



**Minutes of the Annual STARKS Town Meeting
March 10 and 11, 2023**

Article #1

To choose a moderator over said meeting.

Barbara Vischer was elected with three written votes.

Thomas Saviello was appointed Deputy Moderator

Article #2

To choose by Australian ballot all Town Officers for the current year.

Selectman, 3 year term

Joseph Hayden 33

Steve Rackliff 1

William Pressey 1

Assessor, 3 year term

Joseph Hayden 34

David Taylor 1

Town Treasurer, 3 year term

Erin Norton 35

Article #3

To elect five budget committee members from the floor.

Article moved and seconded to nominate: **Paul Frederic, Ken Lust, Joe McCarthy, Kevin McGillicuddy, Danielle Pressey**

Since there were 5 nominees and 5 seats on the Budget Committee the Town Clerk voted and declared the nominees become the members of the Committee.

Article #4

- A. To see if the Town will vote to increase the **property tax levy limit** established for the Town of Starks by state law in the event that the municipal budget approved under the following warrant articles results in a tax commitment that is greater than the property tax levy limit (must be voted on by written ballot).
Article moved, seconded. **Passed** by a written vote of **34** to **5**.
- B. To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board to spend an amount not to exceed **3/12 of the annual budget** in each budget category of the 2023 annual

budget during the period from January 1st, 2024 to the 2024 Annual Town Meeting.

- C. To see if the Town will vote to make **taxes due** and payable on the date of commitment. And to begin charging interest on taxes sixty days after the date of commitment at a rate of **8%** annually.
- D. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to apply for a **Tax Anticipation Note**, if needed, to pay current expenses and to pay any interest and costs from overlay.
- E. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to pay **abatements** from overlay.
- F. To see if the Town in accordance with 36 M.R.S. § 506-A will vote that if a taxpayer pays an amount in excess of their final assessment it shall be refunded in the amount of the overpayment.
- G. To see if the Town in accordance with 36 M.R.S. § 506 will authorize the Tax Collector and Treasurer to accept prepayment of taxes not yet committed and pay no interest thereon.
- H. To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board, on behalf of the Town, to **sell and dispose** of any real-estate acquired by the Town for nonpayment of taxes thereon, on such terms as they deem advisable; and to execute the appropriate deeds for such property. Except that the Select Board shall use the special sale process required by 36 M.R.S. § 943-C for qualifying homestead property if they choose to sell it to anyone other than the former owner(s).
- I. To see if the Town will vote to apply available excise taxes (vehicle and boat), tax interest, miscellaneous revenue, lien charges, and revenue from the sale of tax acquired property to lower the commitment.
- J. To see if the Town will vote to accept the following gifts, grants and funds listed below as provided by the Maine State Legislature, and any other sources, and apply the funds to lower the commitment or benefit the town in such other ways as the Select Board deems reasonable.

Potential Revenues	
Maine Municipal Revenue Sharing	General Assistance Funds
Tree Growth Reimbursements	Veterans Exemption Funds
Homestead Exemption Funds	FEMA Reimbursements
State and Federal Grants	Civil Emergency Funds
State Aid to Education	Any Other Funds or Gifts

- K. To see if the Town will vote to apply lien cost revenue to the lien cost expense account.
- L. To see if the Town will vote to apply all revenues from the Community Center rentals and donations, to the Building Improvement fund.

Article 4B – 4L moved and seconded. **Passed**

Article #5

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Building Improvement Fund, **\$4,032.00** and to appropriate from surplus, **\$3,444.00** to cover the 2022 overdraft of the Community Center and Fire Department.

Overdraft	Appropriation	Funding Source
Community Center	\$4,032	Bldg Improvement Fund
Fire Department	\$3,444	Surplus

Article moved and seconded. **Passed**

Article #6

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation, **\$116,902.00** for **Administration** and additional administrative expenses in the current year.

Description	Taxation/Requested
FICA	\$11,150
Medicare	\$2,500
Worker's Compensation	\$6,500
Mileage Reimbursement	\$3,000
Training	\$500
Unemployment Tax	\$100
Drug Testing	\$350
Postage	\$2,000
Dues	\$3,600
Office Supplies	\$2,300
Admin - Event Security	\$1,500
Miscellaneous	\$5,000
Audit	\$6,500
Trio Software Renewal & Clerk Package	\$13,000
Legal Services	\$8,000
Town Report	\$1,207
Legal Ads	\$500
Xerox Maintenance & Toner	\$500
Water Rent & Hydrant Use	\$5,000
Kennebec Valley Waste Recycling	\$11,195
Large Item Drop off – 2X annually	\$12,000
Property & Casualty	\$20,500
Total	\$116,902

Article moved and seconded. **Passed**

Article #7

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation, **\$2,000.00** for the **Legal Expenses of Code Enforcement** in the current year.

Description	2022 Budget	Taxation/Requested
CEO Legal	\$7,000	\$2,000

Article moved and seconded. **Passed**

Article #8

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation, **\$103,760.00** for **Salaries** in the current year.

Description	2022 Budget	Taxation/Requested
Code Enforcement	\$3,000	\$8,000
Deputy-Clerk TC & Treas.	\$3,000	\$3,000
Elections	\$4,000	\$4,000
Assessor Chair	\$3,250	\$4,000
Assessor	\$2,750	\$3,500
Assessor	\$2,750	\$3,500
Selectman	\$3,000	\$4,000
Selectman	\$3,000	\$4,000
Selectman	\$3,000	\$4,000
Road Commissioner Stipend	\$7,500	\$20,000
Town Clerk	\$10,000	\$10,800
Tax Collector	\$13,500	\$14,580
Treasurer	\$10,000	\$10,800
Building Superintendent	\$6,000	\$6,480
Health Officer	\$1,800	\$1,800
Sexton	\$100	\$100
GA Administrator	\$500	\$600
Town Report Administrator	\$500	\$600
Total	\$77,650	\$103,760

Article moved and seconded. **Passed**

Article #9

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation, **\$800.00** for the **Appeals Board and Planning Board** in the current year.

Description	2022 Budget	Taxation/Requested
Planning & Appeals Boards	\$1,000	\$800

Article moved and seconded. **Passed**

Article #10

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation, **\$20,000.00** for the **Community Center** in the current year.

Description	2022 Budget	Taxation/Requested
Community Center Operating Expenses	\$16,000	\$20,000

Article moved and seconded. **Passed**

Article #11

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation, **\$57,500.00** for the **Fire Department** in the current year.

Description	2022 Budget	Taxation/Requested
Fire Department	\$57,500	\$57,500

Article moved and seconded. **Passed**

Article #12

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation, **\$4,320.00** for the **Fire Chief's Salary** in the current year.

Description	2022 Budget	Taxation/Requested
Fire Chief	\$4,000	\$4,320

Article moved and seconded. **Passed**

Article #13

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation, **\$1,684.00** and carry forward from the Animal Control Fund balance, **\$516.00** for **Animal Control expenses** in the current year, for a total budget of **\$2,200**.

Article moved and seconded. **Passed**

Article #14

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation, **\$11,520.00** for the Anson Madison Starks **Ambulance Service** in the current year.

Description	2022 Budget	Taxation/Requested
AMS Ambulance	\$11,520	\$11,520

Article moved and seconded. **Passed**

Article #15

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation, **\$2,000.00** for **Street Lights** in the current year.

Description	2022 Budget	Taxation/Requested
Street Lights	\$1,500	\$2,000

Article moved and seconded. **Passed**

Article #16

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from **taxation \$320,800.00**, appropriate from **LRAP \$34,000.00**, and to appropriate from **Capital Roads Reserve \$25,000.00** for a total budget of \$379,800 for the **Public Works Department** in the current year.

Description	2022 Budget	Appropriation/Taxation
Equipment	\$50,000	\$75,000
Garage	\$19,000	\$20,000
Summer Roads	\$72,500	\$72,500
Winter Roads	\$75,000	\$85,000
Dump Mowing	\$300	\$300
Capital Roads		\$68,000

LRAP appropriation		34,000
Capital Roads Reserve		25,000
Total Budget	\$216,800	\$379,800

Article moved and seconded. **Passed**

Article #17

To see if the Town will vote to apply to apply the 2022 **GA reimbursements** from the State, to the GA account, for a budget of **\$4,066.00**.

Article moved and seconded. **Passed**

Article #18

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation, **\$2,000.00** for **Rec Sports and Library Membership** reimbursements in the current year.

Description	2022 Budget	Taxation/Requested
Rec Sports/Library Reimbursements	\$2,000	\$2,000

Article moved and seconded. **Passed**

Article #19

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation, **\$5,100.00** for **Social Organizations** in the current year.

Organization	Taxation/Recommended
Starks Food Cupboard	\$1,000
Franklin County Animal Shelter	\$1,408
Family Violence	\$250
Kennebec Behavioral Health	\$542
Memorial Day Fund	\$100
Spectrum Generations	\$200
KVCAP	\$250
Farmington Sexual Assault and Prevention	\$250
Hospice Volunteers	\$500
East Parish Housing Ministry	\$500
American Red Cross	\$100
Total	\$5,100

Motion made to **amend** the article to read:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation, **\$5,100.00** for **Social Organizations** in the current year.

Organization	Taxation/Recommended
Starks Food Cupboard	\$1,500
Franklin County Animal Shelter	\$1,408
Family Violence	\$250
Kennebec Behavioral Health	\$542
Memorial Day Fund	\$100
Spectrum Generations	\$200
KVCAP	\$250

Farmington Sexual Assault and Prevention	\$250
Hospice Volunteers	\$500
East Parish Housing Ministry	\$0
American Red Cross	\$100
Total	\$5,100

Amendment moved and seconded. **Passed**

Amended Article moved and seconded. **Passed**

Article #20

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation, **\$9,787.00** for **debt service** on the **Sand and Salt Shed** in the current year.

Explanation: Sand & Salt Shed bond pay off date: January 15th 2029

Article moved and seconded. **Passed**

Article #21

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation, **\$15,000.00** for the **Capital Improvement Reserve**.

Description	2022 Budget	Taxation/Requested
Capital Improvement Reserve	\$15,000	\$15,000

Explanation: Capital Improvement balance December 31st, 2022 - \$36.21

Article moved and seconded. **Passed**

Article #22

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation, **\$10,000.00** for the **Fire Department Capital Reserve**.

Description	2022 Budget	Taxation/Requested
Fire Department Capital Reserve	\$10,000	\$10,000

Explanation: Fire Department Capital Reserve balance December 31st, 2022 - \$35,000

Article moved and seconded. **Passed**

Article #23

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Select Board to raise and appropriate from taxation, **\$3,000.00** to pay for **Unanticipated Expenses** and emergencies in the current year.

Article moved and seconded. **Passed**

Article #24

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from **Undesignated Funds**, **\$24,224.68** to lower the tax commitment.

Explanation: The amount requested in this article represents all the unexpended balances from the 2022 Annual Town Meeting budget.

Article moved and seconded. **Passed**

Article #25

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate **100% of the refund** of Snowmobile Registrations, received annually from the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, for the improvement and maintenance of trails, on condition that those trails be open to the public, and to be used at the discretion of the Anson / North Anson Snowmobile Club.

Article moved and seconded. **Passed**

Article #26

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to dispose of assets with an estimated value of \$500 or less without having to place legal ads, the details of these assets to be emailed to an available email list and posted inside and outside the Town Office for bids. This does not include tax acquired property.

Article moved and seconded. **Passed**

Article #27

"Shall an ordinance entitled *Amendments to the Site Plan Review Ordinance for the Town of Starks Primarily Pertaining to Solar Energy Facilities*" be enacted?

Article moved and seconded. **Passed**

Article #28

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate **\$67,249.69 from Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds** (aka American Rescue Plan Act or ARPA funds) received by the Town from the federal government, and **\$66,000.00 from the Building Improvement Fund** toward three major projects below, with any remaining balance to be carried forward into the Capital Improvement Reserve.

Two-acre land purchase across route 43 from Community Center – Approximate cost **\$19,500.00**

Electronic Sign for Starks Community Center – Approximate cost **\$20,000.00**

Town of Starks Revaluation to span two years – Approximate cost **\$78,000.00**

Explanation: ARPA Fund Balance as of 12/31/2022 \$67,249.69

Building Improvement Fund Balance as of 12/31/22 \$128,036.73 (includes revenue from sale of former town office \$66,986).

Motion made to **amend** the article to read:

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate **\$67,249.69 from Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds** (aka American Rescue Plan Act or ARPA funds) received by the Town from the federal government, and **\$66,000 from the Building Improvement Fund** toward three major projects below, with any remaining balance to be carried forward into the Capital Improvement Reserve.

Two-acre land purchase across route 43 from Community Center – Approximate cost \$19,500

Town of Starks Revaluation to span two years – Approximate cost \$78,000

Amendment moved and seconded. **Failed**

Motion made to **amend** the article to read:

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate **\$67,249.69 from Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds** (aka American Rescue Plan Act or ARPA funds) received by the Town from the federal government, and **\$66,000 from the Building Improvement Fund** toward three major projects below, with any remaining balance to be carried forward into the Capital Improvement Reserve.

Electronic Sign for Starks Community Center – Approximate cost \$20,000

Town of Starks Revaluation to span two years – Approximate cost \$78,000

Amendment moved and seconded. **Failed**

Original Article moved and seconded. **Passed**

Article #29

To see if the Town will authorize and direct the Board of Selectmen to take such steps as are necessary to give notice and withdraw from the Mid-Coast Internet Development Corporation (MIDC), such actions to be completed prior to March 31, 2023.

Article moved and seconded. **Passed**

Article #30

To see if the Town will vote to close the books on December 31, 2023.

Article moved and seconded. **Passed**

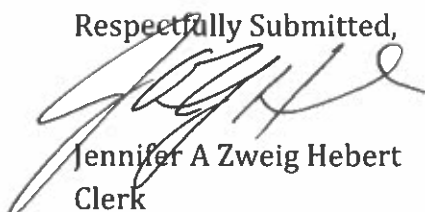
Article #31

To see if the Town wishes to hold the next Annual Town Meeting on March 8th and 9th 2024.

Article moved and seconded. **Passed**

Motion made to adjourn at **11:08 AM**, seconded. **Passed**

Respectfully Submitted,



Jennifer A Zweig Hebert
Clerk



Article	Object	Vote	Undesignated/ Surplus	Other	Raised from Taxation	Total
1	Moderator - Barbara Vischer elected, Tom Saviello appointed Deputy					
2	Choose Secret Ballot	y				
3	Elect 5 budget committee members Paul Frederic, Ken Lust, Joe McCarthy, Kevin McGillicuddy, Danielle Pressey	y				
4	Multiple					
a	Tax commitment that is greater than that property tax levy limit. 34 yes/ 5 no Blank					
b	Authorize 3/12 spending	y				
c	Taxes due date of commitment - Unpaid taxes at 8% int. /start 60 days from date of commitment	y				
d	Authoriaze TAN for operating exp.	y				
e	Use overlay to cover abatements	y				
f	Refund of overpaid taxes	y				
g	Accept Prepayment of taxes	y				
h	Authorize sale of tax acquired real estate	y				
i	Excise, tax interest, etc to lower the commitment	y				
j	Vote to accept gifts, grant etc.	y				
k	Lien cost revenue applied					
l	Donations Community Center Building Improvement Fund	y				
5	Overdrafts - Comm Center	y		\$ 4,032.00		

5	Overdrafts - Fire Dept	y	\$ 3,444.00			
6	General Administration	y				
	FICA	y			\$ 11,150.00	\$ 11,150.00
	Medicare	y			\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
	Workmen's Comp	y			\$ 6,500.00	\$ 6,500.00
	Mileage	y			\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
	Training Workshops	y			\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
	Unemployment	y			\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
	Annual Drug Testing Fee	y			\$ 350.00	\$ 350.00
	Postage	y			\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
	Dues	y			\$ 3,600.00	\$ 3,600.00
	Office Supplies	y			\$ 2,300.00	\$ 2,300.00
	Planning Board Event Security	y			\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
	Miscellaneous	y			\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
	Audit	y			\$ 6,500.00	\$ 6,500.00
	Trio Renewal/Clerk's Package	y			\$ 13,000.00	\$ 13,000.00
	Legal Services	y			\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00
	Town Report	y			\$ 1,207.00	\$ 1,207.00
	Legal Ads	y			\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
	Xerox Machine	y			\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
	Water Rent/Hydrant Use	y			\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
	KVRWC	y			\$ 11,195.00	\$ 11,195.00
	Large Item	y			\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00
	MMA Insurance	y			\$ 20,500.00	\$ 20,500.00
	TOTAL of Article 6			\$ -	\$ 116,902.00	\$ 116,902.00

7	Legal Expenses - CEO	y			\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
8	Salaries	y				
	Code Enforcement	y			\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00
	Deputy - Clerk,TC, Treasurer	Y			\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
	Elections	Y			\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
	Assesor Chair	y			\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
	Assessor	y			\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00
	Assessor	y			\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00
	Selectman Chair	y			\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
	Selectman	y			\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
	Selectman	y			\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
	Road Commisioner Stipend	y			\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
	Town Clerk	Y			\$ 10,800.00	\$ 10,800.00
	Tax Collector	y			\$ 14,580.00	\$ 14,580.00
	Treasurer	y			\$ 10,800.00	\$ 10,800.00
	Building Superintendent	y			\$ 6,480.00	\$ 6,480.00
	Health Officer	y			\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,800.00
	Sexton	y			\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
	GA Overseer	y			\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00
	Town Report Administrator				\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00
	TOTAL of Article 8			\$ -	\$ 103,760.00	\$ 103,760.00
9	Planning & Appeals Boards	Y			\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00
10	CC Operating Expense	y			\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
11	Fire Department	y			\$ 57,500.00	\$ 57,500.00
12	Fire Chief	y			\$ 4,320.00	\$ 4,320.00

13	Animal Control	y		\$ 516.00	\$ 1,684.00	\$ 2,200.00
14	AMS Ambulance	y			\$ 11,520.00	\$ 11,520.00
15	Street Lights	y			\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
16	Public Works	y				\$ -
	Equipment				\$ 75,000.00	\$ 75,000.00
	Garage				\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
	Summer Roads				\$ 72,500.00	\$ 72,500.00
	Winter Roads				\$ 85,000.00	\$ 85,000.00
	Mowing Former Dump				\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
	Capital Roads				\$ 68,000.00	\$ 68,000.00
	LRAP			\$ 34,000.00		\$ 34,000.00
	Capital Roads Reserve			\$ 25,000.00		\$ 25,000.00
	TOTAL of Article 16			\$ 59,000.00	\$ 320,800.00	\$ 379,800.00
17	General Assistance	y		\$ 4,066.00	\$ -	\$ 4,066.00
18	Recreation/Library	y			\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
19	Social Organizations	y				
	Starks Food Cupboard				\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
	Franklin County Animal Shelter				\$ 1,408.00	\$ 1,408.00
	Family Violence				\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
	Kennebec Behavioral Health				\$ 542.00	\$ 542.00
	Memorial Day Fund				\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
	Spectrum Generations				\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
	KVCAP				\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
	Farmington Sexual Assault				\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
	Hospice Volunteers				\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
	East Parish Housing Ministry				\$ -	\$ -
	American Red Cross				\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
	Social Organizations - TOTAL	y		\$ -	\$ 5,100.00	\$ 5,100.00
20	Salt Shed	y			\$ 9,787.00	\$ 9,787.00
21	Capital Improvements	y			\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00

22	FD Capital Reserve	y			\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
23	Unanticipated Expenses	y			\$3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
24	Undesignated Funds to Lower Taxes	y	\$ 24,224.68			
25	Snowmobile Refund to Club	y				\$ -
26	Assets < \$500	y				
27	Solar Ordinance Amendment	y				\$ -
28	ARPA & Old Town Office	y		\$ 133,249.69		
29	MIDC Withdrawal	y				
30	Clost Books Dec 31	y				
31	2023 Town Meeting (03/8 & 03/9/2024)	y				\$ -
			TOTAL Undesignated & Surplus	Other	Total Taxation	Total Raised & Appropriated
	TOTALS		\$ 27,668.68	\$ 200,863.69	\$ 686,173.00	\$ 914,705.37

			TOTAL Taxation minus Undesignated (\$24,224.68) applied to lower taxes (Article 24)	\$ 661,948.32

Respectfully Submitted:



, Clerk