



**Minutes of the Annual STARKS Town Meeting
March 12 2021**

Article #1

To choose a moderator at said meeting.

Barbara Vischer was elected with three written votes.

Article #2

To choose by Australian ballot all Town Officers for the current year.

Selectman, 3 year term

Ernest Hilton	40
Bill Pressey	3
Truman Tracy	1
Blank	8

Assessor, 3 year term

Cathleen Horner	47
Blank	5

Tax Collector, 3 year term

Jennifer Zweig Hebert	49
Blank	3

School Board Director, 3 year term

Carol Coles	43
Blank	9

Budget Committee, 1 year term (5 positions)

Carol Coles	17
David Gray	20
Ashley Hayden	18
Ken Lust	19
John Newsom	17
Blank	141

28 write in candidates received less than 5 votes each

Article #3

Shall the town vote to raise and appropriate from taxation, **\$564,806** (representing a 4.97 % decrease from the previous year) for an operating budget in the current year.

Administration	\$222,179
Public Safety	\$62,040
Public Works	\$216,800
Debt Service	\$9,787
Social Services & Contingency	\$14,000
Reserves	\$40,000
Total	\$564,806

Article voted on by secret ballot. **Passed 42 Yes, 9 No, 1 Blank**

Article #4

To see if the Town will authorize the Municipal Officers to spend an amount not to exceed 3/12 of the annual budget in each budget category of the 2021 annual budget during the period from January 1st, 2022 to the 2022 Annual Town Meeting.

Article voted on by secret ballot. **Passed 47 Yes, 5 No**

Article #5

To set the rate of interest to be charged on unpaid taxes to not exceed 6.00% per year to begin accruing 60 days after the date of commitment.

Article voted on by secret ballot. **Passed 49 Yes, 2 No, 1 Blank**

Article #6

In accordance with T. 36 M.R.S. § 506, to see if the Town will vote that if a taxpayer pays an amount in excess of their final assessment it shall be refunded in the amount of the overpayment.

Article voted on by secret ballot. **Passed 49 Yes, 2 No, 1 Blank**

Article #7

To see if the Town will authorize the selectmen, on behalf of the Town, to sell and dispose of any real-estate acquired by the Town for nonpayment of taxes; to thereon advertise and accept sealed bids only; and to execute the appropriate deeds for such property. Except that the Municipal Officers shall use the special sale process

required by 36 M.R.S. § 943-C for qualifying homestead property if they choose to sell it to anyone other than the former owner(s).

Article voted on by secret ballot. **Passed 43 Yes, 8 No, 1 Blank**

Article #8

Shall the Town appropriate from **Undesignated Funds, \$51,805** to lower the tax commitment

Article voted on by secret ballot. **Passed 49 Yes, 2 No, 1 Blank**

Article #9

Shall the Town accept any gifts, grants and funds provided by the Maine State Legislature or from any other sources, and apply the funds to lower the commitment or benefit the town in such other ways as the Selectmen deem reasonable

Article voted on by secret ballot. **Passed 46 Yes, 5 No, 1 Blank**

Article #10

Shall the Town authorize the Selectmen to dispose of assets with an estimated value of \$500 or less without having to place legal ads, the details of the assets and bidding requirements to be emailed using an available email list and posted inside and outside the Town Office. This does not include tax acquired property.

Article voted on by secret ballot. **Passed 44 Yes, 7 No, 1 Blank**

Article #11

Shall the Town override the property tax levy limit established for the Town of Starks by State law to the extent statutorily allowed in the event the municipal budget approved under the preceding articles resulted in a tax commitment that is greater than the so-called LD 1 property tax levy limit.

Article voted on by secret ballot. **Passed 38 Yes, 13 No, 1 Blank**

Article #12

Shall the Town:

- Apply available excise taxes, interest, and lien charges toward the 2021 budget
- Apply lien cost revenue to the lien cost expense account
- Apply overlay to cover abatements
- Make taxes due and payable upon the date of commitment.
- Authorize the selectmen to apply for a tax anticipation note if needed

- Apply all Community Center rental/donations funds to the Building Improvement Fund
- Forward the snowmobile reimbursement to the Anson-North Anson Snowmobile Club
- Close the books on December 31st 2021
- Carry forward \$10,432.50 for Property & Casualty Insurance in the current year
- Hold the next Annual Town Meeting on March 11th and 12th 2022.
- Authorize the Tax Collector to accept prepayment of 2021 taxes from January 1st, 2021 to the 2021 date of commitment

Article voted on by secret ballot. **Passed 48 Yes, 3 No, 1 Blank**

Article #13

Shall the town hereby call upon our State and Federal elected representatives to enact carbon-pricing legislation to protect Maine from the economic costs and environmental risks of continued climate inaction. To that end, we support a Carbon Fee and Dividend approach, also known as a Carbon Cash-Back program, which charges fossil fuel producers for their carbon output and rebates the money collected to all residents on an equitable basis. Enacting such a program will decrease long-term fossil-fuel dependence, aid in the economic transition for energy consumers, support our economy and keep local energy dollars in Maine's economy. Carbon Cash-Back has been championed by US economists (Jan 17, 2019 WSJ) as the most effective and fair way to deliver rapid reductions in harmful carbon emissions at the scale required. As other countries enact such programs pursuant to the Paris accords and impose such carbon fees on US exports into their countries, it is imperative that the US enact such reciprocal fees as required under those protocols.

We expect our representatives to lead in this critical moment for the health and well-being of our citizens and for the protection of Maine's economy and the natural resources upon which we all rely.

Within 30 days of this vote, the record of the vote approving this article shall be transmitted by the Selectmen of the Town of Starks by written notice to our state legislators, to the Governor of Maine, to our congressional delegation, and to the President of the United States, informing them of these instructions from their constituents.

Article voted on by secret ballot. **Passed 32 Yes, 15 No, 5 Blank**

Respectfully Submitted,



Jennifer A Zweig Hebert, Clerk