

2012

2012 Palermo Town Meeting Warrant and Minutes

Palermo, Me.

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To: The Citizens of Palermo
From: The Selectmen
Re: Certain Appropriations

The County Tax payment is an obligation that the Town must pay every year. It is our understanding that an appropriation vote is not necessary at the Annual Town Meeting. Therefore, there is no County Tax article in this Warrant. The school appropriation vote will be scheduled sometime after the Annual Town Meeting.

Town Warrant 2012

To Sheila McCarty, a resident in the Town of Palermo, in the County of Waldo, in the State of Maine.

In the name of the State of Maine you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town, qualified by law to vote in Town affairs to meet on the 9th day of March, 2012, at nine o'clock in the morning at the Palermo Town Office, in said town, to act on Article 1 and by secret ballot on Article 2 set out below to wit: The polls for voting will be open from 9:00 AM until 8:00 PM.

And, to notify and warn said inhabitants to meet at the Palermo Consolidated School gymnasium in said Town on Saturday March 10, 2012 at 9:00 AM, then and there to act on Articles 3 through 35 as set out below to wit:

Art. 1: To choose a **Moderator** to preside at said meeting. **Richard Thompson was nominated as moderator. 4 ballots cast, 4 in favor of Richard Thompson. Mr. Thompson has appointed Barbara Jackson as Deputy.**

Art. 2: To elect all necessary Town Officers for the ensuing year, using the **Australian ballot** system.

Meeting was called to order at 9:04 A.M. Saturday, March 10, 2012. Moderator opened with a pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Mr. Thompson gave introductions of the Selectmen and the Clerk. Mr. Thompson read the municipal election results.

Mr. Thompson read the rules of the meeting and gave a presentation of flowers to Sophia Glidden outgoing Select Chairperson. (Note: there were 98 registered voters and 3 non-residents who signed in for the Town Meeting.

Art. 3: To see if the Town will vote to accept Nominations and elect from the floor a seven member **Budget Committee** for the ensuing year.

Motion to Megan Childs replace Holly Harmon and to re-elect the existing budget members. Seconded. So voted.

The following were elected to the Budget Committee:

Branch Mills-Richard Thompson

East Palermo-Dwain McKenney

Level Hill-Patricia Clark

North Palermo-Megan Childs

Turner Ridge-Debra Potter

Western Ridge-Ellen Stevens-Budsko

At Large-David Parkman

Mr. Thompson swore in the Budget Committee and these attending who were elected at the Friday Municipal Election.

Amy Fowler spoke regarding the Waldo County budget.

Mike Thibodeau spoke representing Waldo County.

Ryan Harmon spoke representing Waldo County.

Brian Wedge the 8th grade teacher gave a report of the upcoming class trip to Washington.

Art. 4: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the **Selectmen to choose** all other appropriate **Town Officers** for the ensuing year including any vacancies remaining after the March 10, 2012 elections.

Motion to approve as written. Seconded. So voted.

Art. 5: To see if the Town will vote to have Palermo Days as a **Town sponsored event** and to authorize the Selectmen to accept and expend all Palermo Days funds that they may receive in 2012.

	Recommended	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Selectmen	Yes	3	0	0	0
Budget Committee	Yes	5	0	1	1

Motion to approve as written. Seconded. So voted.

Art. 6: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to use their discretion to **carry forward** the balances of accounts that they choose. If approved, this provision shall remain in effect until repealed or replaced by voters at a future town meeting. Recommend.

Motion to approve as written. Seconded. So voted.

Art. 7: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for the **Capital Projects Fund** for the Town. Present Fund Balance: \$ 2,500.00

	Recommended	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Selectmen	\$ 1,000.00	3	0	0	0
Budget Committee	\$ 1,000.00	6	0	0	1

Motion to approve as written. Seconded. So voted.

Art. 8: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the **Selectmen to develop, amend, repeal and enforce personnel policies** that cover all elected officials and their deputies. If approved, this provision shall remain in effect until repealed or replaced by voters at a future town meeting.

Motion to approve as written. Seconded. So voted.

Art. 9: To see if the Town will vote to **change the positions** of Tax Collector, Treasurer and Clerk **from elected to appointed** three year term positions to become

effective in the year when the current official's term ends and to authorize the Board of Selectmen, or others designated by the Board of Selectmen, to appoint qualified individuals to serve in those positions. If approved, this provision shall remain in effect until repealed or replaced by voters at a future town meeting. Recommend.

Motion to have hand written count. Seconded. (Yes 51, No 38) So voted.

Art. 10: To see if the town will authorize the **Selectmen to establish salary** or other compensation rates annually for all elected, appointed and hired positions based on budget authorization received at town meeting. If approved, this provision shall remain in effect until repealed or replaced by voters at a future town meeting. Recommend.

	Recommended	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Selectmen	Yes	3	0	0	0
Budget Committee	Yes	5	0	1	1

Motion to approve as written. Seconded. So voted.

Art. 11: To see if the Town will vote to conduct, by show of hands, a consensus opinion (**straw vote**) to set the hours that the **Town Office** will be open at 24 hours per week.

Motion to approve as written. Seconded. So voted.

Art. 12: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for **Municipal Wages** to be paid as full compensation and for the Town's portion of FICA and Medicare.

	Recommended	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Selectmen	\$ 118,800	3	0	0	0
Budget Committee	\$ 112,920	6	0	0	1

Expended in 2011: \$ 131,170

Suggested Allocation:

	Selectmen Recommend 2012	Budget Committee Recommends 2012	Appropriated In 2011
¹ Tax Collector wages	\$ 23,288.00		\$ 29,600.00
Treasurer salary & counter staff wages	20,088.00		25,200.00
Sr. Staffer & Excise Tax Collector wages	18,538.00		22,100.00
² Clerk	18,438.00		18,500.00

¹ Deputy Clerk			1,000.00
² Voter Registrar			3,400.00
¹ Deputy Voter Registrar			1,000.00
Subtotal	\$ 80,352.00	³ \$ 74,800.00	\$ 100,800.00
Wages for after hours & training replacement workers if needed	3,328.00	3,000	
Assessors wages	\$ 8,000.00	8,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Road Commissioner salary	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
Election Officials wages	4,500.00	4,500.00	4,500.00
Fire Chief salary	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Plumbing Inspector Stipend	500.00	500.00	0.00
Cleaning Office wages	3,120.00	3,120.00	3,120.00
FICA & Medicare	12,500.00	12,500.00	13,000.00
Total:	\$ 118,800.00	112,920.00	\$ 137,920.00

¹ Duties of Tax Collector, Deputy Clerk & Deputy Voter Registrar were carried out by the same person.

² Duties of Clerk & Voter Registrar are carried out by the same person.

³ Budget Committee recommends 3 positions be funded for 12 months and 1 position be funded for only January through June. No detail of the wages for each office position was given. New appointees shall be paid a reduced hourly wage for a probationary period.

Motion to go with the budget committee's recommendation. Seconded. Discussion. Mr. Dean Potter asked to amend the motion to add \$7,000.00 raised from fee's then to remove \$7,000.00 from the budget committee's recommendation of \$112,920. Total amount of \$112,920, Amount raised \$105,920. The motion on the amendment was seconded. Discussion. The amendment to change the source of funds did not pass. Back to original motion of \$112,920. Motion passed. So voted.

Art. 13: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for **Selectmen Wages.**
Appropriated in 2011: \$ 13,000.00

	Recommended	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Selectmen	Leave to Town	3	0	0	0
Budget Committee	\$ 13,000.00	5	0	1	1

Motion to approve as written. Seconded. So voted.

Art. 14: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for the following in **Town Contributions and Programs:**

	Recommended	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Selectmen	\$ 15,300.00	3	0	0	0

Budget Committee	\$ 15,300.00	6	0	0	1
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Contributee	Requested 2012	Recommended		Raised last Year 2011
		Selectmen	Budget Committee	
Palermo Library	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
Palermo Vol. Fire Dept. Misc. Exp.	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Palermo Youth Activities	4,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00
Palermo Days 2011	3,500.00	3,500.00	3,500.00	3,000.00
Palermo Swim Program	800.00	800.00	800.00	1,200.00
Palermo Historical Society	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Total:	\$15,300.00	\$15,300.00	\$15,300.00	\$ 15,200.00

Motion to approve as written. Seconded. So voted. Audience members spoke in support of the Historical Society and the Library.

Art. 15: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to **raise** and appropriate for the following **out of Town Contributions:** (the intent is to vote on each request separately)

	Recommended	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Selectmen	Leave to Town	3	0	0	0
Budget Committee	Leave to Town	6	0	0	1

Contributee	Requested 2012	Recommended		Approp. Last Year 2011
		Selectmen	Budget Committee	
American Red Cross, Pine Tree Chapter	\$ 135.00	Leave to the Town	Leave to the Town	0.00
AMVET Post #150 Liberty Food Pantry	500.00	"	"	500.00
American Red Cross, Bangor	135.00			
Broadreach	300.00	"	"	
Davistown Community Farm Share	200.00	"	"	200.00
Habitat for Humanity of Waldo Co.	100.00	"	"	
Hospice Waldo County	300.00	"	"	300.00
Hospice Waterville Area	1,000.00	"	"	1,000.00
Kno-Wal-Lin Home Care & Hospice	1,281.00	"	"	1,000.00
Kennebec Behavioral Health	1,000.00	"	"	0.00
Midcoast Me Community Action	800.00			
New Hope For Women	915.00	"	"	915.00
PBMC Out-Patient Psychiatry		"	"	0.00

Spectrum Generations	966.00	"	"	966.00
Sexual Assault Crisis & Support		"	"	427.00
The Children's Center	679.00	"	"	668.00
Waldo Community Action Partners	4,918.00	"	"	4,291.00
Waldo County Fire Fighters Assoc.	0.00			100.00
Waldo County YMCA	50.00	"	"	0.00
Total	\$ 13,279.00			\$ 10,367.00

Mr. Blake Brown made a motion for zero dollars for out of town contributions. Seconded.

- 1) Red Cross-Patty Glidden made a motion to raise \$135.00 to the Red Cross. Hand card count, in favor of no money. (22 yes, opposed, 28), motion failed. The town voted no money. Mr. Darryl McKenney made a motion to give to the six contributions we have in the past. DavisTown, Hospice Waldo Hospice Waterville, New Hope for Women, Senior Spectrum. Motion to approve six contributions which total \$3,381.00. Seconded. So voted. The town voted \$3,381.00 as written.
- 2) Amvet Post #150 Liberty Food Pantry-The town voted \$500.00.
- 3) American Red Cross, Bangor-The town voted no money.
- 4) Broadreach-motion to raise \$00.0, seconded. Hand count, the voters are opposed. Motion to raise \$300.00, seconded. The town voted \$300.00.
- 5) Davistown Community farm share program. The town voted \$200.00.
- 6) Habitat for Humanity-motion to raise \$00.0, Seconded. Motion to allow Debra Palmer of Montville speak. All in favor. Debra Palmer from Waldo Community Action Partners spoke. The town voted no money.
- 7) Hospice Waldo County-The town voted \$300.00.
- 8) Hospice Waterville Area-The town voted \$1,000.00.
- 9) Kno-Wal-Lin Home Care & Hospice-The town voted \$1,281.00.
- 10) Kennebec Behavioral Health-(Motion to allow George Myers a representative to speak). All in favor. Mr. George Myers spoke. The town voted \$1,000.00.
- 11) Midcoast Me Community Action-(Motion to allow Candice Carpenter a representative to speak). All in favor. Candice Carpenter spoke. The town voted \$400.00.
- 12) New Hope for Women-The town voted \$915.00.
- 13) PBMC Out-Patient Psychiatry-The town voted no money.
- 14) Sectrum Generations-The town voted \$966.00.
- 15) Sexual Assault Crisis & Support-The town voted no money.

The town meeting took a lunch break at 11:32 A.M.
The town resumed the town meeting at 12:15 P.M.

Judge of Probate Susan Longley spoke regarding family court. The "out of town" contributions continued.

- 16) The Children's Center-The town voted no money \$679.00.
- 17) Waldo Community Action Partners-The town voted \$4,918.00.
- 18) Waldo County Fire Fighter Association-The town voted no money.

19) Waldo County YMCA-The town voted no money.

Art. 16: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for the **Town Office.**

	Recommended	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Selectmen	\$ 25,900.00	3	0	0	0
Budget Committee	\$ 24,900.00	5	1	0	1

Appropriated in 2011: \$ 23,600

Expended in 2011: \$ 20,898

Additional Information: Accounts under Town Office

Office Supplies	Computer Software Lic.
Postage	Equipment Maintenance
Maintenance & Mowing	Equipment Purchase
Security	

Motion to approve \$24,900.00. So voted.

Art. 17: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for **Town Charge.**

	Recommended	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Selectmen	\$ 51,300.00	3	0	0	0
Budget Committee	\$ 51,300.00	6	0	0	1

Accounts under Town Charge

<u>Suggested Allocation:</u>	To Appropriate In 2012	Appropriated In 2011	Expended In 2011
Staff Expenses	\$ 1,100	\$ 2,400	\$ 1,898
Dues & Fees etc.	5,000	4,600	5,350
Printing & Advertising	4,000	3,000	3,907
Staff Training	1,400	2,000	1,315
Misc.	100	0	60
Utilities	15,700	15,500	15,896
Legal Expenses	4,000	0	453
Audit Expenses	5,000	5,000	4,965
Insurance	15,000	20,000	7,426
Tax Anticipation Note (line of credit)	0	0	

Total: \$ 51,300 \$ 52,500 \$ 41,270

Motion to approve \$51,300.00. So voted.

Art. 18: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for **Cemetery Maintenance**. Expended in 2011: \$ 6,727

	Recommended	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Selectmen	\$ 8,000.00	3	0	0	0
Budget Committee	\$ 8,000.00	6	0	0	1

Motion to approve \$8,000.00. So voted.

Art. 19: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for **Public Health & Safety**.

	Recommended	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Selectmen	\$ 47,200.00	3	0	0	0
Budget Committee	\$ 47,200.00	6	0	0	1

Appropriated in 2011: \$ 46,400.00

Suggested Allocation:

General Assistance (carry \$ 4,049)	\$ 0.00
TCSW Transfer Station	28,000.00
Palermo Vol. Fire Dept. Itemized Expenses	10,000.00
Palermo Rescue	5,500.00
Health Officer Wages	500.00
Animal Control (carry \$ 4,867)	1,000.00
Kennebec Valley Humane Society	2,200.00
Total	\$ 47,200.00

Motion to approve \$47,200. So voted.

Art. 20: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for **Roads**. Recommend **\$ 320,000.00** (\$ 250,000.00 from **Excise Tax and Raise \$ 70,000.00**). (Budget Committee – Raise \$ 70,000.00)

	Recommended	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Selectmen	\$ 320,000.00	3	0	0	0
Budget Committee	\$ 320,000.00	4	2	0	1

<u>Suggested Allocation:</u>	To Appropriate In 2012	Source of Funding	Total Funds Available
Road Maintenance	\$ 40,000.00	Excise Tax	
Road Maintenance	\$ 30,000.00	Raise	\$ 70,000.00
Snow Removal & Sanding	170,000.00	Excise Tax	170,000.00
Road Improvements	40,000.00	Excise Tax	
Road Improvements	40,000.00	Raise	80,000.00
Total	\$ 320,000.00		\$ 320,000.00

Motion to approve \$320,000.00, (\$250,000.00 from excise and raise \$70,000.00). Mr. Paul Cowing made a motion to amend to \$340,000.00 to cover \$22,000.00 for a matching grant for a Banton Road project. Motion passed to have \$250,000.00 from excise and to raise \$90,000.00. So voted.

Art. 21: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for **paving and repaving** roads. Recommend **\$ 200,000.00** (\$48,000.00 from URIP and Raise \$ 152,000.00)

Appropriated + carried in 2011: \$ 228,030 Expended in 2011: \$ 221,705

	Recommended	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Selectmen	\$ 200,000.00	3	0	0	0
Budget Committee	\$ 200,000.00	6	0	0	1

Motion to approve as written. Seconded. So voted.

Art. 22: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the **Selectmen** to accept and expend for Town purposes, funds received from federal, state and other sources during the year.

	Recommended	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Selectmen	Yes	3	0	0	0
Budget Committee	Yes	3	1	0	3

Motion to approve as written. Seconded. So voted.

Art. 23: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate **\$ 100,000.00 from the Undesignated Fund Balance** (a.k.a. surplus) to be applied to reduce the 2012 tax rate.

	Recommended	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Selectmen	\$ 100,000.00	3	0	0	0

Budget Committee	\$ 100,000.00	4	0	0	3
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Motion to approve as written. Seconded. So voted.

Art. 24: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to authorize the **Selectmen** to appropriate from unappropriated **undesignated fund balance** (a.k.a. surplus) as they deem advisable to meet unanticipated expenses and emergencies that occur during the year.

	Recommended	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Selectmen	\$ 15,000.00	3	0	0	0
Budget Committee	\$ 15,000.00	4	0	0	3

Motion to approve as written. Seconded. So voted.

Art. 25: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate all the monies **reimbursed** to the Town from the State from the **snowmobile registration fees** to support the Palermo Snowmobile Club's trails, which are available for public use. If approved, this provision shall remain in effect until repealed or replaced by voters at a future town meeting. Recommend.

	Recommended	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Selectmen	Yes	3	0	0	0
Budget Committee	Yes	3	1	0	3

Motion to approve as written. Seconded. So voted.

Art. 26: To see if the Town will vote to instruct the Tax Collector to **charge interest on tax liens** and on **unpaid real estate taxes** beginning 60 days from mailing date of tax bills at 7.0% per annum (per Title36, M.R.S.A. Section 505.4-A).

	Recommended	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Selectmen	Yes	3	0	0	0
Budget Committee	Yes	4	0	0	3

Motion to approve as written. Seconded. So voted.

Art. 27: To see if the Town will vote to **increase the property tax levy limit** established for Palermo 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 limit. Recommend.

Motion to approve. Seconded. Motion to pass over this article as we are at \$527,000.00 and the tax levy limit is \$600,000.00. Seconded. So voted.

Art.28: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate funds from Overlay to pay tax **abatements** and applicable interest granted during this fiscal year. Recommend.

Motion to accept article 28-35. Seconded. So voted.

- Art. 29: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen, on behalf of the Town, to enter into **multi-year agreements** for the provision of snow plowing and road sanding services.
- Art. 30: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to accept all **cemetery** trust funds that they may receive in 2012.
- Art. 31: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to **spend** an amount not to exceed **3/12** of the budgeted amount in each category of the Town's annual budget during the period from January 1, 2013 to the annual March Town Meeting.
- Art. 32: To see if the Town will authorize the Tax Collector to **accept prepayment** of Real Estate and/or Personal Property taxes toward the following year taxes. No interest will be paid to the taxpayer on these payments.
- Art. 33: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to **borrow money** for the use of the Town upon the credit of the Town.
- Art. 34: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the selectmen to convey by Municipal **Quit Claim deed** tax acquired real estate properties, unless that property, in the opinion of the Selectmen, best serves the interest of the Town of Palermo by remaining town owned property. All **other** property must be advertised and sold by sealed bids. The highest bid must be equal to at least the amount of accumulated taxes, interest and cost. Selectmen reserve the right to accept or reject any or all bids.
- Art. 35: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to make final determinations regarding the closing or opening of roads to **winter maintenance** pursuant to Title 23 MRSA, Section 2953.

Motion to adjourn the town meeting at 1:05 P.M. Seconded. So voted.

A person may register to vote on or before Election Day. Pursuant to Title 21-A MRSA, Section 759(7); absentee ballots will be processed at the polls at the following times: 7:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

Dated March 10, 2012

S/E. Harry Dean Potter, Chairman

S/Holly Harmon

S/Paul Cowing
Selectmen of Palermo

