ANNUAL
TOWN MEETING
MONDAY MARCH 20, 2023
MINUTES

STATE OF MAINE **PENOBSCOT, SS**

TO: LORI MOURA, RESIDENT OF THE TOWN OF LOWELL, COUNTY OF PENOBSCOT, AND STATE OF MAINE.

GREETINGS.

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the voters of the Town of Lowell, in said County, qualified to vote in Town affairs, to meet at the Lowell Town Office in the Town of Lowell, County of Penobscot, State of Maine, on Friday, the 17th of March, 2023 A.D. at 10 o'clock a.m. in the morning, then and there to act upon articles numbered ONE (1) and TWO (2) as set out below, polls open at 10 a.m. and close at 6 p.m., and to notify and warn the voters to meet at the Lowell Town Office on Monday the 20th day of March 2023 A.D. at 6:00 o'clock in the evening to act upon articles number three (3) through (27).

Article 1. To choose a moderator to preside at said meeting.
(To follow Maine Moderators Rules for said meeting)
KERRY MCINTYRE WAS ELECTED WITH 3 WRITTEN VOTES. APPOINTED ELIZABETH BICKFORD TO MODERATE THE BUSINESS PORTION OF THE MEETING.

Article 2. **Town Officers:** To elect all necessary Town Officers as are required by law, by secret ballot. The polls for voting on **Articles 1 and 2** will open at 10 a.m. and will close at 6 p.m.

-First Selectman: Three-year term. BRIAN MOURA ELECTED
-Budget Committee: Two, two-year terms. MATHEW MCINTYRE ELECTED
JULIE BROWN ELECTED

Article 3. Overdrafts: To see if the Town will vote to ratify overdrafts occurring in Town Operations for fiscal year 2023. **PASSED**

Article 4. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to spend an amount not to exceed 3/12 of the approved budgeted amount in each category of the FY 2024 annual budget during the period February 1, 2024, until the Annual Town meeting in March 2024. **PASSED**

Article 5. Prepayment of Taxes: Vote to authorize the Tax Collector or the Treasurer to accept prepayment of taxes, not yet committed, pursuant to 36 M.R.S. §506.

PASSED

Article 6. Final Settlement: To see if the Town will vote to require that the Tax Collector make final settlement with the Town no later than one year from date of commitment. **PASSED**

Article 7. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen, on behalf of the town, to sell and dispose of any Real Estate acquired by the Town for non-payment of taxes by Tax Lien Foreclosure and to execute on behalf of the Town, Quit Claim Deeds to convey Title of the same. Sale to be by bid process. **PASSED**

Article 8. To see if the Town shall vote to accept the categories of funds listed below provided by the Maine State Legislature or other organizations.

1. Municipal Revenue Sharing
2. Local Road Assistance Program (LRAP)
3. State Aid to Education (including pass-through funds and property tax relief)
4. Snowmobile Registration Monies
5. Tree Growth Tax Reimbursement
6. Civil Emergency Funds
7. Emergency Management Assistance
8. General Assistance Reimbursement
9. Homestead Exemption Funds
10. Veteran's Exemption Funds
11. State Grants, or other funds.
12. U.S. Federal Funds

Article 9. Unexpended Operational Balances: To see if the Town will vote to carry forward any unexpended FY 2023 municipal budget operational balances, from the specific line items below, for the same purpose in the FY 2024 operational budget:

1. Fire Department	2. Education	3. Winter Roads
4. Photocopier Reserve	5. Building Reserve	6. Roads & Bridges Reserve

PASSED

Article 10. Surplus: In accordance with ADM 26, approved March 15, 2010, the Board of Selectmen are authorized to appropriate money from surplus for tax relief and stability of the municipal tax rate. The amount used for this purpose shall not reduce the available surplus balance below $250,000. **PASSED**

Article 11. To fix compensation paid to Town Officials and Employees.

1st Selectman $3,732 2nd Selectman $3,732 3rd Selectman $3,732

Town Clerk $16,500

Registrar of Voters $1,600.00

Treasurer $3,500 /Payroll fees $2,000

Tax Collector $11,750

Road Commissioner $600
Animal Control Officer $600
Custodian $5,330
Local Health Officer $100

Code Enforcement Officer $5,865
General Assistance Officer $500.

PASSED

Article 12. General Government: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $117,871 for General Government. **PASSED**

Article 13. Operation of the Town Office: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $44,850 for the Operation of the Town Office, and appropriate up to $10,000 from surplus for unanticipated emergency

expenses as needed. A MOTION WAS MADE AND SECONDED TO AMEND THE ARTICLE TO READ "TO SEE IF THE TOWN WILL VOTE TO RAISE AND APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF $34,850 FOR THE OPERATION OF THE TOWN OFFICE, AND APPROPRIATE UP TO $10,000 FROM SURPLUS FOR UNANTICIPATED EMERGENCY EXPENSES AS NEEDED."

PASSED AS AMENDED

Article 14. Public Safety: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $18,350 for Public Safety. PASSED

Article 15. Public Works: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $163,750 for Public Works, and appropriate up to $5,000 from surplus for junkyard cleanup if/as needed. A MOTION WAS MADE AND SECONDED TO AMEND THE ARTICLE TO READ "TO SEE IF THE TOWN WILL VOTE TO RAISE AND APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF $158,750 FOR PUBLIC WORKS, AND APPROPRIATE UP TO $5,000 FROM SURPLUS FOR JUNKYARD CLEANUP AS NEEDED."

PASSED AS AMENDED

Article 16. Sanitation: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $60,000 for the Burlington –Lowell Transfer Station operations and maintenance. PASSED

Article 17. Special Assessments: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $100,527.43 to pay County Tax. PASSED

Article 18. Debt Service: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $40,894.00 for the Municipal Building loan. PASSED

Article 19. General Assistance: To authorize the Selectmen to appropriate funds, as needed, for General Assistance from Surplus. PASSED

Article 20. Interest: To authorize the Tax Collector to charge interest on Real Estate and Personal Property Taxes not paid by January 31, 2024. Interest begins February 1, 2024, at 5% annually and will accrue daily thereafter. **PASSED**

Article 21. Discount: To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to Title 36 section 505 Paragraph 5 of M.R.S.A., to allow 2% discount on all taxes, Real and Personal if paid in full within 30 days of commitment. **PASSED**

Article 22. Reserve Account Management: To see if the Town will authorize the Board of Selectmen to pay for normal maintenance or repair work, as required, from the established, designated reserve accounts. **PASSED**

Article 23. Authorization for Disposal of Municipal Personal Property: To see if the town will vote to authorize the municipal officers to dispose of town-owned personal property with a value not exceeding the amount of $1000, under such terms and conditions as they deem advisable. **PASSED**

Article 24. Town Sign: To see if the Town will vote to expend up to the sum of $1,000 for the purchase of a digital road sign from the $4,500 raised and appropriated which is included in the "Building Maintenance" line of Operations Of The Town Office, Article #13. **PASSED 12 VOTES YES 10 NO**

Article 25. Credit Card: To see if the town will authorize the implementation of the InforMe credit card PayPort at the town office to process credit card transactions at no cost to the town, but with a 2.5 percent surcharge per transaction to be passed on to the customer. **PASSED**

Article 26. Fire Department Contract: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and expend from the Fire Department Contract Account and expend from the Fire Department Reserve account the below sums for the contractual agreement with the Howland Fire Department.

Fire Department Contract (raise and appropriate): $39,000.

(Expend from Fire Department Reserve Account) $67,565.72

A MOTION WAS MADE AND SECONDED TO STOP DISCUSSION ON ARTICLE #26.

A MOTION WAS MADE AND SECONDED TO ACCEPT ARTICLE #26 AS WRITTEN. PASSED

Article 27. Utilization of Town Assets: To see if the town will vote to authorize the utilization of the fire bays for the following:

1. As a substation of the Howland Fire Department, under the direction of the Howland Fire Chief.
2. Leasing of the town of Lowell's Beck Pumper Engine with firefighting equipment to the town of Howland. Contingent upon approval from Board of Selectmen town of Howland.
3. Repositioning of assets by the Howland Fire Chief

-Benefit being that if there were local firemen in Lowell there would be a more efficient response time to an emergency. Possible reduction in insurance due to the increased available portable stored water and decrease our ISO rating. **PASSED**

SELECTMEN / ASSESSORS / OVERSEERS OF THE POOR

Brian Moura_____

Charles Priest_____

R. Mark Cofran _____

TOWN OF LOWELL, MAINE

A TRUE COPY: _____

JESSE MCNALLY, CLERK