



**TOWN OF PORTER
TOWN MEETING RESULTS / MINUTES
MARCH 27 & 28, 2026
4:00 pm at Porter Town Hall**

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm by Town Clerk, Maureen F. Scanlon.

Present: Cynthia Berube, Merri Hutchinson, Tiffiney Barnes, Robert (Rob) Heard, Town Clerk and Recorder Maureen Scanlon, and multiple registered voters.

To Fred Iler, a 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 27th day of March, A.D. 2026 at 4:00 pm in the afternoon to act on the following articles to wit:

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

Cindy Berube made a motion to nominate Rob Heard as Moderator. It was seconded by Tiffiney Barnes. There were no other nominations from the floor. Motion carried with all in favor. Rob Heard was sworn in as Moderator of this meeting.

The Moderator then opened the polls at the Porter Town Hall. Moderator Rob Heard appointed Merri Hutchinson to act as Deputy Moderator, in his stead, during his absence from the polling place during the conduct of the Secret Ballot Election portion of this meeting. Merri Hutchinson was then sworn in as Deputy Moderator, with her temporary office ending when the election was adjourned. The polls remained open until 8:00 pm to vote on Article 2.

Article 2. To elect by Secret Ballot the following Town Officers:

One Selectperson, Assessor, Overseer	3-year term
One Director of S.A.D. 55	3-year term
Two Planning Board Members	3-year terms

There were 137 ballots cast. The successful candidates were as follows:

One Selectperson, Assessor, Overseer – Aaron Wedgewood

One Director of S.A.D. 55 – Jenilee Barsanti

Two Planning Board Members – Abbey L. Moore & Nicholas Stepski

The meeting was recessed and re-assembled at the Porter Town Hall on March 28, 2026 at 9:00 am.

There were 51 registered Porter voters in attendance including the Selectmen.

The Moderator asked the legislative body to grant permission for both the Town Clerk/Tax Collector Maureen Scanlon and Treasurer Dawn Campbell to speak, since they are not residents of Porter. A motion was made and seconded from the floor to allow both Maureen and Dawn to speak at this meeting. Motion carried with all in favor.

The results of the Secret Ballot Election were read aloud by the Town Clerk.

Article 3. To elect the following Town Officers for the ensuing year:

Two Budget Committee Members	5-year terms
One Budget Committee Member	2-year term * (*vacated position)
One George W. Towle Trust Fund Trustee	3-year term
One Elijah Fox Trust Fund Trustee	3-year term

A motion was made and seconded from the floor to nominate Greg Davis for a 5-year term on the Budget Committee. A hand vote was taken and Greg Davis was unanimously elected to the Budget Committee for a 5-year term.

A motion was made and seconded from the floor to nominate Carol Cypher for a 5-year term on the Budget Committee. Carol Cypher refused the nomination.

A motion was made and seconded from the floor to nominate Heather Newman for a 5-year term on the Budget Committee. A hand vote was taken and Heather Newman was unanimously elected to the Budget Committee for a 5-year term.

A motion was made and seconded from the floor to nominate Rob Heard for a 2-year term on the Budget Committee. A hand vote was taken and Rob Heard was unanimously elected to the Budget Committee for a 2-year term.

A motion was made and seconded from the floor to nominate Margaret Zack for a 3-year term as a George W. Towle Trust Fund Trustee. There were no other nominees for this position. A hand vote was taken and Margaret Zack was unanimously elected as a George W. Towle Trust Fund Trustee for a 3-year term.

A motion was made and seconded from the floor to nominate Jean Stanley for a 3-year term as a Elijah Fox Trust Fund Trustee. There were no other nominees for this position. A hand vote was taken and Jean Stanley was unanimously elected as a Elijah Fox Trust Fund Trustee for a 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 2026 annual budget during the period from February 1, 2027 to the next annual town meeting.

There was a motion made and seconded from the floor to approve Article 4 as read.

The motion to approve Article 4 as read carried unanimously.

TAX RELATED ARTICLES

Article 5. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to close all unexpended appropriations and overdrafts at year-end to the Town's undesignated fund balance.

There was a motion made and seconded from the floor to approve Article 5 as read.

The motion to approve Article 5 as read carried unanimously.

Article 6. 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).

There was a motion made and seconded from the floor to approve Article 6 as read.

The motion to approve Article 6 as read carried unanimously.

Article 7. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to dispose of tax-acquired property in any manner and upon terms that the Select Board deems to be in the best interests of the Town, and to execute municipal release deeds and other required closing documents for such properties; provided, however, that the Select Board shall use the sale process required by 36 M.R.S. § 943-C if it chooses to sell a tax-acquired property to a party other than the former owner, as defined therein.

There was a motion made and seconded from the floor to approve Article 7 as read.

The motion to approve Article 7 as read carried unanimously.

Article 8. 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 2026.

There was a motion made and seconded from the floor to approve Article 8 as read.

The motion to approve Article 8 as read carried unanimously.

Article 9. To see if the Town will vote to establish September 30, 2026 as the date when the 2026 real estate and personal property taxes will be due and payable, and to establish a rate of 7.00% interest to be charged on all unpaid taxes as of that date (the maximum allowable rate by the State is 7.00% per annum pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. §505(4-A)).

There was a motion made and seconded from the floor to approve Article 9 as read.

Question from the floor: What was the amount of interest last year?

Treasurer Dawn Campbell reported that the amount was 7.5%. This was the maximum amount set by the State of Maine last year.

The motion to approve Article 9 as read carried unanimously.

Article 10. 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)

There was a motion made and seconded from the floor to approve Article 10 as read.

The motion to approve Article 10 as read carried unanimously.

Article 11. To see if the Town will vote to set the rate of interest paid on overpayment of taxes at 3.00%. 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.

There was a motion made and seconded from the floor to approve Article 11 as read.

The motion to approve Article 11 as read carried unanimously.

Article 12. 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)

There was a motion made and seconded from the floor to approve Article 12 as read.

The motion to approve Article 12 as read carried unanimously.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION - 10

Article 13. 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.

**Recommendations: Budget Committee: \$200,000 and transfer all clerk fees.
Select Board: \$200,000 and transfer all clerk fees.**

There was a motion made and seconded from the floor to approve Article 13 as recommended by the Budget Committee.

The motion to approve Article 13 as recommended by the Budget Comm. carried unanimously.

Article 14. 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.

**Recommendations: Budget Committee: \$80,000 and add income from rental of space, photocopying fees & fax fees.
Select Board: \$80,000 and add income from rental of space, photocopying fees & fax fees.**

There was a motion made and seconded from the floor to approve Article 14 as recommended by the Budget Committee.

The motion to approve Article 14 as recommended by the Budget Comm. carried unanimously.

Article 15. To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for the Insurance account (including Workers Compensation Insurance).

Recommendations: Budget Committee: \$11,000. Select Board: \$11,000.

There was a motion made and seconded from the floor to approve Article 15 as recommended by the Budget Committee.

The motion to approve Article 15 as recommended by the Budget Comm. carried unanimously.

Article 16. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$22,572.88 for the Debt Payment account to be expended for the 2026 payment on the Maine Municipal Bond.

Recommendations: Budget Committee: yes. Select Board: yes.

There was a motion made and seconded from the floor to approve Article 16 as recommended by the Budget Committee.

The motion to approve Article 16 as recommended by the Budget Comm. carried unanimously.

Article 17. 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 2026.

Recommendations: Budget Committee: \$5,000. Select Board: \$5,000.

There was a motion made and seconded from the floor to approve Article 17 as recommended by the Budget Committee.

The motion to approve Article 17 as recommended by the Budget Comm. carried unanimously.

Article 18. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Contingent-Legal Services account to meet unanticipated legal expenses that occur during the fiscal year 2026.

Recommendations: Budget Committee: \$10,000. Select Board: \$10,000.

There was a motion made and seconded from the floor to approve Article 18 as recommended by the Budget Committee.

The motion to approve Article 18 as recommended by the Budget Comm. carried unanimously.

Article 19. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to accept donations of

property or money not to exceed \$1,000.00 per donation, provided such donations are made without conditions, except that all monetary donations shall be deposited into the Town's undesignated fund balance. Any donation exceeding \$1,000, in value or funds shall require Town approval at a Special Town Meeting.

There was a motion made and seconded from the floor to approve Article 19 as read.

The motion to approve Article 19 as read carried unanimously.

Article 20. 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.

There was a motion made and seconded from the floor to approve Article 20 as read.

The motion to approve Article 20 as read carried unanimously.

BOARDS & COMMITTEES - 12

Article 21. To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for the Porter Planning Board account.

Recommendations: Budget Committee: \$1,000. Select Board: \$1,000.

There was a motion made and seconded from the floor to approve Article 21 as recommended by the Budget Committee.

The motion to approve Article 21 as recommended by the Budget Comm. carried unanimously.

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

Recommendations: Budget Committee: \$500. Select Board: \$500.

There was a motion made and seconded from the floor to approve Article 22 as recommended by the Budget Committee.

The motion to approve Article 22 as recommended by the Budget Comm. carried unanimously.

Article 23. 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.

Recommendations: Budget Committee: \$3,200. Select Board: \$3,200.

There was a motion made and seconded from the floor to approve Article 23 as recommended by the Budget Committee.

The motion to approve Article 23 as recommended by the Budget Comm. carried unanimously.

PUBLIC WORKS - 15

Article 24. To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for the Roads account (to be spent on repairs and maintenance).

**Recommendations: Budget Committee: \$230,000 and transfer the unexpended balance to the Road Reconstruction Reserve Fund.
Select Board: \$230,000 and transfer the unexpended balance to the Road Reconstruction Reserve Fund.**

There was a motion made and seconded from the floor to approve Article 24 as recommended by the Budget Committee.

Question from the floor: What is the unexpended balance?

Treasurer Dawn Campbell responded; On page 33 of the Annual Report under the heading of Public Works - Summer Roads – Balance to Road Reconstruction Reserve, it shows the balance for last fiscal year as \$56,926.19.

Question from the floor: Does this number include DOT (Dept. of Transportation) funds?

Dawn Campbell responded; On page 35 of the Annual Report under the heading of DOT Reserve – Balance to Road Reconstruction Reserve, it shows the balance for last fiscal year as \$56,069.67. The amount noted above is not included in this amount.

Question from the floor: What is the total amount of money that the Road Committee has to work with to start the summer of 2026?

Dawn Campbell responded; Until the final audit is complete, these numbers are subject to change. The Road Reconstruction Reserve started with a balance of \$384,341.00. There were deductions from that for the Norton Hill Road expense, and other deductions throughout the year.

Question from the floor: Do they know what roads are going to be worked on this year?

Selectman John O'Donnell stated that once the final number has been received, the final decisions will be made in order to properly address as many roads as possible with the available funds. As of right now, the roads that were approved last year will be addressed first. Unfortunately, due to weather conditions, paving had stopped sooner than anticipated. It was noted that the funds for these roads were already committed last year.

Question from the floor: What can you do as a citizen to assist the Road Committee?

John O'Donnell responded; I'm sure we could use more members on the Road Committee if people are willing to help. Committee members are appointed by the Select Board. People can

also attend the Select Board meetings. The Road Advisory Committee reports at those meetings, which includes discussion on the conditions of the roads.

John O'Donnell reviewed funding and the roads scheduled to be repaired, with input from Road Advisory Committee Chair Aaron Wedgewood. There was some discussion on this matter. John O'Donnell mentioned that, at some point, it may become necessary to turn some roads back to dirt until funding is available to repair them correctly.

The motion to approve Article 24 as recommended by the Budget Comm. carried unanimously.

Article 25. 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.

There was a motion made and seconded from the floor to approve Article 25 as read.

Question from the floor: Is it possible to have Special Town Meetings to include the entire town on voting on which roads are being repaired?

Moderator Rob Heard stated that the Warrant Articles at this meeting are legally written to authorize the Select Board to make those decisions. Attendance at bi-weekly Select Board meetings would allow residents to express their thoughts and concerns regarding road conditions for consideration by the Select Board. It was noted that the agendas for the Select Board meetings are posted on the town's website. There was discussion on this matter with a suggestion for holding regular workshops that the public can attend and participate in. This suggestion will be considered.

The motion to approve Article 25 as read carried unanimously.

Article 26. To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for the Winter Roads account.

Recommendations: Budget Committee: \$310,000. Select Board: \$310,000.

There was a motion made and seconded from the floor to approve Article 26 as recommended by the Budget Committee.

The motion to approve Article 26 as recommended by the Budget Comm. carried unanimously.

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

Recommendations: Budget Committee: \$164,789.67. Select Board: \$164,789.67.

There was a motion made and seconded from the floor to approve Article 27 as recommended by the Budget Committee.

Peter Zack commented; "Kudos to the people that work at the Transfer Station. They do a great job." Everyone present agreed.

The motion to approve Article 27 as recommended by the Budget Comm. carried unanimously.

PUBLIC SAFETY - 20

Article 28. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Animal Control account.

Recommendations: Budget Committee: \$3,000. Select Board: \$3,000.

There was a motion made and seconded from the floor to approve Article 28 as recommended by the Budget Committee.

The motion to approve Article 28 as recommended by the Budget Comm. carried unanimously.

Article 29. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$81,250.00 for the annual operating expenses of the Kezar Falls Fire Department.

Recommendations: Budget Committee: yes. Select Board: yes.

There was a motion made and seconded from the floor to approve Article 29 as recommended by the Budget Committee.

The motion to approve Article 29 as recommended by the Budget Comm. carried unanimously.

Article 30. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$218,093.00 for the maintenance and operations cost for Sacopee Rescue, to be disbursed in twelve (12) monthly installments.

Recommendations: Budget Committee: yes. Select Board: yes.

There was a motion made and seconded from the floor to approve Article 30 as recommended by the Budget Committee.

The motion to approve Article 30 as recommended by the Budget Comm. carried unanimously.

Article 31. To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for the Street Lights account.

Recommendations: Budget Committee: \$12,000. Select Board: \$12,000.

There was a motion made and seconded from the floor to approve Article 31 as recommended by the Budget Committee.

The motion to approve Article 31 as recommended by the Budget Comm. carried unanimously.

Article 32. To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for the Hydrants account.

Recommendations: Budget Committee: \$52,000. Select Board: \$52,000.

There was a motion made and seconded from the floor to approve Article 32 as recommended by the Budget Committee.

Question from the floor: What is this budget for? Moderator Rob Heard explained that this is the bill from Maine Water Company for the maintenance of the hydrants. They are legally allowed to charge the town of a fee, which is set by the Public Utilities Commission. There was comment from the audience expressing frustration over the fact that this is allowed by the State. It is a huge amount of money; over half a million dollars over a ten-year period. It was noted that there is value to the town by having this system. It provides the Fire Department with readily available water when battling fire emergencies in a densely populated area of our town. It also benefits home owners that are serviced by this water system by having lower insurance rates for their coverage. It was also noted that these payments are paid by all of the taxpayers in town, not just the people that are immediately benefitting from it, which to some, does not seem fair. The exorbitant cost of the service is frustrating, but there is no dispute that it is of value to the community. Rob Heard mentioned that people can reach out to their State Legislators to express their concerns regarding this matter.

The motion to approve Article 32 as recommended by the Budget Comm. carried unanimously.

Article 33. 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.

Recommendations: Budget Committee: \$8,600. Select Board: \$8,600.

There was a motion made and seconded from the floor to approve Article 33 as recommended by the Budget Committee.

The motion to approve Article 33 as recommended by the Budget Comm. carried unanimously.

HEALTH & WELFARE – 25

Article 34. To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for the General Assistance account.

Recommendations: Budget Committee: \$2,500. Select Board: \$2,500.

There was a motion made and seconded from the floor to approve Article 34 as recommended by the Budget Committee.

The motion to approve Article 34 as recommended by the Budget Comm. carried unanimously.

RESERVE FUNDS

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION - 50

Article 35. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the

Capital Improvements Reserve Fund.

Recommendations: Budget Committee: \$15,000 and carry forward the unexpended balance. Select Board: \$15,000 and carry forward the unexpended balance.

There was a motion made and seconded from the floor to approve Article 35 as recommended by the Budget Committee.

The motion to approve Article 35 as recommended by the Budget Comm. carried unanimously.

Article 36. 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.

Recommendations: Budget Committee: \$1,200 and carry forward the unexpended balance. Select Board: \$1,200 and carry forward the unexpended balance.

There was a motion made and seconded from the floor to approve Article 36 as recommended by the Budget Committee.

The motion to approve Article 36 as recommended by the Budget Comm. carried unanimously.

Article 37. To see if the Town will appropriate revenue generated from vital record fees during FYE 1/31/2027 to the Records Restoration Reserve Fund and carry forward the unused balance in the Fund to the current fiscal year.

Recommendations: Budget Committee: yes. Select Board: yes.

There was a motion made and seconded from the floor to approve Article 37 as recommended by the Budget Committee.

The motion to approve Article 37 as recommended by the Budget Comm. carried unanimously.

Article 38. 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.

Recommendations: Budget Committee: \$10,000 and carry forward the unexpended balance. Select Board: \$10,000 and carry forward the unexpended balance.

There was a motion made and seconded from the floor to approve Article 38 as recommended by the Budget Committee.

The motion to approve Article 38 as recommended by the Budget Comm. carried unanimously.

Article 39. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Code

Enforcement Legal Expenses Reserve Fund.

Recommendations: Budget Committee: \$2,500 and carry forward the unexpended balance. Select Board: \$2,500 and carry forward the unexpended balance.

There was a motion made and seconded from the floor to approve Article 39 as recommended by the Budget Committee.

The motion to approve Article 39 as recommended by the Budget Comm. carried unanimously.

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.

Recommendations: Budget Committee: \$15,000 and carry forward the unexpended balance. Select Board: \$25,000 and carry forward the unexpended balance.

There was a motion made and seconded from the floor to approve Article 40 as recommended by the Budget Committee.

Question from the floor: What is \$10,000 difference between the two recommendations? Selectman John O'Donnell explained that the Fire Chief has reported to the Select Board that the Fire Department is in need of a new tanker truck. He had originally hoped that a new purchase could be delayed till approximately 2030. Unfortunately, the existing truck is starting to fail faster than anticipated. He noted that the cost of the purchase would also increase significantly by 2030. The Select Board recommends adding more funds to the Reserve fund that is intended for this purpose so that less money will be needed at the actual time of purchase. There was input from the Fire Chief on this matter.

Question from the floor: How much money is in the Reserve fund?

Treasurer Dawn Campbell responded; On page 35 of the Annual Report under the heading of Public Safety – Kezar Falls Fire Dept. (Capital Acct.) – Balance to Kezar Falls Fire Dept. Reserve, it shows an ending balance for last fiscal year as \$62,067.58. Rob Heard mentioned that this account has typically been used for the purchase of smaller equipment, such as air breathing apparatus, uniforms, etc. This will allow the town to start saving for such a large purchase, instead of raising the full amount all at once.

There was a motion made and seconded from the floor to amend Article 40 to raise \$25,000 as recommended by the Select Board.

The amended motion to approve Article 40 to raise \$25,000 as recommended by the Select Board carried unanimously.

Article 41. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 for the Sacopee Rescue Reserve Fund.

Recommendations: Budget Committee: \$10,000 and carry forward the unexpended balance. Select Board: \$10,000 and carry forward the unexpended balance.

There was a motion made and seconded from the floor to approve Article 41 as recommended by the Budget Committee.

The motion to approve Article 41 as recommended by the Budget Comm. carried unanimously.

Article 42. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$100,000.00 from the Town's undesignated fund balance to the Kezar Falls Fire Department Equipment Reserve Fund.

Recommendations: Budget Committee: yes. Select Board: yes.

There was a motion made and seconded from the floor to approve Article 42 as recommended by the Budget Committee.

The motion to approve Article 42 as recommended by the Budget Comm. carried unanimously.

PUBLIC WORKS - 70

Article 43. 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.

Recommendations: Budget Committee: \$5,000 and carry forward the unexpended balance. Select Board: \$5,000 and carry forward the unexpended balance.

There was a motion made and seconded from the floor to approve Article 43 as recommended by the Budget Committee.

The motion to approve Article 43 as recommended by the Budget Comm. carried unanimously.

Article 44. 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.

Recommendations: Budget Committee: \$10,000 and carry forward the unexpended balance. Select Board: \$10,000 and carry forward the unexpended balance.

There was a motion made and seconded from the floor to approve Article 44 as recommended by the Budget Committee.

The motion to approve Article 44 as recommended by the Budget Comm. carried unanimously.

Article 45. 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.

Recommendations: Budget Committee: \$100,000 and carry forward the unexpended balance, and transfer from the DOT Reserve Fund as needed. Select Board: \$100,000 and carry forward the unexpended balance, and transfer from the DOT Reserve Fund as needed.

There was a motion made and seconded from the floor to approve Article 45 as recommended by the Budget Committee.

The motion to approve Article 45 as recommended by the Budget Comm. carried unanimously.

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.

Recommendations: Budget Committee: \$7,000 and carry forward the unexpended balance. Select Board: \$7,000 and carry forward the unexpended balance.

There was a motion made and seconded from the floor to approve Article 46 as recommended by the Budget Committee.

Question from the floor: How much money is in this account?

Treasurer Dawn Campbell responded; On page 35 of the Annual Report under the heading of Sidewalk Account - shows the ending balance for last fiscal year as \$53,516.48. There was some discussion on the condition of the sidewalks and the future plans to repair some of them.

The motion to approve Article 46 as recommended by the Budget Committee carried by a majority vote with two opposed.

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.

Recommendations: Budget Committee: \$15,000 and carry forward the unexpended balance. Select Board: \$15,000 and carry forward the unexpended balance.

There was a motion made and seconded from the floor to approve Article 47 as recommended by the Budget Committee.

The motion to approve Article 47 as recommended by the Budget Comm. carried unanimously.

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.

There was a motion made and seconded from the floor to approve Article 48 as read.

Question from the floor: How much are the fees?

Town Clerk Maureen Scanlon explained the fee schedule for the use of the Town Hall Meeting Room. There was some discussion on the requirements of the rental.

The motion to approve Article 48 as written carried unanimously.

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.

Recommendations: Budget Committee: yes. Select Board: yes.

There was a motion made and seconded from the floor to approve Article 49 as recommended by the Budget Committee.

Peter Zack offered a comment of thanks to Sacopee TV for their service to the community.

The motion to approve Article 49 as recommended by the Budget Comm. carried unanimously.

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.

Recommendations: Budget Committee: yes. Select Board: yes.

There was a motion made and seconded from the floor to approve Article 50 as recommended by the Budget Committee.

Mark Bolton pointed out that the trail system in the Town of Porter has been greatly improved over the past 5 to 10 years, which brings a wonderful recreational resource to the town. He thanked the club for their efforts in doing this service for the community. It was noted that the Warden's Service has given the trails a rating of A++ this year.

The motion to approve Article 50 as recommended by the Budget Committee carried unanimously.

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.

There was a motion made and seconded from the floor to approve Article 51 as read.

The motion to approve Article 51 as read carried unanimously.

Article 52. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee's and

Select Board's recommendations for the support of the agencies or organizations listed below:

(The Moderator read aloud each line item below before a vote was taken.)

Agency or Organization	Requested Amount	Recommendations
American Legion	\$500.00	\$500.00
American Red Cross	\$1,000.00	\$1000.00
Andwell Health Partners (formerly, Androscoggin Home Healthcare & Hospice)	\$500.00	\$500.00
Cancer Resource Center of Western Maine	\$350.00	\$0.00
Community Concepts	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Day One	\$300.00	\$0.00
Friends of Porter 569	\$600.00	\$600.00
Grateful Undead	\$550.00	\$550.00
Harvest Hills	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00
Kezar Falls Circulating Library	\$6,250.00	\$6,250.00
The LifeFlight Foundation	\$800.00	\$800.00
Maine Public	\$150.00	\$150.00
Ossipee Valley Agricultural Society	\$2,500.00	\$0.00
Parsonsfield-Porter Historical Society	\$500.00	\$500.00
Saco River Corridor Commission	\$1,100.00	\$1,100.00
Sacopee Valley Recreation Council	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
SafeVoices	\$275.00	\$275.00
Seniors Plus	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00
Smooth Feather Youth	\$600.00	\$600.00
Southern Maine Planning & Development Commission	671.00	\$671.00
SW Oxford County Nutrition (Brownfield Food Pantry)	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00
Spurwink (formerly Tri-County Mental Health Services)	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
TOTALS	\$29,946.00	\$26,796.00

There was a motion made and seconded from the floor to approve Article 52 in the amount of \$26,796.00 as recommended by the Budget Committee.

The motion to approve Article 52 as recommended by the Budget Comm. carried unanimously.

Brent Day asked to make a statement to the town's legislative body before the close of the meeting. He explained that a situation occurred in which FEMA funding from a May 2023 storm did not include reimbursement to two individuals that put a lot of time and effort into the process of acquiring a \$333,043.89 grant from FEMA. Their reasoning was that these individuals were not employees of the town, but were volunteers. Brent does not feel as though this is fair to those two individuals and there was miscommunication between the FEMA representative and all involved with the grant work. He approached the Select Board with a request to provide compensation to the two individuals. Unfortunately, after consulting with the town's attorney, the Select Board determined that the town

would not legally be able to provide payment to them. Several ideas have been explored for legally paying these individuals for their service to the community. Brent encouraged the legislative body to reach out to the town with any ideas on how this can be done.

Article 53. A motion to adjourn.

A motion was made and seconded from the floor to adjourn at 10:54 am. Motion carried unanimously.

A True Copy Attest,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Maureen F. Scanlon".

**Maureen F. Scanlon
Town Clerk**

