

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 17, 2026**, 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 see if the Town will vote to require that any **person seeking election to the Select Board** declares their intent to run in advance of Annual Town Meeting and to adopt the following procedure:

Any individual seeking election to the Select Board shall, no later than 30 days prior to the Annual Town Meeting, submit a written declaration of intent to run for Select Board along with a candidate's statement not to exceed one (1) page. The candidate's statement shall include the candidate's qualifications and reasons for seeking election. Candidates shall be available to the voters prior to the Annual Town Meeting which shall include but not be limited to posting on the Town's website and at the Town Office. Only candidates who have submitted a declaration of intent and a candidate's statement in accordance with this procedure will be eligible to be considered for the Select Board.

Selectboard RECOMMENDED

ARTICLE 6

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

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: up to \$54,300

ARTICLE 7

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

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: up to \$14,100

ARTICLE 8

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

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$8,500

ARTICLE 9

To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for the **Revaluation of the Town**. Funds to be taken from Undesignated – Recommended by the Selectboard.

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$50,000

ARTICLE 10

To see if the Town will vote to fix the **Compensations** for the **Municipal Officers and Officials** of the Town for the **2026** calendar year.

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

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$27,325.00 TOTAL

ARTICLE 11

To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for the **Operations of the Town** for the **2026** fiscal year.

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$100,425

ARTICLE 12

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

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$11,750

ARTICLE 13

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

Selectboard RECOMMENDED: STATE WAGE

ARTICLE 14

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

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$10,000

ARTICLE 15

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

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$4,000

ARTICLE 16

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.

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$100

ARTICLE 17

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

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$13,000

ARTICLE 18

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

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$25,500

ARTICLE 19

To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for the **Town Building Fund**. Funds to be taken from Undesignated – Recommended by the Selectboard.

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$5,000

ARTICLE 20

To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for the **Ball Park Boundary**. Note: This is for one boundary line to define the property line between the Town Ball Park and the private neighboring property and for locating a crosswalk placement from the parking lot across Centerville Road to the ballfield.

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$3,500

ARTICLE 21

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

Note: These are required matching funds for the Coastal Community Planning grant – pending Town approval, for engineering. Total amount of grant is \$62,800.

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$12,800

ARTICLE 22

To see if the Town will vote to accept a transfer of land from Charles and Roberta Hammond. This property is located at Map 11, Lot 45 in the Town of Columbia Falls, approximately .5 acres. A release from a mortgage on said property is required with the Town paying up to \$2,000. In consideration of this transfer, Charles and Roberta Hammond requests the Town to erect a sign stating "Columbia Falls Veterans Memorial Park" be place on the property.

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$2,000

ARTICLE 23

To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for the **Old Dump Site DEP Required Mitigation**. Funds are reimbursable from the State with a reimbursement of 90% of the total cost. This is for the first phase of engineering and construction.

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$20,000

ARTICLE 24

To see if the Town will vote to construct a playground area located on the Centerville Road to include a half-court basketball court, walking path, and Community Park on the Town owned land on the Centerville Road across from the ballfield.

Selectboard RECOMMENDED

ARTICLE 25

To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for a **Playground and Equipment** on Town owned property on Centerville Road.

Note: Donations are promised to help fund this project.

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$50,000

ARTICLE 26

To see if the Town will vote to **accept donations** for Town projects approved by the voters.

Selectboard RECOMMENDED

ARTICLE 27

To see if the Town will approve the creation of a parking lot/basketball court, and a simple 2 swing set/slide and sandbox playground at the old fire station location (not the waterfront lot).

Selectboard RECOMMENDED

ARTICLE 28

To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for the **Union Hall Steeple Repair**. Note: This amount is a match for the Maine Steeple Fund. Total grant is \$60,000. The Town's is to contribute \$20,000 with the Union Hall Committee to seek \$40,000 through donation for a grand total of \$120,000.

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$20,000

ARTICLE 29

To see if the Town will vote to accept a transfer of land from Charles and Roberta Hammond. This property is located at Map 11, Lot 45 in the Town of Columbia Falls, approximately .5 acres. A release from a mortgage on said property is required with the Town paying up to \$2,000. In consideration of this transfer, Charles and Roberta Hammond requests the Town to erect a sign stating "Columbia Falls Veterans Memorial Park" be place on the property.

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$2,000

ARTICLE 30

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 29

To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for the **Maintenance of Town Roads and Bridges** for the **2027** calendar year.

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$50,000

ARTICLE 30

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

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED

ARTICLE 31

To see if the Town will vote to approve the Selectboard to pay off the current road loan of \$84,007.50 (the amount to be adjusted for actual payoff) and apply/receive a new Road Loan of up to \$300,000 to pave the portion of the Tibbettstown Road that the Town is responsible for. The funds to come from the Road Maintenance account and the State Local Road Assistance Program (LRAP).

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED

ARTICLE 32

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

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$42,503

ARTICLE 33

To see if the Town will close out and transfer the **Fire Truck Fund** account and allow the funds to be used to reduce the amount raised in Article 32 for the Epping Fire Volunteer District. Fire Truck Funds as of December 31, 2025, are \$30,193.17 (remaining interest amount to be adjusted at time of closeout).

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED

ARTICLE 34

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate for **Fire Truck Fund**.

Budget Committee RECOMMEND: \$5,000

ARTICLE 35

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

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$63,786

ARTICLE 36

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to appropriate in support of the **Library**.

Note: Selectmen recommend taking funds from the Library Reserve Account/Current balance in the Grant - \$1,733.43 +/-

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$1,240.00

ARTICLE 37

To see if the Town will vote to allow and appropriate \$50,000 for the **Fund Balance Policy**.

Note: This Policy was established to promote and ensure financial well-being and fiscal stability of the Town. The Town will strive to maintain an amount equal to 4/12th (four months) of the Towns General Funds Budget. This Policy was implemented February 13, 2023.

Selectboard RECOMMEND taking from Undesignated Funds

ARTICLE 38

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**.

Selectboard RECOMMENDED

ARTICLE 39

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 40

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 41

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

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$825

ARTICLE 42

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

Decreased from last year by \$1,795.

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$190

ARTICLE 43

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 44

To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for the **Pleasant River Historical Society**. Note: This is a new request to help with eventually obtaining a building.

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$2,000

ARTICLE 45

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the money received from the State for snowmobile registrations to the **Narraguagus Trail Riders** for the maintenance of their network of snowmobile trails, on condition that those trails be open to the public for outdoor recreation purposes, at no charge, and to authorize the municipal officers to enter into an agreement with the Club under such terms and conditions as the municipal officers may deem advisable, for that purpose.

Selectboard RECOMMENDED

ARTICLE 46

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

Selectboard RECOMMENDED

ARTICLE 47

To see if the Town will vote to allow a **discount of 3% on all Real Estate Taxes if paid in full on or before the 30th day of commitment.** Postmarked on the 30th day will be accepted. Based on an evaluation of \$887,510.

Budget Committee RECOMMENDED: \$26,625

ARTICLE 48

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.

Selectboard RECOMMENDED: December 31, 2026 (7%)

STATE INTEREST RATE

ARTICLE 49

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 **2026 Town Books on December 31, 2026,** until the **annual Town Meeting on March 16, 2027**

Selectboard RECOMMENDED

ARTICLE 50

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.

Selectboard RECOMMENDED

ARTICLE 51

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:

Local Road Assistance

Public State Aid per Capita

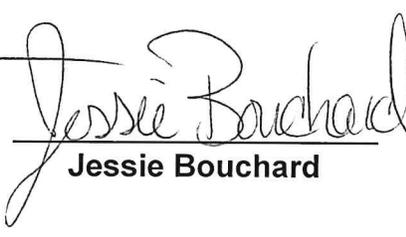
General Assistance Reimbursement Homestead Exemption Reimbursement
State Aid to Education (including Federal pass-through funds and property tax relief)
Civil Emergency Fund- Emergency Management Assistance
Snowmobile Registration Tree Growth Reimbursement
Veteran Exemption Reimbursement Monetary Donations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

RECOMMENDED

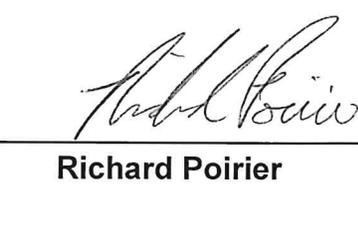
Given under hands the 9th day of March 2026



Nelson (Tony) Santiago



Jessie Bouchard



Richard Poirier

SELECTMEN, TOWN OF COLUMBIA FALLS

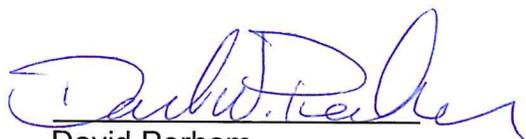
A True Copy, ATTEST:
Municipal Clerk of Columbia Falls, Maine



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 9, 2026