

State of Maine \ Waldo ss

To: Danny Page, a constable of the Town of Thorndike, in the County of Waldo, State of Maine,

Town Clerk, Doreen Berry opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m.

**Greetings:**

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Thorndike in said county and state, qualified by law to vote in town affairs, to assemble at the THORNDIKE TOWN HALL, in said town on Saturday, the 16th day of March, 2019 at 9:00 am in the forenoon to act upon the articles, to wit:

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

**Article 1.** To choose a moderator by written ballot to preside at said meeting.

Motion and seconded to nominate Don Berry.

Nominations closed

Ballots cast: 7 for Don Berry

Don Berry voted in as moderator

Resident, Jeff Trafton asked if the Selectmen could address the attendees about the timeline of events concerning the Fire Department? (To bring everyone up to date of events that have occurred) Second Selectman, Robert Carter reviewed that a letter was received from the Town of Brooks advising that they were considering no longer providing Mutual Aid to Thorndike. R Carter then proceeding onto the letter received from 4 Associations regarding the professionalism of the Thorndike Volunteer Fire Company Inc. The letter received (from the 4 Associations) was reviewed by MMA (Maine Municipal Association) and the Town's Attorney and it was advised that the letter needed to be made public knowledge. At the 2/20/2019 Selectmen's meeting there was discussion to reinstate Assistant Fire Chief George Russell release \$85,000 from the truck replacement and equipment fund or they would quit.

Doug Nye advised that there was a truck from Massachusetts that was for \$5000.

Robert Carter advised that this truck was not declined. The Selectmen asked the Thorndike Volunteer Fire Company Inc. to come back with more info.

Discussion on the drive shaft on one of the current trucks, it was repaired and insurance paid for all but the deductible.

A comment was made to address the timeliness of the Selectmen's meeting minutes being posted on the Town's website so they could be read. Currently the minutes posted the website are only to the end of January's meeting.

Moderator: Don Berry motioned to TABLE the discussion

Senator Erin Herbig took a few moments to address the attendees.

**Article 2.** To choose by written ballot the following officers:

A. 1<sup>st</sup> Selectman, Assessor and Overseer of the Poor

Motion and seconded to nominate Larry Ward

Motion and seconded to nominate Robert Nelson

Votes cast by written ballots

Larry Ward: 49 Robert Nelson: 53

Robert Nelson elected as First Selectman

B. 2<sup>nd</sup> Selectman, Assessor and Overseer of the Poor

Motion and seconded to nominate Joshua Ard

Motion and seconded to nominate Shawn Bristol

Votes cast by written ballots

Joshua Ard: 43 Shawn Bristol: 41

Joshua Ard elected as Second Selectman

C. 3<sup>rd</sup> Selectman, Assessor and Overseer of the Poor

Motion and seconded to nominate Michael Mayer

Motion and seconded to nominate Shawn Bristol

Votes cast by written ballots

Michael Mayer: 58 Shawn Bristol: 39

Michael Mayer elected as Third Selectman

**GENERAL ADMINISTRATION**

**Article 3.** To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise/and or appropriate for Town Officials' Salaries.

<b>Office</b>	<b>Budget Com. Recommends</b>	<b>Source of Funding</b>	<b>Amount Voted</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Selectman	\$6,000.00	Taxation	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Selectman	\$3,000.00	Taxation	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Selectman	\$3,000.00	Taxation	
Town Clerk	\$4,924.00	Taxation	
Tax Collector	\$6,645.00	Taxation	
Treasurer	\$8,780.00	Taxation	
Deputy Clerk	\$3,000.00	Taxation	
Assessors' Agent	\$1,800.00	Taxation	
Code Enforcement Officer	\$2,700.00	Taxation	
Sexton	\$ 250.00	Taxation	
Planning Board Chair	\$ 200.00	Taxation	
Fire Warden	\$ 50.00	Taxation	
Constable	\$ 50.00	Taxation	
Emergency Management	\$ 550.00	Taxation	
	<b>TOTAL (\$40,949)</b>	<b>Taxation</b>	<b>VOTE: \$40,949</b>

Motion made and seconded, discussion on if anything has changed from last year. Doreen Berry advised that the Article includes the payroll for the EMA director (\$550). Article passed by a show of hands; motion carried.

**Article 4.** To see what amount the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Payroll Taxes

Recommend: Taxation: \$4,000 VOTE: \$4,000

Motion made and seconded, passed by a show of hands: motion carried

**Article 5.** To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for the Town Audit of 2018/2019.

Recommend: Taxation: \$3,150 VOTE: \$3,150

Motion made and seconded, passed by a show of hands: motion carried

**Article 6.** To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Town Office Operations & Equipment.

Recommend: Taxation: \$46,785

VOTE: \$46,785

**Budget Estimates Include:**

Insurance (liability, property, bonding, worker's comp, inspections) .....	\$11,500
Municipal Bldg Maintenance (mowing, cleaning, security, repairs).....	\$4,285
IT/Software/Maintenance/Support (Trio, Web site, service contract, training fees).....	\$9,000
Supplies (office supplies & printing) .....	\$2,500
Utilities (electric, heating, phone, Internet, street lights).....	\$6,500
Elections .....	\$ 800
Registry of Deeds Filing Fees .....	\$3,500
Postage.....	\$2,700
Tax & Zoning Map Updates .....	\$1,700
Dues, Training & Mileage (MMA dues, town official training).....	\$2,300
Petty Cash .....	\$ 500
Miscellaneous (advertising, bank charges, town report) .....	\$1,500
Equipment.....	\$0

Motion made and seconded, discussion on how no amount noted for equipment? D Berry advised that the amounts shown are for example only, but the amount proposed from taxation can be used for equipment. Article passed by a show of hands: motion carried

**Article 7.** To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Professional, Notary and Legal fees.

Recommend: Taxation: \$10,000

VOTE: \$10,000

Motion made and seconded, passed by a show of hands: motion carried

**Article 8.** To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Welfare/General Assistance.

Recommend: Taxation: \$2,000

VOTE: \$2,000

Motion made and seconded, passed by a show of hands: motion carried

**Article 9.** To see what sum the town will vote to raise and/or appropriate to pay tax abatements and applicable interest granted during the 2019 fiscal year.

Recommend: Taxation: \$5000

VOTE: \$5,000

Motion made and seconded, passed by a show of hands: motion carried

**CEMETERIES**

**Article 10.** To see if the Town will allow the Selectmen to accept monies dedicated for perpetual care of cemeteries.

VOTE: YES

Motion made and seconded, passed by a show of hands: motion carried

**Article 11.** To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Cemetery Care.  
Recommend: Taxation: \$7,800 VOTE: \$7,800

Motion made and seconded, discussion if family cemeteries are to be maintained by the Town of Thorndike? The Town of Thorndike is only responsible for Town cemeteries. Article passed by a show of hands: motion carried

### **MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS**

**Article 12.** To see if the town will appropriate \$67,794.44 for the balance payment toward the current indebtedness relating to the town office.  
Recommend: Surplus: \$67,794.44 VOTE: \$67,794.44

Motion made and seconded

Discussion on if this amount was more than last year. Doreen Berry advised that last year the regular payment was from taxation (principle payment plus interest \$24,048.48) This amount (\$67,794.44), is the amount to pay off the bond on 9/1/2019. Discussion that would it be more advisable to pay the regular payment and use this Surplus toward the sand and salt building that the town is anticipating building. Doreen Berry advised that should a bond be taken out this year, for the sand and salt building, that the first installment will not be due until 1 year from the closing date. If this article is passed, the Town Office building bond will be paid off and taking on a new bond this year, for the sand and salt building will replace this bond and this will relieve the tax burden this year, as from Surplus, and next year the amount for the salt and sand building could be approximately be the same as the payment has been for the Town Office building bond. Switch out one bond for another.

Article passed by a show of hands: motion carried

**Article 13.** To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Municipal Building Improvement.  
Recommend: Taxation: \$2,500 VOTE: \$2,500

Motion made and seconded, discussion on what improvements are to be made? Per Doreen Berry, none are planned at this time but for example the "Thorndike Town Office" sign was purchased with this Article.

Article passed by a show of hands: motion carried

## **DONATIONS**

**Article 14.** To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Donations for the ensuing year.

<b><u>Organization</u></b>	<b><u>Request</u></b>	<b><u>Budget Rec. '19 Vote</u></b>
American Red Cross	\$ 150	\$ 150
Knox Booster Club	\$ Any	\$ 500
Spectrum Generations	\$ 200	\$ 100
Dorothy Quimby Library	\$ Any	\$ 100
Vol. Regional Food Pantry	\$ 500	\$ 500
Maine Youth Alliance (The Game Loft)	\$ 200	\$ 300
New Hope for Women	\$ 660	\$ 500
Waldo Community Action Partners	\$ 3,440	\$ 650
The Life Flight Foundation	\$ 100	\$ 100
Timelines Community Inc/ Farwell Project	\$ 50	\$ 50
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$ 5300</b>	<b>\$ 2,950</b>

Recommend: Taxation: \$2,650

VOTE: \$2,950

Motion made and seconded, discussion from representative from the Knox Booster Club as a request to increase the donation requested from \$200 to \$500. Motion made to amend the article to increase the amount to \$500 for the Knox Booster Club which changes the amount requested from Taxation to \$2,950. Amendment seconded; article amended by show of hands.

Discussion from Waldo County Community Action Partners (WCAP) to discuss increasing the donation from the recommended amount of \$650 to amount that was requested from their original request of \$6122. No motion or second to amend the article.

Discussion from Timelines Community Inc / Farwell Project: discussion was more to inform the legislative body of what the group does and not looking to amend the amount requested from donations.

Motion made and seconded as amended; passed by a show of hands: motion carried.

## **PROTECTION**

**Article 15.** To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Emergency Management.

Recommend: Taxation: \$200

VOTE: \$200

Motion made and seconded, passed by a show of hands: motion carried

**Article 16.** To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Animal Welfare.

Recommend: \$1500 from the Animal Welfare Account, all of the animal welfare fees collected plus \$2,300 from Taxation.

VOTE: \$1500 from the Animal Welfare Account, all of the animal welfare fees collected plus \$2,300 from Taxation.

Motion made and seconded, discussion only to mention that the ACO is very responsive and is doing a great job.

Article passed by a show of hands: motion carried

**Article 17.** To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Fire Protection Services (including salaries for fire company's employees).

Recommend: Taxation: \$33,287.50

VOTE: \$33,287.50

Motion made and seconded, discussion to TABLE this and move to Article 18, to talk about the Municipal Fire Department. Vote by a show of hands to TABLE this Article and move to Article 18 motion and seconded. Article TABLED to return to after Article 18.

Discussion upon return to this Article after passing Article #18. Questioned of who would be in control of any new donations to the Municipal Fire Department. Doreen Berry advised that all donations that come to the Town Office are reviewed and approved /accepted by the Selectmen at their \*meetings. At that time, the Selectmen would make a motion to accept the donation and to where the funds need to be placed and this would be seconded. The funds would be deposited into the approved account. One would assume that the donations would be deposited into the Fire Truck Replacement Savings account, but again this would be per motion, seconded and voted on at Selectmen's meetings. (\*Per article 27)

Discussion on when does this Municipal Fire Department become effective. Per passed ordinance, it states at the very end, "Adopted by the Inhabitants of the Town of Thorndike.....Saturday, March 16,2019". The Municipal Fire Department is effective immediately and the Selectmen will need to appoint their Fire Chief at their first Selectmen's meeting.

Article passes by a show of hands. Motion carried.

**Article 18.** Shall an ordinance entitled “An Ordinance Creating the Thorndike Municipal Fire Department” be enacted?

This new ordinance creates a municipal fire department for the Town of Thorndike and outlines the powers and responsibilities of said department and its members, including the Fire Chief, Deputy Fire Chief, and Municipal Firefighters. A true copy of the complete text of the above-proposed ordinance is on file for public inspection in the Town Clerk’s office and will also be available for public inspection at the Annual Town Meeting to be held on March 16, 2019, prior to voting on the same.

VOTE: YES

Motion and seconded, discussion: if not a municipal Fire Department; how could this impact Mutual Aid? Reginald Cunningham, acting Assistant Fire Chief, was asked to address this question. Reginald advised that he cannot answer this question at this time. There could be some impact and possibly Jackson would terminate their Mutual Aid contract. A remark was made that this could make it difficult to attain, or expensive to get homeowner’s insurance. It was asked if there was driver for the tanker. Reginald advised that there was driver for the tanker. Discussion that the Thorndike Volunteer Fire Company Inc. does not represent the town by quitting. The Selectmen need to have more say for the fire department personnel. If taxation is used to support the Fire Department; The Selectmen should have more say.

Votes cast by written ballots; article passes 70 to 11.

**SANITATION**

**Article 19.** To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Tipping Fees.

Recommend: All funds received from MRC rebates & sticker fees plus \$2,000 from Taxation.

Motion made and seconded, passed by a show of hands: motion carried

VOTE: \$2,000

**Article 20.** To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Trash Pickup.

Motion made and seconded;, discussion of why more than last year’s? Liz Sullivan advised that they had not requested a raise in years. Larry Hustus advised that Sullivan’s bid was \$6,000 less that a quote from Bolster’s. Question about what to do about tires. Moderator , Don Berry TABLED this discussion as does not pertain to the Article.

Article passed by a show of hands; motion carried

Recommend: Taxation: \$42,900

VOTE: \$42,900



**Article 21.** To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for the Regional Recycling Center.

Recommend: Taxation: \$9920.18

VOTE: \$9920.18

Motion made and seconded, passed by a show of hands: motion carried.

## **ROADS**

**Article 22.** To see what wages the voters will authorize the Selectmen to pay on all town roadwork, laborers, trucks and tractors.

Recommend: Current State Wages

VOTE: YES

Motion made and seconded as amended, discussion that “not to exceed”, it was noted that “current state wages” is recommended so this article recommendation implies not to pay more than current state wages, Article passed by a show of hands: motion carried.

**Article 23.** To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Summer Town Road Maintenance.

Recommend: Taxation: \$65,000

VOTE: \$26,000 taxation / \$39,000 Surplus

Motion made and seconded as amended, discussion of what was left as a balance from FY2018? Per Treasurer’s report: \$39,016.66. There was discussion to amend the article of \$26,000 from taxation and then \$39,000 from Surplus to equal the requested amount of \$65,000. Motioned and seconded to amend the article to \$26,000 from taxation and \$39,000 from Surplus, seconded, Article passed, as amended, by a show of hands: motion carried.

**Article 24.** To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Winter Roads (2019-20).

Recommend: Taxation: \$ 167,500

VOTE: \$167,500

Motion made and seconded, discussion if the current contractor will be renewing his contract when it expires on 4/30/2019. Larry Hustus advised that Matt Ward has advised the Selectmen that he was not interested in renewing the contract. Article passed by a show of hands; motion carried.

**Article 25.** To see if the Town will appropriate \$182,032.54 for the annual payment toward the current indebtedness relating to road paving.

Recommend: Taxation: \$182,032.54 for

VOTE: YES

Motion made and seconded, discussion of what was the balance was on the road bonds and Treasurer, Doreen Berry noted that it is approximately \$483,000; but for an accurate figure a report could be retrieved. Article passed by a show of hands: motion carried.

**HOUSEKEEPING ARTICLES**

**Article 26.** To see if the Town will vote to allow the Selectmen to spend up to \$5,000 (out of undesignated funds) for emergency purposes.

VOTE: YES

**\*\*\*\*\*Motioned to approve Article 26-33; seconded: articles passed: motions carried\*\*\*\*\***

**Article 27.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to apply for, accept and expend grants and donations of money and/or equipment for specified municipal purposes including but not limited to support of firefighters and fire fighting operations.

VOTE: YES

**Article 28.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen, on behalf of the Town, to dispose of any real estate acquired by the town for non-payment of taxes thereon, on such terms as they deem advisable and to execute quit-claim deeds on such property. With the exemption, that the Municipal Officers shall use the special sale process required by 36 M.R.S. § 943-C for qualifying homestead property if they choose to sell it to anyone other than the former owner(s).

VOTE: YES \_\_\_\_

**Article 29.** To see what action the Town will take in regard to charging annual interest (7%) on all unpaid taxes 60 days after the tax commitment in 2019.

VOTE: YES

**Article 30.** To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of the Worker's Compensation Act.

VOTE: YES

**Article 31.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to make the final decision regarding the closing or opening of roads to winter maintenance pursuant to 23 MRSA §2953.

VOTE: YES

**Article 32.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to spend an amount not to exceed 2/12<sup>th</sup> of the budgeted amount in each budget category of the FY 2019 Annual Budget during the period from Feb. 1, 2020 to the 2020 Annual Town Mtg.

VOTE: YES

**Article 33.** To see if the Town will vote to designate the snowmobile tax refund to be used as a municipal grant for the Snow Dusters Snowmobile Club, through the Town of Thorndike, for grooming snowmobile trails in Thorndike.

VOTE: YES

**Article 34.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the municipal officials to transfer monies exceeding a year-end balance of \$15,000 from the Knox Fund to the Fire Truck/Equipment Replacement Account.

VOTE: YES

Motion and seconded, discussion on how much was in the Knox Account; at this time. Per the Treasurer's report; with the Fiscal year ending date of 1/31/2019: \$15,002.89

Article passes with show of hands vote, motion carried.

**Article 35.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the municipal officials to transfer \$5,000.00 from Undesignated Funds to the Salt/Sand Shed Fund Account.

Motion and seconded, discussion on proposed properties in which the salt and sand shed will be built?

Doreen Berry advise, to the best of her knowledge, that one of the proposed properties was on the Brooks Road , property owned by Bruce Tweedie & Jeff Fowler advised that property on the Hamm Road was being looked at as well, behind the storage units.

Article passes by show of hands; motion carried.

VOTE: YES

**Article 36.** To see if the Town will vote to apply all revenues received in FY 2018 listed below toward the reduction of the 2019 tax commitment:

- a. Municipal Revenue Sharing
- b. State Aid to Education
- c. Excise taxes
- d. Farwell Dividends
- e. Other revenue

VOTE: YES

**Article 37.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen, on behalf of the Town, to dispose of any unused equipment.

Motioned and seconded, discussion that there is old equipment at the fire stations that needs to be removed.

Article passes by a show of hands, motion carries.

VOTE: YES

**Article 38.** To see if the Town will vote to increase the property tax levy limit established for Thorndike by State law in the event the budget approved under the preceding articles will result in a Tax Commitment that is greater than the property tax levy limit.

Motion and seconded, discussion address to the Town's Treasurer, Doreen Berry of what she recommends for this article. Doreen Berry advised that as this article has always passed at the Annual Town Meetings, that the recommendation would be to pass the article. Article passed by a show of hands, motion carried.

VOTE: YES

**Article 39.** To see if the town will vote to authorize the tax collector or treasurer to accept prepayments of taxes not yet committed, pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A § 506

Motioned and seconded, article passes by a show of hands, motion carried. VOTE: YES

Don Berry wanted to take a moment and to address the attendees and to thank prior Third Selectmen, Larry Hustus for staying and attending the meeting. Also Don Berry wanted to recognize Carolyn and Roger Wingate for attending town meetings since the age of 14.

Additional gratitude was conveyed to Town Clerk, Doreen Berry for her help in assisting in the annual meeting and to answer questions as they arose.

**Article 40. ADJOURNMENT**

Don Berry made a motion to adjourn; seconded, article passes by a show of hands, motion carried.

VOTE: YES

Annual Town Meeting adjourned at 11:28 a.m.