

TOWN MEETING WARRANT 2023

For the Annual Town Meeting to be held on April 27, 2023, in Penobscot County, ME.

To: David Goode, a citizen of the Town of Patten, in the County of Penobscot.

GREETINGS:

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the Inhabitants of the Town of Patten in said County, qualified to vote in Town affairs, to meet at the Patten Garage located within the said Town of Patten, at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 27 in the year A.D. 2023, the One Hundred and Eighty-Second anniversary of the Town of Patten and the Two Hundred and Forty-Seventh Anniversary of the United States of America, there and then to act upon Articles 1 through 45; all said Articles being set out below to wit:

ARTICLE 1: To choose a Moderator to preside at said Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to nominate and elect the following officers to serve for the periods so indicated.

Budget Committee

- Three (3) 2-year terms; to expire in 2025
- One (1) 3-year term; to expire in 2026
- One (1) 5-year term; to expire in 2028

Cemetery Trustees

- Three (3) 2-year terms; to expire in 2025
- Two (2) 3-year terms; to expire in 2026

Board of Tax Review

- Two (2) 2-year terms; to expire in 2025
- One (1) 3-year term; to expire in 2026

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to instruct the Selectmen to appoint OTHER TOWN OFFICERS.

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to carry forward the balances of the accounts as listed once the audit has been completed.

Committed For:	
Fire Building	Culture & Recreation
Fire Truck	Community Celebrations
Highway Equipment	Tax Maps & Revaluation
Highway Roads	Patten Academy Park
Municipal Building	Grant Writing
Veterans' Monument	Technology
Cemetery Perpetual Care	CDBG & DEP Grants

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to carry all other Balances to Fund Balance once the audit has been completed.

The following recommendations are jointly proposed by the Budget Committee and the Board of Selectmen. Budget committee meetings were held March 29 and April 6, 2023.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and authorize the Officers to spend for **CEMETERY OPERATIONS**.

CEMETERY	2022	2023
Local Taxes	\$ 14,900	\$ 16,450
Revenues	\$ 7,100	\$ 7,000
Total Appropriation	\$ 22,000	\$ 23,450

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and authorize the Officers to spend for **ANIMAL CONTROL**:

ANIMAL CONTROL	2022	2023
Local Taxes	\$ 1,900	\$ 3,650
Revenues	\$ 100	\$ 100
Total Appropriation	\$ 2,000	\$ 3,750

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and authorize the Officers to spend for **STREET LIGHTS**.

STREET LIGHTS	2022	2023
Local Taxes	\$ 20,000	\$ 17,000
Total Appropriation	\$ 20,000	\$ 17,000

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and authorize the Officers to spend for **FIRE PROTECTION FEE** (*previously "hydrant rental"*).

FIRE PROTECTION	2022	2023
Local Taxes	\$ 26,000	\$ 26,000
Fund Balances	\$ -	\$ -
Total Appropriation	\$ 26,000	\$ 26,000

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and authorize the Officers to spend for **the FIRE DEPARTMENT**.

FIRE DEPARTMENT	2022	2023
Local Taxes	\$ 67,500	\$ 117,200
Revenues	\$ 12,650	\$ 12,650
Total Appropriation	\$ 80,150	\$ 129,850

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and authorize the officers to spend \$10,000 for the **FIRE TRUCK RESERVE**.

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and authorize the Officers to spend for **MUNICIPAL TRASH**.

MUNICIPAL TRASH	2022	2023
Local Taxes	\$ 26,200	\$ 25,782
Total Appropriation	\$ 26,200	\$ 25,782

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and authorize the Officers to spend for **SEPTAGE DISPOSAL**.

SEPTAGE	2022	2023
Local Taxes	\$ 1,900	\$ 1,900
Revenues	\$ 8,100	\$ 8,100
Total Appropriation	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and authorize the Officers to spend for **HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS**.

HIGHWAY DEPT	2022	2023
Local Taxes	\$ 83,283	\$148,148
Revenues	\$ 52,500	\$ 52,500
Total Appropriation	\$135,783	\$200,648

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and authorize the Officers to spend on **HIGHWAY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS**.

HWY CAP IMPROVEMENTS	2022	2023
Revenue/Excise Tax	\$116,500	\$116,500
Reserves	\$ -	\$ -
Total Appropriation	\$116,500	\$116,500

ARTICLE 16: If Article 18 is approved, to see if the Town will vote to transfer any remaining unexpended funds for Highway Capital Improvements to the **Highway Capital Road Reserve** at the end of FY 2023, and to further authorize the select board to make expenditures from the account thereafter for these purposes without further vote of the town.

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and authorize the officers to spend \$10,000 for the **HIGHWAY CAPITAL EQUIPMENT RESERVE**.

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and authorize the Officers to spend for **WINTER ROADS**.

WINTER ROADS	2022	2023
Local Taxes	\$ 78,909	\$ 88,900
Revenue/Excise Tax	\$ 95,000	\$ 95,000
Carry-Forward	\$ -	\$ -
Total Appropriation	\$173,909	\$183,900

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and authorize the Officers to spend for **GENERAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS**.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT	2022	2023
Local Taxes	\$122,062	\$243,520
Revenues	\$115,000	\$121,000
Fund Balance	\$ 45,000	\$ -
Total Appropriation	\$282,062	\$364,520

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and authorize the Officers to spend for **GENERAL ASSISTANCE**.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE	2022	2023
Local Taxes	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
Total Appropriation	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and authorize the Officers to spend for **TAX ABATEMENTS**.

TAX ABATEMENTS	2022	2023
Local Taxes	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
Fund Balance	\$ 18,000	\$ 0
Total Appropriation	\$ 20,000	\$ 2,000

ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and authorize the officers to spend \$10,000 for the **TAX MAP AND REVALUATION RESERVE**.

ARTICLE 23: To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and authorize the Officers to spend for **LIBRARY OPERATIONS**. *Note: Budget supports library operations at the Patten Lumbermen's Museum.*

LIBRARY	2022	2023
Local Taxes	\$ 14,880	\$ 43,750
Income	\$ -	\$ 600
Culture & Recreation Reserve	\$ 20,000	\$ 0
Total Appropriation	\$ 34,880	\$ 44,350

ARTICLE 24: To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and authorize the Officers to spend for **PARKS AND RECREATION OPERATIONS**.

PARKS & REC	2022	2023
Local Taxes	\$ 14,700	\$ 23,900
<i>Donation for Playground</i>	\$ -	\$ 5,000
Total Appropriation	\$ 14,700	\$ 28,900

ARTICLE 25: To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and authorize the officers to spend \$500 for the **COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS RESERVE**.

ARTICLE 26: To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and authorize the officers to spend \$2,000 for the **PATTEN ACADEMY PARK RESERVE.**

ARTICLE 27: To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and authorize the Officers to spend for **NON-MUNICIPAL ORGANIZATIONS.**

NON-MUNICIPAL	2022	2023
Patten Little League	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Patten Playground Committee	\$ 2,000	\$ -
Patten Lumbermen's Museum	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Patten Historical Society	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Patten ATV Club	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Patten Area Women's Club	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
Eastern Area Agency on Aging	\$ 400	\$ 400
Patten Community Food Cupboard	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Masonic Lodge	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
Total Appropriation	\$ 10,900	\$ 8,900

ARTICLE 28: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Officers to spend for **AMBULANCE SERVICE OPERATIONS.**

AMBULANCE	2022	2023
Revenues	\$ 445,206	\$544,793
Total Appropriation	\$ 445,206	\$544,793

ARTICLE 29: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Officers to spend on **WATER DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS.**

WATER DEPT	2022	2023
Local Taxes	\$	\$ 4,755
Revenues	\$ 72,955	\$ 79,500
Total Appropriation	\$ 72,955	\$ 84,505

ARTICLE 30: To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and authorize the officers to spend for **SEWER DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS.**

SEWER DEPT	2022	2023
Local Taxes	\$ 15,950	\$ 23,950
Revenues	\$ 20,500	\$ 22,000
Total Appropriation	\$ 36,450	\$ 45,950

Each year sewer operations cost more than the department earns; the portion of expenses that cannot be paid with revenues are recognized as a deficit to the Sewer Department which must be covered through raising taxes.

ARTICLE 31: To see if the Town would vote to increase the property tax levy limit established for the Town of Patten, by State Law, if the municipal budget approved under the preceding articles will result in a tax commitment that is greater than the property tax levy limit.

ARTICLE 32: To see if the Town will vote to charge interest on 2023 taxes unpaid as of a certain date. All checks will be credited as of the date the Town receives payment. If so, what rate of interest and what date?

2023 Recommendation: 8% Interest, 60 Days from Commitment Date

ARTICLE 33: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector to accept prepayment of taxes for the Year 2024 not yet due or committed pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. § 506, for the purpose of conducting a TWELVE PAYMENT TAX CLUB, beginning January 1 and ending December 31, 2024 with interest to accrue on any unpaid balance after December 31st; and to accept prepayment of taxes for the Year 2024 from anyone wishing to make any early payment on the 2024 taxes from January 1, 2024 to the date of commitment.

ARTICLE 34: To see if the Town will vote NOT TO PAY INTEREST to participants of the tax club and all other early payments of taxes not yet due or assessed.

ARTICLE 35: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Officers on behalf of the Town to sell or dispose of any real estate acquired by the Town for non-payment of taxes or liens, both real estate and sewer, and if sold, on such terms as are legally permitted and are deemed advisable, and to execute a quit claim deed on the conveyance of such property. The Board reserves the option to retain property if the market value is not favorable and to retain property if they feel it is needed for town use.

ARTICLE 36: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Officers to purchase, acquire, or exchange such equipment as deemed necessary for the operation and maintenance of an Ambulance Service, Fire Department, and/or repairs of roads and properties within the Town and to sell, barter, transfer, or salvage any equipment deemed surplus or beyond economical repair.

ARTICLE 37: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer to receive incidental fees and receipts and to credit such revenues to the correspondent accounts.

ARTICLE 38: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and authorize the Officers to spend the incidental fees and receipts cited in Article 36.

ARTICLE 39: To see if the Town will vote to transfer Town funds received from the State of Maine for Snowmobile Registrations and Snowmobile Grants to the ROCKABEMA SNOW RANGERS CLUB providing the club shall use such revenues for projects benefiting the public.

ARTICLE 40: To see if the Town will vote to transfer Town funds received from the State of Maine for ATV Grants to the PATTEN ATV CLUB providing the club shall use such revenues for projects benefiting the public.

ARTICLE 41: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to apply for Federal, State of Maine and other grants, on behalf of the Town, in the general operations of the Town and other funds, to make such assurances and exercise such authority necessary and reasonable to implement such programs as they deem advisable.

ARTICLE 42: Shall the Town vote to accept the categories of funds listed below as provided by the State of Maine Legislature (MRSA Title 30-A, Subsection 5682)

- Bureau of Conservation
- Excise Tax
- State Revenue Sharing
- Veterans Exemption Reimbursement
- Tree Growth Reimbursement
- General Assistance Reimbursement
- Property Tax Relief Funds
- Secretary of State Reimbursement
- Homestead Exemption Reimbursement
- Civil Emergency (FEMA/MEMA)
- Library State Aid
- Snowmobile Grants/ Revenues
- Snowmobile Registrations
- Department of Environmental Protection Grants/Funds
- Department of Economic & Community Development Grants/Funds
- Department of Transportation Local Road Assistance
- Other Federal and State funds not listed above.

ARTICLE 43: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to spend an amount not to exceed 25% of the estimated budget amount in each category of the Patten Annual Budget for the period of January 1, 2024, to April 25, 2024.

ARTICLE 44: To see if the Town will vote to set the date and time of the next TOWN MEETING to be held in 2024.

ARTICLE 45: To see if the town will vote to transfer title of the Old Baptist Church located at 30 Main Street Patten, Maine to the Patten Historical Society pending review of the transfer by legal counsel.

RECOMMEND: April 25, 2024, at 6:00 P.M.

SELECTMEN OF PATTEN

RETURN

Town of Patten, County of Penobscot, State of Maine. Pursuant to the within Warrant, I have notified and warned the Inhabitants of the Town of Patten, qualified as therein expressed, to meet at the times and places for the purposes, therein named, posting this day attested copies of the Writ in Warrant, at the Patten Town Office, Patten Post Office and Patten Fire House, the same being public and conspicuous places within the Town, and on the Town's website.

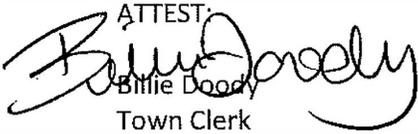
DATED AT PATTEN, MAINE this 18 day of April 2023.

Respectfully submitted,



David Goode
Citizen of Patten

ATTEST:



Billie Doody
Town Clerk