

COLIN BAENZIGER  ASSOCIATES

EXECUTIVE RECRUITING

Section 5

Matthew “Matt” J. Garside

*Islamorada Village Manager
Candidate Report*

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Cover Letter and Resume

February 12, 2022

Islamorada Village Council
Islamorada, Village of Islands
86800 Overseas Highway
Islamorada, FL 33036

Dear Islamorada Village Council,

I respectfully submit for your review and consideration my resume for the Village Manager position. It would be an honor to hold a leadership position in Islamorada.

My strengths have enabled me to excel in Poland as Town Manager. My ability to communicate and develop relationships with county, federal and state agencies and officials, other municipalities, local business's, and Poland elected officials and other volunteers, in part, helped me succeed as Town Manager in Poland.

When I began my Town Manager position in Poland, there were financial and budget issues that required immediate attention. I had the unique opportunity to form new relationships with relevant stakeholders that enabled me to understand their concerns. I was also fortunate to recruit new talent to resolve long standing financial discrepancies.

I have been the Town Manager in Poland, Maine for the past five years. In that position, I prepared municipal budgets that are effective and kept the mil-rate down. Additionally, I organized town finances; tax reconciliation, posting of expenses and revenues, and cash controls. Long-standing issues were resolved providing confidence in our financial posture such that we could meet challenges and opportunities.

In addition to my experience as Poland Town Manager, I have also served in other responsible, senior roles. First as Chief of Staff (U.S. Navy Captain) for the group that managed all logistics for the U.S. Navy in the Western Pacific. There, I prepared and executed a \$30 million dollar budget with 3000 staff. Later I served as Chief Executive Officer and Board Director for a commercial firm in Singapore with an annual budget of \$50 million dollars with 100 staff.

I also have a solid and relevant education background. I hold a Master in Public Administration from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, and a Bachelor of Science in Marine Transportation from Massachusetts Maritime Academy. I was also a Fellow in the Security Studies Program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

In conclusion, I bring over 20 years of leadership and management experience across three areas: municipal government, private industry, and the United States Navy. I would enjoy putting those skills to work for Islamorada. Please do call me at 207-440-7379 or email me at matthew.j.garside@gmail.com.

Sincerely,


Matthew Garside

Matthew J. Garside

Email: matthew.j.garside@gmail.com

Phone: 207-440-7379

SUMMARY

Senior executive with 20+ years' experience leading and managing government and commercial organizations with specific expertise in the following areas:

- Strategic Planning and Operations Analysis
- Operations and Project Management
- Systems Design and Implementation
- Organizational Change / Development
- Customer Service
- Financial Operations and Budget
- Media Relations
- Labor Relations

Able to quickly adapt to changing circumstances, create strategy and drive change throughout organizations. Strong interpersonal and leadership skills. Adept at attracting and retaining talented employees and building long term successful business partner relationships.

TOWN MANAGER

2017 – Present

Poland, Maine

Poland is a town with a population of 6,000 that rises to 12,000 during the summer months. It is located in southwestern Maine about 30 miles northwest of Portland.

Duties and Responsibilities as Town Manager:

- Chief administrative officer of a municipal government with 86 employees and a \$12 million budget.
- Oversight responsibility for the following functions: police, roads, waste disposal, water and sewer utility, parks, recreation, planning, zoning, finance, general services and personnel.
- Implementation of Select Board directed policy. Administration of the Town's day-to-day operations as well as identification and resolution of long-range issues.
- Preparation and administration of the Town's operating and capital budgets.
- Negotiation with public and private sector entities on a variety of issues ranging from economic development and growth to service contracts.
- Media representation of the Town including interviews with the print media and preparation of press releases.
- Responsible for the Town's compliance with County, State and Federal regulations such as health, environmental and EEOC.
- Manage labor relations with one bargaining unit and non-unionized staff.

Achievements:

- Provided a balanced budget that provided for the continuation of essential services while investing in needed capital projects without increasing the millage rate for three years.
- Applied for and obtained \$290K in grant funding. Funds were used to mitigate high-speed traffic, to install an electric vehicle charging station, and mitigate COVID 19 impact.
- Reinvigorated the capital plan. Addressed long-standing maintenance issues, partnered with contractors to save money and time. Result, 6 long-standing projects now complete with minimal expenditure of tax dollars.

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- Facilitated the Town's purchase of a summer camp. Presented proposal at a Special Town meeting to purchase the camp, negotiated terms with the seller, resolved boundary line and water issues.
- Negotiated and implemented collective bargaining agreement terms, policies, and procedures for initial Fire Recue union contract.
- Led the effort to revise/update the Poland Comprehensive Plan. Recruited committee members and sourced a firm to assist with the necessary technical details. The effort was completed on schedule and budget.
- Supervised reconciliation of Town finances; tax reconciliation, posting of expenses and revenues, and cash controls. Long standing issues resolved.
- Introduced cost saving measures such as installing LED streetlights and exterior lighting for municipal buildings. Saved \$12K in the first year.
- Instilled discipline in the procurement process; ensured all large purchases were put out to bid via a request for proposal, centralized maintenance and other support contracts.
- Revamped human relations department; implemented a checklist for all new hires, updated job descriptions, brought stakeholders into the hiring and interview process. Conducted a wage and salary survey.
- Made it easier to do business with Poland by making almost all municipal transactions available online.
- Placed our GIS map application on our Town web site. GIS is right in the center of our home page. Business owners, realtors, residents and those seeking to do business in Poland find this of great help. We also have electronic copies of all property files available.
- Modernized our Code Enforcement Office. Permits can be requested and obtained online. Contractors and out of State residents find this especially helpful.
- Updated our Comprehensive Land Use Code to make it more streamlined and less costly for existing and new businesses. I reviewed our fee schedule and amended that to be competitive with surrounding communities. With the CEDC, I helped update our Down Town Design Standards with the goal of making those less costly and easier to comply with.
- Gave people a reason to come to Poland. Actively promoted and sponsored events that bring people to Poland such as Heritage Day, Concerts at the Park, and fun runs. Provide a strong and varied recreation program that serves all ages, and provides for varied recreation opportunities year round. For example, we purchased a summer camp that is well attended and built a lighted ice rink for use in the winter.
- Expanded our public safety capacity. Proposed and won approval to increase the law enforcement coverage to 24/7 from a 12-hour model and to increase the number of full time Firefighter/Paramedics.
- Enhanced our infrastructure. Expanded water and sewer service to both residents and business's. Increased our road maintenance and repair budget. Poland Public Works does all of the road reconstruction which makes our road reserves go farther.
- Meet with and support local business owners. By knowing local business leaders, I am aware of needs as well as opportunities. I use this knowledge to link up existing and new business owners with business experts and those that can move their business ahead.
- Environmental stewardship. Poland has over 2,500 acres of lakes and ponds and several hundred acres of conservation land that contains hiking trails, natural wetlands, as well as

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densely forested areas. I work with our lake associations, the Conservation Commission, several non-profits dedicated to forestry management, and residents to help ensure these natural resources remain pristine.

CARED FOR ELDERLY PARENTS

2013-2017

Spent quality time with parent's in their last years. Renovated family home to meet aging parent's needs. Organized finances, medical care, and visiting help. When required, found assisted living accommodation, restructured finances to fund that expense, moved father across country after mother passed. Given where I was in my professional life, I was the only sibling who could commit the level of effort to resolving these issues.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND BOARD DIRECTOR

2012-2013

Reflect Geophysical, Singapore

Reflect Geophysical provided marine geophysical services, seismic acquisition services and technical and operational support for oil and gas companies venturing into the Asia Pacific region.

Duties and Responsibilities as Chief Executive Officer:

- Directed administration of \$50M revenue with full P&L responsibility and 100 staff.
- Directed operations of seismic vessels in support of business goals.
- Led business development effort and maintenance of existing business relationships.
- Responsible for Program, Product and Service Delivery. Oversaw marketing, promotion, delivery and quality of geophysical programs, products and services.
- Managed \$5M/month in operating costs.
- Responsible for communication with the Board of Directors and Shareholders.
- Responsible for the firm's compliance with all environmental and safety regulations.
- Managed labor relations with non-unionized staff.

Achievements:

- Developed plan to address \$80M in debt. Liaised with 56 trade creditors to address outstanding debt, maintain communication and ensure vital services for seismic operations were supplied on a cash basis. Worked with largest creditor (\$50M) to maintain support and stave off legal action.
- Retained 77 employees through extreme financial hardship. Kept employees informed, apprised of challenges, what the company was doing to meet those challenges, and how their continued participation enabled the firm going forward.
- Right sized workforce. Cut redundant, underperforming staff. Saved \$54K/month.
- Built and maintained relationship with major Indian oil company. Reflect was delayed in starting \$35M contract. Established regular communication cadence, kept company informed, and built trust such that the contract remained viable.
- Effectively managed 16 legal challenges ranging from arrest of vessel to winding up petitions. Sourced and directed legal representatives. Directed responses and action such that the company was not encumbered and could continue operating.
- Saved \$11K/month by restructuring communications architecture. Communication costs were averaging \$16K/month. Reviewed cost drivers and eliminated expensive and redundant communications path.

CHIEF OF STAFF

Logistics Group Western Pacific, Singapore

2005-2012

Logistics Group Western Pacific is a U.S. Navy logistics organization of 3,000 based in Singapore, at sea, and ashore in the Asia Pacific region.

Duties and Responsibilities as Chief of Staff:

- Directed 100 Singapore based military and civilian staff across five areas; logistics, marine maintenance and repair, marine salvage, operations, and military exercises / engagement.
- Supervised operation of U.S. Navy presence to include; police, infrastructure (docks, fuel storage, pipeline), housing (200 units), recreation facility and programs, religious facilities and programs, library, and relations with Singapore government.
- Managed labor relations with three bargaining units and non-unionized staff.
- Directed operations of 45 ships.
- Managed \$8.9B of inventory, sourcing and delivery of \$446M of fuel.
- Approved all significant HR actions: hiring and firing of staff, disciplinary matters, and monetary performance awards. Resolved personnel issues diplomatically and objectively.
- Directly supervised supporting staff; human relations, administration, legal, medical, facilities, IT, and public affairs.
- Developed and executed \$30M budget.

Achievements:

- Integrated air, ground, and sea transport, and leveraged contracts with suppliers to produce a holistic logistics plan to support 70 recurring customers.
- Kept group focused and on budget. Developed budget. Previously, funding, \$30M/year, had been expended with no discipline. Validated requirements, justified future/ongoing expenses. Produced budget that met present and future requirements.
- Developed strategic plan that looked out five years. Set goals and built a business plan to achieve them. Briefed staff on goals, business plan, and how they could contribute to success.
- Built relationships with multiple stakeholders to further the organization's goals. Established ongoing relationships with naval leaders in 11 South East Asian nations along with U.S. Government officials in those countries. Worked closely with the Republic of Singapore at the local government level and representatives from the United Kingdom, New Zealand, and Australia to foster relationships that enabled the U.S. Navy presence to continue as well at more senior levels to further U.S. strategic goals.
- Established fuel ordering and accounting tracking program to manage fuel for all U.S. Navy ships in the Western Pacific – produced \$25M in cost avoidance in the first year.
- Executed centralized order processing plan; reduced workforce from 53 to six and order processing locations from 11 to one, achieved \$6M/year in manpower savings.
- Led U.S. Navy logistics relief effort during 2011 Japanese Tsunami. Organized supply chain to move materiel to load port and on to customers at sea and ashore, used six logistics ships to move 7827 tons of life sustaining supplies to the affected area, and provide 8.2 million gallons of fuel to 18 USN ships. Conducted relief operations in a nuclear radiological environment without impacting delivery schedule.

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COMMANDING OFFICER

2003-2005

Mobile Security Squadron 7, Guam

New organization that provided armed security for naval units operating throughout the Western Pacific and Middle East. Directed training and operational certification of three 75 man and 11 five man security teams. Administered \$1.5M budget. Oversaw maintenance and repair for six security vessels, supporting rolling stock, and inventory of over 300 weapons. Maintained quick reaction force able to respond in 24 hours for emergent security requirements. Developed supply chain for logistics requirements.

COMMANDING OFFICER

2001-2003

Beach Master Unit 1, Coronado, CA

Deployed five combat ready Beach Party Teams in support of amphibious operations in the Western Pacific and Middle East. Controlled landing craft, lighterage, amphibious vehicles, and coordinated movement over the beach of equipment, troops, and supplies. Provided beach and surf zone salvage. Administered \$1.0M budget.

EDUCATION

Harvard University

Kennedy School of Government, MPA - Public Administration
Concentrated in finance and economics

Massachusetts Institute of Technology Fellowship – Security Studies Program
Concentrated in organizational management

Massachusetts Maritime Academy

BS - Marine Transportation

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Maine Town and City Managers Association
United States Naval Institute

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Candidate Introduction

Matthew J. Garside

Education

Harvard University Kennedy School of Government, MPA - Public Administration Concentrated in finance and economics	1996-1997
Massachusetts Institute of Technology Fellowship - Security Studies Program Concentrated in organizational management	1996-1997
Massachusetts Maritime Academy BS - Marine Transportation	1978-1982

Experience

Town Manager, Town of Poland, Maine	2017 – Present
Caring for Elderly Parents	2013-2017
Chief Executive Officer and Board Director Reflect Geophysical, Singapore	2012-2013
Chief of Staff, Logistics Group Western Pacific, Singapore	2005-2012
Commanding Officer, Mobile Security Squadron 7, Guam	2003-2005
Commanding Officer, Beach Master Unit 1, Coronado, CA	2001-2003

Background

Poland is a town with a population of 6,000 that rises to 12,000 during the summer months. It is located in Androscoggin County, Maine (population 108,000). Poland is strategically located adjacent to Maine’s population and economic centers. Nearly 50% of Maine's population is located within a 30-mile radius of Poland. While Poland does not in and of itself have a broad-based, diverse economy, it is part of a much larger economically robust regional economy. The Town of Poland is considered part of the Lewiston-Auburn Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). This MSA has one of the most robust and thriving economies in the State, which possesses innovative healthcare, high precision manufacturing, financial services and printing sectors.

Poland’s General Fund Budget was \$5.2 million with a total budget of \$12.7 million in Fiscal Year 2022. The town has 30 full time, six part time employees, and 35 per diem Firefighters. An additional 15 part time, seasonal employees work at Public Works and the Recreation Department. I directly supervise 9 employees and one contracted service.

Matthew J. Garside

The three most significant issues facing the Town are:

- Economic development to expand the tax base. Poland has a few large businesses that comprise a disproportionate share of the tax base. The Town is executing a strategic development plan to attract diverse businesses.
- Infrastructure expansion. The Town has a short segment of water and sewer installed at the south end of town and an additional water service installed at the north end of town. The Town is executing a plan to expand both of these services to serve residents and attract new business.
- Revenue and budget. The Town anticipated shortfalls in revenue due to the recent economic slowdown. While the municipal operational budget was preserved to allow for continued services, the contribution to the Capital Improvement Plan was eliminated for one year. I developed a plan that was approved to make up those CIP contributions going forward.

General Management Style and Experience

Islamorada is very similar to Poland, Maine, where I am currently Town Manager. Both have approximately the same sized population, are what I would consider rural communities, and do not have many of the amenities found in larger municipalities. We share a low crime rate – Poland just recently voted for 24-hour law enforcement presence, a combination of owner occupied homes and resort/seasonal residents, and a small town way of life. I find the small town atmosphere attractive as it has allowed me to form the personal relationships with residents that I find rewarding. Because Islamorada has a great reputation, and many employees have spent a number of years here, it meshes perfectly with my desires for long-term fit. Just as important to me is the professional challenge that Islamorada would present.

I answer questions – from elected officials, residents and others. Providing prompt and accurate answers to questions establishes confidence in municipal government and lets people know that their voices are heard.

I regularly use social media to communicate with residents. Keeping this information stream fresh and populated with new, relevant content encourages people to follow these information sources. At times, there will be negative responses. Dealing with them in a responsible and calm manner shows residents that they can ask questions and raise concerns in a professional environment.

When a citizen or business comes to the municipality with an issue or concern, I work hard to resolve it. This level of attention is important as the person would not have come to you if they did not consider it critical – it may be the most important thing in their life. Addressing a

Matthew J. Garside

concern or issue does not necessarily mean giving the desired answer. Sometimes, what is being asked is not allowed or possible. A professional response outlining why helps people understand and shows that you have done the due diligence to answer their question.

I have established a strong working relationship with elected and appointed stakeholders at the local, state and federal level. I believe these relationships are critical to effective municipal government. Having a personal relationship with key officials ensures the towns concerns are heard at the right level and addressed appropriately. Just as important is lobbying – for me that takes place at the County and State level. Understanding who to talk to and when serves the best interests of the town. In fact, I have been a frequent visitor to our State House in support of these efforts and to testify on various bills that would impact the town or local businesses.

Two examples of my lobbying efforts were in opposing new regulations on Poland Spring Water – our largest employer and a ban on plastic bags. In each instance, I first learned the facts surrounding the issue, identified the decision makers involved, and developed and then executed a plan to make them aware of the impact of proposed legislation on Poland residents and businesses.

Intergovernmental relations are important as they are often the only way to address large issues. Part of my professional relationship building includes important local and state organizations and the people who run them. Two examples of where I used intergovernmental relationships to promote the interests of the town were amending our Tax Increment Financing Districts (TIF) to allow for a wider range of allowed uses of associated funds, and protecting our environment – lakes and streams, through repair of a dam.

Poland was the first town in Maine to establish a TIF District. When these districts were first set up not much was known about the long term impact of the associated development plans – what the town could do with the funds raised within these districts. The town was two thirds through the life of these TIF's and had not capitalized on the opportunity they presented. I knew there were infrastructure and economic development projects that we could pursue – but to do so meant amending our development plan. I studied the issue, developed an implementation plan and used my professional contacts at the state level to identify and get an introduction to the key players at the Department of Economic and Community Development. The result was a speedily approved amendment that was ultimately accepted by voters at a special town meeting.

Thompson Lake is surrounded by four municipalities. Poland is one of them. A dam that contains the lake is located in another town. Failure of the dam would destroy the property value of the homes located on the lake. Over the years, each town contributed a small amount toward the maintenance and repair of the dam. However, for a variety of reasons, no meaningful work had ever been accomplished. Leveraging my relationships with elected and appointed officials in each of the surrounding communities, I recommended a joint approach to funding and making decisions regarding the dam. The result was an intergovernmental committee that reviewed requirements and made recommendations that were ultimately enacted.

Matthew J. Garside

I have a collaborative, consensus building management style. I have found my biggest success when pursuing big projects or attempting to make a large change by building a consensus and getting “buy in” from stakeholders. Achieving goals is a lot more effective if everyone is pulling in the same direction. However, there are times when specific direction is required.

I believe that to be a good and effective leader one has to do five things; earn the respect of seniors and subordinates, demonstrate technical competence, be consistent, give feedback and correction in an appropriate manner, and provide clear direction on the way forward.

However, I believe the most important attribute of a good leader is to provide clear and precise direction. Doing this takes time and effort – you have to know where you want to go before you issue instructions. This does not mean micromanaging people – providing the appropriate amount of direction for a project gives employees – particularly your top performers, the guidance they need to execute.

My staff would say that I am approachable, consistent, willing to learn, and supportive. As part of my annual review of direct reports, I request an evaluation of my performance from those subordinates. I value that feedback as it lets me know what things are going well, and more importantly, areas that could be improved.

Elected officials would say they are happy with my performance. In formal annual reviews I am told they appreciate my approachable management style, how I interact with residents, my outreach and relationship building with other municipalities, correction of long standing financial issues, and how I have addressed and solved several long standing problems. An example of a long standing problem that I solved was a dispute over maintenance of a road in a failed development. I identified the core issues, brought stakeholders together, and offered a solution that was ultimately accepted by all parties.

I believe that my biggest strength is consensus building. I have found that if you want to take on large projects or achieve real change you must convince the group you are working with to move forward with you. For example, the Town had an opportunity to purchase a Summer Camp. The purchase involved settling land survey issues, obtaining water rights, identifying a funding source for the purchase price, and finally convincing voters that it was project worth supporting. In addressing these issues, I worked with abutting property owners, worked through the land survey issues with the Registrar of Deeds, collaborated with the owner of an adjacent Summer Camp to use their well, briefed local stakeholders on the plan and sought their input, and finally gave a detailed presentation at a Special Town Meeting which was ultimately approved by voters.

As for weaknesses, I recognize that I sometimes have trouble saying “no” to requests and sometimes take on more than I can handle at one time. To help in this area I delegate where appropriate and manage my own time effectively.

Matthew J. Garside

To measure performance and ensure the municipal team is meeting organizational goals I use several methods. First, I make sure that everyone understands our goals and how they can contribute. Next, I meet regularly with department heads as a group and individually. The group meeting allows everyone to see and understand how individual department actions are contributing toward larger town goals. One on one meetings allow for a deeper analysis of progress, identification of challenges, and actions and assistance required to move forward. Finally, I communicate with the Select Board regarding goals and progress – both at regularly scheduled meetings and in one on one sessions.

I am proud of my role in improving the Town's budgetary posture. When I arrived the budget process was contentious and inefficient. Various groups had differing agendas and priorities. As a result, providing a consistent level of municipal taxation was difficult. Before my first budget season, I met privately with stakeholders to identify issues and where there was common ground. Most importantly, I listened to concerns. I also met with key municipal staff to identify areas where we might reduce expenditures and where we needed to request additional funding. The result has been budgets that meet the needs of the Town, have kept the mil-rate flat, and addressed the concerns of all stakeholders.

An issue that I could have handled better was a proposal to increase law enforcement coverage for the Town from daytime only to 24-hour presence. Poland contracts with the Androscoggin County Sherriff for law enforcement presence. That service only runs from early morning until late evening – the overnight hours leave Poland with no dedicated Police presence. I researched crime data, reviewed police logs, solicited citizen input, and presented a cost estimate. The proposal was ultimately rejected by the Select Board as being too costly given the current financial situation (during the pandemic). Learning from that, I again made that proposal which was approved by voters at our most recent Town Meeting. When this was approved, the Town was in a much more firm financial posture, residents had confidence about their own economic future, and the Select Board was informed and ready to act.

Over the course of my career, I have found it necessary to terminate employees. It has always left me with a heavy heart. However, when termination of an employee is required it should not come as a surprise. Employees should know from both formal and informal review that their performance is not up to standard and should have been given an opportunity to address shortfalls. Actual termination should be done in a professional manner and in private. Treating people with dignity and respect should be a constant of any organization.

The challenges I see facing your next Village Manager are:

- Protect the environment and enable the local economy by maintaining and building on the good relationship the Village has with the Department of Economic Opportunity.
- Address land use and capital project challenges, to include the pending moratorium on building permits, and canal/storm water projects.
- Staff recruitment and retention. This would include a review of wages.

Matthew J. Garside

I appreciate the dedication and discipline required to make Islamorada the wonderful Village it is today and am committed to continue that important effort.

During the first six months, my efforts will involve:

- Building professional relationships with staff, community stakeholders, local business's, Mayor and Council, and appropriate County and State officials.
- Understanding the goals and direction of the Mayor and Council.
- Reviewing the Village's financial posture.
- Becoming familiar with relevant issues.

I maintain a good working relationship with local media to ensure important news about Town events and actions by the Select Board are made known to the community.

Social media is an important communication tool. I use the Town Facebook page, and our municipal web site to communicate with residents. Keeping these social media platforms fresh and populated with new content gives residents up to date information and encourages them to stay connected.

I do not anticipate that anyone would contact Islamorada with any negative information about me.

In my spare time, I enjoy travelling with my family.

Six adjectives or phrases that would use to describe myself

- Approachable
- Honest
- Dedicated
- Willing to learn
- Good communicator
- Able to deliver bad/unpleasant news

Reason for leaving current position

I am relocating to Florida as my son will be attending University in Florida, my wife and I would like to be close to him. We chose Islamorada for its small town flavor. Islamorada is not somewhere we want to go to, it is somewhere we want to be. If selected, we plan to be here a long time.

Matthew J. Garside

Current/most recent salary

Town of Poland, Maine, Town Manager	\$110,000
Reflect Geophysical, Chief Executive Officer and Board Director	\$325,000
Logistics Group Western Pacific, Chief of Staff	\$165,000

CB&A Background Checks

**Background Check Summary for
MATTHEW J. GARSIDE**

Criminal Records Checks:

Nationwide Criminal Records Search	No Records Found
County Androscoggin County, ME	No Records Found
State Maine	No Records Found

Civil Records Checks:

County Androscoggin County, ME	No Records Found
Federal Maine	No Records Found

Motor Vehicle

Maine	No Records Found
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Credit

Excellent

Personal Bankruptcy

No Records Found

Sex Offender Registry

Not Listed

Education

Confirmed

Employment

Results Pending

Social Media

Nothing of Concern Found

Under the Fair Credit Reporting Act, 15 U.S.C. 1681-1681Y, credit and bankruptcy information are very sensitive and should not be used in the consideration of hiring. The information is included for each candidate because we do not want you to be surprised if third parties raise what they consider to be a concern. Also, some states have limited the reporting to seven years, so any records older than that will not be available in those states. In addition, motor vehicle reports are limited to three to seven years, depending on the state.

**Background Check Summary for
MATTHEW J. GARSIDE
Personal Disclosure**

Personal Disclosure Questionnaire

Name of Applicant: Matthew Garside

The following questions are designed so that we will be able to make full disclosure to our client concerning your background. Please answer them honestly. Cutting corners or misrepresenting your past will result in you being eliminated from all further searches conducted by this firm. We understand that frivolous charges are sometimes made and that charges do not mean you were guilty. We also understand that you may have been wronged and needed to seek compensation. The bottom line is that we want to be certain that our client is fully informed. If you have any questions, please contact us for clarification.

Please explain any yes answers on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Have you ever been charged or convicted of a felony?
Yes No
2. Have you ever been accused of or have been involved in a domestic violence or abuse incident?
Yes No
3. Have you ever declared bankruptcy or been an owner in a business that did so?
Yes No
4. Have you ever been the subject of a civil rights violation complaint that was investigated or resulted in a lawsuit?
Yes No
5. Have you ever been the subject of a sexual harassment complaint that was investigated or resulted in a lawsuit?
Yes No
6. Have you ever been charged with driving while intoxicated?
Yes No
7. Have you ever sued a current or former employer?
Yes No
8. Please list all your social media accounts (Facebook / Instagram / LinkedIn / Twitter, etc.) and your personal web page if you have one.
LinkedIn
9. Is there anything else in your background that, if made public, would cause you, our client or our firm embarrassment if it came to light through the press or any other mechanism?
Yes No
10. Please provide a list of any lawsuits in which you are or have been a party either as plaintiff or defendant.

Attested to: 
Signature of Applicant

Please email this form via PDF DOCUMENT to Lynelle@cb-asso.com or via fax to (561) 621-5965 **no later than 5:00 PM MST 02/28/2022.**
(Note: Please be sure to sign the form with your actual signature if you are sending Fax or PDF Document)

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CB&A Reference Notes

Reference Notes
Matthew Garside

Nora Tyson – former United States Navy Vice Admiral, Norfolk, VA (757) 746-7565

Ms. Tyson has known Mr. Garside since about 2007. She was the commander of Logistics Group Western Pacific in Singapore. He reported to her as Officer of Operations, and later as Chief of Staff. They worked closely together for three years before Ms. Tyson left in 2010.

Mr. Garside is dedicated, professional, and an excellent collaborator. He sincerely cares about the people he serves and works with. His work in Singapore required building relationships between the United States Navy and all of the navies in Southeast Asia. He did an incredible job of collaborating with partner nations. He is skilled at addressing sensitive situations with delicacy and diplomacy.

Logistics Group Western Pacific was responsible for making sure the naval ships in Southeast Asia had the fuel and supplies they needed. Mr. Garside was innovative and creative in maximizing efficiency and effectiveness throughout the process. He excelled at bringing people together to think through different solutions to logistics problems. He has a hands-on leadership style and prefers to work alongside his team rather than sit behind closed doors.

An example of a problem Mr. Garside helped solve involves Pacific Partnership, an organization which deploys United States naval ships from the Pacific Fleet annually to aid in humanitarian efforts in multiple countries. One year, the amphibious ship that was going to be used could not be deployed due to an illness on board. The logistics were already in place and it was a major setback. Mr. Garside sat down with his team and they devised an intricate and detailed plan to use a supply ship in place of the amphibious ship that was unusable. It was an innovative and highly successful plan that pulled the team together.

Mr. Garside fully explores all options before making a decision. He makes good decisions when hiring personnel. He represented the United States Navy well when working with navies of other countries. He is thoughtful, measured, and well respected. He is a good communicator. He is customer service oriented and timely in his work.

Ms. Tyson would hire Mr. Garside again if she could. He will be a great Manager. She recommends him for the position.

Words or phrases used to describe Matthew Garside

- Trustworthy,
- Dependable,
- Intelligent,
- Well spoken,
- Sincere, and
- Friendly.

Reference Notes
Matthew Garside

Strengths: Team building, risk management, decision making, and people skills.

Weaknesses: None identified.

**Mark Buzby – Administrator, United States Maritime Administration, Washington, DC
410-320-7582**

Mr. Buzby and Mr. Garside first met when they served in the United States Navy together in 1992. From 2009 to 2013, Mr. Garside reported to Mr. Buzby at Logistics Group Western Pacific. While there, Mr. Garside was Chief Engineer and later Head of Operations.

Mr. Garside is an upstanding and professional person. He has a high level of integrity. He is respectful, friendly, and respects an organization's chain of command. He is a thoughtful and logical decision maker. He has a structured thinking approach to problem solving. He embraces new technology and novel ways of doing things.

Though Mr. Buzby does not have direct knowledge of Mr. Garside's hiring decisions, he believes Mr. Garside would hire good people. Mr. Garside is honest. He is an articulate and direct communicator. He is an engaging leader who works alongside his employees.

At one time, Mr. Garside was working as Chief Engineer for the building of a new naval ship. There was a large amount of new equipment on the ship, and employees needed to be trained in how to use it. Mr. Garside was responsible for building teams for the administrative and technical organizations on the ship. He had to train the employees and prepare them for rigorous ship inspections. Over a period of seven months, Mr. Garside was heavily involved in these trainings and certifications. The ship passed all inspections with high marks the first time.

Mr. Garside is customer service oriented. He solves problems and has good financial skills. He managed his navy ship budget well. If there were issues with financial resources, he was transparent about the issue and successfully avoided crisis. He is timely in his work.

Mr. Garside would be an excellent Manager. He has an extensive knowledge of leading organizations and is a great manager. Mr. Buzby recommends him for the position.

Words or phrases used to describe Matthew Garside:

- Professional,
- Compassionate,
- Tenacious,
- Full of integrity,
- Focused, and
- Disciplined.

Reference Notes
Matthew Garside

Strengths: Diligent, detail oriented, persistent, and good with people.

Weaknesses: Can be too introverted at times.

**James Smart – Deputy Director, Logistics Support Team, Littoral Combat Ship (LCS),
Jacksonville, FL (717) 265-3969**

Mr. Smart has known Mr. Garside since 2007. They worked together for Logistics Group Western Pacific, stationed in Singapore from 2007 until 2010. At first, they were both Department Heads. Later, Mr. Garside was promoted to Chief of Staff and Mr. Smart reported to him.

Mr. Garside is an excellent mentor. He helped Mr. Smart understand the culture of Singapore and the nature of the work. Mr. Garside is skilled at bringing people together to work as a team. He is logical and does not make rash decisions. He excels at gathering large amounts of information and analyzing it to determine the best course of action. He is dedicated and has a strong work ethic.

Mr. Garside is innovative and has experience dealing with large groups of people. Part of his job at Logistics Group Western Pacific was to reorganize a multi-national naval exercise. A naval exercise is an organized maneuver of naval ships, often meant to simulate realistic war conditions. He worked with military officers of many different cultures to accomplish this, including Vietnam and Bangladesh. He is diplomatic and respectful.

Mr. Garside prefers to communicate face-to-face, but he will also use email and phone communication when necessary. He keeps his colleagues informed of happenings. He has good financial skills. He managed the command budget for Logistics Group Western Pacific. He is good at working with others to ensure the funds are distributed fairly. He accomplishes tasks in a timely manner.

Mr. Garside often uses humor to respond to stress. He was responsible for ten naval ships as Chief of Staff. Often, a ship would break down on short notice and the United States Embassy had to be notified quickly, sometimes in the middle of the night. Mr. Smart never saw Mr. Garside get angry in these situations. He laughed and joked about it instead.

Mr. Garside's experience as Chief of Staff for Logistics Group Western Pacific is similar to managing a small town. He can balance multiple departments to support overall goals. His experience working with different countries and cultures gives him the diplomatic skills needed to handle difficult situations. He will be an excellent Manager. Mr. Smart recommends him for the position.

Reference Notes
Matthew Garside

Words or phrases used to describe Matthew Garside:

- Hard-working,
- Dedicated,
- Loyal, and
- Good with people.
-

Strengths: Balancing professionalism and personability, and decision-making.

Weaknesses: None identified.

**Carrie Castonguay – Transportation Analyst, Maine Department of Transportation, ME
(207) 931-8331**

Ms. Castonguay is the former Manager of New Gloucester, Maine. She and Mr. Garside worked together on projects to better their neighboring communities. They have known each other since approximately 2017. Mr. Garside is personable and professional. He tries to do what is best for the City of Poland.

Mr. Garside and Ms. Castonguay worked together with committee members in a nearby Shaker village. The Shakers have property in Poland and there was a problem with vandalism at one time. Mr. Garside worked collaboratively with Ms. Castonguay to increase police patrol in the area to help solve the problem.

Mr. Garside makes good decisions generally. He thinks through his decisions and works well with others to discuss potential solutions to problems. He is resourceful. He evaluates the ideas of others with a critical lens.

Mr. Garside is often out in the community interacting with the citizens of Poland. He attends meetings representing the City. He has experience dealing with the public both one-on-one and in a group. He is customer service oriented. He has good financial skills.

Mr. Garside is a good Manager for Poland and will do well managing another community. Ms. Castonguay recommends him for the position.

Words or phrases used to describe Matthew Garside:

- Professional,
- Friendly,
- Perceptive, and
- Mindful.

Reference Notes
Matthew Garside

Strengths: None identified. Ms. Castonguay has had limited professional contact with Mr. Garside.

Weaknesses: None identified.

**Chris Allmon – former Task Force Officer, Logistics Group Western Pacific,
Virginia Beach, VA (757) 836-2656**

Mr. Allmon reported to Mr. Garside as a Task Force Officer for Logistics Group Western Pacific. Mr. Garside was his Chief of Staff. They worked together from 2008 until 2011. There were approximately 250 personnel on their ship in the Pacific Fleet. Their small ship provided fuel and supplies for all naval ships in the area, from Australia to Japan.

Mr. Garside is intelligent, organized, personable, and a loyal American. He is a good judge of character and makes good decisions when hiring personnel. He is a logical and analytical decision-maker. He is a great leader. He is quick to praise in public, and disciplines in private.

In 2010, Mr. Garside's team won the prestigious Admiral Stan Arthur Award for Logistics Excellence. The award was given in recognition of the team's innovation in figuring out new ways to get fuel and supplies to their customers. Mr. Garside was instrumental in the planning and collaboration that earned the award.

Mr. Garside is skilled at understanding his customers and their needs. He has excellent financial skills and managed the budget well while in Singapore. He delivers projects on time and under budget.

Logistics Group Western Pacific was often a stressful place to work. Mr. Garside received work-related phone calls at any time of day, even while at home. He deals with the stress well and does not let it affect the quality of his work.

Mr. Garside will be an excellent Manager for any community. His experience working for Logistics Group Western Pacific is equivalent to managing a small American city. Mr. Allmon highly recommends him for the position.

Words or phrases used to describe Matthew Garside:

- Intelligent,
- Resourceful,
- Caring,
- Leader,
- Steady, and
- Consistent.

Reference Notes
Matthew Garside

Strengths: Analytical and logical decision-making.

Weaknesses: None identified.

**Chun Heng Yuen – Chief Executive Officer, Ark Solutions, Singapore, Malaysia
+65 9637 1909**

Mr. Heng Yuen met Mr. Garside in 2012. At the time, Mr. Heng Yuen was the Chief Executive Officer for Reflect Geophysical in Singapore. They provided seismic services for United States naval ships. The company was not doing well and Mr. Garside was hired to help turn the company around. He reported directly to Mr. Heng Yuen. Even though Mr. Garside had no commercial experience up to that point, he had good commercial instincts. He was instrumental in restructuring the business.

Mr. Garside works well with others. He is persistent in finding solutions to problems. He is skilled at analyzing difficult situations. He often gave Mr. Heng Yuen a fresh perspective on many issues. Mr. Garside is a hands-on leader. He does not take shortcuts, especially in crisis situations. His military training enhances his communication skills. He communicates well and often. He prefers to speak in person but will use other methods when necessary.

Reflect Geophysical was not hiring any employees during the time Mr. Garside worked there. However, he is a good judge of character and made excellent decisions in that area. Generally, he makes good decisions. He is logical and takes time to consider all options. He never decides to do something without a reason.

At one time, Reflect Geophysical was trying to get a new contract with an oil and gas company in India. They did not have the correct naval ships to complete a survey in that part of the world. The company needed the business, but they did not have the capacity to do it. Mr. Garside offered valuable insights and ideas to help solve this problem. Together, he and Mr. Heng Yuen organized a fundraiser for a new ship in a short period of time.

Mr. Garside has good financial skills and can manage a budget well. He was often included in financial brainstorm meetings with Mr. Heng Yuen and the Chief Financial Officer. He is steady in the face of conflict. He is diplomatic and respectful when faced with hostile people and stressful situations.

Mr. Garside will be an exceptional Manager. Mr. Heng Yuen recommends him for the position.

Reference Notes
Matthew Garside

Words or phrases used to describe Matthew Garside:

- Hands-on,
- Involved,
- Good thinker,
- Analytical,
- Steady, and
- Calm.

Strengths: Analytical skills, and creative problem solving.

Weaknesses: Not aggressive enough in certain situations.

**Ellie Espling – former Assistant Republican Leader, Maine House of Representatives,
District 65, New Gloucester, ME (207) 891-8280**

Ms. Espling has known Mr. Garside since 2017. She is a former Maine State Legislator and Poland was in her district. Mr. Garside is professional and pleasant to work with. He is diligent and follows through on his work.

Mr. Garside makes good decisions when hiring personnel. Poland had some personnel struggles and he seemed to deal with it well. He makes good decisions generally. He is skilled at bringing new perspectives and ideas to the table.

Mr. Garside is active in his community and often attends community meetings. He has experience dealing with the public both one-on-one and in a group. He communicates well and is not afraid to reach out to people. He is a collaborative leader and brings his employees together.

An example of a project Mr. Garside worked on is a road reconstruction on a Route 26 intersection. He is persistent and pursues issues until solutions are found. He brings people together and is a great collaborator.

Mr. Garside is a mild-mannered person. He has a calming presence and is not easily overwhelmed by stress. He is customer service oriented. He has good financial skills. He accomplishes tasks in a timely manner.

Mr. Garside will be a good Manager. Ms. Espling recommends him for the position.

Reference Notes
Matthew Garside

Words or phrases used to describe Matthew Garside:

- Diligent,
- Thorough,
- Relaxed,
- Professional, and
- Negotiator.

Strengths: Works well with others, open to new ideas, and collaborative.

Weaknesses: Could be bolder in certain situations.

Ron Horton – General Manager, Fanatics Inc., Jacksonville, FL (832) 684-7916

Mr. Horton has known Mr. Garside since 2010. He was an admiral in the United States Navy and Mr. Garside reported to him as Chief of Staff for Logistics Group Western Pacific. Mr. Garside is competent, organized, and detailed. He can keep track of multiple responsibilities simultaneously. He was an exceptional Chief of Staff.

Mr. Garside is always respectful and friendly in his interactions with others. He makes good decisions generally, and when hiring personnel. He is innovative. At Logistics Group Western Pacific, details often changed at the last minute. Mr. Garside had innovative ideas in these situations. He led a team of 75 people to solve urgent problems in creative ways.

Mr. Garside is an excellent communicator. He gave Mr. Horton daily updates via verbal communication, email, or video conference. He is a dynamic leader and rallies people together to achieve a goal. He has good customer service instincts.

Without fail, Mr. Garside is timely in his work. He has good financial skills. He worked in a stressful environment at Logistics Group Western Pacific and responded to the stress well. Because of his military history, functioning in stressful situations is second nature to him.

There is nothing controversial or concerning in Mr. Garside's background. If anyone had anything negative to say about him, Mr. Horton would not believe it. Mr. Garside will be a great Manager. Mr. Horton wholeheartedly recommends him for the position.

Reference Notes
Matthew Garside

Words or phrases used to describe Matthew Garside:

- Intelligent,
- Instinctive,
- Loyal,
- Hardworking,
- Organized, and
- Leader.

Strengths: Leadership, organization, and problem-solving.

Weaknesses: None identified.

Butch Asselin – Town Manager, Oxford, ME (207) 539-4431

Mr. Asselin has known Mr. Garside since approximately 2017. The towns they manage are only twelve miles apart, and the two men often have lunch together and discuss business. They also served together as members of the Oxford Dam Committee. Mr. Garside is likeable and dedicated to his position. His military background provides a solid foundation for him to be a good Town Manager for the small community of Poland.

Mr. Garside is approachable, respectful, open-minded, and articulate. He is a good listener and gives good advice. He is fiscally conservative. He has not made any decisions that caused Mr. Asselin discomfort. Mr. Garside is not afraid to make changes in administration when necessary. Soon after he became Poland Town Manager, he let the Finance Director go for confidential reasons.

Mr. Garside attends community meetings often. Unlike prior Managers of Poland, Mr. Garside attends some community meetings which are not contractually required of him. The townspeople admire and respect that. He is customer service oriented and a responsive communicator.

Mr. Asselin does not have knowledge of Mr. Garside's problem-solving skills or innovative tendencies. He seems to handle stress well. He has not been involved in anything controversial. There is nothing concerning in his background or conduct.

Mr. Garside will adapt well to any management position. Mr. Asselin recommends him for the position.

Reference Notes
Matthew Garside

Words or phrases used to describe Matthew Garside:

- Approachable,
- Loyal,
- Dedicated,
- Persistent,
- Polite, and
- Trustworthy.

Strengths: Loyalty and dedication to his position.

Weaknesses: His methods can be too extreme at times. For example, he closed the Poland Town office in the wake of COVID-19 and would not open it even when other towns were opening up.

Cody Hodges – former Deputy of Logistics, Logistics Group Western Pacific, Singapore, Malaysia (703) 401-9692

Mr. Hodges worked with Mr. Garside from 2008 to 2010 for Logistics Group Western Pacific. Mr. Garside was Chief of Staff, and Mr. Hodges reported to him.

Mr. Garside is highly intelligent and a good leader. He is personable and enjoyable to be around. He is calm under pressure. The admiral of his naval ship was fired in 2010 and was not replaced immediately. During the four months before a new admiral was found, Mr. Garside assumed the responsibilities of the admiral in addition to his own.

Mr. Garside never loses his temper. He is a mentor to many of his subordinates. He makes good decisions. When hiring staff in Singapore, he thoroughly screened every employee who entered the country from the United States. He is a good judge of character.

In 2011, a tsunami and earthquake hit Todoku, Japan. Logistics Group Western Pacific was part of the United States Armed Forces assistance operation to provide humanitarian relief to Japan. The relief effort was called Operation Tomodachi. For 41 days, Mr. Hodges and Mr. Garside spent almost 24 hours a day working closely together on this operation. The tsunami hit a nuclear facility and nuclear waste spilled into the ocean. Under Mr. Garside's leadership, his team successfully directed their ship around the nuclear plume to the Japanese coast.

Mr. Garside has experience with members of the public both one-on-one and in a group. His naval base was shared with members of the Singapore Navy, local citizens, a New Zealand workforce, and British citizens. He is diplomatic and respectful of all people.

Mr. Garside will be a great Manager. Mr. Hodges recommends him for the position.

Reference Notes
Matthew Garside

Words or phrases used to describe Matthew Garside:

- Calm,
- Natural leader,
- Strong,
- Focused,
- Kind, and
- Intelligent.

Strengths: Detail-oriented, sees the big picture, and mentorship skills.

Weaknesses: Works too much.

Prepared by: Kathryn Chambers
Colin Baenziger & Associates

CB&A Internet Research

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Matthew J. Garside

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Sun-Journal (Lewiston, ME)

March 1, 2022

Poland board wants answers on higher county assessment

Author: Eriks Petersons

POLAND — Selectpersons said Tuesday night that they want an explanation of why Androscoggin County has raised the town's assessment for the next fiscal year from \$964,000 to \$1.02 million, an increase of \$54,141. Last year, the town paid the county \$903,780. The latest assessment is a difference of \$114,361. County officials gave the lower figure earlier in the year when the town began its budget deliberations.

The Select Board members agreed Tuesday that county officials should have explained why they increased the assessment at this late date in budget-setting process. The board amended the warrant article on the county assessment to authorize expenditure of the higher figure but voted not to recommend its passage at the town meeting Saturday, April 2.

Board Chairperson Stephen Robinson asked if there may have been an error in the county's tabulations. He said he did not notice Poland's payment of \$463,000 for the Sheriff's Office law enforcement services listed as revenue in the county's budget. No county officials attended Tuesday night's meeting, though they were asked to. Town Manager **Matt Garside** said he will again request county representatives to attend the next Select Board meeting March 15.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Matthew J. Garside

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Sun-Journal (Lewiston, ME)

January 18, 2022

Poland employees getting COVID-19 hazard pay

Author: Eriks Petersons

POLAND — The Select Board on Tuesday night authorized \$49,400 in hazard pay for employees who worked during the statewide COVID-19 emergency declaration March 15, 2020, to June 30, 2021. The money will come from the town's allotment of the American Rescue Plan Act funds. The distribution will be based on hours worked. The scale was developed by Town Manager **Matt Garside**, Deputy Town Manager Nicki Pratt and Selectpersons Mary-Beth Taylor and Nathan McNally.

Since it is less than \$50,000 it does not require voter approval. However, voters at the town meeting in April will decide whether to use \$65,000 from the federal allotment for two power lift stretchers for the Fire and Rescue Departments. A warrant article authorizing the town to bond up to \$850,000 to expand the A.B. Ricker Memorial Library was tabled until it's known whether the maturity date would be for 10, 20 or 30 years and how much the library's Stone Fund could contribute.

The board also authorized **Garside** to sign a letter of intent with ReVision Energy. The company would install a \$228,271 solar energy system allowing the town to use solar power as its primary electrical source at its municipal facilities. The letter allows ReVision to begin preliminary work on the project. Town meeting voters will also decide whether to go along with the installation. According to the warrant article approved by the board, during the first five years of the system the town would purchase solar energy up to 45% less than the current utility rates. In the sixth year the town would have the option of purchasing the system for \$143,811, if voters approve then. If the system is voted down the town would be obligated to pay no more \$2,500 in the preliminary expenses.

The board approved another warrant article requesting the reallocation of \$54,544 from the Law Enforcement Reserve Account to set up a new Solid Waste Reserve account of \$28,235 and allocate \$26,309 to the Road Reserve account. A warrant article was approved authorizing the town manager to apply "for federal financing assistance under the provisions of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act" for the development of the Ricker Park. The park is planned behind the library and town offices on Route 26. **Garside** said local contractors are willing to donate time and material for construction. The board also approved allocating \$6,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act funds to the Poland Community Food Bank.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Matthew J. Garside
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Sun Journal
December 22, 2021

Poland seeks to pay bonuses with COVID-19 funding
Select Board explored several options for spending American Rescue Plan Act funds among other actions during its Tuesday night meeting.

Author: Eriks Peterson

The Poland Select Board asked the town manager Tuesday to determine whether \$50,000 in emergency COVID-19 funds could be immediately be disbursed as premium pay or bonuses for municipal employees. Town Manager **Matt Garside** had said the town is slated to receive \$596,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act over the next two years, in two installments of \$268,000. The board would like to some of the funds to go directly to those employees who worked during the COVID-19 pandemic. The town received the first check payment and spent \$50,000 on paving Hackett Mills Road.

Since the Select Board can authorize expenditures up to \$50,000 without requiring town meeting approval, **Garside** said he will check to see if another \$50,000 can be used from the same ARPA fund for the premium pay. The board also supported using funds to purchase a power lift stretcher, with an estimated cost of \$60,000. Select Board Chair Stephen Robinson said the town does not need to allocate all the ARPA funds now. The town has until 2024 to do that and the money has to be expended by 2026.

Other expenditures **Garside** submitted for possible consideration were further road work and a new air filter ventilation system for town offices. Fire Rescue Chief Thomas Printup told the Select Board that increased overtime expenses are due primarily to staff shortage in both the full-time and per diem firefighter forces. Printup said hiring two additional full-time firefighters would alleviate the substantial overtime costs, strengthen the manpower of the Fire Rescue Department and provide the necessary coverage for the town. The Select Board has included hiring the additional firefighters in next year's town budget. "Health and safety is not negotiable," Robinson said in support of adding the personnel.

In other business, **Garside** told the board that added security measures may be necessary at the town's transfer site. **Garside** said persons broke into the Poland and Mechanic Falls transfer station offices on the same night. Outside of some personal effects missing, no serious damage was done to the premises. The Select Board approved spending the remaining \$30,349 from the Rec TIF fund for maintenance and improvements to the hiking trails, as submitted by the Trail Committee in conjunction with the Poland Conservation Commission.

Corcoran Environmental Services of Scarborough was awarded the contract to haul solid waste disposal at \$120/trip to Maine Waste to Energy in Auburn and recycling at \$125/trip to Casella in Lewiston. Corcoran outbid Almighty Waste which submitted pricing of \$139/trip to MWTE and \$149/trip to Casella. The Select Board also heard a presentation by ReVision Solar Power for Poland to change to solar power as its primary electrical source at its municipal facilities.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Matthew J. Garside

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Sun Journal
December 8, 2021

**\$4.5 million housing project in Poland put on hold
Board will also need to consider how to spend \$600,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funds.**

Author: Eriks Peterson

POLAND — The \$4.5 million 24-unit elderly housing complex planned off state Route 26 will not be built in the foreseeable future, members of the Poland Board of Selectpersons learned at their Tuesday night meeting. In his report to the board, Town Manager **Matt Garside** said developers, the Auburn Residential Development Corporation, “deferred further development at this time.” **Garside** was told the company reevaluated conditions and determined there was not enough capital, “to pay for the project due to increased construction costs,” and there was nothing the town could do to help at this time. The complex was planned to be built by August 2022 and located on 8.1 acres by Hines Road, along Route 26 near the junction of Carpenter Road and state Route 122.

In other matters, the select board received word that the state Route 26 sewer line was installed from Top Gun gun shop to Campbell Cottage on Ricker Road and that the contractor, Pratt & Sons, intends to start work near the pump station soon to bring the sewer line across Route 26, depending on the weather and if paving plants remain open.

Poland Finance Director Debbie Fitzpatrick tendered her resignation. Her last day will be Friday. Deputy Town Manager Nikki Pratt and Finance/Assessing Clerk Nicole Lussier will share the duties of the position until a replacement is hired.

The select board learned that the Maine’s Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry has determined the town’s 2021 Comprehensive Plan is “complete and consistent” and “found all sections of the plan, including future land use section to be consistent with the Growth Management Act.” A public hearing on the plan is scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 18, 2022.

The town will accept bids to transport its solid waste and recyclable materials to the Maine Waste-to-Energy facility in Auburn. Bids must be delivered to the town office no later than Thursday, Dec. 16 at 11 a.m., at which time they will be opened and read publicly in the Town Office conference room. The select board will consider proposals Tuesday, Dec. 21 at 7 p.m.

Garside also told the board to begin thinking about how American Rescue Plan Act funds of nearly \$600,000 should be spent. Expenditures considered were road paving, a new air filter ventilation system for town offices, stretcher lifting devices, and premium bonus pay for town employees who worked through the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. **Garside** said the town needs to decide by 2024, where the funds should be spent. The money must be spent by 2026.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Matthew J. Garside

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Sun Journal
October 20, 2021

Poland selectpersons considering equitable pay system for employees

A study revealed a disparity between Poland and other communities due in part to a lack of cost-of-living increases.

Author: Eriks Peterson

POLAND — The Select Board took steps Tuesday to implement an equitable pay system for town employees. Town Manager **Matt Garside** said if the town approved an across-the-board wage hike of \$206,000 in one year, as proposed in a study by HR Maine Consulting, property taxes for a home assessed at \$150,000 would increase by \$38. The town approved the study earlier this year to see how it compares with area communities.

Betsy Oulton from the consulting firm presented the results at the Oct. 5 board meeting. She said the disparity between Poland and other communities stems from the town not providing an annual cost-of-living increase and some town officials doing more than what's in their job description. The board accepted Chairperson Stephen Robinson's suggestion to produce a spreadsheet showing the current rate of pay for each job, what the proposed pay is in the study, and the percent increase between the two numbers. The board would then decide what group of employees or positions required the most immediate attention.

The board would prefer to spread wage increases over time, begin cost-of-living increases annually and implement a policy for that. There are 28 full-time employees. The study proposes various pay raises for various positions, which was one of the reasons Robinson was asking for a spreadsheet. The discussion on the wage study will continue at the Nov. 2 meeting and **Garside** hopes budget committee members would participate. That meeting will be via Zoom because it's Election Day.

In other business, **Garside** clarified questions on the use of extra sewer bond money, since the contract awarded to Pratt & Sons of Minot was for \$2.7 million and the bond approved by voters in August 2020 was for \$4.8 million. The contract is to extend the sewer line north on state Route 26 from Top Gun across the causeway to Cyndi's Dockside restaurant. **Garside** said the town cannot repay the eight-year bond early. The board approved buying a 2021 Chevrolet Tahoe special service vehicle for the Poland Fire and Rescue chief for \$46,897.50 from DeNooyer Chevrolet in Albany, New York.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Matthew J. Garside

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Sun-Journal (Lewiston, ME)

September 21, 2021

Poland short on firefighters due to vaccination mandate

Author: Eriks Petersons

POLAND — A personnel shortage has hit the Fire Rescue Department because of mandatory vaccinations, Town Manager **Matt Garside** told the Select Board at Tuesday night's meeting. Three part-timers, who were not named, left because of the mandate, he said. A full-timer has left to take a position at Bath Iron Works, but it was for a career change and better financial opportunities, **Garside** added.

In another matter, Deputy Town Manager Nikki Pratt said an unknown third party has sent voter registration applications to residents. "We don't know where these are coming from, Pratt said. "We don't know what voter list they are using ... but they are inaccurate." Pratt asked residents to contact the Town Office before filling out and sending in the applications. She said the Town Office can verify if they are registered to vote.

Absentee ballot applications are also being sent to residents, Pratt said, and asked residents to disregard them. Absentee ballots are only available at the Town Office 30 days prior to any Maine election, Pratt told the board.

In another matter, the Androscoggin County Sheriff's Office notified the town that many kayaks are being stolen from lakes and ponds in town. The department is advising residents to pull and secure their kayaks ashore and mark them with some identification in case they are stolen and found later.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Matthew J. Garside

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Sun-Journal (Lewiston, ME)

August 3, 2021

Combined county dispatch center makes 'no sense', Poland manager says

Author: Eriks Petersons

POLAND — Costs associated with the proposed emergency call service for Androscoggin County is not sitting well with the Select Board and Town Manager **Matt Garside**. According to figures furnished by the county, Poland's county taxes could increase by nearly \$222,000.

Androscoggin County Sheriff Eric Samson discussed the proposal at Tuesday night's Select Board meeting. The proposal, which could go into effect by July 2022, has the Androscoggin County emergency dispatch center merging with the Lewiston-Auburn Emergency Communications System. The two would be under the county's jurisdiction.

Garside said Poland pays a little over \$100,000 a year to the county for dispatch service. If the plan goes through as presented, Poland would have to pay an additional \$222,000 to get the same level of service. "It doesn't make sense to me," **Garside** said. At the same time, Lewiston and Auburn "almost save over a million bucks between the two of them," **Garside** added. "Maybe we can revisit our re-proportioning costs," he said.

Samson said the proposal is still being evaluated and county commissioners have not made any decisions about it. He said the cost-sharing scenario is based on a template done by a Pennsylvania consulting firm from a study done in 2008. In other business, the board set the tax rate at \$15.10 per \$1,000 of property valuation, an increase of 12 cents. Deputy Town Manager Nikki Pratt said a property valued at \$150,000 would pay an additional \$18.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Matthew J. Garside

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Sun-Journal (Lewiston, ME)

July 6, 2021

Poland law enforcement coverage expands to 24/7

Author: Ericks Petersons

POLAND — The Androscoggin County Sheriff's Office started 24/7 patrols July 1, Town Manager **Matthew Garside** told selectpersons Tuesday night. Voters at the April town meeting endorsed expanding coverage from 16 hours a day. The Sheriff's Office previously told town officials they had given conditional offers to two applicants, but they would not be ready to patrol July 1, but that would not delay the July 1 start date.

Garside also advised the board that the next marijuana licensing lottery is scheduled for 1 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 11, at the Town Office Conference Room. All applications must be accompanied by a conditional license issued by the state and fees are payable by cash, money order, or bank check. The deadline for submission is 4 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 5. The town will notify applicants if the application is incomplete and give them until 4 p.m. Monday, Aug. 9, to submit them.

Garside said federal American Rescue Plan money for the town can be used for road repairs, information and technology improvements, the library expansion and Fire Rescue Department equipment. The town expects to receive \$596,000 over the next two years. **Garside** said the rescue department is looking to acquire two power lift stretchers for an estimated \$60,000 total.

The board approved a procedure for charitable organizations to apply for town funds. A questionnaire that must be filled out asks what the organization does, how the funds would be used, how money would benefit Poland residents and what the organization has done in the past year to help residents. Representatives from the organization must attend one of the two Select Board meetings in November.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Matthew J. Garside

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Sun-Journal (Lewiston, ME)

June 1, 2021

Poland board gets reports on grants and federal relief money

Author: Eriks Petersons

POLAND — The Select Board on Tuesday received a summary of grants received over the past 11 months that total \$132,685. They include revenue from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Center for Technology and Civic Life, the Androscoggin County Emergency Management Agency and Keep Maine Healthy. In a related item, the board moved to accept an additional \$22,000 from FEMA to the Fire and Rescue Department for expenses related to COVID-19.

Town Manager **Matthew Garside** told selectperons he met with U.S. Sen. Susan Collins, U.S. Rep. Jared Golden and a representative from U.S. Sen. Angus King's office on rules for spending \$593,000 received from the recently passed \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan. It seems, he said, "everyone is scratching their heads" on where and how the money can be spent. He said there are no guidelines yet.

The Select Board was also presented with a report outlining the town's tax increment financing agreements. The Downtown TIF ends in 2027 and two TIFs involving Poland Spring Water Co. end in 2030. The next Select Board meeting is Tuesday, June 15, at the Town Office. Those who wish to attend are asked to wear a mask if they haven't been vaccinated.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Matthew J. Garside

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Sun Journal
May 19, 2021

Poland selectpersons get audit report; finance director commended

POLAND — The Select Board received a favorable report on the town’s financial situation Tuesday night. Christina Howe, senior auditor from RHR Smith & Company in Buxton, presented the audit review for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020. The only recommendation was for the town to update their fund balance policy to be consistent with the town’s current practices and procedures. Town Manager **Matt Garside** said, “A good audit review doesn’t happen by accident” and praised the work of Debbie Fitzpatrick, Poland’s finance director. **Garside** also informed the board that Poland will receive two payments of almost \$593,000, one this year and another next year, from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, part of the \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 stimulus package passed earlier this year. **Garside** said the money will be kept in a separate account and expenditures will follow authorized federal guidelines.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Matthew J. Garside

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Sun-Journal (Lewiston, ME)

February 22, 2021

Poland town budget proposed to go up 3.3% to nearly \$5.1 million

Author: Christopher Williams

The municipal budget recommended by local officials is nearly \$5.1 million, which represents a 3.3% increase over last year's fiscal budget, according to Town Manager **Matthew Garside**. The effect, if any, that increase would have on the town's tax rate won't be known until a school budget is passed. A referendum on the school budget will be scheduled for June.

For the second consecutive year, local residents will be expected to cast ballots by referendum instead of gathering indoors for an annual town meeting. That decision was prompted by Gov. Janet's Mills' emergency order that places restrictions on the size of groups that can safely congregate indoors due to COVID-19 infection concerns. As they did last year, townspeople will vote on the annual budget and other warrant items by either absentee ballot or in person at Town Hall on April 2, between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m., **Garside** said.

At its March 2 meeting, the Board of Selectpersons is scheduled to conduct an information session on the upcoming town meeting referendum. Residents are urged to email questions to or participate in the March 2 Zoom videoconference or both, **Garside** said. "So, the thought was that at the town meeting, when you do it in person, you have the chance to better inform voters at that time because you can answer questions and talk about things because everybody's there," he said. "But, since it's going to be done by a ballot, they thought they would have information that night that would allow people to ask questions" before they're asked to vote.

Voters in April will be asked to approve a contribution of \$837,581 to the town's Capital Improvement Plan, an amount higher than normal because the town didn't contribute to the fund in its last fiscal budget.

Also proposed in the referendum is an increase in law enforcement coverage from 16 hours a day to 24 hours daily by the Androscoggin County Sheriff's Office for an increased cost of \$156,562 a year. And adding two full-time firefighters to the Fire and Rescue Department would cost \$165,225, **Garside** said.

Voters also will be asked to approve the sale of roughly 10 acres of town land known as the Sadie Jackson lot off Estes Way. The proceeds would go to the Conservation Commission, **Garside** said.

Because the ballot is fairly long, he said officials are hoping voters might opt for absentee ballots in order to spend some time poring over the warrant articles. A newsletter containing all of the ballot questions as well as login information for the upcoming Zoom information session is expected to be mailed shortly to townspeople, **Garside** said.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Matthew J. Garside

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Sun-Journal (Lewiston, ME)

January 7, 2021

Poland officials review sewer design

Author: Christopher Williams

Local officials heard Tuesday from a Portland environmental engineering firm that is designing the town's sewer extension northward along Route 26. "I thought it'd be a smart move before we went to the final design for these folks to come and explain what it's going to look like how it's all going to work," Town Manager **Matthew Garside** said. "It's going to be a good deal, I think." Residents approved in August extending the municipal sewer line from Top Gun of Maine to Cyndi's Dockside restaurant. **Garside** said the town hopes the project can go out to bid in time for construction to start next summer, once engineering and design work is completed by Wright-Pierce. Details of the project can be found on the town's website as well as the town's Facebook page.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Matthew J. Garside

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Sun-Journal (Lewiston, ME)

October 7, 2020

Poland approves first pot shop

Author: Christopher Williams

Town officials voted Tuesday to award its first local adult recreational marijuana retail license, after a public hearing. The store, Hi-Lo Dispensary, is at Routes 26 and 122. The owners plan to open the doors to the public in a few weeks, according to Town Manager **Matthew Garside**. Roughly four years after Maine voters approved retail recreation marijuana sales to adults, the state is ready to allow those stores to open starting Oct. 9. Local officials limited to five the total number of licenses that will be issued for each type of activity, including medical marijuana retail, adult use retail and cultivation. Residents are given priority, but nonresidents may apply for any remaining licenses.

Also on Tuesday, Select Board members authorized **Garside** to sign an engineering agreement with a company it hired to extend the town's public sewer line from the Top Gun gun shop to the south end of the Route 26 causeway.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Matthew J. Garside

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Tribune Content Agency News Service (USA)

September 18, 2020

Poland officials approve firefighters' union pact

Author: Christopher Williams

Town officials approved earlier this week a contract with recently formed firefighter's union that addresses wage scale and benefits. "What we were able to do in that contract is fairly compensate our firefighters so that we can retain them and, if required, attract new recruits to our full-time firefighter force," Town Manager **Matthew Garside** said. "It's also a good deal for the town," he said.

The town has four full-time firefighters at Poland Fire Rescue Department who are covered under the contract. It doesn't apply to part-time firefighters nor administrators, **Garside** said. The wages and benefits negotiated in the contract are "a bit higher" than what the firefighters have been compensated previously in an effort to make them more competitive with surrounding comparable municipalities, **Garside** said. The pact is retroactive to July 1 and expires June 30, 2023, he said.

In other business at Tuesday's meeting, town officials signed a contract with Great Northern Docks, Inc., a Naples company, to install bridges and walkways along the town's public trails over wetlands or small streams "so that when you're hiking, you can actually walk in the woods and enjoy the trail system we have without coming back (with) muddy and wet feet," **Garside** said. "It also lets more of our elderly residents go on these trails and have some confidence that they're going to be able to negotiate them as well as parents with small kids," he said. He said the town has contracted to pay \$32,722 for the project, which is expected to be completed before the first snowfall. That money is being paid through revenue from tax increment financing and not from property taxes, **Garside** said.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Matthew J. Garside

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Sun-Journal (Lewiston, ME)

September 18, 2020

Community briefs

Purchase adds 2.5 acres to trail system

The Poland Conservation Commission was able to purchase an additional 2.5 acres for the Heart of Poland trail system after three years of fundraising. Poland Town Manager **Matt Garside** and the Poland Board of Selectmen were proactive supporting and assisting in the accomplishment. The 2.5 acres will allow for a new trail head with parking, making the trails more accessible for walkers.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Matthew J. Garside

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Sun-Journal (Lewiston, ME)

August 25, 2020

Poland voters approve \$5.18 million municipal budget

Author: Matthew Daigle

Residents voted Tuesday to approve a \$5,184,844 municipal budget, a decrease of \$282,916 from the previous year's budget. The reduced municipal budget is expected to bring down the town's property tax rate, according to the town meeting warrant.

In a break from tradition, residents voted for the annual budget at the polls rather than in person due to Gov. Janet Mills' emergency order limiting the number of people allowed to gather indoors due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Residents also voted to extend the municipal sewer line northward along Route 26, from Top Gun of Maine to Cyndi's Dockside restaurant.

Town Manager **Matthew Garside** told selectmen at their Aug. 18 meeting that if residents approved the article, he would move forward with the engineering of the project so it could go out to bid at the start of next summer.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Matthew J. Garside

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Sun-Journal (Lewiston, ME)

July 24, 2020

Poland officials to hear union contract details

Author: Christopher Williams

Local officials expect to learn next week about progress made in union contract negotiations with the Fire Rescue Department's full-time workers. The Board of Selectpersons is scheduled to meet Tuesday in a special executive session for an update on a three-year pact being negotiated by Town Manager **Matthew Garside**.

He said the four employees organized late last year and are seeking their first contract with the town. "This will be a comprehensive brief of what the contract entails and what we've been negotiating with the union," **Garside** said, "because we're getting toward the end of the process here."

Garside said the negotiations have been amicable. If the elected officials decide after Tuesday's meeting that they are ready to vote on the contract, they would be expected to take that action at their Aug. 4 meeting, **Garside** said.

Comments are not available on this story.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Matthew J. Garside

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Press-Herald.com

June 5, 2020

**Inside New Gloucester: June 5
Charter petitioners forge ahead**

Author: Patti Mikkelsen

New Gloucester Citizens for a Town Charter is seeking approximately 200 additional petition signatures to get the question of whether to establish a town charter commission on the November 2020 ballot. A minimum of 587 signatures is required. Speaking for the group, John Salisbury noted the hardship in obtaining signatures because of COVID-19 restrictions. “This makes it much more difficult to obtain the required signatures by June 24, the submission deadline,” he said.

Salisbury added that he recently had a chance encounter with the current town manager of Poland, **Matthew Garside**, who remarked how important it was to have a town charter. The manager indicated he frequently referred to the document to help provide advice to Poland’s Board of Selectmen on local issues. “It is much easier than having to search the state municipal statutes or call the Maine Municipal Association for advice,” **Garside** said.

An example of the dilemma the Board of Selectmen is currently having is what to do about holding a town meeting with the social distancing rule and stay-at-home orders. Salisbury said such an issue could be addressed in a town charter and not be dependent on a state legal ruling or executive order. Any New Gloucester registered voters that have not signed the charter petition are urged to email Salisbury at jsalisbury@comcast.net or call Steve Hathorne at 210-5423 to arrange for a convenient time and place to get your signature. If you are willing to help circulate a petition for others to sign, notify one of them.

On Saturday, June 6, petitioners will have a table at the transfer station from 9:15 a.m. to 1 p.m. to provide an opportunity for townspeople to sign who have not already done so. Salisbury said he wanted to “remind everyone that signing the petition only helps get the question of creating a town charter commission on the ballot. It is not a vote on a specific charter document.”

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Matthew J. Garside

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Tribune Content Agency News Service (USA)

June 4, 2020

Poland officials accept money for tree planting; unable to set Town Meeting date

Author: Christopher Williams

Local officials voted Tuesday to accept a state grant for tree planting at the town's municipal complex. Town Manager **Matthew Garside** said Wednesday members of the Board of Selectpersons accepted a \$4,000 grant under the Canopy Program administered by the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. The money will be used to purchase and plant 10 trees in the area of the Town Office, **Garside** said. The board also discussed when officials will be able to schedule this year's annual Town Meeting, **Garside** said.

Poland's annual meeting had been scheduled for April 4, but that event was postponed due to Gov. Janet Mills' executive order restricting the size of public gatherings in response to the coronavirus pandemic. Since then, officials haven't been able to set a new date due to ongoing restrictions. Currently, public gatherings of more than 50 people are prohibited. The town requires that a minimum of 100 residents attend the annual meeting in order to qualify as a quorum so that it can pass a new fiscal budget. "The state hasn't relaxed its guidelines enough for us to really plan anything yet," **Garside** said. Members of the Board of Selectpersons are scheduled to meeting Wednesday night with member of the Budget Committee to revise its recommended annual municipal budget. The goal is to lower spending in anticipation of a reduction in revenues due to the pandemic.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Matthew J. Garside

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Tribune Content Agency News Service (USA)

May 21, 2020

Poland officials bracing for lower revenues

Author: Christopher Williams

Town officials plan to meet June 3 to revise the next fiscal year's proposed budget to reflect lower expected revenues due to the coronavirus pandemic. Members of the Board of Selectpersons met Tuesday night by videoconference. The board scheduled a joint meeting with the Budget Committee to held at the Town Hall at 6:30 p.m. where they expect to revise the budget they plan to present to voters at a town meeting.

A date for that meeting hasn't been set because of Gov. Janet Mills' order restricting the number of people who may gather in a public place, according to Town Manager **Matthew Garside**. The new fiscal year starts July 1, but the Legislature is allowing municipalities to continue spending money from the current fiscal year's budget into the next fiscal year if they haven't passed a new budget at the town meeting. At Tuesday night's meeting, the board also authorized \$9,600 to pay for mold mitigation at the Fire and Rescue Department building, **Garside** said.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Matthew J. Garside

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Tribune Content Agency News Service (USA)

May 7, 2020

Poland's public services reopen with restrictions

Author: Christopher Williams

Town offices and public services have started to reopen. Local officials discussed the easing of restrictions at their Tuesday meeting, Town Manager **Matthew Garside** said Wednesday. Aside from the fire and public works departments, which remained fully open since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic, other departments have begun to open to residents, he said.

Ricker Memorial Library opened Monday, allowing up to five patrons at a time inside. They are asked to wear a mask while in the building and, if there is a line, patrons will be asked to check out materials and make room for others after a period of time, he said. The copier hasn't been made available and won't be until the staff can determine the best way to make it safe for public to use without risk of spreading the virus. Only two computers are available because of social distancing measures. **Garside** said he talked to the town's library staff earlier this week. "They were doing just fine with customers and people are just glad to be able to do something normal again," he said.

The transfer station fully reopened Friday, he said, including all recycling, the metal bin and the brush pile. Patrons are asked to wear masks on site. A fully staffed recreation department is discussing "how they might open some summer programs," which ones to open and how they can be done safely, he said. The Town Office was opened to walk-in customers Tuesday, but was publicized Wednesday, **Garside** said. The customer service desk is open for registering vehicles, taking tax payments and other business, he said. There's a limit to two people allowed in the lobby at any given time. There are signs and rope barriers to help people know where they need to go and where to wait while following the guidelines for social distancing, he said. "It seems to be working pretty good," he said.

In the coming weeks, he said the town will be looking to the state in seeking guidance on further easing of restrictions. "If we can find a way to relax those restrictions, not just the library, but here at the town office, as we go forward, we will," he said. "But we had to start somewhere and we're just happy that we're able to be serving the residents of Poland again."

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Matthew J. Garside

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Tribune Content Agency News Service (USA)

April 10, 2020

Poland taxpayers get two more months to pay spring bill

Author: Christopher Williams

Town officials voted earlier this week to waive accrued interest on April's tax bills until July.

"This gives another 60 days to pay your second half of your 2020 real estate or personal property taxes without interest accruing," according to a message on the town's website. The spring payment of the semiannual tax bill is normally due April 1. Under the waiver, taxpayers now have until July 1 to pay without penalty. Town Manager **Matthew Garside** said the town has not set a date for municipal elections or the annual town meeting.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Matthew J. Garside
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Sun Journal
January 7, 2020

Late-night police calls in Poland up 70% last year
Voters will be asked in April if they want 24/7 coverage.
Author: Eriks Petersons

The Androscoggin County Sheriff's Office answered 560 calls between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. in 2019, a 70 percent increase from 2018, Town Manager **Matthew Garside** told selectmen Tuesday night. There were 330 calls answered in that time period in 2018, he said. The town contracts with the Sheriff's Office for a deputy to patrol from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. seven days a week. At other times, deputies are called to respond. Voters will be asked at the annual town meeting in April whether they want to have 24/7 coverage by the Sheriff's Department.

According to figures presented last fall, it was estimated that adding two more deputies would cost \$179,000, bringing the total to \$413,000 annually. **Garside** said it would mean an \$11 tax increase on property valued at \$150,000. **Garside**, who was instructed by selectpersons to get the call numbers, said 133 of the 2019 calls were to assist the Fire Rescue Department with medical emergencies or accidents. He said he'd find out what types of crimes were involved in the remaining 427 calls.

In other matters:

- Garside** commended Public Works employee Mike Archer, who "conducted some major engine repairs" on a truck, saving the town about \$5,000.
- Announced signs are posted on Megquire Hill Road warning drivers to watch out for pedestrians.
- Announced the town budget workshop will held at 6 p.m. Thursday at the Fire Rescue Building.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Matthew J. Garside

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Sun Journal
October 1, 2019

**Officials find error in Poland Spring Water Co. tax assessment
The \$38,000 mistake involved 12 tractor-trailer trucks.**

Author: Eriks Petersons

Selectpersons learned Tuesday night that Poland Spring Water Co. was mistakenly assessed about \$38,000 in personal property taxes in this year’s budget. Assessing agent Ron Duplisea said 12 tractor-trailer trucks owned by the bottling firm had already been assessed excise taxes and they could not be double-taxed as business assets. Duplisea and Executive Assistant Nikki Pratt agreed that the \$125,000 budgeted for unexpected expenses would cover the mistake. Duplisea added that the error will not impact property tax bills already sent.

Selectpersons authorized Town Manager **Matthew Garside** to use money from the timber harvest on the Sadie Jackson lot on Estes Way to pay for concrete blocks to build three bins for recyclables at the transfer station. Two other lots, a section of the Bragdon Hill Conservation area and the Mingo lot off Tiger Hill Road, will have boundaries and trees marked for timber harvesting as well. **Garside** was also authorized by the board to begin negotiations with the International Association of Fire Fighters and Professional Fire Fighters of Maine, Local 5232, which represents the Poland Fire Rescue Department.

Garside announced that the study on installing traffic lights at Routes 122 and 26 has been completed by the Maine Department of Transportation and is awaiting its decision. A study of Megquire Hill Road by MDOT has also been requested by the town. Residents have expressed serious concerns about vehicles speeding on the state road.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Matthew J. Garside

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Sun Journal
August 14, 2019

**Eight marijuana licenses awarded in Poland lottery
The winners are all residents of the town**

Author: Eriks Petersons

Eight licenses to operate marijuana businesses were handed out to six residents in a lottery drawing Wednesday afternoon at the Town Hall. Town Manager **Matthew Garside** held a bowl containing the names of 25 entrants in the town’s first marijuana lottery. Ten were for medical and/or adult use businesses and 15 were for adult use cultivation and manufacturing.

The eight are:

Sage Peterson, medical marijuana retail license for Green Health Works at 457 Maine St.

Glenn Peterson, husband of Sage, adult use marijuana license for Canuvo at 457 Maine St.

Andrew Garcia, adult use retail marijuana license for Lone Tree at 457 Maine St.

Andrew Garcia, tier 2 cultivation license limiting plant canopy to a maximum 2,000 square feet, 457 Maine St.

Adam Mocchiola, adult use marijuana retail license for The Cannabis Cabin at 48 Mechanic Falls Road.

Adam Mocchiola, tier 2 cultivation license for The Cannabis Cabin at 48 Mechanic Falls Road.

Joy Lowe, adult use marijuana retail license for Hi-Lo Dispensary, 425 Maine St.

Linda Bedard, tier 3 cultivation license for a canopy up to 7,000 square feet for Aurora Enterprises Inc. at 441 Empire Road.

The licensees must meet with Code Enforcement Officer Scott Neal to learn how to set up their businesses to comply with the Comprehensive Land Use Code. Poland voters approved marijuana ordinances earlier this year.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Matthew J. Garside

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Tribune Content Agency News Service (USA)

August 7, 2019

Poland board looks at changes to charter

Author: Karen Kreworuka

Town Manager **Matthew Garside** told the Board of Selectpersons on Tuesday night that changes to the town charter can be made without forming a charter commission. "State law establishes different procedures for charter amendments and charter revisions," **Garside** said. An amendment to the charter would require a public hearing, followed by a referendum at a town meeting. A revision would require asking the town to approve forming a commission, electing members to the commission and voting on the revisions the commission proposes. The earliest vote on a charter revision would be in June 2021.

At a previous board meeting, executive assistant Nikki Pratt said 857 voters would be needed to vote on a new charter. That number is based on 30% of the town's turnout during the last gubernatorial election, in 2018. State law, however, does not provide definitions or examples to differentiate between the two procedures. **Garside** said revising a charter "implies a re-examination of the whole law," suggesting fundamental change. An amendment would just be "a correction of detail."

The town attorney and the Maine Municipal Association recommend selectpersons draft amendments to the charter and have the attorney review them to decide if they meet standards, **Garside** said. The board decided to hold a workshop in September to review the charter and decide where changes need to be made. A date for that meeting has yet to be set.

In other matters:

* A public hearing will be held at the next selectpersons meeting, Aug. 20, to review proposed changes in the town's personnel policy on workweek hours, overtime, holiday and vacation day accumulation.

* The board approved paying Planning Board members \$25 for each meeting they attend. Payments would be based on the voting members listed at each meeting and payment would be made in quarterly disbursements.

* The board delayed a decision on spending \$138,132 to ReVision Energy. ReVision would install solar panels to provide solar energy for town buildings. **Garside** said it is a 65-page bid and he would like to have the town's electrical inspector review it.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Matthew J. Garside
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Sun Journal
June 4, 2019

Town attorney: Poland selectmen voted legally
The meeting to choose board leaders did not require all members to be present.
Author: Eriks Petersons

The Board of Selectpersons correctly elected its leaders at a reorganizational meeting on April 16, town attorney Natalie Burns said in an email to Town Manager **Matthew Garside** on May 22. The issue on whether the board acted legally was brought up by Arthur Berry, who lost in the selectpersons' race April 5. Berry believed the language in the town charter specified the entire board had to be present at that meeting. Selectperson Suzette Moulton, who was elected vice chairperson, was not present at the April 16 re-organizational meeting.

Burns further affirmed, "The language in the Charter does not require that the entire board be present for the vote. It requires that three members of the board vote for the selected persons even if only three are present ... it is my opinion that the original vote was valid." **Garside** had received the same opinion from Maine Municipal Association earlier in May but was pressed to ask the town's attorney for her opinion as well. **Garside** said the cost for the town attorney's review of the charter was \$47.50.

In other business Tuesday, it was announced there will be a public informational meeting on the marijuana license lottery procedure at 1 p.m. July 17 in the Town Office Conference Room. **Garside** said the lottery will be scheduled in August. Poland residents will get preferential treatment on a first-come, first-served basis. According to the policy, there will be four lottery drawings divided by type of license and zoning designation. Selectpersons awarded the paving contract to Spencer Group Paving, LLC. of Turner for \$445,837.54. The money comes from the Capital Improvement Plan budget. Paving will be done on Plains and North Raymond roads.

The Johnson Hill project had to be cut from the original paving quote because of rising costs in material and fuel. Johnson Hill would have cost another \$148,000 and that additional expense would have exceeded the balance of the Capital Improvement Plan budget. Selectpersons also gave **Garside** approval to get bids on solar power for town facilities. The town wants proposals for the engineering, procurement, construction and operation of a roof-mounted, utility interactive solar photovoltaic generating system on the sand and salt facility.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Matthew J. Garside

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Sun Journal
May 22, 2019

Poland selectmen seek legal opinion on electing officers

Author: Eriks Petersons

The town attorney will be asked to decide the meaning of the phrase “by a majority vote of the entire Board of Selectpersons.” At Tuesday night’s selectpersons meeting, the board unanimously voted to ask the town’s legal counsel if the phrase, as stated in the town charter, means all five members of the Board of Selectpersons have to be present or would only a majority of the five have to attend the first meeting of the Board of Selectpersons held after the regular election in order elect the chair and vice chair. Asking the Maine Municipal Association’s opinion was not enough for Arthur Berry and Selectperson Joe Cimino.

Town Manager **Matthew Garside** had been instructed to get a legal opinion after the board’s May 7 meeting, when Berry claimed selectpersons illegally elected its own leaders. Selectperson Suzette Moulton, who was elected vice chairwoman, was not present at the April 16 reorganizational meeting. **Garside** said he called upon the MMA for its legal opinion to save the town money. **Garside** said the MMA told him the board’s leadership election is valid and proper with an affirmative vote of at least three members. Cimino said he had believed **Garside** was going to the town attorney in the first place. Selectpersons Stephen Robinson and Stanley Tetenman agreed with the MMA’s opinion. Tetenman said the MMA has licensed attorneys. Berry and Cimino agreed to end the matter once the town attorney gives them his opinion.

In other matters Tuesday, selectpersons approved the town’s fee schedule for all licenses, permits, administrative costs and rent related to town affairs and facilities, home construction and businesses. Included for the first time will be licensing fees for medical and adult use marijuana storefronts, testing and cultivation. An annual \$500 fee will be levied on medical marijuana storefronts, and a \$1,500 annual fee will be charged for adult-use marijuana storefronts. A \$500 annual license will be assessed on medical and adult-use testing facilities. Depending on size and location, adult-use marijuana cultivation facilities will be charged \$500, \$1,000 or \$1,500 for an annual license. Selectpersons are able to amend fee structures at any time, providing a public hearing is scheduled. The selectpersons are to review the fee schedule every two years.

Garside also presented a policy for the board to review on how a marijuana license can be obtained. Because a limited number of licenses will be offered, it will be a lottery format, with Poland residents getting preferential treatment, on a first-come, first-served basis. According to the policy, four lottery drawings will be divided by type of license and zoning designation. A public informational meeting on this draft policy will be held June 5. Selectpersons also accepted the bid of \$10,095 by Northlight Electric of Poland to enhance the outside lighting for the town offices and hall, town garage, recreation and Ricker Memorial Library. **Garside** said although Northlight’s bid was \$3,000 more than Electrical Systems of Maine, Northlight would provide more powerful light intensity for the projected areas. **Garside** added Northlight did a site survey

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Matthew J. Garside

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

before submitting the bid and Electrical Systems did not. Selectpersons also appointed Sheila Foley and Stacey Bsullak to the Community and Economic Development Committee, Walter Gallagher to the Budget Committee and James Walker to the Conservation Commission and as an alternate to the Planning Board.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Matthew J. Garside

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Sun Journal
April 17, 2019

**Poland town manager speaks against water extraction bill
Selectmen hear about legislation that would affect Poland Spring Water Co.**

Author: Eriks Petersons

Town Manager **Matthew Garside** told the Select Board on Tuesday that he attended hearings on legislative bills about groundwater extraction and regulation, and expanding cable TV and internet coverage to areas that have a minimum of 15 homes per mile. He said he attended “to speak against bills that are going to be detrimental to a big employer, a big taxpayer in town,” namely Poland Spring Water Co., which accounts for one-sixth of the town’s tax revenue. LD 197 would place a two-year moratorium, beginning Nov. 1, 2019, “on new contracts or agreements by a consumer-owned water utility, municipality, state agency or other governmental entity involving the extraction of more than 75,000 gallons of groundwater during any week or more than 50,000 gallons of groundwater on any day.”

In addition, the bill directs the commissioner of Environmental Protection “to convene a working group to develop the statutory and regulatory framework for the establishment of the Maine Water Trust, which must be designed to ensure a safe and plentiful drinking water supply for all residents of the state by regulating the use of groundwater for commercial purposes under laws that establish the absolute control and dominion of the state over all groundwater supplies in the state.” The bill is sponsored by Rep. Mike Sylvester, D-Portland. The second hearing he attended was on LD 137, which would expand cable television service to areas with a minimum of 15 homes per mile. The town is negotiating with Spectrum, which offers cable TV and internet service to areas with a minimum of 20 homes per mile.

In other business, the board will begin defining the licensing process for medical and adult-use medical facilities in May. **Garside** said he would like to see the town adopt a lottery system allowing a certain number of retail outlets to operate. The town has two zones for retail sales operations, and **Garside** said he would have a limit of five in each zone. For instance, **Garside** said, each zone could have three medical stores and two adult-use stores. Poland residents would have first dibs in the lottery system. The Select Board will hold a public hearing May 7 on fees to establish marijuana facilities. Voters approved standards for medical and adult-use marijuana at the April 6 town meeting. Selectpersons Mary Beth Taylor and Suzette Moulton were elected board chairwoman and vice chairwoman, respectively.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Matthew J. Garside

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Sun Journal
April 8, 2019

Minot holding meeting on expanding internet service

Most respondents to a recent online survey said connection speeds are "inadequate."

Author: Eriks Petersons

A public meeting on broadband internet service has been scheduled for 6 p.m. Wednesday at the Town Office, Town Manager Danielle Loring announced Monday. Brian Lippold of Casco Bay Advisors will offer steps the town could take to expand service. The meeting follows results from an online survey of residents, with most of the 152 respondents saying connection speeds are "inadequate and underrepresented," Loring told selectmen Monday night. The survey was administered through the town website the past two weeks.

Loring said a planning grant through the ConnectME Authority or a Community Development Block Grant could be sources of funding. The ConnectMe Authority arranges funds for municipalities or groups of municipalities to develop and expand broadband service to unserved or underserved areas. Loring will contact officials in Hebron, Mechanic Falls and Poland to see if they are interested in participating in the expansion. She said more than 20 residents are interested in serving in the Broadband Task Force.

In other matters, selectmen approved Fire Chief Jim Allen's request to adjust wages for volunteers. For 2019, a probationary firefighter with no certification will receive \$11 per hour to comply with Maine's minimum wage law. The pay rate increases depending on rank, certification, training and years of service. Selectmen are scheduled to meet April 29 to consider bids for the fire-rescue pumper truck. The board approved adopting the state's Motor Vehicle Rapid Renewal Online Registration Services. It also appointed Mechanic Falls Town Clerk Miranda Hinkley and Poland Town Manager **Matthew Garside** as fair hearing authorities for General Assistance applicants.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Matthew J. Garside

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Sun-Journal (Lewiston, ME)

December 19, 2018

Poland's proposed budget higher than this year's

Author: Eriks Petersons

The proposed budget for fiscal year 2020 is 6.4 percent higher than this year's budget, town officials said this week. They said the preliminary \$5.05 million municipal budget, combined with the town's share of the Regional School Unit 16 assessment, could increase the property tax rate by \$1.61, from \$14.98 per \$1,000 of valuation to \$16.59.

Budget discussions will begin at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 10, at the Fire/Rescue Department and are open to the public. The 69-page budget proposal is available on the town's website, Town Manager **Matt Garside** said. The spending plan will cover the fiscal year July 1, 1919, to June 30, 2020. Voters will act on it at town meeting in April.

In other business, **Garside** said the Marijuana Committee is close to finishing its ordinances. "The committee has so far developed proposed rules for medical marijuana retail stores, cultivation, manufacturing and testing," together with rules for adult-use marijuana retail stores and cultivation, he said. A licensing procedure and manufacturing/testing for the adult use are yet to be written.

Garside said he met with Planning Board Vice Chairman James Porter about proposed changes in the Land Use Code concerning marijuana. **Garside** said selectpersons should be able to view the proposed ordinances at a meeting Thursday, Jan. 3. Selectmen unanimously voted down a consent agreement with Andre Laliberte, who wanted to build on Lot 6 of the Bakerton Heights subdivision. Laliberte asked the town to construct an emergency vehicle turnaround on the town road. **Garside** told selectmen the town would have to rebuild the entire road to meet Land Use Code requirements. "It would be a fairly expensive proposition to the town," **Garside** said.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**Matthew J. Garside***(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

Sun Journal
November 6, 2018

Poland selectmen examine funding options for municipal complex

Author: Eriks Petersons

Selectmen decided Monday night to have the Planning Board review the two-phase plan for the municipal complex, which is estimated to cost more than \$925,000. Selectmen also asked Town Manager **Matthew Garside** to seek the town auditor's opinion on how much the town should have in its undesignated fund balance in anticipation of costs associated with the project. HEB Engineering of Bridgton had submitted the final site plan to the selectmen in October. The project will be broken into two phases: Phase One involves the Ricker Memorial Library and extending parking spaces at the rear of the library toward the town hall. Phase Two includes redeveloping the area containing the Town Office and the town hall buildings.

Phase One is expected to cost \$512,500 and Phase Two is estimated at \$413,000. It was recommended that the town move forward with only Phase One at this time, because this part includes all of the additional parking and drainage, and putting down only the base coat of the asphalt. It was suggested that the top coat could be layered to a later time, depending on the condition of the surface. **Garside** suggested Phase One could be financed from the town's undesignated fund balance of \$2.66 million. This method of payment would not affect the town's tax rate, **Garside** said.

Board of Selectmen Chairman Walter Gallagher believed the town's fund balance should have enough money to cover 90 days of operations in case of emergencies. Gallagher asked whether the fund balance meets the town auditor's recommendation for such a case. If not, the town would need to seek other funding avenues for the municipal complex. Selectmen also agreed with Gallagher that the Planning Board should review and make its recommendation before the plan is moved forward by the selectmen as a town meeting warrant question. Gallagher said the Planning Board will see whether the plan meets the town's land-use code and if additional costs would be incurred.

In other business, selectmen approved a Conservation Committee request to expend up to \$2,000 to conduct a survey of the Waterhouse Brook Dam. The survey's three-fold purpose would be to see whether the dam "can structurally support a proposed pedestrian bridge" across its top, if the bridge "would not impede future maintenance of the dam," and if any repairs would be required before the bridge is built.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Matthew J. Garside

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Sun-Journal (Lewiston, ME)

August 22, 2018

Poland selectmen set higher tax rate

Author: Eriks Petersons

Selectmen set a slightly higher tax rate Tuesday night for the coming year and signed warrant articles involving tax incentives and land-use laws, which will come before voters at a special town meeting. That meeting has been scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 13, at the Town Hall. Three of the warrant articles involve amending the town's tax increment financing program. The TIF amendments cover three basic areas:

Allow selectmen to approve credit enhancement agreements for the Poland Spring Company Municipal Development and the Poland Downtown Village Amended Omnibus Municipal Development Tax Increment Financing districts; Correct some mapping errors discovered by the Geographic Information System, and; Add additional uses of TIF revenues as allowed by state statute. The Board of Selectmen and Community Economic Development Committee have recommended approval of the amendments.

Three additional articles seek changes to the town's comprehensive land use code. The first deals with amending the Multi Family Dwellings and Planned Residential Developments ordinance. In essence, for new buildings that are served by a public sewer system, the minimum square footage for individual units in a residential apartment building would be reduced from 10,000 to 5,000 square feet. The second article would amend the size of electronic imaging signs. The third would alter the category of a specific, single lot in the wetland zoning district on Middle Range Pond. The Planning Board does not recommend approval of the first two articles, and does recommend approving the third article.

In a related matter, Town Manager **Matthew Garside** reported that the Maine Revenue Services conducted an audit and found no discrepancies in the accounting of the town's three TIF districts. Selectmen also set the tax rate at \$14.98 per thousand dollars of property valuation. **Garside** stated the increase represents an additional \$36 a year in property taxes for a Poland home valued at \$150,000.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Matthew J. Garside

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

<http://www.triplake.com/wp-content/uploads/2018-Spring-newsletter.pdf>

TLIA News
Spring 2018

Notes From An Ex-Prez.

Author: Babs Shapiro

It was a clear, cold January day in Poland. Too cold and slippery to climb the mounds of snow leading to our camp, I relished the sight of nature on the Lake, pure white, a snowman offshore, fishing shacks further down, a new home going up on Garland Swamp Road, another on Jordan Shore Drive. Glazed, crystal branches tinkled like wind chimes. In a few more months, residents will be cleaning up, readying for summer. For the moment, I enjoy winter's beauty. I'd made an appointment to meet with **Matthew Garside**, our new Town Manager, wanting to know what was happening in Poland since last summer. **Matt** (he told me to call him that) moved here from Portsmouth, NH last July and is happy to be here. Everyone's been very friendly and he looks forward to meeting more people, getting involved in Town activities.

He was eager to discuss the Town's purchase of Camp Connor on Lower Range Pond. It had been a YMCA Camp for many years and is bordered by Camp Tall Pines on one side, a big beach on the other. Poland Spring Campground is nearby and the camp has acres of forested land. It will open as a day camp next summer for Poland youngsters as well as those outside the community. Scholarships will be available and some counselors have already been hired. Buildings and grounds are being readied for this inaugural season. Donations are being accepted to help make this camp a treasure for the whole Poland community. Don and Susie Stover are contacting people for donations. Send your check to the Town of Poland, earmarked for the new day camp. Thanks!

Five Corners...now Four Corners..(Routes 26 and 11) has been transformed into a safe intersection with the addition of traffic lights. Businesses nearby can be accessed easily: no bad accidents have occurred since its inception. Hannaford is building a new grocery store near Four Corners, behind Egg-Ceptional Restaurant. Ground was broken in January and it may be open for business by next summer. Another boon to the area. Subway, currently in a strip mall near the high-school, is planning to move across the street in the near future, building a free-standing store with a drive-through window. A new Subway app. is in the works to allow customers to order and pay for food online. What an amazing innovation, certainly to us older folks.

Anyone know what's happening on Poland Corner Road? A large swath of trees has been cleared nearly opposite the apple orchard. A development or just someone selling the timber? Let us know if you have any information. We welcome **Matt** and his family warmly and wish them many good years in Poland.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Matthew J. Garside

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Sun-Journal (Lewiston, ME)

June 20, 2018

Poland selectmen to study state's retail pot law

Author: Eriks Petersons

Selectmen said Thursday they needed to learn more about the legal ramifications of retail and recreational marijuana in Maine before a town committee is created to formulate a town policy. Board members Joe Cimino and Mary-Beth Taylor and Town Manager **Matthew Garside** said they plan to attend a workshop July 10, sponsored by the Maine Municipal Association.

Lawyers from one of Maine's leading law firms will discuss legislation that regulates the sale of marijuana in Maine, approved May 2. Cimino said the state has "put out very, very extensive guidelines, which is very surprising, on what it's going to do, as opposed to what it's not going to do." "This is one of biggest pieces of legislation that the state of Maine is going to see in decades to come," he said. Added Taylor, "This is such a big thing and a big decision, whether we get the input now or we get it later, because we don't want to be going back to the town" to put the policy off for another year.

Selectman Suzette Moulton said the policy has to "establish clear rules in Poland." Moulton said Poland needs to be proactive and develop a policy on "what we will allow and won't allow, and maybe be a little ahead of the curve." Moulton said the policy established by the town will involve all phases of the marijuana industry — including growth facilities, storefront retail shops and social clubs.

Taylor said the committee should be made of "a good cross section" of residents. "It will it be hard to find a diverse group," Chairman Walter Gallagher said. "I think you can find groups for and against pretty easily."

In other matters, **Garside** explained the funding strategy for the planned municipal complex, which is still in the design phase and could cost up to \$192,000. The plan, designed by HEB Engineers Inc. of Bridgton, connects Ricker Library, Poland Town Hall and the town's office building with a continuous asphalt parking lot with two entrances. **Garside** believes the money could be taken from the town's fund balance and paid back in several annual installments from revenues, without incurring an increase in the property tax rate.

"I don't even know why we are talking about the money aspect because we're at \$190,000," Cimino said. "Let's give that back to the taxpayers more as a tax rebate before we go spending more money to these people (HEB Engineers Inc.). I didn't think anybody wanted to spend money on this thing." Cimino also wanted to know why HEB representatives had not contacted the Planning Board to see if the design meets the town's land use code, particularly with regard to snow removal from the parking lot.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Matthew J. Garside

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Garside said that as part of the design phase, HEB had to look at the town's land use code.

Garside added that once the design is finalized, the plan will go before the Planning Board and then probably to an independent third party, in all likelihood Sebago Technics Inc., an engineering and land development consulting firm the town has used previously. **Garside** said he will ask HEB to produce more accurate cost estimates, complete the design, come before the Planning Board and answer questions from selectmen.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Matthew J. Garside
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Sun Journal
June 5, 2018

Route 11 safety meeting addresses community concerns

Author: Amanda Cullen

The town is taking steps to address unsafe driving conditions on Route 11. Androscoggin County Sheriff Eric Samson, state Rep. Jessica Faye and Town Manager **Matthew Garside** were among those who attended a special meeting Tuesday morning aimed at improving safety. At the Board of Selectpersons meeting Tuesday night, **Garside** said the intersections at North Raymond Road and White Oak Hill Road were the main topics of discussion.

The family of Skylar Lee Huff, the Poland man killed in an ATV and tractor-trailer crash on Route 11 in April, requested at the selectpersons' previous meeting that something be done about the dangerous driving conditions there. His family also attended Tuesday's safety meeting. **Garside** said a speed study has been requested, and a grant-funded speed sign will be placed somewhere on Route 11 after the study is completed. "We want to improve the safety of both intersections," **Garside** said. He added that an unused telephone pole near the North Raymond Road intersection has been removed, and more will be done when more information has been gathered.

The board also approved three bids Tuesday night:

- CertaPro Painters of Maine, \$9,600, to paint the exterior of the Town Hall.
- Atlantic Recycling Equipment, \$19,130, for a solid waste compactor.
- Poirier Guidelines, \$8,549, for centerline painting of 10 roads in Poland.

Garside also announced the town's electric car charging station has been installed next to the library and will soon be operational.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Matthew J. Garside
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

[CB&A Note: Only the information relevant to **Matthew Garside** is listed below.]

<https://www.mtcma.org/wp-content/uploads/newsletter/2018/March.pdf>

March 2018

MTCMA
Newsletter Volume 9

Welcome New Members who have joined since our last newsletter was issued In July 2017

Matthew Garside, Poland

When you see one of the individuals listed above, welcome him/her to the MTCMA!

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Matthew J. Garside

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Sun Journal
March 20, 2018

Poland board accepts planner’s resignation, appoints successor

Author: Amanda Cullen

The Board of Selectpersons accepted the resignation of Planning Board member Jesse Childs on Tuesday night and appointed alternate Mark Weinberg as a regular member. Childs told Administrative Assistant Sarah Merrill on March 13 that he no longer wished to serve on the board.

On another issue, the board discussed the possibility of adopting a senior tax assistance program. Town Manager **Matthew Garside** presented a list of five other towns in Maine of similar size that have such a program so selectpersons could compare options and qualifications. Selectperson Janice Kimball favored the program, saying, “We can’t leave behind people who have lived here all their lives” because they aren’t able to pay their taxes. The discussed was tabled until two new board members are elected April 6. The board also accepted a recycling program bid from ecomaine, a Portland nonprofit.

Garside announced that Poland is working with state legislative representatives to obtain designation as a Qualified Opportunity Zone to provide tax incentives for investors. It was established by Congress in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. **Garside** said the new tax law allows the governor to nominate 31 towns in Maine. “In Poland, we have the ability to capitalize on that program,” **Garside** said. “We have land and (tax increment financing) regulations that are good for businesses.”

He also said the location is good for businesses because Poland is within 30 miles of half the population of the state. “If Poland was to get this designation, it would be good for the whole region, not just Poland,” **Garside** said. The annual town meeting will be held at 9 a.m. Saturday, April 7, at Poland Regional High School. Elections will be held from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday, April 6, at the Town Hall. A candidates forum is set for 7 p.m. Thursday, March 29, at the Town Office. A copy of the town warrant is available online at polandtownoffice.org. Editor’s note: This story has been corrected to reflect the accurate locations of the town meeting and the election, and the date of the candidates forum.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Matthew J. Garside
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Sun-Journal (Lewiston, ME)
February 6, 2018

Poland in 'good financial situation'
Author: Amanda Cullen

An auditor told selectpersons Tuesday night that the town is "above average for financial health." Ron Smith from RHR Smith Auditors said that at the end of fiscal year 2017, the town had \$2.9 million in unassigned rollover, which is about 90 days of an operating budget. "Seven, eight, nine years ago we had some financial struggles," Smith said. "These conversations haven't always been pleasant here. This town understands its business and the financial outlook is positive."

In other business:

- * Town Manager **Matthew Garside** announced that the new ADA-compliant bathroom in the Town Hall is complete, as is the renovated kitchenette in the Town Office.
- * The town's new website is also complete and live at www.polandtownoffice.org.
- * A public hearing on the municipal complex is scheduled for March 7 at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall. **Garside** said the drawings of the proposed design are available online and a feedback form is available, both online and at the Town Office.
- * A public hearing for the cable TV franchise agreement is scheduled for the next meeting, Feb. 19.
- * The town will vote on extending the current retail marijuana moratorium at the town meeting. Board Chairman Stan Tetenman said the town wants to continue the moratorium until the state has regulations in place.
- * There is still time to file nomination papers for open positions that will be voted on at the town meeting. Available positions are: Board of Selectpersons, two positions for three years; library trustees, one position for three years and one position for one year; RSU 16 school board director, two positions for three years and one position for one year; Budget Committee member, two positions for three years.

Nomination papers must be filed by 4 p.m. Friday, Feb 23.

The election will be held Friday, April 6, at the Town Hall from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and the business portion of the meeting will be Saturday, April 7 at Poland Regional High School beginning at 9 a.m.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Matthew J. Garside

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Tribune Content Agency News Service (USA)

November 8, 2017

BRIEF: Poland to close on Camp Connor purchase Friday

Author: Sun Journal

If all goes as planned, the town will have completed the purchase of Camp Connor by the end of the week. At a meeting Tuesday night, Town Manager **Matthew Garside** was given authorization to finalize the purchase of the camp from the Auburn-Lewiston YMCA. Selectmen on Tuesday spent considerable time discussing the Camp Connor Purchase and Sale Agreement with documents related to the transaction indicating a sale price of \$210,000. A closing date of Nov. 10 was specified.

The YMCA had run a co-ed program at Camp Connor on Lower Range Pond for several decades. It is expected that the Poland Recreation Department will use the camp to augment its youth programs. According to the WMCA website, the camp includes a large playing field, beach, wooded areas, adventure island and lodge.

Also at the Tuesday night meeting, selectmen reviewed repair estimates for the Town Office heating and cooling system. The bids range from slightly more than \$6,000 to just under \$10,000. A contractor was chosen to perform the work, **Garside** said. On Wednesday, he was in the process of finalizing that contract.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Matthew J. Garside

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Sun Journal
June 29, 2017

Poland hires new town manager

The Select Board has hired **Matthew Garside** of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, as its next town manager. He has been hired to replace Bradley Plante, who decided not to renew his three-year contract and left the position in March. **Garside** was selected from a field of 29 applicants in a national search, which began in March with the assistance of Eaton Peabody Consulting Group. The board and **Garside** have reached a tentative agreement on a contract. The board is scheduled to vote on the selection and approve a contract at a special meeting at 6:15 p.m. on Thursday, July 6, at the town office.

According to a written statement from the town of Poland, **Garside** is a Navy veteran and has held many senior level positions in the Navy as well as the private sector. His most recent position was chief executive officer and board director for Reflect Geophysical, a company that provides marine geophysical services for the oil and gas exploration industry in the Asia Pacific region, based in Singapore. **Garside** holds a masters in public administration from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. His scheduled starting date in Poland is July 17.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**Matthew J. Garside***(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

<https://www.msc.navy.mil/sealift/2012/March/clf.htm>

Military Sealift Command

March 2012

CLF ships' new tech = better service

Author: Wayne Cox

Thirty ships in Military Sealift Command's Combat Logistics Force are the logistics backbone of the Navy's global fleet. Operating 24/7, CLF ships keep hundreds of U.S. Navy ships supplied and able to remain at sea on task for extended periods of time. Last year alone, CLF ships delivered more than 1.3 million square feet of cargo and more than 583 million gallons of fuel to Navy ships at sea. For MSC's CLF ships, getting the right supplies to the right ships in a timely manner is a daunting task. That task, however, has become easier due to a new globally integrated cargo load management system currently being implemented by MSC's CLF ships and six subordinate commands worldwide.

The old cargo load management system used outdated technology that was virtually unaltered since the 1960s. The new system offers unprecedented benefits over the previous one, including a comprehensive, real-time, centralized look at the total inventory of supplies on board CLF ships. Access to the big picture, in turn, has enabled CLF ships to more efficiently respond to the demands of fleet customers in need of food, fuel, spare parts and other vital supplies. Ship inventories worldwide can now be monitored from six centralized locations ashore. Latest state-of-the-art computer technology enables both seagoing personnel and a shore-based management team to see accurate, up-to-date inventories. As a result, supply-laden CLF ships can be better directed to provide the necessary underway replenishment to Navy combatant ships at sea.

Shoreside support personnel dedicated to monitoring CLF ship inventories have already been trained at MSC Far East in Singapore and MSC Central in Bahrain. By mid-March, 19 CLF ships are scheduled to have completed the software upgrades that allow shoreside personnel to see total inventory information. All changes, ashore and afloat, are slated for completion by October 2012.

Leadup to change

The old cargo load management system was designed to support independently operating CLF ships, which all functioned as individual stock points to replenish Navy combatant ships at sea. Whenever specific supplies were needed aboard a ship, the crew could only contact the crew aboard a specifically assigned CLF ship to see if the ship was stocked with the desired cargo. For the Navy's seagoing forces, this piecemeal look at supply inventories - ship by ship - made it challenging and time consuming to locate and obtain urgently needed materials. A change was needed.

U.S. Fleet Forces Command and Commander U.S. Pacific Fleet - both of which oversee MSC's resupply of Navy combatant ships - asked MSC to improve that cargo load management system

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Matthew J. Garside

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

in October 2007. By March 2010, MSC completed a concept of operations that provided the initial framework for establishing how dry cargo/ammunition ships, fleet replenishment oilers and fast combat support ships could be reconfigured to provide more centralized, efficient support to the fleet. "As MSC and the rest of the Navy continue to look for ways for efficient cost savings, while still providing outstanding logistic support to our warfighters, global management of CLF stock levels is an imperative to success," said Navy Cmdr. Robert Keating, the officer in charge of the military department aboard MSC dry cargo/ammunition ship USNS Alan Shepard, one of the ships using the new cargo load management systems.

Making CLF more efficient

MSC's new cargo load management system eliminates some of the inefficiency inherent in the old ship-to-ship inventory search. The new system provides the capability to see and manage all CLF inventories from ashore, leaving the crews of CLF ships able to concentrate on physically handling and transferring cargo. Accurate data is the first step to ensure high-quality viewing and efficient management of all CLF inventories from ashore. Using a software upgrade, called the Shipboard Load Management Module, all inventory data carried by the ships is transmitted via satellite link to a shore-based Global Stock Control Office, or GSCO, located at Naval Station Norfolk, Va., as well as a CLF logistics officer-led team based at each of MSC's five area commands worldwide.

Ashore in Norfolk, the GSCO performs two primary functions; processing all CLF ship resupply requests and keeping track of all CLF ship inventories, including managing the financial transactions between ships. At the area commands, the CLO team serves as a centralized point of contact to coordinate requests from all combatant ships in that area of operations. Based on the centralized inventory information available via satellite, the CLO team can accurately determine which CLF ships should resupply which Navy combatant ships.

The new cargo load management system went live in August 2011 when MSC dry cargo/ammunition ship USNS Amelia Earhart, MSC Far East and the GSCO in Norfolk participated in a major Pacific Fleet exercise supporting the USS George Washington Carrier Strike Group, successfully conducting 30 underway replenishments that transferred 2,400 pallets. "CLO is likely the single biggest change in logistics going on in the Navy today," said Navy Capt. **Matt Garside**, Commander, Logistics Group, Western Pacific chief of staff. "We go from a large force afloat to a much smaller group ashore. We gain efficiency, save money and still deliver the goods."

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Matthew J. Garside

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

<https://www.cpf.navy.mil/news.aspx/000363>

Commander United States Pacific Fleet
March 23, 2011

Three Disasters in One

By Vice Adm. Scott Van Buskirk, Commander, U.S. 7th Fleet

SENDAI, Japan (March 12, 2011) An SH-60B helicopter assigned to the Chargers of Helicopter Antisubmarine Squadron (HS) 14 from Naval Air Facility Atsugi flies over the city of Sendai to deliver more than 1,500 pounds of food to survivors of an 8.9 magnitude earthquake and a tsunami. (U.S. Navy photo)

PACIFIC OCEAN (March 24, 2011) - The men and women of the U.S. 7th Fleet and the Japan Maritime Self Defense Force continue to inspire me with their selfless efforts to help the people of Japan during this extremely challenging and complex humanitarian disaster. Since arriving on scene two days after the terrible earthquake and tsunami that struck on March 11, 7th Fleet forces have supported JMSDF efforts by delivering more than 200 tons of relief supplies to 40 sites across northern Honshu.

This is without a doubt the most complex humanitarian mission ever conducted. It is not one disaster, but three: an earthquake, a tsunami, and a crisis at a nuclear power plant, made even more complicated by heavy weather that hampers visibility. We have put the full power of the 7th Fleet into assisting with this tragic situation, with 20 ships, 140 aircraft and more than 19,000 Sailors and Marines working in support of the Japan Self Defense Forces by delivering relief supplies ashore, surveying and clearing ports, providing logistical support to rescuers, and conducting aerial searches and surveys to help inform their efforts.

But our efforts in this operation pale in comparison to those of the Japan Self Defense Forces. They have mobilized more than 100,000 personnel, including their entire Self Defense Fleet, to support this Herculean effort. They have proven to the world their perseverance and dedication to this mission, and their devotion to the people of Japan.

Later today I will meet with Vice Admiral Kuramoto and Vice Admiral Takashima, my JMSDF counterparts in this effort. Since Operation Tomodachi started, he and I have talked daily to help us focus and refine our efforts in support of them. Drawing upon the strong friendship and long experience we have working with the JMSDF in exercises and training under our alliance, we had the benefit of starting this operation with trust and interoperability already firmly in place. These strong working relationships with the JMSDF exist between our personnel at all levels, including my Task Force commanders, unit commanders, and staffs.

Coordinating just the U.S. Navy portion of an operation of this magnitude is no easy task. My staff, embarked on USS Blue Ridge, has been working around the clock to conduct operational planning, command and control of our forces, coordination and deconfliction of missions, and

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Matthew J. Garside

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

management of information for operational decision making as the Joint Force Maritime Component Commander, or JFMCC, under the Joint Task Force commander for Operation Tomodachi, Lieutenant General Burt Field at U.S. Forces Japan. All the while, the 7th Fleet staff has stayed on top of other fleet operations around the region, including Korea, the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia.

We could not do it without a great Flagship. USS Blue Ridge is the most capable platform in the world for Command, Control, Communications, Computers and Intelligence, or “C4I”. Her crew has done a great job supporting my staff and enabling us to operate this Fleet effectively. We also couldn’t do it without the steadfast support of my Task Force commanders: Rear Admiral Dan Cloyd, in command of our carrier strike groups and surface ships; Captain Jeff Tyer, in command of our naval special warfare forces; Rear Admiral Sean Buck, in command of our patrol and reconnaissance force; Captain **Matt Garside**, in command of our logistics force; Rear Admiral Robert Thomas at CTF-74, in command of our submarine force and radiological control efforts; Rear Admiral Rich Landolt, as commander of our amphibious force and as our primary liaison to U.S. Forces Japan; and Rear Admiral Pete Gumataotao, in command of our naval forces in Korea. Additionally, Vice Admiral Rick Hunt and his staff at 3rd Fleet in San Diego have assisted with many of our exercise planning and coordination functions.

The challenges of radiological contamination have made this operation particularly difficult. It has required us to constantly watch the direction of the wind, to be mindful of where our forces are in relation to the Fukushima power plant. It has required us to monitor and decontaminate our aircraft, ships and even our people when we detect even the smallest amounts of contamination. It has required us to manage the distribution of potassium iodide pills to our people going on missions where they might be exposed. And it has required us to get USS George Washington underway to ensure given her unique capabilities that she can sustain a state of readiness in the long term for the defense of Japan and the stability of the region. Make no mistake, radiological contamination presents tremendous complications to our operations, but I am confident we are getting it right, and that our people are safe.

While executing this mission, we have been particularly mindful of our loved ones back in Yokosuka and Atsugi. Many are leaving Japan under voluntary departure. But many are also choosing to stay. Either way, they are being assisted through this difficult process by our talented team at Naval Forces Japan under Rear Admiral Rick Wren. Japan is their home, and they want to return as soon as possible.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**Matthew J. Garside***(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

<https://www.msc.navy.mil/sealift/2010/August/fehails.htm>

U.S. Navy's Military Sealift Command
August 2010

Far East Hails

During an award ceremony held at Sealift Logistics Command Far East's headquarters at Singapore's Sembawang Wharves June 17, SEALOGFE's commander Navy Capt. Chip Denman presented command counsel Lis Young with the Department of the Navy's Meritorious Civilian Service Award, marking the end of her tour with the command. Young had served as Military Sealift Command's attorney in the Far East since September 2006 and is a 'plank owner' of SEALOGFE, which relocated to Singapore from Japan in early 2006.

Young was cited for providing sound and practical legal advice on complex sovereign immunity issues, operations for four different ship programs and numerous admiralty claims. "We support the uniformed service members who routinely put themselves in danger," Young said. "I am so honored to be recognized just like a uniformed member with this medal." Young will continue to serve MSC as the new counsel for Sealift Logistics Command Central.

Maritime Prepositioning Ship Squadron Three commander Navy Capt. Herman Awai visited SEALOGFE headquarters June 1-3 to meet with Denman and command staff members, and Navy Capt. **Matthew Garside**, chief of staff for Commander, Logistics Group Western Pacific and Commander, Task Force 73. MPS Squadron Three's staff completed their shift from current flagship MPS USNS MAJ Stephen W. Pless to MPS USNS 1ST LT Jack Lummus near Saipan June 11.

MSC's operations hub on the Korean peninsula changed hands June 25 when Navy Cmdr. David Bartell relieved Navy Cmdr. Christopher Cruz as commanding officer of MSC Office Korea in a unique, joint Army/Navy change of command ceremony aboard large, medium-speed, roll-on/roll-off ship USNS Watson at Pier Eight in Busan, Republic of Korea. Cruz received the Meritorious Service Medal at the ceremony for his service with the command. MSCO Korea bid fair winds and following seas to Navy Lt. Cmdr. Jon Marlar, who departed the command July 19. Marlar, who served as the command's executive officer for the past year, heads to Naval Air Station Kingsville, Texas, where he will serve as a flight instructor.

From MPS Squadron Two, Navy Capt. Fred Harr and the squadron staff hosted Navy Capt. Anthony Chatman, commanding officer, Naval Support Facility, Diego Garcia, on a tour of the ship. The ship's master, Capt. Dave Eddy, led Chatman on the tour. Also from MPS Squadron Two, Gunners Mate Chief Harold Williams departed the squadron June 16. Williams, who spent more than two years as the squadron's assistant force protection officer and weapons officer retired from active duty after a 24-year Navy career. For his efforts, Williams received the Navy Commendation Medal from Harr during a ceremony.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Matthew J. Garside

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Denman paid a visit to MSC hospital ship USNS Mercy at Sembawang Wharves in Singapore July 3. Mercy's civil service master Capt. David Bradshaw and Chief Engineer Joe Watts led the commodore on a tour of the ship. Mercy was making a short port visit to Singapore for supplies and crew rest before heading to Indonesia for further medical and engineering missions in support of Pacific Partnership 2010.

Navy Rear Adm. Nora Tyson, commander, Logistics Group Western Pacific, visited SEALOGFE headquarters July 2 to meet with Denman and his staff members. The visit was Tyson's final meeting with the staff before heading to her next assignment. In late July, Navy Capt. Ronald Horton will relieve Tyson as the senior naval officer in Singapore.

Four special mission ship masters visited SEALOGFE headquarters July 6 for an orientation brief. Capt. Kent Howell, master of MSC missile range instrumentation ship USNS Invincible; Capt. Steve Gilkey, prospective master of Invincible; Capt. Andrew Laska and Capt. Henry Naeger, respective masters of MSC ocean surveillance ships USNS Effective and USNS Able, met with the SEALOGFE staff and were briefed on SEALOGFE and U.S. 7th Fleet procedures.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**Matthew J. Garside***(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

<https://www.stripes.com/news/guam-seeing-buildup-into-a-pacific-hub-1.3219>

Stars and Stripes

March 23, 2003

Guam seeing buildup into a Pacific hub

Authors: Doug Huddy and Jennifer Svan

Just months ago, waves splashed only against Polaris Point's shores. Now they roll upon the hull of fast-attack submarines. Only a month ago on Guam, the loudest noise on Andersen Air Force Base's flight line was the breeze from a seasonal trade wind. Today, it reverberates with the rumble of B-1B Lancer and B-52H Stratofortresse bombers. "The Rock," as islanders fondly call it, is back in business. Long, hard lobbying of Washington has paid off: Military leaders are rediscovering the strategic importance of the United States' most western-projecting territory. "It puts us a lot closer to the Korean peninsula, to China and out into the Indian Ocean," said Col. Tom Finnegan, vice commander of Andersen's 36th Air Base Wing. "The fact that it's American territory can't be replaced."

'Dive, dive, dive'

Military activity is amping up at both ends of Guam's 212 square miles: To the south is Naval Forces Marianas; to the north, Andersen Air Force Base and a small Navy satellite telecommunications base. The third and proposed final vessel to join Submarine Squadron 15 was announced earlier this month. The USS Houston is to roll into Guam's Apra Harbor in January 2004, said the squadron's commander, Navy Capt. Joseph Mulloy. It joins the USS City of Corpus Christi and USS San Francisco as the only fast-attack submarines stationed outside the continental United States.

The Houston is the "proposed" final submarine because the squadron is in a test phase, Mulloy said; "there is the potential for a couple more." Compared with the western United States, he said, Guam "gives us a tremendous advantage. We're saving hundreds of miles of wear and tear on these ships." The Houston will have the same size crew as the other subs, Mulloy said: around 150 sailors. Many will bring children and spouses — all contributing to the island's military population. That's exactly what Guam's Chamber of Commerce was hoping would happen when it submitted a written proposal to U.S. and Department of Defense officials in May 2002. The paper touched upon the squadron's importance as a forward defense and how the island adds to its readiness. "A submarine tender is currently stationed on Guam to perform needed repairs," the paper stated, "and Guam's forward-deployed location is excellent for submarine operations."

To the skies

Moments after you drive through Andersen's gates, B-1 and B-52 bombers parked on the expansive runway come into view — a stark contrast to the base's palm-tree-lined boulevards and a reminder that Guam no longer is a military backwater. The bombers, and numerous personnel to support them, make up the 7th Air Expeditionary Wing, commanded by Col. Jonathan George, a B-1 pilot from Dyess Air Force Base, Texas. The first B-1s and B-52s, from

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches**Matthew J. Garside***(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

Dyess and Barksdale Air Force Base, La., respectively, began arriving the first week in March amid escalating U.S.-North Korean tensions. George characterized their presence as “stabilizing,” not an act of aggression. “There are military forces that are being moved around, both American and our numerous allies,” he said. “Some are precautionary — and we’re just a small part of that.”

The bombers fly training sorties daily, soaring out over sheer limestone cliffs that drop into the ocean just beyond Andersen’s runway. One B-1 can carry up to 24 conventional 2,000-pound bombs guided by the global positioning system. Each has the destructive power released in the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing, George said. Supporting the bomber units are aviators, mission planners, and maintenance, support and munitions personnel. About 15 percent of the 7th AEW come from other bases than Dyess and Barksdale, George said, including Pacific Air Forces bases.

Advantages of operating bombers from Guam, he said, include that it’s open airspace with no large metropolitan areas and minimal commercial airliner traffic. Then there’s the tyranny of distance, as the Air Force calls it: Guam is 14 hours closer to most potential Pacific hot spots than any U.S. mainland bases are. “The thing that’s most key is we’re in America still, we’re in the United States,” George said, “and these folks here that are native to Guam are tremendous patriots, and they’re making us feel very, very welcome.”

A permanent home

The 36th ABW can support a large number of planes and people flowing through, but no aircraft are assigned to the wing. That soon could change. Speaking at a Guam Chamber of Commerce meeting March 3, PACAF Commander Gen. William J. Begert said he’d like to see an increased Air Force presence on the island, including what he called “some kind of permanent bomber presence,” Guam’s Pacific Daily News reported. PACAF spokesman Lt. Col. Frank Smolinsky said Guam’s location makes it a strong candidate for placing “any type of aircraft, whether that be fighters or bombers. General Begert is a strong advocate of the permanent basing of Air Force aircraft at Andersen Air Force Base, if the Air Force determines the need to reposition assets in the future.”

Delegate Madeleine Bordallo, Guam’s nonvoting representative in Congress, has heard the same message in Washington. “I was assured rather than closing bases, they’re augmenting and increasing activity there,” she said. “It’s very promising.” The Air Force also may increase its intelligence and reconnaissance capabilities on Guam. A team now is evaluating Andersen’s potential to host the unmanned aerial vehicle Global Hawk, said 1st Lt. Kim Melchor, Andersen spokeswoman. The Global Hawk cruises at high altitudes to “survey large geographic areas with pinpoint accuracy,” states an Air Force fact sheet. It can range up to 12,000 nautical miles and capture images of an area the size of Illinois in 24 hours. The Air Force also is considering Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, as a possible Global Hawk site.

Deployable security

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches***Matthew J. Garside****(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

The population at Naval Forces Marianas is to jump by 250 next year, as Mobile Security Unit, Guam, fills its ranks. The unit formed this year. Its commander, Navy Cmdr. **Matthew Garside**, arrived in February; the group's first enlisted member checked in earlier this month. Specializing in quick-deploy security measures, the unit breaks into three detachments, **Garside** said, and provides security "in high-threat areas for high value assets." Another deployable unit — Andersen's 613th Contingency Response Squadron — soon is to expand. The squadron will activate into a group March 28, growing from 39 authorized positions to 110. Its mission: to assess the security and suitability of a deployed location for PACAF troops. The only unit of its kind in PACAF, Guam was the natural choice when the squadron was created two years ago, said 613th CRG Commander Col. Benjamin Pulsifer. "By having us out here, we're kind of forward-deployed," he said. "It gives us the capability to respond quickly in the Pacific area of operation."

Better than the desert

Guam still is considered a remote tour for sailors and airmen — 24 months with dependents and 15 months unaccompanied. Military and family members who've been here long enough can rattle off the disadvantages: the expense of flying home to the States; the high cost of living; cramped quarters on an island no longer than 35 miles long and 8 miles wide and the dreaded typhoon season. But not many complain about the year-round temperate climate and the beaches. "I love it," said military spouse Angie Roberts, 25. "It's really cool to be able to look out your kitchen window and see the ocean, especially when you've lived in Kansas all your life." "There's a whole lot worse places you could be," said Senior Airman Christopher Wagner, 25, an aerospace ground equipment mechanic from Barksdale Air Force Base, La. "You could be in the desert somewhere."

Wish list

USS Carl Vinson's February visit proved the island can accommodate a nuclear aircraft carrier. The local government isn't shy about asking for a permanent resident. In fact, the written proposal the Chamber of Commerce sent Congress resembles a wish list of military aspirations. From open bids on equipment already stationed elsewhere — such as the USS Essex Amphibious Ready Group and its 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit passengers — to a nuclear carrier, the paper argues that Guam can house even more U.S. forces. Carl Peterson, a Chamber of Commerce member and chairman of Guam's Armed Services Committee, cited a proposal to dredge Apra Harbor to give a ship of the Vinson's magnitude a permanent home. He said Guam has its sights set on whichever ship is to replace the USS Kitty Hawk after its planned 2008 decommissioning. The Kitty Hawk is based at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan.

Jlawrence Cruz, president of the Department of Chamorro Affairs, which works to preserve island culture, said Guam should be considered ahead of foreign countries for placing future military assets. "We are U.S., whereas Okinawa, South Korea, and all those other places are someone else's yard," he said. Due to a switchover to a new comment system, this comment board is now closed. His message to the U.S. military: "Come back to your front door."

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Matthew J. Garside

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

<https://www.stripes.com/news/guam-based-unit-secure-in-mission-to-protect-ships-1.3143>

Stars and Stripes

March 21, 2003

Guam-based unit secure in mission to protect ships

Author: Doug Huddy

COMMANDER, U.S. NAVAL FORCES MARIANAS, Guam — Scenario: A U.S. Navy ship with valuable cargo has broken down somewhere in the Pacific. It needs to get to the closest port for emergency repairs. Problem: The nearest port is deemed to have a significant threat against U.S. forces. Terrorist activity is highly likely. Solution: Mobile Security Unit, Guam.

With an ability to sustain itself for 10 days, a headquarters element and three highly deployable detachments, the unit’s proponents say it is ready to secure any Navy asset at anytime, anywhere in the Pacific. The unit’s commanding officer, Navy Cmdr. **Matthew Garside**, has been on Guam since last month setting up the service’s third such outfit. Fellow units are in San Diego and Norfolk, Va. “This unit will provide the Navy with force protection in high-threat areas for high-value assets,” he said, such as Navy and Military Sealift Command ships, submarines and aircraft.

About 230 enlisted sailors and 20 Navy officers will make up the unit when it’s fully staffed. **Garside** said all the unit’s security personnel should be on Guam sometime next year. “This unit is designed to be deployed to places where there is a high terrorist threat or high threat to U.S. forces,” he said. The unit’s first enlisted member checked aboard on Friday. Petty Officer 1st Class Christopher Ambrosi arrived on Guam from San Diego, where he underwent six months of training for his new assignment. He said this tour of duty tempted him because “the job seemed cool.” He said the unit’s rigorous training and high operations tempo made him volunteer. In fact, **Garside** said, “everyone is a volunteer for the mobile security unit.”

Its initial training centers around classroom instruction, then moves to practical small-unit exercises. These exercises include security procedures, weapons training and combat skills, **Garside** said. The bulk of the unit’s soon-to-be crew is in San Diego for the initial training, he said. And when those sailors move to Guam, it will be for good reasons, he said: The island is a strategic location for such a unit. “Andersen Air Force Base, at the north end of the island, can provide us with transportation to anywhere we need to go,” he said. “We’re closer to where we’re going to operate — where the threat is.”

Due to a switchover to a new comment system, this comment board is now closed. The unit will be used for planned and unplanned missions, **Garside** said. If a Navy ship makes a planned port call in an area known to have a high threat against U.S. forces, his teams can fly out and set up force protection for that area. That could include security on the ship and on the ship’s pier. The unplanned missions could involve anything from terrorist activity, such as 2000’s USS Cole bombing in Yemen, to securing ports for emergency port calls.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Matthew J. Garside

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Commonly, one of the unit's three detachments would deploy for each situation. Each deployment involves 76 sailors and everything to keep them going for 10 days. It's those 76 sailors — whom **Garside** called some of the fleet's brightest — who made him raise his hand for the assignment. "If I was a sailor looking to do something different and important [for] my country, with hands-on weapons training," he said, "it's Mobile Security Unit, Guam."

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Matthew J. Garside

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

[CB&A Note: Only the information relevant to **Matthew Garside** is listed below]

<https://apps.dtic.mil/dtic/tr/fulltext/u2/a456067.pdf>

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
1996-1997

**Annual Report
Security Studies Program**

SSP Visitors and Affiliates

COMMANDER MATTHEW GARSIDE, USN
Navy Federal Executive Fellow

A native of Norwell, Massachusetts, **Matt Garside** attended Massachusetts Maritime academy earning a BS in Marine Transportation. Entering the Navy in 1984, he first served in USS MCINEREY (FFG 8), a guided missile frigate, as an Engineering Division Officer responsible for main propulsion equipment. Operational experience during his initial tour included counter narcotics operations and a deployment to the Mediterranean.

Next, he was assigned as Engineer Officer in USS CROMMELIN (FFG 37), another guided missile frigate, where he was responsible for all engineering equipment and personnel. **Matt's** next assignment was as Engineer Officer in USS JOHN PAUL JONES (DDG 53), an AEGIS equipped guided missile destroyer. His last assignment was as Executive Officer in USS KINKAID (DD 965), a SPRUANCE class destroyer. Operations in KINKAID included deployment to the Arabian/Persian Gulf and a major modernization overhaul at Long Beach Naval Shipyard.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Matthew J. Garside
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

[CB&A Note: Only the information relevant to **Matthew J. Garside** listed below.]

https://www.congress.gov/nomination/104th-congress/1204

PN1204 — Navy
104th Congress (1995-1996)

Nominees

There are 630 nominations, beginning with RUFUS S ABERNETHY III, and ending with JAMES A WESELIS

Organization Navy

Latest Action 09/25/1996 - Confirmed by the Senate by Voice Vote.

Date Received from President 07/17/1996

Committee Senate Armed Services

Nominees: PN1204 — 104th Congress (1995-1996)

All Information

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED OFFICERS, ON THE ACTIVE DUTY LIST, FOR PROMOTION TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE U. S. NAVY IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 624 OF TITLE 10, U. S. C.

To be COMMANDER

Nominee Division

MATTHEW J GARSIDE UNRESTRICTED LINE OFFICERS

Research Compiled by: Cara Slade and Shannon Farr
 Colin Baenziger & Associates