

**WARRANT  
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
HARPSWELL, MAINE  
MARCH 9, 2024**

Cumberland, s.s.

State of Maine

**To Tracy H. Gaudet, a resident of the Town of Harpswell:**

You are hereby required in the name of the State of Maine to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Harpswell qualified to vote in Town affairs to assemble at Harpswell Community School, Route 24, Harpswell, Maine on Saturday the ninth day of March, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. of said day, to act on Articles 1 and 2. The business meeting to act on Article 3 and others that follow will begin at 10:00 a.m.

**Art. 1 — To choose a Moderator to preside at said meeting. (POLLS WILL OPEN AS SOON AS ARTICLE ONE HAS BEEN ACTED UPON AND WILL CLOSE AT 5:00 P.M.)**

**Art. 2 — To choose by secret ballot one Select Board member, who shall also be an Assessor and Overseer, for a three-year term; and one M.S.A.D. # 75 Director for a three-year term.**

**Art. 3 — To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the elected officials' salaries and travel reimbursement as follows, for which Tax Collector and Town Clerk are full-time positions, and when the Select Board fills a vacancy in any elected position, the Board is authorized to establish the annual payment, at its discretion:**

	2024	2023	2023 Expended
Select Board member	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000
Select Board member	6,000	6,000	6,000
Select Board member	6,000	6,000	6,000
Tax Collector	60,900	58,427	58,427
Town Clerk*	57,682	55,340	55,340
Travel Reimbursement	<u>600</u>	<u>600</u>	<u>00</u>
	\$137,182	\$132,367	\$131,767

\* The Town Clerk is also Registrar of Voters which is budgeted in Article 4 for \$3,182.

*Recommended by Select Board members  
Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

**Art. 4 — To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$543,515 for general administration.**

	2024	2023	2023 Expended
Administration Salary & Wages	\$270,609	\$240,074	\$228,528
Computers & Computer Services Agreements	51,810	51,207	42,941
Audit	13,000	12,500	14,850
Other	38,000	38,150	35,676
Public Information	8,000	10,000	8,212
Legal	50,000	50,000	45,910
Risk Management/Insurance	<u>112,096</u>	<u>105,869</u>	<u>104,118</u>
	\$543,515	\$507,800	\$480,235

*Recommended by Select Board members  
Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

**Art. 5 — To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$19,332 for memberships as follows:**

	<b>2024</b>	2023	2023 Expended
Maine Municipal Association	\$12,046	\$11,695	\$11,695
Midcoast Council of Governments	6,736	6,540	6,300
Southern Midcoast Chamber of Commerce	500	500	500
Harpswell Business Association	<u>50</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>50</u>
	\$19,332	\$18,785	\$18,545

*Recommended by Select Board members  
Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

**Art. 6 — To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$113,846 for the Assessing Office.** (\$107,274 raised and appropriated in 2023 for the Assessing Office, \$96,186 expended)

*Recommended by Select Board members  
Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

**Art. 7 — To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$59,588 for the Tax Collector’s Office.** (\$58,004 raised and appropriated in 2023; \$54,283 expended)

*Recommended by Select Board members  
Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

**Art. 8 — To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$65,393 for the Town Clerk’s Office.** (\$67,570 raised and appropriated in 2023; \$57,092 expended)

*Recommended by Select Board members  
Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

**Art. 9 — To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$187,896 for the Code Enforcement Office.** (\$196,556 raised and appropriated in 2023; \$155,991 expended)

*Recommended by Select Board members  
Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

**Art. 10 — To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$117,800 for the Planning Office including \$5,700 for Boards and Committees.** (\$80,800 raised and appropriated in 2023; \$79,195 expended)

*Recommended by Select Board members  
Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

**Art. 11 — To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$690,890 for operations and personnel at the Recycling Center & Transfer Station.** (\$667,111 raised and appropriated in 2023; \$616,188 expended)

*Recommended by Select Board members  
Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

**Art. 12 — To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$32,053 for Animal Control to include \$7,648 for Midcoast Humane.** (\$32,538 raised and appropriated in 2023 including \$7,660 for Midcoast Humane; \$29,768 expended)

*Recommended by Select Board members  
Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

**Art. 13 — To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$132,775 for Harbor Management to include Marine Resources Administration.** (\$127,856 raised and appropriated in 2023; \$119,431 expended)

*Recommended by Select Board members  
Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

**Art. 14 — To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$88,163 for the Recreation and Community Services Department.** (\$84,296 raised and appropriated in 2023; \$83,995 expended)

*Recommended by Select Board members  
Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

**Art. 15 — To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$7,800 for Recreation Programs and the sum of \$2,000 for maintenance of Trufant-Summerton Field, and authorize the Select Board to appropriate revenue generated by recreation programs for recreational purposes including for operating expenses and capital improvement of Trufant-Summerton Field.** (\$9,800 raised and appropriated in 2023)

*Recommended by Select Board members  
Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

**Art. 16 — To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$559,116 for employee benefits.**

	2024	2023	2023 Expended
Health Insurance/Reimbursement	\$379,502	\$322,821	\$327,069
Social Security/Medicare	105,953	98,915	98,341
Retirement	70,061	62,749	57,180
Disability	<u>3,600</u>	<u>3,600</u>	<u>3,659</u>
	<b>\$559,116</b>	<b>\$488,085</b>	<b>\$486,249</b>

*Recommended by Select Board members  
Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

**Art. 17 — To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$19,800 for the maintenance and repair of cemeteries and graves.** (\$20,780 raised and appropriated in 2023; \$15,780 expended)

*Recommended by Select Board members  
Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

**Art. 18 — To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$164,370 for the maintenance and operations of Town facilities, vehicles and properties including an easement.**

	2024	2023	2023 Expended
Buildings, property & vehicles	\$94,400	\$96,300	\$92,539
EMS Building	7,300	7,300	6,990
Old Town House & Commons	11,220	36,050	28,001
Town Dock	8,000	18,000	16,925
Town Landings	35,000	36,500	19,226
Cedar Beach Monitors & Signage	<u>8,450</u>	<u>8,450</u>	<u>6,177</u>
	<b>\$164,370</b>	<b>\$202,600</b>	<b>\$169,858</b>

*Recommended by Select Board members  
Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

**Art. 19 – To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$29,200 for Mitchell Field.**

	<b>2024</b>	2023	2023 Expended
Mowing/Repairs/Signage	20,900	20,975	\$19,750
Bandstand Maintenance	3,000	3,000	1,893
Monitor/Surveying	500	4,500	4,000
Electricity	1,200	1,200	1,440
Portable Toilets/Picnic Tables	<u>3,600</u>	<u>3,600</u>	<u>3,220</u>
	<b>\$29,200</b>	<b>\$33,275</b>	<b>\$30,303</b>

*Recommended by Select Board members  
Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

**Art. 20 – To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$700,890 for snow removal, road maintenance, road/street signs and compensation for the Road Commissioner.**

	<b>2024</b>	2023	2023 Expended
Snow Removal	\$584,190	\$593,196	\$547,395
Road Maintenance & Signs	78,000	78,000	59,743
Road Commissioner Salary	37,000	35,853	35,853
Road Commissioner Travel	<u>1,700</u>	<u>1,700</u>	<u>1,157</u>
	<b>\$700,890</b>	<b>\$708,749</b>	<b>\$644,148</b>

*Recommended by Select Board members  
Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

**Art. 21 – To see if the Town will vote to: (1) appropriate \$350,000 from unassigned fund balance and (2) raise and appropriate the sum of \$200,000 for the capital improvement of roads, including, without limitation, drainage improvements, utility relocations, engineering, survey and other related costs, all as determined to be appropriate by the Select Board.**

Explanatory Note: The funds are expected to be used primarily for a project on Peabody Road.

*Recommended by Select Board members  
Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

**Art. 22 – To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$375,845 for 24/7 Harpswell-based paramedic coverage and related administrative support services provided by Mid Coast Hospital or its successor. (\$364,898 raised and appropriated in 2023; \$364,898 expended).**

*Recommended by Select Board members  
Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

**Art. 23 – To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$252,539 for the Department of Safety including municipal firefighters and their associated costs to assist the three fire and rescue companies in their delivery of services, and for other emergency services and management. (\$234,942 raised and appropriated in 2023; \$222,959 expended).**

*Recommended by Select Board members  
Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

**Art. 24 — To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$222,000 for the operating and capital expenses of three fire and rescue providers as follows:**

	2024	2023	2023 Expended
Harpswell Neck Fire and Rescue	\$67,500	\$82,500	\$67,500
Orr's-Bailey Islands Fire and Rescue	79,500	75,000	75,000
Cundy's Harbor Volunteer Fire	<u>75,000</u>	<u>77,000</u>	<u>77,000</u>
	\$222,000	\$234,500	\$219,500

*Recommended by Select Board members*  
*Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

**Art. 25 — To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$150,000 for the purchase of an emergency services vehicle, as determined by the Select Board, such vehicle to be owned by the Town, and leased to the local Fire Departments that have an Emergency Services Agreement with the Town on such lease terms and conditions as the Select Board deems to be in the best interests of the Town, with such funds to be held in the Emergency Vehicles Capital Account (an interest-bearing dedicated reserve account) until vehicle purchase; and to authorize that proceeds from the sale of emergency services vehicles owned by the Town be held in the Emergency Vehicles Capital Account. (\$150,000 raised and appropriated in 2023; \$554,592 expended in 2023; \$229,117 in reserve).**

*Recommended by Select Board members*  
*Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

**Art. 26 — To see if the Town will vote to: (1) appropriate the sum of \$175,000 from unassigned fund balance, and (2) raise and appropriate the sum of \$150,000, to be combined with \$75,000 in reserve, all to be used to fund a Town-wide revaluation expected to begin in 2024 and be completed in 2026.**

*Recommended by Select Board members*  
*Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

**Art. 27 — To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 for the Sustainability Plan Implementation Reserve Account (SPIRA). It will provide local match for grants, and fund investments to reduce the Town's carbon footprint and to make Town infrastructure, including public working waterfront, landings and roads, climate-change ready.**

Explanatory Note: The Select Board may approve the use of reserve funds up to \$50,000 per project; however, the use of more than \$50,000 per project will require an affirmative vote of the Town Meeting.

*Recommended by Select Board members*  
*Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

**Art. 28 — To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$375,000 for the Recycling Center capital reserve account to be expended for Phase II of the Recycling Center upgrade with a primary focus on improvements to the building.**

Explanatory Note: The project is expected to be bid in 2024. To date there is \$429,844 in this reserve account.

*Recommended by Select Board members*  
*Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

**Art. 29 — To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$7,200 for street lighting. (\$7,200 raised and appropriated in 2023; \$8,152 expended)**

*Recommended by Select Board members*  
*Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

**Art. 30 — To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$42,236 for communication services with Cumberland County.** (\$41,003 raised and appropriated in 2023; \$41,003 expended)

*Recommended by Select Board members  
Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

**Art. 31 — To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$441,143 for law enforcement services from Cumberland County.** (\$423,620 raised and appropriated in 2023; \$423,620 expended)

*Recommended by Select Board members  
Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

**Art. 32 — To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$254,154 for Marine Wardens and shellfish conservation related services from Cumberland County.** (\$260,415 raised and appropriated in 2022; \$233,012 expended)

*Recommended by Select Board members  
Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

**Art. 33 — To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$16,500, of which \$6,500 is for boat operations and maintenance of the Marine Patrol boat and \$10,000 is for marine resources and shellfish conservation activities and projects.** (\$7,500 raised and appropriated in 2023 for the boat; \$2,011 expended; and \$5,000 raised and appropriated in 2023 for projects; \$417 expended).

*Recommended by Select Board members  
Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

**Art. 34 — To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$46,746 for General Assistance and health & welfare agencies as follows:**

	<b>2024</b>	2023	2023 Expended
General Assistance	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$6,040
Independence Association	1,500	1,500	1,500
Midcoast Maine Community Action	1,000	1,000	1,000
People Plus	10,000	5,000	5,000
Spectrum Generations	1,738	1,656	1,656
Through These Doors (Family Crisis Shelter)	500	500	500
Sexual Assault Response	250	250	250
Tedford Housing	1,000	1,000	1,000
Big Brothers/Big Sisters	500	500	500
Respite	2,000	2,000	2,000
Midcoast Hunger Prevention	6,000	6,000	6,000
American Red Cross, Midcoast Chapter	1,500	1,500	1,500
Oasis Health Network	1,500	1,500	1,500
Lifelight Foundation	1,258	1,000	1,000
YMCA (Bath/Brunswick Landing)	1,000	1,000	1,000
Harpwell Aging at Home	<u>5,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>
	<b>\$46,746</b>	<b>\$37,406</b>	<b>\$31,446</b>

*Recommended by Select Board members  
Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

**Art. 35 — To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$82,024 for the purposes as follows:**

	2024	2023	2023 Expended
Orr’s Island Library	30,000	30,000	30,000
Cundy’s Harbor Library	30,000	29,000	29,000
Harpswell Historical Society	6,000	6,000	6,000
Pejepscot Historic Center	1,250	750	750
Memorial Observances	3,000	3,000	2,201
Bailey Island Library Hall	2,674	2,586	2,586
Harpswell Business Association	3,500	3,500	3,500
Harpswell Neck Physical Education Association	3,000	3,000	3,000
Maine Public Broadcasting	100	300	300
Harpswell Invasive Plant Partnership	0	1,000	1,000
Community Fireworks Display	<u>2,500</u>	<u>2,000</u>	<u>2,000</u>
	\$82,024	\$81,136	\$80,337

*Recommended by Select Board members*

*Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

**Art. 36 — To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$159,089 for Curtis Memorial Library in Brunswick. (\$159,089 raised and appropriated in 2023, \$159,089 expended)**

Explanatory Note: The annual appropriation for Curtis Memorial Library will remain at \$159,089 through 2025.

*Recommended by Select Board members*

*Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

**Art. 37 — To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$87,580 for Harpswell Community Broadcasting Corporation. (\$87,580 raised and appropriated in 2023; \$87,580 expended)**

*Recommended by Select Board members Johnson and Covey*

*Recusal by Select Board member Chipman*

*Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

**Art. 38 — To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$12,000 for Harpswell Neck Physical Education Association (HNPEA) to upgrade tennis courts at Harpswell Center, with such funds to be released upon HNPEA demonstrating that it has raised the remaining funds needed for the project. (\$12,000 raised and appropriated in 2023; \$38,000 currently being held in reserve).**

*Recommended by Select Board members Johnson and Covey*

*Recusal by Select Board member Chipman*

*Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

**Art. 39 — To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 for the Town of Harpswell’s Property Tax Assistance Program with unexpended funds to be held in reserve. (\$10,000 appropriated in 2023; \$8,424 expended).**

*Recommended by Select Board members*

*Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

**Art. 40 — To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$180,000 for the following capital reserve accounts: \$100,000 for Town Office Improvements, \$75,000 for Vehicles, and \$5,000 for Boat & Motor Replacement.**

*Recommended by Select Board members*

*Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

**Art. 41 — To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$570,000 for short- and long-term principal and interest payments. (\$620,000 raised and appropriated in 2023; \$651,299 expended)**

*Recommended by Select Board members  
Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

**Art. 42 — To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$75,000 from Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (also known as American Rescue Plan Act or ARPA funds) received by the Town from the federal government for emergency communications equipment and related consulting services.**

*Recommended by Select Board members  
Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

**Art. 43 — To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$50,000 from Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (also known as American Rescue Plan Act or ARPA funds) received by the Town from the federal government as a contribution to the Tedford Housing's construction of a regional shelter in Brunswick.**

*Recommended by Select Board members  
Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

**Art. 44 — To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$20,000 from Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (also known as American Rescue Plan Act or ARPA funds) received by the Town from the federal government for the Harpswell Heating Assistance Program.**

*Recommended by Select Board members  
Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

*The Moderator may entertain a motion to approve Articles 45-52 as recommended by Select Board unless a voter requests a specific article be set aside for individual consideration.*

**Art. 45 — To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to carry over, and assign fund balance accordingly, to the 2025 fiscal year any appropriated but unexpended funds at 2024 fiscal year end, provided that the funds are used for the same purpose as originally appropriated.**

*Recommended by Select Board members*

**Art. 46 — To see if the Town will vote to fix the date of September 16, 2024 as the date when the first one-half of taxes shall be due and payable, with interest on the first installment to start after that date, and the date of December 16, 2024 as the date when the second one-half of taxes are due and payable, with interest on the second installment to start after that date, and to see if the Town will vote to charge a 6% rate of interest on unpaid taxes.**

*Recommended by Select Board members*

**Art. 47 — To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector to accept prepayment of taxes not yet committed, as a service to our taxpayers. Any excess prepaid over the amount finally committed shall be repaid without interest. (36 M.R.S.A. § 506). (Excess payment of \$10.00 or less may be credited to 2024 taxes).**

*Recommended by Select Board members*

**Art. 48 — To see if the Town will vote to set the interest rate to be paid by the Town on abated taxes at 6% for the period of assessment and to authorize such interest paid or abatements granted to be appropriated from overlay funds or, if necessary, from unassigned fund balance.**

*Recommended by Select Board members*



**Art. 49 — To see if the Town will vote to authorize and direct the Select Board, at its discretion, to sell by sealed bid or public auction and to convey by quit-claim deed any real estate acquired from tax sources by the Town, or to convey the property to the prior owner upon payment in full of all taxes, interest and charges incurred by the Town, except that the Select Board shall use the special sale process required by 36 M.R.S. § 943-C for qualifying homestead property if they choose to sell it to anyone other than the former owner(s). The Select Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids.**

*Recommended by Select Board members*

**Art. 50 — To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to apply for State, federal (including Community Development Block Grants) and other grants on the Town's behalf for purposes deemed by the Select Board to be in the best interests of the Town; to accept such grants, including, when necessary, signing contract and related documents and accepting conditions of approval; and to expend such grant funds for any purpose for which the Town has appropriated funds.**

*Recommended by Select Board members*

**Art. 51 — To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to spend an amount not to exceed 3/12 of the budgeted amount in each budget category of the 2024 budget from January 1, 2025 to the 2025 Annual Town Meeting.**

*Recommended by Select Board members*

**Art. 52 — To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to sell by public bid or other competitive process any and all personal property deemed excess by the Select Board pursuant to such restrictions as the Select Board may impose.**

*Recommended by Select Board members*

**Art. 53— To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to appropriate amounts not to exceed \$300,000 from Municipal Revenue Sharing, \$2,431,800 from non-property tax revenue sources, \$600,000 of unassigned fund balance, and the homestead exemption and BETE reimbursement, estimated to be \$174,396, to reduce the tax commitment. (\$250,000 of Municipal Revenue Sharing, \$2,273,000 of non-property tax revenue, \$600,000 of unassigned fund balance and \$174,396 of homestead exemption and BETE reimbursement used in 2023)**


*Recommended by Select Board members  
Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*


*Article 54 may be passed over if the levy limit is not exceeded by earlier decisions of the voters.*

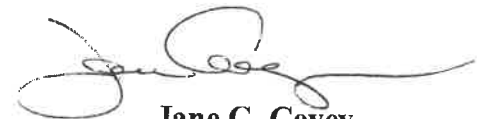
**Art. 54 — To see if the Town will vote by written ballot to increase the property tax levy limit of \$3,926,688 established for Harpswell by State law in the event that the municipal budget approved under the preceding articles will result in a tax commitment that is greater than that property tax levy limit.**

The Selectmen hereby give notice that the Registrar of Voters will be available at the Town Office during regular business hours for the entire week preceding said meeting to receive applications of persons claiming the right to vote at said meeting and to make corrections to the list of voters. Registrations will be accepted at the meeting.

Given under our hand this 29<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2024.

  
**Kevin E. Johnson**

  
**David I. Chipman**

  
**Jane G. Covey**  
**Harpswell Select Board**

A true copy, attest: Catherine J. Doughty  
Catherine J. Doughty, Town Clerk