

# TOWN MEETING WARRANT 2024

For the Annual Town Meeting to be held on April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 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 25<sup>th</sup> in the year A.D. 2024, the One Hundred and Eighty-Third anniversary of the Town of Patten and the Two Hundred and Forty-Eighth Anniversary of the United States of America, there and then to act upon Articles 1 and 47; 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 instruct the Selectboard to appoint OTHER TOWN OFFICERS.

**ARTICLE 3:** 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	Technology
Cemetery Perpetual Care	CDBG & DEP Grants

**ARTICLE 4:** To see if the Town will vote to carry all other Balances to Fund Balance once the audit has been completed.

**The following recommendations are jointly proposed by the Budget Committee and the Select Board. Budget Committee meetings were held March 13<sup>th</sup> and March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024.**

**ARTICLE 5:** To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and authorize the Officers to spend for **CEMETERY OPERATIONS**.

<b>CEMETERY</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Local Taxes	\$16,450	\$15,650
Revenues	\$ 7,000	\$ 8,000
<b>Total Appropriation</b>	<b>\$23,450</b>	<b>\$23,650</b>

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

<b>ANIMAL CONTROL</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Local Taxes	\$3,650	\$11,450
Revenues	\$ 100	\$ 100
<b>Total Appropriation</b>	<b>\$3,750</b>	<b>\$11,550</b>

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

<b>STREET LIGHTS</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Local Taxes	\$17,000	\$17,000
<b>Total Appropriation</b>	<b>\$17,000</b>	<b>\$17,000</b>

**ARTICLE 8:** To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and authorize the Officers to spend for **FIRE PROTECTION FEE** (*previously "hydrant rental"*).

<b>FIRE PROTECTION</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Local Taxes	\$26,000	\$26,000
<b>Total Appropriation</b>	<b>\$26,000</b>	<b>\$26,000</b>

**ARTICLE 9:** To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and authorize the Officers to spend for the **FIRE DEPARTMENT**.

<b>FIRE DEPARTMENT</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Local Taxes	\$117,100	\$109,350
Revenues	\$ 12,750	\$ 17,350
<b>Total Appropriation</b>	<b>\$129,850</b>	<b>\$126,700</b>

**ARTICLE 10:** To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and authorize the Officers to spend \$30,000 for the **FIRE TRUCK RESERVE**.

**ARTICLE 11:** 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 12:** To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and authorize the Officers to spend for **MUNICIPAL TRASH**.

<b>MUNICIPAL TRASH</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Local Taxes	\$25,782	\$24,216
<b>Total Appropriation</b>	<b>\$25,782</b>	<b>\$24,216</b>

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

<b>SEPTAGE</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Local Taxes	\$ 1,900	\$ 5,000
Revenues	\$ 8,100	\$ 8,000
<b>Total Appropriation</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>	<b>\$13,000</b>

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

<b>HIGHWAY DEPT</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Local Taxes	\$148,148	\$155,350
Revenues	\$ 52,500	\$ 61,000
<b>Total Appropriation</b>	<b>\$200,648</b>	<b>\$216,350</b>

**ARTICLE 15:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and authorize the Officers to spend on **HIGHWAY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS**.

<b>HWY CAP IMPROVEMENTS</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Revenues	\$116,500	\$201,728
<b>Total Appropriation</b>	<b>\$116,500</b>	<b>\$201,728</b>

**ARTICLE 16:** If Article 15 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 2024, and to further authorize the Select Board to make expenditures from the account thereafter for these purposes without further vote of the Town.

**ARTICLE 17:** 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 18:** To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and authorize the Officers to spend for **WINTER ROADS**.

<b>WINTER ROADS</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Local Taxes	\$ 88,900	\$186,400
Revenues	\$ 95,000	\$ 5,000
<b>Total Appropriation</b>	<b>\$183,900</b>	<b>\$191,400</b>

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

<b>GENERAL GOVERNMENT</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Local Taxes	\$293,520	\$364,108
Revenues	\$121,000	\$158,600
<b>Total Appropriation</b>	<b>\$414,520</b>	<b>\$522,708</b>

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

<b>GENERAL ASSISTANCE</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Local Taxes	\$2,000	\$2,000
<b>Total Appropriation</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>

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

<b>TAX ABATEMENTS</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Local Taxes	\$2,000	\$10,000
<b>Total Appropriation</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>

**ARTICLE 22:** To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and authorize the Officers to spend \$70,000 for the **TAX MAP AND REVALUATION RESERVE**.

**ARTICLE 23:** 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 2024.

**RECOMMEND: \$10,000**

**ARTICLE 24:** 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.*

<b>LIBRARY</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Local Taxes	\$43,750	\$57,270
Income	\$ 600	\$ 650
<b>Total Appropriation</b>	<b>\$44,350</b>	<b>\$57,920</b>

**ARTICLE 25:** To see if the Town will authorize the Officers to spend up to \$5000 from the **CULTURE AND RECREATION RESERVE** for 2024 Patten Pioneer Days events and programming,

**ARTICLE 26:** To see if the Town will authorize the Officers to spend \$15,0000 from the **CULTURE AND RECREATION RESERVE** for 2024 Recreation Committee events and programming.

**ARTICLE 27:** To see if the Town will authorize the Officers to spend \$300 from the **COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS RESERVE** for an employee Christmas dinner.

**ARTICLE 28:** To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and authorize the Officers to spend for **NON-MUNICIPAL ORGANIZATIONS**.

*The Patten Historical Society requested \$2,000, the Select Board and Budget Committee agreed on \$1,000. The Patten Area Women’s Club requested \$4,000, \$2,000 for 2024 and \$2,000 for the Reserve Account. The Select Board and Budget Committee agreed on \$2,000 for 2024 and to not fund the Reserve Account in 2024. Northern Light requested \$150, the Select Board and Budget Committee agreed not to fund this request.*

<b>NON-MUNICIPAL</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Patten Little League	\$1,000	\$ 1,000
Penquis	\$ -	\$ 822
Patten Lumbermen’s Museum	\$1,000	\$ 1,500
Patten Historical Society	\$1,000	\$ 1,000
Patten ATV Club	\$1,000	\$ 1,000
Patten Area Women’s Club	\$2,000	\$ 2,000
Eastern Area Agency on Aging	\$ 400	\$ 600
Patten Community Food Cupboard	\$1,000	\$ 1,500
Masonic Lodge	\$1,500	\$ 1,500
Patten Area Outdoors	\$ -	\$ 500
Partners for Peace	\$ -	\$ 500
Maine Public Radio	\$ -	\$ 100
<b>Total Appropriation</b>	<b>\$8,900</b>	<b>\$13,022</b>

**ARTICLE 29:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the creation of an **AMBULANCE RESERVE** and appropriate funds in the amount of \$30,000 for a new ambulance.

**ARTICLE 30:** To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and authorize the Officers to spend for **AMBULANCE SERVICE OPERATIONS**.

*Any surplus funds at the end of 2024 will carry forward to the 2025 Ambulance Department Budget.*

<b>AMBULANCE</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Local Taxes	\$ -	\$145,000
Revenues	\$544,973	\$651,000
<b>Total Appropriation</b>	<b>\$544,973</b>	<b>\$796,000</b>

**ARTICLE 31:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Officers to spend for **WATER DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS**.

<b>WATER DEPT</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Local Taxes	\$ 4,755	\$ -
Revenues	\$79,750	\$124,735
<b>Total Appropriation</b>	<b>\$84,505</b>	<b>\$124,735</b>

**ARTICLE 32:** To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and authorize the Officers to spend for one of the proposals below for **SEWER DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS**.

<b>SEWER DEPT</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Local Taxes	\$23,950	\$22,000
Rate Increase	\$ -	\$ 2,000
Revenues	\$22,000	\$35,000
<b>Total Appropriation</b>	<b>\$45,950</b>	<b>\$59,000</b>

*Proposal 1: Increase the basic sewer rate and increase taxes.*

<b>SEWER DEPT</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Local Taxes	\$23,950	\$ 9,000
Rate Increase	\$ -	\$ 2,000
Revenues	\$22,000	\$35,000
Readiness	\$ -	\$13,000
<b>Total Appropriation</b>	<b>\$45,950</b>	<b>\$59,000</b>

*Proposal 2: Increase the basic sewer rate and institute a readiness to serve charge.*

<b>SEWER DEPT</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Local Taxes	\$23,950	\$24,000
Revenues	\$22,000	\$35,000
<b>Total Appropriation</b>	<b>\$45,950</b>	<b>\$59,000</b>

*Proposal 3: No changes to the basic sewer rate or institution of a readiness to serve charge*

*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 33:** To see if the Town would vote to increase the property tax levy limit established for the Town of Patten, by State Law, if the municipal budget approved under the preceding articles will result in a tax commitment that is greater than the property tax levy limit.

**ARTICLE 34:** To see if the Town will vote to charge interest on 2024 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?

**2024 Recommendation: 8.25% Interest, 60 days from Commitment Date**

**ARTICLE 35:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector to accept prepayment of taxes for the Year 2025 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 1<sup>st</sup> and ending December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025 with interest to accrue on any unpaid balance after December 31<sup>st</sup>; and to accept prepayment of taxes for the Year 2025 from anyone wishing to make any early payment on the 2025 taxes from January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025 to the date of commitment.

**ARTICLE 36:** 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 37:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Officers on behalf of the Town to sell or dispose of any real estate acquired by the Town for non-payment of taxes or liens, both real estate and sewer, and if sold, on such terms as are legally permitted and are deemed advisable, and to execute a quitclaim deed on the conveyance of such property. The Board reserves the option to retain property if the market value is not favorable and to retain property if they feel it is needed for Town use.

**ARTICLE 38:** 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 39:** 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 40:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and authorize the Officers to spend the incidental fees and receipts cited in Article 39.

**ARTICLE 41:** 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 42:** 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 43:** 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 44:** 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
- Other Federal and State funds not listed above.

**ARTICLE 45:** To see if the Town will vote to change the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee Ordinance to a Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee Policy. See pages 67 and 68 for the ordinance.



**ARTICLE 46:** 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025, to April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

**ARTICLE 47:** To see if the Town will vote to set the date and time of the next TOWN MEETING to be held in 2025.

**RECOMMEND: April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 6:00pm.**

**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's Market, the same being public and conspicuous places within the Town, and on the Town's website.

**DATED AT PATTEN, MAINE this 17th day of April 2024.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Noyes  
Citizen of Patten

ATTEST:

Billie Doody  
Town Clerk