

# Town Meeting Warrant

STATE of MAINE  
COUNTY of HANCOCK

September 8, 2009

To Neil R. Butler, resident o the Town of Amherst, in the County of Hancock.

## Greetings:

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the voters of the Town of Amherst, Maine, in the said county, qualified by law to vote in the town affairs, to meet at the Amherst Town Hall, in said town, on Saturday, the 26<sup>th</sup> day of September, A.D. 2009, at 1 o'clock p.m., then and there to act on the following articles, to wit:

## Ballot Counters

Pamela Mace

Sandy Jordan

Donna Aleksiewicz

## ARTICLES

- 1. To fix compensation and to choose a moderator to preside at said meeting>**  
(2009: \$8.00 per hour) Recommend \$10.00 per hour  
M&S \$10.00 per hour unan. 0 opposed. Nominations Mike Pomeroy. M&S 15 yes 0 Opposed
- 2. To fix compensation of the Town Clerk**  
(2009: \$350) M&S \$350 16 Yes 0 Opposed
- 3. To elect a Town Clerk**  
M&S Cheryl Toner 18 yes 0 Opposed
- 4. To fix compensation or the Tax Collector**  
(2009: 3% of tax collected) Recommend 3% o tax collected  
M&S 3% as recommended 14 yes 0 Opposed
- 5. To fix interest on past due property taxes.**  
(Recommended 10%)  
M&S 10% as recommended. Carter Jones thought changed by State to 9%. Neil Butler stated he'd not been notified. Motion to amend Article #5 to allow town to collect maximum state allows not to exceed 10% M&S 17 yes 0 Opposed
- 6. To fix compensationof the Selectmen.**  
(2009: \$5500, \$1500, \$1000) Recommend \$4500, \$1750, \$1750  
M&S \$4500, \$1750, \$1750 as recommended 16 Yes 0 Opposed
- 7. To elect a Second Selectman for three years.**  
(Term expires: Philip Deckers)  
M&S Philip Deckers 2 votes elected 0 opposed
- 8. To elect a First Selectman for one year.**  
(Retiring: Neil Bultler) Nominations Gregory Palman, Dennis Honey- Gregory Palman declined M&S Dennis Honey 2 Votes elected 0 Opposed.

- 9. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectment to spend up to 25% of the 2010 budget in fiscal year 2011 prior to Town Meeting. (Recommended). M&S as written 17 yes 0 opposed.**
- 10. To fix compensation of the School Committee.**  
 (2009: \$10 per meeting attended) **Recommend \$15 per meeting**  
 M&S as \$15 per meeting as recommended discussion-school board meeting/budget meeting included question if RSU goes through there would be more responsibility can amount change. Yes still in discussion Bret Achorn asked about the other standing committees Neil Butler stated not now, con continue discussion with Selectmen to put an article in in the future. 20 yes 0 opposed.
- 11. To elect three School Committee Members, to Serve 3 years.**  
 (Term Expires: Karen Bridges, Donna Aleksiewicz, and Bret Achorn)  
 Nominations M&S Carter Jones M&S Karen Bridges Carter 5 Votes Karen 10 Votes  
 Nominations M&S Carter Jones no other nominations  
 M&S for Town Clerk to cast 1 vote when only 1 nomination. 0 opposed  
 Carter 1 vote cast by Town Clerk  
 Nominations M&S Bret Achorn No other nominations 1 vote cast by Town Clerk
- 12. To elect one School Trustee Member to serve three years.**  
 (Term expires: Philip Deckers) noted conflict o interest as Philip Deckers is a Selectman. Nominations M&S Pam Mace no other nominations 1 vote cast by Town Clerk
- 13. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from overlay the amount of \$800.00 to pay Tax abatements granted during the fiscal year 2010. (Recommended)**  
 M&S as recommended 17 yes 0 opposed
- 14. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to appropriate from surplus a sum not to exceed \$3,000.00 as they deem advisable to meet unanticipated expenses and emergencies that occur during the fiscal year 2010. (Recommended)**  
 M&S as written 16 Yes 0 Opposed
- 15. To fix compensation of the Town Treasurer.**  
 (2009: \$2000) **Recommend \$2000**  
 M&S as recommended \$2000 18 Yes 0 Opposed
- 16. To fix compensation of the Fire Warden**  
 (2009: \$150) **Recommend \$150**  
 M&S as recommended \$150. 17 Yes 0 Opposed
- 17. To elect a Fire Warden**  
 Nominations M&S Walter Jordan no other nominations 1 vote cast by Town Clerk
- 18. To vote on what sum the Town will raise for Cemeteries.**  
 (2009: \$2000) **Recommend \$2000**  
 M&S as recommended raise \$2000. 18 yes 0 opposed
- 19. To elect a Sexton**  
 Nominations M&S Phil Deckers- declined. M&S Ed Foster 20 Yes 0 Opposed
- 20. To fix compensation for the Planning Board.**  
 (2009: Chair-\$200; other \$10 per meeting attended) **Recommend Chair \$250-Others \$15 per meeting attended** M&S as recommended \$250 Chair others \$15 per meeting attended. 16 yes 0 opposed.
- 21. To elect one member to the Planning Board for two years.**  
 (Retiring: Neil Butler)  
 Nominations Carter Jones no other nominations 1 vote cast by Town Clerk

22. To elect one member to the Planning Board for three years.  
(Term Expires: James Beal)  
Nominations M&S James Beal not other nominations 1 vote cast by Town Clerk
23. To fix compensation of the Planning Board of Appeals.  
(2009: \$10.00 per meeting) Recommend \$15.00  
M&S as recommended \$15.00 12 Yes 0 Opposed
24. To elect one member to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term of 5 years.  
(Term Expires: Philip Deckers)  
Nominations M&S Neil Butler, Carter Jones-declined 1 vote cast by Town Clerk
25. To fix compensation for the Animal Control Officer.  
(2009: \$250 plus mileage) Recommend \$250 plus mileage  
M&S as recommended \$250 plus Mileage 17 yes 0 Opposed
26. To elect an Animal Control Officer.  
M&S Phil Deckers no other nominations 18 yes 0 Opposed
- Make a motion to take Article 44 out of order and take it up now M&S 14 yes 0 Opposed**
27. To vote on what sum the Town will raise and/or appropriate for the maintenance and repair of Town highways and bridges. (2009: \$-0-). Recommend \$6700 (raise \$3000 and \$3700 from dedicated fund balance)  
M&S as recommended 17 Yes 0 Opposed
28. To see what sum the Town will appropriate from the Local Road Assistance fund to brush, grade, ditch, and replace culverts on Tannery Loop/Smith Road. (Recommend \$30,000).  
M&S \$30,000. Discussion looking at roads need ditching, grading, ect.. Articles 28 & 52 add up to \$100,000 will have no impact on Taxpayers. Money has been saved. 16 yes 0 Opposed.
29. To see what sum the town will raise for compensation of Town Officials.  
(2009: \$21,000) Recommend \$21,500  
M&S as recommended increase due to increases of meetings 16 Yes 0 Opposed
30. To see what sum the Town will authorize to appropriate from surplus or General Assistance. (2009: \$0) Recommend \$0  
Have money in account. M&S as recommended 15 Yes 0 Opposed
31. To vote on what sum the Town will raise for snow removal.  
(2009: \$24,000 taxation) Recommend \$24,000 taxation and \$1,500 designated fund balance.  
M&S as recommended \$24,000 taxations and \$1,500 designated fund balance 16 Yes 0 Opposed
32. To vote on what sum the Town will raise and/or appropriate for trash removal and recycling. (2009: \$27,000 taxation) Recommend \$30,000 taxation.  
M&S as recommended \$30,000 taxation. Some discussion on amount of recycling etc.. and the hydraulic leak on garbage truck. 15 Yes 1 Opposed
33. To vote on what sum the Town will raise and/or appropriate for Town Charges.  
(2009: \$18,000) Recommend: \$18,000  
M&S as recommended raise \$18,000 16 Yes 0 Opposed
34. To vote on what sum the Town will raise and/or appropriate for the upkeep of the Town Hall. (2009: \$1,000 surplus) Recommend : \$2,300 surplus  
M&S as recommended \$2,300 surplus 15 Yes 0 Opposed

- 35. To vote on what sum the Town will raise for the Town's required share of municipal official's social security and Medicare payments. (2009: \$2,300) Recommend \$2,300**  
M&S as recommended raise \$2,300. 15 Yes 0 Opposed
- 36. To vote on what sum the Town will raise to join the Maine Municipal Association and raise dues for same. (2009: \$1150) Recommend \$1250**  
M&S as recommended raise \$1250 15 Yes 0 Opposed
- 37. To vote on what sum the Town will raise to support the Community Health and Counseling Services. (2009: \$40)**  
Letter requesting \$341 for Mental Health and \$220 for Health Services. M&S as per request \$561. 11 Yes 0 Opposed
- 38. To vote on what sum the Town will raise to support the Eastern Agency on Aging. (2009: \$100)**  
Letter requesting \$100. M&S per request \$100 15 Yes 0 Opposed
- 39. To vote on what sum the Town will raise to support the Downeast Health Services W.I.C. Program. (2009: \$120)**  
Letter requesting \$120. M&S per request \$120. 15 Yes 0 Opposed
- 40. To vote on what sum the Town will raise for the Downeast Aids Network. (2009: \$120)**  
M&S per request \$120 14 Yes 0 Opposed
- 41. To vote on what sum the Town will raise for the Bangor Sexually Transmitted Diseases Clinic. (2009: \$100)**  
M&S as per request \$100 14 Yes 0 Opposed
- 42. To vote on what sum the Town will raise for the support of the Grand Auditorium of Hancock County. (2009:\$250)**  
Their request whatever we can afford. M&S \$250 15 Yes 0 Opposed
- 43. To vote on what sum the Town will raise for the Washington-Hancock Community Agency. (2009: \$250)**  
Their request \$356. M&S as per request \$356 15 Yes 0 Opposed
- 44. To vote on what sum the Town will raise for the support of the Ellsworth Public Library. (2009: \$240).**  
M&S to let representative from Ellsworth speak. Unan talked about # of people using decreased by 10% due to moving or deceased what extras library offer like computer access etc.. Bob Boran upset with library not carrying certain papers and not all info from certain papers are on line. M&S as per request \$240 17 Yes 0 Opposed
- 45. To vote on what sum the Town will raise for What's for Suppa (2009: \$500)**  
M&S to raise \$300 16 Yes 0 Opposed
- 46. To vote what sum the Town will raise for Hospice of Hancock County. (2009: \$200)**  
M&S as per request \$200 15 Yes 0 Opposed
- 47. To see if the Town will raise \$9,051.13 to pay the County Tax.**  
M&S as written 15 Yes 0 Opposed
- 48. To vote on what sum the Town will raise for Fire Protection (2009: \$9,000) Requested \$10,000 Recommend \$10,000**  
M&S as recommended \$10,000 14 Yes 0 Opposed
- 49. To see if the Town will appropriate from surplus the sum of \$2,200.00 to pay for revised Tax Map. (Recommended)**  
M&S as recommended some discussion on age of Maps subdivisions PDF files inaccurate, requirements with subdivisions, etc. 15 Yes 0 Opposed

**50. To see if the Town will vote to allow the Selectmen/Treasurer to use Surplus Funds during the fiscal year in anticipation of Property Tax Receipts (Recommended)**

M&S as recommended 14 Yes 0 Opposed

**51. To see if the Town will raise the sum of \$192,337.95 to pay for the School Appropriation. (Recommend raises \$192,337.95) 2009: \$167,202.83.**

M&S to let Bill Zissulis speak on Increase/State Funding. Neil allocations student population/valuations. State took away \$75,000 Increase based on Allocations M&S as recommended. 13 Yes 0 Opposed

**52. To see what sum the Town will appropriate from Local Road Assistance and Road Resurfacing fund for repair and resurfacing .6 mile of Tannery Loop in 2010. (recommend \$35,000 Road Resurfacing fund and \$35,000 Local Road Assistance Fund)**

M&S as recommended 14 Yes 0 Opposed

**53. To see if the Town will vote to increase the property tax levy limit established or the Town of Amherst by State Law in the event that the municipal budget approved under the preceding articles will result in a tax commitment that is greater than that property tax levy limit. (Recommended)**

M&S as recommended 15 Yes 0 Opposed

**54. To adjourn**

M&S to adjourn Unanimous 3:15 PM

Given under our hands this 8<sup>th</sup> day of September, A.D. 2009.

**Selectmen of Amherst**

**Neil Butler, Philip Deckers, Dennis Honey**

In compliance with the American with Disabilities Act, I you require any kind of assistance to fully participate in this meeting: please notify the Board of Selectmen at 584-5725, or P.O. Box 40, Aurora, ME 04408