

WARRANT

STATE OF MAINE AROOSTOOK, SS

TO: John Ribe, a resident and citizen of the Town of Weston, County of Aroostook, and State of Maine.

GREETINGS:

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby requested to notify and warn the Inhabitants of the Town of Weston, in said county, qualified to vote in Town affairs, to **MEET** at the **WESTON TOWN OFFICE, IN SAID TOWN, ON JUNE 8, 2024 AT 9:00 O'CLOCK AM IN THE MORNING** to act on the following articles to wit:

- Art. #1 To elect a **MODERATOR** to preside at said Meeting.
- Art. #2 To elect one **SELECTPERSON** for a term of *three* (3) years. The *three* (3) year term of **Kevin Sipple** having expired.
- Art. #3 To elect one **School Board Member** for a term of *three* (3) years. The term of **Felicia Cowger** having expired.
- Art. #4 To see if the Town will vote to set the date that property taxes will be due as ***due upon receipt***, and to give a ***2% discount*** for payment of taxes within thirty (30) days of commitment date, and to fix the rate of ***interest at 7%*** for unpaid amounts beginning sixty (60) days after the commitment date, and to allow receipt of taxes from **tax club members** ***without interest*** after due date, and to fix the rate of interest paid for **overpayments** at ***3%*** per annum.
- Art. #5 To see if the Town will vote to authorize the tax collector to accept prepayment for *2024/2025* and *2025/2026* taxes that are not yet due or assessed, and to pay ***interest thereon*** at a rate of ***0%*** pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. § 506.
- Art. #6 To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen to procure a loan or temporary loan or loans in anticipation of taxes, for the purpose of paying obligations of the Town, such loans to be repaid during the current tax year. Also, to authorize the Selectmen, (for and on behalf of the town), at their discretion as to the time, interest and term of payment, to aggregate, loans to be paid during the current year by taxes, such notes to be signed by the Selectmen and Treasurer.
- Art. #7 To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to transfer funds from the excise tax account to such appropriated accounts as required covering account overdrafts.
- Art. #8 To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen, on behalf of the Town, to dispose of any real estate acquired by the Town, for nonpayment of taxes thereon, on such terms as they may deem advisable and to execute quit claim deeds for same; except that the Municipal Officers shall use the special sale process required by 36 M.R.S.A §943-C if they choose to sell it to anyone other than the former owner(s); and at their discretion may retain such property; and further allow the Selectmen to authorize the Treasurer to waive automatic lien foreclosures when it is in the best interest of the Town.

Art. #9 To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to borrow or appropriate from undesignated funds, as they deem advisable to meet unexpected expenses or emergencies that occur during the fiscal year 2024-25.

Recommendation: from Undesignated Fund: 25,000.00

Art. #10 To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for **Town Officials** for the ensuing year. Officers to include:

| | |
|---------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Selectmen/Overseers of the poor | 5,250.00 |
| Planning Board Chairman | 600.00 |
| Planning Board Members | 1,600.00 |
| Appeals Board (if convened) | 150.00 |
| Code Enforcement Officer | 15,000.00 |
| Fire Ward/Forestry Liaison | 400.00 |
| Animal Control Officer/Travel/Fees/Supplies | 1,000.00 |
| Sexton | 350.00 |
| Social Security/Medicare | 1,878.00 |
| Travel/Education | 1,775.00 |
| LHO (Local Health Officer) | 200.00 |
| TOTAL | 28,203.00 |

FY 23-24 \$27,554.00

Recommendation:

| | | |
|---------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| From Revenue: | 8,460.90 | 30.0% |
| From Property Tax: | 19,742.10 | 70.0% |
| TOTAL | 28,203.00 | |

Art. #11 To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for General Government for the ensuing year. General Government will include the following:

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Administrative Assistant | 60,000.00 |
| Part-Time Help | 20,800.00 |
| Social Security/Medicare | 6,181.20 |
| Audit | 4,200.00 |
| Office Expense: includes utilities, bldg. maint., supplies, dues/membership, elections, postage, computer maint. contract, advertising, copier contract, printing and misc. | 24,960.00 |
| Travel & Education | 3,350.00 |
| Legal | 2,000.00 |
| TOTAL | \$121,491.20 |

FY 23-24 \$81,181.00

Recommendation:

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| From Excise Tax: | 31,230.87 | 26.0% |
| From Revenue: | 14,871.84 | 12.0% |
| From Property Tax: | 7,435.92 | 6.0% |
| From Undesignated Fund: | 20,820.58 | 17.0% |
| From Orient Contract: | 47,132.00 | 39.0% |
| TOTAL | 121,491.10 | |

Art. #12 To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for a Capital Office Reserve to be available to the Selectmen to expend as needed. Funds will be set aside in a reserve account for future capital expenditures for the office.

*FY 23-24 \$500.00
Balance as of 05/10/2024- \$792.52*

Recommendation: From Revenue: 500.00

Art. #13 To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Town Insurances for the ensuing year.

FY 23-24 \$44,911.00

Recommendation: From Property Tax: 17,724.72 38%
From Revenue: 10,261.68 22%
From Excise: 18,657.60 40%
TOTAL 46,644.00

Art. #14 To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for a certified assessor to assist the local assessors for the ensuing year.

FY 23-24 \$7,500.00

Recommendation: From Revenue: 10,000.00

Art. #15 To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for Revaluation, to be set aside in a reserve account.

*FY 23-24 \$4,000.00
Balance as of 05/10/2024 \$55,863.52*

Recommendation: From Property Tax: 4,000.00

Art. #16 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from overlay for discounts, approved tax abatements and applicable interest granted during the fiscal year of 2023/2024. *(Explanation: The Selectmen, as Assessors, are authorized to raise Overlay under Title 36 MRSA section 710 but require voter authorization to spend Overlay. Overlay cannot be more than 5% of the Tax Commitment.)*

FY 23-24 Overlay Authorized

Recommendation: From Overlay: Yes

Art. #17 To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Town Road Maintenance and to designate the account as non-lapsing and to authorize the Selectmen to expend funds into the following fiscal year as they deem appropriate. (Includes Salt for Winter Roads).

FY 23-24 \$27,450.00 bal. as of 05/01/2024 \$0.00

Recommendation: From Property Tax: 27,950.00

Art. #18 To see if the Town will vote to accept monies from LRAP and appropriate those monies for Capital Road Projects.

FY 23-24 \$13,000.00

Recommendation: Estimated from LRAP: 16,000.00

Art. #19 To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Snow Removal for the ensuing year. (2nd year of three- year Contract).

FY 23-24 \$75,000.00

Recommendation: From Property Tax: 75,000.00

| | | | | |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|
| .Art. #20 | To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Town Transfer Station for the ensuing year. <i>FY 23-24 \$67,930.00</i> | Recommendation: | From Property Tax: | 71,230.00 |
| Art. #21 | To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Fire Protection contract with Danforth for the ensuing year. <i>FY 23-24 \$6,500.00</i> | Recommendation: | From Property Tax: | 6,500.00 |
| Art. #22 | To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for General Assistance for the ensuing year. <i>FY 23-24 \$3,500.00</i> | Recommendation: | From Undesignated Fund: | 3,500.00 |
| Art. #23 | To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Mowing of Town Cemeteries and Public Lands for the ensuing year. (2nd year of three-year contract) <i>FY 23-24 \$5,250.00</i> | Recommendation: | From Property Tax: | 5,250.00 |
| Art. #24 | To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Ambulance Service for the ensuing year. Funds are administered through the Northern Washington Southern Arrostook Regional Ambulance Service Committee. <i>FY 23-24 \$17,100.00</i> | Recommendation: | From Property Tax: | 20,625.00 |
| Art. #25 | To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for Capital Road Reserve. <i>FY 23-24 \$30,000.00</i> <i>Balance as of 05/10/2024 \$91,164.10</i> | Recommendation: | From Property Tax: | 30,000.00 |
| Art. #26 | To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate an amount not to exceed \$ 52,867.00 for the payment due on the loan/note borrowed in 2024 for Harris Hill Road reconstruction. <i>(Principal \$50,000/ Interest \$2,867)</i> <i>FY 2023-2024 \$35,411.00</i> | Recommendation: | From Property Tax: | 52,867.00 |
| Art. #27 | To see what sum the Town will vote to authorize to be expended from Town Cemeteries Repair Reserve Account for repair to the Town's cemeteries. <i>Balance as of 05/10/2024 \$19,688.82</i> | Recommendation: | From Reserve Account: | 12,000.00 |
| Art. #28 | To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$200.00 for the sludge disposal fee for Houlton Septic System for the ensuing year. <i>Closed article</i> <i>FY 22-23 \$187.20</i> | Recommendation: | From Property Tax: | 200.00 |

Art. #29 To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Dues/Memberships as follows:

| | |
|------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Northern Maine Development Commission- | \$ 968.60 |
| Maine Municipal Association- | \$1,703.00 |
| Food Pantry- | \$3,100.00 |
| Danforth Library- | \$ 300.00 |
| Greater East Grand Area Chamber | \$ 100.00 |
| Cary Library- | \$ 674.00 |
| Houlton Humane Society- | \$ 793.00 |
| S. Aroostook Soil & Water Con. District- | \$ 100.00 |
| <u>East Grand Snowmobile Club-</u> | <u>\$ 60.00</u> |

FY 23-24 \$6,949.89

Recommendation: From Property Tax: 7,798.60

Art. #30 To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Third- Party requests as follows:

| | |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Maine Public Broadcasting Network- | \$ 100.00 |
| Aroostook County Action Program- | \$ 91.00 |
| N. Maine Veterans Cemetery in Caribou- | \$ 100.00 |
| Memorial Day Cemetery Flags- | \$ 200.00 |
| Aroostook Area Agency on Aging- | \$ 200.00 |
| Community Health & Counseling Services- | \$ 130.00 |
| Sister Mary O'Donnell Shelter- | \$ 428.75 |
| Healthy Families of Aroostook- | \$ 200.00 |
| American Red Cross- | \$ 300.00 |
| Lifelight of Maine- | \$ 245.00 |
| Danforth Livable Comm. Center | \$ 776.25 |
| Danforth Summerfest (fireworks)- | \$ 500.00 |
| <u>Young People of the Town</u> | <u>\$1,000.00</u> |

FY 23-24 \$3,991.00

Recommendation: From Property Tax: 4,271.00

Art. #31 To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the money received from the State for registration of snowmobiles to the East Grand Snowmobile Club for the purpose of maintaining its snowmobile trails, on condition that those trails are open in snow season to the public for outdoor recreation purposes at no charge.

FY 23-24 \$258.18

Art. #32 To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for the boat ramp construction.

Special Projects Bal. \$62,419.19 as of 05/01/2024

Recommendation: From Property Tax: \$15,000.00

Art. #33 To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to expend funds received through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), following the guidelines set forth in the Act for the benefit of the Town or its residents.

Recommendation: YES

Art. #34 To see if the Town will vote to allow the Selectmen to accept monetary donations and to give the Selectmen permission to spend such amount in Cemetery Maintenance unless otherwise specified by donor, with balance being carried forward in a special account.
Current balance \$500.00- designated for Smith Cemetery (\$500.00 used on Smith Cemetery FY17)

Art. #35 To see if the Town will vote to increase the property tax levy limit established for Weston 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 that property tax levy limit.

Written Ballot-

| ce | FY 23-24 | FY 24-25 | Difference |
|--------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| Informational note | | | |
| Undesignated | \$116,698.20 | \$ 49,320.58 | -\$67,412.62 |
| Revenue | \$ 42,382.82 | \$ 44,094.42 | +\$ 1,711.60 |
| Excise | \$ 62,060.42 | \$ 49,888.47 | -\$12,173.20 |
| Property | \$336,256.69 | \$361,333.34 | +\$25,076.65 |
| Total Municipal | \$557,493.38 | \$504,363.81 | -\$ 52,517.77 |
| MSAD #14 | \$561,560.00 | \$580,000.00* | +\$ 0.00 |
| County Tax | \$ 90,042.00 | \$125,000.00 * | +\$34,958.00 |
| Net Property Tax | \$1,209,036.38 | \$1,209,636.81 | +\$ 600.43 |

*Estimated/not approved as of this printing

THE REGISTRAR HEREBY GIVES NOTICE THAT HE WILL BE IN SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF REVISING AND CORRECTING THE LIST OF VOTERS AT THE TOWN OFFICE, AT 8:00 AM ON THE DAY OF SAID MEETING.

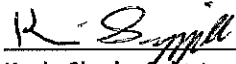
SIGNED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2024



Michael Cheetham, Chairman of Board of Selectboard

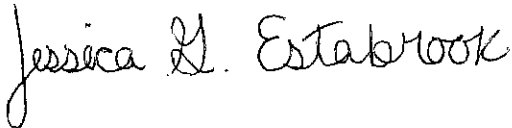


Karen Cummings, Selectperson



Kevin Sipple, Selectperson

I attest that the above named appeared before me and signed this warrant of their own free will.



Jessica Estabrook, Deputy Municipal Clerk

Dated: 5/16/24

I ATTEST THIS IS A TRUE COPY.

