

# Mercer Town Meeting Minutes 2020

March 7, 2020

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 **Tuesday, the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of March, 2020**, at 8 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 7<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020** beginning at 6 o'clock pm.

First Selectmen, Vernon E Worthen II, Opened the meeting at 6:04 pm and welcomed all to the meeting.

Vernon- announced and presented the Spirit of America Award Recipient for 2020 – Mercer Mug Up. Congratulated them and thanked them for their Volunteerism to the community. Read the Award presented to the group, Mary Chouinard and Jane Wallace stepped up to receive it.

Also introduced Shelley Rudnicki, State Representative who presented a State of Maine Decree to our Dedication Recipient- Verna Parlin, the eldest person in the Town of Mercer. Ricky Parlin accepted the decree on behalf of his mother, Verna Parlin.

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

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Paul Mills was nominated to serve as Moderator, it was moved and seconded,  
With No discussion,  
Then went to vote by paper ballot. Yolanda Violette collected ballots, 16-1 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

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**ARTICLE 2:** To elect three Selectmen, Assessors, and Overseers of the Poor all for one year terms, a Trustee of Shaw Library for a five year term and a person to serve on the Planning Board for a three year term

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**\*ARTICLE 2: Paul Mills read the results from Tuesday's Election as follows: 297 Voters**

1st Selectman, 1 yr

**Parlin, Ricky J - 254**  
Bartholf, Mychael – 20  
Laplante, Fred – 1  
Worthen, Vern – 2  
Howard, Scott III – 1  
Hurley, Dari – 1

2nd Selectman, 1 yr

**Mosher, Gary D – 269**  
Bartholf, Mychael – 5  
Howard, Scott III – 1  
Crandall, Jesse – 3  
Hurley, Dari – 1  
Tibbettes, Chris – 1

3rd Selectman, 1 yr

**Hurley, Dari D – 134**  
Dutill, Christopher P – 86  
Gilmore, Michael – 53  
Bartholf, Mychael – 1  
Welch, David – 1

Shaw Library Trustee, 5 yr

**Sadler, Cherie L - 275**  
Scott, Kathy – 1

Planning Board, 3 yr

**Nunnally, Joan C – 257**  
Crandall, Jesse – 3  
Hurley, Dari, Laplante, Fred, Leo, Chris, Culley, Denis & Hilton, Jason – each 1

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**ARTICLE 3:** To see if the Town will vote to increase the property tax levy limit of \$273,712 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 (6-0-0)**  
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The article was moved as written and seconded,

With No discussion, went to vote...

It went to vote by paper ballot. Yolanda collected the ballots. 27-Yes, 26-no, Passed

**\*ARTICLE 3: The Town voted to increase the property tax levy limit of \$273,712 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.**

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

	<b>Requested</b>
1st Selectman	4,000.00
2nd Selectman	4,000.00
3rd Selectman	4,000.00
Town Clerk	6,724.00
Tax Collector	12,419.00
Treasurer	11,158.00
Selectmen's Sec	2,040.00
Dep. Clerk/Collector	4,141.00
Registrar	500.00
Office Assistant/Deputy	<u>5,200.00</u>
	<b>\$54,182.00</b>

**Budget Committee recommends (6-0-0)**  
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The article was moved as \$50,000 with the Select board to decide the split of the \$50K and seconded, That motion went to Vote and did not Pass.

Then the article was motioned to the original \$54,182 (BC Rec) and seconded, With no discussion, went to vote... Voted by show of hands, Passed

**\*ARTICLE 4: The Town voted to raise and appropriate \$54,182 from taxes for the salaries of the Town Officers.**

Being: All Select Board -\$4,000 each, TC-\$6,724, TR-\$11,158, TX-\$12,419, SS-\$2,040, Dep. TC, TX, TR-\$4,141, Reg.-\$500 & OA-\$5,200

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**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 (6-0-0)**

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The article was moved as written, est. \$5,700 and seconded,  
With Little discussion, went to vote...

**\*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)**

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**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 2020 annual report.

**Budget Committee recommends \$10,000 from Surplus (6-0-0)**

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The article was moved as written, \$10,000 and seconded,  
With Little discussion, went to vote...

**\*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 2020 annual report.**

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**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 \$1,786 from Surplus (6-0-0)**

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The article was moved as written, \$1,786 and seconded,  
With No discussion, went to vote...

**\*ARTICLE 7: The Town voted to appropriate \$1,786 from surplus for annual dues of the Maine Municipal Association.**

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**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 \$12,700 from Taxes (5-1-0)**

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The article was moved as written, \$12,700 and seconded,  
With No discussion, went to vote...

**\*ARTICLE 8: The Town voted to raise and appropriate \$12,700 from taxes for General Liability and Property Insurance.**

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**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 \$1,720 from Taxes (6-0-0)**

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The article was moved as written, \$1,720 and seconded,

With No discussion, went to vote...

**\*ARTICLE 9: The Town voted to raise and appropriate \$1,720 from taxes for Liability Insurance for Public Officials plus Bonds.**

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**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 \$2,500 from Taxes (6-0-0)**

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The article was moved as written, \$2,500 and seconded,

With No discussion, went to vote...

**\*ARTICLE 10: The Town voted to raise and appropriate \$2,500 from taxes for worker's comp insurance & unemployment for town employees.**

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**ARTICLE 11:** To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Health Insurance coverage.

**Budget Committee recommends \$14,938 from Taxes (5-1-0)**

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The article was moved as written, \$14,938 and seconded,

With No discussion, went to vote...

**\*ARTICLE 11: The Town voted to raise and appropriate \$14,938 from taxes for Health Insurance coverage.**

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**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 makes no recommendation. (3-3-0)**

**\$40,000 from Taxes plus any revenues or donations generated by the center. Any remaining balance will be placed in municipal center capital reserve fund**

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The article was moved as written, \$40,000 and seconded,

With No discussion, went to vote...

**\*ARTICLE 12: The Town voted to raise and appropriate \$40,000 from taxes plus any revenues or donations generated by the center for Town Office, Shaw Library, Municipal**

Center, and Town Expense. Any remaining balance will be placed in the Municipal Center Capital Reserve Fund.

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**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 \$7,900 from Taxes (6-0-0)**

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The article was moved as written, \$7,900 and seconded,

With No discussion, went to vote...

**\*ARTICLE 13: The Town voted to raise and appropriate \$7,900 from taxes for annual maintenance & upgrades of the TRIO accounting & assessing program.**

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**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 (4-2-0)**

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The article was moved as written, \$9,000 and seconded,

With No discussion, went to vote...

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

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**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 (6-0-0)**

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The article was moved as written, \$23,000 and seconded,

With No discussion, went to vote...

**\*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.**

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**ARTICLE 16:** To see what sum of money the Town will vote to appropriate for the Planning Board.

**Budget Committee recommends \$500 from Surplus (6-0-0)**

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The article was moved as written, \$500 and seconded,

With Little discussion, went to vote...

**\*ARTICLE 16: The Town voted to appropriate \$500 from surplus for the Planning Board.**

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**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 \$4,100 from Surplus (6-0-0)**

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The article was moved as written, \$4,100 and seconded,  
Was then amended to \$3,100 and seconded,  
Went to vote on \$3,100, did not Pass  
Back to the original Motion of \$4,100  
With Little discussion, went to vote...

**\*ARTICLE 17: The Town voted to appropriate \$4,100 from surplus for Animal Control.**

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**ARTICLE 18:** To see what sum of money the Town will vote to appropriate for Cemetery Care.  
**Budget Committee recommends \$5,500 from Surplus, plus fund interest (6-0-0)**

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The article was moved as written, \$5,500 and seconded,  
With No discussion, went to vote...

**\*ARTICLE 18: The Town voted to appropriate \$5,500 from surplus, plus fund interest for Cemetery Care.**

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**ARTICLE 19:** To see what action the Town will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to dispose of the property and its contents known as the “Old Town Office” located at 75 Main Street, Mercer (Tax Map 11 Lot 10 & portion of Lot 8 & 9) further described as Book ( ) & Page ( ). Property will be placed with a licensed Real Estate Auction Company as early as a May 2020 Auction without reserve and to execute such contracts, deeds and other instruments and to take such other actions as deemed necessary to effect the sale of such property.

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The article was moved as written and seconded,  
Was amended to Real Estate “Broker” (removing Auction Company) and  
Remove “Auction without Reserve”  
With Little more discussion, went to vote on the amendment...

This was by show of hands, and hand counted: Yes – 39 / No – 14

**\*ARTICLE 19: The Town voted to authorize the Municipal Officers to dispose of the property and its contents known as the “Old Town Office” located at 75 Main Street, Mercer (Tax Map 11 Lot 10 & portion of Lot 8 & 9) further described as Book ( ) & Page ( ). Property will be placed with a licensed Real Estate Broker as early as May 2020 and to execute such contracts, deeds and other instruments and to take such other actions as deemed necessary to effect the sale of such property**

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If the above article is approved: The above Article was approved

**ARTICLE 20:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the proceeds of the Sale of the Old Town Office once the sale is final. As recommended by the Municipal Officers, the proceeds to deposit ¼ in the Mercer Community Center Reserve Fund and the other ¾ to establish and deposit into a Summer Road Improvement Fund. All Funds to be expended from this fund must be approved by a town meeting vote.

**Budget Committee recommends (6-0-0)**

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The article was moved as written and seconded,  
With No discussion, went to vote...

**\*ARTICLE 20: The Town voted to appropriate the proceeds of the Sale of the Old Town Office once the sale is final. As recommended by the Municipal Officers, the proceeds to deposit ¼ in the Mercer Community Center Reserve Fund and the other ¾ to establish and deposit into a Summer Road Improvement Fund. All Funds to be expended from this fund must be approved by a town meeting vote.**

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**ARTICLE 21:** 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 (4-1-1)**

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The article was moved as written, \$1,500 and seconded,  
Then amended to \$0, with lots of discussion, motioned to end discussion and seconded, Passed to end discussion, Went to vote on the \$0, by show of hands 26 – Yes / 37 – No. Not passed to Amend to \$0  
Then went to vote back on the original motion of \$1,500, again a hand count 30 – Yes / 32 – No  
Not passed at \$1,500. Then amended to \$1,209.11 and seconded.  
Finally went to vote on the \$1,209.11, by show of hands

**\*ARTICLE 21: The Town voted to raise and appropriate \$1,209.11 from taxes for the Town of Mercer Office of Emergency Management / CERT.**

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**ARTICLE 22:** To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the 2019 Town Audit.

**Budget Committee recommends \$3,450 from Taxes (6-0-0)**

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The article was moved as written, \$3,450 and seconded,  
With No discussion, went to vote...

**\*ARTICLE 22: The Town voted to raise and appropriate \$3,450 from taxes for the 2019 Town Audit.**

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**ARTICLE 23:** 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 \$39,100 from Taxes (5-0-1)**

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The article was moved as written, \$39,100 and seconded,  
With Little discussion, went to vote...

**\*ARTICLE 23: The Town voted to raise and appropriate \$39,100 from taxes for public safety. This will include fire protection provided by the Town of Norridgewock and traffic & street lights.**

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**ARTICLE 24:** To see what percentage the Town will vote to deduct on all taxes assessed in 2020 that are paid in full on or before the 30<sup>th</sup> day after the date of the mailing of the tax bills.

**Budget Committee recommends 2% (4-2-0)**

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The article was moved as written, 2% and seconded,  
With No discussion, went to vote...

**\*ARTICLE 24: The Town voted to deduct 2% on all taxes assessed in 2020 that are paid in full on or before the 30<sup>th</sup> day after the date of the mailing of the tax bills.**

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**ARTICLE 25:** To see what rate the Town will vote to charge and collect interest on all taxes assessed in 2020 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 (6-0-0)**

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The article was moved as written, 9% and seconded,  
With No discussion, went to vote...

**\*ARTICLE 25: The Town voted to charge and collect 9% interest on all taxes assessed in 2020 that are unpaid 60 days after the date of the mailing of the tax bills.**

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**ARTICLE 26:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$9,325 for Shaw Library.

**Budget Committee recommends \$9,325 from Taxes (6-0-0)**

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The article was moved as written, \$9,325 and seconded,  
With 1 question.. What is the Mil Rate going to go up with the budget as written? Gerry answered 1 mil, then went to vote...

**\*ARTICLE 26: The Town voted to raise and appropriate \$9,325 from taxes for Shaw Library.**

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**ARTICLE 27:** To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Summer Road maintenance.

**Budget Committee recommends \$60,000 from Taxes and \$20,000 from Town Forest Fund (4-1-1)**

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The article was moved as written, \$60,000 from taxes and \$20,000 from Town Forest Fund and seconded,  
With No discussion, went to vote...

**\*ARTICLE 27: The Town voted to raise and appropriate \$60,000 from taxes and \$20,000 from Town Forest Fund for Summer Road maintenance.**



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**ARTICLE 28:** To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for paving.  
**Budget Committee makes no recommendation. (2-1-3)**  
**All funds to come from 2020 LRAP, 20,000 from Taxes and \$10,000 from Surplus**  
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The article was moved as written, All 2020 LRAP, \$20,000 from taxes and \$10,000 from surplus and seconded,  
With Little discussion, went to vote...

**\*ARTICLE 28: The Town voted to raise and appropriate 2020 LRAP, \$20,000 from taxes and \$10,000 from surplus for paving.**

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**ARTICLE 29:** To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for ditching.  
**Budget Committee does not recommend \$10,000 from Taxes (2-4-0)**  
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The article was moved as written, \$10,000 and seconded,  
With Little discussion, went to vote...

**\*ARTICLE 29: The Town voted to raise and appropriate \$10,000 from taxes for ditching.**

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**ARTICLE 30:** To see what sum of money the town will vote to raise and appropriate to improve a 1-mile section of Pond Road with ditching, culverts, geotextile, shim, gravel and grading.  
**Budget Committee recommends \$10,000 from Taxes and \$10,000 from State of Maine NPS Grant (\$20,000 total) (6-0-0)**  
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The article was moved as written, \$10,000 from taxes and \$10,000 from the State of Maine MPS Grant and seconded,

Charlie Beader was granted permission to speak, as non-resident, He explained the 2 year project.  
Linda Rice, from North Pond Association a non-resident, was granted permission to speak.  
Motion was made to remove the words "1-mile" from the article, seconded. Went to vote for the amendment, Approved the amendment.  
Went to vote on the Amended article...

**\*ARTICLE 30: The Town voted to raise and appropriate \$10,000 from taxes and \$10,000 from State of Maine NPS Grant to improve a section of Pond Road with ditching, culverts, geotextile, shim, gravel and grading.**

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**ARTICLE 31:** To see what sum of money the town will vote to raise and appropriate to replace the Bog Brook culvert (Boat Landing on Mercer/Smithfield Town Line).  
**Budget Committee recommends \$20,000 from Summer Roads, \$20,000 from State of Maine NPS Grant and \$20,000 from Town of Smithfield (\$60,000 total). (4-2-0)**  
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The article was moved as written, \$20,000 from Summer Roads, \$20,000 from the State of Maine MPS Grant and \$20,000 from Town of Smithfield. (\$60,000 total) and seconded,

Motion was made to be contingent upon the Town of Smithfield's vote, seconded. Went to vote for the amendment, Approved the amendment.

Went to vote on the Amended article...

**\*ARTICLE 31: The Town voted to raise and appropriate \$20,000 from Summer Roads, \$20,000 from State of Maine NPS Grant and \$20,000 from the Town of Smithfield, contingent on the approval of the Smithfield Town Meeting Vote, to replace the Bog Brook Culvert (Boat Landing on Mercer/Smithfield Town Line).**

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**ARTICLE 32: 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.**

**\$230,000. \$155,000 will come from Excise Tax, \$75,000 from Taxes plus any short fall to come from Surplus Budget Committee recommends (5-1-0)**

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The article was moved as written, \$230,000, \$155,000 from Excise Tax, \$75,000 from Taxes and seconded,

With a Thank You to Howard's for a stepping up and doing a Great Job!

With No discussion, went to vote...

**\*ARTICLE 32: The Town voted to raise and appropriate \$230,000. (\$155,000 will come from Excise Tax, \$75,000 from Taxes plus any short fall to come from Surplus) for Winter Road maintenance, including plowing, sanding and stockpiling sand and salt.**

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**ARTICLE 33: 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 (6-0-0)**

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The article was moved as written, \$17,500 and seconded,

With No discussion, went to vote...

**\*ARTICLE 33: The Town voted to appropriate \$17,500 from surplus for General Assistance.**

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**ARTICLE 34: 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 (6-0-0)**

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The article was moved as written, \$2,000 and seconded,

With No discussion, went to vote...

**\*ARTICLE 34: 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.**

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**ARTICLE 35:** 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. (Requested Amount \$1,000)

**Selectmen Recommend \$500 from Taxes**

**Budget Committee recommends \$500 from Taxes (6-0-0)**

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The article was moved as recommended, \$500 and seconded,

With No discussion, went to vote...

**\*ARTICLE 35: 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.**

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**ARTICLE 36:** To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Mercer Historical Society, for the maintenance of the building and to keep its collections safe.

**Budget Committee recommends \$500 from Taxes (6-0-0)**

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The article was moved as written, \$500 and seconded,

With little discussion on a plan for Water & Sewer easement for the sale of Old TO, went to vote...

**\*ARTICLE 36: The Town voted to raise and appropriate \$500 from taxes for Mercer Historical Society, for the maintenance of the building and to keep its collections safe.**

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**ARTICLE 37:** To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for various Youth Leagues.

**Budget Committee recommends \$750 from Taxes (5-1-0)**

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The article was moved as written, \$750 and seconded,

With No discussion, went to vote...

**\*ARTICLE 37: The Town voted to raise and appropriate \$750 from taxes for various Youth Leagues.**

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**ARTICLE 38:** 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 (6-0-0)**

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The article was moved as written, \$425 and seconded,

With No discussion, went to vote...

**\*ARTICLE 38: 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.**

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**ARTICLE 39:** 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.

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The article was moved and seconded,  
The moderator divided it into a two part article  
First, voted on having a Budget Committee, motioned, seconded All in favor-Passed  
Then Nominations opened to elect 5 individuals from the floor...

1. Sarah Bunker-Geyer
2. Jason Juskewitch
3. Vernon Worthen
4. Barbara VanBurgel
5. Norman Redlevske

Motion to cease nominations, seconded – Passed

With No discussion, went to vote on the 5 nominated...

**\*ARTICLE 39: The Town voted to have a Budget Committee, then voted the above 5 members for the Budget Committee which will meet with the selectmen within 60 days for the purpose to elect a Chair.**

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**ARTICLE 40:** 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 (6-0-0)**

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The article was moved as written, \$400 and seconded,  
With Little discussion, went to vote...

**\*ARTICLE 40: The Town voted to appropriate \$400 from surplus for training costs of CEO and LPI.**

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**ARTICLE 41:** 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 (6-0-0)**

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The article was moved as written, \$2,000 and seconded,  
With No discussion, went to vote...

**\*ARTICLE 41: The Town voted to appropriate \$2000 from surplus, plus all application fees for CEO compensation.**

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**ARTICLE 42:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,000 for North Pond Association.  
**Budget Committee recommends \$2,000 from Taxes (4-2-0)**

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The article was moved as written, \$2,000 and seconded,  
With No discussion, went to vote...

**\*ARTICLE 42: The Town voted to raise and appropriate \$2,000 from taxes for North Pond Association.**

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**ARTICLE 43:** To see it the Town will vote to establish a Mercer Rescue Capital Reserve Fund  
**Budget Committee recommends (6-0-0)**

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The article was moved as written and seconded,  
With little discussion, went to vote...

**\*ARTICLE 43: The Town voted to establish a Mercer Rescue Capital Reserve Fund.**

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**ARTICLE 44:** To see what sum of money the Town will vote to appropriate for Town of Mercer Rescue  
**Budget Committee recommends \$5,240 from Surplus. Any remaining balance be placed in the Mercer Rescue Capital Reserve Fund. (6-0-0)**

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The article was moved as written, \$5,240 and seconded,  
With little discussion of a Health Officer, went to vote...

**\*ARTICLE 44: The Town voted to appropriate \$5,240 from surplus for Town of Mercer Rescue with any remaining balance to be placed in the Mercer Rescue Capital Reserve Fund.**

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**ARTICLE 45:** 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 (6-0-0)**

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The article was moved as written, \$2,000 and seconded,  
With little discussion, went to vote...

**\*ARTICLE 45: The Town voted to raise and appropriate \$2,000 from taxes to continue to fund the Mercer Road Emergency Fund.**

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**ARTICLE 46:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to close East Sandy River Road for the winter from the Transfer Station entrance to the snow plow turnaround for a period of years not to exceed 10 years. This authorization to continue in effect from year to year until amended or revoked by Town Meeting.

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The article was moved as written and seconded,  
With No discussion, went to vote...

**\*ARTICLE 46: The Town voted to authorize the Municipal Officers to close East Sandy River Road for the winter from the Transfer Station entrance to the snow plow turnaround for a period of years not to exceed 10 years. This authorization to continue in effect from year to year until amended or revoked by Town Meeting**

**ARTICLE 47:** To see if the Town will authorize the Municipal Officers to enter into a contract for a period of not more than 5 years for the purpose of winter roads maintenance on such terms as they deem to be in the Town's best interest.

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The article was moved as written and seconded,  
With No discussion, went to vote...

**\*ARTICLE 47: The Town voted to authorize the Municipal Officers to enter into a contract for a period of not more than 5 years for the purpose of winter roads maintenance on such terms as they deem to be in the Town's best interest.**

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**ARTICLE 48:** To see if the town will vote to authorize the tax collector or treasurer to accept prepayments of taxes not yet committed, pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. § 506, the amount collected not to exceed the previous year's taxes. Interest on any prepayment will be zero percent. This authorization to continue in effect from year to year until amended or revoked by Town Meeting.

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The article was moved as written and seconded,  
With No discussion, went to vote...

**\*ARTICLE 48: The Town voted to authorize the tax collector or treasurer to accept prepayments of taxes not yet committed, pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. § 506, the amount collected not to exceed the previous year's taxes. Interest on any prepayment will be zero percent. This authorization to continue in effect from year to year until amended or revoked by Town Meeting.**

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**ARTICLE 49:** To see if the Town will vote to allow the Town Treasurer, after Municipal Officers approval, to file a waiver of automatic foreclosure at the Registry of Deeds, pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. section 944, on real estate that may be burdensome on the Town. This authorization to continue in effect from year to year until amended or revoked by Town Meeting.

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The article was moved as written and seconded,  
With No discussion, went to vote...

**\*ARTICLE 49: The Town voted to authorize the Town Treasurer, after Municipal Officers approval, to file a waiver of automatic foreclosure at the Registry of Deeds, pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. section 944, on real estate that may be burdensome on the Town. This authorization to continue in effect from year to year until amended or revoked by Town Meeting.**

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**ARTICLE 50:** To see if the Town will vote to prohibit a Municipal Officer from being an employee or an independent contractor for the Town of Mercer. This authorization to continue from year to year until amended or revoked by Town Meeting.

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The article was moved as written and seconded,  
With No discussion, went to vote...

**\*ARTICLE 50: The Town voted to prohibit a Municipal Officer from being an employee or an independent contractor for the Town of Mercer. This authorization to continue from year to year until amended or revoked by Town Meeting.**

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**ARTICLE 51:** To see what action the Town will take, if any, to ensure that work conducted on behalf of the Town of Mercer in excess of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) must have a written contract. This authorization to continue from year to year until amended or revoked by Town Meeting.

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The article was moved as written and seconded,

With some discussion, Motion to end discussion, seconded went to vote, passed to end discussion, went to vote...

Hand Count of votes yes - 28 / no - 19

**\*ARTICLE 51: The Town voted to ensure that work conducted on behalf of the Town of Mercer in excess of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) must have a written contract. This authorization to continue from year to year until amended or revoked by Town Meeting.**

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**ARTICLE 52:** To see what action the Town will take to implement a policy that any vendor, service provider, contractor or individual shall be accountable by an itemized invoice(s) or receipt of purchase prior to approval by the Municipal Officers and payment.

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The article was moved as written and seconded,

With little discussion, went to vote...

**\*ARTICLE 52: The Town voted to implement a policy that any vendor, service provider, contractor or individual shall be accountable by an itemized invoice(s) or receipt of purchase prior to approval by the Municipal Officers and payment.**

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**ARTICLE 53:** To see if the Town will elect from the floor an exploratory committee to research town charters and present that research to the municipal officers and to town meeting in March 2021.

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The article was moved as written and seconded,

With some explanation by Denis Culley about a Charter-it is Basic Rules, Financial Procedures, Duties, Provisions, Hiring guidelines, etc, for the Town to follow, went to vote to Approve to elect an exploratory committee, seconded then Passed Then a Motion to make it a 5 member committee and elect 5 Members, Seconded and Passed

Nominations opened to elect 5 individuals from the floor...

1. Denis Culley
2. Julia Howard
3. Fred Laplante
4. Chris Beeuwkes
5. Bob Burr

Motion to cease nominations, seconded, Passed to cease.

With no further discussion, went to vote on the 5 individuals nominated,.

**\*ARTICLE 53: The Town voted to elect from the floor an exploratory committee and elected the 5 individuals listed above, to research town charters and present that research to the municipal officers and to town meeting in March 2021.**

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**ARTICLE 54: To see if the Town will endorse a position on Climate Mitigation**

Endorsement on Climate Action..

Whereas...

The costs of climate change — including destabilized weather patterns, rising sea levels, extreme weather events, and other serious impacts — now pose a substantial threat to the health, prosperity and security of Americans. The costs are real, they are growing, and they are already burdening businesses, taxpayers, municipal budgets and families. Our economy, infrastructure, public safety and health are directly at risk.

Prudent action now will be far less costly than the consequences of delayed response and will create a more stable business environment for our nation.

Therefore...

We urge Congress to support such action that will significantly reduce carbon emissions, create jobs, grow the economy, save lives and protect households from higher energy prices.

**Background :**

Few deny that Climate Change is affecting the World as we have known it. Glaciers retreating, ocean levels rising and warming, the frequency and severity of storms is greater. Some may still doubt that our burning fossil fuels plays a role in this warming, but the vast majority of climate scientists say there's no doubt about it. The rise in Global temperature matches the rise in use of fossil fuels, at a time when the Earth should be moving into another ice age. The seriousness of doing something about arresting the warming can't be overstated. Astounding as it sounds, if just Greenland's ice cap melts ocean levels will rise by over 20 feet.

But what can we do about it here in Mercer? On a personal level make your next car a more efficient one. Combine trips to town to drive less. Insulate your home; maybe put up some solar panels. But there is one more thing we can do as a community in Maine and that is assure our legislators in Washington that we are urging them to pass fair legislation that stimulates development of fossil fuel alternatives.

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**The article was moved as written and seconded,**

With little discussion and explanation by Chris Beeuwkes, went to vote...

This was a Hand Count Vote Yes – 20 / No – 20, Tie Vote – NOT PASSED

**\*ARTICLE 54: The Town voted NOT to endorse a position on Climate Mitigation**

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**ARTICLE 55: Shall the Town adopt an ordinance entitled “Ordinance for the Recall of Elected Officials”?** (Copy of the ordinance is posted below)

**TOWN OF MERCER  
ORDINANCE FOR THE RECALL OF ELECTED MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS**

**SECTION 1. Applicability and Establishment**

Any elected Official of the Town of Mercer may be recalled and removed from office as herein provided.

**SECTION 2. Petitions for Recall**

a. Recall shall be initiated by petition.

b. The petition for recall must contain only signatures of the registered voters of the Town of Mercer, equal to twenty percent (20%) of the number of votes cast in Mercer in the last Gubernatorial election.



- c. The petition shall be addressed to those members of the Board of Selectmen having no interest in the subject matter of the petition, but the petition shall in every case, be filed with the Town Clerk or Deputy Town Clerk.
- d. The petition shall state the name and office, or offices, of the person whose removal is being sought.
- e. If recall of more than one official is being sought there shall be a separate petition for each official whose removal is being sought.
- f. Each page of the petition shall be ruled, and each line shall provide a space for the voters' signatures, address and printed name.
- g. All pages of a single petition shall be filed as one document. The Town Clerk or Deputy Town Clerk shall not file the petition until at least one person supplies contact information on behalf of the petitioners.

**SECTION 3. Clerk's Certification**

Within ten (10) calendar days of receipt of the petition the Town Clerk or Deputy Town Clerk shall certify the signatures contained on the petition and shall determine if the petition meets all of the requirements as set forth in Section 2 of this Ordinance. Should the petition be found insufficient, the petition will be retained in the Town Clerk's Office and the person who filed the petition will be notified.

**SECTION 4. Calling the Recall Election**

- a. If the petition is certified by the Town Clerk or Deputy Town Clerk to be sufficient, he or she will submit the same with his or her certification to the Board of Selectmen at their next regular meeting and shall notify the official or officials whose removal is being sought of such action.
- b. The Board of Selectmen upon receipt of the certified petition shall within ten (10) days' time of receipt order an election by secret ballot, pursuant to 30-A MRSA S2528, to be held sixty (60) days thereafter.
- c. No petition for recall will be accepted during the first ninety (90) days or during the last ninety (90) days if a multi-year term.
- d. Once a recall petition has been called and failed, no recall may be filed within ninety (90) days after such vote.

**SECTION 5. Ballots for Recall Election**

Unless the official, or officials, whose removal is being sought have resigned within ten (10) days of receipt of the petition by the Board of Selectmen, the ballots shall be printed and shall read "SHALL \_\_\_\_\_ BE RECALLED FROM THE OFFICE OF \_\_\_\_\_?" (with the name of the official whose recall is being sought inserted in the blank space). If the petition seeks the recall of a person from more than one office, each office must be named.

**SECTION 6. Result of the Election**

In an event of an affirmative vote for removal, such vote shall take effect the day following the day of voting.

**SECTION 7. Vacancies to be Filled**

Any vacancy resulting from the removal from office under this ordinance shall be filled in accordance with the provisions contained in the Maine State Statutes.

Adopted at Annual Town Meeting \_\_\_\_\_

Given under our hands this \_\_\_ day of March, 20\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Board of Selectmen**

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The article was moved as written and seconded,  
With little discussion, went to vote...

**\*ARTICLE 55: The Town voted to adopt an ordinance entitled “Ordinance for the Recall of Elected Officials”**

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**ARTICLE 56:** To see if the Town will vote to increase the length of the terms of the Municipal Officers from a 1 year term to 3 year staggered terms, to be phased in, beginning at the 2021 Town Meeting. The initial term of the three Municipal Officers elected in 2021 shall be 3 years- 1<sup>st</sup> Selectmen, 2 years- 2<sup>nd</sup> Selectmen and 1 year- 3<sup>rd</sup> Selectmen. Thereafter each position which is due to expire shall be filled by election for a 3 year term.

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The article was moved as written and seconded,  
With much discussion of some residents for it and some residents against it,  
Motion to end discussion, seconded and passed  
went to vote...

**\*ARTICLE 56: The Town voted NOT to increase the length of the terms of the Municipal Officers from a 1 year term to 3 year staggered terms, to be phased in, beginning at the 2021 Town Meeting. The initial term of the three Municipal Officers elected in 2021 shall be 3 years- 1<sup>st</sup> Selectmen, 2 years- 2<sup>nd</sup> Selectmen and 1 year- 3<sup>rd</sup> Selectmen. Thereafter each position which is due to expire shall be filled by election for a 3 year term.**

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At end of Town Meeting  
Newly Elected Officials were sworn in by both, Paul Mills and the Town Clerk, Yolanda Violette.

Meeting Adjourned 9:33 pm