

TOWN OF BROWNVILLE

Secret Ballot Election & Annual Town Meeting Warrant

March 18, 2024

To: Christopher Crockett, a resident of the Town of Brownville, in the County of Piscataquis and State of Maine.

Greetings:

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Brownville, in said county, qualified by law to vote in town affairs, to meet at the American Legion Post #92, in said town, on Monday, March 18th, 2024, at 11:45 a.m., to act on Article 1 and by secret ballot on Article 2 as set out below, and again at 6:00pm to act on Articles 3 to 34. The polling hours therefore to be from 12:00 Noon to 5 p.m.

1. **Elect Moderator @ 11:45 a.m. Vote:**
2. **Voting: 12 Noon to 5 p.m.**
3. **Town Meeting at 6 p.m. to act on Articles 3- 34**

- Article 1. To choose a moderator to preside at said meeting.
- Article 2. To proceed with voting by secret ballot, as directed by statute, on the election of Town Officers for the ensuing year(s)
- Two Selectpersons, who shall also serve as a member of the Board of Assessors and Overseers of the Poor, for a term of three years.
 - One Selectperson, who shall serve as a member of the Board of Assessors and Overseers of the Poor, for a term of two years.
 - One Director of M.S.A.D. #41 for a term of three years.
- Article 3. To choose three tellers to receive, sort and count votes.
- Article 4. To see if the voters will allow non-residents to speak.
- Article 5. To see if the Town of Brownville will set a rate of interest to be paid after the due dates on delinquent taxes. 8.5% is recommended and is charged after September 15, 2024 on unpaid taxes. (36 M.R.S.A. §505)
- Article 6. To see if the Town of Brownville will vote to establish that 4.5% will be paid per year on the amount of overpayment to the taxpayer who is determined to have paid an amount of real estate or personal property taxes in excess of the amount finally assessed on April 1, 2024. (36 M.R.S.A. §506 – A)
- Article 7. To see what sum of money the Town of Brownville will vote to raise and appropriate for the **General Government Budget**.

	2022 Budget	2023 Budget	2024 Recommended
Administration	\$209,430	\$245,600	\$290,553
Assessing	\$22,700	\$22,850	\$24,481
Town Office	\$12,395	\$19,150	\$18,550
Insurances	\$31,497	\$32,300	\$37,100
Totals	\$276,022	\$319,900	\$370,684

Selectboard and Budget Committee Recommend \$370,684 for 2024

- Article 8. To see what sum of money the Town of Brownville will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Public Safety Budget**.

	2022 Budget	2023 Budget	2024 Recommended
EMS	\$19,591	\$29,050	\$39,170
Fire	\$72,481	\$97,300	\$132,803
Public Safety Officer	\$6,460	\$8,650	\$11,150
Ambulance	\$4,860	\$5,200	\$6,075
Animal Control	\$2,562	\$5,500	\$9,500
Street Lights	\$12,000	\$13,500	\$15,500
Fire Prot (Hydrants)	\$71,705	\$71,705	\$77,000
Code Enforcement/LPI	**	**	**\$23,138
Emergency Mgmt Agen	\$3,750	\$3,900	\$4,918
Totals	\$193,409	\$234,805	\$319,254

** In 2022 Code Enforcement was paid \$5,000 as an annual stipend within the General Government, Administration Budget and LPI fees assessed were distributed to the State, DEP and LPI as a pass through and not reflected in the revenue/expenses for the budget.

** In 2023 Code Enforcement was paid hourly (and held regular office hours) for a budgeted amount of \$9,000 and LPI fees were distributed to the State, DEP and LPI within the General Government, Administration Budget.

** In 2024 Code Enforcement and LPI have been moved from the General Government, Administration Budget to the Public Safety Budget with their own division as reflected above.

** The General Government, Administration Budget is reflected in Article 7 above.

Selectboard and Budget Committee Recommend \$319,254

Article 9. To see what sum of money the Town of Brownville will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Public Works Budget**.

	2022 Budget	2023 Budget	2024 Recommended
Highway	\$267,122	\$314,550	\$365,074
Sanitation	\$110,125	\$138,840	\$156,590
Transfer Station (PSWC)	\$45,768	\$45,768	\$55,744
Cemeteries	\$28,742	\$32,950	\$35,733
Parks & Facilities	**	**	**\$2,800
Totals	\$451,757	\$532,108	\$615,941

** Parks & Facilities has been broken out between Recreation (formerly Parks & Recreation), Rec Programs and Public Works, Parks & Facilities budgets for 2024 to more accurately reflect which department wages and supplies are pulled from for these activities. In previous years, grounds maintenance for all town facilities was reflected in the Parks & Recreation, Recreation Facilities budget. In 2024, Davis Field will be the only facility reflected in the Recreation Budget and now sits in the Rec Programs section. The remaining facilities (with the exception of water/sewer properties) will be reflected in the Public Works Parks & Facilities budget, including Whetstone Rest Area, the Town Office, Public Works Garage, Village & Jct. Fire Stations and Village and Jct. Playgrounds.

Selectboard and Budget Committee Recommend \$615,941

Article 10. To see what sum of money the Town of Brownville will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Recreation Budget**.

	2022 Budget	2023 Budget	2024 Recommended
Recreation Programs	\$18,300	\$21,150	\$29,880
Recreation Facilities	\$1,350	\$1,900	**
Recreation Snack Shack	\$1,100	\$1,700	\$2,050
Brownville Days	\$2,500	**	**
Totals	\$23,250	\$24,750	\$31,930

****Recreation Facilities-** see notation on Article 9 Related to the Public Works Budget.

****Brownville Days –** see Article 13.

Selectboard and Budget Committee Recommend \$31,930

Article 11. To see what sum of money the Town of Brownville will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Unclassified Budget.**

	2022 Budget	2023 Budget	2024 Recommended
Town Owned Prop Maint	\$2,500	\$5,000	\$5,000
Library	\$9,500	\$17,900	\$18,766
Flags & Decorations	\$500	\$500	\$500
Totals	\$12,500	\$23,400	\$24,266

Selectboard and Budget Committee Recommends \$24,266

Article 12. To see what sum of money the Town of Brownville will vote to raise and appropriate for the **General Assistance Budget.**

	2022 Budget	2023 Budget	2024 Recommended
General Assistance	\$2,000	\$3,500	\$3,500

Selectboard and Budget Committee Recommend \$3,500

Article 13. To see what sum of money the Town of Brownville will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Brownville Days Budget.**

	2022 Budget	2023 Budget	2024 Recommended
Brownville Days	**	\$2,500	\$5,000

****Brownville Days, in 2022 was part of the Recreation Budget in Article 10.**

Selectboard and Budget Committee Recommend \$5,000

Article 14. To see what sum of money the Town of Brownville will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Reserve Funds Budget.**

	2022 Budget	2023 Budget	2024 Recommended
Administration	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500
Fire	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$30,000
Highway	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$35,000
LRAP-Paving	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$35,000
Sanitation	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
Wages	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500
Fire Small Equipment	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Recreation	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$2,500
Totals	\$131,000	\$131,000	\$137,500

Selectboard and Budget Committee Recommend \$137,500

Article 15. To see if the Town of Brownville will vote to re-appropriate \$48,290 from the following **2023 Carry Forward Accounts** in addition to the Town Budget:

	Amount		Amount
Assessing (Maps)	\$1,500	Rec Snack Shack	\$1,142
Comprehensive Plan	\$3,773	Town Owned Prop Maint	\$3,258
Emergency Fuel	\$16,254	Animal Control	\$3,146
Recreation Department	\$8,699	Brownville Days	\$10,140
Recreation Maint Ops	\$378		

Selectboard and Budget Committee Recommend Passage of this Article

Article 16. To see what sum of money the Town of Brownville will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Debt Obligation Budget**.

	2022 Budget	2023 Budget	2024 Recommended
Paving Loan	\$20,000	\$0	\$0
Public Works Loader	\$0	\$0	\$43,175

Selectboard and Budget Committee Recommend \$43,175

Article 17. To see if the Town of Brownville will vote to authorize the Board of Selectpersons, on behalf of the Town of Brownville, to sell and dispose of any town owned property, real estate acquired by the Town for non-payment of Taxes, Water Bills, and Sewer Bills thereon, on such terms as they may deem advisable, and to execute a quitclaim deed for such real estate, except that the Board of Selectpersons shall first use the sale process in 36 M.R.S. § 943-C if the tax-acquired property will be sold to anyone other than the former owner. For sales to someone other than the former owner, excess sale proceeds, as required by 36 M.R.S. § 943-C, shall be returned to the former owner. If the Board of Selectpersons opt to sell the property, before putting the real estate out to a minimum bid, the Selectboard shall authorize the treasurer to offer to sell the real estate back to the immediate prior owner of record, his / her estate, heirs or assigns on or before a date certain for the total taxes, water & sewer bills, cost and interest owed, within a period to be set by the Selectboard; and further to allow the Selectboard to authorize the Treasurer to waive automatic lien foreclosures when it is in the best interest of the Town.

Selectboard and Budget Committee Recommend a yes vote.

Article 18. To see if the Town of Brownville will vote to authorize the Board of Selectpersons to transfer funds between operating accounts approved in this warrant, based upon changes and the un-anticipated needs of the Town during the current fiscal year of 2024. The total expenditure of all accounts shall not exceed the approved budget. All such transfers shall be so identified at the next annual town meeting.

Selectboard and Budget Committee Recommend a yes vote.

Article 19. To see if the Town of Brownville will vote to authorize the Board of Selectpersons to spend an amount not to exceed 3/12 of the budgeted amount in each budget category of the 2024 annual budget during the period from January 1, 2025 to the 2025 Annual Town Meeting.

Selectboard and Budget Committee Recommend a yes vote.

Article 20. To see if the Town of Brownville will vote to authorize the Board of Selectpersons to appropriate money from the following projected revenue sources in order to reduce the 2024 General Commitment (the following are estimates).

	2023 Estimate	2023 Actual	2024 Estimate
Motor Vehicle & IFW Excise	\$203,000	\$236,273	\$220,000
Tree Growth Reimbursement	\$43,000	\$49,014	\$60,000
State Revenue Sharing	\$175,000	\$288,375	\$325,000
Homestead Reimbursement	\$130,000	\$140,716	\$115,000
Other Revenue	\$121,400	\$170,044	\$140,650
Perpetual Care (Cemeteries)	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Totals	\$682,400	\$894,422	\$870,650

Selectboard and Budget Committee Recommend a yes vote.

Article 21. To see what amount the Town of Brownville will vote to appropriate from **Undesignated/Unrestricted (surplus)** to reduce the **2024 Tax Commitment**.

Selectboard and Budget Committee Recommend for 2024 - \$85,000

Article 22. To see what sum of money, if any, the Town of Brownville will vote to authorize the Board of Selectpersons to appropriate from the Undesignated/Unrestricted Fund (surplus) as they deem advisable to meet unanticipated emergencies that occur during the fiscal year 2024.

Selectboard and Budget Committee Recommend \$10,000

Article 23. To see if the Town of Brownville will vote to authorize the Board of Selectpersons to dispose of town-owned surplus personal property as well as abandoned and unclaimed or surplus property acquired by the town, on such terms as they deem advisable.

Selectboard and Budget Committee Recommend a yes vote.

Article 24. To see if the Town of Brownville will vote to increase the property tax levy (LD1) limit under 30-A MRSA § 5721-A, if needed, for the 2024 calendar year, based on the amount to be raised by the Town through property taxes.

Note: This article is to be voted on by written ballot in accordance with 30-A MRSA §5721-A(7)(A).

Selectboard and Budget Committee Recommend a yes vote.

Article 25. To see if the Town of Brownville will vote to approve and appropriate the sum of \$289,519 for 2024 Water Department operations as requested in the 2024 Water Department operating budget, to be funded from Water Department rates.

	2022 Budget	2023 Budget	2024 Recommended
Water	\$252,272	\$252,250	\$289,519

Selectboard and Budget Committee Recommend Approval

Article 26. To see if the Town of Brownville will vote to approve and appropriate the sum of \$211,569 for 2024 Sewer Department operations as requested in the 2024 Sewer Department operating budget, to be funded from Sewer Department rates.

	2022 Budget	2023 Budget	2024 Recommended
Sewer	\$187,814	\$187,823	\$211,569

Selectboard and Budget Committee Recommend Approval

Article 27. To see if the Town of Brownville will vote to appropriate up to \$18,000 from the Undesignated/Unrestricted Water funds for the purpose of acquiring new remote meter readers and software to replace the current program that is no longer being supported by the vendor/manufacturer.

*(**At the time of this warrant creation, the quoted amount to complete this project is \$35,000. We plan to use the above funds to make a downpayment of half (approx. \$17,500) and subsequently enter a lease agreement for the remaining amount due and incorporate it into the water budget over the next five years. Because we cannot be guaranteed the quoted price in excess of 30 days, we have added \$500 in case there is an increase.)*

Selectboard and Budget Committee Recommend Approval

Article 28. To see if the Town of Brownville will vote to appropriate the Snowmobile, ATV Grant Revenue from the State for 2024 Licensing fees, to the Brownville Snowmobile Club, Ebeemee Snowmobile Club and K.I. Riders ATV Club under the Treasurer's approval upon receiving proper documentation to release the funds.

Selectboard and Budget Committee Recommend Approval

Article 29. To see if the Town of Brownville will vote to accept any un-anticipated funds that the Town receives and have the Town Treasurer receive the funds and allocate them to the correct accounts.

Selectboard and Budget Committee Recommend Approval

Article 30. To see if the Town of Brownville will vote to raise and appropriate for the 2024 Piscataquis County Assessment Expense.

	2022 Budget	2023 Budget	2024 Recommended
Piscataquis County Tax	\$108,893	\$120,301	\$129,354

Selectboard and Budget Committee Recommend \$129,354

Article 31. To see if the Town of Brownville will vote to raise and appropriate a total to be determined at the June 2024 Budget Referendum Vote to pay MSAD #41 School Assessment for 2024.

	2022 Budget	2023 Budget
MSAD #41 Assessment	\$761,124	\$789,763

Selectboard and Budget Committee Recommend Approval

Article 32. To see if the Town of Brownville will vote to ratify the overdrafts in the following 2023 accounts totaling \$16,025 from the undesignated/unrestricted fund (surplus):

	Amount		Amount
Insurances	\$5,990	Fire Dept EMS	\$929
Fire Dept	\$9,087	MSAD #41	\$19

Selectboard and Budget Committee Recommend a yes Vote

Article 33. To see if the Town of Brownville will authorize the Board of Selectpersons, on behalf of the Town of Brownville, to accept grant funds, as they deem advisable, and appropriate such grant funds and any required in-kind match for the purpose of the grant.

Selectboard and Budget Committee Recommend a yes Vote

Article 34. To see if the Town of Brownville will vote to support upgrading the Fire/EMS/First Responder Unit Service Permit Level from Emergency Medical Technician to Paramedic and appropriate no more than a sum of \$15,000 to come from Undesignated/Unrestricted (surplus) funds, with operating expenses above and beyond initial startup costs to be funded through the annual Fire/EMS budget.

Selectboard and Budget Committee Recommend a yes Vote

Notice is hereby given that the office of the Registrar of Voters in the Brownville Town Office (located at 586 Main Road in Brownville) will be open for the purpose of correcting the list of voters on Monday, March 18, 2024 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Given under our hands this twenty-ninth day of February in the year 2024 AD.


Byron Weymouth, Chairman


James Martin

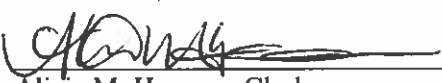

Kevin Emery


Shelly Ekholm

Selectpersons, Town of Brownville


CLERK'S ATTESTATION

A true copy of the March 18, 2024 Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Attest: 
Alicia M. Harmon, Clerk
Town of Brownville

ATTESTATION OF RETURN

I certify that I have notified the voters of the Town of Brownville of the time and place of this Annual Town Meeting by posting an attested copy of the within Warrant at the Brownville Town Office, Brownville Post Office, and Brownville Junction Post Office; conspicuous places within the Town of Brownville at least seven days prior to said meeting.


Christopher Crockett, Resident - Town of Brownville

2/29/24
Date