

**TOWN OF DAMARISCOTTA
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
WARRANT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025
FOR PERIOD JULY 1, 2024 TO JUNE 30, 2025**

LINCOLN, SS

STATE OF MAINE

TO: Jason Warlick, Constable for the Town of Damariscotta, in the County of Lincoln.

GREETINGS:

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the voters of the Town of Damariscotta, in said County, qualified by law to vote in Town Affairs, to assemble at the Damariscotta Municipal Building, 21 School Street in said Town, on Tuesday, the 11th day of June, A.D. 2024 at 8:00 A.M. then and there to act on Articles 1 through 10.

The polls for voting on Articles 2 through 10 will be open at 8:00 A.M. and will close at 8:00 P.M.

The adjourned meeting to act on Articles 11 through 50 in the Warrant will be resumed at the Great Salt Bay Community School, 559 Main Street in said Town on Saturday the 15th of June, A.D. 2024 at 10 A.M.

SECRET BALLOT ARTICLES 1-10

ARTICLE 1. To choose a Moderator to preside at said meeting. (Note: The moderator is nominated from the floor.)

ARTICLE 2. To elect by secret ballot in accordance with the vote of the Town, the following officers:

One (1) Select Board/Assessors/Overseers of the Poor (Three-year terms)

One (1) School Committee Member (Three-year term)

One (1) Sanitary District Trustee (Three-year term)

ARTICLE 3. To see if the Town of Damariscotta will vote to raise and/or appropriate the sum of **\$1,589** to help defray the costs of **New Hope Midcoast**, and to act thereon.

This provider agency has submitted a petition requesting the town provide a contribution through the town budget per the Provider Agency Policy adopted by the Select Board.

ARTICLE 4. To see if the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate the sum of **\$5,000** for the **Damariscotta Historical Society**.

This provider agency has submitted a petition requesting the town provide a contribution through the town budget per the Provider Agency Policy adopted by the Select Board.

ARTICLE 5. To see if the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate the sum of **\$2,200** for the provider agency **Healthy Kids**.

ARTICLE 6. To see if the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate the sum of **\$5,061** for the provider agency **Spectrum Generations**.

This provider agency has submitted a petition requesting the town provide a contribution through the town budget per the Provider Agency Policy adopted by the Select Board.

ARTICLE 7. To see if the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate the sum of **\$20,000** for the provider agency **Lincoln County Television (LCTV)**.

This provider agency has submitted a petition requesting the town provide a contribution through the town budget per the Provider Agency Policy adopted by the Select Board.

ARTICLE 8. To see if the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate the sum of **\$5,000** for the provider agency **Hearty Roots**

This provider agency has submitted a petition requesting the town provide a contribution through the town budget per the Provider Agency Policy adopted by the Select Board.

ARTICLE 9. To see if the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate the sum of **\$33,815** for the provider agency **Skidompha Library**

Article 10: Do you favor approving the school administrative reorganization plan prepared by the Great Salt Bay Reorganization Planning Committee to reorganize the Great Salt Bay Community School District, the Town of Bremen Municipal School Unit, the Town of Damariscotta Municipal School Unit, and the Town of Newcastle Municipal School Unit into a regional school unit, with an effective date of July 1, 2025?

OPEN TOWN MEETING ARTICLES 11-50

Articles 11 through 50 will be presented at the Open Town Meeting held on Saturday, June 15th, at 10:00 AM at the Great Salt Bay Community School.

ARTICLE 11. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for **General Government**:

	Budget Committee	Select Board
Administration	\$569,665.55	\$566,965.55
Assessing	\$45,890	\$45,890
Planning/Development	\$178,615.35	\$178,615.35
Solid Waste	\$178,770	\$178,770
Municipal Building	\$76,230	\$76,230
Contingency	\$18,000	\$18,000
Legal	\$25,000	\$25,000
Insurance	\$14,625	\$14,625
General Assistance	\$6,500	\$6,500

Budget Committee Recommend: \$1,113,295.90

Select Board Recommend: \$1,110,595.90

ARTICLE 12. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Police Department**:

Budget Committee Recommend: \$823,140

Select Board Recommend: \$823,140

ARTICLE 13. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for **Public Safety**.

	Budget Committee	Select Board
Animal Control	\$7,400	\$7,400
Fire Department	\$161,235	\$161,235
Emergency Management	\$2,700	\$2,700
Hydrants	\$157,103	\$157,103
Street Lights	\$6,000	\$6,000
Traffic Lights	\$2,200	\$2,200
CLC Ambulance	\$99,027.01	\$99,027.01

Budget Committee Recommend: \$435,665.01

Select Board Recommend: \$435,665.01

ARTICLE 14. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for **Public Works**:

	Budget Committee	Select Board
Highway Department	\$718,993	\$718,993
Cemetery	\$59,385	\$59,380.75
Biscay Beach	\$1,400	\$1,400

Budget Committee Recommend: \$779,778
Select Board Recommend: \$779,773.75

ARTICLE 15. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for **Community Services, Recreation, and Holiday Funds**:

Budget Committee Recommend: \$3,000
Select Board Recommend: \$3,000

ARTICLE 16. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for **DEBT SERVICE**:

Bond Issue for Road and Sidewalk Improvements: \$191,130; Matures 10/36
Loan for Street Light Purchase and LED Conversion \$10,845; Matures 10/25
Budget Committee Recommend: \$201,975
Select Board Recommend: \$201,975

ARTICLE 17. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate to the **Municipal Building Reserve**:

Budget Committee Recommend: \$40,000
Select Board Recommend: \$40,000

ARTICLE 18. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate to the **Fire Station Reserve**:

Budget Committee Recommend: \$50,000
Select Board Recommend: \$50,000

ARTICLE 19. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate to the **Highway Facilities Reserve**:

Budget Committee Recommend: \$50,000
Select Board Recommend: \$50,000

ARTICLE 20. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate to the **Fire Truck Reserve**:

Budget Committee Recommend: \$100,000
Select Board Recommend: \$100,000

ARTICLE 21. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate to the **Fire Equipment Reserve**:

Budget Committee Recommend: \$15,000
Select Board Recommend: \$15,000

ARTICLE 22. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate to the **Police Department Reserve**:

Budget Committee Recommend: \$30,000

Select Board Recommend: \$30,000

ARTICLE 23. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate to the **Highway Truck Reserve:**

Budget Committee Recommend: \$35,000

Select Board Recommend: \$35,000

ARTICLE 24. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate to the **Highway Equipment Reserve:**

Budget Committee Recommend: \$25,000

Select Board Recommend: \$25,000

ARTICLE 25. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate to the **Sidewalk Reserve:**

Budget Committee Recommend: \$70,000

Select Board Recommend: \$70,000

ARTICLE 26. To see if the Town will create a **Bicycle Infrastructure Reserve:**

This reserve account will allow various projects outlined in the Bicycle Safety and Accessibility Resolution approved by the Select Board at their October 18, 2023 meeting

ARTICLE 27. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate to the **Paving, Drainage, and Maintenance Reserve:**

Budget Committee Recommend: \$150,000

Select Board Recommend: \$150,000

ARTICLE 28. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate to the **Technology Reserve:**

Budget Committee Recommend: \$7,500

Select Board Recommend: \$7,500

ARTICLE 29. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate to the **Comprehensive Plan Reserve:**

Budget Committee Recommend: \$2,500

Select Board Recommend: \$2,500

ARTICLE 30. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate to the **Cemetery Reserve:**

Budget Committee Recommend: \$25,000

Select Board Recommend: \$25,000

ARTICLE 31. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate to the **Property Revaluation Reserve:**

Budget Committee Recommend: \$15,000

Select Board Recommend: \$15,000

ARTICLE 32. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate to the Payroll Liability Reserve:
Budget Committee Recommend: \$15,000
Select Board Recommend: \$15,000

ARTICLE 33. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$630,896 for the Lincoln County
Tax Assessment:
Budget Committee Recommend: \$630,896
Select Board Recommend: \$630,896

ARTICLE 34. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$726,800 from Estimated Revenues to be applied to reduce the FY 2024 Tax Commitment.

	Budget Committee	Select Board
Administration	\$622,850	\$622,850
Planning & Development	\$100,700	\$100,700
Police	\$7,550	\$7,550
State Reimbursements*	\$18,875	\$18,875

**State reimbursements in this article do not reflect the reimbursement programs that are included on the Tax Rate Calculation form that is completed by the Assessors. The reimbursements on that form include BETE, Homestead, and State Revenue Sharing.*

Budget Committee Recommend: \$749,975
Select Board Recommend: \$749,975

ARTICLE 35. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$20,500, or any amount as received from the State of Maine Local Road Assistance Program (LRAP), to reduce the FY 2025 Tax Commitment.

ARTICLE 36. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$150,000 from the Undesignated Fund Balance to be applied to reduce the FY 2025 Tax Commitment:
Budget Committee Recommend: \$150,000
Select Board Recommend: \$150,000

Article 37. To see if the town will vote to increase the property tax levy limit of \$2,412,575.50 established for Damariscotta by State law in the event that the FY25 Municipal Budget approved by Town will result in a tax commitment that is greater than that property tax levy limit.

Explanation:

In 2005, the State Legislature passed a "tax reform" law known as LD#1. This bill created a maximum municipal tax levy based upon this year's tax, plus an allowance for personal income growth and the town's tax base growth due to new construction. However, LD#1 allows Damariscotta voters to increase that tax cap with the approval of a simple majority of the voters at Town Meeting. The only requirement is that a secret vote must be taken by written ballot. Using the State's formula, the maximum tax levy for Damariscotta's Municipal Budget is \$2,577,595. Currently, the proposed budget is \$35,332 over the tax cap.

ARTICLE 38. To elect one Cemetery Trustee for a three-year term.

ARTICLE 39. To elect the following Budget Committee members for the terms listed below.

Select Board Nominates:

Ron Hiser for a term ending June 2025;

_____ for a term ending June 2026;

Bruce Rockwood for a term ending June 2027;

Mary Devlin for a term ending June 2027;

Gary Rosenthal for a term ending June 2027;

Louis Abbotoni for an Alternate member one-year term;

_____ for an Alternate member one-year term.

ARTICLE 40. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to spend funds from various reserve funds as they deem necessary in accordance with the capital improvement program.

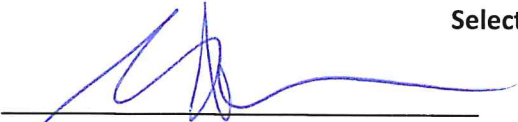
ARTICLE 41. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to accept gifts of money, bequests, apply for and accept State and Federal Grants, and grants from non-profit organizations on behalf of the Town for municipal purposes, including, when necessary, the authority to authorize the signing of grant contracts, accept the conditions that accompany gifts of money, bequests, and grant funds, and to appropriate and expend gifts of money, bequests, and grant funds for the authorized purposes.

ARTICLE 42. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to enter multi-year contracts (not to exceed 10 years) for the lease or purchase of goods and services and the lease of real property or buildings, when they deem it in the best financial interest of the Town?

- ARTICLE 43. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to set the date, hour, and place for the next Annual Town Meeting.
- ARTICLE 44. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to dispose of Town-owned personal property under such terms and conditions as they deem advisable and to appropriate the proceeds of any sale of said items to an existing operating or capital reserve account.
- ARTICLE 45. To see if the Town will vote to re-appropriate money from the sale of Town owned vehicles to the respective departmental reserve accounts.
- ARTICLE 46. To see if the Town will vote to set a date when taxes shall be paid, and if so, what rate of interest shall be charged on taxes unpaid after said date. (Maximum allowable rate is 8.50 percent.)
Select Board Recommend Due Dates of October 1, 2024 and April 1, 2025 and an interest rate of 8.5%.
- ARTICLE 47. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector to offer a 2025 Tax Club Plan to taxpayers who enroll no later than July 29, 2024; who pay the total amount of 2025 taxes by monthly payments from July 1, 2024 to April 30, 2025; who abide by the requirements of said plan; who shall receive from the Town, in return for such payments, full credit for such taxes paid without incurring any charge of interest. To be eligible for the Tax Club, all 2024 taxes must be paid in full.
- ARTICLE 48. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector to accept prepayments of taxes not yet committed, and to pay interest at a rate of 0% (zero) as a courtesy to taxpayers who wish to prepay some or all of their uncommitted taxes.
- ARTICLE 49. To see if the Town will vote to set the interest rate at 4.5% (percent) to be paid by the Town on prepaid abated taxes pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A § 506-A.
“A taxpayer who pays an amount in excess of that finally assessed must be repaid the amount of the overpayment plus interest from the date of overpayment at a rate to be established by the municipality. The rate of interest may not exceed the interest rate established by the municipality for delinquent taxes nor may it be less than that rate reduced by 4 percentage points. If a municipality fails to establish a rate of interest for overpayments of taxes, it shall pay interest at the rate it has established for delinquent taxes.”
- ARTICLE 50. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board, on behalf of the Town, to sell and dispose of any real estate acquired by the Town for non-payment of taxes thereon on such terms as they deem advisable and to execute quit-claim deeds thereon, except that the Municipal Officers 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 property may be sold back to the original owner for all taxes due, plus interest and all costs, without the advertisement requirement.

Given under our hands at said Damariscotta, Maine this 17th day of April, A.D., 2024

Select Board, Town of Damariscotta

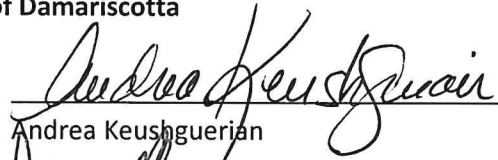


Tom Anderson

Daryl Fraser, Chairperson



Daniel Hunter



Andrea Keushguerian



Joshua Pinkham

Attest:  Town Clerk