

**Town of Searsmont
Annual Town Meeting Warrant
April 12, 2025**

To Robin Dow, a Constable of the Town of Searsmont, in the County of Waldo, greetings:

In the name of the State of Maine you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town of Searsmont, qualified by law to vote in town affairs, to assemble in the Searsmont Community Building Meeting Room, in the village in said town on the 12th day of April 2025, at 9 a.m. to act on the following articles, to wit:

- Art. 1. To choose, by written ballot, a Moderator to preside at said meeting.
- Art. 2. To choose, by written ballot, one Selectmen, Overseer of the Poor, Road Commissioner, and Assessor for a three-year term.
- Art. 3. To choose, by written ballot, one Selectmen, Overseer of the Poor, Road Commissioner, and Assessor for a two-year term ending in April 2027, to fill a vacancy due to resignation.
- Art. 4. To choose, by written ballot, one RSU#71 School Board Representative, to serve a three-year term from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2028.
- Art. 5. To choose two members of the Planning Board, each for a three-year term.
- Art. 6. To choose one member of the Board of Appeals for a three-year term.
- Art. 7. To choose one member of the Cemetery Committee for a three-year term.
- Art. 8. To choose two members of the Library Board of Trustees, each for a three-year term.
- Art. 9. To see if the town will vote to pay the following wages:
- | | | |
|--|-------------------------|---------|
| Selectmen | First Year | \$4,000 |
| | Second Year | \$6,000 |
| | Third Year | \$9,000 |
| Fire Chief | | \$9,100 |
| Assistant Fire Chief | | \$3,200 |
| Rescue Chief | | \$9,100 |
| Assistant Rescue Chief | | \$3,200 |
| Emergency Management Director | | \$1,600 |
| Constable | | \$1,200 |
| Sexton | | \$1,200 |
| Men and equipment for roads maintenance, snow removal and sanding
(noncontract): Department of Transportation wage scale. | | |
| Snow plowing and sanding equipment (non-contract): Department
of Transportation wage scale + 25% | | |
| All others: | \$14.65 - \$30 per hour | |
- Art. 10. To see if the town will vote to ratify the expenditures in the last fiscal year in various accounts that were over and above the appropriations or take any action thereon.
- Art. 11. To see if the town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to expend such sums of money as may be required to carry on the town affairs from the time the town books close until the next annual town meeting, such sums to be included in amounts appropriated for the next fiscal year, or to take any action thereon.

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- Art. 12. To see if the town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector to enter into a standard agreement with residential taxpayers establishing a "tax club" payment plan for property taxes, whereby:
- a. The taxpayer agrees to pay specified monthly payments to the town based on his/her estimated and actual tax obligation for the current year's property taxes;
 - b. The town agrees not to charge interest on timely payments made pursuant to the tax club agreement;
 - c. The town authorizes the collector to accept tax club payments for current taxes which may be due prior to the commitment of those taxes;
 - d. The agreement is automatically terminated if a scheduled payment is late, and the taxpayer then becomes subject to the same due dates and interest dates and rates as other taxpayers who are not participating in a tax club;
 - e. Only taxpayers who do not have any outstanding tax obligations for prior tax years are eligible to participate in the tax club program; and
 - f. Taxpayers wishing to participate in a tax club for a property tax year shall enter into an agreement with the town by a publicly advertised deadline determined by the Tax Collector.
- Art. 13. To see if the town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to accept and/or appropriate, on behalf of the town, money from State, Federal, and other governmental units, private sources, or foundations, which may be received from time to time in the form of grants or any other source, during the current fiscal year, and to expend those funds for their designated purpose or to reduce taxes.
- Art. 14. To see if the town will vote to set a due date of September 30, 2025, for 2025 taxes and determine that daily interest shall accrue on 2025 taxes not paid by September 30, 2025, at the rate of five (5) per cent per year, pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. §505. (State Treasurer maximum rate of interest on delinquent taxes is 7.5%)
- Art. 15. To see if the town will vote to set the interest rate to be paid by the town on abated 2025 taxes, pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. §506-A, at five (5) per cent per year.
- Art. 16. To see if the town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector and Treasurer to accept prepayment of taxes not yet committed, pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. §506, the amount collected not to exceed the previous year's taxes, and to pay no interest thereon.
- Art. 17. To see if the town will authorize the Board of Selectmen, in their discretion and on behalf of the town, to sell and dispose of any real estate acquired by the town for nonpayment of taxes thereon, pursuant to 36 MRS §943-C. However, the Board of Selectmen may, without auction or advertisement, sell to the person or persons to whom a property was taxed at the time the property was acquired by the town or to their heirs or assignees, such property at the amount of the accrued taxes, interest, lien costs, administrative fees, and other fees as determined by the Board of Selectmen and to execute and deliver therefore a Municipal Quit Claim Deed for such property.

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Art. 18. To see what sum the town will donate to the following designated social service and non-profit agencies:

AGENCY	2024 <i>Donation</i>	2025 Request	2025 Committee Recommend	2025 Selectmen Recommend
Belfast Area Child Care Services	500	500	500	500
Belfast Soup Kitchen	500	750	750	550
Hospice Volunteers of Waldo County	300	300	300	300
Life Flight Foundation	700	700	700	700
Maine Public Radio/Television/Online	100	100	100	100
New Hope Midcoast	1000	1110	1100	1100
Spectrum Generations	1000	1053	1000	1000
Sweetser		100	100	100
Town of Searsmont Scholarship	1000	1000	1000	1000
TriTown Baseball	400	0	0	500
Waldo Community Action Partners	9000	11610	11000	9900
Waldo County Bounty		300	300	300
Waldo County Pet Food Pantry	100	500	100	100
Waldo County Wood Shed	1000	1000	1000	1000
Waldo County YMCA	750	1000	1000	825
Totals	16350	20023	18950	17975

- Art. 19. To see if the town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to expend monies from overlay to pay abatements and applicable interest granted during this fiscal year; the balance of account at year end to lapse to Fund Balance.
- Art. 20. To see if the town will approve and ratify a Purchase and Sale Agreement by and between the Town of Searsmont and KA Holdings, LLC, to purchase real property consisting of +/- 4 acres of land located in Come Spring Business Park, being a portion of a property depicted on Tax Map 010 Lot 116, for a purchase price of \$250,000. The purpose of this purchase is to site a sand & salt shed, solid waste transfer station, and Fire Department pump house.
- Art. 21. To see if the town will vote to allow the Selectmen to appropriate all or a portion of the money received from the State for snowmobile registrations to local snowmobile club(s) for the maintenance of their network of snowmobile trails, on condition that those trails be open in snow season to the public for outdoor recreation purposes at no charge.
- Art. 22. To see if the town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to expend \$150,000 from Fund Balance (surplus) for road paving, culverts, ditching, shoulder work, and roadbed improvements.
- Art. 23. To see if the town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to expend monies from Fund Balance (surplus) to reduce taxes.

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Art. 24. To see what sum of money the town will vote to raise or appropriate for the following purposes:

		2025		
		2025 Budget	From Revenue	From Taxes
Municipal Government				
1	Wages & Benefits	\$303,360.00		\$303,360.00
2	Administration	\$124,100.00	\$26,000.00	\$98,100.00
3	Town Properties	\$68,100.00		\$68,100.00
4	Contingency	\$20,000.00		\$20,000.00
5	Planning Board	\$23,400.00	\$15,000.00	\$8,400.00
6	Fire Dept	\$99,095.00		\$99,095.00
7	Ambulance	\$73,840.00	\$35,000.00	\$38,840.00
8	Health Officer	\$650.00		\$650.00
9	Animal Welfare	\$8,930.00	\$1,000.00	\$7,930.00
10	Constable	\$1,425.00		\$1,425.00
11	Emergency Mgmt	\$2,985.00		\$2,985.00
12	Street Lights	\$2,000.00		\$2,000.00
13	Agency Donations	\$17,475.00		\$17,475.00
14	General Assistance	\$3,000.00		\$3,000.00
15	Road & Bridge Maint	\$777,050.00	\$357,000.00	\$414,050.00
16	Library	\$37,280.00	\$6,000.00	\$31,280.00
17	Parks & Recreation	\$27,025.00		\$27,025.00
18	Parade	\$500.00		\$500.00
19	Transfer Station	\$85,947.00	\$14,000.00	\$71,947.00
20	Cemetery	\$22,482.00		\$22,482.00
21	Debt Repayment	\$126,000.00	\$126,000.00	\$0.00
Subtotal		\$1,802,854.00	\$580,000.00	\$1,216,504.00
Reserve Funds		2025 Budget		
22	Legal Rsv	\$5,000.00		\$5,000.00
23	Salt/Sand Shed Reserve	\$10,000.00		\$10,000.00
24	FD Jaws of Life Reserve	\$500.00		\$500.00
25	Cem Restoration Reserve	\$0.00		\$0.00
26	Emergency Mgmt Reserve	\$0.00		\$0.00
27	Fire Dept Capital RSV	\$25,000.00		\$25,000.00
28	Rescue Equip Reserve	\$25,000.00		\$25,000.00
29	Community Bldg Reserve	\$10,000.00		\$10,000.00
30	Road & Bridge Reserve	\$10,000.00		\$10,000.00
Subtotal Reserves		\$85,500.00		\$85,500.00
Total Budget		\$1,888,354.00	\$580,000.00	\$1,302,004.00

**Taxes to be raised may be decreased by the previous years' surplus, Revenue Sharing, or other State funds*

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- Art. 25. To see if the town will vote to authorize the municipal officers to make final determination regarding the closing or opening of roads to winter maintenance pursuant to 23 MRSA §2953.
- Art. 26. Shall an ordinance entitled **Town of Searsmont Land Use Ordinance, Section 1000. Subdivisions & Manufactured and/or Tiny Home Parks** be amended as follows:

1002.3. Submissions

Three (3) paper copies and one digital copy (PDF format)~~Nine (9) copies~~ of the sketch plan and all supporting materials must be submitted 7 days prior to a regularly scheduled Planning Board meeting, in order to be placed on the Board's agenda (note: the day of request or submittal does not count as part of the 7 days). The sketch plan shall show, in simple sketch form, the proposed layout of streets, lots, buildings and other features in relation to existing conditions. The sketch plan, which does not have to be engineered and may be a freehand penciled sketch, shall show site conditions such as steep slopes, wet areas and vegetative cover in a general manner. The sketch plan shall be supplemented with a written project narrative, with general information to describe or outline the existing conditions of the site and a full description of the proposed development. The narrative should include general proposals for how any common areas and infrastructure will be managed and maintained. It is recommended that the sketch plan be superimposed on or accompanied by a copy of the Assessor's Map(s) on which the land is located. The sketch plan shall be accompanied by:

- A. A sketch plan application form, and a sketch plan application fee (See Appendix D). No charge for Preapplication.
- B. A copy of a portion of the United States Geological Survey topographic map of the area showing the outline of the proposed subdivision; unless the proposed subdivision is less than 10 acres in size.
- C. A copy of that portion of the Waldo County Soil Survey covering the proposed subdivision, showing the outline of the proposed subdivision development, and
- D. A written project narrative as described above.

1003.2. Preliminary Plan Submissions

The applicant shall, at least seven (7) days prior to a regularly scheduled meeting contact the Code Enforcement Officer to be placed on the Board's agenda and deliver three (3) paper copies and one digital copy (PDF format)~~nine (9) copies~~ of the following materials to the Town Office as part of the Preliminary Plan. (note: the day of request or submittal does not count as part of the 7 days). The Board may require additional information to be submitted, as necessary, in order to determine whether the criteria of Title 30-A M.R.S.A., section 4404 are met.

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1004.2. Final Plan Submission Approval

The final plan shall consist of one or more maps or drawings drawn to a scale of not more than one hundred feet to the inch. Plans for subdivisions containing more than one hundred acres may be drawn at a scale of not more than two hundred feet to the inch provided all necessary detail can easily be read. Plans shall be no larger than 24 by 36 inches in size and shall have a margin of two inches outside of border line on the left side for binding and a one-inch margin outside the border along the remaining sides. Space shall be reserved on the plan for endorsement by the Board. Three (3) paper copies and one digital copy (PDF format)~~Nine (9) full-sized paper copies~~ of all the final plan sheets and any supporting documents shall be submitted. The final plan shall include or be accompanied by the following mandatory submissions of information.

1004.3 C3

Three (3) paper copies and one digital copy (PDF format)~~Nine (9) copies~~ of all information accompanying the plan shall be submitted.

1005.2. Submissions

The applicant shall submit a copy of the approved plan as well as three (3) paper copies and one digital copy (PDF format)~~nine (9) copies~~ of the proposed revisions. The revised plan shall indicate that it is the revision of a previously approved and recorded plan and shall show the title of the subdivision and the book and page or cabinet and sheet on which the original plan is recorded at the Waldo County Registry of Deeds. Upon approval by the Board, the revised plan shall be recorded in the Waldo County Registry of Deeds at the expense of the applicant.

Art. 27. Shall an ordinance entitled **Town of Searsmont Land Use Ordinance, Section 1100. Site Plan Review** be amended as follows:

1102.4 Site Plan Review Application Requirements

- A. Applications for all Site Plan Reviews (major and minor developments) shall be submitted on application forms provided by the Town. Three (3) paper copies and one digital copy (PDF format) of the completed application form ~~required fees, and all the required plans and related information accompanying documents, and required fees~~ shall be submitted to the Board no less than seven (7) days prior to the meeting (note: the day of request or submittal does not count as part of the 7 days).
- B. ~~In addition, for major developments one copy of the plan(s) and all accompanying information shall be provided to the Planning Board clerk to be distributed to each Board member by the Planning Board Clerk no less than seven (7) days prior to the meeting (note: the day of request or submittal does not count as part of the 7 days).~~

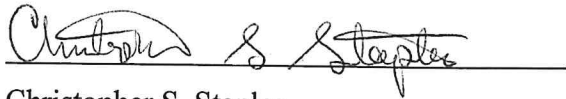
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- C 6. Applications for major developments shall include the following additional information.
- a. Development Plan. A Development Plan that shall consist of three (3) paper copies and one digital copy (PDF format)~~one or more reproducible original(s)~~, to be filed at the Town Office. Space shall be provided on the Plan for the signatures of the Board and date with the following words:
- Approved: Town of Searsmont Planning Board
- The required documents shall be submitted to and reviewed by the Board and shall be approved by the Board before any building permit may be issued. In the case of proposed resumption of uses which have been discontinued for at least one year, Board approval shall be required before such uses may be resumed.
- b. Three (3) paper copies and one digital copy (PDF format)~~2 copies~~ of an accurate scale plan of the parcel at a scale of not more than one hundred (100) feet to the inch showing at a minimum;

Given under our hands this 24th day of March 2025.

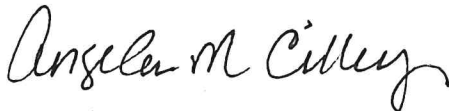


Arlo L. Redman III



Christopher S. Staples

A true copy attest.



Angela Cilley, Town Clerk