

WARRANT TOWN OF WEST GARDINER

To: Tina J. Marks
Resident of West Gardiner in the County of Kennebec

GREETINGS:

In the name of the State of Maine you are hereby required to notify and warn the voters of West Gardiner in said county, qualified by law to vote in Town Affairs, to meet at the West Gardiner Town Hall in said Town on Saturday the 17th of March AD 2018 at 8:00 a.m. in the morning then and there to act on the following articles to wit:

ARTICLE 1. To choose a Moderator to preside over said meeting.

John Clarke - 3 votes

ARTICLE 2. To elect all Town officers required by law and previous vote of the Town to be chosen by secret ballot. Namely: Selectman, Assessor, Overseer of the Poor, Road Commissioner, and RSU #11 School Board Member in accordance with provisions of Title 30, Section 2061 of the Revised Statutes of 1964 and acts additional thereto and amendatory thereof. The polls will be open at 8:00 a.m. in the morning and closed at 12:00 noon.

Selectman, Assessor, Overseer of the Poor: Gregory Couture – 117, Chris McLaughlin – 6, Donald Goggin – 2, Victor Goodwin Jr – 2, Blank/Scattered Votes – 8

RSU#11 School Board Member: Debra Couture – 112, Mike Wing – 2, Scattered/Blank Votes – 21

Road Commissioner: Gary Hickey – 126, Blank/Scattered Votes: 9

The Business Meeting will open at 1:30 p.m. in the afternoon, March 17, 2018 at the West Gardiner Town Hall then and there to act on the following articles to wit:

-) **Motion made for out of town attendants to speak at Town Meeting, 2nd, all approved**
-) **Members running for the upcoming Election - Charlotte Warren for House of Representative, Shanna Bellows for Senate Representative, Earle McCormick for House of Representative, Matthew Stone for Senate Representative.**
-) **Fire Chief Gary Hickey II – presentation of plaque to Tim Small for 50 years of service to WGVFD**
-) **Chairman of Select Board Greg Couture – presentation of 2018 Spirit of America certificate awarded to Tom Abbott.**
-) **Joe Ware – thanking everyone for the Dedication of the Town Report**

ADMINISTRATIVE ACCOUNTS

ARTICLE 3. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the selectmen to spend up to 25% of the budgeted amount in each budget category of the current annual budget during the period from the beginning of the next fiscal year to the next annual town meeting or take any other action thereon.

Carried as written

ARTICLE 4. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate a sum of money for the payment of interest on tax anticipated loans.

Selectmen Recommend: from Surplus

Carried as written

ARTICLE 5. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate a sum of money for the salaries of Town Officials or take any other action thereon.

Selectmen recommend:	\$164,777.00 (17)	\$171,465.00 (18) From Excise Tax
Selectmen	\$ 24,000.00	\$ 24,000.00
Administrative Assistant/ Excise Tax Collector/ Town Clerk	\$ 46,798.00	\$ 47,733.00
Treasurer & Tax Collector	\$ 38,943.00	\$ 39,722.00
Clerical Help	\$ 29,716.00	\$ 30,310.00
Fire Chief	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Fire Department Officers	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 3,000.00
Fire Wardens	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Animal Control Officer	\$ 4,200.00	\$ 4,200.00
Code Enforcement Officer	\$ 10,120.00	\$ 11,000.00
Ballot Clerks	\$ 0.00	\$ 3,000.00
E-911 Coordinator	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00

Carried as written

ARTICLE 6. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate a sum of money for the Administrative Account and to authorize the Selectmen to expend any receipts to the Administrative Account, and carry any money forward into accounts as may be deemed necessary or take any other action thereon.

Selectmen Recommend: \$ 45,000.00 (17) \$ 45,000.00 (18)

Carried as written

ARTICLE 7. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate a sum of money for the town website to be developed and maintained or take any other action thereon.

Selectmen Recommend: \$ 2,500.00 (17) \$ 1,200.00 (18) From Excise Tax

Carried as written

ARTICLE 8. To see if the town will vote to raise or appropriate a sum of money for the Town Insurance Account or take any other action thereon.

Selectmen Recommend: \$140,000.00 (17) \$ 145,000.00 (18)

Discussion as to why the slight increase – Greg spoke of all insurances increasing

Carried as written

ARTICLE 9. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate a sum of money for the Town Fuel Account or take any other action thereon.

Selectmen Recommend: \$20,000.00 (17) \$ 40,000.00 (18) From Excise Tax

Discussion as to why the double in allotment – Greg spoke of the increase in all fuels – heating, diesel, gas statewide

Carried as written

ARTICLE 10. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector to accept pre-payment on taxes not yet committed or take any other action thereon.

Carried as written

ARTICLE 11. To see if the Town will vote to set a rate of interest to be charged on unpaid taxes and set a date after which interest shall be charged or take any other action thereon.

Selectmen Recommend: 6% per year starting October 1st.

Carried as written

ARTICLE 12. To see if the Town will fix a date when taxes shall be due and payable.

Selectmen Recommend: July 1, 2018

Carried as written

ARTICLE 13. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate a sum of money to pay for tax abatements or take any other action thereon.

Selectmen Recommend: From overlay

Carried as written

ARTICLE 14. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen on behalf of the Town to sell and dispose of any Real Estate acquired by the Town for non-payment of taxes thereon, with such terms as they may deem advisable and to execute Quit Claim Deeds for such property or take any other action thereon.

Selectmen Recommend: Sale by bid only after published notice in the local newspaper.

Carried as written

ARTICLE 15. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate a sum of money to pay its share of cost of the Social Security plan as provided for in Chapter 395 of Public Laws of 1951.

Selectmen Recommend: \$ 30,000.00 (17) \$ 25,000.00 (18) From Excise Tax

Carried as written

ARTICLE 16. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate a sum of money for Support of Poor or take any other action thereon.

Selectmen Recommend: \$ 0.00 (17) \$ 0.00 (18)

Carried as written

ARTICLE 17. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate a sum of money for Care Of Cemeteries or take any other action thereon.

Selectmen Recommend: \$ 12,000.00 (17) \$ 14,000.00 (18)
From Cemetery Interest \$3,000.00

Carried as written

ARTICLE 18. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate a sum of money for the Decoration of Soldiers Graves or take any other action thereon.

Selectmen Recommend: \$ 1,000.00 (17) \$ 1,000.00 (18)

Carried as written

ARTICLE 19. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate a sum of money for the Kennebec Valley Humane Society of Augusta or take any other action thereon.

Selectmen Recommend: \$ 5,600.00 (17) \$ 5,600.00 (18)

Carried as written

PROTECTION AND SANITATION

ARTICLE 20. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate a sum of money for the West Gardiner Fire Department or take any other action thereon.

Selectmen Recommend: \$ 20,000.00 (17) \$ 20,000.00 (18) From Excise Tax

Carried as written

ARTICLE 21. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate a sum of money for communications or take any other action thereon.

Selectmen Recommend: \$ 39,000.00 (17) \$ 40,000.00 (18) From Excise Tax

Carried as written

ARTICLE 22. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate a sum of money for the eleventh (11th) of thirty (30) payments on the new fire station or take any other action thereon.

Selectmen Recommend: \$ 42,000.00 (17) \$ 42,000.00 (18)

Carried as written

ARTICLE 23. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate a sum of money to repair fire trucks or take any other action thereon.

Selectmen Recommend: \$ 0.00 (17) \$ 0.00 (18)

Carried as written

ARTICLE 24. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate a sum of money to purchase Personal Protective Equipment or take any other action thereon.

Selectmen Recommend: \$ 4,000.00 (17) \$ 4,000.00 (18)

Carried as written

ARTICLE 25. To see if the Town will vote to take \$600.00 of the income received from the State of Maine Fire Marshal's Lease for a donation to the Forrest L. Wakefield Memory Scholarship Fund or take any other action thereon.

Carried as written

ARTICLE 26. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate a sum of money to participate in the Gardiner Ambulance Service or take any other action thereon.

Selectmen Recommend: \$ 12,000.00 (17) \$ 45,000.00 (18)

Discussion on why the high increase – Greg and Gary II spoke about the uncollectible bill from previous years now being added to the appropriated amount this year. Gary is looking into ways to collect the funds owed back to the town.

Carried as written

ARTICLE 27. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate a sum of money for the street lights or take any other action thereon.

Selectmen Recommend: \$ 1,400.00 (17) \$ 1,400.00 (18)

Carried as written

ARTICLE 28. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate a sum of money to maintain the West Gardiner Transfer Station or take any other action thereon.

Selectmen Recommend: \$ 120,000.00 (17) \$ 130,000.00 (18) From Excise Tax

Carried as written

ARTICLE 29. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate a sum of money to purchase a transfer station closed top trash container or take any other action thereon.

Selectmen Recommend: \$ 0.00 (17) \$ 8,000.00 (18)

Carried as written

ARTICLE 30. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate a sum of money to increase the Fire Department Match Grant Account or take any other action thereon.

Selectmen Recommend: \$ 0.00 (17) \$ 23,000.00 (18) From Surplus

Greg explained that this was for a new fire truck & SBC . We are waiting on grants to be approved and if that does come through our portion of the total grant would be 8% of the total.

Carried as written

HIGHWAY ACCOUNTS

ARTICLE 31. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate a sum of money for the second (2nd) of sixteen (16) payments on the new town garage or take any other action thereon.

Selectmen Recommend: \$ 5,000.00 (17) \$ 28,000.00 (18)

Carried as written

ARTICLE 32. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate a sum of money to purchase a used plow truck or take any other action thereon.

Selectmen Recommend: \$ 0.00 (17) \$ 30,000.00 (18) From Surplus

Motion to amend Article to either fix existing plow truck or purchase a used plow truck if needed. 2nd approval given. Discussion as to why the need for a used plow truck instead of just purchasing a new one. Gary explained that due to trying to space out the years of the new trucks so there isn't more than one trying to be replaced in a certain year.

Carried as amended

ARTICLE 33. To see if the Town will vote to change the name of the New Town Garage account to Public Works Buildings or take any other action thereon.

Motion made to change New Town Garage account to Highway Department account – 2nd approval given

Carried as amended

ARTICLE 34. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate a sum of money for the maintenance of roads during the winter months or take any other action thereon.

Selectmen Recommend: \$ 90,000.00 (17) \$ 118,000.00 (18) From Excise Tax

Carried as written

ARTICLE 35. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate a sum of money for the maintenance of roads during summer months or take any other action thereon.

Selectmen Recommend: \$ 40,000.00 (17) \$ 50,000.00 (18) From Excise Tax

Carried as written

ARTICLE 36. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate a sum of money for paving town roads or take any other action thereon.

Selectmen Recommend: \$ 120,000.00 (17) \$ 120,000.00 (18) From Excise Tax

Carried as written

ARTICLE 37. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate a sum of money for mowing roadsides and cutting bushes or take any other action thereon.

Selectmen Recommend: \$ 5,500.00 (17) \$ 6,000.00 (18) From Excise Tax

Carried as written

ARTICLE 38. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate a sum of money for the Local Road Assistance Program (LRAP) or take any other action thereon.

Selectmen Recommend: Funds from the Local Road Assistance Program (LRAP)

Carried as written

ARTICLE 39. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate a sum of money for the third of seven payments for the New Highway Truck or take any other action thereon.

Selectmen Recommend: \$ 24,400.00 (17) \$ 24,400.00 (18) From Excise Tax

**Correction – fourth of seven payments
Carried as written**

ARTICLE 40. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate a sum of money for a town highway equipment account or take any other action thereon.

Selectmen Recommend: \$ 0.00 (17) \$ 5,000.00 (18)

Discussion as to why the increase – Gary spoke just to build it back to \$10,000 in case we need it for equipment repairs or purchases.

Carried as written

MISCELLANEOUS ACCOUNTS

ARTICLE 41. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate a sum of money to maintain the ACO vehicle or take any other action thereon.

Selectmen Recommend: \$ 500.00 (17) \$ 500.00 (18)

Carried as written

ARTICLE 42. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate a sum of money for the Friendly Neighbors Senior Citizens Club or take any other action thereon.

Selectmen Recommend: \$ 4,500.00 (17) \$ 4,500.00 (18)

Discussion was stated about the estimated cost per meal vs. how many people were served last year, who will be doing the catering for this year vs. last year's event, etc.

Carried as written

ARTICLE 43. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate a sum of money for the Cobbosseecontee Snowmobile Club or take any other action thereon.

Selectmen Recommend: \$ 1,125.00 (17) \$ 1,807.00 (18)

Discussion as to what this money is from (IF&W Snowmobile Registrations for West Gardiner Residents)

Carried as written

ARTICLE 44. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate a sum of money to recognize the West Gardiner Veterans to be added on the Veterans Monument at a later date or to take any other action thereon.

Selectmen Recommend: \$ 500.00 (17) \$ 500.00 (18)

Carried as written

ARTICLE 45. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate a sum of money for the Gardiner Library or take any other action thereon.

Gardiner Library requests: \$ 34,748.00 (17) \$ 35,269.00 (18)

Library representatives, Anne & Kim, spoke about the library and what has been happening. Discussion was brought forward why the increase this year, was there an alternate to reduce the fee, what would happen if the town appropriated a different amount of money – would have to go back to the City Councilors for approval and it could be possible that if they accepted the funds West Gardiner residents may not be allowed to use the Library after a few months. Many residents spoke regarding finding other options regarding the Library. Discussion ceased.

Carried as written

ARTICLE 46. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate a sum of money for Hospice Volunteers of Kennebec Valley or take any other action thereon.

Selectmen Recommend: \$ 1,451.00 (17) \$ 1,451.00 (18)

Carried as written

ARTICLE 47. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate a sum of money for Family Violence Project or take any other action thereon.

Selectmen Recommend: \$ 1,000.00 (17) \$ 1,000.00 (18)

Carried as written

ARTICLE 48. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate a sum of money for Chrysalis Place or take any other action thereon.

Selectmen Recommend: \$2,500.00 (17) \$ 1,000.00 (18)

Carried as written

ARTICLE 49. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate a sum of money for Faith Food Pantry Inc. or take any other action thereon.

Selectmen Recommend: \$ 0.00 (17) \$ 1,500.00 (18)

Carried as written

ARTICLE 50. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate a sum of money for Spectrum Generations or take any other action thereon.

Selectmen Recommend: \$1,634.00 (17) \$ 1,634.00 (18)

Carried as written

ARTICLE 51. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate a sum of money for Boys and Girls Club of Kennebec Valley or take any other action thereon.

Boys & Girls Club Requests: \$ 15,910.00 (17) \$ 15,910.00 (18)

Carried as written

ARTICLE 52. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate a sum of money for the United Valley American Red Cross or take any other action thereon.

Selectmen Recommend: \$3,000.00 (17) \$ 3,200.00 (18)

Carried as written

ARTICLE 53. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate a sum of money for the Town News Letter or take any other action thereon.

Selectmen Recommend: \$3,300.00 (17) \$ 3,000.00 (18)

Carried as written

ARTICLE 54. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate a sum of money for the Courtesy Boat Inspectors (CBI) or take any other action thereon.

Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed Request \$ 750.00 (17) \$ 750.00 (18)

Carried as written

ARTICLE 55. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate a sum of money for the operation of the DASH boat (Diver Assisted Suction Harvester) or take any other action thereon.

Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed Request \$ 5,000.00 (17) \$ 5,000.00 (18)

Carried as written

ARTICLE 56. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate a sum of money for repairs done by the Town of Manchester on the Cobbossee Dam or take any other action thereon.

Selectmen Recommend: \$ 5,000.00 (17) \$ 5,000.00 (18)

Carried as written

ARTICLE 57. To see if the Town will vote to accept a legacy from which interest is to be used for Perpetual Care for the following burial lots:

Sandra Breton	\$ 50.00
Wayne F. & Joyce Hatch	50.00
Michael & Cheryl Soucy	50.00
Faylene Libby & Pam Goding	50.00
Charles & Jennifer Collins	50.00
Paula Dupont	100.00
Gary & Debra Vigue	100.00
Nancy Prince	100.00
Chester Thompson	400.00
Scott & Linda Taylor	600.00

Carried as written

ARTICLE 58. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate a sum of money for Community Events that are held at the West Gardiner Fire Department or take any other action thereon.

Selectmen Recommend: \$ 1,200.00 (17) \$2,400.00 (18) From Fire Marshall
Lease \$1,200.00

Carried as written

ARTICLE 59. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate a sum of money for the Town Office building in need of upgrades or take any other action thereon.

Selectmen Recommend: \$ 9,000.00 (17) \$ 5,000.00 (18)

Carried as written

ARTICLE 60. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate a sum of money for Gardiner Youth Football/Cal Ripkin Baseball or take any other action thereon.

Requested: \$ 0.00 (17) \$ 2,000.00 (18)

Carried as written

ARTICLE 61. To see if the Town will vote to accept an amendment to the Minimum Lot Size Ordinance to include a Commercial Lot.

**Discussion was brought as to why this was being proposed. Some thought if you don't allow a septic due to the size of the lot, then there would be sites of porta potty's being seen everywhere, what's to stop people from just selling part of their lots making illegal lots, it was also said that if anyone wanted to adjust their property size, the first step should be to see the Select Board members and seek their advice on what can be done. After lengthy discussion for and against, a hand count was taken:
28 approve, 26 opposed**

Carried as written

ARTICLE 62. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate a sum of money to fix or demolish Public Works Buildings or take any other action thereon.

Selectmen Recommend: \$ 0.00 (17) \$ 10,000.00 (18)

Amended article to state Highway Department buildings – 2nd approval; Greg spoke about the regards to the OSHA Inspection & Insurance Inspection that was done on the old Town Garage and the Sand/Salt Shed within the last 5 months. There is some discrepancies on what was deemed as an unfit building with the Insurance Company. There has been an assessment done by an engineer and final decision will be made as what to do regarding the buildings as soon as that report is submitted to us. Some residents asked about naming the building after past Road Commissioner, Chet Thompson; possibility of fixing what needed to be fixed for others to use; using as cold storage; using it for the Historical Society needs; etc. Decisions to be made at a later date. Sand/Salt shed will need to be fixed as the concrete is wearing away where the roof and side walls meet. Could cause more problems or structural problems if not addressed. Waiting on Engineer's recommendations to see what we can do at this time.

Carried as written

ARTICLE 63. To see if the Town will vote to accept Natalie Drive as a maintained Town Road after it is finalized and meets all town requirements or take any other action thereon.

Carried as written

ARTICLE 64. To see if the Town will vote to increase the property tax levy limit established for the Town of West Gardiner 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 or take any other action thereon. (By State law, the vote on this article must be by written ballot).

Secret Ballot was given to all residents still in attendance. Yes - No –

Approved budget passed

Motion made to adjourn Town Meeting, 2nd approval given, none opposed

Meeting adjourned at 4:10 PM

The Registrar, Angela J. Phillis, hereby gives notice that she will be at the polls for the purpose of correcting the list of voters from 8:00 a.m. in the morning until the polls are closed.

Given under our hands this 26th of February, 2018

Gregory A. Couture

Merton L. Hickey

Randall W. Macomber
Selectmen
Town of West Gardiner

ATTEST: _____
Tina J. Marks
Resident of West Gardiner