

TOWN OF SKOWHEGAN, MAINE
ANNUAL
TOWN MEETING WARRANT
STATE OF MAINE
June 10, 2024 at 7:00 P.M.
Municipal Building - Opera House
AND
SECRET BALLOT ELECTION
June 11, 2024 from 7:00 A.M. – 8:00 P.M.
Municipal Building - Council Room

Somerset, ss.

To David Bucknam, 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 tenth day of June, A.D., 2024 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 eleventh day of June, A.D., 2024**, 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 Road Commissioner, for a three-year term; One Town Clerk, for a three-year term; One Town Treasurer, for a three-year term; One Assessor, for a three-year term; One Overseer of the Poor, for a three-year term; One Park Commissioner, for a five-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 \$2,265,924.00 for General Government.

Department	Budget Committee	Votes	Selectmen	Votes
Finance Department	\$820,010.00	6/0	\$820,010.00	5/0
Municipal Building Maintenance	\$159,680.00	6/0	\$159,680.00	5/0
Assessing	\$219,022.00	6/0	\$219,022.00	5/0
Town Manager	\$240,121.00	5/1	\$240,121.00	5/0
Planning & Ordinance Administration	\$28,426.00	6/0	\$28,426.00	5/0
Code Enforcement	\$200,431.00	6/0	\$200,431.00	5/0
Employee Benefits	\$272,090.00	6/0	\$272,090.00	5/0
Town Insurances	\$297,037.00	6/0	\$297,037.00	5/0
Economic & Community Development	\$216,181.00	6/0	\$216,181.00	5/0
General Government Total	\$2,452,998.00		\$2,452,998.00	

ARTICLE 4. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,623,938.00 for Police Department. (The Selectmen with a 5/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 6/0 vote recommend passage of this article)

ARTICLE 5. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,732,715.00 for Fire Department. (The Selectmen with a 5/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 5/1 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 6. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$88,700.00 for Public Safety Building. (The Selectmen with a 5/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 6/0 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 7. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$626,904.00 for Other Protection. (The Selectmen with a 5/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 6/0 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 8. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$83,574.00 for Health and Human services.

Department	Budget Committee	Votes	Selectmen	Votes
General Assistance	\$82,282.00	6/0	\$82,282.00	5/0
Health Department	\$1,292.00	6/0	\$1,292.00	5/0
General Assistance/Health Dept. Total	\$83,574.00		\$83,574.00	

ARTICLE 9. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$913,284.00 for Waste Water and Pollution Control. (The Selectmen with a 5/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 6/0 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 10. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,161,732.00 for Solid Waste and Recycling. (The Selectmen with a 5/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 6/0 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 11. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$740,596.00 for Public Works – Summer Roads Maintenance. (The Selectmen with a 5/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 6/0 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 12. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$928,466.00 for Public Works – Winter Roads Maintenance. (The Selectmen with a 5/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 6/0 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 13. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$310,000.00 for Public Works – Vehicle Maintenance. (The Selectmen with a 5/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 6/0 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 14. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$145,717.00 for the care of cemeteries. (The Selectmen with a 5/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 6/0 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 15. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$701,930.00 for Parks and Recreation. (The Selectmen with a 5/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 6/0 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 16. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,944,707.00 for Capital Expenditures/Debt Retirement. (The Selectmen with a 5/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 6/0 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 17. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$370,000.00 for Capital Expenditures/Capital Reserve Funds for the Pollution Control Plant. (The Selectmen with a 5/0 vote and the Budget Committee with 6/0 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 18. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000.00 for Capital Expenditures/Capital Reserve Funds for the Recreation Department. (The Selectmen with a 5/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 6/0 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 19. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$125,500.00 for Capital Expenditures/Capital Reserve Funds for the Municipal Building. (The Selectmen with a 4/1 vote and the Budget Committee with a 6/0 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 20. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$90,000.00 for Capital Expenditures/Capital Reserve Funds for the Solid Waste Department. (The Selectmen with a 5/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 6/0 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 21. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$133,500.00 for Capital Expenditures/Capital Reserve Funds for the Police Department. (The Selectmen with a 5/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 6/0 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 22. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$150,000.00 for Capital Expenditures/Capital Reserve Funds for Public Works Equipment. (The Selectmen with a 5/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 6/0 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 23. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,300,000.00 for Capital Expenditures/Capital Reserve Funds for Public Works Roads and Sidewalks. (The Selectmen with a 5/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 6/0 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 24. 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 \$172,112.00. (The Selectmen with a 5/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 6/0 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 25. To see if the town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to expend the amounts voted in Articles 23 and 24 from the Capital Improvement Program/Public Works Roads and Sidewalks account for the town's share of the following proposed projects: Paving/work planned for Glen View Drive, Varney Road, Coburn Avenue, Court Street, Heselton Street, Jackson Street, Union Street, Walnut Street, Weston Street and Steward Hill Road. (The Selectmen recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 26. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$279,500.00 for Capital Expenditures/Capital Reserve Funds for the Fire Department. (The Selectmen with a 5/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 6/0 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 27. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000.00 for Capital Expenditures/Capital Reserve Funds for Emergency Management. (The Selectmen with a 5/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 6/0 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 28. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000.00 for Capital Expenditures/Capital Reserve Funds for Administration. (The Selectmen with a 5/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 6/0 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 29. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000.00 for Capital Expenditures/Capital Reserve Funds for Assessing. (The Selectmen with a 5/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 6/0 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 30. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$7,600.00 for Capital Expenditures/Capital Reserve Funds for Economic & Community Development. (The Selectmen with a 5/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 6/0 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 31. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000.00 for Capital Expenditures/Capital Reserve Funds for Cemeteries. (The Selectmen with a 5/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 6/0 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 32. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$13,500.00 for Capital Expenditures/Capital Reserve Funds for the Planning Department. (The Selectmen with a 5/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 6/0 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 33. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000.00 for Capital Expenditures/Capital Reserve Funds for Public Works Buildings. (The Selectmen with a 5/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 6/0 vote recommends passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 34. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000.00 for Capital Expenditures/Capital Reserve Funds for Street Lights. (The Selectmen with a 5/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 6/0 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 voted on October 23, 2018 to change the signature requirement on petitions for funding requests from 10% to 5% of voters from the last gubernatorial election. 169 signatures, budget information and answers to questions sent to requesting organizations were required for funding request petitions this year.

ARTICLE 35. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$198,000.00 for Skowhegan Free Public Library. The Community Service Organization's request by petition is \$198,000.00. (The Selectmen with a 5/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 4/1/1 vote recommend \$175,000.00.)

ARTICLE 36. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$12,000.00 for Coburn Park Commission. The Community Service Organization's request by petition is \$12,000.00. (The Selectmen with a 5/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 6/0 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 37. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$12,000.00 for Skowhegan History House. The Community Service Organization's request by petition is \$12,000.00. (The Selectmen with a 4/1 vote and the Budget Committee with a 5/1 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 38. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$78,750.00 for Main Street Skowhegan. The Community Service Organization's request by petition is \$78,750.00. (The Selectmen with a 5/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 5/0/1 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 39. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$35,000.00 for Skowhegan Regional Chamber of Commerce. The Community Service Organization's request by petition is \$35,000.00. (The Selectmen with a 5/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 6/0 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 40. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$21,000.00 for Lake George Regional Park. The Community Service Organization's request by petition is \$21,000.00. (The Selectmen with a 3/2 vote and the Budget Committee with a 3/2/1 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 41. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,000.00 for Family Violence Project. The Human Service Agency's request by petition is \$6,000.00. (The Selectmen with a 3/1/1 vote recommend \$6,000.00 and the Budget Committee with a 6/0 vote recommend \$0.00.)

ARTICLE 42. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$21,000.00 for Hospice Volunteers of Somerset County. The Human Service Agency's request by petition is \$21,000.00. (The Selectmen with a 5/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 6/0 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 43. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$18,000.00 for Skowhegan Community Food Cupboard. The Human Service Agency's request by petition is \$18,000.00. (The Selectmen with a 5/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 6/0 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 44. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,000.00 for Kennebec Behavioral Health. The Human Service Agency's request by petition is \$6,000.00. The Selectmen with a 5/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 5/0/1 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 45. To see if the Town will vote to apply FY 2025 operational revenues in the amount of \$2,578,626.00 to offset the FY 2025 appropriations. (The Selectmen with a 5/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 6/0 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 46. To see if the town will vote to appropriate an amount from undesignated fund balance, not to exceed \$260,000.00 to reduce the tax commitment. (The Selectmen with a 4/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 8/0 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 47. 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 2025. (The Selectmen recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 48. To see if the Town will vote to establish September 16, 2024, or 30-days after the commitment date of taxes, whichever is later, as the date when the first installment of taxes shall be due and payable and March 17, 2025 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 8.5% interest to be charged on all taxes unpaid after said dates. (The Selectmen recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 49. To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. § 506-A to fix the rate of 4.5% interest to be paid on overpaid or abated taxes. (The Selectmen recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 50. To see if the Town will vote to apply as much of the yearly overlay as may be necessary to fund property tax abatements and applicable interest granted during fiscal year 2025. (The Selectmen recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 51. 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 52. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector to enter into a standard agreement with year-round residential taxpayers establishing a "Tax Club" payment plan for property taxes, whereby: (1) the taxpayer agrees to pay specified monthly payments to the Town based on his/her estimated and actual tax obligation for current year property taxes; (2) the Town agrees not to charge interest or penalties on timely payments made pursuant to the tax club agreement; (3) the Town authorizes the Tax Collector to accept tax club payments for current taxes which may be due prior to the commitment of those taxes; (4) the agreement is automatically terminated if a scheduled payment is late, and the taxpayer then becomes subject to the same due dates and interest dates and rates as other taxpayers who are not participating in a tax club; (5) only taxpayers who do not have any outstanding tax obligation for prior tax years are eligible to participate in the tax club program; and (6) taxpayers wishing to participate in a tax club for a particular property tax year shall enter into agreement with the Town by a publicly-advertised deadline determined by the Tax Collector. (The Selectmen recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 53. 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 54. 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), 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 55. 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 56. 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 57. 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 58. To see if the Town will vote to allow the Town Treasurer, after Board of Selectmen approval, to file a waiver of automatic foreclosure at the Registry of Deeds, pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. § 944, on real estate that may be burdensome for the Town. (The Selectmen recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 59. To see if the Town of Skowhegan (the “Town”) will vote to adopt a municipal tax increment financing district known as the *Spinning Mill Municipal Tax Increment Financing District* by adopting the application for the *Spinning Mill Municipal Tax Increment Financing District Development Program* (“Application”) as on file in the Town Office and made available at the public hearing held by the Town on May 30, 2024 on said application, pursuant to the following findings, terms, and provisions:

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 206 of Title 30-A of the Maine Revised Statutes, as amended, the Town desires to create a municipal development and tax increment financing district entitled the *Spinning Mill Municipal Tax Increment Financing District Development Program* (the “District”) and create a development program (the “Development Program”) for the District, as set forth in the Application; and

WHEREAS, implementation of the Development Program will help improve and broaden the tax base in the Town and improve the economy in the Town and the region; and

WHEREAS, there is a continued need for commercial and business development in the Town; and

WHEREAS, it is expected that approval will be sought and obtained from the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development (“DECD”) approving the Application.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY VOTED BY THE TOWN:

Section 1. The Town adopts the afore-described recitals and further finds and determines that:

a. At least twenty-five percent (25%), by area, of the real property within the District, as hereinafter designated, will continue to be suitable for commercial or art district uses, blighted area or is in need of rehabilitation or redevelopment; and

b. The total area of the District does not exceed two percent (2%) of the total acreage of the Town, and the total area of all development districts within the Town does not exceed five percent (5%) of the total acreage of the Town; and

c. The original assessed value of the District, as amended, plus the original assessed value of all development districts within the Town, does not exceed five percent (5%) of the total acreage of the Town; and

d. The District and Development Program will generate economic benefits for the Town and its residents, including a broadened and improved tax base and economic stimulus, and therefore constitutes a good and valid public purpose. The Town has considered all evidence, if any, presented to it with regard to any substantial detriment to another party's existing property interests in the Town and has found and determined that such interested party's property interests in the Town are outweighed by the contribution made by the District and Development Program

Section 2. Pursuant to Chapter 206 of Title 30-A of the Maine Revised Statutes, as amended, the Town hereby adopts the District and Development Program as set forth in the Application in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth therein.

Section 3. In accordance with the provisions of 30-A M.R.S. §§ 5224 and 5227, the Town hereby adopts the Application, which includes adoption of this document's stated establishment and addition of municipal projects eligible to be funded with tax increment financing revenues.

Section 4. The Board of Selectmen or its duly authorized representative is hereby authorized, empowered, and directed to submit the Application to the DECD for review and approval, without any requirement of further action by the Town, Board of Selectmen, Town Meeting, or any other party.

Section 5. The Board of Selectmen or its duly authorized representative is hereby authorized and directed to enter any credit enhancement agreements related to and consistent with the District and Development Program that contemplate such agreements with Spinning Mill LLC.

Section 6. The foregoing adoption of the District and Development Program shall automatically become final and shall take full force and effect upon receipt by the Town of approval of this amendment by the DECD, without any requirement of further action by the Town, Board of Selectmen, Town Meeting, or any other party.

Section 7. The Board of Selectmen or its duly authorized representative is hereby authorized and empowered, at its discretion, to make such technical revisions from time to time to the Application reasonably necessary or convenient in order to facilitate the process for review and approval of said document by the DECD, so long as such revisions are not inconsistent with this Article or the basic structure and intent of that document and this Article.

(The Selectmen recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 60. To see if the Town will vote to adopt the amended Floodplain Management Ordinance. Last amended at Town Meeting June 5, 2021. (The Selectmen recommend passage of this article.)

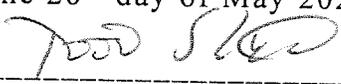
ARTICLE 61. To see if the Town will vote to adopt the amended Sign Ordinance. Last amended at Town Meeting June 13, 2022. (The Selectmen recommend passage of this article.)

The Registrar will hold hours for the purpose of revising and correcting the list of voters on Thursday, June 6, 2024 and Friday, June 7, 2024 from 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.; Monday, June 10, 2024 from noon to 4:00 P.M. and from 6:00 P.M. to the close of the Town Meeting and Tuesday, June 11, 2023 from 7:00 A.M. to close of polls at 8:00 P.M.

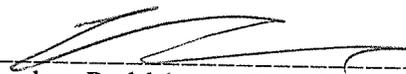
You are hereby directed to serve this warrant by posting in a public and conspicuous place at least seven (7) days before the holding of said meeting.

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 May 2024.



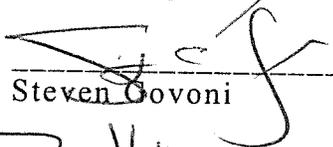
Todd Smith, Chairman



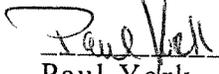
Charles Robbins, Vice Chairman



Harold Bigelow



Steven Govoni



Paul York

Selectmen of the Town of Skowhegan

CONSTABLE'S RETURN

Skowhegan, Maine

May 30, 2024

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.



Constable of the Town of Skowhegan