

TOWN WARRANT

STATE OF MAINE

COUNTY OF WASHINGTON

GREETINGS:

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town of Columbia Falls qualified to vote in town affairs to meet at the **COLUMBIA FALLS MUNICIPAL BUILDING** at **seven o'clock** in the evening on **March 19, 2024**, and act on the following articles, to wit:

ARTICLE 1

To elect a **Moderator** to preside at said meeting.

ARTICLE 2

To elect a citizen to serve as **Selectman** for a **3-year term**.

ARTICLE 3

To elect a citizen to serve on the **Planning Board** for a **3-year term**.

ARTICLE 4

To elect a citizen to serve on the **Planning Board Alternate** for a **3-year term**.

ARTICLE 5

To elect a citizen to serve on the **SAD #37 Board of Directors** for a **3-year term**.

ARTICLE 6

Shall an ordinance entitled, "Town of Columbia Falls Code of Ordinances," be enacted?

Note: A "yes" vote on this article will repeal the following ordinances and replace them with a proposed Code of Ordinances:

- (1) *Town of Columbia Falls Application Building Permit Ordinance,*
- (2) *Town of Columbia Falls Demolition of Property Ordinance,*
- (3) *Town of Columbia Falls Land Use Regulations,*
- (4) *Shoreland Zoning Ordinance for the Municipality of Columbia Falls,*
- (5) *An Ordinance for the Regulation and Control of Land Subdivisions in the Town of Columbia Falls, Maine,*
- (6) *Town of Columbia Falls Zoning Ordinance,*
- (7) *Town of Columbia Falls Street and Storm Water Management Design and Construction Standards,*

- (8) *Wireless Telecommunications and Wind Tower Facilities Siting Ordinance of the Town of Columbia Falls, and*
 (9) *Ordinance Establishing a Moratorium on Large-Scale Commercial and High-Density Residential Development. A copy of the proposed ordinance is attached to the posted warrant and copies are available at the Town Office.*

Selectmen request written ballot

ARTICLE 7

To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for the **Administrative Assistant Compensation.**

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: up to \$46,350

ARTICLE 8

To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for the **Deputy Administrative Assistant.**

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: up to \$12,000

ARTICLE 9

To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for the **Assessor Agent.**

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$8,500

ARTICLE 10

To see if the Town will vote to fix the **Compensations** for the **Municipal Officers and Officials** of the Town for the **2024 calendar year.**

SELECTMEN		TREASURER	\$ 5,000.00
Chair	\$3,700.00	ROAD COMMISSIONER	\$ 1,200.00
Member	\$2,700.00	CODE ENFORCEMENT	\$ 2,200.00
Member	\$2,700.00	HEALTH OFFICER	\$ 25.00
ANIMAL CONTROL			\$ 4,500.00
GENERAL ASSISTANCE			\$ 500.00
APPEALS Board			\$ 900.00
PLANNING BOARD: CHAIR			\$ 40.00 per meeting
EACH MEMBER			\$ 35.00 per meeting

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$26,425.00 TOTAL

ARTICLE 11

To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for the **Operations of the Town** for the **2024 fiscal year**.

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$93,425

ARTICLE 12

To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for **Payroll Taxes**.

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$15,000

ARTICLE 13

To see what wages the Town will set to be paid to laborers and equipment for the ensuing year.

Selectmen RECOMMENDED: STATE WAGE

ARTICLE 14

To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for **General Assistance**. Note: Current balance is \$2,154.62

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$345.48

ARTICLE 15

To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for **Legal Account**.

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$40,000

ARTICLE 16

To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for **Grant Writer**.

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$1,000

ARTICLE 17

To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for reimbursement of mileage and veterinary expenses for **Animal Control Fund**.

Note: This is not AOC's pay; expenses only; Current amount in this account is \$460

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$100

ARTICLE 18

To see if the Town will vote to **ratify the additional expense for Street Lights** in the amount of \$448.15. Note: Due to the increase in electricity throughout the year. Approximate 4% increase

Recommended by Selectboard

ARTICLE 19

To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for **STREET LIGHTS.**

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$15,000

ARTICLE 20

To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for the **Town Office.**

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$4,200

ARTICLE 21

To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for the **Town Properties.**

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$5,000

ARTICLE 22

To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for the **Union Hall.**

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$5,500

ARTICLE 23

To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for the **Town Building Fund.**

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$5,000

ARTICLE 24

To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for **Contingency/Emergency Fund.**

Note: Article will authorize the Selectmen to meet unanticipated expenses as they deem necessary. Note: Current balance is \$9,520.64

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$500

ARTICLE 25

To see if the Town will vote to **appropriate from excise tax for the purpose of Snow Removal, Salt and Sand.**

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$150,000

ARTICLE 26

To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for the **Maintenance of Town Roads and Bridges** for the 2025 year.

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$75,000

ARTICLE 27

To see if the Town will apply the excess **Excise monies** to the Road Maintenance account.

Note: These monies usually go into the General Fund.

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED

ARTICLE 28

To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for the operations of the **Epping Volunteer Fire District**.

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$40,283.50

ARTICLE 29

To see if the Town will authorize the Epping Volunteer Fire District to purchase a new fire truck in the principal amount of \$500,000 (with the Town responsible for 50% of the purchase cost), on such terms as the Epping Volunteer Fire District may approve.

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED

ARTICLE 30

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$50,000 to transfer to the Fire Truck Reserve Account for the purpose of making contributions to the Epping Volunteer Fire District to cover 50% of the purchase cost of a new fire truck.

Selectmen RECOMMEND taking from Undesignated Funds

ARTICLE 31

To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for the **Pleasant River Ambulance Service**.

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$54,264

ARTICLE 32

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate in support of the **Library**. Note: Current balance in the Grant - \$1,164

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$1,000.00

Selectmen RECOMMEND taking funds from the Library Reserve Account

ARTICLE 33

To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for **Columbia Falls Youth Recreation Fund**. Note: Selectmen to manage account.

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$1,000

ARTICLE 34

To see if the town will vote to authorize the Selectmen and Treasurer to **borrow** money in anticipation of taxes, the **sum not to exceed \$100,000**.

Selectmen RECOMMENDED

ARTICLE 35

To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for the **Columbia Falls Cemetery Association**.

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$2,000.00

ARTICLE 36

To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for the **Cemetery Maintenance Fund**. Note: Current balance in this account is \$1,000.

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$500

ARTICLE 37

To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for the **Eastern Agency on Aging**.

No increase over last year

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$750

ARTICLE 38

To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for the **Downeast Community Partners** (formerly Washington-Hancock Community).

Decreased from last year by \$1,150.

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$5,471

ARTICLE 39

To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for **Life Flight Foundation**.

No increase over last year

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$560

ARTICLE 40

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the returns from the **snowmobile registrations** to the **Narraguagus Trail Riders** to use to establish and maintain existing trails for the use and recreation for our citizens.

Selectmen RECOMMENDED

ARTICLE 41

To see if the Town will vote to increase the **property tax levy limit** established for Columbia Falls by state law in the event that the municipal budget approved under the preceding articles will result in the tax commitment that is greater than the property tax limit.

Selectmen RECOMMENDED

ARTICLE 42

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to issue **Town Warrants** to pay **employees** and **State Reports**, from the closing of the **2024 Town Books** on **December 31, 2024** until the **annual Town Meeting on March 18, 2025**

Selectmen RECOMMENDED

ARTICLE 43

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the General Fund to pay for tax abatements and any interest due thereon.

Selectmen RECOMMENDED

ARTICLE 44

To see if the Town will set a date for the Tax Collector to settle with the Town and set a rate of interest to be charged on all unpaid taxes after that date.

Selectmen RECOMMENDED: December 31, 2024 (8.5%)

STATE INTEREST RATE

ARTICLE 45

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the municipal officers, on behalf of the Town, to dispose of any real estate acquired by the Town for the non-payment of taxes thereon (1) in accordance with Title 36 M.R.S. § 943-C of the Maine Revised Statutes, as may be amended, or (2) should the municipal officers be unable to list or sell the property pursuant to Section 943-C, in any manner reasonably calculated by the municipal officers to establish the fair market value of the property. For sales to someone other than the former owner, excess sale proceeds, as calculated pursuant to Section 943-C, shall be returned to the former owner. **Selectmen RECOMMENDED**

ARTICLE 46


To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen and Treasurer to accept and expend on behalf of the Town all Federal and State Funds which may be received from the following:

Municipal Revenue Sharing


Local Road Assistance

State Aid to Education (including Federal pass-through funds and property tax relief)
Public State Aid per Capita
Civil Emergency Fund-Emergency Management Assistance
Snowmobile Registration Tree Growth Reimbursement
General Assistance Reimbursement Veteran Exemption Reimbursement
Homestead Exemption Reimbursement
State Grants and other funds to include funds not received from the State that are not
included in times listed above. Any and all Grants received.


Given under hands the 11th day of March 2024



Nelson (Tony) Santiago




Jeffrey Greene



Jessie Bouchard


SELECTMEN, TOWN OF COLUMBIA FALLS

A True Copy, ATTEST:
Municipal Clerk of Columbia Falls, Maine



Melissa Allen-Ramsdell
Municipal Clerk

RETURN
Pursuant of within warrant, I have notified and warned the Inhabitants of the Town of Columbia Falls, qualified as herein expressed to meet at the time and place for the purpose therein named by posting this day an attested copy of the within warrant at the Columbia Falls Post Office, Elmer's Country Store and the Columbia Falls Town Office the same being public and conspicuous in said Town.



David Perham
Town of Columbia Falls

March 11, 2024