Dear Ogunquit Neighbor:

This year marks Ogunquit’s 40th anniversary as a Town. There will be a number of special activities happening throughout the year to celebrate this milestone. We hope you will join in. Please check the Town’s web site as the year progresses for more information.

One of the provisions in the Town Charter is a requirement that the Select Board issue a mid-year report that provides an update to the citizens regarding the results of the June Town Meeting and any Special Town Meetings that were held after it. We are pleased to present this Mid-Year Report to you.

**Annual Town Meeting: June 11, 2019**

The Annual Town Meeting took place on Tuesday, June 11th at the Dunaway Community Center. A total of 530 votes were cast.

**Elections.** Every June, voters are asked to elect Select Board Members, Budget Review Committee Members, and School Committee Members. In June the following people were elected:

- **Select Board:** Lindsey M. Perry (3 year term),
- **Budget Review Committee:** Thomas Sellers, III (3 year term)
- **Wells-Ogunquit Community School District Trustee:** Boriana Dolliver (3 year term)

**Ordinance Amendments.** There were 2 zoning ordinance amendments on the ballot:

**Article 5** was an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance to rezone the area where the **Ogunquit Playhouse** is located. The amendment did several things including allowing the Ogunquit Playhouse to improve and expand its facilities. Some of the planned improvements are: additional bathrooms, making the building more accessible, increase the building height to build a “fly tower,” and increase the allowed lot coverage for future development. The Playhouse will be required to bring development plans to the Planning Board for review and approval.

The voters **approved** this article: Yes 415  No: 86

**Article 6** amended the zoning ordinance regarding **Restaurant Definitions**. Currently the zoning ordinance contains definitions for 6 types of restaurants. The amendment reduced the total number of restaurant definitions from 6 to 4. It also allowed restaurants in Perkins Cove to have a “take out” window or counter with Planning Board approval.

The voters **approved** this article: Yes: 242; No: 220
**Town Budget**

The June Annual Town Meeting is the time when residents vote on the Town Budget. The Town Budget reflects the values of the community. As your elected officials, we like to hear from people throughout the budget process to know what services and programs are your priorities. The Town Meeting vote on the budget is the culmination of the budget process. That is when voters have a direct say on what they support and what you are willing to pay for Town services.

Town of Ogunquit provides a full range of services including essential public safety services provided by Police, Fire, Ocean Rescue, Code Enforcement, and Public Works, cultural and recreational programming, conservation of natural resources, and other services that improve our quality of life and preserve Ogunquit’s special character. Each department is voted on separately. In June 2019, all the operating Budget articles were approved.

We are grateful for this funding support which makes it possible for the employees to deliver these important public services, and for the many volunteers on Town Committees to do their work.

**Capital Improvement Projects**

Voters are also asked to approve capital projects. Capital projects are assets which are permanent or which have a long life cycle such as roads, buildings, and major equipment which has significant value such as fire trucks or plow trucks. The Capital budget also includes funding for “reserve” funds where funds are set aside to pay for capital projects and equipment that we know will be needed in the future.

The following is a list of the capital projects that voters were asked to approve in June 2019:

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**Article 39:** Purchase of a **Chest Compressor**. This equipment is used by the Ogunquit Fire Department’s Paramedics to attend to people having heart attacks or other cardiac distress symptoms. The cost of the Chest Compressor was $20,000.

Voters **approved** the purchase of this life-saving equipment: Yes: 386 No: 101

**Update:** The Fire Department has purchased this equipment, the Paramedics/EMT's have been trained to use it, and it has already been used successfully to save people experiencing cardiac arrest. The Fire Department will be requesting a second Chest Compressor in the FY21 budget so both ambulances will be equipped with this life saving equipment when they respond to calls.

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**Article 40:** Purchase of an **Extractor Washing Machine** for the Fire Department. Firefighters and EMT's are exposed to numerous types of chemicals and potentially cancer-causing substances when they respond to calls. Their clothing gets covered with those hazardous substances. This washing machine is designed to remove (extract) those hazardous substances and chemicals from the firefighters/EMTs clothing. This is an important piece of workplace safety equipment. The cost of the extractor was $10,000

Voters **did not approve** this purchase: No: 273 Yes: 207

**Update:** A local business owner recently came forward to donate funds to purchase the extractor machine. We are grateful for this generous donation to the Ogunquit Fire Company.

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Article 41: Funds to improve the Town’s **Fire Training Building**. The training building has fallen into disrepair and needs to be renovated to meet building and life safety standards. The training building allows the firefighters to get real-life experiences to combat building fires, rescue people from buildings, and do other training exercises. The cost of this article was $25,000 to provide matching funds for a grant and to set aside funds for the full reconstruction of the training building.

The voters **approved** this article: Yes: 340   No: 146

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Article 42: Funding (bond issue) to improve **Agamenticus Road** and address drainage and safety issues. The bond request was for $1.3 million for engineering, design, and construction.

The voters **approved** this article: Yes: 372   No: 94

**Update:** The Town has hired an engineering firm to design improvements to the road. We have held one community meeting when the engineers presented their concepts to get feedback from the residents. The engineers have taken the comments and are working on a revised design which will include an option for a sidewalk. We will hold another community meeting to review the updated plan. Then the next step will be to bring the plans to the Select Board, issue bids for the road to be reconstructed, and reconstruct the road in the fall.

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Article 43: Funding for **Street Paving** projects. The Article requested $100,000 for street projects.

The voters **approved** this article: Yes: 404   No: 60

**Update:** The Town has completed the assessment of the pavement condition of all the Town roads. The engineers have taken this data and rated each of the roads and have developed a list which rates the conditions of all the roads from poor to very good. The Town will use this data to develop a 5-year road improvement plan which will prioritize each street based on its condition and will allow the Town to budget fund to improve the roads according to the 5-year road improvement plan.

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Article 44: Funding to improve **Captain Thomas Road**. Captain Thomas Road has been in very bad condition due to several factors including undersized culverts and drainage systems. As a result it often floods and washes out in heavy rain storms. The budget request was for $200,000.

The voters approved this article: Yes: 383   No: 89

**Update:** **Captain Thomas Road** is currently being engineered to replace 1 or 2 culverts which will address the flooding and the road being undermined. In addition to the funding authorized by the voters, the Town received good news earlier this month. We applied for a State Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP) “StreamSmart” grant to help fund the cost of replacing the culverts. DEP awarded the Town a $95,000 grant – the maximum amount allowed.

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Article 45: Funding for engineering services to design improvements to **Shore Road** including poor drainage, inadequate sidewalks, and poor pavement conditions. The request was for $75,000.

The voters **approved** this article: Yes: 375   No: 93
**Update:** This funding was for engineering services to assess the road and look at alternatives to improve the road, address drainage issues, and also address safety issues long the street. Shore Road is a heavily used road which will require taking all the users into consideration as we work to make Shore Road safer and more functional. Shore Road is classified as a State road which requires the Town to coordinate any work with the Maine Department of Transportation. This will be a large road improvement project. Once designs have been developed, there will be public meetings to get feedback from the community.

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**Article 46:**  Funds to stabilize River Road. This article requested funding for engineering and design improvements to address erosion in the area along River Road and the Ogunquit River. The request was for $75,000 for engineering and design.

The voters approved this article: Yes: 377  No: 110

**Update:** This project has been given to the engineers to develop possible solutions to address the erosion issues. Once their assessment is done, the engineers will develop design options and cost estimates for the work that will be necessary to repair the erosion and stabilize this area against future damage.

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**Article 47:**  Funds for engineering and design to repair and improve the North Beach and Footbridge parking lots, and redesign the Obeds Lane parking lot. to increase the number of spaces. The purpose of the funding is to ensure we maximize the area that is available to provide for parking and revenue. The request was $75,000 for engineering and design work.

The voters approved this article:  Yes: 373  No: 115

**Update:** Funds received from parking lots is the Town’s largest source of revenues after property taxes. Both the North Beach and Footbridge Beach parking lots are experiencing erosion due to storms which undermine the surface and will reduce the useable space for parking if those problems are not addressed. The Obeds Lane parking lot is becoming more popular. It could serve more people if the lot was designed and improved to maximize the space available. The Town is working with the Town engineers and the State Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP) staff to ensure any improvements done at the beach parking lots meet environmental criteria. Options for redesigning the Obeds Lane lot are being considered. The Town engineers will develop design options and cost estimates for all 3 parking lots so the Town can budget for it.

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**Article 48:**  Funding (bond issue) to purchase a Dump Truck/Snow Plow for the Public Works Department. The request was for $95,000.

The voters approved this article: Yes: 366  No: 126

**Update:** This funding allowed the Public Works Department to replace a 2006 dump truck, which was the oldest truck in the fleet. The Town issued bids for the new truck. The Select Board awarded the bid to build the truck. The new truck is scheduled to be delivered to Public Works the first week of February.

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**Article 49:**  Funding to replace the Perkins Cove Boardwalk and Railings. The requested amount was $40,000.

Voters approved this article: Yes: 381 No: 107
Article 50: Funding for Marginal Way to repair the damage caused in the 2018 storms. The Town is receiving Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funds to pay for storm damage on the Marginal Way and in other areas around town. FEMA will fund approximately 90% of the cost of repair of eligible projects, provided the Town funds the local share which is 10%. This request was for $150,000 to go toward the Town’s local share.

The voters **approved** this article: Yes: 359  No: 130

**Update:** Work to restore damage along the Marginal Way is underway. We are continuing to secure the necessary environmental permits to construct additional improvements. Work on the Marginal Way has to be planned at a time when construction is possible from a weather standpoint, and when construction crews can work without adversely affecting the thousands of people who walk the Marginal Way.

Article 51: Funding to replace the **canvas canopy at the Main Beach** seating area.

The requested amount was $20,000.

The voters **approved** this article: Yes: 383  No: 110

**Update:** The Town issued bids for this project. The Select Board awarded the bid to the low bidder. Even though it was the low bid, it exceeds the approved amount by $4,500. By Charter, the Select Board can transfer funds from completed capital project that was done under budget, to another capital project that cost more than budgeted to make up the difference. This can be done after the Select Board holds a public hearing. The Select Board will be holding a public hearing to transfer $4,500 to this project. It will be announced on the web site and posted at the Post Office. The canopy is currently being made and will be installed before Memorial Day.

Article 52: Funding for **Stage Lighting and Equipment for Ogunquit Performing Arts**, to replace outdated lighting which is not functional or energy efficient. The requested amount was $15,000.

Voters **approved** this article: Yes: 320  No: 159

**Update:** The lights and equipment are currently being scoped out with a planned installation this spring.

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**November 5, 2019 Special Town Meeting**

The Town held a Special Town Meeting on November 5, 2019 at the Dunaway Community Center. A total of 657 votes were cast.

The ballot included the following Articles: Elections to fill the unexpired terms for one Select Board Member and one Budget Review Committee Member.

In addition, voters were asked to consider establishing a Charter Commission, and to approve a Charter Amendment.

Lastly, there were **3 budget articles:** A budget reconciliation article to transfer funds to balance the legal services budget, erosion control work on the Marginal Way, and funding to complete construction of the Main Beach Bathhouse and Lifeguard Station.
Elections:
Select Board:  Heath Ouellette (term expires June 2020)
Budget Review Committee: Rick Dolliver (term expires June 2021)

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Town Charter Articles

Article 4: Shall a Charter Commission be established for the purpose of revising the Municipal Charter or establishing a New Municipal Charter?

The voters approved this Article: Yes: 420  No: 190

Update: With the approval of this Article, the Select Board Town is proceeding with establishing the Charter Commission. State law establishes the membership of the Charter Commission: There are a total of 9 members: 3 are appointed by the Select Board and 6 are elected. The Select Board has appointed the 3 members: Peter Griswold, Terry Ann Lunt, and Robin Millward. The remaining 6 members will be elected at the June Town Meeting. To qualify you must be an Ogunquit voter. Nomination papers will be available from the Town Clerk Office in March. Information about the process will be posted on the Town web site.

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Article 5: Shall the Municipality approve an amendment to the Town Charter Article VIII, Boards, Committees and Commissions, Section 804, Recall of Elected Officials as follows:

"Any elected official may be recalled and removed from office by the registered voters of the Town as provided herein, if the official has been convicted of a crime, the conduct of which occurred during the official's term of office."

The bold and underlined language is the amendment.

The voters approved this article: Yes: 408  No: 235

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Article 6: Shall the Town approve the Transfer of $75,909.64 from the Unassigned Fund Balance to the 2019 General Government budget to fund the over-expenditure in that budget due to Legal Services costs?

The voters approved this article: Yes: 445  No: 195

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Article 7: Shall the Town appropriate a sum not to exceed $10,919 from the Unassigned Fund Balance to the Marginal Way Committee for the Erosion Control and Restoration Projects?

The voters approved this article: Yes: 579  No: 66

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Article 8: Shall the Town vote to approve a bond issue in the amount of $700,000 to complete the reconstruction and expansion of the Main Beach Bathhouse and Lifeguard Station?

The voters approved this article: Yes: 331  No: 289
**Update:** The Main Beach Bathhouse and Lifeguard station began construction in mid-November. The Main Beach bathhouse was in poor condition, it constantly needed repairs, it was inadequate to handle the number of people who needed it. There were often long lines of women and children waiting in the hot sun to use the facilities. Likewise, the Lifeguard Station which is in the bathhouse building was undersized and inadequate to meet the current and future needs of the Ocean Rescue service. The new Main Beach building will be improved and expanded as follows:

- The existing building is 1,821 sq. ft. The new building is 2,660 sq. ft.
- The men’s bathrooms will be completely new. It will have the same number of toilets, urinals, and baby changing stations because they were sufficient to meet the demand.
- The women’s bathrooms will be greatly expanded to accommodate the number of users: there will be additional sinks, hand dryers, baby changing stations, and the number of toilets will increase from 15 to 22.
- For convenience, the new facility will have exterior changing rooms which people can access without needing to enter the bathroom area.
- There will be 2 toilets that will be open to the public year-round. These are ADA accessible and will be heated in the cold weather.
- The Lifeguard/Ocean Rescue Station will be doubled in size from its current size of 329 sq. ft. to 658 sq. ft., plus there will be an additional 134 sq. ft. of storage space overhead.

The Main Beach Bathhouse and Lifeguard Station project is scheduled to be completed before Memorial Day 2020.

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We hope this “mid-year report” is useful to you. If you have any questions or suggestions on ways to do things better, please contact any one of us. You can e-mail us by going to the Town website on the “Contact” tab. Budget season is about to get started and we want to hear from you regarding what you value and what you think the Town’s funding priorities should be. If you want to be notified about Select Board or other Town meetings, please sign up by clicking on “Contact” on the home page and then “e-mail.”

Approving the Town Meeting Warrant is only the start. None of the things approved at Town Meeting would be accomplished without our dedicated Town employees who work every day to make Ogunquit better than the day before. Another important group of people we are grateful for are the many citizens who volunteer their time and talents to serve on Town boards and committees. Without them, many of the things we love about Ogunquit and that make us unique wouldn’t be happening. If you are not already on a committee, please consider joining one that interests you.

Finally, we want to express our appreciation to all the people of Ogunquit. It is a privilege to serve you and we are grateful for your supporting the budget that makes it possible to accomplish good things for our community. Thank you!

Madeline S. Mooney, Chair
Robert N. Winn, Jr., Vice Chair
John M. Daley
Heath Ouellette
Lindsey M. Perry