

OFFICIAL WARRANT FOR THE TOWN OF NORTHPORT
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
To be held on July 14, 2020 and July 16, 2020
(Date/location subject to change due to Social Distancing and Covid-19)

To: Amy Eldridge, Town Clerk of the Town of Northport in the County of Waldo, State of Maine.

GREETINGS:

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Northport in said County and State, qualified by law to vote in Town affairs to appear at the Northport Town Hall on Tuesday, July 14, 2020 at 8:00 a.m., there and then to act upon Articles 1 and 2

AND

To notify and warn said voters to meet at the Edna Drinkwater School on Thursday, July 16, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. there and then to act upon Articles 3 through 61 inclusive.

Article 1. To Choose a Moderator to preside at said Town Meeting.

Article 2. To elect by secret ballot:

One (1) Selectman, Assessor and Overseer of the Poor for a three (3) year term.

One (1) School Committee Member for a three (3) year term.

Article 3. To see what amount of money the Town will vote to raise, and appropriate to pay the Selectmen/Assessors/Overseers of the Poor for the ensuing year. (Current salary—Selectmen \$3,500.00—Selectman Chair \$4,000.00) *Selectmen recommend no change.*

Article 4. To see what amount of money the Town will vote to pay the Road Commissioner, Road Workers, Trucks and Equipment for the ensuing year. (Selectmen recommend State Rates plus 10% for routine road maintenance. Major road reconstruction to follow the competitive bid process.)

Article 5. To see what amount of money the Town will vote to pay members of the Planning Board. (Current pay \$27.50 for each member per meeting or workshop attended; and \$32.50 for the Chairman for each meeting or workshop attended.) *Selectmen recommend no change.*

Article 6. To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate and expend \$5,000.00 for the Northport Scholarship Fund for second semester Northport college freshmen.

Article 7. To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate and expend funds for the Northport Village Corporation an amount of \$15,000.00.

Article 8. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the transfer of unexpended funds from the Northport Volunteer Fire Dept. 2020 operating budget as of 6/30/2020 to the Fire Truck Replacement Special Reserve Account.

Article 9. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the transfer of unexpended funds from the Northport First Responders 2020 operating and equipment budget as of 6/30/2020 to the First Responders Equipment Special Reserve Fund.

Article 10. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the transfer of Mooring Fees collected as of 6/30/2020 to the Marine Special Reserve Fund.

Article 11. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the transfer of Vital Records Fees collected as of 6/30/2020 to the Records Preservation Special Reserve Fund.

Article 12. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the transfer of unexpended funds from the Records Preservation 2020 operating budget as of 6/30/2020 to the Records Preservation Special Reserve Fund.

Article 13. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the sale of cemetery lots with 50% of the revenue to be placed in the Cemetery Capital Reserve Account and 50% to be placed in the Cemetery Perpetual Care Trust Account.

Article 14. To see if the Town will vote to transfer the funds from the Cemetery Development Account, which is \$4,613.50, to the Cemetery Maintenance Account, and authorize expenditure of the same.

Article 15. To see if the Town will vote to continue recycling for the 2020-2021 season, knowing it will cost an estimated additional \$20,000.00.

Article 16. Shall the Town enact the revised Administrative Ordinance which reflects the approved vote of the Annual Town Meeting of May 4, 2009, moving the Annual Town Meeting to the first Monday in June beginning in 2010, with Municipal Elections held the Saturday before Town Meeting. Admin Ordn. Sec. 2.01 (A) ("The Annual Town Meeting shall be held the first Monday in June of each year. Questions to be acted upon by referendum (secret ballot) and the election of municipal officers and municipal officials shall be voted on the Saturday preceding the day of the floor vote for the Annual Town Meeting.")



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Article 17. To see what amount of money the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, carry forward and expend for the following accounts. Selectmen recommend the following:

Department	Raise From Taxes	Estimated Carry Forward*	Estimated Revenue*	Total Appropriation*
A)Administration	\$185,907.82	\$0	\$0	\$185,907.82
B)Ambulance	\$16,504.00	\$0	\$0	\$16,504.00
C)Animal Control	\$8,750.00	\$7,500.00	(Dog Licenses) \$1,000.00	\$17,250.00
D)Assessing Contract	\$23,250.00	\$0	\$0	\$23,250.00
E)Cemetery Maintenance.	\$10,000.00	\$6,400.00	\$0	\$16,400.00
F)Cemetery Development	\$0.00	\$4,613.50	\$0	\$4,613.50
G)Code Enforcement Office	\$22,000.00	\$0	(Permits) \$4,000.00	\$26,000.00
H)Contingency Fund	\$10,000.00	\$0	\$0	\$10,000.00
I)Emergency Management	\$3,000.00	\$0	\$0	\$3,000.00
J)Employee Benefits	\$31,000.00	\$0	\$0	\$31,000.00
K)First Responders - Equipment	\$5,000.00	\$0	\$0	\$5,000.00
L)First Responders - Operating	\$7,200.00	\$0	\$0	\$7,200.00
M)General Assistance	\$2,500.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00 (from 70% State Reimbursement)	\$4,500.00
N)Harbor Fund	\$10,000.00	\$3,000.00	(Boat Excise) \$3,500.00	\$16,500.00
O)Insurance	\$23,000.00	\$0	\$0	\$23,000.00
P)Legal	\$20,000.00	\$0	\$0	\$20,000.00
Q)Northport Vol. Fire Dept. Operations	\$61,150.00	\$0	\$0	\$61,150.00
R)NVFD Chief Stipend	\$7,000.00	\$0	\$0	\$7,000.00
S)NVFD Truck Replacement	\$20,000.00	\$0	\$0	\$20,000.00
T)Office Operations	\$47,000.00	\$0	\$18,000.00 (Tax Interest & Charges)	\$65,000.00
U)Payroll Taxes	\$26,000.00	\$0	\$0	\$26,000.00
V)Personal Time Payable	\$0	\$12,122.91	\$0	\$12,122.91
W)Planning Board	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	(Board fees) \$500.00	\$5,500.00
X)Roads & Bridges	\$200,000.00	\$400,000.00	(Auto Excise) \$250,000.00 (State LRAP) \$35,452.00	\$885,452.00
Y)Septage Contract	\$4,000.00	\$0	\$0	\$4,000.00
Z)Snow Removal & Sanding	\$205,000.00	\$0	\$0	\$205,000.00
AA)Social Services	\$7,500.00	\$0	\$0	\$7,500.00
BB)Street Lights	\$1,500.00	\$0	\$0	\$1,500.00
CC)Town Hall Building Fund	\$0.00	\$41,266.51	\$0	\$41,266.51
DD)Town Hall Operations	\$20,000.00	\$0	\$0	\$20,000.00
EE)Transfer Station	\$70,000.00	\$75,000.00	\$60,000.00 (Sticker/Metals/Brush/Debris)	\$205,000.00
FF)Wyman Park	\$800.00	\$0	\$0	\$800.00
Totals	\$1,050,561.82	\$553,402.92	\$373,452.00	\$1,977,416.74

*based on estimated amounts.

Article 18. To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen to expend such monies deemed necessary from the following Reserve Account, or to take any action relative to same.

- Cemetery Capital Reserve Account
- Children's Christmas Special Reserve
- Digital Mapping Special Reserve
- Education RSU#20 Audit Fund Balance Account
- Fire Truck Replacement Special Reserve
- First Responders Equipment Special Reserve
- Marine Special Reserve
- Records Preservation Special Reserve
- Sand/Salt Shed Special Reserve
- Wyman Park Special Reserve

Article 19. To see if the Town will vote to carry forward the balances of the following accounts as of 6/30/2020 and allow expenditures of same:

- Town Hall A.E.D.
- Education Account
- Education PERS Special Reserve Account
- Northport Needy Families
- Northport Warm Neighbors Fund
- Snowmobile Reimbursement Fund

Article 20. To see if the Town will vote to use \$175,000.00 from the Undesignated Fund Balance to reduce the 2020/2021 tax commitment.

Article 21. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen, on behalf of the Town, to dispose of Real Estate acquired by the Town for non-payment of taxes thereon, except that the Municipal Officers shall use the special sale process required by Title 36 M.R.S.A. §943-C for qualifying homestead property if they choose to sell it to anyone other than the former owner(s).

Article 22. To see if the Town will vote to fix a rate of interest on taxes delinquent October 1, 2020; and March 2, 2021. (Selectmen recommend State authorized rate of 9%)

Article 23. To see if the Town will set a rate of interest for refunded taxes due to over assessments. (Selectmen recommend State authorized rate of 9%)

Article 24. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to expend Overlay or Undesignated Fund Balance monies, to pay tax abatements and applicable interest granted during the fiscal year.

Article 25. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the tax collector to accept prepayments of taxes not yet committed pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. §506.

Article 26. To see if the Town will vote to enter into an Alewife Harvesting Program, with or without the Town of Lincolnville, for the 2020-2021 season, and close the Ducktrap River and all its tributaries to any taking of alewives or blueback herring.

Article 27. To see if the Town will vote to accept the following grants and revenue from the State of Maine and allow the Selectmen to use them as they deem necessary. *All dollar amounts are estimates.*

State Revenue Sharing	\$Unknown
Veterans	\$1,073.00
Snowmobile Registrations	\$211.84
Local Road Assistance	\$35,452.00
General Assistance	\$Unknown
Civil Emergency Funds	\$Unknown
Online Burn Permit	\$70.00
Education Funds/Grants	\$Unknown
Tree Growth	\$1,250.25
All Other Funds Available	\$Unknown

Article 28. To see if the Town will vote to give the Northport Ridge Riders (a snowmobile club) funds that the State of Maine returned to the Town in the amount of \$211.84 from snowmobile registrations, to be used to maintain snowmobile trails in Northport.

Article 29. To see if the Town will vote to allow the Selectmen to accept and expend educational and other grants and donations, or gifts, for the reason specified in the grant, donation or gift.

Article 30. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to dispose of Town owned assets with a value of \$3,000.00 or less under such terms and conditions as they deem advisable.

Article 31. To see if the Town will vote to increase the property tax levy limit of \$ 1,210,788.96 established for the Town of Northport by State law, in the event that the municipal budget approved under the preceding articles will result in a tax commitment that is greater than that property tax levy limit. (Written ballot required by statute.)

School Budget Articles to Appropriate Monies for The Fiscal Year 2020-2021

Articles Pursuant to 20-A M.R.S.A. §1485 and §15690

ARTICLE 32. To see what sum the Northport School Department will be authorized to expend for Regular Instruction. School Committee Recommends \$ 1,481,307

ARTICLE 33. To see what sum the Northport School Department will be authorized to expend for Special Education. School Committee Recommends \$ 602,905

ARTICLE 34. To see what sum the Northport School Department will be authorized to expend for Other Instruction. School Committee Recommends \$41,335

ARTICLE 35. To see what sum the Northport School Department will be authorized to expend for Student and Staff Support. School Committee Recommends \$186,644

ARTICLE 36. To see what sum the Northport School Department will be authorized to expend for System Administration. School Committee Recommends \$160,974

ARTICLE 37. To see what sum the Northport School Department will be authorized to expend for School Administration. School Committee Recommends \$196,100

ARTICLE 38. To see what sum the Northport School Department will be authorized to expend for Transportation and Buses. School Committee Recommends \$131,308

ARTICLE 39. To see what sum the Northport School Department will be authorized to expend for Facilities Maintenance. School Committee Recommends \$221,749

ARTICLE 40. To see what sum the Northport School Department will be authorized to expend for Debt Service and Other Commitments. School Committee Recommends \$311,635

ARTICLE 41. To see what sum the Northport School Department will be authorized to expend for Food Service Transfers. School Committee Recommends \$53,748

***PLEASE NOTE:** Actions taken pursuant to the following articles (42-45) must be taken by a recorded vote.*

ARTICLE 42. To see what sum the Town of Northport will appropriate for the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act (**School Committee Recommends \$1,980,609.23**) and to see what sum the municipality will raise as the municipality's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15688. **School Committee Recommends \$1,799,323.90.**

"Explanation: The school administrative unit's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act is the amount of money determined by state law to be the minimum amount that a municipality must raise in order to receive the full amount of state dollars."

Yes _____ No _____

ARTICLE 43. To see what sum the Town of Northport will raise and appropriate for the annual payments on debt service previously approved by the legislative body for non-state-funded school construction projects, or non-state-funded portions of school construction projects in addition to the funds appropriated as the local share of the school administrative unit's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12. **School Committee Recommends \$259,466**

"Explanation: Non-state-funded debt service is the amount of money needed for the annual payments on the municipality's long-term debt for major capital school construction projects at the Edna Drinkwater School and Northport's share of long-term debt for major capital school construction projects in RSU 71 (previously MSAD 34) that are not approved for state subsidy. The bonding of this long-term debt was previously approved by the voters."

Yes _____ No _____

ARTICLE 44. Shall the Town of Northport raise and appropriate \$919,986 in additional local funds, which exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services allocation model by \$919,986 as required to fund the budget recommended by the School Committee?

The School Committee recommends \$919,986 for additional local funds and gives the following reasons for exceeding the State's Essential Programs and Services funding model by \$919,986.

"Explanation: The additional local funds are those locally raised funds over and above the school administrative unit's local contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and local amounts raised for the annual payment on non-state funded debt service that will help achieve the Northport School Department budget for educational programs."

Yes _____ No _____

ARTICLE 45. To see what sum the Town of Northport will authorize the Northport School Committee to expend for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021 from the Town of Northport's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act, non-state-funded school construction projects, additional local funds for school purposes under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15690, unexpended balances, tuition receipts, state subsidy and other receipts for the support of schools. **School Committee Recommends \$3,387,705.**

Yes _____ No _____

ARTICLE 46. Shall the Town of Northport appropriate \$177,620 from the school unit's unassigned fund balance to offset taxes in the 2020-2021 school budget.

ARTICLE 47. Shall the Town of Northport appropriate \$50,000.00 from the MEPERS funds reserved for education to offset taxes in the 2020-2021 budget.

ARTICLE 48. Shall the School Committee be authorized to transfer a sum no greater than \$50,000 from unexpended balances at the end of the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year to the **Special Education Reserve Account** for the purpose of providing special education services either in-house or in an out-of-district placement program?

ARTICLE 49. Shall the School Committee be authorized to expend funds in the **Special Education Reserve Account** for the purpose that such reserve account was created, and in the amount not to exceed \$100,000 for the year beginning July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021?

ARTICLE 50. Shall the School Committee be authorized to transfer a sum no greater than \$10,000 from unexpended balances at the end of the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year to the **Fuel Cost Stabilization Reserve Account** for the purpose of offsetting fuel costs for heating and transportation that exceed budgeted amounts?

ARTICLE 51. Shall the School Committee be authorized to expend funds in the **Fuel Cost Stabilization Reserve Account** for the purpose that such reserve account was created, and in the amount not to exceed \$13,000 for the year beginning July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021?

ARTICLE 52. Shall the School Committee be authorized to establish a **Capital Maintenance Reserve Account** and transfer a sum no greater than \$50,000 from unexpended balances at the end of the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year to the **Capital Maintenance Reserve Account** for the purpose of building renovations, repairs and replacements?

ARTICLE 53. Shall the School Committee be authorized to expend funds in the **Capital Maintenance Reserve Account** for the purpose that such reserve account was created, and in the amount not to exceed \$50,000 for the year beginning July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021?

ARTICLE 54. Shall the School Committee be authorized to establish a **Food Service Reserve Account** and transfer a sum no greater than \$20,000 from unexpended balances at the end of the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year to the **Food Service Reserve Account** for the purpose of offsetting costs for the food service program that exceed budgeted amounts?

ARTICLE 55. Shall the School Committee be authorized to expend funds in the **Food Service Reserve Account** for the purpose that such reserve account was created, and in the amount not to exceed \$20,000 for the year beginning July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021?

ARTICLE 56. Shall the School Committee be authorized to establish a **Regular Instruction Reserve Account** and transfer a sum no greater than \$30,000 from unexpended balances at the end of the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year to the **Regular Instruction Reserve Account** for the purpose of unanticipated expenditures in support of regular education programs either in-house or out-of-district?

ARTICLE 57. Shall the School Committee be authorized to expend funds in the **Regular Instruction Reserve Account** for the purpose that such reserve account was created, and in the amount not to exceed \$30,000 for the year beginning July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021?

ARTICLE 58. In the event that the Northport School Department receives more state education subsidy than the amount included in its budget, shall the School Committee be authorized, in its discretion, to use all or part of the additional state subsidy to **increase expenditures for school purposes in cost center categories approved by the School Committee, increase the allocation of finances in a reserve fund approved by the School Committee, and/or decrease the local cost share expectation, as defined in Title 20-A section 15671 A(1)(B), for local property taxpayers for funding public education as approved by the School Board?**

ARTICLE 59. Shall the School Committee be authorized to expend other sums as may be received from federal and state grants or programs or other sources during the fiscal year for school purposes, provided that such grants, programs or other sources do not require the expenditure of other funds not previously appropriated.

ARTICLE 60. Shall the School Committee be authorized to transfer an excess of 5% between cost centers, not to exceed the total spending allocation for the 2019-2020 school year, to balance accounts.


ARTICLE 61. In the event that the Northport School Department is informed of a curtailment of state education subsidy for 2020-2021, shall the School Committee be authorized, in its discretion, to utilize school fund balance to cover the subsidy curtailed by the State?

The polls will be open or voting Tuesday July 14, 2020 at the Town Hall on Articles 1 and 2 from 8:00a.m. - 8:00p.m., at which time the meeting will be adjourned: the adjourned meeting to be reopened at the Edna Drinkwater School on Thursday, July 16, 2020 at 7:00p.m., then and there to act upon Article 3 and the remaining Articles in the Warrant. Dates /Location is subject to change due to Social Distancing and Covid-19.

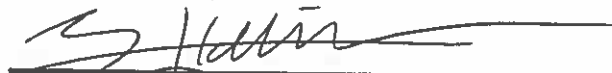
IF YOU ARE NOT A REGISTERED VOTER IN NORTHPORT, YOU MAY NOT VOTE AT THE TOWN MEETING.

The Registrar of Voters will be available at the polls from 8:00a.m. - 8:00p.m. Tuesday, July 14, 2020 at the Town Hall, and 6:30p.m. - 7:00p.m. at the Edna Drinkwater School on Thursday, July 16, 2020.

Given under our hands in Northport, Maine on May 27, 2020



Michelle Patten, Chairman



Zachary Hollingshead, Vice Chairman



Jeanine Tucker, Selectmen

A true copy attest:



Amy Eldridge, Town Clerk