

TOWN OF SOUTH BERWICK  
WARRANT  
2024/2025

State of Maine

County of York, ss.

TO: Linda Wozny, a Resident of South Berwick in the County of York, State of Maine.

GREETINGS:

In the name of the Town of South Berwick, you are required to notify the inhabitants of said Town, qualified to vote in Town affairs, to assemble at the Town Hall on 180 Main Street in said Town on Tuesday, the 21<sup>st</sup> of May 2024, at 6:00 o'clock in the evening, then and there to act on the following articles:

ARTICLE 1. To elect a moderator to preside at said meeting. Election to take place at 6:00 p.m. Business session will be held immediately following.

ARTICLE 2. To see if the Town will authorize the Town Council to dispose of tax acquired property in any manner in which the Town Council deems to be in the best interests of the Town.

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS: Adoption

ARTICLE 3. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector to charge and collect interest at a rate of eight (8.5) percent per annum on all unpaid taxes not paid by the due dates, with one-half of the taxes due on September 30, 2024 and one-half due on March 31, 2025.

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS: Adoption

ARTICLE 4. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector to accept prepayment of taxes not yet due or assessed. Any excess paid in over the amount finally assessed shall be repaid at zero (0) percent interest.

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS: Adoption

ARTICLE 5. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector to continue an eight (8) month payment plan known as the "Tax Club", with interest waived for all members of the Club making regular payments in accordance with the rules and regulations governing said Club.

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS: Adoption

ARTICLE 6. To see if the Town will vote to set the rate of interest paid on overpayment of taxes due to abatement at four (4.25) percent per annum as per MRSA36/506A.

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS: Adoption

ARTICLE 7. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Undesignated Fund for the payment of property tax abatements (and applicable interest) granted during this fiscal year.

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS: Adoption

ARTICLE 8. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the deposit of all proceeds from the Parking Lease Agreement between the Town and Avesta Young Street LP dated December 12, 2014 and December 22, 2015 into a non-lapsing designated reserve account and to appropriate and expend those funds to pay any costs associated with the repair and maintenance of said parking lot.

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS: Adoption

ARTICLE 9. To see if the voters will allow the Town Council to utilize funds from the TIF Accounts for the purposes denoted in the Final TIF agreements approved in 2023.

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS: Adoption

ARTICLE 10. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following amounts for Police Services:

Police Department/Animal Control	\$ 1,606,190
Dispatch	<u>287,055</u>
Total	\$1,893,245

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:

Raise and appropriate from general taxation and other revenue sources	\$1,893,245
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ARTICLE 11. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following amounts for Emergency Services:

Fire Department/Emergency Management Services	\$ 392,922
Water Hydrants/Fire Protection	329,709
Ambulance/Rescue Services	<u>195,040</u>
Total	\$ 917,671

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:

Raise and appropriate from general taxation and other revenue sources	\$ 917,671
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ARTICLE 12. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following amounts for Public Works:

Town Hall	\$ 110,712
Community Center	80,512
Community Center Food Pantry	200
Highway	1,174,911
Public Parks/Fields/Monuments	66,735
Town Garage Buildings	36,100
Transfer Station	<u>594,767</u>
Total	\$ 2,063,937

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:

Raise and appropriate from general taxation and other revenue sources	\$ 2,063,937
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ARTICLE 13. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$99,800 from the Department of Transportation Highway Block Grant (URIP/LRAP) funds and raise and appropriate the following amounts for Capital Improvements – Roads and Road Bond Debt:

CIP Roads	\$ 280,000
Road Bond Debt	<u>378,000</u>
Total	\$ 658,000

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:

Appropriate from DOT Highway Block Grant (URIP/LRAP) \$ 99,800  
and

Raise and appropriate from general taxation and other revenue sources	\$ 558,200
Total	\$ 658,000

ARTICLE 14. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$900,000 from Undesignated funds and to raise and appropriate for the following amounts for General Government:

Town Council	\$ 9,250
Town Manager	246,925
Town Clerk	173,018
Finance	139,659
Computer	70,733
Administration	243,699
Tax Assessment	164,826
Employee Benefits	1,714,100
Streetlights	<u>7,500</u>
Total	\$ 2,769,710

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:

Appropriate from Undesignated Fund Balance	\$900,000
Raise and appropriate from general taxation and other revenue sources	\$ 1,869,710
Total	\$ 2,769,710

ARTICLE 15. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from general taxation and other revenue sources the following amounts for Debt Service:

Young Street Debt	\$ 37,741
2010 CIP Debt	45,723
Library Construction Debt	107,375
Police Bond	278,765
Hwy Equipment	27,143
Hwy Building	<u>29,980</u>
Total	\$ 526,727

Raise and appropriate from general taxation and other revenue sources	\$ 526,727
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ARTICLE 16. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following amounts for Code Enforcement and Health Departments:

Code Enforcement	\$ 102,788
Planning	91,807
Historic District Commission	500
Zoning Board of Appeals	<u>750</u>
Total	\$ 195,845

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:

Raise and appropriate from general taxation and other revenue sources	\$ 195,845
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ARTICLE 17. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following amounts for Public Welfare:

Social Services/General Assistance	\$ 40,800
Social/Civic Contributions	11,500
Recreation	158,841
Conservation Commission	4,750
Library	<u>265,174</u>
Total	\$ 481,065

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:

Raise and appropriate from general taxation and other revenue sources	\$ 481,065
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ARTICLE 18. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following amounts for Capital Improvements – Reserves:

Highway Equipment	\$ 118,125
Office Equipment	8,000
Fire Equipment	87,500
Police Equipment	75,000
Transfer Station	72,000
Town Buildings Reserve	80,000
Compensated Absence Reserve	50,000
Land/Code Ordinance Update	15,000
Town Clerk Record Preservation	1,500
Assessing Town Revaluation	<u>75,150</u>
Total	\$ 582,275

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:

Raise and appropriate from general taxation and other revenue sources	\$ 582,275
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ARTICLE 19. To see if the Town will vote to apply the following amounts from Excise Taxes, Non-Tax General Fund Revenues, Revenue Sharing, BETE Reimbursement and Homestead Exemption Reimbursement to use toward the 2024/2025 Budget Appropriations, thereby decreasing the amount to be raised by taxation.

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS:

Excise Taxes	\$ 1,445,000
Non-Tax General Fund Revenues	1,604,489
State Revenue Sharing	1,255,000
Homestead Exemption Reimbursement	450,000
BETE Reimbursement	<u>13,000</u>
Total	\$ 4,767,489

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS: Adoption

ARTICLE 20. To see if the Town of South Berwick will vote to appropriate up to \$200,000 from the Undesignated Fund to the Great Works Regional Land Trust to support public access to the Salmon Falls Tidal Water property on Old Fields Road. The Town's funds will be used for stewardship startup costs related to the Salmon Falls Tidal Waters project to include developing a management plan, engineer and construct a parking area, trails, viewing areas, signage, and informational and educational kiosks. The Town Council will review and authorize for such costs submitted by the Great Works Regional Land Trust, within the discretion of the council. This Warrant Article replaces the fall 2022 decision by voters to approve \$250,000 in Undesignated Funds to purchase lands for this project.

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS: Adoption

ARTICLE 21. To see if the Town will vote to increase the property tax levy limit of \$ 5,854,945 established for the Town of South Berwick 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.

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS: Adoption

ARTICLE 22. To see if the Town will vote to adjourn the Town Meeting.

Given under our hands in the Town of South Berwick, this 9th day of April 2024 A.D.

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Mallory Cook

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John J James

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Jeff Minihan

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Jessica Cyr

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Melissa Costella