

**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.

*On Saturday June 14, 2025, 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 Frances 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.

*Jeanine Tucker received 144 votes, Paul Overgaag received 1 vote, and 14 blank votes were cast.*

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

*Celine Bewsher received 78 votes, Debora Riley received 76 votes, and 5 blank votes were cast.*

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

*Amon Morse III received 150 votes, David Fulford received 1 vote, Donald Knott received 1 vote, and 7 blank votes were cast.*

*Eldridge closed the election portion of the Annual Town Meeting at 4:00 pm on June 14, 2025, and would reconvene on Monday June 16, 2025, at 6:30 pm at the Edna Drinkwater School.*

*Eldridge reopened the Annual Town Meeting at 6:35 p.m. by greeting the 119 residents present at the Edna Drinkwater School for the purpose of acting on Articles 3 through 56. 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 14, 2025, at the Town Office. Eldridge reported there were 159 votes cast at the polls. Jeanine Tucker was re-elected as Municipal Officer with 144 votes; Paul Overgaag received 1 vote, and 14 blank votes were cast. Celine Bewsher was elected as the Northport School Committee Member with 78 votes, Debora Riley received 76 votes, and 5 blank votes were cast. Amon Morse III was re-elected*

*as Road Commissioner with 150 votes, David Fulford received 1 vote, Donald Knott received 1 vote, and 7 blank votes were cast.*

*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 James Kossuth the Town Administrator who presented Sid Block with the Spirit of America Award. Kossuth then introduced School Board members Sandy Wallace and Mark Lynch who recognized Debora Riley for her 26 years of dedication to the residents of Northport, with her service on many school boards.*

*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 work 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 \$30,000.00. *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. 2025 Operating Budget as of 6/30/2025 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 2025 Operating and Equipment Budget as of 6/30/2025 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 6/30/2025 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 6/30/2025 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.** 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.* **Woodward called for questions & comments. Hearing none, Majority in favor – 2 opposed. Article passed.**

**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.* **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 15-16 together and discussed individually.*

**Woodward requested a motion to combine Articles 15-16 to be voted as one article and discussed individually. Motion was made and seconded to approve to combine Articles 15-16. Woodward called for questions & comments. Hearing none, all in favor – none opposed. Motion passed.**

**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

***Woodward called for questions & comments. The appropriation of money for General Assistance was requested. Vicki Eugley, Finance Director, stated that no money is being appropriated for General Assistance on Article #24 due to an expected carry forward and reimbursement from the State of Maine. Woodward called for any further questions & comments. Hearing none, all in favor – none opposed. Article passed.***

**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

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

**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.

***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 18-23 together and discussed individually.***

***Woodward requested a motion to combine Articles 18-23 to be voted as one article and discussed individually. Motion was made and seconded to approve to combine Articles 18-23. Woodward called for questions & comments. Hearing none, all in favor – none opposed. Motion passed.***

**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

***Woodward called for questions & comments. Many questions were asked about the projected yearly expenses, multiple town office options, pros and cons with current and new building, next steps if this article is approved or not, and funding options. The Select Board provided further details and explanations on the questions asked. Several residents expressed approval for the project and a need for a new town office. Woodward called for any further questions & comments. Hearing none, 83 approved – 29 opposed. Article passed.***

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

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

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

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

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

**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. Woodward called for questions & comments. Jeanine Tucker, Select Board Chair, requested to amend the amount of (line CC) Snow Removal & Sanding from \$285,000.00 to \$280,000.00 and amend the Total to be raised from funds for Article 24 to \$2,793,515.11 due to the contract for winter salt being much less than what was expected. Motion was made and seconded, Woodward reread Article 24 with the new amendment, and called for questions & comments. Hearing none, all in favor – none opposed. Article passed as amended.**

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	\$280,000.00 <sup>1</sup>	0	0	\$280,000.00 <sup>1</sup>
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	\$1,624,989.32 <sup>1</sup>	\$686,733.79	\$481,792.00	\$2,793,515.11 <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Amounts in Line CC and Totals as amended by motion.

***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.***

***Woodward requested a motion to combine Articles 25-29 to be voted as one article and discussed individually. Motion was made and seconded to approve to combine Articles 25-29. Woodward called for questions & comments. Hearing none, all in favor – none opposed. Motion passed.***

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

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

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

**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. ***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 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. A resident asked what does this article mean? Kossuth explained the article in more detail. Woodward called for any further questions & comments. Hearing none, all in favor – none opposed. Article passed.***



**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

***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 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. ***Motion was made and seconded to approve the article as written. Woodward called for questions & comments. A resident wanted to thank the Ride Riders for keeping the trails open. Woodward called for any further questions & comments. Hearing none, all in favor – none opposed. Article passed.***

**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. ***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 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. ***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 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. ***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.***

## 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? ***Motion was made and seconded to approve the article as written. Woodward called for questions & comments. Hearing none, Majority in favor – 1 opposed. Article passed.***

*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.*

**Woodward requested a motion to combine Articles 38-47 to be voted as one article and discussed individually. Motion was made and seconded to approve to combine Articles 38-47. Woodward called for questions & comments. Hearing none, all in favor – none opposed. Motion passed.**

**Article 38.** To see what sum the Northport School Department will be authorized to expend for Regular Instruction. School Committee Recommends \$1,958,727. ***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 Special Education. School Committee Recommends \$751,241. ***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 Other Instruction. School Committee Recommends \$38,776. ***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 Student and Staff Support. School Committee Recommends \$260,450. ***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 System Administration. School Committee Recommends \$195,880. ***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 School Administration. School Committee Recommends \$247,048. ***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 Transportation and Buses. School Committee Recommends \$200,500. **Woodward called for questions & comments. Hearing none, all in favor – none opposed. Article passed.**

**Article 45.** To see what sum the Northport School Department will be authorized to expend for Facilities Maintenance. School Committee Recommends \$292,815. **Woodward called for questions & comments. Hearing none, all in favor – none opposed. Article passed.**

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

**Article 47.** To see what sum the Northport School Department will be authorized to expend for Food Service Transfers. School Committee Recommends \$78,036. **Woodward called for questions & comments. Hearing none, all in favor – none opposed. Article passed.**

**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 79 No 0

**Motion was made and seconded to approve the article as written. Woodward called for questions & comments. A suggestion was made to amend the article as written to read pre-kindergarten to grade 12 instead of kindergarten to grade 12. Motion was made, seconded, and approved to amend the article to read “To see what sum the Town of Northport will appropriate for the total cost of funding public education from pre-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 pre-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.” Woodward called for any further questions or comments, Hearing none, 79 approved – none opposed. Article passed as amended.**

**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 82 No 0

**Motion was made and seconded to approve the School Committee recommended amount. Woodward called for questions & comments. A suggestion was made to amend the article as written to read pre-kindergarten to grade 12 instead of kindergarten to grade 12. Motion was made, seconded, and approved to amend the article to read "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". A resident asked how many more years are left on the school bond? Eugley reported there were 12 more years. Woodward reread article 49 with the new amendment and called for questions & comments, Hearing none, 82 approved – none opposed. Article passed as amended.**

**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 89 No 11

**Motion was made and seconded to approve the School Committee recommended amount. Woodward called for questions & comments. A resident asked how are the funds raised? Tucker responded that the funds are part of the tax bill. A resident asked besides the addition of pre-k, are there any other changes from the previous year? The School Board confirmed no other changes. A resident asked did the budget number provided include pre-k? The**

**School Board confirmed it did include pre-k. Woodward called for any further questions & comments. Hearing none, 89 approved – 11 opposed. Article passed.**

**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 65 No 0

**Motion was made and seconded to approve the School Committee recommended amount. Woodward called for questions & comments. A suggestion was made to amend the article as written to read pre-kindergarten to grade 12 instead of kindergarten to grade 12. Motion was made, seconded and approved to amend the article to read "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 pre-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. Woodward called for any further questions or comments, Hearing none, 65 approved – none opposed. Article passed as amended.**

**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. **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 53. Existing School Reserve Accounts: Transfer and Expend**

<b>Reserve Account</b>	<b>Current Balance</b>	<b>Transfer Amount</b>	<b>Expend Not to Exceed</b>
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? ***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.***

***Woodward requested a motion to combine Articles 54-56 to be voted as one article and discussed individually. Motion was made and seconded to approve to combine Articles 54-56. Woodward called for questions & comments. Hearing none, all in favor – none opposed. Motion passed.***

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

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

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

***Woodward called for questions or concerns, hearing none and with no other articles, a Motion was made, and seconded, to adjourn at 8:10 pm. All in favor-none opposed. Motion passed.***

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Eldridge  
Town Clerk