

SECRET BALLOT ELECTION AND
TOWN MEETING WARRANT

Friday, March 1, 2024
and

Saturday, March 2, 2024

To Mercy Hanson, resident of the Town of New Sharon, in the County of
Franklin, State of Maine,

GREETING:

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of New Sharon in said county and state, qualified by law to vote in town affairs, to meet at the Town Office in said Town on Friday, the 1st day of March, 2024 A.D. at twelve noon, then and there to act upon Article 1 and by secret ballot on Article 2 as set out below, the polling hours therefore to be from twelve noon until seven o'clock in the evening;

And, to notify and warn said inhabitants to meet at the Cape Cod Hill School Gymnasium in said town on Saturday, the 2nd day of March 2024 A.D., at nine o'clock in the morning, then and there to act on Article 3 to the end of the warrant.

ARTICLE 1

To elect a moderator by written ballot to preside at said meeting.

ARTICLE 2

To elect all municipal officers and other members as are required to be elected by secret ballot.

Selectman – 3-year term
Road Commissioner - 3-year term
Water District Trustee – 5-year term
RSU 9 School Representative - 3-year term

ARTICLE 3

Shall the Town vote to increase the property tax levy limit of \$802,082 established for the Town of New Sharon by State Law in the event that the municipal budget, approved under the following articles, will result in a tax commitment that exceeds that property tax levy limit?

ARTICLE 4

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate from taxation, a total of \$218,481.81 for operating expenses to include: Administration, Salaries for Elected and Appointed officials, Assistant to the Board, E911 Officer, Health Officer, GA Administrator, General Assistance, Historical Committee, Technology, Mowing Cemeteries, contracted Assessing, Town Office Operating, and to carry forward \$469.19 for General Assistance for the ensuing year?

Administration	\$57,089
Selectmen	\$22,500
Assistant to the Board	\$5,000
Town Clerk/Tax Collector/Deputy	\$47,950
Treasurer	\$16,512
Assessing Agent	\$20,400

Code Enforcement	\$11,000
E911 Officer	\$1,000
Health Officer	\$500
GA Administrator	\$500
Historical Committee	\$200
Technology	\$8,000
Town Hall Operating	\$18,000
Cemeteries	\$8,300
General Assistance	\$2,000
Less Carry Forward	
General Assistance	<u>\$-469.19</u>
TOTAL to be raised from taxation	\$218,481.81

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.

ARTICLE 5

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate from taxation a total of \$156,747 for the operation of Public Safety to include Animal Control, Street Lights, Fire Department, Fire Department Truck Reserve, Fire Protection (water/hydrants) and Ambulance Subsidy, and to carry forward \$240 for Animal Control for the ensuing year?

Animal Control	\$7,700
Street Lights	\$7,500
Fire Department	\$102,030
Fire Truck Reserve	\$10,000
Fire Protection	\$9,402
Ambulance Subsidy	\$20,355
Animal Control Carry Forward	<u>\$-240</u>
TOTAL to be raised from taxation	\$156,747

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.

ARTICLE 6

To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the operation of Public Works to include Snow Plowing, Care and Maintenance of Winter and Summer Roads, Salt Shed, Paving, Snow Blowing Route 2 Sidewalk, Capital Roads Reserve Account, and to carry forward Local Roads Assistance in the amount of \$50,488 for the ensuing year?

Roads	
Summer Maintenance	\$282,475
Winter Maintenance	\$75,000
Remaining Snowplow Contract	\$92,820
Snow Blowing	\$2,500
Capital Roads Reserve	\$60,000
Less 2023 Local Road Assistance	<u>\$-50,488</u>
Total to be raised from taxation	\$512,795

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.

Explanation: The remaining balance in the current winter plow contract is \$92,820 and ends on May 1st, 2024. The Board expects to hold a special town meeting in June once bids can be secured for the 2024/2025 winter season contract.

ARTICLE 7

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate from taxation \$134,685 for debt service as follows?

Town Office/Fire Station Year 3 of 15	\$85,496
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Pierce Fire Truck Pmt. 2 of 6	<u>\$49,189</u>
TOTAL to be raised from taxation	\$134,685

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.

ARTICLE 8

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate from taxation a total of \$180,000.00 for Solid Waste Disposal and Curbside Pickup for the ensuing year?
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.

ARTICLE 9

Shall the Town vote to appropriate from taxation a total of \$10,643 for the Parks and Rec Department, and to appropriate from unappropriated surplus \$4,349 for a total budget of \$14,992?

Recreation	\$14,992
2023 Program Revenue	\$-1,257
2023 Masonic Lodge Donation	\$-1,500
2023 Carry Forward (remaining balance)	<u>\$-1,592</u>
TOTAL to be raised from taxation	\$10,643

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.

ARTICLE 10

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate from taxation a total of \$35,408, and to carry forward \$8,840 from unappropriated surplus for a total budget of \$44,248 for the Town's operation of the Jim Ditzler Memorial Library for the ensuing year?
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.

ARTICLE 11

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate from taxation a total of \$21,500 for Insurance and Worker's Compensation for the ensuing year?
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.

ARTICLE 12

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate from taxation a total of \$12,000 for the Town's share of Social Security for the ensuing year?
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.

ARTICLE 13

Shall the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to appropriate from unappropriated surplus, the sum of \$10,000 to use as they deem advisable to meet unanticipated expenses and emergencies that occur during the ensuing year?
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.

ARTICLE 14

Shall the Town vote to allow overlay to cover Abatements?

ARTICLE 15

Shall the Town transfer the money received from the State for Snowmobile Registrations to the New Sharon Snow Riders Snowmobile Club?

ARTICLE 16

Shall the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for, accept, and expend, without further action by Town Meeting, money from the State, FEMA, federal or other governmental units, grants or private sources which become available during the year, and to authorize the Selectmen to accept, on behalf of the Town, any and all unconditional gifts of any type of property and use to lower the commitment?

ARTICLE 17

Shall the Town set the date of 30 days from mailing after which interest shall be charged at the rate of 8% per year, or part thereof, on taxes unpaid after that date; and that the Tax Collector shall settle with the Treasurer within one year of commitment?

ARTICLE 18

Shall the Town authorize the Selectmen, on behalf of the Town, to sell and dispose of any Real Estate acquired by the Town for nonpayment of taxes thereon, on such terms as they deem advisable and to execute Quit Claim Deeds for such property? Except that the Municipal Officers shall use the special sale process required

by 36 M.R.S. § 943-C for qualifying homestead property if they choose to sell it to anyone other than the former owner(s).

ARTICLE 19

Shall the Town vote to authorize the Selectmen to dispose of town owned personal property, under such terms and conditions as they deem advisable?

ARTICLE 20

Shall the Town use the Excise Tax money to help off-set the cost of capital improvements and maintenance of roads?

ARTICLE 21

Shall the Town authorize the Selectmen on behalf of the Town to negotiate temporary loans, said loans to be repaid during the 2023 calendar year?

ARTICLE 22

Shall the Town authorize the Selectmen to spend an amount not to exceed 3/12 of the amount in the 2024 annual budget during the period from January 1, 2025 to the 2025 annual Town Meeting?

ARTICLE 23

Shall the Town authorize the Selectmen to make final determinations regarding the closing or opening of roads for winter maintenance?

ARTICLE 24

Shall the Town accept prepayment of taxes prior to the commitment and to pay no interest thereon?

ARTICLE 25

Shall the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a multi-year Franchise Agreement with Spectrum/Charter at no cost to the town?

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.

ARTICLE 26

Shall the Town vote to appropriate from unappropriated surplus a total of \$3,629.48 to cover the 2023 Solid Waste overdraft?

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.

ARTICLE 27

Shall the Town vote to appropriate from taxation a total of \$1,350 for the purchase of replacement flags and poles to be displayed in town for the ensuing year?"

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.

ARTICLE 28*

Shall the town vote to enact an ordinance entitled "New Sharon Parks and Recreation Commission Ordinance"?

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.

ARTICLE 29*

Shall the town vote to enact an ordinance entitled "New Sharon Local Food Sovereignty Ordinance"?

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.

**The two Ordinances can be viewed on the Town website or at the Town Office.*

Given under our hands this 13th day of February in the year of our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Four.

Municipal Officers:

Paula Nason, Chair

Travis Pond, Selectman

Kevin Libby, Selectman

Board of Selectmen
Town of New Sharon