

# **SELECTMEN'S OFFICE**

## **Town of Waterboro**

April 9, 2013

**WHEREAS**, Governor LePage has proposed a biennial budget which would have a significant and negative impact on local municipal services and property taxes; and

**WHEREAS**, this biennial budget proposal calls for redirecting that portion of the sales and income tax revenues normally distributed to municipalities under the Revenue Sharing Program toward balancing the State Budget. The proposal to suspend the State Revenue Sharing funds to Waterboro would result in a \$644,982.00 revenue loss to the Town of Waterboro presenting an estimated \$0.85 increase on the property tax rate; and

**WHEREAS**, this biennial budget proposal calls for redirecting commercial vehicle excise tax revenues away from municipalities toward balancing the State Budget. The proposal will result in a reduction of excise tax in the amount of \$10,073.00 revenue loss presenting an estimated \$0.13 increase on the property tax rate; and

**WHEREAS**, this biennial budget proposal dramatically curtails the Homestead and Circuit Breaker programs designed to reduce local resident property tax burdens for the purpose of balancing the State Budget. The proposal will result in an increase in the property taxes of \$128.00; and

**WHEREAS**, this biennial budget proposal calls for the elimination of the BETR program that reimburses municipalities for lost personal property taxes for the purpose of balancing the State Budget. The proposal will result in an estimated \$96,740.00 representing an estimated \$0.13 in the tax rate; and

**WHEREAS**, this biennial budget proposal calls for drastically reducing funding to local schools (again failing to meet the Citizen Referendum mandate of 55% support) for the purpose of balancing the State Budget; and

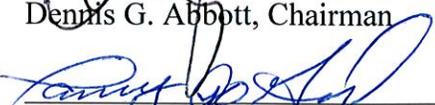
**WHEREAS**, if enacted, these changes will reduce Town revenues by at least \$655,055.00; and

**WHEREAS**, to replace these revenues through property taxation, the Town's tax rate would have to increase by approximately \$1.12; and

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Waterboro hereby expresses its strong opposition to provisions included in the recently proposed state budget that would significantly shift the burden of funding state government to the property taxes in Waterboro. Taxes that often is unrelated to the ability of property owners to pay, will require spending reductions which will call into question our ability to protect the health and welfare of our community and provide our residents with basic government services.

Call upon the Maine Legislature and Senator John Tuttle and Representative Aaron Libby to reject these proposals and restore revenue sharing to municipalities, retain full funding of General Assistance reimbursements, maintain the Homestead and Circuit Breaker relief programs, restore exise taxes to previous levels, retain the BETR program and support to the schools in order to avoid this regressive tax shift.

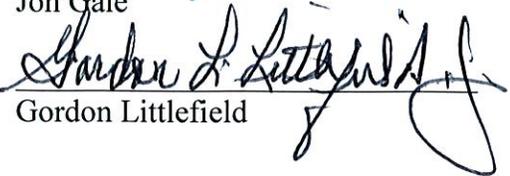
  
Dennis G. Abbott, Chairman

  
TammyJo Girard

  
David Woodsome

Board of Selectmen  
Town of Waterboro

  
Jon Galé

  
Gordon Littlefield