

COMMITTEE DATES and TIMES

- **Selectmen's Meetings:** 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month, at 6:00 PM at the Bradford Community Center. Holidays dates subject to change check the website, Bradfordmaine.org
- **The Planning Board–** TBA at 6:00PM at the Bradford Community Center.
- ** Recreation Committee** meets the 3rd Monday of the month at 7 p.m.
- **Bradford Days Committee** will be meeting on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 6:30 PM at the Bradford Community Center.
- **Bradford Heritage: Museum & Historical Society-** Hours, Thurs 3 - 5pm, Sat 10 -Noon.
By appointment: Peggy Nevells 327-1532
- **Bradford Snow Blazers Snowmobile Club** meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7PM at the Bradford Community Center, September through April.
- **MSAD 64 School Board meetings** are usually the 4th Monday of each month at 7PM at the CHS cafeteria. Subject to change
- **Penobscot Ridge Riders ATV Club** meets the first Tuesday of the month at the office of RJ Heating at 7:00PM.

Town Office Hours

Tuesday & Thursday 8 am – 5 pm

Wednesday 8 am – 6 pm

CLOSED Monday and Friday

Library Hours

Wednesday

5:00-7:00 PM

Saturday – 10:00 AM-3:00 PM

Library Phone – 217-9826

Librarian Phone – 327-2111

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TOWN OF BRADFORD

OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2022

Newsletter

NEWS FROM THE TOWN OFFICE

2ND Reminder for Cemetery Clean Up Please clean off your cemetery lots if have not done so, fall cleanup has started. If you want anything to remain on the lot please call us A.S.A.P. at 327-2121 and let us know otherwise it will be disposed of.

Dog Registration: Attention dog owners you can now come in and register your dog for the year 2023. If you do not come in and register your dog by January 31st you will be subject to a \$25 late fee and possible a summons by the Animal Control Officer.

Election Day November 8th: Polls will be open 8 am to 8 pm. There are two ballots, the State ballot for General Election which includes the vote for Governor, Representative to the Legislation, Representative to Congress along with several local positions. The Municipal Referendum ballot is for the vote on accepting the funding for a new fire station. This funding would come from a Congressionally Directed Spending Grant in the amount of \$1,387,000.00 and borrowing up to \$500,000 to meet the matching funds requirement of the grant.

Thanksgiving Baskets: It's hard to believe but Thanks-giving is just around the corner. Hopefully each and every one of us can find within ourselves and family many thankful things to be grateful for. Unfortunately, there are those who have had to struggle so much more than most of us. If you know of a family who is struggling, or an elderly shut-in please contact the Town Office by November 4th so we can have a basket made up for them.

Bradford Little Angles:

It is hard to believe but Christmas will be upon us quicker then we realize. It is a time of the year when we need to be thinking about others and not ourselves, especially the young children in our community. Bradford's Little Angles will once again be looking for donations of monetary value for our Christmas children. Starting the second week of November, you can call the office at 327-2121 with your child's Christmas wish. Please remember it is for children 12 and younger. Requests will be taken until December 13th. Pick up dates are December 20th to the 22nd by noon time.

Penobscot Ridge Riders ATV Club

All ATV trails closed on October 21st this year which includes Reeves Road, Middles Road, Station Road, Tasker Road and Marshall Road. We want to thank all the landowners and the Town of Bradford for allowing us the use of their properties and the town roads. A big thank you! Remember if it wasn't for the landowners and the Town of Bradford you wouldn't have a trail system. This has been a great year. Thank you from your President

The Vote to Build a New Fire Station at 25% of the Cost to the Town

By Future Fire Station Committee

The Town submitted a grant request for federal funding through Senator Collin's office earlier this year. If the grant is approved by the full House and Senate and signed by the President, it will **fund 75% of the cost of a new fire station** in Bradford. The request was approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee at the federal level and could provide up to \$1,387,000.00 toward the construction of a new fire station. The Town will need to provide funds for 25% of the project cost, which may be raised through a loan not to exceed \$500,000. On November 8, 2022, voters will be asked to accept the grant, (which may still be pending approval at the federal level) and allow the Town to finance up to \$500,000 to meet its share of the project's cost.

Assuming funding is approved, the new fire station will be located off of Waters Lane and East Road, across from the Community Center and will provide volunteer firefighters with badly needed operational and safety improvements. The new building will provide adequate space for the trucks, sufficient restrooms, shower facilities and a means to clean firefighting gear. The proposed location is about ½ mile from the current fire station location. Town residents are encouraged to speak with their homeowners' insurance carrier to determine what, if any, impact there may be on their homeowner's insurance premiums with the new location of the fire department.

Why a New Fire Station is Needed: The current fire station building is 175 years old. The Town's insurance provider, Maine Municipal Association (MMA), conducted a risk management assessment of the building in December 2021, and cited numerous hazards and structural concerns. MMA instructed the town to contract a Professional Engineer to evaluate the building's structural integrity and develop recommendations for correction. The Select Board contracted Plymouth Engineering to assess the building and hired a contractor to implement the engineering firm's recommendations to address structural deficiencies on the first floor. However, according to Plymouth Engineering's report, "no meetings and training can be held on the second floor," until significant structural work is completed. The Engineering firm's report stated the following regarding its recommendations: "In Plymouth Engineering's opinion, these are only a temporary solution to the structure and major changes will be needed for the required longevity of the building and to meet OSHA requirements."

The Impact on Property Taxes: According to information provided by the Town Manager/Town Treasurer Statement at the Public Hearing held October 17, the Board may consider financing only \$300,000 for a five-year term. Depending on the interest rate, the annualized payment is projected to be between \$69,177 and \$70,137 in 2024 which will be offset by the retirement of a current town loan. In other words, the retirement of a former loan will mitigate the impact of the \$300,000 loan for the fire station. However, this plan hasn't been considered and authorized yet by the Select Board.

Ames Engineering Representative, Brian Ames, attended the October 17, public hearing to share the latest floor plan and address anticipated electricity and heating costs using a sophisticated computer modeling program. He stated that annual heating costs would be up to \$2000 less than that of the current fire station with the use of propane versus oil. He also stated that anticipated electricity costs will be significantly higher due to high wattage lighting in the high bay garages, exhaust fans, etc. Brian mentioned there was opportunity to mitigate utility costs as the project's design progresses through the use of solar panels, heat pumps and technologies that monitor and regulate electricity consumption.

Thus, the debt we currently have is \$491,499.20 and the total yearly payments being made is \$144,667.32. The budget allowance for the fire station in 2022 was \$63,225 and \$50,000 for Air bottles in Capital Improvements.

This is a big decision for the town, and we encourage all residents to vote on November 8th after doing your own research. If you missed the recent public Fire Station meeting and would like a copy of the Treasurer's Statement, you can get a copy at the town hall or via email to townmanager@bradford.com. Remember, a yes vote on taking out a building loan is contingent on us receiving the CDS funds of \$1,387,000.

News From Bradford Snow Blazers Club



If you own a snowmobile and do not currently belong to the Bradford Snow Blazers Club, please consider joining the Club. Contact the Town Office or join us at one of our monthly meetings for membership information.

Please note that our November meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 15 at 7:00 pm. The December meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 13, 2022 at 7:00 pm. Meetings are held at the Bradford Community Center/Town Office.

Thank you to old members for renewing your membership and a warm welcome to our newest members.

And as always, a huge thank you to our landowners.

Ride Safe and to the Right.

News From Your Library

Just a few new things since our last news report that we want to pass on to you. Due to high energy costs, the Library will be closing Mondays starting November 7 and going through March. We are sorry for the inconvenience, but you are still able to come and use the facilities on Wednesday evenings 5:00-7:00 and Saturdays 10:00-3:00. What better time to sit back and relax with a good book than when it is cold and snowy outside? Lots of new books and some great classics as well as new DVDs, so stock up and enjoy. Books and DVDs go out for 3 weeks.

One of the biggest issues with libraries worldwide, is the loss of books because people do not return them. If you have library books that are seriously past due, we ask that you PLEASE return them. We won't even charge you a late fee. We just want them back. THANKS!

Hope to see you soon.

News from the Select Board

To the Citizens of Bradford,

In the upcoming election the residents of Bradford will be voting on a Warrant in reference to the building of a new fire station that states the following:

“To see if the town will authorize the Selectmen to accept a Federally Directed Spending Grant from the Federal Government in the amount of \$1,387,000 and borrow up to \$500,000 to meet the matching funds requirement of the grant to build a new municipal fire station in Bradford, ME. The town’s receipt of the grant is contingent on approval of the Fiscal Year 2023 Appropriation Bill by the United States Senate, the House of Representatives and the Town’s ability to meet the matching fund’s requirement.”

CDS requests, also known as “Earmark funding,” are intended to produce investments in the state that promote job creation and economic development, improve infrastructure, enhance the well-being of Mainers, and protect our environment.

Bradford submitted its request for funding to build a new fire station to Senator Collins’ office in late March 2022. Fortunately, Senator Collin’s approved the request, and it was forwarded to the Senate Appropriations Committee for consideration. Bradford’s request for funding was approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee for \$1,387,000 which represented 75% of the total project cost. The town must provide matching funds amounting to 25% of the total cost, or roughly **\$500,000**.

Final approval of the CDS request requires a vote by the full House and Senate and the President’s signature. It is a part of the federal budget process. We don’t know at this point when the federal budget for FY 23 will be finalized.

To assist you in making your decision, we thought it would be helpful to give you the current financial run-down of Bradford’s debt, as well as the most up to date budget numbers for the fire department spending which is as follows:

Gravel Loan of 100,000 at an interest rate of 2.39% which currently has a balance of \$53,090.74 and is scheduled to be paid off 11/15/2026 with a yearly payment of \$11,657.93.

Paving Loan of \$500,000 at an interest rate of 2.69% which currently has a balance of \$153, 658.41 and is scheduled to be paid off 8/30/2024 with a yearly payment of \$78,825.82.

Community Building Loan with a balance of \$135,005.27 at an interest rate of 4.375% that is scheduled to be paid off 4/24/2035 with a yearly payment of \$13,845.

Paving Loan of \$250,000 at an interest rate of 2.49% which currently has a balance of \$149,744.78 and is scheduled to be paid off 8/01/2026 with a yearly payment of \$40,338.57.

Considerations for the Future Fire Station: The Town of Bradford chartered a Future Fire Station Committee in March 2019 to develop options and recommendations for an updated fire station. The committee considered remodeling and modernizing the current fire station building; contracting for services from surrounding communities; and building a new fire station on town-owned property near the Bradford Town Office and Community Center. The committee recommended a new fire station as the best option because the costs were more predictable. The costs associated with contracting-out fire department coverage to other towns would have left some residents and businesses without adequate coverage; would have negatively impacted insurance coverage for homeowners; and the costs charged by other towns wasn't predictable long term. Similarly, the costs of trying to restore the 175-year-old building currently housing the fire station to make it structurally sound and OSHA compliant *wasn't* predictable without additional funding to evaluate the feasibility and anticipated cost of a restoration. That, coupled with costs to relocate the recreational facility (adjacent ballpark) which had been acquired through a grant, made restoration of the current site less practical. Moving the ballpark to create a new, equivalent recreational facility was estimated to start at \$46,000 for appraisal and engineering services, assuming land didn't need to be purchased to host the new recreational site.

2020 Survey and 2021 Vote: The Bradford community's support for the fire department was illustrated in its response to a survey conducted during the 2020 election. There were 696 residents voting in the 2020 election and 382 of those participated in the survey. Survey results demonstrated that about 75% of respondents supported both fire protection and first responder services. Almost 70% had concerns regarding the timeliness of services should surrounding communities be the primary source of assistance. The tolerance for a property tax increase to finance construction costs reflected that slightly over 66% would accept a 3% increase in property taxes. Although almost 52% would like to see the structural deficiencies of the current building corrected and a high bay garage added, only 47% of that total were willing to support that plan unless the cost would be less than a new building.

Last November, Bradford voters considered a USDA Rural development loan to finance a new fire station. Unfortunately, the anticipated construction costs of the project ballooned in 2021 and the impact on tax payers was expected to produce a 5% property tax increase rather than the 3% anticipated previously. Given the economic news just prior to the November election, it was not surprising the vote to finance and build a new fire station failed. The surprise, however, was the margin of failure -- only 49 votes out of the 429 votes cast.

Benefit to Town Residents: A modernized fire station in town will ensure that Bradford residents and taxpayers continue to have access to affordable homeowners' insurance. The opportunity to finance 75% of the project through a grant makes the effort much more affordable for town taxpayers.

A new fire station will solidify a commitment to provide emergency services to Bradford residents for years to come. And, it should enhance the town's ability to attract new residents, and businesses, and most importantly, additional fire and EMS person

The Bradford Municipal Volunteer Fire Department is an important part of the community for both residents and businesses in town.

More News from the Office

2020 Foreclosures:

If you have not paid your 2020 taxes yet and there are approximately 17 accounts that are not paid in full. These taxes must be paid by **January 9, 2023** to avoid fore closure. By waiting 18 months to pay your tax bill, you have added approximately \$140.00 in interest cost and \$90 in filing cost on a \$1000 tax bill. When you come in to pay your tax bill, the Tax Collector will be happy to sit down with you to make a plan to get your 2021 and 2022 taxes paid off with hopefully accruing less interest and lien cost. Remember you can pay your taxes weekly, bi-weekly or monthly.

Nomination Papers are available starting- January 17, 2023

If you would like to run for Selectman or School Board Director, please come to the office starting January 17th to pick -up nomination papers. The nomination papers will need to be returned, with a minimum of 25 signatures to a maximum of 100, by **February 28, 2023**. There are two open seats for the three-year Selectmen's term and one position for the School Board Director's three-year term. The annual Town Meeting will be held on April 28th and 29th of 2023.

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Fore Closure Property for Sale: The Town of Bradford has 1 parcel of tax acquired property available for bid. The Selectmen are accepting bids on a fore closed property located on LaGrange Rd. **Minimum bid is \$3,500. Bids are due by November 28th 4:00pm.** The bid can be mailed, brought into the Town Office or dropped into the locked box. The bid should be marked on the outside of the envelope as **"Sealed Bid on LaGrange Property"**.

**The property is described on Town Tax Map as
Map 11 / Lot 52-A, .5 acre with well, septic and power.**

A complete bid package with all the information available can be picked up at the Town Office during regular business hours.

Bradford Heritage: Museum and Historical Society

Bradford Heritage will be holding its annual Turkey Dinner on Saturday, November 5, 2022 @ 5:00 PM at the Bradford Community Center.

We will be serving our delicious Turkey Dinner (turkey, potatoes, stuffing, squash, cranberry sauce, rolls, pies ...) There will also be a door prize. We will have our booklets, cookbooks and the Bradford Heritage Scrapbook for sale. These dinners are so much fun.

This year we will be reading short works by Bradford citizens. Please come out, enjoy good food and company, support your local historical society and have a great evening!!! The cost for dinner is \$12 for adults and \$6 for children (12 and under). We hope to see you there.

NEWS FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

It's that time of year once again, when many home owners start using their wood stoves to rid that chill of fall air that falls on us as the sun starts setting earlier and earlier. Please, make sure your chimney is clean and you check on it regularly throughout the heating season.

This is also, the time of year to make sure you have working smoke detectors and they are functioning properly. If you're in need of smoke alarms please reach out to us, so we can get them to you!

We are always looking for volunteers, if you're interested, please stop in any Tuesday night! Our meetings start at 7pm we would love to meet you and chat.

On October 31st we are having an open house, bring the kids by for some trick or treating and a tour of the old fire station and check out the trucks.

If you were unable to attend the public hearing on October 17th stop on by the Station and we would enjoy discussing the upcoming warrant article accepting a grant that will fund 75% of the cost for the new fire station (1.387million). This means the Town would only have to fund 25% of the cost (\$500,000)

DONT FORGET TO COME OUT AND VOTE NOVEMBER 8TH. Help us help you! Come show your support for the fire department.

Thank you,
Chief Jesse Young

Bradford Recreation Events

October 23, 2022: Nerf Battle Royale

Pending good weather, we are planning one last outdoor nerf battle before colder weather sets in. October 23rd at 3 PM on the front lawn of the Community Center. Guns, bullets, and safety goggles are provided. We ask for a \$1 donation per child to help cover the costs of purchasing more bullets for future events. Updates on this event will be announced via our Facebook page.

October 31, 2022: Annual Trunk or Treat Event

Residents wishing to decorate their vehicle and pass out candy may begin setting up no earlier than 4:30 PM. The event will begin at 6 PM and end at 7:30 PM. If you would like to participate, please send an email to BradfordRecreation@gmail.com or send a message on our Facebook page. This helps us to know how many cars / tables will be setting up to pass out candy.

November 12, 2022: 2nd Annual Cornhole Tournament Fundraiser

Please help us in raising money for needy families in the community this Thanksgiving season. Minimum entry donation of \$15 per team to enter the tournament. Concessions will be available for sale and door prizes will be given away. Tournament is estimated to last between 11 AM – 5 PM. To sign up, donate, or participate in some other way please contact Marissa at 207-852-1574.

November 19, 2022: 4th Annual Holiday Art, Craft, & Vendor Fair

Saturday from 9 AM – 2 PM we will be hosting our annual holiday craft fair. The craft fair is currently SOLD OUT! There will be 25 booths of crafters to shop from this year so make sure you show your support and come out and say hello!

December 3, 2022: American Red Cross Blood Drive

Held at the Community Center from 9 AM – 2 PM. Please sign up online or call Courtney at 207-745-4028 to make an appointment.