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TOWN OF NORWAY
FY26 -2025/2026 TOWN MEETING WARRANT
(Covering the period 7/1/2025- 6/30/2026)

State of Maine
County of Oxford
To: Jeffrey Campbell, Interim 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 tenth day (10th) of June, AD 2025 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 sixteenth day (16th) of June, AD 2025 at 7:00 pm, then and there to act on articles 3 through 42.

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 2025/2026 **taxes will become due**, when interest will be due and what rate will be charged.

Select board recommends: **FIRST HALF TAXES DUE NOVEMBER 15, 2025, SECOND HALF DUE MAY 16, 2026. INTEREST WILL BE CHARGED AT A RATE OF 8.5%. 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 8.5%.** (*State determined*)

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$738,832** for **Administration** as recommended by the select board and budget committee. (2024-2025 appropriation \$712,412). *3.71% Increase – due to wages & benefits.*

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$75,748** for the **Municipal Complex** as recommended by the select board and budget committee. (2024-2025 appropriation \$59,650). *26.99% Increase – due to inflation of costs for roof repair, siding repair, and materials.*

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 **\$147,287** for **Planning and Enforcement** as recommended by the select board and budget committee. (2024-2025 appropriation \$106,563). *38.22% Increase – due to new hire and wages & benefits.*

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$1,458,497** for the **Police Department** as recommended by the select board and budget committee (2024-2025 appropriation \$1,215,472). *19.99% Increase – due to wages & benefits, and vehicle replacement.*

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$446,682** for the **Fire Department** as recommended by the select board and budget committee (2024-2025 appropriation \$352,425). *26.75% Increase – due to new hire, wages & benefits, and repairs.*

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$463,350** for **Utilities & Insurance** as recommended by the select board and budget committee. (2024-2025 appropriation \$439,600). *5.4 % Increase – due to electricity and insurance costs.*

ARTICLE 12: Shall the Town appropriate up to **\$400,000** 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. *(2024-2025 appropriation \$65,000).*
- **\$90,000** to the Revaluation Reserve Account as recommended by the select board and budget committee. *(2024-2025 appropriation \$20,000).*
- **\$50,000** to the Fire Truck Reserve Account as recommended by the select board and budget committee. *(2024-2025 appropriation \$50,000).*
- **\$100,000** to fund future improvements and maintenance to the Town Office Building. *(New as of FY 2026)*

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$18,287** for **Animal Control** as recommended by the select board and budget committee. (2024-2025 appropriation \$17,751). *3.02% Increase – due to benefits and increase from Responsible Pet Care Rates.*

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$1,354,018** for **Highways and Public Works** as recommended by the select board and budget committee. (2024-2025 appropriation \$1,132,097). *.77% Increase – due to wages & benefits.*

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

\$325,000 for In-Town and Rural (non-sewer/water) Road Improvements Projects. (2024-2025 appropriation \$325,000).

Sub Total Capital: **\$325,000**

Capital Reserves for Future Projects and/or Purchases

- **\$65,000** for the **Highway Truck/Plow Gear Replacement** (2024-2025 appropriation \$65,000).
- **\$40,000** for the **Highway Equipment** (to fund the eventual replacement of the grader, loaders, sweeper and trackless, etc.) (2024-2025 appropriation \$40,000).
- **\$5,000** for the **Sidewalk /Traffic Safety** (2024-2025 appropriation \$5,000).
- **\$30,000** for **Bridge Repairs & Large Culverts** (2024-2025 appropriation \$30,000).
- **\$5,000** for the **Repair and Replacement of Computers, Software, Office Furniture, and Equipment** (2024-2025 appropriation \$5,000).
- **\$25,000** for **Repairs and Updates to the Municipal Building Complex** (2024-2025 appropriation \$5,000).
- **\$4,000** for the **Eventual Repair and/or Replacement of the Opera House Clock Tower Roof** (2024-2025 appropriation \$4,000).
- **\$3,000** for **Tree Pruning, Tree Replacement, and Tree Removal** (2024-2025 appropriation \$2,500).
- **\$65,000** for the **Fire Department Fire Truck Account** (2024-2025 appropriation \$65,000).
- **\$10,000** for **Fire Department Equipment** (2024-2025 appropriation \$10,000).
- **\$3,500** for **Cemetery Repairs** (2024-2025 appropriation \$3,500).
- **\$3,000** for **Parking Lots, Playgrounds, and Parks** (2024-2025 appropriation \$3,000).
- **\$2,500** for **Dangerous Buildings** (2024-2025 appropriation \$2,500).
- **\$2,500** for **Community & Economic Development** (2024-2025 appropriation \$2,500).
- **\$20,000** for **Future Town Re-valuation** (2024-2025 appropriation \$20,000).

- **\$5,000 for Replacement and/or Repairs to Vehicles for Code, Admin, and Recreation Departments** (2024-2025 appropriation \$3,000).
- **\$10,000 for Police Department Repair and/or Replacement of Equipment** (2024-2025 appropriation \$7,500).
- **\$2,000 for Advertising and Signs.** (2024-2025 appropriation \$2,000)

Subtotal Capital Reserves **\$295,500**

Total for Capital Projects & Reserves **\$620,500** (2024-2025 appropriation \$603,000).
2.9% Increase – due to rising cost of materials.

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$483,986** for **Debt Service** as recommended by the select board and budget committee (2024-2025 appropriation \$481,609). .49% Increase - due to interest payment on new bond.

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 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 **\$590,830** for the **Town's share** of the operating cost of **Norway/Paris Solid Waste, Inc.** as recommended by the select board and budget committee. (2024-2025 appropriation \$590,830). *Norway/Paris Solid Waste has requested \$1,181,660 in total from both Towns. Norway and Paris each pays 50%. $\$1,181,660/2 = \$590,830$.*

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$32,691** for **Cemeteries** as recommended by the select board and budget committee. (2024-2025 appropriation \$32,652). .12% Increase – due to benefits.

ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$22,075** for **General Assistance** as recommended by the select board and budget committee (2024-2025 appropriation \$29,859). -26.07% Decrease – due to previous wage miscalculation.

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 (2024-2025 appropriation \$25,000). -20% Decrease – due to consolidation of agencies.

ARTICLE 24: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$427,609** for the **Norway Library** as recommended by the select board and budget committee (2024-2025 appropriation \$408,994). 4.55% Increase – due to subscriptions, wages & benefits.

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 \$1,601,833

principal balance) to fund as recommended by the select board and budget committee \$70,000 for Parks and Recreation (2024-2025 appropriation \$70,000).

ARTICLE 26: To see if the Town will appropriate **\$189,219** 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. (2024-2025 appropriation \$152,815 as the balance to be raised by taxes, after being funded \$70,000 from the Sanborn Trust). *23.82% Increase – due to wages & benefits, utilities, and property maintenance.*

ARTICLE 27: To raise and appropriate **\$27,225** 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

As recommended by the select board and budget committee (2024-2025 appropriation \$25,225 - \$14,000 for the Lakes Association, \$2,000 for the Norway Historical Society, \$11,000 for Norway Downtown 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 **\$48,500** 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. (2024-2025 appropriation \$48,500).

ARTICLE 29: To see if the Voters wish to amend the **Building Code Ordinance**.

ARTICLE 30: To see if the Voters wish to amend the **Flood Plain Ordinance**.

ARTICLE 31: To see if the Voters wish to amend the **Shoreland Zone Ordinance**.

ARTICLE 32: To see if the Voters wish to amend the **Sign Ordinance**.

ARTICLE 33: 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 34: 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 35: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the select board to appoint a **Budget Committee**, said members of the committee to serve one year without pay.

ARTICLE 36: 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 37: To see if the Town will vote to have **\$2,168,331 in Anticipated Revenues deducted from the 2025-2026 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)*. (2024-2025 appropriation \$2,298,859).

ARTICLE 38: 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 17th day of April, AD 2025

 Russell Newcomb, Chair

 Danielle Wadsworth

 Sarah Carter

 Dennise Whitley

 Ryan Lorrain
Norway Select Board