

**OFFICIAL WARRANT FOR THE TOWN OF NORTHPORT
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

To be held on June 17, 2023, and June 19, 2023

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 Office on Saturday, June 17, 2023 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 Monday, June 19, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. there and then to act upon Articles 3 through 53 inclusive.

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

On Saturday June 17, 2023, Town Clerk Amy Eldridge opened the meeting by greeting those present at the Town Office for the purpose of action on Articles 1 and 2. Motion was made by Francis Flagg and second by Paul Sheridan, to nominate Robin Coombs as Moderator of the election portion of the Town Meeting. Coombs was sworn in as Moderator by Town Clerk Amy Eldridge.

Article 2. To elect by secret ballot:

One (1) Municipal Officer, Assessor, and Overseer for a three (3) year term.

Marjorie (Molly) Schauffler received 140 votes, Stephen Hemenway received 30 votes, Amy Eldridge received 1 write in vote, and 1 blank vote was cast.

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

Mark Lynch received 125 votes, Shelby Connolly received 36 votes, no write in votes were cast, and 1 blank vote was cast.

One (1) Road Commissioner for a two (2) year term.

Amon Morse received 160 votes, Robin Coombs received 1 write in vote, and 11 blank votes were cast.

Eldridge closed the election portion of the Annual Town Meeting at 5:00 pm on June 17, 2023, and would reconvene on Monday June 19, 2023, at 6:30 pm at the Edna Drinkwater School.

Eldridge reopened the Annual Town Meeting at 6:34 p.m. by greeting the 58 residents present at the Edna Drinkwater School for the purpose of acting on Articles 3 through 53. Eldridge introduced herself, thanked all for coming, and then asked Herman Littlefield to lead the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon the conclusion of the pledge, Littlefield spoke of the need for donations to purchase and maintain American flags on the utility poles in Northport. He explained the cause and how people can donate to the fund.

Eldridge proceeded to read aloud the results of the Election on June 17, 2023, at the Town Office. Eldridge reported there were 172 votes cast at the polls. Marjorie (Molly) Schauffler was elected as Municipal Officer with 140 votes; Stephen Hemenway received 30 votes, Amy Eldridge received 1 vote, and 1 blank vote was

cast. Mark Lynch was re-elected as the Northport School Committee Member with 125 votes, Shelby Connolly received 36 votes, no write in votes were cast, and 1 blank vote was cast. Amon Morse III was re-elected as Road Commissioner with 160 votes, Robin Coombs received 1 write in vote, and 11 blank votes were cast.

Eldridge introduced James Kossuth, Town Administrator, who explained that each year the Municipal Officers nominate someone for the Spirit of America Award, which encourages and recognizes those who volunteer. The individual(s) awarded demonstrates a strong sense of community and volunteerism. Kossuth read a resolution commending Peter B. Simpson for his extensive community service. He then presented the Spirit of America Award for 2023 to Peter B. Simpson. Simpson was thankful for the award and provided attendees with a fire safety tip. Having your house clearly marked and visible from the road helps the fire department and first responders.

Kossuth proceeded to introduce Breanna Pinkham Bebb, who presented Shelly Patten with flowers, and thanked Patten for 6 years of service and support as the Municipal Officer Chair for the Town.

Eldridge proceeded to read Article 1 and called for any nominations for Moderator to preside over Town Meeting. Nomination was made by Robin Coombs, seconded by Paul Sheridan, to have Lee Woodward, Jr. serve as Moderator over the Annual Town Meeting. Three ballots were cast in favor of Woodward. Eldridge recited the oath to Woodward, swearing him in as Moderator over Town Meeting. Woodward proceeded to introduce our State Representative Janice Dodge, who provided all in attendance with current news, and asked all too please keep in touch with her about any concerns. She thanked James Kossuth for making a suggestion to amend a State law. The new law will take effect this Fall, saving taxpayer's money.

Woodward proceeded to explain the process of the Town Meeting and both the Select Board and the School Board have determined multiple articles that could be combined.

Article 3. Shall a revised ordinance entitled "Town of Northport Special Amusement Ordinance" be enacted and repeal and replace any Municipal Special Amusement Ordinance previously enacted? An attested copy of the full text of this ordinance has been posted together with this warrant, and copies are available from the office of the Town Clerk and will be available at the Town Meeting. Motion was made and seconded to approve the article as written. Woodward called for questions & comments. Hearing none, all in favor – none opposed. Article passed.

Article 4. Shall a revised ordinance entitled “Town of Northport Subdivision Ordinance” be enacted and repeal and replace any Municipal Subdivision Ordinance previously enacted? *An attested copy of the full text of this ordinance has been posted together with this warrant, and copies are available from the office of the Town Clerk and will be available at the Town Meeting.* **Motion was made and seconded to approve the article as written. Woodward called for questions & comments. Hearing none, all in favor – none opposed. Article passed.**

Article 5. Shall amendments to the Town of Northport Administrative Ordinance be enacted? *An attested copy of the amendments to this ordinance has been posted together with this warrant, and copies are available from the office of the Town Clerk and will be available at the Town Meeting.* **Motion was made and seconded to approve the article as written. Woodward called for questions & comments. Hearing none, all in favor – none opposed. Article passed.**

Article 6. To see what amount of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate to pay the Municipal Officers/Assessors/Overseers for the ensuing year. (Current salary–Municipal Officer \$3,500.00– Chair of the Select Board \$4,000.00) *Select Board recommends no change.* **Motion was made and seconded to approve the article as written. Woodward called for questions & comments. Hearing none, all in favor – none opposed. Article passed.**

Article 7. To see what amount of money the Town will vote to pay the Road Commissioner, Road Workers, Trucks and Equipment for the ensuing year. (Select Board recommends State Rates plus 10% for routine road maintenance. Major road reconstruction to follow the competitive bid process.) **Motion was made and seconded to approve the article as written. Woodward called for questions & comments. Hearing none, all in favor – none opposed. Article passed.**

Article 8. To see what amount of money the Town will vote to pay members of the Planning Board. (Current pay \$30.00 for each member per meeting or workshop attended; and \$35.00 for the Chair for each meeting or workshop attended.) *Select Board recommends no change.* **Motion was made and seconded to approve the article as written. Woodward called for questions & comments. Hearing none, all in favor – none opposed. Article passed.**

Article 9. 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. **Motion was made and seconded to approve the article as written. Woodward called for questions & comments. Hearing none, all in favor – none opposed. Article passed.**

Article 10. To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and expend funds for the Northport Village Corporation an amount of \$7,000.00. *Select Board also recommends committing \$6,000.00 from the Town’s Roads & Bridges account and \$12,000.00 from the Town’s Marine Special Reserve Fund for infrastructure maintenance and repairs within the boundaries of the Northport Village Corporation.* **Motion was made and seconded to approve the article as written. Woodward called for questions & comments. Hearing none, all in favor – none opposed. Article passed.**

The Moderator can accept a motion to consider multiple articles at the same time. If so desired, a single motion can be made to vote on Articles 11-15 together and discussed individually.

Woodward requested a motion to combine Articles 11-15 to be voted as one article and discussed individually. Motion was made and seconded to approve to combine Articles 11-15. Motion passed.

Article 11. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the transfer of unexpended funds from the Northport Volunteer Fire Dept. 2023 Operating Budget as of 6/30/2023 to the Fire Truck Replacement Special Reserve Account. ***Woodward called for questions & comments. Hearing none, all in favor – none opposed. Article passed.***

Article 12. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the transfer of unexpended funds from the Northport First Responders 2023 Operating and Equipment Budget as of 6/30/2023 to the First Responders Equipment Special Reserve Fund. ***Woodward called for questions & comments. Hearing none, all in favor – none opposed. Article passed.***

Article 13. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the transfer of Mooring Fees collected as of 6/30/2023 to the Marine Special Reserve Fund. ***Woodward called for questions & comments. Hearing none, all in favor – none opposed. Article passed.***

Article 14. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the transfer of Vital Records Fees collected as of 6/30/2023 to the Records Preservation Special Reserve Fund. ***Woodward called for questions & comments. Hearing none, all in favor – none opposed. Article passed.***

Article 15. 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. ***Woodward called for questions & comments. Hearing none, all in favor – none opposed. Article passed.***

The Moderator can accept a motion to consider multiple articles at the same time. If so desired, a single motion can be made to vote on Articles 16-17 together and discussed individually.

Woodward requested a motion to combine Articles 16-17 to be voted as one article and discussed individually. Motion was made and seconded to approve to combine Articles 16-17. Motion passed.

Article 16. To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board to expend such monies deemed necessary from the following Reserve Accounts, 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

Woodward called for questions & comments. Hearing none, all in favor – none opposed. Article passed.

Article 17. To see if the Town will vote to carry forward the balances of the following accounts as of 6/30/2023 and allow expenditures of same:

- Education Account
- Education PERS Special Reserve Account
- Northport Needy Families
- Northport Warm Neighbors Fund

Snowmobile Reimbursement Fund

Woodward called for questions & comments. Hearing none, all in favor – none opposed. Article passed.

Article 18. To see if the Town will vote to use \$250,000.00 from the Undesignated Fund Balance to reduce the 2023/2024 tax commitment. **Motion was made and seconded to approve the article as written. Woodward called for questions & comments. Hearing none, all in favor – none opposed. Article passed.**

Article 19. To see if the Town will vote to change the name of the First Responders Equipment Special Reserve Fund to the First Responders Equipment and Operating Special Reserve Fund. **Motion was made and seconded to approve the article as written. Woodward called for questions & comments. Hearing none, all in favor – none opposed. Article passed.**

Article 20. To see if the Town will vote to continue the zero-sort recycling program at the Transfer Station. *“Explanation: The Town does not currently charge residents to drop off recyclable materials at the Transfer Station. From July 1, 2022, to March 31, 2023, recycling cost the Town \$41,962.00, and from July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022, recycling cost the Town \$50,879.70. The Select Board anticipates that recycling will cost the Town approximately \$74,150.00 in Fiscal Year 2024.”* **Motion was made and seconded to approve the article as written. Woodward called for questions & comments. Hearing none, all in favor – none opposed. Article passed.**

The Moderator can accept a motion to consider multiple articles at the same time. If so desired, a single motion can be made to vote on Articles 21- 26 together and discussed individually.

Woodward requested a motion to combine Articles 21-26 to be voted as one article and discussed individually. Motion was made and seconded to approve to combine Articles 21-26. Motion passed.

Article 21. To see what amount of money the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, carry forward and expend for the following accounts. Select Board recommends the following:

Department	Raise From Taxes	Estimated Carry Forward*	Estimated Revenue*	Total Appropriation*
A)Administration	\$202,715.54	0	0	\$202,715.54
B)Ambulance	\$19,106.00	0	0	\$19,106.00
C)Animal Control	\$6,750.00	\$13,000.00	(Dog Licenses) \$2,500.00	\$22,250.00
D)Assessing Contract	\$25,750.00	0	0	25,750.00
E) Assessing – Revaluation	\$50,000.00	0	0	\$50,000.00
F)Broadband	0	\$41,102.48	0	\$41,102.48
G)Cemetery Maintenance	\$7,000.00	\$10,500.00	0	\$17,500.00
H)Code Enforcement Office	\$23,000.00	0	(Permits) \$5,000.00	\$28,000.00
I)Contingency Fund	\$10,000.00	0	0	\$10,000.00
J)Emergency Management	\$3,500.00	0	0	\$3,500.00
K)Employee Benefits – Health Insurance	\$33,000.00	0	0	\$33,000.00
L)Employee Benefits – Retirement	\$7,800.00	0	0	\$7,800.00
M)First Responders - Equipment	\$5,000.00	0	0	\$5,000.00

N)First Responders - Operating	\$7,000.00	0	0	\$7,000.00
O)General Assistance	\$2,500.00	\$8,000.00	(State Reimbursement) \$1,750.00	\$12,250.00
P)Harbor Fund	\$13,000.00	\$24,000.00	(Boat Excise) \$4,000.00	\$41,000.00
Q)Insurance	\$25,000.00	0	0	\$25,000.00
R)Legal	\$10,000.00	0	0	\$10,000.00
S)Northport Vol. Fire Dept. Operations	\$67,850.00	0	0	\$67,850.00
T)NVFD Chief Stipend	\$6,500.00	0	0	\$6,500.00
U)NVFD Truck Replacement	\$22,000.00	0	0	\$22,000.00
V)Office Operations	\$60,000.00	0	(Tax Interest&Charges) \$10,000.00	\$70,000.00
W)Payroll Taxes	\$28,000.00	0	0	\$28,000.00
X)Personal Time Payable	0	\$20,506.11	0	\$20,506.11
Y)Planning Board	0	\$7,000.00	(Board Fees) \$500.00	\$7,500.00
Z)Roads & Bridges	\$200,000.00	\$500,000.00	(Auto Excise) \$300,000.00 (State URIP) \$35,964.00	\$1,035,964.00
AA)Septage Contract	\$8,000.00	0	0	\$8,000.00
BB)Snow Removal & Sanding	\$250,000.00	0	0	\$250,000.00
CC)Social Services	\$8,800.00	0	0	\$8,800.00
DD)Street Lights	\$1,500.00	0	0	\$1,500.00
EE)Town Hall Building Fund	\$10,000.00	\$41,266.51	0	\$51,266.51
FF)Town Hall Operations	\$24,000.00	0	0	\$24,000.00
GG)Transfer Station	\$107,000.00	\$71,000.00	\$90,000.00	\$268,000.00
HH)Wyman Park	\$1,500.00	0	0	\$1,500.00
Totals	\$1,246,271.54	\$736,375.10	\$449,714.00	\$2,432,360.64

*based on estimated amounts.

Woodward called for questions & comments. Hearing none, all in favor – none opposed. Article passed.

Article 22. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board, 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). ***Woodward called for questions & comments. Hearing none, all in favor – none opposed. Article passed.***

Article 23. To see if the Town will vote to fix a rate of interest on taxes delinquent October 1, 2023; and March 2, 2024. (Select Board recommends State authorized rate of 8%.) ***Woodward called for questions & comments. Hearing none, all in favor – none opposed. Article passed.***

Article 24. To see if the Town will set a rate of interest for refunded taxes due to over assessments. (Select Board recommends State authorized rate of 8%.) ***Woodward called for questions & comments. Hearing none, all in favor – none opposed. Article passed.***

Article 25. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to expend Overlay or Undesignated Fund Balance monies, to pay tax abatements and applicable interest granted during the fiscal year. ***Woodward called for questions & comments. Hearing none, all in favor – none opposed. Article passed.***

Article 26. 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. *Woodward called for questions & comments. Hearing none, all in favor – none opposed. Article passed.*

Article 27. To see if the Town will vote to enter into an Alewife Harvesting Program, with or without the Town of Lincolnville, for the 2023-2024 season, and close the Ducktrap River and all its tributaries to any taking of alewives or blueback herring. *Motion was made and seconded to approve the article as written. Woodward called for questions & comments. Hearing none, all in favor – none opposed. Article passed.*

Article 28. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to make final determinations, after notice and hearing, regarding the winter closing of roads in accordance with 23 M.R.S.A. § 2953(3) and final determinations, after notice and hearing, to annul, alter or modify such orders in accordance with 23 M.R.S.A. § 2953(4); such final determinations shall not require a vote by the legislative body of the Town. *Motion was made and seconded to approve the article as written. Woodward called for questions & comments. Hearing none, all in favor – none opposed. Article passed.*

Article 29. To see if the Town will vote to accept the following grants and revenue from the federal government, State of Maine, and their agencies and subdivisions, and allow the Select Board to use them as they deem necessary. *All dollar amounts are estimates.*

Business Equipment Tax Exemption (BETE)	\$Unknown
Civil Emergency Funds	\$Unknown
Education Funds/Grants	\$Unknown
Federal Emergency Management Agency	\$Unknown
General Assistance	\$Unknown
Homestead Exemption	\$Unknown
Local Road Assistance	\$35,964.00
Online Burn Permit	\$Unknown
Snowmobile Registrations	\$158.88
Solar Reimbursement	\$371.00
State Revenue Sharing	\$Unknown
Tree Growth	\$1,486.13
Veterans	\$764.00
All Other Funds Available	\$Unknown

Motion was made and seconded to approve the article as written. Woodward called for questions & comments. Hearing none, Majority in favor – one opposed. Article passed.

Article 30. To see if the Town will vote to allocate any funds received from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for the 2021 Halloween storm to the Town's Roads and Bridges account. *Motion was made and seconded to approve the article as written. Woodward called for questions & comments. Hearing none, all in favor – none opposed. Article passed.*

Article 31. 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 \$158.88 from snowmobile registrations, to be used to maintain snowmobile trails in Northport. *Motion was made and seconded to approve the article as written. Woodward called for questions & comments. Hearing none, all in favor – none opposed. Article passed.*

Article 32. To see if the Town will vote to allow the Select Board to accept and expend educational and other grants, donations, or gifts for the reason specified in the grant, donation, or gift. *Motion was made and seconded to*

approve the article as written. Woodward called for questions & comments. Hearing none, all in favor – none opposed. Article passed.

Article 33. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to dispose of Town owned assets with a value of \$3,000.00 or less under such terms and conditions as they deem advisable. ***Motion was made and seconded to approve the article as written. Woodward called for questions & comments. Anne Frenning Kossuth asked for clarification on what dispose means. Municipal Officer, Breanna Pinkham Bebb provided examples of what the Select Board could dispose. Woodward called for any more questions or comments. Hearing none, all in favor – none opposed. Article passed.***

Article 34. To see if the Town will vote to increase the property tax levy limit of \$1,332,628.02 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.) ***Motion was made and seconded to approve the article as written. Woodward called for questions & comments. The Board stated that no action needs to be taken on this article, at this time, as the levy limit has not been exceeded. Motion was made and seconded to table the article. All in favor – none opposed.***

School Budget Articles to Appropriate Monies for the Fiscal Year 2023-2024

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

While Articles 35-44 must be written as separate articles, the Moderator can accept a motion to consider multiple articles at the same time. If so desired, a single motion can be made to vote on Articles 35-44 together.

Woodward requested a motion to combine Articles 35-44 to be voted as one article and discussed individually. Motion was made and seconded to approve to combine Articles 35-44. Motion passed.

Article 35. To see what sum the Northport School Department will be authorized to expend for Regular Instruction. School Committee Recommends \$1,793,492. ***Woodward called for questions & comments. Hearing none, all in favor – none opposed. Article passed.***

Article 36. To see what sum the Northport School Department will be authorized to expend for Special Education. School Committee Recommends \$629,371. ***Woodward called for questions & comments. Hearing none, all in favor – none opposed. Article passed.***

Article 37. To see what sum the Northport School Department will be authorized to expend for Other Instruction. School Committee Recommends \$31,472. ***Woodward called for questions & comments. Hearing none, all in favor – none opposed. Article passed.***

Article 38. To see what sum the Northport School Department will be authorized to expend for Student and Staff Support. School Committee Recommends \$239,932. ***Woodward called for questions & comments. Hearing none, all in favor – none opposed. Article passed.***

Article 39. To see what sum the Northport School Department will be authorized to expend for System Administration. School Committee Recommends \$166,766. **Woodward called for questions & comments. Hearing none, all in favor – none opposed. Article passed.**

Article 40. To see what sum the Northport School Department will be authorized to expend for School Administration. School Committee Recommends \$216,920. **Woodward called for questions & comments. Hearing none, all in favor – none opposed. Article passed.**

Article 41. To see what sum the Northport School Department will be authorized to expend for Transportation and Buses. School Committee Recommends \$173,659. **Woodward called for questions & comments. Hearing none, all in favor – none opposed. Article passed.**

Article 42. To see what sum the Northport School Department will be authorized to expend for Facilities Maintenance. School Committee Recommends \$275,473. **Woodward called for questions & comments. Hearing none, all in favor – none opposed. Article passed.**

Article 43. To see what sum the Northport School Department will be authorized to expend for Debt Service and Other Commitments. School Committee Recommends \$298,809. **Woodward called for questions & comments. Hearing none, all in favor – none opposed. Article passed.**

Article 44. To see what sum the Northport School Department will be authorized to expend for Food Service Transfers. School Committee Recommends \$74,723. **Woodward called for questions & comments. Hearing none, all in favor – none opposed. Article passed.**

PLEASE NOTE: Actions taken pursuant to the following articles (45-48) must be taken by a recorded vote. Only Article 47 requires a Written Vote)

Article 45. 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 \$1,954,728.69**) 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 \$1,775,366.10. Motion was made and seconded to approve the School Committee recommended amount. Woodward called for questions & comments. Hearing none, 54 in favor – none opposed. Article passed.**

“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 54 No 0

Article 46. 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 \$259,975. Motion was made and seconded to approve the School Committee recommended amount. Woodward called for questions & comments. Hearing none, 54 in favor – none opposed. Article passed.**

“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 54 No 0

PLEASE NOTE: Article 47 requires a written vote

Article 47. Shall the Town of Northport raise and appropriate \$1,241,892 in additional local funds, which exceeds the State’s Essential Programs and Services allocation model by \$1,241,892 as required to fund the budget recommended by the School Committee?

The School Committee recommends \$1,241,892 for additional local funds and gives the following reasons for exceeding the State’s Essential Programs and Services funding model by \$1,241,892. **Motion was made and seconded to approve the School Committee recommended amount. Woodward called for questions & comments. Hearing none, 52 in favor – 2 opposed. Article passed.**

“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 52 No 2

Article 48. To see what sum the Town of Northport will authorize the Northport School Committee to expend for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024 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 \$3,900,616. Motion was made and seconded to approve the School Committee recommended amount. Woodward called for questions & comments. Hearing none, 52 in favor – none opposed. Article passed.**

Yes 52 No 0

Article 49. Shall the Town of Northport appropriate \$300,000 from the school unit’s unassigned fund balance to offset taxes in the 2023-2024 school budget. **Motion was made and seconded to approve the article as written. Woodward called for questions & comments. Hearing none, all in favor – none opposed. Article passed.**

Article 50. Shall the Town of Northport appropriate \$148,000 from the MEPERS funds reserved for education to offset taxes in the 2023-2024 school budget. **Motion was made and seconded to approve the article as**

written. Woodward called for questions & comments. Karen Young asked what MEPERS is. Finance Director Vicki Eugley explained that MEPERS stands for Maine Public Employees Retirement System and why the Town received these funds. Woodward called for any more question or comments. Hearing none, all in favor – none opposed. Article passed.

Article 51. Existing School Reserve Accounts: Transfer and Expend

Reserve Account	Current Balance	Transfer Amount	Expend Not to Exceed
Regular Instruction	\$70,000	\$0	\$70,000
Special Education	\$120,000	\$0	\$120,000
Fuel Cost Stabilization	\$33,000	\$0	\$33,000
Food Service	\$30,000	\$0	\$30,000
Capital Maintenance	\$70,000	\$0	\$70,000
Transportation	\$0	\$2,500	\$2,500
Technology	\$0	\$5,000	\$5,000

Shall the School Committee be authorized to transfer up to **the amounts stated in the above table** from unexpended balances to the **Respective Reserve Accounts** and to expend said Reserves for the purpose that such Reserves were created, in an amount not to exceed **the amount stated in the above table** for the 2023-2024 school year? *Motion was made and seconded to approve the article as written. Woodward called for questions & comments. Hearing none, all in favor – none opposed. Article passed.*

Article 52. 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. *Motion was made and seconded to approve the article as written. Woodward called for questions & comments. Paul Sheridan thanked Lee Woodward for serving as Moderator for the Town, and appreciates his efficient practices. Woodward called for any other questions & comments. Hearing none, all in favor – none opposed. Article passed.*

Article 53. Shall the School Committee be authorized to transfer an excess of 5% between cost centers, not to exceed the total spending allocation for the 2023-2024 school year, to balance accounts. *Motion was made and seconded to approve the article as written. Woodward called for questions & comments. Hearing none, all in favor – none opposed. Article passed.*

With no other articles, a Motion was made, and seconded, to adjourn at 7:24 p.m. All in favor- none opposed. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy Eldridge
Town Clerk