

Town of Starks

Town Meeting Warrant

To: William Pressey, a resident of the Town of Starks, in the county of Somerset, State of Maine,

Greetings: In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the **Town of Starks**; qualified to vote in town affairs, to meet at the Starks Community Center, 57 Anson Road, in the said Town of Starks on **Friday, March 13th, 2026**, at 11:30 AM then and there to act upon Articles 1 then by Australian ballot on article 2, the polling hours therefore to be from 12:00 PM to 8:00 PM, the annual Town Business Meeting will be held the following day, **Saturday March 14th, 2026** beginning at **11:00 AM** to act on Articles 3 to the end of the warrant.

Article 1

To choose a moderator to preside over said meeting.

Article 2

To choose by Australian ballot all Town Officers needed for the current year.

Article 3

To elect five **Budget Committee** members from the floor.

Article 4

Shall an ordinance entitled "***Moratorium Ordinance for the Town of Starks: Battery Energy Storage Systems***" be enacted?

Article 5

Shall an ordinance entitled "***Amendments to the Subdivision Ordinance for the Town of Starks***" be enacted?

Article 6

- A. To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board to spend an amount not to exceed **3/12 of the annual budget** in each budget category of the 2026 annual budget during the period from January 1st, 2027 to the 2027 Annual Town Meeting.

- B. To see if the Town will vote to make **taxes due** sixty days after the date of commitment. And to begin charging interest thereon at a rate of **7%** annually.
- C. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to apply for a **Tax Anticipation Note**, if needed, to pay current expenses and to pay any interest and costs from overlay.
- D. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to pay **abatements** from overlay.
- E. To see if the Town in accordance with 36 M.R.S. § 506-A will vote that if a taxpayer pays an amount in excess of their final assessment it shall be refunded in the amount of the overpayment.
- F. To see if the Town in accordance with 36 M.R.S. § 506 will authorize the Tax Collector and Treasurer to accept prepayment of taxes not yet committed and pay no interest thereon.
- G. To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board, on behalf of the Town, to **sell and dispose** of any real-estate acquired by the Town for nonpayment of taxes thereon, on such terms as they deem advisable; and to execute the appropriate deeds for such property. Except that the Select Board shall use the special sale process required by 36 M.R.S. § 943-C for qualifying homestead property if they choose to sell it to anyone other than the former owner(s).
- H. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to dispose of assets with an estimated value of \$1,000 or less without having to place legal ads, the details of these assets to be emailed to an available email list and posted inside and outside the Town Office for bids. This does not include tax acquired property.
- I. To see if the Town will vote to apply available excise taxes (vehicle and boat), tax interest, miscellaneous revenue, and other available revenues determined by the Treasurer and Assessors, to lower the commitment.
- J. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate **100% of the refund** of Snowmobile Registrations, received annually from the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, for the improvement and maintenance of trails, on condition that those trails be open to the public, and to be used at the discretion of the Anson / North Anson Snowmobile Club.
- K. To see if the Town will vote to accept the following gifts, grants and funds listed below as provided by the Maine State Legislature, and any other sources, and apply the funds

to lower the commitment or benefit the town in such other ways as the Select Board deems reasonable.

Potential Revenues	
Maine Municipal Revenue Sharing	General Assistance Funds
Tree Growth Reimbursements	Veterans Exemption Funds
Homestead Exemption Funds	FEMA Reimbursements
State and Federal Grants	Civil Emergency Funds
State Aid to Education	Any Other Funds or Gifts

- L. To see if the Town will vote to apply lien cost revenue to the lien cost expense account.
- M. To see if the Town will vote to apply all revenues from the Community Center rentals and donations to the Building Improvement fund.
- N. To see if the Town will vote to close the books on December 31, 2026.

Article 7

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to enter into a contract to install a **photovoltaic system** on the roof of the Starks Community Center, and to appropriate from the Building Improvement Fund the sum of up to \$87,500 for the project, with any rebate money going back into the building Improvement Fund.

Building Improvement Fund Balance as of 12/31/2025 \$104,263.92

Article 8

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation, **\$139,549** for **Administration** and additional administrative expenses in the current year.

Description	Taxation/Requested
FICA	\$13,500
Medicare	\$3,200
Paid Family Medical Leave	\$2,000
Worker's Compensation	\$7,500
Mileage Reimbursement	\$2,000
Training	\$750
Unemployment Tax	\$100
Postage	\$2,500
Dues	\$2,200
Office Supplies	\$2,300
Miscellaneous	\$5,000
Audit	\$10,200
Trio Software Renewal	\$14,115
Legal Services	\$8,000

Tax Maps Updates	\$3,000
Town Report	\$1,678
Legal Ads	\$200
Xerox Maintenance & Toner	\$2,600
Water Rent & Hydrant Use	\$7,000
Kennebec Valley Waste Recycling	\$13,046
Large Item Drop off – 2X annually	\$12,500
Cemetery Maintenance	\$1,500
Property & Casualty	\$24,660
Total	\$139,549

Recommended by Select Board and Budget Committee

Article 9

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation, **\$2,000** for the **Legal Expenses of Code Enforcement** in the current year.

Description	2025 Budget	Taxation/Requested
CEO Legal	\$2,000	\$2,000

Recommended by Select Board and Budget Committee

Article 10

To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation for **Salaries** in the current year.

Description	2025 Budget	Taxation/Requested
Code Enforcement	\$8,550	\$8,800
Deputy-Clerk TC & Treas.	\$3,000	\$3,000
Elections	\$4,500	\$5,000
Assessor Chair	\$5,000	\$5,140
Assessor	\$5,000	\$5,140
Assessor	\$5,000	\$5,140
Selectman	\$4,000	\$4,112
Selectman	\$4,000	\$4,112
Selectman	\$4,000	\$4,112
Town Clerk	\$11,500	\$12,850
Tax Collector	\$15,500	\$15,940
Treasurer	\$15,500	\$15,940
Building Superintendent	\$6,950	\$7,150
Health Officer	\$1,800	\$1,800
Sexton	\$100	\$100
GA Administrator	\$650	\$670
Town Report Administrator	\$650	\$670
Public Works Director	\$36,050	\$37,060
Total	\$131,750	\$136,736

Recommended by Select Board and Budget Committee

Article 11

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation, **\$25,450** for the **Community Center** in the current year.

Description	2025 Budget	Taxation/Requested
Community Center Operating Expenses	\$23,000	\$25,450

Recommended by Select Board and Budget Committee

Article 12

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation, **\$67,150** for the **Fire Department** in the current year.

Description	2025 Budget	Taxation/Requested
Fire Department	\$55,500	\$67,150

Recommended by Select Board and Budget Committee

Article 13

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation, **\$5,140** for the **Fire Chief's Salary** in the current year.

Description	2025 Budget	Taxation/Requested
Fire Chief	\$5,000	\$5,140

Recommended by Select Board and Budget Committee

Article 14

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation **\$3,840**, and carry forward the Animal Control Fund Balance of **\$469** for **Animal Control Expenses**, for a **total budget of \$4,309** in the current year.

Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend

Description	Breakdown
Animal Control	\$2,470
FC Animal Shelter Contract	\$1,839
Total Budget	\$4,309
Carry Forward Fund Balance	(469)
From Taxation	\$3,840

Article 15

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation, **\$15,122** for the Anson Madison Starks **Ambulance Service** in the current year.

Description	2025 Budget	Taxation/Requested
AMS Ambulance	\$12,453	\$15,122

Recommended by Select Board and Budget Committee

Article 16

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation, **\$1,300** for **Street Lights** in the current year.

Description	2025 Budget	Taxation/Requested
Street Lights	\$1,300	\$1,300

Recommended by Select Board and Budget Committee

Article 17

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from **taxation, \$348,959.30**, appropriate from **LRAP \$18,840.70**, for a total budget of **\$367,800** for the **Public Works Department** in the current year.

Description	2025 Budget	Appropriation/Taxation
Equipment	\$110,000	\$110,000
Garage	\$20,000	\$20,000
Summer Roads	\$72,500	\$72,500
Winter Roads	\$100,000	\$100,000
Dump Mowing	\$300	\$300
Capital Roads	\$67,700	\$65,000
Total Budget	\$370,500	\$367,800
LRAP appropriation	(\$33,000)	(\$18,840.70)
Undesignated appropri (FEMA)	(\$24,397.22)	\$0.00
Total Taxation	\$313,102.78	\$348,959.30

Recommended by Select Board and Budget Committee

Article 18

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation, up to \$65,000 to replace the roof on the town garage to better insulate the building.

Recommended by Select Board

Article 19

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation, **\$3,338.97**, and carry forward the General Assistance Fund Balance of **\$661.03** for **General Assistance Expenses**, for a **total budget of \$4,000** in the current year.

Recommended by Select Board and Budget Committee

Description	Breakdown
General Assistance	\$4,000
Total Budget	\$4,000
Carry Forward Fund Balance	(\$661.03)

From Taxation

\$3,338.97

Article 20

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation, **\$2,000** for **Rec Sports** and **Library Membership** reimbursements in the current year.

Description	2025 Budget	Taxation/Requested
Rec Sports/Library Reimbursements	\$2,000	\$2,000

Recommended by Select Board and Budget Committee

Explanation: This article is meant for reimbursement to any Starks resident who participates in recreation sports provided by other communities at cost. Additionally, residents are permitted to purchase a library card at a library of their choosing and get reimbursed by the Town.

Article 21

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation, **\$5,500** for Third Party requests and **Social Organizations** in the current year.

Description	Board of Selectmen	Budget Committee
Food Insecurity	50/50 Starks-Winslow \$1,500	50/50 Starks-Winslow \$1,500
Family Violence	\$250	\$250
Kennebec Behavioral Health	\$1,400	\$600
Memorial Day Wreath	\$150	\$250
Spectrum Generations	\$250	\$250
KVCAP Agency	\$500	\$500
Hospice Volunteers Somerset	\$250	\$250
Hospice Volunteers Androscoggin	\$250	\$250
Farmington SAPARS	\$200	\$200
The American Red Cross	\$100	\$100
Life Flight	\$550	\$550
Maine Public Broadcasting	\$100	\$0
Taxation	\$5,500	\$4,700

Article 22

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation, **\$26,956** for **debt service** in the current year.

Description	Breakdown
Sand and Salt Shed	\$9,787
Excavator	\$17,169
From Taxation	\$26,956

Recommended by Select Board and Budget Committee

Explanation: Sand & Salt Shed bond pay off date: January 15th 2029

Excavator pay off date: June 5th, 2032

Article 23

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation, **\$10,000**, for the **Fire Department Capital Reserve**.

Description	2025 Budget	Taxation/Requested
Fire Department Capital Reserve	\$10,000	\$10,000

Recommended by Select Board and Budget Committee

Fire Department Capital Reserve balance December 31st, 2025 \$66,000

Article 24

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation, **\$10,000**, for the **Capital Improvement Reserve**.

Description	2025 Budget	Taxation/Requested
Capital Improvement Reserve	\$0	\$10,000

Recommended by Select Board and Budget Committee

Capital Improvement Reserve balance December 31st, 2025 \$5,036.21

Explanation: This fund is used for capital purchases and projects

Article 25

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation, **\$10,000**, for the **Revaluation Reserve**.

Description	2025 Budget	Taxation/Requested
Revaluation Reserve	\$0	\$10,000

Recommended by Select Board and Budget Committee

Revaluation Reserve balance December 31st, 2025 \$0

Explanation: This fund is in anticipation of a future town-wide revaluation in order to maintain real-estate values at statutory requirements.

Starks Assessors expect this to be 10+ years from 2026.

Article 26

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to raise and appropriate from taxation, **\$5,000** to pay for **Unanticipated Expenses** and emergencies in the current year.

Recommended by Select Board and Budget Committee

Article 27

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from **Undesignated Funds, \$108,106** to lower the tax commitment.

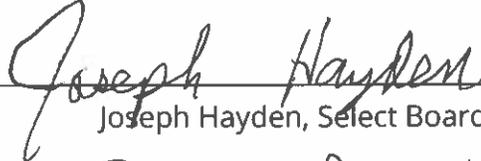
Article 28

To see if the Town wishes to hold the next Annual Town Meeting on March 12th and 13th 2027.

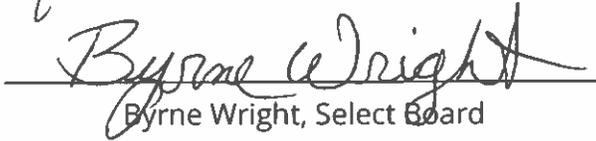
Given under our hands at the Starks Town Office this 2nd day of March, 2026



Ernest Hilton, Select Board Chair



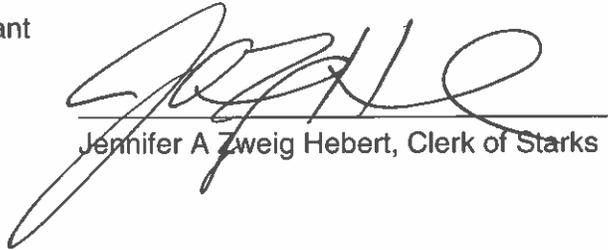
Joseph Hayden, Select Board



Byrne Wright, Select Board

A true copy of the warrant

Attest:

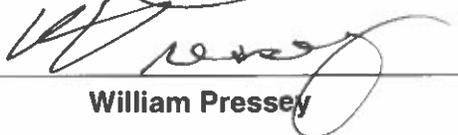


Jennifer A. Zweig Hebert, Clerk of Starks

Warrant Officers' Warrant

State of Maine
Somerset, ss.

By virtue of the herein warrant to me directed, I have notified and warned the inhabitants of the Town of Starks to be assembled at the time and place, and for the purpose therein named by posting attested copies of the warrant in four (4) conspicuous places within said town, the 4th day of March, 2026. The Starks Community Center inside and out, the Town Fire Department, and Rackliff's Redemption.



William Pressey