

TOWN OF MEDFORD
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
JULY 21st, 2025

Meeting was called to order by Amanda Kahl, Clerk of Medford, at 6:33PM with 14 voters in attendance and 5 non-voters in attendance. Marie Drinkwater and Molly Genthner served as ballot clerks.

Piscataquis, ss.

To Derek Brewer, resident of the Town of Medford, County of Piscataquis, State of Maine:

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Medford, in said County, qualified by law to vote in town affairs, to meet at the Medford Community Center in said town on Monday, July 21st, 2025 at 6:30 P.M., then and there to act on the following articles, to wit:

ARTICLE 1. To choose a moderator to preside at said meeting.

Nomination from the floor for Forrest Genthner was given and Mr. Genthner was voted to serve as moderator with 3 votes cast.

ARTICLE 2. To choose one (1) Selectman to also serve as Assessor of Taxes and Overseer for a term of three (3) years. (Term expiring – Lori Anthony)

Nomination from the floor for Lori Anthony was given and Mrs. Anthony was voted as Selectman with 4 ballots cast.

ARTICLE 3. To choose one (1) Selectman to also serve as Assessor of Taxes and Overseer for a term of three (3) years. (Term expiring – Robert Ellison)

Nomination from the floor for Robert Ellison was given and Mr. Ellison was voted as Selectman with 4 ballots cast.

ARTICLE 4. To choose one (1) member of the Superintending School Committee for a term of three (3) years. (Term expiring – Christine DeWitt)

Nomination from the floor for Christine DeWitt was given and Mrs. DeWitt was voted as Superintending School Committee with 5 ballots cast.

ARTICLE 5. To choose at least three (3) members to serve on the Budget Committee for a term of one (1) year. (Terms expiring – Ken True, Stephen Muffatti, Marie Drinkwater, Carol Hudak)

Upon motion made from the floor, Ken True, Stephen Muffatti, Marie Drinkwater, and Carol Hudak were nominated to serve on the Budget Committee for a term of one (1) year. All were elected unanimously.

EDUCATION

ARTICLE 6. To see what sum the Town will be authorized to expend for Regular Instruction.

Recommend \$ 518,125.00

Upon a motion duly made it was voted to authorize the town to expend \$518, 125.00 for Regular Instruction.

ARTICLE 7. To see what sum the Town will be authorized to expend for Special Education.

Recommend \$ 75,000.00

Upon a motion duly made it was voted to authorize the town to expend \$75,000.00 for Special Education.

ARTICLE 8. To see what sum the Town will be authorized to expend for System Administration.

Recommend \$ 8,795.00

Upon a motion duly made it was voted to authorize the town to expend \$8,795.00 for System Administration.

ARTICLE 9. To see what sum the Town will be authorized to expend for Transportation and Buses.

Recommend \$ 49,000.00

Ken Matthewson raised a question as to why the Town of Medford pays for transportation to two different schools. David Walker explained that students in Medford have a choice to attend any school district since Medford is a tuition town, and that transportation is provided for MSAD #31 and MSAD #41. Lori Anthony further explained that the bus routes are limited, and if a student lives outside of the route for a given district, parents are expected to transport their student to the nearest bus stop or self-transport to school. David Walker then added that transportation is calculated as a subset of tuition per student attending the two districts, not by the number of buses running.

Upon a motion duly made it was voted to authorize the town to expend \$49,000.00 for Transportation and Buses.

ARTICLE 10. To see what sum the Town will be authorized to expend for Career and Technical Education, Other Instruction, Student and Staff Support, School Administration, Facilities Maintenance, Debt Service and Other Commitments, and All Other Expenditures.

Recommend \$ -0-

Upon a motion duly made it was voted to authorize the town to expend \$0.00 for Career and Technical Education, Other Instruction, Student and Staff Support, School Administration, Facilities Maintenance, Debt Service and Other Commitments, and All Other Expenditures.

ARTICLE 11. To see what sum the Town of Medford will appropriate for the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade twelve as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act. (Recommend \$650,920.00) and to see what sum the Town of Medford will raise as the Town's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade twelve as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15688.

Recommend \$175,070.00

Explanation: The Town's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade twelve as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act is the amount of money determined by state law to be the minimum amount that the Town must raise (\$175,070.00) in order to receive the full amount of state dollars (\$380,736.83).

Upon a motion duly made it was voted to authorize the town to appropriate \$175,070.00 for the Town's contribution to funding education.

ARTICLE 12. To see what sum the Town of Medford will raise and/or appropriate in additional local funds (**Recommend \$95,113.17**) which exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services funding model by \$95,113.17. The School Committee recommends additional local funds in the amount of \$95,113.17 for the following reasons:

1. The operating allocation provided by the Essential Programs and Services Funding Model is inadequate to meet the needs of the Medford school budget.

Marie Drinkwater stated that the total we needed to raise is only \$73,113.17 because we were also intending to cover some of the expense with an appropriation from Tuition Reserve. David Walker explained that we still need the article worded as written to satisfy the State auditor's standards. There was some confusion about what the language of the article meant. Derek Brewer explained the difference between "appropriating" and "raising" for legal language. Ultimately, it was decided that the article's written wording was appropriate.

Upon a motion duly made it was voted to authorize the town to raise and/or appropriate \$95,113.17 in additional local funds for Education.

ARTICLE 13. To see what sum the Town of Medford will authorize the school committee to expend for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026 from the Town's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade twelve as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act, additional local funds for school purposes under Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15690, unexpended balances, tuition receipts, state subsidy and other receipts for the support of schools.

Recommend \$650,920.00

Upon a motion duly made it was voted to authorize the town to expend \$650,920.00 for Education.

ARTICLE 14. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$22,000.00 from Tuition Reserve to apply toward the additional local funds required for Education.

(The Budget Committee recommends appropriating \$22,000.00 from Tuition Reserve.)

Upon a motion duly made it was voted to authorize the town to appropriate \$22,000.00 from Tuition Reserve to apply toward the additional local funds required for Education.

ARTICLE 15. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to carry forward the following balances:

Administration	\$19,484.30
Town Office	\$50.20
Church	\$3,051.99
Community Center	\$1,741.98
Capital Improvement	\$10,521.79
Appropriations	\$13,913.24
ARPA	\$5,572.07
Cemeteries	\$1,244.23
Animal Control	\$1,839.17
Planning Board	\$1,971.74
LPI/CEO	\$1,955.43
Waste Disposal	\$16,437.72
Town Roads – Cap Improv	\$8,911.09
Winter Roads	\$9,629.86
Memorial Park	\$42.45
Recreation	\$417.65
Fire Protection	\$6,675.00
General Assistance	\$8,772.81

(Budget Committee recommends carrying forward the above balances)

Upon a motion duly made it was voted to authorize the town to carry forward all remaining balances as written.

ARTICLE 16. To see if the Town will vote to split the Snowmobile refund and credit directly to the L.A. Sledders Snowmobile Club and the Devils Sledders Snowmobile Club. Last year the amount received was \$139.02.

(Budget Committee makes no recommendation)

Upon a motion duly made it was voted to authorize the town to split the Snowmobile refund and credit between the L.A. Sledders Snowmobile Club and the Devils Sledders Snowmobile Club.

ARTICLE 17. To see if the Town will vote to fix the date when taxes shall be due and payable and to see if the Town will fix a rate of interest to be collected after that date.

(Last year the date was set for 60 days after date of commitment and the rate of interest at 8.5%. The State maximum rate this year is 7.5%.)

Upon a motion duly made it was voted to fix the date when taxes shall be due at 60 days after date of commitment and the rate of interest at 7.5%.

ARTICLE 18. To see if the Town will vote to accept the following categories of State of Maine funds during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026.

Municipal Revenue Sharing

LRAP

Civil Emergency Funds

Snowmobile Registration Refund

Tree Growth Reimbursement

VA Reimbursement

Homestead Exemption Reimbursement

Education Subsidies

AND State Grants or OTHER funds (this category would include all other funds received from State of Maine not included in the above listing.

Upon a motion duly made it was voted for the town to accept all State of Maine funds as listed.

ARTICLE 19. To see if the Town will set the stipends for the Selectmen.

(The Budget Committee recommendation for stipend for Chairman is \$22,880 - depending on experience and knowledge of the job; recommended stipend for remaining Selectmen is \$25.00 per meeting.)

Upon a motion duly made it was voted for the town to set the stipend for Chairman of the Board of Selectman at \$22,880.00, and the stipend for all other Selectmen at \$25.00 per meeting.

ARTICLE 20. To see if the Town will set the stipend for Town Clerk & Registrar of Voters.

(Budget Committee recommends \$23,452.00 as the stipend for the appointed position of the Town Clerk & Registrar of Voters).

Upon a motion duly made it was voted for the town to set the stipend for the Town Clerk & Registrar of Voters at \$23,452.00.

ARTICLE 21. To see if the Town will set the stipend for Tax Collector & Treasurer.

(Budget Committee recommends \$22,000.00 as the stipend for the appointed position of the Tax Collector & Treasurer.)

Upon a motion duly made it was voted for the town to set the stipend for Tax Collector & Treasurer at \$22,000.00.

ARTICLE 22. To see if the town will set the stipends for the Planning Board.

(Recommendation is \$10.00 per meeting, \$20.00 per meeting for Chairman and \$15.00 per meeting for Secretary)

Upon a motion duly made it was voted for the town to set the stipends for the Planning Board at \$10.00 per meeting, \$20.00 per meeting for the Chairman, and \$15.00 per meeting for the Secretary.

ARTICLE 23. To see if the town will set the stipends for the Budget Committee.

(Recommendation is \$20.00 per meeting)

Upon a motion duly made it was voted for the town to set the stipends for the Budget Committee at \$20.00 per meeting.

ARTICLE 24. To see what sum, if any, the town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Administration (General Government).

(Budget Committee recommends raising and appropriating \$95,000)

Upon motion duly made it was voted for the town to raise and appropriate \$95,000.00 for Administration.

ARTICLE 25. To see what sum, if any, the town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for the Comprehensive Plan.

(Budget Committee recommends appropriating \$38,500 from surplus for the Comprehensive Plan)

Upon motion duly made it was voted for the town to appropriate \$38,500.00 from Surplus for the Comprehensive Plan.

ARTICLE 26. To see what sum, if any, the town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Town Office Expense.

(Budget Committee recommends raising and appropriating \$9,000.00)

Upon motion duly made it was voted for the town to raise and appropriate \$9,000.00 for Town Office Expense.

ARTICLE 27. To see what sum, if any, the town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for the Church.

(Budget Committee recommends raising and appropriating \$500.00)

Upon motion duly made it was voted for the town to raise and appropriate \$500.00 for the Church.

ARTICLE 28. To see what sum, if any, the town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for the Community Center.

(Budget Committee recommends raising and appropriating \$6,500.00)

Upon motion duly made it was voted for the town to raise and appropriate \$6,500.00 for the Community Center.

ARTICLE 29. To see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Cemetery Care.

(Budget Committee recommends raising and appropriating \$8,000.00.)

Ken Matthewson asked why the budget for Cemetery Care had jumped so significantly over previous years. Lori Anthony explained that there are a number of dead and damaged trees in the cemeteries that need to be removed or trimmed. The recommended amount should cover a quote for the work in Schoodic Cemetery, with the other two cemeteries to be addressed in following years.

Upon motion duly made it was voted for the town to raise and appropriate \$8,000.00 for Cemetery Care.

ARTICLE 30. To see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Medford Memorial Park.

(Budget Committee recommends raising and appropriating \$2,000.00 for the Memorial Park.)

Upon motion duly made it was voted for the town to raise and appropriate \$2,000.00 for the Memorial Park.

ARTICLE 31. To see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Recreation.

(Budget Committee recommends carrying forward remaining balance only.)

Upon motion duly made it was voted for the town to carry forward the remaining balance of Recreation funds.

ARTICLE 32. To see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Animal Control.

(Budget Committee recommends carrying forward remaining balance only.)

Upon motion duly made it was voted for the town to carry forward the remaining balance of Animal Control funds.

ARTICLE 33. To see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Planning Board Expenses.

(Budget Committee recommends carrying forward remaining balance only.)

Upon motion duly made it was voted for the town to carry forward the remaining balance of Planning Board funds.

ARTICLE 34. To see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Code Enforcement.

(Budget Committee recommends raising and appropriating \$500.00 for Code Enforcement.)

Lori Anthony explained that our previous Code Enforcement Officer quit unexpectedly. A new candidate has been found to take over the position, but his requested stipend is higher than our previous CEO. With this in mind, it was recommended to increase the amount raised and appropriated to \$1,000.00. Ken True asked how long the new Code Enforcement Officer would be working with us. Lori Anthony explained that he will be sworn in for a one year term.

Upon motion duly made it was voted for the town to raise and appropriate \$1,000.00 for Code Enforcement.

ARTICLE 35. To see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Waste Disposal.

(Budget Committee recommends raising and appropriating \$65,000.00)

Upon motion duly made it was voted for the town to raise and appropriate \$65,000.00 for Waste Disposal.

ARTICLE 36. To see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Fire Protection.

(Budget Committee recommends raising and appropriating \$11,000.00)

Upon motion duly made it was voted for the town to raise and appropriate \$11,000.00 for Fire Protection.

ARTICLE 37. To see what sum, if any the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Three Rivers Ambulance.

(Budget Committee recommends raising and appropriating \$2,345.00)

Upon motion duly made it was voted for the town to raise and appropriate \$2,345.00 for Three Rivers Ambulance.

ARTICLE 38. To see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Eastern Agency on Aging. (Request for \$200)

(Budget Committee makes no recommendation)

Upon motion duly made it was voted for the town to raise and appropriate \$200.00 for Eastern Agency on Aging.

ARTICLE 39. To see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Pine Tree Hospice. (Request for \$250.00)

(Budget Committee makes no recommendation)

Upon motion duly made it was voted for the town to raise and appropriate \$250.00 for Pine Tree Hospice.

ARTICLE 40. To see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Penquis. (Request for \$2,972.00)

(Budget Committee makes no recommendation)

A question was raised about how much the town sent Penquis last year. David Walker had last year's minutes on hand and reported that the town sent Penquis \$2,954.00 last year.

Upon motion duly made it was voted for the town to raise and appropriate \$2,972.00 for Penquis.

ARTICLE 41. To see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Life Flight. (Request for \$230.00)

(Budget Committee makes no recommendation)

Upon motion duly made it was voted for the town to raise and appropriate \$230.00 for Life Flight.

ARTICLE 42. To see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Maine Public Broadcasting. (Request for \$150.00)

(Budget Committee makes no recommendation)

Upon motion duly made it was voted for the town to raise and appropriate \$150.00 for Maine Public Broadcasting.

ARTICLE 43. To see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Partners for Peace. (Request for \$600.00)

(Budget Committee makes no recommendation)

Lena Holbrook-True asked what Partners for Peace is. Lori Anthony explained the services provided by Partners for Peace.

Upon motion duly made it was voted for the town to raise and appropriate \$600.00 for Partners for Peace.

ARTICLE 44. To see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Lake Stewards of Maine. (Request for \$200.00)

(Budget Committee makes no recommendation)

Lena Holbrook-True asked what Lake Stewards of Maine is. Mariana Calderon read an explanation from a letter the organization sent us explaining their work. Amanda Kahl also mentioned that last year they requested \$600.00 and the town voted to send them \$200.00.

Upon motion duly made it was voted for the town to raise and appropriate \$200.00 for Lake Stewards of Maine.

ARTICLE 45. To see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for General Assistance.

(Budget Committee recommends carrying forward remaining balance only)

Upon motion duly made it was voted for the town to carry forward the remaining balance of General Assistance funds.

ARTICLE 46. To see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for maintenance of Town Roads.

(Budget Committee recommends raising and appropriating \$30,000.00 for maintenance of Town Roads)

Ken Matthewson commented that he believes the amount recommended is inadequate to meet the town's needs. He stated that North Road is in need of many repairs. Lori Anthony explained that she has consulted with a paving company to assess which areas need work the most urgently and we are prioritizing those sections. Ken Matthewson also asked if roadside tree work and trimming will be covered by this part of the budget. Lori Anthony assured him that it is included.

Amanda Kahl also explained that some of the summertime maintenance is behind schedule this year because the Road Maintenance budget was already overdrawn for the last fiscal year.

Lori Anthony further explained some of the upcoming roadwork projects, to include replacing and reengineering the culverts at the bottom of Firetower Road and adding material to Trestle Road to build a crown back into it.

Upon motion duly made it was voted for the town to raise and appropriate \$30,000.00 for maintenance of Town Roads.

ARTICLE 47. To see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Capital Improvement of town roads.

(Budget Committee recommends appropriating \$30,000.00 from LRAP funds, and raising and appropriating \$10,000.00 in taxes for Capital Improvement of Town Roads)

Upon motion duly made it was voted for the town to appropriate \$30,000.00 from LRAP funds and to raise and appropriate \$10,000.00 for Capital Improvement of Town Roads.

ARTICLE 48. To see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Winter Roads and the Sand/Salt Lot.

(Budget Committee recommends raising and appropriating \$117,500.00 for Winter Road Maintenance and Sand/Salt expenses)

Upon motion duly made it was voted for the town to raise and appropriate \$117,500.00 for Winter Road Maintenance and Sand/Salt expenses.

ARTICLE 49. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the expenditures from the Town Road Account after June 30, 2026 if any balance remains.

Note: This ensures that road work may continue from that date to the date of Town Meeting.

Upon motion duly made it was voted for the town to authorize expenditures from the Town Road Account after June 30th, 2026.

ARTICLE 50. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$2,972.25 from Undesignated Fund Balance (“Surplus”) to cover overdrafts in the Town Roads account for Fiscal Year 2024.

(Budget Committee makes no recommendation)

Forrest Genthner noted that the article should read “Fiscal Year 2025” instead.

Upon motion duly made it was voted for the town to appropriate \$2,972.25 from Undesignated Fund Balance to cover overdrafts in the Town Roads account for the Fiscal Year 2025.

ARTICLE 51. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$54,316.00 for the County Tax.

(Budget Committee recommends raising and appropriating \$54,316.00 for County Tax, as well as carrying forward a remaining balance of \$200.00 to cover the total County Tax bill of \$54,516.00)

Upon motion duly made it was voted for the town to raise and appropriate \$54,316.00 for County Tax, as well as carrying forward a remaining balance of \$200.00.

ARTICLE 52. To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen to take up to the sum of \$20,000.00 from Fund Balance (Surplus) to be applied as a reduction to the total commitment of taxes as needed to stabilize the mil rate.

(Budget Committee recommends appropriating up to \$20,000.00 from surplus.)

Amanda Kahl explained that the language of “up to” means that the Selectmen may or many not use this full amount. Since the town is still in the middle of a revaluation we are not sure where the mil rate will end up, and this will allow the Selectmen to stabilize the mil rate as needed.

Upon motion duly made it was voted for the town to authorize the Selectmen to take up to \$20,000.00 from Fund Balance to be applied as a reduction of the total commitment of taxes as needed to stabilize the mil rate.

ARTICLE 53. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen, on behalf of the Town, to sell Tax-Acquired Property and to execute Quit-Claim Deeds for same. 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).

Upon motion duly made it was voted for the town to accept Article 53 as written.

For other business, Kent Black expressed his appreciation for the hard work of the Budget Committee and office staff, noting especially the expertise and dedication of Marie Drinkwater.

Having voted on all prepared Articles, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55PM