

WARRANT FOR 2022 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 25, 2022, at 10:00 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 10:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.:

And to notify and warn said voters to meet at the Prescott Memorial School, 100 Waldoboro Road, Washington, on Saturday, March 26, 2022, at 10:00 a.m., then and there to act on Articles 3 through 44 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.

As Moderator, Walter Metcalf read Article 2, inspected and secured the ballot box and opened the polls.

Kathleen Ocean, Mildred Melgard, Katherine Grinnell and Elizabeth Grinnell checked in voters. The polls were closed at 8:00p.m. by Walter Metcalf. Ballot Clerks Katherine Grinnell and Stephanie Grinnell counted the ballots. Walter Metcalf adjourned the meeting until 10:00a.m. Saturday, March 26, 2022, at the Prescott Memorial School.

On Saturday, March 26, 2022, Michael Mayo was sworn in as Deputy Moderator. Mildred Melgard and Katherine Grinnell checked 80 voters into the town meeting. Six people in attendance were not registered voters. Town Clerk Mary Anderson opened Town Meeting and Fire Chief Phil Meunier, led the Pledge of Allegiance. The town clerk announced the results of Article 2 as follows: 59 votes cast

Select Board/Assessor/Overseer of the Poor - 3-year term

Wesley Daniel: 57

Write ins: 1

Blank: 1

School Board Member: 3-year term

Julia Abernethy (write in): 14

Charlotte Henderson presented the Spirit of America, Unsung Hero Award. The Town of Washington has been presenting this award since 2007. Wesley Daniel was the recipient of the 2022 award.

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. Wesley Daniel read the list of nominees who were elected unanimously: Wendy Carr, David Martucci, David Williams, Jesse Casas, Kathleen Ocean, Donald Grinnell, and Peg Hobbs. Deborah Bocko and Sean Donaghy were elected as alternates. Moved and seconded.

Motion carries unanimously.

Article 3 passes.

- Article 4: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to appoint all necessary town officials.
- A motion was made and seconded to authorize the Select Board 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 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 2022 annual budget during the period from January 1, 2023, to the date of the 2023 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 2022 annual budget during the period from January 1, 2023, to the date of the 2023 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.
- (Select Board and Tax Collector recommend 2022 taxes will be due and payable on October 1, 2022)*
(Maximum interest rate on overdue taxes allowed by State Law: 4.0%)
- A motion was made and seconded 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. Joan Tognocci asked if the interest rate had changed. Tom Johnston stated that yes, the state lowered the interest rate. Donald Grinnell made a motion and was seconded to amended article to fix the date at October 3, 2022, so town office is open, as October 1, 2022, is a Saturday. Proposed amendment was voted on and passed.**
- Motion as amended carries unanimously. 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 2%.
- 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 4% on abated taxes if the Town fails to set a rate. The rate set by the Town cannot be less than 0%.*
- A motion was made and seconded to set the interest rate to be paid by the Town on abated taxes at 2%.**
- Motion carries unanimously. Article 8 passes.**

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.

A motion was made and seconded 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.

Motion carries unanimously.

Article 9 passes.

Article 10: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to sell and dispose of property acquired by tax liens, other liens, or other processes, and to issue quitclaim deeds for same. Before disposing of the property, Select Board 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 Select Board may dispose of the property by public auction. All net proceeds from any auction shall be placed in the town's road reserve account.

A motion was made and seconded to authorize the Select Board to sell and dispose of property acquired by tax liens, other liens, or other processes, and to issue quitclaim deeds for same. Before disposing of the property, Select Board 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 Select Board may dispose of the property by public auction. All net proceeds from any auction shall be placed in the town's road reserve account.

Motion carries unanimously.

Article 10 passes.

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

A motion was made and seconded to authorize the Select Board to appropriate money from the sale of any Town tax acquired lands to pay the costs of said sale.

Motion carries unanimously.

Article 11 passes

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board 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.

A motion was made and seconded to authorize the Select Board 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.

Motion carries unanimously.

Article 12 passes.

Article 13: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board 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.

A motion was made and seconded to authorize the Select Board 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.

Motion carries unanimously.

Article 13 passes.

Article 14: To see if the Town will authorize the Tax Collector to accept prepayment of taxes for the years 2022 and 2023 for taxes not yet due or assessed and for no interest to accrue.

A motion was made and seconded to authorize the Tax Collector to accept prepayment of taxes for the years 2022 and 2023 for taxes not yet due or assessed and for no interest to accrue.

Motion carries unanimously.

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.
- A motion was made and seconded 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.**
- Motion carries unanimously. 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.
- A motion was made and seconded to vote to authorize municipal officials to apply for Homeland Security and/or other grants that may come available. Janet Martucci asked if there is any control over what the grant, if received, can be spent on. Tom Johnston stated that the grants are specific and what the money to be used for.**
- Motion carries unanimously. 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.
- A motion was made and seconded to spend any grant money received, not to exceed the amount of the grant, for the stated purposes of the grant only.**
- Motion carries unanimously. Article 17 passes.**
- Article 18: To see if the Town will vote to move the 2022 overlay, plus supplemental tax assessments and less any tax abatements, into the Road Maintenance Reserve Account.
- A motion was made and seconded to move the 2022 overlay, plus supplemental tax assessments and less any tax abatements, into the Road Maintenance Reserve Account.**
- Motion carries unanimously 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, 2022 to the Fire Equipment Reserve account.
- A motion was made and seconded to move any monies remaining in the Public Safety account on December 31, 2022 to the Fire Equipment Reserve account.**
- Motion carries unanimously. Article 19 passes.**
- Article 20: To see if the Town will vote to start a Road Maintenance Equipment Reserve rollover account, and to move any monies remaining in the Maintenance of Town Roads account on December 31, 2022 to this rollover account.
- A motion was made and seconded to start a Road Maintenance Equipment Reserve rollover account, and to move any monies remaining in the Maintenance of Town Roads account on December 31, 2022 to this rollover account. Tom Johnston proposed an amendment to limit the amount transferred to \$10,000.00. Amendment was seconded. Charlotte Henderson asked why there'd be a limit. Tom stated that over the last 5 years the amounts left over in the Road Maintenance Account have run anywhere from \$900.00 to \$120,000.00 (a year we didn't get pavement in). We want to treat this like the other equipment reserve accounts where we put a certain amount of money every year. Katherine Grinnell asked if there is more than \$10,000.00 left over where does that money go. Tom stated it goes into surplus/general fund. Proposed amendment was voted on and passed. Joan Tognacci asked if this**

replacing the Maintenance of Town Roads account. Tom stated it is not, it's a down payment for replacement of expensive town garage items. Joan asked how money is placed in the Maintenance of Town Roads account. Tom stated that's in an upcoming money article.

Motion as amended carries unanimously.

Article 20 passes.

Article 21: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the 2022 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.

A motion was made and seconded to appropriate the 2022 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. Jeff Grinnell asked what the average amount is. Mary Anderson stated it is under \$400.00 every year.

Motion carries unanimously.

Article 21 passes.

Article 22: To see if the Town will vote to accept an offered NTIA (Broadband) Grant with the matching State Grant and to form a Municipal Broadband Service with these grants, in partnership with Axiom Technologies LLC.

A motion was made and seconded to accept an offered NTIA (Broadband) Grant with the matching State Grant and to form a Municipal Broadband Service with these grants, in partnership with Axiom Technologies LLC.

Motion carries unanimously.

Article 22 passes

Article 23: To see if the Town will vote to allow the Select Board to negotiate with Axiom to contract the installation and/or management of a Municipal owned Broadband System.

A motion was made and seconded to allow the Select Board to negotiate with Axiom to contract the installation and/or management of a Municipal owned Broadband System.

Motion carries unanimously.

Article 23 passes.

Article 24: To see if the Town will vote to form a Broadband Committee of 5 members to support and advise the Select Board on the Municipal Broadband System.

A motion was made and seconded to form a Broadband Committee of 5 members to support and advise the Select Board on the Municipal Broadband System. Joan Tognacci asked if there is already a Broadband Committee. Tom Johnston stated that there is an existing Broadband Committee that was set up with an unlimited number of people for the purpose of looking into Broadband and what we could do to get Broadband in town. At this time, with the grants coming in, we wanted to bring it together, formalize it from the floor at town meeting and have a workable number of members. Joan asked how these 5 members are being selected. Wesley Daniel stated they will be appointed. Steve Ocean asked if their meetings will be open to the public. Tom Johnston stated yes, they are public meetings. Charlotte Henderson stated that this would be a nice time to interrupt for one moment and give a massive applause for the working Broadband Committee who has done a fabulous job (standing ovation).

Motion carries unanimously.

Article 24 passes.

Article 25: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the following General Fund revenues to be applied toward the 2022 property tax commitment, thereby decreasing the 2022 tax commitment by \$495,575.00.

Select Board and Budget Committee recommend:

Excise Tax Revenue	275,000.00
Revenue Sharing	150,000.00
Tree Growth Reimbursement	4,000.00
Building Permits	1,500.00
Mining Permits and Inspections	6,000.00
Interest on Overdue Taxes	4,000.00
Veterans Reimbursement	1,600.00
General Fund Interest	2,000.00
Other Town Fees Collected	11,475.00
Unexpended 2021 Appropriations	<u>40,000.00</u>
Total	\$495,575.00

A motion was made and seconded to appropriate the following General Fund revenues to be applied toward the 2022 property tax commitment, thereby decreasing the 2022 tax commitment by \$495,575.00.

Motion carries unanimously.

Article 25 passes.

Article 26: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$396,771.00 from property taxation for 2022 Knox County, Tri-County Solid Waste Management Organization and Union Ambulance assessment *Select Board and Budget Committee recommend as advisory lines:*

Knox County Tax Assessment	\$185,851.00
Knox County Communications	49,661.00
Union Ambulance	117,290.00
Tri-County Solid Waste	<u>43,969.00</u>
	\$396,771.00

A motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$396,771.00 from property taxation for 2022 Knox County, Tri-County Solid Waste Management Organization and Union Ambulance assessments. Jesse Casas, Budget Committee, wanted to speak to the increase in the Union Ambulance budget. It is a large increase from the year before but there is an increase cost across the board in Maine; a lot of local towns have run into this. Jesse speaks in favor of this increase even though it's 100% increase from the year before. These costs may continue to rise and all citizens need to be aware that ambulance costs are rising and perhaps speak to their representative to see if there is anything Augusta can do. The Budget Committee and Select Board are in favor of the budget. On a personal level, Union Ambulance responded to a family members home stating that they are professional, prompt and do a great job. Jeff Grinnell made a motion that the body allow Chief Jesse Thompson, Union Fire Department, speak as a non-registered voter, was seconded. Voted on and approved to allow Jesse Thompson to speak at this town meeting. Jesse Thompson stated that the biggest increase in the Union Ambulance budget this year is the payroll line item. We are competing against other services like Waldoboro and TLC where in mid-year made large payroll increases. Jesse knows people that work there to make ends meet for themselves. In order to compete with these services, we need to increase our payroll: Paramedics \$28.00/hr., Advanced EMT's \$26.00/hr., EMT's \$24.00/hr. just to get to the same line as services around us are. Joan Tognacci asked if Union Ambulance was for profit or non-profit. Jesse stated non-profit. Jeff Grinnell stated that this is a working number received from Union Ambulance that we can work with for a couple of years with some fluctuation. We have a good service that's been in place for 30 years, at least. We've been regionalized with Appleton, Union and us for that period of time and that's how we'll keep the cost down by sharing this service. Jeff

proposed forming an EMS Advisory Board from Washington, Union, and Appleton; this group would meet with Jesse Thompson to work on a one, three, five, ten-year plan to work out budget numbers. Each town would have a voice in setting this budget. The numbers would still go through the town's budget committee and town meeting so the numbers would be looked at three times for better control.

Motion carries unanimously.

Article 26 passes

Article 27: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$56,994.00 from property taxation for General Government Operations.

Select Board and Budget Committee recommend as advisory lines:

Legal Fees		7,500.00	
Administration		49,494.00	
Advertising	1,000.00		
Computer Annual Fees	15,444.00		
Audit of Town Books	7,200.00		
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	3,600.00		
Select Board Discretionary Fund	500.00		
Tax Maps	1,000.00		
Tax Billing	1,500.00		
Town Report Printing	4,000.00		
Tax Anticipation Note	1,000.00		
Money Order Fees	550.00		
	<u> </u>		
	Subtotal	49,494.00	
			Total <u> </u>
			\$56,994.00

A motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$56,994.00 from property taxation for General Government Operations. Lee Shane asked what the Select Board Discretionary Fund is used for. Mary Anderson stated it is used for pizza on election days.

Motion carries unanimously.

Article 27 passes.

Article 28: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$33,448.00 from property taxation for Insurance. *Select Board and Budget Committee recommend as advisory lines:*

MMA Insurance Risk Pool		\$ 23,500.00
Unemployment Insurance		375.00
Worker's Compensation Premium		8,673.00
Volunteer Insurance		100.00
Firefighter Accident Insurance		<u>800.00</u>
	Total	\$ 33,448.00

A motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$33,448.00 from property taxation for Insurance.

Motion carries unanimously.

Article 28 passes.

Article 29: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$232,115.00 from property taxation for Salaries, Stipends, Employee Health Insurance, and Payroll Expenses.

Select Board and Budget Committee recommend as advisory lines:

Salaries and Stipends		\$168,115.00
Select Board (3)	22,500.00	
Secretary - Select Board	800.00	
Town Clerk/Tax Collector	24,620.00	
Treasurer	13,820.00	
Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector/Treasurer	23,800.00	
Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector/Treasurer II	15,575.00	
Registrar of Voters	1,500.00	
Ballot Clerks	2,500.00	
EMA Director	750.00	
Health Officer	1,000.00	
Fire Warden (2)	300.00	
Fire Chief	6,000.00	
Deputy Fire Chief	3,500.00	
Firefighter Stipends	8,500.00	
Secretary - Planning Board	1,000.00	
Secretary – Appeals Board	400.00	
Assessor’s Agent	10,000.00	
Animal Control Officer	3,250.00	
Code Enforcement Officer	25,000.00	
Constable	100.00	
Moderator of open March town meeting	200.00	
School Board Member Stipend (2)	1,000.00	
Custodial Services	<u>2,000.00</u>	
	Sub-total	\$168,115.00
Town Portion of Employee Health Insurance	41,000.00	
FICA Payroll Expenses	<u>23,000.00</u>	
		<u>\$64,000.00</u>
	Total	\$232,115.00

A motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$232,115.00 from property taxation for Salaries, Stipends, Employee Health Insurance, and Payroll Expenses.

Motion carries unanimously.

Article 29 passes.

Article 30: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$462,774.00 from property taxation for Maintenance of Town Roads and related operations.

Select Board and Budget Committee recommend as advisory lines:

Road Maintenance Materials & Supplies	11,000.00
Plow Truck Payment	20,184.00
Plow Truck Payment (P600, 2021)	18,800.00
Truck Fuel	19,500.00
Truck Maintenance	
P100	3,000.00
P200	4,000.00
P300	4,000.00

P500	4,000.00
P600	2,000.00
Cutting Edges and Sander Chains	11,500.00
Culverts	6,000.00
Loader and Backhoe Fuel	3,500.00
Loader, Backhoe & Chipper Maintenance	5,500.00
Garage Mortgage	12,290.00
Garage Utilities	5,500.00
Garage Maintenance	2,500.00
Road Maintenance Labor	157,500.00
Equipment Rental	13,000.00
Screening Winter Sand	27,500.00
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	\$ 462,774.00

A motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$462,774.00 from property taxation for Maintenance of Town Roads and related operations.

Motion carries unanimously.

Article 30 passes.

Article 31: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$4,000.00 from property taxation for General Assistance.
Select Board and Budget Committee recommend:

General Assistance	\$4,000.00
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A motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$4,000.00 from property taxation for General Assistance.

Motion carries unanimously.

Article 31 passes.

Article 32: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$83,465.00 from property taxation for Public Safety.
Select Board 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>3,400.00</u>
Total	\$83,465.00

A motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$83,465.00 from property taxation for Public Safety.

Motion carries unanimously.

Article 32 passes.

Article 33: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$50,500.00 from property taxation for Utilities and Maintenance.

Select Board and Budget Committee recommend as advisory lines:

Town Utilities	14,000.00
Grounds and Monument Gardens	1,000.00
Building Maintenance	10,000.00
Cemetery Maintenance	16,000.00
Street Lights	3,500.00
Municipal Complex Snow Removal	<u>6,000.00</u>
Total	\$50,500.00

A motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$50,500.00 from property taxation for Utilities and Maintenance. Joan Tognacci thanked Mary Anderson for getting the street lights changed to LED's. Mary stated Ann Dean started it and she followed through.

Motion carries unanimously.

Article 33 passes.

Article 34: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$600.00 from property taxation for Boards and Committees.

Select Board 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

A motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$600.00 from property taxation for Boards and Committees.

Motion carries unanimously.

Article 34 passes.

Article 35: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$45,000.00 from property taxation for Town Carry-over Accounts.

Select Board and Budget Committee recommend as advisory lines:

Headstone Restoration Fund	1,000.00
Town Record Preservation Fund	3,000.00
Recreation Committee	1,000.00
Fire Truck Replacement Fund	20,000.00
Road Maintenance Truck Fund	<u>20,000.00</u>
Total	\$45,000.00

A motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$45,000.00 from property taxation for Town Carry-over Accounts.

Motion carries unanimously.

Article 35 passes.

Article 36: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$30,712.00 from property taxation for Miscellaneous Accounts.

Select Board 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
Pope Memorial Shelter	2,229.00
Flags for Veterans Graves and Town Parks	600.00
Midcoast Conservancy Dues (Damariscotta Lake Watershed)	<u>50.00</u>
Sub-total	\$25,379.00

Social Agencies and Concerns	
New Hope Midcoast	750.00
Waldo Community Action Partners	253.00
Spectrum Generations	865.00
Pine Tree Chapter, Red Cross	865.00
Life Flight of Maine	764.00
Penquis	1536.00
Gary Owen House	<u>300.00</u>
Sub-total	\$5,333.00

Total \$30,712.00

A motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$30,712.00 from property taxation for Miscellaneous Accounts.

Motion carries unanimously.

Article 36 passes.

Article 37: To see if the Town will vote to authorize spending up to \$62,319.00 from the Local Roads Assistance Program (LRAP) for Capital Road Improvement.

A motion was made and seconded to authorize spending up to \$62,319.00 from the Local Roads Assistance Program (LRAP) for Capital Road Improvement. Laurie Packard asked if these funds go to road improvements and other things on the roads. Wesley Daniel stated they usually use it for capital improvements on the roads which includes major ditching and changing culvert sizes to get the road ready for paving.

Motion carries unanimously.

Article 37 passes.

Article 38: To see if the Town will vote to authorize spending \$100,000 from the Undesignated Fund Balance (Surplus) for Paving of Town Roads.

A motion was made and seconded to authorize spending \$100,000 from the Undesignated Fund Balance (Surplus) for Paving of Town Roads. Joan Tognacci asked what road will be paved this year. Tom Johnston stated McDowell Road. Lee Shane wanted to confirm that Article 38 & 39 total \$250,000. to repave this one road. Wesley Daniel stated that the estimate last year was \$245,000.00 for this one road.

Motion carries unanimously.

Article 38 passes.

Article 39: To see if the Town will vote to authorize spending up to \$150,000 from the Road Reserve account for Paving of Town Roads

A motion was made and seconded to authorize spending up to \$150,000 from the Road Reserve account for Paving of Town Roads

Motion carries unanimously.

Article 39 passes.

Article 40: To see if the Town will vote to authorize spending up to \$120,000 for the purchase of SCBA (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus) to replace 20-year-old SCBA currently used by the Fire Department, with \$79,000 to come from the ARPA (Coronavirus State and Local Recovery Funds) and the remainder to come from the Undesignated Fund Balance (Surplus).

A motion was made and seconded to authorize spending up to \$120,000 for the purchase of SCBA (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus) to replace 20-year-old SCBA currently used by the Fire Department, with \$79,000 to come from the ARPA (Coronavirus State and Local Recovery Funds) and the remainder to come from the Undesignated Fund Balance (Surplus).

Motion carries unanimously.

Article 40 passes.

Article 41: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to establish a SIMPLE IRA program for eligible employees, and to raise and appropriate \$8,500 to fund the program.

NOTE: Eligible employees must be employed for more than one year, earn more than \$5,000 per year in compensation, can contribute any amount of that compensation, and the Town will match that contribution up to 3% of that employee's total annual compensation.

A motion was made and seconded to authorize the Select Board to establish a SIMPLE IRA program for eligible employees, and to raise and appropriate \$8,500 to fund the program.

Motion carries unanimously.

Article 41 passes.

Article 42: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,500.00 to support Emergency Medical Technician training for interested Townspeople.

A motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$2,500.00 to support Emergency Medical Technician training for interested Townspeople. Janet Martucci believes this fund was started from the Scribner Fund. Tom Johnston stated there is still a Scribner Fund which has about \$1,200.00 available. It costs a lot more to get a Basic EMT. We wanted this money in addition to that fund to try to get more people interested and have more local people ready and available to assist as necessary. Jeff Grinnell stated that this is basically for to pay for EMT's, sponsored through Union Ambulance. The primary goal is to have first responders here in town so that it gets people there quick. Also building up our first responder program through Union Ambulance will help keep the cost down.

Motion carries unanimously.

Article 42 passes.

Article 43: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to investigate the possibility of an inter-local agreement for Emergency Medical Services.

A motion was made and seconded to authorize the Select Board to investigate the possibility of an inter-local agreement for Emergency Medical Services.

Motion carries unanimously.

Article 43 passes.

Article 44: To see if the Town will vote to accept changes to the 'Dog Control Ordinance' as posted and included in the Town Report.

A motion was made and seconded to accept changes to the 'Dog Control Ordinance' as posted and included in the Town Report. Janet Martucci asked for a summary of the changes, she did not read it. Wesley Daniel stated per the request of the Animal Control Officer; she wanted to have a Domestic Animal Ordinance because she has had trouble with farm animals getting out and owners not getting them back into a fenced area. This will help her enforce this along with the dogs. Will Cassis stated this seems like an overreach about farm animals with a lot of vague language whether the animals are under your control or not. What about free-range chickens, it should talk about specific animals like pigs getting loose. This should be a farm animal ordinance. Mike Mayo asked if Will wanted to made a motion. Will stated he would not vote for this; he'd like to see a Farm Animal Ordinance. After a bit of discussion, Will made an amendment to the article to remove farm animals. Amendment was seconded. Joan Tognacci stated that our Animal Control Officer, Nichole Bissett, has no recourse when it comes

to doing anything in regard to farm animals. All she can round up now are dogs and issue citations to the dog owners. We have had a lot of problems over the last couple of years with pigs and all kinds of different animals wreaking havoc in town. This basically gives her the ability to address problems with farm animals. Janet Martucci asked for clarification if this covers nuisance animals as well as welfare of mistreated or neglected animals. In which case she would respectfully say that she would vote yes because if someone has a starving horse or beating their oxen it is good to empower the ACO to go and investigate. Deb Bocko read the ordinance stating that the dog issues are stated separately and only a few places that address farm animals or general domestic animals. The ACO needs to have leverage. Tom Johnston stated that the changes are the underlined sections and you can substitute the word domestic animal for farm animal because that's what we're talking about. What our problem has been over the last couple of years has been domestic animals other than dogs i.e. farm animals that have gotten out and the owners haven't taken care of them. What this change in the ordinance does is codify in our ordinance state laws to allow our ACO to deal directly with the problems without having to go through the state or court to get a court order to handle it. *Mike Mayo confirmed that Will Cassis' amendment is to have the ordinance only deal with dogs. The proposed amendment was defeated. Deb Bocko proposed an amendment and was seconded that this ordinance passes, as is, for a year and then reviewed. 2nd Proposed amendment passed.* Janet Martucci asked if it is always an option that if something is not working to revisit. Mike Mayo stated there is always an option to revisit but this lady wants to formalize that there will be a review.

Motion with amendment carries unanimously.

Article 44 passes.

Article 45:

To see if the Town will vote to accept changes to the 'Land Use Ordinance' as posted and included in the Town Report and summarized below:

- Increase CEO-only review for nonresidential structures, up to 2,000 sf from 1,200 sf in size.
- Require a Building Permit for all size structures, but maintaining a fee only for structures over 240sf.
- Allow Event Centers in the Rural/Commercial Zone
- Allow Event Centers in the Farm and Forest Zone, with a special requirement of 15 acres minimum lot size for that use.

A motion was made and seconded to accept changes to the 'Land Use Ordinance' as posted and included in the Town Report and summarized below:

- Increase CEO-only review for nonresidential structures, up to 2,000 sf from 1,200 sf in size.
- Require a Building Permit for all size structures, but maintaining a fee only for structures over 240sf.
- Allow Event Centers in the Rural/Commercial Zone
- Allow Event Centers in the Farm and Forest Zone, with a special requirement of 15 acres minimum lot size for that use. *Tom Johnston proposed an amendment to add 'new' between size and structures (for all size new structures) all else remaining the same. Tom stated the unintended consequence is that without the word new a building permit would be required if you wanted to replace your roof and that was not the intent of the Select Board. We have an issue with tiny homes and small buildings being used as residential structures that we really should have a handle on and that is why they proposed the change. Proposed amendment seconded. Steve Ocean asked if we could break up each of these changes into separate articles during this town meeting. Mike Mayo stated you can express a willingness to delete a certain one if you are opposed to that particular one. Steve said he'd like to have a debate on each one. Steve proposed a motion to discuss the 4 ordinance changes separately, seconded. Jesse Casas stated that each of these 4 issues are separate, important issues. Proposed amendment to discuss and vote on these 4 changes separately. Proposed amendment was voted on and passed.*

Mike stated we'll start with the first change and when the second one is discussed we'll vote on the proposed amendment to add the word new. -Increase CEO-only review for nonresidential structures, up to 2,000 sf from 1,200 sf in size. -Increase CEO-only review for nonresidential structures, up to 2,000 sf from 1,200 sf in size, moved and seconded. **Steve Ocean, Planning Board, stated, over the last few years, they have had several people who wanted to build garages or outbuilding that are over 1,200 square feet and they had to come to the Planning Board with a whole site review and we thought it was not necessary so the Planning Board wanted to increase it to 2,000 square feet. This 1st part passed unanimously.**

-Require a Building Permit for all size 'new' structures, but maintaining a fee only for structures over 240square feet . Amendment to add 'new' was proposed and seconded. Mike Mayo stated the discussion is only adding the word 'new'. Will Cassis asked if the issue is new residential tiny homes why not put new residential tiny homes? Tom Johnston stated that it's not strictly all of it because there can be taxable structures built without us knowing where they are. The other part is you can bring in an Amish shed under that square footage, for a year, and then convert it to a home. If we know the structure is there, we'll have a better idea where we may need fire protection and there's other issues that go along with that. Joan Tognacci proposed an amendment that a small fee as it will take the CEO time to look at these structures. Mary Anderson stated he does not go out for everything. Joan withdrew her proposal. Katherine Grinnell asked for clarification on the process of getting a building permit, who signs off on them. Wesley Daniel stated the CEO signs off. Jesse Casas stated that you don't need to build a new structure and convert it you can take an existing structure and convert it. It seems this is a much bigger discussion than just for 'new' structures if the issue is that structures are being turned into residences and not being taxed then it's more than 'new' structure. Donald Grinnell requested a friendly amendment to add 'new unattached' to take care of an issue to bring in an Amish shed. He doesn't feel if he needs to put in a handicap access ramp for an elderly person that he should have to get a permit. Tom Johnston did not accept the friendly amendment. Mike Mayo asked Donald Grinnell if he would like to make a stand alone amendment. Mike Mayo asked if there was any more discussion on the word 'new'? Jesse Casas asked if this is just a summary, we are talking about so putting this word in is not going to change any of the proposed ordinance language. Mike Mayo stated that the moderator would move that this is a summary which has the intent of trying to clarify anything in the original works. If we vote to include the word 'new' this requires that it be amended into the original document. Jesse Casas stated that we are being asked to vote on ordinance changes that are multiple and are summarized. They could all be standalone articles and then there is an amendment to the summary (adding 'new'). Then we have the language itself; Jesse needs some clarification on what actual effect, when you start talking intent does that mean that if it ever gets challenged in court that it then goes to intent of the town meeting. It is a little complicated. Mike Mayo stated he does not disagree with any of those comments he doesn't know any other way to handle this in an open, public town meeting. This is usually not the way proposed ordinances are handled they usually vote it up or down and that is it.

Donald Grinnell stated that we have never done this before; we've always had a proposed ordinance written out so people could see where the actual changes would be, had a public hearing and then vote on it either by referendum or here at town meeting. Donald recommends we hold a public hearing between now and June Primary Election and vote on it at that point. There is too much ambiguity here, right now, to look at the whole ordinance with its changes and then vote the ordinance up or down. *Mike Mayo clarified with Donald that he made a motion to postpone any discussion on this article until what he described happens.* Mike Mayo stated that this motion would override all the other amendments on this article. Mike Mayo understood the motion to basically postpone this until some date in the future when there would be a completely written ordinance that would be presented and we would vote on it either up or down. *Donald Grinnell proposed a motion, it was seconded, to delay all action on this article until a future date; hold a public hearing between now and the June Election to vote on it by referendum at the June Primary.* Norman Casas agreed with Donald's proposed motion. Steve Ocean asked if we already had a vote. Mike Mayo stated we had a vote for proposals but a vote on passing the whole article. We voted on increase CEO but it is now being overruled by this superseding motion to postpone all of it. Steve stated he would oppose that amendment. Steve stated he would like to vote down the one we are talking about now because he thinks the other ones are clearer and can be debated at town meeting. There was some confusion. Steve did not make a motion. Mike Mayo brought everyone back to Donald Grinnell's motion to hold a public hearing and a written ballot to vote on this article at the June Primary Election. Janet Martucci asked Donald Grinnell if it would be possible, based on the comment that Steve Ocean made, to consider changing that amendment to stick to that controversial part so we can vote on the other parts. Janet made a friendly amendment regarding her statement to Donald Grinnell. Donald Grinnell turned down the friendly amendment. David Williams stated he would like this to be voted on at an annual town meeting.

Jesse Casas made a friendly amendment to have the four individual items voted on individually. Donald Grinnell stated that would be fine for the referendum. Tom Johnston asked for an advisory vote on the four individual articles after this vote. Mike Mayo asked Donald Grinnell to restate his motion for vote: To delay all actions on article 45 until such time as the Planning Board can come back with a written copy of the what the amendments would be and have four separate written referendum questions to be voted on during the June Primary Election. Steven Ocean stated the changes are in the town report just not written out in Article 45.

Motion with amendment carries unanimously

Article 45 passes

(Mike Mayo asked for a straw poll regarding each of the four changes: 1) Increase CEO-only review for nonresidential structures, up to 2,000 sf from 1,200 sf in size – all in favor, no one in opposition; 2) Require a building permit for all size ‘new’ structures, but maintain a fee only for structures over 240 sf – 50/50; without the word ‘new’ – all opposed; 3) Allow Event Centers in the Rural/Commercial Zone – more in favor than not, not everyone voted; 4) Allow Event Centers in the Farm and Forest Zone, with a special requirement of 15 acres minimum lot size for that use – 50/50.)

Article 46: To see if the Town will vote to accept the road name Little Lane, for a multi-use roadway at about 712 Waldoboro Road.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the road name Little Lane, for a multi-use roadway at about 712 Waldoboro Road.

Motion carries unanimously

Article 46 passes

Article 47: 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.

A motion was made and seconded 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.

Motion carries unanimously

Article 47 passes

Given under our hands on this 9th day of March, 2022:

Wesley F. Daniel
Chairman, Select Board

Mitchell A. Garnett
Select Board

Thomas N. Johnston
Select Board

Attest:
Mary Anderson, Town Clerk