

WARRANT

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

JUNE 13 AND 14, 2023

JULY 1, 2023 - JUNE 30, 2024

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 voters of the Town of Bethel, in said County, qualified by law to vote in Town affairs, to meet at **MUNDT ALLEN POST #81 IN SAID TOWN ON TUESDAY, JUNE 13, 2023 AT 8:00 A.M.** in the forenoon, then and there to act upon the following articles to wit:

ARTICLE 1:

To choose a Moderator to preside at said meeting.

ARTICLE 2:

To choose by ballot: TWO Selectmen for three year terms, TWO Assessor, for three year terms, ONE Assessor, for two year terms. TWO Bethel School Board Directors for three year terms, ONE Greenwood School Director for a three year term, ONE Newry School Director for a three year term, and ONE Woodstock School Director for a three year term.

The polls will remain open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Following the announcement of the election results the meeting will be adjourned to:

WEDNESDAY, June 14, 2023  
6:00 P.M.  
CRESCENT PARK SCHOOL GYMNASIUM

ARTICLE 3:

To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter 5 Administration Ordinance §5-42 (B) Town Manager and Finance of the Town Code?

**ARTICLE 4:**

To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter 6 Building Requirements, §6-96 Other Requirements of the Town Code?

**ARTICLE 5:**

To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter 140 Site Plan review, §140-6: Waivers: modifications of approved plans: expiration of approval; multiple use buildings of the Town Code?

**ARTICLE 6:**

To see if the Town will vote to allow the Town of Bethel to take over the East Bethel Cemetery and authorize the Board of Selectmen to make expenditures necessary for the ongoing care and maintenance of the cemetery and take all other action that the Board deems necessary in regard thereto?

**ARTICLE 7:**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to spend unexpended FY2023, and any other previous years, Capital Improvement Road Funds to fund remaining projects on the Road Improvement List.

**ARTICLE 8:**

To see if the Town will vote to approve the Fiscal Year 2024 Airport Budget in the amount of \$243,220.

**SELECTMEN AND AIRPORT AUTHORITY RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 243,220**

**ARTICLE 9:**

To see if the Town will vote to use the overlay for abatements on real estate taxes.

**ARTICLE 10:**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept and spend grants, donations and aid from State and Federal Agencies, as well as private sources such as individuals, trusts and foundations.

**ARTICLE 11:**

To see if the Town will vote to fix dates when property taxes will be due and payable, and see if the Town will fix a rate of interest on property taxes unpaid after said dates.

**SELECTMEN RECOMMEND:** Taxes will be due and payable in two equal installments, October 2, 2023 and April 1, 2024, and interest will be charged on any unpaid amounts at a rate of 8% (annual) as of November 3, 2023 and May 2, 2024.

**ARTICLE 12:**

To see if the Town will vote to ratify the actions of estimated overdrafts in the Fiscal Year 2023 budget.

<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>OVERDRAFTS</u>
Administration	
Town Clerk	
Assessors	
Finance Office	
Planning & Development	
Police Department	
Fire Department	
Ambulance Service	
Solid Waste	
Public Works	
Cole Block	
Fire Station	
Town Garage	
Greenleaf Station	
General Assistance	
Recreation	
Angevine Park	
Fountain, Park & Cemeteries	
Contributions – Local	
Contributions - Agencies	
Employee Benefits	
Municipal Insurance	
Capital Improvements	
Debt Service	
TOTAL \$0	

**ARTICLE 13:**

To see if the Town will vote to accept estimated federal, state, and local non-property tax revenues, and designated donations, to reduce the FY24 property tax commitment, as described below:

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>APPROVED FY2023</u>	<u>ESTIMATED FOR FY2024</u>	<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>APPROVED FY2023</u>	<u>ESTIMATED FOR FY2024</u>
Auto Excise Tax	600,000	<b>700,000</b>	Copy Fees	200	<b>100</b>
Boat Excise Tax	2,500	<b>2,500</b>	Planning Board Fees	1,200	<b>1,200</b>
Excise Fees/State	3,800	<b>3,800</b>	Sewer/Airport Support Fees	16,000	<b>16,000</b>
Town Clerk	6,000	<b>6,000</b>	General Gov't Misc.	500	<b>600</b>
Auto Registration Fees	15,000	<b>18,000</b>	Returned Check Fees	100	<b>100</b>
RV Registration Fees	600	<b>600</b>	Rental Utilities	375	<b>375</b>
Street Opening Permits	200	<b>100</b>	Animal Control Fees	1,000	<b>771</b>
Plumbing Permits	9,500	<b>11,000</b>	Fire Services (UT)	31,000	<b>31,000</b>
Sunday River Annual Lease	8,000	<b>8,000</b>	Transfer Station Fees	6,000	<b>6,500</b>
Building Permits	10,000	<b>18,000</b>	Ambulance Service Fees	10,200	<b>10,300</b>
Loan Proceeds	15,800	<b>15,800</b>	Ambulance Revenues	150,000	<b>150,000</b>
Shoreland Zoning Permits	50	<b>50</b>	Solid Waste Service Fees	204,000	<b>204,000</b>
Sign Permits	100	<b>100</b>	Waste Materials Rev.	7,000	<b>10,000</b>
Auto Graveyard Permits	150	<b>100</b>	Recreation	7,000	<b>12,000</b>
Marijuana Business License	5,000	<b>5,500</b>	Town Common Fees	300	<b>300</b>
Snowmobile Registrations	1,500	<b>1,211</b>	Public Works Misc.	1,500	<b>1,500</b>
Local Roads Assistances	60,000	<b>60,000</b>	Tax Acquired Proceeds	0	<b>1,000</b>
General Assistance Reim	1,750	<b>1,750</b>	Interest on Taxes	35,000	<b>35,000</b>
Veterans, Homestead & Tree Growth	120,000	<b>165,809</b>	State Bete Reimbursement	48,333	<b>50,000</b>
State Revenue Sharing	200,000	<b>300,000</b>	Investment Interest	4,000	<b>12,000</b>
State Snowmobile Gant	30,000	<b>30,000</b>	Cole Block Rents	6,480	<b>6,480</b>
Renewable Energy	0	<b>23,799</b>	Payment in Lieu of Taxes	11,000	<b>11,000</b>
			Other Miscl.	15,000	<b>20,000</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>1,646,138</b>	<b>1,952,345</b>

**ARTICLE 14:**

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for ADMINISTRATION in FY24:

Fiscal Year 2023  
\$238,175

Fiscal Year 2024  
\$243,650

**SELECTMEN AND BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND \$ 243,650**

**ARTICLE 15:**

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for operation of the TOWN CLERK DEPARTMENT in FY24:

Fiscal Year 2023  
\$109,377

Fiscal Year 2024  
\$180,261

**SELECTMEN AND BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND \$180,261**

**ARTICLE 16:**

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for operation of the ASSESSORS DEPARTMENT in FY24:

Fiscal Year 2023  
\$56,743

Fiscal Year 2024  
\$57,048

**SELECTMEN AND BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND \$57,048**

**ARTICLE 17:**

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for operation of the FINANCE DEPARTMENT in FY24:

Fiscal Year 2023  
\$118,213

Fiscal Year 2024  
\$128,521

**SELECTMEN AND BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND \$ 128,521**

**ARTICLE 18:**

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for operation of the PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT in FY24:

Fiscal Year 2023  
\$93,734

Fiscal Year 2024  
\$90,085

**SELECTMEN AND BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND \$90,085**

**ARTICLE 19:**

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for operation of POLICE SERVICES in FY24:

Fiscal Year 2023

\$392,958

Fiscal Year 2024

\$431,404

**SELECTMEN RECOMMED \$8,500 AND BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND \$431,404 (\$8,500 for Animal Control and \$422,904 for the Oxford County Sheriff services)**

**ARTICLE 20:**

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for operation of the FIRE DEPARTMENT in FY24:

Fiscal Year 2023

\$269,401

Fiscal Year 2024

\$270,761

**SELECTMEN AND BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND \$270,761**

**ARTICLE 21:**

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for operation of the AMBULANCE SERVICE in FY24:

Fiscal Year 2023

\$ 367,319

Fiscal Year 2024

\$411,294

**SELECTMEN AND BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND \$411,294**

**ARTICLE 22:**

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for operation of the SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT program in FY24:

Fiscal Year 2023

\$672,877

Fiscal Year 2024

\$670,969

**SELECTMEN AND BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND \$670,969**

**ARTICLE 23:**

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for operation of the PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT in FY24:

Fiscal Year 2023  
\$719,083

Fiscal Year 2024  
\$782,558

**SELECTMEN AND BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND \$782,558**

**ARTICLE 24:**

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for operation of the COLE BLOCK in FY24:

Fiscal Year 2023  
\$31,060

Fiscal Year 2024  
\$28,925

**SELECTMEN AND BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND \$28,925**

**ARTICLE 25:**

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for operation of the FIRE STATION in FY24:

Fiscal Year 2023  
\$39,720

Fiscal Year 2024  
\$29,760

**SELECTMEN AND BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND \$29,760**

**ARTICLE 26:**

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for operation of the TOWN GARAGE in FY24:

Fiscal Year 2023  
\$38,600

Fiscal Year 2024  
\$28,600

**SELECTMEN AND BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND \$28,600**

**ARTICLE 27:**

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for operation of GREENLEAF STATION in FY24:

Fiscal Year 2023  
\$21,680

Fiscal Year 2024  
\$29,180

**SELECTMEN AND BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND \$29,180**

**ARTICLE 28**

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for operation of the GENERAL ASSISTANCE program in FY24:

Fiscal Year 2023  
\$6,000

Fiscal Year 2024  
\$3,000

**SELECTMEN AND BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND \$3,000**

**ARTICLE 29:**

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for operation of the RECREATION BOARD in FY24:

Fiscal Year 2023  
\$59,900

Fiscal Year 2023  
\$67,260

**SELECTMEN AND BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND \$67,260**

**ARTICLE 30:**

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for operation of ANGEVINE PARK in FY24:

Fiscal Year 2023  
\$13,543

Fiscal Year 2024  
\$13,623

**SELECTMEN AND BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND \$13,623**



**ARTICLE 31:**

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for operation of FOUNTAIN, PARK & CEMETERY in FY24:

Fiscal Year 2023

\$23,150

Fiscal Year 2024

\$30,550

**SELECTMEN AND BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND \$30,550**

**ARTICLE 36:**

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for CONTRIBUTIONS - LOCAL in FY24:

Fiscal Year 2023

Fiscal Year 2024

1,000	5th Grade Trip to Boston	1000
19,500	Bethel Library	20500
1,400	Memorial Day	1400
12,900	WHAT TV	17500
500	Independence Day Band	600
2,000	Independence Day Fireworks	2000
5,000	Summer Fest & Summer Fireworks	5000
1,298	Snowmobile Trails	1212
4,000	Winter Decorations	4000
1,000	Project Graduation	0
30,000	Municipal Allocation for Snowmobile Grant	30000
2,500	WHAT TV Equipment	0
1,000	Haileys Hugs Go Gold	1000
1,000	Age Friendly Community Initiative	1000
850	Art Fair/ BAAM	850
0	Western Maine Cancer Resource Center	500
0	Museum of Bethel Historical Society	15000
0	Bethel Area Dist. Exchange/ Food Pantry	25256.32
82,948	TOTALS	126,818.32

**SELECTMEN RECOMMEND \$123,818.32**

**BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND \$ 124,818.32**

**ARTICLE 37:**

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for MUNICIPAL INSURANCE in FY24:

Fiscal Year 2023  
\$56,513

Fiscal Year 2024  
\$56,513

**SELECTMEN AND BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND \$56,513**

**ARTICLE 38:**

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for DEBT SERVICE in FY24:

Fiscal Year 2023  
\$99,671

Fiscal Year 2024  
\$100,151

**SELECTMEN AND BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND \$100,151**

**ARTICLE 39:**

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to appropriate from its undesignated fund balance to reduce the FY24 property tax commitment:

**SELECTMEN AND BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND \$300,000**

ARTICLE 42:


To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS in FY24:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Fiscal Year</u> <u>2023</u>	<u>Fiscal Year</u> <u>2024</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Fiscal Year</u> <u>2023</u>	<u>Fiscal Year</u> <u>2024</u>
Fire Department Pumper Reserve	75,000	465,000	Rte 2 Sidewalk	0	57,000
Replace roller w/ newer model	0	15,000	North Rd. (.125)	0	65,000
DPW Garage Reserve	50,000	50,000	North Rd (.69)	0	70,000
Revaluation Reserve	10,000	10,000	North Rd. (1.04)	0	130,000
Records Restoration Reserve	1,500	1,500	Chapman Hill Rd (.32)	0	34,000
Cardiac Monitor Reserve	44,000	50,000	Gibson Rd. (.26)	0	20,000
Cole Block Upgrades	40,000	40,000	Lincoln St. (.10)	0	16,000
Sidewalk Maintenance	5,000	5,000	Cross St. (.25)	0	30,000
Drainage Improvements	20,000	10,000	Mechanic St. Ext. (.09)	0	15,000
DPW Truck #1	50,000	50,000			
Rescue Garage Land	0	10,000			
Cover Bridge Roof Replacement	0	15,000			
Skillings Rd paving	0	55,000			


TOTAL

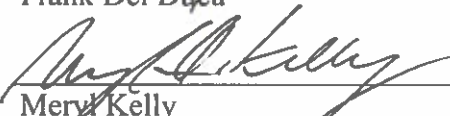
FY23=\$1,070,700 FY24=\$1,213,500  
(not all FY23 projects are listed)


Given under our hands this SEVENTEENTH day of MAY, 2023

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lloyd W. Sweetser

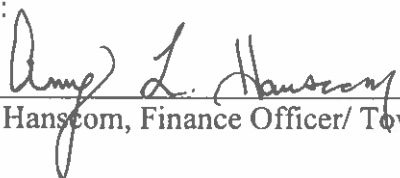
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lon T. Swain

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Frank Del Duca

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Meryl Kelly

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Patricia McCartney

Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Amy Hanscom, Finance Officer/ Town Clerk

RESIDENT'S RETURN

Pursuant to the within warrant, to me directed, I have notified and warned the Inhabitants of Bethel, in the County of Oxford and State of Maine, qualified by law to vote in town affairs, to assemble at the time and place and for the purpose within named by posting up on the eighteenth day of May, 2023, an attested copy of the within warrant at the Town Office being public and conspicuous place in the Town of Bethel.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Courtney McPherson, Resident