

2022 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 **Friday, the 4th day of March, 2022**, at eight o'clock in the forenoon then and there to act upon Article 1 and by secret ballot on Article 2 as set out below, the polling hours therefor to be from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. and to reconvene on **Saturday, the 5th day of March, 2022** at five thirty o'clock in the afternoon (**5:30 p.m.**) then and there to act upon Articles 3 through 42 being the following:

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

ARTICLE 2: To elect three (3) Selectpersons, Assessors, and Overseers of the Poor all for one-year terms, one (1) Director of SAD #54 for a three-year term; one (1) Trustee of Shaw Library for a five-year term, two (2) Planning Board members for a three-year term, and five (5) Budget Committee members, two (2) three-year terms, two (2) two-year terms, and one (1) one-year term.

ARTICLE 3: 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.

ARTICLE 4: 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 5: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$107,143 for salaries, stipends, wages and benefits of all Town Officers** (\$106,143 from Taxes; \$1,000 from Surplus).

		Requested	
1 st Selectperson	4,000	Addressing Officer	500
2 nd Selectperson	4,000	Code Enforcement	2,600
3 rd Selectperson	4,000	Cemetery Sexton	500
Clerk, TC, Treasurer	36,795	Planning Board	<u>500</u>
Deputy Ck, TC, TR	18,444	Sub-total	86,643
Deputy Ck, TC	6,216	SS & Medicare	6,800
Trans Sta Attendant	7,488	Health Insurance	<u>13,700</u>
Animal Control Officer	1,600	Total	107,143

Note: 2021 budget was \$91,878 (Art 3, 7,12, and part of 13)
 Select Board recommends \$107,143 (\$106,143 from Taxes; \$1,000 from Surplus)
 Budget Committee recommends \$107,143, vote 4-0-1

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$89,290 for Administration - Town Office, Mercer Community Center (\$84,040 from Taxes and \$5,250 from Surplus)** plus expend any revenues and donations generated by the community center; any unexpended balances in the Administration budget and the Community Center revenue accounts to be placed in the Community Center Reserve Fund.

Audit	\$ 5,250 (Surplus)	
Dues/Subscription	\$ 2,140	
Operating Costs	\$35,400	
Trio new modules	\$ 3,120	
Trio renewal	\$ 9,700	
Insurance-Gen Liability, P&C, Pub Officials, Vehicle, Bonds, WC/Unemployment	\$19,180	
Utilities	<u>\$14,500</u>	
Total	\$89,290	

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JR
RP.

Note: 2021 budget was \$78,556 (Art 5, 6, 8, 9, 15)
 Select Board recommends \$89,290 (\$84,040 from Taxes; \$5,250 from Surplus)
 Budget Committee recommends \$82,290, vote 4-0-1

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Surplus **\$8,000 for Contingency**. All use of funds to be reported in the 2022 annual report.

Note: 2021 Budget was \$8,000; spent \$1,050 Trio new chart of accounts; \$273.66 overage in Transfer Station resulting from cost to remove electronics)
 Select Board recommends \$8,000 from Surplus
 Budget Committee recommends \$8,000, vote 4-0-1

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$17,500 for Assessing**; any remaining balance to be placed in the Assessing Revaluation Fund.

Note: 2021 budget was \$5,000; 2020 budget was \$9,000
 Select Board recommends \$17,500 from Taxes
 Budget Committee recommends \$17,500, vote 4-0-1

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Surplus **\$20,000 to be deposited into the Assessing Revaluation Fund for RJD Appraisal's revaluation in 2024/2025.**

Select Board recommends \$20,000 from Surplus.
 Budget Committee recommends \$20,000, vote 3-1-1

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$1,750 for the Animal Shelter and ACO expenses.**

Note: 2021 budget was \$4,100 (ACO wages is included in Article 5)

Select Board recommends \$1,750 from Taxes
Budget Committee recommends \$1,750, vote 4-0-1

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Surplus **\$500 for Health Officer, Code Enforcement Officer and Local Plumbing Inspector training.**

Note: 2021 budget was 500

Select Board recommends \$500 from Surplus
Budget Committee recommends \$500, vote 4-0-1

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Surplus **\$3,500 for Cemetery Maintenance.**

Note: 2021 budget was \$5,500

Select Board recommends \$3,500 from Surplus
Budget Committee recommends \$3,500, vote 4-0-1

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will authorize the selectboard to pursue transfer of the Hampshire Hill Cemetery Association's assets to the town; to authorize the selectboard to execute documents and finalize agreements for the town to take ownership of the Hampshire Hill Cemetery land located at Hampshire Hill Road, Town of Mercer tax map 3, lot 11 and to accept transfer of trust funds and other assets held by the association if, after investigation, the selectboard is satisfied that these transfers are in the best interests of the town and can be satisfactorily completed; and to appropriate up to **\$3,000 from Surplus for legal and financial services** to accomplish said transfer.

Note: Hampshire Hill Cemetery Association has perpetual care funds of \$5,871

Select Board recommends Yes, \$3,000 from Surplus
Budget Committee recommends \$3,000, vote 4-0-1

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will establish a non-lapsing "**Legal Expenses Reserve Fund**" to be used to pay for legal expenses incurred by the town; to raise and appropriate **\$3,000** to be deposited into the fund; and to provide the selectboard with continuing authority to spend from the account for the purposes stated above without further vote of the town meeting, this authority to remain in force from year to year until rescinded by the town meeting.

Select Board recommends \$3,000 from Taxes
Budget Committee recommends \$3,000, vote 4-0-1

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$425 to supplement the three town scholarship awards.**

Note: 2021 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 4-0-1

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to charge and collect interest of 4% on all taxes assessed in 2022 that are unpaid 60 days after the date of commitment.

Note: 2020 interest was 8%, 2021 interest was 6%

Select Board recommends the maximum allowed by state law (2022 is 4%)
Budget Committee recommends 4%, vote 4-0-1

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to deduct 2% on all taxes assessed in 2022 that are paid in full on or before the 30th day after the date of commitment.
Note: 2022 budget is \$16,000, funds to come from taxes (2021 actual - \$15,777)
Select Board recommends 0%
Budget Committee recommends 1% from taxes

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to dissolve the Mercer Rescue for and within Mercer.
Note: 2021 budget was \$5,240; balance in fund is \$3,248.65
Select Board recommends Yes
Budget Committee makes no recommendation, vote 3-1-1

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$52,800 for Public Safety (Fire – year 2 of 3-year contract , Traffic and Street lights).**
Note: 2021 budget was \$51,100
Select Board recommends \$52,800 from Taxes
Budget Committee recommends \$52,400, vote 4-0-1

Rep. G. W.

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$78,000 for Public Works - Summer Roads.**
Note: 2021 budget was \$125,000
Select Board recommends \$78,000 from Taxes
Budget Committee recommends \$78,000, vote 4-0-1

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$210,000 for Public Works - Winter Road Maintenance – year 3 of 3-year contract and Sand/Salt Shed (\$55,000 from Taxes, \$155,000 from Excise Taxes).**
Note: 2021 budget was \$210,000
Select Board recommends \$210,000 (\$55,000 from Taxes; \$155,000 from Excise Taxes)
Budget Committee recommends \$210,000, vote 4-0-1

ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Surplus **\$750 for various Youth Leagues.**
Note: 2021 budget was \$750
Select Board recommends \$750 from Surplus
Budget Committee recommends \$750, vote 4-0-1

ARTICLE 23: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$37,320 for Solid Waste Disposal, Recycling and Blue Bag purchase.**
Note: 2021 actual was \$33,181
Select Board recommends \$37,320 from Taxes
Budget Committee recommends \$37,320. Vote 4-0-1

ARTICLE 24: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Surplus **\$1,000 for Charity, 50% of this budget to be spent in the Town of Mercer.**

Note: 2021 Budget was \$1,000

Select Board recommends \$1,000 from Surplus

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

ARTICLE 25: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Surplus **\$2,000 for General Assistance.**

Note: 2021 Budget was \$5,000

Select Board recommends \$2,000 from Surplus

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

ARTICLE 26: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$500 for Mercer Historical Society.**

Note: 2021 Budget was \$500.

Select Board recommends \$500 from Taxes

Budget Committee recommends \$500, vote 4-0-1

ARTICLE 27: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$500 for Mercer Meeting House.**

Note: 2021 Budget was \$500.

Select Board recommends \$500 from Taxes

Budget Committee recommends \$500, vote 4-0-1

ARTICLE 28: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$3,500 for North Pond Association.**

Note: 2021 Budget was \$2,000.

Select Board recommends \$2,000 from Taxes

Budget Committee recommends \$2,000, vote 3-1-1

ARTICLE 29: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$9,325 for Mercer Shaw Library.**

Note: 2021 Budget was \$9,325; spent \$8,682.75

Select Board recommends \$8,000 from Taxes

Budget Committee recommends \$8,000, vote 3-1-1

ARTICLE 30: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for **Capital Improvement Projects \$2,000 for the Mercer Road Maintenance Fund.**

Note: 2021 budget was \$2,000

Select Board recommends \$2,000 from Taxes

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

ARTICLE 31: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for **Capital Improvement Projects \$10,000 for Ditching and Berm Removal.**

Note: 2021 Budget was \$10,000

Select Board recommends \$10,000 from Taxes
Budget Committee recommends \$10,000, vote 4-0-1

ARTICLE 32: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate for **Capital Improvement Projects \$40,000 to repair a section of Main Street (\$10,072 from Surplus, \$29,928 from 2021 LRAP funds).**

Note: 2021 budget was \$30,000 plus LRAP
Select Board recommends \$40,000 (\$10,072 from Surplus; \$29,928 from 2021 LRAP)
Budget Committee recommends \$40,000, vote 4-0-1

ARTICLE 33: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate for **Capital Improvement Projects \$45,000 to complete a section of Pond Road and Bacon Road (\$25,000 from Taxes; \$20,000 from Surplus) with 50% matching funds from 7 Lakes Alliance Grant.**

Note: Total cost is \$90,000
Select Board recommends \$45,000 (\$25,000 from taxes, \$20,000 from Surplus, \$45,000 from 7 Lakes Alliance)
Budget Committee recommends \$45,000, vote 4-0-1

ARTICLE 34: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate for **Capital Improvement Projects \$3,000 for engineering work at Pattee Brook with 50% matching funds from 7 Lakes Alliance Grant.**

Note: Total engineering costs is \$6,000
Select Board recommends \$3,000 from taxes and \$3,000 from 7 Lakes Alliance
Budget Committee recommends \$3,000, vote 4-0-1

ARTICLE 35: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate for **Capital Improvement Projects \$18,000 to improve Rome Road Extension.**

Select Board recommends \$18,000 from taxes
Budget Committee recommends \$18,000, vote 4-0-1

ARTICLE 36: To see if the town will vote to appropriate approximately \$67,316 from Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (aka American Rescue Plan Act or ARPA) funds received by the Town from the federal government for the Municipal Building/Community Center Roof Repair/Replacement Project.

Select Board recommends yes
Budget Committee recommends yes, vote 4-0-1

ARTICLE 37: To see if the town will vote to appropriate \$64,000 from Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (aka American Rescue Plan Act or ARPA) funds received by the Town towards a proposal developed by the Somerset Economic Development Corporation (SEDC) to install broadband fiber optic internet throughout the Town of Mercer. If the SEDC proposal is not funded within the next fiscal year, the funds will be spent for the Municipal Building/Community Center Roof Repair/Replacement Project.
Budget Committee does not recommend, vote 4-0-1

ARTICLE 38: To see if the Town will vote to disburse the balance in the CERT Fund account over to a sponsor of the CERT program.

Note: Balance as of 12/31/2021 is \$3,157.42

ARTICLE 39: To see if the Town will vote to disband the five member Town Charter Research Committee appointed at the 2020 Annual Town Meeting after hearing their report and recommendations to Town Meeting 2022.

ARTICLE 40: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to carry forward funds that have been obligated by contract into the new fiscal year. The authority granted herein shall continue until amended or revoked.

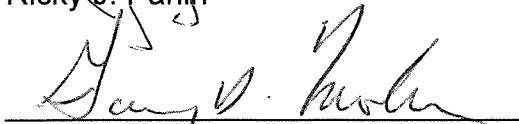
ARTICLE 41: To see if the Town will vote to accept and expend any or all donations received from the public, any state, federal, or other governmental agency funds not explicitly allowable by state law, and all grants received in accordance with the intended purpose of the donation, grant or other funds as they are received.

ARTICLE 42: To see if the Town will vote to prohibit a former elected official, employee or subcontractor, who does not complete the term of their agreement (excused or otherwise) from running for any town position elected or hired; therefore, becoming ineligible to be employed or elected for no less than (10) years.

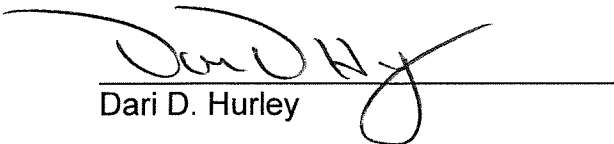
Given under our hands this 24th day of February, 2022.



Ricky J. Parlin



Gary D. Mosher



Dari D. Hurley