

**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.

On Tuesday June 11, 2024, 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 Robin Coombs and second by Amy Eldridge, to nominate Fran Flagg as Moderator of the election portion of the Town Meeting. Flagg 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.

Breanna Pinkham Bebb received 184 votes, Robin Coombs received 1 vote, Toni Bonin received 1 vote, and 12 blank votes were cast.

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

Anne (Sandy) Wallace received 181 votes, Toni Bonin received 1 vote, Martha Beiser received 1 vote, and 15 blank votes were cast.

Eldridge closed the election portion of the Annual Town Meeting at 8:00 pm on June 11, 2024, and would reconvene on Monday June 17, 2024, at 6:30 pm at the Edna Drinkwater School.

Eldridge reopened the Annual Town Meeting at 6:30 p.m. by greeting the 79 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 read aloud the results of the Election on June 11, 2024, at the Town Office. Eldridge reported there were 198 votes cast at the polls. Breanna Pinkham Bebb was re-elected as Municipal Officer with 184 votes; Robin Coombs received 1 vote, Toni Bonin received 1 vote, and 12 blank votes were cast. Anne (Sandy) Wallace was re-elected as the Northport School Committee Member with 181 votes, Toni Bonin received 1 vote, Martha Beiser received 1 vote, and 15 blank votes were cast.

Eldridge 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 introduced State Representative Janice Dodge, the Democratic candidate for House District 39; Stephen Hemenway, the

Republican candidate for House District 39; and Robert Meyer, Republican candidate for State Senate for Waldo County. Each spoke briefly.

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. 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 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.) *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. 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 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. *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 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. 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 8-12 together and discussed individually.

Woodward requested a motion to combine Articles 8-12 to be voted as one article and discussed individually. Motion was made and seconded to approve to combine Articles 8-12. Motion passed.

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

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

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

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. **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 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.**

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

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 14-15 together and discussed individually.

Woodward requested a motion to combine Articles 14-15 to be voted as one article and discussed individually. Motion was made and seconded to approve to combine Articles 14-15. Motion passed.

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

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

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

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

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. **Motion was made and seconded to approve the article as written. Woodward called for questions & comments. The current balance in the Undesignated Fund Balance was requested. Vicki Eugley, Finance Director stated that the Fund Balance is currently \$1,057,190.24. Woodward called for any further questions & comments. Hearing none, all in favor – none opposed. Article passed.**

Article 17. To see if the Town will vote to change the name of the Assessing – Revaluation account to the Assessment-- Property Revaluation 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 18. To see if the Town will vote to change the name of the Broadband account to the Digital Equity & Inclusion account. **Motion was made and seconded to approve the article as written. Woodward called for questions & comments. In response to a question about the reason for the name change, Tucker explained the account was established to support the installation of broadband in Northport. Because the installation of broadband in Town is now largely complete, and the terms of a broadband planning grant that the Town received required the Town to address issues relating to digital equity, the Select Board determined that the fund's name should be changed and the focus shifted to digital equity and inclusion. A motion was made and seconded to amend the article to change the account name to Broadband, Digital Equity & Inclusion. Woodward called for any questions & comments. Hearing none, Woodward reread Article 18 with the amendment and called for questions & comments. Hearing none, all in favor – none opposed. Article passed as amended.**

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. **Motion was made and seconded to approve the article as written. Woodward called for questions & comments. Multiple questions were presented about the need for a new Town Hall Building. James Kossuth, Town Administrator, provided many reasons why, including the removal of property coverage by the insurer due to the building's condition and the lack of public indoor space in Town, which could be used for meetings such as this, as well as a shelter in case of weather emergencies. A motion was made and seconded for a secret ballot. Woodward explained the requirements for a secret ballot, and called for any questions & comments. A question was raised about the purpose of a secret ballot, and Woodward explained. Hearing no further questions, majority in favor, some opposed. Motion for secret ballot passed. Election officials provided ballots to voters. Ballots were cast and then counted with results being 70 in favor - 9 opposed. Article passed.**

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. **Motion was made and seconded to approve the article as written. Woodward called for questions & comments. Residents voiced concerns that owning the church would require a substantial commitment by the Town. Tucker, Pinkham Bebb, and Schaufler each spoke against adopting the article because it would create unnecessary and expensive obligations for the Town. A question asked whether the Town could accept the donation and then sell the church. The Board explained that, while the church is an important part of the history of the Town, and it could be sold, it would take time to make**

the repairs and then sell it, and that is not really what the Town is meant to do. Woodward asked for any further questions & comments. Hearing none, 7 in favor – majority opposed. Article failed.

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.

Woodward requested a motion to combine Articles 21-25 to be voted as one article and discussed individually. Motion was made and seconded to approve to combine Articles 21-25. 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	\$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	See Art #19 above, if approved (\$195,110.70)	\$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.

Woodward called for questions & comments. A motion was made and seconded to amend the article by reducing Item U to \$0 and to reduce the total to raise from taxes to \$1,391,103.13. Woodward called for questions & comments on the amended article. Hearing none, all in favor – none opposed. Article passed as amended.

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, 2024; and March 2, 2025. (Select Board recommends State authorized rate of 8.5%.) **A motion was made and seconded to adopt the Select Board recommended rate of 8.5%. 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 8.5%.) **A motion was made and seconded to adopt the Select Board recommended rate of 8.5%. 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. **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 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. **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	\$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

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 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 \$178.74 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. 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 \$1,404,056.88 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.) ***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 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.

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 \$1,764,724. ***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 \$692,110. ***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 \$33,480. ***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 \$224,757. ***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 \$186,390. ***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 \$236,708. ***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 \$180,939. ***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 \$278,921. **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 \$286,877. **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 \$77,012. **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 \$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.** **Motion was made and seconded to approve the School Committee recommended amount. Woodward called for questions & comments. Hearing none, 57 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 57 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 \$245,891.** **Motion was made and seconded to approve the School Committee recommended amount. Woodward called for questions & comments. Hearing none, 56 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 56 No 0

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. **Motion was made and seconded to approve the School Committee recommended amount. Woodward called for questions & comments. Hearing none, 54 in favor – 5 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 54 No 5

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. 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

Woodward requested a motion to combine Articles 49-53 to be voted as one article and discussed individually. Motion was made and seconded to approve to combine Articles 49-53. Motion passed.

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

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? **Woodward called for questions & 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	\$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? *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. *Woodward called for 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 2024-2025 school year, to balance accounts. *Woodward called for questions & comments. Hearing none, all in favor – none opposed. Article passed.*

Woodward 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 Tinsley Morrison for her extensive community service. He then presented the Spirit of America Award for 2024 to Tinsley Morrison.

Woodward called for questions or concerns, hearing none and with no other articles, a Motion was made, and seconded, to adjourn at 8:04 pm. All in favor-none opposed. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Eldridge
Town Clerk