

**MINUTES WARRANT FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**  
**TOWN OF SABATTUS**  
**May 24, 2023**

**AND ACTION TAKEN ON WARRANT FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

Town Clerk Brenda Letourneau opened the meeting at 6:00p.m. and read the following:

State of Maine  
County of Androscoggin, ss.

To Police Chief Erik Baker, a Constable of the Town of Sabattus, County of Androscoggin, State of Maine,

**GREETING:**

In the name of the State of Maine you are hereby required to notify and warn the voters of the Town of Sabattus, in said county, qualified by law to vote in town affairs to meet in the gymnasium of the Oak Hill Middle School at 40 Ball Park Road in said town, on Wednesday, May 24, 2023 at 6:00 o'clock in the evening, then and there to act on the following articles:

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

Action taken on Article 1: Mark Duquette nominated Guy Desjardins as moderator of the town meeting. Richard Lacombe seconded the nomination. Ballots were cast. Guy Desjardins is elected and sworn in by Brenda Letourneau, Town Clerk.

ARTICLE 2. To see if the Town, in accordance with 36 M.R.S.A. Section 505(1), will vote that the tax lists specified in 36 M.R.S.A. Section 709 be committed for collection on or before September 5, 2023.

Board of Selectmen

Ought to Pass

Action taken on Article 2: Motion made by Mark Duquette and seconded by Amedeo Lauria.  
Vote taken, Article 2 passes.

ARTICLE 3. To see if the Town, in accordance with 36 M.R.S.A. Section 505(2) will vote to establish September 5, 2023 or 30 days after the tax bills are postmarked and mailed, whichever is later, as the due date for the first payment of the fiscal year 2023-2024 taxes and March 5, 2024 as the due date for the second payment.

Board of Selectmen

Ought to Pass

Action taken on Article 3: Motion made by Tracey Rancourt and seconded by Jon Mennealy.

Vote taken, Article 3 passes.

ARTICLE 4. To see if the Town, in accordance with 36 M.R.S.A. Section 505(4), will vote that property taxes shall be delinquent if not paid by the dates established in Article 3 and that interest, at the rate of 8.0% per annum, shall be charged on all delinquent property taxes.

Board of Selectmen

Ought to Pass

Action taken on Article 4: Motion made by Amedeo Lauria and seconded by Jean-Paul Curran.  
Vote taken, Article 4 passes.

ARTICLE 5. To see if the Town, in accordance with 36 M.R.S.A. Section 506-A, will vote that a taxpayer who pays an amount in excess of that finally assessed shall be repaid the amount of the overpayment plus interest from the date of the overpayment at the annual rate of 8.0%.

Board of Selectmen

Ought to Pass

Action taken on Article 5: Motion made by Amedeo Lauria and seconded by Alex Vansant.  
Vote taken, Article 5 passes.

ARTICLE 6. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the tax collector to accept prepayment of taxes, the amount collected not to exceed the previous year's taxes, and that interest on any prepayment will be zero (0) percent.

Board of Selectmen

Ought to Pass

Action taken on Article 6: Motion made by Amedeo Lauria and seconded by Laura Clifford.  
Vote taken, Article 6 passes.

ARTICLE 7. Shall the Town authorize the Selectmen to receive and appropriate non-property tax revenues to reduce the property tax commitment for the 2023-2024 fiscal year?

Anticipated non-property tax revenues for the fiscal year beginning July 01, 2023 include the following approximations of State and Town Revenues:

	<u>FY24</u>
I. Excise Tax	\$ 950,000
II. Municipal Revenue Sharing	\$ 685,000
III. Homestead Exemption Reimbursement	\$ 365,796
IV. <u>All Other Non-Property Tax Revenues</u>	<u>\$ 398,928</u>
<b>Total Non-Property Tax Revenues</b>	<b>\$2,399,724</b>

Board of Selectmen

Ought to Pass

Action taken on Article 7: Motion made by Amedeo Lauria and seconded by Rudy Gayton.

Vote taken, Article 7 passes.

ARTICLE 8. Shall the Town authorize the Selectmen to appropriate an amount not to exceed \$125,000 from Undesignated Fund Balance ("Surplus") to reduce the Property Tax Commitment for the 2023-2024 fiscal year?

FY22  
\$125,000

FY23  
\$125,000

Board of Selectmen                      Ought to Pass @                      \$125,000

Action taken on Article 8: Motion made by Amedeo Lauria and seconded by Richard Lacombe.  
Vote taken, Article 8 passes.

## PROPOSED OPERATIONAL BUDGET

ARTICLE 9. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$438,905 to fund ADMINISTRATION

FY22  
\$399,839

FY23  
\$426,603

Board of Selectmen                      Ought to Pass @                      \$ 438,905  
Budget Committee                      Ought to Pass @                      \$ 438,905

Action taken on Article 9: Motion made by Wayne Heyward and seconded by Richard Lacombe.  
Vote taken, Article 9 passes at \$438,905.

ARTICLE 10. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to fund CODE ENFORCEMENT.

FY22  
\$53,469 (part time for  
part of FY22)

FY23  
\$72,950

Board of Selectmen                      Ought to Pass @                      \$50,000  
Budget Committee                      Ought to Pass @                      \$50,000

Action taken on Article 10: Motion made by Amedeo Lauria and seconded by Richard Lacombe.  
Vote taken, Article 10 passes at \$50,000.

ARTICLE 11. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$660,936 to fund the POLICE DEPARTMENT.

FY22  
\$664,016

FY23  
\$630,519

Board of Selectmen  
Budget Committee

Ought to Pass @ \$660,936  
Ought to Pass @ \$660,936

Action taken on Article 11: Motion made by Tracey Rancourt and seconded by Derrick Webb  
Vote taken, Article 11 passes at \$660,936.

ARTICLE 12. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 27,461 to fund ANIMAL CONTROL.

FY22  
\$28,808

FY23  
\$27,028

Board of Selectmen  
Budget Committee

Ought to Pass @ \$27,461  
Ought to Pass @ \$27,461

Action taken on Article 12: Motion made by Amedeo Lauria and seconded by Mark Duquette.  
Vote taken, Article 12 passes at \$27,461.

ARTICLE 13. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$359,730 to fund the FIRE DEPARTMENT.

FY22  
\$155,075

FY23  
\$203,787

Board of Selectmen  
Budget Committee

Ought to Pass @ \$359,730  
Ought to Pass @ \$335,000

Action taken on Article 13: Motion made by Tracey Rancourt and seconded by Amedeo Lauria.  
Vote taken, Article 13 passes at \$359,730.

ARTICLE 14. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$17,250 to fund the EMERGENCY FIRST RESPONDER PROGRAM (EMS).

FY22  
\$17,180

FY23  
\$23,000

Board of Selectmen  
Budget Committee

Ought to Pass @ \$17,250  
Ought to Pass @ \$17,250

Action taken on Article 14: Motion made by Amedeo Lauria and seconded by Rudy Gayton.  
Vote taken, Article 14 passes at \$17,250.

ARTICLE 15. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,950 to fund EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.

FY22  
\$1,950

FY23  
\$1,950

Board of Selectmen  
Budget Committee

Ought to Pass @ \$1,950  
Ought to Pass @ \$1,950

Action taken on Article 15: Motion made by Amedeo Lauria and seconded by Mark Duquette.  
Vote taken, Article 15 passes at \$1,950.

ARTICLE 16. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$877,596 to fund the PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

FY22  
\$603,324  
Board of Selectmen  
Budget Committee

FY23  
\$621,575  
Ought to Pass @ \$877,596  
Ought to Pass @ \$852,096

Action taken on Article 16: Motion made by Gregoire Provost and seconded by James Rancourt.  
Vote taken, Article 16 passes at \$852,096.

ARTICLE 17. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$325,671 to fund the TRANSFER STATION.

FY22  
\$256,915

FY23  
\$298,848

Board of Selectmen  
Budget Committee

Ought to Pass @ \$325,671  
Ought to Pass @ \$325,671

Action taken on Article 17: Motion made by Tracey Rancourt and seconded by Wayne Heyward.  
Vote taken, Article 17 passes at \$325,671.

ARTICLE 18. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$705,265 to fund INSURANCES, PAYROLL TAX & RETIREMENT.

FY22  
\$669,033

FY23  
\$736,497

**SELECTMEN**

\$415,697 Insurances  
\$131,266 Payroll Taxes  
\$158,302 Retirement  
**\$705,265 Total**

**BUDGET COMMITTEE**

\$415,697 Insurances  
\$131,266 Payroll Taxes  
\$158,302 Retirement  
**\$705,265 Total**

Board of Selectmen  
Budget Committee

Ought to Pass @ \$705,265  
Ought to Pass @ \$705,265

Action taken on Article 18: Motion made by Amedeo Lauria seconded by Jon Mennealy  
Vote taken, Article 18 passes at \$705,265

ARTICLE 19. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$19,750 to fund  
BOARDS & COMMITTEES.

FY22  
\$19,800

**SELECTMEN**

\$ 15,600 Selectmen  
\$ 4,150 Planning Board  
**\$ 19,750 Total**

Board of Selectmen  
Budget Committee

FY23  
\$19,600

**BUDGET COMMITTEE**

\$ 15,600 Selectmen  
\$ 4,150 Planning Board  
**\$ 19,750 Total**

Ought to Pass @ \$19,750  
Ought to Pass @ \$19,750

Action taken on Article 19: Motion made by Amedeo Lauria and seconded by Jeffrey Baril  
Vote taken, Article 19 passes at \$19,750.

ARTICLE 20. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$93,650 to fund  
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES.

FY22  
\$75,333

**SELECTMEN**

\$40,000 Legal  
\$10,000 Engineering  
\$ 250 Planning  
\$13,500 Audit  
\$29,900 Annual Assessment  
**\$93,650 Total**

Board of Selectmen  
Budget Committee

FY23  
\$92,661

**BUDGET COMMITTEE**

\$30,000 Legal  
\$10,000 Engineering  
\$ 250 Planning  
\$13,500 Audit  
\$29,900 Annual Assessment  
**\$83,650 Total**

Ought to Pass @ \$93,650  
Ought to Pass @ \$83,650

Action taken on Article 20: Motion made by Jon Mennealy and seconded by George Merrill.  
Vote taken, Article 20 passes at \$83,650.

ARTICLE 21. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$12,350 to fund  
STORMWATER MANAGEMENT.

<u>FY22</u>	<u>FY23</u>	
\$33,840	\$11,970	
Board of Selectmen	Ought to Pass@	\$12,350
Budget Committee	Ought to Pass @	\$12,350

Action taken on Article 21: Motion made by Michael Buckingham and seconded by Jeremy Petty.  
Vote taken, Article 21 passes at \$12,350.

ARTICLE 22. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$68,940 to fund  
DISPATCH & E911/PSAP.

<u>FY22</u>	<u>FY23</u>	
\$65,878	\$68,840	
Board of Selectmen	Ought to Pass @	\$68,940
Budget Committee	Ought to Pass @	\$68,940

Action taken on Article 22: Motion made by JP Normand LaPlante and seconded by Richard Lacombe.  
Vote taken, Article 22 passes at \$68,940.

ARTICLE 23. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$16,544 to fund  
ORGANIZATIONS.

<u>FY22</u>	<u>FY23</u>	
\$15,190	\$16,739	
\$5,500	Maine Municipal Association	
\$5,794	Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments	
\$3,000	Sabattus Lake Dam Commission	
\$1,500	Sabattus Mountaineers	
<u>\$750</u>	Sabattus Veterans	
\$16,544	<b>Total</b>	
Board of Selectmen	Ought to Pass @	\$16,544
Budget Committee	Ought to Pass @	\$16,544

Action taken on Article 23: Motion made by Amedeo Lauria and seconded by Rudy Gayton.  
Vote taken, Article 23 passes at \$16,544.

ARTICLE 24. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$177,895 to fund  
PUBLIC UTILITIES.

<u>FY22</u>	<u>FY23</u>
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\$155,496

\$157,470

\$65,600	Operational Utilities
\$15,000	Street Lighting
<u>\$97,295</u>	<u>Sanitary District/Water Division (per PUC regulations)</u>
<b>\$177,895</b>	<b>Total</b>

Board of Selectmen	Ought to Pass @	\$177,895
Budget Committee	Ought to Pass @	\$177,895

Action taken on Article 24: Motion made by Amedeo Lauria and seconded by Richard Lacombe.  
Vote taken, Article 24 passes at \$177,895.

ARTICLE 25. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the General Assistance special revenue account the sum of \$ 2,000 to fund  
GENERAL ASSISTANCE.

<u>FY22</u>	<u>FY23</u>
\$2,000	\$2,0000
Board of Selectmen	Ought to Pass @ \$ 2,000
Budget Committee	Ought to Pass @ \$ 2,000

Action taken on Article 25: Motion made by Tracey Rancourt and seconded by Richard Lacombe.  
Vote taken, Article 25 passes at \$2,000.

ARTICLE 26. To see if the Town will to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,700 to fund  
NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Non-Profit Organizations	Board of Selectmen	Budget Committee
Rural Community Action Ministry	\$2,700	\$2,700
Safe Voices	\$2,000	\$2,000
Senior Plus	\$2,000	\$2,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,700</b>	<b>\$6,700</b>

<u>FY22</u>	<u>FY23</u>
\$8,000	\$6,700

Board of Selectmen	Ought to Pass @	\$6,700
Budget Committee	Ought to Pass @	\$6,700

Action taken on Article 26: Motion made by Amedeo Lauria and seconded by Richard Lacombe  
Vote taken, Article 26 passes at \$6,700.

ARTICLE 27. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to use up to \$25,000 from undesignated fund balance in the event of overdrafts, unforeseen events or emergencies. Any use of this contingency arrangement must be voted on at a Select Board meeting and the expenditures



made will be listed in the subsequent town report. Transfer of undesignated revenues in excess of \$25,000 must be authorized by the vote of a special town meeting.

Board of Selectmen	Ought to Pass
Budget Committee	Ought to Pass

Action taken on Article 27: Motion made by Tracey Rancourt and seconded by Amedeo Lauria.  
Vote taken, Article 27 passes.

ARTICLE 28. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to designate a representative to apply for and manage a grant from the Dept. of Conservation to help maintain snowmobile trails within Sabattus and authorize expenditure of funds to be reimbursed 30% by the Sabattus Mountaineers snowmobile club and 70% by State Grant.

Board of Selectmen	Ought to Pass
Budget Committee	Ought to Pass

Action taken on Article 28: Motion made by Gregoire Provost and seconded by Mark Duquette.  
Vote taken, Article 28 passes.

ARTICLE 29. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate OVERLAY of an amount not to exceed the state limitation in the calculation as set by the annual Municipal Valuation Return to cover abatements during the fiscal year.

Board of Selectmen	Ought to Pass
Budget Committee	Ought to Pass

Action taken on Article 29: Motion made by Gregoire Provost and seconded by Richard Lacombe.  
Vote taken, Article 29 passes.

## **PROPOSED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT/EQUIPMENT BUDGET**

ARTICLE 30. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$70,000 from existing Undesignated Funds to pay for a 1-ton truck for Public Works.

Board of Selectmen	Ought to Pass	@	\$70,000
Budget Committee	Ought to Pass	@	\$70,000

Action taken on Article 30: Motion made by JP Normand LaPlante and seconded by Richard Lacombe.  
Vote taken, Article 30 passes at \$70,00

ARTICLE 31. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate an amount not to exceed \$110,500 from existing Undesignated Funds to pay for an excavator for Public Works.

Board of Selectmen	Ought to Pass @	\$110,500
Budget Committee	Ought to Pass @	\$0

Action taken on Article 31: Motion made by Laura Clifford and seconded by Michelle Ames.  
Vote taken, Article 31 passes at \$0.

ARTICLE 32. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate up to \$35,000 from existing Undesignated Funds to pay for new 40-yard containers for the Transfer Station.

Board of Selectmen	Ought to Pass @	\$35,000
Budget Committee	Ought to Pass @	\$35,000

Action taken on Article 32: Motion made by JP Normand LaPlante and seconded by Mark Duquette.  
Vote taken, Article 32 passes at \$35,00.

ARTICLE 33. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$30,000 from existing Undesignated Funds to pay for a trash packer for the Transfer Station.

Board of Selectmen	Ought to Pass @	\$30,000
Budget Committee	Ought to Pass @	\$30,000

Action taken on Article 33: Motion made by Amedeo Lauria and seconded by Mark Duquette.  
Vote taken, Article 33 passes at \$30,000.

ARTICLE 34. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$120,000 from existing Undesignated Funds to pay for three (3) new Police cruisers.

Board of selectmen	Ought to Pass @	\$120,000
Budget Committee	Ought to Pass @	\$40,000

Action taken on Article 34: Motion made by George Merrill and seconded by Laura Clifford.  
Vote taken, Article 34 passes at \$40,000 for the purchase of one (1) new Police cruiser.

ARTICLE 35. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$48,100 from existing Undesignated Funds to pay for the outfitting of three (3) new Police cruisers.

Board of Selectmen	Ought to Pass @	\$48,100
Budget Committee	Ought to Pass @	\$15,934

Action taken on Article 35: Motion made by Tracey Rancourt and seconded by Amedeo Lauria.  
Vote taken, Article 35 passes at \$15,934 for the outfitting of one (1) new Police cruiser.

ARTICLE 36. To see if the Town will vote appropriate up to \$15,000 from existing Undesignated Funds to pay for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> payment on the 2021 Police cruiser.

Board of Selectmen	Ought to Pass @	\$15,000
Budget Committee	Ought to Pass @	\$15,000

Action taken on Article 36: Motion made by Amedeo Lauria and seconded by Gregoire Provost.  
Vote taken, Article 36 passes at \$15,000.

ARTICLE 37. To see if the Town will vote appropriate up to \$30,000 from existing Undesignated Funds to pay for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> payment on the 2021 Police cruiser.

Board of Selectmen	Ought to Pass @	\$30,000
Budget Committee	Ought to Pass @	\$30,000

Action taken on Article 37: Motion made by Amedeo Lauria and seconded by Gregoire Provost.  
Vote taken, Article 37 passes at \$30,000.

ARTICLE 38. To see if the Town will vote appropriate up to \$11,500 from existing Undesignated Funds to pay for the 1<sup>st</sup> of 4 payments for Axon: tasers, body cameras and nine (9) iCloud licenses.

Board of Selectmen	Ought to Pass @	\$11,500
Budget Committee	Ought to Pass @	\$11,500

Action taken on Article 38: Motion made by Tracey Rancourt and seconded by Rudy Gayton.  
Vote taken, Article 38 passes at \$11,500.

ARTICLE 39. To see if the Town will vote appropriate from existing Undesignated Funds and transfer to capital, \$18,000 for the future purchase of nine (9) computers and stands for the Police Department.

Board of Selectmen	Ought to Pass @	\$18,000
Budget Committee	Ought to Pass @	\$18,000

Action taken on Article 39: Motion made by Mark Duquette and seconded by Richard Lacombe.  
Vote taken, Article 39 passes at \$18,000.

ARTICLE 40. To see if the Town will vote appropriate \$480,000 from the capital road improvement account and \$20,000 from Undesignated Funds to pay for road improvements.

Board of Selectmen	Ought to Pass
Budget Committee	Ought to Pass

Action taken on Article 40: Motion made by Gregoire Provost and seconded by Roger Brault.

Vote taken, Article 40 passes.

Motion to adjourn at 9:27 p.m. made by Mark Duquette and seconded by Richard Lacombe.

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Mark Duquette, Chair

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Richard Lacombe, Vice-Chair

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Jeremy Petty, Selectman

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Noel Hinkley, Selectwoman

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JP Normand LaPlante, Selectman

Residents in attendance

Christopher R. Ames	Michelle Ames	Karen Atwood	Janice Bailey	Jeffrey Baril
David Bernier	Rachel Bernier	Mary Bertolet	Steven Blondin	Roger Brault
Tiffany Brault	Magan Brown	Michael Buckingham	Kevin Burgess	Sadie Chapman
Donald Chouinard	Laura Clifford	Dorothy Cote	Daniel Curran	Jean Paul Curran
Ronald Curran	James Davis II	John Davis	Marcel Deforge	Guy Desjardins
Elizabeth Devlin	Tyler Devlin	Ann Marie Dion	Daniel Dion	Stacy Dostie
Glen Dube	Melanie Dube	Alec Duquette	Amy Duquette	Mark Duquette
Shane Duquette	Alden Fisher	Lisa Fisher	Robert Gayton III	Rudy Gayton
Wanda Gayton	David Grenier	Noel Hinkley	Gary Labonte	Richard Lacombe
Tami Lacombe	JP Normand LaPlante	Amedeo Lauria	Paul Loesberg	Bruce Lovett
James Lowell	David Lycette	Twila Lycette	Thomas Lyons	Anna Martell
Jayna McEachern	Jon Mennealy	Daniel Merrill	George Merrill	Angela Mitchell
John Mitchell Jr.	Michael Noel	Jeremy Petty	Candace Pinard	David L. Pinard
David P. Pinard	Debbra Pinard	Heidi Potvin	Patricia Poulin	Gregoire Provost
Nancy Provost	James Rancourt	Tracey Rancourt	Michael Roberge	Paula Roberge
Roger Roberge	William Shaw	Theresa Sherman	Pieter Staples	Nancy St. Pierre
Philip St. Pierre	Alexander Vansant	Barbara Walker	Bruce Walker	Derrick Webb
Bruce Wood	Florence Wood	Keith Wood		