

**TOWN OF MONMOUTH
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

June 11, 2024

KENNEBEC COUNTY, SS

STATE OF MAINE

TO: Paul Ferland, a constable in the Town of Monmouth in the County of Kennebec and the State of Maine,

GREETINGS:

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town of Monmouth qualified by law to vote in Town affairs, to meet at the Meeting Room located at 117 Academy Road, the eleventh day of June, A. D. 2024 at 8:00 A.M., then and there to act on Article 1 and to vote by secret ballot on Articles 2 through 37, as set out below, the polling hours therefore to be from 8:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M., said articles being the following:

Note: Absentee ballots will first be available at the Monmouth Town Office May 13th during business hours.

Article 1. To choose by written ballot a moderator to preside at said meeting.

Article 2. To elect the following:

- A. One (1) Select Board member for a three (3)-year term.
- B. One (1) Director RSU#2 Board, for a three (3)-year term.
- C. Two (2) Cumston Library Trustees, each for a three (3)-year term.
- D. One (1) Sanitary District Trustee, for a three (3)-year term.

Article 3. Shall the Town vote to appropriate \$10,000.00 from the Unassigned Fund Balance to fund the Senior Citizen Property Tax Assistance Program which provides refunds up to \$500.00 to those who are 65 years of age and have been a resident of the Town for 10 years?

Select Board Recommends Yes

Article 4. Shall the Town raise and appropriate \$1,347,550.00 for General Administration?

Select Board Recommends Yes

Expense Items

Administration	\$ 532,204.00
Assessing	\$ 41,380.00
Elected Officials	\$ 16,432.00
Emp. Benefits	\$ 543,615.00
Risk Management	\$ 60,000.00
Boards/Committees	\$ 48,046.00
Code Enforcement	\$ 44,166.00
Municipal Buildings	\$ 61,707.00

Article 5. Shall the Town appropriate \$ 200.00 from the Cumston Prize Fund and raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 54,301.00 for a total of \$ 54,501.00 for the below listed Community Services?

Select Board Recommends Yes

Expense Items:

Cemetery Care	\$ 35,000.00
General Assistance	\$ 4,915.00
Cumston Prize	\$ 200.00
American Red Cross	\$ 500.00
KVCAP Transportation	\$ 800.00
Family Violence	\$ 1,125.00
Memorial Day Services	\$ 700.00
Senior Spectrum	\$ 2,595.00
Food Bank	\$ 150.00
RCAM	\$ 5,500.00
Kennebec Behavioral Health	\$ 1,000.00
Tri County Mental Health	\$ 500.00
Maine General Hospice	\$ 500.00
Lifelight	\$ 1016.00

Article 6. Shall the Town authorize the additional donation of municipal employee time and materials for the care of the North Monmouth Beach during the summer swimming season, including lawn mowing, trash removal, sanitary facilities, and the payment of half of the property's liability insurance?

Select Board Recommends Yes

Article 7. Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$472,845.00 for Law Enforcement/ Police Protection?

Select Board Recommends Yes

Expense Items:

Police Department: \$ 464,638.00

Animal Control: \$ 8,207.00

Article 8. Shall the Town raise and appropriate \$ 194,383.00 for Fire Protection?

Select Board Recommends Yes

Article 9. Shall the Town raise and appropriate \$ 231,844.00 for Public Safety Services?

Select Board Recommends Yes

Expense Items:

Ambulance Services: \$ 80,031.00

Dispatch Services: \$ 87,048.00

Fire Hydrants: \$ 61,765.00

Streetlights: \$ 3,000.00

Article 10. Shall the Town raise and appropriate \$ 118,003.00 for Cumston Hall operating Expenses?

Select Board Recommends Yes

Article 11. Shall the Town raise and appropriate \$ 105,209.00 for the Cumston Public Library?

Select Board Recommends Yes

Article 12. Shall the Town raise and appropriate \$ 91,969.00 for Parks and Recreation Programs?

Select Board Recommends Yes

Article 13. Shall the Town raise and appropriate \$ 1,246,381.00 for Public Works Accounts?

Select Board Recommends Yes

Expense Items

Public Works	\$ 813,251.00
Transfer Station	\$ 413,630.00
Other Public Works	\$19,500.00
• Parking Lot Rent	\$100.00
• Milfoil Inspections	\$18,900.00
• Woodbury Pond Dam Maintenance	\$500.00

Article 14. Shall the Town raise and appropriate \$ 511,796.00 for Debt Retirement and Debt Service?

Select Board Recommends Yes

Expense Items:

Debt Retirement	\$ 409,363.00
Debt Service	\$ 102,433.00

Article 15. To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board, upon a majority vote of the Select Board, to exceed by no more than 10% annually, the amount authorized for each account approved in Article 4 through Article 14 above, so long as the overall amount spent for the sum total of those articles does not exceed the total appropriation approved for those articles.

Select Board Recommends Yes

Article 16. Shall the Town vote to authorize the Select Board to enter into a three-year lease purchase agreement for a police cruiser for the Police Department and raise and appropriate \$18,500.00 for the first annual payment?

Select Board Recommends Yes

Article 17. Shall the Town vote to authorize the Select Board to enter into a lease purchase agreement for the purpose of replacing the HVAC system in Cumston Hall and making energy efficiency upgrades and raise and appropriate \$36,000.00 for the first of 15 annual payments, and to authorize the Select Board to take all necessary action to apply for and accept a rebate from Efficiency Maine in an estimated amount of \$96,000. It is estimated that the rebate and energy savings combined will result in total savings for the Town of \$346,022.00 over the 15-year lease agreement.

Select Board Recommends Yes

Article 18. Shall the town raise and appropriate \$305,000.00 to fund the town's capital reserve accounts?

Explanation: The list below shows the sum recommended by the Select Board for each capital reserve account. The purpose of the capital reserve account appropriations is to set aside funds for future infrastructure investment as well as vehicle and equipment expenditures. This reduces and avoids a large, one time, appropriation for major expenses in the future. Expending money from these accounts is at the discretion of the Select Board.

Fire Department Equipment Reserve	\$30,000.00
Revaluation Reserve	\$25,000.00
Road Maintenance Reserve	\$250,000.00

Select Board Recommends Yes

Article 19. Should question 17 pass, shall the Town create a Cumston Hall Building Maintenance Reserve Fund for the purpose of funding improvements and renovations to Cumston Hall and appropriate \$50,000 from the estimated proceeds received from the Efficiency Maine rebate for the HVAC improvement project at Cumston Hall for the same?

Select Board Recommends Yes

Article 20. Should question 17 pass, shall the town appropriate the remaining \$36,000 from estimated proceeds received from the Efficiency Maine rebate for the HVAC improvement project at Cumston Hall for the Beaver Brook Culvert Replacement Project?

Select Board Recommends Yes

Article 21. Shall the Town create a Public Safety Building Reserve Fund for the purpose of funding feasibility studies, construction, and maintenance of public safety buildings and raise and appropriate \$60,000 for the same?

Select Board Recommends Yes

Article 22. Shall the Town create a Police Department Equipment Reserve Fund for the purpose of purchasing and repairing police department equipment and raise and appropriate \$10,000 for the same?

Select Board Recommends Yes

Article 23. Shall the Town create a Transfer Station Facilities Reserve Fund for the purpose of funding improvements to the transfer station facility using the per capita fee, currently at \$6.00 per resident, that the Town receives from the Town of Wales and appropriate an estimated \$11,316 from this fee for the same?

Select Board Recommends Yes

Article 24. Shall the Town vote to authorize the issuance of up to \$750,000.00 in general obligation bonds or notes of the Town for the purpose of financing the design and construction of a sand and salt shed to be located at the public works facility on Academy Road? The details of such borrowing (including provisions that the bonds may be taxable or tax exempt, prepaid or subject to call for redemption with or without premium and the dates, maturities, denominations, and interest rates(s)) to be determined by the Select Board and raise and appropriate \$15,000 for the first interest only payment? It is estimated that future annual principal and interest payments will be approximately \$50,000.

Bonding Costs:

At an estimated interest rate of 3.54%, the estimated total costs of this borrowing will be (over 25 years):

Principal: \$ 750,000.00

Interest: \$ 380,731.66

Total Debt Service: \$ 1,130,731.66

Financial Statement:

The issuance of bonds by the Town of Monmouth is one of the ways in which the Town borrows money for certain purposes. The following is a summary of the bonded indebtedness of the Town of Monmouth as of June 30, 2023:

Bonds Now Outstanding and Unpaid: \$2,972,199.00

Bonds Authorized and Unissued: \$390,000.00

Article 24 (Principal + Interest): \$ 1,130,731.66

When money is borrowed by issuing bonds, the Town must repay not only the principal amount of the bonds but also interest on the bonds. The amount of interest to be paid will vary depending upon the rate of interest and the years to maturity at the time of issue. The validity of the bonds and of the voters' ratification of the bonds may not be affected by any errors in the estimates made of the costs involved, including varying interest rates, the estimated cost of interest on the bond amount to be issued and the total cost of principal and interest to be paid at maturity.

/s/ Justin L. Poirier Treasurer, Town of Monmouth

Select Board Recommends Yes

Article 25. Shall the Town vote to authorize the issuance of up to \$700,000.00 in general obligation bonds or notes of the Town for the purpose of financing the completion of construction of the 1856 Monmouth Academy building? The details of such borrowing (including provisions that the bonds may be taxable or tax exempt, prepaid or subject to call for redemption with or without premium and the dates, maturities, denominations, and interest rates(s)) to be determined by the Select Board and raise and appropriate \$14,000 for the first annual payment? It is estimated that future annual principal and interest payments will be approximately \$50,000.

Bonding Costs:

At an estimated interest rate of 3.54%, the estimated total costs of this borrowing will be (over 25 years):

Principal: \$ 700,000.00

Interest: \$ 355,349.55

Total Debt Service: \$ 1,055,349.55

Financial Statement:

The issuance of bonds by the Town of Monmouth is one of the ways in which the Town borrows money for certain purposes. The following is a summary of the bonded indebtedness of the Town of Monmouth as of June 30, 2023:

Bonds Now Outstanding and Unpaid: \$2,972,199.00

Bonds Authorized and Unissued: \$390,000.00

Article 25 (Principal + Interest): \$ 1,055,349.55

When money is borrowed by issuing bonds, the Town must repay not only the principal amount of the bonds but also interest on the bonds. The amount of interest to be paid will vary depending upon the rate of interest and the years to maturity at the time of issue. The validity of the bonds and of the voters' ratification of the bonds may not be affected by any errors in the estimates made of the costs involved, including varying interest rates, the estimated cost of interest on the bond amount to be issued and the total cost of principal and interest to be paid at maturity.

/s/ Justin L. Poirier Treasurer, Town of Monmouth

Select Board Recommends Yes

Article 26. Shall the town enact the Solid Waste Storage Ordinance? Copies are available for inspection at the town office.

Select Board Recommends Yes

Article 27. To see if the Town of Monmouth will vote to adopt the provisions of 5 M.R.S. § 18252-C (as enacted by PL 2021, Chapter 286) as allowed by the Maine Public Employees Retirement System (“MainePERS”) Rule Chapter 803 for its non-participating employees with optional membership who previously declined to participate in MainePERS (“eligible employees”) effective July 1, 2024; and to authorize the Town Manager to sign an amended agreement with MainePERS, subject to the following requirements:

- a. Beginning in 2024, to annually offer eligible employees who have been employed for less than 5 years the opportunity to join MainePERS on a prospective basis during an open enrollment period from September 1st through November 1st and to provide MainePERS with documentation of each election made by eligible employees under this provision; and**
- b. To withhold employee contributions for employees who join under this provision on an after-tax basis and to remit them to MainePERS.**

Explanation: State law and MEPERS Rules have changed to allow municipalities to opt in and allow municipal employees to join the MEPERS system up to 5-years after their initial employment date. This article, if approved, will allow Monmouth municipal employees to join the MEPERS system under these new rules. Currently, municipal employees can only join MEPERS when are initially employed by the town.

Select Board Recommends Yes

Article 28. Shall an ordinance entitled Park Ordinance, last revised in 2012, be repealed and shall an ordinance entitled Monmouth Beach Ordinance 2024 be enacted? Copies of the proposed ordinance are available for inspection at the town office.

Select Board Recommends Yes

Article 29. Shall the Town appropriate monies from snowmobile registration fees reimbursed to the Town by the Treasurer of the State of Maine (\$6.00 per registration), for the purpose of grooming and maintaining snowmobile trails solely within the municipal limits of the Town of Monmouth?

Select Board Recommends Yes

Article 30. Shall the Town authorize the Select Board to receive taxes from Tax Club members after the payment due date without interest?

Select Board Recommends Yes

Article 31. Shall the Town authorize the Select Board to appropriate an estimated amount of \$641,776.00 from Municipal Revenue Sharing and \$1,330,850.00 of FY2025 non-property tax revenue to reduce the tax commitment?

Select Board Recommends Yes

Article 32. Shall the Town vote to require one-half of the taxes for the 2024-2025 fiscal year due and payable on October 15, 2024 and one-half of the taxes for the 2024-2025 fiscal year due April 15, 2025 and to see if the Town will vote to require the rate per annum of interest set by the Treasurer of the State of Maine (8.50%) be charged on October 16, 2024 and April 16, 2025 on all unpaid taxes, and shall the Select Board be authorized to postpone the due date of taxes and waive interest when the Governor declares a State of Emergency?

Select Board Recommends Yes

Article 33. Shall the Town authorize the Select Board to sell and dispose of any real estate acquired by the Town for non-payment of taxes thereon, on such terms as the Select Board deem advisable, and execute a quitclaim deed for such property; said sale(s) shall be conducted by sealed bid, after public notice, including the Community Advertiser, except for repurchase by original owner or taxpayer of said property, except that the Select Board shall use the special sale process required by 36 M.R.S.A. §943-C for qualifying property if requested by the former owner(s)?

Select Board Recommends Yes

Article 34. Shall the Town authorize the Select Board to make municipal expenditures based on the latest approved municipal budget, if the proposed budget in whole or part fails to pass, until a proposed municipal budget, in whole or in part, is approved?

Select Board Recommends Yes

Article 35. Shall the Town vote to authorize the Select Board to accept and expend or utilize for its intended purpose on behalf of the Town any grants or funds awarded or paid to the Town by any State or federal agency, grant or other monetary donation from any other public or private entity, organization or individual, and any gift of personal property, and to authorizes the Select Board to apply for such grants, funds or donations where an application is required, or take any other action thereon?

Select Board Recommends Yes

Article 36. Shall the Town vote to authorize the Select Board to dispose of surplus equipment and property through sale or donation of said items?

Select Board Recommends Yes

Article 37. Shall the Town vote to authorize the Select Board to appropriate Tax Increment Financing Revenues from the development program fund of the Tax Increment Financing District for purposes authorized in the District's Development Program?

Select Board Recommends Yes

Given under our hands at Monmouth, Maine this 3rd day of April, 2024.

**TOWN OF MONMOUTH
SELECT BOARD**

C. Douglas Ludewig, Chair

Joseph O'Donnell

Mark Burgess

Kristin Sanborn

Kent Ackley