

## 2023 Annual Town Meeting Warrant

To Tammy Lamphere, a resident of the Town of Mercer, in the County of Somerset, 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 Mercer in said county and state, qualified to vote in town affairs, to meet at the **Mercer Community Center** in said Town on **Friday, the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of March, 2023**, at eight o'clock in the forenoon then and there to act upon Article 1 and by secret ballot on Articles 2 and 3 as set out below, the polling hours therefor to be from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. and to reconvene on **Saturday, the 4<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2023**, at five thirty o'clock in the afternoon (**5:30 p.m.**) then and there to act upon Articles 4 through 41, said articles being the following:

**ARTICLE 1:** To elect a moderator by written ballot to preside at said meeting.

**ARTICLE 2:** To elect three (3) Selectpersons, Assessors, and Overseers of the Poor all for one-year terms, one (1) Trustee of Shaw Library for a five-year term, one (1) Budget Committee member for a three-year term and one (1) Planning Board member for a three-year term.

**ARTICLE 3:** Shall an Ordinance entitled "Town of Mercer, Maine Solar Energy Systems Ordinance" be enacted?

**ARTICLE 4:** Shall an Ordinance entitled "Town of Mercer Appeals Board Ordinance" be enacted?

**ARTICLE 5:** To see if the Town will vote (by secret Australian ballot) to increase the property tax levy limit established for Mercer by state law, in the event that the municipal budget approved under the following articles results in a tax commitment greater than that limit.

**ARTICLE 6:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to spend any amount not to exceed 3/12<sup>th</sup> of the current annual budget during the period from January 1<sup>st</sup> of the following year to the date of that year's annual town meeting.

**ARTICLE 7:** To see if the Town will vote to charge and collect interest of 8% on all taxes assessed in 2023 that are unpaid 30 days after the date of commitment.  
Select Board recommends the maximum allowed by state law, 8%  
Budget Committee recommends 8%

**ARTICLE 8:** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$123,738 for wages and benefits of all Town Officers.**

		<b>Requested</b>		
1 <sup>st</sup> Selectperson	6,000	Addressing Officer	500	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Selectperson	6,000	Code Enforcement	3,000	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Selectperson	6,000	Cemetery Sexton	<u>500</u>	
Clerk, TC, Treasurer	39,600	Sub-total	101,531	
Deputy Ck,TC,TR	22,329	SS & Medicare	7,899	
Deputy Ck,TC	7,548	Health Insurance	<u>14,308</u>	
Trans Sta Attendant	8,054	Total	123,738	
Animal Control Officer	2,000			

Select Board recommends \$123,738 from Taxes  
 Budget Committee recommends \$123,738, vote 4-0-1

**ARTICLE 9:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$89,343 for Administration - Town Office, Mercer Community Center** plus expend any revenues and donations generated by the community center; any unexpended balances in the Administration budget and the Community Center revenue accounts to be placed in the Community Center Reserve Fund.

Audit	\$ 6,000
Dues/Subscription	\$ 2,206
Operating Costs	\$24,600
Trio new modules	\$ 2,475
Trio software renewal	\$12,309
Contract Services	\$ 4,500
Insurance-Gen Liability, P&C, Pub Officials, WC/Unemployment	\$12,553
Utilities	<u>\$24,700</u>
Total	\$89,343

NOTE: Insurance savings is \$6,627 this year.  
 Select Board recommends \$89,343 from Taxes  
 Budget Committee recommends \$89,343, vote 4-0-1

**ARTICLE 10:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Surplus **\$8,000 for Contingency.** All use of funds to be reported in the 2023 annual report.

Note: No expenditures in 2022  
 Select Board recommends \$8,000 from Surplus  
 Budget Committee recommends \$8,000, vote 4-0-1

**ARTICLE 11:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$9,170 for Assessing;** any remaining balance to be placed in the Assessing Revaluation Fund.

Select Board recommends \$9,170 from Taxes  
 Budget Committee recommends \$9,170, vote 4-0-1

**ARTICLE 12:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$500 for the Planning Board.**

Select Board recommends \$500 from Taxes

Budget Committee recommends \$500, vote 4-0-1

**ARTICLE 13:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$1,830 for the Animal Shelter and ACO expenses.**

Select Board recommends \$1,830 from Taxes

Budget Committee recommends \$1,830, vote 4-0-1

**ARTICLE 14:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Surplus **\$500 for Health Officer, Code Enforcement Officer and Local Plumbing Inspector training.**

Select Board recommends \$500 from Surplus

Budget Committee recommends \$500, vote 4-0-1

**ARTICLE 15:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Surplus **\$3,600 for Cemetery Maintenance.**

Select Board recommends \$3,600 from Surplus

Budget Committee recommends \$3,600, vote 4-0-1

**ARTICLE 16:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$425 to supplement the three town scholarship awards.**

Select Board recommends \$425 from Taxes (\$200/high school; \$25/elementary award)

Budget Committee recommends \$425, vote 4-0-1

**ARTICLE 17:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$70,650 for Public Safety – Fire (year 3 of our 3-year contract), Traffic and Street lights.**

Select Board recommends \$70,650 from Taxes

Budget Committee recommends \$70,650, vote 4-0-1

**ARTICLE 18:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$4,500 for Public Safety - Mercer Rescue;** any unexpended balance to be placed in the Mercer Rescue Fund.

Select Board recommends \$4,500 from Taxes

Budget Committee recommends \$4,500, vote 4-0-1

**ARTICLE 19:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$119,250 for Public Works - Summer Roads.**

Select Board recommends \$119,250 from Taxes

Budget Committee recommends \$119,250, vote 4-1

**ARTICLE 20:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$223,750 for Public Works - Winter Road Maintenance (year 1 of 2-year contract extension) and Sand/Salt Shed (\$58,750 from Taxes, \$165,000 from Excise Taxes).**

Select Board recommends \$223,750 (\$58,750 from Taxes; \$165,000 from Excise)

Budget Committee recommends \$223,750, vote 4-0-1

**ARTICLE 21:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Surplus **\$750 for various Youth Leagues.**

Select Board recommends \$750 from Surplus

Budget Committee recommends \$750, vote 4-0-1

**ARTICLE 22:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$39,835 for Solid Waste Disposal, Recycling and Blue Bag purchase (\$25,835 from Taxes, \$14,000 from Transfer Station revenues).**

Select Board recommends \$39,835 (\$25,835 from Taxes; \$14,000 from TS revenues)

Budget Committee recommends \$39,835, Vote 4-0-1

**ARTICLE 23:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to enter into a long-term contract with Waste Management Disposal Service of Maine, Inc to allow residents of the Town of Mercer to use the newly expanded disposal facility in Norridgewock when it becomes operational, to discontinue use of the Mercer Transfer Station on East Sandy River Road and to apply to DEP to close said Transfer Station.

Select Board recommends Yes

Budget Committee recommends Yes

**ARTICLE 24:** To see if the Town will vote to re-establish **Mercer Shaw Library** as a department of the town and to acquire any property, assets, outstanding debts or other financial obligations from the library.

Select Board recommends Yes

Budget Committee recommends Yes

**ARTICLE 25:** Shall an Ordinance entitled "Ordinance Establishing the Board of Trustees of the Shaw Library, Mercer, Maine" be enacted?

**ARTICLE 26:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$10,997 for Mercer Shaw Library (1,672 from Taxes, \$9,325 from Shaw Library Funds).**

Select Board recommends \$10,997 (\$1,672 from Taxes, \$9,325 from Library)

Budget Committee recommends \$10,997, vote 4-0-1

**ARTICLE 27:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Surplus **\$1,000 for Charity, 50% of this budget to be spent in the Town of Mercer.**

Select Board recommends \$1,000 from Surplus

Budget Committee recommends \$1,000, vote 4-0-1

**ARTICLE 28:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Surplus **\$2,000 for General Assistance.**

Select Board recommends \$2,000 from Surplus

Budget Committee recommends \$2,000, vote 4-0-1

**ARTICLE 29:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$2,500 for Mercer Historical Society.**

Select Board recommends \$2,500 from Taxes

Budget Committee recommends \$2,500, vote 3-1-1

**ARTICLE 30:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$2,500 for Mercer Meeting House.**

Select Board recommends \$2,500 from Taxes

Budget Committee recommends \$2,500, vote 3-1-1

**ARTICLE 31:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$3,500 for North Pond Association.**

Select Board recommends \$3,500 from Taxes

Budget Committee recommends \$3,500, vote 4-0-1

**ARTICLE 32:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$2,000 for 7 Lakes Youth Conservation Corp.**

Select Board recommends \$2,000 from Taxes

Budget Committee recommends \$2,000, vote 4-0-1

**ARTICLE 33:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$10,000 for Legal Expense Reserve Fund.**

Select Board recommends \$10,000 from Taxes

Budget Committee recommends \$10,000, vote 4-0-1

**ARTICLE 34:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate **\$34,000 to fund the 2023-2024 Revaluation contract with RJD Appraisal (\$24,000 from Surplus, \$10,000 from Revaluation Fund).**

NOTE: Total contract amount is \$85,000 to be paid in 5 equal installments.

Select Board recommends \$34,000 (\$24,000 from Surplus; \$10,000 from Reval Fund)

Budget Committee recommends \$34,000, vote 4-0-1

**ARTICLE 35:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Surplus **\$6,000 for digitizing the Tax Maps.**

Select Board recommends \$6,000 from Surplus

Budget Committee recommends \$6,000, vote 4-0-1

**ARTICLE 36:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for **Capital Improvement Projects \$2,000 for the Mercer Road Maintenance Fund.**

Select Board recommends \$2,000 from Taxes

Budget Committee recommends \$2,000, vote 4-0-1

**ARTICLE 37:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate **\$20,000 from Surplus for Capital Improvement Projects to replace the culvert over Indian Stream on Elm Street.**

Select Board recommends \$20,000 from Surplus  
Budget Committee recommends \$20,000, vote 4-0-1

**ARTICLE 38:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for **Capital Improvement Projects \$20,000 for Ditching and Berm Removal.**

Select Board recommends \$20,000 from Taxes  
Budget Committee recommends \$20,000, vote 4-0-1

**ARTICLE 39:** To see if the town will vote to appropriate for **Capital Improvement Projects \$76,000 to complete a section of Beech Hill Road (\$46,236 from Surplus; \$29,764 from LRAP).**

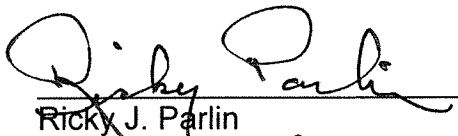
Select Board recommends \$76,000 (\$46,236 from Surplus, \$29,764 from 2022 LRAP)  
Budget Committee recommends \$76,000, vote 4-0-1


**ARTICLE 40:** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate for **Capital Improvement Projects \$55,000 (\$15,000 from Taxes; \$40,000 from the MCC Maintenance Fund) to repair/replace the roof over the gym and kitchen areas of the Mercer Community Center.**

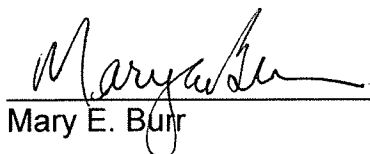
Select Board recommends \$55,000 (\$15,000 from taxes; \$40,000 from the MCC Maintenance Fund)  
Budget Committee recommends \$55,000, vote 4-0-1

**ARTICLE 41:** To see if the Town will vote to accept and expend any or all donations received from the public, any state, federal, or other governmental agency funds not explicitly allowable by state law, and all grants received in accordance with the intended purpose of the donation, grant or other funds as they are received.

Given under our hands this 6th day of February, 2023.

  
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Ricky J. Parlin


  
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Gary D. Mosher

  
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Mary E. Burr

**Citizens Return:**

I certify that I have notified the voters of the Town of Mercer of the time and place of the town meeting by posting an attested copy of the within warrant at Mercer Town Office & Community Center, Christy's Country Store, Mercer Shaw Library, all being conspicuous public places within the Town of Mercer, on February 14, 2023, which is at least 7 days prior to the day of said meeting.

Dated at Mercer, Maine this 14<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2023.

  
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Tammy Lamphere, resident