SELECTMEN/TOWN MANAGER: Thank you to all the folks in the community who have donated to our Power Fund. This winter we have managed to help several families who were in need and did not qualify for state programs. If you would like to participate in funding this resident based program, please visit the town office or send in your donation marked “Power Fund”.

We encourage folks to attend upcoming budget meetings beginning in March. Exact dates will be published on our website and in the March Newsletter. It is getting increasingly difficult to keep the mil rate low and we always appreciate taxpayer/resident input and ideas. We are fortunate to have many unpaid volunteers willing to help with so many of our projects and programs.

Very special thanks to our Police Department, Fire Department and Road Commissioner for their outstanding services every day and especially during our recent storms. When called upon day, night, rainy, cold, snowy, stormy…we recognize and appreciate your willingness to protect and serve our community.

MDOT is planning to pave (light capital paving – LCP) all state roads on the Peninsula. There will be about seventeen (17) miles of paving to include: Clinic Road to Winter Harbor (186), all of West Bay to Mc’s Market (186), East Schoodic Drive, Pond Road (195) and Corea Road (195). Paving should start in May or June, weather permitting.

TOWN CLERK - Trailers that are over 2,000 lbs have an expiration date of February. *REMEMBER* The Town Office will be closed February 17th in observance of President’s Day. TRASH NEEDS TO BE CURBSIDE BY 7AM ON THURSDAY MORNINGS. JUST A REMINDER, IF THE TRASH IS JUST LAYING BY THE ROAD NOT IN SOMETHING, EACH BAG NEEDS A TAG. IF THE TRASH IS IN A CONTAINER, THE TOP BAG NEEDS A TRASH TAG. PLEASE DO NOT EXCEED 40 POUNDS PER TAG. PLEASE BE CONSIDERATE OF THE PEOPLE PICKING UP YOUR TRASH, THEY WILL NOT PICK UP YOUR TRASH IF IT IS TOO HEAVY, OR IF ANIMALS HAVE GOTTEN INTO IT. THANK YOU!

**There will be a Presidential Primary / Special Referendum election on Tuesday, March 3rd at the Community Center, 679 Pond Road, from 8AM – 8PM. Absentee ballots will be available the first week of February.**

Want to re-register your car online? Just go to https://www1.maine.gov/online/bmv/rapid-renewal/.

Gouldsboro Shellfish Committee: The Gouldsboro Shellfish Committee, with the approval of the Select-board, is undertaking a project to use a piece of town-owned property as the site for a building to overwinter baby clams. It will also be a research site to provide the Shellfish Committee with information to make better decisions in the management of the Town clam resource. The Schoodic Institute is supporting this project by providing leadership in education and opportunities to the Middle School and High School Students of RSU 24. Students will collect data on clam survival and growth rate, monitor water and aeration to keep the clams alive, and work on other projects related to the clam resource. This partnership will benefit the Town and the students of RSU 24 as they get to work hands-on and gain credit toward graduation. The end goal of this project is to provide the Town of Gouldsboro with baby clams to enhance our flats for commercial and recreational harvest. The next Shellfish Meeting will be Wednesday, February 12th at 6PM.

GOULDSBORO POLICE DEPARTMENT: I hope you all had a healthy and happy holiday season. I just wanted to take a moment and remind everyone of the new hands-free driving law that went into effect in September. I know I posted about it on Facebook, but I figured this would be a good reminder for those who are less computer savvy. As of September, you can no longer use any sort of electronic communications device while operating a motor vehicle on a public way unless you have it in hands free mode. You are allowed one touch or swipe to operate the device but it cannot be in your hand for any reason. There are several exceptions to this. 2-way radios like CB or Ship to Shore are exempted from this, also communication with a Law Enforcement, Fire Department or Dispatch agency is also exempted when there is an emergency situation. The ins and outs of the law are a little tricky but so long as you operate your phone hands free you shouldn’t run into issues. The particulars of the law are available online if you search the statute 29A-312-218.

GOULDSBORO CLINIC: February is the month for lovers and all things heart related; February is also American Heart Health Month. The annual celebration began in 1963 to encourage Americans to join the battle against heart disease. Heart disease is the leading cause of death for men and women in the U.S. Every year, 1 in 4 deaths are caused by heart disease. The good news is that heart disease can often be prevented when people make healthy life choices and manage their health conditions. For example, to lower your risk of developing heart disease consider these suggestions:

- Try to lose weight.
- Quit smoking and stay away from secondhand smoke.
- Control your cholesterol and blood pressure.
- If you drink alcohol, drink only in moderation.
- Get active and eat healthy.

Two pretty easy steps you can do this month: contact your primary care physician to have your cholesterol checked (a simple lab test) and to have your blood pressure checked. Consider it a late New Year’s Resolution!

SHELLFISH COMMITTEE: The Gouldsboro Shellfish Committee, with the approval of the Select-board, is undertaking a project to use a piece of town-owned property as the site for a building to overwinter baby clams. It will also be a research site to provide the Shellfish Committee with information to make better decisions in the management of the Town clam resource. The Schoodic Institute is supporting this project by providing leadership in education and opportunities to the Middle School and High School Students of RSU 24. Students will collect data on clam survival and growth rate, monitor water and aeration to keep the clams alive, and work on other projects related to the clam resource. This partnership will benefit the Town and the students of RSU 24 as they get to work hands-on and gain credit toward graduation. The end goal of this project is to provide the Town of Gouldsboro with baby clams to enhance our flats for commercial and recreational harvest. The next Shellfish Meeting will be Wednesday, February 12th at 6PM.

GOULDSBORO NEWS
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RSU 24 SCHOOL BOARD: As I wrote last month, we have modified the school calendar to address the three cancellation days that we have already used. Our schools will be in session on Saturday, February 29th, Saturday, March 14th, with students at the high school dismissed at 11:30 and at our K-8 schools upon arrival of the high school bus. We will also add an hour to each school day during the week of March 23rd. The hope is that our students will not have to go to school in late June! The new Sumner Memorial High School building project is moving along. Our architects have submitted the design documents to the Department of Education for its review. Once approved by DOE, we will be back before the Maine State Board of Education, seeking Design and Funding Approval. In the near future, we will also be working with the state and/or the architecture firm in order to hire our Commissioning Agent and the Owners Rep, two state funded positions that represent the interests of the parties involved in the building project. We are still projected to break ground in June, 2020. Some exciting news to pass along in regards to the name of the new facility. The Naming Committee has recommended and the RSU Board approved the name The Charles M. Sumner Learning Campus, home of Sumner Memorial High School and Sumner Middle School. There was a great deal of input provided by our communities, both students and adults. Thank you to all who provided input. Also, the Friends of Sumner’s Future Fundraising Committee has started their fundraising efforts with a drive to collect funds from the many businesses and associates that work with the school. To date, we have over $15,000 committed to the new building project. With a goal of $1,000,000 to help offset those costs not covered by the Maine Department of Education, donations will be accepted for the foreseeable future. If you are interested in donating, please feel free to access the Friends of Sumner’s Future webpage by going to the school district’s page (rsu24.org) and clicking on the FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN link or by clicking on the NEW BUILDING PROJECT link. Donations can be made electronically or with a check. Our athletic teams are in full swing across the district. The competitive portion of the season will last into February. A special congratulations to the Sumner Cheerleading Squad, as they are the Downeast Athletic Association’s Cheering Champions!!! Thank you for your continued support of our schools. If you have any questions or comments about any aspect of the school district, please don’t hesitate to reach out to me. I can be reached at 207-422-2017 or meestman@rsu24.org.

VETERAN’S COMMITTEE: The Gouldsboro Veteran’s Committee will not conduct a February meeting. We will be taking a winter break until Tuesday, April 7th. Hope everyone has a safe and healthy winter!

TRAPSTREASURE: Open to receive traps Sunday’s 12 – 4PM (weather permitting) call 207-620-6037 if questionable.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY: The Gouldsboro Historical Society announces that its Webber Hall is available to be rented for meetings and functions. The building is located at the old Methodist Church at 88 Old Route One on West Bay Road. It’s heated, has a fully equipped kitchen, tables, chairs and restrooms. Its maximum capacity is 65 people. Contact GHS President, Larry Peterson, for more information at 207-963-2018.

U.S. CENSUS: The U.S. Census is actively recruiting workers for 2020. If you are available for part-time or temporary work in the summer of 2020, you can apply online today at 2020census.gov/jobs or by calling 1-855-JOB-2020. The hourly pay rate is competitive.

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

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<th>NAME</th>
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<td>Samuel Nordberg</td>
<td>Schieffelin Point Road</td>
<td>Flood permit land use</td>
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DORCAS LIBRARY: The Library will be closed Monday, February 17th (President’s Day). Our former director Faith Lane and her husband Craig Pursell are training hard for their upcoming Appalachian Trail hike. Along the trail, they will pass out business cards referencing the Dorcas Library & Learning Investment Fund campaign. Learn more on our website and how to support their adventure. Librarian Yumi Young has taken over for Faith, she is at the library every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. Wednesday, February 26th, 4 – 5PM - Stroke / Traumatic Brain Injury Support group. Family members and care providers also welcome. Every Tuesday, 9 – 11AM – Friends in Action Senior Social Coffee Hour. Friends in Action (Elsworth) co-sponsors this weekly event. Drop in for conversation, games and fun! Every other Thursday, 1 – 3PM - Thread, talk and tea. Knitting, crocheting, embroidery, bring your projects for tips, chats and to enjoy the company or like-minded fiber fans. Every Thursday, 4:30 – 6PM – Adult Education Tutoring and Guidance. Phil Wormuth, RSU 24 Adult Education. Second Saturday, February 8th, 10:30AM – Writer’s Workshop, Join us and bring your work to share with the group. Third Saturday, February 15th, 10:30AM – Poets’ Gathering. Bring work to share, or just come to listen. Forth Saturday, February 22nd, 2:30 – 4PM – Exploring Shakespeare. Contact the library for information and/or a copy of the current play. All are welcome. Every Monday, 10:30 – 11:30AM, Story hour with Liz Mathewson. Every Tuesday, 4 – 6PM – Board game fun. Community game play and conversation at Dorcas for young and old.

Happy Valentine’s Day!

THE TOWN OFFICE PHONE NUMBER IS 207-963-5589