

**SECRET BALLOT ELECTION &
TOWN MEETING MINUTES
Friday, May 5, 2023
And
Saturday, May 6, 2023**

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 5, 2023 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 6, 2023 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 at 10:00 am with open with pledge of allegiance, and ready the greeting and articles 1 & 2.***

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

- ***Nomination of Harold Buker as Moderator (voted on by 3 ballots) and Harold swore in Mark Kantor as Deputy Moderator.***

Art. 2: To elect (1) Selectman/Assessor/Overseer of Poor for a 3-year term;
To elect (1) RSU 19 Board of Director for a 3-year term;
To elect (3) Budget Committee Members for a 3-year term.

- ***Polls open after opening statements:***
- ***Polls closed at 7:00 pm***
- ***Town Meeting Opened at 9:00 am, with Pledge of Allegiance and explained that the Moderator was elected on Friday morning before elections began. 71 Registered voters were in attendance for the Town Meeting.***
- ***Clerk turned it over to Harold Buker who opened to Chris Littlefield to present Boston Cane award to Harlan Emery & Viola Sides, and Spirit of America Award to Elmer Littlefield and Harold Buker.***
- ***Harold Buker opened town meeting with motion/second***

Art. 3: To see if the town will vote to authorize the Board of Assessors to apply \$200,000 of the undesignated fund balance to reduce the 2023-2024 tax mil rate.

- ***Moved and second – Discussion 1: \$200,000 is an opportunity to make an investment for the wellbeing of children in abusive situations. Discussion 2: How much funds are in the undesignated funds? Town Manager states on Discussion 2: 2.2m-2.4m are undesignated funds – Town Manager states on Discussion 1: I agree we need support of child abuse and things of that nature, but if we don't pass this article, it will impact our mil rate. - 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 second – 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 second – No Discussion - Article Passed***

Art. 6: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers, on behalf of the Town to sell and dispose of any real estate acquired by the Town for non-payment of taxes and/or sewer liens thereon, "Except that the Municipal Officers shall use the special sale process required by Title 36 M.R.S. § 943-C for qualifying homestead property if they choose to sell it to anyone other than the former owner" and on such terms as they deem advisable to execute quit-claim deeds for such property.

- ***Moved and second – No Discussion - Article Passed – 1 Opposed.***

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 second – No Discussion – Article Passed – 1 Opposed.***

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 second – No Discussion - Article Passed – 1 Opposed.***

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 second – 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 second – No Discussion – Article Passed – 1 Opposed***

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

- ***Moved and second – 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	\$285,140
Town Office	\$ 12,800
Assessing	\$ 14,000
Office Equip/Tech	\$ 25,000
Social Security	\$ 32,500
Contingent	\$ 9,000
Abatements	\$ <u>4,000</u>
 TOTAL	 \$391,440

Selectman & Budget Committee Recommends \$ 391,440

- ***Moved and second – Discussion: John Hikel states for pecuniary interest, he will not be voting on this article – Article Passed – 2 Opposed.***

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	\$ 48,025
Street Lights	\$ 15,000
Dam	\$ 1,750
Hydrant Rental	\$ 112,600
Animal Control	\$ 7,000
Insurance	\$ <u>101,974</u>
 TOTAL	 \$ 286,349

Selectman & Budget Committee Recommends \$286,349

- **Moved and second – Discussion 1: \$7,000 for ACO seems high? Town Manager responds: \$7,000 covers location of the animals if we have to collect them, majority of budget, and ACO get \$2,600 and then there is mileage. Includes those items. Discussion 2: Insurance Cost has gone up this year from last year: Town Manager responds: Increase on General Liability, and Workers Comp. Able to drop the price of Unemployment, and health Insurance and an IPP (Disability Program that increased). It's a combination of changes of insurance. Discussion 3: Is there a way to avoid expensive hydrant rental? Town Manager responds: Based on the infrastructure cost, If you take away the cost the fee for the hydrants is used to balance the persons' water fees. Discussion 4: Is that enough money for the Fire Dept. Want to make sure we have what they need for training, and wild fire control. Town Manager responds: They review the budget each year with the Fire Chief for new tools and we were able to get grant for USDA to get funds toward that. They are good at fund raises. We are OK at the moment. – Article Passed. 4 Opposed.**

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>\$ 2,000</u>
TOTAL	\$ 14,000

Selectman & Budget Committee Recommends \$14,000

- **Moved and second – 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:

Labor	\$ 41,600
Supplies/Services	\$ 2,500
Roads	\$ 301,000
Snow Removal	\$ 282,000
Town Truck	\$ 5,000
Cemeteries	<u>\$ 36,500</u>

TOTAL \$ 668,600

Selectman & Budget Committee Recommends \$668,600

- **Moved and second – Discussion 1: Can someone address 'Roads'? What is this for? Town Manager responds: Review the Road Plan Handout. A run down for each road this year.**

Keep in mind it is a draft copy. Discussion 2: Recent flooding on the roads. Especially Route 23 as it's a major escape route, is there a plan for that, with climate change. Town manager responds: I don't know the plan is for Route 23. It is a state road. He will reach out to DOT for information. Article Passed. 1 Opposed.

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	\$175,375
Code Enforcement	<u>\$ 16,000</u>
TOTAL	\$191,375

Selectman & Budget Committee Recommends \$191,375

- **Moved and second – No Discussion – Article Passed – 0 Opposed.**

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>\$ 20,150</u>
TOTAL	\$ 84,150

Selectman & Budget Committee Recommends \$84,150

- **Moved and second – No Discussion – Article Passed – 0 Opposed.**

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	\$ 2,456
MMA	\$ 2,800
SEDC	\$ 100
Chamber Commerce	\$ 250
First Park	\$ 7,300
G M L A	\$ 3,000
Flag Committee	\$ 1,000
Historical Society	\$ 1,250

American Legion	\$ 500
TOTAL	\$ 18,656

Selectman & Budget Committee Recommends \$18,656

- **Moved and Second – Discussion: How many more years paying on the First Park. Town Manager responds: We are almost even at getting it back. They are selling more lots, and it's paying off. Article Passed. 0 Opposed.**

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	\$ 5,910
TOTAL	\$ 5,910

Selectman & Budget Committee Recommends \$ 5,910

- **Moved and Second – No Discussion – Article Passed – 0 Opposed**

Art. 20: To see if the Town will vote to increase the Property Tax Levy Limit of \$912,796 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 \$44,267 in the preceding articles)

- **Passed Over Article – Not discussed nor Voted on.**

Art. 21: To see if the Town will vote to apply FY 2023/2024 operational revenues in the estimated amount of \$375,000 which may include revenues from Excise Tax, Tree Growth, Interest Income, Building Permits, and Transfer Station accounts to offset the FY 2023/2024 appropriations. (Selectmen Recommend)

- **Moved and second – No Discussion – Article Passed – 0 Opposed**

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.

- **Moved and second – No Discussion – Article Passed – 0 Opposed**

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 second – Discussion: Is there any money carried forward from previous years? Town Manager answers: Each year we are required to put that money into budget for capital improvement. We spend it. We take in anywhere from 18K-24K (changes year to year) depending on state allocations & put them back into infrastructure. – Article Passed. 0 Opposed.***

Art. 24: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to spend up to \$65,000 from the undesignated fund balance for Capital Improvements on infrastructure projects to include any expenses for road work to include but not limited to the following; tree trimming and disposal, gravel, stone, cement, hay, filter fabric, labor, machine costs purchased, rented, or hired, pavement, ditching, culverts, bridge work labor and supplies, sewer lines, catch basins, and manholes that require maintenance or replacement while improving the roads. **(Selectmen Recommend)**

- ***Moved and second – No Discussion – Article Passed – 0 Opposed.***

Art. 25: 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 2023/2024. **(Selectmen Recommend)**

- ***Moved and second – No Discussion – Article Passed – 0 Opposed.***

Art. 26: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply \$ 125,000 of the undesignated fund balance to complete the Transfer Station upgrade. (Estimate project cost is \$293,933 using \$168,993.19 of ARPA money received leaving a deficit of \$124,939.81). **(Selectmen Recommend)**

- ***Moved and second – Discussion 1: What is ARPA please? Town Manager answers: This is covid money. American Recovery Protection Act. Several pots of money that is out there, we are looking to use for Transfer Station, and some on Commercial Street, but is the result of covid money. Discussion 2: Can we use some of that money to check for the covid virus in the waste water, so we know how much the covid virus is out there. Town Manager responds: Haven't thought about that part. State is working on a program where they did some of that testing. It's extensive. We run a treatment plant with one staff. We'd like to do the project at the Transfer Station, and improve the inefficiencies with the hauling cost. We can reduce the hauling cost. - Article Passed. 0 Opposed.***

Art. 27: Shall the Town of Hartland adopt an ordinance titled Shoreland Zoning Ordinance that is intended to bring the Town of Hartland into compliance with State of Maine Chapter 1000 titled Guidelines for Municipal Shoreland Zoning Ordinances adopted by the State of Maine 1/26/2015.

(Selectmen Recommend 2-1)

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

- *Passed Over. Moved and second.*

Art. 28: Shall the Town of Hartland adopt the Shoreland Zoning Map that is consistent with the 2009 Shoreland Zoning Map maintaining all Resource Protection, Stream Protection, and Limited Residential zones with the following exceptions:

Below the Morgan Dam all properties within 250 feet of the west side of the high water mark of the Sebasticook River following along Mills Street, Hubbard Avenue and Pittsfield Avenue all the way to the Palmyra Town Line will be zoned General Development 1 Zone.

Below the Morgan Dam all properties with in 250 feet of the high water mark along Water Street to Commercial Street will be zoned Limited Residential zone.

Below the Morgan Dam all properties with in 250 feet of the high water mark of the east side of the Sebasticook River starting at Seekins Street following along Commercial Street, the Tannery lots, and along Elm Street will be zoned General Development 1 Zone to the Palmyra Town Line.

Above the Morgan Dam at Map 26 Lot 28, owned by Robert Bryant will be zoned Limited Commercial District

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

- *Passed Over Article. Moved and Seconded*

Article 29: Shall the Town of Hartland approve the Special Local Condition List to allow the following properties to be utilized for commercial business purposes in the shoreland zone at the minimum lot size and frontage stated below?

Owner & Property Address	Map and Lot	Acres/Sq Feet	Water Frontage	Current Use	Previous Uses and Information	New Zone

J&K Properties, LLC on Commercial Street	020- 034	0.05/2,178	n/a	1 Building - Laundry Mat	laundry mat	GD1
Irving Tanning Co. on Commercial Street	020- 032	0.22/9,583	n/a	parking lot	parking lot	GD1
Thomas Harville (estate of) on 12 Commercial Street	020- 031	0.07/3,049	n/a	1 Building - vacant	retail store	GD1
Charles Buker on 49 Main Street	020- 020	0.20/8,712	n/a	1 Building - Redemption center and apartments	thrift store and apartment building	GD1
Town of Hartland on 9 Hubbard Avenue	020- 019	0.36/15,681	345' river	1 Building - Food Cupboard/Pantry	fire station	GD1
Moose Market LLC on 67 Main Street	020- 014	0.72/31,363	n/a	1 Building- grocery store	grocery	GD1
Robert Bryant on 1009 Great Moose Drive	026- 028	1.0/43,560	300'	Residence and Brewery (garage)	residence and multi use/storage car dealership	LC
Joshua Holmbom on 20 Pittsfield Avenue	018- 032	1.20/52,272	170' on river	1 Building - Grill/restaurant	gas station/mini mart	GD1
Christopher Fiore on 68 Main Street	018- 033	0.40/17,424	n/a	1 Building - vacant	gas station/mini mart	GD1

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

Art. 30: Shall the Town adopt an ordinance titled Building and Property Maintenance Ordinance (Selectmen Recommend)

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

- **Passed Over Article. Moved and Second**
- **Moved and second to close Town Meeting. 10:35 am.**

The Registrar will be in session for the purpose of maintaining the list of voters Friday, May 5, 2023 from 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM. at the Election and Saturday, May 6, 2023 from 8:30 AM to 9:00 AM at the Town Meeting.

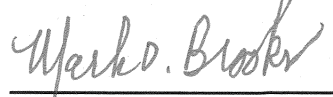
Given under our hands this 15 day of May A.D. 2023


A True Copy

Attest:


Samantha Neal, Clerk


John Hikel, Selectman


Mark Brooks, Selectman


Jerry Martin, Selectman