

**SECRET BALLOT ELECTION &
TOWN MEETING WARRANT
Friday, May 3, 2024
And
Saturday, May 4, 2024**

To: Freeman Ramsdell, a resident of the Town of Hartland, County of Somerset, State of Maine.

GREETING:

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the Inhabitants of the Town of Hartland in said county and state, qualified by law to vote in town affairs, to meet at the *Irving Tanning Community Center*, in said Town on Friday, May 3, 2024 A.D. at ten o'clock in the forenoon, then and there to act on Articles 1 and by secret ballot on Article 2 set out below, the polling hours therefore to be from 10:00 AM until 7:00 PM in the evening;

And, to notify and warn said inhabitants to meet at the *Irving Tanning Community Center*, in said Town on Saturday, May 4, 2024 A.D. at nine o'clock in the forenoon, then and there to act on Articles 3 through 30 as set out below, to wit:

- **Started meeting at 9:00 A.M. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Town Clerk turned over the meeting to the Board of Selectmen. Board of Selectmen Awarded the Spirit of America award for 2023 to James Wright. Board of Selectmen also awarded Colleen Bradstreet the Boston Cane award as the most senior female resident in Hartland and also made mention that Harlen Emery was the most senior male recipient of the Boston Cane, second year running.**

Art. 1: To choose a moderator to preside at said meeting.

- **Explained that the Moderator was voted in the day before on May 3, 2024 at the Town Election. There were 3 written votes for Harold Buker. Harold Buker then swore in Mark Kantor as Deputy Moderator to preside over the Town Election.**

Art. 2: To elect (1) Selectman/Assessor/Overseer of Poor for a 3-year term;
To elect (3) Budget Committee Members for a 3-year term.

- **Read the election results as follows: Jerry Martin was the winner with 194 votes to Christopher Ring with 120 votes, with other numerous write-ins.**
- **George Greenwood had 168 votes, Shirley Humphrey had 248 votes, and Patricia Martin had 177 Votes. With other numerous write-ins.**

- **Harold Buker then recognized the dedication in the town report to Brenda Seekins and the front page of the town report to Foster Brooks.**

Art. 3: To see if the town will vote to authorize the Board of Assessors to apply \$100,000 of the undesignated fund balance to reduce the 2024-2025 tax mil rate.

- **Moved and Seconded - No discussion – Article passed.**

Art. 4: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply \$10,000 of the undesignated fund balance to the Fire Department reserve account.

- **Moved and Seconded - No discussion – Article passed.**

Art. 5: To see if the town will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to accept and expend any or all funds or property from Federal, State or private funding in the form of grants or donations, public or anonymous that the Municipal Officers deem appropriate and in the best interest of the Town.

- **Moved and Seconded - No discussion – Article passed.**

Art. 6: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to dispose of tax-acquired property for Real Estate Lien and Sewer Lien via quitclaim deed by either (A) offering the property to the former owner(s) or if deceased, to his/her/their heirs/devisees/personal representative for a price equal to all outstanding taxes, interest, fees and cost; or (B) using the process authorized by 30-A M.R.S., § 943-C, provided that if the former owner does not request that process or the board is unable to list or sell the property as required by § 943-C(3), the board may sell the property through a competitive sealed bid process in which a notice advertising sale of property shall be published at least twice in a newspaper of general circulation in the county. For sale other than to the former owner, excess sale proceeds, as defined in 36 M.R.S. § 943-C shall be returned to the former owner.

- **Moved and Seconded - No discussion – Article passed.**

Art. 7: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to dispose of equipment, vehicles or furniture no longer necessary to Town operations that the Municipal Officers deem appropriate and in the best interest of the Town.

- **Moved and Seconded - Discussion: Asked what does dispose of equipment mean? Christopher Littlefield responded that town owned equipment is put up for bid when disposed of.– Article passed.**

Art. 8: To see if the Town will vote to establish Sept 15 & Mar 1 due dates on taxes, and set the interest rate at 7% that shall start accruing and being applied the day after these due dates.

- **Moved and Seconded - No discussion – Article passed.**

Art. 9: 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., sec 506.

- **Moved and Seconded - No discussion – Article passed.**

Art. 10: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to borrow money in anticipation of the ensuing year's taxes, if necessary.

- **Moved and Seconded - No discussion – Article passed.**

Art. 11: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to serve as Assessors and Overseers of the Poor.

- **Moved and Seconded - No discussion – Article passed.**

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Art. 12: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for the following *General Governmental* accounts:

Request:

Pay to Officers	\$ 9,000
Administration	\$ 312,640

Town Office	\$ 10,200
Assessing	\$ 24,000
Office Equip/Tech	\$ 30,000
Social Security	\$ 32,500
Contingent	\$ 9,000
Abatements	\$ <u>4,000</u>
TOTAL	\$ 431,340

Selectman & Budget Committee Recommends \$ 431,340

- **Moved and Seconded - Discussion:** Harold Buker explained that the Budget Committee meets and talks in depth to how funds are spent.
- John Hikel recused himself stating conflict of interest.
- **Is there any technical equipment being rented or leased?** Christopher Littlefield replied that the technical fund is comprised of computer software, computer systems, internet and things of that nature.
- **Question asked What is contingent?** Christopher Littlefield explained that it is just a reserve in case of unexpected expenses.
- **What are administration fees?** Christopher Littlefield responded that includes Maine Pers, Town Manager, Town Clerk, Elections, Support staff, printing, professional development, legal fees etc.
- **Is it broken down further?** Response, No. – Article passed.

PROTECTION

Art. 13: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for the following *Public Safety* accounts:

Request:

Fire Department	\$ 48,850
Street Lights	\$ 13,000
Dam	\$ 800
Hydrant Rental	\$ 112,600
Animal Control	\$ 7,500
Insurance	\$ <u>116,350</u>

TOTAL \$ 299,100

Selectman & Budget Committee Recommends \$299,100

- **Moved and Seconded - No discussion – Article passed.**

HEALTH & WELFARE

Art. 14: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for the following *Health & Welfare* accounts:

Request:

General Assistance	\$ 12,000
Tri Town Food Bank	<u>\$ 2,500</u>
TOTAL	\$ 14,500

Selectman & Budget Committee Recommends \$14,500

- **Moved and Seconded - No discussion – Article passed.**

PUBLIC WORKS

Art. 15: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for the following *Public Works* accounts:

Request:

Roads	\$ 294,600
Snow Removal	\$ 287,000
Town Truck	\$ 5,000
Public Works Building	\$ 22,200
Cemeteries	<u>\$ 37,700</u>

TOTAL \$ 646,500

Selectman & Budget Committee Recommends \$646,500

- **Moved and Seconded -**
- **Discussion: – Can I have a breakdown of the roads? Christopher Littlefield had resident get a handout that discussed the break downs. Chris explained that the monies are allocated for projects that are planned for this summer. Beans Corner Road has a box culvert that needs to be replaced, already paid for the culvert. Morrill Pond Rd. has a culvert that needs to be fixed and the Town of Hartland is sharing the cost with the Town of Canaan. Chris also read through the handout with all the figures.**
- **Are there monies set aside for paving this year? Chris answered no, we do not have the funds right now with the other project's that we have planned. Next year we are going to try to raise money for paving.**
- **Breakdown on cemeteries? Is there a trust? Chris explained that break down for personnel services, labor expenses, and supplies. \$54,000 +/- in trust. - Article passed.**

SANITATION

Art. 16: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for the following *Health & Sanitation* accounts:

Request:	
Transfer Station	\$181,825
Code Enforcement	<u>\$ 16,000</u>
 TOTAL	 \$197,825

Selectman & Budget Committee Recommends \$197,825

- **Moved and Seconded - No discussion – Article passed.**

RECREATION

Art. 17: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for the following *Recreation* accounts:

Request:	
I.T.C.C.	\$ 10,000
Library	\$ 54,000
Pool	<u>\$ 23,150</u>
TOTAL	\$ 87,150

Selectman & Budget Committee Recommends \$87,150

- **Moved and Seconded - Discussion: It was brought up at a Board of Selectmen’s meeting about turning the old tennis courts into basketball courts for youth. Does that not count? Christopher Littlefield responded that it did not make it onto the Town Warrant, it frankly got missed but that it could be put to a special Town Meeting. – Article passed.**

PUBLIC SERVICE

Art. 18: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for the following *Public Service* accounts:

Request:	
KVCOG	\$ 2,500
MMA	\$ 3,000
SEDC	\$ 100
Chamber Commerce	\$ 250
First Park	\$ 7,420
G M L A	\$ 3,000
Flag Committee	\$ 2,000
Historical Society	\$ 1,250
American Legion	<u>\$ 500</u>
TOTAL	\$ 20,020

Selectman & Budget Committee Recommends \$20,020

- **Moved and Seconded - No discussion – Article passed.**

DEBT SERVICE

Art. 19: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for the following *Debt Service* accounts:

Request:	
Maine Bond Bank	
Salt/Sand Shed	<u>\$ 5,910</u>
TOTAL	\$ 5,910

Selectman & Budget Committee Recommends \$ 5,910

- **Moved and seconded- Discussion: Is the salt sand shed paid for? Christopher Littlefield said we have leased it for the past 10-12 years. The town has been paying \$5,900 a year and not sure of the remainder of the lease. We can confirm at another time. – Article passed.**

Art. 20: To see if the Town will vote to increase the Property Tax Levy Limit of **\$942,160** established for Hartland 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. **(This article only needs to be voted on, if the budget is increased more than \$38,613 in the preceding articles)**

- **Motion to skip this article.**
- **Moved and Seconded - No discussion – Article passed.**

Art. 21: To see if the Town will vote to apply FY 2024/2025 operational revenues in the estimated amount of **\$425,000** which may include revenues from Excise Tax, Tree Growth, Interest Income, Building Permits, Renewable Energy Reimbursement and Transfer Station accounts to offset the FY 2024/2025 appropriations. **(Selectmen Recommend)**

- **Moved and Seconded - No discussion – Article passed.**

Art. 22: To see if the Town will vote to allocate the snowmobile registration funds received from the State of Maine to Smokey's Angels Snowmobile Club for the maintenance of snowmobile trails for the benefit and use of the public. **(Selectmen Recommend)**

- **Moved and Seconded - No discussion – Article passed.**

Art. 23: To see if the Town will vote to accept, expend, and carry forward in a separate account a sum that may be received from the State Department of Transportation Local Road Assistance Program estimated at \$20,000. **(Selectmen Recommend)**

- **Moved and Seconded - No discussion – Article passed.**

Art. 24: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to transfer an amount not to exceed 5% of the total town budget between budget categories as they deem advisable to meet unanticipated expenses and emergencies that occur during fiscal year 2024/2025. **(Selectmen Recommend)**

- **Moved and Seconded - No discussion – Article passed**

Art. 25: Shall the Town of Hartland adopt an ordinance entitled Board of Appeals Ordinance **(Selectmen Recommend)**

** Ordinance is available at the Town Office and will be provided as separate document at the Annual Town Meeting.

- **Moved and Seconded - No discussion – Article passed.**

Art. 26: Shall the Town adopt an Amended ordinance titled Building and Property Maintenance Ordinance
(Selectmen Recommend)

** Ordinance is available at the Town Office and will be provided as separate document at the Annual Town Meeting.

- **Moved and Seconded - Discussion:** If we adopt this ordinance what does that entail? Christopher Littlefield explained we already adopted this ordinance in 2023. The only thing we are asking today is to amend it. The only thing that we are changing is the rules and laws the State of Maine mandated from last year. This includes additional dwelling units and tiny homes verbiage. Our CEO Kim has added legislative notes. It also gives some additional guidelines.– Article passed.

Art. 27: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen and Treasurer to spend up to \$2000 for Veteran’s Markers and Flags in cooperation with the Steve McCormick American Legion Post # 141. The monies will be funded by the remaining balance of the 200th Birthday Celebration funds (\$1394.61 +/-) plus any interest earned as of 6/30/24 and from the interest earned on the Cemetery Trust Fund account. (Selectmen Recommend)

- **Moved and Seconded - Discussion:** Does the cemetery trust have a super high interest rate? Christopher Littlefield No, the interest rate is 4%. – Article passed.

Art. 28: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen and Treasurer to consolidate the amounts in the CDBG Loan & Property Sale Reserve accounts (\$ 61,207.40 property sales and \$ 49,446.12 CDBG Loans) plus any interest earned as of 6/30/24 to create a Property Equipment and Maintenance reserve account to do infrastructure improvements to Town owned property, Town Leased property, and the Morgan dam. (Selectmen Recommend)

- **Moved and Seconded - Discussion:** Does that mean buildings would have public access for I.T.C.C. and other properties? Christopher Littlefield answered no I.T.C.C. is privately owned. It would be used for the town pool, office, dam, public works, food cupboard etc. Town is trying to get the town owned buildings repaired. – Article passed.

Art. 29: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen and Treasurer to use up to \$ 275,000 of undesignated fund balance to purchase a new plow truck.
(Selectmen Recommend)

- **Moved and Seconded - Discussion:** What is the dump truck in the picture (handout)? Christopher Littlefield explained that it is a dual-purpose truck. It is a plow truck but can also be used as a dump truck. The handout is just an example of the truck that the town is looking at.

- **Where is the money and how does that work out? Christopher Littlefield answered: If you add up all the money, we are taking from the fund balance this year it's \$475,000, somewhere in that range. The fund balance is around 3 million dollars, I do not have that exact balance here today. As you know the audit is not complete from last year we do expect a June 30th date for audit. – Article passed.**

Art. 30: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen and Treasurer to consolidate the following accounts; Sewer Upgrades (\$49,000) and HPCF Upgrades (\$211,936.35) plus any interest earned as of 6/30/24 into one reserve account named HPCF/Sewer Infrastructure account. **(Selectmen Recommend)**

- **Moved and Seconded - Discussion: Does that classify HPCF only or HPCF and water company? Christopher Littlefield responded: We are trying to consolidate some accounts. We have a couple different treatment accounts and we are just trying to bring to one reserve account to fix issues with-in the infrastructure. – Article passed.**

Art. 31: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen and Town Manager to negotiate a long-term lease with the Hartland Historical Society Association for the piece of land on Elm St adjacent to the pool where the Historical Society intends to build a building to call home. **(Selectmen Recommend)**

- **Moved and Seconded - Discussion: The piece of property in question still belongs to the Town of Hartland and is not being used. Historical Society needs more space. They have been raising money and heading in the direction to working with the town to lease that property. Historical Society is also, in negotiations with another commercial property but not certain if that will work out. Again, just asking for permission to use that piece of property. – Article passed.**

The Registrar will be in session for the purpose of maintaining the list of voters Friday, May 3, 2024 from 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM. at the Election and Saturday, May 4, 2024 from 8:30 AM to 9:00 AM at the Town Meeting.

Given under our hands this 20 day of may A.D. 2024

A True Copy
Attest:

Holly Bubar
Holly Bubar, Town Clerk

[Signature]
John Hikel, Selectman

[Signature]
Mark Brooks, Selectman

[Signature]
Jerry Martin, Selectman

