

**SECRET BALLOT ELECTION AND
TOWN MEETING WARRANT
FOR THE
TOWN OF UNITY
Friday, March 21, 2025
and
*Saturday, March 22, 2025***

To: Denise Whitney, a resident of the Town of Unity, in the County of Waldo, 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 Unity, in said county and state, qualified by law to vote in town affairs, to meet at the Town Office of said Town on Friday, the 21st day of March, 2025, at 12:00 p.m., then and there to act upon Article 1 and by secret ballot on Article 2 as set out below, the polling hours therefore to be from 12:00 noon until 7:00 p.m. Please see supporting documents of budget breakdowns and expenditures in the last pages of the Town Report.

And to notify and warn said Inhabitants to meet at the Unity School Gymnasium in said town on Saturday, the 22nd day of March 2025, at 9:00 a.m., then and there to act on Articles 3 through 52 as set out below, to wit:

- Article 1. To elect a Moderator to preside over said meeting.
- Article 2. To elect one Municipal Officer for Selectboard for a three (3) year term.
- Article 3. To see if the Town will vote to approve the Maine Moderator's Manual 7th Edition as the rules of procedure for the meeting.
- Article 4. To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard, on behalf of the Town, to appoint all necessary Town Officials.
- Article 5. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the Snowmobile Registration Refund from the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to be used for grooming trails, with matching funds, under the supervision of the Selectboard and the Project Director.
- Article 6. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the tax collector or treasurer to accept prepayment of taxes not yet committed, pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. § 506.
- Article 7. To see if the Town will vote to allow a 2% discount on all 2025 property taxes if paid in full within 60 days of commitment.

(Expended 2024 \$37,045.32)

- Article 8. To see if the Town will vote to charge the state's recommended interest at the rate of 7.50% per annum on all 2025 taxes which remain unpaid within 90 days of Commitment.
- Article 9. To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board, on behalf of the Town, to dispose of any real estate acquired by the Town for non-payment of taxes thereon, on such terms as they deem advisable and to execute a quit claim on such property. With the exemption, Municipal Officers shall use the special sale process required by 36 M.R.S.A. § 943-C for qualifying homestead property if they choose to sell to anyone other than the former owner(s). If the Select Board chooses to place property up for bid, they shall have the right to accept or reject any or all bids.
- Article 10. To see if the Town will authorize the Municipal Officers to spend an amount not to exceed 1/6 of the budget amount in each category of the annual budget during the period from February 1, 2026, to the Annual Town Meeting 2026.
- Article 11. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to make final determinations regarding the closing and opening of roads to winter maintenance pursuant to 23 M.R.S.A. SS 2953.
- Article 12. To see if the town will vote to authorize the municipal officers to dispose of town-owned personal property, under such terms and conditions as they deem advisable.
- Article 13. Shall the Town accept all gifts raised through various fund-raising activities and donations and appropriate them for their intended purposes, as recommended by the municipal officers.
- Article 14. To see if the Town will vote to allow private organizations to use municipal property for private use with a Municipal Officer authorization.

Special Appropriations

- Article 15. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$607.00 for Spectrum Generations for FY 25/26.

Request by Agency:	\$606.38
<u>Selectboard and Budget Committee recommend: Raise:</u>	<u>\$607.00</u>
<i>(Expended 2024</i>	<i>\$557.50)</i>

Article 16. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate up to \$20,082.00 for Waldo Community Action Partners for FY 25/26.

Request by Agency:	\$20,082.00
<u>Selectboard and Budget Committee recommend:</u>	<u>Raise: \$5,000.00</u>
<i>(Expended 2024</i>	<i>\$8,800)</i>

Article 17. To see if the Town will vote to raise, and appropriate \$3,000 for the Unity Public Library for the FY 25/26.

Request by the Agency:	\$3,000.00
Selectboard Recommends:	Raise: \$1,800.00
<u>Budget Committee recommend:</u>	<u>Raise \$3,000.00</u>
<i>(Expended 2024</i>	<i>\$2,458.00)</i>

Article 18. To see if the Town will vote to raise, and appropriate \$600 for New Hope for Woman for FY 25/26.

Request by the Agency:	\$600.00
Selectboard Recommends:	Raise: \$700.00
<u>Budget Committee recommend:</u>	<u>Raise: \$720.00</u>
<i>(Expended 2024</i>	<i>\$600.00)</i>

Article 19. To see if the Town will vote to raise, and appropriate \$1,000 for Open Door for FY25/26.

Request by the Agency:	\$500.00
Selectboard Recommends:	Raise: \$500.00
<u>Recommendation Budget Committee:</u>	<u>Raise: \$1,000.00</u>
<i>(Expended 2024 from AARPA</i>	<i>\$1,000.00)</i>

Article 20. To see if the Town will vote to raise, and appropriate \$3,000 for the Volunteer Food Pantry for FY25/26.

Request by Agency:	\$3,000.00
<u>Selectboard and Budget Committee recommend:</u>	<u>Raise: \$5,000.00</u>
<i>(Expended 2024 from AARPA</i>	<i>\$3,000.00)</i>

Article 21. To see if the Town will vote to raise, and appropriate \$195,999 for the Unity Ambulance for FY25/26.

Request by Agency:	\$195,998.24
Selectboard Recommends:	\$0.00
<u>Budget Committee recommend:</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>

Parks and Recreation

Article 22. To see if the Town will vote to raise, and appropriate \$1,000.00 for the Parks and Recreation Committee for FY 25/26.

Selectboard Recommend and Budget Committee:

Undesignated Funds: \$1,000.00(Expended 2024 \$1,000.00)

Public Works

Article 23. To see if the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate \$294,350.00 for **Summer Road Repair and Maintenance** for the FY 25/26.

Note: Sand/Salt Shed Maintenance, E911 Signage. And Streetlights has been added to this article.

Selectboard and Budget Committee recommend:

	Carry	\$132,152.65
	PW Reserve	\$108,187.35
	Road Assistance	\$46,460.00
	<u>TIF:</u>	<u>\$7,550.00</u>
	Total:	\$294,350.00
(Expended 2024	\$116,436.55)	
(Unexpended 2024	\$132,152.65)	

Article 24. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$360,000.00 for **Winter Road Repair and Maintenance** (Plowing, Salt, and Sand) for the FY 25/26.

Selectboard and Budget Committee recommend:

	Carry	\$42,617.60
	Undesignated	\$46,622.02
	<u>Excise</u>	<u>\$270,760.38</u>
	Total:	\$360,000.00
(Expended 2024	\$297,382.40)	
(Unexpended 2024	\$42,617.60)	

Waste Removal

Article 25. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$41,000 for the Town's share of the Unity Area Regional Recycling Center for the FY 25/26.

Selectboard and Budget Committee recommend:

		<u>Raise \$41,000.00</u>
(Expended 2024	\$39,922.06)	

Article 26. To see if the Town will vote to raise, and appropriate \$31,600 to pay the Rubbish Disposal Tip Fee and Municipal Review Committee for the FY25/26.

Selectboard and Budget Committee recommend:

	Carry	\$29,538.82
	<u>Raise</u>	<u>\$2,061.18</u>
	Total:	\$31,600.00
<i>(Expended 2024</i>	<i>\$25,367.18)</i>	
<i>(Unexpended 2024</i>	<i>\$29,538.82)</i>	

Article 27. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$85,000 for Solid Waste Pickup for the FY 25/26.

Selectboard and Budget Committee recommend:

	Raise	\$26,678.25
	<u>Sticker sales:</u>	<u>\$58,321.75</u>
	Total:	\$85,000.00
<i>(Expended 2024</i>	<i>\$91,000.00)</i>	

Article 28. To see if the Town will vote to raise, and appropriate \$4,600 for Landfill Maintenance and Monitoring for the FY 25/26.

Selectboard and Budget Committee recommend:

	Carry	\$3,980.00
	<u>Raise</u>	<u>\$620.00</u>
	Total:	\$4,600.00
<i>(Expended 2024</i>	<i>\$620)</i>	
<i>(Unexpended 2024</i>	<i>\$3,980.00)</i>	

Kanokolus Beach

Article 29. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$12,292 for Kanokolus Beach for the FY25/26.

Selectboard and Budget Committee recommend:

	Boat Excise	\$2,139.20
	Carry	\$5,595.05
	TIF	\$3,000.00
	<u>Raise</u>	<u>\$1,527.75</u>
	Total	12,292.00
<i>(Expended 2024</i>	<i>\$4304.95)</i>	
<i>(Unexpended 2024</i>	<i>\$5,595.05)</i>	

Fire Department and Public Safety

Article 30. To see if the Town will vote to raise, and appropriate \$118,789 for Fire Department Operations, Maintenance, Salaries, and Payroll expense for the FY25/26.

Budget Committee and Selectboard recommend:

	Raise:	\$112,149.00
	<u>MOFGA contract:</u>	<u>\$6,640.00</u>
	Total:	\$118,789.00
<i>(Expended 2024</i>	<i>\$115,861.10)</i>	
<i>(Unexpended 2024</i>	<i>\$6,603.36)</i>	

Article 31: To see if the town will vote to raise, and appropriate \$10,500 for one set of SCBA for FY 25/26.

Selectboard and Budget Committee recommend:

		<u>Raise: \$10,500.00</u>
<i>(Expended 2024</i>	<i>\$10,900)</i>	
<i>(Unexpended 2024</i>	<i>\$3,690.16)</i>	

Article 32. To see if the town will vote to change the name of the Fire Department Equipment, Truck, and Property Maintenance Capital Reserve to Fire Department Capital Improvements Account to be dispersed at the discretion of the Selectboard upon request of the Fire Department and to be continuing to be funded by the unexpended Maintenance and Operations Budget.

Article 33. To see if the town will transfer remaining unused budget funds from the Fire Department Operation, Maintenance and Salary Budget in the amount of \$10,293.52 to the Fire Department Capital Improvements Account.

Selectboard & Budget Committee recommend:

Undesignated Funds: \$10,293.52

Article 34. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$23,000.00 for the Fire Truck Fund for the FY 25/26.

Selectboard & Budget Committee recommendation:

		TIF: \$10,000.00
		<u>MOFGA & Kennebec County Fire Contract Income: \$13,000.00</u>
		Total: \$23,000.00
<i>(Expended 2024</i>	<i>\$23,000)</i>	

Debt Service

Article 35. To see if the town will vote to raise, and appropriate \$126,542.00 for the Second Road Loan payoff for the FY 25/26, paying off the loan a year early.

Selectboard and Budget Committee Recommend:

(Expended 2024 \$84,360.80)
(Loan Matures 2026)

Raise: \$126,542.00

Article 36. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$40,116.00 for the Firehouse Loan Payment for the ensuing year FY 25/26.

Selectboard and Budget Committee Recommend:

(Expended 2024 \$40,115.50)
(Loan Matures 2032)

Raise: \$40,116.00

Article 37. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$113,600 for the 2018 International 4400 Tanker Fire Truck for the FY 25/26 and pay of the loan early.

Selectboard and Budget Committee Recommend:

Fire Truck Replacement Reserves: \$113,600.00
(Expended 2024 \$30,922.48)
(Loan Matures in 2028)

Administration

Article 38. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the municipal officers to use up to \$10,000 from undesignated funds as they deem advisable to meet unanticipated expenses and emergencies that occur during the FY25/26.

Article 39. To see if the Town will vote to raise, and appropriate \$190,840 for Town Official's Salaries for the FY 25/26. *(Includes: Selectboard, Administrative Assistant, Deputy Clerk, Health Officer, Registrar of Voters, CEO, ACO, EMA, Sexton, Custodian, Ballot Clerks, Benefits, and Payroll Expenses)*

Selectboard and Budget committee recommend:

Carry:	\$2,335.84
Administration Fees:	\$19,363.00
Cable Franchise Fees:	\$9,380.88
Building Permits:	\$2,200.00
TIF administration:	\$4431.00
Excise:	\$77,800.00
<u>Raise:</u>	<u>\$75,329.28</u>
Total:	\$190,840.00

(Expended 2024 \$147,560.36)

Article 40. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$118,705.00 for Administration (now including Assessing, Contracts, ACO/CEO/LPI/EMA Incidental Account, Animal Shelter Contracts, KVCOG, Training, Legal, Audit etc. for the FY 25/26.

Selectboard and Budget committee recommend:

Carry:	\$7,055.41
Lien Fees:	\$4,842.00
HAP Grant:	\$5,016.22
TIF (KVCOG:)	\$2,970.00
<u>Raise:</u>	<u>\$98,821.37</u>
Total:	\$118,705.00

(Expended 2024 \$85,071.85)

Insurance

Article 41 To see if the town with raise, and appropriate \$29,200 for the cost of Property and Casualty, Workers Compensations and Unemployment Insurance for all Town Departments for the FY25/26.

Selectboard and Budget Committee recommend:

<u>Raise:</u>	<u>\$29,200.00</u>
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Cemeteries

Article 42. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$29,500.00 for Cemeteries for the FY 25/26.

Selectboard and Budget Committee recommend:

Carry:	\$1,118.65
Raise	\$22,881.85
Perpetual Care Interest:	\$5,000.00
<u>Undesignated Fund:</u>	<u>\$500.00</u>
Total:	\$29,500.00

(Expended 2024 \$21,837.85 less FEMA reimbursement \$3,456.00 = 18,381.85)
(Unexpended \$1,118.65)

Article 43. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$4,338.00 to continue the cemetery Expansion for Fordyce Field.

Selectboard & Budget Committee Recommend:

<u>Carry:</u>	<u>\$4,338.00</u>
Total:	\$4,338.00

(Expended 2024 \$0)

Article 44. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$10,000 for tree removal at Farwell Cemetery.

Selectboard and Budget Committee recommend:

Carry: \$3,071.50
Raise: \$6,928.50
Total \$10,000.00

(Expended 2024 \$4,285.00 Less FEMA reimbursement of \$3,856.50 = 428.50)
(Unexpended 3,071.50)

General Assistance

Article 45. To see if the Town will vote to raise, and appropriate \$3,000.00 for General Assistance for the FY 25/26. The State reimburses 70% annually.

Selectboard and Budget Committee recommend:

Undesignated: \$685.34
Carry: \$2,314.66
Total: \$3,000

(Expended 2024 \$685.34)
(Expected Reimbursement \$479.74)

Town Pump

Article 46. To see if the Town will vote to raise, and appropriate \$2,738 to cover maintenance for the town pump for FY25/26. With the actual cost passed on to the users of the town pump.

Selectboard and Budget Committee recommend:

Carry: \$2,738.00

TIF

Article 47. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$40,000 into the TIF Trails Account from TIF to cover the costs of the Friends of Lake Winnicook Matching Grant to update Konokolus Beach and Road.

Selectboard and Budget Committee recommend:

TIF: \$40,000.00

Article 48. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$64,100 into the TIF Trails Account from TIF to cover the costs to enhance to the Trail System in and around the Cemetery on Konokolus Rd.

Selectboard and Budget Committee recommend:

Article 49. To see if the town will vote to appropriate \$900 into the TIF Traffic Calming Account from TIF.

Selectboard and Budget Committee recommend:

TIF: \$900

Article 50. To see if the Town will vote to approve the updates presented for the Land Use Ordinance.

Article 51. To see if the Town will vote to set the Secret Ballot Election on March 20, 2026, and Annual Town Business Meeting on March 21, 2026.

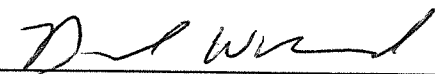
Article 52. Adjournment

Given under our hand this 7th day of March 2025

Unity Municipal Officers



Antonio Avila



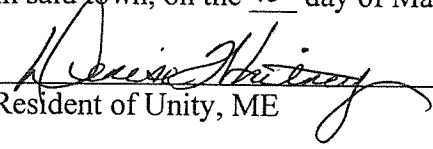
David Wakefield

RETURN ON THE WARRANT

Unity, ME

Date: March 10, 2025

Pursuant to the within warrant to me directed, I have notified and warned the Inhabitants of said Town, qualified as herein expressed, to meet at said time and place, and for the purposes therein named, by posting an attested copy of said warrant at the Unity Town Office, The Depot Store, USPS, Mac's Hardware Edwards Shop'n'Save in said town, being public and conspicuous places in said town, on the 10 day of March AD, 2025 being at least seven days before the meeting.



Resident of Unity, ME