

STRONG ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
Saturday, March 19, 2022 at 9:30 A.M.

To Erika Ouellette, a resident of the Town of Strong, County of Franklin, State of Maine;
GREETINGS:

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Strong in said County and State, qualified to vote in town affairs, to meet at the Forster Memorial Building 14 South Main St, STRONG, ME on Saturday, the 19th day of March, 2022 at 9:30 A.M. in the morning, then and there to act upon the following articles:

ARTICLE 1. To elect a Moderator to preside at said meeting.

ARTICLE 2. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to make appointments to minor offices for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 3. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to procure temporary loans in anticipation of tax payments.

ARTICLE 4. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to spend an amount not to exceed 3/12ths of the amount budgeted in each account of the annual budget for 2022 during the period from January 1, 2023 to the Annual Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 5. To see if the Town will vote to increase the property tax limit of \$461,581.76 established for the Town of Strong by State law in the event that the municipal budget approved under the following articles will result in a tax commitment that is greater than that property tax levy limit. (State statute says this must be voted by written ballot)

ARTICLE 6. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to transfer from surplus to reduce the 2022 Tax Commitment.

Selectmen recommend: \$250,000

ARTICLE 7. To see if the taxes shall be made payable and collected according to law and to authorize the Tax Collector to accept early payments.

ARTICLE 8. To see if the Town will allow a discount of 2% (to be taken out of overlay) when all real estate and personal property taxes are paid within 30 days of the date of commitment by the Assessors and to charge interest at the rate of 6% per annum from November 1, 2022 on all real and personal taxes unpaid at that date.

ARTICLE 9. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the overlay account, tax abatements, and applicable interest granted during the 2022 fiscal year.

ARTICLE 10. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen, on behalf of the Town, to sell and dispose of any real estate acquired by the Town for nonpayment of taxes thereon, on such terms as they deem advisable and execute quit claim deeds for such properties, and to sell all interest in tax liens whether completely foreclosed or not, said sale to be public and by bid process; except that the Selectmen shall use the special sale process required by 36 M.R.S.A. § 943C for qualifying homestead property if they choose to sell it to anyone other than the former owners.

ARTICLE 11. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to accept gifts of money and equipment and dispose of surplus equipment to support the needs of the Town that they deem advisable, the reason being for insurance purposes. Said sale to be public and by bid process at least once for anything over \$500.

ARTICLE 12. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate all of the money received from the State of Maine for snowmobile registrations to the Narrow Gauge Snowmobile Club for the purpose of maintaining their snowmobile trails and to authorize the Municipal Officers to enter into an agreement with the Club under such terms as the Municipal Officers deem advisable, for that purpose.

ARTICLE 13. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to accept and/or apply for any and all funds that may become available to them and to expend such funds for their intended purpose.

ARTICLE 14. To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen to utilize income generated to operating accounts to reduce the 2022 tax commitment.

ARTICLE 15. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to appropriate from Surplus an amount of \$3,500 to meet unanticipated overages and emergencies that occur during fiscal year 2022.

Selectmen Recommend: \$3,500

Budget Committee Recommends: \$3,500

ARTICLE 16. To see what sum of money the Town of Strong will vote to raise and appropriate and to allow the Selectmen to utilize revenues from the agent fees and town charges for General Government Accounts for the ensuing year.

Statement of Fact	<u>Appropriated 2021</u>	<u>Requested 2022</u>
Administration	\$ 76,000	\$ 87,000
Town Charges	\$ 31,000	\$ 31,000
Assessing	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,000
Legal Fees	\$ 3,000	\$ 2,000
Code Enforcement	<u>\$ 3,500</u>	<u>\$ 3,500</u>
Total	\$120,500	\$130,500

Selectmen Recommend: \$130,500
 Budget Committee Recommends: \$130,500

ARTICLE 17. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Town Office Dedicated Technology Account and to allow the selectmen to use any Cable Franchise Fees for the Dedicated Technology Account.

Selectmen Recommend: \$5,000
 Budget Committee Recommends: \$5,000

ARTICLE 18. To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$10,500 from County funds and up to \$9,000 from Avon Funds for the accounts listed below and to see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Protection Accounts for the ensuing year.

Statement of Fact	<u>Appropriated 2021</u>	<u>Requested 2022</u>
Fire Department Equipment	\$ 4,500	\$ 6,500
Fire Department Operating	\$15,000	\$13,000
Fire Department Payroll	<u>\$10,000</u>	<u>\$10,000</u>
	\$29,500	\$29,500
 Transfer of Funds	 <u>Avon</u>	 <u>County</u>
Fire Department Equipment	\$3,000	\$ 6,500
Fire Department Operating	\$1,500	
Fire Department Payroll	<u>\$4,500</u>	<u>\$ 4,000</u>
	\$9,000	\$10,500

Selectmen Recommend: \$29,500
 Budget Committee Recommends: \$29,500

ARTICLE 19. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Fire Department Truck Reserve Account for the ensuing year.

Selectmen Recommend: \$30,000
Budget Committee Recommends: \$0

ARTICLE 20. To see if the Town will vote to allow any leftover balances in the protection accounts to be placed in the Fire Truck Reserve account at the end of the fiscal year 2021.

Selectmen Recommend: Yes
Budget Committee Recommends: No

ARTICLE 21. To see if the town will vote to allow the selectmen to enter into a lease purchase agreement for a fire truck replacement and allow selectmen use funds from the fire department truck reserve and the balance of the U.D.A.G. account. The remaining balance would come from a lease program not to exceed 6 years and \$30,000 per year the overall price not to exceed \$500,000 plus interest.

ARTICLE 22. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Public Safety Accounts for the ensuing year.

Statement of Fact	<u>Appropriated 2021</u>	<u>Requested 2022</u>
Ambulance	\$ 14,636.50	\$ 15,447.00
Hydrants	\$ 32,027.00	\$ 32,027.00
Street lights	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 9,000.00
Animal Control	\$ 4,250.00	\$ 4,250.00
Insurance	\$ 75,500.00	\$ 75,500.00
Health Officer	\$ _____	\$ 1,200.00
Total	\$135,413.50	\$137,424.00

Selectmen Recommend: \$137,424
Budget Committee Recommends: \$137,424

ARTICLE 23. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Health and Sanitation Accounts for the ensuing year

Statement of Fact	<u>Appropriated 2021</u>	<u>Requested 2022</u>
Landfill and Solid Waste		
Management Account	\$8,500	\$9000
General Assistance	\$ 500	\$ 500
Total	\$9,000	\$9,500

Selectmen Recommend: \$9,500
Budget Committee Recommends: \$9,000

ARTICLE 24. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Highway Accounts for the ensuing year.

Statement of Fact	<u>Appropriated 2021</u>	<u>Requested 2022</u>
Winter Roads	\$ 81,750	\$ 86,750
Roads and Bridges	<u>\$ 72,555</u>	<u>\$ 77,555</u>
Total	\$154,305	\$164,305

Selectmen Recommend: \$164,305

Budget Committee Recommends: \$161,750

ARTICLE 25. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Public Works Accounts for the ensuing year.

Statement of Fact	<u>Appropriated 2021</u>	<u>Requested 2022</u>
Town Garage	\$14,500	\$14,500
Equipment Operating	\$53,000	\$50,000
Equipment Fund	<u>\$ 1,500</u>	<u>\$ 1,500</u>
Total	\$69,000	\$66,000

Selectmen Recommend: \$66,000

Budget Committee Recommends: \$66,000

ARTICLE 26. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$29,337.72 To make payment on the 2022 Western Star Truck.

ARTICLE 27. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Special Equipment Fund for the ensuing year.

Selectmen Recommend: \$25,000

Budget Committee Recommends: \$25,000

ARTICLE 28. To see if the Town will vote to use \$19,016 from Local Road Assistance Program and to see what sum of money the town will vote to appropriate from surplus to the tarvia account for 2022, with the selectmen recommending \$60,000 for a total of \$79,016.

Selectmen Recommend: \$79,016

Budget Committee Recommends: \$79,016

ARTICLE 29. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate up to \$10,500.00 for the purchase of a new plow and any costs increase between today and the purchase date be taken from Equipment and Operating account.

Selectmen Recommend: \$10,500

Budget Committee Recommends: \$10,500 to be spent from Special Equipment fund

ARTICLE 30. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Recreation Accounts for the ensuing year.

Statement of Fact	<u>Appropriated 2021</u>	<u>Requested 2022</u>
Town Park	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
Recreation	<u>\$ 3,750</u>	<u>\$ 3750</u>
Total	\$ 6,750	\$ 6,750

Selectmen Recommend: \$6,750

Budget Committee Recommends: \$5,250

ARTICLE 31. To see if the Town will allow the Selectmen to utilize interest and dividends from accounts at the Portland Trust Company and to see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Library Account for the ensuing year.

Selectmen Recommend: \$10,000

Budget Committee Recommends: \$10,000

ARTICLE 32. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Unclassified Accounts.

Statement of Fact	<u>Appropriated 2021</u>	<u>Requested 2022</u>
Franklin County Animal Shelter	\$ 2,668.60	\$ 2,468.40
Cemeteries	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Payroll Taxes	<u>\$18,000.00</u>	<u>\$19,500.00</u>
Total	\$21,168.60	\$22,468.40

Selectmen request: \$22,468.40

Budget Committee Recommends: \$ 22,468.40

ARTICLE 33. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Strong Community Events Account.

Selectmen request: \$2,000

Budget Committee Recommends: \$1,000

ARTICLE 34. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Christmas Lights.

Selectmen Recommend: \$3,500

Budget Committee Recommends \$2,500

ARTICLE 35. To see if the residents of the Town of Strong will allow the Selectmen to utilize \$4,800 in growth of funds invested in Linsco Private Ledger Accounts and any other revenues, and vote to raise and appropriate \$25,000 for the Forster Building Account.

Selectmen Recommend: \$25,000

Budget Committee Recommends: \$25,000

ARTICLE 36. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Forster Memorial Building Maintenance Reserve account.

Selectmen Recommend: \$4,000

Budget Committee Recommends: \$4,000

ARTICLE 37. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Economic Ministry.

By Request: \$2,500

Selectmen Recommend: \$2,500

Budget Committee Recommends: \$1,500

ARTICLE 38. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Faith Works Ministry.

By Request: \$2,500

Selectmen Recommend: \$2,500

Budget Committee Recommends: \$1,500

ARTICLE 39. To see if the town will vote to use up to \$10,000 from surplus to finalize the sale and disposal of the tennis court property

ARTICLE 40. To see if the Town will vote to accept the following cemetery trust funds:

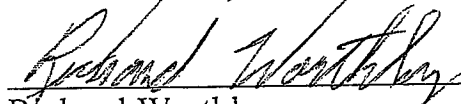
Rand R Richards \$500

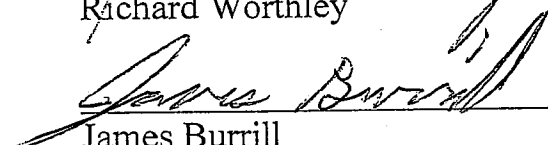
ARTICLE 40. "Shall the official Shore land Zoning Map be amended?"

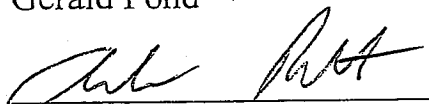
ARTICLE 41. To see if the Town will vote to commit to appropriate \$61,000 from Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (aka American Rescue Plan Act or ARPA funds) received by the Town from the federal government for a broadband improvement project in the Town of Strong, as required in the estimation of the selectmen and to authorize the selectmen to proceed with such a project when it is presented.

Given under our hands this 7th Day of March 2022, at Strong, Maine.

SELECTMEN, TOWN OF STRONG


Richard Worthley


James Burrill

Gerald Pond

Andrew Pratt

The warrant in this book is for informational purposes only.