

Mark Robinson, Town Clerk

# MINUTES

## TOWN OF FAYETTE SECRET BALLOT ELECTION AND TOWN MEETING WARRANT

Tuesday, June 11, 2024

To: Crystal Rose, a resident of the Town of Fayette, in the County of Kennebec, State of Maine:

### GREETINGS:

In the name of the State of Maine, you are required to notify and warn the voters in the Town of Fayette in the County of Kennebec, in the State of Maine, qualified by law to vote in Town affairs, to meet at the Starling Hall at 2769 Main Street in Fayette, June 11th, 2024, at 8:00 a.m., there and then to act on the following Article 1 and by secret ballot on Article 2 as set out below, the polling hours therefore to be from eight o'clock in the forenoon until eight o'clock in the afternoon;

And, to notify and warn said inhabitants to meet at 2023 Main Street in Fayette at the Fayette Central School in said Town on Thursday, the 13<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2024, at six o'clock in the afternoon to then and there to act on Articles 3 through 41 as set out below, to wit:

**ARTICLE 1** To choose a moderator to preside at said meeting.

**Tom Saviello from Wilton, Maine was elected as moderator.**

**ARTICLE 2** To proceed with the voting, by secret ballot, as directed by statute, on the election of Town Officers for the ensuing year(s) – One to the office of Selectman/Assessor/Overseer of the Poor for a three-year term; Two School Committee Members for a three-year term.

#### **Board of Selectmen –**

##### **Three Year Term (Vote for 1)**

Selectman, Assessor and Overseer of the Poor

Curtis 165

#### **School Committee –**

##### **Three Year Term (Vote for 2)**

Kristen Laverdiere 170

By Write-In Richard Darling 23

**ARTICLE 3** To see if the Town of Fayette will vote to lapse all balances into the undesignated fund balance (surplus) with the exception of those special revenue accounts which must be carried forward by law.

Note: This applies to federally funded school programs and from year to year other federal and state funded programs for municipal operations.

**Budget Committee Recommends: YES**  
**Selectmen Recommends: YES**  
**VOTE: YES**

**SUGGESTED SCHOOL BUDGET ARTICLES TO APPROPRIATE MONIES FOR THE FISCAL  
YEAR 2024-2025**

**ARTICLES PURSUANT TO 20-A M.R.S.A. SECTION 1485**

**Cost Center Summary Budget Format**

**ARTICLE 4** To see what sum the Fayette School Department will be authorized to expend for Regular Instruction.

Elementary Education Pre-K – Grade 8	\$ 844,268
Secondary Education	\$ 494,312
Gifted & Talented	\$ 13,048

**School Committee Recommends \$1,351,628**  
**Budget Committee Recommends \$1,351,628**  
**Selectmen Recommends \$1,351,628**  
**VOTE: YES**

**ARTICLE 5** To see what sum the Fayette School Department will be authorized to expend for Special Education.

Elementary Education Pre-K – Grade 5	\$ 151,589
Middle School	\$ 70,302
High School	\$ 106,462
Special Education Administration	\$ 36,134
Special Services	\$ 40,000

**School Committee Recommends \$404,487**  
**Budget Committee Recommends \$404,487**  
**Selectmen Recommends \$404,487**  
**VOTE: YES**

**ARTICLE 6** To see what sum the Fayette School Department will be authorized to expend for Career and Technical Education.

**School Committee Recommends \$0**  
**Budget Committee Recommends \$0**  
**Selectmen Recommends \$0**  
**VOTE: YES**

**ARTICLE 7** To see what sum the Fayette School Department will be authorized to expend for Other Instruction.

**School Committee Recommends \$0**  
**Budget Committee Recommends \$0**  
**Selectmen Recommends \$0**  
**VOTE: YES**

**ARTICLE 8** To see what sum the Fayette School Department will be authorized to expend for Student and Staff Support.

Guidance	\$ 4,500
Health Services	\$ 20,189
Improvement of Instruction	\$ 1,176
Library Services	\$ 7,893
Technology	\$ 118,412
Student Assessments	\$ 2,000

**School Committee Recommends \$154,170**  
**Budget Committee Recommends \$154,170**  
**Selectmen Recommends \$154,170**  
**VOTE: YES**

**ARTICLE 9** To see what sum the Fayette School Department will be authorized to expend for System Administration.

School Committee	\$ 24,374
Superintendent's Office	\$ 103,930

**School Committee Recommends \$128,304**  
**Budget Committee Recommends \$128,304**  
**Selectmen Recommends \$128,304**  
**VOTE: YES**

**ARTICLE 10** To see what sum the Fayette School Department will be authorized to expend for School Administration. (P)

**School Committee Recommends \$106,944**  
**Budget Committee Recommends \$106,944**  
**Selectmen Recommends \$106,944**  
**VOTE: YES**

**ARTICLE 11** To see what sum the Fayette School Department will be authorized to expend for Transportation and Buses.

**School Committee Recommends \$161,689**  
**Budget Committee Recommends \$161,689**  
**Selectmen Recommends \$161,689**  
**VOTE: YES**

**ARTICLE 12** To see what sum the Fayette School Department will be authorized to expend for Facilities Maintenance.

**School Committee Recommends \$223,659**  
**Budget Committee Recommends \$223,659**  
**Selectmen Recommends \$223,659**  
**VOTE: YES**

**ARTICLE 13** To see what sum the Fayette School Department will be authorized to expend for Debt Service and Other Commitments.

**School Committee Recommends \$23,511**  
**Budget Committee Recommends \$23,511**  
**Selectmen Recommends \$23,511**  
**VOTE: YES**

**ARTICLE 14** To see what sum the Fayette School Department will be authorized to expend for All Other Expenditures Food Service.

**School Committee Recommends \$65,344**  
**Budget Committee Recommends \$65,344**  
**Selectmen Recommends \$65,344**  
**VOTE: YES**

**ARTICLES PURSUANT TO 20-A M.R.S.A. Section 15690**

**PLEASE NOTE:**

*Actions taken pursuant to items 1 – 3 must be taken by a recorded vote.*

**1. Fayette School Department Contribution to Total Cost of Funding Public Education from Kindergarten to Grade 12 (as required by Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, §15690(1 A-B)):**

**ARTICLE 15** To see what sum the Town of Fayette will appropriate for the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and to see what sum the municipality will raise as the municipality's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15688.

**School Committee Recommends \$1,308,443**  
**Budget Committee Recommends \$1,308,443**  
**Selectmen Recommends \$1,308,443**  
**VOTE: 106 YES – 4 NO**

*“Explanation: The Fayette School Department’s contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act is the amount of money determined by state law to be the minimum amount that a municipality must raise in order to receive the full amount of state dollars.”*

**2. Appropriation of Additional Local Funds (as required by Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, §15690 (3 A-B)):**

**ARTICLE 16** Shall the Town of Fayette raise and appropriate \$772,524 in additional local funds, which exceeds the State’s Essential Programs and Services allocation model by \$772,524 as required to fund the budget recommended by the Fayette School Committee.

The Fayette School Committee recommends \$772,524 for additional local funds and gives the following reasons for exceeding the State’s Essential Programs and Services funding model by \$772,524.

*Explanation: The additional local funds are those locally raised funds over and above the Fayette School Department’s local contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and local amounts raised for the annual payment on non-state funded debt service that will help achieve the (municipality/district) budget for educational programs.*

**School Committee Recommends \$772,524**  
**Budget Committee Recommends \$772,524**  
**Selectmen Recommends \$772,524**  
**101 YES – 10 NO**

**3. Total Budget Article (as required by Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, §15690 (4A)) :**

**ARTICLE 17** To see what sum the Town of Fayette will authorize the Fayette School Committee to expend for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025 from the Fayette School Department's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act, non-state-funded school construction projects, additional local funds for school purposes under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15690, unexpended balances, tuition receipts, state subsidy and other receipts for the support of schools.

**School Committee Recommends \$2,619,736**  
**Budget Committee Recommends \$2,619,736**  
**Selectmen Recommends \$2,619,736**  
**VOTE: 101 YES – 9 NO**

**ARTICLE 18** In addition to the amounts approved in the preceding articles, shall the Fayette School Committee be authorized to accept and expend federal or state funds and such other sums as may be received from federal or state grants or programs or other sources during the fiscal year for school purposes, provided that such grants, programs or other sources do not require the expenditure of other funds not previously anticipated.

**School Committee Recommends YES**  
**Budget Committee Recommends YES**  
**Selectmen Recommends YES**  
**VOTE: YES**

**ARTICLE 19** Shall the school committee be authorized to accept all additional monies from the State Legislature to offset local taxes.

**School Committee Recommends YES**  
**Budget Committee Recommends YES**  
**Selectmen Recommends YES**  
**VOTE: YES**

**ARTICLE 20** To see if the Town of Fayette will authorize the School Committee to transfer up to \$125,000 from the schools undesignated fund balance to add a back-up heating system.

**School Committee Recommends \$125,000**  
**Budget Committee Recommends \$125,000**  
**Selectmen Recommends \$125,000**  
**VOTE: YES**

**SUGGESTED TOWN ARTICLES FOR BUDGET TO APPROPRIATE MONIES AND OTHER BUSINESS ARTICLES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025**

**ARTICLE 21** To see if the Town shall accept and appropriate the categories of estimated funds listed below to reduce the 2024-2025 Property Tax Commitment:

Vehicle Excise Taxes	\$313,000
Supplemental Taxes	\$10,000
Interest on Taxes	\$12,000
Homestead Reimbursement	\$125,000
Investment Income	\$85,000
Building Permit Fees/Fines	\$3,000
Clerk & Agent Office Fees	\$6,425
Tree Growth Reimbursement	\$40,000
Veteran's Exemption Reimbursement	\$2,000
Property Sale	\$5,000
State Revenue Sharing	\$220,782
Workers Comp Ins Proceeds	\$2,100
Local Road Assistance	\$44,000

*Explanation: The list of municipal revenues and estimated collections above serve as non-tax and previously raised revenue to be used to reduce the amount necessary to raise and appropriate through taxation. Current tax rate is \$13.35 per \$1,000 of assessment.*

**Budget Committee Recommends: YES**  
**Selectmen Recommends: YES**  
**VOTE: YES**

**ARTICLE 22** To see if the Town will vote to transfer excise tax money, sum not to exceed \$1,000 received from the sale of snowmobile registrations from the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to the Fayette Ridge Riders Snowmobile Association.

**Budget Committee Recommends: YES**  
**Selectmen Recommends: YES**  
**VOTE: YES**

**ARTICLE 23** To see if the Town will vote to transfer collected excise tax money, sum not to exceed \$3,000 received from the sale of boat registrations from the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to the 30 Mile River Watershed Association.

**Budget Committee Recommends: YES**  
**Selectmen Recommends: YES**  
**VOTE: YES**

**ARTICLE 24** Shall the Town of Fayette adopt the “Fayette Short-term Rental Licensing Ordinance” as described in attachment A

**Selectmen Recommends: 3 in favor 1 opposed (Holman)**  
**VOTE: TABLED TO END OF MEETING, THEN 55 YES - 52 NO**

**ARTICLE 25** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation the sum of \$419,721 to support the General Government budget. Total expense to authorize \$419,721.

MUNICIPAL EXPENDITURES	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
	BUDGET	BUDGET	BUDGET	BUDGET	BUDGET	BUDGET	PROPOSED
General Government	\$293,510	\$303,455	\$303,455	\$409,693	\$387,179	\$407,670	\$419,721

Estimated Summary of Accounts:		Last Year	Proposed
Selectmen Stipend		\$3,750	\$3,000
Selectmen Payroll Tax		\$287	\$390
Town Manager Payroll		\$70,005	\$72,100
Town Manager Payroll Tax		\$5,355	\$9,120
Town Manager Health Ins.		\$27,518	\$27,518
Town Office Staff Payroll		\$86,605	\$89,203
Town Office Payroll Tax		\$6,626	\$11,284
Town Office Health Ins.		\$33,514	\$33,514
Code Enforcement Payroll		\$26,426	\$27,219
Code Enforcement Payroll Tax		\$2,022	\$3,443
Training		\$300	\$300
General Operations		\$45,852	\$43,400
Assessing		\$26,850	\$28,200
Record Preservation/Mapping		\$1,600	\$2,000
Elections		\$2,500	\$2,816
General Assistance		\$3,000	\$3,000
Senior Spectrum		\$500	\$500
Legal Services		\$5,000	\$3,000
Audit		\$8,000	\$9,000
Town Office Heating Fuel		\$1,500	\$750
Starling Hall		\$4,560	\$4,100
KVCOG memberships		\$2,500	\$2,390
MMA memberships		\$2,500	\$2,753
Insurance		\$40,500	\$40,500
Veteran’s Memorial		\$400	\$400

**Budget Committee Recommends: \$420,566**  
**Selectmen Recommends: \$419,721**  
**VOTE: YES**



**ARTICLE 26** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation the sum of \$113,780 to support the Public Safety budget. Total expense to authorize \$113,780.

MUNICIPAL EXPENDITURES	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
	BUDGET	BUDGET	BUDGET	BUDGET	BUDGET	BUDGET	PROPOSED
Public Safety	\$86,676	\$88,012	\$88,012	\$136,584	\$107,323	\$112,379	\$113,780

		Last Year	Proposed
Summary of Accounts:	Fire Protection	\$54,452	\$55,200
	Rural Patrol	\$3,000	\$3,000
	Street Lights	\$200	\$150
	Ambulance	\$27,782	\$27,782
	Dispatch	\$16,230	\$21,005
	Animal Control	\$4,268	\$4,443
	Humane Society	\$2,200	\$2,200

**Budget Committee Recommends: \$113,780**

**Selectmen Recommends: \$113,780**

**VOTE: YES**

**ARTICLE 27** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation the sum of \$22,129 to support the Recreation and Cultural Services budget. Total expense to authorize \$22,129.

MUNICIPAL EXPENDITURES	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
	BUDGET	BUDGET	BUDGET	BUDGET	BUDGET	BUDGET	PROPOSED
Recreation and Cultural	\$12,428	\$12,428	\$12,428	\$12,628	\$12,628	\$17,000	\$22,129

		Last Year	Proposed
Estimated Summary of Accounts:	Books	\$3,650	\$3,650
	Staff	\$2,580	\$2,907
	Operations	\$8,770	\$8,572
	Programming	\$2,000	\$2,000
	Recreation Programming	\$0	\$5,000

**Budget Committee Recommends: \$22,129**

**Selectmen Recommends: \$22,129**

**VOTE: YES**

**ARTICLE 28** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation the sum of \$524,976 to support the Public Works budget. Total expense to authorize \$524,976

MUNICIPAL EXPENDITURES	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
	BUDGET	BUDGET	BUDGET	BUDGET	BUDGET	BUDGET	PROPOSED
Public Works	\$456,990	\$467,184	\$467,184	\$508,961	\$524,793	\$476,065	\$524,976

Estimated Summary of Accounts:	Last Year	Proposed
Staff Payroll	\$187,000	\$194,000
Staff Payroll Tax	\$14,306	\$24,541
Staff Health Insurance	\$21,983	\$41,285
General Operations	\$16,909	\$11,450
Contracted Services	\$1,000	\$20,000
Signs	\$1,500	\$1,500
Equipment Repair/Maintenance	\$50,000	\$50,000
Sand	\$15,000	\$15,000
Gravel	\$30,000	\$30,000
Pavement Maintenance	\$25,000	\$25,000
Rental/Hired Equipment	\$12,000	\$15,000
Clothing	\$800	\$800
Hay	\$500	\$1,500
Fabric	\$500	\$500
Culverts	\$3,500	\$3,500
Discretionary Equipment Purchase	\$5,000	\$5,000
Salt	\$25,000	\$25,000
Radio/Repair	\$600	\$600
Tools	\$400	\$800
Training	\$200	\$500
Supplies	\$20,000	\$20,000
Motor Fuel	\$40,000	\$30,000
Cemeteries	\$8,000	\$9,000

**Budget Committee Recommends: \$524,976**

**Selectmen Recommends: \$524,976**

**VOTE: YES**

**ARTICLE 29** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation the sum of \$62,806 to support the Municipal Debt Service budget for a total expense to authorize \$62,806.



**Note:** *The Friends of Starling Hall have worked to assist the town in stabilizing the Hall structurally, making it safer, and more usable. The value of these improvements is estimated to be in excess of \$300,000. In addition to structural stabilization, some improvements have included; a new drilled well, updated electrical systems with a 200 amp entrance, full dry concrete basement and updated kitchen appliances.*

**Budget Committee Recommends: NO (3 votes against Pepper, Andrews & St. Clair)**

**Selectmen Recommends: YES**

**VOTE: 71 YES – 62 NO**

**ARTICLE 33** To see if the Town will vote to carry forward unexpended “**Keep Me Warm**” funds raised throughout the year as will be determined with the completion of the financial audit for the year ending June 30th 2024.

**Budget Committee Recommends: YES**

**Selectmen Recommends: YES**

**VOTE: YES**

**ARTICLE 34** To see if the Town will vote to carry forward unexpended Library Reserve funds as will be determined with the completion of the financial audit for the year ending June 30<sup>th</sup> 2024.

**Budget Committee Recommends: YES**

**Selectmen Recommends: YES**

**VOTE: YES**

**ARTICLE 35** To see if the Town will vote to approve the amount to raise from taxation of \$540,000 to support the Capital Investment Plan to be applied anytime throughout the year as determined by the Board of Selectmen.

**Note:** *\$450K for paving \$35K for Fire Equipment, \$5K for Fire Building, \$10K for Town Office \$35K for Public Works Equipment and \$5K for PW Building.*

**Budget Committee Recommends: \$540,000**

**Selectmen Recommends \$540,000**

**VOTE: YES**

**ARTICLE 36** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the transfer of \$50,000 from the Broadband Reserve Account to close the account and transfer it to the Road Paving Account?

**Selectmen Recommends: YES**

**VOTE: 41 YES – 36 NO to amend #####**

**VOTE: YES as amended**

**ARTICLE 37** To see if the Town will vote to carry forward unexpended funds from the 2023-2024 Fire Protection Account to the 2024-2025 Fire Protection Account.

**Budget Committee Recommends: YES**  
**Selectmen Recommends: YES**  
**VOTE: YES**

**ARTICLE 38** To see if the Town of Fayette will vote to transfer \$300,000 from the Town undesignated fund “surplus” to support the road paving for the 2024 construction season.

**Budget Committee Recommends: \$300,000**  
**Selectmen Recommends: \$300,000**  
**VOTE: YES**

**ARTICLE 39** Shall the Town vote to adopt the proposed amendments to the Town of Fayette Comprehensive Plan and Town of Fayette Land Use Ordinance?

*Note: Copies of the proposed amendments are available at the Town Office. They may also be viewed or downloaded at [www.fayettemaine.org](http://www.fayettemaine.org).*

**Selectmen Recommends: YES**  
**VOTE: 63 YES – 21 NO**

**ARTICLE 40** Shall the Town vote to authorize the Town Treasurer and Chair of the Board of Selectmen to secure \$1,500,000 with an estimated maximum annual debt service not to exceed \$325,000 and interest rate not to exceed 4% for a 5-year maturity from the Maine Municipal Bond Bank?

**TO BE VOTED:** (1) That a capital improvement project consisting of the reclamation, reconstruction and paving of Fayette roads is hereby approved; and

(2) That a sum not to exceed \$1,500,000 is hereby appropriated to provide for the costs of said road improvement project; and

(3) That to fund said appropriation, the Treasurer and the Chair of the Board of Selectmen, are hereby authorized to issue, at one time or from time to time, general obligation securities of the Town of Fayette, Maine (including callable securities, with or without premium, and including temporary notes in anticipation of the sale thereof), in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$1,500,000; and

(4) That the discretion to fix the date(s), maturity(ies), denomination(s), interest rate(s), place(s) of payment, form(s) and other details of said securities, including execution and delivery of said securities against payment therefore, and to provide for the sale thereof, is hereby delegated to the Treasurer and the Chair of the Board of Selectmen.

## **FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

### **1. Total Town Indebtedness as of the most recent approved financial audit**

#### **a. Bonds outstanding and unpaid. . .**

As June 30, 2023 long term debt consisted of the following:

2012 Qualified School Construction Bond for a wood pellet boiler building for the school with Kennebec Savings Bank, due in annual principal installments of \$12,500, and annual interest installments at varying amounts through July 2030. Interest is stated at 4.75%. The IRS will credit the Town approximately 93% of the interest each year. **\$ 100,000**

2016 School General Obligation Bond for heating improvements with Maine Municipal Bond Bank, due in annual principal installments of \$10,000 and semi-annual interest installments at varying amounts ranging between 0.91% and 2.25% through November 2027. **\$40,000**

2020 General Obligation Bond for reconstruction of Starling Hall with Maine Municipal Bond Bank, due in annual principal installments of \$10,000 and semi-annual interest installments at varying amounts ranging between 1.61% and 1.93% through November 2029. **\$70,000**

2021 General Obligation Bond for culvert replacement with Maine Municipal Bond Bank, due in annual principal installments of \$20,000 and semi-annual interest installments at varying amounts ranging between 0.55% and 1.52% through November 2030. **\$160,000**  
**\$370,000**

b. **Bonds authorized and unissued. \$0**

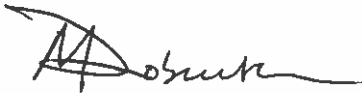
c. **Bonds to be issued if this article is approved \$1,500,000**

**2. Costs**

**At an estimated maximum annual debt service not to exceed \$325,000 and interest rate not to exceed 4% for a 5-year maturity**

**3. Validity**

**The validity of the bonds and the voters' ratification of the bonds may not be affected by any error in the above estimates. If the actual amount of the total debt service for the bond issues varies from the estimates, the ratification by the voters is nevertheless conclusive and the validity of the bond issue is not affected by reason of the variance.**



**Mark Robinson**  
**Town Manager/Treasurer**

***Explanation: This request requires taxpayers to fund an annual debt service not to exceed the sum of \$325,000 per year for 5 years. Funding will support the on-going reclamation and paving of Fayette Roads***

**Budget Committee Recommends: YES**

**Selectmen Recommends: YES**

**VOTE: YES**

**ARTICLE 41** To see if the Town of Fayette will vote to transfer \$100,000 from the Town undesignated fund “surplus” to lower the property tax commitment for the 2024-2025 tax year.

**Selectmen Recommends: YES vote 3 in favor 1 opposed (Carlson)  
VOTE: YES**

**Motion to Adjourn.**

Given under our hands this 14<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2024

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lacy Badeau

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jon Beekman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brian Holman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Toby Pond

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Carlson

**By virtue of the written Warrant to me directed, I have notified and warned the inhabitants of the Town of Fayette, qualified to vote in Town affairs, to assemble at said time and place, and for the purposes therein named, by posting an attested copy of said Warrant at the Fayette General Store, Underwood Memorial Library, Fayette Central School, and Fayette Town Office the same being public and conspicuous places within said Town, on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May, 2024 being at least seven days before the meeting.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Crystal Rose, Resident