

TOWN OF VASSALBORO MAINE

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ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT TOWN OF VASSALBORO, MAINE JUNE 6-14, 2022

STATE OF MAINE

KENNEBEC COUNTY

To: Mark Brown, a resident of the Town of Vassalboro

GREETINGS:

In the name of the State of Maine you are hereby required to notify and warn the voters of the Town of Vassalboro in said Kennebec County, qualified by law to vote in town affairs, to meet at the Vassalboro Community School on Monday, June 6th, 2022, at 6:30 in the evening to elect a moderator to preside at said meeting, then and there to act on Articles 1 through 39, all of said articles being set out below to wit: and further to warn said voters to meet at the Vassalboro Town Office, 682 Main Street, in said Town on Tuesday, the 14th day of June 2022, then and there to act on Articles numbered 40 to 42. The polls will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Article 1: To choose a **Moderator** to preside at said Meeting, and to pay a sum not to exceed \$225.00 for his/her services.

Article 2: To elect from the floor, under the rules of this meeting, five (5) members of the **Budget Committee** to serve two-year terms.

Terms Expire in 2022:

Frank Richards **Rick Denico, Jr.**
Doug Phillips **Mike Poulin**
Richard Bradstreet

Article 3: To see if the Town will vote to fix the **due dates of taxes** as follows, and to set the rate of interest at the prevailing allowable State rate: 4.00%. Interest will begin to accrue 7 days after the due date.

One-fourth of taxes due on 09-26-22

One-fourth of taxes due on 11-28-22

One-fourth of taxes due on 02-27-23

One-fourth of taxes due on 04-24-23

Select Board Recommends: Approval

REVENUES

Article 4: To see if the Town will vote to use the following **anticipated revenue** amounts and from the sources named to reduce the 2022-2023 tax commitment:

Excise Tax	\$ 950,000
Agent Fees	21,000
Snowmobile agent fees	2,750
Boat Excise Tax	7,500
Interest/Penalties	42,000
State Revenue Sharing	550,000
State Road Assistance	67,000
Tree Growth Reimbursement	22,000
Veterans Exemption	2,800
Miscellaneous	5,000
Permit Fees	15,000
Solid Waste/Recycling	40,000
Franchise Fee/Cable Fees	30,000
Clerk Fees	8,000
Fire Truck Reserve	71,991
Surplus	<u>200,000</u>
TOTAL REVENUES:	\$ 2,035,041

Select Board Recommends: \$2,035,041
 Budget Committee recommends: \$2,035,041

Article 5: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the fiscal year 2022-2023 budget for the following purposes, or act thereon:

	Department	Select Board Recommends	Budget Comm. Recommends
a)	Administration	577,835	577,835
b)	Public Works	593,925	593,925
c)	Solid Waste	351,690	351,690
d)	Road Paving	558,290	558,290
e)	First Responders	13,750	13,750
f)	Fire Department	85,200	85,200
g)	Public Safety	86,416	86,416
h)	Recreation	44,327	44,327
i)	Library	60,500	60,500
j)	Utilities	35,000	35,000
k)	Cemeteries	50,430	50,430
l)	General Assistance	3,000	3,000
m)	Assessment	49,650	49,650
n)	Debt Service	<u>71,991</u>	<u>71,991</u>
	TOTALS:	2,582,004	2,582,004

Article 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$282,000 for **Capital Investments/Improvements and Community Beautification** as follows:

Capital Improvement Reserve	156,000
Roadside Mowing Equipment	106,000
Streamside Park Development	<u>20,000</u>
TOTAL	\$282,000

Select Board Recommends: \$282,000
Budget Committee Recommends: \$282,000

SPECIAL ARTICLES AND TOWN POLICY

Article 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$25,000, and to appropriate up to \$40,000 from funds granted to the Town from the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund, to establish a fund to be referred to as the “**Property Cleanup Fund**,” to be usable for the following purposes in the discretion of the Board of Selectmen:

1. The demolition or deconstruction of buildings deemed vacant, dangerous or abandoned by the Board of Selectmen or by court order, where the Town is given authority by statute, court order, or agreement with the property owner to enter the property and remedy the violations; or
2. The cleanup or removal of any junk, waste, unregistered vehicles or similar offending materials from a property deemed by a court of law to be an unlicensed junkyard, automobile graveyard or automobile recycling facility, or in violation of any public health or nuisance laws where the Town is given authority by statute, court order, or agreement with the property owner to enter the property and remedy the violations;

The Board of Selectmen shall be authorized to develop rules, agreements, liens or other necessary documents to assist in the administration and use of the fund. Use of the Fund for the authorized purposes shall be subject to all federal rules related to the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund and shall not limit the Town’s authority to recover money spent from the fund or the Town’s associated costs through assessment of a special tax against the property owner, unless otherwise prohibited by federal rule. If federal funds remain in the Property Cleanup Fund at the close of the fiscal year, they shall first be used to reimburse any expenditures from amounts raised through taxation, and any balance shall carry forward.

Select Board Recommends

Article 8: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the following amounts from SURPLUS to be used as local match dollars for new equipment. These funds will be expended only in the event of a **grant award** and will not exceed the amounts listed.

- a. First Responder Service \$ 5,000
- b. Fire Department \$ 25,000

Select Board Recommends: Approval
Budget Committee Recommends: Approval

Article 9: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board on behalf of the Town to **dispose of any real estate** acquired by the Town for non-payment of taxes thereon, on such terms as they may deem advisable, except for property tax-acquired from certain elderly, low-income taxpayers who qualify for the special sale process required pursuant to 36 M.R.S. Section 943-C.

Select Board Recommends: Approval

Article 10: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board or their designee to submit **grant applications for State of Maine, Federal Government, or any other duly authorized authority funding** and if said program is approved, authorize the municipal officers to accept said grant funds, to make such assurances, assume such responsibilities, and exercise such authority as necessary and reasonable to implement such program, and to disburse such funds for the purpose granted.

Select Board Recommends: Approval

Article 11: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board the option to sell or trade the 2009 Volvo wheeler truck with plow and sander and to **purchase a new truck, plow and sander** at a cost not to exceed \$288,000 to be funded from the following sources:

\$125,000 from Public Works Truck Reserves
\$108,000 from taxation appropriation in FY 2021-22 carried forward
\$ 55,000 from new taxation appropriation in FY 2022-23
\$288,000 Total cost of new truck with plow and sander

Select Board Recommends: Approval

Budget Committee Recommends: Approval

Article 12: Shall Section D of the **Marijuana Business Ordinance** be amended as follows (new language is shown as underlined)?

“An application for licensure of an existing Marijuana Business shall be submitted to the Town within 60 days following the adoption of this Ordinance. License applications shall be submitted and approved prior to the establishment of any new tenancy, ownership or occupancy of an existing Marijuana Business permitted by this Section.”

(Note: The current Marijuana Ordinance will remain in effect until amended.)

Select Board Recommends: Approval

Article 13: Shall the definition of a Marijuana Cultivation Facility in the **Marijuana Business Ordinance** be amended as follows (new language is shown as underlined; struck-through language will be eliminated)?

“Marijuana Cultivation Facility shall mean a facility used to purchase marijuana plants and seeds from other cultivation facilities; to cultivate, prepare and package marijuana; to sell marijuana to products manufacturing facilities, stores and other cultivation facilities; and to sell marijuana plants and seeds to other cultivation facilities and immature marijuana plants and seedlings to marijuana stores. It shall not include a facility used for cultivation of marijuana for personal use pursuant to 28-B M.R.S. § 1502, a facility used for cultivation of medical marijuana by a Qualifying Patient pursuant to 22 M.R.S. § 2423-A , or an area of less a building or lot containing less than 1,000 square feet of area in the aggregate that is used for cultivation of medical marijuana by a Caregiver or Qualifying Patient one or more Registered Caregivers pursuant to 22 M.R.S. § 2423-A. A Marijuana Cultivation Facility license shall be required for the owner or operator of the facility as well as any person who, by lease, partial ownership or other arrangement with the owner/operator, cultivates any amount of marijuana within the Marijuana Cultivation Facility.”

(Note: The current Marijuana Ordinance will remain in effect until amended.)

Select Board Recommends: Approval

Article 14: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to **accept or reject gifts** of labor, goods, use of equipment, and money and to implement those gifts for the donor’s intended purpose.

Select Board Recommends: Approval

Article 15: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board or their designee to accept and to expend funds from the State, Federal, and County Governments related to the **American Rescue Plan Act** program and if said funds are received, to authorize the municipal officers to make such assurances, assume such responsibilities, and exercise such authority as necessary and reasonable to implement such program, and to disburse such funds for the purpose(s) granted.

Select Board Recommends: Approval

Article 16: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate from **overlay** those sums which it is obligated to pay for approved tax abatements including any interest due thereon.

Select Board Recommends: Approval

Article 17: To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board, for the fiscal year 2022-2023, to **transfer funds** between appropriation accounts to avoid overdrafts so long as the grand total of all appropriations is not exceeded.

Select Board Recommends: Approval

Article 18: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers under Maine statutes, Chapter 12 Section 6131 and amendments thereto, to promulgate such regulations compatible with the General Laws of the State to govern the time and manner in which **river herring (alewives)** shall be taken therein for the calendar year 2023 and authorize the Municipal Officers to sell surplus **river herring (alewives)** for one or more years, or take any action relative to the same.

Select Board Recommends: Approval
Budget Committee Recommends: Approval

Article 19: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the revenues received in FY 2022-23 from the Natural Gas Pipeline Municipal Development and Tax Increment Financing District into a fund designated as the **Development Program Fund** to be used for projects, loans and/or grants for economic development within the Town as outlined in the Development Program for the District to be expended on such projects at the discretion of the Board of Select Board.

Select Board Recommends: Approval
Budget Committee Recommends: Approval

Article 20: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to **dispose of Town owned property** with a value of \$10,000 or less, under such terms and conditions as they deem advisable.

Select Board Recommends: Approval
Budget Committee Recommends: Approval

Article 21: To see if the Town will vote to authorize an amount not to exceed \$15,000 from SURPLUS to serve as a **contingency fund** to be spent by the Select Board in the event of an emergency and to avoid overdrafts.

Select Board Recommends: Approval
Budget Committee Recommends: Approval

HEALTH AND WELFARE/OUTSIDE AGENCIES

Article 22: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the fiscal year 2022-2023 budget for the following purposes, or act thereon:

		Agency Request	Select Board Recommends	Budget Comm. Recommends
a.	Vassalboro Food Station	2,000	2,000	2,000
b.	Hospice of Waterville	1,600	1,600	1,600
c.	Family Violence Project	2,500	2,500	2,500
d.	Spectrum Generations	1,100	1,100	1,100
e.	Sexual Assault Crisis	1,519	1,519	1,519
f.	Snowmobile Club	1,500	1,500	1,500
g.	Historical Society	2,500	2,500	2,500
h.	China Reg. Lakes Alliance	<u>11,500</u>	<u>9,000</u>	<u>9,000</u>
	TOTALS:	\$24,219	\$21,719	\$21,719

MISCELLANEOUS ACCOUNTS AND REQUESTS

Article 23: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the necessary sum to cover the assessment from **Kennebec County Government** (currently estimated at \$411,433).

Select Board Recommends: Approval
Budget Committee Recommends: Approval

Article 24: To see if the Town will vote to increase the **property tax levy limit** of \$545,694.67 established for the Town of Vassalboro by State Law in the event that the municipal budget approved under the preceding articles will result in a tax commitment that is greater than that property tax levy limit.

SCHOOL BUDGET ARTICLES TO APPROPRIATE MONIES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ARTICLES PURSUANT TO 20-A M.R.S.A. SECTION 1485

Article 25: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend the sum of \$4,652,873.48 for **Regular Instruction**.

School Committee Recommends: \$4,652,873.48
Budget Committee Recommends: \$4,652,873.48

Article 26: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend the sum of \$1,805,017.16 for **Special Education**.

School Committee Recommends: \$1,805,017.16
Budget Committee Recommends: \$1,805,017.16

- Article 27: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend the sum of \$12,111.75 or **Career and Technical Education**.
- School Committee Recommends: \$12,111.75
Budget Committee Recommends: \$12,111.75
- Article 28: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend the sum of \$54,223.50 for **Other Instruction**.
- School Committee Recommends: \$54,223.50
Budget Committee Recommends: \$54,223.50
- Article 29: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend the sum of \$425,400.28 for **Student and Staff Support**.
- School Committee Recommends: \$425,400.28
Budget Committee Recommends: \$425,400.28
- Article 30: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend the sum of \$203,302.89 for **System Administration**.
- School Committee Recommends: \$203,302.89
Budget Committee Recommends: \$203,302.89
- Article 31: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend the sum of \$380,689.71 for **School Administration**.
- School Committee Recommends: \$380,689.71
Budget Committee Recommends: \$380,689.71
- Article 32: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend the sum of \$596,834.15 for **Transportation and Buses**.
- School Committee Recommends: \$596,834.15
Budget Committee Recommends: \$596,834.15
- Article 33: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend the sum of \$561,723.37 for **Facilities Maintenance**.
- School Committee Recommends: \$561,723.37
Budget Committee Recommends: \$561,723.37
- Article 34: To see what sum the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend \$.00 for **Debt Service and Other Commitments**.
- School Committee Recommends: \$.00
Budget Committee Recommends: \$.00

Article 35: To see what sum the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend \$30,000.00 for **All Other Expenditures**.

School Committee Recommends: \$30,000.00

Budget Committee Recommends: \$30,000.00

ARTICLES PURSUANT TO 20-A, M.R.S.A. Section 15690

Article 36: To see what sum the municipality will appropriate for the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act (Recommend \$7,266,850.40) and to see what sum the municipality will raise as the municipality's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15688.

Statutory Recommendation \$2,410,095.00

School Committee Recommendation: \$2,410,095.00

Budget Committee Recommendation: \$2,410,095.00

"Explanation: The school administrative unit's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act is the amount of money determined by state law to be the minimum amount that a municipality must raise in order to receive the full amount of state dollars."

Article 37: To see what sum the municipality will vote to raise and appropriate in additional local funds for school purposes under Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, §15690.

School Committee Recommends: \$1,313,915.00 for additional local funds and gives the following reasons for exceeding the State's Essential Programs and Services model by \$1,313,915.00: costs for special education, salaries and benefits, and tuition.

Budget Committee Recommends: \$1,313,915.00

Explanation: The additional local funds are those locally raised funds over and above the school administrative unit's local contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and local amounts raised for the annual payment on non-state funded debt service that will help achieve the municipality/district budget for educational programs.

Article 38: To see what sum the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023 from the school administrative unit's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act, non-state-funded school construction projects, additional local funds for school purposes under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15690, unexpended balances, tuition receipts, state subsidy and other receipts for the support of schools.

School Committee Recommends: \$8,722,176.29

Budget Committee Recommends: \$8,722,176.29

Article 39: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend such other sums as may be received from federal or state grants or programs or other sources during the fiscal year for school purposes provided that such grants, programs or other sources do not require the expenditure of other funds not previously appropriated.

School Committee Recommends: Approval

Budget Committee Recommends: Approval

The following articles will be decided by secret ballot election. The polls will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., June 14th, 2022 at the Vassalboro Town Office. Absentee ballots will be processed starting at 9:00 a.m. on June 14, 2022.

Article 40: Do you favor approving the Vassalboro Community School's budget for the upcoming school year that was adopted at the June 6, 2022 Annual Town Meeting?

Article 41: Straw poll question: Would you favor town officials drafting a Solar Ordinance for eventual voter approval that would regulate where and how many solar arrays could be constructed in town, and also provide rules about decommissioning the arrays after their useful life? This is a non-binding vote.

Article 42: To elect all necessary municipal officers/officials by secret ballot.

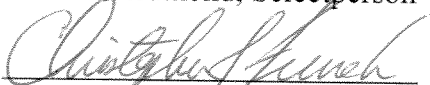
Given unto our hands this 28th day of April 2022, AD



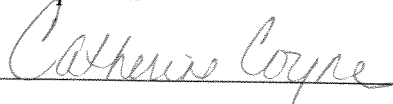
Robert C. Browne, Jr., Chair of the Select Board



Barbara Redmond, Selectperson



Christopher French, Selectperson

A true copy. Attest:  Town Clerk of Vassalboro