

AND

TOWN MEETING WARRANT

Friday, March 24, 2023

And

Saturday, March 25, 2023

To David Schofield, 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 said County of Waldo, qualified by law to vote in Town affairs, to meet at the Knox Town Office in said Town Friday the 24th day of March 2023 A.D. at 3:45 in the afternoon, then and there to act upon Article 1 and by secret ballot on Article 2, the polling hours therefore to be from four o'clock in the afternoon until eight o'clock in the evening.

And to notify and warn said inhabitants to meet at the Knox Town Office in said town of Knox on Saturday the 25th day of March 2023 A.D. at Ten o'clock in the morning then and there to act on Articles 3 through 35 as set out below, to wit:

Art. 1 To elect a Moderator to preside at said meeting.

Motion made and 2nd to elect Mary-Anne Kinney as moderator Vote taken 7-0 in favor

Art. 2 To elect the following Town Officials:

a. Second Selectman, Road Commissioner, Assessor, Overseer of the Poor- 1 year term

By secret ballot= 45 for Peter Curra, 33 for Ann Hubbard, Peter Curra elected

b. Third Selectman, Road Commissioner, Assessor, Overseer of the poor- 3 year term

By secret ballot = 69 for William Ingraham, 9 blank

Meeting was called to order @ 10am on March 25,2023 by moderator Mary-Ann Kinney. Moderator informed residents that she would be following the guidelines set in the Maine Moderator Manual.

Pledge of Flag.

Rep. Ben Hynes spoke regarding his letter to the Towns and his contact information. Ben says that he is free to speak with residents at any time. Spoke about wanting to cut spending and taxes.

Art. 3 To see what sum the Town will vote to appropriate from Surplus for the compensation of Municipal Officers and Town Clerk, Tax Collector, Treasurer & Deputies.

First Selectman's Salary and Expenses	\$13000.00
Second Selectman's Salary and Expenses	\$4500.00
Third Selectman's Salary and Expenses	\$4500.00
Town Clerk, Tax Collector, Treasurer & Deputies	\$70000.00
Total (Recommended)	\$92000.00

Motion made by William Ingraham, 2nd by Bryce Hubbard. Question by Travis Price as to Payroll wages, and payroll taxes and if they were the same thing. (Article 4) explanation: Payroll taxes in article 4 are the portion that the town pays: Vote 27-0 passed

Art. 4 To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and/ or appropriate for Payroll Taxes.

Vote taken 29-0 passed

(Recommended \$7000.00)

Art. 5 To see what sum the Town will vote to appropriate from Surplus for workers Health Insurance

Vote taken 27-0 passed

(Recommended \$23000.00)

Art. 6 To see what sum the Town will vote to appropriate from Surplus for the Town Charges account:

a. Advertising	\$600.00
b. Animal Control Officer Salary	\$4500.00
c. Auditor/CPA	\$4500.00
d. Bank Charges	\$400.00

e. Building Repairs	\$3000.00
f. CEO Salary	\$5450.00
g. Cleaning	\$800.00
h. Computer Repairs	\$3000.00
i. Copier Lease	\$3600.00
j. Deeds	\$150.00
k. Discharges	\$2000.00
l. E 911 Addressing Officer Salary	\$300.00
m. Election Workers	\$500.00
n. Emergency Management Director Salary	\$1000.00
o. Fire Chief's Salary	\$300.00
p. Health Officer Salary	\$250.00
q. Heat	\$2400.00
r. Humane Society	\$1500.00
s. Central Maine Power (TO/HH/SS)	\$5000.00
t. Mapping	\$900.00
u. Membership & Dues	\$3000.00
v. Mileage	\$1400.00
w. Misc. Expenses	\$600.00
x. Moderator	\$150.00
y. Mowing of Town Office	\$1000.00
z. Phone, Fax, Internet	\$3300.00
aa. Postage	\$2600.00
bb. Registrar of Voter's Salary	\$300.00
cc. Software	\$500.00
dd. Supplies	\$4800.00
ee. Tax Liens/Notices	\$1000.00
ff. Trio Software	\$22000.00
gg. Workshops/Training	\$1100.00
hh. Roadside Mowing	\$2300.00
Total	\$84100.00

(Recommended \$84100.00)

Hans Schmidt questioned central maine power bills and wanted a breakdown. Town Clerk Mary Donley informed him that she had copies available for him in the office.

Kip wanted to know the difference between the charges for computer repairs, software, and Trio software. 1st Selectman Galen Larrabee explained that the repairs were for computer problems, that the software was for programs that do not run

through trio, and that the Trio program is the program that all the real estate taxes, BMV, dogs, trash stickers, and all other town business runs through.
Vote taken 23-0 in favor with 1 abstain. passed

Art. 7 To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and/ or appropriate for Liability, Property, Unemployment & Workers Comp Insurance.

(Recommended \$12000.00)

Vote taken 24-0 in favor passed

Art. 8 To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and/ or appropriate for the following:

- a. General Assistance** **\$3000.00**
(Recommended)

Vote taken 26-0 in favor passed

Art. 9 To see if the Town will vote to do away with personal property taxes

(Recommended)

1st selectman Galen Larrabee discussed the State program called BETE.

Vote taken 29-0 in favor passed

Art 10 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 **\$600.00**

(Recommended)

Fred Thompson wanted article amended to be \$300.00 for Town Planning Board Expenses.

Vote taken on amendment 21-1 passed

Vote taken on rewritten article 24-0 in favor passed

Art.11 To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and/ or appropriate for the care of the Town Cemeteries.

(Recommended \$11000.00)

Vote taken 27-0 in favor passed

Art. 12 To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and/ or appropriate for the following:

a. Belfast Area Child Care	\$500.00
b. Bum League	\$100.00
c. Farm Share Assistance	\$500.00
d. Farm Team	\$100.00
e. Knox Ridge Cemetery	\$1200.00
f. Knox Booster Club	\$2500.00
g. Life Flight of Maine	\$825.00
h. Little League	\$200.00
i. Midcoast Maine Community Action	\$500.00
j. New Hope for Women	\$610.00
k. Spectrum Generations(Central Maine Area on Aging)	\$754.00
l. Volunteer Regional Food Pantry-Unity	\$350.00
m. Pet Food Pantry	\$250.00
n. Game Loft	\$200.00
o. Belfast Soup Kitchen	\$500.00
Total	\$9089.00

(Requested \$9089.00)

Vote taken 25-0 in favor passed

Art. 13 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 Transport, Home Energy Assistance, Head Start and Early Head Start, Housing Programs, Community Service Programs.

(Requested \$6419.00)

Vote taken 26-0 in favor Passed

Art. 14 To see what sum the Town would like to raise and/ or appropriate for Fire Protection, being the third year of a three-year contract.

(Recommended \$28783.71)

Vote taken 27-0 in favor Passes

Art. 15 Shall the Town vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to make the payment from Surplus to the Brooks Ambulance Service for \$4030.00 for the 2023 year.

(Recommended)

Vote Taken 24-0 in favor Passed

Art. 16 To see if the Town will vote to raise and/ or appropriate \$60900.00 plus Trash Sticker Revenue, and Municipal Review Committee Refunds for the collection and disbursement of Town Waste.

(Recommended)

Travis Price asked to amend article to remove Municipal Review Committee Refunds from article.

Vote taken on amendment 19-3 Passed

Vote taken on article 23-0 Passed

Art. 17 To see if the Town will vote to raise and/ or appropriate \$11229.59 for the operation of Regional Recycling Center and the Universal Waste Facility for the period of April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024.

(Recommended)

Towns people invited to join the board as an alternate

Vote taken 26-0 in favor Passed

Art. 18 To see if the Town will vote to raise and/ or appropriate \$4000.00 for Legal Fees.

(Recommended)

Vote taken 26-0 in favor 1 abstain Passed

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 \$70000.00)

Vote taken 27-0 in favor Passes

Art. 20 To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and/ or appropriate for the 1st year of a three year contract for Snow Plowing

(Recommended \$200000.00) (Recommended \$10000.00) for overages, fuel charges.

Vote taken 28-0 in favor Passed

At. 21 To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and/ or appropriate from Surplus for the repair and maintenance of Roads and Bridges

(Recommended \$50000.00)

Fred Thompson asked if there would be a road plan included in the 2023 annual report, 1st selectman Galen Larrabee responded yes.

Vote taken 26-0 in favor Passed

Art. 22 Shall the Town vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to transfer monies received in 2022 from the State of Maine D.O.T. Local Road Assistance Program into a Road Reserve Account?

Vote taken 20-0 in favor Passed

(Recommended)

Art. 23 To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen to set the rates for wages to pay for summer and winter Town Work. (State Wage \$13.80)

Vote taken 21-0 in favor Passed

(Recommended)

Art. 24 To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and / or appropriate for the restoration and preservation of the Town's Old Record Books.

Vote taken 22-0 in favor Passed

(Recommended \$1500.00)

Art.25 To see if the Town will vote to fix a rate of interest to be charged on all unpaid 2023 Real Estate and Personal Property taxes and a date when taxes shall be due.

Kip Penney asked that the article be amended to read March 31st, 2024 as due date. Vote taken on amendment 2-14 Failed

Vote taken on article as written 22-0 in favor Passed

(Recommended 8%- December 31, 2023)

Art. 26 To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and/ or appropriate to pay tax abatements for taxes assessed in 2023.

Vote taken 20-0 in favor Passed

(Recommended \$10,000.00)

Art. 27 To see if the Town will vote to increase the proposed tax levy limit of \$431,507.68 established for Knox by 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.

Vote taken by secret ballot 17 votes cast, 17 votes for yes 17-0 in favor Passed

(Recommended)

Art. 28 To see if the Town will authorize the Tax Collector to accept prepayment of Taxes not yet committed pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. s/s 506.

Vote taken 22-0 in favor Passed

(Recommended)

Art. 29 To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to dispose of Town-Owned personal property with a value of \$1000.00 or less under such Terms and Conditions as they deem advisable.

Vote taken 24-0 in favor Passed

(Recommended)

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, by Public Bid, and Execute a Quit Claim Deed for said property.

Vote taken 24-0 in favor Passed **(Recommended)**

Art. 31 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 will be authorized to spend up to 6/12 of the budgeted amount of the 2023 annual budget during the period of January 1, 2023 to 2024 Town Meeting.

Vote taken 21-0 in favor Passed

(Recommended)

Art. 32 To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$5.00 from each snowmobile registration tax refund, said monies to be used as Snowmobile Recreation Fund to be administered under the supervision of the Frye Mountain Snowmobile Club.

Vote taken 20-0 in favor Passed

(Recommended)

Art. 33 To see if the Town will vote to accept 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 already gives them. This will help the club with bridge repairs and/ or other such things.

Vote taken 20-0 in favor Passed

(Recommended)

Art. 34 To see if the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate \$800.00 for flags for the telephone poles.

Diana Prizio asked that the article be amended to read American Flags

Vote taken to amend 21-0 in favor Passed

Vote taken on article 22-0 in favor Passed

(Recommended)

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.

Vote taken 24-0 in favor Passed

(Recommended \$1,000.00)

Art. 36 To see if the Town will vote to allow Hilltop Store to get a liquor license to sell hard liquor.

Vote taken 12-9 1 abstain Passed

Art.37 To see if the Town will vote to authorize email and postal mail notifications of all town meetings, special town meetings, sale of tax acquired property and any other town business as it pertains to the residence of the town.

Amendment to also put town information on the Town's website along with emails to Town's residents

Vote taken on amendment 21-0 Passed

Vote taken on complete article 21-4 in favor Passed

(Petition)

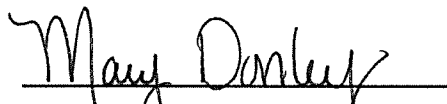
Art.38 Motion to Adjourn

The Registrar of Voters will hold office hours while the Town Meeting is open to correct any errors in or changes to name, or address on the voting list. They will also be available for anyone eligible to vote to register.

Motion taken to adjourn meeting: Meeting adjourned at 12:55pm

A true copy of the Warrant,

Attest:



Mary Donley, Town Clerk

Selectmen of Knox

Galen D Larrabee

Bruce Grass

William I Ingraham