying times of national, state and local economic woes, we'll get through this together.

I want to thank the town office personnel, water company, sewer district, police department, public works, school department and EMA director for working together when we have a need to get the job done. I also want to recognize American Legion Post 150 for also helping when called upon.

We have great community, lets keep it that way. On behalf of the fire department I would like to say thanks for all the support you show us.

Fred Sturtevant
Fire Chief

RESCUE

Rescue responded to 223 calls with 234 patients from January through December. Our average response time is currently 5 minutes from the time we are activated until the time we arrive on scene, which is a great average for a volunteer department. The state average is 6 minutes and region 2 (Androscoggin County) average is 7 minutes. According to state reports most of our calls are between 4 PM and midnight. With midnight to 8 AM close behind.

The department is made up of 11 basic emergency medical technicians, 2 intermediates, and 1 driver. One of our members is a CPR instructor through the American Heart Association. Two of our members became licensed over the past year. One of our members, Martha Wiseman retired this year after ten years of service. Thank you to Martha for all her hard work and dedication. If you are interested in joining rescue please see the Town office for an application.



Over the last year the Rescue department worked on a grant to get an AED (automatic external defibrillator) for the Elm Street School. Helped with putting up the playground equipment for the Head Start and worked with the Recreation Department during the Bike Rodeo.

On December 1st we converted from paper run forms to electronic. We are currently using the State of Maine system to input all our data which gets sent directly to the state.

This is a brief run down of our responses for 2008.

Behavioral—6	Dog Bite—3	Code 99—5	Abdominal Pain-15
Fire stand by—26	Police stand by—1	Auto Accident—31	Back Pain—5
General Illness—20	Diabetic—6	Cardiac—25	Respiratory-17
Fall/lift assist—6	Nose bleeds—3	Allergic reaction—5	Trauma—31
Overdose—4	Suicidal—2	Cancelled in route-6	Seizure—6
Burns—1	Rash—1	Syncope—2	Anxiety/depression-7

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

Jennifer Casey
Rescue Chief

POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Mechanic Falls Police Department has concluded a year on a mountainous road. We have celebrated the ups and endured the downs. We pride ourselves on the fact that through it all we still provide outstanding police services to our residents. Mid-way through the year we made the conversion over to the networked police software system. We are now connected to the Lewiston, Auburn and Androscoggin Sheriffs Department in our Law Enforcement reporting computer system. We now have the ability to be dispatched to calls over the in-car computer system. We also have the ability to run license and registration checks over the computers in the cruisers. We also are networked so that we can see records that people have with the connected departments. Having this knowledge enables us to be more informed and make better decisions on matters then and there. We do not have to wait days for information to catch up to us.



Officer Kevin Nichols graduated from the Criminal Justice Academy in late May and that brought him back to work after his 18 week professional schooling. We had been without Kevin on patrol since mid-January. Kevin is an excellent officer and we were excited to have him back on the beat.

On the down side of that, Corporal Tim Gamache resigned his position to pursue his own landscaping business with his wife. Tim and his wife Tammy had founded and run a pick up+basketball program in town that was a mentoring program for area kids. They did a superb job. I know that many of the area youth held Tim in very high regard. I appreciate everything Tim accomplished while working here.

Officer William Cook was hired to fill Tim's vacated position. Bill will attend the Criminal Justice Academy in January 2009. Bill comes to us from the Farmington Police Department.

The Officers of the Police Department continued with the many community programs that we participate in on a yearly basis. Sergeant Harrison taught his drug, alcohol and violence prevention program, KAP (Kids And Police) Harrison also taught his Law Awareness+program. Both are school based activities. Sgt. Harrison has been teaching these for many years.

I participated in the Walk to School+ day activities, The Officer Phil+ program as well as the Red Ribbon Parade+. These activities are also school based and involve interaction with the students. I

believe that it is very important to interact with the children and have positive experiences with them so that they do not grow up seeing us only in the enforcement situations when someone is generally in trouble. Law Enforcement is what we are hired to do but we do want the citizens of our community to realize that we do much more than write tickets and arrest people. We also participated in a great Bike Rodeo that is put together by the Tri Town Optimist Club. We had a marvelous turnout and it was a day that all of the public services lent a hand. John Hawley who was wearing two hats that day (Town Manager and member of the Tri-Town Optimist Club) did a great job of organizing the event. I want to thank everyone who volunteered. The day was a great success and I think the kids had a great time.

I will close with my usual message to everyone. Please get involved and report suspicious activity. If everyone works to prevent crime we will have a much safer community. Thank you for supporting the Police Department.

Jeffrey Goss
Police Chief

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

We may live in a small town in a small state tucked way up here in the snug northeast corner of our great country but between you and me, I like it here just fine!

Our community is tight-knit and takes care of its own, municipal departments go above and beyond and work remarkably well together. Our climate may be varied but is enjoyed for the most part . usually we take Mother Nature in our stride.



Seldom do we need to ask Uncle Sam for help so when we do, he listens, and usually says %ok.+ Such was the case this past year. December snowstorms were the worst of it for us causing heavy, unexpected expenses for the Highway Department. After we went through all the proper channels, FEMA declared the heavy snowfall costs warranted %disaster+status. So we will receive approximately \$38,000.00 to replace sand and salt and also help pay for the overtime expended by our highway crew and other public safety crews.

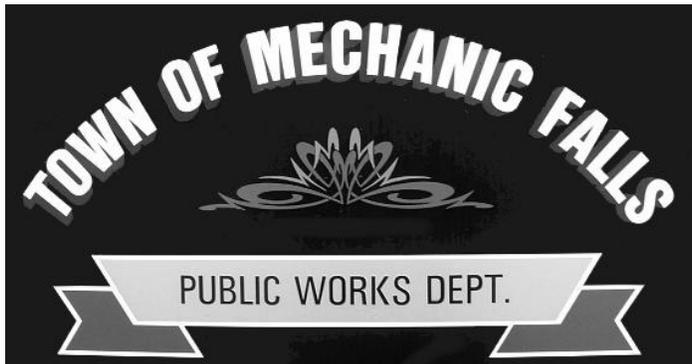
A heartfelt %thank you+to all of you who help keep this great town of ours running on all cylinders and help me do my job.

David Stimson
EMS Director

PUBLIC WORKS

The Public Works Department never has to worry about having enough to do. For a small town there always seems to be something that needs attention from this department. With a crew of four which includes a working foreman we are a very capable bunch that can master most anything that comes our way.

From January through the spring we received 92 inches of snow. It seemed like it would snow every other day. The men and equipment grew very weary towards the end of the season all of us looking forward to warmer weather. I commend my men for all the hours and hard work that this winter brought to them. They took it in stride and stayed upbeat through it all. Our budget was very strained at the end of the season but somehow we came out in the black at the end.



Our big project for the year was the rebuilding of Brown Road. The first thing we did was change the big culvert at the brook. Working cooperatively with the town of Poland, we put two culverts in and built the road up two feet so flooding will no longer be a problem. We had many set backs before the job even started with the under ground cable line not being moved till the job had finally begun and the rain that seemed would never end. But through it all we built a road

that will last for years to come. By digging out the clay from ditch to ditch and putting in new crushed gravel, we now have better than three feet of new drainable base. All the folks that live on that road were great, never complaining about the noise or the tough times getting in and out of their yards and for that I thank them.

As always we do many other things through out the year, sweeping, cleaning sidewalks, paint stripping, ditching, roadside trimming, bushhogging and any other project that comes up. In fact it's not uncommon to see us in one the surrounding towns trying to help each other out whenever we can to save some money.

I know we can't make everybody happy but we do our best to take care of your problems and hope we can make most of you proud of the town crew. I thank all my men for their hard work and team effort on all our projects, Ron, Tim, and Lucien are a great bunch and I could not ask for a better team to work with.

Scott Penney
Public Works Director

SOLID WASTE

For the most part, things are running pretty smooth at the transfer station. Most of the folks are adapting to the recycling program and now understand the importance of the process and how much it is actually saving the town.



One of the changes we did have to institute this past year was charging for bulky items. In the past, these items were buried in our land fill but regulations have curbed that practice. In their free time, the transfer station staff is pulling apart these large items breaking them down into their recyclable components. They even go so far as to strip the plastic coating off electrical cords for the metal content.

Many folks have asked us about "Single Stream Recycling". Single Stream is the process where you bring all your recyclables to the transfer station and they all go into one bin. Once the container is full, it is hauled to a location like South Portland's ECO Maine facility. The container is dumped and for the most part, machinery sorts all the recyclables and what isn't sorted by machine is hand sorted by prisoners contracted from Windham. Communities have the option of becoming a member community which offers the benefit of shared profits from the sale of the recyclables. If a community wishes to use their facility but not become a member, there is no revenue sharing. We looked at this option and even had the ECO Maine staff come and do a cost / benefit analysis for us. They found that the way we operate our transfer station is often more efficient and cost effective than doing business with them. They credited our savings to two primary issues. The first was how well we sort our recyclables and the revenue we could obtain on our own from the resale of those items and the second was lack of trucking costs to South Portland. At the end of last year however, much like the economy, recycling values plummeted and the resale values are very low. We have been able to keep our head above water but eagerly wait for the market to turn around.

Bob, Randy, Sid, Rich and Russ all try very hard to ensure that folks are recycling and sort properly. In some cases we have had people complain that these guys are too fussy and don't let anything slip by. Unfortunately, they need to be that strict. Some of the recyclable can not be sold if there are improper items mixed in. Some distributors will reject a whole container of clear glass if there is a single brown or colored bottle mixed in. When they point out that something might be done differently or if something belongs someplace else, they are only doing their job. It's a tough job because nobody likes to be told what to do. These guys get a lot of negative feedback and hostile comments that really isn't necessary. Recycling isn't going away and if anything, it's going to become more prevalent in our day to day lives. For the most part, people are doing a really good job and I know they guys on the hill really appreciate the cooperation. I thank them for the good job that they do and what the put up with.

Scott Penney
Public Works Director

WATER DEPARTMENT

We have all heard the old saying "you don't miss the water until the well goes dry". I'm happy to report that over the last few years we have made great progress in making sure that doesn't happen. Our two new reservoirs are both in operation now. The one that replaced the old standpipe is now an underground tank that holds close to a half million gallons, and the new one on Pigeon Hill in the Southview Development holds about sixty thousand. We now can say that we have about doubled our capacity from the old steel standpipe. This means that we can go a little longer without pumping due to power failures or equipment failures. When we do have power failures however, we are able to pump with our back up propane fired pump so we can keep our storage tanks full. The forty-horse motor that drives our main production pump was replaced this year. It was getting noisy. Our new motor appears to be more efficient, and a whole lot quieter!

We are half way through our meter replacement program. We are installing "Touch read" meters. These meters are read with a gun-type reader that feeds the readings into a small computer. That small computer is then downloaded into the office computer for processing the bills. This speeds up our meter reading, and bill processing. It should be noted that if you had an older meter it probably was not accurate. The new meters will capture all the water that goes through them.

In the early nineties we had "state of the art" equipment that would control the starting and stopping of our pump and supply other information from the pumping station. In the spring we had a lightening strike that damaged a small component of our equipment. We found out that the company that had supplied our equipment, Aquatrol, had gone out of business. We were fortunate to locate someone who lives in the Danville area of Auburn who could not only replace our failed telemetering equipment, but bring us up to the next level called SCADA (supervisory controlled automatic data acquisition). With the addition of a dedicated computer and some controls that will fit into your lunch box we now have more control over our system than we ever did, with room to grow.

We have a list of capital projects that we are always trying to accomplish. On that list is abandoning the old transmission line that runs through the field on Libby road with a new pipe from Route 11 to where the old pipe meets Libby road, about two thousand feet. This pipe in the field is original to the system and is over one hundred years old. We have submitted an application through our engineers for funding through potential stimulus money.

A project that has been on our capital list also is Riverside Drive. The houses on Riverside Drive that are on our system are fed through a one-inch plastic pipe. We started this project this year with plans to finish it in 2009. We will be replacing the pipe with eight-inch ductile iron water main. This will not only give the area more volume, but it will also provide much needed fire protection to the area also.

Every three years the State Drinking Water Program conducts a Sanitary Survey of water utilities. It was our turn this year and I am pleased to report that our inspection met with great approval from the inspector.



I think that is well known by now that all the departments in town have a great reputation in lending a helping hand to the other departments when needed. It was our pleasure this past year to lend a helping hand to the Highway Department when they were working on the Brown Road. They were under a tight time schedule to get their work done, and we were able to help them meet their deadline. That crew is always doing us favors throughout the year. And it felt good to be able to re-pay them and help out on a job that turned out well.

Stephen French
Water Department Superintendent

MUNICIPAL REVENUES RECEIVED

JULY 1, 2007 TO JUNE 30, 2008

Veteran's Exemption	1,422.00	Wills / Fax Fees	534.00
Tree Growth	314.08	Zoning Fees	2.00
Payment in lieu of Taxes	129.31	Court Fees	625.95
Tax Acquired Property	892.39	Postage / Photocopies	775.89
Motor Vehicle Excise	373,401.67	Variance Fees	00.00
Boat Excise	1,809.00	Water Admin. fees	7,800.00
Cash Management Interest	77,419.87	Public Safety Report	528.00
Interest / Real Estate	14,418.71	Dog Fees	728.00
Lien Costs	4,395.15	Genealogy Reports	00.00
Supplemental Tax	3,193.46	Home Occupation Fees	70.00
Conditional Use Permits	420.00	MFDC Admin. Fees	00.00
Driveway Entrance Permits	605.00	Amusement Permit Fees	240.00
Pole Permits	00.00	Cable Franchise Fees	20,363.14
Building Permits	6,763.46	Transfer Station Fees	4,496.38
Plumbing Permits	1,807.50	Transfer Station Stickers	3,814.00
Electrical Permits	1,465.00	Carnival Service Fees	00.00
Commercial Hauler Permits	00.00	CEO Citations	00.00
Vital Stats.	985.00	Tree Growth Penalties	00.00
Marriage	955.00	Police Fines	857.00
Motor Vehicle Licenses	10,095.00	Dog Late Fees	510.00
Snowmobile / ATV Licenses	334.00	Nat Geo Fees	00.00
Boat Licenses	227.00	Municipal Gym Rental	375.00
Victualer's Licenses	492.00	Adult Ed. Rental	13,680.00
Hunting / Fishing	1,024.50	U S Cellular	4,238.88
Dog Licenses	472.00	Headstart Rental	1,620.00
Liquor License	400.00	Tennis Lights	62.55
Rabies Call	6.00	Service Charges	80.10
Weapons Permits	123.00	Insurance Reimbursements	4,519.42
Highway Block Grant	18,003.00	Recycling Earnings	24,379.61
State Revenue Sharing	495,594.93	Welfare Reimbursements	100.00
State Welfare Refund	12,375.57	Police Reimbursements	00.00
Library Grant	00.00	Sold Items and Equipment	45.00
Homestead Exemption	98,758.00	Gas Tax Reimbursement	8.40
FEMA	00.00	Sale of town-Owned Property	00.00
Snowmobile Refund	906.94	Oxford Bank Accounts	0.00
Sex Offender Registry	45.00		

Total Revenues Received:	\$ 1,19,706.86
Total Anticipate (Budgeted)	\$ 1,026,854.00
% of Budgeted Revenues Received:	118.8%
Other Revenues, General Education	\$ 3,259,288.64
Adult Education	\$ 327,421.78
Programs / Grants	\$ 299,558.71

SALARIES / PAYMENTS TO MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS

JULY 1, 2007 TO JUNE 30, 2008

ADMINISTRATION

*John Hawley	59,011.19
Shirley Marquis	32,390.37
Lisa Palmer	30,071.39
Lisa Prevost	41,658.86

CUSTODIAN

*Randall Plummer	11,739.06
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ELECTION CLERKS

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

Robert Larrabee	3,640.00
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Gloria Diehl	243.25
Nancy Petersons	243.25

FIRE DEPARTMENT

TOWN COUNCIL

Daniel Blanchard	600.00
Rielly Bryant	500.00
Marchian Crane	166.67
Roger Guptill	500.00
Nancy Richard	333.33
Robert Small	500.00

Jeff Bolduc	148.00
*Wayde Boston	1,448.50
Donald Boyd	1,222.50
Peter Bragdon	379.00
Edward Brown	745.00
*Thomas Casey	1,235.25
David Clukey	916.00
*Jon Damon	1,626.75
*Matt Fifield	375.25
Peter Ford Jr.	88.00
Eric Friree	464.00
*Jennie Friree	2,685.50
*John Gaffey	1,315.00
Eric Giroux	436.00
*Paul Harvey	405.78
Brandon Kimball	412.00
Carolyn Limerick	300.00
Donald Patterson	1,759.00
Catherine Proulx	1,201.50
Will Proulx	176.00
*Armand Richard	1,253.00
Ben Rogers	140.00
*Chris Strout	2,320.50
*Fred Sturtevant	4,560.00
*Jake Verrill	359.25
Chris Wilson	240.00
Richard Wing	766.25
Zach Yates	1,092.00

PLANNING BOARD

James DePalma	00.00
Brian Grondin	10.00
Robert Belanger	10.00
Arthur Montana	10.00
Keith Morse	00.00
Todd Walton	00.00

BOARD OF APPEALS

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

PLANNING / CODE ENFORCEMENT

Kieth Bennett	1,160.00
Lawrence Cloutier	125.00
Wayne Marquis	137.50
Nickolaus Richard	7,080.00
Rodney Smith	100.00
William Willett	22,986.11

EMA DIRECTOR

* David Stimson	395.00
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LIBRARY	
Krystal Bernier	1,128.75
Sandra Brown-Eustis	4,618.17
Michelle Paladino	862.50
Rhonda Tammaro	543.75

Tom Casey	24.00
John Gaffey	24.00
Chris Strout	217.00
Wayde Boston	110.00
Zach Yates	60.00

POLICE DEPARTMENT	
Jason Boulanger	35,963.67
William Cook	722.15
Michelle Emery	7,178.25
Timothy Gamache	34,936.69
Jeff Goss	52,340.61
Paul Harrison	55,857.60
Matt Johnson	5,123.00
Kevin Nichols	41,911.96
Robert Wallingford	3,066.63

RESCUE	
Paula Bolduc	118.00
Jennifer Casey	3,743.00
*Melissa Hodgkin	1,173.50
Oscar Falconer	49.00
Elwood Strout	542.00
Matt Tupper	225.00
Martha Wiseman	511.25

PUBLIC WORKS	
Steve Adamson	157.59
*Chris Arsenault	615.88
Wade Clukey	2,421.80
Tim Estes	35,399.60
Derek Footman	959.47
Matt Kyllonen	88.07
Joshua Michaud	2,103.79
Jeremy Paradis	157.60
Lucien Paradis	30,889.26
Samuel Penney	63.09
Scott Penney	54,103.96
Ron Tirrell	37,711.44

SPRING CLEAN UP	
Mike Ballard II	280.00
Steve Manchester II	56.00
Cory Sands	224.00

SUMMER RECREATION	
Mike Downing	1,534.50
Paula Glatz	3,120.00
Richard Griffiths	704.95
*Nathan Harvey	1,029.82
Suzanne Marston	4,320.00
Katherine McKellick	515.45
Betty Mercure	858.44

TRANSFER STATION	
Robert Abbott	10,337.53
Russell Abbott	128.00
Sidney Hall	6,154.49

WATER DEPARTMENT	
Carolyn Bennett	14,149.26
Stephen French	46,919.42
Jacob Verrill	10,720.66
Chris Wilson	29,861.39

- Names with (*) earned money from more than one department, but are listed with the department of major earnings.

MUNICIPAL AUDIT REPORT

BALANCE SHEET - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS June 30, 2008

	General Fund	Other Gov. Funds	Total Gov. Funds
ASSETS			
Cash	\$2,887,262	\$0	\$2,887,262
Taxes Receivable	117,945	0	117,945
Tax Liens Receivable	34,849	0	34,849
Accounts and Notes Receivable	41,747	31,828	73,575
Inventories	8,753	0	8,753
Prepaid Expenses	10,668	0	10,668
Due From Other Funds	0	679,344	679,344
TOTAL ASSETS	\$3,101,224	\$711,172	\$3,812,396
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE			
LIABILITIES			
Accounts Payable	\$116,026	\$45,061	\$161,087
Accrued Expenses	241,096	15,689	256,785
Taxes Paid in Advance	4,678	0	4,678
Deferred Revenues	110,776	0	110,776
Due to Other Funds	752,375	0	752,375
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$1,224,951	\$60,750	\$1,285,701
FUND BALANCE			
Reserved for:			
Education	\$576,485	\$0	\$576,485
Federal Grant Purposes	\$0	\$182,376	\$182,376
Permanent Funds, Nonexpendable	\$0	\$1,755	\$1,755
Unreserved, Reported In:			
General Fund	1,299,788	0	1,299,788
Special Revenue Fund	0	68,776	68,776
Capital Project Funds	0	388,017	388,017
Permanent Funds, Expendable	0	9,498	9,498
TOTAL FUND BALANCE	\$1,876,273	\$650,422	\$2,526,695
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE	\$3,101,224	\$711,172	\$3,812,396

STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

June 30, 2008

	General Fund	Other Gov. Funds	Total Gov. Funds
REVENUES			
Taxes	\$2,986,775	\$0	\$2,986,775
Intergovernmental	3,842,778	710,670	4,553,448
Licenses, Permits and Fees	31,931	0	31,931
Charges for Service	89,686	97,909	187,595
Investment Income	77,420	17,270	94,690
Miscellaneous	0	8,849	8,849
	<u>0</u>	<u>8,849</u>	<u>8,849</u>
TOTAL REVENUES	<u>\$7,028,590</u>	<u>\$834,698</u>	<u>\$7,863,288</u>
EXENDITURES			
CURRENT			
General Government	\$304,033	\$37,784	\$341,817
Protection	343,854	64,473	408,327
Public Works	384,226	34,365	418,591
Fiscal Services	423,278	0	423,278
Education	4,517,666	617,450	5,135,116
Communty Services	50,539	14,313	64,852
Debt Service	158,935	0	158,935
Fixed Charges	146,582	0	146,582
Capital Outlay	5,406	122,875	128,281
	<u>5,406</u>	<u>122,875</u>	<u>128,281</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURS	<u>\$6,334,519</u>	<u>\$891,260</u>	<u>\$7,225,779</u>
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENSIDTURES	\$694,071	(\$56,562)	\$637,509
OTHER FINAINCING SOURCES (USES)			
Transfers in (Out)	<u>(302,735)</u>	<u>248,739</u>	<u>(53,996)</u>
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE	\$391,336	\$192,177	\$583,513
FUND BALANCE - JULY 1, 2007	<u>1,484,937</u>	<u>458,245</u>	<u>1,943,182</u>
FUND BALANCE - JUNE 30, 2008	<u><u>\$1,876,273</u></u>	<u><u>\$650,422</u></u>	<u><u>\$2,526,695</u></u>

SUPERINTENDANT OF SCHOOLS

MECHANIC FALLS SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

As Superintendent of School Union #29, I have the privilege of being reminded constantly of what a unique opportunity it is to serve our school district and the town of Mechanic Falls. We have an amazing group of students and staff. Although there are a variety of challenges that lie ahead, it is a nice feeling to know that the residents of Mechanic Falls strongly support our mission and schools.

To walk in to our school, you will be amazed at the great stories, learning experiences and achievements that occur everyday at Elm Street School. The classrooms are alive with stories of our kids, their teachers and our community; they are what give Mechanic Falls and School Union #29 its vibrancy. Our school is a wonderful place for students to learn and work, and I invite you to schedule a time to come in and witness or be part of all the great things our kids receive on a daily basis.

I cannot even begin to thank the Mechanic Falls community enough for the overwhelming support you gave our School Reorganization Plan this past November 2nd when you approved our school consolidation plan by an overwhelming 84 %. This is a credit to the Regional Planning Committee who worked hard to develop a sound reorganizational plan and to the community for believing in our schools. As we continue moving through this year and prepare to become Regional School Unit #16 on July 1, 2009, I encourage you to be part of and ask questions as we develop our school budget for 2009/2010. There will be cost efficiencies and necessary changes in how we operate our schools, but we will make sure our students receive the skills and knowledge they need to be successful in the 21st century global economy.

Once again, thank you for all you do for our children and reaching out to support our schools. I encourage you to email me at dennis_duquette@roadrunner.com, call me at 998-2727 extension #108 or stop in at Central Office. The challenges we face are great, but it is definitely made easier working with such a great community.

Dennis J. Duquette
Superintendent
School Union #29

ELM STREET SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

In the last year, our nation, state, and community have been presented with significant challenges. The impact of turbulent economic times has been felt at all levels and has deeply impacted some local services. At Elm Street School, we have continued to maintain a tight budget. During the budgetary process last spring, a guidance counselor and a teacher were eliminated. Despite the challenges, we have maintained a focus on student achievement and a commitment to providing the best education possible for the three hundred twenty students enrolled in our K-8 school.

Our students have continued to do well on state and nationally-normed assessments. On the Maine Educational Assessment (MEA), which assesses performance in reading, math, science, and writing, students in grades three through eight exceeded state averages at most grade levels and scored close to state averages at other grade levels. Our students have consistently met or exceeded attendance

expectations and academic benchmarks on state and national Adequate Yearly Progress Reports. Throughout School Union 29, progress in reading and mathematics has been monitored in grades three through eight with regular NWEA assessments. Our grade level scores are strong and the tests have been helpful in identifying students who are not meeting academic standards. We are currently working on developing an intervention model to address the needs of these students in a more systematic and coordinated manner.

On July first, we will become a regional school unit consisting of Poland, Minot, and Mechanic Falls. This consolidation is the result of intensive planning, collaborative efforts between school and municipal groups, and a desire to address common educational and fiscal issues. As we experience the transition from a school union to a regional school unit, this genuine spirit of cooperation will facilitate the necessary changes in our schools and improve our ability to meet the needs of all students.

Since the beginning of July, it has been my privilege to serve as President of the Maine Principals Association. I have been provided the opportunity to speak to educators throughout the state of Maine and to convey directly to state and national legislative leaders some of the challenges faced by small towns like ours. It is always a proud moment when I can say "I am from Elm Street School in Mechanic Falls." While we may not have the most plentiful resources, we are collectively committed to shaping a positive future for the youth of our community. Thank you for the ongoing support you provide our students!

Mary Martin
Principal



POLAND REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

The students and staff of Poland Regional High School want to thank you for all of the support you have given us since the day the school opened in 1999. As we prepare to transition to an RSU and shared ownership of the high school amongst the three towns, we are grateful for the support and dedication many Mechanic Falls citizens have given us. Many changes have occurred over the last ten years and PRHS is now an accredited high school with a solid reputation. Those citizens who have given hours of time serving as school committee members, coaches, employees, volunteers and involved parents have been the key to our success. While change is coming, we will always remember those who helped make this school a reality.

Change is a constant in schools as we try to improve the education of your children. Our biggest change this year has been the closing of the Bakerstown Alternative School and the creation of a new alternative program here at PRHS. D-PaTH (Different Path to Graduation) began serving some former Bakerstown students as well as students who were still at the high school. All of these students needed something different from our regular coursework. The program has been a great success and students and parents have expressed their appreciation for the opportunities that it has provided. Angie Taylor, the lead teacher for D-PaTH, is helping students feel success for the first time in their high school careers. The program serves 30 students who spend part of their day in the D-PaTH room and part of their day taking advantage of electives and co-curriculars. By having an alternative program in the high school, students now have access to guidance and nurse services as well as the rest of the curriculum that Bakerstown could not provide. We hope that the program will improve our ability to help all kids succeed at our school.

We continue to work hard to prepare our students for life after PRHS. For the past seven years, PRHS has sent between 83% and 86% of our graduates on to post-secondary education. This has included four year and two year colleges as well as technical/vocational programs. We also proudly send about

6% of our graduates into the armed services to serve and protect our country. We think about them often and hope for their safety in these troubled times.

As we join the new school district, we will continue to strive to do our best for your kids and to ensure that they get the best education we can possibly provide. I am proud to be the principal of this great school and look forward to continuing to serve the children and families of our three communities.

Cari Medd
Principal

ADULT EDUCATION

Last year was an excellent year for our students! Many dared to dream and make their education dreams a reality. Mechanic Falls had a total of 33 citizens complete high school through Adult Education. We had a total of 70 students who earned adult high school credentials: 56 adult high school diplomas and 14 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 prepare to enter the military, to meet employer or training requirements and college prerequisites. Student studied reading, writing, mathematics, science, business skills and computer literacy. In two semesters, plus a summer session, Adult Education had a total of 377 enrollments:

175 Academic
21 Vocational
15 Adult Transitional. (College Prep)
166 Enrichment
377 Total Enrollments

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

Nancy Watson
Director

SALARIES / PAYMENTS TO SCHOOL OFFICIALS

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDANT

Patrick Boure	5,769.81
Carol Depot	6,760.00
Dennis Duquette	20,660.99
Barbara Hasenfus	15,280.43
Lauren Hendry	7,059.63
Ricky Kusturin	13,926.93
Catherine Medd	8,700.60
Cheryl Piper	6,206.09
Wendy Ritchie	9,197.10
PeggyAnn Schneider	669.60
Suzanne Wade	6,281.60

Deborah Williams	41,760.06
Catherine Wood	41,517.24

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Marcia Augello	36,855.60
Maureen Downs	59,997.32
Laura Parks	45,499.91
Venise Philbrick	32,633.86
Stephanie Scott	25,957.46
Julie Young	45,396.34

SPECIALISTS

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL

Sherry Chagnon	31,349.60
Evelyn Davis	7,546.90
Mary Martin	66,866.57
Velora Piper	6,664.68
Arthur Reed II	58,526.66

Kathy Demers	37,008.90
Karen Downing	23,454.63
Carol Lundberg	33,136.40
Cynthia Matthews	32,334.90
Norman Parks Jr	42,679.78
Sara Riman	39,638.66
Greggory Rose	31,012.84
Sarah Rose	32,378.56
Kellie Whitten	37,736.36

TEACHERS

Dorothy Barton	50,615.44
Laurie Callahan	28,188.22
Cynthia Cormier	10,725.38
Valerie Emery	52,664.93
Christine Frazier	40,136.40
Sharon Goss	30,638.48
Nancy Hinds	27,452.31
Sarah Jamo	29,420.36
Daniel Knott	32,388.22
Jennifer Lacombe	33,259.24
Cynthia Larrabee	54,140.58
Gigi Lee	30,929.60
Susan Littlefield	40,336.40
Cheryl MacPherson	52,191.08
Kimberly Moisan	35,253.91
Gertrude Morse	56,916.45
Carol Pollard	36,859.24
Barbara Reilly	54,626.72
Amy Robinson	31,159.24
Janice Shanks	29,538.48
Cathilyn Smith	13,176.48
Carol Ustach	39,923.42
Judith Vaillancourt	36,295.49
Berwyn Wetter	15,149.32

ED TECHS

Patricia Abbott	12,144.83
Donna Bragdon	13,114.22
Carol Coy	11,533.70
Roxanne Doyer	10,678.44
Robin Dufour	13,429.80
Brenda Fortin	10,956.83
Paula Glatz	10,706.90
Carla Lake	13,399.09
Suzanne Marston	12,756.77
Lillie Principe	10,289.02
Arlene Reynolds	13,752.31
Erika Rivard	15,430.14
Virginia Slicer	11,265.59

HEALTH SERVICES

Andrea Farr	16,414.54
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STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

Mark Chase	21,530.14
Alan Connolly	5,266.88
Michael Downing	47,083.62
Marshall Francis	15,222.40
Cecile Martin	14,450.75

FACILITIES MAINTENANCE

Carolyn Ames	22,318.65
Gerald Pray	24,709.90
Gary Purington	52,627.61

FOOD SERVICE

Randall Plummer	24,309.36
Mary Whittier	12,991.30

UNPAID PROPERTY TAXES

REAL ESTATE LIENS 2006

Baroudi, Adam (<i>Bankruptcy</i>)	\$ 3,213.77
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REAL ESTATE LIENS 2008

Allen, Diana	\$ 257.25	Madore, Randal	\$ 865.24
Baroudi, Adam (<i>Not protected by Bankruptcy</i>)	\$ 4,068.98	Manchester, John & Charles	\$ 309.96
Black, Pamela	\$ 1,808.24	McNally, Mike	\$ 80.14
Cote, Edward & Kathleen	\$ 2,213.46	Millett, Charles & Sandra	\$ 3,138.91
Cushman, Joseph & Patricia	\$ 1,505.76	Millett, Hartley & Lucille Martel	\$ 1,892.84
Davidson, Cecelia	\$ 452.13	Morin, Beverly	\$ 2,104.33
Doherty-Kalloch, Marla	\$ 360.24	Palmer, Jeremy	\$ 774.71
Downes, Anthony & Elaine	\$ 390.88	Parsons, Jennifer	\$ 1,563.98
Duhamel, Karen	\$ 865.45	Pearl Jr, Charles & Ginger	\$ 694.58
E & K Construction Co	\$ 2,345.04	Reed, Charles & Pamela	\$ 1,371.95
Gagnon, Jeremy	\$ 857.68	Roberts, Homer & Virginia	\$ 1,171.23
Hill, Dorothy	\$ 2,302.97	Smith, Crystal	\$ 565.49
Hill, Dorothy	\$ 928.37	Stimson, Nina & David	\$ 434.32
Hill, Dorothy	\$ 719.90	Taber, Matthew & Denis	\$ 42.90
Hill, Dorothy	\$ 859.01	Tammaro, Rhonda	\$ 257.42
Jipson, Wendal	\$ 321.30	Tibbetts, Heirs of Elva (<i>Mechanic's Lien</i>)	\$ 1,116.23
Johnson, Eric	\$ 731.43	Toussaint, Russell & Charlene	\$ 1,671.71
Kendrick, James & Cathy	\$ 22.87	Willson, Bruce & Janice	\$ 1,289.26
Leonard Jr, David & Michelle	\$ 2,121.90		
Lowe, Walter & Veronica	\$ 347.24		

2009 TAXES - 1st Half Unpaid

Allen, Diana	\$ 134.14	J & W Oil Company	\$ 335.26
Arsenault, Armand & Cheryl	\$ 370.85	Jewell, Diane	\$ 76.31
Baroudi, Adam		Jipson, Wendal	\$ 160.31
<i>(Not protected by Bankruptcy)</i>	\$ 1,974.66	Johnson, Eric	\$ 708.21
Beal, Richard/Karen Plummer, Randy	\$ 423.19	Jones, Angela	\$ 972.65
Beaulieu, Raymond	\$ 545.89	Keene, Ronald & Kimberley	\$ 985.55
Beaulieu, Raymond	\$ 59.48	Kendrick, James & Cathy	\$ 11.07
Berry, Scott & Misty	\$ 119.04	Kimball & Corcoran	\$ 228.75
Bisbee, Leland & Bradley	\$ 666.76	Kimball, Christopher	\$ 240.19
Black, Pamela	\$ 881.88	Kimball, Christopher	\$ 252.63
Brown, Roger & Catherine	\$ 101.02	Lagueux, Raymond & Kristina Shorey	\$ 144.02
Burtchell, Jason & Sarah	\$ 282.28	Lambert, Heirs of Patricia	\$ 659.99
Calabrese, Brett	\$ 358.13	Landry, Jonathan & Julie	\$ 1,446.16
Cash, Ronald	\$ 9.15	Larrabee, Douglas	\$ 1,247.06
Chase, Brian & Susan	\$ 2,557.61	Larrabee, Kimberly & Heath	\$ 87.29
Childs, Christine (LE)	\$ 1,205.61	Legere, Nancy	\$ 91.14
Clukey, Daniel & Hazel	\$ 100.74	Legere, Nancy	\$ 99.92
Colon, Carlos	\$ 17.20	Leonard, David & Joyce	\$ 329.77
Cote, Cindy	\$ 167.28	Leonard Jr, David & Michelle	\$ 1,032.03
Cote, Edward & Kathleen	\$ 1,111.27	Libby, Mary & David Clukey	\$ 107.61
Crane, Joyce	\$ 1,001.84	Lowe, Walter & Veronica	\$ 767.23
Croteau, Jerry & Cathy	\$ 282.36	Madore, Randal	\$ 423.65
Cummins, Heirs of John	\$ 1,118.13	Major, Kevin	\$ 194.44
Cummins, Heirs of John	\$ 470.77	Manchester, John & Charles	\$ 150.06
Cushman, Joseph & Patricia	\$ 733.74	Martin's Country Homes Inc.	\$ 1,935.32
Davidson, Cecelia	\$ 815.27	McInnis, Shirley	\$ 1,085.38
Destrini, John & Dawn	\$ 1,475.81	Millett, Charles & Sandra	\$ 1,517.44
DLR'S Silver Spur, LLC	\$ 136.52	Millett, Hartley & Lucille Martel	\$ 921.13
Doherty-Kalloch, Marla	\$ 229.67	Mitchell, Bree Anne	\$ 69.45
Douglass, Rachel	\$ 176.96	Morin, Beverly	\$ 1,023.52
Downes, Anthony & Elaine	\$ 763.30	Nay, Clark & Samra	\$ 771.44
Dresser, Daniel & Donna Martin	\$ 1,016.75	Palmer, Jeremy	\$ 375.06
Dufour, Barbara	\$ 74.67	Parker, Steven & Catherine	\$ 1,010.53
Duhamel, Karen	\$ 428.59	Parsons, Jennifer	\$ 805.66
E & K Construction Co	\$ 2,035.42	Parsons, Jennifer	\$ 1,807.40
Edwards, Frederick	\$ 535.19	Pearl, Chad & Roxanne & Stephanie Walker	\$ 2,083.82
Fifield, David & Cathy	\$ 1,069.18	Pearl Jr, Charles & Ginger	\$ 477.54
Fraser, Joel & Kathleen	\$ 669.78	Pelletier, Gloria A	\$ 1,441.58
Frisbee, Earl & Gloria	\$ 430.24	Penney, Estelle	\$ 39.26
Gagnon, Jeremy	\$ 415.23	Plumer, Jeanette	\$ 483.20
Girardin, Michael	\$ 344.23	Plummer, Randy	\$ 153.81
Glatz, Kevin & Paula	\$ 1,152.26	Post, Bruce & Marge	\$ 406.90
		Ray, Steven	\$ 115.39
Hanestad, Michael & Karen	\$ 1,191.52	Raymond, Jennifer & Timothy Oliver	\$ 14.05
Hill, Dorothy	\$ 449.45	Reed, Charles & Pamela	\$ 862.02
Hill, Dorothy	\$ 415.87	Richardson, Heirs of Hiram	\$ 965.60
Hill, Dorothy	\$ 1,114.93	Ring, Michael & Linda	\$ 239.00
Hill, Dorothy	\$ 348.53	Roberts, Homer & Virginia	\$ 564.83
Hodge, Richard & Leilani	\$ 894.42	Rumlew Inc	\$ 237.10
Houston, Bettyann	\$ 239.00	Sawyer, Ralph & Lorraine	\$ 1,746.02
Irizarry, Domingo & Jennie	\$ 1,098.00		
Irizarry, Domingo & Jennie	\$ 894.05		

Smith, Crystal	\$ 273.77	Vallee, Norman	\$ 50.33
Smith, David & Christine	\$ 810.88	Wadsworth, Arlo	\$ 425.11
Stimson, Nina & David	\$ 210.27	Warren, Kelly	\$ 92.78
Stotts, Mark & Paula	\$ 1,037.89	Wheeler, Tracy Rose	\$ 237.90
Sturtevant, Darleen	\$ 658.62	White's Custom Woodworking	\$ 154.36
Sullivan-Thorne, Karen Anne	\$ 930.47	White, Jeffrey	\$ 228.75
Sullivan-Thorne, Karen Anne	\$ 365.00	White, Jeffrey	\$ 222.35
Taber, Matthew & Denis	\$ 20.77	White, Jeffrey	\$ 232.41
Tammaro, Rhonda	\$ 129.38	White, Jeffrey	\$ 234.24
Tibbetts, Heirs of Elva	\$ 659.35	White, Ronald & Beverly	\$ 1,093.98
Toussaint, Russell & Charlene	\$ 814.08	Wilbur, Steven	\$ 619.09
Trytek, Kevin & Elaine	\$ 9.71	Willson, Bruce & Janice	\$ 1,071.93
Tufts, Lorraine	\$ 941.72	Wilson, Alan & Sandra	\$ 517.65
Twitchell, Priscilla	\$ 50.60	Wing, Richard & Janette	\$ 795.69
Vallee, Norman & Constance	\$ 516.98	Wing, Richard & Janette	\$ 478.46
Vallee, Norman	\$ 228.75	Zeininger, Stephen	\$ 261.78
Vallee, Norman	\$ 174.58		

2008 PERSONAL PROPERTY

Fifield, David - Video Depot \$ 162.54

2009 PERSONAL PROPERTY - 1st Half Unpaid

DLR'S Silver Spur LLC	\$ 93.06
Fennessy, Sheila - Sheila Hair & Tanning Salon	\$ 185.06
Fifield, David - Video Depot	\$ 78.69
Hemond, Jannine - Rita's Pizza & Subs	\$ 31.02
Kathy's Diner	\$ 25.62
Kyle, Sharleen - Big Daddy's Pub	\$ 124.44
Kyllonen Michael - South Main Street Garage	\$ 78.90

BUDGET SUMMARY

	2005/06 APPROVED	2006/07 APPROVED	2007/08 APPROVED	2008/09 APPROVED	2009/10 PROPOSED	NET CHANGE
BUDGET CATEGORIES						
Boards and Council	\$5,170	\$5,210	\$8,070	\$10,820	\$10,962	\$142
Legal Services	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0
Municipal Complex	\$61,568	\$67,677	\$71,765	\$80,457	\$71,474	(\$8,983)
Town Clerk / Elections	\$118,300	\$122,187	\$128,290	\$131,001	\$137,873	\$6,872
Town Manager	\$61,148	\$62,648	\$57,152	\$63,605	\$65,847	\$2,242
Utilities	\$120,500	\$120,000	\$135,400	\$150,540	\$155,140	\$4,600
Code Enforcement / Planning	\$45,792	\$47,303	\$38,810	\$43,963	\$46,215	\$2,252
Public Library	\$16,340	\$17,285	\$18,158	\$21,375	\$22,759	\$1,384
Recreation	\$8,100	\$8,100	\$6,630	\$6,630	\$6,630	\$0
Social Services / Welfare	\$6,825	\$7,425	\$7,425	\$14,595	\$19,595	\$5,000
Assessor	\$11,750	\$11,750	\$12,800	\$16,300	\$16,300	\$0
Auditor	\$6,600	\$6,100	\$6,600	\$6,700	\$6,700	\$0
Contingency	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0
Debt Service	\$163,774	\$161,364	\$158,935	\$156,424	\$153,813	(\$2,611)
Pensions / Insurances	\$236,827	\$271,726	\$266,723	\$270,710	\$293,705	\$22,995
Animal Control	\$4,690	\$4,690	\$4,690	\$4,950	\$4,950	\$0
Dispatcher	\$9,400	\$5,600	\$4,240	\$10,630	\$10,630	\$0
EMA	\$0	\$500	\$750	\$750	\$750	\$0
Fire Department	\$49,870	\$50,585	\$43,800	\$55,365	\$58,415	\$3,050
Police Department	\$242,129	\$256,332	\$270,763	\$287,865	\$290,419	\$2,554
Rescue	\$18,325	\$19,980	\$18,780	\$19,280	\$20,880	\$1,600
Health Officer	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$750	\$750	\$0
Public Works	\$212,086	\$233,328	\$251,945	\$285,706	\$320,687	\$34,981
Solid Waste	\$108,746	\$121,067	\$126,196	\$112,810	\$113,138	\$328
County Tax	\$134,007	\$128,656	\$141,439	\$146,975	\$149,142	\$2,167
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	\$1,656,947	\$1,744,513	\$1,794,361	\$1,913,201	\$1,991,774	\$78,573
TOTAL CIP BUDGET	\$134,300	\$135,730	\$205,420	\$205,420	\$54,000	(\$151,420)
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$1,791,247	\$1,880,243	\$1,999,781	\$2,118,621	\$2,045,774	(\$72,847)
APPLIED REVENUES	\$941,360	\$970,682	\$1,026,857	\$1,073,217	\$1,000,640	(\$72,577)
NET TO BE RAISED	\$849,887	\$909,561	\$972,924	\$1,045,404	\$1,045,134	(\$270)

TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLES

SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2009

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 16th of May, 2009, at nine o'clock in the morning, then and there to act on articles numbered 1 to 35 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 P. M. 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, 2009 and that second half of taxes be due on or before May 15, 2010, and also recommended that an interest of 9.00 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 amounts against the total amount authorized to be raised by taxation or to see what action the Town will take.

Miscellaneous Tax Income	\$	3,880
Excise Taxes	\$	351,800
Interest/Penalties	\$	66,000
Permits	\$	14,300
Licenses	\$	14,850
Intergovernmental Revenues	\$	434,800
Charges	\$	35,220
Fines and Penalties	\$	700
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$	38,090
Reserve Based Revenue	\$	41,000
TOTAL:	\$	1,000,640

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$10,962 for Boards and Council Budget. (Council and Budget Committee So Recommend.)

ARTICLE 9: 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 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$71,474 for Municipal Complex Budget. (Council and Budget Committee So Recommend.)

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$137,873 for Town Clerk/Elections Budget. (Council and Budget Committee So Recommend.)

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$65,847 for Town Manager Budget. (Council and Budget Committee So Recommend.)

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$155,140 for Utilities Budget. (Council and Budget Committee So Recommend.)

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$46,215 for Code Enforcement and Planning Budget. (Council and Budget Committee So Recommend.)

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$22,759 for Public Library Budget. (Council and Budget Committee So Recommend.)

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$6,630 for Recreation Budget. (Council and Budget Committee So Recommend.)

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$19,595 for Welfare Budget. (Council and Budget Committee So Recommend.)

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$16,300 for Assessor Budget. (Council and Budget Committee So Recommend.)

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$6,700 for Auditor Budget. (Council and Budget Committee So Recommend.)

ARTICLE 20: 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 21: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$153,813 for Debt Service Budget. (Council and Budget Committee So Recommend.)

ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$293,705 for Pensions and Insurances Budget. (Council and Budget Committee So Recommend.)

ARTICLE 23: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$4,950 for Animal Control Budget. (Council and Budget Committee So Recommend.)

ARTICLE 24: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$10,630 for Dispatcher Budget. (Council and Budget Committee So Recommend.)

ARTICLE 25: 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 26: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$58,415 for Fire Department Budget. (Council and Budget Committee So Recommend.)

ARTICLE 27: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$290,419 for Police

Department Budget. (Council and Budget Committee So Recommend.)

ARTICLE 28: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$20,088 for Rescue Department Budget. (Council and Budget Committee So Recommend.)

ARTICLE 29: 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 30: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$320,687 for Public Works Department Budget. (Council and Budget Committee So Recommend.)

ARTICLE 31: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$113,138 for Solid Waste Department Budget. (Council and Budget Committee So Recommend.)

ARTICLE 32: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$54,000 for Capital Improvements Budget.

\$ 12,000	Municipal Complex Reserve
\$ 2,000	Computer Reserve
\$ 3,000	Library Building Reserve
\$ 7,000	Police Vehicle Reserve
\$ 5,000	Assessing Reserve
\$ 10,000	Solid Waste Equipment Reserve
<u>\$ 15,000</u>	Fire / Rescue Apparatus Reserve
\$ 54,000	Total

(Council and Budget Committee So Recommend)

ARTICLE 33: To see if the Town will appropriate from fund balance \$147,000 for following Capital Improvement purchases:

\$ 54,000	Public Works Dump Truck
\$ 37,000	Brown Road Pavement
\$ 22,000	Municipal Accounting Software
\$ 20,000	Sidewalk Improvements
<u>\$ 14,000</u>	Police Vehicle
\$ 147,000	Total

(Council and Budget Committee So Recommend.)

ARTICLE 34: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation \$149,142 for Androscoggin County Tax Assessment. (Council and Budget Committee So Recommend.)

ARTICLE 35: To choose by written ballot election, the following Town Officials:

One (1) Councilor for the term of three years
Two (2) Sanitary District Trustees for the term of three years

The election polls will be open immediately following the adjournment of town meeting and will remain open for not less than 4 hours or until six o'clock p. m., which ever is later.

The Registrar of Voters will be available during voting hours for the purposes of correcting the voting list and accepting new registrations.