

THE WARRANT
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING – JUNE 1 & 8, 2021
TOWN OF BAR HARBOR

STATE OF MAINE

County of Hancock, ss

To: A Constable of the Town of Bar Harbor

Greeting:

In the name of the State of Maine you are hereby required to notify and warn the voters of the Town of Bar Harbor, in said County, qualified by law to vote in Town affairs to meet in the **Conners-Emerson School Gymnasium** in said Town on Tuesday the first day of June, A. D., 2021 at **six** o'clock in the afternoon, then and there to act on *Articles A through X*;

And to notify and warn said voters to meet in the **Municipal Building, Third Floor Auditorium** in said Town on Tuesday, the eighth day of June, A. D., 2021 at eight o'clock in the forenoon until eight o'clock in the afternoon, then and there to act on *Article One* of said articles being set out below to wit:

**Action on Articles A through X will be on
Tuesday, June 1, 2021 starting at 6:00 p.m.
Conners-Emerson School Gymnasium
with masks and social distancing**

~ Voter Check-in Required ~

“Open Town Meeting”, June 1st, all Voters must check in to obtain a voter card prior to the start of Town Meeting. Voters are encouraged to arrive at least 45 minutes before the start of the meeting.

Article A ELECTION OF MODERATOR - To choose a Moderator to preside at said meeting.

Note: Articles B through L authorize expenditures in cost center categories.

Article B EDUCATION BUDGET EXPENDITURES: Regular Instruction - To see what sum the School Committee is authorized to expend for **Regular Instruction** for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022.

	<i>School Committee</i>	<i>Town Council</i>	<i>Warrant Committee</i>
Recommendations:	\$3,201,264	\$3,201,264	\$3,201,264

The School Committee recommends adoption.

The seven-member Town Council recommends adoption by a vote of 7 to 0.

The 22-member Warrant Committee recommends adoption by a vote of 19 to 0.

Article C EDUCATION BUDGET EXPENDITURES: Special Education - To see what sum the School Committee is authorized to expend for **Special Education** for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022.

	<i>School</i>	<i>Town</i>	<i>Warrant</i>
Recommendations:	<i>Committee</i>	<i>Council</i>	<i>Committee</i>
	\$1,457,812	\$1,457,812	\$1,457,812

*The School Committee recommends adoption.
The seven-member Town Council recommends adoption by a vote of 7 to 0.
The 22-member Warrant Committee recommends adoption by a vote of 19 to 0.*

Article D EDUCATION BUDGET EXPENDITURES: Career and Technical Education – To see what sum the School Committee is authorized to expend for **Career and Technical Education** for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022.

	<i>School</i>	<i>Town</i>	<i>Warrant</i>
Recommendations:	<i>Committee</i>	<i>Council</i>	<i>Committee</i>
	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0

*The School Committee recommends adoption.
The seven-member Town Council recommends adoption by a vote of 7 to 0.
The 22-member Warrant Committee recommends adoption by a vote of 19 to 0.*

Article E EDUCATION BUDGET EXPENDITURES: Other Instruction - To see what sum the School Committee is authorized to expend for **Other Instruction** for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022.

	<i>School</i>	<i>Town</i>	<i>Warrant</i>
Recommendations:	<i>Committee</i>	<i>Council</i>	<i>Committee</i>
	\$ 131,066	\$ 131,066	\$ 131,066

*The School Committee recommends adoption.
The seven-member Town Council recommends adoption by a vote of 7 to 0.
The 22-member Warrant Committee recommends adoption by a vote of 19 to 0.*

Article F EDUCATION BUDGET EXPENDITURES: Student & Staff Support - To see what sum the School Committee is authorized to expend for **Student & Staff Support** for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022.

	<i>School</i>	<i>Town</i>	<i>Warrant</i>
Recommendations:	<i>Committee</i>	<i>Council</i>	<i>Committee</i>
	\$ 609,580	\$ 609,580	\$ 609,580

*The School Committee recommends adoption.
The seven-member Town Council recommends adoption by a vote of 7 to 0.
The 22-member Warrant Committee recommends adoption by a vote of 19 to 0.*

Article G EDUCATION BUDGET EXPENDITURES: System Administration - To see what sum the School Committee is authorized to expend for **System Administration** for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022.

	<i>School</i>	<i>Town</i>	<i>Warrant</i>
Recommendations:	<i>Committee</i>	<i>Council</i>	<i>Committee</i>
	\$ 177,607	\$ 177,607	\$ 177,607

The School Committee recommends adoption.

The seven-member Town Council recommends adoption by a vote of 7 to 0.

The 22-member Warrant Committee recommends adoption by a vote of 19 to 0.

Article H EDUCATION BUDGET EXPENDITURES: School Administration - To see what sum the School Committee is authorized to expend for **School Administration** for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022.

	<i>School</i>	<i>Town</i>	<i>Warrant</i>
Recommendations:	<i>Committee</i>	<i>Council</i>	<i>Committee</i>
	\$ 403,668	\$ 403,668	\$ 403,668

The School Committee recommends adoption.

The seven-member Town Council recommends adoption by a vote of 7 to 0.

The 22-member Warrant Committee recommends adoption by a vote of 19 to 0.

Article I EDUCATION BUDGET EXPENDITURES: Transportation & Buses - To see what sum the School Committee is authorized to expend for **Transportation & Buses** for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022.

	<i>School</i>	<i>Town</i>	<i>Warrant</i>
Recommendations:	<i>Committee</i>	<i>Council</i>	<i>Committee</i>
	\$ 347,667	\$ 347,667	\$ 347,667

The School Committee recommends adoption.

The seven-member Town Council recommends adoption by a vote of 7 to 0.

The 22-member Warrant Committee recommends adoption by a vote of 19 to 0.

Article J EDUCATION BUDGET EXPENDITURES: Facilities Maintenance - To see what sum the School Committee is authorized to expend for **Facilities Maintenance** for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022.

	<i>School</i>	<i>Town</i>	<i>Warrant</i>
Recommendations:	<i>Committee</i>	<i>Council</i>	<i>Committee</i>
	\$ 714,134	\$ 714,134	\$ 714,134

The School Committee recommends adoption.

The seven-member Town Council recommends adoption by a vote of 7 to 0.

The 22-member Warrant Committee recommends adoption by a vote of 19 to 0.

Article K EDUCATION BUDGET EXPENDITURES: Debt Service and Other Commitments - To see what sum the School Committee is authorized to expend for **Debt Service and Other Commitments** for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022.

	<i>School</i>	<i>Town</i>	<i>Warrant</i>
Recommendations:	<i>Committee</i>	<i>Council</i>	<i>Committee</i>
	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0

*The School Committee recommends adoption.
 The seven-member Town Council recommends adoption by a vote of 7 to 0.
 The 22-member Warrant Committee recommends adoption by a vote of 19 to 0.*

Article L EDUCATION BUDGET EXPENDITURES: All Other Expenditures - To see what sum the School Committee is authorized to expend for **All Other Expenditures** for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022.

	<i>School</i>	<i>Town</i>	<i>Warrant</i>
Recommendations:	<i>Committee</i>	<i>Council</i>	<i>Committee</i>
	\$ 95,000	\$ 95,000	\$ 95,000

*The School Committee recommends adoption.
 The seven-member Town Council recommends adoption by a vote of 7 to 0.
 The 22-member Warrant Committee recommends adoption by a vote of 19 to 0.*

Note: Articles B – L authorize a total budget of:

<i>School</i>	<i>Town</i>	<i>Warrant</i>
<i>Committee</i>	<i>Council</i>	<i>Committee</i>
\$7,137,798	\$7,137,798	\$7,137,798

Note: Articles M & N raise funds for the Proposed School Budget

Article M EDUCATION BUDGET: Essential Programs and Services – To see what sum the voters of the Town of Bar Harbor will appropriate for the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act (State Recommends \$4,180,884) and to see what sum the voters of the Town of Bar Harbor will raise as the Town’s contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15688 for the period July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022.

***Explanation:** The Town of Bar Harbor’s contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act is the amount of money determined by state law to be the minimum amount that a municipality must raise in order to receive the full amount of state dollars.*

	<i>School Committee</i>	<i>Town Council</i>	<i>Warrant Committee</i>
Recommendations:			
<i>State Subsidy</i>	\$ 616,600	\$ 616,600	\$616,600
<i>Town’s Minimum Share</i>	\$3,564,284	\$3,564,284	\$3,564,284
<i>State’s Essential Programs & Services Model</i>	\$4,180,884	\$4,180,884	\$4,180,884

*The School Committee recommends adoption.
The seven-member Town Council recommends adoption by a vote of 7 to 0.
The 22-member Warrant Committee recommends adoption by a vote of 19 to 0.*

Note: Article N raises additional local funds recommended to support the proposed school budget

Article N EDUCATION BUDGET: Additional Local Funds - To see what sum the voters of the Town of Bar Harbor will raise and appropriate in additional local funds for school purposes for the period July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022, which exceeds the State’s Essential Programs and Services allocation model by as required to fund the budget recommended by the school committee.

Explanation:
The additional local funds are those locally raised funds over and above the Town of Bar Harbor’s local contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and local amounts raised for the annual payment on non-state funded debt service that will help achieve the Town of Bar Harbor’s budget for educational programs. The School Committee recommends the additional local funds shown below and gives the following reasons for exceeding the State’s Essential Programs and Services funding model. The State funding model underestimates the actual costs to fully fund the proposed budget.

	<i>School Committee</i>	<i>Town Council</i>	<i>Warrant Committee</i>
Recommendations:			
<i>Additional Local Funds</i>	\$2,547,755	\$2,547,755	\$2,547,755
<i>Exceeding EPS by</i>	\$2,547,755	\$2,547,755	\$2,547,755

*The School Committee recommends adoption.
The seven-member Town Council recommends adoption by a vote of 7 to 0.
The 22-member Warrant Committee recommends adoption by a vote of 19 to 0.*

Note: Articles M & N raise a total town appropriation of:

<i>School Committee</i>	<i>Town Council</i>	<i>Warrant Committee</i>
\$6,112,039	\$6,112,039	\$6,112,039

Note: Article O summarizes the proposed school budget and does not authorize any additional expenditures

Article O EDUCATION BUDGET: Total Expenditures- To see what sum the voters of the Town of Bar Harbor will authorize the School Committee to expend for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022 from the Town’s contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act, non-state-funded school construction projects, additional local funds for school purposes under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15690, unexpended balances, tuition receipts, state subsidy and other receipts for the support of schools.

	<i>School</i>	<i>Town</i>	<i>Warrant</i>
Recommendations:	<i>Committee</i>	<i>Council</i>	<i>Committee</i>
	\$7,137,798	\$7,137,798	\$7,137,798

*The School Committee recommends adoption.
 The seven-member Town Council recommends adoption by a vote of 7 to 0.
 The 22-member Warrant Committee recommends adoption by a vote of 19 to 0.*

Article P EDUCATION BUDGET: State, Federal, and Other Funds - In addition to the amount in Articles B – O, shall the School Committee be authorized to expend such other sums as may be received from state or federal grants or programs or other sources during the fiscal year 2021-2022 for school purposes provided that such grants, programs or other sources do not require the expenditure of other funds not previously appropriated?

Current Year Totals: \$835,759 (including COVID Relief Grants)

Recommendations:
*The School Committee recommends adoption.
 The seven-member Town Council recommends adoption by a vote of 7 to 0.
 The 22-member Warrant Committee recommends adoption by a vote of 19 to 0.*

Article Q BUILD A FIBER NETWORK TO TOWN FACILITIES– Shall the Town of Bar Harbor:

1. **Authorize** the Town Council to provide monies to build a fiber network to its Town Facilities that will connect these Town’s operating facilities in a secure private network; said project, known as the **Fiber Network**, to include all costs related to the following:

- All certifications/Pole attachment agreements
- All pole make-ready work and equipment
- Locations also include pump stations of the Water & Wastewater Divisions
- Installation of said fiber network

- Identify and contract with potential partners, local businesses, network service providers, etc., with the possibility to lower construction and operating costs
 - Explore & purchase any existing dark fiber on the poles
 - Other activities that are reasonably related to the project
2. **Appropriate** the sum of Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand dollars (\$750,000) to provide for the costs of said project, including final engineering and transaction costs;
 3. **Authorize** the Treasurer and Chair of the Town Council, acting pursuant to the provisions of 30-A M.R.S.A. Section 5772, to issue general obligation securities of the Town of Bar Harbor (with or without call provisions and with or without premium, and including temporary notes in anticipation of the sale thereof) in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$750,000); and
 4. **Delegate** the discretion to fix the date(s), maturity(ies), interest rate(s), denominations(s), place(s) of payment, form and other details of said securities, including execution and delivery of said securities on behalf of the Town of Bar Harbor, and to provide for the sale thereof, to the Treasurer and Chair of the Town Council.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

As of June 1, 2021

1. Total Town Indebtedness- Principal

A. Bonds outstanding and unpaid	\$18,021,871
B. Bonds authorized and unissued (June 2021)	- 0
C. Bonds to be issued if this article is approved:	\$750,000

2. Costs

At an estimated interest rate of 2.75% for a twenty (20) year maturity, the estimated costs for this bond issue will be:

Principal:	\$750,000
Interest:	<u>\$235,076</u>
<u>Total Debt Service:</u>	<u>\$985,076</u>

3. Validity

The validity of the bond and of the voters’ ratification of the bond may not be affected by any error in the above statements. If the actual amount of the total debt service for the bond issues varies from the estimate, the ratification by the voters is nevertheless conclusive and the validity of the bond issue is not affected by reason of the variance.

/s/

 Sarah M. Gilbert
 Treasurer
 Town of Bar Harbor

Explanation:

Recent federal legislation makes it likely that the Town would soon incur a cost of \$45,000 per year for continued use of its current fiber due to this change as well as resolving the expired (2015) franchise agreement. There is currently no maintenance guarantee if a service break occurs in the network owned by Charter Communications. Charter has advised the Town it requests this “rent” for what it had previously provided to the Town without cost as one of the conditions to re-sign a new franchise agreement. In order to address this situation, the Communications & Technology Committee recognized that the fiber network is part of the Town’s critical infrastructure and recommended that the Town build and take ownership of its own secure network. The Town explored the feasibility of building its own fiber network and completed a detailed engineering plan for connecting twenty-five town-owned locations in 2019. The completed engineering plan outlines the technical requirement and estimates the development and build-out costs through a normal bid proposal basis. Included in this Bond is the authority to seek partners and contract with such businesses and ISP network providers in an effort to lower both the capital and operating costs of the project. The \$750,000 estimate has a 15% included contingency.

The seven-member Town Council recommends adoption by a vote of 7 to 0.
The 22-member Warrant Committee recommends adoption by a vote of 19 to 0.

Article R MUNICIPAL BUDGET: Expenditures - To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for the Municipal Budget for FY22 (7/1/21 TO 6/30/22).

Explanation:

This is the total amount that the Town Council is allowed to spend from all sources except grants and donations, as provided in Article T, and from reserve accounts.

Recommendations:	Town Council	Warrant Committee
Total Expenditures	\$16,473,223	\$16,473,223

The seven-member Town Council recommends adoption by a vote of 7 to 0.
The 22-member Warrant Committee recommends adoption by a vote of 19 to 0.

Article S MUNICIPAL BUDGET: Other Revenues - To see what sum the Town will vote to reduce the amount to be raised by taxation by using estimated revenues and fund balance for the Municipal Budget for FY22 (7/1/21 TO 6/30/22).

Explanation:

In addition to property taxes, the Town receives other revenues from fees, licenses, excise taxes, etc., and we sometimes use monies left over from prior years (fund balance). The funds shown in this article reduce the amount of property taxes that have to be raised.

Recommendations:	Town Council	Warrant Committee
Other Revenues	\$ 7,630,007	\$ 7,630,007

<i>Fund Balance</i>	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
<i>Fund Balance – Parking Fund</i>	\$ 364,410	\$ 364,410

*The seven-member Town Council recommends adoption by a vote of 7 to 0.
The 22-member Warrant Committee recommends adoption by a vote of 19 to 0.*

Article T MUNICIPAL BUDGET: Tax Cap Override – To see if the Town will vote to increase the property tax levy limit of \$8,709,829 established for the Town of Bar Harbor by State law in the event that the FY22 Municipal Budget approved by the Town results in a tax commitment that is greater than the property tax levy limit.

Explanation:

In 2005 the State Legislature passed a “tax reform” law known as LD#1. This bill created a maximum municipal tax levy based upon this year’s tax, plus an allowance for personal income growth and the town’s tax base growth due to new construction. However, LD#1 allows Bar Harbor voters to increase that tax cap with the approval of a simple majority of the voters at Town Meeting. Using the State’s formula, the maximum tax levy for Bar Harbor’s Municipal Budget is \$8,709,829. As detailed in your copy of the annual Town Report, currently the proposed budget is \$331,023 under the tax cap.

Recommendations:

*The seven-member Town Council recommends adoption by a vote of 7 to 0.
The 22-member Warrant Committee recommends adoption by a vote of 19 to 0.*

Article U MUNICIPAL BUDGET: Grants and Donations – In addition to the amount in Article R, shall the voters appropriate and authorize the Town Council to expend additional state, federal and other funds received during FY22 (7/1/21 TO 6/30/22) for municipal purposes, provided that such additional funds do not require the expenditure of local funds not previously appropriated?

Explanation:

From time to time, the Town Council receives funds from state and federal grants, and donations, as well as sources other than local tax dollars. This article gives the Town Council the authority to spend such funds, as long as no local property tax dollars are required to match them, other than those already in the budget.

Recommendations:

*The seven-member Town Council recommends adoption by a vote of 7 to 0.
The 22-member Warrant Committee recommends adoption by a vote of 19 to 0.*

Article V PREPAYMENT OF TAXES - To see if the Town will vote to accept tax payments prior to the commitment date and to pay interest on said tax payments in the amount of 0% per year figured on a monthly basis until the tax commitment date is reached.

Explanation:

On rare occasions, taxpayers need to pay their taxes before they have been billed.

The Town Treasurer cannot accept such early payments unless an article is passed.

Recommendations:

The seven-member Town Council recommends adoption by a vote of 7 to 0.

The 22-member Warrant Committee recommends adoption by a vote of 19 to 0.

Article W TAX DUE DATE AND INTEREST RATE - To see if the Town will vote that the first half taxes shall be due and payable on or before September 30, 2021 and that second half taxes shall be due and payable on or before March 31, 2022 and that interest shall be charged at the annual rate of 6.0% on any unpaid taxes due on September 30, 2021 beginning October 1, 2021 and on any unpaid taxes due March 31, 2022 beginning April 1, 2022.

Explanation:

The due dates proposed are essentially the same as last year. The proposed interest rate is the highest allowed by State Law to encourage taxes to be paid on time.

Recommendations:

The seven-member Town Council recommends adoption by a vote of 7 to 0.

The 22-member Warrant Committee recommends adoption by a vote of 19 to 0.

Article X OVERPAYMENT OF TAXES - To see if the Town will vote to establish the interest rate to be paid to a taxpayer who is determined to have paid an amount of real estate taxes in excess of the amount finally assessed for 2021 at 2.0% per year on the amount of overpayment.

Explanation:

If a taxpayer prevails in a tax assessment appeal against the Town, we must pay interest on the tax amount being refunded. The Town is required by law to set the interest amount each year. We are suggesting the lowest interest rate allowed by law, which is 4% less than what we charge for late payments.

Recommendations:

The seven-member Town Council recommends adoption by a vote of 7 to 0.

The 22-member Warrant Committee recommends adoption by a vote of 19 to 0.

Election of Town Officers

Action on the following articles will be at the Town Election with
Polls Open Tuesday, June 8, 2021 from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Municipal Building Auditorium

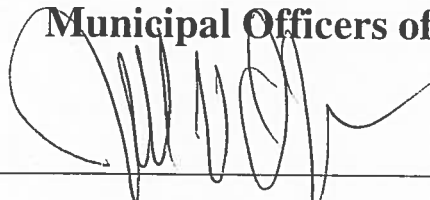
Article 1 - ELECTION OF OFFICERS - To elect Town Officers as are required to be elected
by secret ballot.

The polls will be open from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 8, 2021 for election of Town officers and referendum. Absentee ballots will be processed on Saturday, June 5, 2021 starting at 9:00 a.m., or immediately following a requested inspection, and on Election Day every hour on the hour starting at 9:00 a.m. **The last day to request an absentee ballot is Thursday, June 3rd.**

The Registrar of Voters of the Town of Bar Harbor hereby gives notice that she or her designee will be at the Municipal Offices on Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., except holidays, and during poll hours on Election Day for the registration of persons desiring to register for this election. Must provide proof of identity and official document showing physical address, not a post office box. A Maine Driver’s license with current physical address would satisfy both requirements.

Given under our hands this fourth day of May 2021.

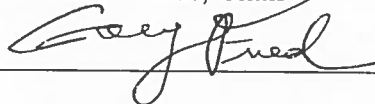
Municipal Officers of the Town of Bar Harbor



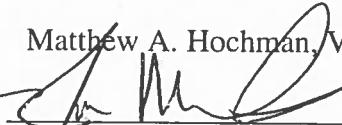
Jefferson Dobbs, Chair



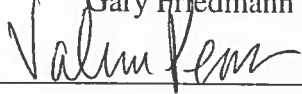
Matthew A. Hochman, Vice Chair



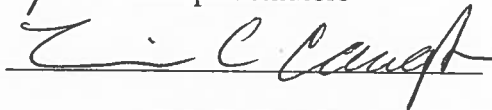
Gary Friedmann



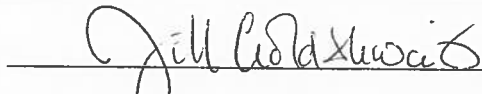
Joseph Minutolo



Valerie Peacock



Erin E. Cough



Jill Goldthwait

Attest:

A true copy

 **INTERIM**
Town Clerk of Bar Harbor, ME

CONSTABLE'S RETURN

By virtue of the within Warrant to me directed, I have warned and notified the inhabitants of the Town of Bar Harbor to assemble at the time and place and for the purposes therein named by posting attested copy of the within Notice on the Bulletin Board, Municipal Offices, being conspicuous public place within said Town on the 11th day of MAY in the year of our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty-one.

Attest: James Willis Jr.
Constable of the Town of Bar Harbor

Attest: A true copy INTERIM
Town Clerk of Bar Harbor, ME
