

TOWN MEETING WARRANT 2025

For the Annual Town Meeting to be held on April 24th, 2025, in Penobscot County, ME.

To: Kevin Noyes, a citizen of the Town of Patten, in the County of Penobscot.

GREETINGS:

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the Inhabitants of the Town of Patten in said County, qualified to vote in Town affairs, to meet at the Patten Public Works Garage located within the said Town of Patten, at 6:00pm on Thursday, April 24th in the year A.D. 2025, the One Hundred and Eighty-Fourth anniversary of the Town of Patten and the Two Hundred and Forty-Ninth Anniversary of the United States of America, there and then to act upon Articles 1 through 52; all said Articles being set out below to wit:

ARTICLE 1: To choose a Moderator to preside at said Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to nominate and elect the following officers to serve for the periods so indicated:

Budget Committee: Two (2) three-year terms; to expire in 2028

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to instruct the Selectboard to appoint OTHER TOWN OFFICERS.

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to carry forward the balances of the accounts as listed once the audit has been completed.

Committed For:	
Fire Building	Culture & Recreation
Fire Truck	Community Celebrations
Highway Equipment	Tax Maps & Revaluation
Highway Roads	Patten Academy Park
Municipal Building	Grant Writing
Veterans' Monument	Cemetery Perpetual Care

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to carry all other Balances forward once the audit has been completed.

The following recommendations are proposed by the Budget Committee and were presented to the Select Board at a Select Board meeting on March 4th, 2025. Budget Committee meetings were held February 5th, 12th, and 26th.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and authorize the Officers to spend for **CEMETERY OPERATIONS**.

CEMETERY	2024	2025
Local Taxes	\$15,650	\$28,800
Revenue	\$ 8,000	\$ 9,500
Total Appropriation	\$23,650	\$38,300

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and authorize the Officers to spend for **ANIMAL CONTROL**.

ANIMAL CONTROL	2024	2025
Local Taxes	\$11,450	\$14,595
Revenue	\$ 100	\$ 100
Total Appropriation	\$11,550	\$14,695

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and authorize the Officers to spend for **STREET LIGHTS**.

STREET LIGHTS	2024	2025
Local Taxes	\$17,000	\$24,000
Total Appropriation	\$17,000	\$24,000

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and authorize the Officers to spend for **FIRE PROTECTION FEE** (*previously "hydrant rental"*).

FIRE PROTECTION	2024	2025
Local Taxes	\$26,000	\$26,000
Total Appropriation	\$26,000	\$26,000

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and authorize the Officers to spend for the **FIRE DEPARTMENT**.

FIRE DEPARTMENT	2024	2025
Local Taxes	\$169,350	\$124,400
Revenue	\$ 17,350	\$ 20,500
Total Appropriation	\$186,700	\$144,900

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and authorize the Officers to spend \$30,000 for the **FIRE TRUCK RESERVE**.

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and authorize the Officers to spend \$15,000 for the **FIRE BUILDING CAPITAL** to pave the parking lot at the Fire Department.

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and authorize the Officers to spend for **MUNICIPAL TRASH**.

MUNICIPAL TRASH	2024	2025
Local Taxes	\$24,266	\$24,216
Total Appropriation	\$24,266	\$24,216

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and authorize the Officers to spend for **SEPTAGE DISPOSAL**.

SEPTAGE	2024	2025
Local Taxes	\$ 5,000	\$ 1,000
Revenue	\$ 8,000	\$10,000
Total Appropriation	\$13,000	\$11,000

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and authorize the Officers to spend for **HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS**.

HIGHWAY DEPT	2024	2025
Local Taxes	\$155,350	\$126,980
Revenue	\$ 61,000	\$ 61,000
Reserves	\$ 0	\$ 8,500
Total Appropriation	\$216,350	\$196,480

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and authorize the Officers to spend \$15,000 for the **HIGHWAY CAPITAL EQUIPMENT RESERVE**.

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and authorize the Officers to spend for **WINTER ROADS**.

WINTER ROADS	2024	2025
Local Taxes	\$ 186,400	\$219,950
Revenue	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Total Appropriation	\$191,400	\$224,950

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and authorize the Officers to spend \$20,000 for the establishment of a **SALT SAND SHED RESERVE**.

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and authorize the Officers to spend for **GENERAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS**.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT	2024	2025
Local Taxes	\$364,108	\$375,145
Revenue	\$158,600	\$157,725
Reserves	\$ 0	\$ 15,000
Total Appropriation	\$522,708	\$547,870

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and authorize the Officers to spend for **GENERAL ASSISTANCE**.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE	2024	2025
Local Taxes	\$2,000	\$5,000
Total Appropriation	\$2,000	\$5,000

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and authorize the Officers to spend for **TAX ABATEMENTS**.

TAX ABATEMENTS	2024	2025
Local Taxes	\$10,000	\$10,000
Total Appropriation	\$10,000	\$10,000

ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will authorize the Officers to spend \$70,000 for the **TAX MAP AND REVALUATION RESERVE** from the BETE funds received from the State in 2024.

ARTICLE 23: To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and authorize the Officers to spend for **LIBRARY OPERATIONS**. *Note: Budget supports library operations at the Patten Lumbermen's Museum.*

LIBRARY	2024	2025
Local Taxes	\$57,270	\$67,604
Revenue	\$ 650	\$ 650
Reserves	\$ 0	\$ 2,500
Total Appropriation	\$57,920	\$70,754

ARTICLE 24: To see if the Town will authorize the Officers to spend \$75,362.45 to fund the first payment due on the Katahdin Trust Company loan for the purchase of the ambulance from the BETE Funds received from the State in 2024.

ARTICLE 25: To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and authorize the Officers to spend for **AMBULANCE SERVICE OPERATIONS**.

AMBULANCE	2024	2025
Local Taxes	\$145,000	\$ 157,844
Revenue	\$651,000	\$750,046
Non-cash Depreciation	\$ 0	\$ 84,110
Total Appropriation	\$796,000	\$992,000

ARTICLE 26: To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and authorize the Officers to spend for **SEWER DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS**.

SEWER DEPT	2024	2025
Local Taxes	\$22,000	\$ 25,950
Revenue	\$35,000	\$30,000
Reserves	\$ 0	\$14,000
Non-cash Depreciation	\$ 0	\$75,000
Total Appropriation	\$59,000	\$144,950

Each year sewer operations cost more than the department earns; the portion of expenses that cannot be paid with revenues are recognized as a deficit to the Sewer Department which must be covered through raising taxes.

ARTICLE 27: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and authorize the Officers to spend on **HIGHWAY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS**.

HWY CAP IMPROVEMENTS	2024	2025
Revenue (Excise & LRAP)	\$201,728	\$202,072
Total Appropriation	\$201,728	\$202,072

ARTICLE 28: If Article 27 is approved, to see if the Town will vote to transfer any remaining unexpended funds for Highway Capital Improvements to the **Highway Capital Road Reserve** at the end of FY 2025, and to further authorize the Select Board to make expenditures from the account thereafter for these purposes without further vote of the Town.

ARTICLE 29: To see if the Town will authorize the Officers to spend \$8,500 from the **HIGHWAY CAPITAL EQUIPMENT RESERVE** for a generator for the Town Garage.

ARTICLE 30: To see if the Town will authorize the Officers to spend \$8,500 from the **GENERAL GOVERNMENT RESERVE** for a generator for the Town Office.

ARTICLE 31: To see if the Town will authorize the Officers to spend \$14,000 from the **SEWER RESERVE** for a generator for the Sewer Plant.

ARTICLE 32: To see if the Town will authorize the Officers to spend \$6,500 from the **GRANT WRITING RESERVE** for grant writing expenses in 2025.

ARTICLE 33: To see if the Town will authorize the Officers to spend \$25,000 to fund the matching funds required for the Community Development Block Grant for the Veterans Monument from the BETE Funds received from the State in 2024.

ARTICLE 34: To see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to appropriate from Undesignated Fund Balance, as they deem advisable to meet **UNANTICIPATED EXPENSES AND EMERGENCIES** that occur during fiscal year 2025.
RECOMMEND: \$10,000

ARTICLE 35: To see if the Town will authorize the Officers to spend \$2,500 from the **LIBRARY RESERVE** to repair the walkway at the Lumbermen's Museum.

ARTICLE 36: To see if the Town will authorize the Officers to spend \$2,000 from the **PATTEN WOMAN’S CLUB RESERVE** for club activities.

ARTICLE 37: To see if the Town will authorize the Officers to spend up to \$17,000 from the **CULTURE AND RECREATION RESERVE** for **NON-MUNICIPAL ORGANIZATIONS**.

Note: The Patten Historical Society requested \$2,000, the Select Board and Budget Committee agreed on \$1,000. The Patten Lumbermen’s Museum requested \$1,500, the Select Board and Budget Committee agreed on \$1,000. The Patten Area Women’s Club requested \$4,000, \$2,000 for 2025 activities and \$2,000 for the Reserve Account. The Select Board and Budget Committee agreed to fund the \$2,000 request for 2025 activities from the Women’s Club Reserve Account and not fund the Reserve request. Lake Stewards of Maine requested \$500, Penquis requested \$846, and LifeFlight of Maine requested \$881; the Select Board and Budget Committee agreed not to fund these requests.

NON-MUNICIPAL	2024	2025
Patten Little League	\$1,000	\$1000
Penquis	\$ 822	\$ 0
Patten Lumbermen’s Museum	\$1,500	\$1,000
Patten Historical Society	\$1,000	\$1,000
Patten ATV Club	\$1,000	\$1,000
Patten Area Women’s Club	\$2,000	\$ 0
Eastern Area Agency on Aging	\$ 600	\$ 700
Patten Community Food Cupboard	\$1,500	\$2,350
Patten Pioneer Days	\$5,000	\$5,000
Town Employee Christmas Dinner	\$ 300	\$ 400
Masonic Lodge	\$1,500	\$1,500
Patten Area Outdoors	\$ 500	\$ 500
Partners for Peace	\$ 500	\$ 600
Maine Public Radio	\$ 100	\$ 100
Katahdin Highschool	\$ 0	\$ 200
Rockabema Snow Rangers	\$ 1,000	\$1,000
Total Appropriation	\$13,022	\$16,350

ARTICLE 38: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Officers to spend for **WATER DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS.**

WATER DEPT	2024	2025
Local Taxes	\$ 0	\$0
Revenue	\$124,735	\$80,735
Non-cash depreciation	\$ 0	\$52,000
Total Appropriation	\$124,735	\$132,470

ARTICLE 39: To see if the Town will vote to charge interest on 2025 taxes unpaid as of a certain date. All checks will be credited as of the date the Town receives payment, if so, what rate of interest and what date?

2025 Recommendation: 7.5% Interest, 60 days from Commitment Date

ARTICLE 40: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector to accept prepayment of taxes for the Year 2026 not yet due or committed pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A § 506, for the purpose of conducting a TWELVE PAYMENT TAX CLUB, beginning January 1st and ending December 31st, 2026 with interest to accrue on any unpaid balance after December 31st; and to accept prepayment of taxes for the Year 2026 from anyone wishing to make any early payment on the 2026 taxes from January 1st, 2026 to the date of commitment.

ARTICLE 41: To see if the Town will vote NOT TO PAY INTEREST to participants of the Tax Club and all other early payments of taxes not yet due or assessed.

ARTICLE 42: To see if the Town will require the Municipal Officers to provide the former owner(s) of tax-acquired property, or if deceased his/her/their heirs, personal representative or devisees less than twelve (12) months to repurchase the property on terms the Board deems in the best interests of the Town; if no repurchase occurs, the Municipal Officers may sell the property through the sale process required by 36 M.R.S. § 943-C. If the Board is unable to list or sell the property as required by § 943-C (3), the Board may sell the property in any manner it deems in the best interests of the Town. For sales to someone other than the former owner, excess sale proceeds, as defined in 36 M.R.S. § 943-C, shall be returned to the former owner.

ARTICLE 43: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Officers to purchase, acquire, or exchange such equipment as deemed necessary for the operation and maintenance of an Ambulance Service, Fire Department, and / or repairs of roads and properties within the Town and to sell, barter, transfer, or salvage any equipment deemed surplus or beyond economical repair.

ARTICLE 44: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer to receive incidental fees and receipts and to credit such revenues to the correspondent accounts.

ARTICLE 45: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and authorize the Officers to spend the incidental fees and receipts cited in Article 44.

ARTICLE 46: To see if the Town will vote to transfer Town funds received from the State of Maine for Snowmobile Registrations and Snowmobile Grants to the **ROCKABEMA SNOW RANGERS CLUB** providing the club shall use such revenues for projects benefiting the public.

ARTICLE 47: To see if the Town will vote to transfer Town funds received from the State of Maine for ATV Grants to the **PATTEN ATV CLUB** providing the club shall use such revenues for projects benefiting the public.

ARTICLE 48: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to apply for Federal, State of Maine and other grants, on behalf of the Town, in the general operations of the Town and other funds, to make such assurances and exercise such authority necessary and reasonable to implement such programs as they deem advisable.

ARTICLE 49: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to enter into contracts providing Fire and Ambulance coverage to neighboring towns, communities, and counties.

ARTICLE 50: Shall the Town vote to accept the categories of funds listed below as provided by the State of Maine legislature (MRSA Title 30-A, Subsection 5682)

- Bureau of Conservation
- Excise Tax
- State Revenue Sharing
- Veterans Exemption Reimbursement
- Tree Growth Reimbursement
- General Assistance Reimbursement
- Property Tax Relief Funds
- Secretary of State Reimbursement
- Homestead Exemption Reimbursement
- Civil Emergency (FEMA / MEMA)
- Library State Aid
- Snowmobile Grants / Revenues
- Snowmobile Registrations
- Department of Environmental Protection Grants / Funds
- Department of Economic & Community Development Grants / Funds
- Department of Transportation Local Road Assistance Program
- Other Federal and State funds not listed above.

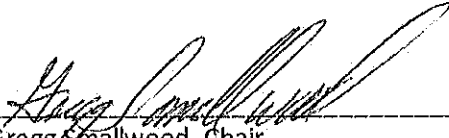
ARTICLE 51: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to spend an amount not to exceed 1/3 of the estimated budget amount in each category of the Patten Annual Budget for the period of January 1st, 2026, to April 24th, 2026.

ARTICLE 52: To see if the Town will vote to set the date and time of the next TOWN MEETING to be held in 2026.

RECOMMEND: April 23rd, 2026, at 6:00pm.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT FOR APRIL 24, 2025


Approved by the Select Board on March 6, 2025



Gregg Smallwood, Chair




Dennis Kelly, Vice-Chair



Theresa Schmidt



Janice Dancer



Rae Bates

SELECT BOARD OF PATTEN

RETURN

Town of Patten, County of Penobscot, State of Maine. Pursuant to the within Warrant, I have notified and warned the Inhabitants of the Town of Patten, qualified as therein expressed, to meet at the times and places for the purposes, therein named, posting this day attested copies of the Writ in Warrant, at the Patten Town Office, Patten Post Office, and Ellis' Family Market, the same being public and conspicuous places within the Town, and on the Town's website.

DATED AT PATTEN, MAINE this 17 day of April 2025.

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin Noyes
Citizen of Patten

ATTEST:



Billie Doody
Town Clerk