

March 28, 2020 Town Meeting Sweden Maine

The meeting was called to order by Alberta Ridlon, town clerk at 9am with a salute to the flag.

WARRANT FOR TOWN MEETING

To Patricia Patnaude, Constable of the Town of Sweden, County of Oxford, State of Maine,

GREETINGS: In the name of the State of Maine you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Sweden in said county, qualified by law to vote in Town affairs, to meet at Sweden Town Meeting House, in said Town, on Saturday, the 28th day of March AD 2020, at nine o'clock in the morning, then and there to act on the following Articles, to wit:

Article 1. To choose a Moderator to preside at said meeting.

Nomination Ryan Fowler. No other nominations. Confirmed.

Article 2. To see if the Town will authorize the Board of Selectmen to borrow monies in anticipation of taxes as may be required to operate the services of the Town.

Selectmen recommend (3-0)

Budget Committee recommends (3-0)

Article 3. To elect all Town Officers: (1) Selectmen, Assessor and Overseer of the Poor for a period of 3 years; (1); (1) Planning Board member, 5 years; (2) Planning Board alternates, 1 year; (1) Appeals Board members, 5 years; (1) Appeals Board member for 4 years; (1) Appeals Board member for 2 years; (2) Appeals Board alternate 1 year; (1) SAD #72 Board Member alternate for a period of 3 years; and any other necessary officers.

Article 4. To see if the town will increase the property tax levy limit established for the Town of Sweden by State law in the event that the municipal budget approved under the following articles will result in a tax commitment that is greater than that property tax levy limit.

Selectmen recommend (3-0)

Budget Committee (3-0)

Article 5a. To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for the compensation of the Town Treasurer and Tax Collector.

<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
\$13,114.00	\$13,377.00	

Selectmen recommend raise (3-0)

\$13,645.00

Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0)

\$13,645.00

Article 5b. To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for the compensation of the Town Clerk.

<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
\$8,619.00	\$8,792.00	

Selectmen recommend raise (3-0)

\$8,968.00

Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0)

\$8,968.00

Article 5c. To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for the compensation of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Selectmen.

<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
\$8,670.00	\$8,844.00	

Selectmen recommend raise (3-0)

\$9,021.00

Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0) \$9,021.00

Article 5d. To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for the compensation of the **Fire Chief.**

<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
\$1,874.00	\$1,912.00	

Selectmen recommend raise (3-0) \$1,951.00

Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0) \$1,951.00

Article 5e. To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for the compensation of the **Road Commissioner.**

<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
\$2,365.00	\$2,413.00	

Selectmen recommend raise (3-0) \$2,462.00

Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0) \$2,462.00

Article 5f. To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for the compensation of the **Code Enforcement Officer.**

<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
\$7,650.00	\$7,803.00	

Selectmen recommend raise (3-0) \$7,960.00

Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0) \$7,960.00

Article 5g. To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for the compensation of the **Cemetery Sexton.**

<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
\$312.00	\$319.00	

Selectmen recommend raise (3-0) \$326.00

Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0) \$326.00

Article 5h. To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for the compensation of the **Administrative Assistant to the Select Board at an average of 32 hours per week for 52 weeks per year.**

<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
\$25,841.92	\$26,873.60	

Selectmen recommend raise (3-0) \$31,000.00

Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0) \$17,160.00

For compensation of the Administrative Assistant to the Select Board at an average of 20 hours per week for 52 weeks per year.

Article 5i. To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for the compensation of the **Emergency Management Director.**

<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
\$1,205.00	\$1,230.00	

Selectmen recommend raise (3-0) \$1,255.00

Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0) \$1,255.00

Article 5j. To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for the compensation of Town employees for the purpose of training newly hired Town employees (***This special training compensation is in addition to the regular compensation of Town employees.***)

Selectmen recommend raise (3-0) \$2,500.00

Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0) \$ 0.00

Article 6. To see if the Town will take from surplus up to \$1,200.00 for payment of interest on tax anticipation borrowing for the ensuing year.

Selectmen recommend take from surplus (3-0)	\$ 1,200.00
Budget Committee recommends take from surplus (3-0)	\$ 1,200.00

Article 7. To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for **Town Charges** for the ensuing year.

Selectmen recommend raise (3-0)	\$79,986.00
Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0)	\$79,580.00

Article 8. To see if the town will authorize the Selectmen to eliminate the Planning Board Carry Forward Account and replace it with an expense account.

Selectmen recommend (3-0)	
Budget Committee recommends (3-0)	

Article 9. To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for support of the Sweden Planning Board if Article 8 is approved.

Planning Board requested	\$16,000.00
Selectmen recommend raise (3-0)	\$ 3,000.00
Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0)	\$16,000.00

Article 9a. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or take from surplus up to \$25,000.00 for the purpose of revising Sweden's Zoning and Land Use Ordinance and Subdivision Regulations to comply with current Maine state law, to ensure that any revisions are consistent with Sweden's Comprehensive Plan, and that any proposed revisions are approved by the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection and allow the balance to carry forward until the revision has been paid in full.

Selectmen recommend raise (3-0)	\$12,500.00
Selectmen recommend take from surplus if needed (3-0)	\$12,500.00
Budget Committee recommends take from surplus (3-0)	\$25,000.00

Article 10. To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for the **maintenance of roads and roadsides** for the ensuing year.

Selectmen recommend raise (3-0)	\$100,800.00
Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0)	\$100,800.00

Article 10a. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate in order to establish a **Capital Improvement Reserve Account for Roads**, pursuant to 30-A M.R.S Section 5801, and authorize the Board of Selectmen to make expenditures from said account for said purpose as they may deem in the best interests of the Town.

Selectmen recommend raise (3-0)	\$69,200.00
Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0)	\$69,200.00

Article 11. To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for the purpose of **snow removal and sanding** for the ensuing year.

Selectmen recommend raise (3-0)	\$236,000.00
Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0)	\$236,000.00

Article 12. To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate to pay for **Lovell dump contract** and to pay for any additional usage charges from surplus monies.

Selectmen recommend raise (3-0)	\$58,199.13
Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0)	\$58,199.13

Article 13. To see what sum the Town will authorize the Selectmen to draw upon the surplus account for the care of the poor for the ensuing year.

Selectmen recommend (3-0)	\$1,250.00
Budget Committee recommends (3-0)	\$1,250.00

Article 14. To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for grounds maintenance, upkeep and repairs for town buildings.

Selectmen recommend raise (3-0)	\$11,000.00
Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0)	\$11,000.00

Article 15. To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for support of the Sweden Volunteer Fire Department Association.

SVFD requested	\$41,275.00
Selectmen recommend raise (3-0)	\$41,275.00
Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0)	\$34,000.00

Article 15A. To see what sum the town will take from surplus for the purpose of Sweden Volunteer Fire Department capital improvements for fire apparatus and allow the balance to carry forward

SVFD requested	\$10,000.00
Selectmen recommend take from surplus (3-0)	\$10,000.00
Budget Committee recommends take from surplus (3-0)	\$10,000.00

Article 16. To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for support of the ambulance service for the ensuing year.

Selectmen recommend raise (3-0)	\$2,040.00
Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0)	\$2,040.00

Article 17. To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for the support of the Lovell recreation programs.

Selectmen recommend raise (3-0)	\$2,500.00
Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0)	\$2,500.00

Article 18. To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for the support of Charlotte E. Hobbs Memorial Library.

Selectmen recommend raise (3-0)	\$2,400.00
Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0)	\$2,400.00

Article 19. To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for the support of Sweden Conservation Committee.

Selectmen recommend raise (3-0)	\$125.00
Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0)	\$125.00

Article 20. To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for the support of Harvest Hills Animal Shelter.

Selectmen recommend raise (3-0)	\$400.00
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Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0) \$400.00

Article 21. To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for the support of **Seniors Plus.**

Selectmen recommend raise (3-0) \$500.00

Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0) \$500.00

Article 22. To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for the purpose of **LEA.**

Selectmen recommend raise (3-0) \$400.00

Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0) \$400.00

Article 23. To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for the purpose of **Sweden Food Pantry**

Selectmen recommend raise (3-0) \$550.00

Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0) \$550.00

Article 24. To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for the purpose of **Community Concepts.**

Selectmen recommend raise (3-0) \$300.00

Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0) \$300.00

Article 25. To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for the purpose of **SAPRS.**

Selectmen recommend raise (3-0) \$100.00

Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0) \$100.00

Article 26. To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for the purpose of **The LifeFlight Foundation.**

Selectmen recommend raise (3-0) \$391.00

Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0) \$391.00

Article 27. To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for the purpose of **The Greater Bridgton Lakes Region Chamber of Commerce.**

Selectmen recommend raise (3-0) \$100.00

Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0) \$100.00

Article 28. To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for the purpose of **Safe Voices.**

Selectmen recommend raise (3-0) \$200.00

Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0) \$200.00

Article 29. To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for **Cemetery maintenance.**

Selectmen recommend raise (3-0) \$2,500.00

Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0) \$2,500.00

Article 30. To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate and/or take from surplus for the purpose of **legal counsel.**

Selectmen recommend raise (3-0) \$ 5,000.00

Selectmen recommends take from surplus if needed (3-0) \$ 10,000.00

Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0) \$ 5,000.00

Budget Committee recommends take from surplus if needed (3-0) \$10,000.00

Article 31. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$4,500.00 for the renovation of the **Sweden's Center Schoolhouse.** Proposed work will include adding electricity to the building.

Selectmen recommend raise (3-0)	\$4,500.00
Budget Committee recommends take from surplus (3-0)	\$4,500.00

Article 32. To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen/Assessors to use not more than \$70,000.00 of the 2020 anticipated Excise monies collected in 2020 towards the amount appropriated in Articles 5a through 31. (Excise revenue has increased over the years and was due to be adjusted)
Selectmen recommend (3-0) Budget Committee recommends (3-0)

Article 33. To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen/Assessors to use not more than \$20,000.00 of the 2020 anticipated Tree Growth Refund monies collected in 2020 towards the amount appropriated in Articles 5a through 31.
Selectmen recommend (3-0)
Budget Committee recommends (3-0)

Article 34. To see if the voters will authorize the raising of the balance so appropriated, not covered in Article 32 and 33 through taxation.
Selectmen recommend (3-0)
Budget Committee recommends (3-0)

Article 35. To see if the Town will accept the highest interest rate set by the Office of the State Treasurer, State of Maine for delinquent taxes committed in the current year. (Rate cannot be greater than the State rate of 9% for 2020).
Selectmen recommend (3-0)
Budget Committee recommends (3-0)

Article 36. To see if the Town will determine the date from and after which interest shall accrue on delinquent taxes committed for the current year.
Selectmen recommend (3-0) September 15, 2020
Budget Committee recommends (3-0) September 15, 2020

Article 37. To see if the Town will set the interest rate paid on abated taxes to 4 percentage points less than the rate used in Article 34 above by the State Treasurer, State of Maine.
Selectmen recommend (3-0)
Budget Committee recommends (3-0)

Article 38. To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen to take such sums from overlay as may be necessary for the purpose of funding tax abatements.
Selectmen recommend (3-0)
Budget Committee recommends (3-0)

Article 39. 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 the non-payment of taxes thereon; or by other judicial process; said real estate to be advertised in two separate issues of local paper within 30 days of sale. To be sold either at public auction or as the result of sealed bids called for and received by the Selectmen; provided, however, that the selectmen be authorized to sell at private sale property so acquired to the owner on record of any such property; all conveyances there-under to be by release deed. 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).

Selectmen recommend (3-0)

Budget Committee recommends (3-0)

Article 40. To see if the Town will authorize the municipal officers to spend an amount not to exceed 3/12 of the budgeted amount in each budget category of the 2020 annual budget, except for the winter road maintenance budget category, during the period of January 1, 2021 to the March Annual Town Meeting in 2021. The municipal officers may spend more than 3/12ths of the 2020 annual budget amount for winter road maintenance to facilitate proper administration of the winter road maintenance contract. In no case shall the total expenditures for the year exceed the annual budget as approved by vote of the municipal legislative body (town meeting vote).

Selectmen recommend (3-0)

Budget Committee recommends (3-0)

Article 41. To see if the Town will vote to take from surplus up to \$10,000.00 for the purpose of funding **capital projects on State Aid roads** and allow the balance to carry over each year.

Selectmen recommend take from surplus (3-0)

\$10,000.00

Budget Committee recommends take from surplus (3-0)

\$10,000.00

Article 42. To see if the Town will vote to take from surplus \$5,000.00 for the **Contingency Fund**.

Selectmen recommend take from surplus (3-0)

\$5,000.00

Budget Committee recommends take from surplus (3-0)

\$5,000.00

Article 43. To see if the Town will authorize or direct the Board of Selectmen to use LRAP funds if needed.

Selectmen recommend (3-0)

up to \$ 70,000.00

Budget Committee recommends (3-0)

up to \$70,000.00

Article 44. To see if the Town will authorize the Board of Selectmen to use **FEMA** money where appropriate.

Selectmen recommend (3-0)

Budget Committee recommends (3-0)

Article 45. To see if the town will take from surplus \$12,905.37 for **2019 Winter Roads** over expenditures.

Selectmen recommend (3-0)

Budget Committee recommends (3-0)

Ryan made motion to adjourn the meeting until after state of emergency is lifted and we can meet within CDC guidelines. 2nd by Ron
Meeting adjourn 9:12 am.

Respectively Submitted

Alberta Ridlon

Attendance:

Ryan Fowler, Ronald Shorey, Alberta Ridlon.

This meeting was held according to the state law for canceling/postponing a town meeting because of the Caronavirus, COVID 19.