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TOWN OF NORWAY
FY24 -2023/2024 TOWN MEETING WARRANT
(Covering the period 7/1/2023- 6/30/2024)

State of Maine
County of Oxford
To: Dennis Lajoie, Town Manager

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 thirteenth day (13th) of June AD 2023 at 7:45am to act on articles numbered 1 through 2 and to notify and warn said voters to meet at the Oxford Hills High School auditorium on Tuesday the 20th day of June, AD, 2023 at 7:00 o'clock in the evening, then and there to act on articles 3 through 37.

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 2023/2024 taxes will become due, when interest will be due and what rate will be charged.

- Select-board recommends: **FIRST HALF TAXES DUE NOVEMBER 17, 2023, SECOND HALF DUE MAY 17, 2024. INTEREST WILL BE CHARGED AT A RATE OF 4.00%. 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 (Select-board recommends A RATE OF 4.00%).

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$596,050 for Administration as recommended by the select-board and budget committee. (2022-2023 appropriation \$563,244). Increase in audit fees, wages, postage, and health insurance.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$50,337 for the Municipal Complex as recommended by the select-board and budget committee. (2022-2023 appropriation \$47,277). Increase in cost of heat and electricity.

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 \$104,839 for **Planning and Enforcement** as recommended by the select-board and budget committee. (2022-2023 appropriation \$96,359). Increase in health insurance and code enforcement software to manage building permits.

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,015,101 for the **Police Department** as recommended by the select-board and budget committee (2022-2023 appropriation \$955,888). Increase in wages, health insurance (9 staff), fuel and vehicle maintenance.

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$324,370 for the **Fire Department** as recommended by the select-board and budget committee (2022-2023 appropriation \$319,461). Increase in fuel, wages, maintenance and protective clothing.

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$170,937 for **Utilities** as recommended by the select-board and budget committee. (2022-2023 appropriation \$168,357). Increase in electricity.

ARTICLE 12: Shall the Town appropriate up to \$500,000 from the **undesignated fund balance** to fund/purchase:

\$75,000 to establish a Police Department Equipment Account as recommended by the select-board and budget committee. *New reserve police equipment such as body cameras, cruiser cameras, tasers, firearms, etc.*

\$50,000 to the Fire Truck Reserve Account as recommended by the select-board and budget committee. *Same as last year.*

\$50,000 to the Revaluation Reserve Account as recommended by the select-board and budget committee. *Same as last year.*

\$25,000 to the *Accrued Liabilities Reserve Account* as recommended by the select-board and budget committee. *Accrued vacation and personal time paid out to staff when leaving employment – many senior staff retired and this amount is for future payouts.*

\$300,000 to fund the future improvements to Paris Street in partnership with MDOT. *New reserve dedicated to Paris Street improvements.*

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$204,000 for **Insurance** as recommended by the select-board and budget committee. (2022-2023 appropriation \$165,932). Increase in *Workman's comp and General Liability insurance.*

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$17,512 for **Animal Control** as recommended by the select-board and budget committee. (2022-2023 appropriation \$16,001). Increase from *Responsible Pet Care Rates.*

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,132,097 for Highways and Public Works as recommended by the select-board and budget committee. (2022-2023) appropriation \$1,058,406). Increase in wages, health insurance, maintenance and fuel (9 staff).

ARTICLE 16: 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 17: 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 18: 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:

- **\$300,000 for In-Town and Rural (non-sewer/water) Road Improvements Projects.** (2022-2023 appropriation \$300,000). Same as last year.

Sub Total Capital: \$300,000

Capital Reserves for future Projects and or Purchases:

- **\$2,500 for GIS mapping** (2022-2023 appropriation \$2,500).
- **\$50,000 for the Highway Truck/Plow Gear Replacement** (2022-2023 appropriation \$50,000).
- **\$40,000 for the Highway Equipment** (to fund the eventual replacement of the grader, loaders, sweeper and trackless, etc.) (2022-2023 appropriation \$40,000).
- **\$5,000 for the Sidewalk /Traffic Safety** (2022-2023 appropriation \$5,000).
- **\$25,000 for the Bridges & Large Culverts** (2022-2023 appropriation \$25,000).
- **\$5,000 for the Repair and Replacement of Computers, Software, Office Furniture and Equipment** (2023-2023 appropriation \$5,000).
- **\$5,000 for Repairs and Updates to the Municipal Building Complex** (2022-2023 appropriation \$5,000).
- **\$5,000 for the Eventual Repair and or Replacement to the Opera House Clock Tower Roof** (2022-2023 appropriations \$7,500).
- **\$2,500 for Tree Pruning, Tree Replacement and Removal** (2022-2023 appropriations \$2,500).
- **\$50,000 for the Fire Department Fire Truck Account** (2022-2023 appropriations \$50,000).
- **\$10,000 for a Fire Department Equipment** (2022-2023 appropriations \$10,000).
- **\$3,500 for a Cemetery Repairs** (2022-2023 appropriations \$3,500).

- **\$3,000 for a Parking lots, Playgrounds and Parks (2022-2023 appropriations \$3,000).**
- **\$2,500 for a Dangerous Building (2022-2023 appropriations \$2,500).**
- **\$2,500 for Community & Economic Development (2022-2023 appropriations \$2,500).**
- **\$20,000 for Future Town Re-valuation (2022-2023 appropriations \$20,000).**
- **\$3,000 for replacement and or repairs to vehicles for Code, Admin and Recreation departments. (2023-2023 appropriations \$3,000).**
- **\$7,500 for Police department repair/ replacement of equipment such as tasers, body camera's, cruiser camera's etc. New Reserve**

Sub Total Capital Reserves \$242,000 Same as last year.

Total for Capital Projects & Reserves \$542,000 (2022-2023 appropriations \$542,000). Same as last year.

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$481,609 for Debt Service** as recommended by the select-board and budget committee (2022-2023 appropriation \$456,696). *Increase for new Municipal complex debt.*

ARTICLE 20: To see if the town will vote to authorize the select-board to **assign fund balance at year end**, or from time to time during the year, for ongoing projects or to carry over any appropriated but unexpended funds, provided that the funds are used for the same purpose as originally appropriated.

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$477,200 for the Town's share of the operating cost of Norway/Paris Solid Waste, Inc.** as recommended by the select-board and budget committee. (2022-2023 appropriation \$292,000). *Norway Paris Solid Waste is requested \$954,400 in total for both Towns. Approved agreement between Norway and Paris is both Town's pay a 50/50 share. \$954,400 divided in 2 = \$477,200 or 50%.*

ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$21,402 for Cemeteries** as recommended by the select-board and budget committee. (2022-2023 appropriation \$19,378).

ARTICLE 23: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$28,863 for General Assistance** as recommended by the select-board and budget committee (2022-2023 appropriation \$27,050). *Staff wages and health Insurance increase.*

ARTICLE 24: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$25,000 for donations to Provider Agencies** as recommended by the select-board and budget committee (2022-2023 appropriation \$25,000).

ARTICLE 25: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$355,595 for the Norway Library** as recommended by the select-board and budget committee (2022-2023

appropriation \$326,615). Increase in wages and health insurance (6 staff), electricity, fuel and new fee for Audit.

ARTICLE 26: 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 \$1,403,195 principal balance) in order to fund as recommended by the select-board and budget committee: \$70,000 for Recreation, *(2022-2023 appropriation, \$50,275 for Recreation, \$1,500 for the Norway Historical Society, \$10,000 for Norway Downtown and \$225.00 annual dues to the Oxford Hills Chamber of Commerce).*

ARTICLE 27: To see if the Town will appropriate **\$160,685 for Parks and Recreation** as recommended by the select-board and budget committee funded from \$4,000 from snowmobile registrations for snowmobile trail maintenance, \$6,850 from Rec. program registrations, \$70,000 from the Sanborn Trust, leaving a balance to be raised of \$79,834 from property taxes. *(2022-2023 \$153,318 for Parks and Recreation as recommended by the select-board and budget committee, funded from \$4,000 from snowmobile registrations \$6,850 from program registrations, \$58,275 from the Sanborn Trust, and \$84,193 raised from property taxes).*

ARTICLE 28: To raise and appropriate **\$25,225 for Community Development to support: The Lakes Association of Norway for \$12,000, Norway Downtown for \$11,000, Norway Historic Society for \$2,000 and \$225 for dues to the Oxford Hills Chamber of Commerce** as recommended by the select-board and budget committee *(2022-2023 appropriation \$22,000 - \$11,000 for the Lakes Association, \$1,500 for the Norway Historical Society, \$10,000 for Norway Downtown and \$225.00 annual dues to the Oxford Hills Chamber of Commerce).*

ARTICLE 29: Shall the Town of Norway appropriate **franchise fees received from Time-Warner** (or its successor) estimated at **\$48,500** to the **Community Development and Preservation** account for the operation of the **& Norway/Paris Cable TV** for the period of one year as recommended by the select-board and budget committee. *(2022-2023 appropriation \$48,500).*

ARTICLE 30: To see if the Town will (1) approve funding for the purchase and to equip a new **Fire Truck**; (2) appropriate a sum not to exceed \$800,000 for the cost to purchase and equip the vehicle; and (3) authorize the Board of Selectmen to fund the purchase by using reserve funds or a combination of reserve funds and bank financing, at an interest rate and payment schedule deemed acceptable by the Selectboard at their discretion.

ARTICLE 31: To see if the Voters wish to amend the **Street Vendor Ordinance**.

ARTICLE 32: 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 sections 506.

ARTICLE 33: 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 in order to reduce legal and bank costs for tax anticipation borrowing.




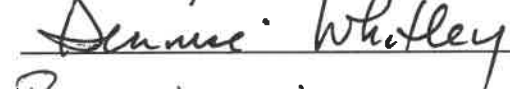

ARTICLE 34: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select-board to **appoint a Budget Committee**, said members of this committee to serve one year without pay.

ARTICLE 35: 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 36: To see if the Town will vote to have **\$2,181,850 in anticipated revenues deducted from the 2023/2024 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 that were previously voted in other warrant articles). (2022-2023 appropriation \$1,876,042). *Increase revenue from State revenue sharing and funds transferred from unassigned fund balance.*

ARTICLE 37: To see if the voters will vote to **exceed the property tax levy limit** and make it be equal to the amount actually 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 20th day of April, AD, 2023

 _____ Russell Newcomb, Chair
 _____ Danelle Wadsworth
 _____ Sarah Carter
 _____ Dennise Whitley
 _____ Ryan Lorrain
Norway Select-board