

TOWN OF ATHENS
SECRET BALLOT ELECTION AND
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT
Friday, March 7, 2025
and
Saturday, March 8, 2025

To Tracey Rotondi, a citizen in the Town of Athens, in the County of Somerset.

Greetings;

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the Inhabitants of the Town of Athens, in said County and State, qualified by law to vote in Town affairs, to meet and assemble at The Town Office (Somerset Academy), in said Athens, on Friday the 7th day of March, 2025 A.D. at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, then and there to act on Article 1 and by secret ballot on Article 2 as set out below, the polling hours therefore to be 4 o'clock in the afternoon until 8 o'clock in the evening;

And, to notify and warn said Inhabitants to meet at The Town Office on Saturday the 8th day of March 2025 A.D. at 1:30 in the afternoon to act on the remaining articles.

Art. 1. To choose a Moderator by written ballot to preside at said meeting.

Art. 2. To elect all municipal officers and school committee members as are required to be elected.

Art. 3. Shall the town vote to accept funds as provided by the Maine State
Legislature?

State Municipal Revenue Sharing.

Highway Maintenance Funds.

Tree Growth Reimbursement Funds.

Veterans Reimbursement Funds.

Support of the Poor Reimbursement Funds

Snowmobile Registration Refund Funds.

Homestead Exemption Reimbursement Funds

Any state grants that are made available by the State.

Budget Committee recommends doing so.

Art. 4. To choose two members for the Budget Committee.

Art 5. Taxes:

A. To fix the time when taxes are due and collectible.

Budget Committee recommends they be due on receipt of the bill.

B. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector to charge interest at the rate of 07.5% on all taxes not paid within 30 days of Commitment.

Budget Committee recommends 07.5%.

C. To see what rate of interest the Town will authorize the Treasurer to charge on tax liens in accordance with Title 36, MRSA Section 505.4.

Budget Committee recommends 07.5%.

D. To see if the Town will authorize the Tax Collector to retain \$2.75 on each Excise tax application processed.

Budget Committee recommends doing so.

E. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the selectmen to sell and convey by quit claim deed any tax acquired property by sealed bid only after said property has been advertised in a paper of local circulation. Selectmen are to allow delinquent taxpayers the opportunity to redeem their former property until such time as a bid is accepted from another person on the advertised day of sale, by paying back taxes, administrative costs, and interest to the date of the sale. The Selectmen reserve the right to accept or reject all bids. The Town reserves the right to charge an additional fee, not exceeding the delinquent tax, for each year the property is acquired, to the original owner. Except that the Municipal Officers shall use the special sale process required by M.R.S. Sec 943-C for qualifying homestead property if they choose to sell it to anyone other than the former owner (s).

Budget Committee recommends doing so.

F. To see if the Town will authorize at the selectman's discretion the return of any or all excess funds to the party named on a tax lien mortgage at the time of the levy of a tax lien, or that party's successors, heirs or assign after subtracting the tax liens, interest, fees for recording the liens, costs of mailing notices, court costs, taxes that should have been assessed while the property was held by the municipality and any other expenses incurred in disposing of the real estate.

Budget Committee recommends doing so.

G. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to borrow money on behalf of the Town in anticipation of tax receipts.

Budget Committee recommends doing so.

H. To see if the town will vote to allow appropriation of taxation above the Tax Cap Growth rate set by the State.

Budget Committee recommends doing so.

Art. 7. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$184,871.00 for the general management of the Town as follows:

A. Miscellaneous Account: \$ 50,000.00

Budget Committee recommends taking \$25,000.00 from Excise and to Raise \$25,000.00.

B. Insurances: \$ 29,000.00

Budget Committee recommends taking \$14,500.00 from Excise and to Raise \$14,500.

C. Maine Municipal Association dues: \$2,371.00

Budget Committee recommends taking \$2,371.00 from Excise.

D. Unemployment, Social Security, and Medicare taxes: \$24,000.00

Budget Committee recommends to Raise \$24,000.00.

E. Officers' Salaries: \$ 79,500.00

A. First Selectman: \$24,000.00

B. Second Selectman: \$9,000.00

C. Third Selectman: \$9,000.00

D. Tax Collector \$10,000.00

E. Town Clerk \$9,000.00

F. Treasurer: \$9,500.00

G. Animal Control Officer \$2,000.00

H. Municipal Fire Chief \$7,000.00

Budget Committee recommends to Raise \$79,500.00.

Art. 8. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$8,000.00 to fund a Code Enforcement Officer.

Budget Committee recommends to Raise \$8,000.00.

Art. 9. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$11,000.00 for Support of the Poor.

Budget Committee recommends to Raise \$11,000.00.

Art. 10. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$50,000.00 for Town Grounds and Buildings.

Budget Committee recommends taking \$25,000.00 from Excise and to Raise \$25,000.00.

Art. 11. To see if the Town will vote to pay any money received from the Snowmobile Registration Refund to A.C. Lineriders to build and maintain trails.

Budget Committee recommends doing so.

Art. 12. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$4,000.00 for Mt. Rest Cemetery Association to be used for yearly upkeep with a year-end breakdown of expenses.

Budget Committee recommends taking \$4,000.00 from Excise and to Raise \$3,000.00.

Art 13. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$3,500.00 for tax map updates and tax

assessing.

Budget Committee recommends to Raise \$3,500.00.

Art. 14. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$5,260.00 for community programs as follows:

A. Athens-Cornville Food Pantry: \$1,500.00

B. Harmony Cares Food Pantry: \$1,500

C. Family Violence Project: \$635.00

D. K.V. Van Transportation Services: \$225.00

E. K.V. Child & Family Services: \$250.00

F. Hospice Volunteers of Somerset County: \$500.00

G. Spectrum Generations \$300.00

H. Somerset Economic Development Corporation \$100.00

I. The Life Flight Foundation \$250.00

J. The Baker Mountain Ski Tow Club \$250.00

Budget Committee recommends to Raise \$5,260.00.

Art. 15.

A. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,380.00.00 for the disposal of stray animals at the Somerset Humane Society.

Budget Committee recommends taking \$2,380 from Excise.

B. To set mileage reimbursement for the Small Animal Control Officer and set a disposal fee for stray animals paid from Misc. Account of \$0.50 per mile and \$25.00 per animal.

Budget Committee recommends \$0.50 per mile and \$25.00 per animal.

Art. 16. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$37,000.00 for the Athens Volunteer Fire Department as follows:

A. Incidental expenses: \$8,000.00

B. Electricity, phone, and fuel: \$6,000.00

C. Firefighters Pay (excluding Fire Chief) to include hourly pay for authorized training and when

responding to emergency calls (\$18/hr.) not to exceed \$6,000.00 total.

D. Equipment Maintenance Account: \$10,000.00

E. Truck and building savings account (Capital Savings Account): \$7,000.00

Budget Committee recommends taking \$10,000.00 from Excise and to Raise \$27,000.00.

Art 17. To see if the Town will vote to allow any funds not spent on Article 16 A, B, and D above to be rolled into Article 16 E, The Truck and Buildings Savings (Capital Savings Account).

Budget Committee recommends doing so.

Art 18. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$41,000.00 for recreational purposes as follows:

A. Recreation and Conservation Commission Account: \$18,500.00

Budget Committee recommends taking \$7,000.00 from Excise and to Raise \$11,500.00.

B. Recreation Area Maintenance Account: \$15,000.00

Budget Committee recommends taking \$15,000.00 from Excise.

C. Fairgrounds Recreation Maintenance Savings Account. \$7,500.00

Budget Committee recommends to Raise \$7,500.00.

Art. 19. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$293,000.00 for road maintenance as follows:

A. Town's Savings Account for Equipment: \$25,000.00

Budget Committee recommends to Raise \$25,000.00.

B. Cutting Brush and roadside mowing: \$10,000.00

Budget Committee recommends to Raise \$10,000.00.

C. Equipment Maintenance Account: \$40,000.00

Budget Committee recommends taking \$20,000.00 from Excise and to Raise \$20,000.00.

D. Stockpiling Sand and Salt: \$45,000.00

Budget Committee recommends taking \$15,000.00 from Excise and to Raise

\$30,000.00.

E. Summer Roads: \$85,000.00

Budget Committee recommends taking \$30,000.00 from Excise and to Raise \$55,000.00.

F. Winter Roads \$80,000.00

Budget Committee recommends taking \$30,000.00 from Excise and to Raise \$50,000.00.

G. To set wages for the Road Crew for the ensuing year. \$26.00 per hour for the Road Commissioner and up to \$22.00 per hour for Assistants.

Budget Committee recommends \$26.00 per hour for the Road Commissioner and up to \$22.00 per hour for Assistants.

H. Electricity, phone and heating oil, mileage reimbursement: \$8,000.00

Budget Committee recommends taking \$8,000.00 from Excise.

Art. 20. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000.00 for the Road Paving Account. (Highway Maintenance)

Budget Committee recommends to Raise \$50,000.00.

Art. 21. To see if the Town will allow any monies left in the yearly Equipment maintenance account to be deposited into The Towns Savings Account for Equipment.

Budget Committee recommends doing so.

Art. 22. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the amount of \$15,000.00 to be placed in the Legal Funds Account.

Budget Committee recommends to Raise \$15,000.00.

Art. 23. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$98,000.00 for Solid Waste Disposal as follows:

A. Transfer Station: \$18,000.00

Budget Committee recommends to Raise \$18,000.00.

B. Municipal Solid Waste Disposal: \$80,000.00

Budget Committee recommends to Raise \$80,000.00.

Art. 24. To see if the town will vote to raise \$10,000.00 for the Town Audit.

Budget Committee recommends to Raise \$10,000.00.

Art. 25. To see if the town will vote to raise \$15,000.00 for Exhibition Hall repairs.

Budget Committee recommends to Raise \$15,000.00

Art. 26. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to pay tax abatements and any applicable interest, and any legal fees if necessary, from Overlay generated through tax commitment.

Budget Committee recommends doing so.

Art. 27. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Athens Volunteer Fire Department to adopt a policy to accept gifts and donations, and to accept payment for certain services provided at traffic accidents and hazardous materials incidents, with any funds received to be used as a supplement to the Fire Department's existing budget?

Budget Committee recommends doing so.

Art. 28. To see if the Town shall adopt an ordinance entitled "Solar Energy Facility Ordinance" for the Town of Athens?

A certified copy of the text of the ordinance is available from the Town Clerk.

Art. 29. To see if the Town shall adopt an ordinance entitled "Retail Chain Box Store Ordinance" for the Town of Athens?

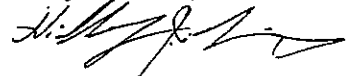
A certified copy of the text of the ordinance is available from the Town Clerk.

Art. 30. To see if the Town shall adopt an ordinance entitled "Wireless Telecommunications Facility Ordinance" for the Town of Athens?

A certified copy of the text of the ordinance is available from the Town Clerk.

Given under our hand this day, February 25, 2025 at Athens, Maine.

Hillary J. Lister, First Selectman



Charles G. Rotondi, Second Selectman



Guy C. Anton, Third Selectman



A true copy of the Warrant, attest:



Tracey Rotondi, Clerk, Town of Athens