

# Islesboro Island News

March/April 2023

\$5.00



## Let's get ready for Town Meeting!

The 2023 Annual Town Meeting will be held live and in person on Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am at the Kinnicutt Center. For a change of pace, this year's Junior Class will be hosting a pancake breakfast starting at 8:00am (\$10/person).

The town and school budgets have been finalized and, by the time you read this, approved. The Town's FY 23-24 budget increased 1.9% over last years and the school's budget at decreased by 6.22%. Islesboro's contribution to the Waldo County budget, \$850,867, represents an increase of 8.69%.

The day's business will begin with the election of town and school officials. There are two seats opening on the Select Board- Gabe Pendleton will be resigning effective Town Meeting; with a second baby due in May, he needs more family time. Shey Conover's term is up and she will be running again. The School Board will also have two vacancies as Sky Purdy's and Dave Dyer's terms expire this year. Both intend to run again.

Superintendent Dominic DePatsy provides us with the synopsis of the Islesboro Central School budget. The School Board approved an operating budget of \$2,906, 681. They also voted to take \$400,000 out of the unassigned fund balance as revenue to help fund this year's budget, putting some of that into reserve accounts- \$20,000 towards the solar project, and \$3,000 into a bus reserve. The capital improvements reserve will receive \$135,000 which will most likely be used for pointing the exterior walls which are in bad enough shape in some spots to impact the interior of the building. And \$100,000 will be used to address an internal deficit in the school nutrition program that has been growing for several years. Islesboro's contribution to the budget for Mid-Coast School of Technology (Region 8) this year is \$47,627.

The Select Board approved a budget of \$3,990,044. With expected revenues of \$586,372, an additional \$100,000 was taken out of the undesignated fund

balance with \$658,000 remaining.

All employees, except the Town Manager (at her request) received a 5% cost of living increase. By categories:

**General Government** is down \$48,356, despite \$40,000 being added to cover the recent property revaluation and an \$18,000 increase in the Preschool subsidy for insurance coverage- in hopes of attracting a much-needed qualified teacher. The subsidy for Islesboro Municipal Broadband is down \$14,840 largely because so many more people signed up for the service than was originally anticipated. The 20,000 in last year's budget for engineering for the Municipal Building Project will be replaced with donations and bond monies this year. The \$50,000 allotted for a grant writer in last year's budget was never used and has been moved to a capital reserve account.

**Public Safety** with an increase of \$10,258, is largely flat with the exception of the COL raises. The consultant's line was increased by \$400 to cover mandatory NIMS training. The cost of power for streetlights was down \$1000, thanks to those LED bulbs!

**Health** is up \$43,797 overall from last year. The health center subsidy is up \$16,000 and included a new line item for mutual aid- NE Ambulance charges \$500 per transport from the Lincolnville parking lot to the hospital- \$10,000 was allotted. The \$50,000 grant used to pay the planner just hired by the Sea Level Rise Committee required \$10,000 in matching funds. And \$7000 goes to the Island Fellow. Offsetting the budget is \$30,000 from the health center endowment fund held by the Maine Community Foundation and \$25,000 in expected revenues.

*Town Meeting...* continued on page 8



**\*\* The Class of 2023 will sponsor a pre-meeting pancake breakfast at 8am. \$10/person\*\***



## An exciting update

### Fundraising

The MBP Campaign Committee has exceeded its goal! The committee was charged with raising \$1,750,000 from private sources to support half the construction costs

of the Municipal Building Project. To date, it has raised \$1,759,036. Gifts range in size from \$25 to \$300,000. There are 208 donors. 134 seasonal residents have given a total of \$1,391,050, and 68 year-rounders have contributed \$366,286. Additionally, six regular visitors to the island, whom we call "friends," gave a total of \$1,700.

The committee will no longer initiate new solicitations. However, we will continue to work with several prospective donors who have received requests and preferred to consider them in the spring of 2023. New contributions will continue to be welcome, for despite every cost-saving effort, given the present volatility of the cost of construction materials, the final cost of the Municipal Building Project may exceed the original \$3,500,000 estimated budget.

Many thanks are in order. First of all, to the members of the Campaign Committee – Bruce Clafin, Linda Gillies (chair), Marny Heinen, John Kauer, Pam Larson, Maxine Nelson, Mark Umbach, Virginia Valentine, and Bill Warren. Throughout they have been a cheerful, generous source of support of all kinds. Secondly, to Janet Anderson and the Town Office staff. With care and efficiency they have received, acknowledged, and documented each contribution



that has come in – a very big job. And finally, to the Islesboro community – seasonal and year-round. The success of the fundraising can be attributed to their understanding of the Municipal Building Project's importance and to their willingness to respond with generosity and good will.

### Construction

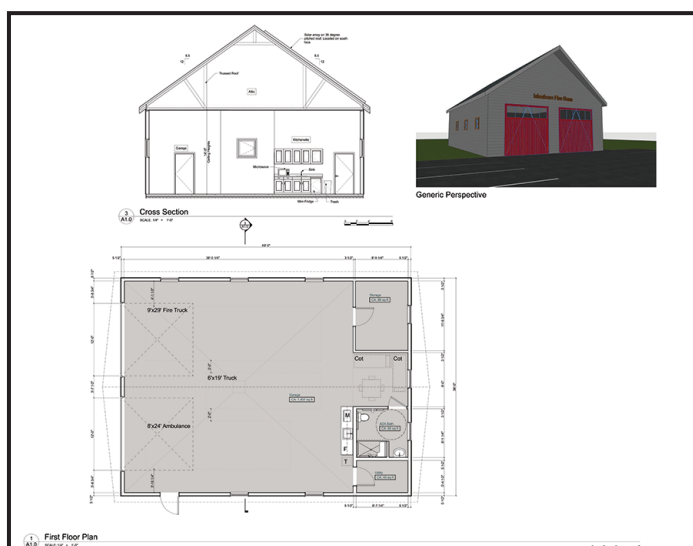
*New Health Center Building and Up-island Public Safety Garage*

- In May, the Municipal Building Committee, along with Stephen Blatt Architects (SBA), will interview and select a Construction Manager to oversee the construction of both buildings.
- SBA continues to refine the Health Center building plan.
- SBA is coordinating with Gartley & Dorsky, the Camden-based engineering and surveying firm that was helpful in siting the building.

### Public Safety in the Municipal Building

- The Public Safety space will be renovated in 2025.

*Submitted by the Municipal Building Project Committee*



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<b>Photography by:</b> Colleen Dove, Bonnie MacKenzie, Margie Mills, Carol Pierson, Phil Seympour, Katie Wuori	

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