

2019 Annual Warrant

To David Welch, Constable
of the Town of Mercer
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 Mercer qualified to vote in town affairs to meet at the **Mercer Community Center** in said Town of Mercer on **Friday, the 1st day of March, 2019**, at 10 o'clock a.m., to elect all Town Officials. The polls will open immediately after the election of a Moderator and will remain open until 8 o'clock p.m. The business meeting will then be held in the gym of the **Mercer Community Center** on **Saturday the 2nd day of March, 2019** beginning at 6 o'clock pm.

First Selectmen, Vernon E Worthen II, Opened the meeting at 6:06 pm and welcomed all to the meeting.

Vernon- announced the Spirit of America Award Recipient for 2019 – Mercer Rescue. Congratulated them and thanked them for their Volunteerism to the community.

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

Paul Mills was nominated to serve as Moderator, it was moved and seconded,
With No discussion
Then went to vote by paper ballot. Chris Tibbetts collected ballots, 16-0 voted for Paul Mills

***ARTICLE 1: The Town voted to elect Paul Mills as Moderator to preside at said meeting.**

The town clerk administered the Oath of office to Mr. Paul Mills

ARTICLE 2: To elect a Town Clerk, a Tax Collector and a Treasurer all for three year terms, three Selectmen, Assessors, and Overseers of the Poor all for one year terms, a Trustee of Shaw Library for a five year term, two persons to serve on the Planning Board for each a three year term and a Director of School Board MSAD # 54 for a three year term.

***ARTICLE 2: Paul Mills read the results from Friday's Election as follows:**

Town Clerk, 3 yr
Violette, Yolanda – 127

1st Selectman, 1 yr
Worthen II, Vernon E – 62
Bartholf, Mychael - 42
LaPlante, Frederick - 20

Director of School Board MSAD #54, 3 yr
Charles, Maryellen – 128

Tax Collector, 3 yr
Violette, Yolanda – 128

2nd Selectman, 1 yr
Crandall, Jesse – 46
Mosher, Gary – 45

Planning Board, 3 yr - 2 Seats
Juskewitch, Jason – 25
Gierczak, Emma – 34

Treasurer, 3 yr
Violette, Yolanda - 128

3rd Selectman, 1 yr
Redlevske, Norman G – 66
Dutill, Chris – 61

Shaw Library Trustee, 5 yr
Beeuwkes, Chris - 39

Paul Mills stated at end of meeting a recount has been asked for the 2nd Selectman seat, no date set at this time.

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to increase the property tax levy limit of \$263,048 established for Mercer by state law, in the event that the municipal budget approved under the following articles results in a tax commitment greater than that limit.

Budget Committee recommends (5-0)

The article was moved as written and seconded,

With No discussion

It went to vote by paper ballot. Chris collected the ballots. 27-Yes, 10-no, Passed

***ARTICLE 3: The Town voted to increase the property tax levy limit of \$263,048 established for Mercer by state law, in the event that the municipal budget approved under the following articles results in a tax commitment greater than that limit.**

ARTICLE 4: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the salaries of Town Officers.

	Requested	Budget Committee Recommends (3-0-2)
1 st Selectman	4,500.00	4,500.00
2 nd Selectman	4,000.00	4,000.00
3 rd Selectman	4,000.00	4,000.00
Town Clerk	7,024.00	6,424.00
Treasurer	11,458.00	10,858.00
Tax Collector	12,719.00	12,119.00
Selectmen's Sec	2,040.00	2,040.00
Dep. Clerk/Collector	4,141.00	4,141.00
Registrar	500.00	500.00
Office Assistant/Deputy	<u>5,200.00</u>	<u>3,500.00</u>
	\$55,582.00	\$52,082.00

The article was moved as requested \$55,582 and seconded,
Then immediately amended to \$52,082 (BC Rec) and seconded,
With much discussion – voted to cut off debate.

Voted by paper ballot on the amendment to go to vote of \$52,082, 36-35 vote.

Then amended to a 2nd amendment of \$54,682 (increase of \$900 (\$300 ea) for TC, TX & TR & \$1700 for OA from the BC Rec.) and seconded, voted by paper ballot to go to vote on the 2nd amendment, 44-25 vote, Passed.

Moved to go vote on 2nd Amendment of \$54,682 and seconded.

Voted by show of hands, Passed

***ARTICLE 4: The Town voted to raise and appropriate \$54,682 from taxes for the salaries of the Town Officers.**

Being: Selectmen-\$4,500,\$4,000, \$4,000, TC-\$6,724, TR-\$11,158,TX-\$12,419, SS-\$2,040,Dep. TC,TX,TR-\$4,141, OA-\$5,200

**** Shelley Rudnicki, State Representative for our area spoke for a minute to introduce herself and let Mercer Residents know to reach out to her by email or a phone call if they have anything they have questions on etc. Stated she is on the Education Committee, there are around 250 bills be voted on in the legislature this session.**

ARTICLE 5: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate to cover the Town's share of F.I.C.A. and Medicare costs of town salaries.

Budget Committee recommends .0765% from Taxes (Est. \$5,700) as required by law based on the total Town Payroll (4-0-1)

The article was moved as written and seconded,
With No discussion

***ARTICLE 5: The Town voted to raise and appropriate .0765% from taxes to cover the Town's share of F.I.C.A. and Medicare costs of town salaries. (Est. \$5,700)**

ARTICLE 6: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to appropriate for selectpersons' emergency contingencies. Any and all use of the funds will be fully and explicitly reported to the 2019 annual report.

Budget Committee recommends \$10,000 from Surplus (4-0-1)

The article was moved as written and seconded,
With No discussion

***ARTICLE 6: The Town voted to appropriate \$10,000 from surplus for selectpersons' emergency contingencies. Any and all use of the funds will be fully and explicitly reported to the 2019 annual report.**

ARTICLE 7: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to appropriate for annual dues of the Maine Municipal Association.

Budget Committee recommends \$1,751 from Surplus (4-0-1)

The article was moved as written and seconded,
With No discussion

***ARTICLE 7: The Town voted to appropriate \$1,751 from surplus for annual dues of the Maine Municipal Association.**

ARTICLE 8: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for General Liability and Property Insurance.

Budget Committee recommends \$11,948 from Taxes (4-0-1)

The article was moved as written and seconded,
With No discussion

***ARTICLE 8: The Town voted to raise and appropriate \$11,948 from taxes for General Liability and Property Insurance.**

ARTICLE 9: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Liability Insurance for Public Officials plus Bonds.

Budget Committee recommends \$1,665 from Taxes (4-0-1)

The article was moved as written and seconded,
With No discussion

***ARTICLE 9: The Town voted to raise and appropriate \$1,665 from taxes for Liability Insurance for Public Officials plus Bonds.**

ARTICLE 10: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for worker's comp insurance & unemployment for town employees.

Budget Committee recommends \$2,300 from Taxes (4-0-1)

The article was moved as written and seconded,
With No discussion

***ARTICLE 10: The Town voted to raise and appropriate \$2,300 from taxes for worker's comp insurance & unemployment for town employees.**

ARTICLE 11: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Health Insurance coverage.
\$13,969 Requested from Taxes

Budget Committee makes no recommendation (2-2-1)

The article was moved as \$13,062.28 and seconded,
With little discussion, went to vote to vote on \$13,062.28, by show of hands, Failed
Then moved to amend it back to the \$13,969 as requested and seconded. Went to vote by show of hands -
Passed

***ARTICLE 11: The Town voted to raise and appropriate \$13,969 from taxes for Health Insurance coverage.**

ARTICLE 12: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Town Office, Shaw Library, Municipal Center, and Town Expense.

Budget Committee recommends \$35,000 from Taxes plus any revenues or donations generated by the center. Any remaining balance will be placed in municipal center capital reserve fund (3-0-2)

The article was moved as written and seconded,
With Little discussion

***ARTICLE 12: The Town voted to raise and appropriate \$35,000 from taxes plus any revenues or donations generated by the center for Town Office, Shaw Library, Municipal Center, and Town Expense.**

ARTICLE 13: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for annual maintenance & upgrades of the TRIO accounting & assessing program.

Budget Committee recommends \$7,200 from Taxes (4-0-1)

The article was moved as written and seconded,
With No discussion

***ARTICLE 13: The Town voted to raise and appropriate \$7,200 from taxes for annual maintenance & upgrades of the TRIO accounting & assessing program.**

ARTICLE 14: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Assessing.

Budget Committee recommends \$9,000 from Taxes. Any remaining balance to be placed in the Assessing Re-Evaluation Fund (3-0-2)

The article was moved as written and seconded,
With No discussion

***ARTICLE 14: The Town voted to raise and appropriate \$9,000 from taxes for Assessing, any remaining balance to be places in the Assessing Re-Evaluation Fund.**

ARTICLE 15: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Solid Waste Disposal, Recycling and Blue Bag purchase.

Budget Committee recommends \$23,000 from Taxes plus all Transfer Station revenue (4-0-1)

The article was moved as written and seconded,
With No discussion

***ARTICLE 15: The Town voted to raise and appropriate \$23,000 from taxes plus all Transfer Station Revenue for Solid Waste Disposal, Recycling and Blue Bag purchase.**

ARTICLE 16: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to appropriate for the Planning Board.
Budget Committee recommends \$1,000 from Surplus (4-0-1)

The article was moved as written and seconded,
With No discussion

***ARTICLE 16:** The Town voted to appropriate \$1,000 from surplus for the Planning Board.

ARTICLE 17: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to appropriate for Animal Control.
Budget Committee recommends all dog account revenue plus \$5,100 from Surplus (4-0-1)

The article was moved as written and seconded,
With No discussion

***ARTICLE 17:** The Town voted to appropriate \$5,100 from surplus for Animal Control.

ARTICLE 18: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to appropriate for Cemetery Care.
Budget Committee recommends \$6,000 from Surplus, plus fund interest (3-0-2)

The article was moved as written and seconded,
With some discussion about the lack of care at the Hampshire Hill Cemetery by the Association, some have volunteered in past but it needs work. Veterans' stones are in there and they need to be taken care of.
Then amended to \$7,000 with the extra \$1,000 specifically for Hampshire Hill Cemetery, seconded
Went to vote on the \$7,000

***ARTICLE 18:** The Town voted to appropriate \$7,000 from surplus, plus fund interest for Cemetery Care, \$1,000 of it for Hampshire Hill Cemetery Care.

ARTICLE 19: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Town of Mercer Office of Emergency Management / CERT.

Budget Committee recommends \$1,500 from Taxes (4-0-1)

The article was moved as \$0. and seconded,
With some discussion, went to vote on the \$0, was opposed- Failed
Then amended to the \$1,500 and seconded.
Then went to vote on the \$1,500, by show of hands

***ARTICLE 19:** The Town voted to raise and appropriate \$1,500 from taxes for the Town of Mercer Office of Emergency Management / CERT.

ARTICLE 20: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the 2018 Town Audit.
Budget Committee recommends \$3,300 from Taxes (4-0-1)

The article was moved as written and seconded,
With No discussion

***ARTICLE 20:** The Town voted to raise and appropriate \$3,300 from taxes for the 2018 Town Audit.

ARTICLE 21: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for public safety. This will include fire protection provided by the Town of Norridgewock and traffic & street lights.
Budget Committee recommends \$27,750 from Taxes (4-0-1)

The article was moved as written and seconded,
With No discussion

***ARTICLE 21:** The Town voted to raise and appropriate \$27,750 from taxes for public safety. This will include fire protection provided by the Town of Norridgewock and traffic & street lights.

ARTICLE 22: To see what percentage the Town will vote to deduct on all taxes assessed in 2019 that are paid in full on or before the 30th day after the date of the mailing of the tax bills.
Budget Committee recommends 2% (4-0-1)

The article was moved as written and seconded,
With some discussion

***ARTICLE 22:** The Town voted to deduct 2% on all taxes assessed in 2019 that are paid in full on or before the 30th day after the date of the mailing of the tax bills.

ARTICLE 23: To see what rate the Town will vote to charge and collect interest on all taxes assessed in 2019 that are unpaid 60 days after the date of the mailing of the tax bills.
Budget Committee recommends the 9% allowed by state law per annum (4-0-1)

The article was moved as written and seconded,
With some discussion,
Moved to amend to 5% and seconded, vote on the amendment to 5%, opposed 17-Yes/35-No
Then amended back to the 9%, seconded. Moved to vote on 9%

***ARTICLE 23:** The Town voted to charge and collect 9% interest on all taxes assessed in 2019 that are unpaid 60 days after the date of the mailing of the tax bills.

ARTICLE 24: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$9,325 for Shaw Library.
Budget Committee recommends \$9,325 from Taxes (3-1-1)

The article was moved as written and seconded,
With some discussion

***ARTICLE 24: The Town voted to raise and appropriate \$9,325 from taxes for Shaw Library.**

ARTICLE 25: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Summer Road maintenance.
Budget Committee recommends \$80,000 from Taxes (4-0-1)

The article was moved as written and seconded,
Then a motion to move up Article 28 to discuss out of order, was seconded. By show of hands voted not to move Article #28 up before Article #25.
With some discussion about having a Road Plan

***ARTICLE 25: The Town voted to raise and appropriate \$80,000 from taxes for Summer Road maintenance.**

ARTICLE 26: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for paving.
Budget Committee recommends all funds to come from 2019 LRAP, 20,000 from Taxes and \$10,000 from Surplus (3-1-1)

The article was moved as written and seconded,
With 1st Selectmen letting residents know they can pick road to pave,
A motion for south end of Rome Road be paved, seconded. Motion went to vote and was opposed- Failed
A motion for selectmen to choose the road section. seconded. Went to vote.

***ARTICLE 26: The Town voted to raise and appropriate 2019 LRAP, \$20,000 from taxes and \$10,000 from surplus for paving with selectmen choosing road section.**

ARTICLE 27: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for ditching.
Budget Committee recommends \$10,000 from Taxes (4-0-1)

The article was moved as written and seconded,
Then immediately amended to \$20,000, seconded, with some discussion, voted for the amendment, opposed – Failed
Then amended back to the \$10,000, seconded. Went to vote

***ARTICLE 27: The Town voted to raise and appropriate \$10,000 from taxes for ditching.**

ARTICLE 28: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate to repair the first ¾ mile of West Sandy River Road with shim, gravel and grading.

(\$30,000 Requested from Taxes)

Budget Committee recommends no appropriation (5-0)

The article was moved as requested (\$30,000) and seconded,
With some discussion, amended to \$0, seconded. Voted on the amendment to \$0, Hand count show of hands 27-Yes/27-No, tie vote Failed. Back on the floor to an amendment of \$5,000, seconded. Then amended to remove the "3/4 mile" and replace it with "Section", seconded. Went to vote and passed.

Then went back to vote on the amendment of \$5,000 and failed, back to the original motion of \$30,000.

Went to vote by show of hands, hand counted 34-Yes/27-No - Passed

*** ARTICLE 28: The Town voted to raise and appropriate \$30,000 from taxes to repair the first "Section" of West Sandy River Road with shim, gravel and grading.**

ARTICLE 29: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Winter Road maintenance, including plowing, sanding and stockpiling sand and salt.

\$190,000. \$140,000 will come from Excise Tax, \$50,000 from Taxes plus any short fall to come from Surplus

Budget Committee is unable to make a consensus (2-0-3)

The article was moved as written and seconded,
BC member-Robert Gardner, explained the reason the BC couldn't come to a consensus, due to the increase of salt purchase. With some discussion and concerns for conflict of interest, equipment, term of contract. Motion to amend to \$14,000 from taxes, was seconded went to vote and Failed.

Back to original motion as written. Went to vote by show of hands, hand counted 28-Yes/25-No-
Passed

*** ARTICLE 29: The Town voted to raise and appropriate \$190,000. (\$140,000 will come from Excise Tax, \$50,000 from Taxes plus any short fall to come from Surplus) for Winter Road maintenance, including plowing, sanding and stockpiling sand and salt.**

ARTICLE 30: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to appropriate for General Assistance.

Budget Committee recommends \$17,500 from Surplus, plus all State reimbursements (4-0-1)

The article was moved as written and seconded,

With No discussion

*** ARTICLE 30: The Town voted to appropriate \$17,500 from surplus for General Assistance.**

ARTICLE 31: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for charity. A minimum of 50% of this will be spent in the town of Mercer.

Budget Committee recommends \$2,000 from Taxes (4-0-1)

The article was moved as written and seconded,
With No discussion

***ARTICLE 31:** The Town voted to raise and appropriate \$2,000 from taxes for charity. A minimum of 50% of this will be spent in the town of Mercer.

ARTICLE 32: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Mercer Meeting House Association (Mercer Old Home Days) necessary repairs to the Mercer Meeting House and for use of Mercer Old Home Days festivities.

Budget Committee recommends \$500 from Taxes (3-1-1)

The article was moved as written and seconded,
With No discussion

***ARTICLE 32:** The Town voted to raise and appropriate \$500 from taxes for Mercer Meeting House Association (Mercer Old Home Days) necessary repairs to the Mercer Meeting House and for use of Mercer Old Home Days festivities.

ARTICLE 33: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Mercer Historical Society, for the support of the activities at MHS.

Budget Committee recommends \$500 from Taxes (4-0-1)

The article was moved as written and seconded,
With No discussion

***ARTICLE 33:** The Town voted to raise and appropriate \$500 from taxes for Mercer Historical Society, for the support of the activities at MHS.

ARTICLE 34: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for various Youth Leagues.

Budget Committee recommends \$750 from Taxes (4-0-1)

The article was moved as written and seconded,
With No discussion

***ARTICLE 34:** The Town voted to raise and appropriate \$750 from taxes for various Youth Leagues.

ARTICLE 35: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to appropriate to supplement the three town scholarship awards. Budget Committee recommends \$425 from Surplus -- \$200 for each high school award and \$25 for the elementary award (4-0-1)

The article was moved as written and seconded,
With No discussion

***ARTICLE 35:** The Town voted to appropriate \$425 from surplus -- \$200 for each high school award and \$25 for the elementary award to supplement the three town scholarship awards.

ARTICLE 36: To see if the Town will vote to elect from the floor at this meeting, five individuals to serve as a Budget Committee. The committee will meet with the selectmen within 60 days for the purpose of electing a Chairperson.

The article was moved and seconded,
Nominations opened

1. Sarah Bunker-Geyer
2. Steve Hakala
3. Chris Tibbetts
4. Rick Loadwick
5. Barbara VanBurgel
6. Steve Moore
7. Jason Juskewitch

Motion to cease nominations, seconded - Passed

Motion to have a 7 member committee, seconded – Passed

***ARTICLE 36:** The Town voted the above 7 members for the Budget Committee which will meet with the selectmen within 60 days for the purpose to elect a Chair.

ARTICLE 37: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to appropriate for training costs of CEO and LPI. Budget Committee recommends \$400 from Surplus (4-0-1)

The article was moved as written and seconded,
With No discussion

***ARTICLE 37:** The Town voted to appropriate \$400 from surplus for training costs of CEO and LPI.

ARTICLE 38: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to appropriate for CEO compensation.
Budget Committee recommends up to \$2,000 from Surplus, plus all application fees (3-1-1)

The article was moved as written and seconded,
With No discussion

***ARTICLE 38: The Town voted to appropriate \$2000 from surplus, plus all application fees for CEO compensation.**

ARTICLE 39: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,000 for North Pond Association.
(\$2,000 requested)
Budget Committee recommends \$1,000 from Taxes (3-1-1)

The article was moved as \$1,000 and seconded,
NPA Member- Linda Rice, was granted permission to speak on behalf of NPA, CBI's, the algae problem, etc.
Went to vote on the \$1,000, opposed 23-Yes/29-No – Failed
Then amended to \$2,000 (the requested amount), went to vote 34-Yes/19-No, - Passed

***ARTICLE 39: The Town voted to raise and appropriate \$2,000 from taxes for North Pond Association.**

ARTICLE 40: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to appropriate for Town of Mercer Rescue.
Budget Committee recommends \$4,000 from Surplus (4-0-1)

The article was moved as written and seconded,
With some discussion

***ARTICLE 40: The Town voted to appropriate \$4,000 from surplus for Town of Mercer Rescue.**

ARTICLE 41: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate to continue to fund the Mercer Road Emergency Fund.
Budget Committee recommends \$2,000 from Taxes (5-0)

The article was moved as written and seconded,
Immediately amended to \$5,000 and seconded. Voted on the amendment, Failed
Back to the original motion of \$2,000

***ARTICLE 41: The Town voted to raise and appropriate \$2,000 from taxes to continue to fund the Mercer Road Emergency Fund.**

ARTICLE 42: To see if the Town will vote to use \$17,419.30 of the 2018-2020 Town Forest Income to reimburse the Mercer Community Center Fund for the installation of the new backup furnace recently installed in the MCC.

The article was moved as written and seconded,
With some discussion

***ARTICLE 42:** The Town voted to use \$17,419.30 of the 2018-2020 Town Forest Income to reimburse the Mercer Community Center Fund for the installation of the new backup furnace recently installed in the MCC.
