

The following is a draft warrant, subject to change until such time as it is legally posted.

**2024 WARRANT
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

TO: S. Clyde Ross, a Resident of the Town of Farmington in the County of Franklin and State of Maine.

GREETING: In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the voters of the Town of Farmington, qualified by law to vote in Town affairs, to assemble at the Community Center at 127 Middle Street in said Town on Monday, the TWENTY-FIFTH DAY OF MARCH, 2024, at 7:00 o'clock in the morning to act upon Articles 1 and 2. The polls will open at 7:15 o'clock in the morning and close at 5:00 o'clock in the afternoon to act upon Article Second.

And also, notify and warn the said Inhabitants to meet at the Mt. Blue High School Auditorium at 129 Seamon Road in said Town on Monday, the TWENTY-FIFTH DAY OF MARCH, 2024, at 7:00 o'clock in the evening, then and there to hear the results of the secret ballot on Articles 1 and 2 and to act on Articles 3 through 36 all the Articles being set out below, to wit:

FIRST - To choose a moderator to preside at said meeting.

SECOND - To choose by ballot, according to the provisions of Title 30-A, M.R.S. Section 2528 as amended, one Selectman for a term of three years, one Selectman for a term of two years to complete the remaining term, one School Director for a term of three years, and one School Director for a term of one year to complete the remaining term.

THIRD - To see if the Town will vote, in accordance with 30-A M.R.S. section 5721-7, to increase the property tax levy limit of \$5,225,474 established for Farmington by State law in the event that the municipal budget approved under the following Articles will result in a tax commitment that is greater than that property tax levy limit.

STATEMENT OF FACT: The budget recommended by the Selectmen meets the 2024 property tax levy limit. Because however, the Town Meeting process is active, interactive, and unpredictable; the Selectmen cannot know with certainty whether the municipal budget being proposed will be increased or decreased by the Town Meeting. Therefore, it is advisable to include this Article if there is any chance that the Town Meeting will raise and appropriate sums in excess of the property tax levy limit. It is also possible that unanticipated reductions in non-property tax revenues will result in a tax commitment that exceeds the limit. In such cases, State law requires voter action to authorize an increase in the limit. A vote on this Article requires a written ballot.

FOURTH - To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for **GENERAL ADMINISTRATION** for the year 2024.

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Amount Requested	\$1,278,423	\$992,411
Selectmen Recommended	1,025,426	992,411
Budget Committee Recommended	1,025,426	992,411
Town Meeting Approved	1,026,226	

STATEMENT OF FACT:

	Appropriated <u>2023</u>	Requested <u>2024</u>	Selectmen and Budget Committee <u>Recommended</u>
1. Administration	\$290,544	\$319,319	\$319,319
2. Assessor	144,451	167,039	167,039
3. Treasurer / Clerk	457,919	396,965	396,965
4. Committees & Events	3,950	3,950	3,950
5. Municipal Building	103,562	80,138	80,138
6. Tax Anticipation Note			0
7. General Assistance	25,000	25,000	25,000
8. Conservation Comm.	800	0	0
TOTAL	<u>\$1,026,226</u>	<u>\$992,411</u>	<u>\$992,411</u>

The Administration Budget includes personnel costs for the Board of Selectmen, Town Manager, Executive Assistant, and one-half of the Planning Assistant. This amount includes COLA pay adjustments of 3%, and the Town portion of 80% of the employee premium and 55% of the dependent portion of the health insurance premium for full-time employees, which increased 4.25% for 2024. It also includes related office supply and equipment costs, and expenses for professional services such as the Town Report printing, public notice advertising and routine legal services. \$500 previously budgeted in this cost center for capital computers and equipment has been moved to the Capital Reserves line items.

The Assessor's Department Budget includes personnel costs for a full-time Assessor, minor continued services from Dirigo Assessing, office supplies, software licenses, and association dues. One half of the salary for the Assessing/Counter Clerk has been moved to this cost center from the Clerk/HR and Treasurer budget for 2024 to account for that position acting as the Assessing Assistant. This amount includes COLA pay adjustments of 3%, and the Town portion of 80% of the employee premium and 55% of the dependent portion of the health insurance premium for full-time employees, which increased 4.25% for 2024. \$1,000 previously budgeted in this cost center for capital computers and equipment has been moved to the Capital Reserves line items.

The Town Clerk/HR & Treasurer Budget includes salaries for Town Clerk and Treasurer, and wages for AP Counter Clerk and half of the Assessing/Counter Clerk (half of the latter being moved to the Assessor's budget for 2024). This amount includes COLA pay adjustments of 3%, and the Town portion of 80% of the employee premium and 55% of the dependent portion of the health insurance premium for full-time employees, which

increased 4.25% for 2024. This budget includes funds for election costs, financial software, the annual audit and copy paper for all departments in the Municipal Building. This budget has decreased in part due to the transfer of half of one clerical salary, and due to the elimination of the accounting firm contract that was in place during the Treasurer vacancy. \$3,000 previously budgeted in this cost center for capital computers and equipment has been moved to the Capital Reserves line items.

The Committees and Events Budget includes Memorial Day Flags (\$800), Planning Board (\$100), Contingency (\$250), and Special Projects (\$2,800) which is a discretionary account for the Selectmen through which they may authorize expenditures for special projects, promotions, or events deemed appropriate.

The Municipal Buildings Budget includes funds to maintain and operate the Town Office and various outbuildings and structures not covered by other departments.

The Tax Anticipation Note is no longer used to provide funds for the Town to operate until taxes are due. The Town borrows funds from the Sewer Department and repays them.

The General Assistance program provides for the basic needs of persons who apply and meet the qualifying requirements for assistance. The 2023 appropriation was \$25,000. Expenditures totaled \$35,878 in 2023. The average of 2022 and 2023 is \$25,000 per year. The State reimburses seventy percent of this expenditure and accrues to the General Fund.

FIFTH – To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for **CODE ENFORCEMENT** for the year 2024.

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Amount Requested	\$194,472	\$206,806
Selectmen Recommended	194,472	\$206,806
Budget Committee Recommended	194,472	\$206,806
Approved	194,472	

STATEMENT OF FACT: This budget request covers the operational expenses for two and one-half employees who oversee Code Administration, Planning, and Community Development functions. This amount includes COLA pay adjustments of 3%, and the Town portion of 80% of the employee premium and 55% of the dependent portion of the health insurance premium for full-time employees, which increased 4.25% for 2024. \$400 previously budgeted in this cost center for capital computers and equipment has been moved to the Capital Reserves line items.

SIXTH - To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **POLICE DEPARTMENT** for the year 2024.

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Amount Requested	\$1,853,197	\$1,884,740
Selectmen Recommended	1,853,197	1,884,740
Budget Committee Recommended	1,853,197	1,884,740
Town Meeting Approved	1,853,197	

STATEMENT OF FACT: The Police Department budget reflects increases for the anticipated return of a full complement of Police Officers. The budget includes negotiated contractual obligations for union members, 3% COLA Increases for non-union members and the Town portion of 80% of the employee premium and 55% of the dependent portion of the health insurance premium for full-time employees, which increased 4.25% for 2024. The 2024 budget allows for public safety protection 24 hours per day and 7 days per week. This includes expanded Animal Control services. Also included are expenses related to building, operations, vehicles, supplies, and maintenance. \$56,000 in vehicle and facility capital replacements previously budgeted in this cost center was moved to the Capital Reserves line items.

SEVENTH - To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **FIRE DEPARTMENT** for the year 2024.

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Amount Requested	\$916,331	\$976,815
Selectmen Recommended	916,331	976,815
Budget Committee Recommended	916,331	976,815
Town Meeting Approved	916,331	

STATEMENT OF FACT: The increase in the Fire Department's request includes a 3% COLA pay adjustment for personnel in 2024, as well as a 4.25% increase to the Town's portion of health insurance premiums. Also Included are some adjustments related to operations to adjust for the rising costs of supplies and equipment, worker's compensation increases and an upgrade to the Fire Department's reporting software system. \$4,000 in computer and equipment replacement costs previously budgeted in this cost center was moved to the Capital Reserves line items.

EIGHTH - To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **PARKS AND RECREATION AND COMMUNITY CENTER DEPARTMENTS** for the year 2024.

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Amount Requested	\$447,607	\$453,451
Selectmen Recommended	453,553	453,451
Budget Committee Recommended	453,553	453,451
Approved	453,553	

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2024</u>
Parks and Recreation	\$243,327	\$244,110	\$244,110
Community Center	<u>\$210,226</u>	<u>\$209,341</u>	<u>\$209,341</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$453,553</u>	<u>\$453,451</u>	<u>\$453,451</u>

STATEMENT OF FACT: The Parks and Recreation Budget includes operating expenses for all recreational activities, including personnel costs for the full-time Director, part-time seasonal positions, program directors, and coaches. The Community Center budget includes personnel costs for one full-time Assistant Director and one full-time Maintenance position, as well as several part-time seasonal positions. Both budgets include 3% COLA pay adjustments for personnel, a 4.25% increase in health insurance premiums, and reflect an increase in utilities, maintenance, and program supplies costs, and an increase in the minimum wage for 2024. \$15,800 previously budgeted in this cost center for capital computers, facilities and equipment has been moved to the Capital Reserves line items.

NINTH - To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for **OTHER PROTECTIONS** for the year 2024.

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Amount Requested	\$617,641	\$590,887
Selectmen Recommended	617,641	590,887
Budget Committee Recommended	617,641	590,887
Town Meeting Approved	617,641	

STATEMENT OF FACT:	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
1. Streetlights	\$100,000	\$ 70,000
2. Fire Hydrants	345,475	350,657
3. Insurances	120,000	120,000
4. Ambulance	47,166	50,230
5. Traffic Light Maintenance	<u>5,000</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$617,641</u>	<u>\$590,887</u>

The Street Light budget has decreased due to a rate increase at CMP that was not realized. The cost of Fire Hydrants has increased due to a 1.5% increase from the Water

District. The hydrant cost is governed by the Maine Public Utilities Commission and is based on a percentage of the Water Company's total operating expenses. The Insurance category is based on anticipated premium costs in 2024. Included are employee cash handling bonds, blanket property and automobile coverages, public officials' liability, and unemployment insurance. The Ambulance subsidy is established by a contractual agreement with NorthStar Ambulance. The Traffic Light Maintenance budget is being eliminated as MDOT is taking over signal maintenance.

TENTH - To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT** for the year 2024.

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Amount Requested	\$1,498,168	\$1,872,713
Selectmen Recommended	1,498,168	1,872,713
Budget Committee Recommended	1,596,898	1,872,713
Town Meeting Approved	1,596,898	

STATEMENT OF FACT: The Public Works Department budget covers the operational expenses required to maintain the Town's 120 miles of roads. The budget covers the personnel costs for fourteen full-time and one part-time employees. Three positions, including a Construction Foreman, were added in 2023 to oversee the volume of new roadway construction, snow removal, and other projects. This budget is up considerably due to those three new positions only being budgeted for 9 months of 2023. This budget includes a 3% COLA pay adjustment for all employees as well as a 4.25% increase to health insurance premiums. It also corrects chronic underbudgeting of road maintenance, vehicle maintenance, street signs and equipment rental which cause the budget to be over expended on a yearly basis. There are also cost increases associated with labor and materials, including an increase of \$10,000 to the cemetery mowing budget. \$10,000 in emergency road repair funding has been moved to the Capital Reserves line items.

ELEVENTH - To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **RECYCLING DEPARTMENT** for the year 2024.

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Amount Requested	\$195,425	\$192,315
Selectmen Recommended	195,035	192,315
Budget Committee Recommended	195,035	192,315
Town Meeting Approved	195,035	

STATEMENT OF FACT: This budget covers all operating expenses for the transfer station and two current part-time employees for 2024. Labor cost is down slightly due to one new employee.

TWELFTH - To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate to be transferred to the Capital Reserve Funds.

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Admin Computer & Office Equip Capital*	\$ 0	\$ 1,000
Assessor Computer Capital*	0	500
Treasurer/Clerk Comp & Office Equip Capital*	0	4,000
Municipal Buildings Capital Reserve	10,000	10,000
Municipal Buildings Equipment & Grounds*	0	1,500
CEO Computer & Equip Capital*	0	2,000
Revaluation Capital Reserve	30,000	30,000
Police Dept Building Capital Reserve	0	10,000
Police Dt Equipment Capital Reserve	10,000	10,000
Police Dept Vehicle Capital Reserve*	35,000	124,000
Fire Dept Apparatus Capital Reserve	150,000	150,000
Fire Dept Computer Capital Reserve	0	1,800
Fire Dept Facility Capital Reserve	0	8,275
Public Works Equipment Capital Reserve	455,000	115,000
Public Works Facilities Capital Reserve	150,000	50,000
Public Works Roads Capital Reserve	816,645	859,489
Public Works Sidewalks Capital Reserve	25,000	20,000
Public Works Emergency Rds Cap Reserve*	0	10,000
Municipal Landfill Capital Reserve	10,000	10,000
Cemetery Infr/Headstone Capital Reserve	0	5,000
Hippach Field and Parks Capital Reserve	155,000	5,000
Parks Vehicle and Equip Capital Reserve	2,500	5,000
Parks Land Improvement Capital Reserve*	0	6,000
Community Center Capital Reserve	0	25,000
Community Center Computer & Equip Cap*	0	1,500
Total	<u>\$1,849,145</u>	<u>\$1,465,064</u>

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Amount Requested	\$1,849,145	\$1,465,064
Selectmen Recommended	\$1,849,145	\$1,465,064
Budget Committee Recommended	\$1,849,145	\$1,465,064
Approved	\$1,849,145	

STATEMENT OF FACT: 2023 figures include \$160,000 appropriated from the Local Road Assistance Program (which is actually a revenue that offsets the roads cost), and \$600,000 in funds appropriated from the General Fund Balance for Public Works and Parks in Articles 12, 14 and 41 of the 2023 Warrant. Accounts with an asterisk (*) were all or in part moved from the regular operating accounts to Capital Reserves based on those expenditures being more appropriately classified as capital. This budget covers the annual set-aside for computer, vehicle and equipment replacements, and major maintenance of facilities. The Revaluation reserve covers the final amount needed to pay for the 2025 Revaluation project which starts in 2024. The Capital budget includes

\$10,000 to address the parking lot at the Police Station, fully funds two police vehicle replacements to remain on a 7-year replacement schedule, funds the 5-year Capital Road Program, and starts setting aside funds to address major maintenance items at the Community Center.

THIRTEENTH - To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for **DEBT SERVICE** for the year 2024.

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Amount Requested	\$95,000	\$93,167
Selectmen Recommended	95,000	93,167
Budget Committee Recommended	95,000	93,167
Town Meeting Approved	95,000	

STATEMENT OF FACT:	Appropriated	Requested	Recommended
	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2024</u>
Engine 1	\$57,000	\$55,800	\$55,800
Police Building Debt	38,000	37,367	37,367
TOTAL	\$95,000	\$93,167	\$93,167

The amount indicated in this Article represents the debt service (principal and interest) for bonds for the police station renovations and Engine 1 debt. The police building debt will be paid off in 2026, and Engine 1 in 2029.

FOURTEENTH - To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **LEGAL RESERVE ACCOUNT** for the purpose of funding costs associated with actual or potential litigation for the year 2024.

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Amount Requested	\$5,000	\$14,000
Selectmen Recommended	5,000	14,000
Budget Committee Recommended	5,000	14,000
Town Meeting Approved	5,000	

STATEMENT OF FACT: The various administrative accounts contain funding to cover routine legal costs related to tax liens, personnel issues, contracts, general liability, zoning, etc. Those amounts are not adequate to cover ongoing litigation and unforeseen legal expenses. The Legal Reserve Account provides for such expenditures. In 2023, \$37,806 was expended leaving the account overdrawn by \$8,660. The amount shown is requested to replenish the account and start rebuilding the reserve.

FIFTEENTH - To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) RESERVE ACCOUNT** for the year 2024.

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Amount Requested	\$1,500	\$1,500
Selectmen Recommended	1,500	1,500
Budget Committee Recommended	1,500	1,500
Town Meeting Approved	1,500	

STATEMENT OF FACT: The ADA Reserve Account is used to improve accessibility to public facilities for people with disabilities. It currently has a balance of \$15,442. This will fund the replacement of the Town Office front entry door with an accessible automated door to allow those with assistive devices to access the facility without assistance.

SIXTEENTH - To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **FARMINGTON LIBRARY** for the year 2024.

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Amount Requested	\$248,870	\$271,750
Selectmen Recommended	248,870	271,750
Budget Committee Recommended	248,870	271,750
Town Meeting Approved	240,590	

STATEMENT OF FACT: The amount requested represents approximately 75% of the Library's total projected budget for 2024 and is an 12.95% increase over the 2023 Town appropriation.

SEVENTEENTH - To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **GAY CEMETERY** for the year 2023.

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Amount Requested	\$1,000	\$1,000
Selectmen Recommended	1,000	1,000
Budget Committee Recommended	1,000	1,000
Town Meeting Approved	1,000	

STATEMENT OF FACT: The Gay Cemetery, named after the Gay family, is located on South Strong Road. It is a 100-plot cemetery (including 16 veteran graves) maintained by the Gay Cemetery Association.

EIGHTEENTH - To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **FRANKLIN COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER** for the year 2024.

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Amount Requested	\$18,221	\$18,221
Selectmen Recommended	18,221	18,221
Budget Committee Recommended	18,221	18,221
Town Meeting Approved	18,221	

STATEMENT OF FACT: The State of Maine mandates that all municipalities designate a shelter that will accept stray animals. Farmington contracts with the Franklin County Animal Shelter for this service. The shelter currently assesses all participating communities at \$2.40 per capita based on the most recent US Census.

NINETEENTH - To see if the Town will vote to appropriate 100% of the refund of snowmobile registrations received annually from the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife for the **SHIRETOWN RIDERS, NORTHERN LITES, AND NEW SHARON SNOW RIDERS SNOWMOBILE CLUBS**, to be distributed to the clubs on the basis of mileage of trails each maintains in Farmington.

STATEMENT OF FACT: Based on the trail mileages, funds are distributed as follows: Shiretown Riders - 58%, Northern Lites - 21%, and New Sharon Snow Riders - 21%.

TWENTIETH - To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the nonprofit economic development and social services agencies that are impacted by the cuts the Franklin County Commissioner made beginning in 2017.

STATEMENT OF FACT: The Town of Farmington, for 36 years, has funded social services and economic development through the Franklin County Government. Franklin County Commissioners in 2017 reduced funding to social services and economic development by 70% or \$143,000, and an additional \$31,000 in 2022. This reduction eliminated funding to 6 nonprofits and reduced support to 3 others. The Town of Farmington's taxation by the County was reduced by \$17,998 as a result of these cuts. In 2023 the voters of the Town of Farmington adopted a resolution requesting that Franklin County reverse its policy of not funding these programs, restore funding to these organizations and continue the regional approach for these services. This Article asks if the Town wishes to continue supporting these organizations for service rendered in Farmington or to continue the 2023 resolve to revert these costs to the County.

Proposed Disbursement of Town Funding						
Breakdown	Total Avail FY17	Dept Req. FY18	Comm. Req. FY18	Amount Lost	% of Loss	Farmington Share
Franklin County Children's Task Force (FCCTF)	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	5%	\$ 857.00
Franklin County Adult Basic Education	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -	\$ 10,000.00	10%	\$ 1,714.00
Western Maine Transportation Services (WMTS)	\$ 10,500.00	\$ 10,500.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 3,000.00	3%	\$ 514.00
Western Maine Community Action Inc. (WMCA)	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	10%	\$ 1,714.00
Greater Franklin Development Council	\$ 42,000.00	\$ 60,000.00	\$ -	\$ 42,000.00	40%	\$ 7,200.00
Seniors Plus	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	10%	\$ 1,714.00
Sexual Assault Prevention & Response Services (SAPARS)	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -	\$ 10,000.00	10%	\$ 1,714.00
Androscoggin Home Healthcare & Hospice (AHHCH)	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 20,130.00	\$ -	\$ 10,000.00	10%	\$ 1,714.00
Franklin County Soil & Water Conservation District	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	5%	\$ 857.00
	\$ 171,200.00	\$ 209,330.00	\$ 66,200.00	\$ 105,000.00	100%	\$ 17,998.00

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Amount Requested	\$17,998	\$0
Selectmen Recommended	17,998	0
Budget Committee Recommended	17,998	0
Town Meeting Approved	17,998	

TWENTY-FIRST - see if the Town will vote to reduce the amounts authorized to be raised in taxes in Articles 2 through 20 by **\$3,340,000**, based on estimates for non-tax municipal revenues.

<u>Estimates</u>	<u>FY23</u>	<u>FY24</u>
Excise Taxes	\$ 1,105,000	\$ 1,105,000
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	97,000	132,500
Intergovernmental	2,440,000	1,868,500
Charges for Services	110,000	127,000
Other Revenues	106,340	107,000

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Amount Requested	\$3,822,000	\$3,340,000
Selectmen Recommended	\$3,822,000	\$3,340,000
Budget Committee Recommended	\$3,822,000	\$3,340,000
Approved	\$3,822,000	

STATEMENT OF FACT: The figures posted on the 2023 warrant included Homestead and BETE reimbursements as revenue. They should not be calculated as revenue as they are part of the Tax Commitment.

TWENTY-SECOND - To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to reallocate budgeted amounts from budget lines that have unexpended appropriations to other budget lines, as they deem necessary, to avoid individual budget lines being over-expended. Approval of this warrant article does not increase the overall appropriations approved for the Town.

TWENTY-THIRD - To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Unassigned Fund Balance those funds deemed necessary by the Board of Selectmen to reduce the amount of property taxes to be collected to fund the Year 2024 budget in an effort to stabilize the tax rate in a manner consistent with prudent fiscal management.

STATEMENT OF FACT: The Unassigned Fund Balance (UFB) at the end of the 2023 budget year, is estimated to be \$3,900,000. The auditors recommend carrying a minimum UFB level that is adequate to cover three months' expenditures, which is approximately \$3,800,000. Approval of this Article would allow the Selectmen to utilize whatever amount of UFB, if any, that they deem to be advisable to reduce the property tax commitment while maintaining adequate reserves.

TWENTY-FOURTH - To see what amount, if any, of the Year 2024 Bee Line Cable (Spectrum) Contract Franchise Fee and equipment and facilities fund the Town will vote to appropriate for the **CABLE FRANCHISE FEE RESERVE FUND** for the benefit of Bee Line Cable subscribers, to be expended or allocated at the discretion of the Board of Selectmen.

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Amount Requested	Full Franchise Fee	Full Franchise Fee
Selectmen Recommended	Full Franchise Fee	Full Franchise Fee
Budget Committee Recommended	Full Franchise Fee	Full Franchise Fee
Town Meeting Approved	Full Franchise Fee	

STATEMENT OF FACT: The Cable Television Franchise granted to Bee Line, Inc. by the Town of Farmington requires Bee Line to pay the Town 5% of its gross annual revenues as compensation for the rights and privileges granted by the Agreement. In 2023, that amount was \$46,076. This payment is used to support the operations of the Public, Educational, and Governmental channel, Mount Blue TV (Channel 11). The Franchise Agreement also allows for a \$7,500 annual payment for Mount Blue TV's equipment and facilities. The full franchise fee for 2024 is expected to be an amount similar to or slightly less than that received in 2023.

TWENTY-FIFTH - To see if the Town will vote to make property taxes due and payable on Monday, November 4, 2024, or 45 days from the tax commitment, whichever is later and, in accordance with 36 M.R.S. Section 505(4), charge interest on overdue taxes at the rate of 8.50% per annum after November 4, 2024.

TWENTY-SIXTH - To see if the Town will vote, in accordance with 36 M.R.S. Section 506-A, to pay interest on refunds of overpaid taxes at the rate of 4.00% per annum after Monday, November 4, 2024, or 45 days from the tax commitment, whichever is later.

TWENTY-SEVENTH - To see if the Town will vote to accept prepayment of taxes to the Tax Collector prior to the date of commitment and to pay no interest thereon.

TWENTY-EIGHTH- To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to establish a Foreclosed Property Policy and further authorize the Board, on behalf of the Town, to sell and dispose of any real estate acquired by the Town for nonpayment of taxes and/or sewer charges thereon, on such terms as they deem advisable [except that the Selectmen shall use the special sale process required by 36 M.R.S. Section 943-C for qualifying homestead property if they choose to sell it to anyone other than the former owner(s)], and to execute the appropriate deed for such property, or to waive or delay disposition of foreclosed property as may be deemed appropriate on a case by case basis.

TWENTY-NINTH - To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to sell by bid or auction or on such terms and conditions as deemed in the best interest of the Town, such equipment, vehicles, or furniture as are no longer necessary for Town operations.

THIRTIETH - To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to replace and/or purchase additional services or equipment for the Town at such times as the Board of Selectmen deems necessary or in the best interest of the Town, but only at such times as sufficient funds are available in reserve accounts to pay for such equipment or services.

THIRTY-FIRST - To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for, accept, and expend, without further action by Town Meeting, money from the State, federal or other governmental units or private sources that 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.

State funds include the following categories: Maine Emergency Management Agency funds, General Assistance Reimbursements, Municipal Revenue Sharing, Urban/Rural Initiative Program funds for road improvements, State Aid to Education, Snowmobile Registration Reimbursements, Tree Growth Program Reimbursements, Education Tax Relief Block Grant, Veterans' Exemption Reimbursement, Maine State Housing Authority, Public Library State Aid per Capita and Library Stipend, Property Tax Relief Funds, Homestead Act Funds, State grants, and other State funds.

Federal funds include the following categories: Community Development Block Grant funds, Federal Emergency Management Agency funds, Housing and Urban Development funds, Economic Development Administration funds, USDA Rural Development funds, federal grants, and other federal funds.

THIRTY-SECOND - To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to spend an amount not to exceed 3/12 of the budget amount in each category of the 2024 annual budget during the period from January 1, 2025, until the Town Meeting in March 2025.

THIRTY-THIRD - To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to

negotiate and execute multi-year contracts, including but not limited to, contracts or agreements in the following areas: auditing, tax assessing, solid waste disposal, equipment purchasing, leasing, and maintenance and collective bargaining agreements.

THIRTY-FOURTH - To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to expend funds from the Downtown Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Reserve Account for purposes consistent with the Downtown Municipal Tax Increment Financing District and Downtown Omnibus Development Program established in October 2013 and subsequently amended.

THIRTY-FIFTH - To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to expend funds from the Franklin Printing Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Reserve Account for purposes consistent with the Franklin Printing Municipal Development Tax Increment Financing District and Development Program established in June 1998 and subsequently amended.

THIRTY-SIXTH - To see if the Town, pursuant to 23 M.R.S. § 3025, will vote to accept the Dedication of Stone Hill Drive and Waiver of Damages made by Vining Land Development, LLC dated June 12, 2007, and to accept and establish a Town Way on said Stone Hill Drive.

NOTE: A copy of the Dedication is available in advance at the Municipal Building and will be available during the Town Meeting, as well as posted with the Town Meeting Warrant.

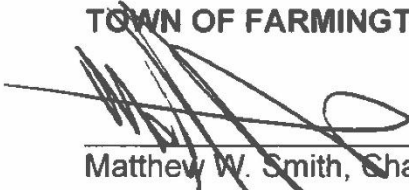
STATEMENT OF FACT: Stone Hill Drive is a 14-lot subdivision located off Maple Ave. It was approved by the Planning Board in 2007. The 1,527 ft. road through the subdivision was built to the standards prescribed in the Town's Streets and Sidewalks Ordinance. Vining Land Development LLC wishes to dedicate the road, Stone Hill Drive, to the Town for acceptance as a Town Way.

The Registrar of Voters will be in session at the Community Center on March 25, 2024 at the time of the meeting to add new names to the voting list or make changes to the voting list.

Notice is hereby given that the Town Clerk intends to begin the process of casting absentee ballots at 2:00 P.M., 4:00 P.M. and 5:00 P.M. on Town Meeting day.

Given under our hands at Farmington, Maine this twenty-seventh day of February, A.D. 2024.

TOWN OF FARMINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN



Matthew W. Smith, Chairman




Dennis E. O'Neil



Stephan M. Bunker



Byron T. Staples



Joshua H. Bell

ORIGINAL:

OFFICER'S RETURN

I certify that I have notified the voters of the Town of Farmington of the time and place of the Town Meeting by posting an attested copy of the within warrant at the **FARMINGTON MUNICIPAL BUILDING** at _____; at the **WEST FARMINGTON POST OFFICE** at _____; at the **FARMINGTON POST OFFICE** at _____; at the **FARMINGTON FALLS POST OFFICE** at _____; and at the **FARMINGTON COMMUNITY CENTER** at _____, all being conspicuous public places within the Town of Farmington on March _____, 2024, which is a least 7 days prior to the day of said meeting.

Dated at Farmington, Maine this _____ day of March 2024.

S. Clyde Ross
Resident of Farmington
True copy:


Diane Dunham
Town Clerk