

# Sweden Town Meeting Minutes

## March 25, 2023

9:05 am Town Clerk called for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Kerry Welton, Selectboard member, addressed attendees about an alarm system, which will alert those who are registered (via a call to a landline or a text) of an emergency situation or provide other information.

### WARRANT FOR TOWN MEETING

**To William Graham, 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 the Town Meeting House, **on Saturday, the 25th day of March AD 2023, 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.

**Alberta Called for nominations for Moderator:**

**Chris Chadbourne nominated Frank Howell. No other nominations.**

**3 Written votes were cast all for Frank Howell.**

**Frank took the Moderators oath and the meeting was turned over to him.**

**Article 2.** To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board 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)

**Laura Chadbourne made a motion to accept the article as written, 2<sup>nd</sup> by David Frum.**

**Motion was approved unanimously.**

**Article 3.** To elect all Town Officers:

- a. **One (1) Member of the Select Board, Assessor and Overseer of the Poor for a period of 3 years; Kay Lyman nominated Kerry Welton , 3 votes cast all for Kerry.**
- b. **One (1) Planning Board member for a period of 5 years; Laura Chadbourne nominated Melanie Eldracher, elected with show of hands**
- c. **One (1) Planning board member for a period of 4 years; warren deWildt nominated Abigail deWildt, elected with show of hands**
- d. **Two (2) Planning Board alternates each for a period of 1 year; Melanie Eldracher nominated Alisa Karwowski, elected with show of hands  
Abigail deWildt nominated Jane Gibbons, elected with show of hands**
- e. **One (1) Appeals Board members for a period of 5 years; Gail deWildt nominated Mary Sohl, who declined the nomination. Position remains vacant.**

- f. **Two (2) Appeals Board alternate for a period of 1 year;**  
**Gail deWildt nominated Mary Sohl, who declined the nomination.**  
**Both positions remain open.**
- g. **One (1) SAD #72 Board Member alternate for a period of 3 years;**  
**Melanie Eldracher nominated Alisa Karwowski, 3 votes cast all for Alisa.**  
**No other necessary officers to be elected.**

**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.

Select Board recommends (3-0)

Budget Committee recommends (3-0)

**Laura Chadbourne made a motion to approve the article as written, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Perri Black. 3 votes cast, article passes.**

**Article 5a.** To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for the compensation of the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Select Board members.

<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
\$9,245.00	\$9,790.00

Select Board recommends raise (3-0)	\$9,790.00
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Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0)	\$9,790.00
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**Laura Chadbourne made a motion to raise and appropriate \$9,790.00, 2<sup>nd</sup> by David Frum.**

**No Discussion. Article passed**

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

<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
\$10,520.00	\$14,196.00

Select Board recommends raise (3-0)	\$15,048.00
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Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0)	\$15,048.00
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**Laura Chadbourne made a motion to raise and appropriate \$15,048.00, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kay Lyman.**

**No discussion. Article passed**

**Article 5c.** To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for the compensation of the Town Treasurer.

<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
\$5,260.00	\$7,644.00

Select Board recommends raise (3-0)	\$8,103.00
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Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0)	\$8,103.00
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**Laura Chadbourne made a motion to raise and appropriate \$8,103.00, 2<sup>nd</sup> by David Frum.**

**No discussion. Article passed**

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

<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
\$10,520.00	\$14,196.00

Select Board recommends raise (3-0)	\$15,048.00
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Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0)	\$15,048.00
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**David Frum made a motion to raise and appropriate \$15,048.00, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Laura Chadbourne.**

**No discussion. Article passed**

**Article 5e.** 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 24 hours per week for 52 weeks per year** .

<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
\$10,483.00	\$26,208.00

Select Board recommends raise (3-0) \$27,780.00

Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0) \$27,780.00

**Laura Chadbourne made a motion to raise and appropriate \$27,780.00, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Perri Black.**

**No discussion. Article passed**

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

<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
\$12,000.00	\$12,600.00

Select Board recommends raise (3-0) \$17,000.00

Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0) \$17,000.00

**Laura Chadbourne made a motion to raise and appropriate \$17,000.00, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kay Lyman.**

**Laura asked why the SB is proposing such a big jump. SB Chair, Chris Chadbourne explained that last year the Town experimented with having a CEO and a Deputy CEO. The Deputy eventually became the CEO and is now putting in more hours. Article passed**

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

<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
\$1,990.00	\$3000.00

Select Board recommends raise (3-0) \$3,180.00

Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0) \$3,180.00

**Laura Chadbourne made a motion to raise and appropriate \$3,180.00, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gail deWildt.**

**Motion passed.**

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

<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
\$2,511.00	\$3,000.00

Select Board recommends raise (3-0) \$3,180.00

Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0) \$3,180.00

**Laura Chadbourne made a motion to raise and appropriate \$3,180.00, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gail deWildt.**

**Motion passed.**

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

<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
\$332.00	\$352.00

Select Board recommends raise (3-0) \$373.00

Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0) \$373.00

**Laura Chadbourne made a motion to raise and appropriate \$373.00, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kay Lyman.**

**Motion passed.**

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

<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
\$500.00	\$750.00

Select Board recommends raise (3-0) \$1,255.00

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

**Laura Chadbourne made a motion to raise and appropriate \$1,255.00, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gail deWildt. Motion passed.**

**Article 5k.** To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for the compensation of the **E-911 Addressing Officer.**

<u>2022</u>
\$265.00

Select Board recommends raise (3-0) \$281.00

Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0) \$281.00

**Laura Chadbourne made a motion to raise and appropriate \$281.00, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Perri Black. Motion passed.**

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

Select Board recommends take from unassigned fund balance (3-0) up to \$1,200.00

Budget Committee recommends take from unassigned fund balance (3-0) up to \$1,200.00

**Laura Chadbourne made a motion to take from the unassigned fund balance up to \$1,200.00 for payment of interest on tax anticipation borrowing for the ensuing year, 2<sup>nd</sup> by David Frum. Motion passed.**

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

<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
\$76,700	\$80,742

Select Board recommends raise (3-0) \$106,647.00

Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0) \$103,647.00

**Laura Chadbourne made a motion to raise and appropriate \$103,647.00 for Town Charges. 2<sup>nd</sup> by David Frum. There was discussion on the increase and for the different recommendations. (\$3,000.00) Chris explained added employee training to town charges rather than a separate article. Difference in recommendations was addition error. Motion passed.**

**Article 8.** To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for support of the Sweden Planning Board.

Planning Board requested: \$16,500.00

Select Board recommends raise (3-0) \$16,500.00

Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0) \$16,500.00

**Bill Graham made a motion to raise and appropriate \$16,500.00, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ian Biggers. Motion passes.**

**Article 9.** To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for the maintenance of roads and roadsides for the ensuing year.

Select Board recommends raise (3-0) \$50,000.00

Budget Committee recommends raise (2-1) \$50,000.00

**Laura Chadbourne made a motion to raise and appropriate \$50,000.00 for road and roadside maintenance. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Perri Black. BC George Conly recommended we raise more. Linda Bradley made a motion to amend the article to raise and appropriate \$100,000.00 , 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alan Sparn. More discussion on cost to the town and amount raised last year. When BC member was asked about their Recommendation, George Conly said \$75,000.00 . A vote was taken on \$100,000.00 motion. Failed.**

**Linda Bradley made a motion to amend the article to raise and appropriate \$75,000.00, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kay Lyman. Motion to amend the article passed.**

**Linda Bradley made a motion to raise and appropriate \$75,000.00, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kay Lyman. Motion passed.**

**Article 9a.** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Capital Improvement Reserve Account for Roads, pursuant to 30-A M.R.S Section 5801 and allow the balance to carry forward.

Select Board recommends raise (3-0) \$177,000.00

Select Board recommends take from the unassigned fund balance if needed (3-0)  
up to \$ 10,000.00

Budget Committee recommends raise ( )

Select Board recommends take from the unassigned fund balance if needed ( )  
up to \$ 10,000.00

**Laura Chadbourne made a motion to raise and appropriate \$177,000.00 and take from unassigned fund balance up to \$10,000.00 if needed, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ron Kiesman. Motion passed**

**Article 10.** To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for the purpose of snow removal and sanding for the ensuing year.

Select Board recommends raise (3-0) \$285,000.00

Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0) \$285,000.00

**David Frum made a motion to raise and appropriate \$285,000.00, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cecilia Flatley. Motion passed**

**Article 10a.** To see if the Town will take from the unassigned fund balance \$5,500.00 for payment of additional fuel charges for plowing and sanding for the 2022-2023 season.

Select Board recommends (3-0)

Budget Committee recommends (3-0)

**Warren deWildt moved the article as written, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kay Lyman. Motion passed.**

**Article 11.** To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate to pay for Lovell Transfer Station contract and to pay for any additional usage charges from the unassigned fund balance monies.

Select Board recommends raise (3-0) \$63,279.00

Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0) \$63,279.00  
**David Frum made a motion to raise and appropriate \$63,279.00, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mary Sohl. Passed**

**Article 12.** To see what sum the Town will authorize the Select Board to draw upon the unassigned fund balance account for the care of the poor for the ensuing year.

Select Board recommends (3-0) up to \$1,250.00

Budget Committee recommends (3-0) up to \$1,250.00

**Perri Black made a motion move the article as written, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mary Sohl. Passed.**

**Article 13.** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for grounds maintenance, upkeep, and repairs for town buildings.

Select Board recommends raise (3-0) \$6,000.00

Select Board recommends take from the unassigned fund balance if needed (3-0)  
up to \$12,000.00

Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0) \$6,000.00

Budget Committee recommends take from the unassigned fund balance if needed (3-0)  
up to \$12,000.00

**Laura Chadbourne made a motion to raise and appropriate \$6000.00 and take from unassigned fund balance up to \$12000.00 if needed, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Abigail deWildt. Passed.**

**Article 13a.** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or take from the unassigned fund balance for the Capital Improvement Reserve Account for grounds maintenance, upkeep and repairs for town buildings pursuant to 30-A M.R.S Section 5801 and allow the balance to carry forward each year.

Select Board recommends take from the unassigned fund balance if needed (3-0)  
up to \$50,000.00

Budget Committee recommends take from the unassigned fund balance if needed (3-0)  
up to \$50,000.00

**Laura Chadbourne made a motion to take from unassigned fund balance up to \$50,000.00 if needed and allow the balance to carry forward, 2<sup>nd</sup> by David Frum. Passed.**

**Article 14.** To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for support of the Sweden Fire Department.

SVFA requested \$70,375.00

Select Board recommends raise (3-0) \$70,375.00

Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0) \$70,375.00

**David Frum made a motion to raise and appropriate \$70,375.00, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Abigail deWildt.**

**Alberta Ridlon made the motion to allow Fire Chief Tim Cook, who is a non-resident, to speak. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kay Lyman. Motion approved unanimously. Fire Chief Tim Cook thanked the Town for their support and especially thanked the Fire Station Building Committee (FSBC) for their hard work since we now have a working plan that is approved by the Fire Marshall and a driveway entrance permit from the DOT. The Fire Department has been working on improving the Town's ISO (International Organization for Standards) rating which should lower homeowners' insurance rates. The water portion of the testing will take place on May 20th and 21<sup>st</sup> in Harrison. Sweden's Engine 4 has been stored in**

**Bridgton; but since Bridgton will be getting a new truck this year, Tim has arranged for Engine 4 to be moved to Harrison, where the Town will be able to store it for a year. He is hoping that Sweden will be moving forward with building a fire station by that time. Motion approved unanimously.**

**Article 14a.** To see what sum the town will take from the unassigned fund balance for the purpose of **Sweden Fire Department capital improvements for fire apparatus** and allow the balance to carry forward

SVFA requested	\$10,000.00
Select Board recommends take from the unassigned fund balance (3-0)	\$10,000.00
Budget Committee recommends take from the unassigned fund balance (3-0)	\$10,000.00

**Laura Chadbourne made a motion to take from unassigned fund balance up to \$10,000.00 allow the balance to carry forward, 2<sup>nd</sup> by David Frum. Passed.**

**Article 14b.** To see if the Town will take from the unassigned fund balance up to \$5,000.00 for cost share for the Fire Department Communications Grant

Select Board recommends (3-0)	
Budget Committee recommends (3-0)	

**Laura Chadbourne made a motion to take from unassigned fund balance up to \$5000.00, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Perri Black. Passed**

**Laura Chadbourne made a motion to approve Articles 15-17 and Articles 21-28 as written and recommended, 2<sup>nd</sup> by David Frum. Motion approved , voted and passed.**

**Article 15.** To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for support of the **ambulance service** for the ensuing year.

Select Board recommends raise (3-0)	\$2,040.00
Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0)	\$2,040.00

**Article 16.** To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for the support of **Harvest Hills Animal Shelter.**

Select Board recommends raise (3-0)	\$406.00
Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0)	\$406.00

**Article 17.** To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for the support of **Seniors Plus.**

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

**Article 18.** To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for the support of **Sweden Conservation Commission.**

Select Board recommends raise (3-0)	\$125.00
Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0)	\$125.00

**David Frum made a motion to raise and appropriate \$125.00, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Doug Porter. Passed.**

**Article 19.** To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for the purpose of supporting the Sweden **Communications Committee.**

Select Board recommends raise (3-0) \$200.00

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

**Perri Black made a motion to raise and appropriate \$200.00, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Abigail deWildt. Passed.**

**Article 20.** To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$2,500.00 for support of the **Sweden Historical Society.**

Select Board recommends (3-0)

Budget Committee recommends (3-0)

**Laura Chadbourne moved the article as written. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kay Lyman. Doug Porter, President of the Sweden Historical Society (SHS) explained that the funds would be used towards getting internet at the Center Schoolhouse, 2 computers, a copier and a scanner. The Center Schoolhouse will be open every Saturday morning starting in May. Motion approved unanimously.**

**Article 21.** To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for the support of **Charlotte E. Hobbs Memorial Library.**

Select Board recommends raise (3-0) \$2,800.00

Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0) \$2,800.00

**Article 22.** To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for the support of the **Lovell Recreation Program.**

Select Board recommends raise (3-0) \$2,500.00

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

**Article 23.** To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for the support of **Lakes Environmental Association (LEA).**

Select Board recommends raise (3-0) \$400.00

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

**Article 24.** To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for the support of **Sweden Food Pantry**

Select Board recommends raise (3-0) \$600.00

Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0) \$600.00

**Article 25.** To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for the support of **Community Concepts.**

Select Board recommends raise (3-0) \$330.00

Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0) \$330.00

**Article 26.** To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for the support of **Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Services.**

Select Board recommends raise (3-0) \$100.00

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

**Article 27.** To see what sum the town will raise and appropriate for the support of **The Life Flight Foundation.**

Select Board recommends raise (3-0) \$406.00

Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0) \$406.00

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

Select Board recommends 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 the purpose of **Cemetery maintenance** that is the responsibility of the Town.

Select Board recommends raise (3-0) \$8,000.00

Budget Committee recommends raise (3-0) \$8,000.00

**Kay Lyman made a motion to raise and appropriate \$8,000.00, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Perri Black. Passed**

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

Select Board recommends raise (3-0) \$ 2,500.00

Select Board recommends take from the unassigned fund balance if needed (3-0)

up to \$ 12,500.00

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

Budget Committee recommends take from the unassigned fund balance if needed (3-0)

up to \$12,500.00

**Laura Chadbourne made a motion to raise and appropriate \$2,500.00 and/or take from the unassigned fund balance up to \$12,500.00. Passed.**

**Article 31.** To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen/Assessors to use not more than \$80,000.00 of the 2023 anticipated Excise monies collected in 2023 towards the amount appropriated in articles 5a through 30.

Select Board recommends (3-0)

Budget Committee recommends (3-0)

**David Frum moved the article as written, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mary Sohl. Passed**

**Article 32.** To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen/Assessors to use not more than \$30,000.00 of the 2023 anticipated Tree Growth Refund monies collected in 2023 towards the amount appropriated in articles 5a through 30.

Select Board recommends (3-0)

Budget Committee recommends (3-0)

**Laura Chadbourne moved the article as written, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Perri Black. Passed**

**Article 33.** To see if the voters will authorize the raising of the balance so appropriated, not covered in article 31 and 32 through taxation.

Select Board recommends (3-0)

Budget Committee recommends (3-0)

**Laura Chadbourne moved the article as written, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kay Lyman. Passed**

**Article 34.** 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 8% for 2023).

Select Board recommends (3-0)

Budget Committee recommends (3-0)

**Perri Black moved the article as written, 2<sup>nd</sup> by David Frum. Passed**

**Article 35.** To see if the Town will determine the date from and after which interest shall accrue on delinquent taxes committed for the current year.

Select Board recommends (3-0) 60 days after the date of commitment.

Budget Committee recommends (3-0) 60 days after the date of commitment.

**Laura Chadbourne moved the article as written, 2<sup>nd</sup> by David Frum. Passed**

**Article 36.** 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.

Select Board recommends (3-0)

Budget Committee recommends (3-0)

**Laura Chadbourne moved the article as written, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Perri Black. Passed**

**Article 37.** To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board to take such sums from overlay as may be necessary for the purpose of funding tax abatements.

Select Board recommends (3-0)

Budget Committee recommends (3-0)

**Perri Black moved the article as written, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kay Lyman. Passed**

**Article 38.** To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board 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).

Select Board recommends (3-0)

Budget Committee recommends (3-0)

**David Frum moved the article as written. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kay Lyman. Ron Kiesman asked if there was more than one way to sell tax acquired property. Town Clerk Alberta Ridlon explained that in her recollection it had always been advertised and sold by sealed bid. It is her understanding that Title 36 M.R.S. § 943-C requires some of the proceeds to go back to the owner. Motion approved unanimously. Passed**

**Article 39.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to apply for and accept grants on behalf of the Town, and to expend the proceeds thereof for the purposes for which they are received, provided that the terms of the grants do not require the Town to expend other funds which have not been appropriated by the Town.

Select Board recommends (3-0)

Budget Committee recommends (3-0)

**David Frum moved the article as written, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Perri Black. Passed**

**Article 40.** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate up to \$34,487.63 from Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (a.k.a. ARPA Funds) received by the Town from the Federal Government for the following project: Capital Improvements to the Town Office and Town Meeting House

Select Board recommends (3-0)

Budget Committee recommends (3-0)

**Laura Chadbourne moved the article as written, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ian Biggers. Passed**

**Article 41.** To see what sum of money the Town will vote to take from the unassigned fund balance for the "Grant Cost Share" account as needed.

Select Board recommends take from the unassigned fund balance (3-0) up to \$20,000.00

Budget Committee recommends (3-0) take from the unassigned fund balance up to \$20,000.00

**David Frum made a motion to take from the unassigned fund up to \$20,000.00 as needed, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mary Sohl. Passed.**

**Article 42.** 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 2023 annual budget during the period of January 1, 2024, to the March Annual Town Meeting in 2024. The exception is winter road maintenance. The municipal officers may spend more than 3/12ths of the 2023 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). Select Board recommends (3-0)

Budget Committee recommends (3-0)

**David Frum moved the article as written, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cecilia Flatley. Passed.**

**Article 43.** To see if the Town will vote to take from the unassigned fund balance \$10,000.00 for the purpose of funding capital projects on State Aid roads and allow the balance to carry over each year.

Select Board recommends take from the unassigned fund balance (3-0)

Budget Committee recommends take from the unassigned fund balance (2-1)  
**Laura Chadbourne moved the article as written, 2<sup>nd</sup> by David Frum. Passed**

**Article 44.** To see if the Town will vote to take from the unassigned fund balance up to \$20,000.00 for the **Contingency Fund**.

Select Board recommends take from the unassigned fund balance (3-0)

Budget Committee recommends take from the unassigned fund balance (3-0)

**Perri Black move the article as written, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Laura Chadbourne. Passed**

**Article 45.** To see if the Town will authorize or direct the Select Board to use up to \$186,000 of **LRAP funds** if needed.

Select Board recommends (3-0)

Budget Committee recommends ()

**David Frum move the article as written, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Laura Chadbourne. Passed**

**Article 46.** To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board to accept and spend **FEMA** money where appropriate.

Select Board recommends (3-0)

Budget Committee recommends (3-0)

**Cecilia Flatley move the article as written, 2<sup>nd</sup> by David Frum. Passed**

**Article 47.** To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board to take from the unassigned fund balance up to \$415,000 for engineering and to replace the Haskell Hill Bridge with a box culvert.

Select Board recommends (3-0)

Budget Committee recommends ()

**David Frum moved the article as written. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Perri Black. SB Chair Chris Chadbourne explained that the amount requested is based on an estimate from Pine Tree Engineering. Funds have been requested from FEMA, but it is unclear if we will receive them. The Town is currently paying \$2,300 per month for the temporary bridge that is in place. Have verbally committed to the box culvert option. The plan is to replace the temporary bridge by September 31<sup>st</sup> of this year. If we miss the window, the bridge will not be replaced until 2024. Passed.**

**Article 48.** To see if the Town will take from the unassigned fund balance up to \$50,000 for emergency road work.

Select Board recommends (3-0)

Budget Committee recommends ()

**David Frum moved the article as written. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Perri Black. Passed**

**Article 49.** To see if the Town will recommend that the Maine State Legislature prohibit the operation of personal watercraft on Stearns Pond in Sweden, Maine.

Mary Sohl moved the article as written. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kay Lyman. Several people spoke on the subject:

- Michelle Bolle spoke in opposition to the motion.
- Julie Frum asked if jet skis were the only personal watercraft per this definition. Yes, it only applies to jet skis.
- Ron Kiesman asked if there had been a petition. No – a letter making the request had been submitted to the SB in the same way the request had been made for Keyes Pond the previous year.
- Howard Buker spoke in opposition to the motion.
- Michelle Windsor spoke in favor of the motion.
- Warren deWilt spoke in opposition to the motion.
- Bruce Taylor spoke in favor of the motion.
- Frank Howell asked for a motion to allow Ray Buker who is a taxpayer but not a resident to speak. Alisa Karwowski made the motion. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Warren deWilt. Motion approved. Mr. Buker spoke in opposition to the motion.
- Alisa Karwowski acknowledged that they are the owners of the camp that rented to those who brought 5 jet skis to Stearns Pond a couple of summers ago and explained that they will no longer allow renters to bring jet skis to the pond.
- Linda Bradley acknowledged that she is no fan of jet skis and would likely support the motion if it were on the warrant for the 2024 Town meeting.
- Mary Sohl spoke in favor of the motion. She also read the results of the Comprehensive Plan Survey which was sent to all taxpayers in Dec of 2021 in which 74% of respondents supported asking the State legislature to prohibit jet skis on Keyes Pond, Stearns Pond and Webber Pond.
- Alan Sparn spoke about the process. Did not think that it should have been on the bill before the Town voted.
- Laura Chadbourne asked the SB to clarify. SB Chair Chris Chadbourne explained that the SB did not make the request to put it on the bill. They only responded to the request to put it on the warrant for the Town meeting vote.
- Bruce Taylor clarified that Representative Sawin Millett added it to the bill, not Town officials. Any individual has the right to approach a State Representative.
- David Frum made the motion to allow Robert Santomenna who is a taxpayer but not a resident to speak. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brian Sandefur. Motion approved. Mr. Santomenna spoke in favor of the motion and explained that he was the one who asked if Representative Millett would support the bill over 2 years ago. He was also one of the taxpayers that requested at the end of Dec. 2022 that the SB include the request in the warrant for Town meeting. The Legislative bill required that the request be added to the bill by Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> of last year (before cloture). No effort was made to piggyback on the Keyes Pond request, it is just the way things are done in the legislature. If the motion fails today, Stearns Pond will be removed from the bill.
- Moderator Frank Howell explained again that the vote would be taken by written ballot. A “yes” vote means that you are asking the State legislature to prohibit jet skis. A “No” vote means that you are not asking the State legislature to prohibit jet skis.

- The results of the written votes were 19 in favor and 20 opposed. The motion failed.
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- Warren deWlildt made the motion to adjourn. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Laura Chadbourne.
- Motion passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 11:56 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Alberta Ridlon, Town Clerk.