

SECRET BALLOT ELECTION AND TOWN MEETING WARRANT

Monday, April 1, 2024

STATE OF MAINE

COUNTY OF AROOSTOOK

TO: Ryan Gundy, Citizen of the Town of Easton, in the County of Aroostook.

GREETINGS:

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Easton in said County and State, qualified by law to vote in town affairs, to meet at the Easton Odd Fellows' Hall/Community Center in said Town on Monday, April 1, 2024 at 9:00 AM in the morning, and then and there to act on Articles 1 and by secret ballot on Article 2 as set out below. The polls will open at 9:00 AM and close at 6:30 PM.

And then to notify and warn the said inhabitants to meet at the Elementary School Cafeteria and Gymnasium, in said Town on Monday, April 1, 2024 at 8:00 in the evening, then and there to hear the results of the secret ballot on Articles 1 and 2 and to act on Articles 3 through 42, all of the Articles being set out below, to wit:

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

Art. 2: To choose all necessary officers for the ensuing year.

Art. 3: To see if the Town will fix a date when taxes shall be due and payable and fix the rate of interest to be charged on all unpaid taxes

Selectmen Recommend: That all taxes be due and payable October first, 2024 and that interest be charged on all unpaid taxes starting November first, 2024 at 8.00 percent.

Selectmen Recommend: YES

Budget Committee Recommends: YES

Art. 4: 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, thereon such terms as they deem advisable and to execute quitclaim deeds for such property.

Selectmen Recommend: YES

Budget Committee Recommends: YES

Art. 5: To see if the Town will authorize the selectmen to accept as gifts any acceptable properties donated to the Town and to sell or dispose of any properties as they deem advantageous to the Town during the fiscal year ending February 15, 2025.

Selectmen Recommend: YES

Budget Committee Recommends: YES

Art. 6: To see if the Town will authorize the selectmen to sell and assign un-matured tax liens for not less than the amount, interest and costs included.

Selectmen Recommend: YES

Budget Committee Recommends: YES

Art. 7: To see if the Town will authorize the selectmen to sell any outdated capital equipment after advertising in local newspapers.

Selectmen Recommend: YES

Budget Committee Recommends: YES

Art. 8: To see if the Town will authorize the selectmen to appoint a budget committee to meet as required, to recommend the necessary appropriations for the fiscal year ending February 15, 2026.

Selectmen Recommend: YES

Budget Committee Recommends: YES

Art. 9: To see if the Town will appropriate in estimated revenue from motor vehicle excise taxes, all state revenue sharing funds, all state snowmobile reimbursements, dog license fees, Odd Fellows rental fees, supplemental taxes, license fees and other miscellaneous income to be received in fiscal year ending February 15, 2025 to reduce the tax commitment by \$485,700.00.

Selectmen Recommend: YES

Budget Committee Recommends: YES

Art. 10: To see if the Town will authorize the selectmen to use the overlay as an abatement account and for any costs incurred in addressing potential abatement requests.

Selectmen Recommend: YES

Budget Committee Recommends: YES

Art. 11: To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$233,625.00 for Town Administration.

	2023-2024	2023-2024	2024-2025
	Appropriated	Actual	Proposed
Salaries	\$132,845.00	134,287.23	\$131,204.00
457 DC Match	1,736.00	1,735.30	3,461.00
Health Insurance	45,836.00	46,154.97	55,942.00
MSRS Match	13,550.00	13,697.20	13,515.00
Medicare Match	1,927.00	1,964.37	1,903.00
Car Allowance	4,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00
Supplies	5,200.00	4,786.38	5,200.00
Office Equipment Maintenance	1,200.00	812.69	1,000.00
IT Services	1,200.00	1,245.00	1,300.00
Telephone/Internet	4,308.00	4,470.20	4,500.00
Electric	2,595.00	1,605.86	2,100.00
Training/Travel/Dues	2,500.00	2,475.50	2,500.00
Building Fuel	3,000.00	2,126.84	3,000.00

Postage	2,500.00	1,932.36	2,500.00
Building Services	1,500.00	1,040.47	1,500.00
TOTAL	\$223,897.00	\$222,334.37	\$233,625.00

Selectmen Recommend: YES

Budget Committee Recommends: YES

Art. 12: To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$113,333.00 for the Fire Department.

	2023-2024 Appropriated	2023-2024 Actual	2024-2025 Proposed
Payroll	\$44,805.00	\$44,805.00	\$44,805.00
Chief's Car Allowance	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Telephone & Internet	3,500.00	3,323.45	3,800.00
Contract Services - Dispatch	2,400.00	1,200.00	2,400.00
Building Fuel	10,900.00	5,933.85	10,900.00
Electric	4,200.00	4,434.46	4,600.00
IT Support	1,200.00	1,245.00	1,300.00
Training	3,200.00	2,478.83	3,200.00
Dues & Printing	1,000.00	910.49	1,200.00
Medicare	650.00	649.69	650.00
FICA	2,778.00	2,597.30	2,778.00
Repairs	9,000.00	8,878.79	9,000.00
Annual Truck Certification	0.00	0.00	2,500.00
Gas/Oil/Diesel	4,000.00	3,109.78	4,000.00
Tools & Supplies	7,000.00	6,754.95	7,000.00
Hepatitis Vaccination	100.00	0.00	100.00
Office Supplies/Cleaning Services	1,000.00	1,622.94	1,500.00
SCBA	2,400.00	3,449.62	2,500.00
Gloves, Coats, etc.	9,000.00	5,591.14	9,000.00
Insurance	1,100.00	1,088.00	1,100.00
TOTAL	\$109,233.00	\$99,073.29	\$113,333.00

Selectmen Recommend: YES

Budget Committee Recommends: YES

Art. 13: To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$388,041.00 for the Highway Department.

	2023-2024 Appropriated	2023-2024 Actual	2024-2025 Proposed
Salaries	\$164,725.00	\$129,283.84	\$150,344.00
457 DC Match	4,942.00	3,626.80	3,735.00
Medicare Match	2,389.00	1,904.96	2,180.00
MSRS Match	16,809.00	12,580.92	15,486.00
Health Insurance	29,069.00	30,421.25	31,496.00
Gas/Oil/Diesel	42,000.00	32,737.05	42,000.00
Sand & Salt	70,000.00	64,402.55	73,500.00
Equipment Repair	30,000.00	35,704.98	34,000.00
Tool & Supplies	7,000.00	6,315.00	7,000.00
Blades & Chains	4,000.00	4,319.50	4,400.00
Telephone/Internet	1,300.00	1,308.75	1,400.00

Electric	4,600.00	4,587.88	4,600.00
IT Support	1,200.00	1,245.00	1,300.00
Building Fuel	6,600.00	4,528.07	6,600.00
Training/Dues	1,000.00	510.00	1,000.00
Building Maintenance	7,000.00	5,587.17	8,500.00
Drug Testing	500.00	476.00	500.00
TOTAL	\$393,134.00	\$339,539.72	\$388,041.00

Selectmen Recommend: YES

Budget Committee Recommends: YES

Art. 14: To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$116,090.00 for Recreation.

	2023-2024 Appropriated	2023-2024 Actual	2024-2025 Proposed
Salaries	\$45,058.00	\$45,057.60	\$44,700.00
457 DC Match	1,352.00	1,351.64	1,341.00
Seasonal/Bus Driver Salary	13,500.00	8,536.01	13,500.00
Rec Director Car Allowance	0.00	0.00	1,500.00
Health Insurance	30,554.00	30,769.97	34,027.00
Medicare Match	850.00	785.54	774.00
MSRS Match	5,973.00	5,271.64	5,498.00
Programs/Equip/Supplies	8,200.00	7,707.01	7,000.00
Telephone/Internet	2,550.00	2,591.79	2,650.00
Electric	300.00	286.10	300.00
Building Fuel	700.00	741.73	800.00
IT Support	1,200.00	1,245.00	1,300.00
Field Maintenance	1,000.00	493.65	700.00
Training/Travel	2,000.00	1,221.27	2,000.00
TOTAL	\$113,237.00	\$106,058.95	\$116,090.00

Selectmen Recommend: YES

Budget Committee Recommends: YES

Art. 15: To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$35,889.00 for the Buildings & Ground Maintenance Department.

	2023-2024 Appropriated	2023-2024 Actual	2024-2025 Proposed
Salaries	\$25,029.00	\$19,429.99	\$25,785.00
Medicare	363.00	281.74	374.00
MSRS Match	2,553.00	1,981.85	2,630.00
Gas	1,400.00	847.85	1,400.00
Electric	300.00	286.09	300.00
Tools & Supplies	2,500.00	3,279.85	2,500.00
Building Fuel	700.00	741.73	800.00
Building/Vehicle Maint.	2,100.00	1,796.24	2,100.00
TOTAL	\$34,945.00	\$28,645.34	\$35,889.00

Selectmen Recommend: YES

Budget Committee Recommends: YES

Art. 16: To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$11,625.00 for the operation of the Odd Fellows' Hall.

	2023-2024 Appropriated	2023-2024 Actual	2024-2025 Proposed
Building Maintenance	\$1,500.00	\$2,298.10	\$3,000.00
Building Fuel	3,625.00	2,295.74	3,625.00
Telephone	1,700.00	2,109.77	2,100.00
Electricity	2,700.00	2,639.23	2,900.00
TOTAL	\$9,525.00	\$9,342.84	\$11,625.00

Selectmen Recommend: YES

Budget Committee Recommends: YES

Art. 17: To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$345,960.00 for other expenses:

	2023-2024 Appropriated	2023-2024 Actual	2024-2025 Proposed
Tri-Community Landfill	\$165,000.00	\$165,737.31	\$169,950.00
Ambulance Service	85,800.00	85,800.00	85,800.00
Animal Control Officer	1,675.00	1,648.34	1,675.00
Plumbing Inspector	2,235.00	2,231.19	2,235.00
Code Enforcement Officer	1,120.00	1,118.32	1,120.00
Assessing	16,000.00	16,000.00	16,000.00
Beautification	4,000.00	3,627.53	4,000.00
General Assistance	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Legal	3,000.00	2,637.19	3,000.00
Audit	12,000.00	9,718.75	12,000.00
TAN Interest	1,750.00	1,750.00	1,750.00
Advertising	4,000.00	2,348.00	3,000.00
Town Report	2,500.00	2,284.77	2,800.00
Street Lights	13,530.00	13,275.28	16,530.00
Contract Services	13,700.00	15,306.94	15,500.00
Selectmen's Discretionary	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Elections	2,700.00	1,176.49	2,500.00
Selectmen's Stipend	4,100.00	4,058.02	4,100.00
TOTAL	\$337,110.00	\$332,718.13	\$345,960.00

Selectmen Recommend: YES

Budget Committee Recommends: YES

Art. 18: To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$45,236.00 for Outside Requests:

	2023-2024 Appropriated	2023-2024 Actual	2024-2025 Proposed
Cemetery Appropriation	\$13,500	\$13,500.00	\$13,500.00
MMA Dues	3,080.00	3,077.00	3,090.00
Catholic Charities	800.00	800.00	800.00
ACAP	505.00	505.00	504.00
Homeless Shelter	1,980.00	1,980.00	2,310.00
NMDC Dues	5,046.00	5,045.92	4,910.00
Memorial Day Services	350.00	350.00	350.00

Soil & Water Conservation Dist.	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Aroostook Agency on Aging	800.00	800.00	800.00
Cen. Aro. Chamber of Commerce	250.00	250.00	250.00
American Red Cross	250.00	250.00	250.00
Little School Restoration	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Humane Society	2,508.00	2,508.00	2,772.00
ME Public Broadcasting	100.00	100.00	100.00
Francis Malcolm Science Center	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Historical Society	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Veteran's Cemetery	100.00	100.00	100.00
Senior Citizens	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Snowmobile Club	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Field Days	7,500.00	7,500.00	7,500.00
Easton ATV Club	500.00	500.00	500.00
TOTAL	\$44,769.00	\$44,765.92	\$45,236.00

Selectmen Recommend: YES

Budget Committee Recommends: YES

Art. 19: To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$33,700.00 for insurance.

2023-2024	2023-2024	2024-2025
Appropriated	Actual	Proposed
\$35,595.00	\$29,801.77	\$33,700.00

Selectmen Recommend: YES

Budget Committee Recommends: YES

Art. 20: To see if the Town will raise \$300,000.00 for the Town Road Improvement Fund.

Selectmen Recommend: YES

Budget Committee Recommends: YES

Art. 21: To see if the Town will accept approximately \$45,272.00 from the State of Maine Urban Rural Initiative Program for town road improvement in accordance with the requirements outlined in public law, chapter 492, L.D. 1691-1981.

Selectmen Recommend: YES

Budget Committee Recommends: YES

Art. 22: To see if the Town will authorize the selectmen to carry-over the following unexpended balances for fiscal year 2025.

Selectmen's Discretionary	Planning Board Account
Education	Tennis Court
General Assistance	Insurance Reserve
Town Road Improvement	Town Owned Properties
Equipment Reserve	Office Equipment Reserve
School Retirement Reserve	Municipal Building Maintenance
Town Retirement Reserve	Sand/Salt Shed
Signage	Municipal Building Repair Project

Economic Community Development
Ed McDonald Safety Grant

Fire Truck

Selectmen Recommend: YES

Budget Committee Recommends: YES

2023 Carry-over Balances	
Town Road Improvement	\$286,077.56
Town Owned Property Sales	\$15,775.55
Selectmen's Discretionary	\$4,162.29
General Assistance	\$3,790.10
Tennis Court	\$8,427.40
Planning Board Account	\$598.32
Education	(\$529,877.97)
Equipment Reserve	\$134,949.10
Insurance Reserve	\$3,000.00
Office Equipment Reserve	\$1,669.72
Town Retirement Reserve	\$8,753.56
School Retirement Reserve	\$10,000.00
General Building Maintenance	\$3,643.41
Municipal Building Repair Project	\$3,856.03
Signage	\$2,186.04
Sand/Salt Shed	(\$6,685.00)
Fire Truck	\$1,000.00
Ed McDonald Safety Grant	(\$2,354.18)
Economic Community Development	\$1,756.01

Art. 23: To see if the Town will appropriate \$586,077.56 from the Town Road Improvement account for summer road maintenance and to carry-over any unexpended balance.

2023-2024	2023-2024	2024-2025
Appropriated	Actual	Proposed
\$409,504.00	\$131,576.31	\$586,077.56

Selectmen Recommend: YES

Budget Committee Recommends: YES

Art. 24: To see if the Town will raise the sum of \$200,000.00 to be placed in the equipment reserve account.

Selectmen Recommend: YES

Budget Committee Recommends: YES

Art. 25: To see if the Town will appropriate, not to exceed, \$75,000 from undesignated fund to replace heating system in Easton Fire Department building.

Selectmen Recommend: YES

Budget Committee Recommends: YES

Art. 26: To see if the Town will appropriate \$6,685.00 from undesignated fund to the sand/salt designated fund balance to zero out the account.

Selectmen Recommend: YES

Budget Committee Recommends: YES

Art. 27: To see if the Town will appropriate, not to exceed, \$11,000 from equipment reserve account for fire truck pump.

Selectmen Recommend: YES

Budget Committee Recommends: YES

Art. 28: To see if the Town will appropriate \$44,108.00 from equipment reserve account to purchase 4 new SCBA packs and 8 carbon cylinder “bottles”.

Selectmen Recommend: YES

Budget Committee Recommends: YES

Art. 29: To see if the Town will combine the Town of Easton’s retirement reserve balance of \$8,853.56 and Easton School Department retirement reserve balance of \$10,000 to a Town of Easton Retirement account of \$18,853.66.

Selectmen Recommend: YES

Budget Committee Recommends: YES

Art. 30: To see if the Town will raise & appropriate \$2,500.00 for the Municipal Building Repairs account and to carry over any balance.

Selectmen Recommend: YES

Budget Committee Recommends: YES

Art. 31: To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,500.00 to be added to Office Equipment reserve and to carry over any balance.

Selectmen Recommend: YES

Budget Committee Recommends: YES

Art. 32: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the municipal officers to spend an amount not to exceed 1/6 of the budgeted amount in each budget category of the 2025 annual budget during the period from February 16, 2025 to annual town meeting.

Selectmen Recommend: YES

Budget Committee Recommends: YES

Art. 33: To see if the Town will allow the Board of Selectmen to authorize the Town Manager to apply and accept an award from the State of Maine Small Community 90-10 Matching Grant for pollution abatement construction, to correct, on a priority basis, defective residential septic systems on the Prestile Stream banks or on the banks of other streams or bodies of water, and further authorize the Town Manager to execute the necessary documents pursuant to the application, receipt, implementation, management, and completion of such projects.

Selectmen Recommend: YES

Budget Committee Recommends: YES

Art. 34: To see if the Town will allow the Board of Selectmen to authorize the Town Manager to submit a Community Development Block Grant Application to the Maine State Planning Office and if said application is approved, to further authorize the Town Manager to execute all necessary documents pursuant to the application, receipt, implementation, management and completion of the project.

Selectmen Recommend: YES

Budget Committee Recommends: YES

Art. 35: To see if the Town will vote to set the interest rate to be paid by the town on abated taxes at 6 (six) percent for the fiscal year 2024-2025 pursuant to M.S.R.A. Title 36 §506A.

Selectmen Recommend: YES

Budget Committee Recommends: YES

Art. 36: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the selectmen to dispose of town-owned personal property with a value of \$4,000.00 or less under such terms and conditions as they deem advisable.

Selectmen Recommend: YES

Budget Committee Recommends: YES

Art. 37: To see if the Town, in accordance with M.S.R.A. Title 36 §506 will authorize the Tax Collector and Town Treasurer to accept prepayment of taxes not yet committed and to pay no interest thereon.

Selectmen Recommend: YES

Budget Committee Recommends: YES

Art. 38: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the municipal officers to appropriate \$15,000.00 from unappropriated surplus as they deem advisable to meet unanticipated expenses and emergencies that occur during fiscal year 2025.

Selectmen Recommend: YES

Budget Committee Recommends: YES

Art. 39: To see if the Town will vote to expend all proceeds from the State of Maine Grant in Aid Snowmobile Program estimated to be \$14,200.00 to the Easton Trailbreakers Snowmobile Club.

Selectmen Recommend: YES

Budget Committee Recommends: YES

Art. 40: Shall the Town of Easton vote to approve 2024-2025 Community Development Block (Grant) applications for the Business Assistance Program, the Economic Development Fund Loan and the Community Enterprise Program. To submit same to the Department of Economic and Community Development, and if said program is approved, to authorize the municipal officers to accept said grant funds, to make such assurances, assume such responsibilities, and exercise such authority as are necessary and reasonable to implement such program.

Selectmen Recommend: YES

Budget Committee Recommends: YES

Art. 41: Shall the Town of Easton vote to approve 2024-2025 Rural Development Grant applications for the Rural Business Enterprise Grant Program for \$99,999 and for Rural Business Enterprise Loans for up to \$300,000 each and to submit same to the USDA, and if said program is approved, to authorize the municipal officers to accept said grant funds, to make such assurances, assume such responsibilities, and exercise such authority as are necessary and reasonable to implement such program.

Selectmen Recommend: YES

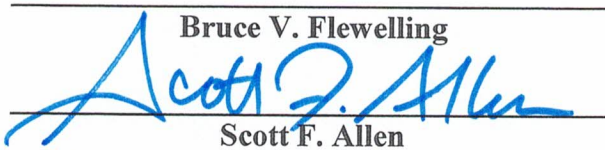
Budget Committee Recommends: YES

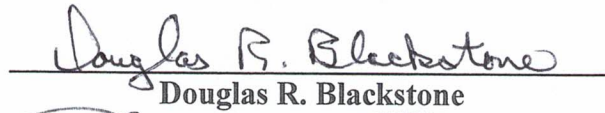
Art. 42: To see if the Town of Easton will authorize the Easton Board of Selectmen to authorize and accept the proposal of a financial institution to purchase the Town a tax anticipated note, on a drawdown basis, and award said note to a financial institution.

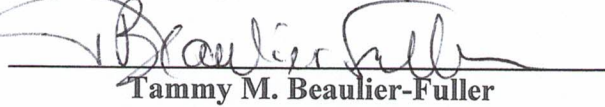
Selectmen Recommend: YES

Budget Committee Recommends: YES

GIVEN UNDER OUR HANDS THIS 27TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2024 A.D.
EASTON SELECTMEN


Bruce V. Flewelling


Scott F. Allen


Douglas R. Blackstone


Tammy M. Beaulier-Fuller


Norman G. Trask

ATTEST:


Cheryl Clark, Town Clerk

STATE OF MAINE

COUNTY OF AROOSTOOK

Pursuant to the within warrant, I certify that I have notified and warned the inhabitants of the Town of Easton, qualified as therein expressed, to meet at the time and place for the purpose therein named, by posting this day an attested copy of the within warrant at:

Easton Town Office
Country Farm's Market
Odd Fellows' Hall/Community Center
Easton Elementary School
Easton High School
Easton Post Office

The same being public and conspicuous places in said town, on the 24th day of March, 2024, which is at least 7 days next prior to said meeting.

Dated: March 22, 2024


Ryan Gundy