



TOWN OF VASSALBORO MAINE

P.O. BOX 129
NORTH VASSALBORO, MAINE 04962
TEL. (207) 872-2826
FAX (207) 872-5414

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT TOWN OF VASSALBORO, MAINE JUNE 7-8, 2021

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 7th, 2021, at 6:30 in the evening to elect a moderator to preside at said meeting, then and there to act on Articles 1 through 37, 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 8th day of June 2021, then and there to act on Articles numbered 38 to 41. 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 2021:

William Browne **Donald Breton**
Chris French **Peggy Schaffer**
Phillip Landry

- 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: 6.00%. Interest will begin to accrue 7 days after the due date.

One-fourth of taxes due on 09-27-21
One-fourth of taxes due on 11-22-21
One-fourth of taxes due on 02-28-22
One-fourth of taxes due on 04-25-22

Selectmen Recommend: 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 2021-2022 tax commitment:

Excise Tax	\$ 900,000
Agent Fees	20,000
Snowmobile agent fees	2,750
Boat Excise Tax	7,500
Interest/Penalties	42,000
State Revenue Sharing	280,000
State Road Assistance	58,000
Tree Growth Reimbursement	15,000
Veterans Exemption	3,000
Miscellaneous	5,000
Permit Fees	11,000
Solid Waste/Recycling	40,000
Franchise Fee/Cable Fees	30,000
Clerk Fees	8,000
TIF Development Fund	50,000
Alewife Reserve	18,000
Surplus	<u>310,000</u>
TOTAL REVENUES:	\$ 1,800,250

Selectmen Recommend: \$1,800,250
 Budget Committee recommends: \$1,800,250

Article 5: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the fiscal year 2021-2022 budget for the following purposes, or act thereon:

	Department	Selectmen Recommend	Budget Comm. Recommends
a.	Administration	492,706	492,706
b.	Public Works	524,417	524,417
c.	Solid Waste	338,941	338,941
d.	Road Paving	517,748	517,748
e.	First Responders	13,500	13,500
f.	Fire Department	75,150	75,150
g.	Public Safety	82,371	82,371
h.	Recreation	19,615	19,615
i.	Library	35,000	35,000
j.	Utilities	33,500	33,500
k.	Cemeteries	30,125	30,125
l.	General Assistance	3,000	3,000
m.	Assessment	48,400	48,400
n.	Debt Service	<u>13,100</u>	<u>13,100</u>
	TOTALS:	2,227,573	2,227,573

Article 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$293,500 for **Capital Improvements or Reserves** as follows:

Transfer Station Reserve:	85,000
Culvert work (Gray Road Project)	187,000
Memorial Park/Statue Restoration	4,000
Furnace for North Fire Station	<u>17,500</u>
TOTAL	\$293,500

Selectmen Recommend: \$293,500
Budget Committee Recommends: \$293,500

SPECIAL ARTICLES AND TOWN POLICY

Article 7: 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

Selectmen Recommend: Approval
Budget Committee Recommends: Approval

Article 8: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen 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.

Selectmen Recommend: Approval

Article 9: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen 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.

Selectmen Recommend: Approval

Article 10: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen 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 \$230,000 to be funded from the following sources:

\$122,000 from Public Works Truck Reserves
\$108,000 from taxation appropriation in FY 2021-22
\$230,000 Total cost of new truck with plow and sander

Selectmen Recommend: Approval
Budget Committee Recommends: Approval

Article 11: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to expend Transfer Station Reserve funds up to \$156,000 to provide up to two operational trash compactors and such other improvements at the transfer station facility as the Board of Selectmen deem necessary. (The balance of the transfer station reserve is estimated to be approximately \$156K).

Selectmen Recommend: Approval
Budget Committee Recommends: Approval

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to accept gifts of labor, goods, use of equipment, and money and to implement those gifts for the donor's intended purpose.

Selectmen Recommend: Approval

Article 13: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen or their designee to accept and to expend funds from the State and Federal Government related to the American Rescue Plan 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.

Selectmen Recommend: Approval

Article 14: 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.

Selectmen Recommend: Approval

Article 15: To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen, for the fiscal year 2021-2022, to **transfer funds** between appropriation accounts to avoid overdrafts so long as the grand total of all appropriations is not exceeded.

Selectmen Recommend: Approval

Article 16: 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 2022 and authorize the Municipal Officers to sell surplus **river herring (alewives)** for one or more years, or take any action relative to the same.

Selectmen Recommend: Approval
Budget Committee Recommends: Approval

Article 17: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the revenues received in FY 2021-22 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 Selectmen.

Selectmen Recommend: Approval
Budget Committee Recommends: Approval

Article 18: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to **dispose of Town owned property** with a value of \$10,000 or less, under such terms and conditions as they deem advisable.

Selectmen Recommend: Approval
Budget Committee Recommends: Approval

Article 19: 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 Selectmen in the event of an emergency and to avoid overdrafts.

Selectmen Recommend: Approval
Budget Committee Recommends: Approval

HEALTH AND WELFARE/OUTSIDE AGENCIES

Article 20: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the fiscal year 2021-2022 budget for the following purposes, or act thereon:

		Agency Request	Selectmen Recommend	Budget Comm. Recommends
o.	Vassalboro Food Station	2,000	2,000	2,000
p.	Hospice of Waterville	1,600	1,600	1,600
q.	Family Violence Project	2,500	2,500	2,500
r.	KV Behavioral Health	3,500	3,500	3,500
s.	Spectrum Generations	1,000	1,000	1,000
t.	Sexual Assault Crisis	1,519	1,417	1,417
u.	Literacy Vols. – Waterville	500	500	500
v.	Snowmobile Club	1,500	1,500	1,500
w.	Historical Society	2,500	2,500	2,500
x.	China Reg. Lakes Alliance	<u>11,500</u>	<u>7,500</u>	<u>7,500</u>
	TOTALS:	\$28,119	\$24,017	\$24,017

MISCELLANEOUS ACCOUNTS AND REQUESTS

Article 21: 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 \$383,911).

Selectmen Recommend: Approval
Budget Committee Recommends: Approval

Article 22: To see if the Town will vote to increase the **property tax levy limit** of \$527,763.90 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 23: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend the sum of \$4,571,052.97 for **Regular Instruction**.

School Committee Recommends: \$4,571,052.97
Budget Committee Recommends: \$4,571,052.97

Article 24: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend the sum of \$1,714,623.18 for **Special Education**.

School Committee Recommends: \$1,714,623.18
Budget Committee Recommends: \$1,714,623.18

Article 25: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend the sum of \$5,600.00 or **Career and Technical Education**.

School Committee Recommends: \$5,600.00
Budget Committee Recommends: \$5,600.00

Article 26: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend the sum of \$55,119.65 for **Other Instruction**.

School Committee Recommends: \$55,119.65
Budget Committee Recommends: \$55,119.65

Article 27: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend the sum of \$307,882.99 for **Student and Staff Support**.

School Committee Recommends: \$307,882.99
Budget Committee Recommends: \$307,882.99

Article 28: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend the sum of \$175,015.49 for **System Administration**.

School Committee Recommends: \$175,015.49
Budget Committee Recommends: \$175,015.49

Article 29: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend the sum of \$374,470.46 for **School Administration**.

School Committee Recommends: \$374,470.46
Budget Committee Recommends: \$374,470.46

Article 30: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend the sum of \$558,598.16 for **Transportation and Buses**.

School Committee Recommends: \$558,598.16
Budget Committee Recommends: \$558,598.16

Article 31: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend the sum of \$511,246.82 for **Facilities Maintenance**.

School Committee Recommends: \$511,246.82
Budget Committee Recommends: \$511,246.82

Article 32: To see what sum the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend for **Debt Service and Other Commitments.**

School Committee Recommends: \$.00
Budget Committee Recommends: \$.00

Article 33: To see what sum the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend for **All Other Expenditures.**

School Committee Recommends: \$40,000.00
Budget Committee Recommends: \$40,000.00

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

Article 34: 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 \$6,948,163.47) 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 \$2,573,425.00
School Committee Recommendation: \$2,573,425.00
Budget Committee Recommendation: \$2,573,425.00

"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 35: 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: \$1,227,703.79 for additional local funds and gives the following reasons for exceeding the State's Essential Programs and Services model by \$1,227,703.79: costs for special education, salaries and benefits, and tuition.

Budget Committee Recommends: \$1,227,703.79

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 36: To see what sum the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022 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: \$8,313,609.72

Budget Committee Recommends: \$8,313,609.72

Article 37: 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 8th, 2021 at the Vassalboro Town Office. Absentee ballots will be processed starting at 9:00 a.m. on June 8, 2021.

Article 38: Shall an ordinance entitled "Town of Vassalboro Marijuana Business Ordinance" be enacted? *(Note: A copy of said ordinance is attached to this warrant. Copies of the ordinance are available online at www.vassalboro.net and at the Town Clerk's office. The current Marijuana Ordinance will remain in effect until replaced.)*

Article 39: Do you favor approving the Vassalboro Community School's budget for the upcoming school year that was adopted at the June 7, 2021 Annual Town Meeting?

Article 40: Do you wish to continue the budget validation referendum process for the Vassalboro Public Schools for an additional three years?

Informational Note:

A "YES" vote will require Vassalboro Public Schools to continue to conduct a referendum to validate its annual school budget for the next three years.

A "NO" vote will discontinue the budget validation referendum for at least three years and provide instead that the annual school budget shall be finally adopted at a meeting of the voters of the Town of Vassalboro.

Article 41: To elect all necessary municipal officers/officials by secret ballot.

Given unto our hands this 29th day of April 2021, AD

John G. Melrose
John G. Melrose, Chairman

Robert C. Browne, Jr.
Robert C. Browne, Jr., Selectman

Barbara Redmond
Barbara Redmond, Selectman

A true copy. Attest: Catherine Cope Town Clerk of Vassalboro

RETURN

Kennebec, ss.

State of Maine

I certify that I have notified the voters of the Town of Vassalboro of the time and place of the Town Meeting by posting an attested copy of the within warrant, along with an attested true copy of the ordinance entitled "Town of Vassalboro Marijuana Business Ordinance" at Ferris' Market, Main Street; No. Vassalboro Post Office, Main Street; Vassalboro Library, Bog Road; Vassalboro Town Office, 682 Main Street; and Getchell's Corner Post Office, Riverside Drive, being conspicuous public places within the Town of Vassalboro on _____, 2021 which is at least seven (7) days prior to the date of the start of the Annual Town Meeting.

Signed and dated at the Town of Vassalboro this _____ day of _____, 2021.

Mark Brown, Resident
Town of Vassalboro