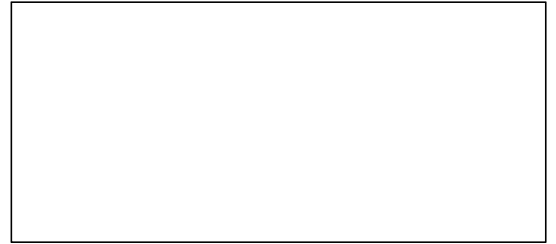


**The Sorrento Newsletter**  
Town of Sorrento  
79 Pomola Avenue  
Sorrento, ME 04677-3126



**April/May 2023 Newsletter**

***April 26 – Comp Planning Committee meeting 10 am Town Office***  
***May 3 – Select Board meeting 7 pm Sorrento CB & Zoom***  
***May 4 – Planning Board meeting 7 pm via Zoom***  
***May 6 – Bulk Trash Drop Off @ Fuller Rd Salt/Sand building 9 am – 3 pm***  
***May 14 – Mother’s Day***  
***May 17 – Select Board meeting 7 pm Sorrento CB & Zoom***  
***May 29 – Memorial Day – Town Office Closed***  
***June 1, 5 & 6 Town Office Closed***  
***June 13 – RSU 24 Budget Ref Election/Town Office Closed***

# THE SORRENTO NEWSLETTER

## APRIL/MAY 2023

### Sorrento Town Office

**Monday:** 8 am – 3 pm

**Tues:** CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

**Wednesday:** 8 am – 3 pm

**Thurs:** 10 am – 3 pm

**Friday:** 8 am - Noon

Phone (207) 422-6889 Fax: (207) 422-3737

79 Pomola Ave., Sorrento, Maine 04677-3126

[townoffice@sorrentomaine.org](mailto:townoffice@sorrentomaine.org)

**Town Office Administrator/Town Clerk/Tax Collector/  
Treasurer/Registrar of Voters/Harbor Secretary/  
Maine BMV Agent & Notary:**

Kathi Moore [kathi.moore@sorrentomaine.org](mailto:kathi.moore@sorrentomaine.org)

### Select Board:

Rob Wilpan 207-422-9115 term expires 2024

[rob.wilpan@sorrentomaine.org](mailto:rob.wilpan@sorrentomaine.org)

Diana Gazis 207-422-3697 term expires 2025

[diana.gazis@sorrentomaine.org](mailto:diana.gazis@sorrentomaine.org)

Vacant term expires 2023

### Code Enforcement Officer & Plumbing Inspector:

Mike Gurtler 207-460-5544

[ceo-lpi@sorrentomaine.org](mailto:ceo-lpi@sorrentomaine.org)

### Fire Chief/Road Commissioner/Public Safety Officer:

Joey Clark 207-812-2208 terms expire 2023

[tonkajoe801@yahoo.com](mailto:tonkajoe801@yahoo.com)

### Harbormaster:

Lou Sutherland Jr 207-266-5706

[harbormaster@sorrentomaine.org](mailto:harbormaster@sorrentomaine.org)

### Animal Control:

Hancock County Animal Control

### E-911 Addressing Officer:

VACANT

### RSU 24 School Board Member:

Janet Wilpan 207-422-9115 term expires 2023

### Planning Board:

[planningboard@sorrentomaine.org](mailto:planningboard@sorrentomaine.org)

**Notary Public Services  
are available at the  
Town Office**

**The Town office will be closed on  
Monday May 29 – Memorial Day  
June 1, 5 & 6  
June 13 – RSU24 Budget Election  
June 19 - Juneteenth**

**2022 Property Tax Bills were due by  
January 17, 2023 with interest at 4% per annum  
charged after that date.**

Credit and debit cards are now accepted at the Town Office!



**The Sorrento Community Building and  
Village Green is available to rent for your next  
event. Call the Town Office at 422-6889 for  
more information.**

### SORRENTO COMMUNITY BUILDING

is reserved for:

**April 1, 2, 8, 15, 22**

**May 4, 6 & 13**

**June 10, 12, 13 & 14**

**Village Green is reserved for:**

**July 27**

**August 2-3**

### SORRENTO ROADWAY INVENTORY

We are looking for volunteers to contribute to our  
Town Road Inventory. Please email Rob at  
[rob.wilpan@sorrentomaine.org](mailto:rob.wilpan@sorrentomaine.org) if you are interested.



## **2023 Dog Licenses**

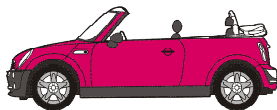
Starting February 1, 2023 a fine of \$25 will be due along with the registration fee on any unregistered dog. If you no longer own a dog that was registered last year, please call the Town Office to update our records.

**\*\*Dogs must be licensed by January 1 of each year or when they reach 6 months of age.**

\$6 for neutered/spayed... \$11 for unaltered

\*\*\*When licensing your dog, you must bring with you your dog's rabies certificate showing the tag number and date of expiration and your certificate of proof of spay or neuter, unless these are already on file at the Town Office.

\*\*Any dog living in the Town of Sorrento must have a Sorrento license/tag. 



**When transferring your auto registration from your vehicle to a new/newer vehicle, you MUST bring in the registration of the vehicle you are transferring from.**

Ellsworth branch BMV hours are  
8-4:30 Monday through Friday  
Tel: (207) 667-9363 8:30-4:30  
Fax: (207) 667-0048

## **STATE OF MAINE RAPID RENEWAL SERVICES:**

Online Vehicle Registration Renewal:

<https://www1.maine.gov/online/bmv/rapid-renewal/>

Online Boat Registration Renewal:

<https://apps1.web.maine.gov/online/boat/>

Fishing and Hunting licenses:

<https://moses.informe.org/cgi-bin/online/moses v3/index>

## **EXPIRATION DATES**

**VEHICLES:** Expire a year from when they are registered (unless you are transferring)

**TRAILERS:** Can be registered for 1 or 2 years, same month, except over 2000 lb.

Trailers expire in Feb. (1 or 2 years)

**BOATS:** Expire Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>

**ATVs:** Expire June 30<sup>th</sup>

**SNOWMOBILES:** Expire June 30<sup>th</sup>

**MOTORCYCLES:** Expire March 31 of every year, except antique.

## **SORRENTO SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

*Residents of Sorrento are eligible for scholarship funds to pursue additional learning after high school. These scholarships can be used for a wide variety of education – college, technical school or many other accredited programs. Students receive \$1500 per semester plus a bonus for achieving top grades.*

Please consider a gift to this fund and become a part of the community encouraging the next generation of high school graduates to pursue additional education after high school.

**Please make checks payable to: Sorrento Scholarship Fund**

**and mail or drop off checks to:**

**Gina Bennett, PO Box 93,  
Sorrento, ME 04677**

*Sorrento residents, who are currently or will be starting post high school education in the future, please contact Wendy Worrell at 207-422-2525*



### **RSU #24 – APRIL 2023**

Greetings from RSU No. 24,

I hope this monthly submission finds each of you ready for the change in seasons. I am looking forward to the warmer weather that the spring season brings! Please find below, the latest from the school district.

I am happy to report that we finally have a signed agreement with Nickerson O'Day to complete the sprinkler system cistern project. The agreement has a completion date of June 2, 2023. Our hope is to have graduation in the new school but we will have an alternate plan should the project not be completed on time. This is great news and we finally have an end line in view for completion of the building project.

The Budget and Finance Committee has had its first two meetings and reviewed a number of budgets. The scheduled dates for the remaining Budget Workshops are March 28, and April 12. All meetings will start at 6:30 p.m. and will take place at the District Services Facility. The budgets to be reviewed by the Committee will be posted prior to each meeting on our website at [www.rsu24.org](http://www.rsu24.org) (Departments/Budget and Finance/FY24 Budget Development). For those planning ahead, our district budget meeting will take place on Wednesday May 24. The exact time and location will be passed along as the meeting approaches.

We are continuing to refine the school calendar to best meet the needs of students and staff. There is a push to have June 16th as the last day of school for staff and students, understanding that pushing into the third week of June is not ideal. In order to do that, we will most likely have to establish several Saturday dates for our students in grades 6-12. This change will be presented at the April 4th RSU Board of Directors Meeting. If there are formal changes made to the school calendar, these will be communicated as quickly as possible.

Thank you for your continued support of the school district. If you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at [meastman@rsu24.org](mailto:meastman@rsu24.org).

Sincerely,

Michael Eastman, Superintendent



### **RSU #24 – MAY 2023**

Greetings from RSU No. 24,

Well, the finish line for the school year is in view! I am writing this as we head into April vacation, which means that we have roughly eight weeks left in the school year. Barring any more cancellations, the last day for students at our PK-5 schools will be Friday, June 16th and the last day for students

in grades 6-11 will be Wednesday, June 21st. The last day for seniors will be Friday, June 2nd. Any specific logistical pieces regarding end-of-year celebrations and activities for our schools will be communicated directly by the administrator of said school.

All of the water tanks are in place for the sprinkler system cistern project and the new pump has been installed. The subcontractor will now be putting the system together in preparation of the necessary testing. I believe that we are still on course to meet the June 2nd deadline. We are also in the planning stages for the cistern project to boost the domestic water supply. In addition, we are still awaiting the operable partition that will separate the cafeteria and the auditorium. The general contractor continues to work on the "punch list" and there are still some steps to take to complete the "shop" space. Our fields will be some of the last work completed in the project. I think we are starting to see the finish line!

Some have asked about the expenses that we have incurred as part of the delay, wondering who is responsible for these costs. I have worked closely with the Maine Department of Education and our attorney and the substantial expenses will be covered by the project. These costs include items like the "firewatchers" we are required to have at the school, the rental fee and transportation costs to the offsite "shop" space, and additional personnel costs because of the delayed start to the school year. I will continue to work to make sure that expenses incurred as a result of the delayed full occupancy will be covered by someone other than the district.

The Budget and Finance Committee will be presenting the 2023-2024 school year budget to the full RSU Board of Directors at its May 2nd meeting. Upon Board approval, we will have our District Budget Meeting on May 24 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting is currently scheduled to take place at the Mountain View School. The necessary documents will be posted on the district website prior to both the RSU Board of Directors meeting and the District Budget Meeting. Once the budget is approved at the District Budget Meeting, the next step is the referendum to approve the budget. That referendum will take place on June 13th at your local voting station.

I continue to be proud of the work that our staff does on a daily basis to support our students and the resiliency of our students demonstrate on a daily basis. Thank you for your continued support of the school district. If you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at [meastman@rsu24.org](mailto:meastman@rsu24.org).

Sincerely,

Michael Eastman, Superintendent

Regional School Unit #24

2165 US Highway 1

Sullivan, Maine 04664

Email: [meastman@rsu24.org](mailto:meastman@rsu24.org)





### SORRENTO SELECT BOARD MEETINGS

are held the first and third Wednesday of each month  
7:00 p.m.

In person at the Sorrento Community Building  
and via ZOOM

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86535623920?pwd=  
=d010  
ajZHVE9sbStmQXpZSG M rZkNwUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86535623920?pwd=ajZHVE9sbStmQXpZSGM_rZkNwUT09)

Meeting ID: 865 3562 3920

Passcode: 307652



### Select Board Meeting Minutes

03/01/2023

Attending in person at the Sorrento Community Building were Selectman Jon Mickel, Selectwoman Diana Gazis, Town Clerk Kathi Moore, Tom Bailey, Earl Bierman, Myles Bierman, Susan Clancy-Dougherty, Darla Crocker, Dan Dougherty, Ann Hoffner, Brenda & Harold Page, Marc Perry and Hilly Welch Cray. Attending via Zoom were Select Board Chair Rob Wilpan, Fire Chief Joey Clark, Code Enforcement Officer Mike Gurtler, Ann Blood, Pat Dougherty, Ronna Freiberg, Richard Mayzel, Amanda Mickel, Lensa Neleski, John Popka, Dean Potashner, Ted Preuss and John Singer. The meeting was called to order at 7 pm by Rob Wilpan.

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Rob made a motion to approve the 2/15/2023 meeting minutes as written, seconded by Diana. Vote: Gazis yes, Mickel yes, Wilpan yes. Motion passed.

**2. ASSESSING AGENT INTERVIEW:** The Select Board invited Marc Perry to speak about his qualifications for the position of Assessing Agent. He has been a realtor for 22 years and owns Schoodic Realty; he has been an assessor for 16 years and is currently the assessor for 5 towns. He charges the same price if he was the Assessing agent or the Assessor, it is the same amount of work. Rob made a motion to appoint Marc as Assessing Agent, seconded by Jon. Vote: Gazis yes, Mickel yes, Wilpan yes. Motion passed.

**3. HARBOR POWER UPDATE:** No update

**4. HARBOR RAILING UPDATE:** Rob reached out to Superior Docks, waiting for a quote and he sent the plans to DC Welding, waiting for quote.

**5. CYBER AGREEMENT WITH MMA UPDATE:** Rob said there are some items in there that still need to address as far as how we are going to satisfy their requirements and he is working on that.

### 6. KEARSARGE AVE/WEST SHORE ROAD VEG

**CLEARING UPDATE:** Joey is to go out to see the area and will give an update at the next meeting.

### 7. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR INSPECTIONS UPDATE:

Joey reported that a group called Safety Works was in on Feb 21 to inspect all municipal buildings. There are a few electrical issues that need to be addressed, a few minor updates to paperwork; they are to email a written report within 20 days. Kathi reported that they found a few items at the Town office; an electrician needs to install the two hard wired smoke detectors; the utility closet is too cluttered as access to the attic stairs cannot be blocked; handrails need to be installed on attic stairs. They will be sending her a report as well.

### 8. TOWN/SVIA RENTAL CONTRACT RENEWAL UPDATE:

Rob reported he spoke with Christopher from WCBY; he may have interest in renting the upstairs for an office but has no interest in the downstairs. Rob made a motion to approve the lease agreement with the VIA for \$2000 a year for storing their boats, seconded by Diana. Jon questioned the \$2000 rental amount. Rob said currently the thought is that Christopher will think about avenues of renovating upstairs with the plan of it being ready by next fall, unsure if the Town or WCBY would pay for the cost. It is paneled upstairs but we may need to strip the paneling off and reinsulate; it is infested with rodents. Jon said there is a possible issue leasing to anybody if there is a rodent issue, on rainy days the VIA holds classes in there. The lease agreement needs to say 1) that other than storage the building needs to be unoccupied, 2) the upstairs will be leased separately 3) the VIA needs to provide proof of liability and renters insurance. If we are going to lease the building at such a low rate this should not cost the taxpayers anything in the event of a loss. Vote: Gazis yes, Mickel yes, Wilpan yes. Motion passed.

**9. CB BOILER WATER FEED REPAIR UPDATE:** Jon spoke with Steve today, he has been out straight busy and he will try to fit in our repair by next week.

**10. SCANNING MINUTES BOOKS UPDATE:** Kathi reported that she replied to the email from Greg at Fogler Library on Feb 16 and cc'd Rob.

### NEW BUSINESS:

**DOUGHERTY vs TOWN OF SORRENTO:** Rob reported that there was a complaint filed based on action Mike Gurtler took as Sorrento's Code Enforcement Officer and the Select Board has two decisions to make. First - whether or not to support our CEO and move ahead; second is to decide whether or not to give the work of the lawsuit to Dan Pileggi. Mike reported that in December Susan Clancy-Dougherty came to renew a permit that had been issued in January of 2022 by the

previous CEO to construct a dwelling unit on map 5, lot 24. He reviewed the info and the Land Use Ordinance, looked at the lot and definition of lot size, reviewed his findings with the Town Attorney and his conclusion was that the lot can only support one dwelling unit and one is already on that lot. He notified the Doughertys that he would not renew the permit. The town does not have an appeals board so the next step is the courts and a complaint was filed with the court disagreeing with Mike's interpretation with the LUO. Jon asked how costly are disputes of this nature, Mike said he cannot answer that. The question is do you want to enforce your land use ordinance, that's what this boils down to, the court may find in favor of the town, or the complainant, do you want to have a LUO enforced or not. Rob said we need to support our CEO and LUO. Rob made a motion to support our CEO and to deny the appeal and move forward with the lawsuit, seconded by Diana. Vote: Gazis yes, Mickel yes, Wilpan yes. Motion passed. Rob made a motion that we hand this over to Dan Pileggi/Acadia Law to defend the town, seconded by Diana. Vote: Gazis yes, Wilpan yes, Mickel no. Motion passed.

**PROFIT & LOSS:** Rob requested that Kathi send the Selectmen each month via email the Profit & Loss statement converted to Excel.

**JUNKYARD PERMIT FEE:** Kathi reported the Junkyard Permit fee is currently \$100, but the price of the public notice in the Ellsworth American is \$124.95. Jon made a motion that we increase the Junkyard permit fee to \$150, seconded by Diana. Vote: Gazis yes, Mickel yes, Wilpan yes. Motion passed.

**REQUEST FOR FD MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT:** Kathi reported that Lt. Tracy Painter of the Sorrento Fire Dept. submitted a request for mileage reimbursement and at the last meeting it was voted that the Board shall approve all FD mileage reimbursement requests. She has been attending EMT classes in Lewiston since January, goes once a week, Assistant Chief Brian Clement told her she would be reimbursed mileage if she maintains a B average or better. Her request is for 1848 miles for January and February. The IRS rate is 65.5 cents for a total of \$1210.44. There was a lengthy discussion about why the fire department is sending somebody to EMT classes if the town is no longer providing EMT services and sold the ambulance, did they look into closer options first, the fire department is over budget now so where will they get the funds for this, discussion on the mileage rate, is there a contract in place that stipulates she must stay with the Sorrento FD for a certain time frame and reimbursement if she doesn't pass or adhere to the contract, who provides the liability insurance. Joey is

to get this information for the next meeting. To be continued.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Rob made a motion that the Select Board enters Executive Session pursuant to M.R.S. Title 1 § 405 6.A. ***Public discussion could be reasonably expected to cause damage to the individual's reputation.*** Vote: Gazis yes, Mickel yes, Wilpan yes. Motion passed. At 8:25 pm the Select Board went into executive session. At 9:03 the Select Board returned from executive session. Jon reported there is no motion to make at this time. At 9:03 Jon made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Rob. Vote: Gazis yes, Mickel yes, Wilpan yes. Motion passed. Respectfully submitted on 03/05/2023 by Kathi Moore, Town Clerk

---

### Select Board Meeting Minutes 03/15/2023

Attending in person at the Sorrento Community Building were Selectman Jon Mickel, Select Woman Diana Gazis, Town Clerk Kathi Moore, Harbor Master Lou Sutherland Jr, Tom Bailey, Susan Clancy-Dougherty, Ann Hoffner, Terry Noyes and Hilly Welch Crary. Attending via Zoom were Select Board Chair Rob Wilpan, Ann Blood, Darla Crocker, Dan Dougherty, Pat Dougherty, Dwight Freeman, Ronna Freiberg, Amanda Mickel, Bill & Lense Neleski, Daphne & Ted Preuss, Dean Potashner, Andy Richter, Henri Van Sluys, Trina Wellman and Wendy Worrell. The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm by Rob Wilpan.

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Rob made a motion to approve the 3/01/2023 meeting minutes as written, seconded by Diana. Vote: Gazis yes, Mickel yes, Wilpan yes. Motion passed.

**2. HARBOR POWER UPDATE:** Lou recommended skipping replacing the pole and getting the panel upgraded now. Jon proposed that we just move ahead with the panel replacement and we will try to get the pole replaced when it's possible. Rob asked Jon to look into scheduling an electrician.

**3. HARBOR RAILING UPDATE:** Lou spoke with Superior Docks and they referred him to Greg Barry of Tight Fit Welding. Rob received a quote from DC welding for \$5800. The quote from Custom Float Services is \$9800. Henri will be installing whatever railing purchased for \$1500. Rob is to contact Greg Barry for a quote. Rob made a motion that we accept DC Welding's quote for the harbor railings providing Greg Barry does not offer a quote that's less than \$5800 and DC Welding can deliver by the beginning of May, seconded by Jon. Vote: Gazis yes, Mickel yes, Wilpan yes.



**4. CYBER AGREEMENT WITH MMA UPDATE:** Rob worked on the agreement with Roy Gott and Kathi is to email it to MMA Risk Management for approval.

**5. KEARSARGE AVE/WEST SHORE ROAD VEGETATION CLEARING UPDATE:** Tabled until Joey is in attendance.

**6. CB BOILER WATER FEED REPAIR UPDATE:** Jon has not heard back from Steve Flaherty as to the status of the repair.

**7. SCANNING MINUTES BOOKS UPDATE:** No reply from Greg at Fogler Library. The town would own the digital copy. Rob wants to get this process started.

**8. SORRENTO EMS UPDATE:** Regarding Tracy Painter getting paid mileage reimbursement for EMS training, Rob said it brought up a bigger question, should Sorrento be re-establishing its own EMS without an emergency vehicle. Does the Board want to restart EMS with the thought of having EMTs responding directly from their homes? Jon said it is not sustainable for a community of our size with 6 or less members on the fire department; the program was discontinued because nobody would do it, people weren't able to volunteer the hours to maintain their license and most of the licensed EMTs weren't residents of Sorrento. If we want to provide EMS coverage and better protect our community it would be wise to talk with the Town of Sullivan and Sullivan Fire Department about how we can merge the fire departments effectively to get the best quality from both fire departments. Jon also said since the last meeting he found out Tracy is working for Schoodic Ambulance Service and they should be paying for her licensing. The Town of Sorrento should not be on the hook for providing a license for somebody who is working for an EMS service covering the Town of Sorrento and does not live in Sorrento. Resident Tom Bailey spoke, he agrees with the concern about response times, with an aging community there may be a benefit combining with Sullivan, enough to merit adding an article to warrant with a vote or start a conversation with Sullivan Fire Department. Tabled until the next meeting when Fire Chief Clark is in attendance.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**JOANNE COWEN SCHOLARSHIP FUND:** The current fund administrator, Connie Dedam, is looking to retire as admin since she moved out of Sorrento. She contacted Jim Cowen and he approved donating the fund balance of \$1300 to the Sorrento Mural Fund so she can close out the scholarship account. Diana made a motion to accept the \$1300 from the Joanne Cowen Scholarship Fund for deposit into the Sorrento Mural Fund, seconded by Rob. Vote: Gazis yes, Mickel yes, Wilpan yes, motion passed.

**IMPROVING HYBRID MEETING OPTION:** Rob asked for suggestions on what would be the best way to improve the sound quality so it carries over onto the ZOOM audience. The suggestions were eliminating zoom meetings entirely and purchasing an OWL using community building funds with the CB Committee's approval. A resident asked Rob "being the first selectman shouldn't you be at there in person? Why spend town money on equipment instead of having just in person town meetings. Rob said he needs to use his computer and there is an issue using multiple computers in the CB. After a discussion it was determined that we need a better microphone. Rob is to look into a microphone situation that automatically switches.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

**Meeting Date Conflict:** The Sullivan-Sorrento Historical Society also meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month. Several residents have suggested changing the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday Select Board meeting to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday or Thursday and changing the start time earlier to 5 pm or 6 pm. After a discussion it was decided to leave it the way it is. Not in favor of moving the day or time.

**Union Church:** In reviewing the upcoming Property & Casualty insurance policy renewal, Kathi noted that the tax commitment book shows the church on the East Side Road as owned by the town, but it is not listed on the town's insurance policy. There is also a tax card and folder on file. Rob said it's not owned by the Town; it is a community church built with non-town money. The Parker's help maintain it so they could help shed some light on it. Jon said his issue is the liability, if it shows that its town owned on paper we should have it insured or listed on the insurance policy; there seems to be a lot of discrepancies around town property. Resident Terry Noyes said he was told by years ago by Sturgis Haskins that the Town owns the land but the community built the church. Jon said we should have a contract for usage and liability policy or sell property outright, it's a liability nightmare. Rob suggested gifting land to the owners of the building, which is not the town. Jon said the town should not be gifting it to anyone other a nonprofit. It is not an active church with active services so it's probably not a nonprofit. Rob is to report back with the info he received from the Parkers.

**Budget Committee:** Kathi reported there is a need for a budget committee. The warrant and a budget are two different things. Budget Committee chief goals are to create internal controls, complete transparency and accountability. The people need to understand that the typical budget involves a budget committee, the

involvement of the town treasurer working cooperatively with all the selectmen, before it goes to the town vote. Currently that is not the practice. On April 28 there is an MMA budget class via Zoom that Kathi will be attending and she emailed the material to the Select board in case anyone is interested. Rob said he thinks a Budget Committee is great if people were interested but in the past no one was interested.

**Auditor:** As directed by Rob in the Feb 15 Select Board meeting, Kathi sent the auditor an email requesting a meeting; the email:

- requested a quote on what it will cost to fix the accounting errors and to get help with journal entries for the appropriations that have not been made for the last 8 years
- asked for advice on cash flow planning as we seem to be running out of money before the end of the year
- Asked if it is legal for the Fire Department to continually go over their 25% budget allowed in the warrant without consequences, they are over their budget now
- We have real estate taxes on the books that go back to 2005-2006, how do we collect those
- There are outstanding items that date back to 2017 on the checking account statement that I need help with

Rob said he spoke with the auditor, this is his busy season and they cannot get to us until the third week of April. Jon questioned Rob about the fact that he asked Kathi to reach out to the auditor for help in the last meeting, they have not contacted her but Rob has spoken with them? Rob responded it wasn't the last meeting it was a while ago when I asked Kathi about Trio.

Rob said we need to be prepared to push the audit through and let them have an opportunity to answer the questions that Kathi has. This led to a discussion about the beginning and ending account balances in the annual town report being off. Rob said they are adjusted with the help of the auditor. Jon said he was contacted by email from a member of the community concerned enough about town accounts, they think it might be wise to have a forensic audit done, the more we discuss the issues of the past and problems that seem pretty apparent in the budget, he is inclined to support a forensic audit. Rob said Kathi needs to put together a detailed list of concerns from the past older than June 30, 2020. He is going to take the day off next Tuesday and work with Kathi on things that need to be adjusted and brought to the auditor.

#### **Municipal Sewer Billing:**

Kathi reported that there is \$22,456 over due from sewer balances and she would like to have permission from the Select Board to put liens on the properties.

Rob asked what the properties and balances are due:

11 Bayview Ave. \$1137.70

20 Main St. 1137.70

29 Main St. 4740.45

9 Preble St. 4740.45

13 Preble St. 853.28

8 Short lane 3413.10

52 Waukeag Ave. 3413.10

66 Waukeag Ave. 1296.18 current owner

66 Waukeag Ave. 1724.97 previous owner

Jon made a motion that we have Kathi put liens on the properties that are in arrears for the sewer.

Rob seconded the motion providing you can legally put liens on the properties since its sewer fees, not property taxes. Vote: Gazis yes, Mickel yes, Wilpan yes.

Jon followed up on **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Looking for the information** surrounding the Sullivan Fire Chief operating one of Sorrento's trucks on a mutual aid call. TABLED until Joey is in attendance.

**Have inspection results** from the Maine Department of Labor on the recent review of the Fire Department been received? Tabled until Joey is in attendance.

**Has Rob received any advice** from Town Attorney Dan Pileggi and Auditor Jim Wadman or progress made on moving forward with separating the SVFD Auxiliary from the Fire Department? Rob said they were not very helpful. The auxiliary has to establish as a non-profit and he was wondering how do other towns handle it? Jon said most don't have a separate auxiliary; they have a separate fund for events, like the Sullivan Daze fund. Our fire department is a municipal fire department so really there is no way we can support an auxiliary. Rob said there is an expense of establishing the auxiliary as a non-profit. Jon said it is not the town's expense to bear. At this point we should have Joey reach out to MMA for guidance. The Auxiliary is not the town's financial responsibility. It's a separate entity from the municipal Fire Department. Tabled until Joey is in attendance.

At 8:40 Rob made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Jon. Vote: Gazis yes, Mickel yes, Wilpan yes. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted on 4/03/2023 by Kathi Moore, Town Clerk





#### **PLANNING BOARD MEETING VIA ZOOM**

First Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Easy option for first time users:

Search: join.zoom.us with Chrome browser

Enter Meeting ID: **889 8753 5935**

Download, install & launch Zoom Client

Enter passcode: **470 621**



#### **COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Meets the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 10:00 am in person @ the Sorrento Town Office.

***Frenchman Bay Regional Shellfish Conservation Program***  
***Mike Hall, Shellfish Warden 207-400-6183 or 207-963-7104***

#### **Summer Sorrento House Rental**

Available 8/20 – 9/3

For a 1, 2, or 3 week stay

3 BR 2 bath with loft, sleeps 8

34 Ocean Ave.

Call or text Jay at 646-373-6166 if interested.

#### **Trade Day**

The Schoodic Area Chamber of Commerce is making plans for Trade Day (Downeast's Longest Yard Sale) on May 20, 2023. Selling and finding those special bargains makes the day fun for everyone. Please make your preparations for your own yard sale and help make this a worthwhile event. Start your day with a blueberry pancake breakfast from 7-10 am at the Winter Harbor Masonic Hall. Winter Harbor 5 & 10 and Artisans and Antiques in Winter Harbor will be offering specials.

**Schoodic Area Chamber of Commerce**  
Visit the Schoodic Peninsula and Acadia National Park for your next Maine vacation.

Don't want to injure yourself with heavy lifting?

Hire a local, strong young man for furniture moving, log moving or other heavy lifting...

Weekends only. Variable Rates.

References available.

Please call or text Jason: 207-422-4437

#### **Calling All Gardeners!**

If you would like to be a part of the all-volunteer group to help create a Pollinator Meadow around the Sorrento Sculpture at Hamilton Park, please email: [reikidancer@gmail.com](mailto:reikidancer@gmail.com) or [hillywc@gmail.com](mailto:hillywc@gmail.com) We want to get together there to plan and plant on a regular basis, and your email will help us stay in touch. If you cannot give anytime now, and still want to help, please spread the word. And donations of native seeds and plants will be most welcome. This is a multi-year project so if this summer does not work for you, maybe next year .....

Thank you in advance!

The PM Group

#### **CARTER BROTHER'S SCRAP METAL PICK-UP**

Danny Carter 207-422-9120

We pick up appliances, plumbing material, household wiring, or any metals.

Call us to schedule a pick-up



To submit news or advertise in the Sorrento Newsletter, email

[kathi.moore@sorrentomaine.org](mailto:kathi.moore@sorrentomaine.org)

or call 422-6889. The deadline is the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.

## **Sorrento Fire Department**

### **BURN PERMITS**

**You are required by Maine law to have a permit to burn**, even for a small pile of grass clippings or leaves. A **Forestry Warden** will be called if you burn without a permit, possibly resulting in you being summonsed to court and fined.

***The person who signs the fire permit is responsible for the fire. Do not leave any fire unattended.***

#### **To obtain a burn permit contact:**

Joey Clark, Fire Chief	207-812-2208
Brian Clement, Deputy Chief	207-460-4772
Mike Parker, Asst. Chief	207-460-3470
Chris Eklund, Asst. Chief	207-610-2794
Craig Clement, Chief Engineer	207-460-8851

#### ***Required for burning:***

***\*\*at least two adults to attend the burn,***  
***\*\*some form of water supply and hand tools must be on hand,***  
***\*\*and it is recommended you have a cellular phone or other communication device to call for assistance should the fire escape.***

**YOU are responsible to see that the fire is out before leaving.**

### **TAKE NOTE**

#### **BURNING TRASH IS ILLEGAL!!**

State Laws (12 MRSA 9321-25) governing the backyard burning of household trash are enforced by the Maine Forest Service.

If you think someone is burning trash **please call 973-3700 immediately!** 24 hours/day, 7 days a week.

#### **ONLINE BURNING PERMITS**

Traditional hand-written burn permits are still available, but the state online system allows permits to be acquired 24 hours a day, seven days a week, throughout the state, provided that the fire danger is not high.

For more information, call 287-4989 or visit [www.maineburnpermit.com](http://www.maineburnpermit.com).

## **SORRENTO FIRE FIGHTER MEMORIAL**

Fire Chief Joey Clark is looking for volunteers to form a committee for the Sorrento Fire Fighter Memorial to be built on the old Sorrento fire house property, honoring deceased members of the Sorrento Volunteer Fire Department.

Contact Joey at 207-812-2208 or email [tonkajoe801@yahoo.com](mailto:tonkajoe801@yahoo.com)



Please consider donating to the Sorrento Fire Fighter Memorial Fund. Checks can be made out to the Town of Sorrento (write FF MEMORIAL in the memo field) and mailed/dropped off at the Town Office, 79 Pomola Avenue, Sorrento, ME 04677

## **NOTICE TO SORRENTO RESIDENTS**

Nomination papers will be available beginning June 8, 2023 at the Town Office for the following positions:

**Select Board Member (3 years)**

**Fire Chief (2 years)**

**Road Commissioner (2 years)**

**RSU 24 School Board Member (3 years)**

Completed nomination papers must be returned to the Town Clerk's office no later than 4:00 pm on July 18, 2023



Happy spring from the Sullivan-Sorrento Historical Society!

For those that missed it, the recording of our March History Hour presentation, "A Mine, a Mistress, and a Murder" by Sam Younger is now available for viewing on

YouTube: <https://youtu.be/iBDWQTgZ5Bc>

Did you know that the Abbe Museum in Bar Harbor was started by collections of artifacts found at sites here on Frenchman's Bay? Specifically, the first few collections were gathered from Sorrento and West Gouldsboro. Subsequent field research in the area yielded evidence of nearly continuous occupation of the area by Wabanaki peoples over the last 5,000 years. While the oldest sites in the Moorehead Tradition/Archaic have eroded into the sea (sea levels were lower then), many remain and contain layers representing millennia of life and activity here. Excavations on Butler's Point and Egypt Bay have yielded over 4,000 artifacts. Prominent sites in Sorrento have also yielded thousands of pieces of prehistory, as well as at Sullivan Falls. Perhaps the most significant site in the area is in East Sullivan, known as the Watson Site. This site was studied in depth in the 1970s by Jeffrey Smith with Sumner High School students, revealing over 1,000 artifacts which he donated to Abbe Museum in 1985. A field school revisited the site in 1987, unearthing some 4,000 pieces spanning thousands of years. The presence of exotic lithic materials found, including stone materials originating from as far as Pennsylvania, the Great Lakes, and north to Nova Scotia and Labrador indicate that this site was extremely prominent for the Indigenous peoples in the region. Animal bones that were preserved by shell heaps also indicated year-round presence. Shell middens are common in the area, with one 1939 survey denoting some 23 such structures around Sorrento and East Sullivan alone. The shell middens are evidence of a more recent population from the Middle and Late Ceramic Periods (c.1100 - 1700AD). During this time, the Wabanaki Peoples of Maine consumed shellfish as needed. Interestingly, prior to that, the Native peoples here did not eat shellfish despite its abundant presence. One great benefit of these shell middens is that the calcium of the shells worked to preserve faunal remains of animals from not only the Ceramic periods, but from earlier periods where sites were layered on top of each other. This has provided insight not only to the diet of the Wabanaki ancestors, but to the presence of animals that have long been gone from the area, such as caribou, wolves, bearded seals, walrus, swordfish, and many more. In fact, as a result of findings at the Watson site, Sullivan is known as the westernmost occurrence of caribou in an archaeological assemblage from the Maine coast.

It is our hope to shine a spotlight on, revive local interest in, and raise awareness of this vast part of our history on the Wabanaki lands on which we now live.

**Tobey S. Connor**  
Communications Coordinator  
Sullivan-Sorrento Historical Society  
Sullivan, ME  
[tobey.connor@maine.edu](mailto:tobey.connor@maine.edu)  
207.266.4448  
<http://sullivan-sorrentohistory.org/>



### The Mystery of the Sorrento Community Church

Recently the topic of discussion, the mystery of the Sorrento Community Church originations is not a new one. For nearly a century, the church's ownership has only been known as belonging to the community, and no deeds have been found to indicate any official title. In the past, there was an effort by the Methodist circuit to obtain ownership of the church, but this was unsuccessful as no deeds or records could be found. And so, it has remained under the care of generous volunteers and community members.

What is known is that before Sorrento came into being, the church was known as the Sullivan Point Union Meeting House, and had been in existence since at least 1859, when a record indicating Lyman M. Bragdon et al as the Building Committee deeded a pew to John White and Jonathan White in November of that year. There are some references to it as the Union Church of that area during that time. Years later, W.H. Lawrence began developing the area and purchased the original pews from the church in 1895, as it had fallen out of use.

In the 1930s, the community raised funds to bring the church back into use, and it was renovated in 1935. Through 1946 at least, it hosted a regular congregation numbering anywhere from 15 to 55 people, and had an active Sunday school. Upkeep and maintenance was done entirely by the community. Membership waxed and waned, and it was used by the United Methodist Church in the 1960s and 1970s. The Hale family had long been involved, with Lillian Hale spearheading the revival effort in the 1930s and later, Clifford Hale painting the mural under the cross.

SSHS will be conducting a survey among community members for feedback on how we can improve going forward. Keep your eye out for our survey in your mailboxes and online! We value your input and those who respond will be put in a drawing for a \$50 Visa gift card!

**Tobey S. Connor**  
Communications Coordinator  
Sullivan-Sorrento Historical Society  
Sullivan, ME  
[tobey.connor@maine.edu](mailto:tobey.connor@maine.edu)  
207.266.4448  
<http://sullivan-sorrentohistory.org/>



## FRENCHMAN BAY LIBRARY NEWS

APRIL 2023

Summer Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 1-6; Sat 10-3

Winter Hours: Effective Oct 3 – May 2  
Tuesday & Thursday 1-5; Sat 10-2

Covid Risk for Hancock County is Medium. If you are at high risk of getting very sick please wear a mask when indoors in public. Flu, stomach bug and colds and other respiratory illnesses are at a moderate level in Hancock County. Keep your distance from anyone showing signs of illness and wear a mask indoors.

New Books we are ordering this month:



- Demon Copperhead by Barbara Kingsolver (Fiction)
- Fairy Tale by Stephen King (Fiction)
- Dead Lions by Mick Herron (Fiction)

Mt. View School participated in the “Maine Children’s Choice Picture Book Award” – “The Chickadee Award”. 10 selected books are read to them and they get to vote on their book choice for the “Chickadee Award”. Librarian Christina McGowan



went to the school every Wednesday afternoon and read to the children. Their choice is: “Clovis Keeps His Cool”

We are also participating in the Hancock County Food Drive Read-a-Thon Challenge. See the Librarian for more details.

We are still accepting donations to our Food Pantry. The Food Pantry is located down by the Thrift Shop. Hours are Tuesday & Thursday 1-5 and Saturday 10-2. Food donations may be dropped off at Dunbar Store, the town office and the library or Thrift Store.

Facebook: Frenchman Bay  
Phone: 207 422-2307  
[fbaylibrary2017@gmail.com](mailto:fbaylibrary2017@gmail.com)

## FRENCHMAN BAY LIBRARY NEWS

MAY 2023

Summer Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 1-6; Sat 10-3

Winter Hours: Effective Oct 3 – May 2  
Tuesday & Thursday 1-5; Sat 10-2

Librarians will no longer be required to wear masks at the library unless they are exhibiting respiratory symptoms or at the request of a patron. Air purifier will no longer be in operation. Air conditioning will be installed as weather dictates. Hand sanitizer will be available. Please wear masks according to your comfort level. Stay safe.

New books we are ordering this month:



- Beaverland by Leila Phillips (NF)
- Women Talking by Miriam Towe (Fiction)
- Mainers on the Titanic by Mac Smith (NF)

Frenchman Bay Library has received a grant to purchase books on Native American culture and history of Maine. We have 30 fiction and non-fiction books for adults and children about the Native American people as well as books written by Native American authors.



Please come check out our new historically accurate additions to our collection.

We are also participating in the Hancock County Food Drive Read-a-thon Challenge. See the Librarian for more details.

We are still accepting food donations to our Food Pantry.

Facebook: Frenchman Bay  
Phone 207-422-2307  
[fbaylibrary2017@gmail.com](mailto:fbaylibrary2017@gmail.com)

### Brown Tail Moth Alert

The Brown Tail Moth (BTM) is an invasive species found only on the coast of Maine and Cape Cod. This moth is an insect of both forest and human health concerns.

The BTM caterpillar has tiny poisonous hairs that cause dermatitis similar to poison ivy on sensitive individuals. People may develop dermatitis from the direct contact with the caterpillar or indirectly from contact with airborne hairs. The hairs become airborne from either being dislodged from the living or dead caterpillar or they come from cast skins with the caterpillar molts. Most people affected by the hairs develop a localized rash that will last for a few hours up to several days but on some sensitive individuals the rash can be severe and last for several weeks. The rash results from both a chemical to a toxin in the hairs and a physical irritation as the barbed hairs become embedded in the skin. Respiratory distress from inhaling the hairs can be serious. Caterpillars are active from April to late June. Hairs remain toxic throughout the summer but get washed into the soil and are less of a problem over time.

#### Brown Tail Checklist:

1. **Recognize** Brown Tail Moth winter webs on the branch tips of their favorite host trees (oak, elm, birch, poplar, cherry, fruit and ornamentals).
2. **Remove** the winter webs before the end of March while the rash-causing caterpillars are still inside and the trees are still dormant.
3. **Recruit** help from a licensed arborist or an FAA certified commercial remote pilot with a specialized vehicle to remove webs out of your reach. If web removal isn't possible due to the height or quantity of winter webs, recruit a licensed pesticide applicator who can treat trees in early spring to kill the caterpillars.
4. **Reach out** to your neighbors, co-workers or businesses if you recognize Brown Tail Moth winter webs so plans can be in place to remove the webs.
5. **Host** a web-clipping event to clip Brown Tail Moth winter webs in your community.
6. **Enjoy** spring in your backyard with fewer Brown Tail Moth caterpillars.



#### Still need help recognizing Brown Tail Moth winter webs?

- Stand with the sun to your back and check out Brown Tail Moth's favorite host trees (oak, elm, birch, poplar, cherry, fruit and ornamentals). Look at the tips of branches for palm-sized webs wrapped tightly in white silk. The silk will reflect the sun and differentiate these current webs from older webs or unfallen leaves (no silk reflection).
- If you find current webs, focus treatment on trees closest to your house and in high traffic areas such as your dooryard.

Knowing where Brown Tail Moth winter webs are on your property and which trees have the most webs can help inform your management decisions, whether you do it yourself or recruit professional assistance.

More information is available from

**KNOCK OUT  
BROWNTAIL**  
[maine.gov/dacf/knockoutbtm](http://maine.gov/dacf/knockoutbtm)

Michael Gurtler, Code Enforcement Officer  
207-460-5544

## **SORRENTO 2023 BULK WASTE DROP OFF**

**Saturday May 6 and**

**Saturday August 12**

**9 am to 3 pm**

**Salt/Sand building, Fuller Road**

Harris Disposal is not doing curbside pickup as in years past.

They will provide a drop off service at the Salt/Sand Shed on the Fuller Road.

They will provide trash trucks for demo and containers for metal & universal waste.

If you are not able to do drop off, they will provide a **basic** home pick up for a fee.

You will need to contact the Town Office prior to the date with your name and address.

You will be sent a bill for this charge.

### **NO Hazardous Material**

(motor or transmission oil, gasoline or diesel fuel, human waste,  
large quantities of paint or cleaning fluid, etc.)

### **NO Household Food Waste/Kitchen waste**

or any household garbage that would be part of the weekly collection contract.

Due to Maine D.E.P. laws that are in effect regarding Universal Waste,  
some of your items will need to have a **SORRENTO BULKY TRASH STICKER**  
that you purchase from the Town Office. Universal Waste is considered to be  
anything that contains mercury or lead, such as TVs and computer monitors.

The costs for these stickers are:

TVs under 30 inches, computer monitor/computer equipment \$15

TVs over 30 inches \$25

Propane cylinders: Up to 20 lb. cylinders \$10

Over 20 lb. cylinders \$20

Car Batteries \$5

Florescent Tube Lights \$1



## **EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE AND SORRENTO VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**

### **Previous Emergency Medical Service in Sorrento.**

In the past, when an individual in Sorrento had a medical emergency, 911 was called, the Sorrento fire department notified, and the fire department's Rescue Truck along with an EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) sent to stabilize the individual until the ambulance could come from Ellsworth to transport the patient to the hospital. The Rescue Truck carried oxygen, a defibrillator, stretcher, splints, and other emergency equipment. It was not licensed to transport the patient to the hospital.

When Northern Light Health took over the hospital in Ellsworth, they changed the schedule for EMT classes from evening to daytime. This was an advantage for hospital employees, who worked in the hospital and were being paid while they were attending classes. But it was almost impossible for firemen in Sorrento (who depended on these classes to maintain their EMT certification) to take time off, unpaid, from their daytime jobs to attend. There was also the possibility that complete 24 hour paid coverage of an ambulance driver would soon be required in order for Sorrento continue emergency medical service, and it was unlikely that the town could afford this additional expense. For these reasons, the fire department decided to discontinue the ambulance service. Sorrento's Rescue Truck was then sold to the Steuben Fire Department and the rescue equipment given to Schoodic Emergency Medical Services (a service separate from, but licensed through, the Gouldsboro Fire Department) with the understanding that this service would provide the emergency medical service that the Sorrento Volunteer Fire Department had previously provided

### **Current ambulance and rescue services.**

Ellsworth. The Northern Light Hospital ambulance service is mainly for Ellsworth residents.

Gouldsboro. Schoodic Emergency Medical Services (SEMS), located in Prospect Harbor, has a paid ambulance driver and EMT on call at all times with a paid paramedic or advanced life support technician included as needed. It provides complete emergency service, on-site stabilization of the patient and direct transportation to the hospital. Having paramedic and advanced life support is an additional advantage because these individuals can administer drugs and perform other tasks that an EMT is not trained to do. When SEMS, our current provider service, is contacted by 911, the ambulance and support personnel go directly to Sorrento, care for the patient and take him or her to the hospital in Ellsworth.

Sullivan. The Sullivan Fire department has an ambulance located at the firehouse opposite the Sorrento/Sullivan Recreation Center. It provides emergency medical service and backs up the Northern Light and Schoodic systems as needed. But except for two people paid by the town who are on a shift from 8PM to 4AM, the workers are all volunteers and their participation depends on their job and other responsibilities.

### **Forming a regional fire department as a way to combine services.**

It has been suggested that Sorrento merge with the Sullivan Fire Department because Sorrento has so few fires. But putting out fires is only a small part of a fire department's duties. The Sorrento Fire Department had 89 calls last year. They responded to a chimney fire, several

electrical fires, car accidents, alarm calls from fire detectors in various buildings, and cleared the roads of fallen trees after storms. And there was a big truck fire on the East Side Road last fall that was potentially dangerous to nearby housing if it had been allowed to spread.

Regional fire departments will probably be formed in the future throughout Maine. The fire department in Sorrento, in common with other fire departments in Maine, has the problem that the firemen are getting older and it is becoming more and more difficult to find younger people to replace them. One way to mitigate this personnel problem is to form regional fire departments. We already have “regional fire departments” in a certain sense, because many (perhaps most) firefighters belong to more than one fire department and when a fire department responds to an emergency, neighboring fire departments are usually called on to assist.

### **A future EMT in Sorrento itself .**

With our current emergency medical service, the EMT would arrive on the ambulance from Prospect Harbor, or possibly from a neighboring fire department. Having an EMT physically present in Sorrento would mean that instead of waiting for the ambulance, which is at least 20 minutes away, to arrive, supportive care could be given immediately. We will soon have an EMT physically present in Sorrento during weekday working hours, because a lieutenant in the Sorrento Fire Department who has a daytime job in Sorrento will obtain an EMT license in June. Getting an EMT license is not easy. Four hours a week for six months and a textbook of more than 600 pages. The EMTs study subjects such as airway support, lifting and moving, joint immobilization, bleeding and shock, and so on. When they complete this training and earn their license, they receive an EMT bag, which contains such things as a stethoscope, an oximeter, tourniquet, splinting material, some over-the-counter medicines - - in fact almost everything that the ambulance carries except for large items such as the stretcher and the defibrillator.

When 911 is called and we have an EMT physically present in Sorrento, the ambulance at Prospect Harbor is called and the EMT in Sorrento is notified through a signal on a hand-held portable radio she carries. At the same time that the ambulance is leaving, the Sorrento EMT will answer the call, gather up the EMT bag, jump in her car, and with the lights flashing, drive to the scene of the emergency. In addition to providing immediate treatment and stabilization, the EMT can keep the ambulance and hospital informed as to the patient’s vital signs and changes in condition, so they can give advice and properly prepare for the patient’s arrival. Currently the Sorrento EMT would be contacted as a member of the Gouldsboro Fire Department, of which she is also a member, instead of the Sorrento Fire Department, because the Sorrento Fire Department does not at this time have an EMT license. If the Sorrento Fire Department decided to obtain this license and had other members who were EMTs, it could provide this fast coverage of emergencies almost full time.

Diana Gazis

## **Fire Department Gasoline Expenses**

### **Gasoline expenditures.**

**Question.** Members of the fire department have WEX fuel cards, which are used to purchase gasoline and diesel fuel and have the details (driver ID, odometer reading, gallons purchased) recorded at the WEX bank and the expense deducted from the fire department account there. At the town office, charges for gasoline are recorded as being for the fire department's rescue boat. Upon looking over these gasoline expenses, the town clerk noticed that gasoline was being charged to the rescue boat during the winter, when the boat was not used. She asked the selectpersons to find out why this was happening and whether any of the expenses were inappropriate.

**Answer.** The gas charged to the boat was actually being used for a variety of other purposes, such as generators, a vent fan, trash pumps, and the pump that pumps the water through the hose onto the fire. The tanks for each individual use are not big, but about 60 gallons of gas are required to fill these tanks.

Other fire departments have specific arrangements to reimburse members of their departments for gas used for their car when driven on fire department business, but our department has no such arrangement. Some of the gas purchases charged to the rescue boat were probably for this use. But whether or not some of the charges were for gas town business or for unacceptable personal use could not be determined from the records,

**Solutions.** In the three instances in which a member's gas card and ID had been taken and used by an unknown person, this information was reported to local law enforcement for further action.

To address the difficulty of separating personal from fire department use of gasoline for driving, all usage of the fuel cards for personal vehicles was stopped, and individual mileage records were used for calculation of reimbursements for fire department driving.

The way in which gas usage was recorded was then changed so that the sepecific usage would be completely clear. The old gasoline cards were taken back and new gasoline cards and ID operator numbers were issued. When gaoline is purchased, the name of the driver and the reason for the purchase are recorded on the credit slip., and the credit slips are deposited in a locked box in the firehouse on the same day.

Diana Gazis

## **Plowing the Road to Treasure Island**

The initial section of the road to Treasure Island belongs to the Town of Sorrento, and the subsequent longer section belongs to the Treasure Island Association. Our snowplow has no place to turn around at the end of our portion of the road. Therefore, the driver has plowed to the end of the Treasure Island portion where there is a space to turn the plow in order avoid the need to back-up for two tenths of a mile in order to get out. The town has finished its plowing in this way for many years and charged the Treasure Island Association for the sand and salt used for some of these years but not for the plowing.

However, at the end of 2022 it was brought up at a selectpersons meeting that we could not continue plowing the private portion.

So we then asked our driver if backing up a long stretch of narrow, hilly dirt road with a big vehicle and no rearview vision was something he would be willing to do, and he said yes. However this was not enough to solve the problem because just plowing and then backing up would leave the large pile of snow in front of the plow in the middle of the road and block the plow from Treasure Island.

But then our road commissioner remembered that just before the Treasure Island portion of the road, there was a small widening at the side of the road where an earlier version of the Treasure Island road forked off from the present road. This widening was too small to be used as a turnaround, but was wide enough that the snow in front of the plow could be deposited there.

So the problem was solved.

Diana Gazis



# Heating Assistance Programs



## Heating Energy Assistance Program

### Eligibility 2023 Income Guidelines

Household Size	Monthly Income	Annual Income*
1	\$2,572	\$30,860
2	\$3,363	\$40,356
3	\$4,154	\$49,852
4	\$4,946	\$59,348
5	\$5,737	\$68,843

\*Annual income is only used to determine eligibility for self-employed applicants. Eligibility for all others is based on monthly income.

- ### Required Documents
- Social Security verification
  - Proof of income
  - Utility bill
  - Photo ID

**Medical expenses from the previous 12 months may be deducted from household income.**

## Application Process

- The application process is completed during a phone appointment.
- Application processing time varies from 2 to 8 weeks depending on how quickly required documents are received.
- Benefit amount varies based on household size, income, and other factors. Typically, benefits are paid to the applicant's fuel vendor and applied as a credit to the applicant's account.

**For more information or an appointment, call 207-610-5914**

## The Heating and Warmth (THAW) Fund

The THAW fund provides emergency heating assistance to residents of Hancock and Washington counties based solely on need.

There are no income limits for receiving THAW fund assistance.

Generally, receipt of THAW assistance is limited to one time per household per year.

The THAW fund is entirely donor-supported, so receiving assistance depends on the availability of funds.

**For more information or to apply for THAW assistance, call 207-610-5914**



## Winter Energy Relief Program

The Winter Energy Relief Program provides emergency heating assistance to eligible households as a one-time \$800 credit on the applicant's fuel vendor account.

The Winter Energy Relief Program is available to both homeowners and renters

### Eligibility

- Must reside in Hancock or Washington counties
- Household must not already receive or be eligible for HEAP
- Household must meet program income guidelines
- Fuel tank must be below 1/4 full or have less than 2 weeks of fuel left

### Income Guidelines

Household Size	2022 Income*
1	\$40,770
2	\$54,930
3	\$69,090
4	\$83,250
5	\$97,410

**For more information or to apply, call 207-610-5914**