

Town of Sorrento
Annual Meeting September 30, 2023
Meeting Minutes

Meeting was called to order at 3PM by Moderator Peter Drinkwater at the Sorrento Community Building. Those attending: Rob Wilpan, Head Select Person; Maggi McCaw, Clerk; Joanne Holmes, Deputy Clerk.

Motion was made by Rob Wilpan to recess and reconvene the Annual Meeting at the Sullivan Sorrento Recreational Center. Motion seconded by Maggie McCaw; motion passed.

Meeting was reconvened at 3:30 PM by Moderator Peter Drinkwater.

Town Official Vote Results: The vote results were read by Moderator Peter Drinkwater as follows:

Select Person (3 Years):	Stephanie Bullock	73
	*Hilly Crary	96
School Board (3 Years):	Gregory Bullock	80
	*Newbold Noyes	88
Fire Chief (3 Years)	*Joey Clark	99
	Jonathan Mickel	68
Road Commissioner (2 Years)	*Joey Clark	93
	Jonathan Mickel	69

Motion: Clay Savage made a motion to move Article 17 (Ordinance for the Recall of Elected Officials) to the 1st Order of Business.

Floor vote was taken: 39 Ayes; 38 Nays. Motion approved. Discussion followed. Motion to end discussion and seconded.

Vote taken by written ballot: NO 60 YES 39

Article 17 was defeated.

Warrant Articles: passed/ defeated; attached

Article 5: Appointments to elect directors for the Sorrento Community Building:

Hilly Crary, Darla Crocker, Averill West. Motion to elect Colleen Ober as director made by Hilly Crary; motion passed.

Meeting Adjourned: 6:47 PM

The Warrant
Hancock, SS State of Maine

To: Brian Clement,
 Resident in the Town of Sorrento, in th County of Hancock

Greetings:

In the name of the State of Maine you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Sorrento, in said County qualified by law to vote in Town affairs, to meet at the Sorrento Community Building on Saturday, the 30th of September, AD 2023 at 8 o'clock in the morning then and there to act on the articles numbered 1 and 2:

1. To elect a moderator.
2. To elect by Australian Ballot the following officers:
 One Selectperson for three years.
 One RSU 24 School Board Member for three years
 One Fire Chief for two years
 One Road Commissioner for two years

**The polls will open 8:00 am and close at 12:00 noon at the
 Sorrento Community Building**

And to notify and warn said voters to meet at the Sorrento Community Building on the same Saturday, the 30th day of September, AD 2023 at 3:00 PM, then and there to act on the remaining articles, namely:

PASSED 3. To set, raise and appropriate compensation for the following officers:

		2023-2024	2022-2023
Selectboard & Budget Committee	Recommend	Last Year	
Selectpersons Salary \$4,100/\$3,700/\$3,700 (last year, year-end tasks were sep. stated)	11,500	11,500	
Fire Chief	3,000	3,000	
Road Commissioner \$20/hr as needed from Town Road Account			
Total Article 3	14,500	14,500	

PASSED 4. To elect three assessors and three General Assistance Officers and set compensation. Recommend the Selectmen with no additional compensation

PASSED 5. To elect Directors for the Sorrento Community Building to serve for one year.
 (See first page)

PASSED 6. To see what date the Town will set when taxes shall be due and payable, and to see what rate of interest the Town will set to be charged on said taxes unpaid after said date.
Recommend: 60 days after taxes are committed and 8 % interest.

PASSED 7. To see what sums of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate in the following categories for the 2023-2024 fiscal year:

	Selectboard & Budget Committee	2023-2024 Recommend	2022-2023 Last Year
Administration		85,000	100,000
Animal Control Enforcement		2,800	1,000
Payroll Taxes		8,500	5,700
Auditor		11,000	7,000
Planning Board		1,000	0
Legal/Professional Fees		20,000	1,000
Tax Map Update		500	2,000
Fire Department - Total: \$52,500.00		32,500	40,000
Raise and appropriate \$32,500			
Appropriate \$10,000 from the Rescue Squad Donation acct.			
\$10,000 anticipated from the FD donations			
Insurance		22,000	21,000
Town Roads - Total: \$48,000.00 (same amount last year)		33,650	35,000
Raise and appropriate \$33,650 from taxes			
Appropriate \$14,350 from State Road Assistance			
Harbor & Town Pier - \$25,500 from sinking fund (\$34,000 last year)		0	0
Street Lights		5,280	4,800
Stockpile and Repairs		21,370	20,000
Trash Disposal/Bulky Trash - Total: \$53,500.00		35,500	30,000
Raise & appropriate \$35,500 from taxes			
Appropriate \$18,000 from Trash Sticker Revenues			
General Assistance		5,000	5,000
Code Enforcement/ Plumbing Inspection - \$7,000.00		0	3,000
Appropriate \$7,000 from Building Permits and Plumbing Insp. Fees			
Repairs to Town Property		15,000	15,000
Snowplowing and Sanding - Total: \$91,000 (same amount last year)		17,000	21,000
Raise and appropriate \$17,000 from taxes			
Appropriate \$74,000 from Auto Excise			
Snowplowing and Sanding Fuel Surcharge (Reimbursement of fuel costs above \$5.50 per gal diesel - from Surplus)			
Long Pond Water District		42,860	42,860
Village Green Maintenance - \$4,000.00		0	4,000
Appropriate \$4,000 from the rental building acct.			
Doane's Pt Cemetery Corp. - \$2,500.00		2,000	2,000
Raise and appropriate \$2,000 from taxes			

Appropriate \$500 from Old Doane's Point Cemetery Acct.		
Sorrento-Sullivan Recreation Center	5,000	10,000
Frenchman's Bay Shellfish Ordinance	3,000	3,000
Public Safety	3,000	3,000
Law Enforcement	4,000	3,000
Article 7 Total	375,960	379,360

PASSED

8. To see what sums of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the following community supporting groups:

	2023-2024	2022-2023
Selectboard & Budget Committee	Recommend	Last Year
Local Charities		
Sorrento Scholarship Fund - requested \$2,500	2,500	2,500
Sullivan Daze Fireworks - requested \$250	0	250
Sullivan- Sorrento Historical Society - requested \$1,500	1,000	1,500
Frenchman's Bay Library	3,000	3,000
P.A.W / Protecting Animals Welfare	0	500
Joanne Cowan Scholarship Fund (Closed)		250
Other Charities		
American Red Cross - requested \$350	0	350
Community Health & Counseling - requested \$200	0	137
Downeast Community Partners (WHCA) - requested \$1,122	600	583
Downeast Horizons - requested \$1,000	0	900
Eastern Agency on Aging - requested \$263	0	175
Hospice Volunteers of Hancock County - requested \$1,500	1,000	1,000
Northern Lights Homecare and Hospice - requested \$527	0	527
Northern Lights Maine Coast Hospital - requested \$750	0	750
Loaves and Fishes Pantry - requested \$800	800	800
The Lifeflight Foundation - requested \$274	0	274
W.I.C. - requested \$150	150	315
Down East Aids Network - requested \$100	0	0
Down East Family YMCA - requested \$775	775	775
Ellsworth Public Library - requested \$1,116	1,116	1,375
Emmaus Homeless Shelter - no request	0	0
Friends in Action - requested \$200	200	150
Maine Public - requested \$200	0	200
Maine Lobster Assoc. - no request	0	3,000
Schoodic EMS - Power lift		1,000
Eagle's Nest Clubhouse - requested \$300	0	300
Families First - requested \$500	0	500
Article 8 Total	11,141	21,111

PASSED 9. To see if the Town will vote to separate the combined office of Tax Collector/Treasurer/Clerk into the three separate appointed offices of Tax Collector, Treasurer and Clerk, effective October 4, 2023 to be appointed by the select board. The appointment renewals will be one-year terms beginning January 1, 2024

Selectboard & Budget Committee

	2023-2024	2022-2023
	Recommend	Last Year

PASSED	10. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$7,260 and appropriate the \$15,000 Harbor Access and Management grant to replace the gangway from the pier to the main float. Additional costs to be appropriated from Town Repairs acc.. Total estimated	7,260	n/a
--------	---	-------	-----

PASSED	11. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$15,000 from Capital Improvement Acct., \$5,000 from Town Repairs, \$8,644 from the Community Bldg accts. and \$1,356 from the Community Building Improvement Fund for Community Building renovations, totaling \$30,000.	0	n/a
--------	--	---	-----

PASSED	12. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$4,000 for this year's payments for the Comprehensive Planning HCPC contract.	4,640	n/a
--------	--	-------	-----

PASSED	13. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$20,000 and appropriate \$5,000 from surplus to pay for the first half of a town-wide revaluation.	20,000	n/a
--------	---	--------	-----

PASSED	14. To see if the Town will vote to establish a Road Repaving Reserve Fund of \$50,000 by raising and appropriating \$15,000 and appropriate \$10,000 from Block Grant Road Account and \$25,000 from Repairs to Town Road account.	15,000	n/a
--------	---	--------	-----

PASSED	15. To see if the Town will vote transfer the balance of the Maria Crabtree account to the Doane's Point Cemetery Corp. for ongoing maintenance of Maria Crabtree's parents grave sites in the Old Doane's Point Cemetery.	n/a	n/a
--------	--	-----	-----

FAILED 34 YES 53 NO	16. To see if the Town will vote to adapt and the State of Maine Recall statute, MRS Title 30-A Sec 2505 "Recall of Municipal Officials" as the Town of Sorrento Recall Ordinance. The full draft ordinance is appended at the end of this warrant. (To be voted on by written ballot).	n/a	n/a
---------------------------	---	-----	-----

FAILED 39 YES 60 NO	17. To see if the Town will vote to approve the recall ordinance which was submitted by petition. The full draft ordinance is appended at the end of this warrant.	n/a	n/a
PASSED	18. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$20,000 from the FY 2022-23 surplus to establish a contingency fund. This would be available to be appropriated by the Select board if any account is overspent due to unforeseen expenses.	0	n/a
PASSED	19. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$30,000 for the Capital Improvement Fund which is dedicated to the purpose of paying for high cost capital improvement expenditures incurred by the Town without abruptly raising taxes or obtaining a loan. (Last year \$30,000 with \$10,000 from Surplus)	30,000	20,000
PASSED	20. To see if the Town will vote to approve the Snow Plowing and Sanding contract with TR Construction in the amount of \$93,730 for 2024-25 season and \$96,542 for the 2025-2026 season.	n/a	n/a
PASSED	21. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,000 to the Shoreline Improvement Account, "SHIP", along with any donations, to maintain, improve and repair the Town's public shoreline property.	2,000	2,000
Total Articles 10 through 20		78,900	22,000
		2023-2024	2022-2023
		Recommend	Last Year
PASSED	22. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$5,000 for the Sorrento Community Building to cover running expenses, with any remainder to return to surplus.	5,000	5,000
PASSED	23. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$5,000 for the Fire Truck Fund. Money from this fund can only be withdrawn by voter appropriation for Fire Truck replacement. (Last year \$15,000 total with \$10,000 from surplus)	5,000	5,000
PASSED	24. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select board to accept for the Town gifts or grants of money from Federal, State or private sources.	n/a	n/a

PASSED	25.	To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select board to dispose of all property held by tax liens on such terms as they deem advisable, and execute quit claim deeds for such property providing any such sale is advertised in the Ellsworth American for 30 days and the Sorrento Newsletter for at least one time prior to such sale so that all may have an opportunity to bid on same.	n/a	n/a
PASSED	26.	To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select board to spend an amount not to exceed 1/4 of the budgeted amount in each category of the 2023-2024 fiscal year during the period July 1, 2024 until the annual town meeting for fiscal year 2023-2024 unless approved specifically by the board.	n/a	n/a
PASSED	27.	To see if the Town will authorize the Fire Department, with the Select board's approval, to dispose of surplus capital equipment in a manner that best benefits the Fire Department, providing any such sale is announced in the Sorrento Newsletter.	n/a	n/a
INFO	28.	The property tax levy limit adjusted this year for Sorrento according to State law is \$499,928.53. In the event that the preceding articles are approved as presented the municipal property tax levy will be \$458,650.04 which is \$41,278.49 below the limit which would not require a vote of approval.	n/a	n/a
PASSED	29.	To see if the Town will vote to adjourn the meeting.	n/a	n/a
Total Articles 21 through 29			10,000	10,000
Grand Total of Expenditures Articles 1 - 29			490,501	446,971
Taxes raised for items last year which are not needed this year (finger float replacement)				15,800
			490,501	462,771

The Selectmen hereby give notice that they will be in session at the Sorrento Community Bldg at 3 o'clock in the afternoon on Saturday, September 30, 2023.