

TOWN OF DIXMONT WARRANT

State of Maine Penobscot S.S.

To Janice Boyd, Citizen of the Town of Dixmont

GREETINGS:

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the town of Dixmont qualified to vote on Town Affairs to assemble at the Etna/Dixmont school in RSU# 19 on Saturday, March 16, 2024 at ten o'clock in the forenoon to act on the following articles to wit:

- Art. 1. To nominate and elect a moderator to preside at said meeting, and fix compensation therefor.
- Art. 2. To see if the votes cast on Articles 4 through 10, if there is only one person nominated for a single position, shall be cast by allowing the Town Clerk to cast one written ballot, rather than by written ballot of all those present and voting, unless a citizen shall object, in which case a written ballot of all those present and voting shall be held for that Article.
- Art. 3. To see if the voters will agree to approve Articles 11 through 21 as one block article for the purposes of enactment unless a citizen shall object to the passage of any article, in which case that article shall be removed from the block and voted on separately.
- Art. 4. To nominate and elect a First Selectperson for a term of three years.
- Art. 5. To nominate and elect a three-member Board of Overseers for the Poor for the ensuing year.
- Art. 6. To nominate and elect a three-member Board of Assessors for the ensuing year, and fix compensation therefor.
- Art. 7. To nominate and elect a member of the Planning Board for a term of five years.
- Art. 8. To nominate and elect a member of the Planning Board for a term of two years to fill a vacancy.
- Art. 9. To nominate and elect one trustee to the Cemetery Trustees for a term of five years.
- Art. 10. To nominate and elect one trustee to the Toothaker Family Trust for a term of three years.
- Art. 11. Shall the Town vote to give the Select Board authority to sell any hay, wood, or buildings on tax acquired property?
- Art. 12. Shall the Town vote to give the Select Board authority to allocate any unexpected funds from the sale of real estate, hay, wood, buildings, or reimbursements for damages to the capital improvement fund?
- Art. 13. Shall the Town vote to authorize the Select Board on behalf of the Town to sell or dispose of any real estate acquired by the Town.
- Art. 14. Shall the Town vote to charge interest at an annual percentage rate on 2024 unpaid taxes after a certain date and to determine that date and the rate of interest to be charged? (**Recommended: October 31, 2024 at 8.5 percent**)

- Art. 15. Shall the Town vote to pass the following resolution or take any actions with respect thereto:
RESOLVED: That the Town Treasurer, with approval of the Select Board or a majority thereof, be authorized to borrow from time to time, in anticipation of taxes from the taxable year commencing April 1, 2024, a total sum not to exceed \$250,000 and for such purpose to issue and sell a promissory note or notes of the Town, said note or notes to be in such form, to bear interest at such rate, and to be payable at such date within the taxable year in which they are issued as the Select Board or a majority thereof may approve, and to be paid out of money raised by taxation during the year. The proceeds of such note or notes to be used for and are hereby dedicated to purposes for which the Town may legally raise money or incur debt.
- Art. 16. Shall the Town vote to authorize the Select Board to spend an amount not to exceed 25 percent of the total amount of the FY 2025 (Feb 1, 2024 to Jan. 31, 2025) annual budget from February 1, 2025 to the 2025 annual meeting?
- Art. 17. Shall the Town vote to authorize the Tax Collector to accept payment of taxes not yet committed as a service to taxpayers? Any excess prepaid over the amount finally committed shall be repaid without interest per 36 M.R.S.A Section 506. Excess payments of \$10 or less may be credited to 2025 taxes.
- Art. 18. Shall the Town vote to authorize the Select Board to accept and expend or not accept any donations made by private individuals or corporations to the Town of Dixmont to be applied to the account specified by the donor? (This includes, but is not limited to, items such as Neighbors Helping Neighbors, Community Development, Community Forest, Historical Society, Recreation, and Memorial Park.)
- Art. 19. Shall the Town vote to authorize the Select Board to accept and expend or not accept any and all Grants, Revenue Sharing, Reimbursements, County, State or Federal FEMA monies and any or all other Federal, State, County, Private, or International Grants or Reimbursements as provided by the Maine State Legislature, State of Maine Divisions, Departments, or Bureaus, and/or any Federal or Private sources? (This includes Snowmobile grants and registration reimbursements to the Dixmont Goldcrest Riders Snowmobile Club and reimbursements for online fire permits to the Fire Department.)
- Art. 20. Shall the Town vote to authorize the Select Board to use the tax overlay for abatements?
- Art. 21. Shall the Town vote to authorize an increase in the property tax levy limit, established for the Town of Dixmont by State Law, in the event that the municipal budget approved under the following articles would result in a tax commitment that is greater than that property tax limit?
- Art. 22. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money for **GENERAL GOVERNMENT**; and if so, how much? **Select Board recommends \$180,658.33.**
(FY24 Budget approved \$147,505.00/ FY24 Actual spent \$133,983.12)
- Art. 23. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money for **ANNUAL STIPEND for the SELECTBOARD**; and if so, how much? **Select Board recommends \$4,800 for each Selectperson and \$3,200 for the Appointed Chair of the Board for a total of \$17,600. (Note: 1st, 2nd & 3rd titles indicate term rotation only, not authority).**
(FY24 Budget approved \$17,600/ FY24 Actual spent \$17,600)
- Art. 24. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money for the following **PUBLIC WORKS** services; and if so, how much? **Select Board recommends \$686,459.68.**
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|------------------------------------|--------------|
| A. General Expenses..... | \$175,915.86 |
| B. Summer Roads..... | \$ 39,513.70 |
| C. Winter Roads..... | \$231,620.00 |
| D. Town Roads/Repair Upgrades..... | \$169,193.58 |

- 1. Gravel Roads.....\$102,200.00
- 2. Paved Roads..... \$ 66,993.58
- E. Solid Waste and Recycling..... \$ 70,216.54
(FY24 Budget approved \$686,751.66/ FY24 Actual spent \$610,069.65)

Art. 25. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money for the following **CEMETERY** services, including Sexton pay, Cemetery Committee expenses, and memorial purposes; and if so, how much? **Select Board recommends \$13,000.**
(FY24 Budget approved \$13,000 / FY24 Actual spent \$11,382.65)

Art. 26. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money for **ASSESSING**; and if so how much? **Select Board recommends \$9,900.**
(FY24 Budget approved \$9,900/ FY24 Actual spent \$9,900)

Art. 27. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money for the following **RESERVE ACCOUNTS**; if so, how much? **Select Board recommends \$39,100.00.**

- A. Heavy Equipment Repair Fund..... \$2,500
- B. Conservation Commission..... \$200
- C. Community Development Committee.....\$200
- D. Plow Truck Fund..... \$10,000
- E. Fire Truck/Fire House Fund.....\$10,000
- F. Historical Society Fund.....\$200
- G. Heavy Equipment Purchase..... \$10,000
- H. School Payment Buffer \$5,000
- I. Building Improvement..... \$1,000

(FY24 Budget approved \$38,100 / FY24 Actual spent \$38,100)

Art. 28. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money for the following **PUBLIC HEALTH** services; and if so, how much. **Select Board recommends \$1,541.80.**
(FY24 Budget approved \$1,434.15 / FY24 Actual spent \$1,184.15)

Art. 29. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money for the following **ANIMAL CONTROL**; and if so, how much. **Select Board recommends \$9,646.21.**
(FY24 Budget approved \$8,299.98 / FY24 Actual spent \$8,139.38)

Art. 30. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money for the following **PUBLIC SAFETY** services; and if so, how much? **Select Board recommends \$48,081.26.**

- A. Code Enforcement.....\$2,162.96
- B. Fire Department..... \$41,368.30
- C. Rescue Squad..... \$4,550.00

(FY24 Budget approved \$47,339 / FY24 Actual spent \$46,593.60)

Art. 31. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money for the following **SOCIAL SERVICES** needs; and if so, how much? **Select Board recommends \$4,000.**

- A. General Assistance..... \$2,000
- B. Social Service Agencies..... \$2,000

(Eastern Area Agency on Aging, Newburgh Food Bank, Penquis Cap, Unity Food Bank)
(FY24 Budget approved \$4,000/ FY24 Actual spent \$2,333.97)

Art. 32. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money for **RECREATION**; and if so, how much? **Select Board recommends \$2,038.25.**

- A. School Recreation.....\$ 538.25
- B. Goldcrest Riders Snowmobile Club...\$1,500.00

(FY24 Budget approved \$1,804 / FY24 Actual spent \$1,798.83)

Art. 33. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money for the **PLANNING BOARD**; and if so, how much? **Selectboard recommends \$500.**
(FY24 Budget approved \$500 / FY24 Actual spent \$500)

NOTE: The following two items are assessed to the Town and paid from Property Taxes. The items listed are for informational purposes only. You are not voting to approve either of these items at Town Meeting. The County Tax will be assessed to the Town. The RSU# 19 budget will be voted by voters of all the Towns in the District in June 2024.

Penobscot County Tax for **2023-2024** was **\$183,108.84.**
The County Treasurer estimates the **2024-2025** tax will be **\$200,403.29.**
RSU# 19 Tax for 2023-2024 was **\$1,121,487.53.**
The best estimate to date for the **2024-2025** tax is **\$1,151,500.00.**

Art. 34. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate **\$1,012,525.53** to fund the Town's 2024-2025 tax commitment from the following sources:

TOWN OF DIXMONT REVENUES SOURCES

- A. Property Taxes
- B. Excise Taxes
- C. Anticipated Fees and Reimbursements
- D. Surplus
- E. Carry Forward
- F. Local Road Assistance Program (LRAP)
- G. State and Local Grant Programs

Note: For informational purposes only. The following are only estimates of what will be used from the above sources subject to change as additional information is gathered:

A. Property Taxes	\$ 498,101.22
B. Excise Taxes	\$ 185,000.00
C. Anticipated Fee and Reimbursements	\$ 99,950.00
D. Surplus	\$ 157,480.73
E. Carry Forwards	\$ 34,765.58
F. Local Road Assistance Program (LRAP)	\$ 32,228.00
G. Interest	\$ 5,000.00

Art. 35. Concerning Art. 27: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board not to fund the Reserve Accounts, some or all, as previously approved, in the event of decreased projected revenues?

Art. 36. Shall the Town vote to authorize the Select Board to transfer monies from a budget article that has a surplus in an amount up to and not exceeding the amount approved in that article to an account where there is a deficit? The Town's approved total budget **cannot** be exceeded.

Art. 37. Shall the Town vote to authorize the Select Board to enter into multi-year contracts if the Board deems it more advantageous for the Town to do so? (i.e. cemetery mowing contract)

Art. 38. To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board to pay additional monies on any loan the Town may have if it deems it more advantageous to the Town, providing there are monies available in the current budget year to do so.

Art. 39. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate up to \$20,000 to supplement existing Grant Funds the town has received to replace a stream crossing involving critical wildlife habitat on the South Road. **(Note: \$125,000 grant has been awarded by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection and \$14,800 has been awarded by the Nature Conservancy. An additional Grant is being sought**

from the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund. If this grant is successful, the appropriation will not be needed.)

Art. 40. Shall the Town of Dixmont be authorized to issue general obligation bonds of the Town in a principal amount not to exceed \$5,000,000 to finance repairs and reconstruction of approximately 20 miles of gravel road in the Town and associated cost, and further shall the Selectboard be authorized to execute all things necessary or convenient to issue the bonds of the Town, which may be callable, to accomplish the Project?

ARTICLE 40 TREASURER'S FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Total Town Indebtedness

A.	Maximum total debt outstanding and unpaid:	\$32,991.82
B.	Total debt authorized and unissued:	\$0
C.	Total Debt to be incurred if this article is approved:	\$5,000,000

ESTIMATED COSTS:

Estimated Interest rate:	2.90%
Estimated term:	10 years
Principal to be repaid:	\$5,000,000
Est. Maximum interest to be paid over term:	\$822,000
Est. Total cost of principal and interest:	\$5,822,000

VALIDITY:

The validity of the bond and of the voters' ratification of the note and bond may not be affected by any errors in the above estimates. If the actual amount of the total debt service for the bond issue varies from the estimate, the ratification by the electors is nevertheless conclusive and the validity of the bond issue is not affected by reason of the variance.

Shirlene Lindsey, Treasurer

Art. 41. To see if the Town will adopt amendments to the "Dixmont Mining Ordinance," as prepared by the Dixmont Planning Board.

Art. 42. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money for the repair of the Sand and Salt Shed. **(Selectboard and Public Works Director recommends \$60,000.) Note: Maine Municipal Insurance has notified the Board of structural deficiencies.**

Art. 43. **Discussion article only.** Would the residents of the Town of Dixmont support/want the Dixmont Planning Board to pursue a Local Yard Refuse Ordinance?

The Registrar of Voters will be at the scheduled voting place at nine o'clock in the forenoon on Saturday, 16th day of March AD, 2024.

Given under our hands in the Town of Dixmont, Maine on the 26th day of February, 2024.

David Bright – 1st Selectperson

Donald Pendleton – 2nd Selectperson

James Zimmerman` 3rd Selectperson