

Town Meeting Warrant

Two Part Town Meeting

Thursday, March 14th, 2024, 7:45 AM

and

Saturday, March 16th, 2024 10 AM

To: William Ingraham, A citizen of the Town of Knox, in the county of Waldo.

Greetings:

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Knox in Waldo County in Maine, qualified by law to vote in town affairs, to meet at the Town Hall in said Town on Thursday, the 14th day of March, 2024 A.D. at 7:45AM then and there to act upon Article 1 and by secret ballot and on Articles 2 as set out below, the polling hours therefore to be from eight o'clock in the forenoon until six o'clock in the afternoon;

And, to notify and warn said inhabitants to meet at the Knox Town Office in said town on Saturday, the 16th day of March 2024, at ten o'clock in the morning, then and there to act on Articles 3 through 40 as set out below, to wit:

Art. 1 To choose a moderator to preside over said town meeting.

Motion Made and seconded to elect MaryAnn Kinney as moderator. Voted 5-0 in favor.

Art. 2 To Elect Second Selectman by secret ballot.

By secret Ballot: 112 votes in total. 98 Jeffrey Stevens, 13 Bryce Hubbard, 1 write in for Carol Hamblet.

Art. 3 To announce Second Selectman voting results.

Jeffrey Stevens Announced as the winner

Art. 4 To approve retitling of First Selectman to include Assessor, Road Commissioner, and Overseer of the Poor.

Voted 17-0 in favor

Art. 5 To fix compensation, from taxation, for the following positions:

First Selectmen's salary and expenses: \$8,000.00

Second Selectmen's salary and expenses: \$4,500.00

Third Selectmen's salary and expenses: \$4,500.00

Town Clerk, Tax Collector, Treasurer, Administrative Assistant:
\$62,000.00

Total (Recommended) \$79,000.00

Motion made by Tom Piersiak to amend article: To fix compensation, from surplus, for the following positions:

First Selectmen's salary and expenses: \$8,000.00

Second Selectmen's salary and expenses: \$4,500.00

Third Selectmen's salary and expenses: \$4,500.00

Town Clerk, Tax Collector, Treasurer, Administrative Assistant:
\$62,000.00

Total (Recommended) \$79,000.00

Voted 20-2 in favor of the amendment

Voted 27-0 in favor of the amended article.

Art. 6 To see what the Town votes to raise and/ or appropriate for Payroll Taxes

(Recommended \$10,000.00)

Voted 25-0 in favor

Art. 7 To see what sum the Town will vote to appropriate from taxation for employee ICHRA.

(Recommended \$28,800.00)

Motion made by Tom Piersiak to amend article: To see what sum the Town will vote to appropriate from surplus for employee ICHRA.

(Recommended \$28,800.00)

Voted 23-2 in favor of the amendment

Voted 26-0 in favor of the amended article.

Art. 8 To see what sum the Town will vote to appropriate from taxation for the town charges account:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| A. Assessing | \$20,000.00 |
| B. Advertising | \$600.00 |
| C. Animal Control Officer | \$4,500.00 |
| D. Auditor/CPA | \$22,000.00- two years of audits to be done. |
| E. Bank Charges | \$400.00 |
| F. Building Repairs | \$3,000.00 |
| G. CEO Salary | \$5,450.00 |
| H. Cleaning | \$800.00 |
| I. Computer Repairs | \$3,000.00 |

J. Copier Lease	\$3,600.00
K. Deeds	\$150.00
L. Discharges	\$2,000.00
M. E 911 Addressing Officer Salary	\$300.00
N. Election Workers	\$3,500.00
O. Emergency Management Director Salary	\$1,000.00
P. Fire Chief's Salary	\$300.00
Q. Health Officer Salary	\$250.00
R. Heat	\$2,400.00
S. Humane Society	\$2,100.00
T. Central Maine Power	\$5,000.00
U. Mapping	\$1,000.00
V. Membership and Dues	\$2,000.00
W. Mileage	\$1,400.00
X. Misc. Expenses	\$600.00
Y. Moderator	\$150.00
Z. Mowing of the Town Office	\$1,000.00
AA. Phone, Fax, Internet	\$3,300.00
BB. Postage	\$2,600.00
CC. Registrar of Voter's Salaries	\$300.00
DD. Software	\$500.00
EE. Supplies	\$4,800.00
FF. Tax Liens/ Notices	\$1,200.00
GG. Trio Software	\$24,000.00
HH. Workshops/ Trainings	\$1,100.00
II. Roadside Mowing	\$2,500.00
JJ. Seacoast Security	\$550.00

Total (Recommended) \$127,350.00

Motion made by Tom Piersiak to amend article to read from surplus instead of taxation.

Amendment passed 18-2

Voted in favor 25-0 for the amended article

Art. 9 To see what the town will vote to raise/ appropriate for Liability, Property, Unemployment and Workers Comp Insurance.

(Recommended \$12,000.00)

Voted in favor 24-0

Art.10 To see what the Town will vote to raise and/ or appropriate for the following:

A. General Assistance: \$3,000.00

Voted 23-0 in favor

Art. 11 To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and/ or appropriate for the following:

A. Town Planning Board Expenses \$500.00
B. Board of Appeals \$100.00

Total (Recommended) \$600.00

Voted 22-0 in favor

Art. 12 To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and/ or appropriate for the care of Town Cemeteries.

(Recommended \$11,000.00)

Voted 23-0 in favor

Art. 13 To see what the Town will vote to raise and/ or appropriate for the following:

A. Belfast Area Childcare \$500.00
B. Bum League \$100.00
C. Farm Share Assistance \$500.00
D. Farm Team \$100.00
E. Knox Ridge Cemetery \$1,200.00
F. Knox Booster Club \$3,500.00
G. Life Flight of Maine \$825.00
H. Midcoast Maine Community Action
\$732.00
I. New Hope for Women \$610.00
J. Spectrum Generations \$791.00
K. Volunteer Regional Food Pantry- Unity
\$350.00
L. Pet Food Pantry \$250.00
M. Game Loft \$200.00
N. Belfast Soup Kitchen \$500.00
O. Brooks Ambulance \$4,030.00

Total (Recommended) \$10,158.00

Voted 28-0 in favor

Art. 14 To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and/ or appropriate for the ensuing year for the following WCAP: County Wide Programs:
Mid Coast Public Transports, Home Energy Assistance, Head Start and Early Head Start, Housing Programs, Community Service Programs.

Total (Requested) \$5,467.00

Voted 24-0 in favor

Art. 15 To see what the town would vote to raise and/ or appropriate for Fire Protection. First year of new three-year contract beginning 2024 through March of 2027.

Total (Recommended) \$36,000.00

Voted 31-0 in favor

Art. 16 To see if the Town will vote to raise and/ or appropriate \$53,800.00, plus trash sticker revenue (\$12,000 as noted on page 16), and Municipal Review Committee refunds for the collection and disbursement of town waste.

Curbside Waste Removal: \$45,500.00

MRC: \$12,000.00

Clean Up Day: \$3,500.00

Curbside Recycling: \$4,800.00

(Recommended)

Voted 27-0 in favor

Art. 17 To see if the Town will vote to raise and/ or appropriate \$15,000.00 for the operation of the Regional Recycling Center and the Universal Waste Facility for the period of April 1st, 2024 through March 31st, 2025.

(Recommended)

Voted 27-0 in favor

Art. 18 To see if the Town will vote to raise and/ or appropriate \$4,000.00 for legal fees.

(Recommended)

Voted 24-0 in favor

Art. 19 To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for putting up the salt and sand pile in the sand shed building.

(Recommended \$82,000.00)

Voted 29-0 in favor

Art. 20 To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and/ or appropriate for the second year of a three year contract for snow plowing.

(Recommended \$200,000.00)

Ivy Made a motion to amend article as follows:

Art. 20 To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and/ or appropriate for the second year of a three year contract for snow plowing.

(Recommended \$200,000.00- Recommended \$10,000 for overages, fuel charges)

Amendment passed 27-0

Voted in favor of the amended article 25-0

Art. 21 To see what the Town will vote to raise and/ or appropriate from excise tax for repair and maintenance of town roads and bridges. (noted on page 16 under motor vehicle)

(Recommended \$150,000.00)

Voted 30-0 in favor

Art. 22 Shall the Town vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to transfer monies received in 2023 from the State of Maine D.O.T. Local Road Assistance Program into the Road Reserve Account? (\$32,000 as noted on page 16)

Voted 29-0 in favor

Art. 23 To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and/ or appropriate for the restoration and preservation of the Town's old records books.

(Recommended \$1,500.00)

Voted 29-0 in favor

Art. 24 To see if the Town will vote to fix a rate of interest to be charged on all unpaid 2024 Real Estate and Personal Property Taxes and a date when taxes shall be due.

(Recommended 8%- December 31st, 2024)

Voted 29-0 in favor

Art. 25 To see what the Town will vote to raise and/ or appropriate to pay tax abatements for taxes assessed in 2024.

(Recommended \$15,000.00)

Voted 19-0 in favor

Art 26 To see if the Town will authorize the Tax Collector to accept prepayments of taxes not yet committed pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. s/s 506.

(Recommended)

Voted 25-0 in favor

Art. 27 To see if the Town will vote in favor of requiring three years back taxes paid if upon foreclosure.

(Recommended)

Voted 23-1 in favor

Art. 28. 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 90 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 § 943-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.

(Recommended)

Voted 27-0 in favor

Art. 29 To see if the Town will vote to authorize Municipal Officers to dispose of any Town-Owned personal property with a value of \$1,000.00 or less under such terms and conditions as they deem advisable.

(Recommended)

Voted 27-0 in favor

Art. 30 To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to dispose of any surplus equipment and real estate acquired by the town for non-payment of taxes in accordance of the State of Maine law set in 2023.

(Recommended)

Motion made to amend the article as follows:

Art. 30 To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to dispose of any town owned surplus equipment and personal property acquired by the town for non-payment of taxes in accordance of the State of Maine law set in 2023 to be sold by sealed bid.

(Recommended)

Amendment passed 26-0

Voted 24-0 of amended article

Art. 31 To see if the town will vote to appropriate \$5 per snowmobile registration received from the State to the Frye Mountain Riders for the maintenance of their network of snowmobile trails, on condition that those trails be open in season to the public for outdoor recreation purposes at no charge, and to authorize the municipal officers to enter into an agreement with the Club, under such terms and conditions as the municipal officers may deem advisable, for that purpose.

(Recommended)

Voted 30-0 in favor

Art. 32 To see if the Town will vote to accept grant money from the State for the snowmobile club. The State program will only go through the town but will give the snowmobile club money above and beyond what the town has already given. This will help the club with bridge repairs and/ or other such things.

(Recommended)

Motion made by Garret Hubbard to amend article to read as follows:

Art. 32 To see if the Town will vote to accept grant money from the State for the Frye Mountain Riders. The State program will only go through the town but will give the snowmobile club money above and beyond what the town has already given. This will help the club with bridge repairs and/ or other such things.

(Recommended)

Amendment passed 17-0

Voted in favor of the amended article 25-0

Art 33 To see if the Town will vote to raise and/ or appropriate \$800.00 for flags for the telephone poles.

(Recommended)

Voted in favor 29-2

Art. 34 To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to spend an amount not to exceed 3/12 of budgeted amount in each budget category, except for snow removal and sanding which Municipal Officers are authorized to spend up to 6/12 of the budgeted amount of the 2024 annual budget during the period of January 1st, 2025 to 2025 Town Meeting.

(Recommended)

Voted in favor 30-0

Art. 35 To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and/ or appropriate for building repairs to the sand shed from the Town Municipal Building Fund.

(Recommended \$2,500.00)

Voted in favor 28-0

Art. 36 To see if the Town will vote in favor of selling the property located off Belfast Road at 1.74 acres to bordering property owner.

Voted in favor of selling the property as the Selectmen deem fit 26-0

Art. 37 To open discussion on what the Town would like to do for repair and funding for the bridge located on the Shibles Road.

Tabling discussion for further information, voted 16-0

Art. 38 To see if the Town would vote in favor of On Premise Consumption for properly licensed businesses in Town.

Voted in favor 30-3

Art. 39 To see if the town will vote to increase the proposed tax levy limit of \$964,858.89 established for Knox by the state law, in the event that the Municipal Budget approved under the preceding articles will result in a tax commitment that is greater than the property tax levy limit.

Voted by secret ballot in favor 13-1

Art. 40 To open discussion on removing Dutton Pond Road from our winter maintenance list.

Tabling discussion for further information, voted 16-0

Art. 41 Motion to Adjourn