



**Minutes of the Annual STARKS Town Meeting
March 8 and 9, 2024**

Article #1

To choose a moderator over said meeting.

Erin Norton was elected with three written votes.

Denis Culley was appointed Deputy Moderator

Article #2

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

Selectman, 3-year term

Ernest Hilton 79

Jodi O'Connor 39

Blank 1

Assessor, 3-year term

Byrne Wright 109

Blank 10

Tax Collector, 3-year term

Jennifer Zweig Hebert 112

Blank 7

RSU 9 School Board Director, 3-year term starting July 1, 2024

Katie Martikke 106

Erin Norton 1

Blank 12

Denis Culley called for a motion for the attendees to adopt the Maine Moderator's Manual to guide the Business portion of the meeting.

Moved and seconded. **Passed**

Article #3

To elect five **Budget Committee** members from the floor.

Article moved and seconded to nominate: Paul Frederic, Ken Lust, Kevin

McGillicuddy, Charlene Pressey, Danielle Pressey, and Jodi O'Connor.

Written balloting was conducted, Candidate Danielle Pressey dropped out, results were:

Paul Frederic 45

Ken Lust 42

Kevin McGillicuddy	46
Charlene Pressey	42
Jodi O'Connor	40

Article #4

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 **43** to 18.

Article #5

- A. 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 2024 annual budget during the period from January 1st, 2025 to the 2025 Annual Town Meeting.
- B. 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.
- C. 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.
- D. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to pay **abatements** from overlay.
- E. 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.
- F. 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.
- G. 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).

- H. 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.
- I. 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

- J. To see if the Town will vote to apply lien cost revenue to the lien cost expense account.
- K. To see if the Town will vote to apply all revenues from the Community Center rentals and donations to the Building Improvement fund.
Article moved and seconded. **Passed**

Article #6

Shall an ordinance entitled "**Building Ordinance for the Town of Starks**" be enacted?

Article moved and seconded. **Passed**

Article #7

To see if the Town will resolve to support a transition of ownership of the distribution line which currently supplies electrical power to most of the Town of Starks from Central Maine Power to Madison Electric Works.

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

To see if the Town ***will investigate the benefits of*** a transition of ownership of the distribution line which currently supplies electrical power to most of the Town of Starks from Central Maine Power to Madison Electric Works.

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

To see if the Town ***will investigate the benefits of*** a transition of ownership of the distribution line which currently supplies electrical power to most of the Town of Starks from Central Maine Power to Madison Electric Works, ***and to include a committee of 3 to 5 Starks' citizens appointed by the selectmen to conduct the investigation.***

Amendment to the Amendment moved and seconded. **Passed**

Amendment moved and seconded. **Passed**

Twice Amended Article moved and seconded. **Passed**

Article #8

To see if the Town will vote to:

- a. Endorse the practice of the Board of Selectmen in establishing a single member of the Board to act as Director of Public Works, always subject to oversight by the other Board members.
- b. Ratify the Board's actions over the last five years in having structured oversight of the operations of Public Works in that way.
- c. Authorize payment of a special stipend to the Board member who undertakes the work of acting as Director of Public Works as set in Article 11.

Explanation: In the event this article is voted down, article 11 to establish this salary, reads "to see what sum". This will allow the salary to be determined at the meeting, and the Board will be prepared to post the position for hire.

Article moved and seconded. **Passed**

Article #9

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation, **\$127,281.00** for **Administration** and additional administrative expenses in the current year.

Description	Taxation/Requested
FICA	\$12,500
Medicare	\$3,200
Worker's Compensation	\$7,093
Mileage Reimbursement	\$2,000
Training	\$750
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	\$8,550
Trio Software Renewal	\$12,000
Legal Services	\$8,000
Town Report	\$1,359
Legal Ads	\$500
Xerox Maintenance & Toner	\$500
Water Rent & Hydrant Use	\$5,000

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Kennebec Valley Waste Recycling	\$12,579
Large Item Drop off – 2X annually	\$12,500
Cemetery Maintenance	\$1,500
Property & Casualty	\$23,000
Owl Device – Virtual meetings	\$1,400
Total	\$127,281

Article moved and seconded. **Passed**

Article #10

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	2023 Budget	Taxation/Requested
CEO Legal	\$2,000	\$2,000

Article moved and seconded. **Passed**

Article #11

To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation for **Salaries** in the current year.

Description	2023 Budget	Taxation/Requested
Code Enforcement	\$8,000	\$8,300
Deputy-Clerk TC & Treas.	\$3,000	\$3,000
Elections	\$4,000	\$4,500
Assessor Chair	\$4,000	\$5,000
Assessor	\$3,500	\$5,000
Assessor	\$3,500	\$5,000
Selectman	\$4,000	\$4,000
Selectman	\$4,000	\$4,000
Selectman	\$4,000	\$4,000
Director of Public Works	\$20,000	\$35,000
Town Clerk	\$10,800	\$11,150
Tax Collector	\$14,580	\$15,050
Treasurer	\$10,800	\$11,150
Building Superintendent	\$6,480	\$6,700
Health Officer	\$1,800	\$1,800
Sexton	\$100	\$100
GA Administrator	\$600	\$600
Town Report Administrator	\$600	\$600
Total	\$103,760	124,950

Recommended by Select Board and Budget Committee

Article moved to raise and appropriate from taxation **\$124,950.00**, seconded. **Passed**

Article #12

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation, **\$21,000.00** for the **Community Center** in the current year.

Description	2023 Budget	Taxation/Requested
Community Center Operating Expenses	\$20,000	\$21,000

Article moved and seconded. **Passed**

Article #13

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	2023 Budget	Taxation/Requested
Fire Department	\$57,500	\$57,500

Article moved and seconded. **Passed**

Article #14

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation, **\$4,400.00** for the **Fire Chief's Salary** in the current year.

Description	2023 Budget	Taxation/Requested
Fire Chief	\$4,320	\$4,400

Article moved and seconded. **Passed**

Article #15

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation, **\$1,820.00** and carry forward from the Animal Control Fund balance, **\$480.00** for **Animal Control expenses** in the current year, for a total budget of **\$2,300**.

Article moved and seconded. **Passed**

Article #16

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation, **\$12,453.00** for the Anson Madison Starks **Ambulance Service** in the current year.

Description	2023 Budget	Taxation/Requested
AMS Ambulance	\$11,520	\$12,453

Article moved and seconded. **Passed**

Article #17

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation, **\$1,200.00** for **Street Lights** in the current year.

Description	2023 Budget	Taxation/Requested
Street Lights	\$2,000	\$1,200

Article moved and seconded. **Passed**

Article #18

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from **taxation \$320,800.00**, appropriate from **LRAP \$67,678.00**, for a total budget of \$370,478 for the **Public Works Department** in the current year.

Description	2023 Budget	Appropriation/Taxation
Equipment	\$75,000	\$110,000
Garage	\$20,000	\$20,000
Summer Roads	\$72,500	\$72,500
Winter Roads	\$85,000	\$100,000
Dump Mowing	\$300	\$300
Capital Roads	\$68,000	
LRAP appropriation	34,000	\$67,678
Capital Roads Reserve	25,000	
Total Budget	\$379,800	\$370,478

Article moved and seconded. **Passed**

Article #19

To see if the Town will vote to apply the 2023 **GA reimbursements of \$1,720.00** from the state to the GA account, and to raise and appropriate from taxation, **\$2,280.00** for a total budget of **\$4,000.00**.

Article moved and seconded. **Passed**

Article #20

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	2023 Budget	Taxation/Requested
Rec Sports/Library Reimbursements	\$2,000	\$2,000

Article moved and seconded. **Passed**

Article #21

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation, **\$5,000.00** for **Social Organizations** in the current year.

Organization	Taxation/Recommended
Starks Food Cupboard	\$1,500
Franklin County Animal Shelter	\$1,450
Family Violence	\$250
Kennebec Behavioral Health	\$400
Memorial Day Fund	\$100
Spectrum Generations	\$200
KVCAP	\$500
Hospice Volunteers	\$500
American Red Cross	\$100
Total	\$5,000

Karen Bivans, new treasurer of East Parish Housing Ministry shared Starks Food Cupboard financial data not published in the annual town report.

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

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation, **\$5,000.00** for **Social Organizations** in the current year.

Organization	Taxation/Recommended
<i>The Selectmen to determine where to allocate the funds to address food insecurity</i>	\$1,500
Franklin County Animal Shelter	\$1,450
Family Violence	\$250
Kennebec Behavioral Health	\$400
Memorial Day Fund	\$100
Spectrum Generations	\$200
KVCAP	\$500
Hospice Volunteers	\$500
American Red Cross	\$100
Total	\$5,000

Motion made to **amend** box one of the amendment to the article to read:

The Selectmen to determine where to allocate the funds to address food insecurity after a financial meeting with the Stark Food Cupboard within 90 days.

Motion was not seconded.

Amendment moved and seconded. **Passed**

Amended Article moved and seconded. **Passed**

Article #22

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 #23

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

Description	2023 Budget	Taxation/Requested
Capital Improvement Reserve	\$15,000	\$15,000

Explanation: Capital Improvement balance December 31st, 2023 - \$36.21

Article moved and seconded. **Passed**

Article #24

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation, **\$10,000.00** and appropriate from undesignated \$1,000 for the **Fire Department Capital Reserve**.

Description	2023 Budget	Taxation/Requested
Fire Department Capital Reserve	\$10,000	\$10,000

Explanation: \$1,000 restitution received for fire in May 2023

Fire Department Capital Reserve balance December 31st, 2023 - \$55,000.

Article moved and seconded. **Passed**

Article #25

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation **\$6,859.00** for a Trio Server, BMV title printer, and four compatible office computers for the Town Office and Fire Department. Includes needed software, operating systems, and labor for install.

Article moved and seconded. **Passed**

Article #26

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Select Board to raise and appropriate from taxation, **\$5,000.00** to pay for **Unanticipated Expenses** and emergencies in the current year.

Article moved and seconded. **Passed**

Article #27

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from **Undesignated Funds**, **\$33,590.00** 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 #28

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 #29

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 #30

To see if the Town will vote to close the books on December 31, 2024.

Article moved and seconded. **Passed**

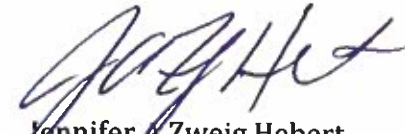
Article #31

To see if the Town wishes to hold the next Annual Town Meeting on March 7th and 8th 2025.

Article moved and seconded. **Passed**

Motion made to adjourn at **11:40 AM**, seconded. **Passed**

Respectfully Submitted,



Jennifer A. Zweig Hebert
Clerk



Article	Object	Vote	Undesignated/ Surplus	Other	Raised from Taxation	Total
1	Moderator - Erin Norton elected, Denis Culley appointed Deputy					
2	Choose Secret Ballot	y				
3	Elect 5 budget committee members	y				
	Paul Frederic, Ken Lust, Kevin McGillicuddy, Jodi O'Connor, Charlene Pressey					
4	Tax commitment that is greater than that property tax levy limit. 43 yes/ 18 no Blank					
5	Multiple					
a	Authorize 3/12 spending					
b	Taxes due date of commitment - Unpaid taxes at 8% int. /start 60 days from date of commitment	y				
c	Authoriaze TAN for operating exp.	y				
d	Use overlay to cover abatements	y				
e	Refund of overpaid taxes	y				
f	Accept Prepayment of taxes	y				
g	Authorize sale of tax acquired real estate	y				
h	Excise, tax interest, etc to lower the commitment	y				
i	Vote to accept gifts, grant etc.	y				
j	Lien cost revenue applied	y				
k	Donations Community Center Building Improvement Fund					
6	Building Ordinance Revisions	y				
7	CMP to MEW 2 amendments passed	y				

8	Public Works Structure	Y				
9	General Administration	Y				
	FICA	Y			\$ 12,500.00	\$ 12,500.00
	Medicare	Y			\$ 3,200.00	\$ 3,200.00
	Workmen's Comp	Y			\$ 7,093.00	\$ 7,093.00
	Mileage	Y			\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
	Training Workshops	Y			\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00
	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			\$ 8,550.00	\$ 8,550.00
	Trio Renewal/Clerk's Package	Y			\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00
	Legal Services	Y			\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00
	Town Report	Y			\$ 1,359.00	\$ 1,359.00
	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			\$ 12,579.00	\$ 12,579.00
	Large Item				\$ 12,500.00	\$ 12,500.00
	Cemetery Maintenance	Y			\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
	MMA Insurance	Y			\$ 23,000.00	\$ 23,000.00

	Owl Device -Virtual Meetings				\$ 1,400.00	\$ 1,400.00
	TOTAL of Article 9			\$ -	\$ 127,281.00	\$ 127,281.00
10	Legal Expenses - CEO	y			\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
11	Salaries	y				
	Code Enforcement	y			\$ 8,300.00	\$ 8,300.00
	Deputy - Clerk,TC, Treasurer	y			\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
	Elections	y			\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,500.00
	Assesor Chair	y			\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
	Assessor	y			\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
	Assessor	y			\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
	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			\$ 35,000.00	\$ 35,000.00
	Town Clerk	y			\$ 11,150.00	\$ 11,150.00
	Tax Collector	y			\$ 15,050.00	\$ 15,050.00
	Treasurer	y			\$ 11,150.00	\$ 11,150.00
	Building Superintendent	y			\$ 6,700.00	\$ 6,700.00
	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 11			\$ -	\$ 124,950.00	\$ 124,950.00
12	CC Operating Expense	y			\$ 21,000.00	\$ 21,000.00
13	Fire Department	y			\$ 57,500.00	\$ 57,500.00

14	Fire Chief	y			\$ 4,400.00	\$ 4,400.00
15	Animal Control	y		\$ 480.00	\$ 1,820.00	\$ 2,300.00
16	AMS Ambulance	y			\$ 12,453.00	\$ 12,453.00
17	Street Lights	Y			\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00
18	Public Works	Y				\$ -
	Equipment				\$ 110,000.00	\$ 110,000.00
	Garage				\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
	Summer Roads				\$ 72,500.00	\$ 72,500.00
	Winter Roads				\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00
	Mowing Former Dump				\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
	Capital Roads					\$ -
	LRAP			\$ 67,678.00		\$ 67,678.00
	Capital Roads Reserve					\$ -
	TOTAL of Article 18			\$ 67,678.00	\$ 302,800.00	\$ 370,478.00
19	General Assistance	y		\$ 1,720.00	\$ 2,280.00	\$ 4,000.00
20	Recreation/Library	y			\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
21	Social Organizations	y				
	The Selectmen determine where to allocate the funds to address food insecurity				\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
	Franklin County Animal Shelter				\$ 1,450.00	\$ 1,450.00
	Family Violence				\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
	Kennebec Behavioral Health				\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00
	Memorial Day Fund				\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
	Spectrum Generations				\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
	KVCAP				\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
	Hospice Volunteers				\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
	American Red Cross				\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
	Social Organizations - TOTAL	y		\$ -	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
22	Salt Shed	y			\$ 9,787.00	\$ 9,787.00
23	Capital Improvements	y			\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00

24	FD Capital Reserve	y		\$ 1,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 11,000.00
25	New TRIO computers				\$ 6,859.00	\$ 6,859.00
26	Unanticipated Expenses	y			\$5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
27	Undesignated Funds to Lower Taxes	y	\$ 33,590.00			
28	Snowmobile Refund to Club	y				\$ -
29	Assets < \$500	y				
30	Close Books 12/31/2024	y				
31	2025 Town Meeting (03/7 & 03/8/2025)	y				\$ -
			TOTAL Undesignated & Surplus	Other	Total Taxation	Total Raised & Appropriated minus Suplus to reduce taxation
	TOTALS		\$ 33,590.00	\$ 70,878.00	\$ 711,330.00	\$ 782,208.00

			TOTAL Taxation minus Undesignated (\$33,590) applied to lower taxes (Article 27)	\$ 677,740.00
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Respectfully Submitted:



, Clerk

