

OFFICIAL WARRANT FOR THE TOWN OF NORTHPORT
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
To be held on June 11, 2024, and June 17, 2024

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 Tuesday, June 11, 2024 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 17, 2024, 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.

Article 2. To elect by secret ballot:

One (1) Municipal Officer, Assessor, and Overseer 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 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.*

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. (Select Board recommends 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 \$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.*

Article 6. To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate and expend up to \$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 \$3,500.00. *Select Board also recommends committing \$15,500.00 from the Town's Roads & Bridges account and \$11,000.00 from the Town's Marine Special Reserve Fund for infrastructure maintenance and repairs within the boundaries of the Northport Village Corporation.*

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 8-12 together and discussed individually.

Article 8. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the transfer of unexpended funds from the Northport Volunteer Fire Dept. 2024 Operating Budget as of 6/30/2024 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 2024 Operating and Equipment Budget as of 6/30/2024 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 6/30/2024 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 6/30/2024 to the Records Preservation Special Reserve Fund.

Article 12. 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 13. To see if the Town will vote to create the following Reserve Accounts and to expend such monies deemed necessary from them, or to take any action relative to same:

Climate Resilience Special Reserve
NVFD Equipment Special Reserve

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 14-15 together and discussed individually.

Article 14. 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

Article 15. To see if the Town will vote to carry forward the balances of the following accounts as of 6/30/2024 and allow expenditures of same:

Education Account
Education PERS Special Reserve Account
Northport Needy Families
Northport Warm Neighbors Fund
Snowmobile Reimbursement Fund

Article 16. To see if the Town will vote to use \$250,000.00 from the Undesignated Fund Balance to reduce the 2024/2025 tax commitment.

Article 17. To see if the Town will vote to change the name of the Assessing – Revaluation account to the Assessment -- Property Revaluation account.

Article 18. To see if the Town will vote to change the name of the Broadband account to the Digital Equity & Inclusion account.

Article 19. To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and expend up to \$195,110.70 from taxes for the Town Hall Building Fund for the purpose of finalizing design documents, construction documents, permitting, and other necessary expenses for the new Town Office / Community Center / Fire Station project, and to authorize the Select Board to execute such documents on terms it deems to be in the best interests of the Town.

Article 20. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to accept a deed conveying the unconditional gift of the Saturday Cove Church, also known as Northport Community Church, located at 35 Saturday Cove Road, Tax Map U15, Lot 3, from Northport Community Church, Inc., including the parcel of land, all structures on the property, and the contents of those structures.

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- 25 together and discussed individually.

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	\$213,976.43	0	0	\$213,976.43
B)Ambulance	\$21,016.00	0	0	\$21,016.00
C)Animal Control	\$0.00	\$12,000.00	(Dog Licenses) \$2,500.00	\$14,500.00
D)Assessing Contract	\$28,500.00	0	0	\$28,500.00
E) Assessing – Property Revaluation	\$35,000.00	\$50,000.00	0	\$85,000.00
F)Broadband/now Digital Equity & Inclusion	\$0	\$21,102.48	0	\$21,102.48
G)Cemetery Maintenance	\$1,000.00	\$9,500.00	0	\$10,500.00
H)Climate Resilience Special Reserve	\$10,000.00	0	0	\$10,000.00
I)Code Enforcement Office	\$20,000.00	0	(Permits) \$5,000.00	\$25,000.00
J)Contingency Fund	\$15,000.00	0	0	\$15,000.00
K)Dangerous Building	\$0	\$20,000.00	0	\$20,000.00
L)Emergency Management	\$3,500.00	0	0	\$3,500.00
M)Employee Benefits – Health Insurance	\$34,500.00	0	0	\$34,500.00
N)Employee Benefits – Retirement	\$5,000.00	0	0	\$5,000.00
O)First Responders - Equipment	\$10,000.00	0	0	\$10,000.00
P)First Responders - Operating	\$11,000.00	0	0	\$11,000.00
Q)General Assistance	\$7,000.00	\$6,000.00	(State Reimbursement) \$4,900.00	\$17,900.00
R)Harbor Fund	\$0.00	\$22,000.00	(Boat Excise) \$4,000.00	\$26,000.00
S)Insurance	\$27,500.00	0	0	\$27,500.00
T)Legal	\$15,000.00	0	0	\$15,000.00
U)Northport Community Church Feasibility & Transition Fund	\$7,000.00	0	0	\$7,000.00
V)Northport Vol. Fire Dept. Operations	\$76,000.00	0	0	\$76,000.00
W)NVFD Equipment Fund	\$6,000.00	0	0	\$6,000.00
X)NVFD Truck Replacement	\$22,000.00	0	0	\$22,000.00
Y)NVFD Chief Salary	\$7,000.00	0	0	\$7,000.00
Z)Office Operations	\$70,000.00	0	(Tax, Interest & Charges) \$10,000.00	\$80,000.00
AA)Payroll Taxes	\$29,500.00	0	0	\$29,500.00
BB)Personal Time Payable	\$5,000.00	\$19,631.31	0	\$24,631.31
CC)Planning Board	0	\$6,000.00	(Board Fees) \$500.00	\$6,500.00

DD)Roads & Bridges	\$200,000.00	\$375,000.00	(Auto Excise) \$300,000.00 (State URIP) \$38,304.00	\$913,304.00
EE)Septage Contract	\$8,000.00	0	0	\$8,000.00
FF)Snow Removal & Sanding	\$230,000.00	0	0	\$230,000.00
GG)Social Services	\$7,500.00	0	0	\$7,500.00
HH)Street Lights	\$1,500.00	0	0	\$1,500.00
II)Town Hall Building Fund	<i>See Art #19 above, if approved (\$195,110.70)</i>	\$20,000.00	0	\$215,110.70
JJ)Town Hall Operations	\$24,000.00	0	0	\$24,000.00
KK)Transfer Station	\$50,000.00	\$115,000.00	\$105,000.00	\$270,000.00
LL)Wyman Park	\$1,500.00	0	0	\$1,500.00
Totals	\$1,398,103.13	\$676,233.79	\$470,204.00	\$2,544,540.92

*based on estimated amounts.

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).

Article 23. To see if the Town will vote to fix a rate of interest on taxes delinquent October 1, 2024; and March 2, 2025. (Select Board recommends State authorized rate of 8.5%.)

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 8.5%.)

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.

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.

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 2024-2025 season, and close the Ducktrap River and all its tributaries to any taking of alewives or blueback herring.

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.

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	\$38,304.00
Online Burn Permit	\$Unknown
Snowmobile Registrations	\$178.74
Solar Reimbursement	\$380.00
State Revenue Sharing	\$Unknown
Tree Growth	\$1,476.47
Veterans	\$784.00
All Other Funds Available	\$Unknown

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.

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 \$178.74 from snowmobile registrations, to be used to maintain snowmobile trails in Northport.

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.

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.

Article 34. To see if the Town will vote to increase the property tax levy limit of \$1,404,056.88 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 2024-2025

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.

Article 35. To see what sum the Northport School Department will be authorized to expend for Regular Instruction. School Committee Recommends \$1,764,724.

Article 36. To see what sum the Northport School Department will be authorized to expend for Special Education. School Committee Recommends \$692,110.

Article 37. To see what sum the Northport School Department will be authorized to expend for Other Instruction. School Committee Recommends \$33,480.

Article 38. To see what sum the Northport School Department will be authorized to expend for Student and Staff Support. School Committee Recommends \$224,757.

Article 39. To see what sum the Northport School Department will be authorized to expend for System Administration. School Committee Recommends \$186,390.

Article 40. To see what sum the Northport School Department will be authorized to expend for School Administration. School Committee Recommends \$236,708.

Article 41. To see what sum the Northport School Department will be authorized to expend for Transportation and Buses. School Committee Recommends \$180,939.

Article 42. To see what sum the Northport School Department will be authorized to expend for Facilities Maintenance. School Committee Recommends \$278,921.

Article 43. To see what sum the Northport School Department will be authorized to expend for Debt Service and Other Commitments. School Committee Recommends \$286,877.

Article 44. To see what sum the Northport School Department will be authorized to expend for Food Service Transfers. School Committee Recommends \$77,012.

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 \$2,008,431.42**) 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 \$1,807,627.01.**

“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 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 \$245,891.**

“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 _____

PLEASE NOTE: *Article 47 requires a written vote*

Article 47. Shall the Town of Northport raise and appropriate **\$1,406,147** in additional local funds, which exceeds the State’s Essential Programs and Services allocation model by **\$1,406,147** as required to fund the budget recommended by the School Committee?

The School Committee recommends **\$1,406,147** for additional local funds and gives the following reasons for exceeding the State’s Essential Programs and Services funding model by **\$1,406,147.**

“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 48. To see what sum the Town of Northport will authorize the Northport School Committee to expend for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025 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 \$3,961,920.**

Yes _____ No _____

Article 49. Shall the Town of Northport appropriate **\$300,000** from the school unit’s unassigned fund balance to offset taxes in the 2024-2025 school budget?

Article 50. Shall the Town of Northport appropriate **\$930** from the MEPERS funds reserved for education to offset taxes in the 2024-2025 school budget?

Article 51. Existing School Reserve Accounts: Transfer and Expend

Reserve Account	Current Balance	Transfer Amount	Expend Not to Exceed
Regular Instruction	\$70,000	\$20,000	\$90,000
Special Education	\$120,000	\$20,000	\$140,000
Fuel Cost Stabilization	\$33,000	\$12,000	\$45,000
Food Service	\$30,000	\$10,000	\$40,000
Capital Maintenance	\$70,000	\$20,000	\$90,000
Transportation	\$2,500	\$2,500*	\$5,000
Technology	\$5,000	\$5,000*	\$10,000

***These amounts are included in the general budget and will not be raised separately from unexpended balances.**

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 2024-2025 school year?

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.

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 2024-2025 school year, to balance accounts.

The polls will be open for voting Tuesday, June 11, 2024, at the Town Office 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 Monday, June 17, 2024, at 6:30p.m., then and there to act upon Article 3 and the

remaining Articles in the Warrant.

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 at the Town Office from 8:00a.m. - 8:00p.m. Tuesday, June 11, 2024, and at the Annual Town Meeting from 6:00p.m. - 6:30p.m. at the Edna Drinkwater School on Monday, June 17, 2024.

Given under our hands in Northport, Maine on April 22, 2024

Jeanine Tucker

Jeanine Tucker, Chair

Breanna Pinkham Bebb

Breanna Pinkham Bebb, Vice Chair

Molly Schauffler

Molly Schauffler, Municipal Officer

A true copy attest:

Amy Eldridge

Amy Eldridge, Town Clerk