

**TOWN OF SKOWHEGAN, MAINE
ANNUAL
TOWN MEETING WARRANT
STATE OF MAINE**

June 8, 2015 at 7:00 P.M.

Municipal Building Opera House

AND

SECRET BALLOT ELECTION

June 9, 2015 from 7:00 A.M. – 8:00 P.M.

Municipal Building Council Room

Somerset, ss.

To Edward Blais, Constable of the Town of Skowhegan, Maine in the County of Somerset:

Greetings:

In the name of the State of Maine you are hereby requested to notify and warn the voters of the Town of Skowhegan in said County and State, qualified by law to vote in town affairs, to meet in the **Opera House in the Skowhegan Municipal Building**, in said Town on Monday, the eighth day of June, A.D., 2015 at seven o'clock in the evening, to transact all business as herein enumerated in the articles of the Town Warrant.

And, to notify and warn said voters to meet in the **Council Room in the Skowhegan Municipal Building** in said Town, on Tuesday, the ninth day of June, A.D., 2015, then and there to act upon Article 2 by secret ballot as set out below, the polling hours therefore to be from 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.

ARTICLE 1. To choose a moderator to preside at said meeting.

ARTICLE 2. To choose, by ballot, the following Town Officials, namely, Two Selectmen, for three-year terms; One Assessor, for a three-year term; One Overseer of the Poor, for a three-year term; One Coburn Park Commissioner, for a five-year term; One Road Commissioner, for a three-year term; One Town Clerk, for a three-year term; One Town Treasurer, for a three-year term; and Four Directors of RSU54/SAD54, for three-year terms.

ARTICLE 3. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,324,271.00 for General Government. (The Selectmen and the Budget Committee recommend passage of this article.)

Department	Budget Committee	Votes	Selectmen	Votes
Finance Department	\$434,053.00	6/1	\$434,053.00	3/1
Municipal Building Maintenance	\$102,519.00	6/1	\$102,519.00	4/0
Assessing	\$105,596.00	6/1	\$105,596.00	4/0
Town Manager	\$151,981.00	6/1	\$151,981.00	4/0
Planning & Ordinance Administration	\$18,383.00	6/1	\$18,383.00	4/0
Code Enforcement	\$150,568.00	6/1	\$150,568.00	4/0
Employee Benefits	\$114,580.00	6/1	\$114,580.00	4/0
Town Insurances	\$101,195.00	6/1	\$101,195.00	4/0
Economic & Community Development	\$145,396.00	6/1	\$145,396.00	4/0
General Government Total	\$1,324,271.00		\$1,324,271.00	

ARTICLE 4. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,283,870.00 for Police Department. (The Selectmen with a 4/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 5/1/1 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 5. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$821,827.00 for Fire Department. (The Selectmen with a 4/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 6/1 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 6. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$501,502.00 for Other Protection. (The Selectmen with a 4/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 7/0 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 7. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$111,026.00 for Health and Human services. (The Selectmen with a 4/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 4/3 vote recommend passage of this article.)

Department	Budget Committee	Votes	Selectmen	Votes
General Assistance	\$109,734.00	4/3	\$109,734.00	4/0
Health Department	\$1,292.00	7/0	\$1,292.00	4/0
General Assistance/Health Dept. Total	\$111,026.00		\$111,026.00	

ARTICLE 8. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$551,270.00 for Waste Water and Pollution Control. (The Selectmen with a 4/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 6/1 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 9. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$816,065.00 for Solid Waste Management. (The Selectmen with a 4/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 6/1 vote recommends passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 10. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$428,936.00 for Public Works – Summer Roads Maintenance. (The Selectmen with a 4/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 6/1 vote recommends passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 11. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$586,996.00 for Public Works – Winter Roads Maintenance. (The Selectmen with a 4/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 6/1 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 12. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$247,000.00 for Public Works – Vehicle Maintenance. (The Selectmen with a 4/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 6/1 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 13. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$83,716.00 for the care of cemeteries. (The Selectmen with a 4/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 6/1 vote recommend passage of this article.)

Note: This figure includes an increase of \$2,232.00 for the Sexton's contract.

ARTICLE 14. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$454,971.00 for Parks and Recreation. (The Selectmen with a 3/1 vote and the Budget Committee with a 5/2 vote recommend passage of this article)

ARTICLE 15. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,802,999.00 for Capital Expenditures/Debt Retirement. (The Selectmen with a 3/1 vote and the Budget Committee with a 7/0 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 16. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$108,000.00 for Capital Expenditures/Capital Reserve Funds for the Pollution Control Plant. (The Selectmen with a 4/0 vote and the Budget Committee with 6/1 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 17. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$45,000.00 for Capital Expenditures/Capital Reserve Funds for the Recreation Department. (The Selectmen with a 4/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 6/1 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 18. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 for Capital Expenditures/Capital Reserve Funds for the Municipal Building. (The Selectmen with a 4/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 6/1 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 19. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000.00 for Capital Expenditures/Capital Reserve Funds for the Solid Waste Department. (The Selectmen with a 4/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 6/1 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 20. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$39,400.00 for Capital Expenditures/Capital Reserve Funds for the Police Department. (The Selectmen with a 4/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 5/1/1 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 21. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$121,000.00 for Capital Expenditures/Capital Reserve Funds for Public Works Equipment. (The Selectmen with a 4/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 6/1 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 22. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$265,000.00 for Capital Expenditures/Capital Reserve Funds for Public Works Roads and Sidewalks. (The Selectmen with a 4/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 6/1 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 23. To see if the town will vote to accept and carry forward in a separate account sums that may be received from the State Department of Transportation Local Road Assistance Program estimated at \$140,236.00. (The Selectmen with a 4/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 7/0 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 24. To see if the town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to expend the amounts voted in Articles 22 and 23 from the Capital Improvement Program/Public Works Roads and Sidewalks account for the town's share of the following proposed projects:
Shim and overlay the Russell Road from Beech Street intersection to the Skowhegan/Madison town line, the Palmer Road from the Middle Road to the Back Road and pave the finish coat on the Burrill Hill Road. (The Selectmen recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 25. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$195,000.00 for Capital Expenditures/Capital Reserve Funds for the Fire Department. (The Selectmen with a 3/1 vote recommend \$175,000.00 and the Budget Committee with a 6/1 vote recommends \$195,000.00.)

ARTICLE 26. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000.00 for Capital Expenditures/Capital Reserve Funds for Emergency Management. (The Selectmen with a 4/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 7/0 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 27. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000.00 for Capital Expenditures/Capital Reserve Funds for Administration. (The Selectmen with a 4/0 vote recommend \$15,000.00 and the Budget Committee with a 6/1 vote recommend \$14,999.00.)

ARTICLE 28. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$200,000.00 for Capital Expenditures/Capital Reserve Funds for Assessing. (The Selectmen with a 4/0 vote recommend \$50,000.00 and the Budget Committee with a 5/4 vote recommend \$200,000.00.)

ARTICLE 29. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$7,500.00 for Capital Expenditures/Capital Reserve Funds for Cemeteries. (The Selectmen with a 4/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 6/1 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 30. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,100.00 for Capital Expenditures/Capital Reserve Funds for the Planning Department. (The Selectmen with a 4/0 vote recommend \$2,100.00 and the Budget Committee with a 6/1 vote recommend \$2,000.00.)

ARTICLE 31. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 for Capital Expenditures/Capital Reserve Funds for Public Works Buildings. (The Selectmen with a 4/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 6/1 vote recommend passage of this article.)

Note: Organizations were informed that although the Town of Skowhegan does not require that petitions be filed in order to request funds, it is the only way to make sure that the requested amount appears on the Warrant. The Selectmen with a 4/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 7/0 vote decided that any organization that did not file a petition or did not meet statutory petition requirements would not be included in this Warrant.

ARTICLE 32. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$101,867.00 for Skowhegan Free Public Library. The Community Service Organization's request by petition is \$101,867.00. (The Selectmen with a 3/1 vote recommend \$77,426.00 and the Budget Committee with a 5/1 vote recommend \$48,934.00 from taxation.)

ARTICLE 33. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 for Coburn Park Commission. The Community Service Organization's request by petition is \$10,000.00. (The Selectmen with a 3/1 vote recommend \$7,912.00 and the Budget Committee with a 5/1 vote recommend \$5,000.00 from taxation.)

ARTICLE 34. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$7,500.00 for Skowhegan History House. The Community Service Organization's request by petition is \$7,500.00. (The Selectmen with a 3/1 vote recommend \$3,956.00 and the Budget Committee with a 5/1 vote recommend \$2,500.00 from taxation.)

ARTICLE 35. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$24,000.00 for Chamber of Commerce. The Community Service Organization's request by petition is \$24,000.00. (The Selectmen with a 3/1 vote recommend \$18,988.00 and the Budget Committee with a 5/1 vote recommend \$12,000.00 from taxation.)

ARTICLE 36. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,700.00 for KVCAP Transportation Services. The Human Service Agency's request by petition is \$3,700.00. (The Selectmen with a 3/1 vote and the Budget Committee with a 4/3 vote recommend \$0.00 from taxation.)

ARTICLE 37. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8,700.00 for KVCAP Child Development Program. The Human Service Agency's request by petition is \$8,700.00. (The Selectmen with a 3/1 vote and the Budget Committee with a 4/3 vote recommend \$0.00 from taxation.)

ARTICLE 38. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,000.00 for Family Violence. The Human Service Agency's request by petition is \$6,000.00. (The Selectmen with a 3/1 vote and the Budget Committee with a 4/3 vote recommend \$0.00 from taxation.)

ARTICLE 39. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$7,766.00 for Spectrum Generations. The Human Service Agency's request by petition is \$7,766.00. (The Selectmen with a 3/1 vote and the Budget Committee with a 4/3 vote recommend \$0.00 from taxation.)

ARTICLE 40. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 for Hospice Volunteers of Somerset County. The Human Service Agency's request by petition is \$10,000.00. (The Selectmen with a 3/1 vote and the Budget Committee with a 4/3 vote recommend \$0.00 from taxation.)

ARTICLE 41. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,006.15 for Sexual Assault Crisis and Support Center. The Human Service Agency's request by petition is \$3,006.15. (The Selectmen with a 3/1 vote and the Budget Committee with a 4/3 vote recommend \$0.00 from taxation.)

ARTICLE 42.. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 for Skowhegan Community Food Cupboard. The Human Service Agency's request by petition is \$10,000.00. (The Selectmen with a 3/1 vote and the Budget Committee with a 4/3 vote recommend \$0.00 from taxation.)

ARTICLE 43. To see if the Town will vote to apply FY 2016 operational revenues in the amount of \$1,739,341.00 to offset the FY 2016 appropriations. (The Selectmen with a 4/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 6/3 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 44. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Assessors to apply \$1,000,000.00 of the undesignated fund balance to reduce the 2016 tax rate. (The Selectmen with a 4/0 vote recommend \$1,000,000.00 and the Budget Committee with a 5/4 vote recommend \$500,000.00.)

ARTICLE 45. To see if the Town will vote to increase the property tax levy limit of \$6,161,312.00 established for the Town of Skowhegan by State Law, in the event that the municipal budget approved will result in a tax commitment greater than the property tax levy limit. (The increase in property tax levy limit necessary to fund all preceding articles is estimated to be \$1,410,148.15. The Selectmen's recommendations would result in an increase of \$655,891.00, and the Budget Committee's recommendations would result in an increase of \$1,285,942.00) (The Selectmen recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 46. To see if the Town will vote to fund the General Assistance over-expenditure for fiscal year 2015 with the General Assistance State Reimbursement. (The Selectmen recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 47. To see if the Town will authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for, accept and expend, on behalf of the Town, grant funds from state government agencies, federal government agencies, or private organizations for any purpose they deem in the best interest of the Town. (The Selectmen recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 48. To see if the Town, as the Legislative body will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen approving, applying for and accepting all Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) including the following:

2015 Micro-Enterprise Assistance Grant in the amount of \$150,000.00 and to make such assurances, assume such responsibilities and exercise such authority as are necessary and reasonable to implement such programs with the understanding that should the intended National Objective of the CDBG program not be met, all CDBG funds must be repaid to the State of Maine CDBG program. (The Selectmen recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 49. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate all of the money received from the State for snowmobile registrations to the Skowhegan Snow-Hawks Snowmobile Club for the maintenance of their system or network of snowmobile trails, on the condition that those trails be open in snow season to the public for outdoor recreation purposes at no charge, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into an agreement with the Club, under such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen may deem advisable, for that purpose. (The Selectmen recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 50. To see if the Town will vote to establish September 15, 2015 or 30 days after the commitment date of taxes, whichever comes later, as the date when the first installment of taxes shall be due and payable and March 15, 2016 as the date when the second installment of taxes shall be due and payable and to see if the Town will fix the rate of 7% interest to be charged on all taxes unpaid after said dates. (The Selectmen recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 51. To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. § 506-A to fix the rate of 3% interest to be paid on overpaid or abated taxes.

ARTICLE 52. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to dispose of by the most prudent means possible, any equipment, vehicles, furniture or other non-real estate town property that is no longer necessary to town operations. (The Selectmen recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 53. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen, on behalf of the town, to sell and dispose of any real estate acquired by the town for non-payment of taxes due thereon, on such terms as they deem advisable and to issue quit claim deeds for such property. (The Selectmen recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 54. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to expend funds from the "Proceeds from Sale of Town Owned Property" account to be used to purchase property as they deem advisable and without further town meeting authorization. (The account was established at the 1987 Annual Town Meeting with funds to be expended by Town Meeting vote only.) (The Selectmen recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 55. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to transfer an amount not to exceed 1% of the total town budget between budget categories as they deem advisable to meet unanticipated expenses and emergencies that occur during fiscal year 2016. (The Selectmen recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 56. To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. § 506, to authorize the tax collector and treasurer to accept the prepayment of taxes not yet committed. (The Selectmen recommend passage of this article.)

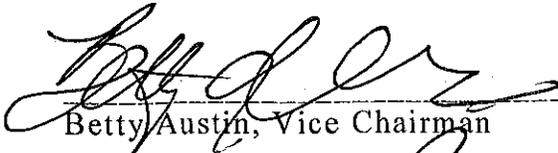
ARTICLE 57. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire a permanent drainage easement on the property located at 75 Fairview Avenue (Map 20 Lot 19A) for the perpetual right to repair, maintain, construct, replace and enlarge storm water infrastructure. (The Selectmen recommend passage of this article.)

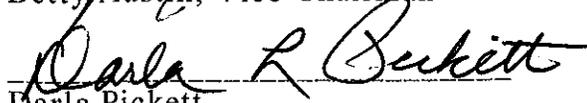
The Registrar will hold hours for the purpose of revising and correcting the list of voters on Thursday, June 4, 2015 and Friday, June 5, 2015 from noon to 4:00 P.M.; Monday, June 8, 2015 from noon to 4:00 P.M. and from 6:30 P.M. to the close of the Town Meeting and Tuesday, June 9, 2015 from 7:00 A.M. to close of polls at 8:00 P.M.

You are hereby directed to serve this warrant by posting in a public and conspicuous place at least seven (7) days before the holding of said meeting.

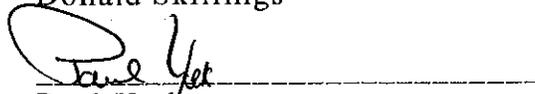
Hereof fail not and have this warrant with your doings thereon at the time and place mentioned.

Given under our hands at Skowhegan, Maine the 28th day of April 2015.


Betty Austin, Vice Chairman


Darla Pickett


Donald Skillings

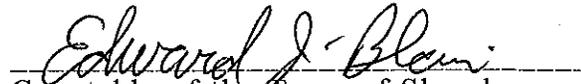

Paul York
Selectmen of the Town of Skowhegan

CONSTABLE'S RETURN

Skowhegan, Maine

April 29, 2015

Pursuant to the within warrant to me directed, I have notified and warned inhabitants of said town, qualified as therein expressed, to meet at said time, place, and for the purpose therein named, by posting a copy of said warrant, attested by me at the Municipal Building, Skowhegan Community Center and Hannaford, being public and conspicuous places in said town on the day of April 29, 2015, being at least seven (7) days before the meeting.


Constable of the Town of Skowhegan