

# NORRIDGEWOCK TOWN WARRANT

## MARCH 4, 2024

To: Peter Lyman, a citizen of the Town of Norridgewock, in the County of Somerset, and State of Maine

### GREETINGS:

*In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby requested to notify and warn the Inhabitants of the Town of Norridgewock in Somerset County, qualified by law to vote in Town affairs, to assemble at the Mill Stream School Gymnasium located at 26 Mercer Road in said Town on Monday, March 4, 2024, at 8:00 a.m., Eastern Standard Time, then and there to act upon Articles 1 through 2, as set out below. Polls shall remain open until 7:00 p.m., at which time the meeting will be recessed; the recessed meeting will be reconvened at the Mill Stream School Gymnasium at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, March 4, 2024, to act on Articles 3 through 41, as set out below, to wit:*

**Article 1.** To elect a Moderator to preside at said meeting.

**Article 2.** To elect all necessary Town Officers as required, to be elected by secret ballot.

**Article 3.** To see if the Town will vote to allow non-residents who have information pertaining to Article 4 through Article 41 to speak.

**Article 4.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$451,700.00 for the Administration Department.

Select Board recommends \$451,700.00 (4-1)

Budget Committee recommends \$447,200.00

*(Note for Articles 4-24: The absence of a vote in parentheses after either the Select Board or the Budget Committee recommendation on an article means that the vote was unanimous.)*

**Article 5.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$18,100.00 for Elected Officials.

Select Board recommends \$18,100.00

Budget Committee recommends \$18,100.00

**Article 6.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$26,600.00 for Tax Assessing.

Select Board recommends \$26,600.00

Budget Committee recommends \$26,600.00

**Article 7.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$131,010.00 for Public Safety.

Select Board recommends \$131,010.00

Budget Committee recommends \$131,010.00

- Article 8.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$318,426.00 for the Fire Department.  
Select Board recommends \$318,426.00  
Budget Committee recommends \$318,426.00
- Article 9.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$753,675.00 for the Public Works Department.  
Select Board recommends \$753,675.00  
Budget Committee recommends \$753,675.00
- Article 10.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$6,650.00 for Cemeteries.  
Select Board recommends \$6,650.00  
Budget Committee recommends \$6,650.00
- Article 11.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$5,600.00 for General Assistance.  
Select Board recommends \$5,600.00  
Budget Committee recommends \$5,600.00
- Article 12.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$32,325.00 for Recreation Programming and Operations.  
Select Board recommends \$32,325.00 (4-1)  
Budget Committee recommends \$28,325.00 (4-2)
- Article 13.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$30,380.00 for Parks Programming and Operations.  
Select Board recommends \$30,380.00  
Budget Committee recommends \$29,000.00 (3-3)
- Article 14.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$51,280.00 for the Libraries.  
Select Board recommends \$51,280.00  
Budget Committee recommends \$49,073.68 (5-0-1)
- Article 15.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$46,100.00 for Code Enforcement.  
Select Board recommends \$46,100.00  
Budget Committee recommends \$46,100.00
- Article 16.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,200.00 for the Planning Board.  
Select Board recommends \$2,200.00  
Budget Committee recommends \$2,200.00
- Article 17.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$8,000.00 for Local Philanthropic Organizations.  
Select Board recommends \$8,000.00  
Budget Committee recommends \$6,000.00

**Article 18.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$45,000.00 for Summer Grounds Maintenance.  
                     Select Board recommends \$45,000.00  
                     Budget Committee recommends \$45,000.00

**Article 19.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$93,423.00 for the Debt Service on the Sewer Bond.  
                     Select Board recommends \$93,423.00  
                     Budget Committee recommends \$93,423.00

**Article 20.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$31,536.00 for Unclassified Accounts.  
                     Select Board recommends \$31,536.00  
                     Budget Committee recommends \$31,536.00

**Article 21.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$10,000.00 for the Contingency Account, to be used with Select Board approval for unexpected and unforeseen expenditures.  
                     Select Board recommends \$10,000.00  
                     Budget Committee recommends \$10,000.00

**Article 22.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,060,000.00 for Capital Reserve Accounts as follows:

	<b>Fiscal Year 2024</b>	<b>Select Board recommends</b>	<b>Budget Committee recommends</b>	<b>Balance as of 12/31/2023</b>
Cemeteries	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$34,986.00
Central Maine Air.	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$134,653.00
Fire- Equipment	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$302,066.00
Fire- Building	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$75,690.28
Libraries	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$93,100.00
Parks	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$2,500.00	\$0.00
PW- Equip.	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$42,081.00
PW- Building	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$75,480.00
Recreation- Fields	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$22,431.00
Roads	\$750,000.00	\$750,000.00	\$750,000.00	\$358,907.00
Tax Revaluation	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$102,718.00
Town Office	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$72,898.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,060,000.00</b>	<b>\$1,060,000.00</b>	<b>\$1,047,500.00</b>	<b>\$1,316,310.00</b>

**Article 23.** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$2,370,232.00 in anticipated revenues to reduce the tax commitment.  
                     Select Board recommends \$2,370,232.00  
                     Budget Committee recommends \$2,370,232.00



**Article 24.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to appropriate an amount not to exceed \$550,000.00 from Unassigned Fund balance (surplus) to reduce the amount required to be raised from property taxes.

    Select Board recommends \$500,000.00 (4-1)

    Budget Committee recommends \$550,000.00

**Article 25.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize (and suspend, if necessary) a salt and sand for household use program on such terms and conditions as the Select Board deems appropriate during the winter months.

**Article 26.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to accept or reject any conditional gifts/grants of money and/or personal property to the Town and to appropriate and expend funds for the purpose for which the gift/grant was made, in accordance with any conditions imposed by the donor.

**Article 27.** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the following categories of local, State, and Federal funds: Public Library Aid, Emergency Management Funds, Veterans' Exemption Reimbursements, Local Roads Assistance Program (LRAP), Property Tax Relief Fund, or any other non-estimated revenues, local, State, or Federal funds not previously listed.

**Article 28.** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate all monies received in 2024 from the Treasurer, State of Maine snowmobile registration refund program to the Norridgewock Sportsmen Association for the maintenance of its system or network of snowmobile trails, with the condition that those trails are open in the snow season to the public for outdoor recreational purposes at no charge, and to authorize the Select Board to enter into an agreement with the Association under such terms and conditions as the Select Board deems advisable for that purpose.

**Article 29.** To see if the Town will vote to increase the property tax levy limit established for the Town by State law in the event that the municipal budget approved under the preceding warrant articles will result in a tax commitment that is greater than the property tax levy limit. *Note: By State statute, this vote must be by written ballot.*

**Article 30.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to spend any amount not to exceed three-twelfths (3/12) of the budgeted amount in each category of the 2024 annual budget during the period from January 1, 2025 until the date of the 2025 Annual Town Meeting.

**Article 31.** To see if the Town will vote to adopt the following schedule for the collection of taxes for Fiscal Year 2024:

- A. All taxes are due by September 15, 2024, or 40 days after commitment, whichever is later.
- B. Advance payment or partial payment may be made.
- C. Interest will be charged at 8.5%, the maximum rate as set forth by the State of Maine, beginning September 16, 2024, or 41 days after commitment, whichever is later.
- D. All taxes outstanding as of January 1, 2025 will be listed in the Town's Annual Report.

**Article 32.** To see if the Town will vote to set the interest rate to be paid by the Town on abated taxes at 4.5% for the period of assessment and to authorize such interest paid or abatements granted to be appropriated from the Property Tax Overlay Account or, if necessary, from Unassigned Fund balance (surplus).

**Article 33.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to dispose of property acquired by the Town for non-payment of taxes and/or sewer user fees 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 and sewer user fees, interest, fees, and costs; 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 Select Board is unable to list or sell the property as required by § 943-C(3), the Select Board may either sell the property through a competitive sealed bid process in which a notice of advertising the sale of the property shall be published at least twice in a newspaper of general circulation in the county or through such other method as the Select Board deems to be in the best interests of the Town. For sales 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.

**Article 34.** To see if the Town will vote to allow the Treasurer, after Select Board approval, to file a waiver of automatic foreclosure at the Registry of Deeds, pursuant to 36 M.R.S. § 944, on real estate that may be burdensome for the Town.

**Article 35.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to dispose of Town-owned personal property with a value, in its judgment, of more than \$500.00, by a process of sealed bids; provided, however, that (a) the Select Board may dispose of Fire Department equipment, excluding trucks, on such terms and conditions as it deems advisable; and (b) if bids are not



received for property that is put out to bid, the Select Board may dispose of property as it deems advisable.

**Article 36.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to dispose of Town-owned personal property, with a value, in its judgment, of \$500.00 or less, under such terms and conditions as it deems advisable.

**Article 37.** To see if the Town will vote to allow the Select Board to negotiate, execute and administer lease agreements with individuals for use of Town-owned land for mowing/haying, cultivating, and crop growth, subject to all legally required or advisable insurance and environmental provisions.

**Article 38.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board and Treasurer, on behalf of the Town, to apply for and accept State, federal and non-profit organization grants, donations or other revenues, on behalf of the Town for municipal purposes, including when necessary, the authority to sign grant contracts, documents and or other paperwork and accept the conditions that accompany grant funds, and to appropriate and expend grant funds and or other funds for authorized purposes, as the Select Board deems in the best interests of the Town during the upcoming fiscal year.

**Article 39.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to appropriate funds from the Omnibus Development Program Transit Oriented Development and Natural Gas Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District for the purpose of funding projects permitted under the TIF Development Program for the Fiscal Year 2024, with consideration given to the expenditure recommendations of the TIF Advisory Committee.


**Article 40.** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate any interest accrued on a reserve account for the same purpose for which the reserve account was established.

**Article 41.** Shall an ordinance entitled “*2024 Amendments to the Town of Norridgewock Sewer Use Ordinance*” be enacted?

(The proposed ordinance is available for review and inspection at the Town Clerk’s Office and will be available at the Town Meeting.)

*Signed by the Select Board, this 17th day of January, 2024*

Kelsey Bickel  
for  
L. Schen  
Norridgewock Select Board

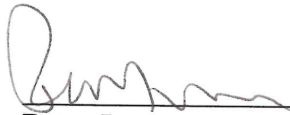
  
Richard A. LaBelle, Town Clerk  
A True Attest Copy

## RETURN ON THE WARRANT

Norridgewock, Maine

February 08, 2024

Pursuant to the within warrant to me directed, I have notified and warned the inhabitants of said town, qualified as herein expressed, to meet at said time and place, and for the purposes therein named, by posting an attested copy of said warrant on the bulletin board at the Norridgewock Town Office (16 Perkins St.), on the window at the Norridgewock Post Office (2 Clark St.), and on the bulletin board at Skowhegan Savings Bank (9 Main St.), being public and conspicuous places in said town, on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2024 A.D., being at least seven days before the meeting.



Peter Lyman

Resident, Town of Norridgewock