

WARRANT FOR 2017 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

TO: Judson Butterman, 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 24, 2017, 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 25, 2017, 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 meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. by Town Clerk Ann Dean followed by Scott Whittier and Gene Kirkpatrick who led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Town Clerk then called for the nomination of a moderator. A motion was made and seconded to nominate James Bowers who was the only nominee and then elected with 3 votes. The Town Clerk duly swore him into office and James appointed Thomas Ford as his deputy moderator.

Article 2: To elect all necessary town officers and school board members as are required to be elected.
Linda Luce, Mildred Melgard and Judith Brann checked in voters. The polls were closed at 8PM by moderator James Bowers. Ballot clerks Kathleen Ocean and Nancy Barker sorted and counted the ballots.
The moderator adjourned the meeting to 10 a.m. Saturday, March 25, 2017 at the Prescott School.

Thomas Ford was sworn in as deputy moderator and Scott Whittier and Gene Kirkpatrick led the Pledge of Allegiance. Town Clerk Ann Dean announced the results of Article 2 as follows:

The following is a list of votes cast: Total 80
Selectman/Assessor/Overseer of the Poor 3 year term:
Thomas Johnston 73
Write Ins 3
Blanks 4

School Board Director 3 year term:
Guy Bourrie 77
Blanks 3

Selectman Wesley Daniel awarded Dorothy and Henry Sainio the Spirit of America Unsung Hero Award.

Article 3: To elect seven citizens and two alternates to serve on the Town of Washington Budget Committee.
Tom Ford requested nominations for seven (7) members and two (2) alternates to serve on the Budget Committee. Motions were made and seconded to nominate the following to serve as members on the Budget Committee. Henry Aho, David Williams, Kathleen Ocean, Donald L. Grinnell, Jesse Casas, Dorothy Sainio and David Martucci. Lynn Carroll and Wendy Carr were nominated as alternates.

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 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 applications fees; and the Driveway Entrance Coordinator be paid from driveway entrance application fees.

A motion was made and seconded 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 applications 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 2017 annual budget during the period from January 1, 2018, to the date of the 2018 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 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 2017 annual budget during the period from January 1, 2018, to the date of the 2018 Annual Town Meeting.

1 dissenting vote.

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 2017 taxes will be due and payable on October 2, 2017)

(Maximum interest rate on overdue taxes allowed by State Law: 7.0%)

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. 2017 taxes will be due October 2, 2017 with a 7% maximum interest rate on overdue taxes.

Motion 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 8%.

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 12% on abated taxes if the Town fails to set a rate. The rate set by the Town cannot be less than 8%.

A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to set the interest rate to be paid by the Town on abated taxes at 8%.

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 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

Motion carries unanimously.

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 shall 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 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 shall 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 Selectmen 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 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.

Motion carries unanimously.

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.

A motion was made and seconded 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.

Carol Sloane asked what kind of things come up under \$5,000? Selectman Wesley Daniel answered tables, chairs, desks, and old equipment. Selectman Thomas Johnston also replied that this year an old 1982 fire truck will be for sale. William Cassis asked how items are disposed over \$5000. Tom replied they would be advertised for sale by bid or with a fixed price, or if there are no offers, we may find someone who would be interested and a price would be negotiated.

Motion carries unanimously.

Article 12 passes.

Article 13: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the 2016 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 see if the Town will vote to appropriate the 2016 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.

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 2017 and 2018 for taxes not yet due or assessed and for no interest to accrue.

A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will authorize the Tax Collector to accept prepayment of taxes for the years 2017 and 2018 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 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.

Motion carries unanimously.

Article 15 passes.

Article 16: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Fire Chief and other municipal officials to apply for Homeland Security and/or other grants for Emergency Services.

A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Fire Chief and other municipal officials to apply for Homeland Security and/or other grants for Emergency Services.

Janet Martucci asked what types of grants are available. Selectman Tom Johnston explained the Assistance to Firefighter Grant Program is one type. He went on to say that the money pool is drying up and we are not big enough or don't have enough loss to be considered for most of them.

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 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.

Motion carries unanimously.

Article 17 passes.

Article 18: To see if the Town will vote to move the 2017 overlay, plus supplemental tax assessments and less any tax abatements, into the Road Maintenance Reserve Account.

A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to move the 2017 overlay, plus supplemental tax assessments and less any tax abatements, into the Road Maintenance Reserve Account.

Dorothy Sainio commented that overlay used to be used to just reduce the taxes. She asked why it all is put into road maintenance. Tom Johnston explained that it doesn't really matter because we would just find it from tax appropriation. We don't have to do it this way but it comes out of the same pocket. Carol Sloane asked how much money we are talking about. Tom responded that the amount was \$57,000 last year.

2 dissenting votes

Article 18 passes by a substantial majority.

Article 19:

To see if the Town will vote to adopt the Emergency Management Ordinance, to replace the existing ordinance.

A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to adopt the Emergency Management Ordinance, to replace the existing ordinance.

Albert Hutchinson made a motion to amend sections 2, 4, 6, 7 & 10 to add the road commissioner as also having authority. Motion seconded. Moderator called for discussion on the amendment. Steve Ocean asked if we had a road commissioner. Tom Johnston answered that we have an appointed road commissioner. Lisa Sharpe asked if there were an emergency regarding weather or roads would the road commissioner still be included even if he was not added officially to the plan? Christopher Lascoutx EMA director explained the chain of command for who responds to declared emergencies. Janet Martucci asked if it would be necessary to specify who is notified. Christopher explained that the fire chief, the board of selectmen and emergency management director would be notified. Christopher said we all should be involved in emergency management and that we all need to support each other. Janet asked Albert Hutchinson if he still thought the road commissioner should be involved in light of the conversation and Albert still thinks he still should be added.

Dorothy Sainio motioned to move the amendment. Motion seconded. The moderator called for a vote to move the question and bring the amendment to the floor. Motion seconded.

2 opposed to move amendment.

Amendment failed.

Moderator called for a vote on the main motion.

Motion carries unanimously.

Article 19 passes.

Article 20:

To see if the Town will vote to adopt the Moratorium on Marijuana Retail and Social Establishments.

A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to adopt the Moratorium on Marijuana Retail and Social Establishments. Tom Ford called for discussion.

Dave Martucci explained that these establishments are not legal in State law until rules are approved and the moratorium will expire before that date. This moratorium does nothing and even if extended, it will overlap that period by less than 2 months. December special town meeting should be held if more is known. Dave went on to say that the planning board can't approve anything until February 2018. Jesse Casas said that timing is the real issue. Cynthia Rosen agreed with David Martucci. James Bowers also agreed and suggested that the selectmen could set up a committee. Don Grinnell said that there are many cities and towns voting on this moratorium and he would disagree. Don is concerned that an application could be dropped and nothing can be done to stop it in the 60 day window. Don is in favor of a moratorium.

Bob Birk asked if a moratorium can be legal if the activity is illegal and is it enforceable.

Christopher Lascoutx asked what the window is that people could go to the planning board for an application and if there is a downside of passing the moratorium? Dave answered that he works at the Town of Thomaston and they explored it there. Lawyers will have different opinions but State law says we cannot act on anything illegal. Downside is that it takes time away from us if we are not ready because there is no legal way to set up one of these operations today. Rules need to be in place by Legislature by February 2018. Dave also feels the moratorium does nothing to stop someone from putting in an application. Todd Bennett asked what we are going to do. We still need to act 6 months from now and it would be useless because it requires selectmen to act. Lisa Sharpe asked how long the extension was. Tom Ford answered that the maximum time was 180 days with extension for another 180 days. Don asks how can we write rules when we don't know what the State rules will be. He went on to say that there is a narrow window Feb 1-March. This window is the only time we have to write an ordinance and that we may do this for 90 days after next year's town meeting. He reiterates that he is in favor of the moratorium so that we could see what the rules are so that next year we can write our own rules. Tom Johnston suggested that we postpone this to a special town meeting in December and by that time we should know what the state rules will be.

Jim Bowers said that when laws are written we will be given what we can and can't regulate.

Dorothy Sainio said that if we wait until December for special town meeting that only a dozen people will show up. Christopher says the issue is left to the town with regard to what is going on in public sphere. Peg Hobbs said that if people care about the issue, they will show up in December. Dave added that the Thomaston planning board got a packet from the Maine Municipal Association with suggestions to build into an ordinance to help towns. MMA does not support the moratorium. Dave volunteered to be on the committee. Deputy moderator Tom Ford called for a vote.

Motion fails by a substantial majority.

Article 20 fails to pass.

Article 21:

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate up to \$12,000 from the Road Maintenance Reserve Account to hire an engineer to design improvements to Calderwood Road from Little Medomak Brook to Old Union Road.

A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to appropriate up to \$12,000 from the Road Maintenance Reserve Account to hire an engineer to design improvements to Calderwood Road from Little Medomak Brook to Old Union Road. Moderator called for discussion.

Lisa Sharp questions the necessity of widening Calderwood road especially since the road budget has been increased. She likes the little roads and how they force you to slow down and disagrees with widening the road. Dave Williams asked what was in the Road Maintenance Reserve account. Selectman Tom Johnston answered that the balance is \$ 142,000 including the 2016 overlay. Jim Bowers asked if anyone on that stretch has been approached about this topic. Selectman Wesley Daniel explained it needs to be wider to match up the road where it comes to the culvert and needs to be widened & ditched to make the road safer. We need an engineer because we are not engineers. Carol Sloane asked how we decide to pick a road. She said if the issue is safety then yes spend money on an engineer but if it is just inconvenient then hot top it. Todd Bennett said this article asks for engineering money to design and improve the road. Are we going to keep the road the way it is or are we going to do something safer and better? Wesley answered that we would maintain it and only the engineering would be done this year. Jud Butterman said that he drove a school bus and had to come to a complete stop on that road because another vehicle was coming. Icing on the road could be a real problem.

Kathleen Ocean asked if hiring an engineer could save us money in case we did a wrong thing that would cost us more. Selectman Wesley Daniel agreed. Al Hutchinson said that if project costs over \$100,000 an engineer needs to be consulted. Lisa Sharp commented that if there haven't been accidents there in the past then why change it? She feels that changing things will change the town and we don't have money to spend on unnecessary things. Tom Johnston answered the road is substandard and we didn't want to put paying money into a substandard road before we knew what it would cost. An engineer would be valuable so we would know what it would cost to the road up to basic road standard and come back to town meeting with the cost. William Cassis asked what the projected cost of improving versus maintaining the road. Road Committee member Al Hutchinson explained that to rebuild the road would be about \$35 a foot = \$380,000. He went on to say that an engineering study may not cost as much as \$12,000 but it will save money. Bob Birk commented that a substandard road could be used as basis of a lawsuit against the town. Jim Kearney asked what a substandard road is and that he is concerned that trees cut will change the road. Al explained that traffic needs to go both ways so the road needs to be rebuilt to bring it up to standard. Lisa Sharpe asked what the cost is to keep the road the way it is. Al pointed out that he is not an engineer but has experience on working on roads and that there is no road base so the pavement would fall apart. Al questioned if it would be a potential lawsuit for the town. Again the question was asked how much it would cost to pave the road as it is. Wesley answered about \$100,000. Al also explained that it would need to be done again in a couple years. Merton Moore, also a member of the road committee asked Al if he had taken a measurement on that road and if the width was less than 16 feet. Al said that it was 15 feet in some places. Merton commented that driveways are 14 ft. so a 15 foot road needs to be upgraded for safety. He went on to explain that when the road was built they had a limited amount of money so it was narrowed because they were trying to get more for their buck. Attorney Robert Marks added his legal opinion that Maine tort protects the town against a substandard road unless it is being rebuilt then town has liability. Robert asked if the selectmen would need to take any property by eminent domain and Al Hutchinson replied no.

Question Moved and seconded.

Question moved with 6 dissenting votes.

Article 21 passes by a sizable majority

Article 22:

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate up to \$10,000 from the Road Maintenance Reserve Account to design and engineer Davis Stream culvert replacement or repair (known to the State of Maine as the Nancy Brook Bridge) on Fitch Road.

A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to appropriate up to \$10,000 from the Road Maintenance Reserve Account to design and engineer Davis Stream culvert replacement or repair (known to the State of Maine as the Nancy Brook Bridge) on Fitch Road. Deputy moderator Tom Ford called for discussion.

Former Selectman Donald Grinnell complimented the selectmen because in the past we were shovel ready when grant money became available. He explained how the system for grants works and recounted the time frame opportunity for these grants.

Motion carries unanimously.

Article 22 passes.

Deputy Moderator called for a break.

Dave Martucci gave an update on the comprehensive plan and encouraged citizens to fill out comprehensive plan survey forms. EMA Director Christopher Lascoutx asked for volunteers for the warming shelter located at the Mt Olivet Lodge. Tom Ford announced that District 13 Senator David Dow offered to meet with any citizens in the school corridor if anyone had any questions.

Article 23:

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the following General Fund revenues to be applied toward the 2017 property tax commitment, thereby decreasing the 2017 tax commitment by \$466,382.

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend:

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Excise Tax Revenue | 225,000.00 |
| Revenue Sharing | 63,782.00 |
| Tree Growth Reimbursement | 3,500.00 |
| Building Permits | 1,500.00 |
| Mining Permits and Inspections | 4,000.00 |
| Interest on Overdue Taxes | 12,000.00 |
| Veterans Reimbursement | 1,600.00 |
| Other Town Fees Collected | 8,000.00 |
| Unexpended 2016 Appropriations | 85,000.00 |
| Undesignated Fund Balance | 56,000.00 |
| General Fund Interest | <u>6,000.00</u> |
| | Total \$466,382.00 |

A motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to appropriate the following General Fund revenues to be applied toward the 2017 property tax commitment, thereby decreasing the 2017 tax commitment by \$466,382.

Motion carries unanimously

Article 23 passes.

Article 24: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$ 247,751.34 from property taxation for 2017 Knox County, Tri-County Solid Waste Management Organization and Union Ambulance assessments.

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend as advisory lines:

| | |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| Knox County Tax Assessment | \$149,050.62 |
| Knox County Communications | 41,422.00 |
| Tri-County Solid Waste | 41,778.72 |
| Union Ambulance | <u>15,500.00</u> |
| | \$247,751.34 |

A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$ 247,751.34 from property taxation for 2017 Knox County, Tri-County Solid Waste Management Organization and Union Ambulance assessments.

Motion carries unanimously

Article 24 passes.

Article 25: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$60,700.00 from property taxation for General Government Operations.

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend as advisory lines:

| | | |
|------------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Legal Fees | | 15,000.00 |
| Administration | | 45,700.00 |
| Advertising | 500.00 | |
| Computer Annual Fees | 10,500.00 | |
| Audit of Town Books | 5,200.00 | |
| Computer Tech Support | 1,000.00 | |
| MMA Dues | 2,800.00 | |
| Workshops and Training | 1,800.00 | |
| Mileage | 1,300.00 | |
| Office Equipment | 4,000.00 | |
| Server and Backup Hardware | 2,500.00 | |
| Office Supplies | 2,800.00 | |
| Postage | 2,200.00 | |
| Printing and Photocopies | 200.00 | |
| Selectmen Discretionary Fund | 500.00 | |
| Tax Maps | 5,500.00 | |
| Tax Billing | 1,500.00 | |
| Town Report Printing | 3,000.00 | |
| Money Order Fees | <u>400.00</u> | |
| | Subtotal | 45,700.00 |
| | | Total \$60,700 |

A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$60,700.00 from property taxation for General Government Operations. Moderator called for discussion.

Lisa Sharp asked why the tax map line is going up. Dave Martucci explained the map budget and in house mapping. Dave explained that GIS is more exact and efficient. Coordinates and distances can be entered directly where previously they had to be entered by hand and that map mistakes are easy to make by hand. He went on to say that it is better to know what you really have and not what the deed says you have. Donald Grinnell asked why we are not there yet after being promised for years. Don asked for reassurance that by 2018 town meeting will we have electronic maps. Selectman Wesley Daniel responded that he believed we will. Dave said that he has been working with the town's Assessors agent Stanley Millay and the maps just need to be printed out. William Cassis asked if updating the maps would trigger a re-evaluation. Wesley replied that it will not.

Motion passes unanimously.

Article 25 passes.

Article 26: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$31,094.00 from property taxation for Insurance.

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend as advisory lines:

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------------|
| MMA Insurance Risk Pool | \$ 20,000.00 |
| Unemployment Insurance | 1,603.00 |
| Worker's Compensation Premium | 8,491.00 |
| Volunteer Insurance | 200.00 |
| Firefighter Accident Insurance | <u>800.00</u> |
| Total | \$ 31,094.00 |

A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$31,094.00 from property taxation for Insurance.

Motion carries unanimously

Article 26 passes.

Article 27: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$185,085.00 from property taxation for Salaries, Stipends, Employee Health Insurance, and Payroll Expenses.

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend as advisory lines:

| | | |
|--|-----------------|------------------|
| Salaries and Stipends | | 131,685.00 |
| Selectmen (3) | 19,500.00 | |
| Secretary - Selectmen | 800.00 | |
| Town Clerk/Tax Collector | 22,763.00 | |
| Treasurer | 12,772.00 | |
| Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector/Treasurer | 22,000.00 | |
| Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector/Treasurer II | 10,800.00 | |
| Registrar of Voters | 1,500.00 | |
| Ballot Clerks | 1,000.00 | |
| EMA Director | 750.00 | |
| Health Officer | 1000.00 | |
| Fire Warden (2) | 300.00 | |
| Fire Chief | 4,000.00 | |
| Deputy Fire Chief | 3,000.00 | |
| Firefighter Stipends | 3,750.00 | |
| Secretary - Planning Board | 1,250.00 | |
| Secretary - Appeals Board | 400.00 | |
| Assessor's Agent | 5,000.00 | |
| Animal Control Officer | 3000.00 | |
| Code Enforcement Officer | 15,000.00 | |
| 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 | 131,685.00 | |
| Town Portion of Employee Health Insurance | | 33,500.00 |
| FICA Payroll Expenses | | <u>19,900.00</u> |
| Total | | 185,085.00 |

A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$185,085.00 from property taxation for Salaries, Stipends, Employee Health Insurance, and Payroll Expenses.

1 dissenting vote.

Article 27 passes

Article 28:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$381,752.00 from property taxation for Maintenance of Town Roads and related operations.

Selectmen recommend as advisory lines: \$381,752.00

Budget Committee recommend as advisory lines: \$376,752.00

| | | | |
|--|------------------|------------|---------------------------|
| Road Maintenance Materials & Supplies | | | 10,000.00 |
| Plow Truck Payment | | | 20,184.00 |
| Truck Fuel | | | 15,000.00 |
| Truck Maintenance | | | |
| P100 | | | 1,000.00 |
| P200 | | | 4,000.00 |
| P300 | | | 4,000.00 |
| P400 | | | 4,000.00 |
| P500 | | | 4,000.00 |
| Cutting Edges and Sander Chains | | | 7,500.00 |
| Culverts | | | 3,000.00 |
| Loader and Backhoe Fuel | | | 2,500.00 |
| Loader, Backhoe & Chipper Maintenance | | | 5,500.00 |
| Garage Mortgage | | | 12,968.00 |
| Garage Utilities | | | 4,000.00 |
| Garage Maintenance | | | 2,000.00 |
| Road Maintenance Labor | Budget Comm Rec: | 100,000.00 | Selectmen Rec: 105,000.00 |
| Equipment Rental | | | 13,000.00 |
| Screening Winter Sand | | | 13,000.00 |
| Road Salt | | | 25,000.00 |
| E911 and Road Signs | | | 500.00 |
| Paving and Capital Improvement of Town Roads | | | 125,000.00 |
| Driver OSHA and DOT Screening and Testing | | | <u>600.00</u> |
| | | | Total \$ 381,752.00 |

A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$381,752.00 from property taxation for Maintenance of Town Roads and related operations. Moderator called for discussion.

Budget Committee member Jesse Casas asked the selectmen to address the additional \$5000 between theirs and the budget committee's number. Dorothy Sainio asked how many hours does the road crew work now and she felt that people didn't understand that the week was to be increased from 30 to 40 hours. Budget committee member Donald Grinnell proposed a motion to amend the article to reduce road maintenance labor by \$5000 to \$376,752. Motion seconded. Don commented on the good job that the road crew is doing. He explained that the road crew was bare bones at first with part time and no benefits for 30 hours. Since then, it creeps up with sick days, holidays and health insurance and asked if we afford another 10 hours a week. Christopher Lascoutx asked about the cost differential for 30 to 40 hours per week. Selectman Tom Johnston answered \$20,000 on a base salary basis not accounting for overtime. Tom pointed out the budget committee cut \$5000 from last year's budget. The question was asked about cost per mile and how we compare to other towns. Tom answered that Edgcomb bid 52 miles at \$7678 per mile so the budget would be almost \$400,000. He went on to say that we are still spending less than if we contracted out.

26 yes to amendment. 19 no.

Amendment carries.

Motion made on amended article.
Motion carries unanimously

Article 28 passes.

Article 29: 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 |
|--------------------|----------|

A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,000.00 from property taxation for General Assistance.

Motion carries unanimously

Article 29 passes

Article 30: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$63,423.00 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 | 31,623.00 |
| Hose Testing | <u>2,800.00</u> |
| Total | 63,423.00 |

A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$63,423.00 from property taxation for Public Safety.

Motion carries unanimously.

Article 30 passes.

Article 31: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$41,000.00 from property taxation for Utilities and Maintenance.

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend as advisory lines:

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| Town Utilities | 14,000.00 |
| Building Maintenance | 8,000.00 |
| Cemetery Maintenance | 13,000.00 |
| Street Lights | 3,000.00 |
| Municipal Complex Snow Removal | <u>3,000.00</u> |
| Total | 41,000.00 |

A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$41,000.00 from property taxation for Utilities and Maintenance.

Motion carries unanimously.

Article 31 passes

Article 32: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$4,000.00 for the Recreation Committee to purchase an Equipment Storage building.

A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$4,000.00 for the Recreation Committee to purchase an Equipment Storage building. Moderator called for discussion.

Peg Hobbs said equipment is now stored in different locations and explained what the building would be used for. Hammond Lumber gave a quote on raw material at \$3200. Peg said the Recreation Committee will depend upon volunteer labor and base material from the town pit to keep costs down. Hammond has us on a gift registry that residents can also donate to the project. The building will be located on the Prescott school grounds. Dorothy Sainio asked if it would be movable and Peg answered it won't be tied down so it is moveable. Henry Sainio asked if we went anywhere else for a price and she answered that N.C. Hunt was a little higher.

Motion carries unanimously.

Article 32 passes.

Article 33: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,500.00 from property taxation for Boards and Committees.

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend as advisory lines:

| | |
|---|---------------|
| Conservation and Parks Committee | 300.00 |
| Planning Board Expense | 300.00 |
| Midcoast Regional Planning Commission | 600.00 |
| Comprehensive Plan and Ordinance Review Committee | <u>300.00</u> |
| Total | 1,500.00 |

A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,500.00 from property taxation for Boards and Committees.

Motion carries unanimously.

Article 33 passes.

Article 34: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$16,000.00 from property taxation for Town Carry-over Accounts.

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend as advisory lines:

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Recreation Committee | 2,000.00 |
| Headstone Restoration Fund | 1,000.00 |
| Town Record Preservation Fund | 3,000.00 |
| Road Maintenance Truck Fund | <u>10,000.00</u> |
| Total | 16,000.00 |

A motion was made and seconded to see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$16,000.00 from property taxation for Town Carry-over Accounts. Moderator called for discussion.

Donald Grinnell asked how much is currently in the Truck Fund account and what year do we anticipate buying a new truck? Selectman Tom Johnston answered that we have \$23,500 in the truck replacement account and we haven't had a discussion on when to replace. Dave Williams asked if the \$10,000 was specifically for truck replacement. Selectmen Wesley Daniel and Tom Johnston answered that it is for truck replacement only.

Motion carries unanimously.

Article 34 passes.

Article 35: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$15,000 for the support of the Washington Library Association / Gibbs Library

A motion was made and seconded to see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$15,000 for the support of the Washington Library Association / Gibbs Library. Moderator called for discussion.

Kathleen Ocean, President of Washington Library Association, spoke about the library's value to the town and of its many services and programs that are available to all residents. The library hired a manager for a consistent presence through the week and anticipates a further increase in paid staff. The library can no longer meet the needs of the community with the current funding and urges a vote in support of Gibbs Library. Madelon Kelly has volunteered at the library for 24 years and will be leaving. She is concerned that it will be difficult to get a volunteer to do what she has done. Christopher Lascoux thanked Madelon for all she has done.

Dorothy Sainio said in 1933 and 1978 we paid librarians. Dorothy also said that she would never ask us for money but encouraged us to support the library. Jesse Casas said his comments are not reflecting his support of the library but there is an increase every year to support town jobs. The library made the decision to hire new people and now the library can't meet its budget. Janet Martucci pointed out that the library is a resource that benefits us all. People working at their jobs make volunteers difficult to find. Madelon responded that the lack of volunteers is not the only issue because cataloging needs to be done by a single person who knows how to catalogue so it can

be done consistently. Robert Marks spoke about the ways the library raised money in the past and how the circulation keeps growing. Real estate agents show potential buyers the library as an asset to the town.

Dave Martucci spoke about the library trust fund and the community block grant that helped build the library along with local contributions. He went on to ask for support to keep the library going. Kathleen Ocean talked about a value calculator that is offered by Maine State library and that she came up with a value of \$249,000 over 1 year to the town.

Wesley Daniel asked to move question.

Question moved.

2 dissenting votes.

Article 35 passes.

Article 36: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$9,426.00 from property taxation for Miscellaneous Accounts.

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend as advisory lines:

| | | |
|--|---------------|-----------------------|
| Washington Community Scholarship | 1,000.00 | |
| Washington Historical Society | 1,000.00 | |
| Washington Food Bank | 2,000.00 | |
| Mid-Coast Humane Society | 1,527.00 | |
| Flags for Veterans Graves and Town Parks | 500.00 | |
| Damariscotta Lake Watershed Dues | <u>50.00</u> | |
| | Sub-total | 6077.00 |
| Social Agencies and Concerns | | |
| New Hope for Women | 750.00 | |
| Broadreach Services | 750.00 | |
| Spectrum Generations | 920.00 | |
| Penquis Community Action Program | <u>929.00</u> | |
| | Sub-total | 3349.00 |
| | | Total \$9,426.00 |

A motion was made and seconded to see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$9,426.00 from property taxation for Miscellaneous Accounts. Moderator called for discussion.

Donald Grinnell commented that in the past only new organizations were required to petition and asked if it is really necessary for organizations that we have supported in the past to provide a petition. Selectman Wesley Daniel said that the selectmen have discussed this and that going forward only new organizations would need to submit a petition. Sharon Turner asked where the Mid Coast Humane Society was. Wesley responded that it is in Edgecomb and that we use them because they are half the price of Thomaston. Janet Martucci asked if the shelter was a no-kill shelter and Wesley answered that it is a no kill shelter. Sharon asked about the new correct name of the Damariscotta Lake Watershed Association and why are they in here. Barbara Carney answered that it was now known as the Midcoast Conservancy. Sharon also asked what we get out of our membership since the Washington Lakes Association doesn't have much interaction. Wesley Daniel answered that it was for our dues and that they have programs available to our residents.

Motion carries unanimously.

Article 36 passes.

Article 37: To see if the town will vote to appropriate \$103,934.00 from the 2017 Local Roads Assistance Program (LRAP) for Capital Road Improvement.
Selectmen recommend as advisory lines:

Capital Improvement of Town Roads 103,934.00

A motion was made and seconded to see if the town will vote to appropriate \$103,934.00 from the 2017 Local Roads Assistance Program (LRAP) for Capital Road Improvement.
Moderator called for discussion.

Lisa Sharp asked why it was more than last year. Wesley explained LRAP. Donald Grinnell asked why there is \$125,000 worth of paving when we are not paving 2 miles a year. Al Hutchinson explained that the road committee decided that the two roads to be repaired would be the upper end of Calderwood Rd and from the Fire Department to the Veteran's monument. He went on to say those prior cracks will radiate through and will be back to a problem in 2 years. Road bases need to be brought up. Tom Ford explained LRAP money comes from the State. Patricia Medeika asked how high the road would be raised in front of the grange. Al answered that portion wouldn't be raised. Peg Hobbs asked if a walkway could be incorporated into the paving project.

Motion carries unanimously.

Article 37 passes.

Article 38: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to appropriate any additional Revenue Sharing funds, should such funds become available, to further reduce the 2017 property tax commitment.

A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to appropriate any additional Revenue Sharing funds, should such funds become available, to further reduce the 2017 property tax commitment.

Motion carries unanimously.

Article 38 passes.

Given under our hands on this 22nd day of February, 2017:

Wesley F. Daniel
Chairman

Berkley Linscott
Selectman

Thomas N. Johnston
Selectman

Attest:
Ann Dean, Town Clerk