

# CASTLE HILL TOWN MEETING MINUTES

*At 7:00 PM, Sandra Fournier, Town Manager opened the Annual Town Meeting by reading the following statement:*

## GREETINGS:

I, Sandra Fournier, Town Clerk of the Town of Castle Hill, in the County of Aroostook, and the State of Maine, had Samantha Watt notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Castle Hill, qualified by law to vote in Town affairs, to meet at the Mapleton, Castle Hill and Chapman Fire Station, in said Town, on Tuesday, the 19<sup>th</sup> day of March, A.D. 2024, at seven o'clock in the evening and then and there to upon Articles 1 through 33.

**Article 1.** To elect, *by majority on written ballot*, a moderator to preside at said meeting.

*A motion was made by Maylen Kenney, seconded by Shari Cheney to nominate Lynnelle Foster as Moderator and to preside at said meeting.*

*No further nominations were made. Fournier asked for three (3) written ballots to be cast, collected, and counted. All ballots supported Lynnelle Foster as Moderator.*

**Article 2.** To elect, *by majority on secret ballot*, according to the provisions of the Revised Statutes of Maine, Title 30-A, Section 2528: Two (2) Select Board Members for a term of three (3) years, and One (1) Assessor for a term of three (3) years.

*Select Board (3-year Term): Shari Cheney, 13 votes (w)*

*Select Board (3-year Term): write in: Scott Cheney, 4 votes (w), write in: Jamie Ballanceau, 3 votes, write in: Lynnelle Foster, 1 vote, write in: Paul Landry, 1 vote, write in: Allan Michaud, 1 vote*

*Assessor (3-year Term): Shari Cheney, 13 votes (w)*

*Total number of ballots cast: 13*

**Article 3.** To see if the Town will vote to adopt the Interlocal Agreement between the Towns of Mapleton, Castle Hill, and Chapman.

**SELECT BOARD RECOMMEND: Approval**

*Motion by Hermon Condon, seconded by Maylen Kenney to accept the Select Board's Recommendation as written. Motion passed by show of hands.*

**Article 4.** To see if the Town will authorize the municipal officers to choose all other necessary municipal officials for the ensuing year.

**SELECT BOARD RECOMMEND: Approval**

*Motion by Maylen Kenney, seconded by Hermon Condon to accept the Select Board's Recommendation as written. Motion passed by show of hands.*

**Article 5.** To see what date the Town will vote taxes to be due and payable.

**SELECT BOARD RECOMMEND: Due and payable upon receipt of bill.**

*Motion by Maylen Kenney, seconded by Hermon Condon to accept the Select Board's Recommendation as written. Motion passed by show of hands.*

**Article 6.** To see if the Town will vote to charge interest on taxes unpaid as of a certain date; if so, how much and what date.

**SELECT BOARD RECOMMEND: 8.5% effective November 1, 2024**

*Motion by Maylen Kenney, seconded by Shari Cheney to accept the Select Board's Recommendation as written. Motion passed by show of hands.*

**Article 7.** To see if the Town will vote to set the interest rate to be paid by the Town on abated taxes paid pursuant to the Revised Statutes of Maine, Title 36, Section 506-A, interest rate may not exceed more than 4% less than the delinquent interest tax rate.

**SELECT BOARD RECOMMEND: 4.5%**

*Motion by Shari Cheney, seconded by Hermon Condon to accept the Select Board's Recommendation as written. Motion passed by show of hands.*

**Article 8.** To see if the Town will vote to allow a discount on 2024 taxes paid before a certain date; if so, how much, and what date.

**SELECT BOARD RECOMMEND: 1% for 20 days from date of tax bill**

*Motion by Maylen Kenney, seconded by Shari Cheney to accept the Select Board's Recommendation as written. Motion passed by show of hands.*

**Article 9.** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for General Government. Any overdraft to come from the Undesignated Fund Balance.

**SELECT BOARD RECOMMEND: \$15,510**

*Motion by Shari Cheney, seconded by Maylen Kenney to accept the Select Board's Recommendation as written. Motion passed by show of hands.*

**Article 10.** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Property Services. Any overdraft to come from the Undesignated Fund Balance. Any unused appropriation of the Planning Board and Zoning Board accounts will be carried over to the next year.

**SELECT BOARD RECOMMEND: \$388**

*Motion by Hermon Condon, seconded by Maylen Kenney to accept the Select Board's Recommendation as written. Motion passed by show of hands.*

**Article 11.** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Public Safety. Any overdraft to come from the Undesignated Fund Balance.

**SELECT BOARD RECOMMEND: \$25,037**

*Motion by Hermon Condon, seconded by Maylen Kenney to accept the Select Board's Recommendation as written. Motion passed by show of hands.*

**Article 12.** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Community Services. Any overdraft to come from the Undesignated Fund Balance.  
**SELECT BOARD RECOMMEND: \$6,189**

*Motion by Shari Cheney, seconded by Maylen Kenney to accept the Select Board's Recommendation as written. Motion passed by show of hands.*

**Article 13.** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Reserve Accounts.  
**SELECT BOARD RECOMMEND: \$79,187**

*Motion by Hermon Condon, seconded by Maylen Kenney to accept the Select Board's Recommendation as written. Motion passed by show of hands.*

**Article 14.** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for General Assistance. Any overdraft to come from the Undesignated Fund Balance. Any unused appropriations will be carried over to the next year.  
**SELECT BOARD RECOMMEND: \$1,000**

*Motion by Herman Condon, seconded by Maylen Kenney to accept the Select Board's Recommendation as written. Motion passed by show of hands.*

**Article 15.** To see if the Town will vote to approve the following total anticipated revenues from State Revenue Sharing, Local Road Assistance Program, Surplus Use and all other revenues, as estimated, and appropriate said sum for the purpose of reducing the overall Tax Commitment:

State Revenue Sharing	\$ 58,058
Local Road Assistance Program	\$ 15,269
Surplus Use	\$ 40,000
All Other Revenue	<u>\$205,129</u>
<b>TOTAL ANTICIPATED REVENUES</b>	<b>\$318,456</b>

**SELECT BOARD RECOMMEND: Approval**

*Motion by Hermon Condon, seconded by Maylen Kenney to accept the Select Board's Recommendation as written. Motion passed by show of hands.*

**Article 16.** To See if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum \$307,087 as its share of Joint Expenses for the fiscal year ending 12/31/2024, said appropriations having been set by the Joint Select Board, pursuant to the Interlocal Agreement and Private and Special Laws of 2009. Said appropriations comprised, as follows:

	2024 PROPOSED
General Government	\$ 66,687
Highway	\$156,751
Fire	\$ 22,831
Recreation	\$ 10,098
Property Services	\$ 9,325
Public Safety	\$ 1,546
Community Services	\$ 178
Reserve Account	<u>\$ 39,671</u>
<b>TOTAL GOVERNMENT EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$307,087</b>

**SELECT BOARD RECOMMEND: Approval**

*Motion by Maylen Kenney, seconded by Herman Condon to accept the Select Board's Recommendation as written. Motion passed by show of hands.*

**Article 17.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the municipal officers to reallocate 2023 unused appropriated Joint Highway expenses, in the amount of \$40,630, into the Highway Equipment Reserve Account.

**SELECT BOARD RECOMMEND: Approval**

*Motion by Herman Condon, seconded by Maylen Kenney to accept the Select Board's Recommendation as written. Motion passed by show of hands.*

**Article 18.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the municipal officers to reallocate 2023 unused appropriated Fire expenses, from the Dry Hydrant Repair account in the amount of \$276, into the Fire Department Pump House Reserve Account.

**SELECT BOARD RECOMMEND: Approval**

*Motion by Herman Condon, seconded by Maylen Kenney to accept the Select Board's Recommendation as written. Motion passed by show of hands.*

**Article 19.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the municipal officers to reallocate 2023 unused appropriated Fire expenses, from the Travel & Training accounts in the amount of \$866, into the Fire Department Equipment Reserve Account.

**SELECT BOARD RECOMMEND: Approval**

*Motion by Shari Cheney, seconded by Jim Boutot to accept the Select Board's Recommendation as written. Motion passed by show of hands.*

**Article 20.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the municipal officers to reallocate 2023 unused appropriated Property Services expenses, from the Planning Board and Zoning Board accounts in the amount of \$216, to be carried over into the 2024 year.

**SELECT BOARD RECOMMEND: Approval**

*Motion by Herman Condon, seconded by Shari Cheney to accept the Select Board's Recommendation as written. Motion passed by show of hands.*

**Article 21.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the municipal officers to appropriate all interest earned or capital gains realized on Reserve Accounts as Interest Earned Revenue.

**SELECT BOARD RECOMMEND: Approval**

*Motion by Herman Condon, seconded by Shari Cheney to accept the Select Board's Recommendation as written. Motion passed by show of hands.*

**Article 22.** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate all General Assistance reimbursements from the State of Maine to reduce the Town's General Assistance expenses.

**SELECT BOARD RECOMMEND: Approval**

*Motion by Maylen Kenney, seconded by Shari Cheney to accept the Select Board's Recommendation as written. Motion passed by show of hands.*

**Article 23.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the municipal officers to spend an amount equal to 3/12th of the 2024 budget from January 2025 until a budget is adopted. This will allow the Town to operate during the 3 months prior to the annual town meeting.

**SELECT BOARD RECOMMEND: Approval**

*Motion by Hermon Condon seconded by Shari Cheney to accept the Select Board's Recommendation as written. Motion passed by show of hands.*

**Article 24.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the municipal officers to expend funds from the Local Road Improvement reserve account in the best interest of the Town, when proper funds are available.

**SELECT BOARD RECOMMEND: Approval**

*Motion by Maylen Kenney, seconded by Herman Condon to accept the Select Board's Recommendation as written. Motion passed by show of hands.*

**Article 25.** To see if the Town will vote to transfer funds received from snowmobile registrations and the Snowmobile Club Trail Maintenance Grant-In-Aid Program to the Aroostook River Snowmobile Club, provided they maintain trails for recreational use which may be used by the general public.

**SELECT BOARD RECOMMEND: Approval**

*Motion by Maylen Kenney, seconded by Herman Condon to accept the Select Board's Recommendation as written. Motion passed by show of hands.*

**Article 26.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the municipal officers to purchase property or equipment to benefit, or for the best interest of the Town, when proper reserve funds are available.

**SELECT BOARD RECOMMEND: Approval**

*Motion by Maylen Kenney, seconded by Herman Condon to accept the Select Board's Recommendation as written. Motion passed by show of hands.*

**Article 27.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the municipal officers to sell any outdated capital equipment on such terms as they deem advisable and place such funds in the equipment reserve fund, according to the Interlocal Agreement.

**SELECT BOARD RECOMMEND: Approval**

*Motion by Shari Cheney, seconded by Maylen Kenney to accept the Select Board's Recommendation as written. Motion passed by show of hands.*

**Article 28.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the municipal officers, on behalf of the Town, to sell and dispose of any real estate, however acquired, on such terms as they deem advisable, to execute a municipal quit claim deed without covenants on such property, and to lease property and sell stumpage on such terms as they deem advisable. Real estate sales shall be offered by sealed bid after notice of sale has been advertised for two (2) consecutive weeks, unless the property is offered to the previous owner for accumulated taxes, interest, and other costs against said property, except that the

Municipal Officer 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).

**SELECT BOARD RECOMMEND: Approval**

*Motion by Herman Condon, seconded by Maylen Kenney to accept the Select Board's Recommendation as written. Motion passed by show of hands.*

**Article 29.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the municipal officers, on behalf of the Town, to apply for, accept and expend grant funds from state government agencies, federal government agencies, or private organizations, for any purpose they deem in the best interest of the Town.

**SELECT BOARD RECOMMEND: Approval**

*Motion by Maylen Kenney, seconded by Shari Cheney to accept the Select Board's Recommendation as written. Motion passed by show of hands.*

**Article 30.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the municipal officers, on behalf of the Town, to accept gifts and real estate which may be given to the Town, and to accept funds from the State of Maine, the United States and from other identified sources, and to appropriate any funds received to specified or appropriate accounts or funds.

**SELECT BOARD RECOMMEND: Approval**

*Motion by Herman Condon, seconded by Maylen Kenney to accept the Select Board's Recommendation as written. Motion passed by show of hands.*

**Article 31.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the municipal officers to execute contracts of terms three (3) years or less, for services deemed in the best interest of the Town.

**SELECT BOARD RECOMMEND: Approval**

*Motion by Maylen Kenney, seconded by Shari Cheney to accept the Select Board's Recommendation as written. Motion passed by show of hands.*

**Article 32.** To see if the Town, in accordance with the Revised Statutes of Maine, Title 36, Section 506, will authorize the tax collector and town treasurer to accept prepayment of taxes not yet committed and to pay no interest thereon.

**SELECT BOARD RECOMMEND: Approval**

*Motion by Herman Condon, seconded by Maylen Kenney to accept the Select Board's Recommendation as written. Motion passed by show of hands.*

**Article 33.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board or their designee to accept and to expend funds from the State, Federal, and County Governments related to the American Rescue Plan Act program and if said funds are received, to authorize the municipal officers to make such assurances, assume such responsibilities, and exercise such authority as necessary and reasonable to implement such program, and to disburse such funds for the purpose(s) granted.

**SELECT BOARD RECOMMEND: Approval**

*Motion by Maylen Kenney, seconded by Herman Condon to accept the Select Board's Recommendation as written. Motion passed by show of hands.*

*No further items were discussed. Lynelle Foster adjourned the meeting adjourned at 7:27pm.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Renee Ellis  
Deputy Clerk*