

**TOWN OF ORIENT**

**WARRANT ARTICLES**

Town of Orient  
Annual Town Meeting 2024

Aroostook, ss.

**To Barbara Sharpe, a resident of the Town of Orient.**

Greetings:

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Orient, qualified to vote in Town affairs, to meet at the Orient Town Hall, in said Town, on **Tuesday, June 11, 2024** at 10:00 A.M. to vote on articles **1-3**

**Art. 1** To choose the Moderator to preside at said meeting. (Written Vote)

**Polling hours for the election of the municipal officer and school board member will be held from 10:00 A.M.to 8:00 P.M.;**

**Art. 2** To elect One (1) Selectperson, for a term of three years. The term of Paul Lamach expiring. (Secret Ballot)

**Art. 3** To elect one (1) member of the schoolboard for a term of three years. The term of Susan Lamach expiring. (Secret Ballot)

**And then the Town Meeting will reconvene on Saturday June 15, 2024 at 10.00 A.M. to vote on the remaining articles 4 through 38 to wit:**

**Art. 4** To see if the Town will vote to set the date that property taxes will be due as **due upon commitment** to tax collector, and to give a **2% discount** for payment of taxes within thirty (30) days of commitment date, to fix the rate of **interest at 6%** for unpaid amounts beginning sixty (60) days after the commitment date, and to fix the rate of interest for **overpayments at 3%** per annum.

**Recommendation:** YES

**Art.5** To see if the town will vote to authorize the tax collector to accept prepayments of taxes not yet due or assessed, and to pay **interest thereon** at a rate of **0%** pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. § 506.

**Recommendation:** YES

**Art. 6** 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 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.

**Recommendation: YES**

**Art. 7** To see what sum of money 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 fiscal year 2024-2025.

**Recommendation: Undesignated Funds \$25,000**

**Art. 8** To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to procure a loan, loans or a temporary loan 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 Selectboard, 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 Selectboard and Treasurer.

**Recommendation: YES**

**Art. 9** To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to enter into a 1- year contract for FY 2024-2025 with the Town of Weston for the purpose of conducting the daily operations of the Town of Orient. The contract amount of **\$47,132.00** is included in the following articles.

**Recommendation: YES**

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

Selectmen/Assessors	\$7,500
Planning Board Members (5)	\$3,200
Appeals Board (3) (if convened) \$50 per meeting	\$300
Code Enforcement Officer	\$15,000
Admin. Assistant. (contract with Weston)	\$20,000
Part-Time Office (contract with Weston)	\$20,800
FICA	\$4,150
Medicare	\$970
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$71,920.00</b>

FY23-24 \$73,202.00

**Recommendation:**

<b>From Property Tax:</b>	<b>\$57,536.00</b>	<b>80%</b>
<b>From Excise Tax:</b>	<b><u>\$14,384.00</u></b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$71,920.00</b>	



**Art. 16** To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for grounds maintenance at Peter's Cove Cemetery and the Town Office.

*FY 23-24 \$2,700.00*

**Recommendation: From Property Tax: \$2,700**

**Art. 17** To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Municipal Solid Waste Disposal and operation of the Transfer Station.

*FY 23-24 \$75,000.00 (Year 1 of a 3-year contract)*

**Recommendation: From Property Tax: \$68,242**

**Art. 18** To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Town's Insurances. Includes Property and Casualty, Forest Fire, Liability, Unemployment and Worker's Compensation.

*FY 23-24 \$10,100.00*

**Recommendation: From Property Tax: \$12,100**

**Art.19** To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the annual Ambulance Service Contract.

*FY 23-24 \$11,652.00*

**Recommendation: From Property Tax: \$13,100**

**Art. 20** To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for the Fire Protection Contract.

*FY 23-24 \$6,000.00*

**Recommendation: From Property Tax: \$6,000**

**Art. 21** To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for the Snow Removal Contract and Salt.

*FY 23-24 \$105,000.00*

**Recommendation: From Property Tax: \$97,250**

**Art. 22** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$1,675.00** for 2025 calendar year membership dues to the Maine Municipal Association. *(Closed article-may not be increased) FY 23-24 \$1,600.00*

**Recommendation: From Property Tax: \$1,675**

**Art. 23** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$807.43** for 2024-2025 dues for membership to the Northern Maine Development Commission. *(Closed article-may not be increased) FY 23-24 \$828.73*

**Recommendation: From Property Tax: \$807.43**

**Art. 24** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$483.00** requested by Cary Library as a user fee. *(Closed article-may not be increased)*

*FY 23-24 \$472.00*

**Recommendation: From Property tax \$483**

**Art. 25** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$800.00 to contract with the Houlton Humane Society Animal Shelter. *(State Animal Welfare Law requires every town to provide an animal shelter for stray or unwanted pets.) (Closed article-may not be increased)*  
 FY 23-24 \$570.00 (actual bill was 775.00)

**Recommendation: From Property Tax: \$800**

**Art. 26** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the amounts listed to support the following organizations:

Lifelight Foundation	\$156.00
Town of Danforth Library	\$75.00
ACAP	\$59.00
Aroostook Area Agency on Aging	\$100.00
Southern Aroostook Soil and Water District	\$100.00
Danforth Livable Communities	\$528.75
Northern Maine Veterans' Cemetery	\$200.00
Maine Public Radio	\$150.00
Community Health and Counseling Services	\$100.00
American Red Cross	\$150.00
Greater East Grand Lake Area Chamber of Commerce	\$100.00
MacAllister Cove Fireworks	\$350.00
CLIC	\$35.00
Danforth Summerfest	\$150.00
MTCCA. MMTCTA	\$60.00
FY 23-24 \$2,078.75	

**Recommendation: From Property Tax: \$2,313.75**

**Art. 27** To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$500.00 for the youth of the town. *(to include Project Graduation, MSB Bike raffle and other local youth activities)*

**Recommendation: From Property Tax: \$500**

**Art. 28** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$170.00 for septic disposal. *(Closed article-may not be increased)*

FY 23-24 \$ 140.00

**Recommendation: From Property Tax: \$170.00**

**Art.29** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Treasurer to give to the local snowmobile club, for trail grooming, signs, etc., the snowmobile license refund money returned to the Town by the State of Maine.

FY 23-24 \$99.30

**Recommendation: Yes, split equally between Linneus and East Grand**

**Art. 30** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for costs associated with the Orient Food Pantry.

*FY 23-24 \$3,600.00*

**Recommendation:** **From Property Tax: \$3,600**

**Art. 31** To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for General Assistance for the ensuing year.

*FY 23-24 \$2,500 from Property Tax*

**Recommendation:** **From Undesignated: \$2,500**

**Art. 32** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for a major capital reserve expenditures account to include sand/salt shed or new town office.

*FY 23-24 \$15,000.00*

*Balance as of 05/10/24 \$153,841.91*

**Recommendation:** **From Property Tax: \$15,000**

**Art. 33** To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for the Capital Building Reserve Account.

*FY 23-24 \$10,000.00 expended*

*Balance as of 05/10/24 \$27,370.40*

**Recommendation:** **From Property Tax: \$1,000**

**Art. 34** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for a Capital Road Reserve Account.

*FY23-24 \$0*

*Balance as of 05/20/24 \$41,361.97*

**Recommendation:** **From Property tax: \$15,000**

**Art. 35** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$30,000 from undesignated funds to reduce property taxes.

*FY 23-24 \$20,000.00*

**Recommendation:** **Yes**

**Art. 36** To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to expend funds from the ARPA (*American Rescue Plan Act*) in accordance with the Act guidelines and for the benefit of the Town.

*Balance as of 05/10/24 \$14,876.25*

**Recommendation:** **YES**

**Art. 37** To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to accept donations or gifts on the Town's behalf; such donations or gifts to be utilized towards cemetery maintenance unless otherwise specified by the donor/gifter. Unused balance to be set aside in a separate account for future use.

**Recommendation:** **YES**

**Art. 38** To see if the Town will vote to increase the property tax levy limit established for Orient 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.

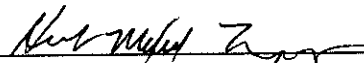
**Written Ballot**

<b>E N D</b>				
<b>SOURCE</b>	<b>FY 23-24</b>	<b>FY 24-25</b>	<b>DIFFERENCE</b>	
UNDESIGNATED	\$ 55,000.00	\$ 57,500.00	\$	2,500.00
REVENUE	\$ -	\$ 10,000.00	\$	10,000.00
EXCISE	\$ -	\$ 22,085.60	\$	22,085.60
PROPERTY TAX	\$ 427,801.48	\$ 366,884.40	\$	(60,917.08)
<b>TOTAL MUNICIPAL</b>	<b>\$ 482,801.48</b>	<b>\$ 456,470.00</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>(26,331.48)</b>
EDUCATION	\$ 235,254.00	\$ 234,838.00	\$	(416.00)
COUNTY TAX	\$ 82,108.00	\$ 110,000.00	\$	27,892.00
<b>TOTAL PROPERTY</b>	<b>\$ 745,163.48</b>	<b>\$ 711,722.40</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>(33,441.08)</b>
INFORMATIONAL NOTE ONLY				
<i>ITALICIZED FIGURES ARE ESTIMATES ONLY</i>				

The Registrar hereby gives notice that he/she will be in session for the purpose of revising and correcting the list of voters at the Town Office one (1) hour before the above meeting.



Paul Lamach

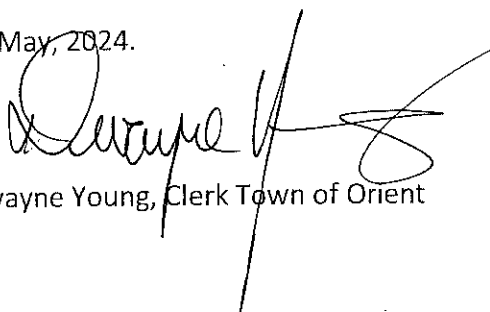


Heather Zakupowsky

Date May 22, 2024

Keith Hayes

The above Selectpersons signed of their own free will and in my presence this 22 day of May, 2024.



Dwayne Young, Clerk Town of Orient