

Remember

VOTING - June 13, 2023, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

At the Sportsmen's Club

TOWN MEETING - Saturday, June 17, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.

At the Carrie Ricker School gymnasium

TOWN WARRANT

TOWN OF LITCHFIELD

To: Kelly Weissenfels, a resident of the Town of Litchfield in the County of Kennebec.

Greetings:

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the voters of the Town of Litchfield to meet at the Litchfield Sportsmen's Club on Tuesday, the 13th day of June 2023 A.D. at eight o'clock in the forenoon, then and there to act on the following articles, to wit:

SECTION I - ADMINISTRATION

Art. 1. To choose a Moderator to preside at said meeting.

Art. 2. To elect all TOWN OFFICERS required by law and previous vote of the Town to be chosen by secret ballot; namely, Select Board, Litchfield Academy Trustee, RSU4 Board Director and Budget Committee. The polls will open at eight o'clock in the morning and will close at eight o'clock in the evening. The meeting will then adjourn after the ballots have been tallied and reconvene at the Carrie Ricker School Gymnasium at ten o'clock Saturday morning, June 17th, 2023 A.D.

Art. 3. To see if the Town will vote to hear and discuss any reports of any Boards, Committees, or Officers (whether residing in Town or not) of the Town.

Art. 4. To see if the Town will vote to fix Oct. 15, 2023 or up to 30 days after commitment, whichever is later, Jan. 15, 2024, and April 15, 2024 as the dates on each of which one-third of the property taxes are due and payable, and as the dates from which interest will be charged on any unpaid taxes and liens for tax year 2023-24 at the rate of 5.0% per year.

Selectmen Recommend: Ought to Pass

Budget Committee Recommends: Ought to Pass

Art. 5. Shall the Town authorize the Tax Collector to accept prepayment of taxes not yet committed or assessed? (This Article required by State Law Title 36 MRSA §506 [see MRSA reference list in Town Report]).

Selectmen Recommend: Ought to Pass

Art. 6. Shall the Town authorize the Tax Collector to pay interest at a rate of 0% from the date of overpayment on any taxes paid and later abated? (Title 36 MRSA §506A [see MRSA reference list in Town Report]).

Selectmen Recommend: Ought to Pass

Budget Committee Recommends: Ought to Pass

Art. 7. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept gifts of money, or personal property and/or real estate to the Town and to appropriate and expend such gifts for such public purposes as the Selectmen deem to be in the best interest of the Town.

Selectmen Recommend: Ought to Pass

Art. 8. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for and accept state and federal grants and grants from nonprofit organizations on behalf of the town for municipal purposes, including, when necessary, the authority to sign the grant contracts and accept the conditions that accompany grant funds, and to appropriate and expend grant funds for the authorized purposes.

Selectmen Recommend: Ought to Pass

Explanation: The Town needs the authorization of the Town Meeting, which is the legislative body of the town, to apply for many grants. This article avoids the need for a Special Town Meeting to authorize the Board of Selectmen to submit an application for grant funding on behalf of the Town and to accept any grant funds awarded. This article would allow an appropriation of grant funds, and expenditures of these grant funds.

Art. 9. To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for LIBRARY services (66-6).

Selectmen Request: \$27,180
Budget Committee Recommends: \$27,180

Art. 10. To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for AMBULANCE SERVICE (37-7).

Selectmen Request: \$81,381
Budget Committee Recommends: At the meeting

Art. 11. To see what sum the Town will establish for each SELECTMAN (01-5-020).

Selectmen Request: \$3,000 (\$9,000 total)
Budget Committee Recommends: \$3,000 (\$9,000 total)

Art. 12. To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for ADMINISTRATION (01-5).

Selectmen Request: \$370,414
Budget Committee Recommends: \$370,414

Art. 13. To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for GENERAL GOVERNMENT (05-5).

Selectmen Request: \$56,020
Budget Committee Recommends: \$56,020

Art. 14. To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for EMPLOYEE BENEFITS (07-5).

Selectmen Request: \$201,851
Budget Committee Recommends: \$201,851

Art. 15. To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for INSURANCE (08-5).

Selectmen Request: \$89,090
Budget Committee Recommends: \$89,090

Art. 16. To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for LEGAL EXPENSES (09-5).

Selectmen Request: \$10,000
Budget Committee Recommends: \$10,000

Art. 17. To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for GENERAL ASSISTANCE (10-5).
[Note: State reimburses Town for 70% of actual expenses after the fact.]

Selectmen Request: \$10,000
Budget Committee Recommends: \$10,000

Art. 18. To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for PLANNING BOARD/BOA/BAR (14-5).

Selectmen Request: \$1,200
Budget Committee Recommends: \$1,200

Art. 19. To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for TOWN OFFICE OPERATIONS (15-5).

Selectmen Request: \$20,950
Budget Committee Recommends: \$20,950

Art. 20. To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for OFFICE EQUIPMENT/SERVICE (20-5).

Selectmen Request: \$38,835
Budget Committee Recommends: \$38,835

Art. 21. To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for ANIMAL CONTROL (25-5), including a Kennebec Valley Humane Society assessment of \$6,275.52.

Selectmen Request: \$20,313
Budget Committee Recommends: \$20,313

Art. 22. To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for LITCHFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT and RESCUE (30-5); and that any unexpended balance carry into the FIRE EQUIPMENT RESERVE ACCOUNT (G10-361-00).

Selectmen Request: \$162,300
Budget Committee Recommends: \$162,300

Art. 23. To see what sum the Town will raise for the FIRE TRUCK RESERVE ACCOUNT (G10-364-00). (Note: Next upcoming major purchase - Fire Equipment Tanker Truck)

Selectmen Request: \$100,000
Budget Committee Recommends: \$100,000

Art. 24. To see what sum the Town will raise for the FIRE EQUIPMENT RESERVE ACCOUNT (G10-361-00). (Note: Next upcoming major purchase – Self Contained Breathing Apparatus)

Selectmen Request: \$12,000
Budget Committee Recommends: \$12,000

Art. 25. To see what sum the Town will appropriate from the FIRE TRUCK RESERVE ACCOUNT (G10-364-00) for the repair of deteriorating frame of fire truck Unit 65 and to be used by the Selectmen as they deem reasonable, and that any unexpended balance as of June 30, 2024 carry into the FIRE TRUCK RESERVE ACCOUNT (G10-364-00).

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Lapse Date</u>
Truck frame repair:	\$75,000	6/30/2024

Selectmen Request: \$75,000
Budget Committee Recommends: \$75,000

Art. 26. To see what sum the town will appropriate from the FIRE TRUCK RESERVE ACCOUNT (G10-364-00) for the purchase of a new tanker truck to replace Truck #62 that has reached the end of its maintainable service, and to be used by the Selectmen as they deem reasonable, and that any unexpended balance as of June 30, 2026 carry into the FIRE TRUCK RESERVE ACCOUNT (G10-364-00).

Tanker truck:	\$475,000	6/30/2026
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Selectmen Request: \$475,000
Budget Committee Recommends: \$475,000

Art. 27. To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for FOREST FIRES AND OUTSIDE HELP (31-5).

Selectmen Request: \$3,000
Budget Committee Recommends: \$3,000

Art. 28. To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for STREET LIGHTS and FLASHING INTERSECTION LIGHTS (38-5).

Selectmen Request: \$1,800
Budget Committee Recommends: \$1,800

Art. 29. To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for PUBLIC WORKS (40-5) and that any unexpended balance carry into the HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT RESERVE FUND (G10-366-00).

Selectmen Request: \$610,944
Budget Committee Recommends: \$610,944

Art. 30. To see if the Town will appropriate \$250,000 from the unassigned balance for the purchase of a plow truck, or trucks, for public works, and to be used by the Selectmen as they deem reasonable, and that any unexpended balance as of June 30, 2025 carry into the HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT RESERVE FUND (G10-366-00).

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Lapse Date</u>
Plow truck or trucks:	\$250,000	6/30/2025

Selectmen Recommend: Ought to pass
Budget Committee Recommends: Ought to pass

Art. 31. To see what sum the Town will appropriate from the HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT RESERVE FUND (G10-366-00) for the purchase (after trade in of existing front-end loader) of a front loader, and that any unexpended balance, as of June 30, 2025 carry into HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT RESERVE FUND (G10-366-00)

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Lapse Date</u>
Front end loader	\$160,000	6/30/2025

Selectmen Request: \$160,000
Budget Committee Recommends: \$160,000

Art. 32. To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for the CAPITAL ROAD IMPROVEMENT (43-5).

Selectmen Request: \$219,000
Budget Committee Recommends: \$219,000

Art. 33. To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for the TOWN GARAGE (45-5), and that any unexpended balance as of June 30, 2023 carry into the HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT RESERVE FUND (G10-366-00).

Selectmen Request: \$26,450
Budget Committee Recommends: \$26,450

Art. 34. To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for the TRANSFER STATION (50-5).

Selectmen Request: \$160,079
Budget Committee Recommends: \$160,079

Art. 35. To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for EMERGENCY SERVICES (56-5).

Selectmen Request: \$53,206
Budget Committee Recommends: \$53,206

Art. 36. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$14,500 for RECREATION (58-5).

Selectmen Recommend: Ought to pass
Budget Committee Recommends: Ought to pass

Art 37. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$1,000 to provide a stipend for the Woodbury Pond Park manager.

Selectmen Recommend: Ought to pass
Budget Committee Recommends: Ought to pass

Art. 38. To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for care and maintenance of CEMETERIES (60-5).

Selectmen Request: \$10,350
Budget Committee Recommends: \$10,350

Art. 39. To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for the TOWN NEWSLETTER (63-6).

Selectmen Request: \$8,500
Budget Committee Recommends: \$8,500

Art. 40. To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for the following PUBLIC SERVICE AGENCIES (65-6).

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Requested Amount</u>
American Red Cross	1,200
KVCAP Transportation	650
Litchfield Food Bank	2,000
Family Violence	2,000
Rural Community Action Ministry	3,000
Spectrum Generations	1,898
Crisis/Assault Support	1,200
TLA/CLA	6,100
Kennebec Behavioral Health	3,200
Androscoggin Home Care/Hospice	1,000
Friends of Cobbossee	<u>6,000</u>
Total	\$28,248

Selectmen Request: \$28,248
Budget Committee Recommends: \$28,248

Note: New Charities and Organizations must submit a petition for warrant placement and requested amount with signatures of 50 Litchfield registered voters.

Art. 41. To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for dues for the KENNEBEC VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (67-6).

Selectmen Request: \$5,931
Budget Committee Recommends: \$5,931

Art. 42. To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for the Town's share for operation and maintenance of the NEW MILLS DAM (\$9,120), WOODBURY POND DAM (\$4,000), and that any balance as of June 30, 2024 be transferred to WOODBURY DAM MAINTENANCE reserve funds (G10-368-00).

Selectmen Request: \$13,120
Budget Committee Recommends: \$13,120

Art.43. To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for an engineering evaluation of removing PURGATORY DAM (80-6-39), and that any balance as of June 30, 2024 be transferred to WOODBURY DAM MAINTENANCE reserve funds (G10-368-00).

Selectmen Request: \$7,600
Budget Committee Recommends: \$7,600

Art. 44. To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for DEBT SERVICE (70-6). Fire truck loan (\$128,000); Roads and bridges reconstruction bond repayment (\$381,000).

Selectmen Request: \$509,000
Budget Committee Recommends: \$509,000

Art. 45. To see what sum the Town will appropriate from the unassigned funds balance to repair structural damage caused by rot to the Town Office building including but not limited to building sills and structural members, interior and exterior walls and trim, removal of the damaged portions of the exterior deck and replacement of exterior stairs and necessary ground approach areas, to be used by the Selectmen as they deem reasonable, and that any unexpended balance, as of June 30, 2025 carry into the unassigned funds balance.

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Lapse Date</u>
Selectmen Request: At the meeting	\$40,000	6/30/2025
Budget Committee Recommends: At the meeting.		

Art. 46. To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for SPECIAL PROJECTS (83-6) entitled 1) Community Park Benches and access point monitoring cameras and 2) Invasive Plant Control (83-6-010) on Town owned lands by Conservation Corps to be used by the Selectmen as they deem reasonable, and that any unexpended balance, as of June 30, 2025 shall return to the SPECIAL PROJECTS RESERVE FUND (G10-373-00).

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Lapse Date</u>
Community Park Benches and access point monitoring cameras:	\$1,225	6/30/2025
Invasive Plant Control on Town Lands by Conservation Corps	\$2,650	6/30/2025
Total:	\$3,875	

Selectmen Request: \$3,875
Budget Committee Recommends: \$3,875

Art. 47. To see what sum the Town will appropriate from the CAPITAL PROJECTS RESERVE FUND (G10-373-00) for a CAPITAL PROJECT (80-6) entitled Transfer Station multipurpose building (including but not limited to replacement of current attendant's shed, hazardous materials storage, and cover for station tractor. Also included are the removal of current attendant's shed and minor site work over vacated areas and preparation work on building site). for a total cost not to exceed the Selectmen's request and to be used by the Selectmen as they deem reasonable, and that any unexpended balance, as of June 30, 2025 shall return to the unassigned funds.

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Lapse Date</u>
	\$60,000	6/30/2025

Selectmen Request: \$60,000
Budget Committee Recommends: At the meeting

Art. 48. To see what sum the Town will appropriate from the unassigned funds balance for a CAPITAL PROJECT (80-6) entitled Plains Memorial Cemetery Lot Renovation (including, but not limited to repair, refurbishment, and installation of existing decorative iron fencing), and that any unexpended balance, as of June 30, 2025 shall return to the unassigned funds.

Plains Memorial Cemetery Lot Renovation: \$12,300 6/30/2025

Selectmen Request: 12,300
Budget Committee Recommends: At the meeting

Art. 49. To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for the HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT RESERVE FUND (G10-366-00).

Selectmen Request: \$127,500
Budget Committee Recommends: \$127,500

Art. 50. To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for the CONSERVATION COMMISSION (84-6).

Selectmen Request: \$7,000
Budget Committee Recommends: \$7,000

Art. 51. To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for the SENIOR CENTER (85-6-085, 088).

Selectmen Request: \$6,800
Budget Committee Recommends: \$6,800

Art. 52. To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for the SENIOR DIRECTOR (85-6-087, 090) (including \$100.00 travel allowance). This permanent part-time position is for 15 hours/week.

Selectmen Request: \$13,745
Budget Committee Recommends: \$13,745

Art. 53. To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for the CONTINGENCY FUND (93-6) and authorize the Selectmen to use as they deem advisable to meet unanticipated expenses that occur during Fiscal Year 2023-24.

Selectmen Request: \$30,000
Budget Committee Recommends: \$30,000

Art. 54. To see if the Town will accept the following categories of funds as provided by the Maine State Legislature during our fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023: Municipal Revenue Sharing, Urban Rural Initiative Program (URIP), State Aid to Education (including Federal pass-through funds and property tax relief), Public Library State Aid per Capita, Civil Emergency Funds (Emergency Management Assistance), Snowmobile Registration Money, Tree Growth Reimbursement, General Assistance Reimbursement, Veterans Exemption Reimbursement and State Grants or other Funds (this category includes all funds received or that are not listed above).

Selectmen Recommend: Ought to Pass
Budget Committee Recommends: Ought to Pass

Art. 55. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer to waive the foreclosure of a tax lien mortgage by recording a waiver of foreclosure at the Registry of Deeds in which the tax lien certificate is recorded prior to expiration of the right of redemption pursuant to Title 36 M.R.S. § 944 [see MRSA reference list in Town Report] upon a finding by the Select Board that ownership of the property that is subject to the tax lien mortgage would be contrary to the Town's best interests.

Selectmen Recommend: Ought to Pass
Budget Committee Recommends: Ought to Pass

Art. 56. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to dispose of all Town -owned personal property that the Select Board deems to be surplus, on such terms as they deem advisable and intended to achieve the highest sales price.

Selectmen Recommend: Ought to Pass
Budget Committee Recommends: Ought to Pass

Art. 57. To see if the Town will appropriate 100% of snowmobile registration monies to the Litchfield Snowmobile Club in 2023-2024.

Selectmen Recommend: Ought to Pass
Budget Committee Recommends: Ought to Pass

Art. 58. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate for COUNTY TAX (96-6).

Selectmen Recommend: \$471,231
Budget Committee Recommends: \$471,231

Art. 59. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate for COBBOSSEE WATERSHED (97-6).

Selectmen Recommend: \$44,493
Budget Committee Recommends: \$44,493

Art. 60. To see if the Town will allow the Selectmen to appropriate the money raised for overlay to pay tax abatements, applicable interest granted during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, and other expenditures deemed necessary by the select board.

Selectmen Recommend: Ought to Pass
Budget Committee Recommends: Ought to Pass

Explanation: Many communities fail to appropriate money to be used to pay abatements granted during that budget period. They simply use the overlay generated through the tax commitment. Even though 36 MRSA. § 710 [see MRSA reference list in Town Report] authorizes assessors to raise overlay, there is no authority to spend the amount of the overlay without a town appropriation vote. In addition to abatements, overlay may be used to cover unexpected expenditures if the contingency fund has been depleted.

Art. 61. To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen at their discretion to transfer up to 10% of the June 30, 2023 balance of the Town Forest Reserve (G10-103-00) to the Fuel Fund (G10-378-00).

Selectmen Recommend: Ought to Pass
Budget Committee Recommends: Ought to Pass

(Note: Originally, the article establishing the Town Forest Reserve account (G10-103-00) designated that interest only from the account will be used for the reduction of taxes. In 2004, this was amended to authorize selectmen to appropriate monies from the Town Forest Reserve Account for various forest management purposes. In 2014 this was amended to allow 10% to be transferred to the Litchfield Fuel Fund. The Selectmen have not yet chosen to transfer any money.)

Art. 62. To see if the Town will appropriate the following estimated revenues (including July 1, 2023 balances) to reduce 2023-24 Tax Commitment:

	REVENUES			
	2019-20 (Actual)	2020-21 (Actual)	2021-2022 (Budget)	2022-2023 (Projected)
Excise (Auto)	662,427	660,000	660,000	660,000
Excise (Boat)	7,631	6,000	8,000	7,500
Building Permit Fees & Fines	8,484	8,715	7,000	7,000
Plumbing Permit Fees	11,535	7,300	10,000	10,000
G.A. Reimbursement	0	1,253	2,500	5,000
Transfer Station Tipping	15,214	15,729	11,000	14,000
Town Clerk Fees	5,000	4,305	5000	4000
Animal Control Revenue	1,399	1,214	1,000	1000
Tree Growth Reimbursement	8,399	7,975	8,000	8,000
Tree Growth Penalty	0	0	1,000	1,000
BETE Reimbursement	3,304	5,771	5000	5,000
Interest on Taxes & Liens	10,086	9,321	7,000	7,000
Lien Cost/Tax Sale	8,346	9,158	8,000	8,000
Veterans Reimbursement	2,459	2,165	2,400	2,400
Vehicle Agent Fees	15,737	21,969	15,000	15,000
Interest on Investment	18,349	14,936	10,000	10,000
State Revenue Sharing (min.)	248,273	334,170	300,000	421,000
Cable TV Franchise	24,876	26,686	25,000	20,000
Urban Rural Initiative Program (URIP).	48,940	45,728	45,000	45,000
Misc. Revenue	11,504	19,744	190,000	10,000
Homestead Reimbursement	141,565	141,565	200,000	250,000
<u>Totals</u> \$	1,252,810	1,487,565	1,521,400	1,510,900

Selectmen Recommend: Ought to Pass
 Budget Committee Recommends: Ought to Pass

Art. 63. To see what sum the Town will appropriate from the Unassigned Fund Balance Account to reduce the Tax Commitment.

Selectmen Recommend: \$200,000
 Budget Committee Recommends: \$200,000

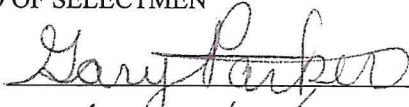
Art. 64. Shall the Map entitled "Town of Litchfield Official Land Use District Map (Land Use map adopted June 2022) be further amended by Extending the Planned Development District to include Lot 57 on Town Tax map R03."

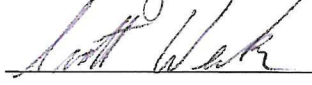
Planning Board Recommends: At the meeting

Notice is hereby given, that in addition to voting day, Tuesday, June 13th, the Registrar will be in session Saturday, June 17th, 2023, from 10:00 A.M. in the forenoon until the close of Town Meeting for the purpose of correcting any error in, or change a name or address on the voting list; to accept the registration of any person eligible to vote; and to accept new enrollments.

Given under our hands this 1st day of June, 2023.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Gary Parker 

Scott Weeks 

Clarence Gowell, III 