

Town of Alna

Warrant for Annual Town Meeting

March 22 & 23, 2024

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-second day of March, 2024, 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-third day of March, 2024 at 10:00 A.M., then and there to act on Articles three through fifty, 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 as Moderator.

Article 2: Having been duly notified, as above, to elect on the twenty-second day of March 2024, 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:

- **First Select Board Member**, also serving as Assessor and Overseer, for a two-year term.
Nicholas Johnston won the seat as a write-in with 114 votes. Candidate Ed Pentaleri received 108 votes.
- **School Committee Member**, for a three-year term.
Shelby Bidy won the uncontested seat with 217 votes.
- **Road Commissioner**, for a one-year term.
Michael Trask won the contested seat with 138 votes. Jeffrey Verney received 108 votes.

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

Motion to nominate Amy Stockford, seconded. 5 out of 5 paper ballots awarding Amy Stockford a three year term as Cemetery Trustee.

Article 4: To elect all other town officials, or instruct the Select Board to appoint the same.

Ed Pentaleri made a motion to vote on Articles 4 through 10 as a group. Seconded. Motion failed.

Ed Pentaleri made a motion to instruct the Select Board to appoint non-elected town officials. Seconded. Passed.

Article 5: To see what method the Town will adopt for the collection of taxes.

(The Select Board recommends the Tax Lien method)

Ed Pentaleri made a motion to vote on Articles 5 through 10 as a group. Seconded.

Passed.

Motion was made to approve Articles 5 through 10 as written. Seconded. Passed.

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 4.5 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, 2024, at the Assessors' discretion, 6.0 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 2024-2025 expenditures for all accounts during the period from February 1, 2025, to the March 2025 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 and other revenues, 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 \$5,000.

Ed Pentaleri moved to accept the Select Board and Treasurer's recommendation of \$5,000. Seconded. Passed.

Article 12: 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.

Ed Pentaleri moved to vote on Articles 12 through 16 as a group. Seconded.

Ruth Gilbert made a motion to vote on Article 13 and Article 16 separately. Seconded. Failed.

Ed Pentaleri's motion stands. The moderator read Articles 12 through 16. Discussion was had on Article 13 (Tax Levy Limit). Articles 12 through 16 passed as written.

Article 13: To see if the Town will vote to increase the property tax levy limit of \$815,234 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 2024-2025, 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 2024 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 2024 Principal and Interest due on the Cross Road repaving loan.

(Select Board recommends \$48,560)

Note: The amount raised and appropriated last year was \$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 \$65,000.

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

Discussion: Comment was made there is not enough budgeted for legal expenses.

Bill Smith made a motion to table this article to a later date and vote on it at a Special Town Meeting. Seconded. Motion failed.

Jeff Philbrick made a motion to move the article. Seconded. Article passed with Select Board's recommendation of \$65,000.

Article 20: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Town Building Maintenance Account.

(Select Board recommends \$15,000)

Ed Pentaleri made a motion to accept the Select Board's recommendation of \$15,000. Seconded. Passed.

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

(Select Board recommends \$14,000)

Note: The amount raised and appropriated last year was \$13,500.

Ed Pentaleri made a motion to accept the Select Board's recommendation of \$14,000. Seconded. Passed.

Article 22: 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 \$1,500.

Ed Pentaleri made a motion to accept the Select Board's recommendation of \$1,500. Seconded. Passed.

Article 23: 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 \$10,000 was used as follows: Dues (\$139), Audit (\$500), Workers Comp (\$2,340.40), Training (\$385), Ads/Publications (\$46.93), Planning Board (\$275), Bank Service Charges (\$20), Snow/Plowing Removal (130.48), Ambulance Contract (\$4,278.79) and Animal Control (\$1,884.40).

Ed Pentaleri made a motion to accept the Select Board's recommendation of \$10,000. Seconded. Passed.

Article 24: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Salaries & Stipends.

Town Officials	2023	2024
Town Clerk & Tax Collector	Up to \$60,000	Up to \$60,000
Deputy Town Clerk & Tax Collector	Up to \$20,000	Up to \$25,000
First Selectperson/Assessor	\$3,665	\$3,665
Second Selectperson/Assessor	\$3,665	\$3,665
Third Selectperson/Assessor	\$3,665	\$3,665
Treasurer	\$9,000	\$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	\$6,000	\$6,000
Fire Warden	\$100	\$100
Deputy Fire Chief	\$2,000	\$2,000
Assistant Fire Chief	\$4,500	\$4,500
Fire Captains (3@\$2000)	\$6,000	\$6,000
Code Enforcement Officer	\$6,500	\$15,000 (incl. mileage)
Health Officer	\$125	\$125
Planning Board Chair	\$435	\$435
Planning Board Secretary	\$100	\$100
Planning Board Members	\$25/meeting or site visit, limited to \$2,500	\$25/meeting or site visit, limited to \$2,500
Civil Constable	\$125	\$125
Total	\$130,615	\$144,115

(Select Board recommends the Town Officials' Salaries & Stipends for a proposed total of \$144,115)

Ed Pentaleri made a motion to accept the Select Board's recommendation of \$144,115. Seconded.

Mike Trask made a motion to amend the article to \$147,880, increasing the Road Commissioner's salary from \$1,235 to \$5,000. Seconded.

Beth Whitney made a motion to amend the article to \$148,445, increasing the Road Commissioner's salary from \$1,235 to \$5,000, and increasing the Planning Board Chair's salary from \$435 to \$1,000. Seconded. Beth Whitney's motion passed.

Article 25: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for elections and town meetings.

(Select Board recommends \$2,000)

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

Ed Pentaleri made a motion to accept the Select Board's recommendation of \$2,000. Seconded. Passed.

Article 26: 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 \$13,000)

Note: The amount raised and appropriated last year was \$12,000.

Ed Pentaleri made a motion to accept the Select Board's recommendation of \$13,000. Seconded. Passed.

Article 27: 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 2024 to Annual March Town Meeting 2025, for the lease or purchase of goods & services when they deem it in the best financial interest of the Town.

(Select Board recommends passage)

Ronald Wright made a motion to approve this article as written. Seconded. Passed.

Article 28: 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.

Ronald Wright made a motion to accept the Select Board's recommendation of \$15,000. Seconded. Passed.

Article 29: To see what sum the Town will authorize to be transferred to the operating account from the Historic Building Reserve Fund for the purpose of maintaining the Town's historic buildings.

(Select Board recommends releasing the current balance, which was \$18,245.52 as of January 31, 2024.)

Ronald Wright made a motion to accept the Select Board's recommendation of releasing \$18,245.52. Seconded. Passed.

Article 30: To see whether the Town will vote to increase the pay rate for firefighter training to \$20/hour, up to a maximum of 40 hours per year.

(Fire Chief recommends approval.)

Note: The current pay rate for firefighter training is \$15/hour, to a maximum of 40 hours. The current rate for firefighter call pay is \$20/hour.

Michael Trask made a motion to approve this article as written. Seconded. Passed.

Article 31: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Alna Volunteer Fire Department:

	2023	2024
Volunteer Fire Department Administration	\$68,953	\$70,815
Fire Fighter Training Pay	\$10,444	\$13,286
Fire Fighter Call Pay	\$16,640	\$18,940
Training Tuition and Expenses	\$1,500	\$1,500
Group Life Insurance Policy	\$7,372	\$6,721
Radios	\$4,100	\$4,100
1 Air Pack Replacement + Spare bottle	\$6,000	\$8,000
Air Bag Replacement	\$800	\$800
Total	\$115,809	\$124,162
<i>(Fire Department recommends the aggregate total of \$124,162)</i>		

Michael Trask made a motion to accept the Fire Department's recommendation of \$124,162. Seconded. Passed.

Article 32: 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 \$17,000)

Note: The amount raised and appropriated last year was \$3,000.

Michael Trask made a motion to accept the Fire Chief and Select Board's recommendation of \$17,000. Seconded. Passed.

Article 33: To see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Fire Truck Reserve Account.

(The Fire Department recommends \$50,000.)

Note: The amount raised and appropriated last year was \$50,000. The reserve balance is \$157,372.68 as of January 31, 2024.

Michael Trask made the motion to accept the Fire Department's recommendation of \$50,000. Seconded. Passed.

Article 34: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the tax assessment, commitment, and associated expenses.

(Select Board recommends \$18,250.)

Note: The amount raised and appropriated last year was \$15,750.

	2023	2024	
Annual Valuation Update	\$10,500	\$12,500	J.E. O'Donnell & Assoc.
Tax Maps	\$1,000	\$1,500	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.
Trio Module for Remote Access	\$250	\$250	
Total	\$15,750	\$18,250	

Ed Pentaleri made a motion to accept the Select Board's recommendation of \$18,250. Seconded. Passed.

Article 35: To see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Property Tax Revaluation Reserve.

(Select Board recommends \$24,000)

Note: The Select Board (Assessors) expects to complete a property revaluation in 2026. The cost of the revaluation is estimated to be approximately \$70,000.

Ed Pentaleri made a motion to accept the Select Board's recommendation of \$24,000. Seconded. Passed.

Article 36: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the General Highway Maintenance Account.

(Select Board and Road Commissioner recommend \$75,000)

Note: The amount raised and appropriated last year was \$50,000.

Ed Pentaleri made a motion to accept the Select Board and Road Commissioner's recommendation of \$75,000. Seconded. Motion died.

Michael Trask made a motion to raise and appropriate \$125,000. Seconded. Passed.

Article 37: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Solid Waste Contract.

(Select Board recommends \$125,000)

Note: The amount raised and appropriated last year was \$99,500, and the actual cost was \$103,147.90.

Ed Pentaleri made a motion to accept the Select Board's recommendation of \$125,000. Seconded. Motion died.

Ed Pentaleri made a motion to raise and appropriate \$121,000. Seconded. Passed.

Article 38: 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 \$300,000, Sand and Salt for Winter Roads \$25,000, Total \$325,000)

Note: The amount raised and appropriated last year was \$390,000.

Ed Pentaleri made a motion to accept the Select Board's recommendation: Snow removal contract \$300,000, Sand and Salt for Winter roads \$25,000, Total \$325,000. Seconded. Passed.

Article 39: 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 \$1,058.

Ed Pentaleri made a motion to accept the Select Board’s recommendation to contract with Midcoast Humane for \$1,058. Seconded. Passed.

Article 40: To see what sum the town will vote to raise and appropriate to contract for Animal Control services.

(Select Board recommends contracting with Lincoln County and raising and appropriating \$5,000)

Note: The amount raised and appropriated last year was \$2,500.

Ed Pentaleri made a motion to accept the Select Board’s recommendation to contract with Lincoln County and raising and appropriating \$5,000. Seconded. Passed.

Article 41: To see what sum the town will vote to raise and appropriate to contract for ambulance service.

(Select Board recommends \$27,000.)

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

Motion was made to accept the Select Board’s recommendation of \$27,000. Seconded. Passed.

Article 42: 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 recommend \$800)

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

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

Article 43: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Friends of Head Tide Church.

(The Friends of Head Tide Church and the Select Board recommend \$500)

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

Motion was made to accept the Friends of Head Tide Church and the Select Board’s recommendation of \$500. Seconded. Motion died.

Beth Whitney made a motion to raise and appropriate \$1,500. For the Friends of Head Tide Church. Seconded. Passed.

Article 44: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the following organizations:

ORGANIZATION	2023	2024
Bradford-Sortwell-Wright Legion Post	\$200	\$200
ElderCare Network of Lincoln County	\$1,000	\$1,000
Healthy Kids	\$1,800	\$1,800
Lincoln County Television (LCTV)	\$1,300	\$1,500
Midcoast Chapter American Red Cross	\$900	\$900
Midcoast Humane (Neuter/Spay Fund)	\$250	\$250
Midcoast Maine Community Action	\$350	\$350
MPBN	\$100	\$150

New Hope Midcoast (formerly New Hope for Women)	\$894	\$894
Spectrum Generations	\$940	\$787.50
Sweetser	\$767	\$767
The Lifeflight Foundation	\$710	\$710
Veggies to Table		\$1,000
Waldo Community Action Partners	\$172	\$172
Wiscasset Parks & Recreation Dept.	\$4,260	\$4,970
Wiscasset Public Library	\$4,730	\$5,200
Total	\$18,373	\$20,651

Motion was made to raise and appropriate \$20,651. Seconded. Passed.

Article 45: To see what sum the Town will appropriate from fiscal year 2023 excise taxes to reduce the 2024 tax rate.

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

Motion was made to accept the Select Board's recommendation of up to 90% of prior year's excise taxes. Seconded. Passed.

Article 46: Shall an ordinance entitled, "Amendments to Alna Building Code Ordinance," be enacted?

(Planning Board recommends approval.)

Note: A "Yes" vote will amend the Alna Building Code Ordinance and rename it as the Alna Land Use Ordinance. Copies of the text of the proposed ordinance are available on the Town website and from the Town Clerk.

Ed Pentaleri made a motion to accept the Planning Board's recommendation of enacting an ordinance entitled 'Amendments to Alna Building Code Ordinance'. Seconded. Passed.

Article 47: Shall an ordinance entitled, "Amendments to and Adoption of Alna Land Use Ordinances to Regulate Mining and Blasting," be enacted?

(Planning Board recommends approval.)

Note: A "Yes" vote will enact the Alna Mining and Blasting Ordinance and will amend the Alna Subdivision and Site Plan Review Ordinance. Copies of the text of the proposed ordinance are available on the Town website and from the Town Clerk.

A motion was made to accept the Planning Board's recommendation of enacting an ordinance entitled "Amendments to and Adoption of Alna Land Use Ordinance to Regulate Mining and Blasting". Seconded. Motion died.

Discussion: Cathy Johnson, Planning Board Chair, explained the ordinance.

Beth Whitney made a motion to allow non-resident Ian Messier, Crooker Construction's Chief Engineer, to speak. Seconded. Motion passed with a 2/3 vote.

Discussion: Ian Messier relayed the negative implications this ordinance could potentially have for Crooker Construction, and answered resident's questions.

Steve Graham, Second Select Person, cited the following reasons he is opposed to approving this ordinance: It puts an undue burden on pit owners, and it exposes the Town of Alna to potential

litigation.

Ed Pentaleri made a motion to vote on this ordinance by paper ballot. Seconded. Passed. (96 residents in favor of voting by paper ballot. 62 Residents opposed to voting by paper ballot).

Ed Pentaleri made a motion to allow non-resident Aga Dickson, Town Council, to speak. Seconded. Motion passed with a 2/3 vote.

Ralph Hilton made a motion to move the article immediately. Seconded. Passed.

Residents voted by paper ballot NOT to enact an ordinance entitled "Amendments to Adoption of Alna Land Use Ordinances to Regulate Mining and Blasting". Paper ballot results were 93 No, 73 Yes, 2 Blank.

Article 48: Shall an ordinance entitled, "Amendments to and Adoption of Alna Land Use Ordinances to Regulate Solar Energy Conversion Systems," be enacted?
(Planning Board recommends approval.)

Note: A "Yes" vote will enact the Alna Solar Ordinance and will amend the Alna Subdivision and Site Plan Review Ordinance. Copies of the text of the proposed ordinance are available on the Town website and from the Town Clerk.

Ed Pentaleri made a motion to accept the Planning Board's recommendation to enact an ordinance entitled "Amendments to and Adoption of Alna Land Use Ordinances to Regulate Solar Energy Conversion Systems". Seconded. Passed.

Article 49: Shall an ordinance titled "Floodplain Management Ordinance For The Town Of Alna, Maine" be enacted?

(Planning Board recommends approval.)

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

Ed Pentaleri made a motion to approve the Planning Board's recommendation to enact an ordinance titled "Floodplain Management Ordinance for the Town of Alna, Maine". Seconded. Passed.

Article 50: To see if the Town will vote to change the office of Road Commissioner from an elected to an appointed office, beginning with the 2025 annual town meeting, said position to be appointed by the Select Board for a term of 1 year.

A motion was made to approve the article as written. Seconded. Article Failed.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 2:58PM. Seconded. Passed.

Respectively Submitted By:

SARAH PERKINS, TOWN CLERK _____