

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT
FOR FISCAL YEAR
JULY 1, 2022 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2023**

TO: Timothy Hoppe, a Constable of the Town of Thomaston in the County of Knox, State of Maine.

GREETINGS: In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the voters of the Town of Thomaston, in the County of Knox, State of Maine, qualified to vote by law in Town affairs, to meet at the **THOMASTON MUNICIPAL BUILDING** (former Lura Libby School) at 13 Valley Street in said Town on **TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 2022** at 8:00 AM prevailing time, then and there to act upon article 1 and by secret ballots on articles 2 through 4 as set out below of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Polls will open at eight (8) o'clock in the morning and will close at eight (8) o'clock in the evening prevailing time.

And, to notify and warn voters of the Town of Thomaston, in the County of Knox, State of Maine, to reconvene at the **THOMASTON MUNICIPAL BUILDING** in said Town on **WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 2022** at 6:00 PM prevailing time, then and there to act on articles 5 through 36 as set out below:

SECRET BALLOT ARTICLES 1-4

ARTICLE 1: To choose a moderator to preside at said meeting. (Note: The moderator is nominated from the floor.)

Being duly nominated and elected, Joanne Richards was sworn-in as Moderator for this two-part election.

June 15, 2022 Annual Town Meeting Joanne Richards swore-in Michael Mayo as Deputy Moderator for this meeting.

ARTICLE 2: To elect by secret ballot the following offices:

1. Two (2) Select Board members for three-year terms.

Hahn, William	289
Moore, Sandra	246

2. One (1) Board of Assessors member for a three-year term.

Linscott, Joan	558
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3. One (1) RSU #13 School Board member for a three-year term.

Write-In Vote: Rebecca Roveto	20
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ARTICLE 3 Shall the Town of Thomaston vote to allow the Town to determine the future use of the 15.6-acre parcel of land known as the Thomaston Green and to prevent this land from being permanently restricted to a public park?

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS 4-0

Green Future Use Referendum Results:

YES 368
No 324
Blank 25

ARTICLE 4: **CITIZENS INITIATIVE** "Shall the Town vote to permanently dedicate the 15.6-acre parcel known as the "Thomaston Green" for use as a public park for recreational and community events and related infrastructure, said parcel being more precisely identified as "Parcel One" in a Quitclaim Deed recorded in the Knox County Registry of Deeds at Book 3547, Page 48?"

SELECT BOARD DOES NOT RECOMMEND 3-0-1

Citizens Initiative Referendum Results:

YES 347
No 369
Blank 1

OPEN TOWN MEETING ARTICLES 5-36

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to enter into an agreement on such terms and conditions as the Select Board deems appropriate to swap land owned by the Town that contains approximately 7 acres adjacent to the George C. Hall & Sons Inc. quarry to George C. Hall & Sons and in return, the Town of Thomaston is to receive approximately 30 acres of land owned by George C. Hall & Sons Inc. adjacent to currently owned Town land.

EXPLANATION: George C. Hall & Sons would like to expand their quarry into land owned by the Town and are offering to swap most of lot 033 in exchange for the Town property. The Town intends to offer the south portion of this parcel to a developer who will construct affordable housing on it. George C. Hall & Sons will construct a fence between the quarry and the Town's property as a safety measure.

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS 4-0

A motion was made and seconded to allow non-resident John Fancy to speak at the Annual Town Meeting. Passed as Presented.

Article 5- Passed as presented.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to sell lots of land within the parcel of land received by the Town from George C. Hall and Sons, Inc. as shown on the map on file with the Town Clerk available for public inspection to developers of affordable/workforce housing projects on such terms and conditions as the Select Board deem appropriate.

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS 4-0

Motion to terminate discussion. Motion Passed.

Article 6- Passed as presented.

BUDGET ARTICLES

ARTICLE 7: Shall the Town vote to put all non-real estate/personal property tax revenues in to the Unassigned Fund Balance (surplus), and authorize the Select Board to accept any additional revenue or funds and expend any other revenue from the State, Federal, local and private sources for the support of the Town that may be used to reduce the amount required to be raised by taxation, and to vote to appropriate \$17,450 from the Computer Reserve and apply these funds to the FY 2023 tax commitment as a reduction in the amount to be raised from taxation?

EXPLANATION: This authorizes the Town to accept any additional revenues or funds and expend any other revenue from the State, Federal, local and private sources for the support of the Town that may be used to reduce the amount required to be raised by taxation.

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS 4-0/BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS 5-0

Article 7- Passed as presented.

ARTICLE 8: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$770,027 for GENERAL GOVERNMENT for the 2022/2023 Fiscal Year?

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Select Board/Legal	\$43,626
Manager/Tax Collector	\$252,379
Clerk's Office/Elections	\$88,953
General Office	\$32,647
Finance Office	\$117,004
Administration	\$21,066
Contingency	\$1,000
Computer Technology	\$48,494

Planning Board	\$200
Code Enforcement	\$81,995
Assessing Office	\$82,663
TOTAL:	\$770,027

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS 4-0/BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS 5-0

Article 8- Passed as presented.

ARTICLE 9: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$134,735 for maintenance and operation of MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS for the 2022/2023 fiscal year?

<u>MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS</u>	
Watts Block	\$39,906
Academy Building	\$36,281
Municipal Building	\$34,100
Building Maintenance	\$24,448
TOTAL:	\$134,735

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS 4-0/BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS 5-0

Article 9- Passed as presented.

ARTICLE 10: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$691,092 for the POLICE DEPARTMENT for the 2022/2023 fiscal year?

<u>POLICE DEPARTMENT</u>	
Police Wages & Benefits	\$593,918
Secretary Wages	\$11,824
Transportation	\$23,500
Supplies & Equipment	\$61,850
TOTAL:	\$691,092

**SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS AN ADDITIONAL \$11,824 Vote (4-0)
BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS \$679,268 (5-0)**

Article 10- Passed as presented.

ARTICLE 11: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$257,089 for PROTECTION AND PUBLIC SAFETY for the 2022/2023 fiscal year?

<u>PROTECTION & SAFETY</u>	
Town Lighting/Electricity	\$45,401
Emergency Management & Local Health Officer	\$24,963
Animal Control	\$11,150
Hydrant Rental	\$173,275
Septic Waste Disposal	\$2,300
TOTAL:	\$257,089

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS 4-0/BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS 5-0

Article 11- Passed as presented.

ARTICLE 12: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$183,522 for the FIRE DEPARTMENT for the 2022/2023 fiscal year?

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Wages	\$83,121
Operations	\$8,550
Equipment	\$35,501
Vehicles	\$35,100
Building	\$21,250
TOTAL:	\$183,522

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS 4-0/BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS 5-0

Article 12- Passed as presented.

ARTICLE 13: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$728,484 for the PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT for the 2022/2023 fiscal year?

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Wages & Benefits	\$457,131
General Supplies	\$7,050
Operation	\$84,950
Winter Roads	\$79,000
Summer Roads	\$35,750
Stump Dump	\$56,253
Building	\$8,350
TOTAL:	\$728,484

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS 4-0/BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS 5-0

Article 13- Passed as presented.

ARTICLE 14: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$396,934 for the AMBULANCE DEPARTMENT for the 2022/2023 fiscal year?

AMBULANCE DEPARTMENT

Wages	\$353,784
Training	\$8,000
Transportation	\$6,300
Supplies	\$4,800
Operations	\$16,050
Communication	\$2,000
Billing	\$6,000
TOTAL:	\$396,934

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS 4-0/BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS 5-0

Article 14- Passed as presented.

ARTICLE 15: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$327,862 for the TRANSFER STATION for the 2022/2023 fiscal year?

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS 4-0/BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS 5-0

Article 15- Passed as presented.

ARTICLE 16: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$8,750 for GENERAL ASSISTANCE for the 2022/2023 fiscal year?

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS 4-0/BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS 5-0

Article 16- Passed as presented.

ARTICLE 17: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$146,691 for the RECREATION & LEISURE SERVICES for the 2022/2023 fiscal year?

RECREATION & LEISURE

Recreation Dept.	\$114,018
Tree Warden	\$13,972
Harbor Committee	\$16,201
Conservation	\$2,500
TOTAL:	\$146,691

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS 4-0/BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS 5-0

Motion to terminate discussion. Motion Passed

Article 17- Passed as presented.

ARTICLE 18: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$15,660 for SOCIAL SERVICES & LOCAL AGENCIES for the 2022/2023 fiscal year?

Explanation: Social Services include Coastal Opportunities, Penquis, New Hope for Women, Spectrum Generations, Pope Memorial Humane Society, Trekkers, Knox County Homeless Coalition, Rockland District Nursing, Waldo Community Action Partners, and Life Flight. Local Agencies include the Thomaston Historical Society, Christmas Lighting, Memorial Day Committee, Friends of Montpelier, Landscaping Committee, and the Thomaston Food Pantry.

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS 4-0/BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS 5-0

Article 18- Passed as presented.

ARTICLE 19: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$239,364 for UNCLASSIFIED ACCOUNTS for the 2022/2023 fiscal year?

UNCLASSIFIED ACCOUNTS

Insurance & Compensation	\$112,829
Memberships	\$8,177
Library Operating	\$75,000
Cemetery Operating	\$43,358
TOTAL:	\$239,364

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS 4-0/BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS 5-0

Article 19- Passed as presented.

ARTICLE 20: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$463,384 for CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS & RESERVE ACCOUNTS for the 2022/2023 fiscal year?

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS & RESERVE ACCOUNTS

Reserves	\$208,500
Misc. Projects	\$113,884
Public Works Projects	\$138,000
Shellfish Management	\$3,000
TOTAL:	\$463,384

Reserves Explanation:

<i>Police Cruiser Reserve</i>	<i>\$11,000</i>	<i>Public Works Reserve</i>	<i>\$30,000</i>
<i>Ambulance Reserve</i>	<i>\$25,000</i>	<i>Culvert Replacement Reserve</i>	<i>\$23,000</i>
<i>Fire Apparatus Reserve</i>	<i>\$30,000</i>	<i>Watts Block Building Reserve</i>	<i>\$ 8,000</i>
<i>Municipal Facilities Reserve</i>	<i>\$58,000</i>	<i>Computer Reserve</i>	<i>\$10,500</i>
<i>Academy Maintenance Reserve</i>	<i>\$ 8,000</i>	<i>EMS Equipment Reserve</i>	<i>\$ 5,000</i>

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS 4-0/BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS 5-0

Article 20- Passed as presented.

ARTICLE 21: Shall the Town vote to expend up to \$15,000 for a preliminary engineering study of Knox Street to be paid out of Dragon Tax Increment Financing (TIF) funds?

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS 4-0/BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS 5-0

Article 21- Passed as presented.

BUSINESS ARTICLES

ARTICLE 22: Shall the Town vote to authorize the Select Board to enter into multi-year contracts (not to exceed five (5) years) for the lease or purchase of goods and services, when they deem it in the best financial interest of the Town?

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS 4-0

An amendment was proposed to limit the lease term to not exceed three (3) years.

A second amendment proposed to limit the lease term not to exceed a one (1) year lease.

Discussion with clarification from the Select Board, Town Manager, and John Fancy.

Article 22- Passed as presented.

ARTICLE 23: Shall the Town vote to authorize the Select Board TO MOVE UP TO 10% OF UNEXPENDED BALANCES from various budget categories as they deem advisable to meet unanticipated expenses, emergencies, and to aid in the smooth transition of Town business?

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS 4-0

Article 23- Passed as presented.

ARTICLE 24: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to apply for and/or to accept, and expend, on behalf of the Town, money from Federal, State, other governmental agencies, or from private sources which may be received in the form of grants, donations, or revenues during the period of July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023.

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS 4-0

Article 24- Passed as presented.

ARTICLE 25: Shall the Town vote to authorize the Select Board to dispose of tax acquired property in any manner which the Select Board deems in the best interest of the Town of Thomaston, except that the Select Board 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 owners.

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS 4-0

Article 25- Passed as presented.

ARTICLE 26: Shall the Town vote to permit acceptance of PREPAID TAXES and to fix the dates of December 1, 2022 for the first payment and June 1, 2023 for the second payment, when the taxes shall become due and payable; and, to see if the Town will fix the rate of interest at 4% percent to be charged on taxes unpaid after said dates for the period July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS 4-0

Article 26- Passed as presented.

ARTICLE 27: Shall the Town vote to set the interest rate of 0% to be paid by the Town on abated taxes pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. Section 506-A.

EXPLANATION: If taxes are paid but later abated, the municipality must refund the abated taxes and pay interest on them. Title 36 M.R.S.A. § 506-A provides that the rate of interest set by the municipality to be paid on overpayments may not exceed the rate set for delinquent taxes, nor be less than that rate reduced by 4%. For instance, if the unpaid rate is 8%, then the Town Meeting may set a rate not higher than 8% and not lower than 4%; it may pick either of those numbers or any number in between. The statute governing the delinquency interest rate is 36 M.R.S.A. § 505(4). Pursuant to Title 36 M.R.S.A. Section 506-A "Overpayment of Taxes," when a tax collector has demanded and received from a taxpayer more than is due and more than appears to be due according to the lists, the excess must be refunded to the taxpayer, even though the amount has been paid into the Town Treasury.

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS 4-0

Article 27- Passed as presented.

ORDINANCE ARTICLES

ARTICLE 28: Shall Chapter 7 Land Use Ordinance- Sections 707, 708, 709 ,710, 711, 712A, Section 718 and Section 719 be amended?

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS 4-0/PLANNING BOARD RECOMMENDS 4-0

Article 28- Passed as presented

Motion to vote on Articles 29 through 36.

Motion amended to vote on Articles 29 – 36 with the exception of Article 35, due to a question. Motion Passed.

Articles 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 36- Passed as presented.

ARTICLE 29: Shall Chapter 10 Definitions Section 1003 Specific Definitions be amended?

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS 4-0/PLANNING BOARD RECOMMENDS 4-0

The motion to exclude Article 35 due to a question was answered and then voted on.

Article 35- Passed as presented.

ARTICLE 36: Shall amendments to the Library Board of Trustees Ordinance be enacted?

SELECT BOARD RECOMMENDS 4-0

TOWN CLERK CERTIFICATION:

I hereby certify this to be a true and attested record of the votes taken at the Annual Town Meeting held on Tuesday, June 14, 2022 and Wednesday, June 15, 2022 in Thomaston, Maine.

Dated at Thomaston, Maine, this 16th day of June, 2022



Melissa Stevens, Town Clerk
Thomaston, Maine

Given under our hands this ____ day of _____ in the year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty- Two by the vote of the Select Board.

THOMASTON SELECT BOARD:

Diane Giese, Chair _____

Peter Lammert, Vice-Chair _____

Zel Bowman-Laberge _____

William Hahn _____

Sandra Moore _____

A true copy of the signed warrant as certified to me by the Thomaston Select Board.

Melissa Stevens, Thomaston Town Clerk

Date

RETURN ON THE TOWN MEETING WARRANT

Thomaston, Maine

Date: _____, 2022

Pursuant to the within warrant to me directed, I have notified and warned the inhabitants of said town, qualified as herein expressed, to meet at said time and place, and for the purposes therein named, by posting an attested copy of said warrant at the Thomaston Town Office at 13 Valley Street, Pik Qwik Store at 138 Main Street, and Thomaston Grocery at 193 Main Street in said town, being public and conspicuous places in said town, on the ____ day of _____ 2022 A.D., being at least seven days before the meeting.

Timothy Hoppe
Constable of the Town of Thomaston, Maine