

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING - MARCH 18 & 19, 2024

WARRANT

To: Adam Doody, Resident of the Town of Washburn, County of Aroostook, and State of Maine

GREETINGS:

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify the voters of the Town of Washburn, in said County of Aroostook, qualified by law to vote in the Town affairs, to meet at the WASHBURN MUNICIPAL BUILDING in said Town on MONDAY, THE 18th DAY OF MARCH, 2024, A.D. AT 1:00 O’CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON (Eastern Standard Time), then and there to act on Articles 1 and 2.

ARTICLE 1. To choose a Moderator to preside at said meeting.

ARTICLE 2. To select all Town Officials as required to be elected by secret ballots; namely, two (2) members to serve on the Washburn Town Council for three-year terms, two (2) members for three-year terms to serve on the Board of Directors for Maine School Administrative District #45.

THE POLLS SHALL OPEN AT 1:00 O’CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON ON MARCH 18, 2024, AND SHALL CLOSE AT 8:00 O’CLOCK IN THE EVENING ON MARCH 18, 2024. **THE MEETING SHALL THEN ADJOURN AT 8:00 P.M. AND RECONVENE AT THE WASHBURN DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL AT 7:00 P.M. ON TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 2024, TO CONSIDER THE REMAINING WARRANT ARTICLES.**

(Please Note: Budget Committee recommendations for various department budgets are for the gross budget minus anticipated departmental income, if any. Where applicable, the Warrant Articles reflect the net budget request.)

ARTICLE 3. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for General Government/Administration.

(BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS \$257,489.00)

ARTICLE 4. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for police/law enforcement services.

(BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS \$348,711.00)

ARTICLE 5. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Washburn Fire Department.

(BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS \$99,819.00)

ARTICLE 6. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Highway Department/Public Works.

(BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS \$635,585.00)

ARTICLE 7. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Grounds & Maintenance Department.

(BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS \$113,794.00)

ARTICLE 8. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Recreation Department.

(BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS \$89,005.00)

ARTICLE 9. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Washburn Memorial Library.

(BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS \$94,434.00)

ARTICLE 10. (Under Other Expenses) To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the general protection of persons and property for hydrant protection, street lights, Town insurance, and ambulance service.

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS A TOTAL OF \$211,670.00 TO BE DISTRIBUTED AS FOLLOWS:

HYDRANT PROTECTION	\$67,415.00
STREET LIGHTS	\$7,000.00
TOWN INSURANCE	\$38,000.00
AMBULANCE	\$99,255.00

ARTICLE 11. (Under Other Expenses) To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Town's share of General Assistance.

(BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS \$2,000.00)

ARTICLE 12. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Town Office Utilities.

(BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS: \$25,980.00)

ARTICLE 13. (Under Other Expenses) To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Legal Fees.

(BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS \$2,500.00)

ARTICLE 14. (Under Other Expenses) To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Planning Board/Zoning Board of Appeals for the purpose of training and related uses.

(BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS \$300.00)

ARTICLE 15. (Under Other Expenses) To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Contract Services, Garbage Disposal, Thomas Brewer Park Toilet Facilities, Tax Assessor, Auditor, Maine Municipal Association Dues, & Town Council.

**BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS \$55,357.00 TO BE
DISTRIBUTED AS FOLLOWS:**

CONTRACT SERVICES \$29,000.00
GARBAGE DISPOSAL \$1,700.00
TAX ASSESSOR \$5,000.00
AUDITOR \$8,500.00
MAINE MUNICIPAL ASSOC. DUES \$2,557.00
TOWN COUNCIL \$7,500.00
THOMAS BREWER PARK TOILET FACILITIES \$1,100.00

ARTICLE 16. (Under Other Expenses) To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate to cover owner-related expenses at the Pines Washburn Health Center.

(BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS \$1,000.00)

ARTICLE 17. (Under Other Expenses) To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for town maintenance and improvements.

(BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS \$15,000.00)

ARTICLE 18. (Under Other Expenses) To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for various outside agencies.

(BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS \$9,451.00

TO BE DISTRIBUTED AS FOLLOWS:

CENTRAL AROOSTOOK HUMANE SOCIETY \$3,207.00
AROOSTOOK AGENCY ON AGING \$1,000.00
AMERICAN LEGION \$400.00
HOMELESS SERVICES OF AROOSTOOK \$1,500.00
AMERICAN RED CROSS \$150.00
CENTRAL AROOSTOOK SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION \$500.00
ACAP \$150.00
SALMON BROOK HISTORICAL SOCIETY \$1,000.00
NORTHERN MAINE VETERAN'S CEMETERY CORPORATION \$200.00
CATHOLIC CHARITIES MAINE \$150.00
MAINE PUBLIC BROADCASTING NETWORK \$100.00
COMMUNITY HEALTH FOUNDATION \$130.00
AROOSTOOK COUNCIL ON HEALTH \$200.00
LIFELIGHT FOUNDATION \$764.00

ARTICLE 19. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the municipal officers to make application for and execute any documents related to grants for the improvement of Town functions and for supplies and equipment for the Town departments, and to accept said grant funds if awarded and authorize their expenditure for the purposes specified in the grant. Should any particular grant require matching funds from the Town of more than \$10,000.00, then a Special Town Meeting will be held to obtain permission regarding that grant application and expenditures.

ARTICLE 20. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the purpose of property cleanups and ordinance violation corrections (either local or state) as required.

(BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS \$6,250.00)

ARTICLE 21. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for reclaiming and paving.

(BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS \$70,000.00)

ARTICLE 22. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Council to obtain a line of credit or a tax anticipation loan for the February 1, 2024, through January 31, 2025, fiscal year if the same becomes necessary for the proper functioning of the Town and to cover any cash flow issues that may arise during said fiscal year.

ARTICLE 23. To see if the Town will vote to require the municipal officers to provide the former owner(s) of tax-acquired property, or if deceased his/her/their heirs/devisees/personal representative 30 days to repurchase the property for a price equal to all outstanding taxes, interest, fees and costs; if the former owner does not repurchase the property the municipal officers may sell the property through the sale process in 36 MRS § 953-C, provided that if the former owner does not timely request that process or the board is unable to list or sell the property as required by § 943-C(3), the board may sell the property through a competitive sealed bid process in which a notice advertising sale of the property shall be published at least twice in a newspaper of general circulation in the county. For sales to someone other than the former owner(s), excess sale proceeds as defined in 36 MRS § 943-C, shall be returned to the former owner.

ARTICLE 24. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Council, on behalf of the Town, to sell, lease, and/or dispose of any Town-owned property, at such price and under such terms and conditions as the Town Council deems advisable, and to negotiate and execute any and all documents necessary to accomplish any such transaction.

ARTICLE 25. To see if the Town will authorize and instruct the Town Council to apply and charge all overdrafts in the Town Officers Report for the fiscal year ending on or before January 31, 2025, which overdrafts are not to exceed 7.5% of the original department Appropriation total without approval of a Special Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 26. To see if the Town will fix a date when taxes shall be due and payable and set a rate of interest to be charged on taxes unpaid after said date. Tax bills shall be due and payable upon presentation with a **2%** discount for payment within 30 days, and interest shall be assessed at the rate of **8.5%** as of November 1, 2024, until paid. Advance payment of estimated taxes shall be accepted before commitment, and no interest shall be paid for unsolicited advance payment or overpayment of estimated taxes.

ARTICLE 27. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the tax collector to enter into a standard agreement with taxpayers establishing a tax club payment plan for property taxes, whereby: (1) the taxpayer agrees to pay eleven (11) specified monthly payments to the Town based on his/her actual tax obligation for current year property taxes; (2) the Town agrees not to charge interest on timely payments made pursuant to the tax club agreement; (3) the Town authorizes the tax collector to accept tax club payments for current year taxes which may be made prior to the tax club payment due date; (4) the tax club agreement is automatically terminated if a monthly payment is not made, and the taxpayer then becomes subject to the same

due date(s) and interest date(s) and rate as other taxpayers who are not participating in the tax club; (5) only taxpayers who do not have outstanding tax obligations for prior tax years are eligible to participate in the tax club program; and (6) taxpayers wishing to participate in the tax club for a particular property in the current tax year shall enter an agreement with the Town by a deadline determined by the tax collector as noted on the current tax bill.

ARTICLE 28. (Under Estimated Income) To see if the Town will vote to accept money from the Maine Department of Transportation for Local Roads Assistance Funds in the estimated amount of **\$34,000.00** for the purpose of road maintenance and repairs.

ARTICLE 29. (Under Estimated Income) To see if the Town will vote to accept funds from the State of Maine provided by the Maine State Legislature the following funds (excluding Local Roads Assistance contained in the previous article) are:

1. State Municipal Revenue Sharing
2. General Assistance Reimbursement
3. Veterans Exemption
4. Tree Growth
5. Homestead Exemption
6. BETE Reimbursement

ARTICLE 30. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Officers to spend an amount equal to 2/12ths of the 2024 budget from February 1, 2025, through March 31, 2025. This will allow the Town to operate during the two (2) months prior to the Annual Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 31. To see if the Town will vote to allow the Council to spend funds from the TIF District approved project list pursuant to 30-A M.R.S.A. §§ 5221-5235.

Economic Development:	\$10,000.00
Brownsfield Clean-up Loan:	\$14,304.00
Administration Fees:	\$15,000.00
August Festival:	\$ 5,000.00
Washburn Trailrunners	\$ 1,000.00
Washburn ATV Club	\$ 300.00
NMDC	\$ 2,846.00
Streetlight Reserve	\$ 3,100.00
Public Safety Building	Remaining Funds

WASHBURN TOWN COUNCIL:

DAREN S. CHURCHILL, CHAIR _____

KEITH BROWN _____

FREDERICK A. THOMAS _____

LARRY E. BULL _____

ALLEN DEEVES _____

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

ADAM DOODY, RESIDENT