

2024
TOWN OF UNION
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
WARRANT

MUNICIPAL ELECTION/TOWN MEETING
June 11, 2024 - TUESDAY
8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Referendum Voting Only
William L. Pullen Municipal Building
Meeting Room

TO: James H. Murphy, Jr., Resident of the Town of Union, in the County of Knox.

GREETINGS: In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Union in said County and State, qualified by law to vote in Town affairs, to meet at the William L. Pullen Municipal Building in said Town on Tuesday, the Eleventh day of June, A.D. 2024 at 8:00 a.m. in the morning, then and there to act upon Article 1 and by secret ballot on Article 2 through 36 as set out below;

ARTICLE 1. To elect a Moderator to preside at said meeting and to vote by written ballot the articles below.

ARTICLE 2. To elect all necessary Municipal Officers/Officials and School Committee Members as are required to be elected.

ARTICLE 3. Shall an ordinance amendment to the Town of Union Land Use Ordinance be consistent with public law 30-A M.R.S. § 4364, an act to increase housing opportunities in Maine be enacted.

A copy of which is available for viewing on the website and at the Town Office.

ARTICLE 4: Shall an ordinance amendment to the Town of Union Land Use Ordinance be amended to be consistent with the Metallic Mining Ordinance and Comprehensive Plan be enacted.

A copy of which is available for viewing on the website and at the Town Office.

2024 Town of Union Annual Town Meeting Warrant

ARTICLE 5. Shall an ordinance amendment titled Metallic Mining be amended to be consistent with the Land Use Ordinance and Comprehensive Plan be enacted.

A copy of which is available for viewing on the website and at the Town Office.

ARTICLE 6. To see if the Town will amend the “Canine Control Ordinance” to add to Section 4 subsection B “No more than one kennel license of 10 dogs is permitted per location, which includes personal pets.”

A copy of which is attached and available for viewing on the website and at the Town Office.

ARTICLE 7. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,094,060.00 for Capital Improvement/Reserve Accounts.

Reserve funds for Ambulance, Fire, Public Works, and Paving one-time \$100K for driveway in front of fire station.

Select Board Recommends **5-0**
Budget Committee Recommends **9-0**

ARTICLE 8. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$325,950.00 for fiscal year 2024-2025 for debt service.

These funds have already been committed during previous town meetings and this is the payment amount.

Select Board Recommends **5-0**
Budget Committee Recommends **9-0**

ARTICLE 9. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$842,123.00 for fiscal year 2024-2025 for General Government.

This includes Insurances, Assessing, Stipends and Office Personnel, and Building Maintenance.

Select Board Recommends **5-0**
Budget Committee Recommends **9-0**

ARTICLE 10. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, and appropriate from fees, and carryover the sum of \$974,527.00 for fiscal year 2024-2025 for Protection.

This includes ACO, Fire, Ambulance, Planning Department, and Emergency Management. Estimated to raise from taxes \$433,352.00.

Select Board Recommends **5-0**
Budget Committee Recommends **9-0**

2024 Town of Union Annual Town Meeting Warrant

ARTICLE 11. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$73,055.00 for fiscal year 2024-2025 for Health and Sanitation.

Septic Waste contract \$2,300.00 and Tri-County Solid Waste \$70,755.00

Select Board Recommends **5-0**
Budget Committee Recommends **9-0**

ARTICLE 12. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$816,646.00 for fiscal year 2024-2025 for Highway and Bridges and Road Repair.

Includes plowing, sanding, ditches, culverts, streetlights and mowing.

Select Board Recommends **5-0**
Budget Committee Recommends **9-0**

ARTICLE 13. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$16,000.00 for fiscal year 2024-2025 for General Assistance.

These funds do not raise taxes but are funded under a dedicated trust fund.

Select Board Recommends **5-0**
Budget Committee Recommends **9-0**

ARTICLE 14. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$14,800.00 for fiscal year 2024-2025 for Parks and Recreation.

Select Board Recommends **5-0**
Budget Committee Recommends **9-0**

ARTICLE 15. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$62,364.00 for fiscal year 2024-2025 for Social Security.

Select Board Recommends **5-0**
Budget Committee Recommends **9-0**

ARTICLE 16. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$64,584.00 for fiscal year 2024-2025 for Cemeteries.

Select Board Recommends **5-0**
Budget Committee Recommends **9-0**

ARTICLE 17. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$192,378.00 for fiscal year 2024-2025 for Unclassified.

This includes Founders Day, Outside Agencies, Abatements, and Retirement.

2024 Town of Union Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Select Board Recommends **5-0**
Budget Committee Recommends **9-0**

ARTICLE 18. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the following General Fund revenue and dedicated revenue sources to be used toward the 2024-2025 budget appropriations of the Town of Union, thereby decreasing the amount required to be raised by property taxes or act thereon:

Ambulance Billing and Assessments	\$ 541,175.00
General Assistance Reimbursement	\$ 2,500.00
Parks and Recreation Pullen Investment	\$ 1,800.00
Animal Control Fees	\$ 900.00
Excise Tax	\$ 541,000.00
Scholarship Trust Funds	\$ 36,596.00
Cemetery Perpetual Care	\$ 3,000.00
Other Revenue and Fees Estimated	<u>\$ 50,000.00</u>
TOTAL	\$1,176,971.00

Select Board Recommends **5-0**
Budget Committee Recommends **9-0**

ARTICLE 19. To see if the Town will vote to carry the unexpended balances in the following accounts for the ensuing fiscal year. Final amounts to be determined after audit.

- Cemeteries
- Animal Control
- Union Assistance Fund
- Sestercentennial Fund
- Public Works Paving

Select Board Approves **5-0**
Budget Committee Approves **9-0**

ARTICLE 20. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from excess revenues any overdrafts in FY 2023 and 2024 after audit completion.

Select Board Recommends **5-0**
Budget Committee Recommends **9-0**

ARTICLE 21. To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board to reduce the amounts to be raised by taxes if other revenues become available, including excess unassigned fund balance.

Select Board Recommends **5-0**
Budget Committee Recommends **9-0**

2024 Town of Union Annual Town Meeting Warrant

- ARTICLE 22.** To see if the Town of Union will authorize the Select Board, with a four-fifths vote, to transfer up to 10% of unexpended balances between accounts as needed.
- ARTICLE 23.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to fix the salaries of the officials appointed by them under provision of MRSA Title 30-A, Section 2601, subsection 1 & 2.
- ARTICLE 24.** To see if the Town will vote to require the municipal officers to provide the former owner(s) of tax-acquired property, or if deceased his/her/their heirs/devisees/personal representative 30 days to repurchase the property for a price equal to all outstanding taxes, interest, fees, and costs; if the former owner does not repurchase the property the municipal officers may sell the property through the sale process in 36 MRS § 943-C, provided that if the former owner does not timely request that process or the board is unable to list or sell the property as required by § 943-C(3), the board may sell the property through a competitive sealed bid process in which a notice advertising sale of the property shall be published at least twice in a newspaper of general circulation in the county. For sales to someone other than the former owner(s), excess sale proceeds, as defined in 36 MRS § 943-C, shall be returned to the former owner.
- ARTICLE 25.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector to accept prepayment of taxes not yet due or assessed and no interest to accrue.
- ARTICLE 26.** To see if the Town, in accordance with 36 MRSA Section 505 (4), will vote that property taxes shall be delinquent if not paid by November 15, 2024, and May 15, 2025, and that interest at the rate of 8% per annum shall be charged on all delinquent property taxes, or act thereon. If the due date(s) fall on a Friday, Saturday, Sunday, or holiday, then the due date(s) will fall on the next business day, and interest will start the day after.

NOTE: The Select Board recommends due dates of November 15, 2024, and May 15, 2025, and interest due dates of November 16, 2024, and May 16, 2025 and interest at the rate of 8% per annum. Taxpayers' names will appear in the Town Report if taxes are not paid by the close of business on May 15, 2025.

Select Board Recommends	5-0
Budget Committee Recommends	9-0

- ARTICLE 27.** To see if the Town, in accordance with 36 MRSA Section 506-A, will vote to set a rate of 4% interest to be paid on the overpayment of abated taxes from the date of overpayment.

EXPLANATION: If taxes are paid and later abated, the Town of Union must refund the abated taxes and pay interest on them.

2024 Town of Union Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Select Board Recommends	5-0
Budget Committee Recommends	9-0

ARTICLE 28. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to use the proceeds of any payment on insurance claims, for damage occurring to Town property in the fiscal year 2024-2025, to be allocated to the municipal department whose goods or equipment were damaged, and appropriate any such insurance payment to repair or replace the damaged goods or equipment,

ARTICLE 29. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to submit applications for grants, from any State, Federal or Private entity, and if a grant is approved to authorize the Select Board to accept said grant funds and to expend grant funds for the purposes of the grant, and to make such assurances, assume such responsibilities, and exercise such authority as is necessary and reasonable to implement such a program.

ARTICLE 30. To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board to disburse money received from the State Snowmobile Refund from the registration of snowmobiles to a local snowmobile club, for the purposes of maintaining their snowmobile trails in Union, to be open for the use of the public at all times while they are snow covered.

ARTICLE 31. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to assess the Town of Washington the sum of \$153,781.77, and the Town of Appleton the sum of \$137,392.78 for ambulance services for the fiscal year 2024-2025.

ARTICLE 32. To see if the Town will vote to allow the Union Ambulance Department and Union Fire Department to expend monies raised by them for equipment and other operational expenses.

ARTICLE 33. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to sell surplus Fire, Ambulance, Office, and Highway Department Equipment and appropriate the proceeds from the sale back to the respective departments' Equipment Reserve Account.

ARTICLE 34. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to sell or otherwise dispose of equipment and Town property with a value less than \$15,000.00 per item after appraisal for fiscal year 2024-2025.

ARTICLE 35. To see if the Town will vote to take the following amounts from income and interest earned on the respective scholarship accounts to fund a scholarship(s) to be awarded in the year 2024-2025.

A. Robert H. & Eleanor S. Heald Fund	\$36,595.79
B. Raymond Thurston & Belle Thurston Kinniston Fund	\$ 866.98

2024 Town of Union Annual Town Meeting Warrant

C. Frank & Gertrude Rowe	\$ 373.36
D. Gilbert Doughty Memorial	\$ 308.80
E. Union Alumni Scholarship	<u>\$ 369.51</u>
TOTAL	\$38,514.44

Select Board Recommends **5-0**
Budget Committee Recommends **9-0**

ARTICLE 36. To see if the Town will vote to permanently increase the property tax levy limit established for the Town of Union 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.

The budget as presented does not exceed the limit.

GIVEN UNDER OUR HANDS THIS 16th Day of April 2024

Adam C. Fuller, Chair

James Justice

Martha L. Johnston-Nash

Wayne C. Kirkpatrick, Vice-Chair

Linda Waltz-Mountainland

UNION SELECT BOARD

A True Copy Attest:

Sonya M. Willis, Town Clerk

2024 Town of Union Annual Town Meeting Warrant

RESIDENT'S RETURN

COUNTY OF KNOX
STATE OF MAINE, ss.

By virtue of the within Warrant to me directed, I have notified and warned the inhabitants of the Town of Union, qualified to vote in Town affairs to assemble at the time and place and for the purpose within named, by posting this Warrant at the following public and conspicuous places within the Town including the Town Office, 567 Common Road; Common Market, 40 Burkett Road; Four Corner Variety, 1718 Heald Highway; and Mic Mac Market, 994 Heald Highway; on the _____ day of June, A.D. 2024, the same being at least seven days prior to the within named meeting.

Attest: _____
James H. Murphy, Jr., Resident