

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 Volunteer Fire Department in said Town on Saturday the 9th of April AD 2022 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 Clark – 3

ARTICLE 2. To elect all Town officers required by law and previous vote of the Town to be chosen by secret ballot. Namely: Select Board, Assessor, Board of Overseer – 3 Years, RSU #11 School Board Member – 2 Years, and RSU #11 School Board Member – 3 Years 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.

The Business Meeting will open at 1:30 p.m. in the afternoon, April 9th, 2022, at the West Gardiner Volunteer Fire Department then and there to act on the following articles to wit:

Select Board – 3 Yr.

Randall Macomber 161
Frederick Merrill 62

RSU #11 School Board – 2 Yr.

Christopher McLaughlin 140
Kate A. T. Merrill – 72
Melanie Littlefield-Hickey – 10

RSU #11 School Board – 3 Yr.

Matthew Lillibridge – 178
Melanie Littlefield-Hickey - 18

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.

Carries 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

Carries 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: \$195,100.00 (21) **\$210,996.00 (22)**
From Excise Tax

Selectmen	\$ 27,000.00	\$ 27,000.00
Administrative Assistant/ Excise Tax Collector/ Town Clerk	\$ 49,600.00	\$ 51,584.00
Treasurer & Tax Collector	\$ 41,300.00	\$ 42,952.00
Clerical Help	\$ 31,500.00	\$ 32,760.00
Office Support	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 16,000.00
Fire Chief	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00
Fire Department Officers	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
Fire Wardens	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Animal Control Officer	\$ 5,850.00	\$ 5,850.00
Code Enforcement Officer	\$ 13,500.00	\$ 14,500.00
Ballot Clerks	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 5,500.00
E-911 Coordinator	\$ 3,850.00	\$ 3,850.00

Discussion to increase from 2% to 4% for Office workers and Transfer Station workers. Motion to amend article to 4% increase, 2nd. Passed amendment. Article carries as amended.

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 (21) \$ 20,000.00 (22)

Carries 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: \$ 2,400.00 (21) \$ 2,400.00 (22)
From Excise Tax**

Carries 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: \$145,000.00 (21) \$ 145,000.00 (22)

Carries 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 (21) \$ 45,000.00 (22)
From Excise Tax**

Carries 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.

Carries 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: 4% per year starting October 1st.

Carries as written

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

Selectmen Recommend: July 1, 2022

Carries 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

Carries 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.

Carries 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 (21) \$ 30,000.00 (22)
From Excise Tax

Carries 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 (21) \$ 3,000.00 (22)

Carries 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: \$ 17,000.00 (21) \$ 27,000.00 (22)

Discussion as to why \$10,000 increase this year. Explanation of shrubs needs to be cut back and shaped up. Also, rear line of Cherry Hill Cemetery needs to be cut back so people aren't driving on grave sites.

Carries 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 (21) \$ 1,400.00 (22)

Carries 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: \$ 4,000.00 (21) \$ 6,000.00 (22)

Carries 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: \$ 25,000.00 (21) \$ 25,000.00 (22)
From Excise Tax

Carries 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: \$ 50,000.00 (21) \$ 55,000.00 (22)
From Excise Tax

Carries as written

ARTICLE 22. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate a sum of money for the sixteenth (16th) of thirty (30) payments on the new fire station or take any other action thereon.

Selectmen Recommend: \$ 40,000.00 (21) \$ 30,000.00 (22)
From Excise Tax

Carries 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 (21) \$ 0.00 (22)

Carries 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: \$ 5,000.00 (21) \$ 5,000.00 (22)

**Motion made to amend to \$7,500.00, 2nd and discussion on amendment as to why. Needs to replace more outdated turnout gear.
Amendment passed.**

Carries as amended article.

ARTICLE 25. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate a sum of money for the third (3rd) of three (3) payments on the SCBA & Associated Equipment lease or take any other action thereon.

Selectmen Recommend: \$ 28,000.00 (21) \$ 27,300.00 (22)

Carries as written

ARTICLE 26. 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.

Carries as written

ARTICLE 27. 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: \$ 45,000.00 (21) \$ 65,100.00 (22)
From Excise Tax

Carries as written

ARTICLE 28. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate a sum of money for the streetlights or take any other action thereon.

Selectmen Recommend: \$ 1,400.00 (21) \$ 1,400.00 (22)

Carries as written

ARTICLE 29. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate a sum of money to purchase a new fire engine, replacing the 1979 Ford Engine 4, or take any other action thereon.

Fire Department Recommends: \$ 0.00 (21) \$400,000.00 (22)
Other Sources

Discussion on what Other Sources meant. \$120,000 from Grant Account that has been set aside & \$280,000 from ARPA Funds. Received 1st half already and 2nd half to be dispersed at the end of August to October 2022.

Carries as written

ARTICLE 30. 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 (21) \$ 1,200.00 (22)
From F.M. Lease

Carries as written

ARTICLE 31. 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: \$ 150,000.00 (21) \$ 135,000.00 (22)
From Excise Tax/CD

Motion made to amend to Salaries from 2% to 4%, 2nd and passed.

Carries as amended

ARTICLE 32. 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: \$ 10,000.00 (21) \$ 4,000.00 (22)

Carries as written

ARTICLE 33. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate a sum of money for the Transfer Station Facilities Maintenance account or take any other action thereon.

Selectmen Recommend: \$ 6,200.00 (21) \$ 10,000.00 (22)
From Excise Tax

Discussion on what Building Maintenance needs to be done – replacing retaining wall near can bins, cement ramps for cans, etc.

Carries as written

HIGHWAY ACCOUNTS

ARTICLE 34. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate a sum of money for the sixth (6th) of sixteen (16) payments on the new town garage or take any other action thereon.

Selectmen Recommend: \$ 27,000.00 (21) \$ 27,000.00 (22)

Carries 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 the winter months or take any other action thereon.

Selectmen Recommend: \$ 100,000.00 (21) \$ 110,000.00 (22)
From Excise Tax

Carries as written

ARTICLE 36. 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: \$ 35,000.00 (21) \$ 55,000.00 (22)
From Excise Tax

Discussion on increase as to why. Culverts need to be replaced on certain roads.

Carries as written

ARTICLE 37. 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 (21) \$ 120,000.00 (22)
From Excise Tax

Carries as written

ARTICLE 38. 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: \$ 9,500.00 (21) \$ 10,000.00 (22)
From Excise Tax

Carries as written

ARTICLE 39. 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)

Carries as written

ARTICLE 40. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate a sum of money for the first of seven payments for the New Highway Truck or take any other action thereon.

Selectmen Recommend: \$ 30,400.00 (21) \$ 30,000.00 (22)
From Excise Tax

Carries as written

ARTICLE 41. 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: \$ 4,000.00 (21) \$ 15,000.00 (22)
From Excise Tax

Carries as written

ARTICLE 42. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate a sum of money for the Town Highway Building account or take any other action thereon.

Selectmen Recommend: \$ 0.00 (21) \$ 0.00 (22)

Carries as written

ARTICLE 43. To see if the Town will vote to borrow an additional \$7,400.00, in addition to the preapproved amount in April 2021 for the new plow truck or take any other action thereon.

Carries as written

MISCELLANEOUS ACCOUNTS

ARTICLE 44. 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 (21) \$ 0.00 (22)

Carries as written

ARTICLE 45. 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: \$ 1,800.00 (21) \$ 2,038.00 (22)

Carries as written

ARTICLE 46. 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 or to take any other action thereon.

Selectmen Recommend: \$ 500.00 (21) \$ 1,000.00 (22)

Carries as written

ARTICLE 47. 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: \$ 35,004.00 (21) \$ 35,873.00 (22)

Justin – Director of Library spoke on bringing back services post COVID, online services, etc. Asked how many users from West Gardiner: 1576.

Carries as written

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

Selectmen Recommend:	\$ 10,451.00 (21)	\$ 10,451.00 (22)
Hospice Volunteers of K.V.	\$ 1,451.00 (21)	\$ 1,451.00 (22)
Family Violence Project	\$ 1,150.00 (21)	\$ 1,150.00 (22)
Chrysalis Place	\$ 1,000.00 (21)	\$ 1,000.00 (22)
Faith Food Pantry	\$ 1,500.00 (21)	\$ 1,500.00 (22)
Spectrum Generations	\$ 2,150.00 (21)	\$ 2,150.00 (22)
United Valley American Red Cross	\$ 3,200.00 (21)	\$ 3,200.00 (22)

Carries as written

ARTICLE 49. 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: \$ 15,900.00 (21) \$ 15,900.00 (22)

Carries as written

Discussion on what needs to be done at the Office – Handicap ramp replacement, windows, Select Board Office floor and door repairs, etc.

Carries as written

ARTICLE 54. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate a sum of money for the exterior repairs to the Auxiliary Hall or take any other actions thereon.

**Selectmen Recommend: \$ 12,000.00 (21) \$ 8,000.00 (22)
From Surplus**

Discussion on what needs to be done – Furnace cable reattachment, siding (lead paint) etc. We will go as far as we can on funds and then go from there. Ongoing project list and will need to revisit as it proceeds.

Carries as written

ARTICLE 55. To see if the Town will vote to accept Seth’s Way as a maintained Town Road after it is finalized and meets all town requirements or take any other action thereon.

Discussion happened by how road was built without Road Commissioner knowing depths, culvert sizes, etc. Deeded right of way to the Town will be done when finished and meets all the Town requirements.

Carries as written

ARTICLE 56. To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate a sum of money to lay a concrete slab and build a building for the Historical Society or take any other action thereon.

**Selectmen Recommend: \$ 0.00 (21) \$ 120,000.00 (22)
(\$80,000.00 Appropriation & \$40,000.00 from Surplus)**

Discussion on what is wanted for a building and how far they want to get with this money. They are looking at a 40x60 building, metal or wood which ever would get it built to weather tight.

Motion made to cease discussion, 2nd and approved to end.

Carries as written

ARTICLE 57. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$26,159.30 from Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (aka American Rescue Plan Act or

ARPA funds) received by the Town from the federal government for the following projects:

\$ 17,900.00 – Administration Sign back to Administration

\$ 1,193.00 – FD Grant Account

\$ 7,065.40 – Highway Generator back to Highway Building Account

Article amended to \$26,159.40 (printing error), 2nd and approved to amend.

Carries as amended article

ARTICLE 58. To see if the town will vote to raise or appropriate a sum of money to donate to the Boys & Girls Club of Kennebec Valley towards the construction of a new building.

Selectmen Recommend \$ 0.00 (21)

\$ 25,000.00 (22)

Motion made to allow Ingrid from B&G Club to speak.

Carries as written

ARTICLE 59. 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).

Vote: 82 Yes

2 No

2 Blank

Carries as written

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.

Meeting adjourned @ 3:36 pm

Given under our hands this 10th of March 2022.

Gregory A. Couture

Randall W. Macomber

Steven A. McGee
Select Board
Town of West Gardiner

ATTEST: _____
Tina J. Marks
Resident of West Gardiner