

TOWN OF MACHIASPORT

2023 Annual Town Meeting

Minutes

DATE: June 26, 2023

LOCATION: Fort O'Brien School

TIME: 6:00 P.M.

Selectmen: Brian Smith, Jeffrey Davis, and Ryan Sprague

Support: Marcia Hayward & Ashley Warren

Attendance: 47 Residents

ARTICLE 1:	To elect moderator for town meeting.
	Clerk read opening and asked for nominations for moderator. Moved and seconded that Betsy Fitzgerald serve as moderator, by show of hands, motion passed. Moderator continued.
ARTICLE 2:	To elect all municipal officers and school committee members as are required to be elected.
	Ballot Clerks reported election results as follows: Ryan Maker 68 Votes Selectman Bob Mercer 2 Votes Selectman Rose Williams 45 Votes School Board Serena Wood 24 Votes School Board Tammy Wood 1 Vote School Board Ryan Maker and Rose Williams elected respectively.
ARTICLE 3:	Shall the Town be authorized to expend \$790,661 for Regular Instruction.
	Moved and seconded, motion passed by show of hands.
ARTICLE 4:	Shall the Town be authorized to expend \$ 394,699 for Special Education
	Moved and seconded, motion passed by show of hands.
ARTICLE 5:	Shall the Town be authorized to expend \$19,341 for Other Instruction
	Moved and seconded, motion passed by show of hands.
ARTICLE 6:	Shall the Town be authorized to expend \$ 977 for Student and Staff Support
	Moved and seconded, motion passed by show of hands.
ARTICLE 7:	Shall the Town be authorized to expend \$ 59,433 for System Administration
	Moved and seconded, motion passed by show of hands.
ARTICLE 8:	Shall the Town be authorized to expend \$67,719 for School Administration.
	Moved and seconded, motion passed by show of hands.
ARTICLE 9:	Shall the Town be authorized to expend \$ 41,916 for Transportation and Buses.
	Moved and seconded, motion passed by show of hands.
ARTICLE 10:	Shall the Town be authorized to expend \$131,091 for Facilities Maintenance
	Moved and seconded, motion passed by show of hands.
ARTICLE 11:	Shall the Town be authorized to expend \$ 67,861 for All Other Expenditures
	Moved and seconded, motion passed by show of hands.

ARTICLES 12 THROUGH 13 RAISE FUNDS FOR THE PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET

ARTICLE 12:	Shall the Town appropriate \$1,082,394.83 for the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and shall the Town raise \$881,906.34 as the Town's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs
--------------------	--

	and Services Funding Act in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A section 15688?
	<i>Explanation: The Town's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act is the amount of money determined by state law to be the minimum amount that a municipality must raise in order to receive the full amount of state dollars.</i>

Moved and seconded, motion passed by show of hands.

ARTICLE 13:	(Written ballot required) Shall the Town raise and appropriate \$356,179.57 in additional local funds, which exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services allocation model by \$356,179.57 as required to fund the budget recommended by the school committee?
	The school committee recommends \$356,179.57 for additional local funds and gives the following reasons for exceeding the State's Essential Programs and Services funding model by \$356,179.57 . The Machiasport School Department budget is over the Essential Programs and Services model in student to teacher ratios in the elementary school, school administration, guidance, library, system administration, maintenance, clerical costs, and the difference between the secondary tuition rate and the EPS tuition rate. In addition, the Essential Programs and Services model does not fully fund co-curricular activities and the model has not been fully funded by the State.
	<i>Explanation: The additional local funds are those locally raised funds over and above the Town's local contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act that will help achieve the Town budget for educational programs.</i>

Written ballots cast and counted, 32 in favor 13 opposed, motion carried.

ARTICLE 14 SUMMARIZES THE PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET

ARTICLE 14:	Shall the Town authorize the school committee to expend \$ 1,573,668 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024 from the Town's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act, non-state-funded school construction projects, additional local funds for school purposes under the Maine Revised Statutes Title 20 §15690, unexpended balances, tuition receipts, state subsidy and other receipts for the support of schools?
--------------------	---

Moved and seconded, motion passed by show of hands.

ARTICLE 15 AUTHORIZES EXPENDITURES OF GRANTS AND OTHER RECEIPTS

ARTICLE 15:	Shall the Town be authorized to expend such other sums as may be received from federal or state grants or programs or other sources during the fiscal year for school purposes provided that such grants, programs, or other sources do not require the expenditure of other funds not previously appropriated?
--------------------	---

Moved and seconded, motion passed by show of hands.

ARTICLE 16 AUTHORIZED THE ADULT BASIC EDUCATION PROGRAM AND RAISES THE LOCAL SHARE

ARTICLE 16:	Shall the Town appropriate \$1600 for adult basic education and raise as the local share with authorization to expend any additional, incidental, or miscellaneous receipts in the interest and for the well-being of the adult basic education program.
--------------------	---

Moved and seconded, motion passed by show of hands.

THE FOLLOWING ARTICLES RELATE TO THE MUNICIPAL PORTION OF THE BUDGET:

ARTICLE 17:	To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to charge 8% interest per annum, or part thereof, on all unpaid property taxes effective three months after the taxes are committed, which shall also be the date on which taxes shall become delinquent.
--------------------	--

Moved and seconded, motion passed by show of hands.

ARTICLE 18:	To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen, on behalf of the Town, to sell manage or dispose of any real estate property acquired by the Town for non-payment of taxes thereon. Sale to be by public sealed bid, and to execute quitclaim deeds for said property. The former owner shall have the right to reclaim said property by full payment of the lien and all charges prior to the date of the bid announcement.
--------------------	---

Moved and seconded, motion passed by show of hands.

ARTICLE 19:	To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen, on behalf of the Town, to sell, manage or dispose of land or assets other than real estate property acquired by the Town for non-payment of taxes thereon, owned by the Town by any method.
--------------------	--

Moved and seconded, motion passed by show of hands.

ARTICLE 20:	To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to purchase, trade, or sell town equipment through the Highway Capital Equipment Reserve Capital Project Fund and the Fire Capital Equipment Reserve Capital Project Fund, so long as said funds are not overspent.
--------------------	---

Moved and seconded, motion passed by show of hands.

ARTICLE 21:	To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the maintenance and repair of Town Buildings and to transfer any remaining balance to the Town Building Capital Reserve Capital Project Fund.		
20-51	Town Building Maintenance and Repair	<u>22-23</u>	<u>23-24</u>
	SELECTMEN RECOMMEND	<u>\$12,500</u>	<u>\$12,500</u>

Moved and seconded, motion passed by show of hands.

ARTICLE 22:	To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for General governmental and Administration costs such as:		
		<u>22-23</u>	<u>23-24</u>
20-01	Office Supplies	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
20-03	Utilities	7,000	8,000
20-05	Telephone / Internet	4,200	4,400
20-07	Printing and Postage	4,600	4,600
20-09	Dues and Memberships	3,400	3,600
20-11	Registry of Deeds	3,300	3,300
20-13	Elections	1,700	1,700
20-14	Planning Board	1,000	1,200
20-43	Legal Fees	15,000	95,000
20-45	Audit and Accounting	5,000	5,000
20-47	Groundskeeping	2,500	2,000
20-53	Computer Costs	18,000	20,000
20-54	Publishing (newspaper)	1,400	1,400
20-55	Training and Travel	1,500	1,750
20-56	Other	<u>3,500</u>	<u>4,000</u>
	SELECTMEN RECOMMEND	<u>\$ 77,100</u>	<u>\$160,950</u>
	Moved and seconded, motion passed by show of hands.		

ARTICLE 23:	To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the following salaries:		
		22-23	23-24
20-21	Administrative Assistant / Town Clerk	43,000	\$ 46,000
20-23	Deputy Town Clerk	31,600	33,696
20-24	Treasurer	5,459	5,623
20-25	Selectperson / Assessor	4,000	4,000
20-25	Selectperson / Assessor	4,000	4,000
20-25	Selectperson / Assessor	4,000	4,000
20-30	Registrar of Voters	788	812
20-56	Health Officer	361	372
25-01	Fire Chief	3,183	3,279
30-07	Road Commissioner	3,183	3,279
45-11	Harbor Master	4,776	4,776
	SELECTMEN RECOMMEND	\$104,350	\$109,837

Moved and seconded, motion passed by show of hands.

ARTICLE 24:	To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the following Highway accounts .		
		22-23	23-24
30-41	Utilities	\$ 6,000	\$6,500
30-43	Phone Stipend	500	500
30-47	Other	3,000	3,000
30-01	Routine Road Maintenance	25,000	30,000
30-05	Brush Account	1,000	1,000
30-31	Plowing	69,000	74,000
30-33	Salt and Sand	75,000	75,000
30-35	Fuel – Vehicles and Off-road	15,000	17,500
30-51	Equipment Maintenance	45,000	47,000
30-53	Streetlights	7,000	7,200
30-55	Road Signs	500	1,000
		\$247,000	\$ 262,700
	Less Income Accounts:		
10-410	State Road Assistance	12,200	11,000
10-415	State Winter Road Contract	61,000	59,000
	Subtotal	\$73,200	\$ 70,000
	To be raised and appropriated:	\$ 173,800	\$192,700
	SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: \$192,700 be raised and appropriated, and to transfer any remaining balance of the Equipment Maintenance Account to the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Capital Project Fund, and to carry any remaining balance of the Routine Road Maintenance Account, Plowing and Salt/Sand to the 2024-2025 fiscal year.		
	Moved and seconded, motion passed by show of hands.		
ARTICLE 25:	To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the following specified purposes:		
		22-23	23-24

25-03	Fire Calls *	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000
25-05	Repair and Maintenance *	5,000	6,000
25-07	Equipment *	3,500	3,500
25-08	Fire Department Training	3,000	2,000
25-09	Fire Department Fuel *	600	600
25-11	East Machias Contract	2,000	2,000
25-13	Ambulance Contract	15,000	55,000
25-20	Fire Department Other*	2,000	2,000
25-21	Code Enforcement Officer	5,000	5,000
25-23	Plumbing Inspector	1,000	1,000
25-27	Animal Control Officer	750	750
25-30	Animal Care	300	300
		<u>\$ 44,150</u>	<u>\$ 84,150</u>
SELECTMEN RECOMMEND \$79,650 and to transfer any remaining balance of the Fire Department Accounts as shown above with an * to the Fire Capital Equipment Reserve Capital Project Fund.			

Moved and seconded, motion passed by show of hands.

ARTICLE 26	To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Shellfish Warden 23-24 fiscal year salary and to post any clam license revenue received in excess of the budgeted salary amount to the Shellfish Operational Account special revenue fund.		
45-01	Shellfish Warden	<u>22-23</u> <u>\$18,000</u>	<u>23-24</u> <u>\$20,000</u>
15-532	Less Income Accounts: Clam License Revenue	<u>\$18,000</u>	<u>\$20,000</u>
15-540	Utilization of unassigned fund balance	0	0
	Subtotal:	<u>\$18,000</u>	<u>\$20,000</u>
	To be raised and appropriated: SELECTMEN RECOMMEND:	0	0

Moved and seconded, motion passed by show of hands.

ARTICLE 27: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Maritime Maintenance Account, and to carry over any remaining balance of this account to the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

		<u>22-23</u>	<u>23-24</u>
45-10	Conservation Maritime Maintenance	\$ 500	\$500
45-13	Repair and Maintenance	5,000	5,000
45-17	Maritime Utilities	750	750
45-21	Maritime Other	<u>1,500</u>	<u>1,500</u>
	SELECTMEN RECOMMEND:	<u>\$ 7,750</u>	<u>\$ 7,750</u>

Moved and seconded, motion passed by show of hands.

ARTICLE 28: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for General Assistance.

60-41	General Assistance	<u>22-23</u>	<u>23-24</u>
	SELECTMEN RECOMMEND:	<u>\$2,000</u>	<u>\$2,000</u>

Moved and seconded, motion passed by show of hands.

ARTICLE 29: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Washington County Council of Governments.

60-25	Washington County COG	<u>22-23</u>	<u>23-24</u>
	SELECTMEN RECOMMEND:	<u>\$1,100</u>	<u>\$1,100</u>

	Moved and seconded, motion passed by show of hands.		
ARTICLE 30:	To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Veteran's Graves.		
60-33	Veteran's Graves	22-23	23-24
	SELECTMEN RECOMMEND:	<u>\$1,100</u>	<u>\$1,100</u>

Moved and seconded, motion passed by show of hands.

ARTICLE 31:	To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Solid Waste.		
35-01	Solid Waste	22-23	23-24
	SELECTMEN RECOMMEND:	<u>\$37,000</u>	<u>\$37,000</u>

Moved and seconded, motion passed by show of hands.

ARTICLE 32:	To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Assessing Services.		
20-41	Assessing Services	22-23	23-24
	SELECTMEN RECOMMEND:	<u>\$11,000</u>	<u>\$11,000</u>

Moved and seconded, motion passed by show of hands.

ARTICLE 33:	To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the following purposes:		
		22-23	23-24
20-27	Social Security	\$14,500	\$15,000
20-29	Medicare	3,600	3,600
20-31	State Unemployment	2,200	2,500
60-01	Town Insurance	25,000	27,000
60-09	Worker's Compensation	6,000	6,500
60-11	Health Insurance	<u>25,500</u>	<u>32,000</u>
	SELECTMEN RECOMMEND:	<u>\$76,800</u>	<u>\$ 86,600</u>

Moved and seconded, motion passed by show of hands.

ARTICLE 34:	To see if the Town will raise and appropriate and authorize the expenditure to Washington County Government for payment of County Taxes assessed.		
5-01	County Tax	22-23	23-24
	SELECTMEN RECOMMEND:	<u>\$227,770</u>	<u>\$259,010</u>

Moved and seconded, motion passed by show of hands.

ARTICLE 35:	To see what sum the Town will vote to transfer from the General Fund Unassigned Fund Balance to the following major capital project funds.		
		22-23	23-24
208-02	Major Road Repair and Paving	\$110,000	\$110,000
208-05	Fire Capital Equipment Reserve	0	0
208-08	Municipal Complex	0	0
208-10	Highway Capital Equipment Reserve	25,000	10,000
208-15	Town Garage	10,000	
208-20	Revaluation and Mapping	0	0
208-25	Liberty Hall	5,000	10,000
208-40	Computers and Electronics	0	0
208-50	Post Office	20,000	7,000
208-71	Maritime Maintenance	<u>5,000</u>	<u>20,000</u>
	SELECTMEN RECOMMEND:	<u>\$175,000</u>	<u>\$ 157,000</u>

Moved and seconded, motion passed by show of hands.

ARTICLE 36:	To see what sum the Town will take from the following revenue sources to apply against the Tax levy as to be shown on the Municipal Tax Assessment Warrant as other revenue:		
		22-23	23-24

05-222	Automobile Excise	\$245,000	\$225,000
05-333	Boat Excise	5,000	5,500
10-410	State Road Assistance	12,200	11,000
10-415	State Winter Road Contract	61,000	59,000
10-425	Tree Growth Reimbursement	3,000	3,000
10-435	Park Fees	700	700
10-430	Veteran's Exemption	1,200	1,200
10-440	Snowmobile Fees	150	150
15-500	Tax Interest	6,000	6,000
15-505	Lien Interest	5,000	5,000
15-510	Agent Fees	6,300	6,300
15-512	Dog licenses	150	200
15-515	Checking and Savings Interest	18,800	45,000
15-525	Building Permits	1,000	1,500
15-526	GATR Lease	11,100	11,100
15-528	Vital Statistics	1,100	1,100
15-529	Postal Lease Revenue	24,000	24,000
15-530	Miscellaneous Revenue	5,000	5,000
15-532	Clam Licenses	18,000	20,000
15-540	Use of Unassigned Fund Balance – Article 35	175,000	\$157,000
	Total	\$ 785,725	\$587,750
	Moved and seconded, motion passed by show of hands.		
ARTICLE 37:	To see what sum the Town will take from Municipal Revenue Sharing to apply against the 23-24 Tax Levy as to be show separately on the Municipal Tax Assessment Warrant.		
10-405	State Revenue Sharing	<u>22-23</u>	<u>23-24</u>
	SELECTMEN RECOMMEND:	<u>\$120,000</u>	<u>\$86,000</u>

Moved and seconded, motion passed by show of hands.

ARTICLE 38:	To see if the Town will vote to accept any and all funds as provided by the Maine State Legislature and private and federal grants and to authorize the Selectmen to approve any matching requirements from appropriate accounts, excluding surplus and designated special revenue funds.
--------------------	---

Moved and seconded, motion passed by show of hands.

ARTICLE 39:	To see if the Town will vote to accept any and all monies for pre-payment of property taxes.
--------------------	--

Moved and seconded, motion passed by show of hands.

ARTICLE 40:	To see if the Town will vote to increase, upon approval of the current year warrant articles or under extraordinary circumstances, its 2023 property tax assessment above the property tax levy established by State Law (LD-1).
--------------------	--

Moved and seconded, motion passed by show of hands. Danna DeFalco located the statute on line and read aloud.

ARTICLE 41:	To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to overspend any original and approved warrant article budgetary line item by up to 10% of that line item as long as there are under-spent budgetary line items to transfer it from. Any required transfers are to be reflected in Selectmen's meeting minutes as approved prior to the end of the fiscal year or within 30 days of the end of the fiscal year.
--------------------	--

Moved and seconded, motion passed by show of hands.

ARTICLE 42: 1-214-00	To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$10,000 for the dilapidated property account, to cover costs associated with the removal of the same, and to carry over any remaining balance of this account to the 2023-2024 fiscal year.
Moved and seconded, motion passed by show of hands.	

ARTICLE 43:	To see if the Town will vote to approve an increase in the 2022-2023 budget lines by a total of \$79,100 with the funds to come through the utilization of the Unassigned General Fund Balance and applied as follows:		
20-14	Planning Board		500
20-43	Legal Fees		47,500
20-55	Training & Travel		400
25-09	Fire Fuel		750
30-31	Plowing		650
30-35	Hwy Fuel		1,000
30-55	Road Signs		350
1-208-10	Transfer to Highway Equipment Capital Reserve		32,000
	TOTAL		
	SELECTMEN RECOMMEND		83,150
	Moved and seconded, motion passed by show of hands.		
ARTICLE 44:	To see if the Town will vote to reclassify \$100,000 of the unassigned general fund balance as a committed general fund balance amount relating to grant seed or matching funds. By reclassifying this amount as committed, any change in the intended use of these funds as grant seed or matching amounts would need to be approved by either the annual town meeting or a special town meeting. This reclassification, if approved would be recorded by the Town as of June 30,2023.		
	SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: Reclassification		
	Moved and seconded, motion passed by show of hands.		

ARTICLE 45:	To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Activity Account, and to carry over any remaining balance of this account to the 2024-2025 fiscal year.		
		22-23	23-24
60-52	Activity Fund	\$ 0	\$ 0
	SELECTMEN RECOMMEND:		
	Moved and seconded, motion passed by show of hands.		

ARTICLE 46:	To see if the Town will vote to approve an Industrial-Scale Aquaculture Ordinance. (Proposed ordinance attached.)
--------------------	---

Bob Mercer motioned the ordinance be sent back to the Planning Board as they had not reviewed it completely. Moved and seconded, motion passed by show of hands. Ordinance to be reviewed by Planning Board.

A small group of residents questioned nearly every article on the municipal portion of the budget mostly pertaining to authority of the Selectmen, increased legal fees and the situation at Beach Road. Clerk advised that the Town is being sued by 2 residents regarding a 1997 judgement involving Beach Road.

Town Attorney's had instructed Selectmen and office to have no comment on pending legal issues. This response appeared unsatisfactory as the subject was repeatedly raised.

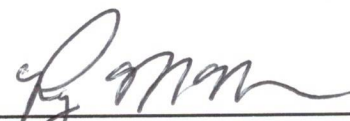
Questions were also raised regarding school funding and why certain lines were so high. Superintendent Scott Porter addressed each.



Jeffrey Davis



Ryan Sprague



Ryan Maker



Marcia L. Hayward / Administrative Assistant / Clerk