

# Meeting Minutes of the annual town meeting - 2023

## TOWN OF BELGRADE

### STATE OF MAINE Kennebec, S.S.

To Jeremy Damren, of the Town of Belgrade, in the said County and State:

Greetings: In the name of the State, you are hereby required to notify and warn inhabitants of the Town of Belgrade, qualified to vote in Town affairs, to assemble at the Center For All Seasons, in said Town, Friday, March 17, 2023, at 7:45 a.m. to elect a Moderator to preside at said meeting, to elect Town Officers for the ensuing year(s) and to vote by secret ballot on Articles 2 to 7. Polls are to be open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The inhabitants of the Town of Belgrade, qualified to vote in the Town affairs, are hereby also warned to assemble at the Belgrade Community Center for All Seasons, on Saturday, March 18, 2023, at 1:00 p.m., to act on Article 8 to the end of the warrant.

#### **ARTICLE 1**

To elect a Moderator to preside at said meeting.

#### **ARTICLE 2**

To elect Town Officers for the ensuing years:

One Selectperson to a three-year term (Expires 2026) – Daniel Newman – 185 votes 14 Write-ins Blanks 36

One Selectperson to a two-year term (Expires 2025) – Peter Rushton – 187 votes Nicholas Alexander – 42 votes Write-ins 0 Blanks 5

One School Board Member to a three-year term (July 2023-June 2026) – Sara Languet – 214 Write-ins 0 Blanks 21

#### **ARTICLE 3**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate from taxation \$1,138 for the Sexual Assault Crisis and Support Center?

<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b><u>Actual</u></b>	<b><u>request</u></b>
<b>\$1,116.00</b>	<b>\$1,138.00</b>

Selectboard recommendation: YES 4 NO 0 ABSENT 0

Budget Committee recommendation: YES 3 NO 0 ABSENT 2

Passed – Yes 210 No 25 Blanks 0

#### **ARTICLE 4**

Shall the town vote to raise and appropriate from taxation \$60,000 for Lake Protection, to be disbursed in the amounts indicated to the following organizations and from the following funding sources:

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b><u>Actual</u></b>	<b><u>request</u></b>
Belgrade Lakes Association (Great Pond milfoil removal)	\$16,000.00	\$24,000.00
Friends of Messalonskee (Belgrade Stream milfoil removal)	\$13,100.00	\$19,650.00
7 Lakes Alliance (Courtesy boat inspection, Youth Conservation Corps)	\$ 8,400.00	\$12,600.00
McGrath-Salmon Lake Association (Courtesy boat inspection, Youth Conservation Corps, Port-O-Let)	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 3,750.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$40,000.00</b>	<b>\$60,000.00</b>
<b>Funding from non-property tax sources:</b>		
Water Quality Improvement Fund	\$20,000.00	\$ 0.00
<b>Funding from property taxes</b>	<b>\$20,000.00</b>	<b>\$60,000.00</b>

Selectboard recommendation: YES 4 NO 0 ABSENT 0

Budget Committee recommendation: YES 0 NO 3 ABSENT 2

Passed – Yes 155 No 79 Blanks 1

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## ARTICLE 5

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate from taxation \$1,488 to help fund Spectrum Generations for Belgrade residents?

		<u>2022 Actual</u>		<u>2023 request</u>
		<b>\$1,488.00</b>		<b>\$1,488.00</b>
Selectboard recommendation:	YES 3	NO 1	ABSENT 0	
Budget Committee recommendation:	YES 3	NO 0	ABSENT 2	
Passed – Yes 197 No 36 Blank 0				

## ARTICLE 6

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate from taxation \$1,500 to help fund Hospice Volunteers of Waterville Area?

		<u>2022 Actual</u>		<u>2023 request</u>
		<b>\$1,500.00</b>		<b>\$1,500.00</b>
Selectboard recommendation:	YES 4	NO 0	ABSENT 0	
Budget Committee recommendation:	YES 3	NO 0	ABSENT 2	
Passed - Yes 211 No 21 Blank 3				

## ARTICLE 7

Shall the Town approve an update to the Town's Cemetery ordinance, which was last amended in 2022?

Selectboard recommendation:	YES 4	NO 0	ABSENT 0
Passed – Yes 202 No 30 Blanks 3			

## \*\*\*GENERAL GOVERNMENT\*\*\*

## ARTICLE 8

To see if the Town will authorize the Board of Selectpersons to act on the following:

- Spend an amount not to exceed one-fourth of the approved budget for 2023 between January 1, 2024, and the date of the regular 2024 Town Meeting.
- Vote to accept all overdrafts and balances that have lapsed and are not otherwise directed to the undesignated fund.

Selectboard recommendation:	YES 4	NO 0	ABSENT 0
Melanie Jewell motioned; Daniel Newman seconded - Passed			

## ARTICLE 9

To see if the Town will vote pursuant to 36 MRSA section 506 to authorize the tax collector to accept prepayment of property taxes prior to the delivery of the tax commitment to the tax collector by the assessors without payment of interest.

Selectboard recommendation:	YES 4	NO 0	ABSENT 0
Melanie Jewell motioned; Daniel Newman seconded - Passed			

## ARTICLE 10

To see if the town will set Friday, September 1, 2023, as the date 2023 property taxes are due. For taxes paid after September 1, 2023, interest will be charged at a rate of 3.9% per annum. Interest will continue until the tax and tax lien are paid in full. Additionally, to see if the Town will set the interest rate to be paid by the Town on taxes paid and later abated at 2% per annum. Interest will accrue from the date of the tax payment to the date the abated amount is refunded to the taxpayer.

Selectboard recommendation:	YES 4	NO 0	ABSENT 0
Melanie Jewell motioned; Daniel Newman seconded - Passed			

## ARTICLE 11

To see if the town will appropriate estimated revenues in the amount of \$1,654,996 from the following sources to reduce the property tax commitment:

	<u>2022 Budget</u>	<u>2022 actual</u>	<u>2023 proposed</u>
Vehicle excise tax	\$1,005,316.00	\$1,097,937.38	\$1,000,000.00
Boat excise tax	\$ 9,996.00	\$ 10,516.00	\$ 9,996.00
Interest & cost fees	\$ 15,875.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00

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Cable franchise fees	\$ 47,803.00	\$ 49,717.00	\$ 49,000.00
Bank interest	\$ 13,520.00	\$ 18,763.00	\$ 20,000.00
Homestead exemption	\$ 216,591.00	\$ 216,007.00	\$ 216,000.00
Municipal revenue sharing	\$ 315,080.00	\$ 418,671.83	\$ 350,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,624,181.00</b>	<b>\$1,821,612.21</b>	<b>\$1,654,996.00</b>

Selectboard recommendation: YES 4 NO 0 ABSENT 0

Budget Committee recommendation: YES 4 NO 0 ABSENT 1

Melanie Jewell motioned; Daniel Newman seconded - Passed

## ARTICLE 12

To see if the town will appropriate \$7,500 from building permits, \$8,700 from plumbing fees, and raise and appropriate from taxation \$784,520, for a total of \$800,720, for municipal operations and administrative activities as follows:

	<b>2022 Budget</b>	<b>2022 actual</b>	<b>2023 proposed</b>
Selectboard	\$ 14,855.00	\$ 14,842.49	\$ 14,855.00
Board of Appeals	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 210.00	\$ 1,350.00
Administration	\$426,010.00	\$380,795.03	\$504,995.00
Town Manager	\$112,490.00	\$103,056.49	\$106,220.00
Code Enforcement	\$ 56,325.00	\$ 41,331.51	\$ 59,000.00
Planning Board	\$ 6,350.00	\$ 816.77	\$ 7,250.00
Hearings and Elections	\$ 11,950.00	\$ 9,207.43	\$ 11,950.00
Historian	\$ 500.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 500.00
Insurance	\$ 98,200.00	\$ 85,909.72	\$ 94,600.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$727,980.00</b>	<b>\$636,169.44</b>	<b>\$800,720.00</b>

### Funding from non-property tax sources:

From undesignated fund	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Plumbing fees	\$11,585.00	\$10,916.00	\$ 8,700.00
Building permit fees	\$ 8,250.00	\$ 8,682.00	\$ 7,500.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$19,835.00</b>	<b>\$19,598.00</b>	<b>\$16,200.00</b>

**Funding from property taxes**                      **\$708,145.00**                      **\$784,520.00**

Selectboard recommendation: YES 4 NO 0 ABSENT 0

Budget Committee recommendation: YES 4 NO 0 ABSENT 1

Melanie Jewell motioned; Daniel Newman seconded - Passed

## \*\*\*PUBLIC SAFETY\*\*\*

## ARTICLE 13

To see if the town will appropriate \$45,271 in non-tax revenue, and raise and appropriate from taxation \$434,284 for Public Safety, for a total of \$479,555 as follows, with any unexpended balance from the Fire & Rescue Department budget lapsing into its equipment capital reserve:

	<b>2022 Budget</b>	<b>2022 actual</b>	<b>2023 proposed</b>
Emergency Mgmt. Director	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 500.00
Fire & Rescue Department	\$324,925.00	\$224,021.62	\$409,405.00
Municipal streetlights	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,382.33	\$ 1,800.00
Animal Control Officer	\$ 13,200.00	\$ 9,968.52	\$ 13,700.00
Health Officer	\$ 550.00	\$ 900.00	\$ 550.00
Dispatch	\$ 52,500.00	\$ 43,512.62	\$ 53,600.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$392,675.00</b>	<b>\$279,785.09</b>	<b>\$479,555.00</b>

### Funding from non-property tax sources:

Town of Rome contribution	\$ 0.00	\$25,000.00	\$32,500.00
Fire Dept. cost recovery revenue	\$ 9,200.00	\$ 9,200.00	\$11,271.00
Dog fees	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,500.00

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<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$11,200.00</b>	<b>\$36,200.00</b>	<b>\$45,271.00</b>
<b>Funding from property taxes</b>	<b>\$381,475.00</b>		<b>\$434,284.00</b>
Selectboard recommendation:	YES 4	NO 0	ABSENT 0
Budget Committee recommendation:	YES 4	NO 0	ABSENT 1
Melanie Jewell motioned; Daniel Newman seconded - Passed			

## ARTICLE 14

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation \$592,519 for Public Works as follows, with any unexpended balance lapsing into the roads capital reserve:

	<b>2022 Budget</b>	<b>2022 actual</b>	<b>2023 proposed</b>
General road maintenance	\$155,675.00	\$157,210.37	\$172,275.00
Winter Maintenance contract	\$298,000.00	\$297,821.00	\$314,000.00
Fuel escalator (winter maint. Contract)	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 12,000.00
Sand and salt	\$101,000.00	\$ 48,206.00	\$140,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$554,675.00</b>	<b>\$503,237.37</b>	<b>\$638,275.00</b>

### **Funding from non-property tax sources:**

Local Roads Assistance Program (LRAP)	\$ 46,504.00	\$ 46,504.00	\$ 45,756.00
From undesignated fund	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
From capital reserves	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 46,504.00</b>	<b>\$ 46,504.00</b>	<b>\$ 45,756.00</b>

<b>Funding from property taxes</b>	<b>\$554,675.00</b>		<b>\$592,519.00</b>
Selectboard recommendation:	YES 4	NO 0	ABSENT 0
Budget Committee recommendation:	YES 4	NO 0	ABSENT 1
Melanie Jewell motioned; Daniel Newman seconded - Passed			

## \*\*\*CEMETERIES\*\*\*

## ARTICLE 15

To see if the Town will appropriate \$9,568 in income from the Cemetery portfolio, and raise and appropriate from taxation \$62,597, for a total of \$72,165, for the cost of operation and maintenance of the cemeteries as follows:

	<b>2022 Budget</b>	<b>2022 actual</b>	<b>2023 proposed</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$23,125.000</b>	<b>\$21,147.77</b>	<b>\$72,165.00</b>

### **Funding from non-property tax sources:**

Cemetery Portfolio			\$ 8,886.26
ICS Perpetual Care			\$ 314.74
Guy A. Yeaton Cemetery Trust			\$ 79.85
Lacroix Cemetery Trust			\$ 287.40
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$ 9,568.25</b>

<b>Funding from property taxes</b>			<b>\$62,597.00</b>
Selectboard recommendation:	YES 4	NO 0	ABSENT 0
Budget Committee recommendation:	YES 4	NO 0	ABSENT 1

Melanie Jewell motioned; Daniel Newman seconded.

Resident, Steve Smith asked why there was such a large increase in this budget. Cemetery Committee Chair, Phil Sprague explained the town would be hiring a sexton instead of facility maintenance having to manage the cemetery, it is a lot of extra work that is quite busy. Cory Alexander noted that the Sexton would also work as additional maintenance for the cemetery. – Passed

## \*\*\*FACILITIES AND GROUNDS\*\*\*

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## **ARTICLE 16**

To see if the town will appropriate \$1,550 from the library mowing contract, and raise and appropriate from taxation \$414,690, for a total of \$416,240, for the maintenance of facilities and grounds as follows:

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b><u>Budget</u></b>	<b><u>actual</u></b>	<b><u>proposed</u></b>
General	\$145,700.00	\$180,803.78	\$220,100.00
Center for All Seasons	\$ 59,570.00	\$ 40,528.08	\$ 49,870.00
North Belgrade Comm. Ctr.	\$ 17,880.00	\$ 11,449.87	\$ 14,840.00
Maintenance garage	\$ 4,350.00	\$ 4,829.11	\$ 8,400.00
Salt and sand shed	\$ 1,150.00	\$ 683.74	\$ 2,600.00
Lakes fire station	\$ 19,920.00	\$ 15,801.79	\$ 19,945.00
Depot fire station	\$ 4,920.00	\$ 5,360.52	\$ 8,705.00
North Belgrade fire station	\$ 4,765.00	\$ 3,742.86	\$ 7,350.00
Transfer Station	\$ 12,265.00	\$ 11,314.43	\$ 24,665.00
Parks	\$ 9,400.00	\$ 3,227.39	\$ 11,000.00
Dalton Road properties	\$ 12,050.00	\$ 13,174.26	\$ 27,550.00
Dams	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 400.00
History House	\$ 425.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 3,200.00
Town Office	\$ 22,415.00	\$ 18,264.15	\$ 16,615.00
Library	\$ 500.00	\$ 935.18	\$ 1,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$315,310.00</b>	<b>\$310,115.16</b>	<b>\$416,240.00</b>

### **Funding from non-property tax sources:**

Library mowing/plowing contract	\$ 1,378.00	\$ 1,378.00	\$1,550.00
Dalton revenue fund	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$ 0.00
Facilities capital reserve	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$ 0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$61,378.00</b>	<b>\$61,378.00</b>	<b>\$1,550.00</b>

### **Funding from property taxes \$452,650.00**

*Selectboard recommendation:* YES 4 NO 0 ABSENT 0

*Budget Committee recommendation:* YES 4 NO 0 ABSENT 1

Melanie Jewell motioned; Daniel Newman seconded - Passed

**\$414,690.00**

## \*\*\*SOLID WASTE\*\*\*

## **ARTICLE 17**

To see if the town will appropriate \$30,000 from anticipated revenue from Solid Waste operations, \$10,000 from undesignated funds, and raise and appropriate from taxation \$325,800 for a total request of \$365,800.

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b><u>Budget</u></b>	<b><u>actual</u></b>	<b><u>proposed</u></b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$328,500.00</b>	<b>\$280,909.77</b>	<b>\$365,800.00</b>
<b>Funding from non-property tax sources:</b>			
From undesignated	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$10,000.00
Solid waste revenue	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00
Solid waste capital reserve	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$30,000.00</b>	<b>\$30,000.00</b>	<b>\$40,000.00</b>

### **Funding from property taxes \$298,500.00**

*Selectboard recommendation:* YES 4 NO 0 ABSENT 0

*Budget Committee recommendation:* YES 4 NO 0 ABSENT 1

Melanie Jewell motioned; Daniel Newman seconded - Passed

**\$325,800.00**

## **ARTICLE 18**

To see if the town will appropriate \$8,524 from the library capital reserve, and raise and appropriate from taxation \$101,501 for library services as follows, with any unexpended balance lapsing into the library capital reserve:

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	<u>2022 Budget</u>	<u>2022 actual</u>	<u>2023 proposed</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$102,025.00</b>	<b>\$93,117.96</b>	<b>\$110,025.00</b>
<b>Funding from non-property tax sources:</b>			
Library capital reserve	\$ 8,524.00	\$ 8,524.00	\$ 8,524.00
<b>Funding from property taxes:</b>	<b>\$93,501.00</b>		<b>\$101,501.00</b>
Selectboard recommendation:	YES 4	NO 0	ABSENT 0
Budget Committee recommendation:	YES 4	NO 0	ABSENT 1
Melanie Jewell motioned; Daniel Newman seconded - Passed			

## \*\*\*LIBRARY\*\*\*

### ARTICLE 19

To see if the town will authorize the Board of Selectpersons to enter into a one-year contract with the Friends of the Belgrade Public Library for up to \$3,000 to be paid by the Friends to the Town for plowing and mowing services to be performed by the Town at the Library property on Depot Road.

Selectboard recommendation: YES 4 NO 0 ABSENT 0

Melanie Jewell motioned; Daniel Newman seconded - Passed

### ARTICLE 20

To see if the town will appropriate \$69,000 from anticipated recreation revenue, and raise and appropriate from taxation \$157,045 for recreation services, with any unexpended balance lapsing into the recreation capital reserve:

	<u>2022 Budget</u>	<u>2022 actual</u>	<u>2023 proposed</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$190,625.00</b>	<b>\$165,042.39</b>	<b>\$226,045.00</b>
<b>Funding from non-property tax sources:</b>			
Recreation revenue	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 69,000.00
<b>Funding from property taxes</b>	<b>\$130,625.00</b>		<b>\$157,045.00</b>
Selectboard recommendation:	YES 4	NO 0	ABSENT 0
Budget Committee recommendation:	YES 4	NO 0	ABSENT 1
Melanie Jewell motioned; Daniel Newman seconded – Passed			

\*Melanie Jewell made a motion for a 15-minute break to award the Spirit of America Awards and the Legislative Sentiments to the following recipients:

Spirit of America Awards – Michial Heino, Bruce Galouch, Maureen Milliken and Catharine Damren.

Legislative Sentiments were given to the following people: Alan & Marilou Butterfield, Judy Hallowell, Becky Seel and Mary Vogel.

### ARTICLE 21 -

To see if the town will vote to appropriate \$12,500 from undesignated funds, \$12,500 from the Emergency Fuel Fund and to raise and appropriate from taxation \$4,780 for a total of \$29,780 for social services as follows:

	<u>2022 Budget</u>	<u>2022 actual</u>	<u>2023 proposed</u>
General Assistance	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 1,670.90	\$ 5,000.00
Emergency Fuel Fund	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -193.20	\$20,000.00
Senior Resources Committee	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 1,421.09	\$ 3,500.00
Community event traffic control	\$ 760.00	\$ 260.00	\$ 780.00
Christmas wreaths	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$14,760.00</b>	<b>\$ 3,658.79</b>	<b>\$29,780.00</b>
<b>Funding from non-property tax sources:</b>			
From undesignated fund	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$12,500.00

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Emergency fuel fund	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$12,500.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$10,000.00</b>	<b>\$10,000.00</b>	<b>\$25,000.00</b>

**Funding from property taxes** \$ 4,760.00 \$ 4,780.00

Selectboard recommendation: YES 4 NO 0 ABSENT 0

Budget Committee recommendation: YES 4 NO 0 ABSENT 1

Melanie Jewell motioned; Daniel Newman seconded.

Resident Christina Wilson asked why there had not been more money expended from the emergency fuel fund, given there is a need. Town Manager Lorna Dee Nichols stated that many people had applied and qualified through General assistance, which is reimbursed by the state. Melanie Jewell noted the Board did recognize there may be an extra need and bumped the article from \$5,000 to \$20,000. Christina Wilson asked if residents were aware that funds are available so they could apply. – Passed

## ARTICLE 22

To see if the town will raise and/or appropriate \$1,500 to support the Belgrade Senior Volunteer Work Program, which allows seniors 60 and older to earn benefits up to \$750, with the benefits to be paid through a tax abatement from the overlay fund toward their property taxes, and to authorize unused funds to be placed into a special reserve account called the Senior Volunteer Work Ordinance Fund.

Selectboard recommendation: YES 4 NO 0 ABSENT 0

Budget Committee recommendation: YES 4 NO 0 ABSENT 1

Melanie Jewell motioned; Daniel Newman seconded.

Becky Seel asked about the term raise and/or appropriate for the Senior Volunteer Work Program. Mary Vogel said that the Senior Work Ordinance authorizes the money to be appropriated from the overlay and not to be raised from taxation.

Mary Vogel made a motion to propose the warrant article be written as follows.

“To see if the town will appropriate \$1,500 from the overlay to support the Belgrade Senior Volunteer Work Program, which allows seniors 60 and older to earn benefits up to \$750, with the benefits to be paid through a tax abatement from the overlay fund toward their property taxes, and to authorize unused funds to be placed into a special reserve account called the Senior Volunteer Work Ordinance Fund.”

Melanie Jewell seconded the motion. Passed as amended.

## ARTICLE 23

To see if the town will raise and appropriate from taxation \$23,418 for Belgrade’s share of 2023 operations/maintenance costs of the Village Dam, Wings Mills and Salmon Lake dams.

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>Budget</b>	<b>actual</b>	<b>proposed</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$18,168.00</b>	<b>\$18,168.00</b>	<b>\$23,418.00</b>

**Funding from property taxes** \$18,168.00 \$23,418.00

Selectboard recommendation: YES 4 NO 0 ABSENT 0

Budget Committee recommendation: YES 4 NO 0 ABSENT 1

Melanie Jewell motioned; Daniel Newman seconded.

Resident, Jack Sutton noted that the Belgrade Lakes Village Dam was in need of some major repairs and does the budget presented accurately reflect Belgrade’s share. Melanie Jewell stated the Board had thought if the ARPA funds were available through Kennebec County the town would be able to use those funds. However, they were not available. The intention is to use Belgrade’s ARPA funds to supplement the article, so the town does plan to have the dam repaired. - Passed

## ARTICLE 24

To see if the town will approve the creation of a Public Works Capital Reserve Account, for the purpose of preparing for the possibility that outside contracted resources are not available in future years, and to appropriate \$500,000 from undesignated funds to fund the account.

Selectboard recommendation: YES 4 NO 0 ABSENT 0

Budget Committee recommendation: YES 4 NO 0 ABSENT 1

Melanie Jewell motioned; Daniel Newman seconded.

Resident Thomas Dowd stated he felt this article was premature and there is no proposal on the costs of the Public Works Department. If the article is voted down the money will still be in the fund. He noted he felt it should be transparent and the article should be voted down until the town has more numbers.



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Resident Dennis Purington stated he also felt it was premature and should be voted down. Resident Tom Streznewski stated that there is a current committee formed that is looking at the issue. The town does not have a contractor lined up for the 2024-2025 snowplowing season. We may have to do it ourselves with no contractor and the town has to look ahead and start planning. It has been decided the town will need at least four trucks with plows, sanders, and drivers with CDL licenses. If the town decides to move forward, it will have at least three new trucks and six trucks if they are older to plan for breakdown. Regardless it is going to be expensive and where does the town put the trucks, the town will need to buy land. The State property is being looked at as well as the personnel. The thought is to consolidate with other town personnel and to keep year-round employees. Tom said the committee has spoken with other towns and noted it was important to keep money in an account in the event we need to do the public works on our own.

Melanie Jewell stated the town is not buying or setting up with the purchase of equipment without the town residents' permission. The intention with putting the funds aside is that it is in anticipation of the need if we do not have contractors. The town will return the funds to the undesignated fund. Melanie Jewell made a motion to move the question. Daniel Newman seconded the motion. - Passed

## ARTICLE 25

To see if the town will appropriate \$490,000 from the undesignated fund, in the following amounts for the following purposes:

	<b>2022 Balance*</b>	<b>2023 proposed</b>
Fire & Rescue Capital Reserve	\$271,027.00	\$ 75,000.00
Fire & Rescue Building Capital Reserve	\$330,000.00	\$100,000.00
Maintenance Garage Capital Reserve	\$ 29,580.00	\$ 15,000.00
Facilities Capital Reserve	\$ 8,300.00	\$100,000.00
Well Contamination Remediation Fund	\$209,168.00	\$200,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$848,075.00</b>	<b>\$490,000.00</b>

<b>Funding from property taxes</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>
Selectboard recommendation:	YES 4 NO 0	ABSENT 0
Budget Committee recommendation:	YES 4 NO 0	ABSENT 1

Melanie Jewell made a motioned, Daniel Newman seconded the motion. - Passed

## **\*\*\*DEBT SERVICE\*\*\***

## ARTICLE 26

To see if the town will raise and appropriate from taxation \$297,060 for the first payment on the remaining two years of the Road Bond, \$49,894 for the eighth payment on the Town Office 13-year bond and \$15,000 for the Tax Anticipation Note interest, for a total of \$361,954.

	<b>2022 Budget</b>	<b>2022 actual</b>	<b>2023 proposed</b>
Road Bond	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$297,060.00
Town Office	\$38,302.00	\$38,301.42	\$ 49,894.00
Interest Tax Anticipation Note	\$15,000.00	\$ 3,539.72	\$ 15,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$53,302.00</b>	<b>\$41,841.14</b>	<b>\$361,954.00</b>
Selectboard recommendation:	YES 4 NO 0	ABSENT 0	
Budget Committee recommendation:	YES 4 NO 0	ABSENT 1	

Melanie Jewell made a motioned, Daniel Newman seconded the motion. - Passed

## ARTICLE 27

To see if the town will raise, appropriate, authorize, designate or release the collective sum of \$14,642 as dictated by the following trusts and funds:



# Meeting Minutes of the annual town meeting - 2023

\*To make available to the Principal of Belgrade Central School the interest, in the amount of \$277, from the Robert A. Guptill Historical Fund for the promotion and association of history.

\*To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$960 in property taxes, and appropriate \$40 from the Don C. Stevens Fund for a total of \$1,000 to support an academic award from the Town to the highest-ranking Belgrade senior graduating in 2023.

\*Authorize use of the Don C. Stevens Fund for the Public Schools of Belgrade income in the amount of \$13,470 to benefit the public schools of Belgrade.

Selectboard recommendation: YES 4 NO 0 ABSENT 0

Budget Committee recommendation: YES 4 NO 0 ABSENT 1

Melanie Jewell made a motioned, Daniel Newman seconded the motion. - Passed

## \*\*\*TRUST ACTIVITIES\*\*\*

### ARTICLE 28

To see if the town will authorize the Selectboard to use money from the undesignated fund to maintain operations at 2022 levels should the voters reject a departmental budget under this warrant, until such time as the voters approve a revised budget for the department(s) at a special town meeting.

Selectboard recommendation: YES 4 NO 0 ABSENT 0

Melanie Jewell made a motioned, Daniel Newman seconded the motion. - Passed

## \*\*\*ADDITIONAL ARTICLES\*\*\*

### ARTICLE 29

Shall the Town vote to increase the property tax levy limit of \$1,605,416 established for the Town of Belgrade by State Law in the event that the municipal budget, approved in the preceding articles, will result in a tax commitment that exceeds that property tax levy limit?

Selectboard recommendation: YES 4 NO 0 ABSENT 0

There were several questions regarding the LD1 and the purpose. Resident Anthony Wilson provided an explanation. Melanie Jewell made a motioned, Daniel Newman seconded the motion. – Secret Ballot votes Yes – 54 No- 9 LD1 article - Passed to increase the property tax levy limit by \$66, 822.

Given under our hands this 7<sup>th</sup> day of March in the year of our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Three.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

Municipal Officers:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Melanie Jewell

\_\_\_\_\_  
Barbara Allen

\_\_\_\_\_  
Carol Johnson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Daniel Newman

# Meeting Minutes of the annual town meeting - 2023

Board of Selectpersons  
Town of Belgrade

A True Copy of the Warrant

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Clerk for the Town of Belgrade

Belgrade, Maine March 8, 2023

**RETURN ON THE WARRANT**

# Meeting Minutes of the annual town meeting - 2023

Pursuant to the within Warrant to me directed, I have notified and warned the inhabitants of the Town of Belgrade, qualified, as herein expressed, to meet at the time and place, and for the purposes therein named, by posting an attested copy of said Warrant at the door of the Belgrade Town Office, The Belgrade Depot Post Office, the Belgrade Lakes Post Office, the Belgrade Library, the Center For all Seasons, being public and conspicuous places in said Town, on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023 A.D.,

being at least seven days before the meeting.

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Jeremy Damren, Resident of Belgrade, Maine 04917