

Articles of Warrant

Greetings: In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the **Town of Starks**; qualified to vote in town affairs, to meet at the Starks Community Center, 57 Anson Road, in the said Town of Starks on Friday, March 12th, 2021, at 11:30 AM then and there to act upon Article 1, then by Australian ballot on Article 2, and then by secret ballot on Articles 3-13, the polling hours therefore to be from 12:00 PM until 8:00 PM, said articles being the following:.

Article 1

To Elect a moderator to preside over said meeting.

Article 2

To choose by Australian ballot all Town Officers and Budget Committee members for the current year.

Article 3

Shall the town vote to raise and appropriate from taxation, **\$564,806** (representing a 4.97 % decrease from the previous year) for an operating budget in the current year.

Administration	\$222,179
Public Safety	\$62,040
Public Works	\$216,800
Debt Service	\$9,787
Social Services & Contingency	\$14,000
Reserves	\$40,000
Total	\$564,806

Recommended by Selectmen and Budget Committee

Article 4

To see if the Town will authorize the Municipal Officers to spend an amount not to exceed 3/12 of the annual budget in each budget category of the 2021 annual budget during the period from January 1st, 2022 to the 2022 Annual Town Meeting.

Article 5

To set the rate of interest to be charged on unpaid taxes, after the date set in the preceding article.

Interest rate shall not exceed 6.00% per year to accrue beginning 60 days from the date of commitment.

Article 6

To see if the Town, in accordance with T. 36 M.R.S. § 506, will vote that if a taxpayer pays an amount in excess of their final assessment it shall be refunded in the amount of the overpayment.

Article 7

To see if the Town will authorize the selectmen, on behalf of the Town, to sell and dispose of any real-estate acquired by the Town for nonpayment of taxes; to thereon advertise and accept sealed bids only; and to execute the appropriate deeds for such property. Except that the Municipal Officers shall use the special sale process required by 36 M.R.S. § 943-C for qualifying homestead property if they choose to sell it to anyone other than the former owner(s).

Article 8

Shall the Town appropriate from **Undesignated Funds, \$51,805** to lower the tax commitment.

Article 9

Shall the Town accept the following gifts grants and funds listed below as provided by the Maine State Legislature and any other sources and apply the funds to lower the commitment or benefit the town in such other ways as the Selectmen deem reasonable.

Maine Municipal Revenue Sharing
State Aid to Education (including federal pass-through funds and property tax relief)
Public Library State Aid
Tree Growth Reimbursements
General Assistance Funds
Veterans Exemption Funds
Homestead Exemption Funds
FEMA Reimbursements
Civil Emergency Funds (Emergency Management Assistance)
State and Federal Grants
Any Other Funds or Gifts

Article 10

Shall the Town authorize the Selectmen to dispose of assets with an estimated value of \$500 or less without having to place legal ads, the details of these assets to be emailed to an available email list and posted inside and outside the Town Office for bids. This does not include tax acquired property.

Article 11

Shall the Town override the property tax levy limit established for the Town of Starks by State law to the extent statutorily allowed in the event the municipal budget approved under the preceding articles resulted in a tax commitment that is greater than the so-called LD 1 property tax levy limit.

Article 12

Shall the Town:

- Apply available excise taxes, interest, and lien charges toward the 2021 budget
- Apply lien cost revenue to the lien cost expense account
- Apply over lay to cover abatements
- Make taxes due and payable upon the date of commitment.
- Authorize the selectmen to apply for a tax anticipation note if needed
- Apply all Community Center rental/donations funds to the Building Improvement Fund
- Forward the snowmobile reimbursement to the Anson-North Anson Snowmobile Club
- Close the books on December 31st 2021
- Carry forward \$10,432.50 for Property & Casualty Insurance in the current year.
- Hold the next Annual Town Meeting on March 11th and 12th 2022.
- Authorize the Tax Collector to accept prepayment of 2021 taxes from January 1st, 2021 to the 2021 date of commitment

Article 13


Shall the town hereby call upon our State and Federal elected representatives to enact carbon-pricing legislation to protect Maine from the economic costs and environmental risks of continued climate inaction. To that end, we support a Carbon Fee and Dividend approach, also known as a Carbon Cash-Back program, which charges fossil fuel producers for their carbon output and rebates the money collected to all residents on an equitable basis. Enacting such a program will decrease long-term fossil-fuel dependence, aid in the economic transition for energy consumers, support our economy and keep local energy dollars in Maine's economy.

Carbon Cash-Back has been championed by US economists (Jan 17, 2019 WSJ) as the most effective and fair way to deliver rapid reductions in harmful carbon emissions at the scale required. As other countries enact such programs pursuant to the Paris accords and impose such carbon fees on US exports into their countries, it is imperative that the US enact such reciprocal fees as required under those protocols.

We expect our representatives to lead in this critical moment for the health and well-being of our citizens and for the protection of Maine's economy and the natural resources upon which we all rely.

Within 30 days of this vote, the record of the vote approving this article shall be transmitted by the Selectmen of the Town of Starks by written notice to our state legislators, to the Governor of Maine, to our congressional delegation, and to the President of the United States, informing them of these instructions from their constituents.

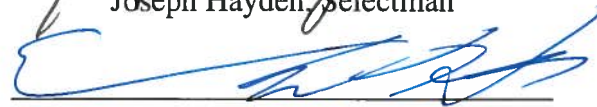
Given under our hands at the Starks Town Office this 1st day of February, 2021



Paul Frederic, Selectman Chair



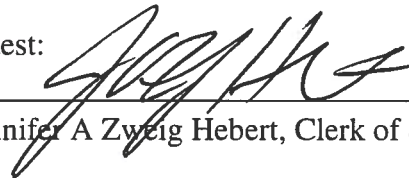
Joseph Hayden, Selectman



Ernest Hilton, Selectman

A true copy of the warrant

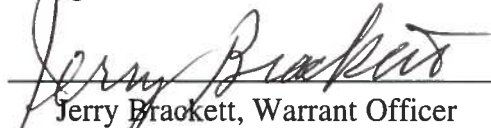
Attest:



Jennifer A Zweig Hebert, Clerk of Starks

Warrant Officer's Return:

By virtue of the herein warrant to me directed, I have notified and warned the inhabitants of the Town of Starks to be assembled at the time and place, and for the purpose therein named by posting attested copies of the warrant in five (5) conspicuous places within said town, the 3rd day of February, 2021. The Starks Town Office inside and out, the Town Garage, the Starks Food Cupboard and Steve's Garage.



Jerry Brackett, Warrant Officer