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Solon Maine Annual Town Meeting Warrant 2009

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WARRANT FOR MARCH 7, 2009 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

To Michael Foster, a resident of the Town of Solon in the County of Somerset:

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required by law to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Solon, qualified to vote in town affairs, to assemble at the Solon Elementary School on the 7th day of March AD 2009 at eight o'clock in the forenoon, then and there, in accordance with the Revised Statutes of the State of Maine 1964, Title 30, Paragraph 2051 and seq. or as amended, to elect a moderator, and to transact all other business as enumerated in this Warrant.

For the election of officers, the polls will open immediately after the election of a Moderator, and will remain open until 12:15 PM. Absentee ballots will be opened at 10:00 AM on March 7, 2009 by the Moderator. The transaction of other business as enumerated will begin at 1:30 PM.

Article 1: To choose a Moderator to preside at said meeting.

Ronald Giguere nominated Philip Roy. Nancy Whittemore seconded. Philip Roy elected Moderator.

Article 2: To open polls for election of Town Officials.

Nominated Candidates:

Selectman, three-year term:	Mary Lou Ridley	195 votes
Road Commissioner:	Ronald Giguere	103 votes
	Timothy Pooler	18 votes
	Nicholas Rollins	90 votes
Town Clerk/Tax Collector:	Barbara Maden	198 votes
Treasurer:	Judith Robertson	192 votes
MSAD # 74 School Board Director, two-year term:		
	Andrew Davis	184 votes
MSAD # 74 School Board Director, three-year term:		
	Rance Pooler	173 votes

Article 3: To see if the town will vote to take the following amounts from the 2008 Surplus for overage in these accounts: Calcium Chloride: \$250.40; Culverts: \$6.00; and Town Office Security System: \$3.40.

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend Yes

Neal Corson motioned to accept as recommended. Mark Roman seconded.

Motion passed.

Article 4: To see if the town will vote to increase the property tax levy limit of \$359,782.85, established for the town of Solon by State law, in the event the municipal budget approved under the following articles will result in a tax commitment that is greater than that property tax levy limit.

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend Yes

Neal Corson motioned to accept as recommended. Frank Ridley seconded.

Moderator said vote will be by written ballot unless voters choose otherwise.

Frank Ridley motioned to dispense with written ballot. Neal Corson seconded.

Motion passed.

Original Motion passed.

Article 5: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for GENERAL GOVERNMENT.

Neal Corson motioned to accept all sections as recommended. Mike Sackett seconded. Motion passed.

1. TOWN CHARGES

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend \$13,000 plus fees

2. TOWN OFFICE/WATER

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend \$350

3. TOWN OFFICE/ELECTRICITY

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend \$1,200

4. TOWN OFFICE/MAINTENANCE

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend \$2,500

5. TOWN OFFICE/TELEPHONE

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend \$2,000

6. TOWN OFFICE/SECURITY SYSTEM

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend \$300

7. SCHOOLS, BOOKS & DUES

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend \$3,500

8. MUNICIPAL OFFICERS SALARIES

Selectmen & Budget Committee recommend \$25,500 as follows:

Selectmen \$8,000.00 each

Chair additional \$1,000.00

Vice-Chair additional \$ 500.00

9. TAX COLLECTOR/TOWN CLERK

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend \$22,000

10. TREASURER

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend \$5,600

11. DEPUTY TAX COLLECTOR/CLERK

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend \$1,000

12. CODE ENFORCEMENT & PLUMBING INSPECTOR

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend \$1,500 plus fees.

13. ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend \$1,500 plus fees.

14. ELECTIONS

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend \$2,300.00

15. REGISTER OF VOTERS

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend \$1,500.00

16. COMPUTER FEES

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend \$2,300

17. MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS MAINTENANCE RESERVE ACCOUNT

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend \$5,000

18. MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS HEAT

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend \$13,000

Article 6: To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for PROTECTION.

Neal Corson motioned to accept all sections as recommended. Mike Sackett seconded. Motion passed.

1. STREET LIGHTS

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend \$9,000

2. HYDRANT RENTAL

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend \$18,965.75

3. FIRE CHIEF

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend \$6,000

4. FIRE DEPARTMENT

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend \$20,000 plus reimbursements

5. FIRE TRUCK RESERVE ACCOUNT

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend \$3,000

6. WORKER COMPENSATION INSURANCE

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend \$7,400

7. UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend \$1,993

8. INSURANCE

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend \$19,500

9. SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend \$13,000

Article 7: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for the HEALTH AND SANITATION.

Neal Corson motioned to accept all sections as recommended. Mike Sackett seconded. Motion passed.

1. TRANSFER STATION

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend \$65,000 plus fees & income

2. TRANSFER STATION TRUCK AND EQUIPMENT RESERVE ACCOUNT

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend \$4,000

Article 8: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for PUBLIC WORKS.

Neal Corson motioned to accept all sections as recommended. Mike Sackett seconded. Motion passed.

1. WINTER ROADS

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend \$78,000

2. SUMMER ROADS

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend \$72,000

3. MAINTENANCE OF HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT EQUIPMENT

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend \$7,000

4. HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT RESERVE ACCOUNT

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend \$10,000

5. GRAVEL ROADS MAINTENANCE

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend \$17,000

16. STREET NAME SIGN RESERVE ACCOUNT

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend \$300

Article 9: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for SOCIAL SERVICES.

Neal Corson motioned to accept all sections as recommended. Mike Sackett seconded.

Mark Roman amended Section 3 to \$885. Abby Shahn seconded. Amendment failed. Original Motion passed.

1. GENERAL ASSISTANCE

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend \$20,520

2. KVCAP BUS SERVICE (requested \$400)

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend \$400

3. FAMILY VIOLENCE PROJECT (requested \$885)
Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend \$400
4. HOSPICE (requested \$500)
Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend \$500
5. SPECTRUM GENERATIONS (requested \$760.20)
Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend \$760.20
6. KENNEBEC BEHAVIORAL HEALTH (requested \$1,241.25)
Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend \$1,000
7. SOLON FOOD CUPBOARD (requested \$2,000)
Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend \$2,000 with the money given to the Solon Corner Market to be used at the discretion of the Solon Food Cupboard.
8. AMERICAN RED CROSS (requested \$600)
Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend \$100
9. HEADSTART (requested \$1,500)
Selectmen and Budget committee recommend \$900

Article 10: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for DEBT SERVICE.

Neal Corson motioned to accept all sections as recommended. Mike Sackett seconded. Motion passed.

1. BACKHOE LOAN PAYMENT
Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend \$5,400 by taxation
2. TRUCK LOAN PAYMENT
Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend \$14,110 by taxation.
3. SALT SHED LOAN PAYMENT
Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend \$10,300 by taxation.

Article 11: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for LEISURE SERVICES.

Neal Corson motioned to accept all sections as recommended. Mike Sackett seconded. Motion passed.

1. RECREATION PROGRAM
Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend \$1,500 plus fees.
2. SWIM/CAMP PROGRAM
Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend \$1,000 plus fees.

3. COOLIDGE LIBRARY (\$10,000 requested)
Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend \$8,000
4. BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION
Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend \$4,000
5. AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM RESERVE ACCOUNT (\$6,600 requested)
Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend \$6,300
6. BAKER MOUNTAIN SKI CLUB (\$500 requested)
Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend \$500

Article 12: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for OTHER SERVICES.

Neal Corson motioned to accept all sections as recommended. Ann Padham seconded. Motion passed.

1. HUMANE SOCIETY
Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend \$1,175
2. CEMETERIES
Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend \$4,800
3. KENNEBEC VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (requested \$1,374)
Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend \$1,374
4. SOMERSET ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (requested \$100)
Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend \$100
5. UPPER KENNEBEC VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (\$1,000 requested)
Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend \$250

Article 13: Shall the Town raise \$159,000 by taxation, appropriate \$40,000 from the Meeting House Road Reserve Account, appropriate \$49,000 from the URIP Reserve Account, apply for and accept any grant money that becomes available for this purpose and authorize a majority of the municipal officers of the Town to borrow on behalf of the Town, a principal amount not to exceed \$485,000 through the issuance of general obligation bonds or notes of the Town of Solon which may be callable bonds or notes, the proceeds to be used for the purpose of reclaiming, rebuilding and repaving the Meeting House Road and shimming and repaving the South Solon Road; and further to authorize the municipal officers to take any and all action and execute any and all contracts and documents necessary or convenient to issue the bonds or notes of the Town and to award the road paving contract. Any grant funds received for this purpose will be used to reduce the amount needed to borrow or to pay on the loan principal. Any remaining balance from the road project will be applied to the principal of the loan.

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend Yes.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Town of Solon

Total Indebtedness:

A. Bonds outstanding and unpaid	\$134,662.01
B. Bonds authorized and unissued	\$ 0.00
C. Bonds to be issued if this question is approved with the Selectmen's recommendation	<u>\$485,000.00</u>
TOTAL	\$619,662.01

Costs:

At an estimate maximum interest rate of 3.5%, the estimated cost of this bond issue over three years will be:

Principal	\$485,000.00
Interest	<u>\$ 25,461.31</u>
TOTAL NEW DEBT SERVICE	\$510,461.31

Validity:

The validity of the bonds and of the voter's certification of the bonds may not be affected by any errors in the above estimates. If actual amount of the total debt service for bond issues varies from the estimate, the ratification by the electors is nevertheless conclusive and the validity of the bond issue is not affected by the reason of variance. /s/ Judith Robertson, Treasurer, Town of Solon

*Neal Corson motioned to accept as recommended. Ann Jackson seconded.
Moderator said vote will be by written ballot unless voters choose otherwise.
Mike Golden motioned to dispense with the written ballot. Neal Corson
seconded. Motion passed.
Mike Sackett motioned to amend the article to only raise \$100,000 by taxation for
a reserve account and not do the road project this year. After discussion he
withdrew his amendment.
Original motion passed.*

Article 14: If Article 13 fails, shall the Town raise funds for a Paving Reserve Account.
Selectmen and Budget Committee Yes and to raise \$160,000 by taxation for this
purpose.

*Neal Corson motioned to pass over this article. Mike Golden seconded. Motion
passed.*

Article 15: Shall the Town use funds from the Municipal Buildings Maintenance Reserve
Account to replace the shingle roof on the Town Office Building with a steel roof.

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend Yes and to replace the roof with a
screw down steel roof with an ice and snow shield at a cost not to exceed \$12,000

*Neal Corson motioned to accept as recommended. Mike Golden seconded.
Frank Ridley amended it to not exceed \$20,000. Andy Davis seconded.
Amendment failed 24-35.
Original Motion passed.*

Article 16: Shall the Town accept the Evergreen Cemetery as a town cemetery and take over the
ownership, reserve funds and maintenance of the cemetery.

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend Yes

Neal Corson motioned to accept as recommended. Norman Jackson seconded. Motion passed.

Article 17: Shall the Town raise funds and start a reserve account for the repair of cemetery stones at the Evergreen Cemetery.

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend Yes and \$4,500 by taxation.

Neal Corson motioned to accept as recommended. Ann Padham seconded. Motion passed.

Article 18: To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen to dispose of tax acquired property belonging to Robert Brown for non-payment of 2006 property taxes. The property taxes for 2006, 2007 and 2008 plus interest and lien costs are owed on the property. The property is located at 152 Ferry Street, Map R4 Lot 6.

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend giving Mr. Brown until April 1, 2009 at 7:00 pm to pay the 2006, 2007 and 2008 real estate taxes, interests and costs plus any other associated costs. If this amount is not paid the Selectmen will put the property out to bid, set a minimum bid amount and will sell the property to the highest bidder.

Neal Corson motioned to accept as recommended. Bruce Hills seconded.

Abby Shahn amended motion to allow property owners to pay \$125 a month until the 2006 taxes are paid and then pay the 2007 taxes by November 2009. Seconded by Mark Roman. Amendment failed.

Original Motion passed.

*** see added information at end of warrant*

Article 19: To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen to dispose of tax acquired property belonging to the Estate of Bertha Wahl for non-payment of 2006 property taxes. The property taxes for 2006, 2007 and 2008 plus interest and lien costs are owed on the property. The property is located at 148 Ferry Street, Map R4 Lot 5.

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend giving the heirs until April 1, 2009 at 7:00 pm to pay the 2006, 2007 and 2008 real estate taxes, interests and costs plus any other associated costs. If this amount is not paid the Selectmen will put the property out to bid, set a minimum bid amount and will sell the property to the highest bidder.

Neal Corson motioned to accept as recommended. Bruce Hills seconded. Motion passed.

Article 20: To see if the town will vote to authorize the municipal officers to make final determinations regarding the closing and opening of roads to winter maintenance pursuant to 23 M.R.S.A Section 2953.

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend Yes.

Neal Corson motioned to accept as recommended. Mike Golden seconded. Motion passed.

Article 21: To see if the Town will authorize the municipal officers to apply for, accept and expend grant money available from the State, federal government or other organization for any public purpose when they deem it to be in the town's best interest and any needed matching funds are available within the current budget.

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend Yes.

Neal Corson motioned to accept as recommended. Mike Golden seconded. Motion passed.

Article 22: To see if the Town will give the Selectmen and/or the Fire Chief permission to apply for a grant to purchase a generating system to supply power to the Fire Station and/or the Municipal Office Building in the case of a power outage so the buildings can be used as an emergency shelter and/or an emergency operations center.

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend Yes.

Neal Corson motioned to accept as recommended. Mike Sackett seconded. Motion passed.

Article 23: To see if the Town will give the Selectmen and/or the Fire Chief permission to apply for a grant to purchase fire fighting and safety equipment for the Fire Department.

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend Yes.

Neal Corson motioned to accept as recommended. Mike Golden seconded. Motion passed.

Article 24: To see if the Town will accept the following tax related articles:

1. To see if the Town will authorize the Tax Collector and Treasurer to apply any property tax overpayment of less than \$20 to that person's the next year's property taxes.
2. To see the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector or Treasurer to accept prepayments of taxes not yet committed pursuant to 36 M.R.S A Section 506.
4. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate from the overlay to pay tax abatements and applicable interest granted during the fiscal year 2009.
5. To see if the town shall use any surplus funds in excess of \$80,000.00 to reduce taxes.
6. To see if the town shall authorize the Selectmen to procure a Tax Anticipation Note (TAN) for the purpose of paying municipal indebtedness; such note to be repaid during the current fiscal year from taxes paid during the municipal year.

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend Yes.

Neal Corson motioned to accept all sections as recommended. Mike Sackett seconded. Motion passed.

Article 25. To see if the town shall set September 10, 2009 as the date when all unpaid taxes become interest bearing at the rate to be set by the State. (Rate being 9%)

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend Yes.

Neal Corson motioned to accept as recommended. Mike Sackett seconded. Motion passed.

Article 26. If the Town accepts Article 24-2, what, if any, interest shall the Town pay on these prepaid taxes? (If the Town votes to pay interest, it cannot be more than 9%.)

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend 0%.

Neal Corson motioned to accept as recommended. Coreen Giguere seconded. Motion passed.

Article 27. To see if the town will vote to set the interest rate to be paid by the town on abated taxes pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. Section 506-A

Selectmen and Budget Committee Yes and a rate of 0%.

Neal Corson motioned to accept as recommended. Coreen Giguere seconded. Motion passed.

Neal Corson motioned to adjourn. Ross Steward seconded. Motion passed.

***Additional information regarding Article 18: At 1:34 pm Robert Brown informed the Moderator that the co-owner of the property, Deborah James, is deaf and she wanted a sign language interpreter. The Selectmen delayed the start of the meeting and tried to reach 3 people in Solon that they knew to know sign language. Karen Adams was not home. Kathy Starbird said she hadn't done it for many years and did not remember much of it. Janet Kenyon was not home. We also called Shannon Locke from Norridgewock. Articles 18 and 19 were postponed until the end of the meeting. Continued efforts to reach Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Locke and Mrs. Kenyon were not successful. The Moderator also made several requests during the meeting for anyone knowing of an interpreter or was an interpreter to please let the Selectmen know. After dealing with all the other articles the Moderator went back to Article 18 and informed the property owners that we were not successful in finding an interpreter and that we will proceed with the article. Mr. Brown made his offer to make payments. The town discussed it. A motion to amend was made to allow the payments. Mr. Brown was given time to give a sign language interpretation of the proceedings to Deborah James and give additional responses. The amendment failed. Mr. Brown was again given time to give a sign language interpretation of the proceedings to Deborah James and give additional responses. The original motion was then voted on and the motion passed.*

Given under my hand this 7th day of February A.D., 2009,

Elaine Aloes, Chair of Selectman

Mary Lou Ridley, Selectman

Sarah Davis, Selectman

Attest true copy: Barbara Maden, Town Clerk

Pursuant to within warrant, I have hereby notified and warned the inhabitants of the Town of Solon, qualified by law to vote in town affairs, to assemble at the Solon Elementary School on the seventh day of March AD 2009 at eight o'clock in the morning then and there in accordance with the Revised Statutes of the State of Maine, 1964, Title 30, Paragraph 2051 and seq. or as amended to act on all articles herein enumerated in this warrant posted at the Solon Town Office, Solon Post Office, Solon Corner Store, Solon Superette and Griswold's Store, conspicuous and public places within Solon, on the 25th day of February AD 2009, which is at least seven days prior to the Annual Town Meeting.

Michael Foster, a resident of Solon