

Town Meeting Warrant

STATE OF MAINE
COUNTY of HANCOCK

September 26, 2020

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 26th day of September, A.S. 2020, 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 \$12.00 per hour.
M&S Stan Kosinski 10Yes 0 Opp
- The Selectboard recommends \$12.00 per hour.
M&S \$12.00 11Yes 0 Opp
2. To elect a Town clerk. (Term Expires: Jennifer Jelliff-Russel)
M&S Jennifer Jelliff-Russell 17Yes 0 Opp
3. To elect a Town Treasurer. (Term Expires: Karen Bridges)
M&S Karen Bridges 6Yes 0 Opp
4. To elect a Tax Collector for a term of 3 years. (Successor: Deane Deckers)
M&S Deanne Deckers 9Yes 0 Opp
5. To elect a Third Selectman for a term of 3 years. (Term expires: Greg Palman - Not Running)
M&S Crystal Butterfield 16Yes 0 Opp
6. To elect a School Committee Representative for a term of 3 years. (Term expires: Matt Smith)
M&S Matt Smith 19Yes 0 Opp
7. To elect a School Trustee Member to serve for a term of three years. (Terms Expires: Larry Mace)
M&S Larry Mace 20Yes 0 Opp
8. To elect a Planning and Zoning Board Member to serve a term of three years. (Term Expires: Deb Palman)
M&S Deb Palman 17Yes 0 Opp
9. To elect a Planning and Zoning Board Members to complete the remaining one year of a three year term. (Retired: Lou Toner)
M&S Malcom Hunter 14Yes 0 Opp

10. To elect one Zoning Board of Appeals Member to serve three years. (Terms Expires: Pam Mace)
M&S Pam Mace 12 Yes 0 Opp
11. To elect a Fire Warden. (Term Expires: Crystal Shorey)
M&S Crystal (Shorey) Butterfield 17 Yes 0 Opp
12. To elect a Sexton. (Term Expires: Frank Chick)
M&S Frank Chick 18 Yes 0 Opp
13. To elect an Animal Control Officer. (Term Expiring: Phil Deckers)
M&S Phil Deckers 17 Yes 0 Opp
14. To fix the compensation of the Town Clerk at \$450 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020.
- The Selectboard recommends as written.
 - Previous years approved amount was \$350
- M&S As Recommended, 16 Yes 0 Opp**
15. To fix the compensation for the Tax Collector at \$9,000 plus Agent Fees for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020.
- The Selectboard recommends as written.
 - Previous years approved amount was 3% of the tax collected for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019.
- M&S As Recommended, 19 Yes 0 Opp**
16. To fix the compensation of the Town Treasurer at \$2,000 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020.
- The Selectboard recommends as written.
 - Previous years approved amount was \$2,000
- M&S As Recommended 8 Yes 0 Opp**
17. To fix the compensation of Selectboard at \$3,500 for the First Selectman, \$2,250 for the Second Selectman, and \$2,250 for the Third Selectman (totalling \$8,000) for the fiscal year Beginning July 1, 2020.
- The Selectboard recommends as written.
 - Previous years approved amount was \$8,000
- M&S As Recommended 18 Yes 0 Opp**
18. To fix the compensation of the School Committee at \$15 per meeting for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020.
- The Selectboard recommends as written.
 - Previous years approved amount was \$15
- M&S As Recommended 18 Yes 0 Opp**
19. To fix compensation for the Planning Board at \$250 for the Chair and \$15 per meeting attended for members for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020.
- The Selectboard recommends as written.
 - Previous years approved amount was \$250 and \$15/meeting
- M&S As Recommended 18 Yes 0 Opp**
20. To fix compensation for the Planning Board of Appeals at \$15 per meeting attended for members during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020.
- The Selectboard recommends as written.
 - Previous years approved amount was \$15/meeting
- M&S As Recommended 17 Yes 0 Opp**
21. To fix the compensation of the Fire Warden \$150 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020.
- The Selectboard recommends as written.
 - Previous years approved amount was \$150
- M&S As Recommended 17 Yes 0 Opp**

22. To fix compensation for the Animal Control Officer at \$250 plus mileage for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020.
- The Selectboard recommends as written.
 - Previous years approved amount was \$250 plus mileage
- M&S As Recommended 19 Yes 0 Opp**
23. To see what sum the Town will raise for compensation of Town Officials.
- The Selectboard recommends \$24,000 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020.
 - Previous years approved amount was \$26,700
- M&S As Recommended 13 Yes 0 Opp**
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 \$1,900 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020.
 - Previous years approved amount was \$2,300
- M&S As Recommended 13 Yes 0 Opp**
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, 2020.
- The Selectboard recommends as written.
 - Previous years approved amount was \$800.00
- M&S As Recommended 16 Yes 0 Opp**
26. To vote on what sum the Town will raise for the maintenance and repair of Town highways and bridges.
- The Selectboard recommends \$32,500 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020.
 - Previous years approved amount was \$2,500
- M&S As Recommended 16 Yes 0 Opp**
27. To vote on what sum the Town will raise for Cemeteries.
- The Selectboard recommends \$2,000 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020.
 - Previous years approved amount was \$2,000
- M&S As Recommended 16 Yes 0 Opp**
28. To see what sum the Town will authorize to appropriate from surplus for General Assistance.
- The Selectboard recommends \$500 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020.
 - Previous years approved amount was \$500
- M&S As Recommended 16 Yes 0 Opp**
29. To vote on what sum the Town will raise for snow removal.
- The Selectboard recommends \$25,500 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020.
 - Previous years approved amount was \$25,500
- M&S As Recommended 16 Yes 0 Opp**

30. To vote on what sum the Town will raise for trash removal.
- The Selectboard recommends raising \$38,745 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020.
 - Previous years approved amount was \$37,800
- M&S As Recommended 18 Yes 0 Opp
31. To vote on what sum the Town will raise for Town Charges.
- The Selectboard recommends raising \$19,000 and for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020.
 - Previous years approved amount was \$20,800
- M&S As Recommended 19 Yes 0 Opp
32. To vote on what sum the Town will raise for the upkeep of the Town Hall.
- The Selectboard recommends \$2,500 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020.
 - Previous years approved amount was \$2,500
- M&S As Recommended 19 Yes 0 Opp
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 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020.
 - Previous years approved amount was \$2,300
- M&S As Recommended 18 Yes 0 Opp
34. To see if the Town will raise \$11,000.00 to pay the County Tax.
- The Selectboard recommends \$11,000.00 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020.
 - Previous years approved amount was \$10,917.81
- M&S As Recommended 20 Yes 0 Opp
35. To vote on what sum the Town will raise for Fire Protection.
- The Selectboard recommends \$15,728 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020.
 - Previous years approved amount was \$15,728
- M&S As Recommended 20 Yes 0 Opp
36. To see if the town will raise the sum of \$246,509.26 to pay for the School Appropriation.
- The Selectboard recommends raising \$246,509.26 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020.
 - Previous years approved amount was \$269,751.34
- M&S As Recommended 20 Yes 0 Opp
37. To see if the town will allocate from Municipal Surplus funds to cover the replacement of the Town Sand Shed, to be built in 2021. At this time the replacement is estimated at approximately \$45,000.
- The Selectboard recommends a “Yes” vote
- M&S As Recommended 20 Yes 0 Opp
38. The following is a list of charitable requested charitable donations to be considered individually.

- This year's requested total is \$1630
 - Previous years approved amount was \$1100
- a. Ellsworth Public Library - \$530 Requested
 - Previous years approved amount was \$135
 - M&S As Written 15 Yes 2 Opp
 - b. Community Health and Counseling Services - \$100 Requested
 - Previous years approved amount was \$100
 - M&S As Written 10 Yes 0 Opp
 - c. Lifeflight Foundation - \$265 Requested
 - Previous years approved amount was \$265
 - M&S As Written 14 Yes 0 Opp
 - d. American Red Cross - \$135 Requested
 - Previous years approved amount was \$100
 - M&S To Donate Last Year's Amount of \$100 10 Yes 1 Opp
 - e. Eastern Area Agency on Aging - \$100 Requested
 - Previous years approved amount was \$100
 - M&S As Written 13 Yes 0 Opp
 - f. Families First Community Center - \$500 Requested
 - No request last year
 - M&S To Not Donate 14 Yes 0 Opp
39. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard to appropriate from surplus a sum not to exceed \$3,000 as they deem advisable to meet unanticipated expenses and emergencies that occur during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019.
 - The Selectboard recommends as written.
 - Previous years approved amount was \$3,000
 - M&S As Recommended 15 Yes 0 Opp
 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.
 - M&S As Recommended 17 Yes 0 Opp
 41. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to spend up to 25% of the 2022 budget in fiscal year 2022 prior to the Town Meeting.
 - The Selectboard recommends as written.
 - Previous years approved amount was 25% of 2021 budget
 - M&S As Recommended 16 Yes 0 Opp
 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 7%
 - M&S As Recommended 17 Yes 0 Opp

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.

M&S As Recommended 17 Yes 0 Opp

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.

M&S As Recommended 20 Yes 0 Opp

45. To see if the town will vote to authorize within the municipality the operation of medical marijuana registered caregiver retail stores, provided they operate in compliance with all applicable state and local requirements?

- The Selectboard recommends as written.

M&S As Recommended 20 Yes 2 Opp

46. To vote to adjourn.

M&S 16 Yes 0 Opp

Given under our hands this 26th day of September, A.D. 2020

***Selectmen of Amherst
Wes Ellington, Philip Deckers, Greg Palman***

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.