

## Minutes of the May 24, 2023 Town Meeting

Prior to the start of business Town Clerk Jennifer Kovacs-Lord appointed Kathleen DeFusco as ballot clerk for said meeting. Kathleen DeFusco was sworn in by Mrs. Kovacs-Lord. Ballot Clerk Kathleen DeFusco and Town Clerk Jennifer Kovacs-Lord checked in 78 voters at the open town meeting.

Deputy Town Clerk Stuart Marckoon called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM at the Lamoine Consolidated School.

1. To choose a moderator to preside over said meeting. – **It was moved and 2<sup>nd</sup> to elect Maurice Joseph Marshall as moderator. Written ballots were cast unanimously in his favor. Maurice Joseph Marshall was sworn in by Town Clerk Jennifer Kovacs-Lord.**

**Maurice Joseph Marshall opened the Town Meeting at 6:10 PM. Mr. Marshall established that he would operate according to the Maine Moderator's Manual. Stuart Marckoon made a motion to allow non-residents to speak at the moderator's discretion. It was moved and 2<sup>nd</sup> and the motion passed on a hand vote.**

2. To see if the town will appropriate \$21,500 from undesignated fund balance (surplus) to combine with encumbered funds and a donation from the Lamoine Volunteer Fire Department to resurface the floor at the fire station for Fiscal Year 2022/23. *(The Budget Committee recommends approval)* **It was moved and 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the article at the recommended amount. The hand vote in favor was unanimous.**
3. To see if the town will appropriate \$8,000 from the Fire Department Emergency Repair fund to repair damage to the apparatus bay ceiling for Fiscal Year 2022/23. *(The Budget Committee recommends approval)* **Stuart Marckoon made a motion to indefinitely postpone article and the motion it was 2<sup>nd</sup>. Stu explained that the insurance company will be covering the repair. The article passed on a hand vote.**
4. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate up to \$350,000 to purchase a parcel of land, more particularly described as Tax Map 3 Lot 2, described by a deed recorded at Hancock County Registry of Deeds Book 1528, Page 194) to be used for municipal purposes, using \$15,000 from the Community Center Fund, and to authorize the Select Board to borrow up to \$335,000 over 5 years for the remainder. *(The Budget Committee and the Facilities & Infrastructure Committee recommend the town authorize the land purchase as proposed)*

MUNICIPAL TREASURER'S FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
(30-A MRSA § 5404(1-A & 5772(2-A))  
Town of Lamoine

1. Total town indebtedness:
  1. Bonds Outstanding and unpaid as of May 24, 2023 \$240,000.00
  2. Bonds authorized and unissued: \$0.00
  3. Bonds to be issued if this question is approved: \$335,000.00
  - Total \$575,000.00
2. At an estimated maximum interest rate of 5%, the estimated cost of this bond issue will be:

Five(5) Years (2023-2028)	
Principal:	\$335,000.00
Interest	50,250.00
Total	\$385,250.00
3. Validity. The validity of the bonds and of the voters' ratification of the bonds may not be affected by any errors in the above estimates. If the actual amount of the total debt service or the bond issue varies from the estimate, the ratification by the electors is nevertheless conclusive and the validity of the bond issue is not affected by reason of the variance.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Treasurer  
Town of Lamoine, Maine

**It was moved and 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the recommended amount. There was discussion on the gravel contract that Doug Gott and Sons holds on the parcel until 2028. There was a discussion on why the town wanted to purchase the parcel and what was going to be done with the parcel if purchased. Brett Jones who is a member of the Facilities and Infrastructure committee explained that the town has been looking for property to purchase for a long time and this parcel is next to land already owned by the town and the town could in the future build a fire station, town hall, or community building. Several residents spoke about the pros and cons of purchasing the parcel. Glenn Crawford made a motion to amend the article to place the question to a referendum vote. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup>. Administrative Assistant Stuart Marckoon said the motion would be out of order as state law grants authority exclusively to the Select Board as to the method in which a town meeting is held. The moderator ruled the motion out of order and no vote was taken. The article passed by a counted show of hand, 49 in favor and 24 opposed.**

5. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$33,750 for fiscal year 2023/24 and to appropriate from \$50,000 from undesignated fund balance for the first payment on the land purchase bond. Total bond repayment estimated at \$83,750. *(The Budget Committee recommends approval)* **It was moved and 2<sup>nd</sup> to pass article as written. The motion passed on a hand vote.**
6. To see if the town will vote to appropriate \$68,435.90 from the Road Fund to add to the 2023/24 Road Budget. The appropriation will cover the snow plowing contract. **It was moved and 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the article as written. The hand vote in favor was unanimous.**

**Education Budget 2023-24**

7. To see what sum the school administrative unit will be authorized to expend for Regular Instruction. **The School Committee & Budget Committee recommend \$1,552,905.95**
  - K- 2 Regular Elementary Instructional Services
  - 3-8 Regular Elementary Instructional Services
  - 9-12 Regular Secondary Program
  - Gifted and Talented Program

**It was moved and 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the article at the recommended amount. The hand vote in favor was unanimous.**

8. To see what sum the school administrative unit will be authorized to expend for Special Education. **The School Committee & Budget Committee recommend \$596,462.51**

- K-12 Special Education Services

**It was moved and 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the article at the recommended amount. The hand vote in favor was unanimous.**

9. To see what sum the school administrative unit will be authorized to expend for Other Instruction. **The School Committee & Budget Committee recommend \$32,841.15**

- Elementary Co-Curricular
- Elementary Athletics

**It was moved and 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the article at the recommended amount. The hand vote in favor was unanimous.**

10. To see what sum the school administrative unit will be authorized to expend for Student and Staff Support. **The School Committee & Budget Committee recommend \$186,464.11**

- Guidance
- Health Services
- Curriculum
- Instructional Staff Training
- Library
- Instructional Technology
- Student Assessment

**It was moved and 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the article at the recommended amount. The hand vote in favor was unanimous.**

11. To see what sum the school administrative unit will be authorized to expend for System Administration. **The School Committee & Budget Committee recommend \$157,915.91**

- School Board
- Office of the Superintendent
- Business Services

**It was moved and 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the article at the recommended amount. The hand vote in favor was unanimous.**

12. To see what sum the school administrative unit will be authorized to expend for School Administration. **The School Committee & Budget Committee recommend \$192,236.91**

- Office of the Principal

**It was moved and 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the article at the recommended amount. The hand vote in favor was unanimous.**

13. To see what sum the school administrative unit will be authorized to expend for Transportation and Buses. **The School Committee & Budget Committee recommend \$210,543.60**

**It was moved and 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the article at the recommended amount. The hand vote in favor was unanimous.**

14. To see what sum the school administrative unit will be authorized to expend for Facilities Maintenance. **The School Committee & Budget Committee recommend \$335,782.72**
- Operations and Maintenance
  - Capital Renewal
- It was moved and 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the article at the recommended amount. The hand vote in favor was unanimous.**
15. To see what sum the school administrative unit will be authorized to expend for All Other Expenditures. **The School Committee & Budget Committee recommend \$36,000.00**
- School Nutrition Program
- It was moved and 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the article at the recommended amount. The hand vote in favor was unanimous.**
16. To see what sum the municipality will appropriate for the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act (**The School Committee & Budget Committee recommend \$2,077,735.14**) and to see what sum the municipality will raise as the municipality's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from 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. **The School Committee & Budget Committee recommend \$1,873,943.71**

*Explanation: The school administrative unit's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from 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.*

**\*Must be a recorded vote**

**It was moved and 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the article at the recommended amount. The article passed on a recorded vote of 31 yes and 0 no.**

17. Shall the Town of Lamoine raise and appropriate **\$832,454.52** in additional local funds, which exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services allocation model by **\$832,454.52** as required to fund the budget recommended by the school committee?

The school committee and budget committee recommend **\$832,454.52** for additional local funds and gives the following reasons for exceeding the State's Essential Programs and Services funding model by **\$832,454.52**

*Explanation: The additional local funds are those locally raised funds over and above the school administrative unit's local contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and local amounts raised for the annual payment on non-state funded debt service that will help achieve the (municipality/district) budget for educational programs.*

**\*Must be a recorded vote**

**It was moved and 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the article at the recommended amount. The article passed by a recorded vote of 30 yes and 1 no.**

18. Shall the Town of Lamoine raise and appropriate **\$36,000.00** for local nutrition allocation purposes (the school lunch program)? **The School Committee & Budget Committee recommend \$36,000.00**
- It was moved and 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the article at the recommended amount. The hand vote in favor was unanimous.**

19. To see what sum the municipality will authorize the school committee to expend for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024 from the school administrative unit's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from 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-A, section 15690, unexpended balances, tuition receipts, state subsidy and other receipts for the support of schools. **The School Committee and Budget Committee Recommend: \$3,301,152.86**

**\*Must be a recorded vote**

**It was moved and 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the article at the recommended amount. The article passed by a recorded vote of 56 yes and 1 no.**

20. Shall the Lamoine School Committee be authorized to transfer amounts exceeding 5% of the total appropriation for any cost center to another cost center or among other cost centers for the 2023-2024 fiscal year? **The School Committee & Budget Committee recommend approval. It was moved and 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the article at the recommended amount. The article passed on a hand vote.**
21. In addition to amounts approved in the preceding articles, shall the School Committee 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 and other program purposes, provided that such grants, programs or other sources do not require the expenditure of other funds not previously appropriated? **The School Committee & Budget Committee recommend approval. It was moved and 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the article at the recommended amount. The hand vote in favor was unanimous.**
22. In the event that the School Department received more state education subsidy than the amount included in its budget, shall the School Committee be authorized to use all or part of the additional state subsidy to increase expenditures for school purposes in cost center categories approved by the School Committee, increase the allocation of finances in a reserve fund approved by the School Committee, and/or decrease the local cost share expectation, as defined in Title 20-A, § 15671(A)(B), for local property taxpayers for funding public education as approved by the School Committee? **The School Committee & Budget Committee recommend approval. It was moved and 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the article at the recommended amount. The hand vote in favor was unanimous.**
23. In addition to the amounts approved above for the school operating budget, shall the Town raise and appropriate \$50,000 in additional local funds for Special Education, which exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services allocation model by **\$50,000** as required to fund the budget recommended by the School Committee; and authorize the School Committee to establish and transfer that sum to the **Special Education Reserve Fund**, and to expend from said Reserve Fund as needed at the discretion of the School Committee? **School Committee recommends \$50,000, and gives the following reasons for exceeding the essential programs and services funding model by \$50,000: to address unanticipated Special Education costs not included in the budget. The School Committee & Budget Committee recommend approval.**

**\*Must be a recorded vote.**

Note: Approval of this Article authorizes adjustment to the school operating budget articles previously approved, as well as the transfer and use of funds if needed.

*State Mandated Explanation: The additional local funds are those local raised funds over and above the Town's local contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and local amounts raised for the annual payment on non-state funded debt service that will help achieve the school budget for educational programs.*

**It was moved and 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the article at the recommended amount. The article passed by a recorded vote of 56 yes and 0 no.**

24. In addition to amounts approved above for the school operating budget, shall the Town raise and appropriate \$50,000 in additional local funds for Regular Education, which exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services allocation model by **\$50,000** as required to fund the budget recommended by the School Committee; and authorize the School Committee to establish and transfer that sum to the **Regular Education Reserve Fund**, and to expend from said Reserve Fund as needed at the discretion of the School Committee? **School Committee recommends \$50,000** and gives the following reasons for exceeding the State's Essential Programs and Services allocation model by \$50,000: to address Regular Instruction program costs that are not met by the state funding model and to mitigate tax impacts in future years.

**The School Committee & Budget Committee recommend approval.**

***\*Must be a recorded vote.***

Approval of this Article authorizes adjustment to the school operating budget articles previously approved, as well as the transfer and use of the funds if needed.

*State Mandated Explanation: The additional local funds are those local raised funds over and above the Town's local contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and local amounts raised for the annual payment on non-state funded debt service that will help achieve the school budget for educational programs.*

**It was moved and 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the article at the recommended amount. The article passed on a recorded vote of 55 yes and 0 no.**

**There was a brief discussion on what activities are planned for the school. Principal Dawn McPhail explained all the field trips and activities going on for the rest of the school year, and updated those in attendance on the accomplishments of the school and the staff. Superintendent Rob Liebow commended the town for its support of the school**

**There being no further business to transact, Moderator Marshall declared the town meeting adjourned at 7:11 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer M. Kovacs-Lord, Town Clerk