

# TOWN WARRANT 2020

TO: Catherine L. Collins, citizen of the Town of Georgetown, Maine, GREETINGS:

You are hereby required in the name of the State of Maine to notify and warn the Inhabitants of the Town of Georgetown, Maine, qualified to vote in Town affairs, according to the Constitution and laws of this State, to assemble at Georgetown Central School, Georgetown Center, on **Saturday, the twenty ninth day of August, 2020, at 10am** to act on the following articles:

Art. 1. To elect by ballot a moderator to preside at said meeting.

Art. 2. To see if the Town will vote to adopt the following: (A) in regard to collection of taxes: Taxes shall become due and payable sixty days from the date printed on the bill, and interest at the rate of eight (8) percent per annum will be charged on all accounts not paid by the due date; and (B) in regard to abatement of taxes: Interest at the rate of four (4) percent per annum will be applied to all accounts from the date the taxes were paid until the overpayment is repaid.

Art. 3. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer, with the consent of the Board of Selectmen, to procure a temporary loan or loans in anticipation of taxes for the purpose of paying obligations of the Town, such loan or loans to be paid during the municipal year out of money raised by taxes during that municipal year.

Art. 4. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen, on behalf of the Town, to sell and dispose of any real estate acquired by the Town for non-payment of taxes on such terms as they deem advisable and to execute quitclaim deeds on the same.

Art. 5. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to dispose of Town owned personal property with a value of \$2,000 or less under such terms and conditions as they deem advisable.

Art. 6. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of the Selectmen to accept and expend such additional funds as various Town bodies may receive from government or private grants or similar block-funding gifts and donations, provided that funding does not trigger the expenditure of additional local funds not previously appropriated by the voters.

Art. 7. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the municipal Treasurer, upon direction from the Board of Selectmen, to waive the foreclosure of a Tax Lien Mortgage by recording a Waiver of Foreclosure in the Registry of Deeds in which the Tax Lien Certificate is recorded, prior to the right of redemption expiring, pursuant to 36 MRSA § 944.

Art. 8. To see if the Town will vote to remit to the Town Code Enforcement Officer, Town Clerk, and Tax Collector fees collected by these respective individuals in the form of wages.

Art. 9. To see if the Town will vote to use anticipated revenues, regardless of source, except as prohibited by law, to reduce the mil rate.

Art. 10. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to appropriate from Undesignated Fund Balance an amount not to exceed \$10,000 to meet unanticipated expenses and emergencies that may occur during the next fiscal year.

## ORDINANCES

Art. 11. To see if the Town will vote to approve amendments to the Building Permit Ordinance. (Copies of the ordinance are available at the Town Office and on the website.)

Art. 12. To see if the Town will vote to approve amendments to the Shoreland Zoning Ordinance. (Copies of the ordinance are available at the Town Office and on the website.)

Art. 13. To see if the Town will vote to approve amendments to the Waterways and Harbors Ordinance. (Copies of the ordinance are available at the Town Office and on the website.)

Art. 14. To see if the Town will vote to approve amendments to the Wireless Communications Facilities Ordinance. (Copies of the ordinance are available at the Town Office and on the website.)

**NEW ORDINANCES**

Art. 15. To see if the Town will vote to adopt a Commercial Cannabis Ordinance. (Copies of the ordinance are available at the Town Office and on the website.)

Art. 16. To see if the Town will vote to adopt a Sex Offender Residency Restriction Ordinance. (Copies of the ordinance are available at the Town Office and on the website.)

**PURCHASE OF TODD'S LANDING**

Art. 17. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the purchase of Todd's Landing (04U-004), from the Todd Family heirs, in the amount of \$120,000.00. Said funds to be taken from the Water Access Reserve and Undesignated Fund Balance.

**GENERAL GOVERNMENT**

Art. 18. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the expenditure of funds to pay the following Town Officers' salaries for the period from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021, hereafter designated as the fiscal year 2020-21, and to appropriate the Town funds required:

	2019-20	2020-21
Selectman, Chair	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000
Selectman (2)	7,000	7,000
Assistant to the Selectmen	34,108	35,813
Bookkeeper	18,062	9,555
Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector	2,250	2,363
Administrative Assistant	18,400	16,848
Registrar of Voters	300	300
Tax Collector	24,038	25,240
Town Clerk	7,572	7,951
Town Clerk/Deputy Town Clerk fees	6,000	6,000
Town-Owned Property Management Board	1,500	1,500
Training Time	0	5,500
Treasurer	4,798	5,038
Emergency Management Director	250	250

Vacation and sick pay annual	3,300	3,300
Vacation and sick pay fund	<u>7,887</u>	<u>9,460</u>
	\$ 139,465	\$ 140,117

Art. 19. To see if the Town will vote to authorize paying the following administrative expenses for the fiscal year 2020-21 and to appropriate the Town funds required:

	2019-20	2020-21
Board of Appeals	\$ 1,050	\$ 1,050
Conservation Commission	5,060	4,060
Planning Board	500	500
Street lights / Signs	3,500	3,700
Town Office expense	32,875	35,048
General Government	<u>145,840</u>	<u>147,200</u>

\*This includes \$8,000 in reserve fund additions

	\$ 188,825	\$ 191,558*
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#### TOWN-OWNED PROPERTY MANAGEMENT BOARD

Art. 20. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen and the Town-Owned Property Management Board to solicit and accept donations for wharf repairs and improvements.

Art. 21. To see if the Town will vote to authorize paying the following property management expenses for the fiscal year 2020-21 and to appropriate the Town funds required:

	2019-20	2020-21
TOPMB Operations	\$ 43,150	\$ 43,600*

\*This includes \$20,000 in reserve fund additions

Art. 22. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen and the Town-Owned Property Management Board to assess and collect repair costs from anyone whose vessel damages the Town Wharf at Five Islands.

#### GEORGETOWN COMMON SCHOOLS

Articles 23 – 32 Education expenditure articles for the fiscal year 2020-21

Art. 23. To see what sum the Town will authorize the School Committee to expend for Regular Instruction.

	2019-20	2020-21
<i>The School Committee recommends:</i>	\$1,201,382	\$1,321,787

Art. 24. To see what sum the Town will authorize the School Committee to expend for Special Education.

	2019-20	2020-21
<i>The School Committee recommends:</i>	\$ 428,422	\$409,606

Art. 25. To see what sum the Town will authorize the School Committee to expend for Other Instruction.

	2019-20	2020-21
<i>The School Committee recommends:</i>	\$ 6,170	\$ 4,170
Art. 26. To see what sum the Town will authorize the School Committee to expend for Student and Staff Support.	2019-20	2020-21
<i>The School Committee recommends:</i>	\$ 119,081	\$ 70,589
Art. 27. To see what sum the Town will authorize the School Committee to expend for System Administration.	2019-20	2020-21
<i>The School Committee recommends:</i>	\$ 76,956	\$ 74,251
Art. 28. To see what sum the Town will authorize the School Committee to expend for School Administration.	2019-20	2020-21
<i>The School Committee recommends:</i>	\$ 163,491	\$ 200,487
Art. 29. To see what sum the Town will authorize the School Committee to expend for Transportation and Buses.	2019-20	2020-21
<i>The School Committee recommends:</i>	\$ 203,500	\$ 187,800
Art. 30. To see what sum the Town will authorize the School Committee to expend for Facilities and Maintenance.	2019-20	2020-21
<i>The School Committee recommends:</i>	\$ 176,403	\$233,265
Art. 31. To see what sum the Town will authorize the School Committee to expend for All Other Expenditures.	2019-20	2020-21
<i>The School Committee recommends</i>	\$ 35,000	\$ 45,000
Art. 32. To see what sum the Town will authorize the School Committee to expend for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021 from the Town's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act, additional local funds for school purposes under 20-A MRSA § 15690, unexpended balances, tuition receipts, State subsidy, and other receipts for the support of schools.		
<i>The School Committee recommends:</i>	\$ 2,410,405	\$ 2,546,955

Articles 33 – 34. Education revenue articles for the fiscal year 2020-21

Art. 33. To see what sum the Town will appropriate for the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act (the School Committee recommends \$1,406,809) and to see what sum the Town will raise as the Town's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act in accordance with 20-A MRSA § 15688.

	2019-20	2020-21
<i>The School Committee recommends:</i>	\$ 1,182,231	1,245,699

*Explanation:* The Town's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act is the amount of money determined by state law to be the minimum amount that the Town must raise in order to receive the full amount of State dollars (\$164,016).

Art. 34. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$834,885 in additional local funds, which exceeds the State Essential Programs and Services allocation model by \$834,885, as required to fund the budget recommended by the School Committee?

*The School Committee recommends:* YES

**The vote on this article must be by written ballot under State law.**

The School Committee recommends these local funds to support the educational programs Georgetown voters have long endorsed. This amount is needed to cover costs of District schools that the state's funding model does not recognize including the following: 1) costs of student-teacher ratios, 2) costs of special education programming, 3) costs of extra-curricular and co-curricular programs, and 4) transportation costs. Last year the additional local amount raised was \$961,727.

*Explanation:* The additional local funds are those locally raised funds over and above the Town's local contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the EPS Funding Act and local amounts raised for the annual payment of non-state funded debt service that will help achieve the Town budget for educational programs.

Education reserve fund article for the fiscal year 2020-21

Art. 35. To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for the capital reserve fund for renovations to the Georgetown Central School, to be expended on recommendation of the School Committee and approval by a majority vote of the Board of Selectmen (current balance \$46,115)

	2019-20	2020-21
<i>The School Committee recommends:</i>	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500

Other School Articles

Art. 36. In addition to amounts approved in the preceding articles, shall the school committee be authorized to expend such other sums as may be received from federal or state grants or programs or other sources during the fiscal year for school purposes, provided that such grants, programs or other sources do not require the expenditure of other funds not previously appropriated?

*The School Committee recommends:* YES

Art. 37. In the event that the Town of Georgetown receives more state education subsidy than the amount included in its 2020-2021 budget, shall the School Committee be authorized to use the additional subsidy amount by increasing expenditures in the cost center categories approved by the School Committee?

*The School Committee recommends:* YES

**PUBLIC SAFETY**

Art. 38. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen and the officers and directors of

the Georgetown Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. to solicit and accept donations, grants, and reimbursement claims and to transfer the funds thus raised to the Georgetown Volunteer Fire Department.

Art. 39. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to extend and continue the present contract with the Sagadahoc County Fire Association for mutual emergency assistance.

Art. 40. To see if the Town will vote to authorize paying the following protection expenses for the fiscal year 2020-21 and to appropriate the Town and grant funds required:

	2019-20	2020-21
Animal Control	\$ 3,982	\$ 4,272
Code Enforcement Officer/Local Plumbing Inspector	13,000	13,250
Volunteer Fire Department	135,195	216,946*
Harbormaster and moorings	12,950	13,180
Shellfish Conservation Committee	<u>21,968</u>	<u>23,250</u>
	\$ 187,095	\$ 270,898

\*This includes \$31,000 in reserve fund additions

#### **SANITATION**

Art. 41. To see if the Town will vote to authorize paying the following solid waste disposal expenses for the fiscal year 2020-21 and to appropriate the Town funds required:

	2019-20	2020-21
Transfer Station Operations	\$ 167,102	\$182,403*

\*This includes \$2,000 in reserve fund additions

#### **HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES**

Art. 42. To see if the Town will vote to authorize paying the following road expenses for the fiscal year 2020-21 and to appropriate the Town funds required:

	2019-20	2020-21
Town Road Maintenance	\$ 72,500	\$ 88,500
Town Road Paving	261,350	250,000
Transfer to paving reserve (current balance \$221,096)	75,000	75,000
Transfer to Robinhood Rd reserve (current balance \$ 0.00)	<u>0.00</u>	<u>75,000</u>
	\$ 408,850	\$ 488,500

Art. 43. To see if the Town will vote to authorize spending \$270,915 for snow removal for the fiscal year 2020-21 and to appropriate the Town funds required. Last year's proposed sum was \$235,500.

**RECREATION, HEALTH, AND HUMAN SERVICES**

Art. 44. To see if the Town will vote to authorize paying the following local service expenses for the fiscal year 2020-21 and to appropriate the Town funds required:

	2019-20	2020-21
General assistance	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000
Georgetown Community Center	7,500	7,500
Recreation Committee	7,500	6,500
Richards Library	<u>2,500</u>	<u>2,500</u>
	\$ 21,500	\$ 20,500

Art. 45. To see if the Town will vote to authorize paying the following regional service expenses for the fiscal year 2020-21 and to appropriate the Town funds required:

	2019-20	2020-21
Bath Area Senior Activity Center	800	800
Bath Area Food Bank	700	700
Big Brothers / Big Sisters	450	450
Midcoast Maine Community Action	525	525
New Hope for Women	350	350
Oasis Free Clinic	500	500
Patten Free Library	18,891	19,277
People Plus	500	500
Spectrum Generations	400	400
Sweetser	<u>850</u>	<u>850</u>
	\$ 23,966	\$ 24,352

**CEMETERY MAINTENANCE**

Art. 46. To see if the Town will vote to authorize paying for the following cemetery expenses for the fiscal year 2020-21 and to appropriate the Town funds required:

	2019-20	2020-21
Cemetery Maintenance and Repair	\$ 18,450	\$ 16,700

**UNCLASSIFIED**

Art. 47. To see if the Town will vote to authorize paying \$25,617 for MacMahan Island for the fiscal year 2020-21 as authorized by law and to appropriate the Town funds required. This amount is a direct obligation of the Town. Last year's amount was \$24,797.

Art. 48. To see if the Town will vote to authorize paying a sum now estimated at \$885,682 to pay tax to Sagadahoc County and to appropriate the Town funds required. This amount is a direct obligation of the Town. Last year's actual amount was \$873,128.

Art. 49. To see what sum, not to exceed \$300,000, the Town will vote to appropriate from undesignated fund balance to reduce the annual tax commitment.

Art. 50. To see if the Town will vote to bring forward the mandated actual unexpended balance in the following account. The expected unexpended balance as of June 15, 2020 is shown.

	2019-20	2020-21
Common School Funds	\$ 92,039	\$ 195,086

Art. 51. To see if the Town will vote to increase the property tax levy limit of \$802,932 set for the Town by the State in the event that the municipal budget approved at Town Meeting will result in a tax commitment greater than that property tax levy limit.

Note: The vote on this article must be by written ballot under State law. The Board of Selectmen commend members of the Financial Advisory Committee and all Town boards and committees for their hard work in trimming the budget as far as possible. They strongly urge a Yes vote on this article.

The Registrar of Voters will be at the Georgetown Town Office on Saturday, the twenty ninth of August, 2020, at nine o'clock in the forenoon to correct the list of voters.

You are hereby required to serve this Warrant by posting attested copies in public places in the Town of Georgetown at least seven days before the time of this meeting.

Given under our hands this eighteenth day of August, 2020:

  
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Richard W. Donaldson

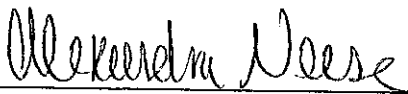
  
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Jonathan C. Collins

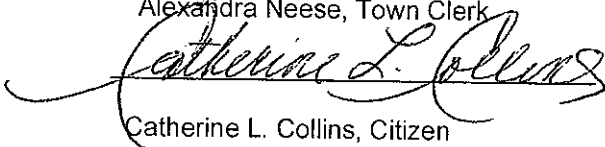
  
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Bronwen Tudor

Selectmen, Town of Georgetown

Attest:   
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Alexandra Neese, Town Clerk

  
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Catherine L. Collins, Citizen