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TOWN OF NORWAY
FY27 -2026/2027 TOWN MEETING WARRANT
(Covering the period 7/1/2026- 6/30/2027)

State of Maine
County of Oxford
To: Joelle F. Dennison, a Resident

Greetings:

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the voters of the Town of Norway, in said County, qualified by law to vote in the Town of Norway, to meet at the Norway Fire Station, in said Town on **Tuesday the ninth day (9th) of June, AD 2026** at 8:00 am to act on articles numbered 1 through 2; and to notify and warn said voters to meet at the Oxford Hills High School forum on **Monday the fifteenth day (15th) of June, AD 2026 at 7:00 pm**, then and there to act on articles 3 through 35.

ARTICLE 1: To choose a **Moderator** to preside at said meeting.

ARTICLE 2: To elect all necessary **Town Officers** as are required to be elected by Secret Ballot (*M.S.R.S., T30, S2061*).

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to set dates when 2026/2027 **taxes will become due**, when interest will be due and what rate will be charged.

Select board recommends: **FIRST HALF TAXES DUE NOVEMBER 15, 2026, SECOND HALF DUE MAY 16, 2027. INTEREST WILL BE CHARGED AT A RATE OF 7%. INTEREST NOT CHARGED TO THOSE WHO SUCCESSFULLY MAKE ALL TAX CLUB PAYMENTS.**

ARTICLE 4: To see if the town will vote to set the **interest rates to be paid by the town** on abated taxes pursuant to **36 MRSA section 506-A a RATE OF 7%**. (*State determined*)

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$779,195** for **Administration** as recommended by the select board and budget committee. (2025-2026 appropriation \$738,832).

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$83,310** for the **Municipal Complex** as recommended by the select board and budget committee. (2025-2026 appropriation \$75,748).

ARTICLE 7: To see if the voters will authorize the select board to **accept donations, grants, and property** offered to the town when they deem them to be in the town's best interest and to authorize the select board to agree to terms and conditions that may be set as conditions of the acceptance and to appropriate and expend any accepted funds for the purposes stipulated.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$152,365** for **Planning and Enforcement** as recommended by the select board and budget committee. (2025-2026 appropriation \$147,287).

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$1,622,456** for the **Police Department** as recommended by the select board and budget committee (2025-2026 appropriation \$1,458,497).

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$480,420** for the **Fire Department** as recommended by the select board and budget committee (2025-2026 appropriation **\$446,682**).

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$473,532** for **Utilities & Insurance** as recommended by the select board and budget committee. (2025-2026 appropriation \$463,350).

ARTICLE 12: Shall the Town appropriate up to **\$360,000** from the **unassigned fund balance** to fund and/or purchase:

- *\$160,000 to the Plow Truck Reserve Account as recommended by the select board and budget committee. (2025-2026 appropriation \$160,000).*
- *\$100,000 to the Paris Street Project as recommended by the select board and budget committee. (2025-2026 appropriation \$0).*
- *\$100,000 to fund maintenance and improvements to the Town Office Building. (2025-2026 appropriation \$100,000).*

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$17,812** for **Animal Control** as recommended by the select board and budget committee. (2025-2026 appropriation \$18,287).

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$1,416,707** for **Highways and Public Works** as recommended by the select board and budget committee. (2025-2026 appropriation \$1,354,018).

ARTICLE 15: To see if the town will authorize the municipal officers to make final determination regarding the **closing or opening of roads to winter maintenance** pursuant to 23 MRSA section 2953.

ARTICLE 16: To see if the voters will allow the select board to **dispose of vehicles and equipment no longer needed** by public bid, auction, trade, or donation, and use the proceeds for new or used equipment of benefit to the town as decided by the select board.

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and expend the following sums for the following purposes for the Capital Budget for Projects and Reserves as recommended by the select board and budget committee.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

\$375,000 for In-Town and Rural (non-sewer/water) Road Improvements Projects. (2025-2026 appropriation \$325,000).

Sub Total Capital: **\$375,000**

Capital Reserves for Future Projects and/or Purchases

- **\$10,000** for **Boat Landing & Dams** (2025-2026 appropriation \$0)
- **\$65,000** for the **Highway Truck/Plow Gear Replacement** (2025-2026 appropriation \$65,000).
- **\$40,000** for the **Highway Equipment** (to fund the eventual replacement of the grader, loaders, sweeper and trackless, etc.) (2025-2026 appropriation \$40,000).
- **\$5,000** for the **Sidewalk /Traffic Safety** (2025-2026 appropriation \$5,000).
- **\$100,000** for **Bridge Repairs & Large Culverts** (2025-2026 appropriation \$30,000).
- **\$5,000** for the **Repair and Replacement of Computers, Software, Office Furniture, and Equipment** (2025-2026 appropriation \$5,000).
- **\$25,000** for **Repairs and Updates to the Municipal Building Complex** (2025-2026 appropriation \$20,000).
- **\$5,000** for the **Eventual Repair and/or Replacement of the Opera House Clock Tower Roof** (2025-2026 appropriation \$4,000).
- **\$3,000** for **Tree Pruning, Tree Replacement, and Tree Removal** (2025-2026 appropriation \$3,000).
- **\$50,000** for the **Fire Department Fire Truck Account** (2025-2026 appropriation \$65,000).
- **\$5,000** for **Fire Department Equipment** (2025-2026 appropriation \$10,000).
- **\$5,000** for **Highway Small Equipment** (2025-2026 appropriation \$0).
- **\$5,000** for **Parking Lots, Playgrounds, and Parks** (2025-2026 appropriation \$3,000).
- **\$20,000** for **Dangerous Buildings** (2025-2026 appropriation \$2,500).
- **\$2,500** for **Community & Economic Development** (2025-2026 appropriation \$2,500).
- **\$25,000** for **Future Town Re-valuation** (2025-2026 appropriation \$20,000).
- **\$5,000** for **Replacement and/or Repairs to Vehicles for Code, Admin, and Recreation Departments** (2025-2026 appropriation \$5,000).
- **\$10,000** for **Police Department Repair and/or Replacement of Equipment** (2025-2026 appropriation \$10,000).

- **\$50,000** for **Accrued Compensated Absences** (2025-2026 appropriation \$0)
- **\$8,000** for **Advertising and Signs**. (2025-2026 appropriation \$2,000)

Subtotal Capital Reserves **\$445,500**

Total for Capital Projects & Reserves **\$820,500** (2025-2026 appropriation \$620,500).

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$585,875** for **Debt Service** as recommended by the select board and budget committee (2025-2026 appropriation \$483,986).

ARTICLE 19: To see if the town will vote to authorize the select board to **assign fund balances at year end** to carry over any appropriated but unexpended project funds, provided that the funds are used for the same purpose as originally appropriated.

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$602,022** for the **Town's share** of the operating cost of **Norway/Paris Solid Waste, Inc.** as recommended by the select board and budget committee. (2025-2026 appropriation \$590,830). *Norway/Paris Solid Waste has requested \$1,204,044 in total from both Towns. Norway and Paris each pays 50%.*

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$32,652** for **Cemeteries** as recommended by the select board and budget committee. (2025-2026 appropriation \$32,691).

ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$33,734** for **General Assistance** as recommended by the select board and budget committee (2025-2026 appropriation \$32,075).

ARTICLE 23: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$20,000** for donations to **Provider Agencies** as recommended by the select board and budget committee (2025-2026 appropriation \$20,000).

ARTICLE 24: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$506,733** for the **Norway Library** as recommended by the select board and budget committee (2025-2026 appropriation \$427,609).

ARTICLE 25: To see if the town will appropriate **\$70,000** from the income of the **Fred and Laura Sanborn Trust Fund**, now on deposit in a Trust Fund account (estimated \$ principal balance) to fund as recommended by the select board and budget committee \$70,000 for Parks and Recreation (2025-2026 appropriation \$70,000).

ARTICLE 26: To see if the Town will appropriate **\$230,790** for **Parks and Recreation** as recommended by the select board and budget committee, as the balance to be raised by taxes, after being funded for \$70,000 from the Sanborn Trust. (2025-2026 appropriation

\$189,219 as the balance to be raised by taxes, after being funded \$70,000 from the Sanborn Trust).

ARTICLE 27: To raise and appropriate **\$59 725** for **Community Development** to support:

- The Lakes Association of Norway for \$14,000
- Norway Downtown for \$11,000
- Norway Historic Society for \$2,000
- Oxford Hills Chamber of Commerce for \$225
- Comprehensive Plan \$17,500
- Ordinance Review \$15,000

As recommended by the select board and budget committee (2025-2026 appropriation \$27,225 = \$14,000 for the Lakes Association, \$11,000 for Norway Downtown, \$2,000 for the Norway Historical Society, and \$225.00 annual dues to the Oxford Hills Chamber of Commerce).

ARTICLE 28: Shall the Town of Norway **appropriate franchise fees** received from Time-Warner (or its successor) estimated at **\$60,000** to the **Community Development and Preservation** account for the operation of **Norway/Paris Cable TV** for the period of one year as recommended by the select board and budget committee. (2025-2026 appropriation \$60,000).

ARTICLE 29: To see if the Town of Norway will vote to change its plan for its eligible police officers effective July 1, 2026 and to amend its eligibility guidelines for membership of employees in the Town's Participating Local District Plan (PLD Plan) to comply with Maine Public Employees Retirement System (MainePERS) Rule Chapter 802. Employees currently participating in the Town's PLD Plan will not be impacted, because employees already meet the amended membership eligibility.

The Town votes:

- a) To adopt Special Plan 3C to its police officers who regularly work more than 20 hours per week and who are not seasonal or temporary for service rendered after June 30, 2026. Service rendered by police officers from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2026 remains under Special Plan 2C; service rendered from July 1, 2000 through June 30, 2020 remains under Regular Plan AC and service rendered prior to July 1, 2000 remains under Regular Plan AN; and
- b) To continue to provide Regular Plan AC to its elected/appointed officials and to all other employees who regularly work more than 20 hours per week and who are not seasonal or temporary; and
- c) To amend its eligibility for membership in the Town's PLD Plan to exclude employees who regularly work 20 hours per week or less, seasonal employees and temporary employees from participating in its MainePERS PLD Plan; and
- d) To authorize *Jill Lathan, Town Manager*, to sign the Amended Agreement between the Town and the Maine Public Employees Retirement System.

Article approved as written.

ARTICLE 30: To see if the town will vote to authorize the tax collector or treasurer to accept prepayments of taxes not yet committed pursuant to 36 MRSA section 506.

ARTICLE 31: To see if the town will authorize the select board to **borrow from the town's reserve funds and savings accounts**, if necessary (at an interest rate equal to the amount being received when the funds are transferred), in anticipation of taxes to reduce legal and bank costs for tax anticipation borrowing.

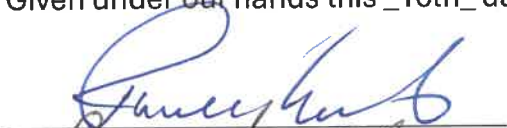




ARTICLE 32: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the select board to appoint a **Budget Committee** consisting of at least five members, said members to review all town warrant articles requiring the appropriation of money and to make recommendations, and to serve one year without pay.

ARTICLE 33: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the select board, on behalf of the Town, to **sell and dispose of any real estate acquired** by the Town for non-payment of taxes thereon, on such terms as the board may deem advisable and to execute quit claim deeds for such property. *"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)."*

ARTICLE 34: To see if the Town will vote to have **\$2,966,398 in Anticipated Revenues deducted from the 2026-2027 appropriations** for the purpose of reducing the tax levy. As recommended by the select board and budget committee *(This is a gross sum that also includes revenues previously voted on in other warrant articles)*. (2025-2026 appropriation \$2,168,331).

ARTICLE 35: To see if the voters will vote to exceed the property tax levy limit and make it be equal to the amount levied for the Town of Norway this year and establish this as the base in calculating next year's limit.

Given under our hands this 16th day of April, AD 2026

 _____ Russell Newcomb, Chair
 _____ Sarah Carter
 _____ Dennise Whitley
 _____ Danielle Wadsworth
 _____ Anita Hakala
Norway Select Board