

Town of Warren

Minutes for June 20, 2023

The Town of Warren Meeting at the Masonic Hall June 20, 2023 was opened by Corinne Michaud at 7:00 p.m.

Article 1: Election of Moderator - To choose a moderator by written ballot to preside at said meeting.
Doug Pope was elected as moderator with 5 ballots cast.

Article 2: Election of Officers – To elect all necessary Town Officers as are required to be elected by secret ballot:

Two (2) members of the Board of Selectmen, for three (3) year terms.

Election results Selectman Seat #1, 3 year term, expires 2026 Roger Peabody was elected with 305 Votes.

Election results Selectman Seat #2, 3 year term, expires 2026 Wayne Luce was elected with 306 votes.

One (1) member of the RSU #40 Board of Directors, for a three (3) year term to expire 2026.

Election results Write-in Joshua A. Blackman was elected with 200 votes.

Three (3) members of the Sanitary District Trustees for a three (3) year term to expire 2026.

Election results Sanitary District trustee Seat #1, 3 year term, expires 2026 Mark Waltz was elected with 303 votes.

Election results Sanitary District trustee Seat #4, 3 year term, expires 2026 Lisa Bailey was elected with 302 votes.

Election results Sanitary District trustee Seat #5, 3 year term, expires 2026 Andrew M. Field was elected with 317 votes.

Article 3: To choose all necessary Town Officials for the ensuing year, other than those now required to be elected by ballot under the provisions of Maine law.

Ten [10] members of the Budget Committee: two [2] for one [1] year terms to expire 2024, four [4] for two [2] year terms to expire 2025, four [4] for three [3] year terms, to expire 2026.

One-year term to expire 2024 No nomination

One-year term to expire 2024 No nomination

Two-year term to expire 2025 Bradley Beverage was nominated and seconded by show of hands.

Two-year term to expire 2025 Ed LaFlamme was nominated and seconded by show of hands.

Two-year term to expire 2025 Richard Butler was nominated and seconded by show of hands.

Two-year term to expire 2025 No nomination

Three-year term to expire 2026 Craig Dennison was nominated and seconded by show of hands.

Three-year term to expire 2026 William Lufkin was nominated and seconded by show of hands.

Three-year term to expire 2026 Joseph "Ike" Johnson was nominated and seconded by show of hands.

Three-year term to expire 2026 Sandra Overlock was nominated and seconded by show of hands.

Two [2] Fish Wardens for one [1] year terms, to expire 2024

George Knutson, and Gerry Cushman were nominated and seconded by a show of hands.

Article 4: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen pursuant to 12 MRS §6131 to promulgate such regulations compatible with the General Laws of the State to govern the time when and the manner in which alewives shall be taken therein. (Note: Municipal rights in existence on January 1, 1974, which are not exercised for 3 consecutive years shall lapse 12 MRS §6131.)

Article 4 was moved and seconded. It was passed as written, by a show of hands.

Article 5: To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen to sell surplus alewives for one or more years, or take any action relative to the same.

Article 5 was moved and seconded. It was passed as written, by a show of hands.

Article 6: To see if the Town will vote to have the Town's portion of the surplus alewives transferred into the Capital Building Reserve.

Article 6 was moved and seconded. It was passed as written, by a show of hands.

Article 7: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for The Board of Selectmen for the period July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

*Board of Selectmen recommends: Vote 5-0 \$57,805 *Budget Committee recommends: Vote 7-0 \$57,805

Article 7 was moved and seconded. It was passed as written, by a show of hands.

Article 8: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Administration for the period July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

*Board of Selectmen recommends: Vote 4-1 \$281,614 *Budget Committee recommends: Vote 7-0 \$278,614

Discussion: Changed after budget, for legal fees.

Article 8 was moved and seconded in the amount of \$281,614. It was passed as written, by a show of hands.

Article 9: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Town Clerk for The period July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

*Board of Selectmen recommends: Vote 5-0 \$62,330 *Budget Committee recommends: Vote 5-2 \$62,330

Article 9 was moved and seconded. It was passed as written, by a show of hands.

Article 10: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Assessing for the period July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

*Board of Selectmen recommends: Vote 5-0 \$74,700 *Budget Committee recommends: Vote 7-0 \$74,700

Article 10 was moved and seconded. It was passed as written, by a show of hands.

Article 11: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Code Enforcement & Planning for the period July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

*Board of Selectmen recommends: Vote 5-0 \$63,750 *Budget Committee recommends: Vote 7-0 \$63,750

Article 11 was moved and seconded. It was passed as written, by a show of hands.

Article 12: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Fire for the period July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

*Board of Selectmen recommends: Vote 5-0 \$108,446 *Budget Committee recommends: Vote 7-0 \$108,446

Discussion: covers all operations for the Fire Department.

Article 12 was moved and seconded. It was passed as written, by a show of hands.

Article 13: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Ambulance for the period July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

*Board of Selectmen recommends: Vote 5-0 \$591,580 *Budget Committee recommends: Vote 7 -0 \$591,580

Article was moved and seconded. It was passed as written, by a show of hands.

Article 14: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Animal Control for the period July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

*Board of Selectmen recommends: Vote 5-0 \$13,712 *Budget Committee recommends: Vote 7-0 \$13,712

Article 14 was moved and seconded. It was passed as written, by a show of hands.

Article 15: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Public Works for the period July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

*Board of Selectmen recommends: Vote 4-1 \$588,155 *Budget Committee recommends: Vote 7-0 \$576,105

Discussion: Increase due to upgrading internet speed. Resident asked if TDS is giving the Town internet for free.
Article 15 was moved and seconded in the amount of \$588,155. It was passed as written, by a show of hands.

Article 16: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Transfer Station for the period July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

*Board of Selectmen recommends: Vote 4-1 \$377,359 *Budget Committee recommends: Vote 7-0 \$406,874

Discussion: Board reviewed the past eight months and have a lower estimate, this includes a 20 % buffer. Should the Transfer station run short, Board can move 10% of funds not yet used or ask the Residents for more money.

Article 16 was moved and seconded in the amount of \$377,359. It was passed as written, by a show of hands.

Article 17: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Library for the period July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

*Board of Selectmen recommends: Vote 5-0 \$41,942 *Budget Committee recommends: Vote 7-0 \$41,942

Article 17 was moved and seconded. It was passed as written, by a show of hands.

Article 18: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Recreation for the period July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

*Board of Selectmen recommends: Vote 5-0 \$62,840 *Budget Committee recommends: Vote 7-0 \$62,840

Article 18 was moved and seconded. It was passed as written, by a show of hands.

Article 19: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for General Protection for the period July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

*Board of Selectmen recommends: Vote 5-0 \$306,717 *Budget Committee recommends: Vote 7-0 \$306,717

Discussion: Resident asked if this includes dispatch, no that's covered in County tax.

Article 19 was moved and seconded. It was passed as written, by a show of hands.

Article 20: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Social Services & Contributions for the period July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

*Board of Selectmen recommends: Vote 5-0 \$18,342 *Budget Committee recommends: Vote 7-0 \$18,342

Social Service & Contributions: Community Services 4,342

General Assistance	10,000
Historical Society	4,000
Total	18,342

Community Services:

New Hope for Women	1,155
Penquis Community Action	3,187
Total	4,342

Article 20 was moved and seconded. It was passed as written, by a show of hands.

Article 21: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Facilities & Grounds for the period July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

*Board of Selectmen recommends: Vote 5-0 \$ 104,850 *Budget Committee recommends: Vote 7-0 \$104,600

Article 21 was moved and seconded in the amount of \$104,850. It was passed as written, by a show of hands.

Article 22: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Capital Improvement Plan Reserves for the period July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

*Board of Selectmen recommends: Vote 5-0 \$ 961,000 *Budget Committee recommends: Vote 6-1 \$961,000

Capital Improvement FY-24	MGR	BC	BOS
Office Equipment Reserve (Admin)	3,000	3,000	3,000
Assessment Review Reserve (Admin)	10,000	10,000	10,000

Records Restoration Reserve	3,000	3,000	3,000
Public Works Reserve	100,000	100,000	100,000
Ambulance Reserve	90,000	90,000	90,000
Bridge/ Culvert Repair Reserve	100,000	100,000	100,000
BLDG Improvements/Grounds Reserve	45,000	45,000	45,000
Comprehensive Plan Reserve	1,000	1,000	1,000
Dry Hydrant Reserve	2,000	2,000	2,000
FD Equipment Reserve	75,000	75,000	75,000
FD Digital Communication Reserve	2,000	2,000	2,000
Ambulance Equipment Reserve	25,000	25,000	25,000
Road Improvement/ Paving Reserve	450,000	25,000	25,000
Transfer Station Reserve	5,000	5,000	5,000
TOTAL	911,000	961,000	961,000

Article 22 was moved and seconded. It was passed as written, by a show of hands.

Note: Town Manager informed Moderator that on the line for Road Improvement/Paving Reserve there was a number error 25,000 should be 500,000

Article 23: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Personnel for the period July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

***Board of Selectmen recommends: Vote 4-1 \$287,350 *Budget Committee recommends: Vote 7-0 \$285,946**

Discussion: The difference in amounts includes wage increase to include Public Works too, they have not kept up with cost of living.

Article 23 was moved and seconded in the amount of \$287,350. It was passed as written, by a show of hands.

Article 24: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Warren Days for the period July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

***Board of Selectmen recommends Vote 4-0 \$5,500 *Budget Committee recommends Vote 7-0 \$5,500**

Article 24 was moved and seconded. It was passed as written, by a show of hands.

Article 25: To see if the Town will vote to reduce the amount to be raised by taxation using estimated revenues for the Municipal Budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

Revenue FY 23-24	
Administration Income	9,000
Ambulance Fees	140,000
Boat Excise	5,000
Building Permits	10,000
Cable Franchise	27,000
Recreation Programming Fees	6,000
Excise Tax	700,000
Property Tax Interest	20,000
Investment Interest	50,000
Transfer Station Fees	50,000
Trash Bags	95,000
Lien Costs	10,000
Concealed Weapons	100
Planning Board	1,500
Tree Growth	9,000
Animal Control	1,200
Junk Yard Permits	150
Plumbing Permits	4,500
Town Clerk Fees	4,000
DOT/LRAP	50,000
General Assistance Reimbursement	5,000
Prison Hydrant Refund	7,300
Total:	1,204,750

Article 25 was moved and seconded. It was passed as written, by a show of hands.

Article 26: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to move up to 10% of unexpended balances, from various accounts as needed to provide for the continuity of public services.

Article 26 was moved and seconded. It was passed as written, by a show of hands.

Article 27: To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen to expend such monies as they deemed necessary from Reserve Funds, or take any action relative to the same, so long as the funds are used for their intended purpose.

Article 27 was moved and seconded. It was passed as written, by a show of hands.

Article 28: To see if the Town will vote to fix the 15th day of November, 2023 and the 15th day of May, 2024 as the due dates when assessed taxes shall be payable and to charge 8.00% per annum interest on all unpaid taxes after that date.

Article 28 was moved and seconded. It was passed as written, by a show of hands.

Article 29: To see if the Town will authorize the use of funds from the Fund Balance to cover annual abatements, or take any action relating to the same.

Article 29 was moved and seconded. It was passed as written, by a show of hands.

Article 30: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate up to \$500,000 from Fund Balance to be used to reduce the 2023 Tax Commitment.

Motion was moved and seconded to allow Town Assessor Jim Murphy to speak. Motion passed by show of hands.

Discussion: Pratt, asked how much is in the Fund Balance and why a higher amount isn't being used to reduce taxes.

Murphy, The Town should not use too much, we don't want to get to low and need to take out loans to get the town through a time when there aren't enough funds being brought in. Doing so will cost three thousand in lawyer fees just to get started. The amount is larger than last year. They can not raise the amount in this forum.

Article 30 was moved and seconded. It was passed as written, by a show of hands.

Article 31: To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A §506, to authorize the Tax Collector to accept pre-payment of taxes not yet due or assessed to pay 3% interest on any prepaid taxes that are abated or act thereon.

Article 31 was moved and seconded. It was passed as written, by a show of hands.

Article 32: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen 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 they deem advisable, and to execute quit claim deeds for same. If sale is to anyone other than the former owner, the Board of Selectmen shall follow the special sale process required by 36 M.R.S.A. §943-c for qualifying homestead property.

Discussion: the Board is aware of the Supreme Court ruling in regards to foreclosures.

Article 32 was moved and seconded. It was passed as written, by a show of hands.

Article 33: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to sell or otherwise dispose of Town-owned personal property as it deems advisable.

Discussion: Examples of personal properties are; plow truck, container at Transfer Station, equipment. All property is advertised out to bid and available to the public.

Article 33 was moved and seconded. It was passed as written, by a show of hands.

Article 34: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen and Treasurer, on behalf of the Town, to accept the proceeds of any payment on insurance claims for damage occurring to Town equipment and to allow the expenditure of funds as necessary to replace said equipment as they deem appropriate or act thereon.

Article 34 was moved and seconded. It was passed as written, by a show of hands.

Article 35: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen, on behalf of the Town, to accept grants, insurance refunds, reimbursements or other funds received by the Town and apply these funds to the accounts the Selectmen deem appropriate.

Article 35 was moved and seconded. It was passed as written, by a show of hands.

Article 36: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen, pursuant to 30-A M.R.S.A §5655, on behalf of the Town, to accept unconditional donations of property or money to supplement a specific appropriation already made, to reduce the tax assessment, to endow a municipal education fund, or to reduce permanent debt, and to accept dry hydrant easements for Fire Department needs.

Article 36 was moved and seconded. It was passed as written, by a show of hands.

Article 37: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen, pursuant to 30-A M.R.S.A §5654, on behalf of the Town, to accept conditional gifts of money or property in trust pending affirmative action by Town Meeting vote.

Discussion: Board explained that conditional monies donated with the condition that it go to a specific area/department.

Article 37 was moved and seconded. It was passed as written, by a show of hands.

Article 38: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate all of the money received from the State of Maine for snowmobile registrations to the Bog Brigade Snowmobile Club for the maintenance of their network of trails, on the condition that those trails are open to the public for the purpose of snowmobiling at no charge.

Discussion: Pratt, asked if Bog Brigade is active. Cori, they submit a report. Macdonald, they maintain the trails. Resident, they also upkeep the bridge at Payson Park.

Article 38 was moved and seconded. It was passed as written, by a show of hands.

Article 39: To see if the Town will vote to apply the proceeds of sales from tax acquired property to the Capital Building Fund.

Article 39 was moved and seconded. It was passed as written, by a show of hands.

Article 40: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to apply the proceeds of sales of Town-owned personal property to the appropriate Department's Reserve Account.

Discussion: How is this different from Article #33, this shows where the funds go.

Article 40 was moved and seconded. It was passed as written, by a show of hands.

Article 41: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate up to \$452,197.33 of the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (aka American Rescue Plan Act or ARPA funds) received by the Town from the federal; government for the following project: Repair the Peabody Culvert on Beechwood Street.

Article 41 was moved and seconded. It was passed as written, by a show of hands.

Article 42: Shall an ordinance entitled "Solar Ordinance "be enacted? (A copy of the ordinance is available from the Town Clerk)

Discussion: Resident asked why there isn't a bond for solar projects that are under an acre. There are no bonds but there is a financial insurance. Most under an acre are residential use, not big projects. Resident asked for an explanation for the forester program. The large projects would be responsible for re planting any forest that was taken down for the project in hopes to encourage use of land that would not need to be cut.

Article 42 was moved and seconded. It was passed as written, by a show of hands.

Article 43: Shall an amendment to the Marijuana Ordinance be enacted? (A copy of the amended ordinance is available from the Town Clerk)

Article 43 was moved and seconded. It was passed as written, by a show of hands.

Article 44: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate up to \$100,000 from Fund Balance to be used to process material off R05 Lot 079 (Patterson Mill Property) for future sand and gravel.

Article 44 was moved and seconded. It was passed as written, by a show of hands.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.


56 Residents, 7 non-residents attended the Warren Town Meeting on June 20, 2023

Respectfully submitted by Board Secretary Sara K. Davis on June 20, 2023

Given under our hands this 28th day of June, A.D., 2023.


Wayne Luce, Chairman


Roger Peabody, Vice Chair


Brent Pratt


John Crabtree

Selectmen for the Town of Warren

Jan Macdonald

A True Copy Attest:


Corinne E. R. Michaud, Town Clerk