

To Fred Iler, Resident of the Town of Porter in the County of Oxford:

GREETINGS:

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the said Town of Porter, qualified to vote in town affairs, to assemble at the Porter Town Hall in said town on the 19th day of March, A.D. 2021 at 4:00 in the afternoon to act on the following articles to wit:

Article 1. To choose a moderator to preside at said meeting.

The Moderator will then open the polls at the Porter Town Hall. The polls will remain open until 8:00 p.m. to vote on article 2.

Article 2. To elect by secret ballot the following Town Officers:

One Selectman, Assessor, Overseer-of-the-Poor	3 year term
One Director of S.A.D. 55	3 year term
Three Planning Board Members	3 year term

When the polls are closed, the meeting will recess until 9:00 a.m. on the following morning, March 20, 2021 and will re-assemble at the Sacopee Valley Middle School to act on the following articles to wit:

Article 3. To elect the following town officers for the ensuing year:

Two Budget Committee Members	5 year term
One George W. Towle Trust Fund Trustee	3 year term
One Elijah Fox Trust Fund Trustee	3 year term

Article 4. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to spend an amount not to exceed 3/12 of the budgeted amount in each budget category of the 2021 annual budget during the period from February 1, 2022 to the next annual town meeting.

Article 5. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to enter into a three-year contract with RHR Smith & Company to perform the Town's annual audit services for the fiscal year 2021, 2022 & 2023. The contract cost is \$7,000 per year.

TAX RELATED ARTICLES

Article 6. To see if the town will vote to increase the property tax levy limit of \$402,795 established for Porter by State law in the event that the municipal budget approved under the following articles will result in a tax commitment that is greater than that property tax levy limit.

Article 7. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Treasurer the authority to use the Tax Lien Waiver Foreclosure process (Title 36 M.R.S.A. § 944).

Article 8. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board, on behalf of the Town, to sell any or all tax acquired property, whether by foreclosure of tax liens or acquired by court action, by sealed bid, 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). The sale or sales shall first be advertised for three (3) successive weeks in "Your Weekly Shopping Guide" or a newspaper of general circulation in the local area, and to execute and deliver municipal quitclaim deeds for the same. Provided, however, the Select Board, in their discretion, may offer and sell any such property to the former owner against whom the tax had been assessed or to the successor or successors in interest to that person. The Select Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Article 9. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to use funds from undesignated fund balance, as they deem advisable, to reduce the tax commitment for fiscal year 2021.

Article 10. To see if the Town will vote to establish September 30, 2021 as the date when the 2021 real estate and personal property taxes will be due and payable, and to establish a rate of 6.00% interest to be charged on all unpaid taxes as of that date (the maximum allowable rate by the State is 6.00% per annum pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. §505(4-A)).

Article 11. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector to accept prepayment of taxes for the ensuing year, not yet due or assessed, and to pay interest at a rate of 3% per annum on such prepayments made prior to commitment of those taxes. Prepayments not to exceed 90% of the previous year's tax. Said interest on prepayment of taxes shall be taken from undesignated fund balance as needed. (Title 36 M.R.S.A. §506)

Article 12. To see if the Town will vote to set the rate of interest paid on overpayment of taxes at 2.00%. In accordance with Title 36 M.R.S.A. §506-A, the interest rate can be no less than 4% below the per annum rate charged on delinquent taxes. Said interest on overpayment of taxes shall be taken from undesignated fund balance as needed.

Article 13. To see if the Town will vote to direct the Tax Collector/Treasurer to apply any tax payment received for any property tax to outstanding or delinquent taxes owed and in chronological order beginning with the oldest unpaid tax bill. (Title 36 M.R.S.A. §906)

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION - 10

Article 14. To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for the Town Officers' Salaries account for the ensuing year and to authorize the Select Board to transfer all clerk fees to the Town Officers' Salaries account to be expended from the same.

Budget Committee recommends: raise \$149,000 and transfer all clerk fees.

Article 15. To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for the Office account and to authorize the Select Board to enter all income received from the rental of space, photocopying fees & fax fees into this account to be expended from the same.

Budget Committee recommends: raise \$43,000 and add income from rental of space, photocopying fees & fax fees.

Article 16. To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for the Insurance account (including Workers Compensation Insurance).

Budget Committee recommends raise \$9,000.

Article 17. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$24,841.32 for the Debt Payment account to be expended for the 2021 payment on the Maine Municipal Bond.

Budget Committee recommends this article.

Article 18. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate to cover the interest & legal expenses on a Tax Anticipation Note for the fiscal year 2021.

Budget Committee recommends raise \$11,000.

Article 19. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Contingent account to meet unanticipated expenses and emergencies that occur during the fiscal year 2021.

Budget Committee recommends raise \$15,000.

Article 20. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to accept donations of items or monetary donations not to exceed \$1,000 per donation and made without conditions other than dedication to a Town budget account. All monetary donations to be deposited into the undesignated fund (surplus). Any donation exceeding \$1,000, in value or funds, will require town approval at a special town meeting.

Article 21. To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board to apply for, accept, and expend grant money available from the State of Maine, Federal Government, or other organizations for any public purpose when they deem it to be in the town's best interest and needed matching funds are available within the current budget.

BOARDS & COMMITTEES - 12

Article 22. To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for the Porter Planning Board and Appeals Board account.

Budget Committee recommends raise \$1,500.

Article 23. To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for the Porter Comprehensive Planning Committee account.

Budget Committee recommends raise \$1,000.

Article 24. To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for the Porter Conservation Commission for management of the town cemeteries, the town ball field, the Veteran's Park, the Spec Pond swim area and other conservation activities as deemed to be in the best interest of the town.

Budget Committee recommends raise \$3,500.

PUBLIC WORKS - 15

Article 25. To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for the Roads account (to be spent on repairs and maintenance).

Budget Committee recommends raise \$160,000 and transfer the unexpended balance to the Road Reconstruction Reserve Fund.

Article 26. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to review any and all road work to be done and, if they deem advisable, to let the work out to private contractor by hourly rate or by bid.

Article 27. To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for the Winter Roads account.

Budget Committee recommends raise \$260,000.

Article 28. To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for the Solid Waste account.

Budget Committee recommends raise \$90,000.

PUBLIC SAFETY - 20

Article 29. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Animal Control account.

Budget Committee recommends raise \$2,000.

Article 30. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$52,325 for the maintenance of the Kezar Falls Fire Department.

Budget Committee recommends this article.

Article 31. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$32,500 for the maintenance and operation of Sacopee Rescue to be disbursed in three (3) payments in April, August and November.

Budget Committee recommends this article.

Article 32. To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for the Street Lights account.
Budget Committee recommends raise \$12,000.

Article 33. To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for the Hydrants account.
Budget Committee recommends raise \$53,000.

Article 34. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the E-911 Communications Account to be expended for the dispatch of E-911 calls through the Maine State Police.
Budget Committee recommends raise \$7,000.

HEALTH & WELFARE – 25

Article 35. To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for the General Assistance account.
Budget Committee recommends raise \$1,000.

RESERVE FUNDS

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION - 50

Article 36. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Capital Improvements Reserve Fund.
Budget Committee recommends raise \$10,000 and carry forward the unexpended balance.

Article 37. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Old Porter Meetinghouse Reserve Fund to be expended for repairs and maintenance of the Old Porter Meetinghouse.
Budget Committee recommends raise \$5,000 and carry forward the unexpended balance.

Article 38. To see if the Town will authorize the transfer of revenue generated from vital record fees to the Records Restoration Reserve Fund.
Budget Committee recommends this article.

Article 39. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Revaluation Reserve Fund to be expended for the revaluation of property in the Town of Porter for tax purposes.
Budget Committee recommends raise \$15,000 and carry forward the unexpended balance.

PUBLIC SAFETY - 60

Article 40. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Kezar Falls Fire Department Equipment Reserve Fund.
Budget Committee recommends raise \$10,000 and carry forward the unexpended balance.

Article 41. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 for the Sacopee Rescue Reserve Fund.
Budget Committee recommends raise \$5,000 and carry forward the unexpended balance.

PUBLIC WORKS - 70

Article 42. To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for the Bridge / Culvert Reserve Fund. Funds to be used for the repair of bridges, and culverts in excess of 24 inches in diameter.

Budget Committee recommends raise \$10,000 and carry forward the unexpended balance.

Article 43. To see what sum of money the town will raise and appropriate for the Dam Reserve Fund. Said funds to be expended by the Select Board for the repair or replacement of the town's dams, including engineering, tests, permits, pursuing grants, etc.

Budget Committee recommends raise \$5,000 and carry forward the unexpended balance.

Article 44. To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for the Road Reconstruction Reserve Fund; said projects to be at the discretion of the Select Board.

Budget Committee recommends raise \$35,000, carry forward the unexpended balance, and transfer from the DOT Reserve Fund as needed.

Article 45. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to transfer from undesignated fund to the Road Reconstruction Fund.

Article 46. To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for the Sidewalk Reserve Fund to be expended for replacing, upgrading, or constructing sidewalks.

Budget Committee recommends raise \$7,000 and carry forward the unexpended balance.

Article 47. To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for the Tri-Town Waste Reserve Fund and authorize the Select Board to withdraw funds from the reserve as needed for the capital expenses at the Tri-Town Waste Disposal Facility.

Budget Committee recommends raise \$15,000 and carry forward the unexpended balance.

LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

Article 48. To see if the Town will authorize the use of town-owned buildings by outside organizations, groups or individuals and to charge a fee and other requirements as outlined in the Facilities Use Policy for use of said properties to help cover town expenses. Fees collected to be deposited into the Office Account.

Article 49. To see if the Town will vote to dedicate the franchise fees and any other grants received from Spectrum, Inc to Sacopee Valley Media Tech (Sacopee TV) for the purchase and maintenance of equipment, and for operating costs. If the Sacopee TV program does not run during the 2021-2022 school year due to the absence of a Sacopee TV Coordinator, the franchise fees will be held in the Sacopee Valley Media Tech account by the school until February, 2022. If no Coordinator is found by then and the program is not running, the fees will be returned to the towns.

Budget Committee recommends this article.

Article 50. To see if the Town will vote to transfer 100% of the previous year's registration fees rebate from the state to the Sacopee Valley Snowdrifters. This money to be used for various purposes such as trail maintenance, construction or purchase of equipment and materials. These maintained trails to be open to the public during the winter.

Budget Committee recommends this article.

Article 51. To see if the Town will vote to accept the net income from the Stanley-Higgins Trust to be paid to the Stanley-Higgins Fund Committee for the purposes stated in such trust.

Article 52. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee’s recommendations for the support of the agencies or organizations listed below:

Agency or Organization	Requested Amount	Budget Committee Recommendations
American Legion - West Day Post 123	\$400	\$400
American Red Cross	\$1,000	\$1,000
Community Concepts	\$3,000	No recommendation
Community Health & Counseling Services	\$25	\$0
Friends of Porter 569	\$500	\$500
Harvest Hills Animal Shelter	\$1,498	\$1,498
Healthcare Access	\$375	\$375
Kezar Falls Circulating Library	\$5,750	\$5,750
The LifeFlight Foundation	\$749	\$749
Maine Public	\$100	\$100
MaineHealth Care at Home	\$1,500	\$1,500
Ossipee Valley Agricultural Fair	\$1,000	\$1,000
Parsonsfield-Porter Historical Society	\$500	\$500
Saco River Corridor Commission	\$300	\$300
Sacopee Valley Recreation Council	\$3,000	\$3,000
Sacopee Valley Snowdrifters	\$500	\$0
Seniors Plus	\$1,200	\$1,200
Smooth Feather Youth	\$600	\$600
Southern Maine Planning & Development Commission	\$579	\$579
Southwest Oxford County Nutrition (Food Pantry)	\$3,100	\$3,100
Tri-County Mental Health Services	\$500	\$500

Article 53. A motion to adjourn.

Given under our hands this 24th day of February, 2021

Robert W. Heard, Chair

Ronald Silvia

Brent Day

Select Board, Town of Porter