

TOWN OF CASCO
Annual Town Meeting Warrant
June 5, 2024
Fiscal Year 7/1/2024-6/30/2025

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 11th day of June 2024 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 5th day of June 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the evening and there to act on Articles 3 through 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 11, 2024.
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 at said meeting.

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

Proposed FY 2024-2025 Operational Budget

Article 5. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$946,764 to fund
ADMINISTRATION.

Account	FY25 Proposed Amount	FY24 Approved
Payroll	\$556,864	\$543,934
Services	\$153,200	\$156,100
Supplies/Equipment	\$ 35,000	\$ 38,000
Repairs/Maintenance	\$ 17,000	\$ 10,000
Training/Travel	\$ 15,400	\$ 11,600
Assessing	\$104,300	\$112,075
Legal Service	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000
Contingency	\$ 30,000	\$ 35,000
Total	\$946,764	\$941,709

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

Article 6. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$143,437 to fund **CODE ENFORCEMENT**

	FY25 Proposed Amount	FY24 Approved
Account		
Code Enforcement	\$143,437	\$143,104
Total	\$143,437	\$143,104

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

Article 7. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$73,200 to fund **PLANNING, PLANNING BOARD AND ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

	FY25 Proposed Amount	FY24 Approved
Account		
Planning Board/ZBA	\$ 5,200	\$ 5,375
Planning Services	\$ 68,000	\$ 0
Total	\$ 73,200	\$ 5,375

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

Article 8. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$358,295 to fund **RECREATION, PARKS & BEACHES, FACILITIES, CEMETERIES, OPEN SPACE COMMISSION & VETERAN'S COMMITTEE.**

	FY25 Proposed Amount	FY24 Approved
Account		
Recreation	\$219,864	\$206,670
Parks & Beaches	\$ 14,000	\$ 13,600
Facilities-CCC, Access Building	\$107,831	\$ 97,100
Cemeteries	\$ 9,100	\$ 10,900
Open Space Commission	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,500
Veterans Committee	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500
Total	\$358,295	\$333,270

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

Article 9. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$186,132 to fund **GENERAL ASSISTANCE and DONATION.**

	FY25 Proposed Amount	FY24 Approved
Account		
General Assistance	\$ 47,520	\$ 34,500
Home Health Visiting Nurse	\$ 2,300	\$ 4,000
Casco Public Library	\$ 91,200	\$ 88,348
Northern Light Health	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Through These Doors (Family Crisis)	\$ 1,100	\$ 1,100

Tri County Counseling	\$1,000	\$ 1,000
Opportunity Alliance	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Sebago Lakes Region Chamber	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,000
Lake Region Bus Service	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
Life Flight	\$ 912	\$ 912
Crescent Lake Watershed	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,000
Lake Monitoring Program	\$ 3,000	\$ 1,500
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
Local Food Pantries	\$ 3,600	\$ 3,600
American Legion	\$ 1,000	\$ 500
Crooked River Snowmobile Club	\$ 2,000	\$ 0
Other	\$ 0	\$ 7,100
Total:	\$186,132	\$172,060

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

Article 10. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,258,354 to fund **FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT.**

Account	FY25 Proposed Amount	FY24 Approved
Payroll	\$935,115	\$917,482
Services	\$112,189	\$115,228
Supplies/Equipment	\$110,500	\$108,700
Repairs/Maintenance	\$ 79,550	\$ 73,250
Training/Travel	\$ 21,000	\$ 21,000
Total:	\$1,258,354	\$1,235,660

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

Article 11. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$132,939 to fund **ANIMAL CONTROL & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.**

Account	FY25 Proposed Amount	FY24 Approved
Animal Control	\$127,789	\$112,237
Emergency Management	\$ 5,150	\$ 6,890
Total:	\$132,939	\$119,127

(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 RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

Article 12. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,031,949 to fund **PUBLIC WORKS/ROADS AND DAMS.**

Account	FY25 Proposed Amount	FY24 Approved
Payroll	\$166,589	\$131,227
Services	\$623,360	\$620,350
Supplies/Equipment	\$209,000	\$225,700
Repairs/Maintenance	\$ 20,300	\$ 14,000
Training/Travel	\$ 2,700	\$ 3,200
Subtotal Public Works:	\$1,021,949	\$994,477
Dams	\$ 10,000	\$ 5,100
Total:	\$1,031,949	\$999,577

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

Article 13. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$917,828 to fund **BENEFITS/INSURANCE AND UTILITIES.**

Account	FY25 Proposed Amount	FY24 Approved
Benefits& Insurance	\$817,328	\$741,637
Utilities	\$100,500	\$105,345
Total:	\$917,828	\$846,982

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

Article 14. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$363,276 to fund **TRANSFER STATION AND BULKY WASTE FACILITY.**

Account	FY25 Proposed Amount	FY24 Approved
Interlocal	\$375,880	\$376,973
Professional Services	\$ 94,780	\$ 0
Total:	\$470,660	\$376,973

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

Article 15. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$269,000 to fund **CONTRACTED LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICE** with Cumberland County Sheriff's Department.

Account	FY25 Proposed Amount	FY24 Approved
Law Enforcement	\$260,000	\$ 0

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

Article 16. 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 2023-2024 fiscal year.

Anticipated non-property tax revenues for fiscal year beginning July 01, 2024 include the following approximation of State and Town Revenues:

	FY 25 Proposed Amount	FY24 Approved
I. Excise Tax	\$ 925,000	\$900,000
II. Municipal Revenue Sharing	\$ 390,000	\$400,000
III. Homestead Exemption Reimbursement	\$ 165,000	\$173,000
IV. BETE Reimbursement	\$ 65,000	\$ 60,000
V. Other Non-Property Taxes	\$ 723,742	\$704,392
Total ESTIMATED Non-Property Tax Revenue	\$ 2,268,742	\$2,237,392

Article 17. To see if the Town, in accordance with 36 M.R.S.A. Section 505(2) will set the dates that FY 2023-2024 real and personal property taxes are due, as follows: first half shall be due Wednesday October 04, 2024 or 45 days after commitment, whichever date is later, and second half shall be due Wednesday, March 6, 2024 and to charge interest starting fourteen (14) days after each due date.

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

Article 18. 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 15 and that interest, at the rate of 8.0% per annum, shall be charged on all delinquent property taxes.

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

Article 19. 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 8.0%.

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

Article 20. 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.

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

Article 21. To see if the town will vote to authorize the Selectboard, on behalf of the town, to accept and expend state and federal grants, including funding from American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) 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 2023-2024 fiscal year.

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

Article 22. 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 Select Board 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 Select Board'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 Select Board 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).

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

Article 23. 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 Select Board that ownership of the property that is subject to the tax lien mortgage would be contrary to the Town's best interests.

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

Article 24. 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, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

Article 25. 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 \$50,000 or less, under such terms and conditions as they deem advisable.

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

Article 26. 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.

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

Article 27. 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.

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

Article 28. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to take all actions necessary to acquire ownership of the Lakeside Cemetery, including undertaking any court or similar legal action required to transfer the Cemetery trust funds to the Town.

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

Proposed FY 2024-2025 Capital Improvement/Equipment Budget

Article 28. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$22,000 from the *American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)* funds for the purpose of IT server and Software Upgrades.

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

Article 29. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$190,000 from *Unassigned Funds* for removal and replacement of the Town fuel tanks and operating system.

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

Article 28. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate an additional sum of \$8,500 from *Special Reserve Account Recreation Donations* for the repair and maintenance of Town owned recreational courts (\$21,500 approved with June 15, 2022 warrant).

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

Article 29. To see if the Town will vote appropriate the sum of \$40,000 from the *American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds* for the installation of a water proofing system for the Casco Community Center.

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

Article 30. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$294,440 from the *Road Improvements Capital Reserve Account*, AND \$205,600 from *unassigned funds* for road paving, repairs and ditching as outlined in FY24 Road Repairs RFP (Leach Hill Road, Quaker Ridge Road, Sunny Hill Road, Overlook Lane and Moose Run) for a total cost of \$500,000.

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

Article 31. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$250,00 from *Unassigned Funds* for the repairing, ditching and paving of New Road and South Casco Village Road.

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

Article 32. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$2,706 from the *Casco Community Center Capital Reserve Account* and \$10,294 from *Special Reserve Account Recreation Donations* for the repairs and resealing of Casco Community Center gymnasium floor for a total cost of \$13,000.

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

Article 33. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$25,000 from *American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds* for the purchase and replacing of bleachers located at the Casco Community Center Gymnasium.

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

Article 34. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$6,472 from *American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds* and \$728 from *Special Revenue Account Playground* for playground safety improvements for a total cost of \$7,200.

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

Article 35. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$15,000 from *American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds* for the purchase and replacing of gate located at the Sand and Salt Shed.

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

Article 36. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$15,000 from *Unassigned Funds* for the purchase and replacement of a portion of the Fire Department portable radios.

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

Article 37. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum not to exceed \$45,000 from *American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds* for the first (1st) of five (5) annual lease purchase payments for a 2023 Backhoe and supplemental attachments. The total cost of lease purchase shall not exceed \$180,000 plus interest.

Financial Statement Applicable to Article 37:

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	\$ 2,739,000
Interest to be Repaid on Outstanding Bonds	<u>\$ 559,958</u>
Total to be Repaid on Bonds Outstanding	\$ 3,298,958

Additional Principal Amount of Bonds Authorized but Not Yet Issued \$ 698,000
Bonds will not be issued, funding for the Memorial Field Project was from unassigned fund balance.

Estimated Cost of Proposed Lease Purchase: At an estimated average interest rate of 5% per annum for a 4-year term the estimated costs associated with this proposed lease purchase will be:

Principal	\$ 180,000
Estimated Interest:	\$ 17,900
Total principal and estimated interest:	\$ 197,900

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 RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

Article 38. To see is the Town will vote to appropriate a sum not to exceed \$45,000 from *American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds* for the first (1st) of five (5) annual lease purchase payments for a 2023 1-ton truck and plow gear. The total cost of the lease purchase shall not exceed \$120,000 plus interest.

Financial Statement Applicable to Article 38:

The lease purchase 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	\$ 2,739,000
Interest to be Repaid on Outstanding Bonds	<u>\$ 559,958</u>
Total to be Repaid on Bonds Outstanding	\$ 3,298,958

Additional Principal Amount of Bonds Authorized but Not Yet Issued \$ 698,000
Bonds will not be issued, funding for the Memorial Field Project was from unassigned fund balance.

Estimated Cost of Proposed Lease Purchase: At an estimated average interest rate of 5% per annum for a 5-year term the estimated costs associated with this proposed lease purchase will be:

Principal	\$ 120,000
Estimated Interest:	\$ 10,600
Total principal and estimated interest:	\$ 120,600

When money is borrowed by lease purchasing, the Town must repay not only the principal but also interest. 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 RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

Given under our hands this 2nd day of May 2023 at Casco, Maine.

Robert MacDonald, Selectboard Chair: _____

Scott Avery, Selectboard Vice-Chair: _____

Mary- Vinessa Fernandes, Selectboard Member: _____

Eugene Connolly, Selectboard Member: _____

Grant Plummer, Selectboard Member: _____

A true copy of the warrant,

Attest: _____

Penny Bean, Town Clerk

CONCEPT DESIGN ONLY