

## Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting March 5 & 13, 2024

**March 5, 2024** – Deputy Town Clerk Stuart Marckoon called the annual town meeting to order at 7:55 AM at the Lamoine Town Hall.

*Article 1* –To choose a moderator to preside over said meeting. **Maurice “Joe” Marshall was nominated to be the moderator and 2<sup>nd</sup>. There were no other nominations. A written vote elected Mr. Marshall 4-0. He was administered his oath of office. Mr. Marshall appointed Stuart Marckoon as the Deputy Moderator who took his oath of office.**

*Article 2* - To elect the following Town Officers by secret ballot:

- a. Municipal Officer & Overseers (2 positions, term to end town meeting 2027)
- b. School Committee Member (1 position, terms to end at town meeting 2027)

The polls opened at 8AM coinciding with the Democrat and Republican Presidential Primary Election. The results of the town meeting election were:

### Select Board (vote for 2)

Cooper, S. Josephine	302
McFarland, Gary	314
Others	3

### School Committee

Phillips, Amy	341
Others	1

Town Meeting Total Ballots	386
Total Registered Voters	1644
Turnout Percentage	23.48%

The outcome of the Presidential Primary voting was as follows:

### Democrat Presidential Primary

Biden, Joseph	137
Phillips, Dean	4
Blank	13
Others	0

### Republican Presidential Primary

Binkley, Ryan	1
DeSantis, Ron	1
Haley, Nikki	50
Ramaswamy, Vivek	0
Trump, Donald	171

Blank	2
Others	0

Turnout		Registered	Percent
Republicans	225	559	40.25%
Democrats	154	530	29.06%
Total	379	1089	34.80%

**March 13, 2024**

Open Town Meeting  
Wednesday, March 13, 2024

Town Clerk Jennifer Kovacs-Lord appointed and sworn in Lynda Tadema-Wielandt as ballot clerk for said meeting. Ballot Clerk Lynda Tadema-Wielandt and Town Clerk Jennifer Kovacs-Lord checked in 87 voters at the open town meeting.

Prior to the start of business:

Nathan Mason of the Select Board named the Citizen of the Year honor in memory of Planning Board Chair John Holt. Nathan Holt accepted the proclamation and presented the annual award to Fire Chief George "Skip" Smith. S. Josephine Cooper presented an Award to Stuart Marckoon from the State of Maine recognizing his Linc Stackpole Manager of the Year award.

**Maurice Marshall opened the Town Meeting at 6:18 PM. Moderator Marshall announced the results of the Election from March 5, 2024. 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 voice vote.**

3. To see if the town will vote to set the date that property taxes will be due in two equal payments on August 31, 2024 and February 28, 2025, and to fix the rate of interest at 8% to be charged on the unpaid amounts beginning September 1, 2024 and March 1, 2025 respectively, and to fix the rate of interest paid for overpayments at 4% per annum. **It was moved and 2<sup>nd</sup> to pass as written. The motion passed on a voice vote.**
4. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to offer to sell any property automatically acquired by tax liens to the previous owner(s) for payment of all back taxes, fees and interest; should the previous owner decline to redeem the property after 30-days' notice, to authorize the Select Board to advertise for sealed bids on same, and stating the lowest bid acceptable, and to execute, upon specific town meeting approval, a quitclaim deed to the highest responsible bidder; and further to allow the Select Board to authorize the Treasurer to waive automatic lien foreclosures when it is in the best interest of the Town. If sale is to anyone other than the former owner, the Select Board shall follow the special sale process required by 36 M.R.S.A. §943-C. **It was moved and 2<sup>nd</sup> to pass as written. The motion passed on a voice vote.**
5. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to sell and/or dispose of any property or fixtures deemed to be surplus and unusable to the Town and worth less than \$2,500 fair market value, under such terms and conditions as they deem advisable after advertising such items publicly. **It was moved and 2<sup>nd</sup> to pass as written. The motion passed on a voice vote.**
6. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate all funds from the money received from the State of Maine for registration of snowmobiles to the Frenchman Bay Riders Snowmobile Club for the purpose of

maintaining snowmobile trails. **It was moved and 2<sup>nd</sup> to pass as written. The motion passed on a voice vote.**

7. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the tax collector or treasurer to accept pre-payments of 2024/2025 and 2025/2026 taxes not yet committed and set the rate of interest at 0% for overpayments pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. § 506. **It was moved and 2<sup>nd</sup> to pass as written. The motion passed on a voice vote.**
  
8. To see if the town will approve proposed amendments the Building and Land Use Ordinance. A copy of the proposed amendments is available at the Lamoine Town Clerk's Office during regular business hours. . **It was moved and 2<sup>nd</sup> to pass as written. There was a brief discussion on definition of glamping and whether the amendments would prohibit use of tents in one's yard. There was also a brief discussion on whether the impact would ban motels and hotels from being located in any part of town. The motion passed on a hand vote.**
  
9. To see if the Town of Lamoine will vote to discontinue a portion of MacQuinn Road, including the discontinuance of any public easement, from the town line with the Town of Hancock southerly a distance of approximately 1,006 feet? **It was moved and 2<sup>nd</sup> to pass as written. Discussion on if the Hancock side of road was closed with a gate. Comments that MacQuinn Road is one of only 3 roads that access Route 1. The motion failed on a hand vote.**
  
10. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Administration and to set the salaries of the following elected officers whose salaries will be paid from the Administration Account of the General Fund, and to authorize the Select Board to establish the rate of compensation for appointed officials.

Position	Recommended Salary (Budget Committee & Select Board)
Select Board (Chair)	\$1,800.00
Select Board (non-chair, 4 positions)	\$1,200.00

*(The Budget Committee & Select Board recommend \$304,920.68 and the salaries as outlined above.)*  
**It was moved and 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the article at the recommended amount. The voice vote in favor was unanimous.**

11. To see what sum the Town of Lamoine will vote to raise and appropriate for the support of social service organizations listed below, which made written requests for funding from the Select Board, and met the criteria of the Town Meeting Donation Requests Ordinance adopted November 7, 2000, as amended.

Requesting Agency	Requested	Recommended
American Red Cross	\$600.00	\$600.00
Downeast Horizons	\$700.00	\$700.00
Eastern Area Agency on Aging	\$700.00	\$700.00
Emmaus Homeless Shelter	\$700.00	\$700.00
The Grand Auditorium	\$700.00	\$700.00
Families First Community Center	\$700.00	\$500.00
Friends In Action	\$600.00	\$600.00
Northern Light Home Care & Hospice	\$700.00	\$700.00
Hospice Volunteers of Hancock County	\$700.00	\$700.00
Lamoine Community Arts	\$700.00	\$700.00

Lamoine Grange # 264	\$700.00	\$700.00
Lamoine Historical Society	\$700.00	\$700.00
Lifeflight Foundation	\$700.00	\$700.00
Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry	\$700.00	\$700.00
Mount Desert Nursing Association	\$700.00	\$700.00
Downeast Community Partners	\$700.00	\$700.00
Women Infants & Children Clinic	\$700.00	\$700.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$11,700.00</b>	<b>\$11,700.00</b>

*(The Budget Committee & Select Board recommend \$11,700.00 as outlined above. The donation requests ordinance requires the Select Board to recommend no more than 5% of one mill, which is \$20,665.79.)*

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

12. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Ordinance Regarding Town Meeting Donation Requests, Section VI, subsection A. to read as follows: “*Organization requests shall be limited to a maximum of \$700 \$800 in any town fiscal year, and the ~~Board of Selectmen~~ **Select Board** and/or Budget Committee may only recommend up to that maximum amount on the Town Meeting Warrant.*” *(The Budget Committee recommends approval)* **It was moved and 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the article at the recommended amount. The voice vote in favor was unanimous.**

13. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for library services. *(The Select Board and Budget Committee recommend \$8,600.00. The Ellsworth Public Library has requested funding of \$8,600.00).* **It was moved and 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the article at the recommended amount. The voice vote in favor was unanimous.**

14. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Public Safety Expenditures. *(The Budget Committee, Select Board and Fire Department recommend \$115,375.00.)* **It was moved and 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the article at the recommended amount. The voice vote in favor was unanimous.**

15. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for its recycling program. *(The Budget Committee recommends \$54,000, the Select Board recommends \$0.00)* **It was moved and 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the article with the Budget Committee’s recommended amount of \$54,000. Motion to amend the article with the Select Board recommended amount of \$0.00. Discussion on where the recycling gets transported and price of fuel. Motion to amend failed on a hand vote 39 no 21 yes. The motion passed 56 yes 18 no on a hand vote with the budget committee’s recommended amount of \$54,000.**

16. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for waste disposal including operation of the Lamoine Transfer Station, shipment to the Penobscot Energy Recovery Company or its successor, monitoring of wells around the former landfill, and to authorize the Select Board to continue the contract of disposal of septic sludge. *(The Budget Committee recommends \$151,820.00. The Select Board recommends \$165,820.00.)* **It was moved and 2<sup>nd</sup> to pass with the recommended amounts. The motion passed on a voice vote.**

17. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Code Enforcement, including operations of the Planning and Appeals Boards, and to authorize expenditure of the state share of local plumbing fees to the Maine Department of Human Services. *(The Select Board and Budget Committee recommend \$37,300.00.)*

**It was moved and 2<sup>nd</sup> to pass with the recommended amounts. The motion passed on a voice vote.**

18. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Road Maintenance. *(The Budget Committee and Select Board recommend \$323,230.00.)*

**It was moved and 2<sup>nd</sup> to pass with the recommended amounts. The motion passed on a voice vote.**

19. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for major road projects including repaving Asa's Lane and the Lamoine Transfer Station. *(The Budget Committee and Select Board recommend \$176,250.00.).* . **It was moved and 2<sup>nd</sup> to pass with the recommended amounts. The motion passed on voice vote.**

20. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Maintenance. *(The Parks Commission, Recreation Committee, Select Board and Budget Committee recommend \$36,800.00.).* . **It was moved and 2<sup>nd</sup> to pass with the recommended amounts. The motion passed on a voice vote.**

21. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for enforcement of the Frenchman Bay Regional Shellfish Ordinance *(The Budget Committee and Select Board recommend \$3,000.00.)*

**It was moved and 2<sup>nd</sup> to pass with the recommended amounts. The motion passed on a voice vote.**

22. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for capital projects and debt service payments. *(The Select Board and Budget Committee recommend a total of \$185,733.92 for the following projects):*

- Land Conservation Fund, \$5,000.00
- Fire Truck Bond Payment \$63,691.52
- Land Purchase Bond Payment \$79,542.40
- Athletics Fields Capital Fund (New) - \$2,500.00
- Fire Department Emergency Repairs Fund - \$10,000.00
- Community Center Planning \$10,000.00
- Revaluation Fund Addition \$15,000.00

**It was moved and 2<sup>nd</sup> to pass with the recommended amounts. The motion passed on a voice vote.**

23. To see which revenues the Town will vote to appropriate for inclusion in the non-education portion of the budget to offset local property taxes.

Revenue Fund	Amount	Fund Total
<b>General Fund</b>		
Interest on Real Estate Taxes	\$8,000.00	
Automobile Excise Taxes	\$410,000.00	
Watercraft Excise Taxes	\$3,500.00	
Administration Fees	\$100.00	
Tax Lien Charges	\$4,000.00	
Agent Fees	\$6,800.00	
General Assistance Reimbursement	\$2,100.00	
Interest on Investments	\$15,000.00	
Rental Income – Cell Phone Tower	\$23,060.00	
Undesignated Fund Balance (Surplus)	\$250,000.00	
		<b>\$722,560.00</b>
<b>Road Fund</b>		
LRAP Program (State Funding)	\$22,000.00	

Road Fund Use	\$25,000.00	<b>\$47,000.00</b>
<b>Code Enforcement Fund</b>		
Code Enforcement Fees	\$8,700.00	
Transfer from Code Enforcement Fund	\$10,000.00	
Plumbing Permit Fees	\$5,000.00	<b>\$23,700.00</b>
<b>Other Funds</b>		
Recreation Fees		<b>\$9,030.00</b>
Local Animal Control Fees		<b>\$1,500.00</b>
<b>Total Offsets to Local Property Tax</b>		<b>\$803,790.00</b>

(NOTE): Municipal Revenue Sharing will also reduce the tax commitment and is not included in the above figure. *(The Select Board and Budget Committee recommend the revenue figures listed above.)*  
**It was moved and 2<sup>nd</sup> to pass with the recommended amounts. The motion passed on a voice vote.**

24. To see if the Town will vote to continue and establish the following funds:

<b>Fund Balance Account</b>	<b>Balance June 30, 2023</b>
Code Enforcement Fund	\$136,855.65
Fire Truck Reserve Fund	\$2,337.08
Road Assistance Fund	\$229,770.56
Education Capital Fund	\$10,441.77
Animal Control Fund	\$3,953.92
Revaluation Reserve Fund	\$3,177.22
Insurance Deductible Fund	\$10,968.12
Harbor Fund	\$25,108.40
Cable TV Channel Fund	\$81,639.68
Parks Fund	\$14,805.62
Capital Improvements Fund	\$54,345.54
Land Conservation Fund	\$9,738.07
Veterans Memorial Fund	\$5,704.13
Conservation Commission Fund	\$3,048.39
Flag Display Maintenance Fund	\$2,069.00
Allen & Leurene Hodgkins Fund	\$64,886.93
Recreation Fund	\$24,471.93
Town Hall Renovation Fund	\$104,553.17
Heating Assistance Fund	\$18,380.90
Sesquicentennial Celebration Fund	\$11,826.12
Transfer Station Capital Fund	\$102,479.20
Education Fund (from operations)	\$661,839.59
Education Special Ed Reserve	\$150,779.63
Education Secondary Tuition Reserve	\$35,181.93
Education – Facilities Maintenance Reserve	\$907,653.74
Cemetery Care Fund	\$193.64
Whitcomb Woods Maintenance Fund	\$3,721.31
Fire Truck Emergency Repairs Fund	\$25,129.95
Athletic Fields Capital Fund	\$0.00
Committee on Aging Fund (new 2024)	\$0.00

(NOTE): Most funds are part of continuing operations, so the balance of 6/30/23 does not reflect any appropriations, expenditures or revenues for the current fiscal year. These are unaudited balances, as the warrant was prepared prior to publication of the annual audit for FY 2023.

*(The Select Board and Budget Committee recommend continuing and establishing the above funds.)*  
**It was moved and 2<sup>nd</sup> to pass with the recommended amounts. The motion passed on a voice vote.**

25. To see if the Town will authorize expenditure of funds from the Harbor Fund for improvements at the Harbor area as suggested to and approved by the Select Board, and to authorize the Select Board to set the compensation of the Harbor Master and Deputy Harbor Master to be paid from the Harbor Fund. Expenditures are not to exceed available amounts in said fund. **It was moved and 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve article as written. The motion passed on a voice vote.**
  
26. To see if the Town will authorize expenditure of funds from the Cable TV Fund for operation of Lamoine's Cable TV channel as suggested to and approved by the Select Board, and to authorize the Select Board to set the compensation of the Cable TV Operations Manager and Information Technology Director. Expenditures are to be deducted from and Revenues are to be added to the Cable TV fund. Expenditure amounts are not to exceed available amounts in said fund. **It was moved and 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve article as written. The motion passed on a voice vote.**
  
27. To see if the Town will authorize expenditure of funds from the Veterans' Memorial Fund as recommended to and approved by the Select Board for the purposes of maintaining the memorial, not to exceed the available amount of the fund. **It was moved and 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve article as written. The motion passed on a voice vote.**
  
28. To see if the Town will authorize expenditure of funds in the Conservation Commission Fund as recommended to and approved by the Chair of the Conservation Commission for commission projects, said funds not to exceed the available amount of the fund. **It was moved and 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve article as written. The motion passed on a voice vote.**

**There being no further business to transact, Moderator Marshall declared the town meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer M. Kovacs-Lord". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Jennifer M. Kovacs-Lord, Town Clerk**