

**WARRANT
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
HARPSWELL, MAINE
MARCH 14, 2026**

Cumberland, s.s.

State of Maine

To Deborah J. Davis, 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 fourteenth day of March, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. of said day, to act on Articles 1 through 4. The business meeting to act on Article 5 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 two M.S.A.D. # 75 Directors, each for a three-year term.

Art. 3 — To vote by secret ballot on the following Referendum Question:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$164,400 for Curtis Memorial Library in Brunswick. (\$159,089 raised and appropriated in 2025, \$159,089 expended in 2025)

*Recommended by Select Board Members Johnson and Chipman
Not Recommended by Select Board Member Gilley*

Art. 4 — To vote by secret ballot on the following Referendum Question:

To see if the Town will vote to: (1) authorize the Select Board to enter into an agreement with the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands (“BPL”), for a period of up to ten (10) years, for the Town’s management and stewardship of, a state-owned parcel of land comprising 18 +/- acres along Clark Cove, depicted on Tax Map 11, Lot 65 (the “Property”), including improving public access to the Property, supporting conservation and wildlife protections, and overseeing day-to-day maintenance of the Property, on terms and conditions that the Select Board deems to be in the best interest of the Town; (2) raise and appropriate \$5,000 for related improvements to the Property; and (3) authorize the Select Board to apply for and accept grant funds for improvements to or management of the Property in a manner consistent with the terms of the agreement between the Town and BPL, and to appropriate such funds for these purposes.

*Recommended by Select Board Member Gilley
Not Recommended by Select Board Members Johnson and Chipman*

Art. 5 — To see if the Town will vote to adopt the “Proposed Amendments to the Harpswell Comprehensive Plan” proposed by the Harpswell Comprehensive Plan Task Force, which if adopted, amends the Harpswell Comprehensive Plan adopted on November 4, 2025.

(Note: The Harpswell Comprehensive Plan Task Force recommends adoption of the proposed amendments to the Town’s Comprehensive Plan, which was adopted on November 4, 2025. The proposed amendments are available for review and inspection at the Town Clerk’s Office, the Planning Office, and online at www.harpswell.maine.gov)

Recommended by Select Board

Art. 6 – Shall an ordinance entitled “Proposed Amendments to the Basic Land Ordinance regarding Administrative Appeals” be enacted?

Proposed Amendments to the Basic Land Use Ordinance

12.3. Board of Appeals. A Board of Appeals is created in accordance with the provisions of State law.

12.3.1. Powers and Duties. The Board of Appeals has the following powers and duties:

12.3.1.1. Administrative Appeals. To hear and decide appeals, on an appellate basis, where it is alleged that there is an error in any order, requirement, decision, or determination made by, or failure to act by, the Planning Board ~~or the Assessors or their designee in the administration of the Town's land use ordinances; under the Basic Land Use Ordinance, Floodplain Management Ordinance, Shoreland Zoning Ordinance, Site Plan Review Ordinance, Subdivision Ordinance, or Wireless Telecommunications Facilities Ordinance,~~ and to hear and decide administrative appeals, on a *de novo* basis, where it is alleged that there is an error in any order, requirement, decision or determination made by the ~~CEO or Local Plumbing Inspector~~ Code Enforcement Officer in the administration of the Basic Land Use Ordinance, Floodplain Management Ordinance, Road Ordinance, Shoreland Zoning Ordinance, or Wireless Telecommunications Facilities Ordinance; or enforcement of the Town's land use ordinances, the Maine Subsurface Waste Water Disposal Rules, Internal Plumbing Code, Minimum Lot Size Law and Regulations, and Rules for Conversion of Seasonal Dwelling Units into Year Round Residences in the Shoreland Zone; provided, however, that the CEO or Local Plumbing Inspector's exercise of his or her discretionary judgment whether to pursue enforcement activity under the Town's land use ordinances, the Maine Subsurface Waste Water Disposal Rules, Internal Plumbing Code, Minimum Lot Size Law and Regulations, and Rules for Conversion of Seasonal Dwelling Units into Year Round Residences in the Shoreland Zone is not subject to appeal. provided, however, that decisions or determinations made by the CEO not to undertake an enforcement action shall not be appealable to the Board of Appeals. Other decisions made by the CEO or the Local Plumbing Inspector shall only be appealable to the Board of Appeals if expressly provided by statute, ordinance, or administrative regulation.

14.2. Appeals

14.2.1. Administrative Appeal. An administrative appeal may be taken to the Board of Appeals by an aggrieved party from ~~any~~ decision of the CEO, the Planning Board, or the LPI outlined in Section 12.3.1 ~~Assessors or their designee unless otherwise noted in the appropriate land use ordinance or any decision of the Local Plumbing Inspector in the administration of the Maine Subsurface Waste Water Disposal Rules, Internal Plumbing Code, Minimum Lot Size Law and Regulations, and Rules for Conversion of Seasonal Dwelling Units into Year Round Residences in the Shoreland Zone.~~ Such appeal shall be taken within forty (40) days of the date of the decision appealed from, and not otherwise, except that the Board, upon showing of good cause, may waive the forty (40) day requirement.

Recommended by Select Board

Art. 7 – Shall an ordinance entitled “ Proposed Amendments to the Definitions Addendum regarding the Definition of Freshwater Wetlands” be enacted?

Proposed Amendments to the Definitions Addendum

Wetland –

Freshwater Wetlands –

When this term is found in the Subdivision Ordinance, “freshwater wetlands” means freshwater swamps, marshes, bogs and similar areas, other than forested wetlands, which are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and for a duration sufficient to support, and which under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of wetland vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soils.

When this term is found in the Basic Land Use Ordinance, the Shoreland Zoning Ordinance, or the Site Plan Review Ordinance, “freshwater wetlands” means freshwater swamps, marshes, bogs and similar areas, other than forested wetlands, which are:

- (1) Of ten or more contiguous acres; or of less than 10 contiguous acres and adjacent to a surface water body, excluding any tributary stream, such that in a natural state, the combined surface area is in excess of 10 acres; and
- (2) Inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and for a duration sufficient to support, and which under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of wetland vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soils.

~~freshwater swamps, marshes, bogs and similar areas, other than forested wetlands which are:~~

~~(1) — Of ten or more contiguous acres; or of less than 10 contiguous acres and adjacent to a surface water body, excluding any tributary stream, such that in a natural state, the combined surface area is in excess of 10 acres; and~~

~~(2) — Inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and for a duration sufficient to support, and which under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of wetland vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soils.~~

Freshwater wetlands may contain small stream channels or inclusions of land that do not conform to the criteria of this definition.

The following three (3) criteria shall be met for classification as a freshwater wetland:

1. a predominance of hydric soils,
2. a prevalence of hydrophytic vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soils, and
3. anaerobic conditions in the soil usually created by inundation or saturation by surface or groundwater for at least one (1) week of the growing season.

The absence of any one (1) of these three (3) criteria shall preclude classification as freshwater wetland.

Moderate or high value wetlands means wetlands that are defined as moderate or high value for wildlife as defined by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife or as determined by the Town.

***Citizen's Note:** This Ordinance defines freshwater wetlands in conformance with the Federal Manual for Identifying and Delineating Jurisdictional Wetlands, an Interagency Cooperative Publication of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Environmental Protection Agency, Department of the Army, and Soil Conservation Service, to which all applicants are referred for additional information.*

Recommended by Select Board

Art. 8 – Shall an ordinance entitled “Proposed Amendments to the Site Plan Review Ordinance regarding Minor Amendments” be enacted?

Proposed Amendments to the Site Plan Review Ordinance

16.5. Minor Amendments to Approved Plans or Activities Requiring Site Plan Approval

16.5.1 Minor Amendment – The following activities are subject to the minor amendment review process set forth in this Section 16.5:

- (i) Proposed minor amendments to site plans which have been approved by the Planning Board; and
- (ii) Proposed minor amendments to activities identified in Section 3.1 of this Ordinance that were in existence at the time of first adoption of this Ordinance.

For purposes of this Section 16.5, a “minor amendment” is a proposal for (i) the construction or placement of a new structure, including a new accessory structure, with a floor area of less than one thousand (1,000) square feet; (ii) the expansion of an existing structure, including an existing accessory structure, by no more than one thousand (1,000) square feet of floor area; or (iii) the expansion of paved areas or other impermeable surfaces involving a surface area of less than one thousand (1,000) square feet. A “minor amendment” does not include a proposal for the establishment of a new nonresidential use or the conversion of an existing nonresidential use to another nonresidential use.

16.5.2 Staff Review Committee – A Staff Review Committee consisting of the Code Enforcement Officer, Town Planner, and Chair of the Planning Board or his/her designee shall review all minor amendment applications in accordance with the procedures and standards set forth in this Section 16.5. The Town Planner shall serve as the Chair of the Staff Review Committee.

16.5.3 Approval Standards – An applicant seeking minor amendment approval must demonstrate that the proposed minor amendment does not affect compliance with the Site Plan Review Ordinance approval standards or alter the essential nature of the original site plan or activity, as appropriate. The Staff Review Committee shall refer any proposed minor amendment to the Planning Board if it determines that the proposed amendment affects compliance with the Site Plan Review Ordinance approval standards or alters the essential nature of the original site plan.

16.5.4 Notice and Meeting – The Staff Review Committee shall cause notice of the date, time and place of the meeting at which the minor amendment proposal will first be considered to be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Town at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting and written notice of said meeting to be mailed to all property owners within five hundred (500) feet of the parcel at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting. Failure of any property owner to receive the notice required under this subsection does not invalidate any action taken by the Staff Review Committee.

16.5.5 Written Decision – Approval by the Staff Review Committee shall be made in writing and shall require the affirmative vote of at least two members of the Committee. The applicant may request a continuation of the Staff Review Committee’s consideration if only two members are present. The Town Planner shall provide written notice to the Planning Board when a minor amendment to a site plan has been approved by the Staff Review Committee pursuant to this Section 16.5. Any amendment to a site plan approved by the Staff Review Committee pursuant to this subsection must be endorsed in writing on the approved plan by the Staff Review Committee.

16.5. Minor Amendments to Approved Plans or Activities Requiring Site Plan Approval

~~Minor amendments in approved site plans or activities identified in Section 3 of this Ordinance that were in existence at the time of first adoption of this Ordinance may be approved by a Staff Review Committee consisting of the Code Enforcement Officer, Town Planner, and Chair of the Planning Board or his/her designee, provided that any such amendment does not affect compliance with the Site Plan Review Ordinance approval standards or alter the essential nature of the original site plan or activity. The Town Planner shall serve as the Chair of the Staff Review Committee. Amendments to approved site plans for structures of less than one thousand (1,000) square feet shall be reviewed by the Staff Review Committee rather than the Planning Board, except that the Staff Review Committee may refer any such proposed amendments to the Planning Board if it determines that the proposed amendment affects compliance with the Site Plan Review Ordinance approval standards or alters the essential nature of the original site plan. The Staff Review Committee shall cause notice of the date, time and place of the meeting at which the minor amendment will first be considered to be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Town at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting and written notice of said meeting to be mailed to all property owners within five hundred (500) feet of the parcel at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting. Approval by the Staff Review Committee shall require the affirmative vote of at least two members of the Committee. The applicant may request a continuation of the Staff Review Committee's consideration if only two members are present. The Town Planner shall provide written notice to the Planning Board of the fact that a minor amendment to the site plan has been approved. Any amendment approved by the Staff Review Committee pursuant to this subsection must be endorsed in writing on the approved plan by the Staff Review Committee. Failure of any property owner to receive the notice required under this subsection does not invalidate any action taken by the Staff Review Committee.~~

16.6. Amendments to Approved Plans

Approvals of site plans are dependent upon and limited to the proposals and plans contained in the application and supporting documents submitted and affirmed to by the applicant. Any variation from the plans, proposals, and supporting documents, except minor amendments as set forth in Section 16.45 of this Ordinance, is subject to prior review and approval by the Planning Board.

Recommended by Select Board

Art. 9– Shall an ordinance entitled “Proposed Amendment to the Floodplain Management Ordinance” be enacted?

Proposed Amendments to the Floodplain Management Ordinance

R. Coastal Floodplains –

9. Conditional Use - Lobster sheds and fishing sheds may be located seaward of mean high tide and shall be exempt from the elevation requirement in Article VI.I. only if permitted as a Conditional Use following review and approval by the Planning Board, as provided in Article VII, and if all the following requirements and those of Article VI.A., ~~VI.M., and VI.N.~~ are met:
 - a. The conditional use shall be limited to low value structures such as metal or wood sheds 200 square feet or less and shall not exceed more than one story.
 - b. The structure shall be securely anchored to the wharf or pier to resist flotation, collapse, and lateral movement due to the effect of wind and water loads acting simultaneously on all building components.

- c. The structure will not adversely increase wave or debris impact forces affecting nearby buildings.
- d. The structure shall have unfinished interiors and shall not be used for human habitation.
- e. Any mechanical, utility equipment, and fuel storage tanks must be anchored and either elevated or floodproofed to at least one foot above the base flood elevation.
- f. All electrical outlets shall be ground fault interrupt type. The electrical service disconnect shall be located on shore above the base flood elevation and, when possible, outside the Special Flood Hazard Area.

Recommended by Select Board

Art. 10 — To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to enter into a multi-year lease with David W. Moody and Patricia A. Moody (the duration of which may not exceed their lifetime) to operate and maintain a private wharf for commercial fishing and/or marine activities on Town-owned property located at the end of Wood Landing Road, on terms and conditions that the Select Board deems to be in the best interest of the Town, and substantially in the form as provided in a document entitled Lease Agreement for the Wood Landing Road property.

(Note: The proposed Lease Agreement replaces a 2001 Lease Agreement between the Town and David and Diane Moody, which lease agreement is due to expire on March 21, 2026, and is available for review and inspection at the Town Clerk's Office, online at Harpswell.maine.gov, and will also be available at the Town Meeting.)

Recommended by Select Board

Art. 11 — 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 compensation, in its discretion:

	2026	2025	2025 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	59,624	58,851	59,202
Town Clerk*	63,855	60,898	60,898
Travel Reimbursement	<u>600</u>	<u>600</u>	<u>231</u>
	\$142,079	\$138,349	\$138,331

* The Town Clerk is also Registrar of Voters which is budgeted in Article 12 for \$3,523.

*Recommended by Select Board
Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

Art. 12 — To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$694,881 for general administration.

	2026	2025	2025 Expended
Administration Salary & Wages	\$324,182	\$297,897	\$283,329
Computers & Computer Services Agreements	68,539	66,467	51,794
Audit	20,000	15,250	22,025
Other	53,050	51,800	43,021
Public Information	12,000	12,000	7,711
Legal	65,000	65,000	71,992
Risk Management/Insurance	<u>152,110</u>	<u>143,101</u>	<u>136,879</u>
	\$694,881	\$651,515	\$616,751

*Recommended by Select Board
Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

Art. 13 — To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$21,360 for memberships as follows:

	2026	2025	2025 Expended
Maine Municipal Association	\$13,313	\$12,543	\$12,538
Mid Coast Economic Development District	7,547	7,547	7,547
Southern Midcoast Chamber of Commerce	500	500	500
Harpswell Business Association	<u>0</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>0</u>
	\$21,360	\$20,640	\$20,085

*Recommended by Select Board
Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

Art. 14 — To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$120,440 for the Assessing Office. (\$113,781 raised and appropriated in 2025 for the Assessing Office, \$103,720 expended)

*Recommended by Select Board
Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

Art. 15 — To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$65,258 for the Tax Collector's Office. (\$66,900 raised and appropriated in 2025; \$59,867 expended)

*Recommended by Select Board
Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

Art. 16 — To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$70,936 for the Town Clerk's Office. (\$67,436 raised and appropriated in 2025; \$64,199 expended)

*Recommended by Select Board
Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

Art. 17 — To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$215,009 for the Code Enforcement Office. (\$194,997 raised and appropriated in 2025; \$159,763 expended)

*Recommended by Select Board
Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

Art. 18 — To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$109,552 for the Planning Office including \$6,500 for Boards and Committees. (\$104,588 raised and appropriated in 2025; \$82,178 expended)

*Recommended by Select Board
Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

Art. 19 — To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$743,632 for operations and personnel at the Recycling Center & Transfer Station. (\$725,042 raised and appropriated in 2025; \$685,187 expended)

*Recommended by Select Board
Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

Art. 20 — To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$31,465 for Animal Control to include \$8,084 for Midcoast Humane. (\$30,457 raised and appropriated in 2025 including \$7,877 for Midcoast Humane; \$29,059 expended)

*Recommended by Select Board
Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

Art. 21 — To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$167,014 for Harbor Management to include Marine Resources Administration. (\$174,884 raised and appropriated in 2025; \$154,017 expended)

*Recommended by Select Board
Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

Art. 22 — To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$111,429 for the Recreation and Community Services Department. (\$98,480 raised and appropriated in 2025; \$94,711 expended)

*Recommended by Select Board
Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

Art. 23 — To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,750 for Recreation Programs and the sum of \$4,500 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. (\$19,800 raised and appropriated in 2025)

*Recommended by Select Board
Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

Art. 24 — To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$648,071 for employee benefits.

	2026	2025	2025 Expended
Health Insurance/Reimbursement	\$432,626	\$438,288	\$368,283
Social Security/Medicare	125,231	125,843	116,912
Retirement	77,764	75,365	57,277
Family & Medical Leave	8,250	8,250	7,981
Disability	<u>4,200</u>	<u>3,900</u>	<u>3,622</u>
	\$648,071	\$651,646	\$554,075

*Recommended by Select Board
Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

Art. 25 — To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,875 for the maintenance and repair of cemeteries and graves. (\$21,025 raised and appropriated in 2025; \$18,025 expended)

*Recommended by Select Board
Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

Art. 26 — To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$219,935 for the maintenance and operations of Town facilities, vehicles and properties including an easement.

	2026	2025	2025 Expended
Buildings, property & vehicles	\$123,000	\$89,656	\$93,366
EMS-Paramedic Building	7,400	7,500	6,885
Old Town House & Commons	21,550	36,420	19,614
Town Dock	6,600	5,000	3,278
Town Landings	32,600	20,000	15,782
Town Lands Monitor	14,300	0	0
Street Lighting	6,000	6,000	4,608
Cedar Beach Monitors & Signage	<u>8,485</u>	<u>8,450</u>	<u>7,597</u>
	\$219,935	\$173,026	\$151,130

*Recommended by Select Board
Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

Art. 27— To see if the Town will vote to appropriate up to \$77,870 of unassigned fund balance, which includes \$27,870 of insurance proceeds from the Salt Shed claim, to rebuild the damaged section of the building.

*Recommended by Select Board
Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

Art. 28— To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$37,800 for Mitchell Field.

	2026	2025	2025 Expended
Mowing/Repairs/Signage	\$20,200	\$25,100	\$14,329
Bandstand Maintenance	3,000	3,000	2,020
Monitor/Surveying/Testing	9,000	5,500	1,462
Electricity	2,000	2,000	2,456
Portable Toilets/Picnic Tables	<u>3,600</u>	<u>3,600</u>	<u>3,950</u>
	\$37,800	\$39,200	\$24,217

*Recommended by Select Board
Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

Art. 29— To see if the Town will vote to appropriate up to \$50,000 from unassigned fund balance for the removal of hazardous materials from the Sentry Building at Mitchell Field, and further to authorize the Select Board to accept and expend any grant funds for this purpose.

Recommended by Select Board

Art. 30 — To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$734,933 for snow removal, road maintenance, road/street signs and compensation for the Road Commissioner.

	2026	2025	2025 Expended
Snow Removal	\$622,861	\$592,365	\$591,660
Road Maintenance & Signs	71,000	75,000	60,600
Road Commissioner Salary	39,572	37,925	37,925
Road Commissioner Travel	<u>1,500</u>	<u>1,500</u>	<u>881</u>
	\$734,933	\$706,790	\$691,066

*Recommended by Select Board
Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

Art. 31 — To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$300,000 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. (\$975,571 in reserve with the Ocean Street Embankment project estimated to be \$410,000)

*Recommended by Select Board
Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

Art. 32 — To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$429,726 for Maine Health/Mid Coast Hospital to provide 24/7 Harpswell-based paramedic coverage and related administrative support services. (\$421,300 raised and appropriated in 2025; \$406,148 expended).

*Recommended by Select Board
Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

Art. 33— To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$352,564 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. (\$343,109 raised and appropriated in 2025; \$296,011 expended).

*Recommended by Select Board
Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

Art. 34 — To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$261,500 for the operating and capital expenses of three fire and rescue providers as follows:

	2026	2025	2025 Expended
Harpswell Neck Fire and Rescue	\$67,500	\$67,500	\$67,500
Orr’s-Bailey Islands Fire and Rescue	105,000	82,000	82,000
Cundy’s Harbor Volunteer Fire	<u>89,000</u>	<u>82,000</u>	<u>82,000</u>
	\$261,500	\$231,500	\$231,500

*Recommended by Select Board
Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

Art. 35 — To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$250,000 for the purchase of an emergency services vehicle, with related vehicle equipment and accessories, 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. (\$200,000 raised and appropriated in 2025; \$0 expended in 2025; \$592,152 in reserve).

*Recommended by Select Board
Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

Art. 36 — To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$300,000 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. (\$23,446 expended in 2025; \$916,053 in reserve)

*Recommended by Select Board
Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

Art. 37 — To see if the Town will vote to (1) enter a multi-year contract for up to five years with Cumberland County for emergency communications services and (2) raise and appropriate the sum of \$46,475 for such services.(\$43,519 raised and appropriated in 2025; \$43,507 expended)

*Recommended by Select Board
Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

Art. 38 — To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$515,543 for law enforcement services from Cumberland County. (\$474,599 raised and appropriated in 2025; \$474,599 expended)

*Recommended by Select Board
Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

Art. 39 — To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$301,593 for Marine Wardens and shellfish conservation related services from Cumberland County. (\$254,204 raised and appropriated in 2025; \$254,204 expended)

*Recommended by Select Board
Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

Art. 40 — To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$9,000, of which \$7,000 is for boat operations and maintenance of the Marine Patrol boat and \$2,000 is for marine resources and shellfish conservation activities and projects. (\$7,500 raised and appropriated in 2025 for the boat; \$4,816 expended; and \$5,000 raised and appropriated in 2025 for projects; \$837 expended).

*Recommended by Select Board
Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

Art. 41 — To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$49,516 for General Assistance and health & welfare agencies as follows:

	2026	2025	2025 Expended
General Assistance	\$11,300	\$11,300	\$8,600
Independence Association	0	1,500	1,500
Midcoast Maine Community Action	1,200	1,000	1,000
People Plus	15,000	10,000	10,000
Spectrum Generations	2,008	1,825	1,738
Through These Doors (Family Crisis Shelter)	500	500	500
Sexual Assault Response	250	250	250
Tedford Housing	2,000	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	0	1,500	1,500
Oasis Health Network	1,500	1,500	1,500
Lifeflight Foundation	1,258	1,258	1,258
YMCA (Bath/Brunswick Landing)	1,000	1,000	1,000
Harpswell Aging at Home	<u>5,000</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>5,000</u>
	\$49,516	\$46,133	\$43,433

*Recommended by Select Board
Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

Art. 42 — To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$99,570 for the purposes as follows:

	2026	2025	2025 Expended
Orr’s Island Library	35,000	30,000	30,000
Cundy’s Harbor Library	40,000	35,000	35,000
Harpswell Historical Society	10,000	6,000	6,000
Pejepscot Historic Center	1,500	1,250	1,250
Memorial Observances	3,000	3,000	3,605
Bailey Island Library Hall	2,920	2,788	2,788
Harpswell Business Association	0	3,500	0
Harpswell Neck Physical Education Association	4,000	3,000	3,000
Maine Public Broadcasting	150	100	300
Harpswell Invasive Plant Partnership	0	1,000	1,000
Community Fireworks Display	<u>3,000</u>	<u>2,750</u>	<u>0</u>
	\$99,570	\$88,388	\$85,493

*Recommended by Select Board
Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

Art. 43 — 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 2025; \$87,580 expended)

*Recommended by Select Board Members Johnson and Gilley
Recusal by Select Board Member Chipman
Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

Art. 44 — To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 for the Town of Harpswell’s Property Tax Assistance Program with unexpended funds to be held in reserve. (\$10,000 appropriated in 2025; \$13,012 expended).

*Recommended by Select Board
Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

Art. 45 — To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$160,000 for the following capital reserve accounts: \$75,000 for Town Facilities, \$60,000 for Vehicles, \$10,000 for Boat & Motor Replacement, \$5,000 for Office Equipment, and \$10,000 for Dry Hydrant Replacement.

*Recommended by Select Board
Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

Art. 46 — To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$670,000 for short- and long-term principal and interest debt-service payments. (\$515,000 raised and appropriated in 2025; \$483,666 expended)

*Recommended by Select Board
Recommended by Budget Advisory Committee*

The Moderator may entertain a motion to approve Articles 47-54 as recommended by Select Board unless a voter requests a specific article be set aside for individual consideration.

Art. 47 — To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to carry over, and assign fund balance accordingly, to the 2027 fiscal year any appropriated but unexpended funds at 2026 fiscal year end, provided that the funds are used for the same purpose as originally appropriated.

Recommended by Select Board

Art. 48 — To see if the Town will vote to fix the date of September 15, 2026 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 15, 2026 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 4% rate of interest on unpaid taxes.

Recommended by Select Board

Art. 49 — 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 2027 taxes).

Recommended by Select Board

Art. 50 — To see if the Town will vote to set the interest rate to be paid by the Town on abated taxes at 4% 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

Art. 51 — 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

Art. 52 — 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

Art. 53 — 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 2026 budget from January 1, 2027 to the 2027 Annual Town Meeting.

Recommended by Select Board

Art. 54 — 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

Art. 55— To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to appropriate amounts not to exceed \$350,000 from Municipal Revenue Sharing, \$2,700,000 from non-property tax revenue sources, \$600,000 of unassigned fund balance, and the homestead exemption and BETE reimbursement, estimated to be \$183,000 to reduce the tax commitment. (\$310,000 of Municipal Revenue Sharing, \$2,609,800 of non-property tax revenue, \$600,000 of unassigned fund balance and \$182,958 of homestead exemption and BETE reimbursement used in 2025)

Recommended by Select Board

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 5th day of March, 2026.

Kevin E. Johnson

David I. Chipman

Matthew C. Gilley
Harpswell Select Board