

**REFERENCE MATERIAL  
FOR**

**TOWN OF BETHEL  
TOWN MEETING**

June 11, 2025, 6:00 p.m.  
Crescent Park School Gymnasium  
19 Crescent Street

**Included with Reference Material:**

- Explanations for Town Meeting Warrant Articles 2-52
- Article 3 – Code Change Section 5-55 Budget Committee
- Article 4 – Code Change Section 140-3 Applicability
- Article 6 – Tri-Town Interlocal Agreement
- Town Meeting Warrant posted June 2, 2025
- Budget Summary

**Article 2. To elect all Municipal Officers, Assessors, and School Board Directors as are required to be elected.**

*Notes: Select Board - Vote for two for a 3-year term  
Assessor - Vote for one for a 2-year term  
Assessor - Vote for one for a 3-year term*

*SAD 44 Board Director Bethel - Vote for two for a 3-year term  
SAD 44 Board Director Greenwood - Vote for one for a 2-year term  
SAD 44 Board Director Greenwood - Vote for one for a 3-year term  
SAD 44 Board Director Newry - Vote for one for a 3-year term  
SAD 44 Board Director Woodstock - Vote for one for a 3-year term*

**Article 3. To see if the Town will vote to amend Code Chapter 140, §140-3 Applicability.**

*Notes: This Code change deletes the word ~~proposals~~ and adds "the resumption of a use discontinued for more than 1 year."*

*This chapter shall apply to all development ~~proposals~~ involving new construction, change of use, the resumption of a use discontinued for more than 1 year, or substantial enlargement and/or alteration of the following: (1) Commercial, retail, industrial, institutional and recreational buildings, structures and uses and accessory structures and their uses.*

**Article 4. To see if the Town will vote to amend Code Chapter 5, Administration, §5-55 Budget Committee.**

**There shall be a ~~twelve-member~~ nine-member Budget Committee ...**

**D. The Budget Committee shall ~~conducts~~ conduct its meetings, ...**

*Notes: This Code change reduces the Budget Committee from 12 to 9 members and changes conducts to conduct.*

**Article 5. To see if the Town will vote to approve the release of an abandoned sewer easement across certain property located on Vernon Street, known as Map 25, Lot 198, owned by Daniel Myers; and the conveyance of certain Town property on Vernon Street, known as Map 25, Lot 201A and formerly used for a pumping station, to Daniel Myers, in exchange for the Town's prior purchase of a portion of Lot 198 for the construction of a new pumping station.**

*Notes: It was recently discovered that the Town didn't release this abandoned sewer easement. Approval of this article will complete the release, and the release will be filed at the Registry of Deeds.*

**Article 6. To see if the Town will vote to adopt the updated Tri Town Solid Waste Interlocal Agreement between the Towns of Bethel, Hanover and Newry?**

*Notes: The Interlocal Agreement has not been updated since 2000. The Solid Waste Committee, with members from Bethel, Hanover and Newry, worked on updating the agreement. The Select Board from each town reviewed and approved the updates. Copies are available at the Bethel Town Office and attached to the warrant. Newry voted to adopt the updated agreement. Hanover will have a special town meeting on June 17 to act on this.*

**Article 7. To see if the Town will vote to continue having Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) picked up curbside and at dumpsters serviced by a hauling company at locations throughout Bethel, Hanover and Newry and to raise and appropriate up to \$300,000 to pay the MSW tipping fee. (Note: The customer will pay the hauling company for the curbside and dumpster service).**

*Notes:*

- *Tipping fees for curbside dumpsters and residential pickup in Bethel, Hanover and Newry are currently paid for by Bethel.*
- *The tipping paid by the Town for this service was removed from the Transfer Station budget.*
- *In 2024, 2,523 tons were picked up at \$120/ton. Bethel paid Casella \$302,760 for this tonnage. Bethel will be responsible for 54%. We will invoice Hanover for 6% and Newry 40% of the tipping fee Bethel pays.*
- *We would need to raise the \$300,000 in Article 7 to pay the tipping fees that are based on 2024 tonnage.*

**Article 8. To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$100,000 from the Town's Undesignated Fund Balance to be used to purchase a Steel Deck Truck Scale with steel tread decking, site construction, excavation, concrete foundation, and electrical to perform all tasks for installation. Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend Approval.**

*Notes: As of the 6/30/24 (FY2024) Town Audit, Bethel had \$5.5 million in its Undesignated Fund Balance. Based on this amount, and the auditor's recommendation, we have several articles asking you to approve using Undesignated Funds for the purchases identified instead of asking you to raise and appropriate the money.*

- *Approval of this article will allow us to purchase scales to be installed at the Transfer Station.*
- *Currently there is no charge to dispose of construction debris or oversized bulky waste.*

- *In 2024, 1,485.79 tons of CD and OBW, including shingles were disposed of at \$125/ton. The cost to Bethel to dispose of this tonnage was \$185,723.75.*
- *Scales would have generated \$297,158 in revenue for this same 1,485.79 tons. This would have been a net profit of \$114,434.25.*
- *Newry voted to contribute \$50,000.*
- *Hanover will have a special town meeting on June 17 to contribute \$7,500.*

**Article 9. To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$120,000 from the Town's Undesignated Fund Balance to be used to replace the Town Office roof and the clapboards at the back of the building.  
Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend Approval.**

*Notes: See notes under Article 8.*

- *Remove & discard old metal roofing.*
- *Install new plywood over existing boards with a standing seam metal roof.*
- *Install new copper gutter and downspout and drip edge and flashing.*
- *Remove & discard old clapboards below eave side and sidewalls.*
- *Install drainable house wrap behind new clapboards.*
- *Install controlled heat tape in the gutter system.*
- *Copper downspout termination at the ground level piped underground insulated into a new storm water catch basin.*

**Article 10. To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$125,000 from the Town's Undesignated Fund Balance to be used for moisture control maintenance in the Town Office basement.  
Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend Approval.**

*Notes: See notes under Article 8*

- *The work to be performed will be for moisture control.*
- *Install water guard port for access to system; install feed line; pour new concrete floor. Install trench drain and drainage system around the perimeter of space. Install spray foam in the rim joist.*
- *Treat all foundation walls with the Cleanspace vapor barrier and closed-cell spray foam on the joists to insulate and seal the Cleanspace to the walls adequately.*

**Article 11. To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$50,000 from the Town's Undesignated Fund Balance for a Contingency account to be used for emergency purposes and to be approved by the Select Board when needed.  
Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend Approval.**

*Notes: See notes under Article 8.*

- *\$50,000 would be transferred from the Undesignated Fund Balance account to a Contingency Reserve account to be used for emergency purchases that would require Select Board approval. If an emergency purchase were needed, we would need to schedule a Special Town Meeting without a*

*contingency account. The balance at the end of the fiscal year would remain in the reserve account.*

- Article 12. To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$65,766 from the Town's Undesignated Fund Balance to clear the negative balance in the Cemetery Restoration account reported by the Auditors in Schedule G in the FY23 and FY24 audit in the Nonmajor Capital Project Funds.  
Auditor and Select Board Recommend Approval.**

*Notes: See notes under Article 8.*

- *The auditors identified a negative balance of \$65,766 in the Cemetery Reserve Account in the FY2023 audit. The negative balance remains the same in the FY2024 audit and will until we offset the negative balance.*

- Article 13. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$738,124 for the Administration Department. The Administration Department includes the Town Manager, Town Clerk, Assessor, Finance, Planning and CEO. (FY25: \$693,083).  
Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend Approval.**

*Notes: The Administration Department is under General Government and includes all staff and all shared resources that have either been allocated in separate budgets or under the Administration Department. The combined budget for FY2026 is \$738,124 and for FY2025 it was \$693,083, which is an increase of \$45,041. In FY2025 the budgets were included separately as: Administration \$291,144; Town Clerk \$176,732; Assessor \$35,000; Finance \$123,707; Planning & CEO \$66,500.*

- *3% COLA and wage adjustments.*
- *Planning Board stipends (new).*
- *Several contract renewals and increases.*
- *Decrease in new changes to phone and internet plan.*

- Article 14. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,867 for the Animal Control Department. (FY25: \$14,829).  
Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend Approval.**

*Notes:*

- *Decrease due to call volume.*

- Article 15. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$673,865 for the Police Department (Oxford County Sheriff Services). (FY25: \$573,450).  
Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend Approval.**

*Notes:*

- *No change to services. We have four dedicated deputies,*
- *24/7 coverage per week. \$168,466 per deputy.*

**Article 16. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$322,966 for the Fire Department. (FY25: \$305,730).  
Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend Approval.**

*Notes:*

- *Stipend increase for Chief and 3% COLA all staff and stipends.*
- *Vehicle maintenance increase.*
- *Water Increase – hydrants.*
- *Phone and internet plan increase.*

**Article 17. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$617,849 for the Ambulance Department. (FY25: \$473,536).  
Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend Approval.**

*Notes:*

- *Wage adjustment increases for On-call wages, Paramedic, Per Diem, EMT, AEMT, drivers, Chief Stipend and all stipend positions to be competitive with surrounding communities to help with staffing and retention.*
- *Equipment repairs and increases for contract renewals.*

**Article 18. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$592,473 for the Solid Waste Department. (FY25: 825,955).  
Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend Approval.**

*Notes:*

- *Decrease in hauling and tipping at the Transfer Station due to new 3-year contract with Archie's from Mexico.*
- *Does not include tipping for curbside dumpsters and residential pickup.*
- *Increase in phone and internet plan change.*
- *3% COLA for staff.*

**Article 19. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$781,859 for the Public Works Department. (FY25: \$768,710).  
Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend Approval.**

*Notes:*

- *3% COLA for staff.*
- *Decrease in phone and internet plan.*
- *Minor increases and decreases in various line items.*

**Article 20. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$35,965 for the Town Office Facility. (FY: \$25,585).  
Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend Approval.**

*Notes:*

- *Increase in electric and heating oil for the space previously leased to the Citizen.*
- *Increase in cleaning services.*

**Article 21. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$27,460 for the Fire Station Facility. (FY25: \$29,175).  
Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend Approval.**

*Notes:*

- *Decrease in heating oil.*
- *Increase in water.*

**Article 22. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$22,300 for the Town Garage Facility. (FY25: \$17,300).  
Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend Approval.**

*Notes:*

- *Increase to replace two door controllers.*
- *Decrease propane.*

**Article 23. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$19,670 for the Ambulance Building Facility. (FY25: \$19,395).  
Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend Approval.**

*Notes: No major changes.*

**Article 24. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,000 for General Assistance. (FY25: \$4,000).  
Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend Approval.**

*Notes: No changes.*

**Article 25. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$77,344 for the Recreation Department. (FY25: \$75,220).  
Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend Approval.**

*Notes:*

- *Decrease in Alpine Skiing.*
- *3% COLA increase.*
- *Increase in contracted services.*
- *Increase maintenance for ball fields.*

**Article 26.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,007 for Angevine Park. (F25: \$14,320).  
**Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend Approval.**

*Notes:*

- *Staff 3% COLA increase.*
- *Increase in electric.*

**Article 27.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$17,735 for the Fountain, Park, and Cemetery. (FY25: \$18,030).  
**Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend Approval.**

*Notes: Minor increases and decreases.*

**Article 28.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,500 for the Bethel Library. (FY25: \$20,500).  
**Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend Approval.**

*Notes: Same request.*

**Article 29.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000 for the Museums of the Bethel Historical Society for operations. (FY25: \$15,000).  
**Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend Approval.**

*Notes: Same request.*

**Article 30.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$600 for the Museums of the Bethel Historical Society for a band for the July 4<sup>th</sup> Picnic. (FY25: \$600).  
**Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend Approval.**

*Notes: Same request.*

**Article 31.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 for the Food Pantry District Exchange. (FY25: \$19,520).  
**Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend Approval.**

*Notes: Requesting \$480 more than approved last year.*

**Article 32.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000 for Project Graduation. (FY25: \$1,000).  
**Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend Approval.**

*Notes: Same request.*



**Article 33.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,200 for the Age Friendly Community Initiative (AFCI). (FY25: \$1,000).  
**Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend Approval.**

*Notes: Requesting \$200 more than approved last year.*

**Article 34.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,000 for Seniors Plus. (FY25: \$4,000).  
**Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend Approval.**

*Notes: Same request.*

**Article 35.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,900 for Community Concepts. (FY25: \$4,900).  
**Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend Approval.**

*Notes: Same request.*

**Article 36.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$52,200 for Municipal Property & Casualty Insurance. (FY25: \$45,100).  
**Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend Approval.**

*Notes:*

- *Includes public officials' liability insurance and insurance for volunteers.*
- *Increase in claims.*

**Article 37.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$623,590 for Employee Benefits. (FY25: \$648,658).

<b>Health Insurance</b>	<b>\$353,442</b>
<b>Worker's Compensation</b>	<b>\$ 49,125</b>
<b>Unemployment Insurance</b>	<b>\$ 1,000</b>
<b>Social Security/FICA</b>	<b>\$124,877</b>
<b>Paid Family Medical Leave</b>	<b>\$ 8,162</b>
<b>MEPERS Retirement</b>	<b>\$ 85,414</b>
<b>FD Accident &amp; Sickness Ins.</b>	<b><u>\$ 1,570</u></b>
	<b>\$623,590</b>

**Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend Approval.**

*Notes:*

- *Health insurance premiums decreased due to changing plans with better coverage. Premiums change annually based on the number of staff covered.*
- *Eliminated the Health Reimbursement and Flexible Spending Plans.*
- *Increase with new requirements for Paid Family Medical Leave. Town and employee share in paying 50% of the required 1% to the state.*

**Article 38. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$282,688 for the Airport Department. (FY25: \$305,987).  
Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend Approval.**

*Notes: The Airport is a department of the Town and no longer an Enterprise Account.*

- *Stipend increase for Airport Coordinator and 3% COLA for the Airport Assistant.*
- *Increase for maintenance and repair and electric*
- *Moved Capital Improvements to the CIP Reserve account.*
- *Decrease aviation gas purchase.*

**Article 39. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,283,850 for Capital Improvements. (FY25: \$875,000).  
Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend Approval.**

	<u>Request</u>	<u>Balance</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>PWD Vehicle Reserve</b> <i>Replace 2015 PWD Truck Chassis &amp; Body.</i></li> </ul>	\$ 50,000	\$233,798
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>PWD Buildings &amp; Grounds Reserve</b> <i>Replace LP Gas Furnace. Reserve for poll barn and shingle dome.</i></li> </ul>	\$ 50,000	\$ 64,234
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>PWD Equipment Reserve</b> <i>Snowblower and lowbed transport.</i></li> </ul>	\$ 50,000	\$108,160
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>TS Buildings &amp; Grounds Reserve</b> <i>Pave tire &amp; can overflow area and 20' entrance and the remaining travel area. DEP recommends.</i></li> </ul>	\$ 10,000	\$ 64,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Rescue Vehicle &amp; Equipment Reserve</b> <i>Reserve to replace 2017 &amp; 2019 ambulance in 2027 &amp; 2029 and replace Cardiac monitor.</i></li> </ul>	\$ 100,000	\$344,613
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Rescue Buildings &amp; Grounds Reserve</b> <i>Insulate garage. Rafter vents &amp; wind blocks. Outlets, wiring, ceiling repair, outside lights.</i></li> </ul>	\$ 30,000	\$ 50,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fire Dept Vehicle Reserve</b> <i>Reserve to replace 1998 tanker. Reserve to replace 2000 utility truck.</i></li> </ul>	\$ 50,000	\$274,500
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fire Dept Equipment Reserve</b> <i>Reserve to replace turnout gear PFAS free.</i></li> </ul>	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fire Dept Equipment &amp; Grounds Reserve</b>  <i>Replace 16' of clapboards on the north side.</i>  <i>Repair clapboards over 2-man doors.</i>  <i>Replace the rotted trim boards, paint &amp; trim.</i>  <i>Basement repairs &amp; insulation.</i>  <i>Retaining wall maintenance.</i>  <i>Crack seal, repair concrete on walkway</i> </li> </ul>	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Town Office Building &amp; Grounds Reserve</b>  <i>Upgrade power source, wiring and meter repairs.</i>  <i>Air conditioning mini splits.</i>  <i>Replace cast iron sewer pipes with PVC.</i>  <i>Assess and maintenance of Citizen office space.</i> </li> </ul>	\$ 150,000	\$192,809
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Airport Equipment/Building/Grounds Reserve</b>  <i>Generator.</i>  <i>Storage shed.</i>  <i>Fuel system fill-hose.</i>  <i>Replace mercury lights with LED on ramp.</i>  <i>Misc building maintenance.</i> </li> </ul>	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Town Share of MEDOT Sidewalk Grants</b>  <i>Rte.2 sidewalk &amp; 400' from Parkway Road to Lincoln St. Town share due in FY2026.</i> </li> </ul>	\$ 50,000	\$150,375
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Town Share of FAA/MEDOT Grant Reserve</b>  <i>2025 &amp; 2026 Town 2.5% match for FAA Grants.</i>  <i>Infiltration bason in FAA Taxilane grant.</i>  <i>Tree cutting required by FAA to maintain approach surfaces.</i> </li> </ul>	\$ 94,850	\$ 94,850
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Replace Gazebo Roof</b>  <i>Insurance inspection recommendation.</i> </li> </ul>	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Repair Bell Tower</b>  <i>Insurance inspection recommendation.</i> </li> </ul>	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Basketball Court Reserve</b>  <i>Resurface basketball court.</i> </li> </ul>	\$ 15,000	\$ 30,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Office Equipment Reserve</b>  <i>Replace all departments' computers and equipment.</i> </li> </ul>	\$ 15,000	\$ 22,018

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Revaluation Reserve</b>  <i>33% to be revalued for 3 years beginning the fall of 2025. Payment in annual installments with final payment when complete. Total \$343,900.</i> </li> </ul>	\$ 50,000	\$260,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Records Restoration Reserve</b>  <i>Reserve to purchase restoration program.</i> </li> </ul>	\$ 1,500	\$ 22,011
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Cemetery Restoration Reserve</b>  <i>Contract annually to repair stones &amp; clean.</i> </li> </ul>	\$ 10,000	\$ 13,066
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Road Improvements</b>  <i>Swan Hill Road-First St to Howling Hill Rd  Swan Hill Rd-Intervale Rd to Howling Hill Rd.  Paradis Rd-House #250 to Greenwood Line.  Mechanic S-Main to Railroad.  Martin Lane-Mayville to Sunday River Rd.</i> </li> </ul>	\$ 400,000	\$415,713
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Drainage Improvements</b>  <i>Vortex for slipline 30" pipe.</i> </li> </ul>	\$ 44,500	\$ 45,985
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sidewalk Maintenance</b>  <i>Misc sidewalks. Town office walkway.</i> </li> </ul>	\$ 5,000	\$ 10,110
<b>Total Capital Improvements</b>	<b>\$1,283,850</b>	

**Article 40.** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and spend the overlay generated during the 2026 fiscal year to pay for tax abatements.

*Notes: The overlay is determined when the mil rate is set when the taxes are committed.*

**Article 41.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board or the Town Manager, acting in concurrence with said Select Board, to accept and expend, on behalf of the Town, Federal and/or State funds which may be received, from time to time, in the form of grants or for any other purpose, including, but not limited to Municipal Revenue Sharing, Local Road Assistance, State Aid to Education, State Aid per capita, Civil Emergency Funds, Snowmobiling Registration money, Tree Growth Reimbursement money, General Assistance Reimbursement, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Economic Development Administration (EDA) grants, Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) grants, Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) grants, U.S. Fire Administration grants, and to act on anything relative thereto.

*Notes: This is a standard article that allows the Select Board or Town Manager, acting in concurrence with the Select Board, to accept money from the listed organizations or organizations relative to the ones listed.*

- Article 42.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer to waive the automatic 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 the 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 interest.

*Notes: This article prevents the Town from being liable for property if the town forecloses and takes ownership.*

- Article 43.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to make final determinations regarding the closing or opening of roads for winter maintenance pursuant to 23 M.R.S. § 2953.

*Notes: Required by statute to close Town roads to winter maintenance.*

- Article 44.** To see if the Town will vote to establish the rate of interest at 3.5% for those who have received an abatement or have overpaid their taxes for the fiscal year 2025-2026 pursuant to 36 M.R.S. §506-A.

*Notes: Interest rate established by statute.*

- Article 45.** To see if the Town will permit the Tax Collector or the designee to waive unintentional tax interest payment shortages in an amount not to exceed \$5.00.

*Notes: Waives lien process if balance has a balance of less than \$5. Vote required.*

- Article 46.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector to accept prepayments of taxes not yet committed and to pay no interest on those prepayments in accordance with 36 M.R.S. §506.

*Notes: Allows the Town to collect tax payments before being committed.*

- Article 47.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to spend unexpended, Fiscal Year 2025 and any other previous years, Capital Improvement, Road Funds, to fund remaining projects on the Road Improvement List.

*Notes: Allows balances to be carried forward to the next year.*

**Article 48.** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the franchise fees received from the cable companies to Western Hills Access Television (W.H.A.T.) to broadcast local content and continue to keep the station running for the benefit of the Greater Community.

*Notes: The amount received for this year is estimated to be \$15,000.*

**Article 49.** To see if the Town will appropriate 100% of State snowmobile refund to the Greenstock Snow Sports Snowmobile Club for the purpose of maintaining snowmobile trails connecting West Bethel to Bryant Pond and beyond. Such maintenance is to be performed only with the landowners' permission and only on trails that are open for public use.

*Notes: Estimate \$1,000 will be received.*

**Article 50.** To see if the Town will appropriate from Undesignated Fund balance the overdrafts to Town Accounts as of June 30, 2025.

*FY2025 accounts overdrawn will be balanced.*

**Article 51.** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$400,000 from its Undesignated Fund balance to reduce the FY2026 property tax commitment. Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend Approval.

*Notes: Auditors recommend.*

**Article 52.** To see if the Town will accept *estimated* revenues, including, but not limited to, federal, state, local, non-property tax revenues, and undesignated donations, to reduce the FY2026 property tax commitment, as described below.

<u>Category</u>	<u>Estimated 2026</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Estimated</u>
	<u>2026</u>		
Auto Excise	\$700,000	Airport Snow Removal	\$ 9,000
Interest on Taxes	\$ 20,000	Airport Hangar Leases	\$ 8,000
Investment Interest	\$ 60,000	Airport Misc Revenue	\$ 1,000
Town Clerk Fees	\$ 6,000	Maine Energy Mortgage	\$ 41,388
Animal Control Fees	\$ 600	Airport Gas	\$ 65,000
RV Reg Fees	\$ 700	Ambulance Revenue	\$200,000
Auto Reg Fees	\$ 16,000	Ambulance Fees	\$ 15,000
Plumbing Permits	\$ 15,000	Fire Service Fees	\$ 30,000
Building Permits	\$ 25,000	LRAP	\$ 70,000
Planning Board Fees	\$ 2,000	Solid Waste Service Fees	\$250,000
Cannabis Permits	\$ 5,000	Recreation Fees	\$ 15,000
General Assistance	\$ 3,000	Veteran's Exempt	\$ 1,000

<b>Tree Growth</b>	<b>\$ 25,000</b>	<b>Recycling Fees</b>	<b>\$ 10,000</b>
<b>Gould Academy Donation</b>	<b>\$ 11,000</b>		
<b>Total Estimated Anticipated Revenues</b>		<b>\$1,604,688</b>	

*Notes: The actual revenue used when calculating the Mil Rate will be determined in September when the commitment is done. The revenues listed are estimates only.*





**Administrative Legislation**

**Ch 5 Administration**

**Ch 5 Art VI Boards, Committees and Authorities**

**§ 5-55. Budget Committee.**

- A. There shall be a ~~twelve-member~~ nine-member Budget Committee. Members shall be appointed by the Select Board for three-year staggered terms commencing in January. Each member shall be a registered voter of the Town of Bethel throughout his/her tenure on the Budget Committee.
- B. The Budget Committee shall be empowered to review proposed general fund budgets jointly with the Select Board and make recommendations to be printed following each of the various articles of a Town Meeting warrant. **[Amended 6-14-2006]**
- C. With the exception of personnel costs, the Budget Committee shall be empowered to make recommendation on any proposed general fund appropriation considered in any Town Meeting, regular or special.
- D. The Budget Committee shall ~~conducts~~ conduct its meetings, and operate, in accordance with rules of procedure approved by the Select Board.



§ 140-3 Applicability.

A. This chapter shall apply to all development ~~proposals~~ involving new construction, change of use, the resumption of a use discontinued for more than 1 year, or substantial enlargement and/or alteration of the following:

(1) Commercial, retail, industrial, institutional and recreational buildings, structures and uses and accessory structures and their uses.

(2) ...(continues)

Attested copy 02/05/2025

Jessica Grover  
Town Clerk



**INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT**  
**Between the Towns of**  
**Bethel, Hanover, and Newry**  
**for the**  
**DISPOSAL AND RECYCLING OF SOLID WASTE MATERIALS**

**1) Purpose of Agreement**

The purpose of this agreement is to provide for the cost effective, efficient and lawful management, disposal and recycling of waste materials generated within the corporate boundaries of the towns of Bethel, Hanover, and Newry (hereinafter called the towns to mean Bethel, Hanover and Newry, respectively) and to describe the general relationship, rights and responsibilities of the municipal governments of the three towns in achieving this purpose.

**2) General Description of Agreement**

- a) The three towns shall jointly pursue efficient management, disposal and recycling of waste materials through the guidance of a Solid Waste and Recycling Board (SWR Board), further described herein.
- b) The total cost of this endeavor shall be fairly allocated among the towns on a usage basis, to be determined initially by this agreement and subsequently through information which shall be collected, reviewed and adopted by the SWR Board on an annual basis.
- c) Once this Agreement is in effect, all obligations placed on the towns as a result of this Agreement shall not be considered binding until ratified by the Select Boards from each town.
- d) Pursuant to 30-A M.R.S.A Section 2203(1), This Interlocal Agreement shall not become effective until approved by voters of the town at individual town meetings.

**3) Length of Agreement**

This agreement shall run indefinitely from ratification by the three towns until terminated by one of the towns as referenced in Section 17 of this agreement.

**4) Solid Waste and Recycling Board**

- a) There shall be a Solid Waste and Recycling Board (SWR Board) comprised of a total of six members, two each from Bethel, Hanover and Newry. The SWR Board will also include the Bethel Town Manager and Bethel Public Works Director who will serve as ex officio members.

- b) The town's Select Boards shall appoint their representatives and determine the length of terms. All SWR Board members shall be registered voters of the towns which they represent.

**5) Duties of the SWR Board**

- a) The SWR Board shall be broadly responsible for the development of policies and practices intended to achieve the purpose of this agreement.
- b) Such actions may include but are not limited to, development of policies for facility and equipment operation, issuance of bid specifications and requests for proposals, recommendations of fee schedules, development of capital and operating budgets, public education, appointment of ad hoc committees and groups, and development of strategies to minimize the town's expenditure in solid waste management.

**6) Administration of the SWR Board**

- a) The SWR Board shall determine its own bylaws for the conduct of meetings with the stipulation that all motions, actions and recommendations of the SWR Board shall require a majority of the Board membership (not of a quorum), and an affirmative vote of at least one member from each town before considered to be in effect.
- b) A record of all meetings of the Board shall be maintained in and distributed to the towns on an ongoing basis. An annual report, on a calendar year basis, of solid waste and recycling operations shall be prepared by the Board and distributed to the towns.

**7) Classification of Costs**

- a) Costs in solid waste and recycling shall be classified into two categories: operating and capital. The costs shall be allocated among the towns in accordance with the formula in effect at the time the expense is incurred, unless some other agreement exists.
- b) **Operating costs** shall generally be defined as labor costs, service charges, maintenance costs, miscellaneous fees, tipping fees, hauling fees, government fees, cost of fuel and other supplies which are consumed in use, and other costs which may be necessary to meet the purpose of this agreement on an ongoing basis.
- c) **Capital costs** shall be generally defined as equipment and other facility improvements which are durable and intended to provide benefit for a substantial period, usually more than one year. Debt and any resulting debt service incurred

through the purchase of capital equipment or capital improvements shall be considered a capital cost.

**8) Allocation of Costs**

a) Pursuant to established solid waste flow data concerning the towns, all OPERATING AND CAPITAL costs shall be allocated among the towns as follows:

Bethel	54%
Newry	40%
Hanover	6%

**9) Determination of Disposal fees for Residents, Users and Other Beneficiaries**

a) "It shall be the responsibility of the SWR Board to confirm the validity and fairness of these cost allocations on an annual basis and recommend changes accordingly to the Select Boards of each town, for approval by the Select Boards, a practical disposal fee schedule, such that the town's residents and other users are charged fees reasonably proportional to the benefits received and that the financial obligations of the towns are offset by these charges".

b) The SWR Board shall also recommend, to the towns, limits on amounts of categories (if any) to be delivered to the facility by residents and users.

**10) Ownership of Assets**

a) Within one year of ratification of this Agreement, and on an annual basis thereafter, an itemized List of Assets with assigned values shall be prepared by the SWR Board and ultimately agreed to by the respective Select Boards. The purpose of the list shall be to identify assets to be considered jointly owned by the towns.

b) Ownership shall be calculated on a proportional basis, in accordance with the cost allocation formula in effect at the time of acquisition, or by other mutual agreement.

c) At the termination of this Agreement, for reason of unanimous consent of termination only, assets shall be liquidated, or sold, and funds shall be distributed to the towns in accordance with proportional ownership. If mutually agreeable, payment by one town to other town, or towns, is expressly authorized in lieu of outright liquidation.

d) Earthwork, roadwork, utilities and other permanent improvements to the facilities not considered "personal property" under statutory Maine assessing standards shall not be included in the "List of Assets". Ownership of these improvements shall lie with the municipality within which they are located.

**11) Administration of Funds**

a) Bethel shall administer all funds and documents associated with this Agreement and be responsible for payment of all invoices incurred because of this Agreement.

- b) Bethel shall invoice the other towns on a monthly, itemized basis. All invoices issued by Bethel shall be payable to Bethel within 30 calendar days of the date of issuance. Bethel shall be allowed to charge a maximum administration fee of 3% of the total invoice to Hanover and Newry.
- c) Any town to which money is past due shall receive interest at the highest legal rate plus the cost of collection including attorney's fees. Any town may seek relief, or remedy, for a breach of any part of this Agreement through an action in the Superior Court.

**12) Employees**

- a) All municipal employees whose costs of employment (i.e. wages, statutory benefits, discretionary benefits, training, clothing equipment etc.) are borne jointly by the towns, shall be employees of the Town of Bethel and shall be under the sole supervision of the Bethel Town Manager, or his/her designee.
- b) The Town of Bethel shall be responsible for all employee-related actions including without limitation hiring, termination, discipline, training, determination of wage rates, determination of benefits, etc.

**13) Management of Facilities**

The day-to-day management of solid waste facilities located in one or more of the towns shall be the responsibility of the officials of the town within which the facility lies. This management shall be executed in accordance with the policies and agreements previously established by the SWR Board and ratified by the towns.

**14) Administration of Contracts**

The day-to-day administration of contracts which may be entered into jointly by the towns for the intent of achieving the purpose of this Agreement shall be primarily accomplished by the Bethel Town Manager, or other appropriate town official as circumstances dictate, in accordance with policies and agreements previously established by the SWR Board and ratified by the towns.

**15) Insurance**

Each town shall carry liability insurance at least to the limits covering the substantive areas of the Maine Tort Claims Act. Each town shall provide property and casualty insurance in its real estate, personal property, vehicles and equipment. Each town will name the other as an additional insured on applicable insurance policies. Each town will cooperate to make certain that insurance coverages are coordinated and that there are no gaps in coverage. Each town shall notify the other if its insurance coverage is modified or cancelled.

**16) Revisions of Agreement**

This agreement may be amended at any time in a non-substantive, or modestly substantive manner, through approval by each of the town's respective Select Boards.



**17) Termination of Agreement**

- a) This Agreement shall remain in effect indefinitely until the agreement is terminated by one of the towns.
- b) This Agreement may be terminated by action of the town's respective Boards, when termination date is mutually agreed upon.
- c) If less than three towns desire to terminate this Agreement, then those towns shall provide written notice of their decision which identifies a termination date not less than 60 days from date of notice. Those towns(s) desiring to terminate shall continue to pay their proportional share of operating costs for a period of one year following termination.
- d) If less than three towns desire to terminate this Agreement under procedures outlined in 17c, then those town(s) desiring to terminate shall not share in the distribution of funds from the liquidations of assets outlined in Section 10 of this Agreement.
- e) If less than three towns desire to terminate this Agreement, those towns in opposition, by action of their Boards, may waive conditions imposed by paragraphs 17c and 17d, if so, desired solely by those towns in opposition.

**18) Authorization of Agreement**

The towns shall ratify this agreement through individual town meeting action and their duly authorized representative(s) shall indicate said ratification by signature below:

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**TOWN OF BETHEL:**

Signature and Date

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**TOWN OF HANOVER:**

Signature and Date

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**TOWN OF NEWRY:**

Signature and Date



**TOWN OF BETHEL  
SECRET BALLOT ELECTION  
AND  
TOWN MEETING WARRANT**

Tuesday, June 10, 2025  
and  
Wednesday, June 11, 2025

Secret Ballot Election June 10, 2025, from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
American Legion Mundt-Allen Post 81  
85 Vernon Street, Bethel, Maine

>>>>>>>>>>>>>>

Town Meeting June 11, 2025  
6:00 p.m.  
Crescent Park School Gymnasium  
19 Crescent Street, Bethel, Maine

# TOWN OF BETHEL WARRANT

To Courtney McPherson, a resident of the Town of Bethel in the County of Oxford.

GREETINGS:

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Bethel, in said County and State, qualified by law to vote in Town affairs, to meet at the American Legion Mundt-Allen Post 81, 85 Vernon Street, in said Town on **Tuesday, the 10<sup>th</sup> day of June, A.D. 2025 at eight o'clock** in the forenoon, then and there to act upon **Article 1** and by secret ballot on **Article 2** as set out below; the polling hours therefore to be from **8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.**

And, to notify and warn said inhabitants to meet in person at the Crescent Park School Gymnasium, 19 Crescent Street in said Town on **Wednesday the 11<sup>th</sup> of June, A.D. 2025 at 6:00 p.m.**, then and there to act on **Article 3 through 52** as set out below, to wit:

- Article 1. To elect, by written ballot, a moderator to preside at said meeting.
- Article 2. To elect all Municipal Officers, Assessors, and School Board Directors as are required to be elected.

[illegible]

- Article 3. To see if the Town will vote to amend Code Chapter 140, §140-3 Applicability.
- A. This chapter shall apply to all development ~~proposals~~ involving new construction, change of use, the resumption of a use discontinued for more than 1 year, or substantial enlargement and/or alteration of the following: (1) Commercial, retail, industrial, institutional and recreational buildings, structures and uses and accessory structures and their uses.
- Article 4. To see if the Town will vote to amend Code Chapter 5, Administration, §5-55 Budget Committee.
- A. There shall be a ~~twelve-member~~ nine-member Budget Committee ...
- D. The Budget Committee shall ~~conducts~~ conduct its meetings, ...
- Article 5. To see if the Town will vote to approve the release of an abandoned sewer easement across certain property located on Vernon Street, known as Map 25, Lot 198, owned by Daniel Myers; and the conveyance of certain Town property on Vernon Street, known as Map 25, Lot 201A and formerly used for a pumping station, to Daniel Myers, in exchange for the Town's prior purchase of a portion of Lot 198 for the construction of a new pumping station.

- Article 6. To see if the Town will vote to adopt the updated Tri Town Solid Waste Interlocal Agreement between the Towns of Bethel, Hanover and Newry?  
Copy posted with warrant and available at Bethel Town Office.
- Article 7. To see if the Town will vote to continue having Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) picked up curbside and at dumpsters serviced by a hauling company at locations throughout Bethel, Hanover and Newry and to raise and appropriate up to \$300,000 to pay the MSW tipping fee. (Note: The customer will pay the hauling company for the curbside and dumpster service).
- Article 8. To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$100,000 from the Town's Undesignated Fund Balance to be used to purchase a Steel Deck Truck Scale with steel tread decking, site construction, excavation, concrete foundation, and electrical to perform all tasks for installation.  
Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend Approval.
- Article 9. To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$120,000 from the Town's Undesignated Fund Balance to be used to replace the Town Office roof and the clapboards at the back of the building.  
Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend Approval.
- Article 10. To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$125,000 from the Town's Undesignated Fund Balance to be used for moisture control maintenance in the Town Office basement.  
Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend Approval.
- Article 11. To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$50,000 from the Town's Undesignated Fund Balance for a Contingency account to be used for emergency purposes and to be approved by the Select Board when needed.  
Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend Approval.
- Article 12. To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$65,766 from the Town's Undesignated Fund Balance to clear the negative balance in the Cemetery Restoration account reported by the Auditors in Schedule G in the FY23 and FY24 audit in the Nonmajor Capital Project Funds.  
Auditor and Select Board Recommend Approval.
- Article 13. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$738,124 for the Administration Department. The Administration Department includes the Town Manager, Town Clerk, Assessor, Finance, Planning and CEO. (FY25: \$693,083).  
Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend Approval.
- Article 14. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,867 for the Animal Control Department. (FY25: \$14,829).  
Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend Approval.

- Article 15. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$673,865 for the Police Department (Oxford County Sheriff Services). (FY25: \$573,450).  
Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend Approval.
- Article 16. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$322,966 for the Fire Department. (FY25: \$305,730).  
Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend Approval.
- Article 17. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$617,849 for the Ambulance Department. (FY25: \$473,536).  
Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend Approval.
- Article 18. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$592,473 for the Solid Waste Department. (FY25: 825,955).  
Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend Approval.
- Article 19. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$781,859 for the Public Works Department. (FY25: \$768,710).  
Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend Approval.
- Article 20. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$35,965 for the Town Office Facility. (FY: \$25,585).  
Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend Approval.
- Article 21. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$27,460 for the Fire Station Facility. (FY25: \$29,175).  
Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend Approval.
- Article 22. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$22,300 for the Town Garage Facility. (FY25: \$17,300).  
Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend Approval.
- Article 23. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$19,670 for the Ambulance Building Facility. (FY25: \$19,395).  
Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend Approval.
- Article 24. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,000 for General Assistance. (FY25: \$4,000).  
Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend Approval.
- Article 25. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$77,344 for the Recreation Department. (FY25: \$75,220).  
Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend Approval.

- Article 26. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,007 for Angevine Park. (FY25: \$14,320).  
Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend Approval.
- Article 27. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$17,735 for the Fountain, Park, and Cemetery. (FY25: \$18,030).  
Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend Approval.
- Article 28. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,500 for the Bethel Library. (FY25: \$20,500).  
Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend Approval.
- Article 29. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000 for the Museums of the Bethel Historical Society for operations. (FY25: \$15,000).  
Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend Approval.
- Article 30. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$600 for the Museums of the Bethel Historical Society for a band for the July 4<sup>th</sup> Picnic. (FY25: \$600).  
Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend Approval.
- Article 31. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 for the Food Pantry District Exchange. (FY25: \$19,520).  
Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend Approval.
- Article 32. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000 for Project Graduation. (FY25: \$1,000).  
Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend Approval.
- Article 33. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,200 for the Age Friendly Community Initiative (AFCI). (FY25: \$1,000).  
Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend Approval.
- Article 34. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,000 for Seniors Plus. (FY25: \$4,000).  
Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend Approval.
- Article 35. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,900 for Community Concepts. (FY25: \$4,900).  
Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend Approval.
- Article 36. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$52,200 for Municipal Property & Casualty Insurance. (FY25: \$45,100).  
Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend Approval.

Article 37. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$623,590 for Employee Benefits. (FY25: \$648,658).

Health Insurance	\$353,442
Worker's Compensation	\$ 49,125
Unemployment Insurance	\$ 1,000
Social Security/FICA	\$124,877
Paid Family Medical Leave	\$ 8,162
MEPERS Retirement	\$ 85,414
FD Accident & Sickness Ins.	<u>\$ 1,570</u>
	\$623,590

Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend Approval.

Article 38. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$282,688 for the Airport Department. (FY25: \$305,987).

Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend Approval.

Article 39. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,283,850 for Capital Improvements. (FY25: \$875,000).

PWD Vehicle Reserve	\$ 50,000
PWD Buildings & Grounds Reserve	\$ 50,000
PWD Equipment Reserve	\$ 50,000
TS Buildings & Grounds Reserve	\$ 10,000
Rescue Vehicle & Equipment Reserve	\$ 100,000
Rescue Buildings & Grounds Reserve	\$ 30,000
Fire Dept Vehicle Reserve	\$ 50,000
Fire Dept Equipment Reserve	\$ 15,000
Fire Dept Equipment & Grounds Reserve	\$ 50,000
Town Office Building & Grounds Reserve	\$ 150,000
Airport Equipment/Building/Grounds Reserve	\$ 25,000
Town Share of MEDOT Sidewalk Grants	\$ 50,000
Town Share of FAA/MEDOT Grant Reserve	\$ 94,850
Replace Gazebo Roof	\$ 12,000
Repair Bell Tower	\$ 6,000
Basketball Court Reserve	\$ 15,000
Office Equipment Reserve	\$ 15,000
Revaluation Reserve	\$ 50,000
Records Restoration Reserve	\$ 1,500
Cemetery Restoration Reserve	\$ 10,000
Road Improvements	\$ 400,000
Drainage Improvements	\$ 44,500
Sidewalk Maintenance	\$ 5,000
<b>Total Capital Improvements</b>	<b>\$1,283,850</b>

Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend Approval.



- Article 40. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and spend the overlay generated during the 2026 fiscal year to pay for tax abatements.
- Article 41. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board or the Town Manager, acting in concurrence with said Select Board, to accept and expend, on behalf of the Town, Federal and/or State funds which may be received, from time to time, in the form of grants or for any other purpose, including, but not limited to Municipal Revenue Sharing, Local Road Assistance, State Aid to Education, State Aid per capita, Civil Emergency Funds, Snowmobiling Registration money, Tree Growth Reimbursement money, General Assistance Reimbursement, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Economic Development Administration (EDA) grants, Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) grants, Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) grants, U.S. Fire Administration grants, and to act on anything relative thereto.
- Article 42. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer to waive the automatic 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 the 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 interest.
- Article 43. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to make final determinations regarding the closing or opening of roads for winter maintenance pursuant to 23 M.R.S. § 2953.
- Article 44. To see if the Town will vote to establish the rate of interest at 3.5% for those who have received an abatement or have overpaid their taxes for the fiscal year 2025-2026 pursuant to 36 M.R.S. §506-A.
- Article 45. To see if the Town will permit the Tax Collector or the designee to waive unintentional tax interest payment shortages in an amount not to exceed \$5.00.
- Article 46. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector to accept prepayments of taxes not yet committed and to pay no interest on those prepayments in accordance with 36 M.R.S. §506.
- Article 47. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to spend unexpended, Fiscal Year 2025 and any other previous years, Capital Improvement Road Funds, to fund remaining projects on the Road Improvement List.
- Article 48. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the franchise fees received from the cable companies to Western Hills Access Television (W.H.A.T.) to broadcast local content and continue to keep the station running for the benefit of the Greater Community.

Article 49. To see if the Town will appropriate 100% of State snowmobile refund to the Greenstock Snow Sports Snowmobile Club for the purpose of maintaining snowmobile trails connecting West Bethel to Bryant Pond and beyond. Such maintenance is to be performed only with the landowners' permission and only on trails that are open for public use.

Note: Estimate \$1,000.

Article 50. To see if the Town will appropriate from Undesignated Fund balance the overdrafts to Town Accounts as of June 30, 2025.

Article 51. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$400,000 from its Undesignated Fund balance to reduce the FY2026 property tax commitment.

Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend Approval.

Article 52. To see if the Town will accept *estimated* revenues, including, but not limited to, federal, state, local, non-property tax revenues, and undesignated donations, to reduce the FY2026 property tax commitment, as described below.

<u>Category</u>	<u>Estimated 2026</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Estimated 2026</u>
Auto Excise	\$700,000	Airport Snow Removal	\$ 9,000
Interest on Taxes	\$ 20,000	Airport Hangar Leases	\$ 8,000
Investment Interest	\$ 60,000	Airport Misc Revenue	\$ 1,000
Town Clerk Fees	\$ 6,000	Maine Energy Mortgage	\$ 41,388
Animal Control Fees	\$ 600	Airport Gas	\$ 65,000
RV Reg Fees	\$ 700	Ambulance Revenue	\$200,000
Auto Reg Fees	\$ 16,000	Ambulance Fees	\$ 15,000
Plumbing Permits	\$ 15,000	Fire Service Fees	\$ 30,000
Building Permits	\$ 25,000	LRAP	\$ 70,000
Planning Board Fees	\$ 2,000	Solid Waste Service Fees	\$250,000
Cannabis Permits	\$ 5,000	Recreation Fees	\$ 15,000
General Assistance	\$ 3,000	Veteran's Exempt	\$ 1,000
Tree Growth	\$ 25,000	Recycling Fees	\$ 10,000
Gould Academy Donation	\$ 11,000		
Total Estimated Anticipated Revenues			\$1,604,688

Given under our hands this 21st day of May 2025.

**SELECT BOARD**

Michele Varuolo Cole Michele Varuolo Cole

Meryl Kelly Meryl Kelly

Frank Del Duca Frank Del Duca


Sarah Southam Sarah Southam

Patricia McCartney Patricia McCartney

## RESIDENT'S RETURN

I certify that I have notified the voters of the Town of Bethel of the time and place of the Annual Town Meeting/Secret Ballot Election, **June 10 and 11, 2025**, by posting an attested copy of the Town Meeting warrant at the Bethel Town Office being public and conspicuous within the Town of Bethel, on **June 2, 2025**, which is at least 7 days prior to the start date of the Annual Town Meeting/Secret Ballot Election.

Signed this 2nd day of June 2025.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Courtney McPherson  
Resident of Bethel

True Copy:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy Walker, Interim Town Clerk



Department	FY2025	FY2026 PROPOSED BUDGET	% Increase Decrease	\$ Increase Decrease
General Gov - Administration, Town Manager, Town Clerk, Assessor, Finance, Planning, CEO	\$ 693,083	\$ 738,124	6.5%	\$ 45,041
Protection - Animal Control	\$ 14,829	\$ 10,867	-26.7%	\$ (3,962)
Protection - Police	\$ 573,450	\$ 673,865	17.5%	\$ 100,415
Protection - Fire Dept	\$ 305,730	\$ 322,966	5.6%	\$ 17,236
Protection - Ambulance Dept	\$ 473,536	\$ 617,849	30.5%	\$ 144,313
Public Safety - Solid Waste	\$ 825,955	\$ 592,473	-28.3%	\$ (233,482)
Public Safety - PWD	\$ 768,710	\$ 781,859	1.7%	\$ 13,149
Municipal Facilities - Town Office	\$ 25,585	\$ 35,965	40.6%	\$ 10,380
Municipal Facilities - Fire Station	\$ 29,175	\$ 27,460	-5.9%	\$ (1,715)
Municipal Facilities - Town Garage	\$ 17,300	\$ 22,300	28.9%	\$ 5,000
Municipal Facilities - Ambulance Bldg	\$ 19,395	\$ 19,670	1.4%	\$ 275
General Assistance - GA	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	0.0%	\$ -
Recreation	\$ 75,220	\$ 77,344	2.8%	\$ 2,124
Angevine Park	\$ 14,320	\$ 15,007	4.8%	\$ 687
Fountain, Park, Cemetery	\$ 18,030	\$ 17,735	-1.6%	\$ (295)
Contributions - Local	\$ 59,620	\$ 58,300	-2.2%	\$ (1,320)
Contributions - Agencies	\$ 11,612	\$ 8,900	-23.4%	\$ (2,712)
Employee Benefits	\$ 648,658	\$ 623,590	-3.9%	\$ (25,067)
Municipal Insurance	\$ 45,100	\$ 52,200	15.7%	\$ 7,100
Capital Expenditures - CIP	\$ 875,500	\$ 1,283,850	46.6%	\$ 408,350
Debt Service	\$ 100,460	\$ -	-100.0%	\$ (100,460)
Airport	\$ 305,987	\$ 282,688	-7.6%	\$ (23,299)
<b>Total Municipal Appropriations</b>	<b>\$ 5,905,255</b>	<b>\$ 6,267,012</b>	<b>6.1%</b>	<b>\$ 361,757</b>
Misc Accts - Oxford County Taxes	\$ 842,608	\$ 1,241,274	47.3%	\$ 398,666
Misc Accts - MSAD 44	\$ 4,332,897	\$ 4,776,041	10.2%	\$ 443,144
<b>Total with County / MSAD44</b>	<b>\$ 11,080,760</b>	<b>\$ 12,284,327</b>	<b>10.9%</b>	<b>\$ 1,203,567</b>

