

## 2022 WARRANT ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

TO: Colleen Halse, a Resident of the Town of Buckfield in the County of Oxford and State of Maine.

GREETING: In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the voters of the Town of Buckfield, qualified by law to vote in Town affairs, to meet at the Municipal Center in said Town on Tuesday, the SIXTEENTH DAY OF AUGUST 2022 at 8:00 o'clock in the morning, then and there to act upon Article 1 and by secret ballot on Articles 2 through 37 as set out below, the polling hours therefore to be from 8:00 o'clock in the morning until 8:00 o'clock in the evening.

- 1 To choose a moderator to preside at said meeting.
- 2 To choose by ballot, according to the provisions of Title 30-A, M.R.S. Section 2528 as amended, two Selectmen for a term of three years and one School Director for a term of three years.

Selectman (2) - term expires June 30, 2025	3-year term
RSU 10 School Representative - term expires June 30, 2025	3-year term

- 3 Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate from taxation a total of \$409,450 for **GENERAL ADMINISTRATION** operating expenses for the ensuing year?

STATEMENT OF FACT:

	2021	Requested 2022	<b>Selectmen Recommended</b>
Administration	\$288,865.00	\$288,100.00	<b>\$288,100.00</b>
Insurance	\$ 57,805.00	\$ 59,800.00	<b>\$ 59,800.00</b>
Assessing	\$ 12,365.00	\$ 31,050.00	<b>\$ 31,050.00</b>
Municipal Building	<u>\$ 34,449.00</u>	<u>\$ 30,500.00</u>	<b>\$ 30,500.00</b>
<b>TOTAL TO BE RAISED THROUGH TAXATION</b>	<b>\$393,484.00</b>	<b>\$409,450.00</b>	<b>\$409,450.00</b>

**Budget Committee Recommends \$408,950.**

*The Administration budget includes personnel costs for the Board of Selectmen, Town Manager, Town Clerk, Deputy Clerk, related office supply and equipment costs, and expenses for professional services such as the Town Report printing, tax bill printing, annual audit, public notice advertising, elections, dues, and routine legal services. Included are pay increases for 2022-2023. The Town pays 80% of the employee premium and 50% of the family portion of the health insurance premium for full time employees in this Department.*

*The Insurance category is based on anticipated premium costs in 2022. Included are property and automobile coverages, public officials' liability, worker's compensation, and coverage for fire and rescue personnel. The Town is self-insured for unemployment insurance.*

*The Assessing Department consists of a part-time contracted Assessing Agent, Assistant and Field Assessor, costs for tax map updates, along with training and expenses.*

*The Municipal Buildings budget includes funds to maintain and operate the Town Office and various outbuildings and structures not covered by other departments.*

- 4 Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate from taxation a total of \$532,150 for the operation of **PUBLIC SAFETY** for the TOWN OF BUCKFIELD, to include **the FIRE DEPARTMENT, RESCUE DEPARTMENT, STREETLIGHTS, ANIMAL WELFARE, FIRE PROTECTION – HYDRANT SYSTEM** for the ensuing year?

## STATEMENT OF FACT:

	<u>2021</u>	Requested <u>2022</u>	<b>Selectmen Recommended</b>
Fire Department	\$124,923.80	\$129,300.00	<b>\$129,300.00</b>
Rescue Department	\$334,640.00	\$325,650.00	<b>\$325,650.00</b>
Streetlights	\$ 7,700.00	\$ 7,700.00	<b>\$ 7,700.00</b>
Animal Welfare	\$ 4,145.00	\$ 8,500.00	<b>\$ 8,500.00</b>
Fire Protection-Hydrant System	<u>\$ 61,000.00</u>	<u>\$ 61,000.00</u>	<b>\$ 61,000.00</b>
TOTAL TO BE RAISED THROUGH TAXATION	\$532,408.80	\$532,150.00	<b>\$532,150.00</b>

**Budget Committee recommends \$523,650.**

*The increase in the Fire Department's request includes wage increases for full coverage during the week, 2 personnel were hired in 2021. The budget also includes general wage increases for current personnel, fuel increases and general supply increases.*

*The Rescue Department budget includes personnel costs for Rescue Chief, Deputy Chief and two (2) Lieutenants, along with several per diem personnel (Drivers, EMT's, Paramedics, etc.). Employees receive a 2% increase for 2022. Also included are expenses related to vehicle, building operation and maintenance.*

*Streetlights covers electricity costs for 33 streetlights located throughout the Town of Buckfield.*

*Animal Welfare includes wages and mileage for an Animal Control Officer, expenses and Shelter Fees.*

*The Fire Protection – Hydrant System covers water costs paid to Buckfield Village Corporation (BVC) for hydrants located throughout the Town of Buckfield. The Fire Hydrant cost is governed by the Maine Public Utilities Commission and is based on a percentage of the Water Company's total operating expenses.*

- 5 Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate from taxation a total of \$93,975 for the operating expenses of **COMMUNITY DEPARTMENTS of RECREATION, GENERAL ASSISTANCE, ORGANIZATIONS & MEMORIAL DAY / COMMUNITY DAY, SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCIES, the OLD CHURCH ON THE HILL and the ZADOC LONG FREE LIBRARY** for the ensuing year?

## STATEMENT OF FACT:

	<u>2021</u>	Requested <u>2022</u>	<b>Selectmen Recommended</b>
Recreation Department	\$24,846.50	\$32,850.00	<b>\$32,850.00</b>
General Assistance	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	<b>\$ 2,000.00</b>
Organizations	\$ 900.00	\$ 900.00	<b>\$ 900.00</b>
Social Services Agencies	\$ 3,250.00	\$ 3,250.00	<b>\$ 3,250.00</b>
Old Church on the Hill	\$ 2,395.00	\$ 500.00	<b>\$ 500.00</b>
Zadoc Long Free Library	<u>\$45,908.50</u>	<u>\$54,475.00</u>	<b>\$54,475.00</b>
TOTAL TO BE RAISED THROUGH TAXATION	\$79,300.00	\$93,975.00	<b>\$93,975.00</b>

**Budget Committee recommends \$93,975.00.**

*The Recreation budget includes operating expenses for all recreational activities and umpires, dues, uniforms and general supplies, along with field maintenance and building costs, electricity and water - less revenues from program registrations and fundraising events.*

*The General Assistance program provides for the basic needs of persons who apply and qualify financially. The 2021 appropriation was \$2,000, expenditures totaled \$2,010 for the year, which was average. Seventy percent of this expenditure is now reimbursed by the State and accrues to the General Fund.*

The Organizations account allows the transfer of 75% of money received from the State for snowmobile registrations to the Streaked Mountaineers Snowmobile Club.

The Old Church on the Hill account provides maintenance for the historical building.

The Library budget includes operating expenses for library activities, books, events, wages for Library Director, Deputy Librarian and substitutes, building costs, utilities and maintenance, less any revenues generated through donations or fundraising.

- 6 Shall the Town vote to appropriate from unappropriated surplus \$14,000 (representing the unexpended Recreation Department balance in 2021-2022) to the Recreation Department account for the ensuing year to cover the costs of field and building improvements?

**Selectmen Recommend.**

- 7 Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate from taxation a total of \$1,023,330 for the operation of **PUBLIC WORKS** (Public Works, Public Works Complex, Winter Roads, Summer Roads and Cemeteries) for the ensuing year?

STATEMENT OF FACT:

	<u>2021</u>	<u>Requested 2022</u>	<b>Selectmen Recommended</b>
Public Works	\$359,274.65	\$361,050.00	<b>\$361,050.00</b>
Public Works Complex	\$ 28,256.00	\$ 24,000.00	<b>\$ 24,000.00</b>
Winter Roads	\$ 97,875.00	\$116,380.00	<b>\$116,380.00</b>
Summer Roads	\$315,670.00	\$515,400.00	<b>\$515,400.00</b>
Cemeteries	<u>\$ 6,395.00</u>	<u>\$ 6,500.00</u>	<b><u>\$ 6,500.00</u></b>
TOTAL TO BE RAISED THROUGH TAXATION	\$807,470.65	\$1,023,330.00	<b>\$1,023,330.00</b>

**Budget Committee recommends \$811,976.00.**

*The increase in Summer Roads is a result of increased paving costs. Current per mile costs are estimated 30% higher than the previous year.*

*The Public Works Department budget covers the operational expenses required to maintain the Town's 42+ miles of roads, less State aid (LRAP) and other revenues. This budget covers the personnel costs for four full-time employees and one seasonal employee. The budget includes building and maintenance costs for the Public Works Complex, vehicles and maintenance and employee benefits. The Winter Roads account includes sand, salt and other chemicals and all winter road maintenance. The Summer Roads account includes culverts and all road maintenance for summer.*

*Public Works also includes care for the Town of Buckfield's Cemeteries to include maintenance and upkeep.*

- 8 Shall the Town vote to appropriate from unappropriated surplus \$25,000 (representing the unexpended Public Works balances in 2021-2022) to the Public Works account for the ensuing year to cover the costs of paving and a waste oil heating system in 2021-2022?

**Selectmen Recommend.**

- 9 Shall the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a purchase agreement for a 60' right of way running from Cross Road, currently owned by Dana and Seri Lowell and grant the same an easement to property owned by the same and to raise and appropriate from taxation an amount not to exceed \$2,000?

**Selectmen Recommend.**

*STATEMENT OF FACT: The westerly line of this right of way runs S 16° 11 ' 13" E 416.40' along land now or formerly of Seth R. and Summer N. Warren ( 4707 /179) and along Lot I as shown on a plan of lots entitled Nezinscot Meadows for KRY Inc. dated June 2006 and recorded in the Oxford County Registry of Deeds as Plan #4072. This right of way is over part of field Drive as shown on said plan. Said right of way to*

*be used for all purposes for which a public road is used, including setting utility rights on, over, and under said right of way.*

- 10 Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate from taxation a total of \$214,000 for the operation of **SOLID WASTE** for the ensuing year?

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
Amount Requested	\$213,388.00	\$214,000.00
<b>Selectmen Recommended</b>	<b><u>\$213,388.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$214,000.00</u></b>
TOTAL TO BE RAISED THROUGH TAXATION	\$213,388.00	\$214,000.00

**Budget Committee recommends \$202,750.**

*STATEMENT OF FACT: This budget covers all operating expenses for the transfer station, including personnel costs for three part-time employees.*

- 11 Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate from taxation a total of \$129,285 for **DEBT SERVICE** for the ensuing year?

STATEMENT OF FACT:

	<u>2021</u>	<u>Requested 2022</u>	<u>Selectmen Recommended</u>
Fire/Rescue Building	\$71,255.00	\$71,280.00	<b>\$71,280.00</b>
2021 Excavator	\$22,000.00	\$21,700.00	<b>\$21,700.00</b>
Plow Trucks	\$31,441.53	\$31,395.00	<b>\$31,395.00</b>
TRIO Web	\$20,000.00	\$ -	<b>\$ -</b>
Lifepak 15 Monitor Lease	<u>\$ 5,000.00</u>	<u>\$ 4,910.00</u>	<b><u>\$ 4,910.00</u></b>
TOTAL TO BE RAISED THROUGH TAXATION	\$149,696.53	\$129,285.00	<b>\$129,285.00</b>

**Budget Committee Recommends \$129,285.**

*The amount indicated in this Article represents the debt service (principal and interest) for loans and/or bonds for fire/rescue, excavator, plow trucks and Lifepak 15 Monitor.*

- 12 Shall the town vote to appropriate from unappropriated surplus, the sum of \$82,250 to fund vehicle and equipment reserve accounts for Fire, Rescue and Public Works as part of the Town of Buckfield Capital Improvement Plan?

STATEMENT OF FACT:

	<u>2021</u>	<u>Requested 2022</u>	<u>Selectmen Recommended</u>
Rescue Department Reserve	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	<b>\$10,000.00</b>
Fire Department Reserve	\$ 4,700.00	\$52,250.00	<b>\$52,250.00</b>
Public Works Department Reserve	<u>\$ 5,000.00</u>	<u>\$20,000.00</u>	<b><u>\$20,000.00</u></b>
	\$19,700.00	\$82,250.00	<b>\$82,250.00</b>

- 13 Shall the Town vote to transfer 75% of the money received from the State for Snowmobile Registrations to the STREAKED MOUNTAINEERS SNOWMOBILE CLUB?

*STATEMENT OF FACT: Streaked Mountaineers Snowmobile Club maintains 55 miles of trails in Buckfield.*

**Selectmen Recommend.**

- 14 Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate from taxation a total of \$20,000 and authorize the Select Board to use as they deem advisable to meet unanticipated expenses and emergencies that occur during the year? Should this article fail, the 21-22 approved Emergency Contingency budget of \$10,000 shall be used.

**Selectmen Recommend.**

15 Shall the Town vote to appropriate the projected Local Revenues amount of \$687,350 to reduce the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Appropriations Budget?

**Selectmen Recommend.**

16 Shall the Town set the tax commitment no later than 60 days after the final budget is approved with the first payment due date of November 15, 2022 and the second payment 6 months following; after which interest will be charged 30 days from the due date at the rate of 4% per year, or part thereof, on taxes unpaid after that date in accordance with 36 M.R.S. Section 505(4); and the Tax Collector shall settle with the Treasurer within one year of commitment?

17 Shall the Town vote, in accordance with 36 M.R.S. Section 506-A, to pay no interest on refunds of overpaid or abated taxes?

18 Shall the Town vote to authorize the payment of tax abatements approved by the Select Board from the property tax overlay or, if necessary, from unassigned fund balance?

19 Shall the Town vote to accept prepayment of taxes to the Tax Collector prior to the date of commitment and to pay no interest thereon?

20 Shall the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to sell by bid or auction or on such terms and conditions as deemed in the best interest of the Town, such equipment, vehicles, or furniture over \$5,000 as are no longer necessary for Town operations?

21 Shall the Town vote to authorize the Town Manager to sell by bid or auction or on such terms and conditions as deemed in the best interest of the Town, such equipment, vehicles, or furniture under \$5,000 as are no longer necessary to Town Operations?

22 Shall the Town vote to authorize the Select Board and Town Manager to apply for and accept state and/or 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 for Fiscal Year 2022-2023.

23 Shall the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to spend an amount not to exceed the previous fiscal year budget beginning July 1, 2023 until such time as the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 budget is adopted by Town Meeting?

24 Shall the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to negotiate and execute multi-year contracts not to exceed three years, including but not limited to, contracts or agreements in the following areas: auditing, tax assessing, solid waste disposal, fire, rescue, equipment purchasing, leasing and maintenance agreements?

25 Shall an Ordinance entitled "Town of Buckfield Adult Use and Medical Marijuana Ordinance" be enacted?

*STATEMENT OF FACT: The Marijuana Ordinance is to clarify procedures for business use application between the state and town; defines license fee amounts; puts limits on the total number & types of marijuana businesses; and gives the Selectboard final license and annual license renewal authority. Copies of the full Marijuana Ordinance are available at the Town Office.*

26 Shall the Town authorize the Select Board to operate all departments at the 2021-2022 budget levels in the event one or all of the preceding budget articles fail?

27 Shall the Town authorize the Select Board to enter into a contract for the Revaluation of all real and personal property to begin in 2023 and end in 2024 - expending funds from the Reval Reserve Account (\$55,000) and to raise and appropriate from taxation a total of \$45,000 in 2023 and another \$45,000 in 2024 for three payments totaling \$145,000?

**Selectmen Recommend.**

*The Revaluation (equalization) process will take approximately 1 year to complete. Presently, the State's Certified Ratio for the Town of Buckfield is 73%. All exemptions and reimbursements by the State are adjusted to this ratio, reducing the benefit to both residents and the Town. The State recommends a review of valuations every four years and a full revaluation every 10 years. The Town of Buckfield has not had a revaluation since 1998, resulting in the low ratio.*

*The Town currently has a reserve fund with a balance of approximately \$55,000 for the first of 3 payments for this project. Residents are asked to approve raising and appropriating from taxation a total of \$45,000 to add to this in FY2022-2023 and \$45,000 in FY2023-2024.*

- 28 Shall the Town vote to have the 2023-2024 Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles by Secret Ballot instead of having an open-floor Town Meeting?

**Selectmen Do Not Recommend.**

- 29 Shall the Town authorize the Select Board to enter into an agreement (lease) with the Streaked Mountaineers Snowmobile Club, in consideration of \$1.00, to lease unto the Lessee a portion of the Town owned property commonly known as the Main Waste Oil Site located on John Ellingwood Road, so-called. The lease agreement being for a term of ninety-nine years to begin immediately.

**Selectmen Recommend.**

- 30 Shall the Town vote to authorize the Select Board to enter into a 10-year loan agreement in an amount not to exceed \$230,000 for the purchase of a Squad Truck with appropriate equipment for Fire Department operation (replacing the current 1996 E 350 Squad Truck)? With the passage of this article, estimated annual payments raised and appropriated through taxation in the amount of \$30,000 will be included in the Debt Service budget beginning in 2022-2023.

At an estimated interest rate of 5% for a 10-year term, the estimated cost of this financing would be:

Total Principal:	\$230,000.00
Interest (10-year term):	<u>\$ 67,860.52</u>
Total Estimated Debt Service:	\$297,860.52

*STATEMENT OF FACT: The squad was bought as an ambulance in 1996. It was a demo unit. It was a front-line ambulance from 1996 until 2006 when the Road rescue arrived. It went to a back line ambulance from 2006 until 2014 when it was given to the fire department for a squad vehicle. It has been a Frontline squad vehicle for the fire department from 2014 until just recently when it was placed out of service. Repair estimates range from \$4,000 to \$8,000.*

**Selectmen Recommend.**

- 31 If the preceding Article 30 fails, shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate from taxation an amount not to exceed \$10,000 to repair the current 1996 E 350 Fire Squad Truck?

*STATEMENT OF FACT: The squad was bought as an ambulance in 1996. It was a demo unit. It was a front-line ambulance from 1996 until 2006 when the Road rescue arrived. It went to a back line ambulance from 2006 until 2014 when it was given to the fire department for a squad vehicle. It has been a Frontline squad vehicle for the fire department from 2014 until just recently when it was placed out of service. Repair estimates range from \$4,000 to \$8,000.*

**Selectmen Recommend.**

- 32 To see if the Town will vote to increase the property tax levy limit established for the Town of Buckfield by State law, but only 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.

33 Shall the Town vote to appropriate from unappropriated surplus an amount not to exceed \$120,000 to lower the tax commitment for the ensuing year?

**Selectmen Recommend.**

34 Shall the Town vote to appropriate the projected State Revenues amount of \$376,480 to reduce the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Appropriations Budget?

**Selectmen Recommend.**

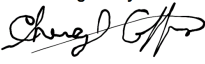
35 Shall the Town vote to authorize the Select Board to act in the best interest of the Town and accept and carry over as required donations of services, materials, equipment and/or money to supplement an appropriation already made, to reduce the tax assessment or to reduce the permanent debt when said donation exceeds a value of \$5,000 for the ensuing year?

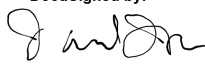
36 Shall the Town vote to authorize the Town Manager to act in the best interest of the Town and accept and carry over as required donations of services, materials, equipment and/or money to supplement an appropriation already made, to reduce the tax assessment or to reduce the permanent debt when said donation has a value of \$5,000 or less for the ensuing year?

37 Shall the Town 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 Quit Claim Deeds for such property? Except that the Municipal Officers 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).

Given under our hands at Buckfield, Maine this 13th day of July, A.D. 2022.

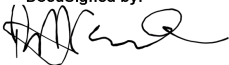
TOWN OF BUCKFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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