

2021 Town Meeting Warrant Results

**STATE OF MAINE
COUNTY of HANCOCK**

September 25, 2021

To Westley R. Ellington, resident of the Town of Amherst, in the County of Hancock.

Greetings:

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the voters of the Town of Amherst, Maine, in the said county, qualified by law to vote in town affairs, to meet at the Amherst Town Hall, in said town, on Saturday, the 25th day of September, A.S. 2021, at 1 o'clock p.m., then and there to act on the following articles, to wit:

Articles

1. **To elect a moderator to preside over said meeting and fix the compensation of \$15.00 per hour.**
 - **The Selectboard recommends \$15.00 per hour.**
Stan Kosinski Votes Yes: 27
Votes No: 0

2. **To elect a Town clerk to serve for a term of one year. (Term Expires: Jennifer Jelliff-Russel)**
Liz McKinney Votes Yes: 30
Votes No: 0

3. **To elect a Town Treasurer to serve for a term of one year. (Term Expires: Karen Bridges)**
Karen Bridges Votes Yes: 31
Votes No: 0

4. **To elect a Second Selectman to serve for a term of three years. (Term expires: Phil Deckers)**
Phil Deckers Votes Yes: 29
Votes No: 0

5. **To elect a School Trustee Member to serve for a term of three years. (Term expires: Louise Comeau)**
Louise Comeau Votes Yes: 24
Votes No: 0

6. **To elect a School Trustee Member to serve for a term of three years. (Terms Expires: Pam Mace)**
Pam Mace Votes Yes: 28
Votes No: 0

7. To elect a Planning and Zoning Board Member to serve a term of three years. (Term Expires: Malcolm Hunter)

Nominations: Ralph Jordan
Malcolm Hunter

Voted via secret ballot. Ballot clerks were Louise Comeau and Mike Richards

Results:

Ralph Jordan Votes: 25

Malcolm Hunter Votes: 6

8. To elect one Zoning Board of Appeals Member to serve a term of three years. (Terms Expires: George Comeau)

George Comeau Votes Yes: 24

Votes No: 0

9. To elect one Zoning Board of Appeals Member to serve a term of three years. (Terms Expires: Larry Lockman)

Dennis Boudreau Votes Yes: 25

Votes No: 0

10. To elect one Zoning Board of Appeals Member to serve a term of three years. (Currently Vacant)

Malcolm Hunter Votes Yes: 24

Votes No: 0

11. To elect a Fire Warden to serve a term of one year. (Term Expires: Crystal Butterfield)

Crystal Butterfield Votes Yes: 26

Votes No: 0

12. To elect a Sexton to serve a term of one year. (Term Expires: Frank Chick)

Frank Chick Votes Yes: 26

Votes No: 0

13. To elect an Animal Control Officer to serve a term of one year. (Term Expiring: Phil Deckers)

Phil Deckers Votes Yes: 28

Votes No: 0

14. To fix the compensation of the Town Clerk at \$450.00 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021.

- The Selectboard recommends as written.
- Previous years approved amount was \$450.00.

As Written Votes Yes: 30

Votes No: 0

15. To fix the compensation for the Tax Collector at \$9,000.00 plus Agent Fees for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021.

- The Selectboard recommends as written.
- Previous years approved amount was \$9,000.00 plus Agent Fees.

As Written Votes Yes: 29

Votes No: 0

16. To fix the compensation of the Town Treasurer at \$2,000.00 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021.

- The Selectboard recommends as written.
- Previous years approved amount was \$2,000.00.

Discussion: Town Clerk asked for \$3,000
Voters decided to vote on As Written (\$2,000)
As Written Votes Yes: 21
Votes No: 4

17. To fix the compensation of Selectboard at \$3,000.00 for the First Selectman, \$2,500.00 for the Second Selectman, and \$2,500.00 for the Third Selectman (totalling \$8,000.00) for the fiscal year Beginning July 1, 2021.

- The Selectboard recommends as written.
- Previous years total approved amount was \$8,000.00.

As Written Votes Yes: 23
Votes No: 0

18. To fix the compensation of the School Committee at \$15.00 per meeting for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021.

- The Selectboard recommends as written.
- Previous years approved amount was \$15.00.

As Written Votes Yes: 26
Votes No: 0

19. To fix compensation for the Planning Board at \$250.00 for the Chair and \$15.00 per meeting attended for members for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021.

- The Selectboard recommends as written.
- Previous years approved amounts were \$250.00 and \$15.00/meeting.

As Written Votes Yes: 26
Votes No: 0

20. To fix compensation for the Planning Board of Appeals at \$15.00 per meeting attended for members during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021.

- The Selectboard recommends as written.
- Previous years approved amount was \$15.00/meeting.

As written Votes Yes: 25
Votes No: 0

21. To fix the compensation of the Fire Warden \$150.00 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021.

- The Selectboard recommends as written.
- Previous years approved amount was \$150.00.

As Written Votes Yes: 21
Votes No: 0

22. To fix compensation for the Animal Control Officer at \$250.00 plus mileage for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021.

- The Selectboard recommends as written.
- Previous years approved amount was \$250.00 plus mileage.

As Written Votes Yes: 27
Votes No: 0

23. To see what sum the Town will raise for compensation of Town Officials.
- The Selectboard recommends \$25,000.00 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021.
 - Previous years approved amount was \$24,000.00.
- As Written Votes Yes: 25
Votes No: 0
24. To vote on what sum the Town will raise for the Town's required share of Municipal Officials Social Security and Medicare payments.
- The Selectboard recommends \$2,000.00 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021.
 - Previous years approved amount was \$1,900.00.
- As Written Votes Yes: 23
Votes No: 0
25. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from overlay the amount of \$800.00 Tax abatements granted during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021.
- The Selectboard recommends as written.
 - Previous years approved amount was \$800.00.
- As Written Votes Yes: 22
Votes No: 0
26. To vote on what sum the Town will raise for the maintenance and repair of Town highways and bridges.
- The Selectboard recommends \$8,000.00 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021.
 - Previous years approved amount was \$32,500.00.
- As Written Votes Yes: 28
Votes No: 0
27. To vote on what sum the Town will raise for Cemeteries.
- The Selectboard recommends \$2,000.00 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021.
 - Previous years approved amount was \$2,000.00.
- As Written Votes Yes: 28
Votes No: 0
28. To see what sum the Town will authorize to appropriate from surplus for General Assistance.
- The Selectboard recommends \$500.00 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021.
 - Previous years approved amount was \$500.00.
- As Written Votes Yes: 25
Votes No: 0
29. To vote on what sum the Town will raise for snow removal.
- The Selectboard recommends \$25,500.00 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021.
 - Previous years approved amount was \$25,500.00.
- As Written Votes Yes: 25
Votes No: 0

30. To vote on what sum the Town will raise for trash removal.

- The Selectboard recommends raising \$40,000.00 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021.
- Previous years approved amount was \$38,745.00.

As Written Votes Yes: 26
Votes No: 0

31. To vote on what sum the Town will raise for Town Charges.

- The Selectboard recommends raising \$27,000.00 and for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021.
- Previous years approved amount was \$19,000.00.

Discussion regarding what "Town Charges" entails.
As Written Votes Yes: 26
Votes No: 0

32. To vote on what sum the Town will raise for the upkeep of the Town Hall.

- The Selectboard recommends \$2,500.00 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021.
- Previous years approved amount was \$2,500.00.

As Written Votes Yes: 27
Votes No: 0

33. To vote on what sum the Town will raise to join the Maine Municipal Assoc. and raise dues for the same.

- The Selectboard recommends \$2,300.00 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021.
- Previous years approved amount was \$2,300.00.

As Written Votes Yes: 24
Votes No: 0

34. To see if the Town will raise \$12,700.00 to pay the County Tax.

- The Selectboard recommends \$12,700.00 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021.
- Previous years approved amount was \$11,000.00.

As Written Votes Yes: 23
Votes No: 0

35. To vote on what sum the Town will raise for Fire Protection.

- The Selectboard recommends \$15,728.00 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021.
- Previous years approved amount was \$15,728.00.

As Written Votes Yes: 25
Votes No: 0

36. To see if the town will raise the sum of \$239,503.52 to pay for the School Appropriation.

- The Selectboard recommends raising \$239,503.52 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021.
- Previous years approved amount was \$246,509.26.

As Written Votes Yes: 24
Votes No: 0

37. To see if the Town will vote to remove consideration of donation requests from future warrants unless reinstated by the discretion of future Select Boards and/or via the petition process fulfilled by residents of the Town of Amherst.

- The Selectboard recommends as written.

Discussion regarding whether this would affect this year's donations. Determined it would not.
As Written Votes Yes: 28
Votes No: 0

38. To see what sum the town will raise for requested donations.

The following is a list of charitable requested charitable donations to be considered individually.

- The Selectboard recommends \$0.00.
 - This year's requested total is \$2,201.00
 - 2020 requested amount was \$1,630.00
 - 2020 approved amount was \$1,095.00
- Ellsworth Public Library - \$530.00 Requested
 - Previous years approved amount was \$530.00
 - Community Health and Counseling Services - \$100.00 Requested
 - Previous years approved amount was \$100.00
 - Lifelight Foundation - \$265.00 Requested
 - Previous years approved amount was \$265.00
 - American Red Cross - \$300.00 Requested
 - Previous years approved amount was \$100.00
 - Maine Public Radio, Television, Online - \$100.00 Requested
 - Previous years approved amount was \$0.00
 - Downeast Community Partners - \$446.00 Requested
 - Previous years approved amount was \$0.00
 - Women, Infants, and Children Program - \$360.00 Requested
 - Previous years approved amount was \$0.00
 - Yesterday's Children - \$100.00 Requested
 - Previous years approved amount was \$0.00

Discussion regarding last year's donations, that voters could donate to the programs they wished to and that a list of organizations that the town previously donated to would be posted for voters.

Voters decided to vote on the sum of 0 (zero) dollars to be donated this year
Votes Yes: 25
Votes No: 2

39. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard to appropriate from surplus a sum not to exceed \$3,000.00 as they deem advisable to meet unanticipated expenses and emergencies that occur during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021.

- The Selectboard recommends as written.
- Previous years approved amount was \$3,000.00.

As Written Votes Yes: 26
Votes No: 0

40. To see if the Town will vote to allow the Selectboard/Treasurer to use Surplus Funds during the fiscal year in anticipation of Property Tax Receipts.

- The Selectboard recommends as written.

As Written Votes Yes: 24
Votes No: 0

41. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to spend up to 25% of the 2023 budget in fiscal year 2023 prior to the Annual Town Meeting.

- The Selectboard recommends as written.
- Previous years approved amount was 25% of 2022 budget

As Written Votes Yes: 27
Votes No: 0

42. To fix interest on past due property taxes at 8% which is the State Maximum.

- The Selectboard recommends as written.
- Previous years approved rate was 8%

As Written Votes Yes: 26
Votes No: 0

43. To see if the Town will vote to increase the property tax levy limit established for the Town of Amherst 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 Selectboard recommends as written.

As Written Votes Yes: 26
Votes No: 0

44. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard to dispose of tax-acquired property in any manner which the Selectboard deems to be in the best interest of the town while also complying with practices prescribed by existing law.

- The Selectboard recommends as written.

As Written Votes Yes: 26
Votes No: 1

45. To see if the town will vote to amend Item 30 in **The Town of Amherst Town Use Ordinance, Section XIII - Schedule of Uses: Land Uses in the Shoreland Zone** which will change the permit requirements for filling, earthmoving, or other excavation activities from 10 yards to 250 yards.

- The Selectboard recommends to be amended to read as follows:

	Land Use	RP	SR	RR
30	Filling, earthmoving, or other excavation activities of more than 10 yards but less than 250 yards	PB	CEO	Yes

Voters discussed what other nearby towns have for an ordinance and why this new ordinance is being considered. The planning board director also stated that the planning board recommends switching to 100 yards rather than 250.

Voters decided to vote on the ordinance As Written:
Votes Yes: 26
Votes No: 1

46. To see if the town will vote to add an item in The Town of Amherst Town Use Ordinance, Section XIII - Schedule of Uses, Land Uses in the Shoreland Zone which will require that any filling, earthmoving, or other excavation activities of more than 250 yards requires a permit based on zoning.

- The Selectboard recommends to be amended to read as follows:

	Land Use	RP	SR	RR
30a	Filling, earthmoving, or other excavation activities of more than 250 yards	PB	PB	CEO

As Written Votes Yes: 28
 Votes No: 0

47. To see if the town will vote to authorize within the municipality the operation of adult use marijuana cultivation facilities and adult use marijuana retail stores, provided they operate in compliance with all applicable state and local requirements?

- The Selectboard recommends as written.

Discussion regarding if cultivation and retail are allowed to be practiced at the same site.
 Voters decided to vote on Ordinance As Written
 Votes Yes: 30
 Votes No: 1

48. To see if the town will vote to authorize within the municipality the operation of adult use marijuana manufacturing facilities, provided they operate in compliance with all applicable state and local requirements?

- The Selectboard recommends as written.

Votes Yes: 31
 Votes No: 1

49. To vote to adjourn.

Votes Yes: 19
 Votes No: 0

Given under our hands this 25th day of September, A.D. 2021

*Selectmen of Amherst
 Wes Ellington, Philip Deckers, Crystal Butterfield*

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you require any kind of assistance to fully participate in this meeting: please notify the Board of Selectmen at 207-584-5725, or P.O, Box 40, Aurora, ME. 04408.