

TOWN OF PATTEN

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2024 Annual Town Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 25th, 2024, at 6:00pm
Public Works Garage, 21 Katahdin Street
Patten, ME 04765

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm.

ARTICLE 1: To choose a Moderator to preside at said Town Meeting.

Motion made by Gregg Smallwood to nominate Ed McArthur as Moderator of the Annual Town meeting, seconded by Kevin Noyes. **All in favor.**

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to instruct the Selectboard to appoint OTHER TOWN OFFICERS.

Motion made by Gregg Smallwood to accept Article 2 as written, seconded by Dennis Kelly. **Article passed.**

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to carry forward the balances of the accounts as listed once the audit has been completed.

Committed For:	
Fire Building	Culture & Recreation
Fire Truck	Community Celebrations
Highway Equipment	Tax Maps & Revaluation
Highway Roads	Patten Academy Park
Municipal Building	Grant Writing
Veterans' Monument	Technology
Cemetery Perpetual Care	CDBG & DEP Grants

Motion made by Gregg Smallwood to accept Article 3 as written, seconded by Dennis Kelly. **Article passed.**

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to carry all other Balances to Fund Balance once the audit has been completed.

Motion made by Gregg Smallwood to accept Article 4 as written, seconded by Dennis Kelly. **Article passed.**

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and authorize the Officers to spend for **CEMETERY OPERATIONS.**

CEMETERY	2023	2024
Local Taxes	\$16,450	\$15,650
Revenues	\$ 7,000	\$ 8,000
Total Appropriation	\$23,450	\$23,650

Motion made by Gregg Smallwood to accept Article 5 as written, seconded by Kevin Noyes. **Article passed.**

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and authorize the Officers to spend for **ANIMAL CONTROL.**

ANIMAL CONTROL	2023	2024
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Local Taxes	\$3,650	\$11,450
Revenues	\$ 100	\$ 100
Total Appropriation	\$3,750	\$11,550

Motion made by Gregg Smallwood to accept Article 6 as written, seconded by Kevin Noyes. **Article passed.**

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and authorize the Officers to spend for **STREET LIGHTS.**

STREET LIGHTS	2023	2024
Local Taxes	\$17,000	\$17,000
Total Appropriation	\$17,000	\$17,000

Motion made by Gregg Smallwood to accept Article 7 as written, seconded by Kevin Noyes. **Article passed.**

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and authorize the Officers to spend for **FIRE PROTECTION FEE** (previously "hydrant rental").

FIRE PROTECTION	2023	2024
Local Taxes	\$26,000	\$26,000
Total Appropriation	\$26,000	\$26,000

Motion made by Gregg Smallwood to accept Article 8 as written, seconded by Kevin Noyes. **Article passed.**

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and authorize the Officers to spend for the **FIRE DEPARTMENT.**

FIRE DEPARTMENT	2023	2024
Local Taxes	\$117,100	\$109,350
Revenues	\$ 12,750	\$ 17,350
Total Appropriation	\$129,850	\$126,700

Motion made by Gregg Smallwood to accept Article 9 as written, seconded by Dennis Kelly. **Article passed.**

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and authorize the Officers to spend \$30,000 for the **FIRE TRUCK RESERVE.**

Motion made by Gregg Smallwood to accept Article 10 as written, seconded by Dennis Kelly. **Article passed.**

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and authorize the Officers to spend \$15,000 for the **FIRE BUILDING CAPITAL** to pave the parking lot at the Fire Department.

Motion made by Gregg Smallwood to accept Article 11 as written, seconded by Dennis Kelly. **Article passed.**

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and authorize the Officers to spend for **MUNICIPAL TRASH.**

MUNICIPAL TRASH	2023	2024
Local Taxes	\$25,782	\$24,216
Total Appropriation	\$25,782	\$24,216

Motion made by Gregg Smallwood to accept Article 12 as written, seconded by Kevin Noyes. **Article passed.**

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and authorize the Officers to spend for **SEPTAGE DISPOSAL.**

SEPTAGE	2023	2024
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Local Taxes	\$ 1,900	\$ 5,000
Revenues	\$ 8,100	\$ 8,000
Total Appropriation	\$10,000	\$13,000

Motion made by Kevin Noyes to accept Article 13 as written, seconded by Gregg Smallwood. **Article passed.**

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and authorize the Officers to spend for **HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS.**

HIGHWAY DEPT	2023	2024
Local Taxes	\$148,148	\$155,350
Revenues	\$ 52,500	\$ 61,000
Total Appropriation	\$200,648	\$216,350

Motion made by Gregg Smallwood to accept Article 14 as written, seconded by Kevin Noyes. **Article passed.**

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and authorize the Officers to spend on **HIGHWAY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS.**

HWY CAP IMPROVEMENTS	2023	2024
Revenues	\$116,500	\$201,728
Total Appropriation	\$116,500	\$201,728

Motion made by Gregg Smallwood to accept Article 15 as written, seconded by Kevin Noyes. **Article passed.**

ARTICLE 16: If Article 15 is approved, to see if the Town will vote to transfer any remaining unexpended funds for Highway Capital Improvements to the **Highway Capital Road Reserve** at the end of FY 2024, and to further authorize the Select Board to make expenditures from the account thereafter for these purposes without further vote of the Town.

Motion made by Gregg Smallwood to accept Article 16 as written, seconded by Kevin Noyes. **Article passed.**

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and authorize the Officers to spend \$15,000 for the **HIGHWAY CAPITAL EQUIPMENT RESERVE.**

Motion made by Gregg Smallwood to accept Article 17 as written, seconded by Kevin Noyes. **Article passed.**

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and authorize the Officers to spend for **WINTER ROADS.**

WINTER ROADS	2023	2024
Local Taxes	\$ 88,900	\$186,400
Revenues	\$ 95,000	\$ 5,000
Total Appropriation	\$183,900	\$191,400

Motion made by Gregg Smallwood to accept Article 18 as written, seconded by Dennis Kelly. **Article passed.**

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and authorize the Officers to spend for **GENERAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS.**

GENERAL GOVERNMENT	2023	2024
Local Taxes	\$293,520	\$364,108
Revenues	\$121,000	\$158,600
Total Appropriation	\$414,520	\$522,708

Motion made by Gregg Smallwood to accept Article 19 as written, seconded by Dennis Kelly. **Article passed.**

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and authorize the Officers to spend for **GENERAL ASSISTANCE**.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE	2023	2024
Local Taxes	\$2,000	\$2,000
Total Appropriation	\$2,000	\$2,000

Motion made by Gregg Smallwood to accept Article 20 as written, seconded by Dennis Kelly. **Article passed.**

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and authorize the Officers to spend for **TAX ABATEMENTS**.

TAX ABATEMENTS	2023	2024
Local Taxes	\$2,000	\$10,000
Total Appropriation	\$2,000	\$10,000

Motion made by Gregg Smallwood to accept Article 21 as written, seconded by Dennis Kelly. **Article passed.**

ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and authorize the Officers to spend \$70,000 for the **TAX MAP AND REVALUATION RESERVE**.

Motion made by Gregg Smallwood to accept Article 22 as written, seconded by Kevin Noyes. **Article passed.**

ARTICLE 23: To see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to appropriate from Undesignated Fund Balance, as they deem advisable to meet **UNANTICIPATED EXPENSES AND EMERGENCIES** that occur during fiscal year 2024.

Motion made by Gregg Smallwood to authorize the Municipal Officers to appropriate \$10,000 from the Undesignated Fund Balance to meet Unanticipated Expenses and Emergencies in 2024, seconded by Dennis Kelly. **Article Passed.**

ARTICLE 24: To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and authorize the Officers to spend for **LIBRARY OPERATIONS**.

LIBRARY	2023	2024
Local Taxes	\$43,750	\$57,270
Income	\$ 600	\$ 650
Total Appropriation	\$44,350	\$57,920

Motion made by Gregg Smallwood to accept Article 24 as written, seconded by Kevin Noyes. **Article passed.**

ARTICLE 25: To see if the Town will authorize the Officers to spend up to \$5000 from the **CULTURE AND RECREATION RESERVE** for 2024 Patten Pioneer Days events and programming,

Motion made by Gregg Smallwood to accept Article 25 as written, seconded by Dennis Kelly. **Article passed.**

ARTICLE 26: To see if the Town will authorize the Officers to spend \$15,000 from the **CULTURE AND RECREATION RESERVE** for 2024 Recreation Committee events and programming.

Motion made by Gregg Smallwood to accept Article 26 as written, seconded by Kevin Noyes. **Article passed.**

ARTICLE 27: To see if the Town will authorize the Officers to spend \$300 from the **COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS RESERVE** for an employee Christmas dinner.

Motion made by Gregg Smallwood to accept Article 27 as written, seconded by Dennis Kelly. **Article passed.**

ARTICLE 28: To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and authorize the Officers to spend for **NON-MUNICIPAL ORGANIZATIONS.**

NON-MUNICIPAL	2023	2024
Patten Little League	\$1,000	\$ 1,000
Penquis	\$ -	\$ 822
Patten Lumbermen's Museum	\$1,000	\$ 1,500
Patten Historical Society	\$1,000	\$ 1,000
Patten ATV Club	\$1,000	\$ 1,000
Patten Area Women's Club	\$2,000	\$ 2,000
Eastern Area Agency on Aging	\$ 400	\$ 600
Patten Community Food Cupboard	\$1,000	\$ 1,500
Masonic Lodge	\$1,500	\$ 1,500
Patten Area Outdoors	\$ -	\$ 500
Partners for Peace	\$ -	\$ 500
Maine Public Radio	\$ -	\$ 100
Total Appropriation	\$8,900	\$13,022

Motion made by Gregg Smallwood to accept Article 28 as written, seconded by Dennis Kelly. **Article passed.**

ARTICLE 29: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the creation of an **AMBULANCE RESERVE** and appropriate funds in the amount of \$30,000 for a new ambulance.

Motion made by Gregg Smallwood to accept Article 29 as written, seconded by Dennis Kelly. **Article passed.**

ARTICLE 30: To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and authorize the Officers to spend for **AMBULANCE SERVICE OPERATIONS.**

AMBULANCE	2023	2024
Local Taxes	\$ -	\$145,000
Revenues	\$544,973	\$651,000
Total Appropriation	\$544,973	\$796,000

Motion made by Gregg Smallwood to accept Article 30 as written, seconded by Dennis Kelly. **Article passed.**

ARTICLE 31: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Officers to spend for **WATER DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS.**

WATER DEPT	2023	2024
Local Taxes	\$ 4,755	\$ -
Revenues	\$79,750	\$124,735
Total Appropriation	\$84,505	\$124,735

Motion made by Gregg Smallwood to accept Article 31 as written, seconded by Dennis Kelly. **Article passed.**

ARTICLE 32: To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and authorize the Officers to spend for one of the proposals below for **SEWER DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS.**

SEWER DEPT	2023	2024
Local Taxes	\$23,950	\$22,000
Rate Increase	\$ -	\$ 2,000
Revenues	\$22,000	\$35,000

Total Appropriation	\$45,950	\$59,000
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Proposal 1: Increase the basic sewer rate and increase taxes.

SEWER DEPT	2023	2024
Local Taxes	\$23,950	\$ 9,000
Rate Increase	\$ -	\$ 2,000
Revenues	\$22,000	\$35,000
Readiness	\$ -	\$13,000
Total Appropriation	\$45,950	\$59,000

Proposal 2: Increase the basic sewer rate and institute a readiness to serve charge.

SEWER DEPT	2023	2024
Local Taxes	\$23,950	\$24,000
Revenues	\$22,000	\$35,000
Total Appropriation	\$45,950	\$59,000

Proposal 3: No changes to the basic sewer rate or institution of a readiness to serve charge

Motion made by Gregg Smallwood to raise, appropriate, and authorize the Officers to spend for Proposal 1 for Sewer Department Operations, seconded by Kevin Noyes. **Article passed.**

ARTICLE 33: To see if the Town would vote to increase the property tax levy limit established for the Town of Patten, by State Law, if the municipal budget approved under the preceding articles will result in a tax commitment that is greater than the property tax levy limit.

Motion made by Gregg Smallwood to accept Article 33 as written, seconded by Dennis Kelly. Vote taken by written ballot by the Select Board. **Article passed 5/0/0.**

ARTICLE 34: To see if the Town will vote to charge interest on 2024 taxes unpaid as of a certain date. All checks will be credited as of the date the Town receives payment, if so, what rate of interest and what date?

Motion made by Gregg Smallwood to charge 8.25% interest on 2024 taxes unpaid as of 60 days from the date of commitment, seconded by Dennis Kelly. **Article passed.**

ARTICLE 35: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector to accept prepayment of taxes for the Year 2025 not yet due or committed pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A § 506, for the purpose of conducting a TWELVE PAYMENT TAX CLUB, beginning January 1st and ending December 31st, 2025 with interest to accrue on any unpaid balance after December 31st; and to accept prepayment of taxes for the Year 2025 from anyone wishing to make any early payment on the 2025 taxes from January 1st, 2025 to the date of commitment.

Motion made by Gregg Smallwood to accept Article 35 as written, seconded by Kevin Noyes. **Article passed.**

ARTICLE 36: To see if the Town will vote NOT TO PAY INTEREST to participants of the Tax Club and all other early payments of taxes not yet due or assessed.

Motion made by Gregg Smallwood to accept Article 36 as written, seconded by Kevin Noyes. **Article passed.**

ARTICLE 37: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Officers on behalf of the Town to sell or dispose of any real estate acquired by the Town for non-payment of taxes or liens, both real estate and sewer, and if sold, on such terms as are legally permitted and are deemed advisable, to execute a quitclaim deed on the conveyance of such property. The Board reserves the option to retain property if the market value is not favorable and to retain property if they feel it is needed for Town use.

Motion made by Gregg Smallwood to accept Article 37 as written, seconded by Kevin Noyes. **Article passed.**

ARTICLE 38: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Officers to purchase, acquire, or exchange such equipment as deemed necessary for the operation and maintenance of an Ambulance Service, Fire Department, and / or repairs of roads and properties within the Town and to sell, barter, transfer, or salvage any equipment deemed surplus or beyond economical repair.

Motion made by Gregg Smallwood to accept Article 38 as written, seconded by Kevin Noyes. **Article passed.**

ARTICLE 39: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer to receive incidental fees and receipts and to credit such revenues to the correspondent accounts.

Motion made by Gregg Smallwood to accept Article 39 as written, seconded by Dennis Kelly. **Article passed.**

ARTICLE 40: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and authorize the Officers to spend the incidental fees and receipts cited in Article 39.

Motion made by Gregg Smallwood to accept Article 40 as written, seconded by Dennis Kelly. **Article passed.**

ARTICLE 41: To see if the Town will vote to transfer Town funds received from the State of Maine for Snowmobile Registrations and Snowmobile Grants to the **ROCKABEMA SNOW RANGERS CLUB** providing the club shall use such revenues for projects benefiting the public.

Motion made by Gregg Smallwood to accept Article 41 as written, seconded by Kevin Noyes. **Article passed.**

ARTICLE 42: To see if the Town will vote to transfer Town funds received from the State of Maine for ATV Grants to the **PATTEN ATV CLUB** providing the club shall use such revenues for projects benefiting the public.

Motion made by Gregg Smallwood to accept Article 42 as written, seconded by Dennis Kelly. **Article passed.**

ARTICLE 43: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to apply for Federal, State of Maine and other grants, on behalf of the Town, in the general operations of the Town and other funds, to make such assurances and exercise such authority necessary and reasonable to implement such programs as they deem advisable.

Motion made by Gregg Smallwood to accept Article 43 as written, seconded by Dennis Kelly. **Article passed.**

ARTICLE 44: Shall the Town vote to accept the categories of funds listed below as provided by the State of Maine legislature (MRSA Title 30-A, Subsection 5682)

- Bureau of Conservation
- Excise Tax
- State Revenue Sharing
- Veterans Exemption Reimbursement
- Tree Growth Reimbursement
- General Assistance Reimbursement

- Property Tax Relief Funds
- Secretary of State Reimbursement
- Homestead Exemption Reimbursement
- Civil Emergency (FEMA / MEMA)
- Library State Aid
- Snowmobile Grants / Revenues
- Snowmobile Registrations
- Department of Environmental Protection Grants / Funds
- Department of Economic & Community Development Grants / Funds
- Department of Transportation Local Road Assistance
- Other Federal and State funds not listed above.

Motion made by Gregg Smallwood to accept the categories of funds listed, seconded by Kevin Noyes. **Article passed.**

ARTICLE 45: To see if the Town will vote to change the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee Ordinance to a Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee Policy.

Motion made by Gregg Smallwood to accept Article 45 as written, seconded by Dennis Kelly. Vote taken by written ballot. **Article passed 18 yea / 2 nay.**

ARTICLE 46: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to spend an amount not to exceed 1/3 of the estimated budget amount in each category of the Patten Annual Budget for the period of January 1st, 2025, to April 25th, 2025.

Motion made by Gregg Smallwood to accept Article 46 as written, seconded by Dennis Kelly. **Article passed.**

ARTICLE 47: To see if the Town will vote to set the date and time of the next TOWN MEETING to be held in 2025.

Motion made by Gregg Smallwood to set the date and time of the next Town Meeting to be held on April 24th, 2025, at 6:00pm, seconded by Dennis Kelly. **Article passed.**

Annual Town Meeting Minutes for 2024

Approved by the Select Board on May 14th, 2024

Theresa Schmidt
Cody Brackett, Chair

ABSENT
Rae Bates

Dennis Kelly
Dennis Kelly

Gregg Smallwood
Gregg Smallwood, Vice-Chair

Janice Dancer
Janice Dancer