

TOWN MEETING WARRANT

May 12, 2026

6:00PM

Bear River Grange Hall

71 Bear River Road, Newry Maine

To Amy Henley a resident in the Town of Newry, County of Oxford, State of Maine.

GREETINGS:

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Newry in said County and State, qualified by law to vote in Town affairs, and, to notify and warn said inhabitants to meet at the Bear River Grange Hall at 6:00 PM in the evening to act on the following Articles 1 through 43 as set out below, to wit:

Article 1. To choose a Moderator by secret ballot to preside at said meeting.

Article 2. To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for Administration and Salaries. Rec. Pass \$556,905

(FY26: \$424,203)

Article 3. To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for Ambulance Service. Rec. Pass \$24,075

(FY26: \$19,575)

Article 4. To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for Assessors Expense. Rec. Pass \$15,250

(FY26: \$14,500)

Article 5. To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for the Maintenance of the Cemetery. Rec. Pass \$14,920

(FY26: \$7,500)

Article 6. To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for Committees and Boards. Rec. Pass \$39,450

(FY26: \$39,450)

Article 7. To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for Community Assistance.
 Rec. Pass

ORGANIZATION	FY-2026	FY-2027
AGE FRIENDLY	\$500.00	\$500.00
RED CROSS	\$875.00	\$875.00
ANDRO HOME	\$250.00	\$250.00
BETHEL LIBRARY	\$6,000.00	\$5,000.00
BETHEL CHAMBER	\$475.00	0
BETHEL HISTORICAL	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
CANCER RESOURCE CENTER	\$500.00	\$500.00
COMMUNITY CONCEPTS	\$700.00	\$700.00
FLAGS FOR SOLDIERS	\$500.00	\$500.00
PROJECT GRAD	\$500.00	\$500.00
SENIOR PLUS	\$750.00	\$750.00
TOWN GRADUATES	\$0	\$2,000.00
WCBB-MPBN local PBS	\$300.00	\$450.00
WINDY VALLEY	\$5,000.00	\$4,000.00
HARVEST HILLS	\$411.00	\$411.00
LIFE FLIGHT	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
BETHEL FOOD PANTRY	\$1,600.00	\$800.00
MAHOOSUC KIDS	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
BETHEL RECREATION	\$4,400.00	\$4,400.00
HAILEY'S HUGS	\$0	\$100.00
SAFE VOICES	\$0	\$500.00
Total	\$28,761.00	\$28,236.00

Article 8. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate money received from the Cable Franchise Agreement to Western Maine Access Television Channel 11.

Rec. Pass \$13,683.89

(FY26: \$ 14,857.74)

Article 9. To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for the Municipal Officers to use as they deem advisable to meet unanticipated expenses and emergencies that occur during fiscal year 2026-2027

Rec. Pass \$2,000

(FY26: \$2,000)

Article 10. To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for Grange Hall Maintenance.

Rec. Pass \$13,500

(FY26: \$13,000)

Article 11. To see if the Town will vote to move three (3) Special Revenue accounts to the Capital Projects Road Reserve account.

Scholarship account	\$1,301.00		
Canopy Grant	\$70.83		
Town Celebrations	\$1,658.00	Total \$3,029.83	Rec. Pass

Article 12. To see if the Town will vote to use Capital Projects Reserve accounts to offset the paving projects.

Simonds Brook Reserve	\$976.49		
FEMA	\$101,874.24	Total \$102,850.73	Rec. Pass

Article 13. To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for Highways and Bridges. Rec. Pass \$830,278

(FY26: \$839,429)

Article 14. To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for the purpose of paying fees or charges required for membership in the Maine Municipal Association Property and Casualty Risk Pool and other Town insurance costs.

Rec. Pass \$148,119

(FY26: \$134,700)

Article 15. To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for the Operation and Maintenance of the Municipal Building. Rec. Pass \$32,000

(FY26: \$34,800)

Article 16. To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for Operation and Maintenance of the Fire Department. Rec. Pass \$190,200

(FY26: \$197,564)

Article 17. To see if the Town will vote to continue having MSW for all dumpsters and curbside pickup located in the Town of Newry. Rec. Not Pass \$136,000

In prior years this was always included in the Solid Waste Contract

Article 18. To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for Sanitation to pay all fees and membership charges for Tri-Town Solid Waste.

Rec. Pass \$250,000

(FY26: \$259,000) included MSW dumpsters & curbside

Article 19. To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for Street Lights. Rec. Pass \$1,000

(FY26: \$ 1,000)

Article 20. Shall the Town authorize the Municipal Officers to carry forward unexpended balances as they deem necessary, all other unexpended balances to lapse to the fund balance. Rec. Pass

Article 21. To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for Digitizing Town of Newry Tax Maps and Revising the Paper Maps.

Rec. Pass \$6,000

(FY26: \$6,000)

Article 22. To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for the Sunday River School House Account.

Rec. Pass \$2,500

(FY26: \$4,000)

Article 23. To see what action the Town wishes to take regarding allowing the Municipal Officers to spend up to 10% of the Capital Improvement Account without seeking prior town approval. Rec. Pass

Article 24. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to accept donations not to exceed \$5,000 on behalf of the Town. Rec. Pass

Article 25. To see if the Town will allow the Municipal Officers to sell or dispose of any Town property with a value of not more than \$2,000, under such terms and conditions that they deem advisable. Rec. Pass

Article 26. To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$200,000 from the Town's Undesignated Fund Balance and move to the Fire Department Capital Reserve Account?

Rec. Pass

(FY26 \$100,000)

Article 27. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Capital Improvements related to the Sunday River Road Hazard Mitigation for fiscal year 2026-2027

Rec. Pass \$300,000

(FY26: \$70,000)

Article 28. To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for the Forest Fire Reserve Account. Rec. Pass \$5,000

(FY26: \$5,000)

Article 29. To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for the Animal Control officer? Rec. Pass \$2,000

(FY26: \$3,000)

Article 30. To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for the Revaluation Reserve account? Rec. Pass \$50,000

(FY26: \$50,000)

Article 31. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate money received from the registrations and fines of dogs to enforce the Animal Control Laws. Rec. Pass

Article 32. To see if the Town will vote to use the overlay for abatements on taxes. Rec. Pass

Article 33. To see if the Town will vote to charge interest on taxes not paid before a certain date and establish the date and rate of interest. Rec. Annual rate of 7.00% on taxes not paid by September 30th and March 31st (2 installment payments) Rec. Pass

Article 34. To see if the Town will vote to set the interest rate to be paid by the Town on abated taxes at 3% for the fiscal year. Rec. Pass

Article 35. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector or Treasurer to accept prepayments of taxes not yet committed and set the rate of interest at 0% for overpayments pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. § 506. Rec. Pass

Article 36. To see if the Town will permit the Tax Collector or the designee to waive unintentional tax interest payment shortages in an amount not to exceed \$5.00. Rec. Pass

Article 37. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to dispose of tax acquired property as they deem in the best interests of the Town, except that the municipal officers shall first use the sale process in 36 M.R.S. § 943-C if they choose to sell property to anyone other than the former owner. For sales to someone other than the former owner, excess sale proceeds, as defined in 36 M.R.S. § 943-C, shall be returned to the former owner. Rec. Pass

Article 38. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate money received from the registrations of snowmobiles and Municipal Snowmobile Grants to the Windy Valleys Snowmobile Club for the purpose of maintaining the snowmobile trails.

Rec. Pass

Article. 39. To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$200,000 from the Undesignated Fund balance to reduce taxes.

Rec. Pass

Article 40. To see if the Town will accept estimated revenues, including, but not limited to federal, state, local, non-property tax revenues, and undesignated donations, to reduce the FY27 property tax commitment, as described below.

<u>Category</u>	<u>Estimated 2027</u>
Auto Excise	\$150,000
Boat Excise	\$ 500
Agent Fee	\$ 3,800
Clerk Fees	\$ 850
Planning Board Fees	\$ 10,000
Interest Income Bank /Investments	\$ 50,000
Interest Income Taxes	\$ 7,500
Veterans Exemption	\$ 200
Plumbing Fees	\$ 5,000
Building Permits	\$ 10,000
Tree Growth	\$ 30,000
Cannabis Revenue	\$ 4,100
Liquor Licenses	\$ 100
Misc Income	\$ 10,000
LRAP	\$ 14,500

Total Estimated Revenues \$296,550

Article 41. Shall the ordinance entitled “Unified Development Review Ordinance for the Town of Newry, Maine” adopted May 13, 2025, be repealed and replaced with an updated version of the “Unified Development Review Ordinance for the Town of Newry, Maine”? (The proposed ordinance exceeds 10 pages in length and so copies of the text of the ordinance are not posted but are available from the Town Clerk at the Town Office during normal business hours.)

Rec. Pass

Article 42. Shall an ordinance entitled “Board of Appeals Ordinance” be enacted?

Rec. Pass

Article 43. Shall an ordinance entitled “Amendment to Land Use and Building Code Ordinance” be enacted?

Rec. Pass



Town Treasurer

Hereof, fail not, and have you then and there this warrant with your doings thereon.

The Registrar of Voters will be in session at the time and place of said meeting for the purpose of correcting the voting list.

Given under our hand at Newry, Maine this 21st day of April 2026 A.D.

Respectfully submitted,


Virgil Conkright


Mandy Berry


David Bartlett

Municipal Officers of Newry

Attest:


Loretta Powers, Town Clerk