

2025 Annual Town Meeting Warrant

To, Dari Hurley, 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 Community Center** in said Town on **Friday, the 28th day of February, 2025**, at Eleven 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 11:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. and to reconvene on **Saturday, the 1st day of March, 2025**, at five thirty o'clock in the afternoon (**5:30 p.m.**) then and there to act upon Articles 3 through 37, said articles 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 MSAD #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 two (2) Budget Committee members for a three-year term.

ARTICLE 3: Shall an ordinance entitled "Town of Mercer, Maine Solar Energy Systems Ordinance" be amended?

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 charge and collect interest of 7.5% on all taxes assessed in 2025 that are unpaid 30 days after the date of commitment.

Select Board recommends 5%
Budget Committee recommends 7.5% vote 5-0

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to set the date that property taxes shall become due and payable as August 15th annually or 30 calendar days from commitment, whichever date is greater.

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$131,984 for wages and benefits for Administration.**

1 st Selectperson	\$ 6,000	Part-Time	<u>\$ 6,000</u>
2 nd Selectperson	\$ 6,000	Sub-total	\$106,792
3 rd Selectperson	\$ 6,000	SS, FICA, FMLA	\$ 8,934
Clerk, Tax Collector, Treasurer, Admin	\$ 54,400	Health Insurance	<u>\$ 16,258</u>
Deputy	\$ 28,392	Total	\$131,984

Select Board recommends \$131,984 from Taxes
Budget Committee recommends \$131,984, vote 3-1-1

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$98,580 for Administration (Town Office, Mercer Community Center)** 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	\$ 8,750	Dues/Subscriptions	\$ 2,400
Elections	\$ 2,500	Postage	\$ 2,000
Registry of Deeds	\$ 2,000	Security	\$ 2,000
Town Report	\$ 2,000	Training/Travel	\$ 1,950
Supplies	\$ 1,950	Software/Equip/Furn	\$ 3,000
Trio software Maint	\$22,000	Utilities	\$20,800
Repairs & Maint	\$ 8,100	Contract Svcs	\$ 6,000
Insurance	\$11,830	Miscellaneous	\$ 1,300
		Total	\$98,580

Select Board recommends \$98,580 from Taxes
 Budget Committee recommends \$98,580, vote 5-0

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Surplus **\$4,000 for Contingency.** All use of funds to be reported in the 2025 annual report.

Note: No expenditures in 2024
 Select Board recommends \$4,000 from Surplus
 Budget Committee recommends \$4,000, vote 5-0

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$12,875 for Assessing;** any remaining balance to be placed in the Assessing Revaluation Fund.

Select Board recommends \$12,875, \$10,000 from Taxes; \$2,875 from Surplus
 Budget Committee recommends \$12,875, vote 5-0

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$1,060 for the Planning Board.**

Select Board recommends \$1,060 from Taxes
 Budget Committee recommends \$1,060, vote 5-0

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$13,738 for Special Officers.**

Addressing Officer	\$ 500	Travel/mileage	\$ 200
ACO	\$ 2,400	Training	\$ 500
CEO	\$ 7,000	Misc Exp:	
SS, FICA, FMLA	\$ 825	ACO,CEO,HO	\$ 500
WC/Unemployment	\$ 152	Animal Shelter	
		<u>Contract</u>	<u>\$ 1,461</u>
		Total	\$13,738

Select Board recommends \$13,738 from Taxes
 Budget Committee recommends \$13,738, vote 5-0

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$6,173 for Cemetery Maintenance.**

Select Board recommends \$6,173 from Taxes
 Budget Committee recommends \$6,173, vote 4-0-1

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$1,025 to supplement the three town scholarship awards** (two \$500 high school awards & a \$25 elementary award).
Select Board recommends \$1,025 from Taxes
Budget Committee recommends \$1,025, vote 5-0

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$80,531 for Public Safety – Fire (year 2 of 3-year contract), Traffic and Street lights.**
Select Board recommends \$80,531 from Taxes
Budget Committee recommends \$80,531, vote 5-0

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$6,150 for Public Safety - Mercer Rescue**; any unexpended balance to be placed in the Mercer Rescue Fund.
Select Board recommends \$6,150 from Taxes
Budget Committee recommends \$6,150, vote 4-0-1

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$88,990 for Public Works - Summer Roads**; any unexpended balance to be placed in the Road Maintenance Fund.
Select Board recommends \$88,990 from Taxes
Budget Committee recommends \$88,990, vote 5-0

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$192,390 for Public Works - Winter Road Maintenance (year 1 of 3-year contract) and Sand/Salt Shed** (\$9,390 from Taxes, \$183,000 from Excise Taxes).
Select Board recommends \$192,390 from Taxes (Property/Excise)
Budget Committee recommends \$192,390, vote 5-0

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Surplus **\$750 for various Youth Leagues.**
Select Board recommends \$750 from Surplus
Budget Committee recommends \$750, vote 5-0

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$27,916 for Solid Waste Disposal and Recycling.**
Select Board recommends \$27,916 from Taxes
Budget Committee recommends \$27,916, vote 5-0

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$12,493 for Mercer Shaw Library** (\$10,993 from Taxes, \$1,500 from Shaw Library Reserve Fund).
Select Board recommends \$12,493 from Taxes and Reserves
Budget Committee recommends \$12,493, vote 5-0

ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from **Shaw Library Book Fund \$900** for book purchases.
Select Board recommends \$900 from Reserves
Budget Committee recommends \$900, vote 5-0

ARTICLE 23: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Surplus **\$500 for Charity.**
Select Board recommends \$500 from Surplus
Budget Committee recommends \$500, vote 5-0

ARTICLE 24: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Surplus **\$2,500 for General Assistance.**

Select Board recommends \$2,500 from Surplus
Budget Committee recommends \$2,500, vote 5-0

ARTICLE 25: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$2,500 for Mercer Historical Society.**

Select Board recommends \$2,500 from Taxes
Budget Committee recommends \$2,500, vote 5-0

ARTICLE 26: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$3,000 for Mercer Meeting House.**

Select Board recommends \$3,000 from Taxes
Budget Committee recommends \$3,000, vote 5-0

ARTICLE 27: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$3,500 for North Pond Association.**

Select Board recommends \$3,500 from taxes
Budget Committee recommends \$2,000, vote 5-0

ARTICLE 28: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$2,000 for 7 Lakes Youth Conservation Corp.**

Select Board recommends \$2,000 from Taxes
Budget Committee recommends \$2,000, vote 5-0

ARTICLE 29: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$21,530 for Town's share of FEMA May 2023 (Disaster DR#4719) storm repairs.**

Select Board recommends \$21,530 from Taxes
Budget Committee recommends \$21,530, vote 5-0

ARTICLE 30: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Surplus **\$11,000 for Capital Improvement Project at Pattee Brook on Pond Road.**

Select Board recommends \$11,000 from Surplus
Budget Committee recommends \$11,000, vote 5-0

ARTICLE 31: To see if the town will vote to appropriate **\$85,700 for Capital Improvement Project to complete a section of Elm Street** (from Main Street to beyond the culverts at the former True place) \$50,940 from Surplus; \$34,760 from LRAP).

Select Board recommends \$85,700 from Surplus/LRAP
Budget Committee recommends \$85,700, vote 5-0

ARTICLE 32: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Surplus **\$12,000 as the local match to purchase a generator** to power the Mercer Community Center.

Select Board recommends \$12,000 from Surplus
Budget Committee recommends \$12,000, vote 5-0

ARTICLE 33: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate **\$46,000 to repair the parking lot at the Mercer Community Center**, \$12,000 from Surplus, \$34,000 from MCC Reserve Fund.

Select Board recommends \$46,000 from MCC Reserves/Surplus
Budget Committee recommends up to \$46,000 from MCC Reserves/Surplus

ARTICLE 34: To see if the town will vote to **sell excess acreage** (approximately 81 acres more or less) from a piece of town-owned property formerly known as the Capped Landfill and Transfer Station Site (retaining said Landfill and Transfer Station consisting of approximately 10 acres more or less) on East Sandy River Road identified on the Town of Mercer tax maps as Map 09, Lot 14, said parcel consisting of 91 acres more or less, proceeds to be deposited equally into the Road Maintenance and MCC Funds.

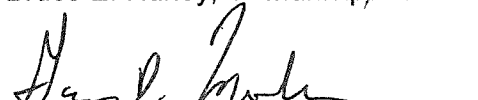
ARTICLE 35: To see if the town will vote to **increase the length of the terms of the Municipal Officer, Assessor, and Overseer of the Poor** from a 1-year term to 3-year staggered terms to be phased in beginning with the 2026 Annual Town Meeting and Election. The initial term of the three Municipal Officers will be as follows: 1st Selectperson 3-year term; 2nd Selectperson 2-year term; and 3rd Selectperson 1-year term. Annually thereafter, each position which is due to expire shall be elected for a 3-year term.

ARTICLE 36: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the municipal officers to **dispose of tax-acquired property** as they deem in the best interests of the Town, except that the municipal officers shall first use the sale process in 36 M.R.S. § 943-C if they choose to sell property to anyone other than the former owner. For sales to someone other than the former owner, excess sale proceeds, as defined in 36 M.R.S. § 943-C, shall be returned to the former owner.

ARTICLE 37: 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.

Given under our hands this 23rd day of January, 2025.


Bruce E. Hurley, 1st Municipal Officer


Gary D. Mosher, 2nd Municipal Officer & Chairman


Mary E. Burr, 3rd Municipal Officer