

**TOWN OF BUCKFIELD  
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT  
FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025**

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

GREETINGS: In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Buckfield in said County and State qualified by law to vote in Town affairs, to appear at the Municipal Center in said Town on Tuesday, the 11<sup>th</sup> day of June 2024 at 8:00 AM, then and there to act upon Article 1 and by secret ballot on Articles 2 through 30 as set out below, the polling hours therefore to be from 8:00 AM until 8:00 PM.

**ARTICLE 1:** To Elect a **Moderator** to preside over said meeting.

**ARTICLE 2:** To elect one (1) **Selectman** for a 3-year term beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2027.

**ARTICLE 3:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a total of **\$513,090** for **GENERAL GOVERNMENT** operating expenses for fiscal year 2024-2025.

**RECOMMENDED BY THE SELECT BOARD**

**THE BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS \$473,805**

*The General Government budget includes Administration, Insurance, Assessing, and the Municipal Center.*

**Administration - \$335,370**

**Insurance - \$71,720**

**Assessing - \$45,550**

**Municipal Center - \$60,450**

**ARTICLE 4:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a total of **\$637,529** for **PUBLIC SAFETY** operating expenses for fiscal year 2024-2025.

**RECOMMENDED BY THE SELECT BOARD**

**THE BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS \$600,014**

*The Public Safety budget includes Fire, Rescue, Emergency Management, Animal Control, Streetlights, and Hydrants. The Fire and Rescue Department budgets are offset by revenue generated through contracts with Hartford and Sumner as well as billing revenue. Fiscal Year 2024-2025 proposed Public Safety Revenue is \$269,000 (to be accepted under Article 11).*

**Fire Department - \$148,110**

**Rescue Department - \$405,474**

**Animal Welfare - \$11,150**

**Streetlights - \$6,000**

**Hydrants - \$62,720**

**Emergency Management - \$4,075**

*Proposed Budget: \$637,529*

*Proposed Revenue: \$269,000*

*Total to be raised through taxation: \$368,529*

**ARTICLE 5:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate through a total of **\$32,730** for the **PARKS AND RECREATION** operating expenses for fiscal year 2024-2025.

**RECOMMENDED BY THE SELECT BOARD AND THE BUDGET COMMITTEE**

*The Parks and Recreation budget includes costs associated with maintaining facilities as well as costs associated with operating youth sports programs. This also includes maintenance to the Railroad Bed Recreation Trail. Some of these operating expenses are offset by revenue generated through various sponsorships and registration fees.*

**ARTICLE 6:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a total of **\$70,240** for the **COMMUNITY** operating expenses for fiscal year 2024-2025.

**RECOMMENDED BY THE SELECT BOARD**

**THE BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS \$69,530**

*The Community budget includes Community Events, Social Services, General Assistance, the Old Church, and the Zadoc Long Free Library. Some of these operating expenses are offset by revenue generated from donations, trust funds, surplus book sales, photocopy fees, and State reimbursements.*

**Organizations and Events - \$1,500**

**Social Services - \$3,250**

**General Assistance - \$2,000**

**Old Church - \$5,650**

**Zadoc Long Free Library - \$57,840**

**ARTICLE 7:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a total of **\$167,735** for **DEBT SERVICE** for fiscal year 2024-2025.

**RECOMMENDED BY THE SELECT BOARD AND THE BUDGET COMMITTEE**

*Fire Rescue Building: \$71,280*

*2021 Cat Excavator: \$21,700 – Two (2) Remaining Payments*

*2009 International: \$12,120 – One (1) Remaining Payment*

*2012 Peterbilt: \$19,275 – One (1) Remaining Payment*

*2005 E-One Quint: \$27,475 – Eight (8) Remaining Payments*

*2023 Ford F-450: \$15,885 – Four (4) Remaining Payments*

*This is a decrease of \$45,340 due to the payoff of the revaluation and a lower-than-projected payment on the 2023 Ford F-450.*

**ARTICLE 8:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a total of **\$1,151,435** for **PUBLIC WORKS** expenses for fiscal year 2024-2025.

**RECOMMENDED BY THE SELECT BOARD AND THE BUDGET COMMITTEE**

*The Public Works budget includes the Public Works Complex, Public Works Operations, Summer Roads, Winter Roads, and Cemeteries.*

**Public Works Complex - \$17,830**

**Public Works Operations - \$467,305**

**Summer Roads - \$540,700**

**Winter Roads - \$114,100**

**Cemeteries - \$11,500**

**ARTICLE 9:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a total of **\$240,845** for the **SOLID WASTE** operating expenses for fiscal year 2024-2025.

**RECOMMENDED BY THE SELECT BOARD AND THE BUDGET COMMITTEE**

*The Solid Waste budget includes the full cost to operate the Buckfield-Sumner Solid Waste Facility. The amount to be taxed to the taxpayers of Buckfield is reduced by the Town of Sumner's 35% share of the budget through the acceptance of local revenues in Article 11.*

**ARTICLE 10:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a total of **\$20,000** from the undesignated fund balance to the **EMERGENCY CONTINGENCY RESERVE** account to be used for the purpose stated in the establishment of the reserve account.

**RECOMMENDED BY THE SELECT BOARD**

***Purpose.** The purpose of the account is to fund unanticipated and unfunded emergency costs defined as any situation where the resources of the Town and its employees are involved in efforts to mitigate immediate threat to life, property, environment and/or economy within the municipality.*

**ARTICLE 11:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a total of **\$2,500** from the undesignated fund balance to the **MUNICIPAL CENTER CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT RESERVE** account to be used for the purpose stated in the establishment of the reserve account.

**RECOMMENDED BY THE SELECT BOARD**

***Purpose.** The purpose of the account is to fund either partially or completely, capital improvements for the Buckfield Municipal Center.*

**ARTICLE 12:** To see if the Town will vote to accept and appropriate the projected **Local Revenues** of **\$842,095.75** to reduce the 2024-2025 Appropriations Budget.

**RECOMMENDED BY THE SELECT BOARD**

**THE BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS \$827,095.75**

*Approval of Local Revenues reduces the amount to be taxed.*

**General Government Revenues - \$446,600**

**Public Safety Revenues - \$269,000**

**Parks and Recreation Revenues - \$10,000**

**Community Revenues - \$16,800**

**Public Works Revenue - \$15,400**

**Solid Waste Revenue - \$84,295.75**

**ARTICLE 13:** To see if the Town will vote to accept and appropriate the projected **State Revenues** of **\$634,800** to reduce the 2024-2025 Appropriations Budget.

**RECOMMENDED BY THE SELECT BOARD**

**THE BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS \$434,800**

*Approval of State Revenues reduces the amount to be taxed.*

Municipal Revenue Sharing - \$575,000  
Local Road Assistance Program - \$50,000  
General Assistance Reimbursement - \$1,400  
Tree Growth Reimbursement - \$5,000  
Veteran Exemption Reimbursement - \$1,500  
Snowmobile Registration Reimbursement - \$900  
Pit/Tax Loss Reimbursement - \$1,000

**ARTICLE 14:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to appropriate up to **\$300,000** from the undesignated fund balance and apply the total amount to reduce the fiscal year 2024-2025 appropriations budget.

**RECOMMENDED BY THE SELECT BOARD AND THE BUDGET COMMITTEE**

**ARTICLE 15:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Treasurer, upon approval of the Select Board, to apply the revenue received in excess of the 2023-2024 proposed Rescue Department Revenue of \$257,000, to the Rescue Unit - Ambulance Reserve account and be used for the future purpose of replacing and/or remounting ambulances.

*The ambulance replacement plan relies on this allocation of excess revenue to cover the costs associated with remounting or replacing aging units. Without allocating this revenue the Town will have to finance the refurbishment or replacement of ambulances as needed.*

**ARTICLE 16:** To see if the Town will vote to set November 15, 2024 as the due date for the first half of the 2024-2025 property taxes and May 15, 2025 as the due date for the second half of the 2024-2025 property taxes; after which interest will be charged at the rate of **4%** per year, or part thereof, on taxes unpaid after the date in accordance with 36 M.R.S. § 505(4).

*Per 36 M.R.S. § 505(4), the maximum rate of interest that can be charged is 8.5%; the Treasurer of State sets this rate each year.*

**ARTICLE 17:** To see if the Town will vote in accordance with 36 M.R.S. § 506(A), to pay no interest on refunds of overpaid or abated taxes.

*36 M.R.S. § 506(A) provides the rate of interest may not exceed the rate set for delinquent taxes, nor be less than that rate reduced by 4%.*

**ARTICLE 18:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the payment of tax abatements approved by the Select Board from the property tax overlay or, if necessary, from undesignated fund balance.

**ARTICLE 19:** To see if the Town will vote to accept prepayment of taxes to the Tax Collector for fiscal year 2024-2025 prior to the date of commitment and to pay no interest thereon.

**ARTICLE 20:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to sell by bid or auction, such equipment, vehicles, or furniture valued at or over \$5,000 as are no longer necessary for Town operations.

**ARTICLE 21:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Manager to sell by bid or auction, or on such terms and conditions he/she deem to be in the best interest of the Town, such equipment, vehicles, or furniture valued under \$5,000 as are no longer necessary for Town operations.

**ARTICLE 22:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board and Town Manager to apply for State, Federal, and other grants on the Town's behalf for purposes they deem to be in the best interests of the Town; to accept such grants, including, when necessary, the authority to sign contracts and related documents and accept conditions of approval; and to appropriate and expend such grant funds for the authorized purposes for fiscal year 2024-2025.

**ARTICLE 23:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board 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.

**ARTICLE 24:** 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 the property tax levy limit.

**ARTICLE 25:** To see if the Town will vote to 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).

**ARTICLE 26:** Shall an ordinance entitled 'Town of Buckfield, Maine Building Permit Ordinance' be enacted?

*The purpose of the proposed ordinance is to come into compliance with changes to State law, going into effect on July 1, 2024, as well as to update and clarify policy and procedures for obtaining a building permit. Passage of this article will repeal all previous versions of Ordinances with the same name. A copy of the proposed ordinance is available for review and inspection at the Town Clerk's office; it will also be available at the Town Meeting.*

**ARTICLE 27:** Shall an ordinance entitled 'Town of Buckfield, Maine Shoreland Zoning Ordinance' be enacted?

*The purpose of the proposed ordinance is to make updates to changes in State law. Passage of this article will repeal all previous versions of Ordinances with the same name. A copy of the proposed ordinance is available for review and inspection at the Town Clerk's office; it will also be available at the Town Meeting.*

**ARTICLE 28:** To see if the Town will vote to Authorize the Select Board, on behalf of the Town, to accept and expend gifts, donations, or any other funds meant to support the municipal function, operation, or improvement of the Town in fiscal year 2024-2025.

**ARTICLE 29:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate **75% of the refund** of Snowmobile Registrations, received annually from the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to the Streaked Mountaineers Snowmobile Club for maintaining trails and bridges, on the condition that those trails be open to the public for snowmobile purposes at no charge in the snow season.

**ARTICLE 30:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to expend an amount not to exceed the 2023-2024 approved budget for any department in which the proposed 2024-2025 budget is rejected, or until such time a new budget is approved by the Town at a Special Town Meeting.

Given under our hands at Buckfield, Maine this 2nd day of April, A.D. 2024.

**Town of Buckfield Select Board**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Hand, Chairman

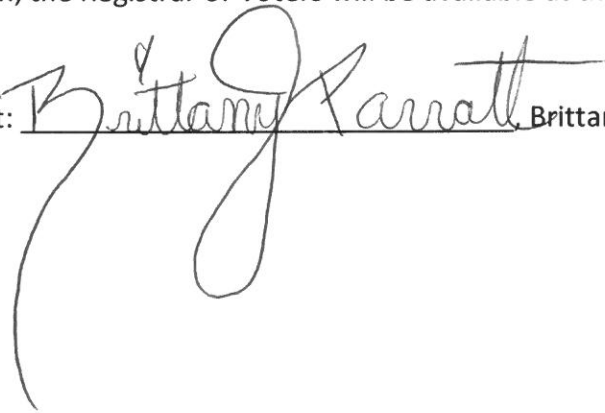
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sandra Fickett, Vice Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Azalea Cormier, Selectman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Heather Henley, Selectman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Peter Fickett, Selectman

The Registrar of Voters is available at the Town Office in the Municipal Center Tuesday-Friday during regular business hours for the purpose of accepting new registrations and to make address, name and/or enrollment changes. In addition, the Registrar of Voters will be available at the Annual Town Meeting from 8:00 AM – 8:00 PM.

A True Copy. Attest:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Brittany Parrott, Town Clerk

**RETURN**

Pursuant to the within warrant, I have notified and warned the inhabitants of said Town, qualified to vote in Town affairs by posting an attested copy of the within Warrant at; the Buckfield Municipal Center, the Buckfield Post Office, Tilton's Market, Zadoc Long Free Library, and R.E. Lowell Lumber, being conspicuous public places within Buckfield on \_\_\_\_\_, 2024 which is at least (7) days next prior to the date of the meeting.

Dated at Buckfield, Maine this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cameron Hinkley, Resident of Buckfield