

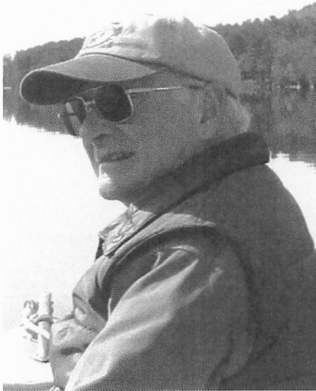
# **2023 ANNUAL REPORT**

## **TOWN OF SWEDEN, MAINE**

*Incorporated February 26, 1813*



## THE 2023 TOWN REPORT IS DEDICATED TO KEN FORDE AND SAM BLACK



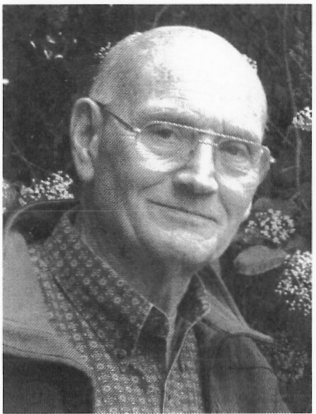
### Ken Forde

Ken was born and raised in MA, moving to Dover, NH when he married his wife Jane in 1964. They raised their two sons there, and Ken worked as a systems analyst for Davidson Textron for 27 years.

The family spent weekends at their camp on Stearns Pond in Sweden, and Ken began testing the water quality of the Pond for Lakes Environmental Association (LEA) in 1983. After Ken retired in 1993, he and Jane moved to Sweden full time. Joining the board of LEA in 1994, Ken served as Treasurer until 2009, and he and Jane became two of the organization's most faithful volunteers. His strong financial and organizational skills were evident as he was able to get people working together for the greater good. Ken served six

years on the Town of Sweden's Select Board, including five years as chairman, then spent several more years on the budget committee, the planning board, tax committee and the 2004 Comprehensive Planning Committee. He continued to work hard for the Town of Sweden even after he gave up his formal positions.

Ken died Nov. 11, 2011, of injuries sustained when a dead tree fell while he was stacking wood. Ken set the standard for what it means to serve your community. He didn't care about getting the credit, he cared about getting the job done well. In Ken's memory, his wife Jane is donating six new flags to the Sweden Fire Department.



### Sam Black

Born and raised in Illinois, Sam Black first came to Maine in the early 1960's at the urging of his wife, Sue, who had worked as a counselor at Camp Wyonegonic in the 1950s. After spending autumn vacations on Moose Pond in Denmark, in 1969 Sam and Sue bought the old Sawyer farmhouse on what is now Sam Ingalls Road. At the time, Sam was in the middle of a career serving as an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps, so he and Sue used the farmhouse as a second home, visiting whenever possible until Sam retired in 1980 and they moved to Sweden permanently.

As soon as he took up residence in town, Sam became involved in the community. While Sue worked in local schools and libraries, Sam was more low-key and "behind the scenes." He pursued his passion of restoring his old house, which is featured in *"Big House, Little House, Back House, Barn,"* as well as the Sweden Historical Society's *"Living, Learning, and Worshipping: Buildings of Sweden, Maine 1813-1913."* An engineer by training, he was especially fond of restoring the old stone walls surrounding the fields on his property, which can be seen when driving by the house.

Sam and Sue joined the Sweden Community Church, and Sam served on the Sweden Volunteer Fire Association for a number of years. His military training and attention to detail served him well on the Planning Board and while working to develop the town's first Comprehensive Plan, which has provided a solid foundation for subsequent updates. He has also maintained the Sawyer Cemetery on his property and has always been willing to help with various town projects over the years.

Sam has been deeply committed to making Sweden the best place it can be for those who live in and visit the town. His contributions continue to help the town move forward in thoughtful and sustainable ways.



**MUNICIPAL OFFICERS'**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**FOR THE**  
**TOWN OF**  
**SWEDEN, MAINE**  
**FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2023**

# TOWN OF SWEDEN ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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## 2023 Select Board Report

Greeting all,

In 2023, the Town made significant progress improving our roads and buildings, planning for future infrastructure investments, and expanding how we communicate with residents and taxpayers of Sweden. One of our greatest assets is our people, and we are especially grateful for town employees and volunteers who have worked tirelessly with federal and state agencies this past year to lessen the financial impact of recent weather related disasters.

**ROADS:** Roads were a big focus this past year, with nearly **2 miles** of Webber Pond Road being reclaimed and paved, including extensive ditching and culvert work to mitigate future damage. Our Undesignated Fund Balance (UFB, aka surplus fund) was tapped to pay for the emergency repair of the Haskell Hill Road bridge, which was completed in September 2023. Our EMA Director is working diligently to recover up to 80% of the repair cost from FEMA disaster relief funds, in addition to repair costs for other damaged roads. Repairs and mitigation fixes have been completed on many of these roads already. Several repair projects are scheduled for 2024, including fixing and repaving the most damaged sections of Hardscrabble Road, as well as restoring Trull Brook Road, in part using FEMA money.

**BUILDINGS:** Exterior improvements were made to the Town Meeting House, with the original antique shutters repaired, repainted and rehung. The side entry roof and door were repaired, and a generator installed. Looking forward, we plan to address interior updates, including modernizing the kitchen. Our Sweden Town Office had major upgrades, including a fresh exterior paint job and porch post repair, new cabinets and carpet in the back office, and mini splits installed to keep our employees and visitors comfortable year round.

**OUR PEOPLE:** With the Town Office fully staffed, our Tax Collector, Town Clerk, Treasurer, and Code Enforcement Officer were able to clear out a backlog of work. We celebrated Alberta Ridlon's many years of service to the Town at her retirement party in October. Alberta, Tommie McKenzie, and Julie McQueen were all recognized for their service and dedication to Sweden with 2023 Spirit of America Awards. Countless hours were logged in 2023 by Select Board Administrative Assistant Rose McKenzie, EMA Director Tommie McKenzie, and Road Commissioner Troy Morse, as they worked to provide the extensive documentation required for FEMA and MEMA emergency relief funds.

**IMPROVED COMMUNICATION:** We started the year by implementing a new emergency text messaging system, and encourage all to register your mobile phone number, landline number, or both. The system is

used to send out text and voicemail alerts about emergency conditions, general notices, and meeting reminders. Mailed reminders for both dog and vehicle registration started going out in 2023, and the Town website saw a major redesign, focused on providing more information on community resources, descriptions for boards and committees, and easier access to documents, minutes, and Town policies. In conjunction with ESRB (Eastern Slope Regional Broadband), the town is working to secure an agreement with a broadband provider that will bring true high speed connectivity to Sweden, with a completion date estimated sometime in 2025.

**FIRE STATION:** And rounding off the year, the Sweden Fire Station was at last put out to bid. Through the efforts of Tommie McKenzie and Susan Collins, the town is on target to be the recipient of a \$1,115,000 T-HUD appropriations grant for the fire station. As we await word of the Appropriations Bills passing into law, we are working to effectively leverage our UFB account money, budgeting so the Town is required to borrow less money to begin and complete the project.

In closing, we would like to thank all our board and committee volunteers for their contributions. If you are interested in being more involved and making an impact in our community, please consider volunteering to serve on a board or committee. Those interested can contact Select Board Administrative Assistant Rose McKenzie at [adminassistbos@swedenmaine.org](mailto:adminassistbos@swedenmaine.org).

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher Chadbourne



Daniel McQueen

Kerry Welton





## Town of Sweden Officials

### ELECTED:

	<u>Term Expires</u>	
Selectmen, Assessors and Overseers of the poor, 3 years		
Selectman, Chair	Chris Chadbourne	2025
Selectman	Dan McQueen	2024
Selectman	Kerry Welton	2026
S.A.D. # 72 Board Member, 3 years	Kathi Shorey	2025
S.A.D. # 72 Alternate, 3 years	Alisa Karwowski	2026

### APPOINTED:

Town Clerk, 1 year	Mary E. McLaughlin	2024
Deputy Town Clerk, 1 year	Linda Moynihan	2024
Tax Collector, 1 year	Linda Moynihan	2024
Treasurer, 1 year	Angela Thomas	2024
Deputy Treasurer, 1 year	Rose McKenzie	2024
Registrar of Voters, 2 years	Mary E. McLaughlin	2024
Deputy Registrar of Voters, 1 year	Rose McKenzie	2024
Deputy Registrar of Voters, 1 year	Linda Moynihan	2024
Administrative Assistant	Rose McKenzie	N/A
EMA Director, 1 year	Tommie McKenzie	2024
Fire Chief, 1 year	Tim Cook	2024
Road Commissioner, 1 year	Troy Morse	2024
Cemetery Sexton, 1 year	Open	2024
Animal Control Officer, 1 year	Cynthia Eaton	2024
Health Officer, 3 years	Kathi Shorey	2026
Constable, 1 year	William Graham	2024
Constable, 1 year	Open	2024
Code Enforcement Officer, 1 year	Peter Gordon	2024
Plumbing Inspector, 1 year	Peter Gordon	2024
Superintendent of Schools	Jay Robinson	N/A

## Town Officials

### Planning and Zoning Board

5 years

**ELECTED:**

	<u>Term Expires</u>
William Graham, Chair	2025
Melanie Ridlon Eldracher	2028
Gail deWildt	2027
Ian Biggers	2026
Laura Chadbourne	2024

**Alternates, 1 year**

Jane Gibbons	2024
Alisa Karwowski	2024

### Appeals Board

5 years

**ELECTED:**

	<u>Term Expires</u>
Lynn Hopkins	2027
George Conly	2025
Marilyn Smith	2024

**Alternates, 1 year**

OPEN

### Conservation Commission

5 years Appointed

**APPOINTED:**

	<u>Term Expires</u>
Miriam Gibely, Chair	2026
Cindy LeCroy	2025
Rebecca Buyers	2025
David Sears	2026

### Budget Committee

3 years Appointed

**APPOINTED:**

	<u>Term Expires</u>
Shannon Slayton, Chair	2024
Alberta Ridlon	2026
Julie McQueen	2025
George Conly	2025

**Representative to Maine Waste to Energy**

	<u>Term Expires</u>
OPEN	2024

**Road Advisory Committee**

**3 years Appointed**

George Conly, Chair	2026
Warren deWildt	2025
Kathleen Tynan	2025
Alan Sparn	2026
Tim Karwowski	2024

**Fire Station Building Committee**

**Appointed**

Frank Howell, Chair  
Julia McQueen

**Comprehensive Planning Committee**

**Appointed**

Bruce Taylor, Chair  
Abigail deWildt  
Julia McQueen  
Mary Sohl  
Nils Johnson

## **2024 TOWN OF SWEDEN E-MAIL ADDRESSES**

Listing of Elected, Appointed Officials and Committee Member e-mail addresses, please forward only  
Town business to the addresses listed below.

### **Selectmen:**

Christopher Chadbourne, Chair	<a href="mailto:chrischadbourn@swedenmaine.org">chrischadbourn@swedenmaine.org</a>
Daniel McQueen	<a href="mailto:danmcqueen@swedenmaine.org">danmcqueen@swedenmaine.org</a>
Kerry Welton	<a href="mailto:kerrywelton@swedenmaine.org">kerrywelton@swedenmaine.org</a>

<b><u>Administrative Assistant</u></b> , Rose McKenzie	<a href="mailto:adminassistbos@swedenmaine.org">adminassistbos@swedenmaine.org</a>
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<b><u>Town Clerk</u></b> , Mary Ellen McLaughlin	<a href="mailto:townclerk@swedenmaine.org">townclerk@swedenmaine.org</a>
--	--

<b><u>Tax Collector</u></b> , Linda Moynihan	<a href="mailto:taxcollector@swedenmaine.org">taxcollector@swedenmaine.org</a>
--	--

<b><u>Treasurer</u></b> , Angela Thomas	<a href="mailto:treasurer@swedenmaine.org">treasurer@swedenmaine.org</a>
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<b><u>Fire Chief</u></b> , Tim Cook	<a href="mailto:firechief@swedenmaine.org">firechief@swedenmaine.org</a>
-------------------------------------	--

<b><u>CEO</u></b> , Peter Gordon	<a href="mailto:codeenforcementofficer@swedenmaine.org">codeenforcementofficer@swedenmaine.org</a>
----------------------------------	--

<b><u>Road Commissioner</u></b> , Troy Morse	<a href="mailto:roadcommissioner@swedenmaine.org">roadcommissioner@swedenmaine.org</a>
--	--

<b><u>Animal Control Officer</u></b> , Cynthia Eaton	<a href="mailto:animalcontrolofficer@swedenmaine.org">animalcontrolofficer@swedenmaine.org</a>
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<b><u>EMA Director</u></b> , Tommie McKenzie	<a href="mailto:emadirector@swedenmaine.org">emadirector@swedenmaine.org</a>
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### **Budget Committee:**

Shannon Slayton, Chair	<a href="mailto:shannonslayton@swedenmaine.org">shannonslayton@swedenmaine.org</a>
Julia McQueen	<a href="mailto:JuliaMcQueen@swedenmaine.org">JuliaMcQueen@swedenmaine.org</a>
George Conly	<a href="mailto:georgeconly@swedenmaine.org">georgeconly@swedenmaine.org</a>
Alberta Ridlon	<a href="mailto:aridlon@swedenmaine.org">aridlon@swedenmaine.org</a>

### **Planning Board:**

William Graham, Chair	<a href="mailto:williamgraham@swedenmaine.org">williamgraham@swedenmaine.org</a>
Melanie Ridlon-Eldracher	<a href="mailto:melanieridloneldracher@swedenmaine.org">melanieridloneldracher@swedenmaine.org</a>
Laura Chadbourne	<a href="mailto:LauraChadbourn@swedenmaine.org">LauraChadbourn@swedenmaine.org</a>
Ian Biggers	<a href="mailto:ianbiggers@swedenmaine.org">ianbiggers@swedenmaine.org</a>
Gail deWildt	<a href="mailto:gaildewildt@swedenmaine.org">gaildewildt@swedenmaine.org</a>
Jane Gibbons, Alternate	<a href="mailto:janegibbons@swedenmaine.org">janegibbons@swedenmaine.org</a>
Alisa Karwowski, Alternate	<a href="mailto:alisakarwowski@swedenmaine.org">alisakarwowski@swedenmaine.org</a>

### **Appeals Board:**

Lynn Hopkins, Chair	<a href="mailto:lynnhopkins@swedenmaine.org">lynnhopkins@swedenmaine.org</a>
Marilyn Smith	<a href="mailto:marilynsmith@swedenmaine.org">marilynsmith@swedenmaine.org</a>
George Conly	<a href="mailto:georgeconly@swedenmaine.org">georgeconly@swedenmaine.org</a>



## **SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

<b><u>Enhanced – 911 Addressing Officer</u></b>	Tommie McKenzie	2024
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<b><u>General Assistance Coordinator</u></b>	Rose McKenzie	2024
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### **Election Clerks – 2024**

Linda Bradley	Melanie Eldracher
Miranda Purinton	Jane Forde
Louis Clark	Abigail deWildt
Ardelle Foss	Sara Miriam Gibely
Kathleen Lyman	Alberta Ridlon
Charlotte Riley	Jane Gibbons
William Graham	Evangeline Hopkins
Julia McQueen	Kathiann Shorey
Mary Sohl	

## **NOTICES**

**All non-scheduled meetings will be posted at the Town Office, on the Town Website or in the Bridgton News.**

### **Scheduled Meetings:**

**Selectmen – Second and Fourth Tuesday of each month, 6 p.m. at the Town Office**

**Planning Board – Third Tuesday of each month, 6:30 p.m. at the Town Office**

**Sweden Historical Society – Third Saturday of each month, time and place to be announced**

**SFD Training – Third Thursday of each month, 6:30 p.m. at The Town Meeting House and as scheduled.**

**SFD Association Meeting – Fourth Thursday of each month, 6:30 p.m. at The Town Meeting House**

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**Volunteers needed for Fire Department  
Call the Town Office at 647-3944**

**Your State Senator is: Richard A. Bennett  
District #18**

Home Mailing Address: 75 Bennett Lane  
Oxford, ME 04270

Email: [Richard.Bennett@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:Richard.Bennett@legislature.maine.gov)

Telephone: 207-287-1505

\*\*\*\*\*

**Your State Representative to the Legislature is:  
Sawin Millett  
District #71**

Home Mailing Address: 37 Golden Guernsey Drive,  
Waterford, ME 04088

Telephone: (207) 592-5398 Cell  
(207) 583-4842 Residence

E-Mail: [Sawin.Millett@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:Sawin.Millett@legislature.maine.gov)

Capital Address: House of Representatives  
2 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0002

Telephone: (207) 287-1400

Message Service: 1-800-423-6900

<http://www.maine.gov/legis/house>



STATE OF MAINE  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
1 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333-0001

Dear Maine Resident:

In January, I was privileged to take the Oath of Office to begin my second term as your Governor. I am deeply humbled by the trust the people of Maine have placed in me, and I look forward to continuing to work hard over the next four years to improve the lives and livelihoods of Maine people.

Over the past four years, we have made real progress. We have expanded health care, leading to the largest decline in the uninsured rate of any state in the nation. We fully funded the State's share of public education. We delivered two-years of free community college. We fully restored municipal revenue sharing to five percent. We delivered substantial tax relief, nation-leading inflation relief, and emergency energy relief to help Maine people through difficult times.

Through the Maine Jobs & Recovery Plan, we are strengthening and diversifying our economy. In 2022, our state's gross domestic product – a key measure of economic growth – grew at the 9th fastest rate in the United States. People are moving to Maine at a rate higher than any other New England state, and at one of the highest rates in the nation. We have enacted balanced budgets, and we have built up Maine's "Rainy Day" fund to a record high, preparing our state to continue meeting its commitments in the event of an economic downturn.

While I am proud of the progress we have made, there is more to do, like addressing the housing crisis, the workforce shortage, and the opioid epidemic and strengthening health care, education, and the economy. I know that by working together to tackle these issues head-on, we can improve the lives and livelihoods of Maine people and make Maine the best place to live, work, and raise a family.

Thank you again for the honor to serve you as Governor.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janet T. Mills".

Janet T. Mills  
Governor

SUSAN M. COLLINS  
MAINE

413 DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1804  
(202) 224-3623  
(202) 224-2693 (FAX)

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1904

COMMITTEES:  
APPROPRIATIONS  
Vice Chair  
HEALTH, EDUCATION,  
LABOR, AND PENSIONS  
SELECT COMMITTEE  
ON INTELLIGENCE

Dear Friends:

It is an honor to serve the people of Maine in the U.S. Senate, and I welcome this opportunity to share an update on issues important to Maine and America.

One of my priorities for 2023 has been to improve the appropriations process in Congress – the way it decides how to spend taxpayer money. I took over as the Vice Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee last year. Along with Chair Patty Murray, we decided the best change we could make was not to do something new. Instead, it was to do something old – that is, go back to the regular and transparent committee process that we used to have.

Part of restoring this process included holding 50 public Committee hearings, which allowed for input from senators on both sides of the aisle. As a result, for the first time in five years, the Senate Appropriations Committee passed all twelve of its funding bills on time. This was done with strong bipartisan support. In fact, seven of them passed unanimously.

Now, we need to work with the House of Representatives to pass these twelve bills and turn them into laws.

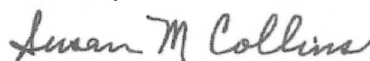
These bills contain funding for a wide range of Maine priorities, including support for the workforce at Bath Iron Works and Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, our lobster industry, infrastructure improvements, affordable housing, biomedical research, veterans, and heating assistance programs like LIHEAP. These bills also contain nearly \$590 million in Congressionally Directed Spending for 231 projects throughout the State of Maine. These projects would help promote job creation, expand access to health care, and improve public safety, infrastructure, and important resources in communities across all 16 counties of our state. I will continue to work to get these bills signed into law in the new year.

On October 25, the horrific mass shooting in Lewiston claimed the lives of 18 Mainers and injured 13 others. In response, I led Maine's Congressional Delegation in requesting an independent investigation by the U.S. Army Inspector General into the events leading up to the shooting. On December 15, the Under Secretary of the Army wrote to inform me that such an investigation will take place, and the Army Inspector General has instructed her team to immediately begin preparing to conduct this investigation. While nothing can undo the events of October 25, I will continue to work to understand what happened and what could have been done differently, and to find answers for the victims, survivors, and their families.

No one works harder than the people of Maine, and this year I honored that work ethic when I cast my 8,855th consecutive roll call vote.

As we look ahead to 2024, I remain committed to addressing the concerns of Maine families and communities. If you need assistance or wish to share your thoughts, please do not hesitate to reach out to one of my six state offices.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator



ANGUS S. KING, JR.  
MAINE

133 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
(202) 224-5344  
Website: <https://www.King.Senate.gov>

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES  
ARMED SERVICES  
CHAIRMAN, STRATEGIC FORCES  
SUBCOMMITTEE  
ENERGY AND  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
CHAIRMAN, NATIONAL PARKS  
SUBCOMMITTEE  
INTELLIGENCE  
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

January 1, 2024

Dear Friends,

Thank you for allowing me to add my congratulations and gratitude for the positive differences each town and city in Maine makes for its people and ultimately for Maine as a whole. When I travel around the state and visit the various regions in Maine, I see firsthand the differences you all make, the focus you put on excellence, and the helping hands you extend to neighbors. I have learned valuable lessons watching your collaborations with each other. They got the State motto right – *Dirigo* – because you all certainly do lead the way and exemplify the best of Maine.

First, it was a true honor to be appointed to the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee this year to help address the challenges facing Maine veterans. We owe our way of life to these brave men and women and share a collective responsibility as a grateful nation to give back to our veterans. That means delivering veterans the benefits they have earned, addressing the veterans' suicide crisis, improving transition-to-civilian-status programs, and ensuring every veteran can access essential services, like affordable housing and behavioral healthcare.

Next, one of the most significant infrastructure projects in Maine history is underway: affordable and universal broadband availability throughout the state. Supported through funding in the bipartisan infrastructure bill, we are now within striking distance of broadband service even in our most rural communities. Additionally, infrastructure improvements in our roads and bridges, water and septic upgrades for our towns and support for our workforce and employers are also in the pipeline. Serious steps are being taken to address the toll from substance abuse and to provide our older neighbors with resources to help them continue to stand strong throughout their golden years. It is my goal here to make sure everyone has access to stable employment opportunities and quality healthcare which is of critical importance to keep our families healthy and happy.

I am thankful for each town in Maine for their commitment to their communities, to their citizens, and to this country. I will do my part to listen to your concerns and work to find useful solutions to the issues you face. My offices throughout Maine remain available to you if you face hurdles with the federal government, whether it be veteran issues, social security problems, student loans, immigration, tax assistance and more. I hope you will reach out of my offices in Presque Isle, Bangor, Augusta, Portland, or Biddeford and allow me the chance to be part of your solutions. Together, I know we can continue to build a stronger, brighter future for our great state.

Maine is known for our grit and resiliency and we are making great strides — something others across the country have noticed. Thank you for being one of the reasons Maine is so special; it is not only a pleasure to serve you — it is a pleasure to know you. Mary and I wish you a happy and safe 2024.

Best Regards,

  
ANGUS S. KING, JR.  
United States Senate

AUGUSTA  
40 Western Avenue, Suite 412  
Augusta, ME 04330  
(207) 622-8292

BANGOR  
202 Harlow Street, Suite 20350  
Bangor, ME 04401  
(207) 945-8000

BIDDEFORD  
227 Main Street  
Biddeford, ME 04005  
(207) 352-5216

PORTLAND  
1 Pleasant Street, Unit 4W  
Portland, ME 04101  
(207) 245-1565

PRESQUE ISLE  
167 Academy Street, Suite A  
Presque Isle, ME 04769  
(207) 764-5124



**Jared Golden**  
Congress of the United States  
2nd District of Maine

Dear Friends,

I hope this letter finds you safe and well. It's an honor to continue serving as your representative in Congress, and I take the responsibility very seriously. I appreciate the opportunity to update you on what I've been working on behalf of the people of the Second Congressional District.

Maine's heritage industries are the backbone of our state's economy. That is why one of the first bills I introduced in this Congress was the *Northeast Fisheries Heritage Protection Act*, which would prohibit commercial offshore wind energy development in Lobster Management Area 1 (LMA 1) in the Gulf of Maine. LMA 1 was identified by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) as a potential commercial offshore wind site. LMA 1 is a critical and highly productive fishing ground for a variety of sea life, including lobster. Prohibiting offshore wind development in LMA 1 would help to avoid conflict with the New England commercial and recreational fishing industries. Additionally, the bill would initiate a federal study on the environmental review processes of any relevant Federal agencies for offshore wind projects in the Gulf of Maine.

I also continue to advocate on behalf of our veterans and those providing care to our former service members. The current pay for VA employees in the Kennebec and Penobscot counties does not reflect the critical services they are providing. As the oldest state in the nation, with the fifth highest veteran population, Mainers rely on the services offered at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) facilities. That's why recently, Senator Collins, Senator King, Representative Pingree, and I called on the Biden Administration to increase locality pay for VA employees in Kennebec and Penobscot counties. The level of care received is impacted by job vacancies, and the high turnover rate among its healthcare workforce is often the result of pay and compensation issues, which is further exacerbated by the increased cost of living.

Lastly, I'm excited that Mainers are continuing to reap the benefits of the *Bipartisan Infrastructure Law* (BIL). Recently, millions of dollars in grants have been awarded across the state, including \$35 million through the U.S. Department of Transportation's Culvert Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) program to conserve spawning and migratory habitats for native fish species in Maine, \$460,000 through the Airport Infrastructure Grant (AIG) program for the Princeton Municipal Airport, Stephen A. Bean Municipal Airport, and Dexter Regional Airport, and nearly \$8 million through the Buses and Bus Facilities Program for Bangor's bus system. These investments are critical to ensuring Maine's infrastructure and will help to ensure Mainers and businesses across Maine are connected.

Regardless of the year, one of my top priorities is ensuring I'm accessible to you. My staff and I can help answer questions about and navigate federal programs; find resources in Maine; and resolve issues with Medicare, Social Security, the VA, and other federal agencies and programs. We are here to help:

- **Caribou Office:** 7 Hatch Drive, Suite 230, Caribou, ME 04736. Phone: (207) 492-6009
- **Lewiston Office:** 179 Lisbon Street, Lewiston, ME 04240. Phone: (207) 241-6767
- **Bangor Office:** 6 State Street, Suite 101, Bangor, ME 04401. Phone: (207) 249-7400

I look forward to building on momentum from recent legislative wins for Mainers and continuing to work on your behalf in 2024. Do not hesitate to reach out and voice an opinion on legislation, let us know about local events, or seek assistance navigating federal agencies or programs. It's an honor to represent you in Congress, and I wish you a healthy and prosperous year to come.

Respectfully,

Jared F. Golden

Member of Congress



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

## H. Sawin Millett Jr.

37 Golden Guernsey Drive,  
Waterford, ME 04088  
Residence: (207) 592-5398  
Sawin.Millett@legislature.maine.gov

January 2024

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Thank you for electing me to serve as your State Representative. I look forward to the challenges ahead as we enter the second regular session of the 131<sup>st</sup> Maine Legislature.

I have been honored to serve on the Joint Standing Committee for Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee, to which leadership has appointed me. This has been a great honor for me serving as the lead for many years on this Committee helping to steer the State of Maine's finances. For this, I am extremely grateful.

Last year in the 131<sup>st</sup> Legislature, I championed legislation to improve child welfare and hold the Office of Child and Family Services accountable for lives lost under their watch. We also tackled some of the funding issues plaguing Maine's roads, bridges, and transportation infrastructure by passing LD 259 with the leadership of Senator Brad Farrin. The new law creates a sustainable source of funding for the Highway Fund by dedicating 40 percent of the 5.5 percent sales tax on vehicle purchases and 40 percent of sales and use taxes collected by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles. It is expected to generate more than \$200 million for infrastructure repairs per biennium. I hope to work on more common sense solutions such as this in this session.

I also look forward, to continuing the work of ensuring that your tax dollars are well spent and working on legislation to lower taxes for all Mainers. I will make sure your voices continue to be heard in Augusta.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to represent you, the people of District 81. Please call me anytime at **207-287-1440** or email at [Sawin.Millett@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:Sawin.Millett@legislature.maine.gov) to keep me updated on your concerns. If you would like to be added to my email update list, you can do so by emailing me directly with your request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "H. Sawin Millett Jr.".

H. Sawin Millett Jr.  
State Representative

House District 81 Norway, Sweden, Waterford, Albany Township, Greenwood, South  
Oxford, Stoneham, Stow, Mason Township & Locke Mills

*131st Legislature*  
***State of Maine***  
*Senate District 18*

Senator Richard A. Bennett  
3 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0003  
Office (207) 287-1505  
Cell (207) 592-3200  
[Richard.Bennett@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:Richard.Bennett@legislature.maine.gov)

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you in the Maine Senate. It has been an honor to work on your behalf to make our state an even better place to live, work and conduct business. I am grateful you have put your trust in me, and I will continue to work tirelessly on behalf of the people of Senate District 18.


The First Regular and First Special Sessions of the 131<sup>st</sup> Maine State Legislature were notable as there were over 2,600 legislative bill requests and 2,019 of them were officially printed as Legislative Documents (LDs). No legislature this century has had as many LDs printed during its first year.

One area of success was in the Highway Fund. In the past, the Highway Fund has been supported through gasoline taxes, which have been declining for years due to more fuel-efficient and electric/hybrid vehicles, and bonding. However, we now have created a sustainable source of funding to maintain our transportation infrastructure. This is done by dedicating 40% of the vehicle sales tax and the sales and use taxes collected by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles. It is predicted to raise more than \$200 million for infrastructure each biennium.

The Second Regular Session will begin in January 2024. I am eager to discuss the issues important to all of you. I have heard from many of you regarding the biggest concerns you are facing, including the protection Maine's natural resources, increased costs of everyday items, access to health care and child care, education, housing, inflation, child welfare, mental health and substance abuse, workforce development, and crime, among others. I will continue to do all I can to advocate for your priorities in Augusta.

Again, thank you for electing me to serve you in the State Senate. The 131<sup>st</sup> Legislature has a great deal more work to do. However, I believe that if we work collaboratively, there is nothing we can't accomplish. Please feel free to contact me by calling (207) 287-1505 or emailing me at [Richard.Bennett@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:Richard.Bennett@legislature.maine.gov) if you have comments, questions or if you would like assistance in navigating our state's bureaucracy.

Sincerely,



Richard Bennett  
Senator



## **NOTICE TO ALL TAXPAYERS**

Please inquire with the Select Board or Rose McKenzie, the Administrative Assistant to the Select Board prior to the Annual Town Meeting March 23, 2024 with questions that are technical or may require research.

You may still ask questions at the Town Meeting, but prior knowledge will assure a prompt and more detailed answer. This will help move the meeting along smoothly.

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## **CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL ORGANIZATIONS**

In a continuing effort to minimize the town's budget and its impact on its citizens the Board of Selectmen have chosen to carefully scrutinize the Town's contributions made to various organizations. The Town realizes the value of these organizations and wants to make the information accessible to its citizens for their private donations.

If you are interested, your donations may be mailed directly to:

### **L.E.A.**

Lakes Environmental Association  
230 Main Street  
Bridgton, ME 04009

### **Community Concepts**

17 Market Square  
South Paris, ME 04281

### **Safe Voices**

484 Main Street  
Lewiston, ME 04240

### **Seniors Plus**

8 Falcon Road  
Lewiston, ME 04240

### **Greater Bridgton Lakes Region**

Chamber of Commerce  
101 Portland Road  
Bridgton, Maine 04009

### **Charlotte Hobbs Memorial Library**

227 Main Street  
PO Box 105  
Lovell, ME 04051

### **Harvest Hills Animal Shelter, Inc.**

1389 Bridgton Road  
Fryeburg, ME 04037

### **Sweden Food Pantry**

Sweden Community Church  
137 Bridgton Road  
Sweden, ME 04040

### **The Lifeflight Foundation**

PO Box 899  
Camden, Maine 04853

### **Sexual Assault Prevention**

**and Response Services (SAPARS)**  
PO Box 6  
Auburn, ME 04212

### **Community Health and Counseling Services**

PO Box 425  
Bangor, ME 04402-0425

February 28, 2024



*Proven Expertise & Integrity*

Selectboard  
Town of Sweden  
Sweden, Maine

We were engaged by the Town of Sweden, Maine and have audited the financial statements of the Town of Sweden, Maine as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023. The following schedules have been excerpted from the 2023 financial statements, a complete copy of which, including our opinion thereon, will be available for inspection at the Town. Included herein are:

Balance Sheet - Governmental Funds	Statement C
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances - Governmental Funds	Statement E
Budgetary Comparison Schedule - Budgetary Basis - Budget and Actual - General Fund	Schedule 1
Schedule of Departmental Operations - General Fund	Schedule A
Combining Balance Sheet - Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Schedule B
Combining Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances - Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Schedule C
Combining Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances - Nonmajor Special Revenue Funds	Schedule E
Combining Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances - Nonmajor Capital Project Funds	Schedule G
Combining Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances - Nonmajor Permanent Funds	Schedule I

*RHR Smith & Company*

Certified Public Accountants

## STATEMENT C

## TOWN OF SWEDEN, MAINE

BALANCE SHEET - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS  
DECEMBER 31, 2023

	General Fund	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,299,173	\$ -	\$ 1,299,173
Accounts receivable (net of allowance for uncollectibles):			
Taxes	65,367	-	65,367
Liens	23,975	-	23,975
Other	2,075	-	2,075
Due from other governments	14,591	35,475	50,066
Tax acquired property	34,088	-	34,088
Due from other funds	-	540,923	540,923
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u>\$ 1,439,269</u>	<u>\$ 576,398</u>	<u>\$ 2,015,667</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Accounts payable	\$ 8,747	\$ -	\$ 8,747
Due to other governments	3,499	-	3,499
Due to other funds	540,923	-	540,923
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<u>553,169</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>553,169</u>
<b>DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>			
Prepaid taxes	167	-	167
Deferred tax revenues	79,536	-	79,536
<b>TOTAL DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>	<u>79,703</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>79,703</u>
<b>FUND BALANCES</b>			
Nonspendable	34,088	5,000	39,088
Restricted	-	376,349	376,349
Committed	-	195,049	195,049
Assigned	-	-	-
Unassigned	772,309	-	772,309
<b>TOTAL FUND BALANCES</b>	<u>806,397</u>	<u>576,398</u>	<u>1,382,795</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES AND FUND BALANCES</b>	<u>\$ 1,439,269</u>	<u>\$ 576,398</u>	<u>\$ 2,015,667</u>

See accompanying independent auditor's report and notes to financial statements.

## TOWN OF SWEDEN, MAINE

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES  
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

	General Fund	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES			
Taxes:			
Property taxes	\$ 1,626,258	\$ -	\$ 1,626,258
Excise taxes	93,063	-	93,063
Intergovernmental	163,542	35,475	199,017
Charges for services	13,082	-	13,082
Miscellaneous revenues	25,495	-	25,495
TOTAL REVENUES	<u>1,921,440</u>	<u>35,475</u>	<u>1,956,915</u>
EXPENDITURES			
Current:			
General government	238,624	-	238,624
Health and sanitation	63,278	-	63,278
Public safety	65,548	-	65,548
Public works	355,198	-	355,198
Culture and recreation	10,449	-	10,449
Town property maintenance	23,744	-	23,744
County tax	108,109	-	108,109
Education	737,049	-	737,049
Unclassified	25	49,552	49,577
Capital outlay	-	942,315	942,315
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>1,602,024</u>	<u>991,867</u>	<u>2,593,891</u>
EXCESS REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	<u>319,416</u>	<u>(956,392)</u>	<u>(636,976)</u>
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES			
Transfers in	-	722,000	722,000
Transfers (out)	(722,000)	-	(722,000)
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)	<u>(722,000)</u>	<u>722,000</u>	<u>-</u>
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES	(402,584)	(234,392)	(636,976)
FUND BALANCES - JANUARY 1, RESTATED	<u>1,208,981</u>	<u>810,790</u>	<u>2,019,771</u>
FUND BALANCES - DECEMBER 31	<u>\$ 806,397</u>	<u>\$ 576,398</u>	<u>\$ 1,382,795</u>

See accompanying independent auditor's report and notes to financial statements.

## TOWN OF SWEDEN, MAINE

BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE - BUDGETARY BASIS  
 BUDGET AND ACTUAL - GENERAL FUND  
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual Amounts	Variance Positive (Negative)
	Original	Final		
Budgetary Fund Balance, January 1, Restated	\$ 1,208,981	\$ 1,208,981	\$ 1,208,981	\$ -
Resources (Inflows):				
Property taxes	1,583,583	1,583,583	1,626,258	42,675
Excise taxes	80,000	80,000	93,063	13,063
Intergovernmental	118,503	118,503	163,542	45,039
Charges for services	-	-	13,082	13,082
Interest income	-	-	21,594	21,594
Miscellaneous revenues	-	-	3,901	3,901
Amounts Available for Appropriation	<u>2,991,067</u>	<u>2,991,067</u>	<u>3,130,421</u>	<u>139,354</u>
Charges to Appropriations (Outflows):				
General government	283,635	283,635	238,624	45,011
Health and sanitation	63,279	63,279	63,278	1
Public safety	72,821	72,821	65,548	7,273
Public works	365,500	365,500	355,198	10,302
Culture and recreation	10,661	10,661	10,449	212
Town property maintenance	26,000	26,000	23,744	2,256
County tax	108,109	108,109	108,109	-
Education	738,958	738,958	737,049	1,909
Unclassified	13,573	13,573	25	13,548
Transfers to other funds	722,000	722,000	722,000	-
Total Charges to Appropriations	<u>2,404,536</u>	<u>2,404,536</u>	<u>2,324,024</u>	<u>80,512</u>
Budgetary Fund Balance, December 31	<u>\$ 586,531</u>	<u>\$ 586,531</u>	<u>\$ 806,397</u>	<u>\$ 219,866</u>
Utilization of unassigned fund balance	<u>\$ 622,450</u>	<u>\$ 622,450</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (622,450)</u>

See accompanying independent auditor's report and notes to financial statements.

SCHEDULE A

TOWN OF SWEDEN, MAINE

SCHEDULE OF DEPARTMENTAL OPERATIONS - GENERAL FUND  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

	Original Budget	Budget Adjustments	Final Budget	Actual	Variance Positive (Negative)
General Government:					
Salaries	\$ 101,038	\$ -	\$ 101,038	\$ 99,969	\$ 1,069
Town charges	103,647	-	103,647	94,497	9,150
Legal counsel	15,000	-	15,000	11,470	3,530
Planning Board	16,500	-	16,500	8,323	8,177
Contingency	20,000	-	20,000	19,365	635
General assistance	1,250	-	1,250	-	1,250
Interest on short term debt	1,200	-	1,200	-	1,200
Grant cost share	25,000	-	25,000	5,000	20,000
	<u>283,635</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>283,635</u>	<u>238,624</u>	<u>45,011</u>
Health and Sanitation:					
Solid waste	63,279	-	63,279	63,278	1
	<u>63,279</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>63,279</u>	<u>63,278</u>	<u>1</u>
Public Safety:					
Fire dept administration	26,550	-	26,550	25,086	1,464
Fire dept operations and maint.	11,600	-	11,600	7,682	3,918
Fire dept yearly inspections	8,975	-	8,975	6,923	2,052
Firefighting	21,750	-	21,750	21,741	9
Fire dept other	1,500	-	1,500	1,441	59
Ambulance	2,040	-	2,040	2,040	-
Animal control officer	406	-	406	635	(229)
	<u>72,821</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>72,821</u>	<u>65,548</u>	<u>7,273</u>

SCHEDULE A

TOWN OF SWEDEN, MAINE

SCHEDULE OF DEPARTMENTAL OPERATIONS - GENERAL FUND  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

	Original Budget	Budget Adjustments	Final Budget	Actual	Variance Positive (Negative)
Public Works:					
Summer roads	75,000	-	75,000	72,009	2,991
Winter roads	290,500	-	290,500	283,189	7,311
	<u>365,500</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>365,500</u>	<u>355,198</u>	<u>10,302</u>
Culture and Recreation:					
Seniors Plus	500	-	500	500	-
Sexual Assault and Response Svcs	100	-	100	100	-
Sweden Conservation Committee	125	-	125	113	12
Historical Society	2,500	-	2,500	2,500	-
Charlotte Hobbs Library	2,800	-	2,800	2,800	-
LEA	400	-	400	400	-
Sweden Food Pantry	600	-	600	600	-
Community Concepts	330	-	330	330	-
Lifeflight Foundation	406	-	406	406	-
Recreation	2,500	-	2,500	2,500	-
Safe Voices	200	-	200	200	-
Communications Committee	200	-	200	-	200
	<u>10,661</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,661</u>	<u>10,449</u>	<u>212</u>
Town Property Maintenance:					
Cemetery care	8,000	-	8,000	5,160	2,840
Building and grounds maintenance	18,000	-	18,000	18,584	(584)
	<u>26,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>26,000</u>	<u>23,744</u>	<u>2,256</u>



SCHEDULE A (CONTINUED)

TOWN OF SWEDEN, MAINE

SCHEDULE OF DEPARTMENTAL OPERATIONS - GENERAL FUND  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

	Original Budget	Budget Adjustments	Final Budget	Actual	Variance Positive (Negative)
County Tax	108,109	-	108,109	108,109	-
Education	738,958	-	738,958	737,049	1,909
Unclassified: Overlay	13,573	-	13,573	25	13,548
	13,573	-	13,573	25	13,548
Transfers to Other Funds: Capital projects funds	722,000	-	722,000	722,000	-
	722,000	-	722,000	722,000	-
Total Departmental Operations	\$ 2,404,536	\$ -	\$ 2,404,536	\$ 2,324,024	\$ 80,512

See accompanying independent auditor's report and notes to financial statements.

## TOWN OF SWEDEN, MAINE

COMBINING BALANCE SHEET - NONMAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS  
DECEMBER 31, 2023

	Special Revenue Funds	Capital Projects Funds	Permanent Funds	Total Nonmajor Governmental Funds
ASSETS				
Due from other governments	\$ -	\$ 35,475	\$ -	\$ 35,475
Due from other funds	16,000	518,277	6,646	540,923
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 16,000</u>	<u>\$ 553,752</u>	<u>\$ 6,646</u>	<u>\$ 576,398</u>
LIABILITIES				
Due to other funds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
FUND BALANCES				
Nonspendable	-	-	5,000	5,000
Restricted	-	374,703	1,646	376,349
Committed	16,000	179,049	-	195,049
Assigned	-	-	-	-
Unassigned	-	-	-	-
TOTAL FUND BALANCES	<u>16,000</u>	<u>553,752</u>	<u>6,646</u>	<u>576,398</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES	<u>\$ 16,000</u>	<u>\$ 553,752</u>	<u>\$ 6,646</u>	<u>\$ 576,398</u>

See accompanying independent auditor's report and notes to financial statements.

## TOWN OF SWEDEN, MAINE

COMBINING SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN  
FUND BALANCES - NONMAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

	Special Revenue Funds	Capital Projects Funds	Permanent Funds	Total Nonmajor Governmental Funds
REVENUES				
Intergovernmental	\$ -	\$ 35,475	\$ -	\$ 35,475
TOTAL REVENUES	<u>-</u>	<u>35,475</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>35,475</u>
EXPENDITURES				
Capital outlay	-	942,315	-	942,315
Other	34,487	15,065	-	49,552
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>34,487</u>	<u>957,380</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>991,867</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	<u>-</u>	<u>(921,905)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(956,392)</u>
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
Transfers in	-	722,000	-	722,000
Transfers (out)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)	<u>-</u>	<u>722,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>722,000</u>
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES	(34,487)	(199,905)	-	(234,392)
FUND BALANCES - JANUARY 1	<u>50,487</u>	<u>753,657</u>	<u>6,646</u>	<u>810,790</u>
FUND BALANCES - DECEMBER 31	<u>\$ 16,000</u>	<u>\$ 553,752</u>	<u>\$ 6,646</u>	<u>\$ 576,398</u>

See accompanying independent auditor's report and notes to financial statements.

## TOWN OF SWEDEN, MAINE

COMBINING SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN  
FUND BALANCES - NONMAJOR SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

	Revaluation	FEMA	ARPA	Total
REVENUES				
Intergovernmental	\$ -	\$ 84,706	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL REVENUES	-	84,706	-	-
EXPENDITURES				
Capital outlay	-	84,706	34,487	34,487
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	-	84,706	34,487	34,487
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES	-	-	(34,487)	(34,487)
FUND BALANCES - JANUARY 1	16,000	-	34,487	50,487
FUND BALANCES - DECEMBER 31	\$ 16,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 16,000

See accompanying independent auditor's report and notes to financial statements.

## TOWN OF SWEDEN, MAINE

COMBINING SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN  
FUND BALANCES - NONMAJOR CAPITAL PROJECT FUNDS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

	LRAP	Roads	Comprehensive Plan	Town Buildings	Town Line Marking	Zoning Ordinance Updates	SVFD Building Committee
REVENUES							
Intergovernmental	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL REVENUES	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
EXPENDITURES							
Capital outlay	-	502,212	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	1,590	4,732	-	1,055	4,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	-	502,212	1,590	4,732	-	1,055	4,000
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	-	(502,212)	(1,590)	(4,732)	-	(1,055)	(4,000)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)							
Transfers in	-	187,000	-	50,000	-	-	-
Transfers (out)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)	-	187,000	-	50,000	-	-	-
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES	-	(315,212)	(1,590)	45,268	-	(1,055)	(4,000)
FUND BALANCES - JANUARY 1, RESTATED	186,703	315,212	11,180	-	1,000	15,193	4,000
FUND BALANCES - DECEMBER 31	\$ 186,703	\$ -	\$ 9,590	\$ 45,268	\$ 1,000	\$ 14,138	\$ -

SCHEDULE G (CONTINUED)

TOWN OF SWEDEN, MAINE

COMBINING SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN  
FUND BALANCES - NONMAJOR CAPITAL PROJECT FUNDS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

	Emergency Road Fund	State Aid to Roads	Haskell Hill Culvert	Capital Improvements	Capital Improvements Fire Equipment	Total
REVENUES						
Intergovernmental	\$ 35,475	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 35,475
TOTAL REVENUES	<u>35,475</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>35,475</u>
EXPENDITURES						
Capital outlay	55,189	-	384,914	-	-	942,315
Other	3,688	-	-	-	-	15,065
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>58,877</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>384,914</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>957,380</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	<u>(23,402)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(384,914)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(921,905)</u>
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)						
Transfers in	50,000	10,000	415,000	-	10,000	722,000
Transfers (out)	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)	<u>50,000</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>415,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>722,000</u>
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES	26,598	10,000	30,086	-	10,000	(199,905)
FUND BALANCES - JANUARY 1, RESTATED	8,877	178,000	-	11,182	22,310	753,657
FUND BALANCES - DECEMBER 31	<u>\$ 35,475</u>	<u>\$ 188,000</u>	<u>\$ 30,086</u>	<u>\$ 11,182</u>	<u>\$ 32,310</u>	<u>\$ 553,752</u>

See accompanying independent auditor's report and notes to financial statements.

## TOWN OF SWEDEN, MAINE

COMBINING SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN  
FUND BALANCES - NONMAJOR PERMANENT FUNDS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

	Heritage Funds	Ridlon Cemetery	Total
REVENUES			
Intergovernmental	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL REVENUES	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
EXPENDITURES			
Other	-	-	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES	-	-	-
FUND BALANCES - JANUARY 1	<u>855</u>	<u>5,791</u>	<u>6,646</u>
FUND BALANCES - DECEMBER 31	<u><u>\$ 855</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 5,791</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 6,646</u></u>

See accompanying independent auditor's report and notes to financial statements.



## Sweden Town Clerk 2023 Report

### Vital Statistics:

Births	2
Marriages	2
Deaths	7

### Animal Welfare:

Total Number of Dogs Licensed 71

Reminder: All dogs 6 months and older must be licensed annually by December 31<sup>st</sup>.

### Inland Fisheries and Wildlife:

Hunting	1
Jr. Hunting	0
Muzzleloader Hunting	1
Crossbow	1
Archery/Fish/Hunting	1
Fishing	5
3 Day Fishing	1
Combo hunt/fish	4
Lifetime over 70	1

### Recreational Vehicles:

ATV	23
Boats	44
Resident Snowmobile	3
Nonresident Snowmobile	0
Nonresident ATV	1

### Registered Voters: 364 Total

Democrats	110
Green Independents	24
Republicans	93
Unenrolled	136
No Label	1

### Population Estimates Source: Neilsberg Research (9/15/2023)

2021 Population 507  
2021 244 Males  
2021 263 Females  
2021 Median Sweden Resident Age 55-59 years  
2021 Median Household Income \$72,946.  
2021 Median Property Value \$303,900.  
2021 94 Households have 3+ vehicles  
2021 43 Households have 2 vehicles  
2021 36 Households have 1 vehicle  
2021 2 Households have no vehicles

## Sweden Historical Society Report

Dear Sweden Friends & Neighbors,

2023 was a year of transition for the Sweden Historical Society with several long-standing Trustees stepping down and new faces stepping up to join the Officers team.

We are grateful to Kay Lyman, Gail Dewildt and Jill Welch for their service to the Society and are delighted to welcome Dan Drew, Rebecca Buyers and Nils Johnson as new Trustees/Officers.

Particular thanks goes to Doug Porter who has stepped down as President, and who continues to serve as Vice President. Doug has shepherded the Society for many years culminating with the beautifully restored Schoolhouse which serves as our meeting house and living museum now, and for years to come.

The 2023 year ended with the Society in a healthy financial position with a surplus of income over expenses and stable cash reserves. This was the result of successful sponsorships, events such as Sweden Days and t-shirts, sweatshirts and book sales. We are grateful to the Town of Sweden whose grant allowed us to purchase new computers which we have put to use archiving many historical documents, artifacts and photographs.

The highlights of the past year include the historic house tour of Kerry Welton's restored 1817 Church home on August 4 and the lighting of the Evergreen Tree held in conjunction with the Community Church on November 25.

An important focus of the Trustees for the balance of 2023 and into 2024 has been updating the governance and administrative functions of the Society so that Trustees can turn their energy towards their core historical archiving activities and events.

An example of this is an article written by Becky Buyers, the SHS Corresponding Secretary, published in the January edition of Maine Archives and Museums Newsletter describing the moving of the Nevers (Johnson-Buyers) 1805 Red House to a new location.

Looking forward into 2024, we are excited to launch new publicity and fundraising campaigns to expand Society membership and raise funds through sponsorships, events and merchandising.

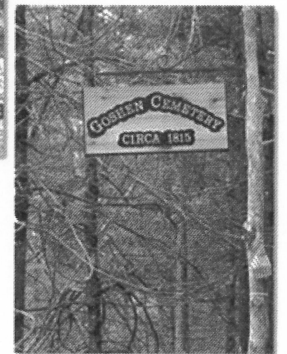
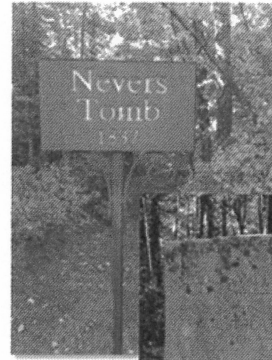
We are especially pleased to announce that on Thursday, August 1st from 10am until Noon, SHS will hold a tour with docents of the 1828 Farnum Stevens property located at 42 Plummer School Road (Jane Gibbons' home).

In other news, SHS will be installing a walkway to improve accessibility to the Schoolhouse and Blacksmith Shop.

Sincerely

Nils Johnson  
President  
Sweden Historical Society

Cemetery	Earliest Date	# of Stones	# of Veterans
Black Mountain	1834	158	20
Flint	1833	77	12
Gamage	1823	12	1
Haskell	1831	141	6
Libby	1859	23	6
Ridlon	1842	39	4
Sanderson	1812	118	12
Sawyer	1859	13	2
Stevens	1785	188	18
Taylor	1863	27	6
Webber	1811	24	7
Woodbury	1822	16	0
<i>Nevers Tomb</i>	<i>1837</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Goshen</i>	<i>?</i>	<i>?</i>	<i>?</i>



There are fourteen locations counting the Woodbury Cemetery on Route 93. Back in the day many more people lived here compared to today. Each time you drive past stone walls filled with trees remember that these were fields with livestock, orchards, gardens, homes with other separate buildings and barns. Sweden was once called New Suncook that was a combination of both Lovell and Sweden. It was considered a plantation. Stevens Cemetery has the oldest headstone stone from 1785. Go locate it, and while there try to imagine that across the street that today leads to Camp Tapawingo was the Jacob Steven's farm. It's a magnificent forest now and the family gave one of their pastures to the community to be Steven's Cemetery.

Respectfully,

*Douglas J. Porter*

**School Board Report MSAD 72**  
**Town of Sweden Annual Report March 2024**

Sweden has the following student enrollment as of October 1, 2023. This is submitted to the state for budgeting and subsidy purposes. Despite the movement into progressive grade levels, our total count is coincidentally unchanged from 2023 with a total of 39.

**New Suncook - 14**

Pre-K (4 yo) - 2  
Kindergarten - 2  
Grade 1 - 2  
Grade 2 - 1  
Grade 3 - 3  
Grade 4 - 4

**Molly Ockett - 10**

Grade 5 - 3  
Grade 6 - 3  
Grade 7 - 3  
Grade 8 - 1

**Fryeburg Academy - 15**

Grade 9 - 6  
Grade 10 - 2  
Grade 11 - 3  
Grade 12 - 4

- Regular meetings of the MSAD 72 Board of Education are held on the second Wednesday of the month at 7 PM at the Molly Ockett School gymnasium. The first fifteen minutes of each Board meeting is designated for public participation. During this time, members of the public may express opinions and concerns related to matters regarding education or MSAD 72 schools. We welcome input however please note that this is not the venue to voice concerns concerning any individual employed by the school system or any particular student.
- In addition to the regular meetings, budget sessions will commence on April 10<sup>th</sup> and continue on April 24<sup>th</sup>. Once the budget is accepted by the Board, the Superintendent will visit multiple locations in May for presentation and discussion. Please see the District “Home” tab and scroll down to the “Calendar” for details. These meetings are also open for public questions and comments.
- The school system has a significant impact on our Sweden taxes. Our 39 students represent 3.6% of the total municipal allocation (7 towns). Sweden valuation increased slightly (8.2%) while our state subsidy (for Sweden) decreased slightly (estimated at \$-1,906) with the mil rate at 6.2. As a result, our expected cost to support the District will likely cause only a slight tax increase this budget cycle.
- As is the case in several other Maine School Districts and across the Country we are facing staff shortages. Our Administrative team, the Board and the Maine Department of Education have implemented many strategies to address this. Please see the District web page or visit [www.servingschools.com](http://www.servingschools.com) to see our vacancies.
- Communication/contact Information
  - Facebook page                      Maine School Administrative District 72
  - District website                    <https://www.msad72.org>
  - Board members email              [kathiann.shorey@msad72.org](mailto:kathiann.shorey@msad72.org)  
   [alisa.karwowski@msad72.org](mailto:alisa.karwowski@msad72.org)

This 2024 report is submitted by  
*Kathiann Shorey*  
Elected Member, MSAD 72 Board of Education

## Sweden Fire Department

Although we did not have quite as many responses as 2022 due to the heavy rains, the Sweden Fire Department stayed busy improving equipment, training and sending some members to specialized trainings.

A new Fire Station remains a top priority for the Department. New Federal and State mandates coming soon, will mandate procedures that cannot be done in our current facility. We will also be losing our spot to store Engine 4 in Bridgton, as they will be getting a new truck that will go in the space they graciously let us use for the past 2 years. I am trying to make arrangements to store it at another location.

Department members took part in 550 hours of training in 2023. In May, we participated in a Big Water Drill with our Mutual Aid Partners. At the conclusion, 1,000 GPM of water was maintained through Tank Trucks and portable tanks. This is one of the key components to lowering town insurance rates.

We continue to search to upgrade equipment that will benefit the Department and Town. The Department applied for and received two grants, an AFG Grant which the Department purchased new radios for the equipment and personnel and a Forestry Grant which allowed us to purchase more Forestry tools.

A reminder to citizens that your address number should be prominently marked, so personnel can locate you quickly in an emergency.

As always, Thank You to the Citizens, Select Board and our Mutual Aid Partners for their continued support. Our core mission is to provide the best service we can to the Community.

### **2023 Response Statistics**

Mutual Aid	36
Motor Vehicle Crash	3
Utility Hazard	12
Trees Down	2
Assist EMS	2
Unauthorized Burning	3
Citizen Assist	3
Alarm	1

Respectfully,

Tim Cook

Fire Chief

**SWEDEN FIRE DEPT**

**BUDGET**

	<b>2023 BUDGET</b>		<b>2024 BUDGET</b>	
<b>FD ADMINISTRATION</b>				
Calls/Training Stipends	\$	16,500.00	\$	18,000.00
Special/Outside Training	\$	1,000.00	\$	1,000.00
Insurance	\$	6,000.00	\$	6,000.00
Member Dues	\$	600.00	\$	500.00
Reporting System	\$	2,050.00	\$	3,500.00
Other Supply	\$	400.00	\$	400.00
<b>FD ADMIN TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>26,550.00</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>29,400.00</b>
 <b>FD OPERATING</b>				
Heating Fuel	\$	3,500.00	\$	3,500.00
Generator Propane	\$	500.00	\$	500.00
Truck Fuel	\$	4,000.00	\$	4,000.00
Electricity	\$	800.00	\$	950.00
Phone	\$	800.00	\$	800.00
Furnace Maint.	\$	400.00	\$	400.00
Porta Potty	\$	1,600.00	\$	1,600.00
<b>FD OPERATING TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>11,600.00</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>11,750.00</b>
 <b>FD YEARLY INSPECTIONS</b>				
Hose Testing	\$	3,500.00	\$	3,500.00
Ladder Testing	\$	625.00	\$	625.00
SCBA/Flow Test	\$	1,500.00	\$	1,500.00
Pump Testing	\$	1,500.00	\$	1,500.00
Fire Extinguishers	\$	1,000.00	\$	800.00
SCBA Compressor Service	\$	850.00	\$	900.00
<b>FD YEARLY INSPECTIONS TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>8,975.00</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>8,825.00</b>
 <b>FIREFIGHTING</b>				
Truck/Apparatus Maint	\$	9,000.00	\$	8,000.00
Equipment Maint	\$	3,000.00	\$	3,000.00
Communications	\$	1,000.00	\$	1,000.00
General Equip	\$	1,250.00	\$	1,250.00
PPE (Gear)	\$	6,000.00	\$	6,000.00
Hose /Nozzles/Fittings	\$	1,500.00	\$	1,500.00
<b>FIREFIGHTING TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>21,750.00</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>20,750.00</b>
 <b>HEALTH &amp; SAFETY</b>				
Respiratory Clearance/Consentra	\$	900.00	\$	1,000.00
Fit Testing	\$	600.00	\$	1,000.00
<b>HEALTH &amp; SAFETY TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,500.00</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,000.00</b>
 <b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>70,375.00</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>72,725.00</b>
 <b>CAPITAL</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>10,000.00</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>10,000.00</b>
<b>EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>10,000.00</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>10,000.00</b>



## Annual Report from EMA Director

Greetings Sweden,

The year 2023 has been a busy one for the town starting with the Christmas Storm of December 22, a storm that flooded many area roads and took out the Haskell Hill Road culvert. This triggered the first of two disasters for the year, the second being the Mayday storm which also caused road damage and flooding in our area.

Having declared disasters this triggered federal assistance from FEMA. From the two storms we experienced almost \$1 million dollars in damage. Since the declaration I have been working closely with FEMA to mitigate the damage and recover the cost for repairs. This has been an extraordinarily long and tedious endeavor involving many meetings with the FEMA teams consisting of damage inventory meetings, site inspections, plan review, project development, project review and final inspection.

With this diligent work, the town hopes to recover approximately 90% of the expenses that were put out by the town for repairs. The recovery costs include 75% of federal funds, 15% of state funds and 10% of local funds. This all takes a great amount of time for the process to work, and it was over a year before receiving the first group of funds.

As stated, this has involved a great amount of time and I have spent more than two hundred hours working towards these goals. I have collaborated with our administrative assistant, the road commissioner, and the select board along with the FEMA team to accomplish these tasks.

There is still a lot of work to complete in this coming year with work to be done on Marr Road and Trull Brook Road, as well as work on Lee Gray Road. Work on these roads involves disaster recovery and repair work. The good news, since the Mayday storm we have truly experienced little additional damage to our roadways.

In other work for the emergency manager, I have been able to secure a federal grant in the amount of \$84,705.76 in federal funds for new communications equipment for the fire department. This included mobile radios and portable radios as well as installing a radio in the town office for emergency communications. The local amount of funds for this grant was \$4,235.29. This was also a long-term project, and I am pleased to report that the project is complete, and all equipment is in service as of this report.

As the Sweden Community is aware of the desperate need for a new fire station, and to help this process along I have made application to Senator Susan Collis for funding from Congressional Direct Spending, CDS, this is a Federal Grant request in the amount of \$1.15 million dollars to help with the building of the station. This request is currently in the final stages of being approved.

EMA also made a request to the Stephen and Tabitha King Foundation for a grant to be used for the purchase of AED's (Automatic External Defibrillator) this grant was in the amount of \$10,000. I am pleased to announce that we have received this funding. With these grant funds we will be able to purchase 5 AED units and a wall cabinet, these funds also include training for personnel. Units shall be deployed on fire apparatus, and one will be stationed in the town office. This shall benefit the community residents, adding a greater level of emergency response.

As you can see twenty-three has been a continually active year for Emergency Management. It has been my honor to be able to serve as your EMA Director. I shall continue to work towards mitigation of emergency incidents and to continue to work towards improving the safety of our community.

Respectfully submitted,

Tommie C. McKenzie  
EMA Director/Assistant Fire Chief  
Town of Sweden



**Town of Sweden Maine Report of the Code Enforcement Officer for 2023**

<b>Description</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
New Single Family Homes	7	4	6	2	3	3
Replacement single family homes, seasonal conversion and new mobile homes	0	0	2	2	1	0
Used mobile homes	0	0	0	0	0	0
Additions, renovations residential	0	3	0	3	2	1
Additions, renovations, non-residential	9	0	0	1	0	0
Garages	2	0	3	3	4	1
Sheds. Barns, pools & misc, bldgs.	5	1	3	4	7	7
Decks & Porches	0	0	0	1	2	1
Tree Cutting Permits	5	7	1	1	1	2
Demolition	2	1	0	1	1	0
RV Permits	2	0	1	1	1	2
Certificates of Occupancy	3	8	1	3	5	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>22</b>
Permit Fees Collected	<b>\$7,456.06</b>	<b>\$836.50</b>	<b>\$3,405.64</b>	<b>\$3,152.12</b>	<b>\$4,703.73</b>	<b>\$2,212.60</b>

## **Animal Control Officer**

To The Citizens of Sweden,

It's been a pleasure to be your Animal Control Officer. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me (Cynthia Eaton) at 207-890-5313 directly or Oxford County Dispatch at 207-743-9554.

This past year calls.

\*Surrenders – 2

\*Cats – 1

\*Kennel – 1

\* Farm Complaints – 2

\*Dog at large – 1

Any Dogs over 6 months of age need to be licensed by December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year. Per Maine Laws of the State. [1997, c690:12(AMD).]

Respectfully Submitted

Cynthia Eaton

Animal Control Officer

## Sweden Planning Board Report

The Sweden Planning Board has had a busy year.

A large part of our year has dealt with finalizing updates to the Zoning and Land Use Ordinances, along with updating the Subdivision Ordinances. These updates will replace the current ordinances that have been in effect since 2009. Much has changed since 2009, including changes to State Law and even changes to Sweden itself. The updates reflect these changes.

The PB began work on the updates in early 2019. At the Town Meeting in 2020 the citizens approved an update budget of 25,000 dollars. We are pleased to report, to date the updates have cost a little over 12,000 dollars. We don't foresee any significant future additional costs. The PB was able to use many free resources during the update process, as well as excellent help from several town residents, to keep the cost down. The proposed updates are available on the Town Website, along with printed copies at the Town Office.

A well-advertised public hearing was held on Feb. 6th at the Town Meeting House. This was where the public asked questions and made comments concerning the updates. Once the hearing was over the comment period was closed. That is State Law. Based on several comments from the public, the PB made minor changes to the updates. It should be noted the PB held approximately three dozen workshops along with our regular monthly meetings. All were open to the public.

In addition to working on the updates, the PB has been busy with its normal duties. These include dealing with numerous conditional use permits, which require site walks and public hearings, along with working with our CEO reviewing permit applications and answering inquiries from the public.

Laura Chadbourne has served as PB secretary for the past 14 years. She will be stepping down as of the Town Meeting. Her deep knowledge of PB procedures, and willingness to carry the heaviest workload of any member, will be missed. Her attention to detail is reflected in our meeting minutes, that are available on the Town Website.

The PB will have three open positions to fill at the Town Meeting. One is for a five-year term and two are for alternate positions for one-year terms. Alternate positions represent an excellent way to learn PB procedures. Please consider joining our PB.

Respectfully submitted, Your Sweden Planning Board.

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

This letter is to update you on the activities of the Town of Sweden Comprehensive Planning Committee, the advisory body that produces the Comprehensive Plan in compliance with the State of Maine Growth Management Act, which was enacted by the State of Maine in 1989.

The Comprehensive Plan is the document that provides the "legal basis and rationale for any future ordinances or land use regulations that may be adopted by the town, as well as for all town governmental responsibilities and actions."

The Comprehensive Plan is not a law or an ordinance; it is a guiding document that provides a road map for Municipal Officers and others who are expected to carry out the strategies of the Comprehensive Plan.

Some of the practical things that the Comprehensive Plan does include offering legal Protection for Sweden town ordinances, helping Sweden qualify for certain state grants and loan programs and bringing the Sweden community together around shared goals.

There have been two Comprehensive Plans issued for Sweden to date; the first was in 1988 and the second was in 2004.

The current Comprehensive Planning Committee was launched in 2021 with 8 volunteer members appointed on April 14, 2021. Four members are no longer active on the committee including, Bill Graham (former chair), Bill Centamore, Dell Foss and Lynn Hopkins but their contributions are appreciated..

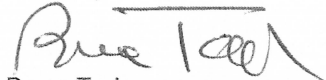
The remaining four members who are still active include Bruce Taylor (current chair), Julie McQueen (secretary), Mary Sohl and Gail deWildt. Nils Johnson is a new member, appointed in January 2024.

Since the launch in 2021, the Committee has been steadily working towards creating a new Comprehensive Plan. The committee has held 45 public meetings, issued a town survey in December 2021 and published the survey results in July 2022. In addition to the general public, the Committee has been actively seeking input from other Sweden boards, committees and appointees.

The majority of the Committee members' time has been spent collecting and analyzing the data necessary to produce an updated Comprehensive Plan in compliance with the State of Maine's guidelines. They have spent under \$2,500 to date of the \$10,000 appropriated at the Town Meeting in March of 2021, most of which was spent on the 2021 survey.

It is the Committee's plan to complete this work in 2024 and submit an updated comprehensive plan to the State of Maine and Town of Sweden in 2025. Once completed and approved, the Plan will be published on the Town's website as an official record.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce Taylor", with a horizontal line drawn above the signature.

Bruce Taylor

Chair, Comprehensive Planning Committee

# Sweden Town Office Hours for 2024

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147 Bridgton Road, Sweden, Maine 04040

Phone: 647-3944, Fax: 647-3946

THURSDAY 11 AM TO 6 PM

TUESDAY 9 AM TO 4 PM

SATURDAY (1<sup>st</sup> four) 9 AM TO 12 NOON

## Town Clerk/

## Registrar of Voters

*Mary Ellen McLaughlin*

[townclerk@swedenmaine.org](mailto:townclerk@swedenmaine.org)

Registrations of Vehicles, Dogs, Boats, ATV's, Snowmobiles,  
Hunting and Fishing Licenses

Vital Statistics: Birth, Marriage, Death Certificates

Reservation of Town Hall use, Preservation of Town Records

Voter Registration, Absentee Ballots, Elections

## Tax Collector/

## Deputy Town Clerk/Deputy Registrar/Motor Vehicle Agent

*Linda Moynihan*

[taxcollector@swedenmaine.org](mailto:taxcollector@swedenmaine.org)

Questions concerning Real Estate Tax Information

## Administrative Assistant to Select Board/

## Deputy Treasurer/FOAA Officer/General Assistance Coordinator

*Rose McKenzie*

[adminassistbos@swedenmaine.org](mailto:adminassistbos@swedenmaine.org)

## Treasurer

*Angela Thomas*

[treasurer@swedenmaine.org](mailto:treasurer@swedenmaine.org)

## Code Enforcement Officer/Plumbing Inspector

*Peter Gordon*

[codeenforcementofficer@swedenmaine.org](mailto:codeenforcementofficer@swedenmaine.org)

In Emergency contact: Selectman Christopher Chadbourne 207-647-3944

Selectman Dan McQueen

Selectman Kerry Welton

**OUTSTANDING REAL ESTATE TAXES (Amount does not include interest and costs)****2023**

Abbott, Stephanie S	595.49
Abbott, Stephanie S	737.67
Amesbury, Spencer*	2535.96
Bailey, Melissa & Kevin	2157.22
Barker, Jolene F	159.46
Bowley, Paula H & Jeffrey	1603.60
Bryant, Lawrence	1237.71
Buzzard, Michelle L	7.48
Carl, Bernard*	485.15
Clark, Jonathan R	720.84
Clark, Jonathan R	1043.41
Dicenso, Cynthia	3916.02
Distefano, Christian D	909.78
Eastman, Diane L	1870.18
Gilmore, Reece	2058.40
Helm, William	1712.06
Heron Housing LLC	308.14
Hicks, Charles	3178.78
Howe, Gail A	842.59
Jerome, Jennifer	696.43
LeCroy, Cindy A	2680.53
Lynch, Laura M	658.87
Mascia, Michael F	2540.55
McCarthy, Owen	412.87
Merrill, Heirs of Lindon	125.20
Moody, Kenneth	2727.37
Noble, Scott	1227.82
Olsen, James A	485.93
Ormond, Robert	49.45
Packard, Jeffrey G	420.42
Perreault, Emile C	1294.80
Preece, Jennifer	603.12
Robinson, Craig James	804.72
Sanderson, Robin	755.27
Scandinavian RE Trust	450.72
Scott, Ethel D	328.65
Scott, Katherine M	7222.01
Smalley, Mark	703.30
Smart, Emily J	516.45
Smart, Emily J	633.83
Tynan, Kathy	1067.63
Weeks, John	1085.33
Welsh, Hanna	865.07

\*Taxes have been paid

**2022**

Amesbury, Spencer*	97.24
Bryant, Lawrence R	318.60
Carl, Bernard J.*	512.94
Gilmore, Reece	1903.88
Jerome, Jennifer	663.05
LeCroy, Cindy A	2552.07
Merrill, Heirs of Lindon	119.20
Moody, Kenneth D	1170.02
Smart, Emily J	491.70
Smart, Emily J	603.45
Robinson, Craig James	376.48

**2021**

Carl, Bernard J*	20.40
Gilmore, Reece	1746.07
Jerome, Jennifer	614.10
LeCroy, Cindy A	2363.66
Merrill, Heirs of Lindon	110.40
Smart, Emily J	455.50
Smart, Emily J	558.90

**2020**

Merrill, Heirs of Lindon	114.40
Gilmore, Reece	1809.34
Jerome, Jennifer	636.35
LeCroy, Cindy A	2449.30

**2019**

Gilmore, Reece	1788.77
Jerome, Jennifer	605.20
LeCroy, Cindy A	2329.41
Merrill, Heirs of Lindon	108.80

**2018**

Jerome, Jennifer	567.38
LeCroy, Cindy	2183.82
Merrill, Heirs of Lincoln	102.00

**2017**

LeCroy, Cindy	275.57
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# OXFORD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

*Christopher R. Wainwright*



*Sheriff*

*Christopher Wainwright*

*Chief Deputy*

*James Urquhart*

## **2023 Annual Report Annual Town Report**

January 10, 2024

Dear Neighbors, Residents, and Taxpayers,

As I step into my Sixth year as Sheriff, I reflect with immense pride on the achievements of our agency across the county. The momentum we have going into the New Year is a testament to the dedicated team of men and women who serve Oxford County with unwavering pride. Their commitment to our mission, rooted in professionalism, integrity, and leadership, is the driving force propelling our agency forward.

In previous years, I've highlighted the escalating volume and complexity of our calls to service. Notably, the surge in responses to mental health concerns since 2019 underscores the pressing need for increased state funding for community services and sheriff's departments statewide. This is crucial to ensuring the safety of individuals in need and those around them.

Our commitment to addressing the opioid epidemic in Oxford County persists through our collaboration with local organizations, notably the Western Maine Addiction Recovery Initiative. We actively refer eligible individuals to Project Save ME as part of our ongoing efforts. This police-assisted initiative aims to bridge individuals affected by substance use disorder with dedicated recovery coaches, advocates, and various treatment services, providing crucial support on their journey to recovery.

Over the summer, deputies participated in Camp P.O.S.T.C.A.R.D (Police Officers Striving To Create And Reinforce Dreams). This camp provides children with a week filled with activities, including swimming, boating, hiking, crafts, and campfires. As the week unfolds, the kids discover that their camp counselors and leaders are police officers and sheriff's deputies from across Maine. This initiative underscores that for our deputies, being visible and present in our communities extends beyond their call of duty; they also serve as leaders, fostering positive connections with the next generation.

With that in mind, on behalf of our deputies, correctional officers, and support staff I want to thank our community for the ongoing support we have received. Whether through letters, social media, or public acknowledgments, your backing resonates throughout our agency.

We have great opportunities ahead of us, and I look forward to the work we will accomplish in the coming year. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact our office at 207-743-9554.

I wish you all a safe and healthy year ahead.

Respectfully,

Christopher Wainwright  
Oxford County Sheriff





# Oxford County Sheriff's Office

## 2023 Calls For Service by Location

### Sweden

911 hangup call	6	Protection From Abuse Order	1
Abandoned Vehicle +++++	3	Request Call	8
Assault, Domestic Violence	1	Sex Offender Reg Verification	1
Alarm	10	Subpoena Service	1
Ambulance or Medical Assist	3	Suspicion	4
Animal Problem	1	Traffic Accident, Prop Damage	7
Agency Assist	3	Threatening	2
Attended Death	1	Traffic Offense	4
ATV Problem	1	Theft, Property, Other	2
Civil Issue	4	Trespassing	2
Citizen Assist	1	Theft, Vehicle: Automobile	2
Disabled Vehicle	1	Unattended Death	2
Illegal Dumping (trash,waste)	2	Vehicle Serial # Inspection	1
Fraud	1	Violation of Protection Order	3
Information	2	Vehicle off Road	1
Misdialed Number to 911	5	Welfare Check	5
Missing Person	1	Warrant Failure To Pay Fine	1
Mental Subject	1	Weapons Offense	1
Noise Problem	1	Total Incidents	97
Service Of Papers	1		

## Town of Sweden, Maine 2024 Budget Committee

It is the responsibility of the Budget Committee (BC) to make recommendations to the Select Board (SB) and to the Town on all matters related to the Town's budget. The BC has done their best to collaborate with the SB to recommend a thoughtful budget for 2024.

The recommendations for 2024 limit the use of the Unassigned Fund Balance (UFB). This is the fiscally responsible approach necessary to maintain a minimum of three to four (3-4) months of the Town's expense budget as recommended by the auditor. Thanks to the prudent stewardship of past select boards, funds were available when it became necessary to replace the bridge on Haskell Hill Rd. and make other emergency road repairs without a major tax rate increase. While the expectation is that some of the expenses for emergency road repair will be reimbursed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), there is no guarantee as to how much will be reimbursed or when funds will be received.

There are some appropriate uses of UFB, and one is to begin setting aside funds for

**Article 29:** To see if the Town will raise and appropriate and/or take from the unassigned fund balance for the purpose of future Town revaluation and allow the balance to carry over each year.

Select Board recommends raise \$10,000 and take from the unassigned fund balance \$10,000 and allow the balance to carry forward each year. (3-0)

Budget Committee recommends raise \$10,000 and take from the unassigned fund balance \$10,000 and allow the balance to carry forward each year. (4-0).

The State Constitution requires that a revaluation be done every ten (10) years. The last revaluation in the Town of Sweden was done 2017 and the assessor's agent is booking out to 2027, so it is important to make the commitment now to get on the 2027 schedule. Raising some money and taking some from the UFB every year for several years is the standard method of appropriating funds for this expenditure. The current cost would be approximately \$70,000 and there is \$16,000 remaining in the fund from the last revaluation. While the expectation is that the cost will increase some by 2027 so a little more may have to be raised in the last year; appropriating \$20,000 per year over the next 3 years is the responsible approach. A revaluation ensures that taxpayers are treated fairly, and failing to have the revaluation done puts the Town at risk of losing funding from the State.

**Article 10.** To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for the purpose of snow removal and sanding for the ensuing year. The current contract expires in May of this year so the recommended appropriation is the same as last year, with the understanding that the SB will put it out to bid over the summer as required by the Town's Purchasing Policy. Once the bids are in, a Special Town Meeting (STM) will be required to take additional funds from the UFB for the increase.

**A majority of the Budget Committee also supports Article 40:** To see if the Town will vote to establish a Capital reserve account for a new fire station and transfer all funds (approximately \$188,000) from the State Aid Road Capital Account to the Capital reserve account for the new fire station.

Voters have been appropriating funds for State Aid Roads for several years, but there has never been a long-term plan for expending the funds. Redirecting the funds for a new fire station is in keeping with the intent to appropriate the funds for a Capital expense that ensures the safety of the Town of Sweden.

In April of 2023, a Fiscal Year 2024 Congressionally Directed Spending Request for \$1,150,000 was submitted to and supported by Senator Susan Collins as part of the FY2024 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) Community Project Funding (CPF) program. The U.S. Senate passed the appropriations bill in November of 2023 which is awaiting approval from the US House to be enacted.

Even if the bill is enacted and the Town receives the grant, it is unlikely that it will cover the full expense of a new fire station and some funds will have to be borrowed. The capital account will allow the SB to reduce the amount to be borrowed. Voters will have to give the SB the authority to borrow the money, but an application was submitted to the Maine Municipal Bond Bank (MMBB) in Feb. as a proactive measure to get the Town pre-approved and able to act when the appropriations bill is enacted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shannon Slayton  
Julie McQueen  
George Conly  
Alberta Ridlon



## SWEDEN ROAD ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2/23/24

To: Sweden Taxpayers

The Road Advisory Committee (RAC) was formed in Sept. 2021 by the Select Board to review and make recommendations on upgrades, maintenance and expenses related the town's public roads.

We commend the Select Board and Road Commissioner on the successful repair of the Haskell Hill washout and the rebuilding of a majority of Webber Pond Rd. during 2023.

The RAC has made recommendations that we feel will continue to improve our road system and hope the Select Board and Road Commissioner will be available to discuss these prior to the start of the 2024 construction season.

With regards to the 2024 warrant items, the RAC unanimously approved the following at its meeting on 2/12/24:

**ARTICLE 9:** The RAC feels that proper maintenance is essential to help limit costs of future road reconstruction and therefore feels \$150,000.00 is a more reasonable budget cost and recommends the raising of \$75,000 as recommended by both the Select Board and the Budget Committee and taking an additional \$75,000 from the UFB.

**ARTICLE 9a:** The proposed amount of \$200,000 does not seem to be adequate considering inflation and the condition of Sweden's roads. In past years, 2016, 2019 and 2020, over \$100,000 has been requested without a noticeable improvement to the roads. Therefore, the RAC is recommending raising \$200,000 as recommended, taking an additional \$50,000 from the UFB and an additional from \$125,000 from the State Road Capital Account resulting in a total of \$375,000.00 and using this to reconstruct as much of Hardscrabble Road as the money will allow.

**ARTICLE 10:** The RAC feels that the \$285,000.00 recommended will not be sufficient for the 2024-25 snow removal, sanding and salting of town roads. Although the actual cost will not be known until pricing is requested and reviewed, it will be more than previous years and tax payers should allocate additional money.

**ARTICLE 40:** The RAC feels that tax payers have voted money for the State Road Capital Account for 15 +/- years with the intention of this money being spent on the town road system and should not be taken and used for other possible town expenses.

**ARTICLE 41:** The RAC feels that the Select Board be authorized to use LRAP funds in accordance with State Law.

Sincerely,

George Conly, Warren deWildt, Alan Sparn, Timothy Karwowski

	2023 Approved Budget				Select Board Proposed 2024 Budget				Budget Committee Proposed 2024 Budget				
	RAISE	UNASSIGNED D FUND balance	TOTAL 2023 Budget		Raise	UNASSIGNED FUND BALANCE	Total proposed 2024 Bdgt SB	Proposed Increase (Decrease)		Raise	UNASSIGNED FUND BALANCE	Total proposed 2024 Bdgt BC	Proposed Increase (Decrease)
- 5K SALARIES	\$ 101,038.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 101,038.00		\$ 109,261.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 109,261.00	\$ 8,223.00		\$ 109,261.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 109,261.00	\$ 8,223.00
6 INTEREST ON BORROWING		\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00		-	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ -		\$ -	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ -
7 TOWN CHARGES	\$ 103,647.00		\$ 103,647.00		\$ 102,215.00		\$ 102,215.00	\$ (1,432.00)		\$ 102,215.00		\$ 102,215.00	\$ (1,432.00)
8 PLANNING BOARD SUPPORT	\$ 16,500.00		\$ 16,500.00		\$ 19,500.00		\$ 19,500.00	\$ 3,000.00		\$ 19,500.00		\$ 19,500.00	\$ 3,000.00
MAINTENANCE OF ROADS AND ROADSIDES	\$ 75,000.00		\$ 75,000.00		\$ 75,000.00		\$ 75,000.00	\$ -		\$ 75,000.00		\$ 75,000.00	\$ -
CAPITAL ROADS ACCOUNT	\$ 177,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 187,000.00		\$ 200,000.00		\$ 200,000.00	\$ 13,000.00		\$ 200,000.00		\$ 200,000.00	\$ 13,000.00
10 WINTER ROADS	\$ 285,000.00	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 290,500.00		\$ 285,000.00		\$ 285,000.00	\$ (5,500.00)		\$ 285,000.00		\$ 285,000.00	\$ (5,500.00)
11 RUBBISH REMOVAL	\$ 63,279.00		\$ 63,279.00		\$ 70,799.00		\$ 70,799.00	\$ 7,520.00		\$ 70,799.00		\$ 70,799.00	\$ 7,520.00
12 GENERAL ASSISTANCE		\$ 1,250.00	\$ 1,250.00		\$ -	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 1,250.00	\$ -		\$ -	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 1,250.00	\$ -
13 TOWN GROUNDS & BLDG MAINT	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 18,000.00		\$ 6,000.00		\$ 6,000.00	\$ (12,000.00)		\$ 6,000.00		\$ 6,000.00	\$ (12,000.00)
CAPITAL FUND FOR TOWN GROUNDS & BLDG MAINT		\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (50,000.00)		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (50,000.00)
14 FIRE DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATION	\$ 70,375.00		\$ 70,375.00		\$ 72,725.00		\$ 72,725.00	\$ 2,350.00		\$ 72,725.00		\$ 72,725.00	\$ 2,350.00
SVFD CAPITAL ACCOUNT		\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (10,000.00)		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (10,000.00)
15 MISC AG: CONSERVATION COMMISSION	\$ 125.00		\$ 125.00		\$ 225.00		\$ 225.00	\$ 100.00		\$ 225.00		\$ 225.00	\$ 100.00
16 MISC AG: AMBULANCE	\$ 2,040.00		\$ 2,040.00		\$ 2,040.00		\$ 2,040.00	\$ -		\$ 2,040.00		\$ 2,040.00	\$ -
17 HARVEST HILLS	\$ 406.00		\$ 406.00		\$ 406.00		\$ 406.00	\$ -		\$ 406.00		\$ 406.00	\$ -
18 MISC AG: SENIORS PLUS	\$ 500.00		\$ 500.00		\$ 500.00		\$ 500.00	\$ -		\$ 500.00		\$ 500.00	\$ -
MISC AG: SAPRS	\$ 100.00		\$ 100.00				\$ -	\$ (100.00)				\$ -	\$ (100.00)
MISC AG: COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE	\$ 200.00		\$ 200.00				\$ -	\$ (200.00)				\$ -	\$ (200.00)
19 MISC AG: SWEDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY	\$ 2,500.00		\$ 2,500.00		\$ 2,500.00		\$ 2,500.00	\$ -		\$ 2,500.00		\$ 2,500.00	\$ -
20 MISC AG: HOBBS LIBRARY	\$ 2,800.00		\$ 2,800.00		\$ 3,000.00		\$ 3,000.00	\$ 200.00		\$ 3,000.00		\$ 3,000.00	\$ 200.00
21 MISC AG: LOVELL REC	\$ 2,500.00		\$ 2,500.00		\$ 2,500.00		\$ 2,500.00	\$ -		\$ 2,500.00		\$ 2,500.00	\$ -
22 MISC AG: LEA	\$ 400.00		\$ 400.00		\$ 400.00		\$ 400.00	\$ -		\$ 400.00		\$ 400.00	\$ -
23 MISC AG: SWEDEN FOOD PANTRY	\$ 600.00		\$ 600.00		\$ 1,000.00		\$ 1,000.00	\$ 400.00		\$ 1,000.00		\$ 1,000.00	\$ 400.00
MISC AG: COMMUNITY CONCEPTS	\$ 330.00		\$ 330.00				\$ -	\$ (330.00)				\$ -	\$ (330.00)
24 MISC AG: THE LIFEFLIGHT FOUNDATION	\$ 406.00		\$ 406.00		\$ 406.00		\$ 406.00	\$ -		\$ 406.00		\$ 406.00	\$ -
MISC AG: SAFE VOICES	\$ 200.00		\$ 200.00				\$ -	\$ (200.00)				\$ -	\$ (200.00)
25 MISC AG: CANCER RESOURCE CTR					\$ 50.00		\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00		\$ 50.00		\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
26 CEMETERY MAINTENANCE	\$ 8,000.00		\$ 8,000.00		\$ 5,000.00		\$ 5,000.00	\$ (3,000.00)		\$ 5,000.00		\$ 5,000.00	\$ (3,000.00)
27 LEGAL COUNSEL	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 12,500.00	\$ 15,000.00		\$ 2,500.00	\$ 12,500.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ -		\$ 2,500.00	\$ 12,500.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ -
GRANT COST SHARE		\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00		\$ -		\$ -	\$ (25,000.00)		\$ -		\$ -	\$ (25,000.00)
ST AID ROAD CAPITAL PROJECTS		\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00		\$ -		\$ -	\$ (10,000.00)		\$ -		\$ -	\$ (10,000.00)
28 CONTINGENCY FUND		\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00			\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ (5,000.00)			\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ (5,000.00)
HASKELL HILL BRIDGE		\$ 415,000.00	\$ 415,000.00				\$ -	\$ (415,000.00)				\$ -	\$ (415,000.00)
EMERGENCY ROADS		\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00		\$ -		\$ -	\$ (50,000.00)		\$ -		\$ -	\$ (50,000.00)
29 REVALUATION					\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00		\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
TOTAL	\$ 921,446.00	\$ 622,450.00	\$ 1,543,896.00		\$ 971,027.00	\$ 39,950.00	\$ 1,010,977.00	\$ (532,919.00)		\$ 971,027.00	\$ 39,950.00	\$ 1,010,977.00	\$ (532,919.00)

Difference from Previous Year  
 \$ 49,581.00 \$ (582,500.00) \$ (532,919.00) \$ 49,581.00 \$ (582,500.00) \$ (532,919.00)  
 5.4% -93.6% -34.5% 5.4% -93.6% -34.5%

## WARRANT FOR TOWN MEETING

**To William Graham, Constable of the Town of Sweden, County of Oxford, State of Maine,**

**GREETINGS:** In the name of the State of Maine you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Sweden in said county, qualified by law to vote in Town affairs, to meet at the Town Meeting House, **on Saturday, the 23rd day of March AD 2024, at nine o'clock in the morning,** then and there to act on the following articles, to wit:

**Article 1.** To choose a Moderator to preside at said meeting.

**Article 2.** To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board to borrow monies in anticipation of taxes as may be required to operate the services of the Town.

Selectmen recommend (3-0)

Budget Committee recommends (3-0)

**Article 3.** To elect all Town Officers:

- a. One (1) Member of the Select Board, Assessor and Overseer of the Poor for a period of 3 years;
  - b. One (1) Planning Board member for a period of 5 years;
  - c. Two (2) Planning Board alternates each for a period of 1 year;
  - d. One (1) Board of Appeals member for a period of 5 years;
  - e. Two (2) Board of Appeals members for a period of 2 years;
  - f. Two (2) Board of Appeals alternates for a period of 1 year;
- and any other necessary officers.

**Article 4.** To see if the town will increase the property tax levy limit established for the Town of Sweden by State law in the event that the municipal budget approved under the following articles will result in a tax commitment that is greater than that property tax levy limit.

Select Board recommends (3-0)

Budget Committee recommends (4-0)

**Article 5a.** To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for the compensation of the **1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Select Board members.**

<b><u>2022</u></b>	<b><u>2023</u></b>
\$9,790.00	\$9,790.00

Select Board recommends raise (3-0)	\$10,107.00
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Budget Committee recommends raise (4-0)	\$10,107.00
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**Article 5b.** To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for the compensation of the **Town Clerk.**

<b><u>2022</u></b>	<b><u>2023</u></b>
\$14,196.00	\$15,048.00

Select Board recommends raise (3-0)	\$ 17,919.00.
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Budget Committee recommends raise (4-0)	\$ 17,919.00.
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**Article 5c.** To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for the compensation of the **Town Treasurer.**

	<b><u>2022</u></b>	<b><u>2023</u></b>
	\$7,644.00	\$8,103.00
Select Board recommends raise (3-0)		\$ 8,363.00
Budget Committee recommends raise (4-0)		\$ 8,363.00

**Article 5d.** To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for the compensation of the **Town Tax Collector.**

	<b><u>2022</u></b>	<b><u>2023</u></b>
	\$14,196.00	\$15,048.00
Select Board recommends raise (3-0)		\$17,919.00
Budget Committee recommends raise (4-0)		\$17,919.00

**Article 5e.** To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for the compensation of the **Administrative Assistant to the Select Board at an average of 24 hours per week for 52 weeks per year .**

	<b><u>2022</u></b>	<b><u>2023</u></b>
	\$26,208.00	\$27,780.00
Select Board recommends raise (3-0)		\$28,670.00
Budget Committee recommends raise (4-0)		\$28,670.00

**Article 5f.** To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for the compensation of the **Code Enforcement Officer.**

	<b><u>2022</u></b>	<b><u>2023</u></b>
	\$12,600.00	\$17,000.00
Select Board recommends raise (3-0)		\$17,544.00
Budget Committee recommends raise (4-0)		\$17,544.00

**Article 5g.** To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for the compensation of the **Fire Chief.**

	<b><u>2022</u></b>	<b><u>2023</u></b>
	\$3000.00	\$3,180.00
Select Board recommends raise (3-0)		\$ 3,282.00
Budget Committee recommends raise (3-1)		\$ 3,282.00

**Article 5h.** To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for the compensation of the **Road Commissioner.**

	<b><u>2022</u></b>	<b><u>2023</u></b>
	\$3,000.00	\$3,180.00
Select Board recommends raise (3-0)		\$ 3,282.00
Budget Committee recommends raise (4-0)		\$ 3,282.00

**Article 5i.** To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for the compensation of the **Cemetery Sexton.**

	<b><u>2022</u></b>	<b><u>2023</u></b>
	\$352.00	\$373.00
Select Board recommends raise (3-0)		\$ 385.00
Budget Committee recommends raise (4-0)		\$ 385.00

**Article 5j.** To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for the compensation of the **Emergency Management Director.**

	<b><u>2022</u></b>	<b><u>2023</u></b>
	\$750.00	\$1,255.00
Select Board recommends raise (3-0)		\$ 1,500.00
Budget Committee recommends raise (3-1)		\$ 1,500.00

**Article 5k.** To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for the compensation of the **E-911 Addressing Officer.**

	<b><u>2022</u></b>	<b><u>2023</u></b>
	\$265.00	\$281.00
Select Board recommends raise (3-0)		\$ 290.00
Budget Committee recommends raise (4-0)		\$ 290.00

**Article 6.** To see if the Town will take from the unassigned fund balance up to \$1,200.00 for payment of interest on tax anticipation borrowing for the ensuing year.

Select Board recommends take from unassigned fund balance (3-0) up to	\$1,200.00
Budget Committee recommends take from unassigned fund balance (4-0) up to	\$1,200.00

**Article 7.** To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for **Town Charges** for the ensuing year.

	<b><u>2022</u></b>	<b><u>2023</u></b>
	\$80,742	\$103,647
Select Board recommends raise (3-0)		\$102,215.00
Budget Committee recommends raise (4-0)		\$102,215.00

**Article 8.** To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for support of the Sweden Planning Board.

Planning Board requested:	\$19,500.00
Select Board recommends raise (3-0)	\$19,500.00
Budget Committee recommends raise (4-0)	\$19,500.00

**Article 9.** To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for the **maintenance of roads and roadsides** for the ensuing year.

Select Board recommends raise (3-0)	\$75,000.00
Budget Committee recommends raise (3-1 abstain)	\$75,000.00
Road Advisory Committee recommends raise (4-0)	\$75,00.00
Road Advisory Committee recommends take from the unassigned fund balance (4-0) up to \$75,000.00	

**Article 9a.** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or take from the unassigned fund balance for the **Capital Improvement Reserve Account for Roads**, pursuant to 30-A M.R.S Section 5801 and allow the balance to carry forward.

Select Board recommends raise (3-0)	\$200,000.00
Budget Committee recommends raise (3-1)	\$200,000.00



Road Advisory Committee recommends raise (4-0)	\$200,000.00
Road Advisory Committee recommends take from the unassigned fund balance (4-0)	\$50,000.00

**Article 10.** To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for the purpose of snow removal and sanding for the ensuing year.

Select Board recommends raise (3-0)	\$285,000.00
Budget Committee recommends raise (3-1)	\$285,000.00
Road Advisory Committee recommends (3-0)	\$315,000.00

**Article 11.** To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate to pay for Lovell Transfer Station contract and to pay for any additional usage charges from the unassigned fund balance monies.

Select Board recommends raise (3-0)	\$70,799.00
Budget Committee recommends raise (4-0)	\$70,799.00

**Article 12.** To see what sum the Town will authorize the Select Board to draw upon the unassigned fund balance account for the care of the poor for the ensuing year.

Select Board recommends (3-0)	up to \$1,250.00.
Budget Committee recommends (4-0)	up to \$1,250.00.

**Article 13.** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for grounds maintenance, upkeep, and repairs for town buildings.

Select Board recommends (3-0)	\$6,000.00
Budget Committee recommends (4-0)	\$6,000.00

**Article 14.** To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for support of the Sweden Fire Department.

SVFD requested	\$72,725.00
Select Board recommends raise (3-0)	\$72,725.00
Budget Committee recommends raise (4-0)	\$72,725.00

**Article 15.** To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for the support of Sweden Conservation Commission.

Select Board recommends raise (3-0)	\$225.00
Budget Committee recommends raise (4-0)	\$225.00

**Article 16.** To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for support of the ambulance service for the ensuing year.

Select Board recommends raise (3-0)	\$2,040.00
Budget Committee recommends raise (4-0)	\$2,040.00

**Article 17.** To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for the support of **Harvest Hills Animal Shelter.**

Select Board recommends raise (3-0)	\$406.00
Budget Committee recommends raise (4-0)	\$406.00

**Article 18.** To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for the support of **Seniors Plus.**

Select Board recommends raise (3-0)	\$500.00
Budget Committee recommends raise (4-0)	\$500.00

**Article 19.** To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$2,500.00 for support of the **Sweden Historical Society.**

Select Board recommends (3-0)	\$2,500.00
Budget Committee recommends (4-0)	\$2,500.00

**Article 20.** To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for the support of **Charlotte E. Hobbs Memorial Library.**

Select Board recommends raise (3-0)	\$3,000.00
Budget Committee recommends raise (4-0)	\$3,000.00

**Article 21.** To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for the support of the **Lovell Recreation Program.**

Select Board recommends raise (3-0)	\$2,500.00
Budget Committee recommend raise (4-0)	\$2,500.00

**Article 22.** To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for the support of **Lakes Environmental Association (LEA).**

Select Board recommends raise (3-0)	\$400.00
Budget Committee recommends raise (4-0)	\$400.00

**Article 23.** To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for the support of **Sweden Food Pantry**

Select Board recommends raise (3-0)	\$1,000.00
Budget Committee recommends raise (4-0)	\$1,000.00

**Article 24.** To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for the support of **The Life Flight Foundation.**

Select Board recommends raise (3-0)	\$406.00
Budget Committee recommends raise (4-0)	\$406.00

**Article 25.** To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for the support of **Cancer Resource Center**

Select Board recommends raise (3-0)	\$50.00
Budget Committee recommends raise (4-0)	\$50.00

**Article 26.** To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for the purpose of **Cemetery maintenance** that is the responsibility of the Town.

Select Board recommends raise (3-0) \$ 5,000.00

Budget Committee recommends raise (4-0) \$ 5,000.00

**Article 27.** To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate and/or take from the unassigned fund balance for the purpose of **legal counsel**.

Select Board recommends raise (3-0) \$ 2,500.00

Select Board recommends take from the unassigned fund balance if needed (3-0)  
up to \$ 12,500.00

Budget Committee recommends raise (4-0) \$ 2,500.00

Budget Committee recommends take from the unassigned fund balance if needed (4-0)  
up to \$12,500.00

**Article 28.** To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate and/or take from the unassigned fund balance for the **Contingency Fund**.

Select Board recommends take from the unassigned fund balance (3-0) \$15,000.00

Budget Committee recommends take from the unassigned fund balance (4-0) \$15,000.00

**Article 29:** To see if the Town will raise and appropriate and/or take from the unassigned fund balance for the purpose of **future Town revaluation** and allow the balance to carry over each year.

Select Board recommends raise \$10,000 and take from the unassigned fund balance \$10,000  
and allow the balance to carry forward each year. (3-0)

Budget Committee recommends raise \$10,000 and take from the unassigned fund balance  
\$10,000 and allow the balance to carry forward each year. (4-0)

**Article 30.** To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen/Assessors to use not more than \$85,000.00 of the 2024 anticipated Excise monies collected in 2024 towards the amount appropriated in articles 5a through 29.

Select Board recommends (3-0)

Budget Committee recommends (4-0)

**Article 31.** To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen/Assessors to use not more than \$40,000.00 of the 2024 anticipated Tree Growth Refund monies collected in 2024 towards the amount appropriated in articles 5a through 29.

Select Board recommends (3-0)

Budget Committee recommends (4-0)

**Article 32.** To see if the voters will authorize the raising of the balance so appropriated, not covered in article 30 and 31 through taxation.

Select Board recommends (3-0)

Budget Committee recommends (4-0)

**Article 33.** To see if the Town will accept the highest interest rate set by the Office of the State Treasurer, State of Maine for delinquent taxes committed in the current year. (Rate cannot be greater than the State rate of 8.5% for 2024).

Select Board recommends (3-0)

Budget Committee recommends (4-0)

**Article 34.** To see if the Town will determine the date from and after which interest shall accrue on delinquent taxes committed for the current year.

Select Board recommends (3-0)

60 days after the date of commitment.

Budget Committee recommends (4-0)

60 days after the date of commitment.

**Article 35.** To see if the Town will set the interest rate paid on abated taxes to 4 percentage points less than the rate used in article 33 above by the State Treasurer, State of Maine.

Select Board recommends (3-0)

Budget Committee recommends (4-0)

**Article 36.** To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board to **take such sums from overlay as may be necessary for the purpose of funding tax abatements.**

Select Board recommends (3-0)

Budget Committee recommends (4-0)

**Article 37.** To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board on behalf of the Town **to sell and dispose of any real estate acquired by the Town for the non-payment of taxes thereon;** or by other judicial process; said real estate to be advertised in two separate issues of local paper within 30 days of sale. To be sold either at public auction or as the result of sealed bids called for and received by the Selectmen; provided, however, that the selectmen be authorized to sell at private sale property so acquired to the owner on record of any such property; all conveyances there-under to be by release deed. Except that the Municipal Officers shall use the special sale process required by 36 M.R.S. § 943-C for qualifying homestead property if they choose to sell it to anyone other than the former owner(s).

Select Board recommends (3-0)

Budget Committee recommends (4-0)

**Article 38.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to apply for and **accept grants and gifts on behalf of the Town,** and to expend the proceeds thereof for the purposes for which they are received, provided that the terms of the grants do not require the Town to expend other funds which have not been appropriated by the Town.

Select Board recommends (3-0)

Budget Committee recommends (4-0)

**Article 39.** To see if the Town will authorize the municipal officers to spend an amount not to exceed 3/12 of the budgeted amount in each budget category of the 2024 annual budget **during the period of January 1, 2025, to the March Annual Town Meeting in 2025.** The

exception is winter road maintenance. The municipal officers may spend more than 3/12ths of the 2024 annual budget amount for winter road maintenance to facilitate proper administration of the winter road maintenance contract. In no case shall the total expenditures for the year exceed the annual budget as approved by vote of the municipal legislative body (town meeting vote).

Select Board recommends (3-0)

Budget Committee recommends (4-0)

**Article 40:** To see if the Town will vote to establish a Capital reserve account for a new fire station and transfer all funds (approximately \$188,000) from the State Aid Road Capital Account to the Capital reserve account for the new fire station.

Select Board recommends (3-0)

Budget Committee recommends (3-1)

Road Advisory Committee recommends (0-3)

**Article 41.** To see if the Town will authorize or direct the Select Board to use available **LRAP funds** in accordance with State Law if needed.

Select Board recommends (3-0)

Budget Committee recommends (4-0)

Road Advisory Committee recommends (3-0)

**Article 42.** To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board to accept and spend **FEMA** money where appropriate.

Select Board recommends (3-0)

Budget Committee recommends (4-0)

**Article 43.** Shall an ordinance entitled "Town of Sweden, Maine Zoning and Land Use Ordinance Eighth Revision 2024" be enacted?

Select Board recommends (3-0)

Budget Committee recommends (4-0)

Given under our hands this

February

27,

2024

Select Board

Christopher Chadbourne

of

Daniel McQueen

Sweden

Kerry Welton

## Waste Disposal and Recycling

The Lovell Transfer Station is to be used for the disposal and recycling of wastes generated by Sweden property owners and residents. All materials must be taken to the Transfer Station. You may be asked to show proof of residency at the Transfer Station. The Town of Sweden supplies the Transfer Station with a current copy of all taxpayers in Sweden on an annual basis.

### Waste Materials Accepted at the Lovell Transfer Station

The Lovell Transfer Station allows for the disposal of a wide variety of household and special wastes **including waste oil, refrigeration units, and tires** as shown below. Note that each of the acceptable items has its own special location and wastes must be sorted by the delivering party.

Wastes must be taken to the Lovell Transfer Station during the hours shown below. Disposal of Sweden wastes is allowed on the honor system. No stickers are required.

ACCEPTABLE ITEMS		
Recyclable Items	· #1 Plastic	· #2 Plastic, clear
	· #2 Plastic, colored	· Aluminum cans
	· Glass bottles	· Tin (steel) cans, including spray cans
	· Paper (including newsprint, magazines, catalogs, and phone books)	· Corrugated cardboard
Bulk Materials	· Lumber, clean	· Lumber, painted or stained
	· Lumber, pressure treated	· Tires
	· Brush (max dia of 4 inches)	· Demolition debris
	· Leaves	· Paint (hardened)
	· Cement	· Drywall (sheet rock)
	· Brick (clay)	· Porcelain
	· Refrigeration units	· Metal
	· Oil	· Antifreeze
Deposit Items (glass bottles, plastic bottles, aluminum cans)		
A space will be provided should you wish to dispose of these items at the Transfer Station; however, there will be no refund of deposit.		

### UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS:

- Asbestos
- Propane Tanks
- Antifreeze
- Gasoline and other flammable liquids
- Explosives
- Unlabeled chemicals
- Mixed papers: including junk mail and cereal boxes (not recyclable)

### Hours of Operation

⇒ Wednesday	8 am – 5 pm	⇒ Thursday	8 am – 5 pm
⇒ Saturday	8 am – 5 pm	⇒ Sunday	8 am – 5 pm

Feel free to ask Transfer Station attendants for any information needed to make sorting of materials easier. Aid for the handicapped, elderly, and mobility-restricted is available on request.

The Lovell Transfer Station is located on Route 5, across from Lovell Hardware.

The phone number for the Transfer Station is 925-1300.









**TOWN OF SWEDEN EMERGENCY NUMBERS MARCH 2024  
FOR MEDICAL OR FIRE EMERGENCIES DIAL 911**

<b>FIRE</b>	EMERGENCY.....	<b>911</b>
Oxford County Regional Communications Center	NON-EMERGENCY.....	1(800)733-1421
<b>POLICE</b>	EMERGENCY.....	<b>911</b>
	NON-EMERGENCY.....	1(800)733-1421
<b>STATE POLICE</b>	.....	1(800)452-4664
<b>GAME WARDEN</b>	.....	1(800)452-4664
<b>MEDICAL</b>		
United Ambulance	EMERGENCY.....	<b>911</b>
Bridgton Hospital	.....	647-6000
Poison Control Center	.....	1(800)222-1222
<b>BOARD OF SELECTMEN</b>		
Christopher Chadbourne.....		647-3944
Daniel McQueen .....		647-3944
Kerry Welton .....		647-3944
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO THE SELECT BOARD</b>		
Rose McKenzie email: <a href="mailto:adminassistbos@swedenmaine.org">adminassistbos@swedenmaine.org</a> .....		647-3944
<b>Town Office Hours:</b>		
Tuesday 9am-4pm/ Thursday 11am-6pm/1 <sup>st</sup> four Saturdays 9am-noon		
<b>TAX COLLECTOR</b>		
Linda Moynihan email: <a href="mailto:taxcollector@swedenmaine.org">taxcollector@swedenmaine.org</a> .....		647-3944
<b>TREASURER</b>		
Angela Thomas email: <a href="mailto:treasurer@swedenmaine.org">treasurer@swedenmaine.org</a> .....		647-3944
<b>TOWN CLERK/REGISTRAR OF VOTERS</b>		
Mary Ellen McLaughlin email: <a href="mailto:townclerk@swedenmaine.org">townclerk@swedenmaine.org</a> .....		647-3944
<b>FIRE CHIEF</b>		
Tim Cook .....		415-7966
<b>FIRE STATION</b>	NON-EMERGENCY.....	647-2781
<b>FIRE PERMITS</b>	<a href="http://www.wardensreport.com">www.wardensreport.com</a>	
<b>EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR</b>		
Tommie McKenzie .....		603-447-9176
<b>HEALTH OFFICER</b>		
Kathi Shorey .....		632-1900
<b>ROAD COMMISSIONER</b>		
Troy Morse .....		890-1237
<b>ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER</b>		
Cynthia Eaton .....		890-5313
<b>CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER/PLUMBING INSPECTOR</b>		
Peter Gordon .....		298-6248

TOWN OF SWEDEN

147 Bridgton Road, Sweden, ME 04040

