SPECIAL
TOWN MEETING WARRANT
April 30th, 2025

SAGADAHOC, s.s.

To: Debbie Locke, a resident of the Town of Woolwich in the County of Sagadahoc and the State of Maine.

GREETINGS:
In the name of the State of Maine, you are required to notify and warn the voters of the Town of Woolwich in the said County qualified by law to vote in town affairs to meet at the Woolwich Central School at 137 Nequasset Road in said Town, on the 30th day of April, A.D. 2025 at 6:00 in the evening, then and there to act on Articles 1 through 42, all of said articles being set out, to wit:

Article 1 **To elect a Moderator to preside at said meeting and to vote by written ballot.**

Revenue

Article 2 To see if the Town will set the dates of **October 30, 2025 and April 30, 2026** when taxes are due and payable and to see if the Town will fix the interest rate on unpaid taxes at **7.0% (Seven percent)** per annum (36 MRSA §505.4) and to set the dates that interest starts on unpaid taxes **thirty (30) days** after each due date.

Article 3 To see if the Town will vote to set an interest rate to be paid by the Town on taxes that have been paid, but are either abated or overpaid and refunded at 3**.5% (three point five percent)** for the 2025-2026 tax year. (36 MRSA § 506-A)

Article 4 To see if the Town will vote to transfer all unexpended balances and overdrafts to the Undesignated Fund Balance except those that may be carried forward at the Select board's discretion. The Select Board is authorized to expend funds out of these carry forward accounts for the purpose for which they were established or to allow them to lapse.

Article 5 **a)** To see what sum the Town will vote to appropriate from the Undesignated Fund Balance Account to reduce the tax commitment.
Note: *The Select Board recommends up to* ***$1,300,000.00*** 2024 recommendation $1,700,000.00

b) To see if the Town will vote to authorize the tax collector or treasurer to accept prepayments of taxes not yet committed pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A §506.

c) To see if the Town will vote to appropriate up to **$20,000.00** from the Undesignated Fund Balance Account to pay for abatements and applicable interest granted during this fiscal year.
2024 appropriation up to $20,000.00

d) To grant the Select Board the permission to remove up to **$50,000** from the undesignated fund balance in the event of a state or federal declared emergency and/or disaster.

Article 6 To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to apply for available grants, to receive said grants, and to expend the grant funds for the purposes stated in the grant and to see if the Town will vote to appropriate up to **$40,000.00** from the Undesignated Fund Balance Account as the Town's share of any approved grants.

Article 7 **a)** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to sell or dispose of various items that serve little or no purpose in the operation of the town.

b) To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to accept donations, fines, fees established by ordinance, and revenues generated by Town-provided services, and to use them as directed by the donation, ordinance or contract or otherwise at the Selectmen's discretion.

Article 8 To select a Fish Commissioner for a five year term.
John D. Chapman (2025-2030)

Article 9 **a)** To see what action the Town will take in regard to the alewives privileges at Nequasset and Back River Creek for the coming year.

b) To see if the town will authorize the Fish Commissioners, on behalf of the town, to use funds from the yearly sale of alewife privileges collected in the Fish Way Account for maintenance purposes of the Fishway buildings and property. The Fish Commissioners are responsible for maintenance decisions. As the Fish Way property is shared with the Bath Water District, the Fish Commissioners will coordinate with them on matters related to the alewife privileges. When the expenditure is expected to be greater than $1,000, the planned Fish Way maintenance project will be presented to the Select Board for their agreement. Use of Fish Way funds for purposes other than Fish Way purposes shall be subject to a vote of the town.

c) To see if the town will authorize the transfer of funds presently in the Fishway Account to the Municipal Reserve Account E-1-17-78. The Select Board and the Fish Commission have agreed to an immediate transfer of $18,000 with further consideration following completion of the 2025 harvest. The Fishway Account has sufficient remaining funds for known needs and will be replenished over time from yearly alewife harvests.

Article 10 To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board, on behalf of the Town, to provide to the former owner(s) of tax-acquired property, or if deceased his/her/their heirs/devisees/personal representative 30 days to repurchase the property for a price equal to all outstanding taxes, interest, fees and costs; if the former owner does not repurchase the property, the municipal officers may sell the property through the sale process in 36 M.R.S.A §943-C, provided that if the former owner does not timely request that process or the board is unable to list or sell the property as required by §943-C(3),the board may sell the property through a competitive sealed bid process in which a notice advertising sale of the property shall be published at least twice in a newspaper of general circulation in the county. For sales to someone other than the former owner(s), excess sale proceeds, as defined in 36 M.R.S.A §943-C, shall be returned to the former owner.

Personnel & Town Officers

Article 11 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **$50,000.00** for the compensation of the Tax Collector, Deputy Treasurer/Deputy Town Clerk and to authorize the Select Board to spend any amount up to $50,000.00 2024 appropriation $48,500.00

Article 12 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **$78,280.00** for the compensation of the Town Administrator/Town Treasurer/Town Clerk and to authorize the Select Board to spend any amount up to $78,280.00 2024 appropriation $76,000.00

Article 13 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **$15,000.00** for the compensation of two part-time Deputy Town Clerks and to authorize the Select Board to spend any amount up to $15,000.00 2024 appropriation $-0-

Article 14 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **$18,000.00** for the Employee Health Insurance Account. 2024 appropriation $33,000.00

Article 15 **a)** To see what sum of money the Town will vote to pay the Town Officers for the ensuing year:

	2024	**2025**
Selectperson	$5,000.00	$5,000.00
Selectperson	5,000.00	5,000.00
Selectperson	5,000.00	5,000.00
Selectperson	5,000.00	5,000.00
Selectperson	5,000.00	5,000.00
Board Chairman	500.00	500.00
Board Vice Chairman	250.00	250.00
Ballot Clerks	2,500.00	2,500.00
Registrar of Voters	250.00	250.00
Moderator	400.00	400.00
Workers Compensation	4,500.00	4,200.00
Unemployment Compensation	4,000.00	7,500.00
Social Security	17,768.00	13,545.00
Medicare	6,078.00	3,168.00
Comp/EPL/Vacation Time	7,000.00	7,000.00
ICMA-Retirement Account	2,500.00	4,000.00
	$70,746.00	**$68,313.00**

b) To see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Town Officers' Account for the ensuing year. **Recommend $68,313.00**
2024 appropriation $70,746.00

c) To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **$9,015.00** for the salary (including mileage) to the Animal Control Officer (ACO) and to authorize the Select Board to spend any amount up to $9,015.00. 2024 appropriation $8,752.00

d) To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **$36,050.00** for the salary of the Codes Enforcement Officer, Building Inspector and Licensed Plumbing Inspector and to authorize the Select Board to spend any amount up to $36,050.00 2024 appropriation $35,000.00

General Government

Article 16 **a)** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate such sums of money as may be necessary for the following Town Accounts:

	Appropriated 2024	Recommend **2025**
General Assistance	$ -0-	$ -0-
Nequasset Church	-0-	-0-
Cemeteries	2,400.00	-0-
ACO Contingent	500.00	500.00
Codes Officer Contingent	1,500.00	-0-
Health Officer Contingent	500.00	500.00
Health Officer Salary	1,200.00	1,200.00
Animal Control & Care*	4,449.00	4,572.00
Planning Board	-0-	2,000.00
Board of Appeals	100.00	100.00
Special Events Committee	700.00	-0-
Communication Committee	1,000.00	2,000.00
Solid Waste Committee	1,000.00	1,000.00
Monument Committee	3,000.00	2,500.00
Contingency	15,000.00	20,000.00
Repair of Vitals Books	500.00	700.00
Old Town House	-0-	-0-
	$31,849.00	**$35,072.00**

** Animal Control & Care for care of the Town's stray, homeless pets at Coastal Humane Society Kennel or a similar facility and for vet and medical cost associated with the care of these animals.*

Article 17 To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **$71,506.00** to support the operating costs of the Patten Free Library and to authorize the Select Board to spend any amount up to $71,506.00 2024 Appropriation $66,392.00

Article 18 To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **$65,542.00** for the Office Operations account. The approximate breakdown of the account is as follows:

	2024	**2025**
Town Reports	$3,200.00	$3,300.00
Telephone Monthly Usage	2,200.00	3,000.00
Postage (twice/year tax bills, etc.)	5,500.00	6,000.00
Office and Computer Supplies	2,000.00	-0-
Advertising	2,200.00	2,000.00
Printing (stationery, forms, etc.)	750.00	750.00
Computer Support Contract & Software	20,412.00	30,042.00
Automated Equipment Maintenance	8,000.00	8,000.00
Training - Seminars and Manuals	2,000.00	2,000.00
Association Dues	500.00	750.00
Election Supplies and Materials	2,500.00	2,500.00
Office Operations Contingency	3,000.00	5,000.00
Mileage Reimbursement	900.00	1,000.00
Mailing Machine	750.00	1,200.00
	$53,912.00	**$65,542.00**

2024 appropriation $53,912.00

Article 19 To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **$42,500.00** for the Municipal Building Operation of Plant account. The approximate breakdown of the account is as follows:

	2024	**2025**
Electricity/CMP	$7,500.00	$6,000.00
Water/BWD	1,500.00	1,500.00
Heating Fuel/Oil	8,500.00	7,500.00
Photocopier Lease	5,000.00	5,000.00
Mowing and Grounds Maintenance	7,000.00	7,000.00
Furnace Maintenance/Repair	1,000.00	1,000.00
Building Sprinkler System Contract	3,000.00	2,000.00
Security System Contract/Maintenance	2,000.00	1,500.00
Cleaning Services	6,000.00	9,000.00
Elevator Maintenance	2,500.00	2,000.00
	$44,000.00	**$42,500.00**

2024 appropriation $44,000.00

Article 20 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **$14,200.00** for the Town's insurance.

Note: *Art. 20 includes all municipal buildings, contents, & tax acquired properties. Vehicle Insurance is now listed under the appropriate departments. (Fire and EMS)* 2024 appropriation $12,667.00

Article 21 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate up to **$45,000.00.00** as payment for an Assessing Agent for the purpose of assessing and maintaining the equity of the property assessments.

2024 appropriation $46,800.00

Article 22 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **$2,500.00** to update the property tax maps. 2024 appropriation $ 2,500.00

Article 23 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **$2,000.00** for the "Computer Replacement Account". 2024 appropriation $2,500.00

Article 24 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **$5,226.00** for the payment of membership dues for the Maine Municipal Association. 2024 appropriation $4,895.00

Article 25 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **$12,500.00** to pay the Auditor. 2024 appropriation $11,800.00

Article 26 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **$5,000.00** for the Town's Litigation Account. 2024 appropriation $10,000.00

Article 27 To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to take up to **$10,000** from the Undesignated Fund Balance for the Senior Property Tax Relief Ordinance.

Health/Welfare and Sanitation

Article 28 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **$16,000.00** for the continued sampling of ground water from the installed surface water test sites at the landfill.

2024 appropriation $13,500.00

Article 29 **a)** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $ 263,061.69 for complete weekly curbside refuse collection and disposal, bi-weekly curbside recycling collection and disposal and to authorize the Select Board to enter into an agreement with Riverside Disposal and EcoMaine for their services. 2024 appropriation $255,241.21

*** Breakout of total cost is as follows:**

Weekly Curbside Collection, Trash =	**$104,423.63**
Bi-Weekly Curbside Collection, Recycling =	**$35,501.06**
Disposal (Tipping) Fee based on (est.) 1,300 tons =	**$117,312.00**
Tipping fee for Recyclables (est.) 233 tons =	**$5,825.00**
	$263,061.69

b) To see if the Town will appropriate a sum not to exceed **$25,000.00** from the Undesignated Fund Balance Account for the Select Board to use if necessary, for unanticipated solid waste disposal/ recycling costs.

c) To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of **$2,500.00** for the Household Hazardous Waste Collection event **

***Note:** Each year, the City of Bath, along with area towns, sponsor a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day. Citizens sign up to dispose of such items as oil-based paints, fuels, solvents, insecticides, etc.* **(Date of Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day is Saturday, May 3, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m)**

Article 30 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **$3,500.00** for the maintenance and upkeep of the Nequasset Park outhouse.

***Note:** The Nequasset Park Committee budget request is now included in this article.*

2024 appropriation $4,500.00

Highways and Bridges

Article 31 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate such sums of money as may be necessary for the following accounts:

	2024	**2025**
Roads and Bridges	$90,000.00	$90,000.00
Street Signs	-0-	-0-
Hot Topping	200,000.00	220,000.00
Snow Plowing	616,842.00	-0-
Street Lights	5,000.00	5,000.00
Culvert Repair	-0-	-0-
	$911,842.00	**$315,000.00**

Article 32 **a)** To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board to remove up to **$70,000.00**, if available, from the Local Road Assistance Program (LRAP) account for hot topping town roads.

b) To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board to spend any additional LRAP funds for whatever "highway purpose" the Select Board and the Road Commissioner deem appropriate.

Article 33 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **$40,000.00** for repair and maintenance on unpaved town maintained roads. 2024 appropriation $40,000.00

Article 34 **a)** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board or its designee to enter into a purchase and sale agreement, accept a deed, and complete whatever other documents are necessary in the purchase of a two or more acre plot of land located on Walker Road and the sand and salt storage facility and other associated improvements on that lot from Jack Shaw for the purchase price of $400,000, to be paid in installments, with no interest, of $80,000 per year over a five year period.

b) To raise and appropriate $80,000 for the first year's payment for the Salt and Sand building and property.

Protection

Article 35 To see if the Town will raise and/or appropriate such sums of money as may be necessary for the following accounts (Appropriate **$600.00**** from WEMA account and raise & appropriate **$66,688.00** through taxation):

	2024		**2025**
Hydrants (Bath)	$32,148.00	12 @ $2,679.00	$32,148.00
(Wiscasset)	$33,540.00	13 @ $2,580.00	$33,540.00
WEMA Director**	600.00	600.00	
Generator Maintenance Acct	1,000.00	1,000.00	
	$67,288.00		**$67,288.00**

* ***Note:*** *WEMA stands for Woolwich Emergency Management Agency*
** *Stipend to be appropriated from WEMA Account – no new tax dollars*

Article 36 **a)** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **$194,557.00** for the **Fire Department** account.
The breakdown of the account is as follows:

	2024	**2025**
Office Supplies/Expenses	$1,000.00	$1,000.00
Truck Fuel	7,500.00	7,000.00
Equipment Repairs	10,000.00	10,000.00
Truck Repairs	12,000.00	12,000.00
Telephone	700.00	750.00
Training Expenses	5,000.00	5,500.00
New Equipment	13,000.00	14,000.00
Station Supplies	2,000.00	2,000.00
Fire Prevention	1,250.00	1,250.00
Wages	52,000.00	54,000.00
NFPA/OSHA Clothing	13,000.00	14,000.00
Fire Hose Purchase	5,000.00	5,000.00
Inoculations/Physicals	4,000.00	3,500.00
Yearly/Annual Costs	8,000.00	10,000.00
Fire Chief Stipend	13,750.00	13,750.00
Deputy Stipend	4,000.00	4,000.00
Assistant Chief	2,000.00	2,000.00
1st Captain Stipend	1,500.00	1,500.00
2nd Captain Stipend	-0-	1,500.00
1st Lieutenant Stipend	625.00	625.00

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2nd Lieutenant Stipend	625.00	625.00
3rd Lieutenant Stipend	625.00	-0-
Safety Officer	350.00	350.00
Social Security	4,680.00	4,858.00
Medicare	1,056.00	1,137.00
Worker's Comp	20,549.00	12,974.00
Insurance/Liability	11,238.00	11,238.00
	$195,448.00	**$194,557.00**

b) To see if the Town will vote:

1) To raise and appropriate the sum of **$2,180.00** for interest payments for the ninth year for the fire truck.
2) To raise and appropriate the sum of **$34,800.00** for principal payments for the ninth year for the fire truck.

Article 37 To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **$15,000.00** for the Catastrophic Repair Account. 2024 appropriation $10,000.00

Article 38 **a)** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **$390,586.00** for the Emergency Medical Service Department.
The breakdown of the account is as follows:

	2024	**2025**
AEDs	1,000.00	1,000.00
Annual Fees	9,500.00	9,500.00
Billing Fees	8,400.00	8,400.00
Clothing	2,000.00	2,000.00
Communications	3,500.00	3,500.00
Contingency	500.00	500.00
Fuel	5,000.00	4,500.00
Medical Equipment	8,250.00	8,500.00
Medical Exams	2,750.00	1,750.00
Medical Supplies	11,000.00	12,000.00
Office Supplies	1,750.00	1,750.00
Payroll	248,475.00	254,306.00
Training	5,500.00	5,500.00
Vehicle Maintenance	12,500.00	12,500.00
Outreach	500.00	1,000.00
Worker's Comp	31,891.00	24,826.00
Social Security	15,406.00	16,775.00
Medicare	3,603.00	3,924.00
Insurance/Liability	2,105.00	2,105.00
EMS Director Stipend	10,000.00	10,000.00
EMS Assistant Stipend	2,500.00	2,500.00
EMS 2nd (2) Asst. Stipend	3,000.00	3,000.00
QA/QI Officer	750.00	750.00
	$389,880.00	**$390,586.00**

Note: *There is the potential to bring in $120,000.00 in revenue which will be used to offset the cost of the service.*

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b) To see if the Town will vote:

1) To raise and appropriate the sum of **$-0-** for interest payments for the final payment for the Ambulance.
2) To raise and appropriate the sum of **$21,429.00** for principal payments for the final payment for the Ambulance.

c) To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board to use any amount of income generated by Rescue Services to reduce the budget as they deem appropriate.

Miscellaneous Donations

Article 39 To see if the Town will vote to appropriate **$400.00** from the Snowmobile Registrations Reimbursement for the Nequasset Trailbreakers Snowmobile Club. 2024 appropriation $400.00

Article 40 To see what sum of money the Town will vote to donate to the following local agencies:

	2024 Appropriated	**2025 Donate**
Bath Area Family YMCA	500.00	500.00
Bath Area Food Bank	1,250.00	1,250.00
Bath Area Senior Citizens Center	850.00	850.00
Big Brothers/Big Sisters Bath/Brunswick	600.00	600.00
LifeFlight	767.00	767.00
Jesse Albert Dental Clinic	2,500.00	2,500.00
Maine Maritime Boat Program	5,000.00	5,000.00
Midcoast Maine Community Action (CED)	1,400.00	1,400.00
New Hope MidCoast	500.00	500.00
Spectrum Generations	1,740.00	1,740.00
Sweetser	3,084.00	3,084.00
Tedford Housing	700.00	700.00
Tedford Housing	7,500.00	-0-
Woolwich Historical Society	1,500.00	1,500.00
	$27,891.00	**$20,391.00**

Article 41 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **$20,391.00** for donations to local agencies/organizations. 2024 appropriation $27,891.00

Ordinances

Article 42 Shall the Town of Woolwich Planning Ordinance be amended as indicated:

- o Definitions of Dwellings, Multiple Dwellings, Clustered Residential Development, and Residential Density
- o Clarifying Residential Area Dwelling per Lot Density and Lot Size Requirements
- o Fee structure

***Copies of said ordinance are available for review**