

2011

# Town of Northport Annual Town Meeting Minutes 2011

Northport, Me.

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**OFFICIAL WARRANT FOR THE TOWN OF NORTHPORT  
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
To be held on June 4, and June 6, 2011**

To: Jeanine Tucker, Town Clerk of the Town of Northport in the County of Waldo, State of Maine.

**GREETINGS:**

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Northport in said County and State, qualified by law to vote in Town affairs to appear at the Northport Town Hall on Saturday, June 4, 2011 at 8:00AM, then and there to act upon Articles 1 and 2,

AND

To notify and warn said voters to meet at the Blue Goose Center on Monday, June 6, 2011 7p.m. there and then to act upon Articles 1; then 3 through 26 inclusive.

**Article 1.** To Choose a Moderator to preside at said Town Meeting.

*Alismarie Parsloe was nominated and appointed Moderator over Town Elections Saturday June 4<sup>th</sup>.*

*The Annual Town Meeting was called to order by Town Clerk Jeanine Tucker at 7 p.m. Tucker read the opening of the Warrant and the results of votes cast at Saturdays election. Tucker then opened the floor to nominations for Moderator.*

*Under motion by Paul Sheridan, and a second by John Dykstra, Lee Woodward was nominated, and favorably appointed Moderator over Town Meeting.*

*At this time Moderator Lee Woodward asked the residents if they would allow Doris Moran two minutes to speak about the fundraising she is doing in an effort to purchase flags for placement on telephone poles along Route 1. Moran was allowed to speak. Moran informed the public that she was working in co-operation with the V.F.W., who would be setting up an account through the Commanders Fund strictly for the purpose or purchasing and maintaining flags for the poles.*

*Woodward also asked the residents if they would allow Joshua Povec to speak on behalf of his wife, Representative to the Legislature Erin Herbig, who was in legislative session at the time of the meeting. With no objections Povec was allowed to speak. He informed the public that Herbig is eager to hear from the public with ideas or concerns and even criticism. He updated those in attendance of her progress so far at the Capitol and expressed her excitement and enthusiasm with the position.*

**Article 2.** To elect by secret ballot:

- A. One (1) Selectman, Assessor and Overseer of the Poor for a three (3) year term.  
*Denise Lindahl was re-elected with 164 votes, there were 2 scattered write in votes.*
- B. One (1) Regional School Unit 20 Board Member for a two (2) year term.  
*Gerald Reid was elected with 168 votes, there were 3 scattered write in votes.*
- C. One (1) Road Commissioner for a two (2) year term.  
*Amon Morse III was re-elected with 126 votes while opponent William Magruder received 56 votes.*

**Article 3.** To see what amount of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate to pay the Selectman/Assessors for the ensuing year. (Current salary – Selectmen \$3,500.00– Selectman Chair \$4,000.00) Selectmen recommend no change.

***Motion was made and seconded to approve as written. No discussion, all in favor-none opposed Article passed.***

**Article 4.** To choose Assessors for the ensuing year.

***Motion was made and seconded for the Select Board to serve as assessors, no discussion, all in favor-none opposed- Article passed.***

**Article 5.** To choose one or more Overseers of the Poor and establish pay for the same.

***Motion was made and seconded for the Select Board to serve as overseers of the Poor for no additional compensation. No discussion, all in favor-none opposed- Article passed.***

**Article 6.** To see what amount of money the Town will vote to pay the Road Commissioner, Road Workers, Trucks and Equipment for the ensuing year. (Selectmen recommend State Rates plus 10% for routine road maintenance. Major road reconstruction to follow the competitive bid process.)

***Motion was made and seconded to approve as written. Discussion arose as to what amount 'State Rate' is, Select Board Chair Paul Rooney explained that the State sets different rate fees for each piece of equipment which is an extensive list and added that the information can be found on the State of Maine web site. With no further questions or discussion the Article was moved to vote, all in favor-none opposed-Article passed.***

**Article 7.** To see what amount of money the Town will vote to pay members of the Planning Board. (Current pay \$27.50 for each member per meeting attended; and \$32.50 for the Chairman for each meeting attended.) Selectmen recommend no change.

***Motion was made, and seconded, to approve the Selectmen recommended rate. No discussion, all in favor-none opposed- Article passed.***

**Article 8.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$10,000.00 for partial development of Beech Ridge Cemetery.

***Motion was made and seconded to approve as written, discussion was initiated by Chairman Rooney who explained that partial development funds would be used to map out, and organize, a portion of the Town owned cemetery on Nebraska Road so that some lots could be sold. With nothing further the Article was moved to vote where all but one resident were in favor-Article passed.***

**Article 9.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$5,000.00 for the Northport Scholarship Fund for second semester Northport college freshman.

***Motion was made and seconded to approve as written, a question was raised as to whether the amount was higher than last year and if there were additional***

**funds that went beyond the second semester. Both Chairman Rooney and Administrator Barbara O’Leary responded stating that the \$500.00 amount per student was the same as past years and, that it was only for freshman that were attending their second semester. Another resident asked if all of the money approved last year had been used, O’Leary replied that it had not and added that this is a line that lapses and does not carry forward, so it needs to be budgeted each year. With no further questions or discussion the Article was moved to vote, all in favor- none opposed-Article passed.**

**Article 10.** To see what amount of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the following accounts. Selectmen recommend:

	Account	Appropriation
A	Ambulance	\$ 10,638.58
B	Animal Control	\$ 8,500.00
C	Belfast Free Library	\$ 3,500.00
D	Cemeteries	\$ 12,000.00
E	Code Enforcement Officer	\$ 18,500.00
F	Contingency Fund	\$ 10,000.00
G	Emergency Management	\$ 2,000.00
H	Employee Benefits	\$ 22,000.00
I	First Responders	\$ 13,200.00
J	Insurance	\$ 30,000.00
K	Northport Vol. Fire Dept	\$ 35,000.00
L	NVFD Fire Chief Stipend	\$ 20,800.00
M	NVFD Truck Replacement	\$ 15,000.00
N	Office Salaries	\$130,000.00
O	Payroll Taxes	\$ 22,000.00
P	Roads & Bridges	\$100,000.00
Q	Snow Removal	\$200,000.00
R	Social Services	\$ 7,000.00
S	Town Charges	\$ 50,000.00
T	Town Hall Maint.	\$ 10,000.00
U	Transfer Station	<u>\$ 52,000.00</u>
	Total:	\$772,138.58

**Motion was made and seconded to approve as written, discussion ensued regarding concern over the Fire Chief Stipend. One resident stated that the stipend was excessive when compared to the rate the volunteer Fire Fighters were being paid and that it was a higher rate than other Chiefs in the area were being paid. Chairman Rooney explained that the Fire Chief did not receive any additional wage, above the call pay that the entire department received, prior to last year even though the Chief was responsible for ensuring that all requirements set forth by the N.F.P.A. and the State of Maine were met. He also explained that the Fire Department members met and had discussed the matter, prior to last years Town Meeting, at which time they agreed it was a fair rate. Chairman Rooney also shared with the residents that the Fire Department had recently earned the S.H.A.P.E. Award by the Maine Department of Labor Standards thanks to the Chiefs administrative work two days a week.**

***With no further questions or discussion the Article was moved to vote, all in favor- none opposed-Article passed.***

**Article 11.** To see if the Town will vote to carry forward the balances of the following accounts:

- A Animal Control
- B Cemeteries
- C Code Enforcement Officer
- D First Response Medical Team-Operating&Equipment
- E General Assistance
- F Harbor Fund
- G Insurance
- H Legal
- I Northport Needy Families
- J Northport Volunteer Fire Dept.
- K Office Salaries
- L Payroll Tax Expense
- M Planning Board
- N Roads & Bridges
- O Snow Removal/Sanding
- P Town Hall Maint/Repairs
- Q Transfer Station
- R Wyman Needy Fund

***Motion was made and seconded to approve as written. No discussion, all in favor-none opposed- Article passed.***

**Article 12.** To see if the voters of the Town of Northport will appropriate and authorize a majority of the municipal officers of the Town to borrow on behalf of the Town, a principal amount not to exceed \$289,000 through the issuance of general obligation bonds or notes of the Town of Northport, which may be callable bonds or notes, the proceeds to be used to construct a sand/salt shed in the Town.

***Motion was made and seconded to approve as written. No discussion, all in favor-none opposed- Article passed.***

**Article 13.** To see if the Town will vote to use \$100,000.00 from the undesignated fund balance to help reduce the sand/salt shed obligation.

***Motion was made and seconded to approve as written. No discussion, all in favor-none opposed- Article passed.***

**Article 14.** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and authorize a majority of the municipal officers of the Town to make payments toward the general obligation bond for the salt/sand shed.

***Motion was made and seconded to approve as written, concern over the cost of clean up at the old site was mentioned by one resident wanting to know if the funds for that were included in this Article. Chairman Rooney assured the residents that the cost of removing any contaminated soil and planting vegetation is included in***

***this fund. With no further questions or discussion the Article was moved to vote, all in favor-none opposed-Article passed.***

**Article 15.** To see if the Town will vote to use \$100,000.00 from the undesignated fund balance to reduce the tax commitment.

***Motion was made and seconded to approve as written, discussion was had about what 'undesignated fund balance' entailed. Chairman Rooney explained that is surplus money and that there was currently \$800,000.00, less the \$100,000.00 voters approved to withdraw in Article 13 for the Salt/Sand Shed obligation loan, in surplus at this time. With no further questions or discussion the Article was moved to vote, all in favor-none opposed-Article passed.***

**Article 16.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen, on behalf of the Town, to dispose of Real Estate acquired by the Town for non-payment of Taxes thereon, on such terms as they deem advisable and to execute Quit Claim Deeds on same.

***Motion was made and seconded to approve as written, discussion involved a question as to what the value of the property is, Chairman Rooney stated that the information on overdue accounts was in the Town Report. One resident asked what efforts are in place for collecting taxes. Town Clerk Jeanine Tucker explained that there are some resident taxpayers that have written agreements for monthly payments on their back taxes and that they have honored those agreements. She also explained that the Select Board had adopted a new Abatement Application Due to Poverty/Infirmary this past year, which enables them to make a more informed and fair decision when someone applies for tax abatement. With no further questions or discussion the Article was moved to vote, all in favor-none opposed-Article passed.***

**Article 17.** To see if the Town will vote to fix a rate of interest on taxes delinquent after September 30, 2011 and March 1, 2012. (Selectmen recommend State authorized rate of 7%)

***Motion was made and seconded to approve as written. No discussion, all in favor-none opposed- Article passed.***

**Article 18.** To see if the Town will set a rate of interest for refunded taxes due to over assessments. (Selectmen recommend rate of 7%)

***Motion was made and seconded to approve as written. No discussion, all in favor-none opposed- Article passed.***

**Article 19.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to expend overlay money to pay tax abatements and applicable interest granted during the fiscal year.

***Motion was made and seconded to approve as written, discussion arose questioning what overlay is. Chairman Rooney explained that it is an emergency fund to cover any unexpected overages for unforeseen reason, but does not include general assistance matters. With no further questions or discussion the Article was moved to vote, all in favor-none opposed-Article passed.***

**Article 20.** To see if the Town will vote to enter into an Alewife Harvesting Program, with or without the Town of Lincolnville, for the 2011-2012 season.

***Motion was made and seconded to approve as written, one question arose as to why the Article had to be on the Warrant year after year. Administrator O'Leary explained that if the Town did not address the matter it would lose control over the Alewives, should they ever return. With no further questions or discussion the Article was moved to vote, all in favor-none opposed-Article passed.***

**Article 21.** To see if the Town will vote to accept the following grants and revenue from the State of Maine and allow the Selectmen to use them as they deem necessary.

State Revenue Sharing	\$ 49,453.95 as of 3/31/2011
Veterans	\$ 2,024.00
Snowmobile Registrations	\$ 211.84
Local Road Assistance	\$ 31,608.00
General Assistance	\$ Unknown
Civil Emergency Funds	\$ Unknown
Land Grants	\$ Unknown
Tree Growth	\$ 935.00
All Other Funds Available	Unknown

All dollar amounts are estimates.

***Motion was made and seconded to approve as written. No discussion, all in favor-none opposed- Article passed.***

**Article 22.** To see if the Town will vote to give the Northport Ridge Riders (a snowmobile club) funds that the State of Maine returns to the Town from snowmobile registrations, to be used to maintain snowmobile trails in Northport.

***Motion was made and seconded to approve as written. No discussion, all in favor-none opposed- Article passed.***

**Article 23.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate funds for the Northport Village Corporation an amount of \$25,000.

***Motion was made and seconded to approve as written, one resident asked if this was the same amount as last year, Chairman Rooney confirmed that it is. Another resident asked what purpose the funds serve, Rooney stated that they help maintain the roads and the wharf. With no further questions or discussion the Article was moved to vote, all in favor-none opposed-Article passed.***

**Article 24.** To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen to transfer monies received from auto excise tax to the Roads & Bridges account at the close of the 2011-2012 fiscal year.

***Motion was made and seconded to approve as written, discussion about where else the money would, or could, be spent. Rooney explained that there was no rule saying that the Town is obligated to designate excise tax monies to the roads but that it does help offset the budget. With no further questions or discussion the Article was moved to vote, all in favor-none opposed-Article passed.***

**Article 25.**To see if the Town will vote to allow the Selectmen to use educational and other grants and donations for the reason specified in the grant or donation.

***Motion was made and seconded to approve as written. No discussion, all in favor-none opposed- Article passed.***

**Article 26.** To see if the Town will vote to increase the property tax levy limit of \$1,042,892.39 established for the Town of Northport by State law, in the event that the municipal budget approved under the preceding articles will result in a tax commitment that is greater than that property tax levy limit. (Written ballot required by statute.)

***Motion was made and seconded to pass over this Article since the budget held the line allowed and did not exceed the limit. No discussion, motion to pass over approved, all in favor-none opposed.***

***The Annual Town Meeting was adjourned at 7:45p.m.***

ATTEST, A True Copy

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Jeanine Tucker, Town Clerk