

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING FOR ELECTION OF TOWN OFFICERS

Friday, March 20, 2026

1:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M.

STRONG ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Saturday, March 21, 2026, 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 S. Main St. in Strong on Friday, the 20th day of March, 2026 A.D. at twelve forty-five in the afternoon, then and there to act upon ARTICLE 1 and by secret ballot on ARTICLE 2 as set out below, the polling hours therefore to be from one o'clock in the afternoon until six o'clock in the evening:

And to notify and warn the inhabitants to meet at the Forster Memorial Building in said Town on Saturday, the 21st day of March 2026 A.D. at 9:30 o'clock in the morning then and there to act on ARTICLE 3 through 47 set out below to wit:

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

ARTICLE 2. To open the polls for the election of two Select Board members (3-year terms) and two School Board members (3-year terms).

ARTICLE 3. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to make appointments to minor offices for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 4. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to procure temporary loans in anticipation of tax payments.

ARTICLE 5. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to spend an amount not to exceed 3/12ths of the amount budgeted in each account of the annual budget for 2026 during the period from January 1, 2027 to the Annual Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 6. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to transfer from Surplus to reduce the 2026 Tax Commitment.

Select Board Recommends: \$300,000

Budget Committee Recommends: \$300,000

ARTICLE 7. To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$75,000 from Surplus to the Revaluation account.

ARTICLE 8. 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 9. 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, 2026 on all real and personal taxes unpaid at that date.

ARTICLE 10. To see if the Town will vote to set the interest rate of 2% to be paid by the town on abated taxes pursuant to 36 M.R.S. State Statute 506-A.

ARTICLE 11. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the overlay account, tax abatements, applicable interest granted, and interest paid on abatements during the 2026 fiscal year.

ARTICLE 12. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to dispose of tax acquired property as they deem in the best interest of the Town, except that the Municipal Officers shall first use the sale process in 36 M.R.S. State Statute 943-C if they choose to sell property to anyone other than the former owner, as defined in State Statute 943-C. For sales to someone other than the former owner, excess sale proceeds, as defined in 36 M.R.S. State Statute 943-C, shall be returned to the former owner.

ARTICLE 13. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board 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 valued over \$500.

ARTICLE 14. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate all 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 15. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to accept and/or apply for all funds that may become available to them and to expend such funds for their intended purpose.

ARTICLE 16. To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board to utilize income generated to operating accounts to reduce the 2026 tax commitment.

ARTICLE 17. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to appropriate from Surplus \$ 3,500 to meet unanticipated overages and emergencies that occur during fiscal year 2026.

ARTICLE 18. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to appropriate from Surplus an amount to fund employee retirement accounts for the year 2026.

Select Board Recommends: \$7,000

Budget Committee Recommends: No recommendation

ARTICLE 19. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and allow the Select Board to utilize revenues from the agent fees and town charges for General Government accounts for the ensuing year.

Statement of Fact	<u>Appropriated 2025</u>	<u>Requested 2026</u>
Administration	\$ 101,000	\$ 107,000
Town Charges	\$ 33,000	\$ 36,000
Assessing	\$ 18,000	\$ 18,000
Legal Fees	\$ 2,000	\$ 5,000
Code Enforcement	<u>\$ 8,000</u>	<u>\$ 8,750</u>
Total	\$ 162,000	\$ 174,750

Select Board Recommends: \$174,750

Budget Committee Recommends: \$174,750

ARTICLE 20. 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 Select Board to use any Cable Franchise fees for the Dedicated Technology account.

Select Board Recommends: \$16,000

Budget Committee Recommends: \$16,000

ARTICLE 21. To see if the town will vote to allow the Select Board to enter into yearly Service Agreements for Fire Protection with Franklin County and the Town of Avon.

ARTICLE 22. To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$34,217.79 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 25</u>	<u>Select Board Requested 2026</u>	<u>Budget Committee Requested 2026</u>
Fire Department Equipment	\$ 13,000	\$ 13,000	\$ 9,000
Fire Department Operating	\$ 6,500	\$ 6,500	\$ 6,500
Fire Department Payroll	<u>\$ 10,000</u>	<u>\$ 10,000</u>	<u>\$ 7,000</u>
	\$ 29,500	\$ 29,500	\$ 22,500
Transfer of Funds		<u>Avon</u>	<u>County</u>
Fire Department Equipment		\$ 3,000	\$ 6,239.26
Fire Department Operating		\$ 1,500	\$12,239.26
Fire Department Payroll		<u>\$ 4,500</u>	<u>\$15,739.27</u>
		\$ 9,000	\$34,217.79

Select Board Recommends: \$29,500

Budget Committee Recommends: \$22,500

ARTICLE 23. 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.

Select Board Recommends: \$35,000
Budget Committee Recommends: \$35,000

ARTICLE 24. To see if the Town will vote to allow any balances in the Protection accounts to be placed in the Fire Department Special Equipment account at the end of the current fiscal year.

Select Board Recommends: Yes
Budget Committee Recommends: No

ARTICLE 25. 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 2025</u>	<u>Requested 2026</u>
Ambulance	\$ 29,343	\$ 34,000
Hydrants	\$ 32,027	\$ 32,027
Streetlights	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,000
Animal Control	\$ 4,300	\$ 4,000
Insurance	\$ 94,000	\$105,000
Health officer	<u>\$ 1,200</u>	<u>\$ 1,200</u>
Total	\$167,870	\$183,227

Select Board Recommends: \$183,227
Budget Committee Recommends: \$183,227

ARTICLE 26. 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 2025</u>	<u>Requested 2026</u>
Landfill and Solid Waste	\$ 8,500	\$ 8,700
General Assistance	<u>\$ 1,000</u>	<u>\$ 1,500</u>
Total	\$ 9,500	\$10,200

Select Board Recommends: \$10,200
Budget Committee Recommends: \$10,200

ARTICLE 27. 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 2025</u>	<u>Requested 2026</u>
Winter Roads	\$ 109,000	\$ 115,000
Roads and Bridges	<u>\$ 91,000</u>	<u>\$ 91,000</u>
Total	\$ 200,000	\$ 206,000

Select Board Recommends: \$206,000
Budget Committee Recommends: \$206,000

ARTICLE 28. 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 2025</u>	<u>Requested 2026</u>
Town Garage	\$ 16,000	\$ 16,000
Equipment Operating	\$ 55,000	\$ 55,000
Equipment Fund	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
Total	\$ 72,500	\$ 72,500

Select Board Recommends: \$72,500
Budget Committee Recommends: \$72,500

ARTICLE 29. To see if the Town will vote to allow the Select Board to enter into a lease purchase agreement for a new wheeler truck and plow equipment. The lease would be for 5 years, not to exceed \$331,000, and payments not to exceed \$47,000. The down payment of \$100,000 would be taken from the Special Equipment fund.

Statement of Fact: current interest rate of 5.48%

ARTICLE 30. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$46,172.77 for the first payment on the new wheeler truck and plow equipment.

ARTICLE 31. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Special Equipment Fund for the ensuing year.

Select Board Recommends: \$25,000
Budget Committee Recommends: \$25,000

ARTICLE 32. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to transfer from the Surplus account to the Tarvia account for the ensuing year.

Select Board Recommends: \$60,000
Budget Committee Recommends: \$60,000

ARTICLE 33. To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$40,120 from the L.R.A.P. account to the Tarvia account for the ensuing year.

Select Board Recommends: \$40,120
Budget Committee Recommends: \$40,120

ARTICLE 34. 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 2025</u>	<u>Carry-Over</u>
Town Park	\$ 4,500	\$ 6,368.64
Beach	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,027.33
Legion Field	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>2,876.48</u>
Total	\$ 6,500	\$ 10,272.45

	<u>Select Board Requested 2026</u>	<u>Budget Committee Requested 2026</u>
Town Park	\$ 2,000	\$ 0
Beach	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000
Legion Field	\$ <u>1,000</u>	\$ <u>1,000</u>

Select Board Recommends: \$7,000

Budget Committee Recommends: \$5,000

ARTICLE 35. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to make final determinations regarding the closing or opening of roads for winter maintenance pursuant to 23 M.R.S. § 2953.

ARTICLE 36. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to make payment on the American Legion Post 78 Johnson Cox real estate contract.

Select Board Recommends: Yes

Budget Committee Recommends: Yes

ARTICLE 37. To see if the Town will allow the Select Board to utilize interest and dividends from accounts at the Portland Trust Company for the Library and to see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Library account for the ensuing year.

Select Board Recommends: \$10,000

Budget Committee Recommends: \$10,000

ARTICLE 38. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the following Unclassified accounts.

Statement of Fact	<u>Appropriated 2025</u>	<u>Requested 2026</u>
Franklin County Animal Shelter	\$ 3,366	\$ 3,479
Cemeteries	\$ 500	\$ 500
Payroll Taxes	\$ <u>22,500</u>	\$ <u>25,500</u>
	\$ 26,366	\$ 29,479

Select Board Recommends: \$29,479
Budget Committee Recommends: \$29,479

ARTICLE 39. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Strong Community Events account.

Select Board Recommends: \$3,000
Budget Committee Recommends: \$3,000

ARTICLE 40. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Christmas lights.

Select Board Recommends: \$2,000
Budget Committee Recommends: \$2,000

ARTICLE 41. To see if the Town will allow the Select Board to utilize \$4,800 in growth of funds invested in Linsco Private Ledger accounts and any other revenues, and to see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Forster Building account.

Select Board Recommends: \$27,000
Budget Committee Recommends: \$27,000

ARTICLE 42. To see if the Town will vote to allow any balances in the Forster Building account to be placed in the Forster Memorial Building Maintenance Reserve account.

ARTICLE 43. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$500.00 for the Septic Cluster Fund.

Select Board Recommends: Yes
Budget Committee Recommends: Yes

ARTICLE 44. Shall an ordinance entitled, "Community Tobacco-Free Policy" be enacted?

ARTICLE 45. Shall an ordinance entitled, "Community Substance Use Policy" be enacted?

ARTICLE 46. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Economic Ministry.

By Request: \$4,000
Select Board Recommends: No recommendation
Budget Committee Recommends: \$4,000

ARTICLE 47. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Faith Works Food Bank.

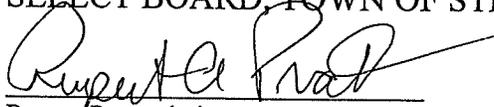
By Request: \$4,000

Select Board Recommends: No recommendation

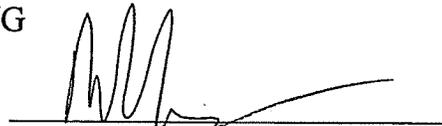
Budget Committee Recommends: \$4,000

Given under our hands this 24th day of February, 2026 at Strong, Maine.

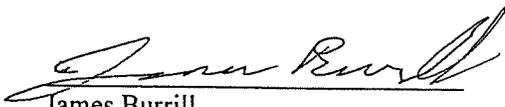
SELECT BOARD, TOWN OF STRONG



Rupert Pratt, chair



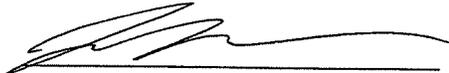
Andrew Brady



James Burrill



David Catino



Joel Doyon

True Attest Copy: 
Amanda Coolong, Strong Town Clerk