

THE OGUNQUIT BREEZE

A MONTHLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER FOR THE COMMUNITY
FROM THE OGUNQUIT RESIDENTS ALLIANCE

Town News

Special Town Meeting (Election) November 7th

- Public Hearing on October 17th
- Absentee Ballots available October 6th* to November 2nd
*may be delayed
- **NOTE: Previously slated Warrant Articles #16-22 have been withdrawn by the Select Board**

Real Estate Property Tax

- The assessed value of real estate in the Town increased by almost 9 million dollars (.44%)
- **The tax rate has increased 2.22% from last year resulting in a mill rate of \$6.46**
- If you paid \$6,320/one million last year, you will pay \$6,460 per one million property as of October, 2023
- The breakdown of the 14 cent increase: 8 cents for schools, 5 cents for the Town and 1 cent for the county

New Town Staff Accountant Nicole Orchard

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Town Safety Staffing Shortages

- **2 firefighter/paramedics leaving due to higher wages in Wells**
- **1 police left, 1 newly hired**
- **4 reaching retirement**

DON'T FORGET October 15th

New Deadline for paying taxes

Voters Were Ignored

At their September 19th meeting, the Select Board disregarded the over 200 voter signatures on each of 3 Citizen Petitions submitted to them for consideration for the November ballot. (Listen at 25 minutes, 15 seconds)

Rather than discuss the merits of the subjects addressed in those petitions, a statement denying all of them as not meeting State criteria required for consideration was read by the Chair. No public input was elicited. No debate by Select Board members occurred nor a vote taken.

The Petitions addressed:

- Returning Budget Review Committee independent recommendations to the ballot
- Lifeguard reorganization
- Process around Select Board committee appointments



How do the residents expect to make their opinions known when the Select Board refuses to engage them in any discussion?

Not willing to recognize that a sizable number of voters deserved to have their ideas considered shows the lack of respect the Select Board has for them.

Special Edition: Guide to Town Warrant Articles

The majority of of the Warrant Articles on the November ballot involve using monies from the Undesignated Fund Balance (Rainy Day Fund) to establish or add to Reserve Accounts.

Town Charter

504.2 The Select Board shall have the authority to determine that a Capital Improvement Project is completed or abandoned, and to close-out the project and **transfer excess funds to the General Fund as an increase to Unassigned Fund Balance**. Such project close-out(s) and transfer(s) can occur as a group or by individual project, resulting in a net deposit to the Unassigned Fund Balance subject to a public hearing before taking such a vote.

How Money Transfer Works According to the Town Charter

Leftover monies in **Capital Improvement Project** Accounts

Select Board sends to Undesignated Fund Balance (Rainy Day Fund)

Voters Decide on the next use of funds

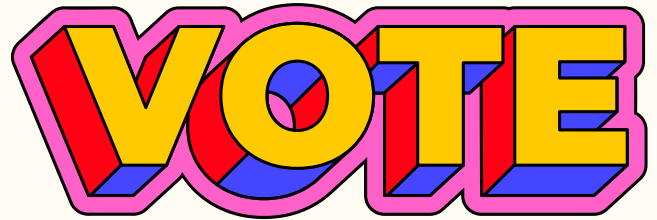
How Money Transfer Would Change

Leftover monies in **Capital Improvement Project** Accounts

Select Board puts on the ballot to send monies to **Reserve Accounts**

Town Manager and Treasurer recommend Use of Reserve Funds with Select Board approval. ***No Further Vote*** by Citizens is necessary to determine the next use of funds

Warrant Articles of Note on the November Town Ballot



Article 3: Vote for ONE candidate for Budget Review Committee, term ending June 2024

- Barbara Ferraro
- Christopher Nobile

[See Info on 8 State Referenda](#)

Articles #5-#15: Move Funds from Unassigned Fund Balance (Rainy Day Fund) to Reserve Accounts

Articles #5-#13

\$456K (transfer)

Article #14

\$185K (bonded)

Article #15

\$66.8K ("repurposed")

- How much do you want removed from the Rainy Day Fund on these 11 articles?
- While it may be advisable to wait on some purchases until after the parking revenue from the summer is known, why is such a large amount not on the annual June Town budget when none of these are emergencies?
- Why is buying more trucks a priority when we have "big ticket items" that need either further taxpayer funding or fund raising (Campus buildings, Perkins Cove Bridge and Harbor House, Perkins Cove Dredge, Agamenticus Park upgrades, Marginal Way damages that have never been completed, renegotiation of Police and Fire contracts)?
- Where have the Capital Improvement Projects (CIP's) gone? Funding of reserves lack transparency.

Article # 5 Transfer **\$80K** from the Rainy Day Fund to the Fire Truck/Equipment Reserve Account

Currently \$52,133 in account

Total request: **\$146K**

- \$16K Imagers cameras
- \$ 90K **Command Vehicle** and
- \$40K for its cab

Purpose: This is the first half of funds for a "**Command Vehicle**" for the Fire Chief.

The additional amount will be requested in June. That request will be a minimum of \$66K more.

Warrant Articles of Note continued

Article # 7 Transfer **\$225K** from the Rainy Day Fund to the Public Works Equipment Reserve Account

Currently \$13,150 in account

Total request: **\$362K**

- \$85K F350 truck
- \$10K trash barrels
- \$267K Mack truck and plow

Purpose: Part of funding for 2 trucks:

- an F350 (so every DPW employee has his own truck)
- a Mack truck and plow for Route 1 plowing
- new trash barrels

(Part of funding is in Article #14)

Article #14 Bond **\$185K** from the Rainy Day Fund for a new Capital Improvement Project

Cost of 30 year bond: \$220,805

The State has requested that the Ogunquit DPW plow Route 1. A \$267K truck is needed. Article #14 is a request for up to \$185K to be bonded over 10 years. To complete the purchase, \$92K will come from the Public Works Reserve. (See Article #7). The State is supposed to reimburse this purchase with a yearly amount.

If both articles pass and the requested purchases are made, there will be a balance of \$51K in the Public Works Reserve for the Town to spend in the future with only Select Board approval.

Article #8 Transfer **\$50K** from the Rainy Day Fund to the Police Equipment Reserve Account

Currently \$14,669 in account

Total request: \$96K

- \$ 53K cruiser
- \$ 23K cameras
- \$20K speed signs

Purpose: Purchase

- watchguard cameras
- speed signs
- part of a new police cruiser

There will be an additional request in June. This will most likely be \$50K more.

Article #15 In conflict with the Town Charter, “Repurpose” **\$66.8K** Main Beach Trolley Stop CIP to FEMA Main Beach Project Reserve

Budget Review Committee Vote: 3 Yes, 2 No

Remember, once monies are transferred to reserve accounts, you will no longer have a vote on how they are spent.

Faces and Places

Woodies in the Cove

The unique vintage car show and parade from Wells to Perkins Cove has now been held for 12 years. This most important annual fundraiser to support the [Historical Society of Wells and Ogunquit](#) was inspired by past President Sonny Perkins. The show brings together Woodies from the Model “A”s of the 1920’s to the Woodies of the 1950’s.

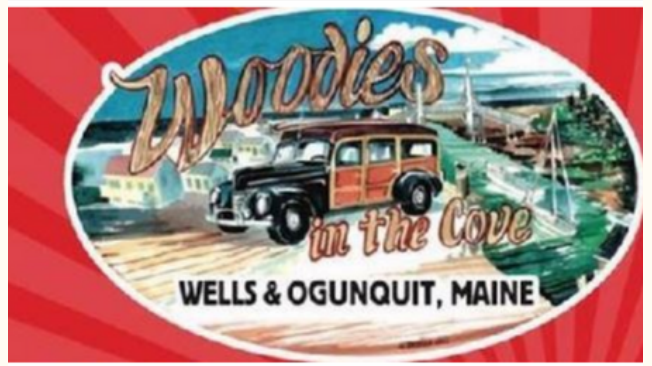
The show not only includes Woodies, but some unique and high-end cars participating by invitation. The event has been listed as one of the top things to see in 95 North Magazine. Interest in these unique vehicles has made this show one of the largest in New England and the East Coast.

The National Woodie Club promotes interest in Woodies and educates owners and the public on their history, beauty and usefulness. The Club also provides an association through which owners and enthusiasts may exchange information on history, building, restoration or modification techniques. Woodie enthusiasts from 18 clubs from California, the Midwest and the regional Yankee Charter in the Northeast are on view at each show.



2023 First Prize Winner, Ogunquit’s Jim Nickerson and his 1929 Chevrolet

Woodie wagons were first popular in affluent American communities and featured hand-crafted strips of birch and mahogany on both interior and exterior panels. Just into the 20th century, furniture makers began making “Woodies” as a sideline to their businesses. Autos were purchased without a body which featured applied wood and then built with solid wood. The vehicles were often set up like small buses, and were commonly used by resorts to transport guests to and from railroad depots. Originally, they were known as “depot hacks.” (In horse-drawn days, a “hack” was typically a wooden wagon).



Original watercolor by W. Parker Hall

Later models featured applied wood and wood-like elements. Woodies were never a profitable item for carmakers. By the 1950’s, manufacturers were pushing the “all steel” construction to the public. The wood was replaced with a “wood Grain” material made of steel, aluminum, vinyl, or even plastic.



1940 Chevrolet owned by Jack Snell

While the popularity of Woodies declined with the public, the surfing era of the 60’s in California began with the cash strapped surfers buying the cheaply priced cars which were perfect for lugging around their 10-12’ wooden boards. Surfers actually coined the word “Woodies.”



Nostalgia for the “Woodies” as a cultural item has gone mainstream. This continues to grow and remains one of the most iconic, summer fun, vintage surf cars to own. Watch for the Woodies in the Cove next August!

Natural Resources

Moving from Impervious to Pervious Surfaces (Part II)

Permeable surfaces generally replace traditional impervious pavement in local roadway, pedestrian walkway, sidewalk, driveway, parking lot and bike path applications. They are suitable for municipal stormwater management and private development applications as their purpose is to intercept, evaporate, detain, filter and infiltrate (recharge groundwater). They mimic natural hydrology, reduce pollutant concentrations, are good for volume storage when paired with subsurface storage systems, and have the co-benefits of faster snow melt, no black ice, and are cooler in the summer.

Although permeable surfaces cost more initially than traditional pavements, over time the savings in maintenance and stormwater management costs can make them more economical in the long term. The most prevalent maintenance concern over the life of permeable pavements is clogging, which can limit infiltration rates. This is lessened by performing periodic maintenance to remove sediments from the surface, not using sand for snow or ice treatment and, if necessary, drilling ½ inch holes through the surface to allow stormwater to drain to the below aggregate surface.

The life span of a conventional pavement parking lot in a cold climate is typically 15 years, whereas porous asphalt parking lots can have a life span of more than 30 years as a result of the reduced freeze-thaw stress. Permeable concrete with proper construction can last 20-40 years because of its ability to handle temperature impacts.

As Ogunquit looks to replace parking lot surfaces, add sidewalks, and upgrade road surfaces, considering the use of green infrastructure permeable surface alternatives should be a prime consideration. Additionally, developers, contractors and homeowners should be required to utilize permeable surfaces with all new building.



Similar to using a snow blower, you can adjust a plow to hover a ½ inch above the driveway surface to make sure you only remove snow, and not gravel.

Other Steps to Minimize Stormwater Pollution

Downspout disconnection is the process of disconnecting the downspout from a pipe or the paved area. Water is then redirected to flow into a rain barrel or to a lawn or garden where it can soak into the ground. Redirecting downspouts to a landscaped area is a great way to help reduce runoff from a property.” [See EPA](#)



Rainwater harvesting systems can be adapted to the architecture of the building and its surroundings.

Rain gardens (or bioswales) collect and absorb runoff, allowing for a natural filtration and evaporation process. They can be implemented both by Towns and private property owners.



[Stormwater planter boxes](#), whether connected to pipes or free standing, help to absorb and filter stormwater. They can be part of a building or yard design.

Particularly in Ogunquit where stormwater goes directly into the river estuary, efforts both by the Town and individuals can support water conservation.

Announcements and Local Events

October 9th



Ogunquit Performing Arts Committee Annual Piano Concerts

October 7th, 13th and 15th

Note change of venue: the Barn Gallery

[See More Info](#)



DOGTOBERFEST

Dogs in Costume
Beach Walk

Saturday October 21st

at 11 am

Awards & Prizes

at noon



Check out an exciting series this fall at
the York Library presented by the

[York Diversity Forum](#)

yorkdiversityforum@gmail.com

Talks by historians and artists, films on
poets and dance, covering issues of racial
equality, climate and criminal justice, and
Indigenous rights.

Volunteer with Land Trust on trails in Ogunquit



- October 11th Old Boston Farm
- October 18th
Payeur/Kirkpartrick

[Here's How To Register](#)



CONTRA DANCE at

[Hackmatack](#)

[Playhouse](#)

October 28th

Lessons and dancing!



The Breeze welcomes your
questions on Town issues. Your
confidentiality will be maintained.

Comments are moderated for
relevance and civility.



[Sign up at ogunquitbreeze@gmail.com](mailto:ogunquitbreeze@gmail.com)