

2021 Annual Town Meeting Warrant

To Tammy Lamphere, a resident of the Town of Mercer, in the County of Somerset, 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 Mercer in said county and state, qualified to vote in town affairs, to meet at the **Mercer Town Office/Community Center** in said Town on **Saturday, the 13th day of March, 2021**, at one o'clock in the afternoon (**1 pm**) then and there to act upon said articles being the following:

ARTICLE 1: To elect a Moderator by written ballot to preside at said meeting.

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to spend any amount not to exceed 3/12th of the current annual budget during the period from January 1st of the following year to the date of that year's annual town meeting.

ARTICLE 3: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$75,548 for the salaries, wages and payroll taxes of Town Officers.**

		Requested		
1 st Selectperson	4,000	DeputyClk/Tax Coll	9,184	
2 nd Selectperson	4,000	Deputy Treasurer	6,500	
3 rd Selectperson	4,000	Transfer Sta. Attend	7,310	
TClk, TColl, Treas	29,314	Code Enforcement	<u>1,500</u>	
Registrar of Voters	1,000	Sub-Total	69,848	
Selectmen's Sec	<u>3,040</u>	SS & Medicare	<u>5,700</u>	
Total Full-time EE	33,354	Total	75,548	

Note: 2020 budget was \$69,192
 Select Board recommends \$75,548 from Taxes
 Budget Committee recommends: no, vote 2-3-0

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Surplus **\$8,000 for selectpersons' emergency contingencies.** All use of funds to be reported in the 2021 annual report.

Note: 2020 Budget was \$10,000
 Select Board recommends \$8,000 from Surplus
 Budget Committee recommends yes, vote 4-1-0

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$2,826 for Dues.**

Maine Municipal Association membership	\$1,786
KVCOG membership	<u>\$1,040</u>
Total	\$2,826

Note: 2020 budget was \$1,786
 Select Board recommends \$2,826 from Taxes
 Budget Committee recommends \$1,786, vote 4-1-0

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$16,794 for Insurance (General Liability & Property, Public Officials & Bonds, Workers Comp and Unemployment).**

Note: 2020 budget was \$16,920

Select Board recommends \$16,794 from Taxes

Budget Committee recommends \$16,794, vote 5-0-0

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$13,430 for Health Insurance coverage.**

Note: 2020 budget was \$14,938

Select Board recommends \$13,430 from Taxes

Budget Committee recommends no, vote 2-0-3

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$45,000 for Town Office/Community Center and Town Expenses** plus expend any revenues and donations generated by/for the community center; any unexpended balance to be placed in Town Office Capital Reserve Fund.

Note: 2020 budget was \$40,000 plus revenues and donations (\$46,097 spent)

Select Board recommends \$45,000 from taxes plus any revenues/donations (if any).

Budget Committee recommends \$45,000, vote 5-0-0

ARTICLE 9: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$9,000 for annual maintenance of TRIO accounting, assessing program, tax collection, motor vehicle (including Rapid Renewal online vehicle registration) and backup system.**

Note: 2020 budget was \$7,900.

Select Board recommends \$9,000 from Taxes

Budget Committee recommends \$9,000, vote 5-0-0

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$5,000 for Assessing;** any remaining balance to be placed in the Assessing Revaluation Fund.

Note: 2020 budget was \$9,000

Select Board recommends \$5,000 from Taxes

Budget Committee recommends \$5,000, vote 5-0-0

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$20,000 for Solid Waste Disposal, Recycling and Blue Bag purchase** plus expend all Transfer Station revenue generated in 2021.

Note: 2020 budget was \$23,000 plus revenues (roughly \$13,000)

Select Board recommends \$20,000 from Taxes plus TS revenues

Budget Committee recommends \$20,000, vote 5-0-0

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Surplus **\$500 for the Planning Board.**

Note: 2020 budget was \$500

Select Board recommends \$500 from Surplus

Budget Committee recommends \$500, vote 5-0-0

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$4,100 for Animal Control and the Humane Society,** plus expend any dog license revenue.

Note: 2020 budget was \$4,100

Select Board recommends \$4,100 from taxes plus dog license revenue

Budget Committee recommends \$4,100, vote 5-0-0

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Surplus **\$5,500 for Cemetery Care.**

Note: 2020 budget was \$5,500

Select Board recommends \$5,500 from Surplus

Budget Committee recommends \$5,500, vote 5-0-0

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Surplus **\$5,250 for the 2020 Town Audit**, plus expend any donations received.

Note: 2020 budget was \$3,450

Select Board recommends \$5,250 from Surplus plus any donations received

Budget Committee recommends \$5,000, vote 3-2-0; straw poll \$5,250, vote 2-3-0

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to enter into an agreement with the Town of Norridgewock to provide Mercer with fire protection services for a term of no more than three (3) years at an increase of no more than 17% of their budget annually, and on such terms and conditions as the Municipal Officers deems to be in the best interest of the Town.

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$51,100 for Public Safety (Fire, Traffic and Street lights).**

Note: 2020 budget was \$39,100

Select Board recommends \$51,100 from Taxes

Budget Committee recommends \$51,100, vote 5-0-0

ARTICLE 18: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$5,240 for Town of Mercer Rescue** with any remaining balance to be placed in the Mercer Rescue Capital Reserve Fund.

Note: 2020 budget was \$5,240

Select Board recommends \$5,240 from Taxes

Budget Committee recommends \$5,240, vote 5-0-0

ARTICLE 19: To see what percentage the Town will vote to deduct on all taxes assessed in 2021 that are paid in full on or before the 30th day after the date of the mailing of the tax bills; funds to come from overlay.

Note: 2020 Discount of 2% cost the town \$14,203

Select Board does not recommend

Budget Committee recommends 2%, vote 4-1-0

ARTICLE 20: To see what rate the Town will vote to charge and collect interest on all taxes assessed in 2021 that are unpaid 60 days after the date of the mailing of the tax bills.

Select Board recommends the maximum allowed by state law (2021 is 6%)

Budget Committee recommends 60 days, vote 5-0-0

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$9,325 for Shaw Library.

Note: 2020 budget was \$9,325

Select Board recommends \$9,325 from taxes

Budget Committee recommends \$9,325, vote 5-0-0

ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$125,000 (\$80,000 from Taxes, \$45,00 from the Summer Roads Improvement Fund) for Summer Road Maintenance.**

Note: 2020 budget was \$80,000

Select Board recommends \$125,000

Budget Committee recommends \$125,000, vote 3-1-1

ARTICLE 23: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$30,000 (\$20,000 from Taxes, \$10,000 from Surplus) plus any LRAP funds received for Paving.**

Note: 2020 budget was \$30,000 plus LRAP

Select Board recommends \$30,000 plus 2021 LRAP funds

Budget Committee recommends \$30,000 plus LRAP, vote 5-0-0

ARTICLE 24: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$10,000 for Ditching.**

Note: 2020 Budget was \$10,000

Select Board recommends \$10,000 from taxes

Budget Committee recommends \$10,000, vote 4-1-0

ARTICLE 25: To see if the town will vote to appropriate **\$20,000 from Surplus for Elm Street culvert replacement.**

Select Board recommends \$20,000 from surplus

Budget Committee recommends \$20,000, vote 4-1-0

ARTICLE 26: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$40,000 to finish Pond Road and improve Bacon and Beech Hill Road with matching funds from 7 Lakes Alliance Grant.**

Note: Allocation: Pond Road - \$5,000; Bacon \$20,000; Beech Hill \$15,000

Select Board recommends \$40,000 from taxes and \$40,000 from 7 Lakes Alliance.

Budget Committee recommends \$40,000, vote 4-1-0

ARTICLE 27: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$210,000 (\$60,000 from Taxes, \$150,000 from Excise taxes) for Winter Road maintenance, including plowing, sanding and stockpiling sand and salt.**

Note: 2020 Budget was \$230,000

Select Board recommends \$210,000

Budget Committee recommends \$210,000, vote 5-0-0

ARTICLE 28: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate **\$5,000 from Surplus for General Assistance.**

Note: 2020 Budget was \$17,500

Select Board recommends \$5,000

Budget Committee does not recommend, vote 0-1-4

ARTICLE 29: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate **\$1,000 from Surplus for charity. A minimum of 50% of this will be spent in the Town of Mercer.**

Note: 2020 budget was \$2,000

Select Board recommends \$1,000 from Surplus

Budget Committee recommends \$1,000, vote 5-0-0

ARTICLE 30: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$500 for Mercer Meeting House Association and for use of Mercer Old Home Days festivities.**

Note: 2020 budget was \$500

Selectmen Recommend \$500 from Taxes

Budget Committee recommends \$500, vote 5-0-0

ARTICLE 31: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$500 for Mercer Historical Society.**

Note: 2020 budget was 500

Select Board recommends \$500 from Taxes

Budget Committee recommends \$500, vote 5-0-0

ARTICLE 32: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate **\$750 from Surplus for various Youth Leagues.**

Note: 2020 budget was \$750

Select Board recommends \$750 from surplus

Budget Committee recommends \$750, vote 5-0-0

ARTICLE 33: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$425 to supplement the three town scholarship awards.**

Note: 2020 budget was \$425

Select Board recommends \$425 from taxes (\$200 for each high school award and \$25 for elementary award)

Budget Committee recommends \$425, vote 5-0-0

ARTICLE 34: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate **\$500 from Surplus for training costs of Code Enforcement Officer, Local Plumbing Inspector and Health Officer.**

Note: 2020 Budget was \$400 (We added training for Health Officer in 2021)

Select Board recommends \$500 from surplus

Budget Committee recommends \$500, vote 5-0-0

ARTICLE 35: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the **CEO to keep all application fees.**

Note: 2020 budget was \$2,000 included wages

Select Board recommends Yes (2020 fees were \$450)

Budget Committee recommends yes, vote 4-0-1

ARTICLE 36: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$2,000 for North Pond Association.**

Note: 2020 budget was \$2,000

Select Board recommends \$2,000 from taxes

Budget Committee recommends \$2,000, vote 4-1-0

ARTICLE 37: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$2,000 for the Mercer Road Emergency Fund.**

Note: 2020 budget was \$2,000

Select Board recommends \$2,000 from taxes

Budget Committee recommends \$2,000, vote 5-0-0

ARTICLE 38: To see if the Town will vote to elect by secret ballot at the annual town meeting, five individuals to serve as a Budget Committee and to increase the length of the term from a 1-year term to 3-year staggered terms, to be phased in beginning at the 2022 Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 39: To see if the Town will vote to elect from the floor at this meeting, five individuals to serve as a Budget Committee. The committee will meet with the selectpersons within 60 days for the purpose of electing a Chairperson.

ARTICLE 40: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to appoint the positions of Town Clerk, Tax Collector and Treasurer. This article to take effect at the 2022 Annual Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 41: To see if the Town will vote to increase the length of the terms of the Municipal Officers from a 1-year term to three-year staggered terms, to be phased in, beginning at the 2022 Town Meeting. The initial term of the three Municipal Officers elected in 2022 shall be 3 years- 1st Selectperson, 2 years- 2nd Selectperson and 1 year- 3rd Selectperson. Thereafter each position which is due to expire shall be filled by election for a 3-year term.

ARTICLE 42: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to put up for sale according to terms and conditions determined to be in the best interest of the town a parcel of land on Elm Street with river frontage known as the "Town Forest" and further identified as tax map 10, lot 8 within the Town of Mercer, said parcel to contain 22.68 acres more or less. Proceeds of the sale to be placed in the Town Forest Account Fund.

ARTICLE 43: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the select board, on behalf of the Town, to take whatever actions are necessary for the Town to become a member of the Maine Municipal Association Property and Casualty Pool Program, including but not limited to the execution of any contract required for such membership and the payment of any required fees or charges. The authority granted herein shall be continued until revoked.

ARTICLE 44: Shall the Town vote to authorize the Select Board, on behalf of the Town, to join with other participating municipal and quasi-municipal employers to group self-insure for the provision of workers' compensation benefits, as authorized by 39-A MRSA sec 403, said group to be known as the "Maine Municipal Association Workers' Compensation Fund" (Fund); and for that purpose and in consideration of the mutual covenants and agreements among participating employers, to authorize the Select Board to enter into a Fund Indemnity Agreement on behalf of the Town and take whatever other actions may be necessary. The authority granted herein shall continue until revoked.

ARTICLE 45: To see if the Town will vote to extend the deadline for the five member Town Charter Research Committee appointed at the 2020 Annual Town Meeting to provide a report and recommendations to Town Meeting 2022.

ARTICLE 46: To see what action the Town will take to implement a policy that any vendor, service provider, contractor or individual shall be accountable by an itemized invoice(s) or receipt of purchase prior to approval by the Municipal Officers and payment. The authority granted herein shall continue until amended or revoked.

ARTICLE 47: To see if the Town will vote to revoke 2008 Annual Town Meeting Continuing Article 27: The Town voted to authorize the Municipal Officers to annually appoint a Director of the Mercer CERT Program, to report to the Town's Emergency Management Director.

ARTICLE 48: To see if the Town will vote to revoke 2008 Annual Town Meeting Continuing Article 49: The Town voted to accept the following funds...agency funds or grants not specifically listed above.

ARTICLE 49: To see if the Town will vote to accept and expend any or all donations received from the public, any state, federal, or other governmental agency funds not explicitly allowable by state law, and all grants received in accordance with the intended purpose of the donation, grant or other funds as they are received.

ARTICLE 50: To see if the Town will vote to revoke the 2008 Annual Town Meeting continuing Article #46 to authorize the Municipal Officers to spend up to 2/12 of the budgeted amount...of that year's annual town meeting.


ARTICLE 51:

To see if the Town will vote to increase the property tax levy limit established for Mercer by state law, in the event that the municipal budget approved under the following articles results in a tax commitment greater than that limit.

Given under our hands this 11th day of February, 2021.



Ricky J. Parlin



Gary D. Mosher

Dari D. Hurley