

Remember

VOTING - Tuesday, June 11, 2024, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

TOWN MEETING - Saturday, June 15, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

At the Sportsmen's Club for Voting & at the Carrie Ricker School Gymnasium for Town Meeting

(NOTE: The following was what existed at press time in Mid-May. The true and posted Warrant may differ to a slight degree)

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 11th day of June 2024 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 15th, 2024 A.D.

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

Art. 4. To see if the Town will vote to fix Oct. 15, 2024, or up to 30 days after commitment, whichever is later, Jan. 15, 2025, and April 15, 2025 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 2024-25 at the rate of 4.0% 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 is 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
Budget Committee Recommends: 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

Budget Committee Recommends: 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: \$30,481

Budget Committee Recommends: \$30,481

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

Selectmen Request: \$107,551

Budget Committee Recommends: \$107,551

Art. 11. To see if the Town will appropriate for the LITCHFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT and RESCUE (30-5) from unassigned funds the amount of funds received from insurance settlements for services rendered in response to vehicle accidents and vehicle fires.

Selectmen Recommend: \$24,678

Budget Committee Recommends: \$24,678

Art. 12. To see if the Town will vote to create a full-time Fire Chief position based on the recommendation of the Fire Department.

Selectmen Recommend: Ought to Pass

Budget Committee Recommends: Ought to Pass

Art. 13. To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for LITCHFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT and RESCUE (30-5).

Selectmen Request: \$272,300

Budget Committee Recommends: \$272,300

Art. 14. 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, estimated FY28, \$550,000)

Selectmen Request: \$125,000

Budget Committee Recommends: \$125,000

Art. 15. 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, estimated FY36, \$105,000)

Selectmen Request: \$12,000

Budget Committee Recommends: \$12,000

Art. 16. 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. 17. To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for ADMINISTRATION (01-5).

Selectmen Request: \$402,232
Budget Committee Recommends: \$402,232

Art. 18. To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for GENERAL GOVERNMENT (05-5).

Selectmen Request: \$60,200
Budget Committee Recommends: \$60,200

Art. 19. To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for EMPLOYEE BENEFITS (07-5).

Selectmen Request: \$249,618
Budget Committee Recommends: \$249,618

Art. 20. To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for INSURANCE (08-5).

Selectmen Request: \$78,090
Budget Committee Recommends: \$78,090

Art. 21. To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for LEGAL EXPENSES (09-5).

Selectmen Request: \$20,000
Budget Committee Recommends: \$20,000

Art. 22. 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. 23. 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. 24. To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for TOWN OFFICE OPERATIONS (15-5).

Selectmen Request: \$22,750
Budget Committee Recommends: \$22,750

Art. 25. To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for OFFICE EQUIPMENT/SERVICE (20-5).

Selectmen Request: \$43,326
Budget Committee Recommends: \$43,326

Art. 26. 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: \$20,911

Budget Committee Recommends: \$20,911

Art. 27. 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. 28. To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for PUBLIC WORKS (40-5).

Selectmen Request: \$641,259
Budget Committee Recommends: \$641,259

Art. 29. To see what sum the Town will raise for the HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT RESERVE FUND (G10-366-00). (Note: Next upcoming major purchase – Wheeler Truck, estimated FY28, \$250,000)

Selectmen Request: \$152,500
Budget Committee Recommends: \$152,500

Art. 30. To see what sum the Town will appropriate from the HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT RESERVE FUND (G10-366-00) for the purchase of an excavator, and to be used by the Selectmen as they deem reasonable, and that any unexpended balance, as of June 30, 2026 carries into the HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT RESERVE FUND (G10-366-00).

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Lapse Date</u>
Excavator	\$158,000	6/30/2026

Selectmen Request: \$158,000
Budget Committee Recommends: \$158,000

Art. 31. To see if the Town will appropriate from unassigned funds for CAPITAL ROAD IMPROVEMENT (43-5) funds received from Dead River Road Bridge and Culvert replacement grants (not to exceed \$175,000), and FEMA reimbursements for Gustin Road Repairs (not to exceed \$31,000).

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

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).

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: \$171,550
Budget Committee Recommends: \$171,550

Art. 35. To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate or 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 the 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 will lapse to unassigned funds as of June 30, 2026.

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

Art. 36. To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for EMERGENCY SERVICES (56-5).

Selectmen Request: \$53,909
Budget Committee Recommends: \$53,909

Art. 37. To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for RECREATION (58-5).

Selectmen Recommend: \$11,000
Budget Committee Recommends: \$11,000

Art 38. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$1,000 for WOODBURY POND PARK (59-5) to provide a stipend for the Woodbury Pond Park manager.

Selectmen Recommend: \$1,000
Budget Committee Recommends: \$1,000

Art. 39. To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for care and maintenance of CEMETERIES (60-5).

Selectmen Request: \$12,100
Budget Committee Recommends: \$12,100

Art. 40. To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for the Sodalite, TOWN NEWSLETTER (63-6).

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

Art. 41. 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	2,192
Crisis/Assault Support	1,200
TLA/CLA	7,200
Kennebec Behavioral Health	3,200
Androscoggin Home Care/Hospice	1,000
Friends of Cobbossee	<u>7,500</u>
Total	\$31,142

Selectmen Request: \$31,142
Budget Committee Recommends: \$31,142

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

Art. 42. To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for dues for the KENNEBEC VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (67-6).

Selectmen Request: \$6,050

Budget Committee Recommends: \$6,050

Art. 43. To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for the Town's share for operation and maintenance of DAMS (68-6); the NEW MILLS DAM (\$9,120) and WOODBURY POND DAM (\$4,000), and that any unexpended balance as of June 30, 2025, be transferred to WOODBURY DAM MAINTENANCE reserve funds (G10-368-00).

Selectmen Request: \$13,120

Budget Committee Recommends: \$13,120

Art. 44. To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for DEBT SERVICE (70-6). Fire truck loan (\$120,000 - last payment!); Roads and bridges reconstruction bond repayment (\$381,000).

Selectmen Request: \$501,000

Budget Committee Recommends: \$501,000

Art. 45. To see what sum the Town will appropriate from unassigned funds for a CAPITAL PROJECT (80-6) entitled Town Office & Garage Parking Lot (including but not limited to leveling of parking near the Town Office and paving of the parking lot between the Town Office and Town Garage) 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, will lapse to unassigned funds as of June 30, 2026.

Selectmen Request: \$85,000

Budget Committee Recommends: \$85,000

Art. 46. To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for the CONSERVATION COMMISSION (84-6).

Selectmen Request: \$8,000

Budget Committee Recommends: \$8,000

Art. 47. To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for the SENIOR CENTER (85-6-085, 088).

Selectmen Request: \$7,000

Budget Committee Recommends: \$7,000

Art. 48. 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: \$14,154

Budget Committee Recommends: \$14,154

Art. 49. 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 2024-25.

Selectmen Request: \$30,000

Budget Committee Recommends: \$30,000

Art. 50. 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, 2024: Municipal Revenue Sharing, Local Road Assistance Program (LRAP), 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. 51. 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. 52. 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. 53. To see if the Town will appropriate 100% of the 2024 State Snowmobile Refund monies to the Litchfield Snowmobile Club in 2024-2025.

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

Art. 54. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate for COUNTY TAX (96-6).

Selectmen Recommend: \$621,594
Budget Committee Recommends: \$621,594

Art. 55. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate for COBBOSSEE WATERSHED (97-6).

Selectmen Recommend: \$47,163
Budget Committee Recommends: \$47,163

Art. 56. 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, 2024, 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. 57. To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen at their discretion to transfer up to 10% of the June 30, 2024 balance of the Town Forest Reserve 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 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. 58. To see if the Town will appropriate the following estimated revenues to reduce 2024-25 Tax Commitment:

REVENUES	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
	(Actual)	(Actual)	(Budget)	(Projected)
Auto Excise	779,654	765,265	660,000	660,000
Boat Excise	9,834	8,563	7,500	7,500
Building Permits & fines	6,269	9,460	7,000	7,000
Plumbing Permit fees	8,250	12,848	10,000	10,000
GA Reimbursements (1)	6,478	5,073	5,000	5,000
Transfer Station Tipping	19,902	18,776	14,000	14,000
Clerk Fees	4,286	5,309	4,000	4,000
Animal Control Revenue	1,320	1,139	1,000	1,000
Tree Growth Reimbursement	9,854	12,021	8,000	8,000
Tree Growth Penalty	0	9,054	1,000	1,000
BETE Reimbursement (2)	4,548	4,592	5,000	5,000
Interest on Taxes & Liens	8,674	7,840	7,000	7,000
Lien Cost Recovery	7,361	7,514	8,000	8,000
Veterans Reimbursement	2,473	2,418	2,400	2,400
Town Agent Fees, Auto	21,000	20,257	15,000	15,000
Interest on Investments	8,232	36,879	10,000	40,000
State Revenue Sharing	493,354	542,343	421,000	464,000
Cable Franchise	38,051	18,172	20,000	20,000
URIP (3)	49,104	48,832	45,000	45,000
Miscellaneous	14,167	46,473	10,000	10,000
Homestead Reimbursement	242,098	281,000	250,000	300,000
TOTAL	1,734,909	1,863,827	1,510,900	1,633,900

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

Art. 59. To see what sum the Town will appropriate from the Unassigned Fund Balance Account to reduce the Tax Commitment.

Selectmen Recommend: \$300,000
Budget Committee Recommends: At the meeting

Art. 60. Shall an ordinance entitled 2024 Amendments to the Town of Litchfield Solid Waste and Recycling Ordinance” be enacted?
(The proposed ordinance is available for review and inspection at the Town Clerk’s Office and will be available at the Town Meeting.)

Selectmen Recommend: At the meeting

Art. 61. Shall an ordinance entitled "2024 Amendments to the Litchfield Road Ordinance" be enacted?
(The proposed ordinance is available for review and inspection at the Town Clerk's Office and will be available at the Town Meeting.)

Selectmen Recommend: At the meeting

Art. 62. Shall an ordinance entitled "2024 Amendments to the Litchfield Land Use Ordinance Regarding LD 2003" be enacted?
(The proposed ordinance is available for review and inspection at the Town Clerk's Office and will be available at the Town Meeting.)

Planning Board Recommends: At the meeting

Art. 63. Shall an ordinance entitled "2024 Amendments to the Subdivision Ordinance of the Town of Litchfield Regarding LD 2003" be enacted?
(The proposed ordinance is available for review and inspection at the Town Clerk's Office and will be available at the Town Meeting.)

Planning Board Recommends: At the meeting

Art. 64. Shall the Map entitled "Town of Litchfield Official Land Use District Map" (Land Use Map adopted June 2023) be further amended by moving Lot 121D on Town Tax Map R02 from the Rural District to be part of the Village District Map?

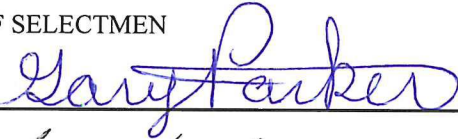
Selectmen Recommend: At the meeting

Notice is hereby given, that in addition to voting day, Tuesday, June 11th, the Registrar will be in session Saturday, June 15th, 2024, from 10:00 A.M. in the forenoon until the close of the 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 13th day of May 2024.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Gary Parker



Scott Weeks



Clarence Gowell, III
