

OFFICIAL WARRANT FOR THE TOWN OF NORTHPORT
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
To be held on June 14, 2025, and June 16, 2025

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 14, 2025, 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 16, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. there and then to act upon Articles 3 through 56 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.

One (1) Road Commissioner for a two (2) 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 work 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 \$30,000.00.

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. 2025 Operating Budget as of 6/30/2025 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 2025 Operating and Equipment Budget as of 6/30/2025 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 6/30/2025 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 6/30/2025 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. Shall amendments to the Town of Northport Building Permit 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.*

Article 14. Shall amendments to the Town of Northport Adult Use and Medical Use Marijuana 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.*

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 15-16 together and discussed individually.

Article 15. 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
- Climate Resilience Special Reserve
- Digital Mapping Special Reserve
- Education RSU#20 Audit Fund Balance Account
- Fire Equipment Special Reserve
- 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 16. To see if the Town will vote to carry forward the balances of the following accounts as of 6/30/2025 and allow expenditures of same:

- Education Fund Balance Account
- Northport Needy Families
- Northport Warm Neighbors Fund
- Snowmobile Reimbursement Fund

Article 17. To see if the Town will vote to use \$300,000.00 from the Undesignated Fund Balance to reduce the 2025/2026 tax commitment.

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 18-23 together and discussed individually.

Article 18. Shall the Town (1) Approve a capital project consisting of construction of a new Town Office and Community Center, including engineering and design costs, transaction costs and other expenses reasonably related thereto; (2) Appropriate a sum not to exceed \$3,500,000 to fund the project, with the anticipation that the Town may receive up to \$5,912,785 in grants from Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) and the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC); (3) Authorize the Town Treasurer and the Select Board to accept any donations and grants, including from CDS and NBRC, to partially fund the appropriation; (4) Authorize the Town Treasurer and the Select Board to issue general obligation securities of the Town (including temporary notes in anticipation of the sale thereof) in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$3,500,000 to partially fund the project; and (5) Delegate to the Treasurer and the Select Board the authority and discretion to fix the dates, maturities, interest rates, denominations, calls for redemption (with or without premium), form, and other details of said securities, including authority to execute and deliver the securities on behalf of the Town?

Explanatory Note: The Select Board has applied for federal grant funding totaling \$5,912,785 for the project. The borrowing authorization of \$3,500,000 contained in the article may be reduced by the amount of federal grant funds and donations received. The estimated project cost as of December 2024 was approximately \$5.2 million. The Town has applied for grants based on a construction start date in the Fall of 2026 and the likely increase in costs.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Total Town Indebtedness:

A.	Outstanding principal balance of debt previously issued:	<u>\$1,826,482.50</u>
B.	Debt authorized and unissued:	<u>\$ -0-</u>
C.	Anticipated amount of debt to be issued if this article is approved:	<u>\$3,500,000.00</u>
	Total:	<u>\$5,326,482.50</u>

Costs: At an estimated net interest rate of 4.372% for a twenty (20) year maturity, the estimated total cost of this debt issue will be:

Total Principal:	<u>\$ 3,500,000.00</u>
Interest:	<u>\$ 1,769,730.85</u>
Total Debt Service:	<u>\$ 5,269,730.85</u>

Validity: The validity of the bonds and the voter's ratification of the bonds may not be affected by any errors in the above estimates, the ratification by the voters is nonetheless conclusive and the validity of the bonds is not affected by reason of the variance.

S/ Amy Eldridge

Treasurer
Town of Northport

Article 19. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to establish a fundraising program under terms they deem in the best interest of the Town, including but not limited to encouraging donations by granting to donors based on donation amounts the naming rights of facility wings, rooms, or equipment in the Town Office & Community Center project.

Department	Raise From Taxes	Estimated Carry Forward*	Estimated Revenue*	Total Appropriation*
A)Administration	\$222,772.32	0	0	\$222,772.32
B)Ambulance	\$23,117.00	0	0	\$23,117.00
C)Animal Control	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	(Dog Licenses) \$2,500.00	\$22,500.00
D)Assessing Contract	\$29,500.00	0	0	\$29,500.00
E) Assessing – Property Revaluation	\$36,000.00	\$85,000.00	0	\$121,000.00
F)Broadband/now Digital Equity & Inclusion	\$0	\$21,102.48	0	\$21,102.48
G)Cemetery Maintenance	\$6,500.00	\$4,000.00	0	\$10,500.00
H)Code Enforcement Office	\$20,000.00	0	(Permits) \$5,000.00	\$25,000.00
I)Contingency Fund	\$15,000.00	0	0	\$15,000.00
J)Dangerous Building	\$0	\$20,000.00	0	\$20,000.00
K)Emergency Management	\$3,500.00	0	0	\$3,500.00
L)Employee Benefits – Health Insurance	\$37,500.00	0	0	\$37,500.00
M)Employee Benefits – Retirement	\$5,000.00	0	0	\$5,000.00
N)First Responders - Equipment	\$10,000.00	0	0	\$10,000.00
O)First Responders - Operating	\$12,200.00	0	0	\$12,200.00
P)General Assistance	\$0	\$11,000.00	(State Reimbursement) \$5,000.00	\$16,000.00
Q)Harbor Fund	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	(Boat Excise) \$5,000.00	\$45,000.00
R)Insurance	\$30,000.00	0	0	\$30,000.00
S)Legal	\$15,000.00	0	0	\$15,000.00
T)Northport Vol. Fire Dept. Operations	\$100,800.00	0	0	\$100,800.00
U)NVFD Truck Replacement	\$22,000.00	0	0	\$22,000.00
V)NVFD Chief Salary	\$7,000.00	0	0	\$7,000.00
W)Office Operations	\$80,600.00	0	(Tax, Interest & Charges) \$10,000.00	\$90,600.00
X)Payroll Taxes	\$32,000.00	0	0	\$32,000.00
Y)Personal Time Payable	\$5,000.00	\$24,631.31	0	\$29,631.31
Z)Planning Board	0	\$6,000.00	(Board Fees) \$500.00	\$6,500.00
AA)Roads & Bridges	\$200,000.00	\$425,000.00	(Auto Excise) \$300,000.00 (State URIP) \$38,792.00	\$963,792.00
BB)Septage Contract	\$8,000.00	0	0	\$8,000.00
CC)Snow Removal & Sanding	\$285,000.00	0	0	\$285,000.00
DD)Social Services	\$7,500.00	0	0	\$7,500.00
EE)Street Lights	\$1,500.00	0	0	\$1,500.00
FF)Town Hall Building Fund	See Art #22 above, if approved (\$230,000.00)	\$15,000.00	0	\$245,000.00
GG)Town Hall Operations	\$28,000.00	0	0	\$28,000.00
HH)Transfer Station	\$125,000.00	\$45,000.00	\$115,000.00	\$285,000.00
II)Wyman Park	\$1,500.00	0	0	\$1,500.00
Totals	\$1,629,989.32	\$686,733.79	\$481,792.00	\$2,798,515.11

Article 20. To see if the Town will vote to establish the Town Office Donation Fund as a non-lapsing account for the purpose of accepting donations to supplement the Town Office & Community Center project, to expend such monies deemed necessary from the Fund, or to take any action relative to same, and to provide the Select Board with continuing authority to spend from the account for those purposes without further vote of the town meeting, this authority to remain in force from year to year until rescinded by the town meeting.

Article 21. To see if the Town will vote to change the name of the Town Hall Building Fund to the New Town Office Fund.

Article 22. To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and expend up to \$230,000.00 from taxes for the New Town Office Fund for the purpose of paying moving and storage costs, rental of temporary office space, any additional design or permitting costs, interest on any debt, and any other costs reasonably related to the Town Office and Community Center 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 23. Shall the Town authorize the Select Board to enter into a lease agreement for temporary Town Office space under such terms and conditions as the Select Board deems appropriate, in its discretion?

Article 24. 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:

*based on estimated amounts.

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 25- 29 together and discussed individually.

Article 25. 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 26. To see if the Town will vote to fix a rate of interest on taxes delinquent October 1, 2025, and March 2, 2026. (Select Board recommends State authorized rate of 7.5%.)

Article 27. 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 7.5%.)

Article 28. 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 29. 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 30. To see if the Town will vote to enter into an Alewife Harvesting Program, with or without the Town of Lincolnville, for the 2025-2026 season, and close the Ducktrap River and all its tributaries to any taking of alewives or blueback herring.

Article 31. 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 32. 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
General Assistance	\$Unknown
Homestead Exemption	\$Unknown
Local Road Assistance	\$38,792.00
Online Burn Permit	\$Unknown
Snowmobile Registrations	\$119.16
Solar Reimbursement	\$Unknown
State Revenue Sharing	\$164,041.19
Tree Growth	\$385.30
Veterans	\$737.00
All Other Funds Available	\$Unknown

Article 33. 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 \$119.16 from snowmobile registrations, to be used to maintain snowmobile trails in Northport.

Article 34. 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 35. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to dispose of Town owned assets with a value of \$5,000.00 or less under such terms and conditions as they deem advisable.

Article 36. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to dispose of the Town-owned First Responder rig, a 2004 Ford F450 four-wheel drive chassis with a Horton-built ambulance package, under such terms and conditions as the Select Board deems advisable and to deposit the proceeds from any sale of that rig into the First Responders Equipment Special Reserve fund.

School Budget Articles to Appropriate Monies for The Fiscal Year 2025-2026

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

Article 37. Shall the School Committee be authorized to establish a new public pre-kindergarten program at the Edna Drinkwater Elementary School?

While Articles 38-47 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 38-47 together.

Article 38. To see what sum the Northport School Department will be authorized to expend for Regular Instruction. School Committee Recommends \$1,958,727.

Article 39. To see what sum the Northport School Department will be authorized to expend for Special Education. School Committee Recommends \$751,241.

Article 40. To see what sum the Northport School Department will be authorized to expend for Other Instruction. School Committee Recommends \$38,776.

Article 41. To see what sum the Northport School Department will be authorized to expend for Student and Staff Support. School Committee Recommends \$260,450.

Article 42. To see what sum the Northport School Department will be authorized to expend for System Administration. School Committee Recommends \$195,880.

Article 43. To see what sum the Northport School Department will be authorized to expend for School Administration. School Committee Recommends \$247,048.

Article 44. To see what sum the Northport School Department will be authorized to expend for Transportation and Buses. School Committee Recommends \$200,500.

Article 45. To see what sum the Northport School Department will be authorized to expend for Facilities Maintenance. School Committee Recommends \$292,815.

Article 46. To see what sum the Northport School Department will be authorized to expend for Debt Service and Other Commitments. School Committee Recommends \$229,937.

Article 47. To see what sum the Northport School Department will be authorized to expend for Food Service Transfers. School Committee Recommends \$78,036.

PLEASE NOTE: Actions taken pursuant to the following articles (48-51) must be taken by a recorded vote. Only Article 50 requires a Written Vote)

Article 48. 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 \$2,336,085.13**) 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 \$2,033,468.59.**

“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 49. 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 \$229,937.**

“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 50 requires a written vote

Article 50. Shall the Town of Northport raise and appropriate **\$1,286,869.** in additional local funds, which exceeds the State’s Essential Programs and Services allocation model by **\$1,286,869.** as required to fund the budget recommended by the School Committee?

The School Committee recommends **\$1,286,869** for additional local funds and gives the following reasons for exceeding the State’s Essential Programs and Services funding model by **\$1,286,869.**

“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 51. To see what sum the Town of Northport will authorize the Northport School Committee to expend for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026 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 \$4,253,411.**

Yes _____ No _____

Article 52. Shall the Town of Northport appropriate **\$400,000** from the school unit’s unassigned fund balance to offset taxes in the 2025-2026 school budget.

Article 53. Existing School Reserve Accounts: Transfer and Expend

Reserve Account	Current Balance	Transfer Amount	Expend Not to Exceed
Regular Instruction	\$90,000	\$0	\$110,000
Special Education	\$140,000	\$0	\$160,000
Fuel Cost Stabilization	\$45,000	\$0	\$57,000
Food Service	\$40,000	\$0	\$50,000
Capital Maintenance	\$90,000	\$0	\$110,000
Transportation	\$7,500	\$0 *	\$7,500
Technology	\$15,000	\$0 *	\$15,000

***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 2025-2026 school year?

Article 54. 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 55. Shall the School Committee be authorized to transfer an excess of 5% between cost centers, not to exceed the total spending allocation for the 2025-2026 school year, to balance accounts.

Article 56. Shall the School Committee be authorized to transfer up to \$ 70,000. from available fund balances to the existing Transportation Reserve Fund and to expend up to \$ 70,000 from said Reserve Fund to purchase an additional van to transport students on academic field trips?

The polls will be open for voting Saturday, June 14, 2025, at the Town Office on Articles 1 and 2 from 8:00a.m. - 4:00p.m., at which time the meeting will be adjourned: the adjourned meeting to be reopened at the Edna Drinkwater School on Monday, June 16, 2025, 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. - 4:00p.m. Saturday, June 14, 2025, and at the Annual Town Meeting from 6:00p.m. - 6:30p.m. at the Edna Drinkwater School on Monday, June 16, 2025.

Given under our hands in Northport, Maine on April 28, 2025

S/ Jeanine Tucker

Jeanine Tucker, Chair

S/ Breanna Pinkham Bebb

Breanna Pinkham Bebb, Vice Chair

S/ Molly Schauffler

Molly Schauffler, Municipal Officer

A true copy attest:

S/ Amy Eldridge

Amy Eldridge, Town Clerk