

WARRANT FOR 2021 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

TO: Christopher Lascoutx, Constable, Town of Washington.

GREETINGS

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the voters of the Town of Washington, Knox County, Maine, qualified by law to vote in town affairs, to meet at the Bryant Room of the Gibbs Library, 40 Old Union Road, Washington, on Friday, March 26, 2021, at 8:00 a.m., then and there to act on Article 1 and by secret ballot on Article 2, as set out below, the polling hours therefore to be from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.: **(should have read 10:00am until 8pm; MMA approved that we could still hold elections and meeting as we generally start at 10:00am and no one was waiting)**

And to notify and warn said voters to meet at the Prescott Memorial School, 100 Waldoboro Road, Washington, on Saturday, March 27, 2021, at 10:00 a.m., then and there to act on Articles 3 through 38 as set out below, to wit:

Article 1: To choose a moderator by written ballot to preside at said meeting.

Town Clerk, Mary Anderson, opened town meeting before the polls were opened for the Town Election. Phil Meunier, Fire Chief, led the Pledge of Allegiance. A motion was made and seconded to nominate Walter Metcalf as moderator who was the only nominee and then was elected with 3 votes. The Town Clerk duly swore him into office.

Article 2: To elect all necessary town officers and school board members as are required to be elected.

A motion was made and seconded to elect all necessary town officers and school board members as are required to be elected. The ballot box was inspected and secured. Walter Metcalf opened the polls.

Linda Luce, Elizabeth Grinnell and Deborah RoyRoberts, checked in voters. The polls were closed at 8p.m. by Moderator Walter Metcalf. Ballots Clerks Nancy Barker and Stephanie Grinnell counted the ballots. The moderator adjourned the meeting until 10a.m Saturday, March 27, 2021, at the Prescott Memorial School.

**On Saturday, March 27, 2021, Linda Luce and Mildred Melgard checked in 52 voters into the town meeting. Michael Mayo was sworn in as Deputy Moderator. The town clerk announced the results of Article 2 as follows: 108 votes cast
The following is a list of ballots cast:**

Selectman/Assessor/Overseer of the Poor 3 year term:

Berkley Linscott: 42

Mitch Garnett (write in): 60

Other write ins: 5

Blank: 1

School Board member: 3 year term:

Write ins: 16 total, no clear winner

Blank: 92

Town Clerk, Mary Anderson opened Town Meeting and Fire Chief, Phil Meunier, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Wesley Daniel presented the Spirit of America, Unsung Hero Awards for 2020 and 2021. The Town of Washington has been presenting these awards since 2007. Due to COVID-19 last year's award was postponed. The recipients of the 2020 award are Angela Stevens and Travis Perez; the recipient of the 2021 award is Deborah Vannah.

Article 3: To elect seven citizens and two alternates to serve on the Town of Washington Budget Committee.

A motion was made and seconded to elect seven citizens and two alternates to serve on the Town of Washington Budget Committee.

Michael Mayo called for nominations for seven citizens and two alternates to serve on the Budget Committee. Mary Anderson read the list of nominees who were elected unanimously: Jesse Casas, Donald Grinnell, Kathleen Ocean, David Martucci, David Williams, Wendy Carr, Deborah Bocko. Peg Hobbs and Walter Metcalf were elected as alternates.

All in favor of this slate

Article 4: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to appoint all necessary town officials.

A motion was made and seconded to authorize the Selectmen to appoint all necessary town officials.

Motion carries unanimously

Article 4 passes.

Article 5: To see if the Town will vote to authorize that the Plumbing Inspector be paid from fees collected from plumbing permits; the E911 Coordinator be paid from E911 application fees; and the Driveway Entrance Coordinator be paid from driveway entrance application fees.

A motion was made and seconded to authorize that the Plumbing Inspector be paid from fees collected from plumbing permits; the E911 Coordinator be paid from E911 application fees; and the Driveway Entrance Coordinator be paid from driveway entrance application fees.

Motion carries unanimously

Article 5 passes.

Article 6: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to spend an amount not to exceed 3/12 of the budgeted amount in each budgeted category of the 2021 annual budget during the period from January 1, 2022, to the date of the 2022 Annual Town Meeting.

Explanation: This article legalizes municipal expenditures made after the fiscal year ends, but before the next Annual Town Meeting.

A motion was made and seconded to authorize the Municipal Officers to spend an amount not to exceed 3/12 of the budgeted amount in each budgeted category of the 2021 annual budget during the period from January 1, 2022, to the date of the 2022 Annual Town Meeting.

Motion carries unanimously

Article 6 passes.

Article 7: To see if the Town will fix a date when taxes will be due and payable, and fix a rate of interest to be charged on unpaid taxes after said date.
(Selectmen and Tax Collector recommend 2021 taxes will be due and payable on October 1, 2021)
(Maximum interest rate on overdue taxes allowed by State Law: 8.0%)

Moderator asked that the body consider Articles 7 & 8 already moved and seconded; no objection.

The Town will fix the date of October 1, 2021 that 2021 taxes will be due and payable with the maximum interest rate on overdue taxes to be 8%.

Article 7 passes.

Article 8: To see if the Town will vote to set the interest rate to be paid by the Town on abated taxes at 4%.
Explanation: If taxes are paid and later abated, the Town must refund the abated taxes and pay interest on them. 36 MRSA, Sub. Sect. 506A calls for interest of 8% on abated taxes if the Town fails to set a rate. The rate set by the Town cannot be less than 4%.

The Town will set the interest rate to be paid by the Town on abated taxes at 4%.

Article 8 passes.

The moderator would like to consider Article 9 through Article 21 to be moved and seconded on the floor for discussion; no objection.

Article 9: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to make a final determination regarding the closing or opening of roads to winter maintenance pursuant to 23 MRSA Section 2953.

The Town will authorize the Municipal Officers to make a final determination regarding the closing or opening of roads to winter maintenance pursuant to 23 MRSA Section 2953.

Article 9 passes.

Article 10: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to sell and dispose of property acquired by tax liens, other liens, or other processes, and to issue quitclaim deeds for same. Before going to public auction, Selectmen are authorized to offer the sale of the property to the former owner for back taxes, interests, and costs. If the offer is not accepted in 60 days, the Selectmen may dispose of the property by public auction. All net proceeds from any auction shall be placed in the town's road reserve account.

The Town will authorize the Selectmen to sell and dispose of property acquired by tax liens, other liens, or other processes, and to issue quitclaim deeds for same. Before going to public auction, Selectmen are authorized to offer the sale of the property to the former owner for back taxes, interests, and costs. If the offer is not accepted in 60 days, the Selectmen may dispose of the property by public auction. All net proceeds from any auction shall be placed in the town's road reserve account.

Article 10 passes.

Article 11: To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen to appropriate money from the sale of any Town tax acquired lands to pay the costs of said sale.

The Town will authorize the Selectmen to appropriate money from the sale of any Town tax acquired lands to pay the costs of said sale.

Article 11 passes.

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to dispose of town-owned items with a value of \$5,000.00 or less under such terms and conditions as they deem advisable, and to place the proceeds of sale to the General Fund or Reserve Account that is appropriate.

The Town will authorize the Selectmen to dispose of town-owned items with a value of \$5,000.00 or less under such terms and conditions as they deem advisable, and to place the proceeds of sale to the General Fund or Reserve Account that is appropriate.

Article 12 passes.

Article 13: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to sell surplus equipment with expected value over \$5000.00 by sealed bid, and to place the proceeds of the sale in a General Fund or Reserve Account, as appropriate.

The Town will authorize the Selectmen to sell surplus equipment with expected value over \$5000.00 by sealed bid, and to place the proceeds of the sale in a General Fund or Reserve Account, as appropriate.

Article 13 passes.

Article 14: To see if the Town will authorize the Tax Collector to accept prepayment of taxes for the years 2021 and 2022 for taxes not yet due or assessed and for no interest to accrue.

The Town will authorize the Tax Collector to accept prepayment of taxes for the years 2021 and 2022 for taxes not yet due or assessed and for no interest to accrue.

Article 14 passes.

Article 15: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector to offer a Tax Club Payment Plan and to waive interest on taxes for those accounts that are kept current.

The Town will authorize the Tax Collector to offer a Tax Club Payment Plan and to waive interest on taxes for those accounts that are kept current.

Article 15 passes.

Article 16: To see if the Town will vote to authorize municipal officials to apply for Homeland Security and/or other grants that may come available.

The Town will authorize municipal officials to apply for Homeland Security and/or other grants that may come available.

Article 16 passes.

Article 17: To see if the Town will vote to spend any grant money received, not to exceed the amount of the grant, for the stated purposes of the grant only.

The Town will spend any grant money received, not to exceed the amount of the grant, for the stated purposes of the grant only.

Article 17 passes.

Article 18: To see if the Town will vote to move the 2021 overlay, plus supplemental tax assessments and less any tax abatements, into the Road Maintenance Reserve Account.

The Town will move the 2021 overlay, plus supplemental tax assessments and less any tax abatements, into the Road Maintenance Reserve Account.

Article 18 passes.

Article 19: To see if the Town will vote to move any monies remaining in the Public Safety account on December 31, 2021 to the Fire Equipment Reserve account.

The Town will move any monies remaining in the Public Safety account on December 31, 2021 to the Fire Equipment Reserve account.

Article 19 passes.

Article 20: To see if the Town will vote to approve moving \$5000.00 from the sale of the old Fire Tanker Chassis from Surplus to the Fire Truck Replacement Reserve account.

The Town will approve moving \$5000.00 from the sale of the old Fire Tanker Chassis from Surplus to the Fire Truck Replacement Reserve account.

Article 19 passes.

Article 21: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the 2021 Snowmobile Refund to the Washington Hill & Gully Riders for the sole purpose of maintaining their snowmobile trails, to be open to the use of the public from November 15 until April 1 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, or see what action the Town will take.

Explanation: The snowmobile registration money must be appropriated annually by the Town for whatever purpose it desires. If all or part of it is appropriated to the snowmobile club, one of the conditions of that appropriation must be that the club's trails are open to public use. Otherwise, it would be an illegal appropriation of public funds for a private group.

The moderator asked if anyone has any concern with considering the Articles on the floor for discussion and avoiding moved and seconded; no objection.

The Town will appropriate the 2021 Snowmobile Refund to the Washington Hill & Gully Riders for the sole purpose of maintaining their snowmobile trails, to be open to the use of the public from November 15 until April 1 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, or see what action the Town will take.

Article 21 passes.

Article 22: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the following General Fund revenues to be applied toward the 2021 property tax commitment, thereby decreasing the 2021 tax commitment by \$469,275.00.

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend:

Excise Tax Revenue	250,000.00
Revenue Sharing	115,000.00
Tree Growth Reimbursement	3,000.00
Building Permits	1,500.00
Mining Permits and Inspections	4,000.00
Interest on Overdue Taxes	12,000.00
Veterans Reimbursement	1,600.00
General Fund Interest	5,000.00
Other Town Fees Collected	9,175.00
Unexpended 2020 Appropriations	45,000.00
Transferred from Undesignated Fund Balance	<u>50,000.00</u>
Total	\$496,275.00

David Martucci made a motion to amend the body of Article 22 to correct the amount to \$496,275.00.

Moved and seconded. Amendment passed unanimously.

The Town will vote to appropriate the following General Fund revenues to be applied toward the 2021 property tax commitment, thereby decreasing the 2021 tax commitment by ~~\$469,275.00~~ \$496,275.00

Article as amended carries unanimously

Article 22 passes.

Article 23: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$339,036.67 from property taxation for 2021 Knox County, Tri-County Solid Waste Management Organization and Union Ambulance assessments.

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend as advisory lines:

Knox County Tax Assessment	\$181,078.67
Knox County Communications	50,038.00
Union Ambulance	62,828.00
Tri-County Solid Waste	<u>45,092.00</u>
	\$339,036.67

The Town will raise and appropriate \$339,036.67 from property taxation for 2021 Knox County, Tri-County Solid Waste Management Organization and Union Ambulance assessments.

Article 23 passes.

Article 24: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$54,750.00 from property taxation for General Government Operations.

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend as advisory lines:

Legal Fees		7,500.00	
Administration		47,250.00	
Advertising	1,000.00		
Computer Annual Fees	15,000.00		
Audit of Town Books	7,000.00		
Computer Tech Support	1,000.00		
MMA Dues	3,000.00		
Workshops and Training	1,000.00		
Mileage	2,000.00		
Office Equipment	4,200.00		
Office Supplies	2,500.00		
Postage	3,100.00		
Selectmen Discretionary Fund	500.00		
Tax Maps	1,000.00		
Tax Billing	1,500.00		
Town Report Printing	3,000.00		
Tax Anticipation Note	1,000.00		
Money Order Fees	450.00		
	Subtotal	47,250.00	
			Total <u>\$54,750.00</u>

The Town will raise and appropriate \$54,750.00 from property taxation for General Government Operations.

Article 24 passes.

Article 25: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$31,519.00 from property taxation for Insurance.

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend as advisory lines:

MMA Insurance Risk Pool	\$ 21,935.00
Unemployment Insurance	672.00
Worker's Compensation Premium	8,012.00
Volunteer Insurance	100.00
Firefighter Accident Insurance	<u>800.00</u>
	Total \$ 31,519.00

The Town will raise and appropriate \$31,519.00 from property taxation for Insurance.

Article 25 passes.

Article 26: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$205,437.00 from property taxation for Salaries, Stipends, Employee Health Insurance, and Payroll Expenses.

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend as advisory lines:

Salaries and Stipends	\$143,692.00	
Selectmen (3)	19,500.00	
Secretary - Selectmen	800.00	
Town Clerk/Tax Collector	23,445.00	
Treasurer	13,155.00	
Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector/Treasurer	24,160.00	
Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector/Treasurer II	14,832.00	
Ballot Clerks	2,500.00	
EMA Director	750.00	
Health Officer	1,000.00	
Fire Warden (2)	300.00	
Fire Chief	4,000.00	
Deputy Fire Chief	3,000.00	
Firefighter Stipends	3,750.00	
Secretary - Planning Board	1,000.00	
Secretary – Appeals Board	400.00	
Assessor’s Agent	5,000.00	
Animal Control Officer	3,000.00	
Code Enforcement Officer	20,000.00	
Constable	100.00	
Moderator of open March town meeting	200.00	
School Board Member Stipend (2)	1,000.00	
Custodial Services	<u>1,800.00</u>	
Sub-total	\$143,692.00	
Town Portion of Employee Health Insurance	39,600.00	
FICA Payroll Expenses	<u>22,145.00</u>	
		<u>\$61,745.00</u>
		Total \$205,437.00

The Town will raise and appropriate \$205,437.00 from property taxation for Salaries, Stipends, Employee Health Insurance, and Payroll Expenses.

Article 26 passes.

Article 27: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$437,774.00 from property taxation for Maintenance of Town Roads and related operations.
Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend as advisory lines:

Road Maintenance Materials & Supplies	10,000.00
Plow Truck Payment	20,184.00
Plow Truck Payment (P600, 2021)	18,800.00
Truck Fuel	19,500.00
Truck Maintenance	
P100	2,000.00
P200	4,000.00
P300	4,000.00
P400	2,000.00
P500	2,000.00
P600	2,000.00
Cutting Edges and Sander Chains	11,500.00
Culverts	3,000.00
Loader and Backhoe Fuel	3,500.00
Loader, Backhoe & Chipper Maintenance	5,500.00
Garage Mortgage	12,290.00
Garage Utilities	4,500.00
Garage Maintenance	2,500.00
Road Maintenance Labor	150,000.00
Equipment Rental	13,000.00
Screening Winter Sand	16,000.00
Road Salt	30,000.00
E911 and Road Signs	500.00
Paving and Capital Improvement of Town Roads	100,000.00
State Fee, Mining Permit	400.00
Driver OSHA and DOT Screening and Testing	<u>600.00</u>
Total	\$ 437,774.00

The Town will raise and appropriate \$437,774.00 from property taxation for Maintenance of Town Roads and related operations.

Article 27 passes.

Article 28: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,000.00 from property taxation for General Assistance.

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend as advisory lines:

General Assistance	2,000.00
--------------------	----------

The Town will raise and appropriate \$2,000.00 from property taxation for General Assistance.

Article 28 passes.

Article 29: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$82,865.00 from property taxation for Public Safety.

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend as advisory lines:

Fire Department General Support	12,500.00
Fire Department Equipment	12,000.00

Firefighter Training	2,000.00
Firefighter Physicals	2,500.00
Fire Truck Loan Payment	31,365.00
Tanker Truck Loan Payment	19,700.00
Hose Testing	<u>2,800.00</u>
Total	82,865.00

The Town will raise and appropriate \$82,865.00 from property taxation for Public Safety.

Article 29 passes.

Article 30: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$48,500.00 from property taxation for Utilities and Maintenance.

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend as advisory lines:

Town Utilities	14,000.00
Grounds and Monument Gardens	1,000.00
Building and Grounds Maintenance	8,000.00
Cemetery Maintenance	16,000.00
Street Lights	3,500.00
Municipal Complex Snow Removal	<u>6,000.00</u>
Total	48,500.00

The Town will raise and appropriate \$48,500.00 from property taxation for Utilities and Maintenance.

Article 30 passes.

Article 31: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$600.00 from property taxation for Boards and Committees.

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend as advisory lines:

Conservation and Parks Committee	200.00
Planning Board Expense	200.00
Comprehensive Plan and Ordinance Review Committee	<u>200.00</u>
Total	600.00

The Town will raise and appropriate \$600.00 from property taxation for Boards and Committees.

Article 31 passes.

Article 32: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$47,000.00 from property taxation for Town Carry-over Accounts.

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend as advisory lines:

Headstone Restoration Fund	1,000.00
West Washington Cemetery Restoration	3,000.00
Town Record Preservation Fund	3,000.00
Fire Truck Replacement Fund	20,000.00
Road Maintenance Truck Fund	<u>20,000.00</u>
Total	47,000.00

The Town will raise and appropriate \$47,000.00 from property taxation for Town Carry-over Accounts.

Article 32 passes.

Article 33: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$30,213.00 from property taxation for Miscellaneous Accounts.

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend as advisory lines:

Washington Library Association	15,000.00	
Washington Community Scholarship	1,000.00	
Minnie Weaver Scholarship	1,000.00	
Washington Historical Society	3,500.00	
Washington Food Pantry	2,000.00	
Mid-Coast Humane Society	2,215.00	
Flags for Veterans Graves and Town Parks	600.00	
Midcoast Conservancy Dues (Damariscotta Lake Watershed)	<u>50.00</u>	
	Sub-total	25,365.00
Social Agencies and Concerns		
New Hope for Women	750.00	
Waldo Community Action Partners	365.00	
Spectrum Generations	1,169.00	
Pine Tree Chapter, Red Cross	1,500.00	
Life Flight of Maine	764.00	
Gary Owen House	<u>300.00</u>	
	Sub-total	4,848.00
		Total \$30,213.00

The Town will raise and appropriate \$30,213.00 from property taxation for Miscellaneous Accounts.

Article 33 passes.

Article 34: To see if the Town will vote to authorize spending up to \$61,000.00 from the Local Roads Assistance Program (LRAP) for Capital Road Improvement.

The Town will authorize spending up to \$61,000.00 from the Local Roads Assistance Program (LRAP) for Capital Road Improvement.

Article 34 passes.

Article 35: To see if the Town will vote to authorize spending \$40,000 from the Undesignated Fund Balance (Surplus) for Paving.

The Town will authorize spending \$40,000 from the Undesignated Fund Balance (Surplus) for Paving.

Article 35 passes.

Article 36: To see if the Town will vote to authorize spending \$40,000 from the Undesignated Fund Balance (Surplus) to crush tailings into surface gravel.

The Town will authorize spending \$40,000 from the Undesignated Fund Balance (Surplus) to crush tailings into surface gravel.

David Martucci asked where the tailings are coming from. Tom Johnston explained the tailings are from screening our winter sand (everything that doesn't go into winter sand) and processed to make surface and gravel for our gravel roads. Janet Martucci asked where the tailings are generated. Tom Johnston stated they are from the town gravel pit. Kit Lascoutx asked who is doing the screening. Tom Johnston stated they asked for proposals on screening winter sand and crushing tailings and the best price they received was from R.S. Pidacks out of Livermore, ME.

Article 36 passes.

Article 37: To see if the Town will vote to investigate options to invest in infrastructure to provide equal access high speed internet to all areas of the town.

Explanation: The purpose of the vote is to demonstrate to potential Internet Service Providers, lenders, and grant sources that the Town supports improving our internet speeds. The vote would allow us to partner with a company and apply for a Community Planning Grant through the ConnectMaine Authority to explore options to improve our internet speeds. This would NOT commit the Town to any debt or specific Internet Service Provider.

The Town will investigate options to invest in infrastructure to provide equal access high speed internet to all areas of the town.

David Williams asked if we would come back again to appropriate money. Mike Mayo, moderator, said yes as the article is written it does not authorize the expenditure of any money. If money was to be expended in relation to this it would have to be brought before another town meeting under another article stating the amount. Donald Grinnell stated that the explanation does not say that. It says 'the vote would allow us to partner with a company and apply for a grant'. That means that if the application for a grant, if there is any matching funds with that this says the town can do it without coming back to the board. Mike Mayo stated, as voted on earlier 'any grant the town gets they can not exceed the expenditure of the grant amount' in a prior article that passed. Tom Johnston stated that most of the grant and processors want to know that the town is supportive of the process and this vote would allow the committee to say yes the town has voted to continue to investigate this. Nothing in this vote says we can spend money that we have not appropriated for. Sara Bullard, Chair of the Broadband Committee, stated for the Community Planning Grants we would partner with a consulting company and the fee of the company is included in the grant. It doesn't cost any money; their fee is part of the grant they are applying for.

Article 37 passes.

Article 38: To see if the Town will vote to permanently increase the property tax levy limit established for the Town of Washington 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 tax levy limit.

The Town will permanently increase the property tax levy limit established for the Town of Washington 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 tax levy limit.

Deborah Bocko asked if it has to be permanent. Tom Johnston stated that if the town committed future funds this year that would continue to exceed the property tax limit and the way the law is worded, if we don't vote to permanently increase that limit we would have to continue to vote to do that on a yearly basis. This allows us to continue. We don't have anything this year. Last year purchasing those two trucks and committing the town to making those payments may have exceeded the limit; this makes sure we can continue to make those payments.

Article 38 passes.

Given under our hands on this 24th day of February, 2021:

Wesley F. Daniel
Chairman, Board of Selectmen

Berkley Linscott
Selectman

Thomas N. Johnston
Selectman

Attest:
Mary Anderson, Town Clerk