



...d in one death and the total loss of the home. ...Valley Hospital and later released. (Photo by

destroys home

...ned until their release
 ...approached, fire was
 ...ve the tree line for
 ...distance," Hammond
 ...weekly press release
 ...Lincoln News.
 ...ck 532's crew arrived,
 ...mily home was seen
 ...ved in fire and three of
 ...hicles in the driveway
 ...ely consumed in fire
 ...e and out," according
 ...ement. "While crews
 ...ttack lines, command
 ...t that the building was
 ...ely unsafe to enter due
 ...al integrity being com-
 ...y fire conditions."

In addition to the fatality, five other victims who were also present at the home were transported to Penobscot Valley Hospital and later released.

By 2:50 a.m., the fire had been brought under control. The state Office of State Fire Marshal was contacted to investigate the cause of the fire, noted Hammond.

"Due to the layout of the home, there was a particular difficulty in extinguishing the fire inside the interior walls of the right half of the building, which was being fed from the basement," noted Hammond.

According to the fire department
 See WINN FIRE Page 2

to three building

...off of a logging road
 ...nd of Access Road, in
 ...ed territory Township 2
 ...according to Hammond.
 ...dividual was suffering
 ...ad pain and was unable
 ...said Hammond, and the
 ...nt's utility task vehicle
 ...tched and had to travel
 ...road tracks to reach the
 ...cation.
 ...nd said the train had al-
 ...sed through at that time,
 ...oad administration was
 ...l to halt any further rail
 ...ntil the fire department
 ...he tracks.

Hammond said the UTV traveled approximately two miles along the rails to rescue the hiker.

On March 18, the department responded to the vicinity of 84 North Chester Road in Chester for a motor vehicle crash with injury. The crash broke a utility pole and Versant Power and the State Police were notified of the incident, noted Hammond in a weekly release.

The department responded to a building fire at 17 School Street in Lincoln on March 22, with mutual aid partner Central Maine
 See FIRE Page 3

Passadumkeag selectboard fielding increase of resident participation

By Ben Meiklejohn

PASSADUMKEAG -- At a March 19 meeting, the Passadumkeag Selectboard discussed with residents, the upcoming town meeting, planning board activities, the school budget and the reading of minutes.

In a renaissance of sorts, meetings of the Passadumkeag Selectboard have been realizing greater attendance by residents eager to provide input. A recently formed planning board that is energized to mobilize the community around a comprehensive plan, has also been inspiring greater participation in town business by residents.

Between a half dozen to a dozen people have been attending the selectboard meetings this year, a stark increase from the two to four residents that may have attended regular selectboard meet-

ings last year.

Spencer reported that some roads had been posted with signs restricting heavy vehicle traffic as the ground thaws during mud season.

"The roads are posted despite someone stealing the signs," she said.

"I had one in my front yard the wind blew in, so maybe nobody stole them, they just got blown away," retorted Second Selectman Bernie Trombley.

Spencer reported that the town would be requesting bids for a plowing contract and advertising for a sexton and public works person.

The public works position is proposed as a new expense as part of this year's budget, she noted.

Spencer updated the audience that the town was in the process of taking over Goulds Ridge

See PASSADUMKEAG Page 2

Carroll Plt. annual meeting OK's wage increases, declines barking dog ordinance

By Ben Meiklejohn

CARROLL PLANTATION -- Residents of Carroll Plantation awarded a salary increase to officers and declined to consider a barking dog ordinance at their annual plantation meeting held March 17.

The residents chose Treasurer Holly Worster to moderate the annual meeting.

Unanimously, residents chose for its plantation officers, First Assessor Misty Beach Spinney as plantation clerk and registrar of voters, Second Assessor Angel Burrill as second assessor for another term, Worster as treasurer, tax collector and school committee member, Travis Worster as road commissioner, Spinney as animal control officer and Timothy Worster, Sr. as sexton.

In the only contested vote of the evening, with one resident opposed, the residents approved annual salaries for its officers, including a \$1,500 raise for as-

for the increase, Assessor Starr Clough said the workload has increased in recent years and officials have worked at the same salary rate for several years.

Holly Worster added, "With all the transfers and tax sales that we have had since COVID, we have had an influx of land parcels being divided."

"A lot of people think, oh, Carroll Plantation, that we're made up of 160 full-time residents. We're not. We're made up of a tax base (of) probably almost 450 parcels ... and dealing with realtors reaching out, and title companies, for their stuff."

Travis Worster said that residents had proposed increasing the compensation at previous annual meetings, but officials declined the increases. Although the increase may seem large, he added, it's not as great an increase when considering it to be spread out over several years when increases were not given.

Travis Worster noted that \$5,000

PASSADUMKEAG

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Cemetery and that once the town takes full ownership of the cemetery, plots will only be available to residents of Passadumkeag, except for those Greenbush residents who have already purchased plots.

A resident asked if she came in too late and missed the reading of the minutes, which lead to an extended exchange between residents and Third Selectman Jana Spencer.

"We just looked them over and approved them," Spencer said.

At a selectboard meeting in January, residents had requested that the minutes from the previous meeting be read aloud as a matter of regular practice, to refresh townspeople on the last business conducted.

For nearly two months, Spencer quickly took 20 to 30 seconds to read the minutes aloud before requesting a motion to approve them, but at this meeting, Spencer had dispensed with the reading and asked for a motion to approve them at the beginning of the meeting.

"I think it's important to read the minutes," the woman said, drawing pushback from Spencer who exclaimed, "You can look at the sheet if you want to."

"We don't reread all the minutes from the last meeting," Spencer continued. "Like, we don't even do that."

"We did it a couple weeks in a row," Trombley said.

"Yes, and it was working out really well," said the woman who raised the point.

"Yes, it's not a normal process though," replied Spencer. "You have the opportunity to look on the sheet of what was on the minutes. So, you don't normally start a meeting and discuss everything that you discussed at the last meeting."

Visibly irritated, Trombley quietly muttered under his breath, "Just read the minutes."

In Burlington, their first selectman, John Smith, begins every meeting with a reading of the minutes that takes less than a minute and the selectmen approve the minutes, with little to no discussion, all in the span of one or two total minutes.

Planning Board Chair Sergio Batista asked, "Are the minutes going to be posted on the website?"

"They can be, but you can actually look at the minutes when you're here. Normally, they've always been on file in here, but we can (post them to the website)," Spencer answered.

Copies of the minutes however,

were not present at the meeting for attendees to immediately read. "Let's post them," said Trombley.

"Are you volunteering to do that? ... You just have to type them up and post it," said Spencer.

"I'll try to get some help from somebody," Trombley answered.

"So the minutes aren't transcribed? They're handwritten?" asked resident Elizabeth Batista.

Second Selectman Brad Mckechnie answered, "No, they're transcribed."

"OK, so Bernie doesn't need to do anything," said Elizabeth Batista.

The exchange between the audience and the selectmen took several minutes longer than the 30 seconds it would have taken to read the minutes.

Spencer reported on efforts to prepare the articles for the town's annual town meeting, which is scheduled to be held March 30 at 6 p.m. at the Passadumkeag Town Office.

Spencer said residents had suggested switching the fiscal year to begin on July 1, consistent with the school and fire district budgets.

The consideration of changing the fiscal year will be an article for residents to decide upon at the annual town meeting, said Spencer, noting that if the town wants to proceed, there will be a long process that will have to be followed.

Sergio Batista reported on the activities of the planning board.

The planning board chair noted that one member had resigned. He also indicated that he would like for the town to create a separate comprehensive plan committee, which may include some members of the planning board but also other residents of the town.

Sergio Batista said the comprehensive plan is already 75% completed but needs to be fine tuned and then edited to incorporate the interests made known by residents through the surveys that have been distributed.

The chairman noted that forming a separate committee would "take that load off the planning board," as well as involve the larger community more directly in the comprehensive plan development.

Sergio Batista reported that at the March 12 planning board meeting, 20 residents showed up and presented the board with input of ideas they would like the town to consider.

He said the planning board would like to eventually draft or-

finances on noise, fireworks and residential properties.

"Ordinances to get refrigerators, mattresses, all that stuff, off of front lawns or if you're going to have something like that, you need to put up a six-foot fence," said Sergio Batista.

Of the public comment offered by residents at the last planning board meeting, Sergio Batista summarized:

- Residents would like to know more information about the plan and timeline for completion on converting the firehouse into a new town office.
- Residents expressed a desire for term limits of selectmen.
- People want to become involved with a town budget committee.

"The frustration has to do with our taxes going up and our roads turning to crap," said Sergio Batista. "... When you look at this town and the median age is 56 and you have a lot of people on fixed income, there's not a lot of money to play with."

The residents in attendance at the selectboard meeting then discussed School Administrative District 31, to which the town of Passadumkeag belongs, bemoaning that residents feel powerless to the school district's regularly increasing budgets and "have no choice" but to take the increases in taxes.

Sergio Batista said the school board's chairman, Christian Ireland, would be willing to attend a meeting to speak to residents about the school district's budget.

Spencer said, "We have representation on the school board but the only one that's ever, ever brought forth any information was Elizabeth (Batista) while she was on it. Nobody, none of the other school board members have ever come in and told us anything about what goes on. They just, they don't. I thought they were supposed to represent us."

Spencer announced that spring clean-up day is scheduled for May 20. Residents may place bulky items on the curb, but not in the walkway, on spring clean-up day and the town will have the items removed and disposed of.

Items that will not be accepted for spring curbside pickup include rocks and dirt, trees and brush, waste oil, sealed drums, hazardous waste, railroad ties, paint and dead animals. Only six tires per household will be accepted.

The next meeting of the Passadumkeag Selectboard is scheduled to occur April 2 at 6 p.m. at the Passadumkeag Town Office.

WINN FIRE

Cont. From Page 1

ment's press release, the operation continued until 6 a.m. and all crews were in quarters at approximately 7 a.m. but continued to assist the fire marshal's office.

In a previous press release issued on March 19, the department reported that water supply was maintained with the dry hydrant on Phillips Road in Winn, and nearly 20,000 gallons of water was trucked to the scene of the fire.

A media release issued on the evening of March 19 by Maine Department of Public Safety's Public Information Officer Shannon Moss indicated that a

deceased female's body was removed from the fire debris at approximately 9:30 a.m. that morning and transported to the Office of Chief Medical Examiner in Augusta to determine cause of death and identify the victim.

The other five occupants of the building had suffered smoke inhalation before being transported to the hospital, also noted the state's release.

The incident is still being investigated by the fire marshal's office and the identity of the deceased person has not yet been released by officials.

Burlington Select Board approves mowing contract, reviews budget materials

By Trish Aldrich

BURLINGTON - This "to the point" meeting convened at 6:02 p.m. and adjourned at 6:40 p.m. Wednesday March 18, approving routine financial items, awarding a mowing contract and circulating preliminary budget materials. Members present for roll call were Selectmen John Smith, Phil Stanton, Bev Harding and Town Clerk Cheryl Smith. The board read, discussed and initialed the minutes from the March 11, 2026 meeting, and reviewed and initialed the weekly warrants and monthly bank statements.

After getting more information from those that submitted bids, the mowing contract for this season was awarded to Lake Street Property Management for

\$27,900.00, contingent on the company confirming it remains agreeable and interested in the contract. The board also signed the final copy of the town warrant; the warrant will be posted at the town office and on the playground bulletin board.

An individual recently inspected the military truck owned by the town that has been posted for sale. The board reported they have not yet heard back from the interested party.

Copies of the Central Maine Highlands Fire District's initial proposed budget were distributed to the selectmen for review and discussion. The proposal and budget worksheets have been added to the town's website for public access.

The meeting concluded without further business at 6:40 p.m.

Lincoln PD makes two arrests in past week

By Ben Melklejohn

LINCOLN -- On Monday, Lincoln Police Detective Steward Jacobs informed Lincoln News of several arrests made in the previous week.

Tyler Carey, 30, of Medway was summonsed on March 19 at 8:22 p.m. for a traffic offense of operating a motor vehicle after a habitual offender revocation of a license to drive.

On March 22 at 7:41 a.m., a warrant arrest was issued for Joshua Solomon, 42, of Lincoln. Jacobs said Solomon turned

himself in to the department on a superior court warrant for failure to appear in court and was released on bail by the bail commissioner.

Jacobs said the court hearing Solomon failed to appear for was related to a charge for theft by unauthorized taking or transfer.

Jacobs reported that the FBI will be holding a public seminar on May 14 for residents to learn about scamming operations and how to detect them. More details on the event will be released in the near future.

Burlington, Lakeville, Passadumkeag, Springfield hold annual meetings, elections

By Ben Melklejohn

LINCOLN LAKES REGION -- Four area annual town meetings and elections are scheduled to occur in the next week.

Burlington

Elections for a third selectman

and school board member will be held on Saturday, March 28 at the Burlington Town Office from noon to 6 p.m. Both positions are for three-year terms.

The annual town meeting in Burlington will be held Monday, March 30 at 6 p.m. at the Burlington Town Office.

Lakeville

The Lakeville annual town meeting will be held Saturday, March 28 at 10 a.m. at the Lakeville Town Office.

Passadumkeag

Passadumkeag holds a town election and annual town meeting *See TOWN MEETINGS on Page 4*

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