

TOWN OF CASCO
Annual Town Meeting Warrant
June 4, 2025
Fiscal Year 7/1/2025-6/30/2026

To: Julie Koceika, Resident of the Town of Casco, in the County of Cumberland and the State of Maine.

Greetings: In the name of the State of Maine, you are required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Casco qualified by law to vote in town affairs, to meet at the Crooked River Elementary School on Tuesday, the 10th day of June 2025 from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., then and there to act on Articles 1, and 2 as set out below as well as to warn said voters to meet at the Crooked River Elementary School, located at 1437 Poland Spring Road, on Wednesday, the 4th day of June 2025 at 6:30 p.m. in the evening and there to act on Articles 3 through 38 as set out below, to wit;

Article 1. To elect all necessary town officers by secret ballot. (30-A M.R.S.A., Section 2524).
The polls for voting on Article 2 will be open at 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. on June 10, 2025.
The polls are located at the Crooked River Elementary School at 1437 Poland Spring Road, Casco.

Article 2. To choose and elect all other town officers required by law to be chosen at such meeting.

Article 3. To choose a moderator to preside over said meeting.

Article 4. To see if the Town will vote to permit municipal administrators or staff, and elected State officials, who are not registered voters of Casco, to speak as appropriate when recognized by the moderator.

Proposed FY 2025-2026 Operational Budget

Article 5. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$925,551 to fund
ADMINISTRATION.

	FY26	FY25
Account	Proposed	Approved
	Amount	
Payroll	\$574,814	\$556,864
Services	\$143,250	\$153,200
Supplies/Equipment	\$ 32,250	\$ 35,000
Repairs/Maintenance	\$ 10,750	\$ 17,000
Training/Travel	\$ 16,400	\$ 15,400
Assessing	\$108,087	\$104,300
Legal Service	\$ 40,000	\$ 35,000
Contingency	\$ 0	\$ 30,000
Total	\$925,551	\$946,764

Selectboard and Finance Committee recommend ought to pass at \$925,551

Article 6. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$30,000 from unassigned funds to fund
Contingency.

Selectboard and Finance Committee recommend ought to pass at \$30,000

Article 7. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$149,228 to fund **CODE ENFORCEMENT**

	FY26 Proposed Amount	FY25 Approved
Account		
Code Enforcement	\$149,228	\$143,104
Total	\$149,228	\$143,437

Selectboard and Finance Committee recommend ought to pass at \$149,228

Article 8. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$84,075 to fund **PLANNING BOARD/ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS and PLANNING SERVICES**

	FY26 Proposed Amount	FY25 Approved
Account		
Planning Board/ZBA	\$ 9,075	\$ 5,200
Planning Services	\$ 75,000	\$ 68,000
Total	\$ 84,075	\$ 73,200

Selectboard and Finance Committee recommend ought to pass at \$84,075

Article 9. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$367,831 to fund **RECREATION, PARKS & BEACHES, FACILITIES, CEMETERIES, OPEN SPACE COMMISSION & VETERANS COMMITTEE.**

	FY26 Proposed Amount	FY25 Approved
Account		
Recreation	\$210,000	\$219,864
Parks & Beaches	\$ 37,500	\$ 14,000
Facilities-CCC, Access Building	\$107,831	\$107,831
Cemeteries	\$ 7,500	\$ 9,100
Open Space Commission	\$ 4,000	\$ 5,000
Veterans Committee	\$ 1,000	\$ 2,500
Total	\$367,831	\$358,295

Selectboard and Finance Committee recommend ought to pass at \$367,831

Article 10. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 95,175 to fund **GENERAL ASSISTANCE and DONATION.**

	FY26	FY25
Account	Proposed Amount	Approved
General Assistance	\$ 46,270	\$ 47,520
Northern Light Health	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Through These Doors (Family Crisis)	\$ 1,100	\$ 1,100
Opportunity Alliance	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Casco Naples Meal Site	\$ 3,394	\$ 0
Bridgton Chamber of Commerce	\$ 500	\$ 0
Sebago Lakes Region Chamber	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
Lake Region Bus Service	\$ 12,000	\$ 10,000
Casco Raymond Historical Society	\$ 1,800	\$ 0
Life Flight	\$ 911	\$ 912
Crescent Lake Watershed	\$ 1,500	\$ 2,000
Lake Monitoring Program	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
Thompson Lake Environ. Assoc.	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500
Lake Environ. Assoc. Milfoil Project	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Pleasant Lake/Parker Pond Assoc.	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000
Maine Public Radio	\$ 100	\$ 0
Local Food Pantries	\$ 3,600	\$ 3,600
Crooked River Snowmobile Club	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
Other	\$ 0	\$ 95,550
Total:	\$ 95,175	\$186,132

Selectboard and Finance Committee recommended ought to pass at \$ 95,175

Article 11. To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate and donate the sum of \$ 91,200 to the **Casco Public Library.**

Selectboard and Finance Committee recommend ought to pass at \$ 91,200

Article 12. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from unassigned funds and donate the sum of \$ 15,000 to the **Thomas Pond Dam Association** for the repairs to Thomas Pond Dam.

Selectboard and Finance Committee recommend ought to pass at \$ 15,000

Article 13. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,270,014 to fund **FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT.**

	FY26	FY25
Account	Proposed Amount	Approved
Payroll	\$971,994	\$935,115
Services	\$111,070	\$112,189
Supplies/Equipment	\$ 88,250	\$110,500
Repairs/Maintenance	\$ 78,550	\$ 79,550
Training/Travel	\$ 20,150	\$ 21,000

Total:	\$1,270,014	\$1,258,354
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Selectboard and Finance Committee recommended ought to pass at \$1,270,014

Article 14. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$105,150 to fund **ANIMAL CONTROL & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.**

Account	FY26 Proposed Amount	FY25 Approved
Animal Control	\$103,000	\$127,789
Emergency Management	\$ 2,150	\$ 5,150
Total:	\$105,150	\$132,939

(Note of Explanation: Animal Control is a shared, regional approach. The account reflects all money spent by the Town with the anticipated revenue based on the regional agreement.)

Selectboard and Finance Committee recommend ought to pass at \$105,150

Article 15. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,064,545 to fund **PUBLIC WORKS/ROADS AND DAMS.**

Account	FY26 Proposed Amount	FY25 Approved
Payroll	\$172,245	\$166,589
Services	\$650,700	\$623,360
Supplies/Equipment	\$214,000	\$209,000
Repairs/Maintenance	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,300
Training/Travel	\$ 1,100	\$ 2,700
Subtotal Public Works:	\$1,058,045	\$1,021,949
 Dams	 \$ 6,500	 \$ 10,000
Total:	\$1,064,545	\$1,031,949

Selectboard and Finance Committee recommend ought to pass at \$1,064,545

Article 16. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$953,823 to fund **BENEFITS/INSURANCE AND UTILITIES.**

Account	FY26 Proposed Amount	FY25 Approved
Benefits & Insurance	\$830,323	\$817,328
Utilities	\$123,500	\$100,500
Total:	\$953,823	\$917,828

Selectboard and Finance Committee recommend ought to pass at \$953,823

Article 17. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$481,127 to fund **TRANSFER STATION AND BULKY WASTE FACILITY.**

Account	FY25 Proposed Amount	FY24 Approved
Interlocal Agreement	\$376,127	\$375,880
Professional Services	\$105,000	\$ 94,780
Total:	\$481,127	\$470,660

Selectboard and Finance Committee recommend ought to pass at \$481,127

Article 18. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$352,963 for **DEBT SERVICE.**

Account	FY26 Proposed Amount	FY25 Approved
Debt Services	\$352,963	\$363,932
Total	\$352,963	\$363,932

Selectboard and Finance Committee recommend ought to pass at \$352,963

These funds have already been committed during previous town meetings, and this is the payment amounts

Article 19. To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to receive and appropriate non-property tax revenues, not otherwise dedicated for specific purposes, to reduce the property tax commitment for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

Anticipated non-property tax revenues for fiscal year beginning July 01, 2025, include the following approximation of State and Town Revenues:

	FY 26 Proposed Amount	FY25 Approved
I. Excise Tax	\$ 925,000	\$925,000
II. Municipal Revenue Sharing	\$ 395,000	\$390,000
III. Homestead Exemption Reimbursement	\$ 170,000	\$165,000
IV. BETE Reimbursement	\$ 65,000	\$ 65,000
V. Other Non-Property Taxes	\$ 668,597	\$723,742
Total ESTIMATED Non-Property Tax Revenue	\$ 2,223,597	\$2,268,742

Selectboard and Finance Committee recommend ought to pass at \$2,223,597

Article 20. To see if the Town, in accordance with 36 M.R.S.A. Section 505(2), will set the dates that FY 2025-2026 real and personal property taxes are due, as follows: first half shall be due

Wednesday October 08, 2025 or 45 days after commitment, whichever date is later, and second half shall be due Wednesday, March 11, 2026 and to charge interest starting seven (7) days after each due date.

Article 21. To see if the Town, in accordance with 36 M.R.S.A. Section 505(4), will vote that property taxes shall be delinquent if not paid by the dates established in Article 20 and that interest, at the rate of 7.5% per annum, shall be charged on all delinquent property taxes.

Article 22. To see if the Town, in accordance with 36 M.R.S.A. Section 506-A, will vote that a taxpayer who pays an amount in excess of that finally assessed shall be repaid the amount of the overpayment plus interest from the date of the overpayment at the annual rate of 7.5%.

Article 23. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector to accept prepayment of taxes not yet committed, the amount collected not to exceed the previous year's taxes, and to set the interest at 0% APR for overpayments pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. Section 506.

Article 24. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard, on behalf of the Town, to accept and expend state and federal grants and grants from non-profit organizations, donations and other revenue on behalf of the town for municipal purposes, including when necessary the authority to sign grants and contracts documents or other paperwork and accept the conditions that accompany grant funds, so long as those conditions do not require the expenditure of matching funds by the town in excess of approved budgets, and to appropriate and expend grant funds or such other donations and other revenues for authorized purposes, as the Selectboard deems in the best interest of the Town during the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

Article 25. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard to retain, sell or dispose of, by such means and upon such terms and conditions as the Selectboard deems advisable, any real estate acquired by the Town for non-payment of taxes thereon, and to execute such contracts, deeds and other instruments, and to take such other actions as may in the Selectboard's judgment be advisable to effect the sale of such property, or, if the property is residential property and is occupied by the immediate former owner(s), the Selectboard may convey the property to the immediate former owner(s) upon payment in full of all taxes, interest and charges incurred by the Town within 90 days of notice to the immediate former owner(s) of the repurchase opportunity; provided, however, that the Selectboard shall comply with the requirements of 36 M.R.S. § 943-C if it chooses to sell the property to anyone other than the former owner(s).

Article 26. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer to waive the foreclosure of a tax lien mortgage by recording a waiver of foreclosure at the Registry of Deeds in which the tax lien certificate is recorded prior to expiration of the right of redemption pursuant to 36 M.R.S. §

944 upon a finding by the Selectboard that ownership of the property that is subject to the tax lien mortgage would be contrary to the Town's best interests.

Article 27. To see if the town will vote to authorize the Selectboard, on behalf of the Town, to accept and expend gifts, donations, or any other funds meant to support the municipal function, operation, or improvement of the Town during the period of July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026.

Article 28. To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to sell and/or dispose of town-owned assets (excluding land) determined to be obsolete or surplus with a value of \$100,000 or less, under such terms and conditions as they deem advisable.

Article 29. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the payment of any tax abatements, including interest, approved by the Selectboard from the property tax overlay, or if necessary, from the unassigned fund balance.

Article 30. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the continued plowing and sanding of certain private roads for which the Town has obtained public easements and which meet the criteria approved in a Regular Town Meeting June 9, 2021, or any subsequent criteria or standards, and authorize the Selectboard to discontinue the plowing of certain private roads that no longer meet criteria approved in a Regular Town Meeting June 9, 2021, or any subsequent criteria or standards, or where the public easement has been withdrawn or denied.

Proposed FY 2025-2026 Capital Improvement/Equipment Budget

Article 31. To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$25,000 from the *Unassigned Funds* for purchase of the automated external defibrillators (AED) for Town properties or personnel.

Selectboard and Finance Committee recommend ought to pass at \$25,000

Article 32. To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$75,000 from the *Unassigned Funds* for updates to the future Town Meeting hall.

Selectboard and Finance Committee recommend ought to pass at \$75,000

Article 33. To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$296,642 from Unassigned Funds for Municipal Fiber connecting municipal buildings and establishing the infrastructure necessary for broader access to businesses and residents.

Selectboard and Finance Committee recommend ought to pass at \$296,642

Article 34. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$70,000 from the *Public Safety Capital Reserve Account* for the first lease purchase payment on 2027 Braun Ambulance.

Financial Statement Applicable to Article 34:

The lease purchases by the Town of Casco is one of the ways in which the Town borrows money for certain purposes. The following is a summary of the bonded indebtedness of the Town of Casco as of the date of the Town Meeting.

Bonds Now Outstanding and Unpaid	\$ 2,210,268
Interest to be Repaid on Outstanding Bonds	<u>\$ 385,821</u>
Total to be Repaid on Bonds Outstanding	\$ 2,596,089

Estimated Cost of Proposed Lease Purchase: At an estimated average interest rate of 6% per annum for a 6-year term the estimated costs associated with this proposed lease purchase will be:

Principal	\$ 390,000
Estimated Interest:	\$ 61,734
Total principal and estimated interest:	\$ 451,734

When money is borrowed by lease purchasing, the Town must repay not only the principal but also interest on the lease purchases. The amount of interest to be paid will vary depending upon the rate of interest and the years to maturity at the time of issue. The validity of the lease purchase and of the voters' ratification of the lease purchase may not be affected by any errors in the estimates made of the costs involved, including varying interest rates, the estimated cost of interest on the lease purchase amount to be issued and the total cost of principal and interest to be paid at maturity.

/s/ Pamela Griffin

Pamela Griffin, Treasurer, Town of Casco

Selectboard and Finance Committee recommend ought to pass at \$70,000

Article 35. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the transfer of \$40,000 from *Unassigned Funds to Fire Capital Equipment* the purchasing and replacement of a portion of the Fire Department mobile radios, turnout safety gear and air tanks.

Selectboard and Finance Committee recommend ought to pass at \$40,000

Article 36. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$25,000 from *Unassigned Funds* for the purchase and construction of fencing at Casco Community Park.

Selectboard and Finance Committee recommend ought to pass at \$25,000

Article 37. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$170,000 from the *unassigned funds* for the purchase of a one and half (1.5) ton plow truck and plowing gear.

Selectboard and Finance Committee recommend ought to pass at \$170,000

Article 38. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$12,000 from *Unassigned Funds* for the purchase of radios and repeaters for the Public Works Department.

Selectboard and Finance Committee recommend ought to pass at \$12,000

Article 39. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$600,000 for the FY26 Road projects.

Selectboard and Finance Committee recommend ought to pass at \$600,000

Given under our hands this 13th day of May 2025 at Casco, Maine.

Eugene Connolly, Selectboard Chair: _____

Grant Plummer, Selectboard Vice-Chair: _____

Mary-Vienessa Fernandes, Selectboard Member: _____

Robert MacDonald, Selectboard Member: _____

Scott Avery, Selectboard Member: _____

A true copy of the warrant,

Attest: _____,

Penny Bean, Town Clerk