

Town of Alna

Warrant for Annual Town Meeting

March 24 & 25, 2023

To: Honor Sage, Civil Constable of the Town of Alna, County of Lincoln, and 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 Alna, qualified to vote in Town affairs, to assemble at the Alna Firehouse on Friday, the twenty-fourth day of March, 2023, at 10:00 A.M., then and there to act on Article one, and then by secret ballot on Article two, and to notify and warn said Inhabitants to meet at the Alna Firehouse on Saturday, the twenty-fifth day of March, 2023 at 10:00 A.M., then and there to act on Articles three through forty-five, all of said articles being set out below, to wit:

Article 1: To elect a Moderator to preside at said meeting.

Jim Gallagher was nominated and elected, 5 out of 5 votes.

Article 2: Having been duly notified, as above, to elect on the twenty-fourth day of March 2023, between the hours of 10:00 A.M. and 7:00 P.M., by secret ballot in accordance with a vote of the Town the following officers:

- **Second Selectperson**, also serving as Assessor and Overseer of the Poor, for a two-year term.
Steven Graham won the uncontested seat with 125 votes, there was 1 write-in.
- **Third Selectperson**, also serving as Assessor and Overseer of the Poor, for a two-year term.
Coreysha Stone won the uncontested seat with 128 votes, there was 1 write-in.
- **School Committee Member**, for a three-year term.
Douglas Morier won the uncontested seat with 125 votes.
- **School Committee Member**, for a one-year partial term.
Shelby Biddy won the uncontested seat with 124 votes.
- **Road Commissioner**, for a one-year term.
Jeffrey Verney won the uncontested seat with 123 votes, there were 2 write-ins.

Article 3: To elect by paper ballot one **Cemetery Trustee** for a three-year term.

Motion to nominate Michael Chaney, seconded. 5 out of 5 paper ballots awarding Michael Chaney a three-term as Cemetery Trustee.

Article 4: To elect all other town officials or instruct the select board to appoint the same.

Passed as written.

**Motion to group Warrant Articles 5 through 10 as one article. Seconded. Articles 5 through 10 passed as written.*

***Article 5:** To see what method the Town will adopt for the collection of taxes.
(The Select Board recommends the Tax Lien method)

***Article 6:** To see what method the Town will adopt for the collection of back taxes.
(The Select Board recommends the Tax Lien method)

***Article 7:** To see if the Town in accordance with 36 M.R.S.A. §506-A, will vote that a taxpayer who paid an amount more than that finally assessed, shall be repaid the amount of the

overpayment plus interest from the date of the over-payment at an annual rate of four percent.

***Article 8:** To see if the town will vote to authorize the tax collector or treasurer to accept prepayments of taxes not yet committed, pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. §506.

***Article 9:** To see when the Town wishes to have taxes due and payable, and at what rate of interest charges will be added to the unpaid taxes.

(The Select Board recommends the due date after July 1, 2023, at the Assessors' discretion, 8 percent interest commencing sixty days after the date of the tax bill)

***Article 10:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the select board to spend an amount not to exceed one sixth of the fiscal year 2023-2024 expenditures for all accounts during the period from February 1, 2024, to the March 2024 Annual Town Meeting.

Article 11: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the select board to borrow sums of money in anticipation of taxes, as necessary, for the purpose of paying Town obligations and to vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money to pay interest on such loans.

(The Select Board and Treasurer recommend an interest amount of \$5,000 for the TAN)

Note: The amount raised and appropriated last year was \$1,000.

Motion made to accept the Select Board's recommendation of \$5,000. Seconded. Passed.

****Motion to group Warrant Articles 12 through 16 as one article. Seconded. Articles 12 through 16 passed as written.***

***Article 12:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the select board to sell and dispose of property acquired through nonpayment of taxes through a competitive sealed bid process in which a notice advertising sale of the property shall be published in the Lincoln County News and the Wiscasset Newspaper, inviting interested persons to submit bids for the property, except that such a posting may be waived when the property is being redeemed by its former owner, and except that if the select board sells property tax-acquired from certain qualifying senior, low-income taxpayers, they shall use the sale process required by 36 M.R.S.A. §943-C if they sell such property to anyone other than the former owner(s).

***Article 13:** To see if the Town will vote to increase the property tax levy limit of \$745,050 established for the Town by State law, in the event that the municipal budget approved under the following articles results in a tax commitment that is greater than this property tax levy limit.

***Article 14:** To see if the town will vote to instruct the select board to dispose of alewife rights in whatever manner they determine to be in the best interest of the Town for a period of up to five years.

***Article 15:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer local road assistance payments when received from the State of Maine during fiscal year 2023-2024, from Capital Highway Accounts to General Highway Account and to authorize the Road Commissioner with the approval of the select board to spend a portion, or the entire sum, as they see fit, on paving or some other capital improvement, according to 23 M.R.S.A. §2701.

***Article 16:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the select board to apply for, accept and expend grants and other funds received from State, Federal, and private funding sources for a specific purpose, and also authorize the select board to accept and expend gifts of money or items, provided the gift or the grant doesn't require a financial match or financial commitment on the Town's part.

Article 17: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate to be used to pay for 2023 Principal and Interest due on the loan on the Town Office.

(Select Board recommends \$18,500)

Note: The amount raised and appropriated last year was \$18,500.

Motion made to accept the Select Board's recommendation of \$18,500. Seconded. Passed.

Article 18: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate to be used to pay for 2023 Principal and Interest due on the Cross Road repaving loan.

(Select Board recommends \$48,560)

Motion made to accept the Select Board's recommendation of \$48,560. Seconded. Passed.

Article 19: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Administration Account.

(Select Board recommends \$65,000)

Note: The amount raised and appropriated last year was \$60,000.

Motion to raise and appropriate \$100,000, motion failed.

Motion to accept the Select Board's recommendation of \$65,000. Seconded. Passed.

Article 20: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Computer Software and Support. *(Select Board recommends \$13,500)*

Note: The amount raised and appropriated last year was \$12,500.

Motion made to accept the Select Board's recommendation of \$13,500. Seconded. Passed.

Article 21: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Computer and Copier Hardware.

(Select Board recommends \$1,500)

Note: The amount raised and appropriated last year was \$3,200.

Motion made to accept the Select Board's recommendation of \$1,500. Seconded. Passed.

Article 22: To see what sum the Town will transfer from surplus for a Contingency Account to cover unexpected expenses for the ensuing year.

(Select Board recommends \$10,000)

Note: The amount appropriated last year was \$10,000, of which \$9,188 was used for Dues (\$90), Training (\$90), Ads/Publications (\$357.95), Phone/Internet (\$106.32), Code Enforcement Officer (\$150.75), Planning Board (\$360.00), Computer Software & Support (\$630.39), Computer & Copier Hardware (\$2,182.87), Elections (\$142.02), Cross Road Paving (\$1,906.80), Sand & Salt Building Maintenance (\$43.96), and Animal Control (\$3,127.41).

Motion made to accept the Select Board's recommendation of \$10,000. Seconded. Passed.

Article 23: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Salaries & Stipends.

Town Officials	2022	2023
Town Clerk & Tax Collector	Up to \$27,000	Up to \$60,000
Deputy Town Clerk & Tax Collector	Up to \$20,000	Up to \$20,000
First Selectperson/Assessor	\$3,665	\$3,665
Second Selectperson/Assessor	\$3,665	\$3,665
Third Selectperson/Assessor	\$3,665	\$3,665
Treasurer	\$5,000	\$9,000
Deputy Treasurer	\$500	\$500
Road Commissioner	\$1,235	\$1,235
EMA Director	\$15/hr calls, \$500 max	\$15/hr calls, \$500 max
Fire Chief	\$5,000	\$6,000
Fire Warden	\$100	\$100
Deputy Fire Chief		\$2,000
Assistant Fire Chief	\$4,000	\$4,500
Fire Captains (3@\$2000)	\$4,500	\$6,000
Code Enforcement Officer	\$2,700	\$6,500
Health Officer	\$125	\$125
Planning Board Chairman	\$435	\$435
Planning Board Secretary	\$100	\$100
Planning Board Members	\$20/meeting, \$15/site visit limited to \$1500	\$25/meeting or site visit limited to \$2,500
Civil Constable	\$125	\$125
Total	\$83,815	\$130,615

(Select Board recommends the Town Officials' Salaries & Stipends for a proposed total of \$130,615)

Motion made to accept the Select Board's recommendation of \$130,615. Seconded. Passed.

Article 24: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for elections and town meetings.

(Select Board recommends \$5,000)

Note: The amount raised and appropriated last year was \$5,000.

Motion made to accept the Select Board's recommendation of \$5,000. Seconded. Passed.

Article 25: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Town's share of Social Security and Medicare.

(Select Board recommends \$12,000)

Note: The amount raised and appropriated last year was \$9,500.

Motion made to accept the Select Board's recommendation of \$12,000. Seconded. Passed.

Article 26: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the select board to enter multi-year contracts (not to exceed 3 years) from Annual March Town Meeting 2023 to Annual March Town Meeting 2024, for the lease or purchase of goods & services when they deem it in the best financial interest of the Town.

(Select Board recommends passage)

Motion made to pass as written. Seconded. Passed as written.

Article 27: To see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Historical Building Maintenance Account.

(Select Board recommends \$15,000)

Note: The amount raised and appropriated last year was \$15,000.

Motion made to accept the Select Board's recommendation of \$15,000. Seconded. Passed.

Article 28: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Alna Volunteer Fire Department:

	2022	2023
Volunteer Fire Department Administration	\$51,204	\$68,953
Fire Fighter Training Pay	\$10,148	\$10,444
Fire Fighter Call Pay	\$22,720	\$16,640
Training Tuition and Expenses	\$1,500	\$1,500
Group Life Insurance Policy	\$7,768	\$7,372
Radios	\$4,100	\$4,100
1 Air Pack Replacement + Spare bottle	\$6,000	\$6,000
Air Bag Replacement	<u>\$800</u>	<u>\$800</u>
Total	\$104,240	\$115,809

(Fire Department recommends the aggregate total of \$115,809)

Motion made to accept the Fire Department's recommendation of \$115,809. Seconded. Passed.

Article 29: To see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate to fund the Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP) for eligible fire department volunteers.
(Fire chief and Select Board recommend \$3,000)

Note: The amount raised and appropriated last year was \$18,000.

Motion made to accept the Fire Chief and Select Board's recommendation of \$3,000. Seconded. Passed.

Article 30: To see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Fire Truck Reserve Account.

(The Fire Department recommends \$35,000.)

Note: The amount raised and appropriated last year was \$35,000. The reserve balance is \$105,127.58 as of January 31, 2023.

**Motion made to accept the Fire Department recommendation of \$35,000. Seconded.
 Motion made to raise and appropriate \$50,000 instead of the Fire Department's recommendation of \$35,000. Seconded. Passed as amended.**

Article 31: To see whether the Town will vote to transfer up to \$10,000 from the sand and salt shed reserve account to the operating account and authorize spending up to \$10,000 for roof repairs to the sand and salt shed, and to improve outside drainage around the building.

(Select Board recommends approval.)

Note: The sand and salt shed reserve balance is \$23,168.02, as of January 31, 2023.

Motion made to pass as written. Seconded. Passed as written.

Article 32: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the tax assessment, commitment, and associated expenses.

(Select Board recommends \$15,750.)

Note: The amount raised and appropriated last year was \$18,700.

	2022	2023	
Annual Valuation Update	\$10,500	\$10,500	J.E. O'Donnell & Assoc.
Tax Maps	\$1,000	\$1,000	J.E. O'Donnell & Assoc.
CAMA Database Access	\$2,000	\$2,000	J.E. O'Donnell & Assoc.
On-line Access	\$2,000	\$2,000	J.E. O'Donnell & Assoc.
CMP & MEPCo Revaluation	\$3,000		Bill Van Tuinen Assessment
Trio Module for Remote Access	<u>\$200</u>	<u>\$250</u>	
Total	\$18,700	\$15,750	

Motion made to accept the Select Board's recommendation of \$15,750. Seconded. Passed.

Article 33: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the General Highway Maintenance Account.

(Select Board, Road Commissioner, and Road Committee recommend \$50,000)

Note: The amount raised and appropriated last year was \$25,000.

Motion made to accept the Select Board, Road Commissioner, and Road Committee's recommendation of \$50,000. Seconded. Passed.

Article 34: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Solid Waste Contract.

(Select Board recommends \$99,500)

Note: The amount raised and appropriated last year was \$97,750.

Motion made to accept the Select Board's recommendation of \$99,500. Seconded. Passed.

Article 35: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the snow removal contract and associated expenses.

(Select Board recommends: Snow removal contract \$325,000, Sand and Salt for Winter Roads \$65,000, Total \$390,000)

Note: The amount raised and appropriated last year was \$240,000.

Motion made to accept the Select Board's recommendation of \$390,000. Seconded. Passed.

Article 36: To see what sum the town will vote to raise and appropriate for a contract to provide for stray animals.

(Select Board recommends contracting with Midcoast Humane for \$1,058)

Note: The amount raised and appropriated last year was \$1,030.

Motion made to accept the Select Board's recommendation of \$1,058. Seconded. Passed.

Article 37: To see what sum the town will vote to raise and appropriate to contract for Animal Control services.

(Select Board recommends to contract with Lincoln County and raise and appropriate \$2,500)

Note: The amount raised and appropriated last year was \$1,000.

Motion made to accept the Select Board's recommendation of \$2,500. Seconded. Passed.

Article 38: To see what sum the town will vote to raise and appropriate to contract for ambulance service.

(Select Board recommends \$18,000.)

Note: The amount raised and appropriated last year was \$25,534.

Motion made to accept the Select Board's recommendation of \$18,000. Seconded. Passed.

Article 39: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Committee for Alna History.

(The Committee for Alna History and the Select Board recommends \$800)

Note: The amount raised and appropriated last year was \$800.

Motion made to accept The Committee for Alna History and Select Board's recommendation of \$800. Seconded. Passed.

Article 40: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the following organizations:

<u>ORGANIZATION</u>	2022	2023
Bradford-Sortwell-Wright Legion Post	\$200	\$200
ElderCare Network of Lincoln County		\$1,000
Friends of Head Tide Church	\$500	\$500
Healthy Kids	\$1,800	\$1,800
Lincoln County Television (LCTV)	\$1,300	\$1,300
Midcoast Chapter American Red Cross	\$900	\$900
Midcoast Humane (Neuter/Spay Fund)	\$250	\$250
Midcoast Maine Community Action	\$350	\$350
MPBN	\$100	\$100
New Hope for Women	\$710	\$894
Spectrum Generations	\$940	\$940
Sweetser	\$766	\$767
The Lifelight Foundation	\$709	\$710
Waldo Community Action Partners		\$172
Wiscasset Parks & Recreation Dept.	\$4,254	\$4,260
Wiscasset Public Library	<u>\$4,730</u>	<u>\$4,730</u>
Total	\$17,509	\$18,873

***Motion made to decrease one line and increase another. Seconded. Motion withdrawn.
Motion made to raise and appropriate \$18,873 for the above organizations. Seconded. Passed.***

Article 41: To see what sum the Town will authorize to be transferred to the operating account from the Cemetery Trust Fund for the purpose of performing maintenance on the Hilton Family Cemetery.

(Select Board recommends releasing the current balance of \$2,032.35.)

Motion made to accept the Select Board's recommendation of \$2,032.35. Seconded. Passed.

Article 42: To see what sum the Town will appropriate from fiscal year 2022 excise taxes to reduce the 2023 tax rate.

(Select Board recommends up to 90% of prior year's excise taxes.)

Motion made to accept the Select Board's recommendation of up to 90%. Seconded. Passed.

Article 43: Shall an ordinance entitled "Town of Alna, Maine, Building Code Ordinance (As Amended, March 25, 2023)" be enacted?

(Select Board recommends approval.)

Note: Copies of the text of the ordinance are available on the Town website and from the Town Clerk.

Motion made to enact Town of Alna, Maine, Building Code Ordinance as Amended, March 25, 2023. Seconded. Passed.

Article 44: Shall an ordinance entitled “Town of Alna, Maine Moratorium Ordinance Regarding Commercial or Community Solar Energy Facilities” be enacted?

(Select Board recommends approval.)

Note: Copies of the text of the ordinance are available on the Town website and from the Town Clerk.

Motion made to enact Town of Alna, Maine, Moratorium Ordinance Regarding Commercial or Community Solar Energy Facilities. Seconded. Passed.

Article 45: Shall an ordinance titled “Town of Alna, Maine Moratorium Ordinance Regarding Mineral Extraction Facilities and Operations” be enacted?

(Select Board recommends approval.)

Note: Copies of the text of the ordinance are available on the Town website and from the Town Clerk.

Motion made to enact Town of Alna, Maine, Moratorium Ordinance Regarding Mineral Extraction Facilities and Operations. Seconded. Passed.

Motion made to adjourn the 2023 Annual Town Meeting at 12:30PM. Seconded. Passed.

Given under our hands at Alna, Maine, this 25th day of March 2023

ED PENTALERI _____

LINDA KRISTAN _____

CHARLIE CULBERTSON _____

Attested by:

SARAH PERKINS, TOWN CLERK _____