

TOWN WARRANT 2025

State of Maine
County of Hancock

To: Sally Bridges, Town Clerk of the Town of Penobscot:

Greetings:

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to warn and notify the inhabitants of the Town of Penobscot, who are qualified by law to vote in Town affairs, to meet at the Penobscot Fire Department, Penobscot, Maine, on Monday, the 3rd day of March 2025 at eight o'clock in the forenoon, to act on the following articles to wit:

- T 1.** To choose a moderator to preside at said meeting.
- T 2.** To choose by secret ballot the following officers:
- 1 - Selectman, Assessor, Overseer- (3yr) Term
 - 2 - School Committee-(3yr) Term
 - 2 - Finance Committee- (3yr) Term
- T 3.** Shall the Town vote to approve the George Stevens Academy's Supplemental tuition request of **\$1,700** for each Penobscot student attending George Stevens Academy for the 2025-2026 school year. This represents an increase of **\$28,900** (based on an attendance of 17 Penobscot Students) over and above the State allowed tuition by Title 20-A, section 5806
- Note: If the Town approves this Article, the amount will be added to the appropriate school operating budget articles.*
- T 4.** Shall the Town vote to approve the Blue Hill Library request of **\$4,508** for the Town's cost share value of services provided by the library. *Select Board Recommendation from Taxation.*

Monday Meeting: March 3, 2025

The polls for Articles T1, T2, T3, and T4 will open at 8:00 o'clock in the morning and will remain open for voting until 8 o'clock that evening at the Penobscot Fire Department.

Tuesday Meeting: March 4, 2025

Officers elected by the Monday polling will be sworn in to their office after the Pledge of Allegiance.

The School Articles will be moderated and voted upon first, followed by the Town Articles.

T 5. Shall the Town vote to accept the categories of the funds listed below as approved by the Maine State Legislature:

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|---|---------|
| Municipal Revenue Sharing | UNKNOWN |
| Local Road Assistance | UNKNOWN |
| Snowmobile Registration Money | UNKNOWN |
| Tree Growth Reimbursement | UNKNOWN |
| General Assistance Reimbursement | UNKNOWN |
| Veteran's Exemption Reimbursement | UNKNOWN |
| Property Tax Relief Fund | UNKNOWN |
| DEP Grant and Matching Fund Money | UNKNOWN |
| Recycling Capital Investments Grants | UNKNOWN |
| Department of Environmental Protection | UNKNOWN |
| Small Community Grant | UNKNOWN |
| Other State Grants and Funds not listed | UNKNOWN |

T 6. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise or appropriate for the Salaries of the following Town Officers; *Finance Committee Recommendation from Taxation*:

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| Three Selectboard members @ \$6,000 each | \$ 18,000 |
| Chairman | \$ 4,000 |
| Tax Collector | \$ 15,000 |
| Treasurer | \$ 16,000 |
| Town Clerk | \$ 23,400 |
| Registrar | \$ 1,000 |
| Fire Chief | \$ 5,000 |
| Deputy Tax Collector/Treasurer | \$ 27,000 |
| Deputy Town Clerk | \$ 6,000 |
| Clerical Services | \$ 2,000 |
| Health Officer | <u>\$ 600</u> |
| Total: | \$ 118,000 |

T 7. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard to negotiate wages for Town labor and equipment.

T 8. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise or appropriate for the Current and Contingent Expenses for 2024; *Finance Committee Recommendation from Checking Account Interest:*

\$ 6,000

T 9. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise or appropriate for General Government; *Finance Committee Recommendation from Surplus:*

\$ 42,000

T 10. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise or appropriate for Town Hall Maintenance; *Finance Committee Recommendation from Taxation:*

\$ 15,000

T 11. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise or appropriate for Town insurance and Employee Benefits; *Finance Committee Recommendation from Taxation:*

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| General Town Insurance | \$ 11,500 |
| Workman's Compensation Insurance | \$ 5,000 |
| Unemployment Insurance | \$ 1,500 |
| Social Security | \$ 11,000 |

T 12. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise or appropriate for community donations; *Finance Committee Recommendation from Taxation (unless otherwise specified):*

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| Northern Light Homecare and Hospice | \$ 4,700 |
| Eastern Area Agency on Aging | \$ 2,700 |
| Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry | \$ 600 (new) |
| Penobscot Days Celebration and Fireworks | \$ 1,500 |
| Blue Hill Society for Aid to Children | \$ 2,200 |

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Penobscot Historical Society | \$ 2,500 |
| Women Infants and Children Program (from <u>Unwed Mothers Reserve</u>) | \$ 500 |
| Hospice Volunteers of Hancock County | \$ 600 |
| LifeFlight Foundation | \$ 568 |
| Maine Coast Heritage Trust | \$ 250 |
| Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries | \$ 250 |
| Garry Owen House | \$ 300 (new) |
| Sweetster | \$ 2,500 (new) |

T 13. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise or appropriate for a Peninsula Ambulance Corps donation; *Finance Committee Recommendation from Taxation:*

\$ 37,204

T 14. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise or appropriate for its annual membership with the Hancock County Planning Commission; *Finance Committee Recommendation from Interest on liens:*

\$ 1,419

T 15. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise or appropriate for Grant Writing Services; *Finance Committee Recommendation from Property Tax Interest:*

\$ 5,000

T 16. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise or appropriate for General Assistance; *Finance Committee Recommendation from Property Tax Interest:*

\$ 3,000

T 17. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise or appropriate for the Fire Department; *Finance Committee Recommendation from Taxation:*

\$ 42,000

T 18. Shall the Town vote to authorize the Treasurer to convert the Fire Department account (10-99) into a fund balance carried account. [The new account shall be called "Res Cfwd-Fire Departmen"t]

T 19. Shall the Town commit to a contract for the purchase of a new Fire Attack/Rescue Truck in the amount of:

\$ 600,000

The contract locks in the pricing of the chassis until 2027.

- T 20.** To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise or appropriate for the Fire Truck Reserve; *Finance Committee Recommendation from Surplus:*
- \$ 70,000**
- T 21.** To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise or appropriate for an on-demand water heater for the Fire Station; *Finance Committee Recommendation from Taxation:*
- \$ 4,500**
- T 22.** To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise or appropriate for Streetlight Service provided by Central Maine Power; *Finance Committee Recommendation from Checking Account Interest:*
- \$ 3,000**
- T 23.** To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise or appropriate for Septage Sludge Disposal; *Finance Committee Recommendation from Checking Account Interest:*
- \$ 6,000**
- T 24.** To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise or appropriate for Transfer Station operation; *Finance Committee Recommendation from Taxation:*
- \$ 95,000**
- T 25.** To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise or appropriate for the Planning Board and Code Enforcement Officer expenses; *Finance Committee Recommendation from Taxation:*
- \$ 11,000**
- T 26.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard to expend funds received from permits on the Planning Board and Code Enforcement expenses.
- T 27.** To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise or appropriate for the TRIO Software Maintenance Fees and expenses; *Finance Committee Recommendation from Checking Account Interest:*
- \$ 20,000**
- T 28.** To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise or appropriate for the Sand/Salt Shed Project account; *Finance Committee Recommendation from Surplus:*
- \$ 30,000**
- T 29.** To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise or appropriate for the Snow Removal, Road Sand & Salt Supply; *Finance Committee Recommendation from Excise:*
- \$ 240,000**

- T 30.** To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise or appropriate for the Town Road Capital Improvement Account; *Finance Committee Recommendation from Taxation:*
- \$ 70,000**
- T 31.** To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise or appropriate for the Town Road Routine Maintenance Account; *Finance Committee Recommendation from Surplus:*
- \$ 25,000**
- T 32.** To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise or appropriate for the Cemetery Account; *Finance Committee Recommendation from Agent fees:*
- \$ 3,500**
- T 33.** To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise or appropriate for the Town Recreation Account; *Finance Committee Recommendation from Checking Account Interest:*
- \$ 3,500**
- T 34.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard to notify the Department of Marine Resources that the Town wishes to exercise its exclusive rights to alewives in the Town of Penobscot during the time period: **01/01/2025 to 12/31/2025**.
- T 35.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Alewives Committee to manage the Alewives fishery, **and** raise or appropriate a sum of money for the Alewives Account; *Finance Committee Recommendation from Interest on liens:*
- \$ 600**
- T 36.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Alewives Committee to sell alewives in 2025 according to a State approved Harvest Plan.
- T 37.** To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise or appropriate for the Animal Control Account; *Finance Committee Recommendation from Tree Growth Reimbursement:*
- \$ 3,400**
- T 38.** To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise or appropriate to support the Town Cloud website; *Finance Committee Recommendation from Tree Growth Reimbursement:*
- \$ 3,800**

- T 39. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to sell or dispose of surplus property on such terms and conditions as they deem advisable.
- T 40. Shall the Town vote to authorize the Selectboard to dispose of any real estate property acquired through unpaid taxes on lien execution, on terms advisable, and to execute quitclaim deeds on such property. Except that the Municipal Officers shall use the special sale process required by 36 M.R.S. 943-C for qualifying homestead property if they choose to.
- T 41. Shall the Town approve the name change and purpose of Reserve account 320-16, "Comprehensive Plan" to "GIS Culvert Survey".

Current Reserve Balance: \$17,777.50

- T 42. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise or appropriate for Town Reserve Accounts;
Finance Committee Recommendation from:

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Town Hall Renovations (<i>Taxation</i>) | \$ 10,000 |
| Town Building (<i>Interest on Checking</i>) | \$ 1,000 |
| Forest Fire Protection (<i>Boat Excise</i>) | \$ 1,000 |
| Fire Equipment Fund (<i>Boat Excise</i>) | \$ 1,000 |
| Patriotic (<i>Moore Family Donation</i>) | \$ 50 |
| Legal & Professional (<i>Tree Growth Reimbursement</i>) | \$ 10,000 |

- T 43. Shall the Town vote to authorize the Selectboard to accept unconditional donations which they feel are in the best interest of the Town.
- T 44. Shall the Town vote to charge interest at the annual rate of 7.5 % on taxes paid 60 days or more following commitment day.
- T 45. Shall the Town vote to charge interest at the annual rate of 7.5 % on all tax liens and tax acquired property.
- T 46. Shall the Town vote to authorize the Selectboard and the Treasurer to make investments of surplus funds not otherwise committed or needed for immediate use.

- T 47.** Shall the Town vote to authorize the Tax Collector or Treasurer to accept prepayments of taxes not yet committed, pursuant to 36 M.R.S. Section 506.
- T 48.** Shall the Town vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to spend an amount not to exceed 3/12 of the budgeted amount in each category of the 2024 annual budget during the period from January 1, 2025 to the 2025 Annual Town Meeting.